

BC HISTORY of NURSING



BC HISTORY OF

NURSING SOCIETY

VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 2 | SUMMER 2014

HoN Members Beth Fitzpatrick and Irene Goldstone, received prestigious awards at the UBC School of Nursing 3rd Annual Gala event May 8, 2014.

Beth Fitzpatrick received the 2014 ALUMNI RECOGNITION Award - presented by Dr. Sabrina Wong.



Beth was unable to attend so her sister Joan Hall received the award on her behalf.

Dr. Sabrina Wong's speech:

Beth received her BSN from UBC in 1955 and was a faculty member at UBC from 1957 to 1965. She then attended Yale University to obtain her Master of Science in Nursing and her U.S. Certification in Nurse Midwifery. Beth then worked in private practice with obstetricians at a time when this was a pioneering specialty in nursing. During this time, she also worked as an instructor, lecturer, and research assistant at Yale University School of Nursing. Beth was also director of the Preparation for Childbirth and Parenthood Program at Yale New Haven Hospital.

In 1971 she became the first nurse-midwife in Connecticut to be appointed to the professional staff of the Yale New Haven Hospital Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In 1976, she joined the faculty at the School of Nursing, Southern Connecticut State University as assistant professor, and

then associate professor.

Beth is also the author of many publications on nursing education and practice. She has devoted the last 20 years to helping establish a strong history of nursing presence in British Columbia. Her work, especially in communications about history of nursing, has made the BC History of Nursing Society internationally known and recognized. It was her dedication to improving communications that led to the establishment of an award-winning website for the Society.

Please join me in congratulating a committed and outstanding nursing pioneer and leader.

Irene Goldstone received the 2014 NURSING PARTNERSHIP AWARD which was presented by Dr. Suzanne Campbell.



Dr. Campbell's speech:

Irene Goldstone is an alumna of UBC receiving her MSc in 1981. In addition, she is an adjunct professor, donor, volunteer, community leader and champion for HIV/AIDS care, education and support. In 2011, she established

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Newsletter Committee

Lynne Esson (chair) Beth Fitzpatrick, Naomi Miller,
Ethel Warbinek, & Sheila Zerr.

The BC History of Nursing Society
Newsletter is published 4 times per year. Submissions are
welcome. Deadline for the Fall Issue is Sept 15, 2014.

Please send submissions to:
Glennis Zilm gzilm@telus.net

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 ...

the Irene Goldstone HIV/AIDS and Social Justice Graduate Scholarship. She has been a tireless advocate, scholar, and leader in the area of HIV care, treatment and drug policy.

She is a founding member of Canadian Nurses in AIDS Care and the recipient of numerous awards including: Award of Distinction from the College of Registered Nurses of BC Award of Excellence for Exceptional Contribution to the Development of Nursing in HIV/AIDS Care from the Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care.

Centennial Award from Canadian Nurses Association.

Irene Goldstone's career in nursing can perhaps best be summed up in a quote from one of her former students, Meagan Thumath, who gave us these remarks: *"Irene Goldstone is one of those incredible nursing leaders whose impact has resonated both internationally and locally, particularly in the area of HIV care and treatment and drug policy. She is a modest, humble and a thoughtful teacher to many. Her wisdom and keen intelligence have been a great source of inspiration and support to me and to many others in our careers. I am honoured to be among the many students of hers who call her a mentor and a friend and am deeply pleased she is receiving this well deserved award tonight."*

It is my sincere pleasure to present the winner of the 2014 Nursing Partnership Award, Ms. Irene Goldstone.

photos credits to photographer – Varum Saran

SUMMER MEETING

A lively productive meeting attended by 17 members was held on June 26 at the home of Glennis Zilm. This informal setting lent itself well to the sharing of ideas about our groups' direction and plans for the future. Many innovative ideas were proposed. These will be discussed at our September meeting. A delicious pot lunch was served arranged by our gracious hostess.

photo credits Bruce Holvick



Editor's Desk

BY ETHEL WARBINEK



This summer edition includes our annual reports which provides updated information on our activities over the past year. Our feature article on page #1 recognizes the remarkable contributions of Beth Fitzpatrick and Irene Goldstone who received UBC School of Nursing Awards. We are so proud of them as both have been active members for many years and have contributed so much to our group and to the history of nursing.

As you read the article by Naomi Miller on the life of Dalcy "Tootie" Gripich you will marvel at the full life she led both professionally and personally and what she still accomplishes today.

"We hope you take a summer break – I know I plan to – and enjoy it with family and friends."

For many years members have been collecting information on the various monuments in the Lower Mainland that are dedicated to nurses. You will be interested in the article "1000 Paper Cranes" which honours Kinuko Laskey who was not a nurse but an incredible woman.

We hope you take a summer break – I know I plan to – and enjoy it with family and friends.

CANADIAN \$10 BILL - Interesting story!

If you look at the back right-hand side of a Canadian \$10 bill, you will see an old veteran standing at attention near the Ottawa War Memorial. His name is Robert Metcalfe and he died last month at the age of 90. That he managed to live to that age is rather remarkable, given what happened in the Second World War.

Born in England, he was one of the 400,000 members of the British Expeditionary Force sent to the mainland where they found themselves facing the new German warfare technique - the Blitzkrieg. He was treating a wounded comrade when he was hit in the legs by shrapnel. En route to hospital, his ambulance came under fire from a German tank, which then miraculously ceased fire. Evacuated from Dunkirk on HMS Grenade, two of the sister ships with them were sunk. Recovered, he was sent to allied campaigns in North Africa and Italy. En route, his ship was chased by the German battleship Bismarck.



In North Africa he served under General Montgomery against the Desert Fox, Rommel.

Sent into the Italian campaign, he met his future wife, a lieutenant and physio-therapist in a Canadian hospital. They were married in the morning by the mayor of the Italian town, and again in the afternoon by a British padre.

After the war, they settled in Chatham, Ontario, where he went into politics and became the warden (chairman) of the county, and on his retirement he and his wife moved to Ottawa. At the age of 80 he wrote a book about his experiences.

One day out of the blue he received a call from a government official asking him to go downtown for a photo op. He wasn't told what the photo was for, or why they chose him. 'He had no idea he would be on the bill,' his daughter said.

And now you know the story of the old veteran on the \$10 bill.

1000 Paper Cranes

SUBMITTED BY NAN MARTIN -MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Walking beside the Seaforth Peace Park in Kitsilano, Vancouver, BC for the first time in many years, I was surprised to see a bronze monument that I could not remember having being there before. On closer inspection, I was immediately intrigued! This bronze memorial statue was dedicated to peace activist and educator Kinuko Laskey (1929-2004).

The inscription reads:

Kinuko Laskey was a sixteen year old nurse who survived the bombing of Hiroshima. She moved to Vancouver in 1954 and for many years was unable to speak of her experience. In 1982 she broke her silence and began what became a lifelong work as a peace educator and activist. This bust honours Kinuko's life and her work.

Sponsor: Vancouver and District Labour Council is proud to dedicate this monument to Kinuko Laskey's memory.
Sculptor: Keith Sheilds

In 1985, Kinuko presented Mayor Harcourt with 1000 peace cranes made by Vancouver school children (my grandson remembers hearing her story and making a crane) to take to the first World Mayors Conference held in Hiroshima. In 1987, Kinuko joined then mayor Gordon Campbell in lighting the peace flame at the Vancouver Centennial Peace Monument at Seaforth Peace Park, using a flame sent from the Hiroshima Peace Park.

In researching the meaning behind peace cranes, I was again intrigued and humbled to read of the story of another young survivor of that horrific bombing: Sadako Sasaki; She was diagnosed with leukemia in 1955. While in hospital, her best friend, Chizuko Hamamoto, came to visit, and cut a gold piece of paper into a square to fold it into a paper crane, in reference to the ancient Japanese story that promises that anyone who folds a thousand origami cranes will be granted a wish by the gods. An exhibit, which appeared in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, stated that by the end of August 1955, Sadako had achieved her goal.

There is a statue in memory of Sadako Sasaki in Naka-ku, Hiroshima. Sadako was born January 7, 1943 and died October 25, 1955 (aged 12).

References:

(Internet search for David Laskey) - Hiroshima:Nagasaki Members Shaw
City of Vancouver Press Release/Memorial Notice, November 5, 2004
Sadako Sasaki - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



B.C. HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY 2012 ANNUAL REPORTS

The following reports were presented at the Annual General Meeting on April 24th, 2014. Due to space restrictions, some reports have been edited. If you wish to see the full report, please contact us or the committee chair.

01. President's Report **BY: KATHY MURPHY, PRESIDENT**

In the past year, regular meetings were held in October, December, January and March to carry out the business of the Society. In addition, another successful planning session was held in July hosted by Glennis Zilm. At this session the group considered what we needed to do and wanted to do in the next three years. The UBC Consortium for Historical Inquiry in Nursing and Health Care was also described. As will be reported in the Committee reports by the Chairs, our many activities continued and several initiatives were taken to increase revenue generation by increasing fees and charging for archival assistance.

Joan Andrews, the ARNBC Library Manager, was recognized for her support and assistance and Suzanne Campbell, Director of the UBC School of Nursing, was thanked for the space provided to the BCHNS to house the archives and artifacts of the society.

I have been pleased to represent our society at the Nursing Specialty Network meetings hosted by the ARNBC and to learn of the current concerns and actions of the groups.

During Nursing Week, display tables were hosted at the Community Nurses event and the event held at VGH. As the membership number drops, the finances available to operate, and the ages of the Executive members increase, the future of our society must be evaluated on a regular basis.

Priorities are considered when the annual budget is set so that the activities and resources are used effectively. The Officers and Committee Chairs are receptive to any suggestions and encourage members to keep informed by reading the website, blog, and newsletters and attending events.

Sincere appreciation is offered to all of those actively involved in maintaining the purposes of our society.



02. Treasurer's Report **BY: SUE FORSHAW, TREASURER**

The financial status of the History of Nursing is stable. Of the total of individuals listed as members just over half (68 of 118) have paid their 2014 membership fees, although the dollar amount of memberships is only \$80.00 less this year (in March) than the total amount for 2012. Donations to date are down about \$1000.00 compared to last year.

The following activities are complete or will be before the end April:

- 2013 BCHoN Income Tax
- 2013 BCHoN Financial Statement
- 2013 financial review done by Sheila Oxholm and Don Ransom
- 2013 T4A tax forms have been filed with the CRA and scholarship recipients have received the short T4A forms for their income tax returns

The 2013 budget was balanced only by cashing some of the investment money. This will be the same for 2014 and every year thereafter.

The bank account is \$13,044.72 as of the end of March.

The investment total is \$84,062.19 prior to awarding any further scholarships.

There will be 2 more scholarships of \$1000.00 each.

The 2014 budget was revised and presented for approval at the annual meeting.





03. Archives **BY MARJORY RALSTON, CHAIR**

Members: Ethel Warbinek (oral histories and Biographies) Nan Martin, Marjory Ralston (Chair)

Over the year of 2013- 2014 archives has been continuing to refine the cross referencing of all the documents, materials and artifacts within our current collection. Two new categories have been added to our archives: Collections, which include a diverse group of materials many of which are unique and interesting and Artifacts which include a wide selection of articles directly related to nursing activities in past times. At this time, the artifacts are listed and piled in boxes until we find a suitable space to store them in a more accessible way. We continue to sort and catalogue more artifacts as they are returned to our office and our goal is to collect all of the artifacts currently in a variety of locations. Collections and Artifacts continue to be a work in progress. We continue to have research students interested in our collection.

A major activity throughout the fall, was to rewrite and update all of the Policy and Procedures Manual last written in 2001. Many things have changed in twelve years. The new archival system and office functioning has been now clearly documented by Francis Mansbridge our Archivist. All of the forms related to the functioning of the archives office especially those related to research and research students have been rewritten and updated by the Archives Committee. These major changes were approved by the Executive Committee in October. Ethel Warbinek has been working on the extensive and diverse UBC School of Nursing Historical Collection. The initial sorting is almost complete and the next stage of organizing the material into categories and completing the process of archiving the documents and artifacts will continue throughout the year.

The issue of ownership of the Oral History Tapes has been resolved with CRNBC and the tapes that are officially the property of HON are now archived as part of our collection. We continue to receive new documents to add to our collection. The records and documents of the Student Nurses Association of BC is a new unique acquisition.

Our most recent important news is that we have acquired a large store-room with metal shelves in the UBC School of Nursing. This will solve our chronic space problem. We can now store our artifacts, archive them correctly and develop a new finding aid. As the room is shelved we will finally be able to easily locate specific items. The store room, # 271, is a locked facility and will be an official part of our Archive office. We are currently in the process of moving our large glass cabinet from the College Library to UBC School of Nursing. The proposed location is against the wall opposite the elevators ensuring both maximum traffic and the ability to display our most interesting artifacts.

The coming year will be busy with the major task of organizing our new space and integrating the large UBC School of Nursing Historic Collection into our archival collection.



04. Biographical **BY: ETHEL WARBINEK, CHAIR**

Members: Linda Lister, Ethel Warbinek – chair

The past year was spent adding new biographical files and placing additional items in existing ones. The originals are placed in the HoN Archives at UBC and copies in the CRNBC library. A list of the biographical files can be viewed on the HoN website. The catalogue at CRNBC library lists the names as well as brief descriptions of the file contents.

05. Oral History **BY: ETHEL WARBINEK**

MEMBERS: Marjorie Ralston, Sheila Zerr, Ethel Warbinek -chair

Recordings of oral history interviews have slowed during the past couple of years so the past year was spent establishing copyright to the recordings at CRNBC.

The question of copyright of the oral history recordings at CRNBC Library was discussed with Joan Andrews. Since 1987 the Library has been cataloguing and storing 2 copies of all recorded interviews. Early ones are on cassette tapes and later ones on CDs. The following decision was reached by CRNBC. CRNBC has copyright to all the recordings created between 1987-2005 when we were a RNABC Professional Practice Group. The original recordings are stored off site at their storage facility and copies are kept in the library. Once we became an independent society, we have copyright to all recordings created after 2005. One copy will be placed in our Archives at UBC and a second one catalogued and entered into the CRNBC's Library collection. They wish to continue to do this. All duplicate recordings at CRNBC after 2005 have been given to us – 16 CDs and 7 cassettes and placed in our Archives.

Summarized interviews.

One copy of the summaries of all interviews is placed in a binder in the CRNBC library. Joan Andrews asked us to make photocopies of these and place them in our Archives so there are back-up copies. This task is ¾ completed. We are fortunate CRNBC is covering this cost.



06. Newsletter **BY: LYNNE ESSON & SHEILA ZERR**

Members: Lynne Esson (chair) Beth Fitzpatrick, Ethel Warbinek, Naomi Miller, Sheila Zerr
Beth Fitzpatrick stepped in as co-chair with Lynne Esson until she moved to the US. Several student members contributed materials for publication.

Meetings: At the call of the chairperson, meetings were held by e-mail several times during the year.

Committee Activities: Three full issues of the history of nursing newsletter were published. All issues were guided by Anita Petersen's design and graphics. We thank Julie Lapinsky for her assistance with labels. Also thanks to Lenore Radom who works with the printer and facilitates the mailing of newsletters for those who do not have e-mail and Lynne Esson who sends out the newsletters electronically.

Editors for 2013

- Spring: Lynne Esson, Catherine Haney and Carolyn Burgess
- Summer: Ethel Warbinek
- Fall: Sheila Zerr and Catherine Haney
- Winter message and call for membership with Julie Lapinsky

We thank Chris Hines for his assistance with the digitalization of past newsletters

Future Plans: We will continue to issue 3 newsletters per year with the winter issue being replaced by a special membership mailing.

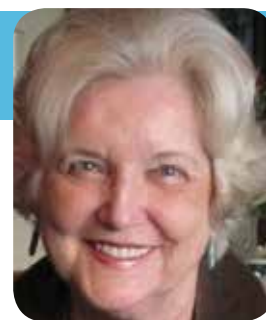
07. Pages of History **BY: SHEILA J. RANKIN ZERR, CHAIR**

MEMBERS: Sheila Zerr (chair) Lenore Radom,

Pages to date: There are 86 pages of history. There are three sets of display albums. Two sets are used for History of Nursing Society display sites and one set is on display in the CRNBC library. There are 8 pages of history on the nursing web site. These pages are placed with permission from the donor. We have only had two applications for a page of history in the past two years since our web site has been in operation.

Recommendations

- We recommend we complete the pages of history of our executive members and place them on our web site.
- Following the completion of the executive pages of history, we recommend continuing this project and hope for increased response.



08. Scholarship **BY: KATHY MURPHY, CHAIR**

Two major awards were presented in the past year due to the generous donations of Helen Shore and Nina Rumen. The Helen Shore Award was for a graduate student pursuing a BC History of Nursing project. This could be an essay, nursing biographies, oral histories, the preparation of display materials or other historical research or projects. The award was given to Catherine Haney in May, 2013 for her paper entitled "Development of Abortion Nursing in Canada: Implications for Women's Health Today".

A BCHNS Scholarship was presented to Shari Caputo in December 2013 for her paper entitled "A Social History on Licensed Practical Nurse Development in Western Canada"

The Nina Rumen Award was created to recognize a nurse who has made a difference in patient-centered care. The award provided financial assistance to a nursing student in a Doctoral Program in Nursing or Nursing Related Studies. The winner was Catherine Haney and the award was presented in January, 2014.

09. Program **BY: LENORE RADOM**

Kathy Murphy hosted AGM potluck lunch in Honour of Beth Fitzpatrick receiving a BCHNS Honorarium membership April 11, 2013. Our regular Fall Event was in conjunction with the UBC School of Nursing Consortium in November when we went to UBC and enjoyed a nice lunch and presentations from Geertje Boschma, guest speakers and students with their poster awards.

- A tea for Nina Rumen's Award presentation to Catherine Haney was also hosted by Kathy Jan 18, 2014



10. Membership **BY: JULIE MARIE LAPINSKY**



As of APRIL 5, 2014, PAID membership

Honorary Members: 6
Affiliate Members: 11 paid for 2014 ***
Full Members: 44 paid for 2014 ***
Student Members: 1 paid for 2014***
“GRATIS” membership: 3

***DENOTES members (see below) where I have not yet had confirmation of their having paid; i.e. some members might have paid through ‘PayPal’ and I have not yet had confirmation.

- 1) Affiliate 2 who have not paid since 2013 according to my records
- 2) Full 24 who have not paid since 2013 according to my records
- 3) Students 4 who have not paid since 2013 according to my records

11. Nominations **BY: SHEILA OXHOLM**

The following Directors were elected for a one-year term ending after Annual General Meeting in 2014

President	<i>Kathy Murphy</i>	Vice President	<i>Ethel Warbinek</i>
Secretary	<i>Lynne Esson</i>	Treasurer	<i>Sue Forshaw</i>
Membership	<i>Julie Lapinsky</i>	Member-at-Large	<i>Nan Martin</i>



12. Parks Canada Nomination **BY: NAN MARTIN**

Ethel Johns (1879 - 1968)

- Still hoping for a commemorative plaque on the grounds of UBC!
- Some action this year --- finally received a response to our letter, dated July 26, 2012, from MP Peter Kent citing budget concerns, priorities, and need for special moments in time. President Kathy Murphy replied... 2014 is the 95th anniversary of UBC School of Nursing and 2015 is the 100th anniversary of the commencement of UBC.
- Kathy also wrote to the new Minister of Environment, Leona Aglukkaq and new Minister of Canadian Heritage, Shelley Glover, stating our case re: the Ethel Johns Plaque.
- I am in contact with Julie Dompierre, our Parks Canada contact in Ottawa who will keep me informed of further developments.
- Despite delay, we continue to be hopeful!

Canada’s Military Nurses as a national historic event.

Nominated August 2010 by Canadian Association for the History of Nursing with the support of BCHNS. Glennis Zilm wrote the proposal on behalf of CAHN and BCHNS. No further news to date.

13. Website **BY: LENORE RADOM, CHAIR**

Core Members: Beth Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Stephens [Facebook & Twitter], Lenore Radom [Chair].

Other members: Glennis Zilm [Contact us], Sheila Zerr [Pages of History Newsletters], Cheryl Entwistle [Displays], Marjory Ralston [Archives]

This year we have added, rearranged and in general, always seeking ways to make our website user friendly, attractive and current! We took the big leap and added Pay Pal for membership dues and sale of note cards. We are still working towards being able to use it for “events”. We submitted the website for the Award of \$250 to the BC Historical Federation, but have not heard anything. We paid ahead for next year’s webmaster services, Think Scarlet, at the same low fee of \$840.00. Jennifer adds updates to Facebook & Twitter on a regular basis.

Technica/Think Scarlet reports that Sept 2013 was our lowest number of hits [304], and Jan 2014 our highest [4,414]. Our individual visitors total for the year was 14,988, and unique individual hits, month/average was 1,326.

14. Memorial Book **BY: LYNNE ESSON, CHAIR**

During the year, the History of Nursing Society either initiated or assisted with two nominations for the CRNBC Memorial book. No nominations for the CNA Memorial book. These individuals will be recognized during the Awards Ceremony and will be entered into the book.

This year the nominees for the CRNBC Memorial Book were:

- Dr. Sharon Simpson: Nomination prepared by Lynne Esson with assistance from G. Zilm, Dr. S. Duncan and Dr. C. Zawaduk.
- Janice Christine Buller Nomination: by Nursing Staff of the Lillooet Hospital and Health Centre

If you know of or hear of someone who should be nominated please let the Chair of the Committee know.

16. BC Historical Federation **BY: NAN MARTIN**

The 2013 activities of the Federation include:

- The Federation's annual Conference and AGM in May - Historic Grasslands 2013 - held in Kamloops. Glennis Zilm represented our society as a voting delegate.
- Publication of their quarterly British Columbia History Journals and Newsletters. Ron Hyde, newsletter editor since its inception in 2003, retired from this position. Andrea Lister, editor of the British Columbia History Journal, resumed this position, and is making some changes. Instead of mailing, it will be sent electronically to our President, Kathy Murphy, and she will distribute to our on-line members, thus reaching out to more readers. It is also available on their excellent website www.bchistory.ca.
- The Federation's latest project - B.C. History Online – continues in the creation of an online encyclopedia of British Columbia History.
- Johnson Inc., a corporate member and partner continues to support the Federation with special member rates for Medoc travel insurance and home insurance. As a Member Society, our members are eligible for coverage.
- Planning for their 2014 annual Conference – in partnership with Surrey Historical Society – June 6th and 7th. Kathy Murphy, Glennis Zilm and I will attend, and our society will participate in the History Book Fair. I will send in our Member Society's electronic one-page report and prepare the "Historic Minute" report for the AGM.

MEMBER NEWS

Helen Vandenberg and her husband had a beautiful baby girl on May 15, at 9:14AM, 6 pounds, 13 ounces. She is named Zephyrine Anne Vandenberg (pronounced Zeffer-eeen), and called Zeffy for short. Helen, who has been so busy with work on her doctorate in history of nursing and with editorship of the CAHN Newsletter, says she is "really enjoying this new experience of motherhood!" Welcome to new members: Cheryl Walsh and Bruce Holvick

CAHN Conference – June 13-15, 2014 York University. The theme was Local Work, Global Health and the Challenge of Transnational Nursing. Three HoN members presented papers.

Sheila J. Rankin Zerr, UBC

- Oral Histories Examine the Challenges Faced by the Nurse in Canada's North: Millicent Coleman's Story. Paper was presented by Catherine Haney

Margaret Scaia, University of Victoria

- Educating Nurses, 1958-1977: Indentured Servitude or Canary in the Emancipatory Birdcage?

Lydia Wytenbroek, York University

- This paper examined the role of American missionaries in the establishment of trained nursing in Iran.

CAHN 2014 Panel Abstracts

Panel Theme: Oral history and Qualitative Research Expectations: Should They Match?

Presenters: Dr. Geertje Boschma, Catherine Haney, Jennifer Stephens

More information on the conference and papers will be included in the Fall newsletter.



HAVE RN: WILL TRAVEL

AS TOLD TO NAOMI MILLER

Tootie Gripich is an energetic, friendly grandmother who has been coming to the family cottage at Wasa every summer since 1945. She mentioned a busy era in her life when she “Had RN: would Travel,” ... so I plied her with questions.

Tootie was born and grew up in Cranbrook. Her father was Joe Little, part owner of a grocery store, and her mother was Mary (Robertson) Little, a nurse who had graduated from St. Eugene's Hospital in 1932. Tootie was christened “Dalcy Diane” but rarely used her official name. Then she wed Gordon “Toby” Gripich in 1962 and friends knew them as Toby and Tootie.

Miss Little took nurses training in St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver graduating in September 1960. She promptly returned to Cranbrook to work in St. Eugene's Hospital as did a classmate Marie Halko. After their experiences in a multistaffed institution the small hospital proved challenging. (St. Eugene had not trained students for ten years). The new grads determined to cover every detail conscientiously, often working overtime with no extra pay. There were also some very personal experiences such as attending the birth of a friend's first child. She joined the local RNABC chapter and was elected President. She escorted patients to Vancouver. Her first trip was with a cardiac patient, who died shortly after being admitted to VGH. Later trips, one with a baby and the other an accident victim had happier endings. The family of the sick or injured paid the nurses fare. The Cranbrook Airport was just a few blocks from the hospital in those days. CP Airlines staff was prepared to curtain off the stretcher and accompanying nurse. Tootie had saved her earnings so that she could travel.

She went off to Europe for several months.

On returning to Canada, Tootie went to work in the Invermere Hospital because a certain young man had been posted there by BC Forest Service. The hospital startled Tootie when she discovered earwigs in sterile bundles, and a Bird Respirator that tipped over when she attempted to give bedside care. Three months after her wedding Toby was transferred to Nakusp. The Arrow Lakes Hospital was happy to have her come on staff. Her duties ranged from bedside nurse, delivery room to scrub nurse to dietician. The Nakusp doctor was able to call upon the resident physician in nearby New Denver to give anaesthetics. In 1963 Gordon/Toby was sent for a three month course in New Westminster. They housesat for friends and Tootie got plenty of exercise walking up and down a steep hill between this home and the Royal Columbian Hospital. For three months she worked in Urology. The couple returned to Nakusp where the now pregnant Mrs. Gripich worked night shift alone at Arrow Lakes Hospital. One night she was exhausted after a birth early on her shift. She dozed off. Another couple rang the doorbell - but were not admitted. They went home and phoned. This time Tootie woke up. The anxious callers returned and the lady in labour delivered before the night shift ended. A very embarrassed night nurse arranged to take maternity leave. She returned to Cranbrook where their first child arrived in February 1964.

Toby soon followed, transferred to Elko in the East Kootenay. They found a home in Jaffray and commuted in opposite directions to work. The new Mom applied for “a six week posting” with Public Health. to assist in South Country Unit with vision screening, immunizations, baby visits, and hearing tests. The 6 weeks stretched to 3 years. In 1966 the couple moved into Cranbrook. In September 1967 their second child was born.

Tootie was president of the Cranbrook Chapter of RNABC 1960-1961 and 1967 - 1969; District Executive and Education Committee 1970 - 1974; RNABC Board of Directors 1974- 1976, and Member of the RNABC Discipline Panel 1977- 1979. In 1986 she was given the RNABC Award of Honour in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Professional Nursing Association and the advancement of health/health care in BC.

When her maternity leave was up, following the birth of her second child, Tootie worked at the Green Clinic near the Fire Hall on 11th Avenue. There she did lab work and took X-rays. As soon as the Cranbrook Regional Hospital opened in 1968, Tootie agreed to work weekends only in the Emergency Room. She worked part time in the clinic until her third child arrived.in 1973.

Tootie substituted at the Health Unit whenever called, especially to accompany a visiting audiologist on his rounds. The Home Support Agency came into being in 1977 with Pat Sinclair working full time as Assessor. The supervisor determined how many hours of assistance a week was needed by an indigent individual or couple and approved a contract for a homemaker. The Agency covered a large geographical area and when organized it was estimated the supervisor could handle new clients and revisions by working ten days a month. This job involved travel and Tootie happily agreed to this position and traveled three days one week, two days the next. This permanent part time job suited her and her family. She became a favorite visitor to the homes of clients receiving Long Term Care and worked in that role from 1978 till she retired in 1998.

About 1973, the Genealogy bug hit Tootie. Once her children were launched she volunteered for projects such as charting burial plots in old cemeteries, or indexing Births, Marriages and Deaths. Those early newspapers inserted items such as, “Mrs. Turner Passes” or

“Logger Killed by Falling Tree” in the general news in the weekly paper but no obituaries. A following issue probably gave a few words describing the funeral service - but in the case of women, might never give the woman’s Christian name(s). The Cranbrook Chapter of the Genealogical Society meets regularly, frequently at Tootie’s home.

Volunteer activities such as conducting classes for cardiac patients at the Senior’s Centre in Cranbrook and visiting grandchildren kept her busy but painful motion prompted her to seek reprieve. Surgeons operated to replace her hip in April 2002. Within three weeks she was exercising in the hospital hot tub. Two weeks later she was allowed to resume swimming. She did “only ten laps” on her first visit to the pool and quickly added more on subsequent days. Then she brought her bicycle out to Wasa. There is a 7 km bike path around the lake. Our post operative lady did one lap with ease and shortly thereafter biked two laps. Although she is humble about her achievements methinks that her doctors should describe her progress as a good example for hip replacement patients to also train first and return to active living promptly.

In 2005 the Old Cemetery in Cranbrook became a playground for a group of Grade 5 boys. The visits became challenges as to who could tip over the most tombstones. Unhappily there were over a hundred markers dumped before the vandalism was discovered. Once the authorities had found the problem and discouraged the boys from future actions, the local monument maker lifted those markers to as good a position as possible. Tootie led a group of volunteers to brush dirt out of the sunken lettering. She also serves on several History/Heritage related committees.

Then in 2006, Tootie answered an appeal for members of the Dragon Boat Team. She was the sole paddler who was not a breast cancer survivor. The team begins exercising in the spring by paddling at a pool, and then takes the boat out two evenings a week first on Wasa Lake, then Moyie Lake.

Tootie lives a very full life and is an example of a nurse who is a GOOD CITIZEN.

PAST EVENTS: May 17 Luncheon

A luncheon co-hosted by the UBC SON Consortium was held on May 17, 2014. The speaker, Dr. Margaret Scaia from the University of Victoria, presented a paper on “Working Professionalism: Nursing in Calgary and Vancouver, 1958-1977”. Take a few minutes to visit our website and listen to her speech. Click on BLOG and scroll down to May 17th Luncheon Event.



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