

# Remembering Canadian Nursing Sisters

*During the past months several BCHNS members who were nursing sisters have passed away. We honour them by telling the stories of their wartime service and nursing careers. These accounts were previously reported in earlier BCHNS newsletters and include additions from other sources.*

## JUNE (PLUMMER) NEWTON 1919-2015 by Shelia Zerr

June (Plummer) Newton was a 1941 Royal Jubilee Hospital (RJH) graduate who served as a WWII military nurse in Italy. She recorded her military experiences in 2002 and 2009 in oral histories.

### Nurse Training Program

June Plummer from Kinsella Alberta, took her nurse training at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria BC, 1938-1941. Her choice of nursing was influenced by her father, a WW I veteran. He credited a nurse with saving his infected foot. The doctors were about to amputate but the nurse (named June) asked that she be allowed to try hot fomentations a while longer. She was successful in controlling the infection and saving his foot.

June's three year hospital training program provided in-hospital residence living with strict rules of conduct. The curriculum included Medical Surgical Nursing, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Psychiatry. She was given extensive clinical experience and the responsibility of managing an entire unit on afternoon and night duty as a senior nursing student.

### Enlistment

June was working as a staff nurse at the Queen Alexandra Solarium Children's Hospital, Victoria, when she enlisted in the Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1942. Her military service began in Canadian Military Hospitals in Victoria and Prince Rupert. She traveled across Canada by train to Halifax where she spent six weeks in overseas training. She boarded the SS Cavina to cross the Atlantic in January 1943. The seas were rough, many suffering from seasickness. They followed a zig zag pattern to avoid the U Boats.



### War Experience

June was first assigned to the Canadian Overseas Hospital in Basingstoke. She began in the psychiatric ward. She was moved to neuro/head injuries and then on to plastic surgery. Her



# IN THIS ISSUE:

Remembering Canadian Nursing Sisters	Cover, 2, 4, 5-6
President's Message	Page 3
Editor's Desk	Page 3
Remembering	Page 7
UBC Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry	Page 8-9
Archival Corner	Page 10
Naomi Miller Honoured	Page 11
Book Review	Page 12
Member Publications & Awards	Page 13
Events	Page 13
Late Breaking News	Page 14



## Newsletter Committee

Lynne Esson (chair), Beth Fitzpatrick,  
Ethel Warbinek, Sheila Zerr, Naomi Miller,  
Glennis Zilm, Lenore Radom.

The BC History of Nursing Society newsletter is published 3 times a year. Submissions are welcome. Deadline for the summer issue is May 15, 2016. Please send submissions to Ethel Warbinek at warbinek@telus.net

## June Plummer Newton continued ...

embarkation orders came again and she undertook further training that included boot marches. She was assigned to Italy.

### Italy

On August 1943, thirty eight days after the Allies landed, Sicily was captured but not the German Army. They had escaped to mainland Italy. The victory that brought about Mussolini's downfall and Italy's surrender was no easy conquest. Thousands of allied forces lost their lives or were wounded before victory was realized. Total Canadian casualties: 26,254.

June was assigned to the Canadian Field Hospital in Caserta, north of Naples. She recalls how the wards were full of wood as every bed was set up with traction so soldiers could move or have limbs in traction. Many had missing limbs. Many had burns that required saline dressings twenty-four hours a day. Many had malaria, chills and high fevers.

Antibiotics were introduced to military hospitals in 1943. Doctors and nurses marveled at the drugs effect on soldiers with repulsive wounds infected with gas gangrene. The new yellow powder that smelled like "old hay" began to revolutionize the treatment of wounds. June witnessed the miracle of antibiotics in fighting the horrendous wounds she witnessed in Italy. In 1946 June completed her military service.

June kept an active role with the Military Nurses and always participated in the Vancouver Remembrance Day ceremony, often the one laying the wreath for the Military Nursing Sisters. June was eager to preserve that which contributed to nursing history. She worked closely with Mr. Adrian French in the search for Military Nurse Uniforms and artifacts for the Field Ambulance Military

Museum and nursing displays around the province.

June remained an active member of Military Nursing Sisters Association of Canada. She took over the presidency of the association in 2002 and remained so until the BC Branch of the Nursing Sisters Association disbanded. After that she became a BCHNS member.

In 2008 at age 89 she was chosen by the Canadian Nursing Sisters Organization to be their representative at the 55th Anniversary of Korean War Armistice. She traveled to Korea with her daughter Joanne. June returned home with rekindled memories of the past and many new memories. She was deeply moved by her eight-day voyage.

In 2009 June was the first nurse to receive the "Recognition Award" given by the BC History of Nursing Society for having made a significant contribution to the history of nursing.

### Tribute to June at her Memorial Service, November 26, 2015 by Sheila Zerr

"My sincere thanks to the family for allowing me to speak to June's amazing nursing career. My friendship with June covers many years. It was a privilege to work with June recording her



(Continued on page 4)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KATHY MURPHY



Although we seem to have been receiving monsoon type rains recently, the flowers and blossoms are beginning to burst. New beginnings have such potential. As you will read in this newsletter, the work of the Society continues to move along due to the dedicated volunteers and our Archivist, Francis Mansbridge.

The Annual General Meeting will be held Thursday, April 14, 2016 from 4:30 pm at the CRNBC. All members are invited to attend but should let us know as a light supper will be served. Planning is underway for the CAHN/ ACHN Conference which will be held June 16-18, 2016 at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. The theme is "Brains, Guts, and Gumption: Historical Perspectives on Nursing Education, Practice and Entrepreneurship" which should provide some interesting presentations. The BCHNS will be one of the sponsors for this event.

The BCHNS website has many new additions so it is worth checking it on a regular basis to keep track of our activities. At our recent budget preparation, an increase was added to the website section to allow for updating in this fiscal year.

We are always looking forward to involving others in the work of the Society. If you are interested, please consider joining us at the annual meeting or contacting us through the website.

## EDITORS' DESK

BETH FITZPATRICK



*Malier Photography Beth Fitzpatrick 2014*

**"... In this issue we continue to remember and honor Canadian nursing sisters who served their country during WW2 and have recently passed on."**

In this issue we continue to remember and honour Canadian nursing sisters who served their country during WW2 and have recently passed on. We send our sincere condolences to their families and loved ones.

Fired by patriotism and a sense of adventure, these women saw war's devastation and human suffering. We are grateful that they willingly shared their wartime and other nursing experiences through interviews and oral histories.

I did not know June Newton personally but honorary member Sheila Zerr was a close friend and fellow Royal Jubilee graduate. Sheila's tribute to June, given at the memorial service, is a testament to June's courage and perseverance during most difficult times.

I did know Joan Doree and enjoyed her company as we car-pooled to many history of nursing events. Joan lived with her sister in the west end of Vancouver in an apartment called "The White House". I often teased her about living in such a famous building.

Joan's account of her time at Basingstoke hospital is touched with humor and pathos and shows her caring nature and strength. During the last months of her life Joan had many health challenges. One of her BCHNS friends, who kept in touch, described Joan as having an "indomitable spirit". So true, and she will be missed.

We feature a detailed report and pictures of the third annual meeting of the UBC School of Nursing Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry held this past November. Of particular interest was the poster presentation on Directed Studies and its relevance to nursing historical enquiry. Authors Shelley Canning and Joanne Nelmes, faculty at the University of the Fraser Valley and BCHNS members, are to be congratulated on promoting the learning opportunities that are possible through Directed Studies.

Life Member Naomi Miller was honoured in July 2015 with a plaque and special thanks for her contributions to Fort Steele Historic Town, a BC Government Heritage Site near Naomi's home in Wasa. The occasion was the opening of the newly restored Thomas McVittie House and Land Surveying Office. McVittie was an early land surveyor in the region. Congratulations Naomi for your dedication to preserving history!



*(Continued from page 2)*

nursing experiences. These valuable recordings are now on record for future nurse historians and students to examine the field of nursing during June's lifetime. June's career covered various fields of nursing practice. Her devotion to her career and family was an inspiration to all who knew her.

June completed high school in Medicine Hat Alberta, then graduated from the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing in Victoria in 1941. In her historical biography she recalls that her father had been wounded in WWI. He admired the nursing care he received and credited the nurses with saving his foot from amputation. Her father remained dedicated to helping people. He would drive folks to and from the hospital over 30 miles of dirt road. He encouraged June to assist him and to help with the care of the farm animals. At a young age, June read stories about Florence Nightingale. At age six, she was inspired by the nurses who cared for her when she had her tonsils removed.

June recalls her nurses training years with pride. She remained a faithful supporter of the Jubilee Nursing Alumnae and enjoyed the many alumnae social events over the years. She marveled at the bond formed with her classmates. These friendships have lasted a lifetime, one of which was Maxine Bredt. After graduation with her R.N., June worked as a private duty nursing at the Jubilee Hospital and at the Queen Alexander Solarium. In January, 1943 she enlisted as a nursing sister with the Royal Canadian Medical Corps. In her biography, June states that WWII had a great influence on her career. She realized how her nursing knowledge and skills could be used in many unusual places and circumstances. She took basic training and then was sent to Prince Rupert to work on the medical surgical ward of the military hospital. When her embarkment orders came through she traveled across Canada by train and was able to visit her parents in

Medicine Hat before going on to Halifax. She sailed on the SS Cavina with 100 other nurses. The voyage, of 30 days, took a zig zag rough crossing to Liverpool. Many were seasick but June, happily, was not affected.

Once in England she was assigned to a psychiatric ward at Basingstoke. Embarkment orders came through again. After boot camp, marches and preparation, June sailed on the SS Volendam to Naples. She was assigned to #1 Field Hospital north of Naples. As the Canadian fighting forces advanced from Sicily, up the boot of Italy the wounded were taken north to the 200 bed #1 Field Hospital in Casserta. June recalled the 30 bed wards, all outfitted with traction (a sea of wood as she described it). She also recalled the horrific wounds, burns, and missing limbs, as well as malaria. The nurses applied saline dressings for 24 hours each day. All the patients and staff had yellow faces from the drug they were required to take for yellow fever. Another challenge was dealing with fleas that were constantly biting the nurse's ankles. June shared happy memories of the war. She witnessed some of the first use of antibiotics and saw the miraculous results on the infected wounds. She had the opportunity to visit the opera in Naples and to visit the Amalfi Coast along with Positano and Sorrento. In February 1945, June returned to #4 Hospital in England where blackouts were still in effect. On May 7 she remembers the rockets over London. The war was over.

After military discharge in 1946, June returned to Canada and worked for Dr. R. Stanley in Vancouver. She married Neil Campbell Newton in 1949 and chose to stay home with her young children. In 1966 she returned to nursing to work at Sunny Hill Hospital. She found working with the children most satisfying. June loved nursing. Her devotion to duty and excellence in nursing practice was an inspiration to all who had the pleasure of knowing her."



*Photo credit: BCHNS June Newton September 2015*



*Photo credit: BCHNS June Newton receives the Queen's Jubilee Medal Award 2012*

# JOAN DOREE 1919 - 2016

## Nurses Training

Joan Doree was born in England in 1919 and moved with her family at the age of six months to Saskatchewan. She was the second eldest child of a family of four children. She credited her mother and father for the financial support she received to enter St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing in Saskatoon in 1937. Joan's father cashed in a portion of his life insurance policy to receive the \$100 needed for Joan to attend nursing school. "My father and brother carried all of my worldly possessions in an old family suitcase for two miles, taking turns, from the outskirts of the city to St. Paul's Hospital." At this time there were limited choices of careers for women and nursing was called "the career of the poor man's daughter." Three years later, Joan graduated from St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing.

Following graduation Joan worked at Prelate General Hospital, in the poverty stricken Saskatchewan town of Prelate. She then nursed at St. Michael's Hospital in Lethbridge, Alberta before moving to Vancouver to practice at the Vancouver General Hospital. While there, she received a call to go overseas.

## Military Service

From 1944 -1946, Joan served overseas as a Lieutenant Nursing Sister in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. She nursed at a specialized unit of the Canadian Army, Neurological and Plastic Surgery Hospital and Psychiatric Unit followed by six months at a Canadian military hospital at Taplow, England at the estate of Lady Astor. Following the war, Joan worked for six months at The Canadian Army of Occupation at Oldenburg Germany at #7 Hospital.

## Post War Education and Experience

Joan returned to Canada in 1946 and enrolled in the public health nursing course at UBC. Following this, she nursed at Shaughnessy Hospital and St. Paul's while returning to UBC and received a BAsc (N) in 1949. After completing her degree, Joan worked at the Vancouver City Health Department as a staff

nurse and later was promoted to Liaison Nurse and then Supervisor overseeing staff nursing.

In 1967, through a Federal Health Training Grant, Joan graduated with a Master's Degree in Public Health Administration from the University of California, Berkeley. She returned to Vancouver as a Supervisor while continuing her work in prevention and public health through the Vancouver City Health Department.



Photo credit: BCHNS Joan Doree London England 1944

## Establishing a Bursary

Joan had two terms on the BC Registered Nurses Association Board and she became a founding member of the Registered Nurses Foundation of British Columbia (RNFBC) whose mandate is the education and advancement of nurses. In 2012 Joan established an annual bursary with RNFBC, to promote the knowledge, skill, and compassion of future nurses. The bursary is in memory and in honour of Joan's parents, Mabel and Henry Doree and the Doree Family.

*Joan was a long standing member and supporter of the BCHNS. She shared stories of her wartime experiences*

*with us over the years. Often touched with humor, they clearly show nursing's ability to adapt to difficult conditions, meet patient's needs, and maintain professional standards.*

## EXCERPTS FROM BASINGSTOKE MEMORIES: 1944-1945 By Joan Doree

"More than 50 years later memories of Basingstoke Plastic Surgery and Neurological Hospital still float around in my head. How did I get to this Canadian Army Hospital soon after D-Day in June 1944, and what happened until the summer of 1945 when it closed for good? What I have written is a mere fragment of that year in my life.

In January 1944 while working as a general duty nurse at Vancouver General Hospital I received my call to go into the Army. Off I went to the then unknown B.C. interior to a town called Vernon. There I became a 2nd Lieutenant Nursing Sister working in the Vernon Military Hospital and discovering the beauties of the Okanagan valley. Suddenly in May 1944 while



still assembling all the necessary bits and pieces of my Army uniform and equipment and learning how to be a member of the Canadian Army, I was caught up in one of the strange unfathomable ways of the Army. With less than 2 days' notice I was sent off to Wainwright Alberta where no one was expecting me and 48 hours later I was on a train again on route to Vancouver. Apparently I was on an overseas draft.

I reported in at Vancouver but many days later I was still trying to find out what I was to do. Finally, I went to the Vancouver military office in the old Vancouver Hotel (no longer standing) where a young C.W.A.C. officer said to me rather sternly "Where have you been? You've missed your overseas draft". I am probably the only military person on record who has had a 2 week embarkation leave! The usual leave was 3 days.

At last I was sent on the 4 day train journey to a holding unit in Debert, Nova Scotia, as a reinforcement rather than as part of a particular Army hospital. Soon after, I sailed from Halifax on the hospital ship "Lady Nelson". Ten days later we docked in Liverpool, England and eventually I was posted to the Basingstoke Plastic Surgery and Neurological Hospital in Hampshire in the south of England. This was the specialized hospital of the Canadian Army for troops with severe burns, smashed faces, head and spine injuries, neurological problems and mental illness.

My year at Basingstoke was spent mostly on ward 12, one of the two burn units. The stench of forty severely burned people lying in two long rows in a Nissen hut hit like a blow every morning. Then as the day wore on everything started to fall into place and we coped as best we could. We never had enough staff, and equipment and supplies were often lacking and not always in good condition. Between two burn wards which totaled 80 patients we eventually had 3 gatch beds. All the other patients lay on low wheel-less army cots, not very comfortable for the patients and difficult for the staff. Chairs were scarce so we sometimes sat on the patient's beds to give feedings and do treatments and dressings. The application of wet saline dressings was the usual form of treatment used to clean up burned areas in preparation for early skin grafts.

The doctors spent their long days in the operating room repairing the terrible burn wounds and the nurses were responsible for all the dressings. A small number of the very worst patients were put into a saline bath to have their dressings soaked off and later re-dressed. This bath operated both day and night and was shared by the two burn wards. The rest of the patients had to have dressings done in their beds. In the early stages of treatment most of our patients were given penicillin injected hypodermically every three hours, day and night. Finding places to put the needle was a problem.

On arrival at the hospital, and later too, most of our patients received intravenous injections of four times concentrated plasma to counteract the colossal loss of body fluid through their burns. This dried, life-saving plasma that looked like brown sugar, came in bottles to which we added 100cc's of fluid instead of the usual 400 cc's. Then, as the bottle had to be



*Photo credit: BCHNS Joan Doree receives the Queen's Jubilee Medal Award 2012*

shaken vigorously for some time to dissolve the plasma, it was not uncommon to see a nurse shaking the bottle with one hand and carrying out another procedure with the other hand.

During my time at Basingstoke and later on, I felt that in spite of our efforts, long working days and nights, our patients often received less than minimum care. However, when I mentioned this to Bill a former patient, he was astonished. He insisted that Basingstoke was the best hospital he had ever been in. He said "It was warm and safe like being in a cocoon". I thought about this and remembered that Basingstoke Hospital had been unusual.

The medical director, the matron and assistant matron set the tone and general attitudes of the place: "to the best of our ability the patient's well-being must always come first". I know that this is the philosophy of all hospitals but it is the only hospital I've worked in where it was practiced to such a high degree. Here in 1944 and 1945 in the Basingstoke Hospital lay the boys and men of my generation, mostly teenagers and men in their early twenties. How they coped so courageously with their terrible injuries and what they had endured prior to being wounded I don't know. In his book *All Quiet on the Western Front*, a World War I story, Erich Maria Remarque says it best "A hospital alone shows what war is". I hope future generations will remember our young soldiers and perhaps be inspired to work endlessly for peace".

# REMEMBERING ...

## Military Nursing Sister Dies

Harriet 'Hallie' Jennie Todd Sloan, C.M., C.D., B.N., Lt Col (Ret'd) passed away peacefully at home in Ontario on January 21, 2016, her 99th birthday. Born in Winnipeg, she grew up in Saskatoon and graduated in 1939 from the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing. She enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and served overseas in France during World War II in the 8th Canadian General Hospital.

After D-Day, she participated in the liberation of Belgium and the Netherlands, and chose to remain in the Army to serve during peacetime. She rose to the rank of Matron-in-Chief of the Canadian Forces Medical Services. After retiring from the military, she began a second career as a director of the Canadian Nurses Association.

Hallie was a tireless volunteer supporting veteran's health care and the Nursing Sister's Association of Canada. She was privileged to participate in several pilgrimages commemorating WWII Campaigns in Asia and Europe. In 2004, she was awarded the Order of Canada in recognition of her outstanding leadership for 50 years and advancing military nursing and patient care. She was also a Dame of the Order of St. John and last year as a D-Day veteran received the Legion of Honour.

Hallie remained close to her BC ties and was a long-time member of the BC History of Nursing Society and kept in touch with several of our members.



Photo credit: BCHNS archives,  
Hallie Sloan

## Margaret Brooke 'Naval Hero' Dies

The Summer 2015 BCHNS Newsletter (Volume 26/ Issue 2) contains a feature article and pictures of Dr. Brooke, a heroic nursing sister dietician who served the Royal Canadian Navy for 20 years. Vice-Admiral Mark Norman, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, issued the following statement on the passing of naval hero Lieutenant Commander (Ret'd) Margaret Brooke, MBE, PhD:

*"On behalf of the entire Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Armed Forces, my deepest condolences are extended to the family and friends of Lieutenant-Commander (Ret'd) Margaret Brooke, who passed away peacefully on January 9, 2016, at the age of 100, surrounded by loved ones in Victoria, British Columbia.*

*"LCdr Brooke was a true Canadian naval hero. A Royal Canadian Navy Nursing Sister during the Second World War, then-Sub-Lieutenant Brooke was named a Member (Military Division) of the Order of the British Empire for her valiant actions following the torpedoing and subsequent sinking of the ferry SS Caribou on October 14, 1942, in the Cabot Strait off Newfoundland. Fighting for her own survival, she attempted to save the life of her colleague and friend, Nursing Sister Sub-Lieutenant Agnes Wilkie, by holding on to her with one arm, while clinging to ropes on a capsized lifeboat. Despite LCdr Brooke's heroic efforts, her friend succumbed to the frigid water. LCdr Brooke continued to serve in the RCN until her retirement in 1962, at which point she went on to a successful civilian career in academia, achieving her PhD in paleontology.*

*"The Royal Canadian Navy was extremely pleased to acknowledge Margaret Brooke's great legacy with the announcement in April 2015 that one of the upcoming Arctic and Offshore Patrol Ships would be named Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Margaret Brooke in her honour. Members of the RCN had the great fortune to visit LCdr Brooke and her family at the time of the announcement, which was also on the occasion of her 100th birthday. It was a wonderful opportunity to thank LCdr Brooke for her 20 years of military service to Canada, and for her heroism so many years ago."*

Source: David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen, January 21, 2016.



Photo credit: BCHNS archives,  
Margaret Brooke



# The UBC Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry

By Dr. Geertje Boschma

The UBC Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry started as a School of Nursing initiative in 2012. It is dedicated to study and knowledge exchange activities in nursing and health history in collaboration with other groups on the UBC campus and the wider UBC community, including the UBC library and archives and the BC History of Nursing Society. The Consortium is led by a steering committee of UBC faculty members and has a number of affiliate members. Current faculty-lead is Geertje Boschma and Steering Committee members are Alison Phinney, Annette Browne and Vicky Bungay. An advisory committee is available for consultation.

The Consortium serves as a resource for students, faculty and members of the School's wider community to explore and examine nursing and health care's past. It links with other groups and stakeholders interested in nursing and health history, develops resources and organizes an annual symposium, and lectures and activities. It also regularly hosts visiting scholars who participate in Consortium activities or present on their research. The overall aim is to bring together students, faculty, and members of the community to expand knowledge of the history of nursing.

The third Nursing History Symposium was held last November in celebration of UBC's centennial. At the occasion Dr. Kathryn McPherson from York University gave the key note lecture, "Learning across Borders: Education, Practice and the Transnational Migration of Nurses in the Long-Twentieth Century," followed by a panel discussion of respondents Veronica Strong-Boag, Sally Thorne and Ethel Warbinek. In the afternoon students presented e-posters on various topics in nursing history, drawing from their research projects.



Photo credit: BCHNS Kathy Murphy and Geertje Boschma at the 3rd nursing History Symposium 2015



Photo credit: BCHNS Nursing History display at the Marion Woodward Lecture 2015



*The study described below was presented at the UBC Nursing Consortium Symposium in November 2015. The authors, who both are nursing faculty at the University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, are members of BCHNS, and Shelly is working on her PhD in Nursing at UBC. It is presented here as it offers many suggestions for students interested in history of nursing.*

## Directed Study:

*An Opportunity to Explore "Special Topics" in Nursing Curricula*

*By Shelley Canning, RN, MSN, BSc, and JoAnne Nelmes, RN, BSN, MN*

Increasingly, nursing curricula is moving away from traditional content and skills based teaching in favor of more applied pedagogies that focus on concept-based and student-centered strategies (Lumpkin, Achen & Dodd, 2015). Nursing educators are moving away from teacher-centered approaches to explore opportunities for learner-centered strategies (Getha-Eby, Beery & O'Brien, 2014). Thus, students are engaging in "flipped" classrooms, hybrid and on-line courses, and a wide range of innovative learning strategies involving narratives, unfolding cases, and concepts where lecture is no longer central.

Within this landscape of curriculum revisions and a focus on student-centered pedagogy, faculty and students at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) "re-discovered" the Directed Study (DS) course. Despite being listed in the course calendar through different iterations of curricula and faculty, this course option was never selected. However, recently students have been choosing to take a DS course as an opportunity to explore concepts of interest, or topics that typically receive only cursory coverage within undergraduate nursing programs. A return to this course offering has provided exciting and unique opportunities for student-directed learning.

Despite curricula revisions, it remains that undergraduate nursing education is geared towards meeting the requirements of a novice clinician with limited opportunity for in-depth exploration of topics outside of the core competencies. Engaging in DS allows students to move beyond the basic traditional nursing curriculum content. As one student stated:

*I chose to do a DS to engage in learning that is not specific to our regular curriculum in the nursing program. The DS course has*

*allowed me to learn in-depth knowledge regarding a topic of my choice that is related to nursing.*

Students choose DS to explore specific topics in depth - healthcare topics that are never covered or barely touched on in the basic nursing curriculum. For example, UFV students have developed DS proposals exploring sports-related concussion management, and dementia-care in acute care settings.

While DS provides an excellent opportunity for student-directed learning opportunities it is underscored by a strong faculty-student partnership. Faculty advisors play an important role in mentoring and nurturing the student learner. Students identify the importance of the faculty advisor's "investment" in the DS partnership, as one student stated: "It was extremely beneficial to have one instructor's guidance and input throughout the course and I believe through her knowledge and leadership I learned more than I ever expected."

Re-discovering DS has provided unique opportunities for our nursing students to successfully engage in student-directed learning. Through DS students are able to move beyond the current curriculum content choosing topics of interest and designing learning outcomes to meet self-identified learning goals. Through DS nursing, students can explore healthcare topics of historical, current, or future importance – a powerful tool for motivating and engaging our next generation of nurses!

---

Lumpkin, A., Achen, R.M., & Dodd, R.K. (2015). Student perceptions of active learning. *College Student Journal*, 49(1), 121-133.

Getha-Eby, T. J., Beery, T., Yin, X., & O'Brien, B. A. (2014). Meaningful learning: Theoretical support for concept-based teaching. *Journal of Nursing Education*.



Photo credit: UBC School of Nursing 100 (2015) Symposium Flickr photos. Shelley Canning and Joanne Nelmes, authors and presenters



Photo credit: Student Maddie Vaughn presents her Directed Studies poster, 2014

# Archival Corner

## Cups; Caps; and an Antique Silver Nursing Sister's Belt

These artifacts are part of the BC History of Nursing Society's archival collection stored in our offices at the UBC School of Nursing.

**Cups:** These three cups represent a selection of our invalid feeding cups. Hospital patient feeding cups originated in England during World War 1 and were used extensively to feed injured soldiers and sailors who could not sit up in bed. The plain white cup is early 20th century as is the antique porcelain "blue on white" cup made in Germany. The cup embellished with a gold rim dates from the 1930s.

**Caps:** Our collection consists of several caps from UBC and VGH as well as a military nursing sister's veil. The cap shown is from UBC (c. 1960s). The demise of the Nurse's cap took place in the 1970s. You can find a wonderful online collection of preserved caps dating from 1895 to 1983 at [www.historymuseum.ca/gloriakay](http://www.historymuseum.ca/gloriakay).

**Antique Silver Nursing Sister's Belt:** Late Victorian or early Edwardian steel-cut silver. Acquired by Edith Hatfield (1905 – 1984) as a gift from relatives in Britain; they liked to browse antique stores and sent it to her as the "nurse" in the family. Edith graduated from both UBC and VGH in 1929 and embraced the new field of provincial public health and school nursing. More information about Edith can be found in the Nurses' Fonds section of Archives in our website: [www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca).



Photo Credit: Nan Martin, Invalid feeding cups



Photo credit: Nan Martin, Nurses cap



Photo credit: Nan Martin, Nursing Sister's Belt, view 1



## Website Update!

Don't forget to visit our BCHNS Website regularly for news updates, meeting announcements, and items on our events page or blog. A very interesting recent addition to the online exhibits is the History of the St. Paul's Hospital Operating Room Post Basic Program for Registered Nurses written by Gloria Stephens.

The Archives Committee, thanks to the hard work of Ethel Warbinek, is making wonderful progress in summarizing material that has been collected on BC nurses in the Nursing Biographical Files. Check those out, too.



# Naomi Miller Honoured

*Life Member Naomi Miller was honoured in July 2015 with a plaque and special thanks for her contributions to Fort Steele Historic Town, a BC Government Heritage Site near Naomi's home in Wasa. The occasion was the opening of the newly restored Thomas McVittie House and Land Surveying Office. McVittie was an early land surveyor in the region.*

Robert Allen, Past President of the Association of British Columbia Land Surveyors (ABCLS) and chair of the Historical and Biographical Committee, presented the ABCLS award to Naomi for her support and assistance with this project and with other historical projects in the region and throughout BC. Also present were Bill Bennett, BC's Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, and Bronwyn Denton of the BC Land Surveyors.

The moving, restoration and refurbishing of McVittie's House and Office was a long and a joint effort between the ABCLS, Fort Steele Heritage Town, Friends of Fort Steele, the Province of BC, and Teck Corporation. All parties wanted to see the house and office saved and moved on to the main Heritage site. The project started in the spring of 1992 and the House and Land Surveying Office were moved to the present site in 1994.

To view the complete story and pictures of the interior of the house visit <http://www.dailytownsman.com/ourtown/315872261.html>



Photo credit: Fort Steele Archives Robert Allen, Naomi Miller and Bronwyn Denton July 2015

# Dick Splane Passes Away

Richard Splane (known as "Dick" to his friends) died peacefully at Crofton Manor in Vancouver on November 8, 2015, in his 100th year. He was the chief architect of the Canada Assistance plan and was one of Canada's leading social workers. Dick was pre deceased by his wife, Honourary Member Verna Splane, who died in January 2015.

Both of the Splanes received numerous awards and acknowledgements in recognition of their outstanding contributions, including being named Officers of the Order of Canada. They were also the first joint recipients of a UBC honorary doctorate, signifying the uniquely collaborative nature of their important work on behalf of nursing, health care and Canada. They were long time supporters of the BCHNS.



Photo credit: ARNBC Verna and Dick Splane, Crofton House, 2014





Joy Kjellbotn painting, HOUSE AND BRIDGE



Photo credit: Joy Kjellbotn

# BOOK REVIEW:

“A Moment in Time (That changed everything),”  
by Joy Lynn Kjellbotn

Reviewed by Bernice Rolls

Beginning in a fishing village on the west coast of British Columbia, a move to the Lower Mainland, and the devastation of the polio epidemic of 1953, this is the story of family, love, courage and the life-long bond with fellow polio survivors. Joy has lived at Vancouver’s Pearson Hospital since 1974. In addition to the personal experience, Joy’s careful research has produced an excellent history of polio, now mostly under control by vaccination. Joy is a gifted writer and artist. Some of her paintings are reproduced in the book.

A Moment in Time can be ordered from the author at email [jkjellbotn@hotmail.com](mailto:jkjellbotn@hotmail.com). Cost \$35.

## Happy Birthday!



MARGARET MAINWARING recently celebrated her 105th birthday on February 5, 2016. Margaret is a 1933 graduate from VGH School of Nursing and served in WWII. She received the Queen’s Silver Medal at Government House in 2012. Attending her birthday celebrations were representatives from the BCHNS, the military, and the VGH School of Nursing alumnae.

Photo credit: BCHNS (Bruce Holvick) Kathy Murphy, Margaret Mainwaring and LCol Adrian French, February 2016





# MEMBER PUBLICATIONS & AWARDS

CATHERINE HANEY , who is a UBC Nursing doctoral student, was one of the recipients of the UBC School of Nursing Winter 2015 Internal Research Grant competition. She is working on her doctoral dissertation research related to “Nurses and Their Work in Canadian Abortion Services: 1960s to 1990s.” Her supervisor is member Dr. Geertje Boschma.

Member DR. GEERTJE BOSCHMA spent two weeks in Pennsylvania in November 2014 looking at archival documents that pertain to her PhD research on American mission health care in Iran. She reports that one of the most interesting things she found was a photograph album that details the 42-year medical career of an American missionary physician in Iran.

ETHEL WARBINEK & GLENNIS ZILM have completed a 40-page monograph titled Early UBC Nursing Graduates: The Ethel Johns Years 1921-1925. The annotated list identifies and gives brief profiles of 73 University of British Columbia Nursing diploma and degree graduates from the first diplomas awarded in 1921 in Public Health Nursing and the first baccalaureates awarded in 1923 until 1925. It is the first published list to identify all the early graduates from the “Ethel Johns Years” and provides background information about their careers. “Few records exist to provide background or follow-up on these early women,” Ethel said recently. “After almost 100 years, the search required unearthing unusual sources as well as the usual primary resources. We compiled at least some information about the careers of 36 (49%) of the graduates.” The document is available online at the University of B.C. Library’s cIRcleCollection at <https://open.library.ubc.ca/cIRcle/collections/facultyresearchandpublications/52383/items/1.0224122>

# CONFERENCES & EVENTS

THE BC HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held Thursday, April 14, 2016 from 4:30 pm at the CRNBC. All members are invited to attend but should let us know as a light supper will be served.

On December 16, 1891 the Provincial ROYAL JUBILEE HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING opened its doors to nurses throughout the province. The School of Nursing Alumnae Executive have decided to combine the 125-year milestone celebration in conjunction with the AGM on April 9, 2016. A luncheon will take place at the Comfort Inn and Conference centre in Victoria For further information and reservations contact Heike Miller [hk-miller323@hotmail.com](mailto:hk-miller323@hotmail.com).

THE BC HISTORICAL FEDERATION 2016 CONFERENCE will be held in Revelstoke May 26-29th. The title of the conference is REVELSTOKE REVISITED. The Federation has produced a bright new website at [www.bchistory.ca](http://www.bchistory.ca) where details about the conference can be found.

2016 CAHN/ACHN INTERNATIONAL NURSING HISTORY CONFERENCE 16-18 JUNE

The Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry is excited to host the annual Nursing History Conference of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN/ACHN).

The 2016 CAHN/ACHN International Nursing History Conference will be held at St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver, Canada, 16-18 June 2016, and is co-sponsored by the UBC School of Nursing, Providence Health Care - St. Paul’s Hospital location, the BC History of Nursing Society, the Margaret M. Allemang Society for the History of Nursing, the Manitoba Association for the History of Nursing, the Halifax Nursing History Group, the Nursing History Research Unit at the University of Ottawa, and the Associated Medical Services (AMS).

The keynote Hannah Lecture will be given by Dr. Linda Bryder, historian at the University of Auckland, New Zealand on her research in women’s health history. Her lecture is entitled: “Multiple Pathways to Nursing History Scholarship.”

Details about the upcoming conference can be found on the CAHN-ACHN website (<http://cahn-achn.ca/>). The full program and information on accommodation and registration will be available by March 18th. We look forward to welcoming you all at the conference! Submitted by Dr. Geertje Boschma

# LATE BREAKING NEWS

*Watch the BCHNS website Events page or Blog for more information on these upcoming events as it becomes available!*



- *Early registration for CAHN Conference closes April 30th*
- *UBC School of Nursing Gala May 5, 2016*
- *Nursing Week May 9-13, 2016:*
  - *Community Nursing May 10 at Van Dusen Gardens*
  - *Joint display of BCHNS and VGH School of Nursing Alumnae on May 12 from 9am to 2pm at VGH Sassafras Cafeteria*
- *ARNBC AGM June 2, 2016 from 7:30-9:30 pm at the Anvil Centre, 777 Columbia Street in New Westminster.*
  - *Innovation Forum 5-7 pm.*

## Volunteers Needed!

The BCHNS is run by a group of dedicated volunteers. We need to fill the following positions.

Vice President  
Member-at-Large

Please contact us for more information.



# Remember When...

## Iron lung and polio

By Ethel Warbinek

The first recorded case of polio in Canada occurred in 1910 and peaked in 1953 when 9000 people were diagnosed and 500 deaths occurred. This was the most serious national epidemic since the 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic. The last major outbreak was in 1959 and with the introduction of the Salk vaccine in 1955 and the Sabin one in 1962, polio was controlled. Canada was certified polio free in 1994. There is no cure for polio, but global eradication is hoped for in the near future. It remains endemic in two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan

The iron lung is associated with the treatment of polio for patients who required mechanical assistance because of paralyzed respiratory muscles. Nursing care was essential in keeping patients safe while spending 24 hours a day in the lung. The physical and emotional toll was exhausting for patients, family and staff.

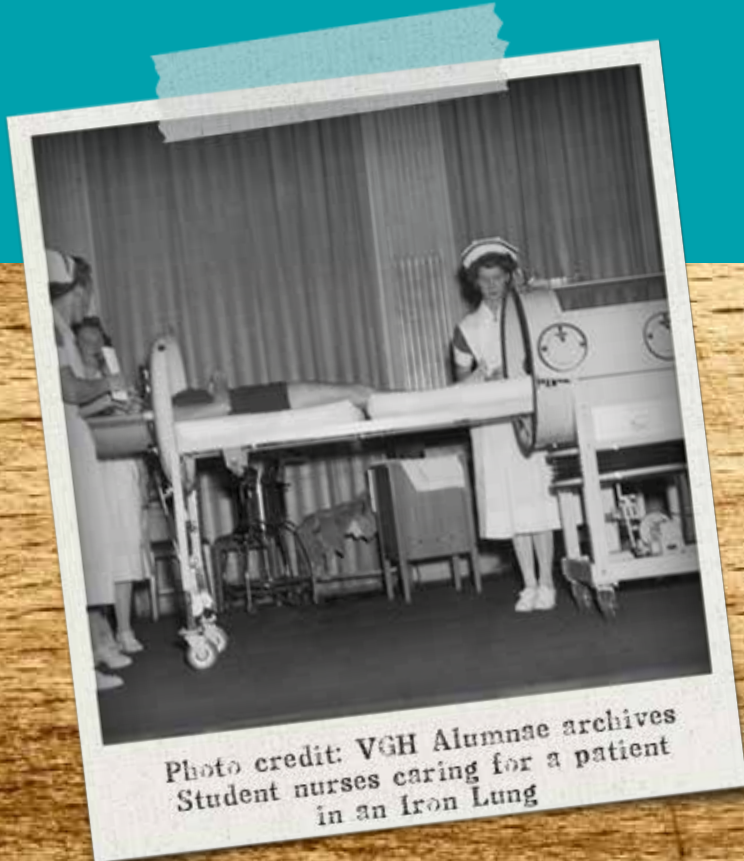


Photo credit: VGH Alumnae archives  
Student nurses caring for a patient  
in an Iron Lung

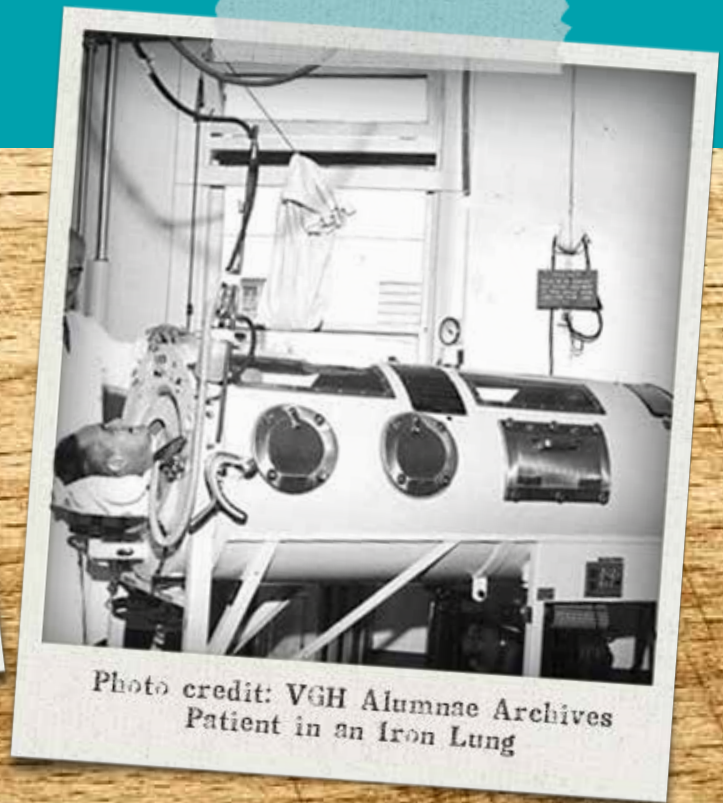


Photo credit: VGH Alumnae Archives  
Patient in an Iron Lung

PUBLISHED THREE TIMES A YEAR  
BC HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY

PO BOX 72082, RPO SASAMAT, VANCOUVER  
BRITISH COLUMBIA V6R 4P2

CANADA POST, CANADIAN PUBLICATIONS MAIL SALES  
PRODUCT AGREEMENT 40622042

Articles, news, and ideas for items to be included in the Summer 2016 issue should be sent to  
Ethel Warbinek, preferably by email, at [warbinek@telus.net](mailto:warbinek@telus.net) by May 15, 2016.