

## Honorary Membership for Glennis Zilm

SHEILA J. RANKIN ZERR

Glennis Zilm is more than worthy of an honorary membership in the B.C. History of Nursing Society. She is a founding member and has served as newsletter editor and membership chair to name a few of the tasks she has taken on. The work she does in developing displays for UBC, constantly changing the cabinet and study room display amazes all of us. This work keeps nursing history front and center for students and faculty. And, who can forget her contribution in clearing the back log of history of nursing cards.

Glennis is known across Canada and in B.C. as an expert writer, editor, and speaker on the history of nursing. Her work was recognized by the UBC Alumnae Awards Committee when she received the Blythe Eagles Volunteer Leadership Award. She is in demand to give her fascinating, meticulously researched presentation. She brings history alive for students and the public when she dresses as Mrs Miller and shares her knowledge of the North West Rebellion.

We are deeply indebted to Glennis for to work she has done with the Woodward Library in preserving and archiving the work of our many nursing leaders – Ethel Johns, Lyle Creelman, the WWII United Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to name a few. Also, she facilitated having these leaders recognized for national historical significance.

Her keen knowledge of history makes her a valuable consultant for national and provincial organizations. She re-

ceived the John B. Neilson Award from Associated Medical Services Canada for her longstanding contributions to the history of health care in Canada, one of which was the Museum of Health Care Kingston ON, where she served as a member of the Advisory Board.

In 1994 she published *Legacy: History of nursing education at UBC* with co-author Ethel Warbinek. This work has proven invaluable and is used by many historians and students across Canada and internationally.

She has served as mentor and coach to many of us – her book “The Smart Way” has guided students, and many of us as we document the history of nursing.

I am deeply indebted to Glennis as a friend and mentor. The work we shared in publishing our book about Gertrude Ladner’s 1902-1905 training days at the Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital taught me so much and revealed to me how much Glennis has enriched our knowledge in documenting the history of nursing in Canada.

The contributions Glennis has made to the preservation of the history of Canadian nursing and health care are staggering. Her honorary membership in the B.C. History of Nursing Society is richly deserved.



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*Newsletter Committee*  
Barbara Bavinton, Beth Fitzpatrick, Naomi Miller,  
Ethel Warbinek, Lynne Esson & Beth Fitzpatrick  
(co-chairs) & Sheila Zerr

*The BC History of Nursing Society  
Newsletter is published 4 times per year. Submissions are  
welcome. Deadline for the Fall Issue is Dec 13, 2012.  
Please send submissions to:  
beth Fitzpatrick: bethfitz32@shaw.ca*

# SAVE THESE DATES:

## Next Meeting

**December 13, 2012**

Place: CRNBC Board Room  
2855 Arbutus Street, Vancouver

Time: 4-6PM

Hope to see you there!

## 2012 - 2013

## Meeting Schedule

### Nov 10: LUNCHEON

- Place: Vancouver Lawn and Tennis Club
- Guest Speakers:
  - *Geertje Boschma - Associate Professor UBC School of Nursing*
  - *Helen Vandenberg, Doctoral Candidate in Nursing, UBC Topic: "A historical Perspective of Japanese Hospital Care in BC 1180 - 1940"*

## 2012 Marion Woodward Lecture

**Date: Thursday, Nov 22, 2012**

The History of the Nurse as a Global Skilled Worker - empire, reciprocity and the role of the regulatory field

- Time: 7 - 8PM
- Place: UBC Robson Square

Speaker: Dr. Sioban Nelson, Dean and Professor, Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto

## CAHN 2013 Meeting

**June 1 to Monday June 3, 2013**

The 2013 Canadian Association for the History of Nursing annual conference will be held in Victoria the first weekend in June: Saturday June 1 to Monday June 3, 2013. Abstracts are due November 30, 2012. Please see the CAHN/ACHN website for more information: [cahn-achn.ca](http://cahn-achn.ca).

# President's Message

BY KATHY MURPHY



As this wonderful summer draws to a close and the beautiful fall colours are emerging, the BC History of Nursing Society looks forward to another active year. Since the Annual General Meeting, the Society has been involved in national and local events.

The Canadian Nurses Foundation celebrated 50 years at a reception in mid June at which three historic costumes were provided by the BC History of Nursing Society. For several days following at the Canadian Nurses Association meeting, there was also a nursing history presence and a wonderful display of the Military Nurses by Shirley Ridalls.

VIEWING OUR  
CURRENT WEBSITE  
WILL PROVIDE  
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MANY ACTIVITIES OF  
THIS SUCCESSFUL  
SOCIETY

[www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca)

In mid July, four Nursing Sisters were recognized at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal Ceremony at Government House in Victoria and two more the following week at the Jericho Garrison in Vancouver.

The group looks forward to our annual Fall Luncheon to be held on Saturday, Nov.10/12 at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club when we will hear a presentation by Helen Vandenberg, one of our Scholarship award winners.

The BC History of Nursing Society welcomes all who would like to become involved. Viewing our current website, [www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca), will provide some idea of the many activities of this successful society.

## Editor's Notes

BY SHELIA RANKIN ZERR

Please join us in welcoming Catherine Haney as co-editor of the Fall Newsletter. Catherine completed her BN at the University of Calgary in 2003 and moved to Vancouver shortly thereafter. A St. Paul's nurse, Catherine has worked in their Neonatal Intensive Care and IV Therapy departments. Most recently, Catherine has completed her Master's at UBC and is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in nursing with a focus on nursing history and women's health. She is an enthusiastic new member of the society and we are pleased to have her. Catherine would like to especially thank Sheila Oxholm for her generous membership sponsorship and Sheila Rankin-Zerr for the opportunity to co-edit this edition.

Enjoy this issue of the newsletter and the articles by Catherine Haney. Our future rests with these talented students of nursing history. We applaud Dr. Geertje Boshma UBC Professor, for her diligent guidance of scholarship in nursing history.



*Catherine Haney*

OUR FUTURE RESTS WITH  
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OF NURSING HISTORY

# The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing 25th Anniversary Nursing History Conference (June 15-17, 2012): A student's point of view

BY CATHERINE HANEY (FIRST YEAR PHD STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA)

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome I continue to receive from the British Columbia History of Nursing Society—a truly inspiring group of people dedicated to exploring and preserving nursing history. I am very pleased to say that I experienced a similar reception from the national nursing history group at the annual CAHN conference in Medicine Hat this June. You can imagine my pre-conference trepidation as a fledgling historian who knew only two “nursing history people” prior to attending the event (my supervisor, Dr. Geertje Boschma, who invited me to the conference in the first place and fellow UBC student, PhD Candidate, Helen Vandenberg.) Imagine my delight and relief, then, to meet and share a dorm for the weekend with such friendly and distinguished roommates as our own Sheila Rankin-Zerr, Ontario’s Judy Young, and Claire Chatterton, who joined us from Manchester, UK.

The conference kicked off with the annual AMS-Hannah lecture delivered by Carol Helmstadter, who presented her prolific work examining Military Nursing in Four Different Contexts: The Crimean War, 1853-56. Carol Helmstadter proved an eloquent speaker whose meticulously researched work certainly set the bar high for the weekend – what a privilege it was to hear her talk. Following her lecture, we were treated to a reception in Medicine Hat College’s beautiful Centennial Hall, where I had the opportunity to chat with a number of other graduate students. Our group promptly cornered Dr. Susan Armstrong-Reid, noted Lyle Creelman historian, to grill her on grad school life and surviving the historical research process. Her advice: always keep multiple back-up copies of your work in different locations and... enjoy it! After the reception, the grad students went to bed (to dream of lost dissertations) while a number of the more seasoned conference-goers went out on the town.

Bright and early the next morning, the first session was a conference highlight for me. Jayne Elliott presented hers and Cynthia Toman’s work: Archives and Anecdotes: Telling the Story of CAHN/ACHN, which was the perfect introduction to the history of the group. I enjoyed the official stories and photos shared, but I also learned a lot from the reactions of CAHN members around me—both from their immediate comments and from the stories that came out later (speaking of going out on the town). I appreciated that the session was interactive such that I had the opportunity to put many names to the faces around me and get

a general “who’s who” and “what’s what” of CAHN. The remainder of the conference was dedicated to speakers’ individual interests and provided us with a broad range of nursing history topics ranging from questions of professional identity, power, and day-to-day nursing work to the ins and outs of doing formal and informal historical research and teaching nursing history. I was somewhat surprised that the conference wasn’t focused entirely on Canadian nursing history, but was pleased to see a strong showing of international historians (such as David. J. Kang who travelled from Hong Kong to join us) and Canadian historians doing internationally focused and cross-cultural work (such as Helen Vandenberg’s investigation of Japanese Canadian hospitals or Lydia Wytenbroek’s look at WHO-nurse Margaret Campbell Jackson’s work in Iran). I was equally thrilled

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to realize that many of the speakers were graduate students, which is especially inspiring and motivating for me. From a (spectator) student’s point of view, the CAHN conference is a space where students can confidently share their forays into historical inquiry and receive encouragement, critical feedback, and guidance from a remarkable community of nurses, historians, and scholars in a serious yet nurturing way.

Rest assured though, the conference wasn’t entirely dedicated to serious history work. The host committee, chaired by Florence Melchior, went to great lengths to show us a good time in Medicine Hat. On Saturday night we visited Medalta—factory-museum, site of historic kilns, and functioning pottery studio—where we enjoyed a guided tour, stop in the gift shop (the “back to work” coffee mug proved quite popular), and gourmet meal complete with wine pairings (thanks to host Tannis Robinson) and live music. Some of the grad students were lucky enough to sit at a table with CAHN president Dr. Beverley Hicks and we certainly took the opportunity to pick her brain. Needless to say, the event was a great celebration of all the hard work underlying such a conference: of the historians, the conference organizers, and especially of the nurses who came before us. My only complaint for the weekend was that the conference was too short. Even though I had the opportunity to attend many great talks and presentations, it was impossible to make it to them all and equally impossible to meet and talk with everyone. Nevertheless, I’m looking forward to doing it all over again next year in Victoria, especially now that I know more than two “nursing history people.” See you there!

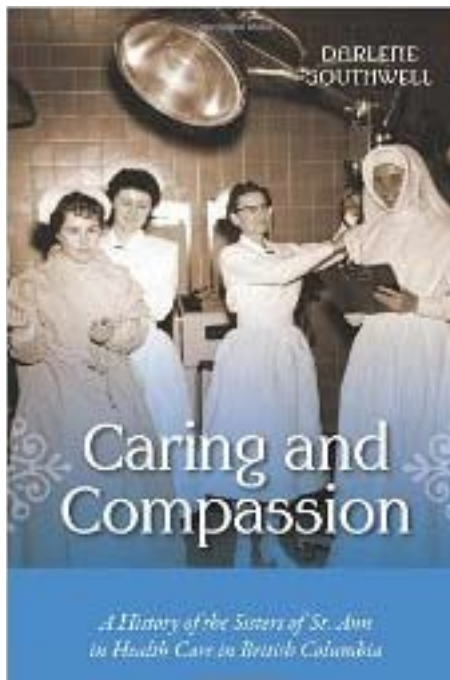


# BOOK REVIEW

## CARING AND COMPASSION: A History of the Sisters of St. Ann in Health Care in British Columbia

by Darlene Southwell, 296 pages HC, Harbour Publishing 2011, \$25.95

REVIEWED BY NAOMI MILLER



The Sisters of St. Ann are a Canadian "congregation" founded in Quebec in 1850 with the initial objective of teaching girls in boarding schools and caring for the sick, poor and the orphaned. In October 1857 five members agreed to move to Vancouver Island. Two of the five took a hurried course in nursing in Montreal before departing in April 1858 in the company of Bishop Demers, two priests and two Brothers. They all travelled, in secular garb to avoid attracting attention, from Montreal by train to New York, then by ship to Cuba and on to Panama. They stayed in filthy hotels awaiting their turn to take a train across the isthmus then board a ship to San Francisco where they were welcomed by Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul for a few days. The final leg of the trip was aboard the vessel Sea Bird arriving in Victoria on June 5, 1858 which then had 200 houses and a sea of tents outside the Fort.

For most of the early years a fresh flow of novitiates who joined the Sisterhood, took their vows in Quebec then trained as either nurses or teachers in British Columbia, staffed St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Ann Academy. Numbers of young women willing to dedicate their lives to "the church" declined to almost nil in the 1950s. The remaining members had their lives changed with new rules from Vatican Council in 1962. Community living, clothing and prayer times were relaxed. Woodward's

Store offered fashion shows for the Sisters to help them enjoy current fashions. St. Joseph's Hospital was transferred to the public hands in September 1972, renamed Victoria General Hospital. Sisters moved elsewhere after 96 years of service. The years of active service as documented is, "Women's History." Community cooperation and friendship shown by citizens living and working adjacent to their institutions includes local history. This well written book told many heart warming tales of the generous contribution to health care by this particular "congregation" of Catholic Sisters. It is "a good read."

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## CORRECTIONS TO VOL 23, ISSUE 2, SUMMER 2012

- The following corrections are in regards to our last issue
- Cover - Liefso to Leifso
- Page 7 - Scholarship Report: *Dorolen Wolf is a student at Trinity Western University not University of the Fraser Valley*

# MEMBER NEWS

## Summer Workshop - BY KATHLEEN MURPHY

On July 15, members were hosted by Sheila Zerr at a Planning Session. At this session, the group reflected on the highlights of the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group from the inception in 1989 to 2007 when the group went through a transition due to the creation of the CRNBC. A highlight of this session was the presenting of an Honorary Membership to Glennis Zilm who has contributed so much to the preservation and presentation of Nursing History in BC and beyond. The session ended with planning for the future based on the finite people and financial resources available.

## Dr. Sally Thorne

Dr. Sally Thorne assumed the position of Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs with the Faculty of Applied Science April 12, 2012. This is the first time someone from the School of Nursing has held an Associate Dean position within the Faculty. She brings her leadership skills and plans to facilitate a strong voice for nursing within the Faculty of Applied Sciences.



## Dr. Suzanne Campbell

On July 9, 2012, Dr. Suzanne Campbell took up her position as director of the UBC School of Nursing. Dr. Campbell received her BS and MS degrees in Nursing from the University of Connecticut and her PhD from the University of Rhode Island. Most recently, she acted as Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Interim Dean at the Fairfield University School of Nursing in Connecticut. She brings a firm commitment both to women's health—she is a certified Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and Board Certified Lactation Consultant—and nursing education development to BC. Commenting on her perspective of nursing history, Dr. Campbell states, "I am highly committed to preserving the history of nursing and the School of Nursing's vision of the importance to investigate

and maintain that history. I would like to extend my thanks and best wishes to our colleagues who collect and preserve our nursing history. Because of the work you do, we are able to appreciate our nursing origins and the many people who have brought our profession forward to where we are today."

## Dr. Sonya Grypma

Dr. Sonya Grypma's recent book "China Interrupted" provides insight into the many ways in which health care efforts in wartime China extended out of the tight-knit missionary community that had been established there decades earlier.





## Jubilee Medals

(left) Queen's Diamond Jubilee Awards Ceremony at Government House honoring June Newton, Margaret Mainwarring, Jessie Middleton and Shirely Ridalls. July 18/12

(right) Awards presented at the Jericho Garrison to Nina Rumen and Moya Jack. July 25/12

Thanks to Kathy Murphy for her efforts to accompany the nursing sisters to the award ceremonies and to take the pictures printed in this newsletter.



## CNA/ARNBC

The Canadian Nurses' Association met in Vancouver June 18-21, 2012 at the Bayshore Inn. The Association of Registered Nurses of B.C. enjoyed a high presence at this meeting. Shirley Ridalls presided at the Nursing Sister's booth where she also promoted the B.C. History of Nursing Society and our cards.



## CRNBC: 100 Years of Registration in B.C.

This picture shows part of the banner posted at the College of Registered Nurses B.C. Celebrations honoring the 100 years of registration for nurses in B.C. Cynthia Johansen, Registrar and CEO of CRNBC visited the B.C. History of Nursing Society executive meeting September 13, 2012 and shared these pictures and her new role with us. She hopes to drop into future executive meetings.

## St. Paul's Hospital Legacy Wall Update!

On August 29th, St. Paul's Hospital Foundation representatives Krista Gerty and Carol Dixon joined BC History of Nursing Society members at a luncheon generously hosted by Sheila Zerr. Carol and Kristy brought the good news that the St. Paul's Hospital Legacy Wall, honoring and celebrating the enduring history of St. Paul's hospital nurses, will go ahead as planned. Inspired and initiated by our own Nina Rumen [1949 SPH School of Nursing grad & winner of a 2012 Queen's Jubilee Medal award], the legacy project has found a home just outside the hospital's Hurlburt Auditorium. This light filled, main floor corridor connects the two main hospital buildings and is recognized by all as a well-trafficked, highly valued piece of hospital "real estate" – a major artery, as it were. Krista and Carol announced that senior leadership approval (chiefly provided by John Brozovich, Providence's new Vice President of Mission, Ethics, and Spirituality), funding, a writer, and graphic-art support are in place for the project. BCHoNS members look forward to reviewing forthcoming mockups of the text and art before the final product itself goes down in St. Paul's Hospital history. Big thanks to Sheila Zerr for hosting the event and emphatic kudos to Nina Rumen for her generous



100th Birthday Cake for B.C. Nursing at CNA

donation: we are so proud to join St. Paul's Hospital in recognizing and remembering the important and unique contributions made by its nurses to the health and lives of British Columbians.

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