



## The Montreal Typhoid Epidemic

By Mary Ard Mackenzie:

MONTREAL TYPHOID EPIDEMIC WINTER 1910.  
CANADIAN NURSE, FEBRUARY 1910, (VOL 6, #2) PP. 51-55

We are apt to think of the days, when we read the Arabian Nights, when we believed in fairies, in Santa Claus, in love, and in chivalry, as days of the unreal, the unpractical, and the mythical, but the past few weeks we have had demonstrated to us, in that very practical city of Montreal, through the establishment of the Emergency Hospital there, that all those beautiful and mythical ideas of our golden days have not vanished, but are still with us, clothed in a form which makes them more beautiful. It is the twentieth century which has brought us nearer that goal, where the ideal imbues the practical, the practical the ideal, and where the true, the honest, the just, the pure and the lovely are the things on which we know it is well to think.

Montreal is just recovering from a typhoid epidemic an epidemic which was alarming, because it seemed loath to abate and because so many very poor people were to be exposed to more suffering and want, than it seemed possible for them to bear. There were some three thousand cases in the city, and many new cases were being reported daily. The hospitals could not take in any more patients which meant that the new cases had to be cared for in their own homes and most of those homes were poor, bare dwellings, over crowded, unsanitary and badly ventilated. That was the problem the citizens had to face.

In those homes, the Victorian Order Nurses were looking after the sick, making the rooms as fresh, sweet and clean as possible, giving the treatment, insisting on precautions being observed, as far as practicable, and, by reporting to the Relief Committee of the Victorian Order of Nurses, procuring the

necessaries in food, clothing and fuel for those who were in actual want. In one month the Victorian Order had 276 typhoid patients on their list, and though a great many of those patients were very ill, not one death was reported from among those cared for on the district.

But there were many patients needing constant attention, and the number of such was increasing to an alarming extent. It was suggested that an emergency hospital be opened, and the idea grew. An appeal to the City Council proved fruitless.

The suggestion, that an emergency hospital be started, followed by the assurance of the Committee and the District Superintendent of the Victorian Order that the Order would attend to the nursing in the hospital, was launched forth on a Friday; on Saturday, some fifteen interested and practical citizens met, and before the meeting adjourned the Typhoid Emergency Hospital was practically a reality. The building a large factory on Aqueduct street, belonging to the Northern Electric Co. had been given, the beds, other furniture, hospital supplies, linen, groceries, etc., had all been donated, cartage, plumbing, cleaning, renovating, etc., had all been promised, donations in money began to come in and bands of voluntary workers were organized. Miss Macdonald, a Johns Hopkins Hospital graduate, volunteered her services free during the epidemic, and was put in charge of the hospital, and Miss Lynch was mustering an extra staff of trained nurses to serve under the Order.

And Sunday, what a scene! At the mess, the night before, Colonel Bur-

*land had told the men about the hospital and asked*  
*continued on page 4*

*also in this issue*



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## 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 per year.

### SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME.

Deadline for the Summer Issue is May 15, 2021. Please send submissions to: [esson1@shaw.ca](mailto:esson1@shaw.ca)

## Archival Corner

### A Japanese nurse's story from our treasured Biographical Files: Lillian May Komiyama (nee Yamasaki) 1922 - 2014



Although she suffered severe discrimination because of her Japanese ancestry, May's Christian faith and personal values provided a basis for her positive vision of life. While her internment during WW2 forced her to leave her nursing training at Vancouver General Hospital, she was eventually one of two Asian girls accepted for training at Guelph General Hospital, graduating in 1946. She worked in the public health system in Toronto and received a diploma in Public Health Nursing (U of T) and, later, a BSN (UBC) in 1976. She retired from Holy Family Hospital in 1984 as the Assistant Director of Nursing.

Married to the Reverend Takashi Komiyama, she was also active in the United Church, raising concerns about the acceptance and recognition of all visible minorities. In 1991, she received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from the Vancouver School of Theology.

Of note, May's sister, Yasuko Yamasaki, graduated from Vancouver General Hospital in 1938, received a diploma in Public Health Nursing from UBC in 1939 and was the first Japanese public health nurse in Vancouver.

KATHY MURPHY

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a difference a pandemic virus makes to everyone's plans. Last year at this time we were looking forward to celebrating our 30 years of operating and sharing in the annual Nursing Symposium at UBC. The restrictions in gathering has put that on hold and led to innovative steps to carry on our work.

Through the technology of Zoom, we have been able to hold our regular Board meetings and society members have been able to join us. The Bursary winners have been asked to present their projects during the Board meetings which was never possible before. We look forward to hearing the outcomes of their varied projects. Needless to say, we are still reviewing the future of the organization and a Task group has been exploring this subject. Communications through our website, Facebook, Twitter, and email notices have been critical in keeping the membership informed. Unfortunately, displays cannot be changed due to restrictions imposed by the COVID.

As we wait patiently for the virus vaccinations, we carry on. If you can help with archives work, the editing of the newsletter with the designer, help with preparing displays, identifying nurse leaders for nomination to provincial and national Memorial Books, working with the website, or other activities, please contact us through the website.

All members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting which will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 4:00 pm. Registration is required in order to receive the Zoom invitation. This can be done through the Contact function on the website.

The BCHNS website is revised regularly so it is worth checking it to keep track of our activities. Please click on [www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca). Articles can also be viewed on Facebook and Twitter accounts.



*Kathy*

## EDITOR'S DESK

LYNNE ESSON



We are now one year into the Pandemic and much has changed in our everyday life. When writing this, we are experiencing another wet and cold day. For British Columbia this has been a long and dark winter. My sense is that many of us are longing for those early days of spring (rebirth and hope for the summer ahead) and yearning for an easing of Pandemic restrictions.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find an article from the Canadian Nurse titled the Montreal Typhoid Epidemic Winter 1910. In keeping with the pandemic theme Linda Gomez a long time BCHNS member has written an interesting article concerning the 1918 Flu Pandemic in Rossland, BC.

I invite you to catch up on all the latest news and take a look at the BCHNS Website. As our President has indicated all our meetings this year and into the near future will be held virtually, so we welcome you to join us. See our Website for details.

As always, we encourage you to submit your news items, stories, and historical photographs for inclusion in future newsletters. I want to thank all the members of the BCHNS for their ongoing submissions; their support makes the job of the newsletter editor an easy task. I trust you will enjoy this edition.

Let us hope that the warmth of spring will soon be upon us. Stay Safe!

*Lynne*

for volunteers to help clean, renovate and whitewash the interior. Every man present volunteered, and eight o'clock Sunday morning saw a goodly band of workers from the Prince of Wales Fusiliers, and the Victoria Rifles, hard at their labors, cleaning, spraying, whitewashing walls and ceilings, and a splendid sight it was to see the burly fellows, all black and grimy, while they worked away that fine Sabbath day, and as night came on, their places were taken by another squad, who worked all night. Meanwhile, sinks and faucets were put in, where needed, partitions raised here and there, while each space was assigned to its particular use, the building was wired, electric lights and fixtures, ranges and gas equipment were put in, beds were made up, and behold, by Tuesday morning the Emergency Hospital stood ready to receive typhoid patients, and to give them the best care that science, skill and humanity can bestow.

The patients kept coming in, the staffs was increased, and the voluntary workers showed their worth by the quiet way they went about their duties, doing those many little things which are so essential in a hospital, but which do not require a trained nurse. And the ladies, how well and cheerfully they plied the needle, while the piles of sheets, pillow cases, towels, gowns, etc., grew until the linen closet was well supplied with everything necessary in that line for a long time to come. Later on, a handsome sterilizer, large enough to disinfect bedsteads, mattresses, etc., was installed in the basement, from the Angus shops.

The first day twelve patients were admitted, and a week later there were one hundred patients being cared for in the hospital. Forty-one nurses were on duty, all chosen by the District Superintendent of the Order, Miss Lynch. The St. Andrew's Home are putting up all the extra nurses some twenty or more for nothing.

And, the work is not over yet. Those patients come from very poor homes, and when they are convalescent they will need to rest and get back their strength, and for that good, nourishing food will be needed, and if the patients are the bread-winners their families will have to be looked after until they are able to take up their work again. It is to meet these needs that the Relief Society is working. This is a splendid body of men and women who are making every effort to collect enough in money and in kind to help these people over this hard spot. When employment is wanted this society will help the workers find it. A card-catalogue is kept of every needy case reported, with particulars. Each family, so reported, is given in charge of one of the relief workers, is visited, studied and help given to suit the particular needs.

There are now over seventy nurses working under the Victorian Order in Montreal in the hospital and in the district.

When the work done during the epidemic is reviewed in its full extent, we cannot fail to have the most unbounded admiration for the splendid way in which it has been handled. The hearty co-operation of the citizens, the doctors, the nurses, the charity organizations and the churches, alone made such a herculean task possible and when we walk through the hospital, where everything is going along like clock-work, see the long rows

of beds, with the fever stricken in them, see the nurses in their fresh, neat uniforms, caring for them, the voluntary workers, doing their part of the tasks, and then hear the story of how quickly this was all brought about Saturday, the dust-laden factory; Tuesday, a clean, well-equipped hospital, with every appliance at hand to bring back the sick to health and vigor truly, we think, we are not very far away from those things which delighted us in years gone by as we pored over the Arabian Nights. It is all very wonderful, very beautiful, very inspiring.

But, meantime, the City Fathers slept on;  
disturb not their dreams !

MARY ARD MACKENZIE Ottawa. February 1, 1910



# BACKGROUND

## Mary Ardchronie MacKenzie (1869 - 1948)

BY GLENNIS ZILM & IRENE GOLDSTONE

This lead article from *The Canadian Nurse*, from 111 years ago, reminds us that epidemics are nothing new. Nor is the awe-inspiring work of nurses and front-line volunteers, who often must organize and act while politicians slumber. Mary Ard MacKenzie, the author of this article, was an inspiring leader during this epidemic.

*“Have vision, have faith in that vision, and others will see and believe,” she wrote later. “Never before were we so much in need of high ideals. Never before was there so pressing a call for well-trained, well-poised workers in the field of nursing. What shall we do with that need? What with that call? From you must come the answer, followed by action.”*

Miss MacKenzie was Chief Superintendent of the Victorian Order of Nurses when she led the VON to act in the Montreal typhoid epidemic and wrote this article. A pioneer leader in Canada’s professional nursing associations, she was an early advocate for advanced education for “visiting nurses” (community or public health nurses) – education beyond that offered in hospital training programs. Despite her major contributions, little information is available beyond the basic facts of her professional life.

Born in Toronto, October 25, 1869, she was the fifth of seven children of Campbell and Ellen MacKenzie. She received a Bachelor of Arts from University of Toronto in 1892 and in 1893 received an Ontario Higher School Teacher’s Certificate, with specialist standing in modern languages. She then taught in various high schools in Ontario and Quebec before moving to Boston to enter the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses, with three additional months at the Sloan Maternity Hospital in New York. She graduated in 1901. A period of work in hospitals in Boston and Concord, NH, followed, and she then became Superintendent of the Brooklyn (NY) City Hospital Training School before taking positions as a visiting nurse in Washington, DC, and Chicago.

In 1907, she returned to Canada to take the top administrative position with the Victorian Order of Nurses. The VON, established in 1897, was Canada’s premier national, voluntary, non-profit organization of visiting home nurses, especially for Canada’s remote rural areas; it also established small VON “cottage hospitals” offering some hospital care and serving as a base for the community nurses. Chief Superintendent MacKenzie drew on her experiences as a visiting nurse to enhance and expand VON’s mandatory post-hospital training program for its nurses at VON headquarters in Ottawa and other centres, including Vancouver.

She was active in provincial and national professional nurses’ associations and was the second president (1912-1914) of the Canadian National Association for Trained Nurses (forerunner of Canadian Nurses Association). She headed the Association’s committee that advocated nursing education, particularly public health nursing education, should be at universities. Chief issues she identified during her term of office related to advancement of nursing education, especially education for public health, and to registration of nurses.

“Mary Ard” (as she usually signed herself and frequently was called by her nursing colleagues) left the VON in 1917. During her tenure with VON, provincial governments had begun to recognize the need for better public health care, with an emphasis on prevention (particularly of tuberculosis, which was epidemic worldwide) and public education. This was the dawning of the era of school nurses, district nurses, and occupational health nurses, as well as the visiting nurses such as those of the VON. Miss MacKenzie supported the trend to government-funded public health nursing, and called for university education for such nurses, recognizing that these nurses had to combine roles of educator, sanitation worker, public health inspector, and social service worker as well as nurse. After leaving the VON, she spent two years in what might be termed short-term consultancy positions related to public health nursing in the United States.

In 1920, she returned to Canada to become Red Cross Instructor in the new Department of Public Health at the University of British Columbia (UBC). UBC was one of four Canadian universities that received Red Cross funding (\$5,000 annually for three years) to establish post-diploma courses to prepare public health nurses to fill the increased demands for qualified nurses for this expanding field. Miss MacKenzie directed short-term PHN certificate programs at UBC until the Red Cross funding term was complete in 1923. During this time, she also taught the public health nursing courses in Canada’s first university nursing degree program, which had opened at UBC in 1919.

She apparently retired from nursing in 1923 (age 55). No records are available yet of her later years. She died in Victoria, April 6, 1948.

# HONOURING DONALD RANSOM RN

1937 -



Don has had a long and distinguished career. He graduated from St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver in 1961 and he obtained a Canadian Nurses Association Certificate in Nursing Unit Administration in 1969. He practiced nursing in many settings including St. Mary's Hospital in New Westminster and St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. He then moved to the United States to practice in Santa Monica, California and at Alexian Brothers, Chicago Illinois. Experiences at these hospitals includes Operating Room, Orthopedics, Emergency and General Surgery.

He returned to Canada and back to St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver to work in General Surgery, Neurology and Neuro Surgery. Next, he broadened his extensive nursing experience as Nursing Supervisor for Days, Evenings, and Nights. Don then became Director of Admitting Services, Administrative Co-ordinator of Rehabilitation Services and Administration Corporate Services. He then began work at the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (RNABC) Registration Division in a contract position prior to retirement in 2003.

## **DON HAS AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY SERVICES INCLUDING:**

- Serving on many Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia Committees and Board Positions
- Founding President of the Registered Nurses Foundation of British Columbia (RNFBC)
- Founding member of the British Columbia History of Nursing Society
- Member of St. Paul's Hospital Archives and St. Paul's Hospital Foundation
- Member of the Vancouver Police Department Community Policing
- Volunteer Food Preparation for the Homeless, Guardian Angel's Church
- Volunteer Patient Program, University of British Columbia Medical School

Don was awarded the RNABC Award of Honour in 1987, the RNFBC Life membership in 1988 and the RNABC Recognition Award in 2000. These honours are well deserved and recognize his lifelong dedication to excellence in nursing practice.

## *Recognize a Nurse* **WITH A PAGE OF HISTORY**

The "Pages of History" project was established in 1998 as a means to honour individual nurses and their careers. Recognize a nurse with a Page of History.

Tribute can be paid to any nurse (living or 'in memory of') by placing a Page of History on the BCHNS Website. You can recognize a colleague, remember a friend, establish a memorial, give a graduation present, or honour yourself by developing a one page tribute to the nurse of your choosing.

By making a \$50 donation, and with signed permission, your page will be placed on our website. The application & consent will be preserved in the archives at the BCHNS UBC Office.

# Mark's Story

Mark contacted us from Manitoba to order some note cards- I asked how he found us – he said it was about 20 years ago in Victoria – we had a booth – he bought some cards – now wanted some more! - I asked if he would share his experiences with us - this is his story. Thank you, Mark!

Nan from Archives

My name is Mark Davidson. After coming back from Japan where I taught ESL, I studied nursing at Camosun College and then UVic. While studying, I re-joined the Canadian Armed Forces as a Nursing Officer in the 11 (Victoria) Field Ambulance. After graduation, I worked for a year at the RJH before returning to Toronto and a position at the Toronto Western Hospital where my parents met and where I was born. I've never enjoyed living in Toronto so applied to Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Manitoba region as a Community Health Nurse III in the First Nation community of Garden Hill. I became the tuberculosis case co-ordinator for the 4 communities in the Island Lake region.

During my time in northern Manitoba, I deployed twice to Kandahar, Afghanistan as a Civil-Military Affairs Officer. My job was to act as liaison between the Canadian and NATO forces and the UN, Red Cross and government of Afghanistan.

Although I loved nursing I found, working up north, that it was the detective work of coming to a diagnosis that fascinated me. I had thought of applying to a Nurse Practitioner programme in the US or medical school overseas (I did not want to sit the MCATS!!). I was accepted at the James Cook University School of Medicine in Far North Queensland from which I graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery. I completed my Residency in Family Medicine and am now a General Practitioner in northern Manitoba.

I have continued my service in the Army Reserves and am now a Medical Officer with 17 (Winnipeg) Field Ambulance and the 38 Brigade Surgeon.

I have always been interested in history and, particularly, the history of Canadian military nursing and medicine. I, and a friend in 17 (Winnipeg) Field Ambulance, have been collecting Canadian Health Services militaria for some time and have acquired some interesting pieces such as a silver platter presented to Colonel E. Smellie, Matron-in-Chief, RRC, CBE, the first woman to be promoted to Colonel in the Canadian Army. We hope to loan our collection to the Calgary Military Museums in order for it to be on display for those with an interest in Canadian Health Services history.



## The Irene Goldstone HIV/AIDS and Social Justice

The Irene Goldstone Social Justice and HIV/AIDS Endowment Fund honours the work of all nurses who have worked tirelessly at the front line of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care over the past several decades

This fund has been established to mark the retirement of Irene Goldstone, adjunct professor in the School of Nursing, to ensure that the work to which she has dedicated her life will continue for future generations.

Your gift will help to ensure that current and future students in graduate programs at the School of Nursing at UBC can continue to make invaluable contributions to nursing research in social justice and HIV/AIDS.

<https://nursing.ubc.ca/news-events/story/15-dec-2020/irene-goldstone-hiv-aids-and-social-justice-graduate-scholarship>

# IN MEMORY OF

**Marian Agnes Walker (nee Blackwell)**

**Jan 27, 1905 to Oct 12, 1995**



Sponsored and written by Marian's grandson Bradley MacIver, RN

Brad missed having the privilege of meeting his grandmother, she passed away approximately a year and a half before he was given the opportunity to reunite with his birth mom, Marian's daughter in 1996. Building a wonderful, close relationship with his mom and two half sisters Brad was able to gather information for this memoir from family stories and notes as well as Marian's obituary, labeled pictures and genealogical records including the Canadian censuses, 1881 through 1921.

Marian was born Jan 27, 1905 in Wingham, Ontario the fifth child in a family of eleven. In 1908, three-year-old Marian moved with her family to Vancouver. At the age of eight in 1913 Marian and her family moved to Barnhartvale just east of Kamloops to begin Blackwell Dairy Farm which today still supplies dairy products to local markets. Marian grew up on the farm with her family and since only a few occupations were available to women of that era she chose nursing over school teaching.

In 1925 Marian entered Royal Inland Hospital (RIH) in Kamloops for her nursing education and graduated in 1927 with a class of five students. Interestingly it was the same year that RIH completed its first nurses residence, Brad has a photo of Marian sitting on a pile of lumber in her student nurse uniform. This was in an era when nurses made little money and worked under a private health care system. Brad's mom tells him that Marian loved working in the OR and very well liked by the surgeons. The surgeons at RIH talked Marian out of going to Toronto for further study in OR, she was needed at RIH and was going to learn everything there that she could learn in Toronto.

Throughout her full-time nursing career 1927 to 1932 Marian worked at the Tranquille TB Sanatorium and RIH and travelled by train to work in Salmon Arm and Golden. While working at Salmon Arm hospital Marian met her soon to be husband, Robert (Gerry) Walker who worked on the CNR train as a morse code signaller. While courting he would blow the train's whistle when passing by the Salmon Arm hospital, this was Gerry's way of announcing to everyone that Marian's boyfriend was passing through town.

Marian and Gerry married in Oct 1932 and she stayed at home to raise daughter & son, as was expected in those days. Later she went back to RIH to upgrade working 3 days a week as a supervisor. When the RIH Alumni Association formed in 1939, Marian became a member and was also president for a time. Marian was involved with church, community, and her own family which were dear to her heart. Brad's uncle shared with him when they met in 1997, that in the days before Marian passed, she disclosed to immediate family members that her daughter had a boy, a grandson whom she had never met. It is touching knowing that she never forgot him and that it was important for her to disclose his existence in her final days. Marian is the only nurse Brad knows of from both his birth and adopted families. It is a pleasure for Brad to recognise and share his grandmother's story.



## Glennis Zilm Announced as a 2020 Alumni Builder

Created in 2017 as part of the 100th year of alumni UBC, the Alumni Builder Award recognizes a cross-section of alumni representing all faculties who have significantly contributed to the University and enriched the lives of others, and in doing so, have supported alumni UBC's mission of realizing the promise of a global community with shared ambition for a better world and an exceptional UBC.

Glennis Zilm, BSN Class of 1958, Honorary Professor at the School of Nursing, and one of the authors (with Ethel Warbinek) of the much-referenced, much-gifted Legacy History of Nursing Education at the University of British Columbia 1919-1994 has been named among the recipients of UBC's Alumni Builder Award for 2020. We heartily congratulate this esteemed colleague and friend of the school on this well-deserved recognition.



# IN HONOUR OF

**Bradley Philip MacIver, RN**



Brad was born in 1963 at VGH and attended high school in Burnaby. He was a Scout member for many years, going on extended and often challenging hiking trips in the great outdoors. The question of what to do in an emergency led to enrolment in a St John Ambulance Standard First Aid course. Brad believes this training inspired him to pursue Paramedic and Nursing professions. Upon graduation from Burnaby Central he took the Forestry Program at Pacific Vocational School graduating in 1981, he then moved to Vancouver Island to begin a career in forestry silviculture and logging. While logging his strong interest in First Aid led to becoming what is known today as a Paramedic in Industry. Eventually in 1987 he became interested in instructing part time pre-hospital care courses for Red Cross, St John Ambulance, North Island College and WorkSafe BC leading primarily to teaching the entry level of Paramedic Emergency Medical Response [EMR] programs.

Brad's thirst for teaching/learning, and managing classrooms grew, so in 1996 he received his Provincial Instructor Diploma and left logging. While based in Campbell River he travelled Vancouver Island teaching for various industries and the BC Ambulance Service [BCAS] paramedics. In 2000 he began learning about Emergency Medical Systems [EMS] in the USA and travelled to EMS conferences in North Carolina, Idaho, and Kentucky to teach various courses for the EMT paramedics for their continuing educational credits. At the EMT conferences and paramedic competitions, he met many flight paramedics who inspired him to explore this career option.

Brad decided in 2003 that a flight career as a Critical Care nurse would be more fulfilling and allow more potential for future opportunities. With his family's support, in 2004 he began the pre-nursing educational journey at North Island College while working emergency services in mining. During the next two years he completed basic upgrading and seven nursing courses while awaiting entry into the program in 2006. The BSN program was comprehensive, challenging and felt like it took forever, graduating in 2010 with Distinction at the age of 47 was an amazing endeavour! On completion of Brad's BCIT Emergency Specialty course and the Canadian Aeromedical Flight Transport course, he moved his family to Nanaimo to work casual in ER at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital and full time in aeromedical flight services to be close to Island and Vancouver airports. He specialised in medical repatriation of patients of all nationalities worldwide. The most amazing part was seeing clients arriving home from sometimes incredibly stressful hospital stays where communication and understanding was a challenge. Brad found the work both challenging yet exciting when travelling to other countries, working with health-care providers in foreign hospitals, meeting patients and their families and preparing them for safe travel home. He worked in fixed wing air ambulances and on larger commercial planes with a stretcher and power for monitoring equipment set up in the rear of the aircraft. Smaller air ambulance flights to Alaska, Mexico, USA, Central America and as far east to Iceland were needed for more critical stretcher patients not suitable for commercial flight repatriation.

Brad currently splits his time between the ER at NRGH and the Island Health Emergency Response Ground Transport Team.

## MEMBER NEWS

BCNS member **Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek** who joined the UBC Nursing faculty this past fall, has been awarded a Healthcare Project Grant of almost \$10,000 by AMS Healthcare, formerly the Hannah Foundation. The funds will be used for a project on Imperial Pathways of Mobility: Doctoring Women and the American Surgical Enterprise in Iran 1888-1940. Lydia is working on a book based on her doctoral thesis, and on projects related to "whiteness in Canadian nursing," nursing's voice and social justice, and the history of perioperative nursing. Congratulations!

# Honourary Member Helen Shore passed from our midst November 3, 2020

**We are saddened to learn that Helen Shore has died at the age of 95. A graduate of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing and the University of British Columbia she enjoyed a long and productive professional life embracing many fields of nursing.**

We remember her many contributions to the BC History of Nursing Society. She was a founding member, serving as the first vice president and two terms as president and past president. Her dedication to the preservation and recognition of British Columbia nurses led to the creation of the BC Memorial Book. Early on Helen had a dream of a “Home of our Own” – a museum where the history of BC nurses could be preserved. She has published several excellent historical nursing articles which promote the contributions nurses have made to health care in BC. In addition to her dedication to history of nursing, Helen donated numerous hours to volunteer work with The Vancouver Historical Society

and various community groups particularly those whose aim is to improve the quality of life for seniors.

Helen was a visionary leader, respected and recognized for her contributions to the history of nursing. During her lifetime she received many awards and honours, the most recent being the UBC School of Nursing Centenary Medal (2019). That same year Helen completed and published a family memoir (Shore to Shore: A record of the Shore family of Sheffield, England, to London, Ontario). Helen was the last of the “Canadian Shores” and wanted to see the family memories preserved. Some of the stories in the book are about her relative Florence Nightingale.

## Personal Reflections of Helen

**BY BETH FITZPATRICK:** When I think about Helen Shore these words immediately come to mind: intelligent, generous, loyal friend, and a leader and devoted nurse historian who worked hard seeking and documenting the stories of the first women-nurses who cared for the early settlers of this province. But to me personally Helen was a fellow taphophile. I would drive down from Brackendale to her lovely Vancouver home and we would be off to a mid-day cemetery adventure! Over a period of several years, we visited cemeteries in Vancouver and Burnaby hoping to find and photograph the burial markers for notable early BC nurses. In most cases we were successful. But best of all we finished our day over lunch at a small tea-room in Kerrisdale where we enjoyed dainty crustless sandwiches and delicious sweets, served on a vintage 3-tiered stand and of course afternoon tea steeped in a pot and sipped from dainty English bone china cups! Sweet memories

**BY ETHEL WARBINEK:** My memories go back many years when Helen had a vision of a “Home of Our Own” for the BC History of Nursing. This predated the location of our office at UBC School of Nursing and our website. Her idea was a building/museum where historical materials would be located at a central location – open to the public. She diligently pursued this dream, but due to financial and administrative obstacles, it was abandoned. I believe a glimmer of this idea remained with her for the rest of her life. However, this did not deter her ongoing drive to preserve our nursing history. On a personal note, in 1993, I interviewed Helen and we met at her home. She graciously shared her life and career experiences.

# Nursing Pioneer Leaves Bequest to School of Nursing



(Photo by Don Erhardt)

As someone who shares a common ancestry with Florence Nightingale, it seems only natural that Helen would emerge as one of the most influential nursing leaders in the province. She has also been a generous UBC donor for many years and recently created an estate gift, which reflects her passionate advocacy for the School of Nursing.

“The role of a nurse, in my opinion, is to draw from science-based knowledge and develop a care plan to help an individual develop abilities to cope with and manage a health issue,” says Helen Shore, a UBC alumna (BSN 61, MA 71) and Associate Emerita of Nursing.

Helen was born in Calgary, Alberta. Her father and her mother were pioneer doctor and nurse in Bowden and Alix in northern Alberta who had a great influence on Helen. As a young woman, she moved to Vancouver and enrolled in the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) diploma program. After graduating, she was assigned to open a ward in the Infectious Disease Hospital at VGH during a polio epidemic. She then went on to be a staff nurse at the Calgary General and King George VII in Hamilton, Bermuda to gain experience.

When Helen returned to Canada, she completed a diploma course in Teaching and Supervision at UBC School of Nursing and then taught Nursing Arts at the Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster for ten years. She then enrolled in UBC School of Nursing and earned her BSN, which led to a position with the Metropolitan Health Services as a public health nurse in Vancouver.

It was during this time that Helen met Trenna Hunter Director of Public Health Nursing and a former President of the Canadian Nurses Association. Both her BSN education and Trenna Hunter’s encouragement served to enlarge Helen’s understanding of nursing.

“The thing about Trenna was that she fostered public health nurses to demonstrate advanced skills, and she supported innovation in nursing practice. Working with her increased my pride and confidence.”

Although being a public health nurse was deeply satisfying to Helen, a phone call from Evelyn Mallory, Director of the UBC School of Nursing (SON), would soon change the course of her career.

“To make a long story short, she offered me a faculty job substituting for a professor who was going on education leave,” explains Helen. “It was a great offer, so I thought why not?”

At UBC, Helen met many academics focused on the challenges and needs of the profession. She presented nursing workshops on “Nursing Process” that were held throughout the province and later completed an MA in Adult Education, which reflected her new role as an educator. She was proud to join a committee of faculty members who would develop and implement a new curriculum for the 4-year BSN.

Today, Helen is recognized as a pioneer of her profession, both within the University and within the province. She hopes that her gift will help to highlight the School’s unique history and make it stronger: “Nursing has been a part of the UBC campus for 100 years now,” says Helen. “But we don’t really have a space that is suitable for our Bachelor, Master, and PhD programs or to recognize the important contributions our graduates make to society. That’s my reason for making this gift—to support fellowships, nursing history, and nursing space, all those things that will bring the distinction and recognition that is appropriate to a modern and progressive School.”

Taken From

<https://support.ubc.ca/successstories/nursing-pioneer-leaves-bequest-to-school-of-nursing/>

# The 1918 Flu Pandemic in Rossland BC



LINDA GOMEZ, RN, MSCN

In 1918, while WWI raged overseas, the city of Rossland was thrown into the worst influenza pandemic the world had ever known. At the turn of the century, the population of Rossland was around 7000; it was a gold rush town, second only to the Klondike. But in 1918, the population had fallen to 2100. The individuals who remained in the Monishee Mountains were hearty. They established roots, built families, started businesses, schools, churches, an opera hall, a community centre and a hospital, the Mater Misericordia. They were people who were here to stay. Just a few miles north of the American boarder, they knew 'the great influenza' was coming; Seattle and Spokane closed theatres in early October and they knew it was only a matter of time before it reached Rossland. North/south traffic flowed like beer and the great Columbia River.

Commonly called the Spanish Flu, the 1918 Influenza pandemic, swept around the world with a fierceness rarely seen. But the great flu with the Spanish name did not start in Spain. The reason it was called the Spanish Flu is that King Alfonso XIII, caught and survived it. From that point on, it was forevermore known as the 'Spanish Flu'. Spain did not participate in WW1, but more information flowed in and out of Spain than from other countries, hence how we know the King of Spain even got the flu.

The great flu probably started in a small farming com-

munity in Kansas in the winter of 1918 where a bird transmitted it to humans, but ultimately no one really knows. A few miles from where those farms were, lay Camp Funstan where thousands of soldiers prepared to go to Europe. The first to fall ill was a young cook, Private Gitchell and as he prepared food, he developed high fever, aches, difficulty breathing and of course, severe malaise. Fortunately, he recovered, but many others did not and within days, hundreds of men were infected, many of whom died. The barracks were turned into a hospital and it was at this time, that curtains were hung between beds and they've been there ever since. The frenzied movement of soldiers as they headed off to Europe was a major factor in infection rates. Remember, the USA did not enter WW1 until 1917 so there were hundreds of thousands of men criss crossing the country in 1917 and 1918 which added to the mix. As viruses do, the flu oozed across the US into Europe and of course into Canada. When all was said and done, recent statistics note that up to 200,000 million lives were lost, not the 40-50,000,000 as was originally counted.

As summer turned to fall, measures were taken to curtail the flu. The local newspaper, the Rossland Miner said 'everyone had it'. On October 30, the Miner encouraged the public to cough or sneeze into a handkerchief. They knew they should avoid crowds and get fresh air. They were told to walk to work,

if possible. These rules applied to colds, bronchitis, pneumonia & tuberculosis. Movie theatres, schools, pool halls, and all public places were closed. Families employed numerous methods of home prevention which included stewed tomatoes, cinnamon nutmeg, garlic and others. These instructions were not unique to Rossland, they were common to most cities in Canada.

So, Rosslanders' waited. And as war raged in Europe and the flu silently crept in, community members did what they always do in small towns. They stuck together, they looked after each other. The Mater Mis quickly filled with influenza sufferers. Women were encouraged to volunteer for the cause so they left their homes to nurse the sick and often did not get home for days. This was frequently at the expense of their own families. The problem with this flu was that it took the young and healthy more so than the aged. The influenza virus infected most of the people in town and stole the lives of fifty Rosslanders' among them, the chief of police. In some cases, entire families were stolen.

In terms of treatment, Rosslanders' used a variety of substances. Since they did not know the cause of the influenza until the 1930's, they really had no idea what would work. It was not uncommon for people to use aspirin, alcohol, bloodletting, digitalis, bromide, opioids and oxygen in hospital settings. The virus was not discovered until the 1930's when a vaccine was de-

veloped. Now that virus is known as the H1N1 virus and it is now commonly rolled into the yearly influenza vaccine.

The first person to die in Rossland was Minnie Sander-son. Over the next five weeks, 47 others died. It happened so quickly that the Allan Hotel (see pic) was turned into a second hospital. Unemployed men were deputized; they transported patients, gathered hospital supplies, picked up equipment and dropped off food. The majority of flu victims were between 20-35 years of age. Some of the men who enlisted to fight in the final weeks of the war never made it out of the country. They became sick and died of influenza.

In the city of Vancouver, the first person to contract the flu was Annie Sachs who caught it from a returning soldier on October 5. She was in her early 20's. Annie, her husband and their three daughters became sick, but she was the only one who died. By Christmas, 619 people had died in Vancouver. As we now know, 1918 was a devastating time and while the public was advised to wear masks, there were anti-maskers. Clearly, there are many parallels between the 1918 flu epidemic and CoVid 19. But that's for a whole other article.

WATCH ON [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkR1OZFC8Jk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkR1OZFC8Jk)

## The Evolution of Early Hospitals in British Columbia, 1855-1918

BC STUDIES NO 202 WINTER 2020/2021

DR. HELEN VANDENBERG (UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN) DR. GEERTJE BOSCHMA, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

### ABSTRACT

Long before the introduction of its provincial hospital insurance plan of 1948, British Columbia was home to a diverse variety of voluntary, private, religious, and charitable hospitals. Historians have long argued that hospitals in Canada at the turn of the twentieth century transitioned from modest Victorian charity hospitals to the more scientific medical facilities we know today. Yet little is known about the diversity of hospitals established during this time. In this article, we aim to explore trends in hospital development in British Columbia from 1855 to 1918. Utilizing British Columbia's provincial and city directories, hospital records, and photographs we outline the locations and groups responsible for these hospitals. As British Columbia was colonized and industrialized, the number of hospitals grew from five in 1862 to over eighty by the end of the First World War. Government, religious, and benevolent organizations founded many of British Columbia's first hospitals, intending to serve nearby villages, towns, or working populations. Hospitals were built and financed by several groups and communities, including city and provincial governments, Roman Catholic nursing sisters, Protestant missionaries, Chinese benevolent associations, and Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Association. These early hospitals were far from uniform, and their development was uneven. It has been well argued that hospitals during this time increased in size due to advancements in medical and nursing care, urbanization, and increased demand for medical care. Still, they were also influenced by resource extraction and industrial development in remote locations, by community and race relations, and by nursing sisters and missionaries who utilized hospitals to provide religious charity in areas of need. Financial support from the dominion and the later provincial government was unequal and often only provided to those institutions located in the most economically thriving parts of the province. These trends demonstrate that, in addition to the trajectory of large, urban hospitals, a complex patchwork of often small, community-based hospitals also emerged and has been underrepresented in current hospital historiography.

# Black History Month Panel

On February 25, 2021, the Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry hosted an online panel for Black History Month called:  
**Black (in)Visibility: Black Nurses in Canada who Paved the Way.**

In recognition of Black History Month, the panel was organized to recognize the significant contributions of Black nurses to health care in British Columbia and Canada.

The topic drew participants from all over Canada and internationally. Over 200 participants joined the webinar!

The first panel presentation was the keynote address by renowned historian Dr. Karen Flynn, an Associate Professor in the Departments of Gender and Women's Studies and African-American Studies Program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She highlighted several core arguments from her book "Moving Beyond Borders: A History of Black Canadian and Caribbean Women in the Diaspora," presenting stories and experiences of Black nurses from Canada or nurses who had immigrated from the Caribbean either through Britain or directly to Canada. In her analysis, she put into context the complex, racialized experiences of these nurses' careers, as well as the systematic racism shaping the health care system of which they were part.

Thereafter, Ismalia De Sousa, a doctoral student at UBC School of Nursing, presented the fascinating, initial findings of her

project on the history of Black nurses and midwives in BC. She offered new perspectives on Black women's nursing work in the BC health care context in the late 19th and early 20th century; she showed how Black nurses were visible in BC communities, and examined the context of their work and communities as well as the way they negotiated their identities and caring work as women, midwives and nurses. A most promising new contribution to the history of nursing in BC.

Dr. Dzifa Dordunoo, an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the University of Victoria, provided a concluding commentary, sharing some of her own experiences as a Black nurse, and also emphasized the importance of history as a way to understand and make visible ongoing systemic racism in nursing and health care. Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek and Ismalia De Sousa rounded off the panel with facilitating a discussion period in which the webinar participants engaged with comments and questions with the panel presenters. A well attended and valuable contribution to Black History Month.



Dr. Karen Flynn



Ismalia De Sousa



Dr. Dzifa Dordunoo

## BCHNS members responses to this excellent panel presentation:

The idea of a Zoom panel to address Black Nursing History, that would reach a wide range of viewers, was brilliant. I congratulate the University of British Columbia School of Nursing and Lydia Wytenbroek for the organization, the choice of excellent panel members, the outreach to hundreds of participating listeners. The strong commitment around uniting all members of minority groups to work toward this wider goal in the future was an outcome of this panel presentation. I was inspired and excited that this incredible initiative by UBC could reach such a wide audience and promote excellence in nursing practice. **SHEILA J. RANKIN ZERR**

The presentation by the panel that brought out both the tremendous contributions of Black nurses in Canada and BC and the challenges they have faced and still face as they seek to practice nursing was enlightening and inspiring. Don't miss seeing the recording if you missed it. Congratulations to all those involved. - **GLENNIS ZILM**

This excellent scholarly presentation was so important to share at this time. The many difficulties faced by black nurses trying to obtain a nursing education was revealing and evoked an emotional response that stayed with me for days. The panel members expressed their topics with detailed research facts and the various presentations were complimentary. I was particularly pleased to hear Ismalia de Sousa, a recent BC History of Nursing Society Bursary winner, present her topic concerning black nurses in our province.

**KATHY MURPHY**

Sincere thanks to the Consortium of Nursing History Inquiry and organizer, Lydia Wytenbroek, for a most impressive panel presentation featuring four eloquent and inspiring speakers recognizing the significant contribution of Black nurses in BC and Canada. Ismailia De Sousa, a UBC School of Nursing doctoral student, is to be commended for her rich research find of eight early nurses in the history of nursing in BC

thus offering a new perspective on Black women's nursing work in the BC health care context. **NAN MARTIN**

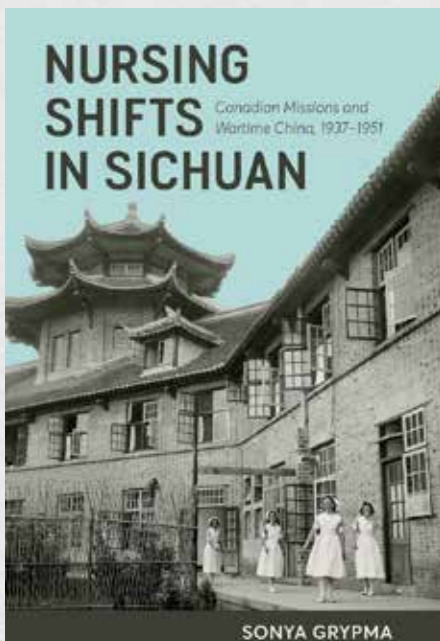
Congratulations on a 'Well Done' event! Another minority exposing the evil of Discrimination that sadly exists in the Nursing Education System and Workforce. This reinforces the need for "History of Nursing" to be in the Curriculum & to include our history of endemic racism.

**LENORE RADOM**

Enlightening, inspiring and a beautifully presented symposium. Congratulations to the organizers and panel members. But so heartbreaking to hear the personal stories of discrimination and racism. The sad truth is, we live in a world where many injustices occur, not just regarding race and skin color but also because of income and gender. Thank you for speaking up and heightening our sensitivity to these issues.

**BETH FITZPATRICK**

## BOOK RECOMMENDATION



**Nursing Shifts in Sichuan  
CANADIAN MISSIONS AND WARTIME CHINA, 1937-1951  
SONYA GRYPMA, Published by UBC Press (2021)**

ISBN: 9780774865715

Publisher: University of British Columbia Press

Publication Date: November 15th, 2021

Pages: 320

*The story of how student refugees worked with missionaries to transform Chinese health-care during World War II.*

Escaping from Japanese-occupied China during World War II, the students and faculty at Peking Union Medical College found refuge at the Canadian mission in Chengdu, Sichuan. In the years that followed, the college and mission worked together to care for an extraordinary influx of wartime refugees. Their unlikely partnership transformed Chinese health-care, establishing the second university nursing program in the country. Although the new Communist government shuttered the school in 1951, the women they trained endured to reopen degree programs thirty-five years later. In our contemporary era, marked by increasing global exchanges in education, *Nursing Shifts in Sichuan* highlights both the fragility and resilience of impromptu, multinational collaboration.

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Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the BCHNS newsletter