



History of Nursing News

SUMMER 2001 VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

Florence Nightingale

Her Life and Times Revisited

By Jill Thompson

Florence Nightingale herself attended the May BCHN program to do with Nightingale's life and times, or at least she appeared to do so, wearing a historically accurate dress of the Victorian era. BCHN member, Lois Blais, in a dress and head covering such as we see in numerous pictures of Nightingale, graciously attended the program event and introduced the speaker, Jill Thompson.

Thirty-five BCHN members, student nurses and other nurses attended the presentation and were not only thrilled to meet "Miss Nightingale" but then heard stories about her intriguing life, some new, most positive and exciting, and oth

ers of a somewhat more negative slant, depending upon the person quoted.

The exciting illustrated biography by Barbara Montgomery Dossey (1999) titled "Florence Nightingale: Mystic, Visionary, Healer" was displayed and quoted from extensively. This fascinating book provides us with new ways of thinking about Nightingale. It contains close to 300 illustrations and is a joy to read. The author offers us intriguing stories, some old, some new, about Nightingale as well as fresh ideas to consider.



Florence Nightingale joins the Kwantlen students

The website and research of Dr. Lynn McDonald, from the University of Guelph in Ontario, was also featured in the talk and it is an exciting and important project

(Continued on page 2)

for not only Canada but also for the world. Dr. McDonald is collecting, editing and presenting the writings of Florence Nightingale. Sixteen volumes will be printed of the collected writings of Nightingale plus her work will also be made available electronically. This is a monumental project and of great historical importance to nursing as well as to history in general. McDonald tells us there are close to 15,000 letters still in existence, written by Nightingale, and scattered around the world in various venues. These, along with her other writings, will become available in the original as well as in edited form for the use of scholars and students and the public.

Ethel Warbinek, BCHN vice-president, thanked the speaker. The audience was intrigued by the numerous stories about Nightingale and about the amount of controversy that surrounded her reputation and still does!

"Miss Nightingale" assisted by members of the executive served refreshments. A number of books about Nightingale and her life were displayed for member interest.



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HoN Editorial Board

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The HoN Newsletter is published four times a year. Submissions for the next newsletter are welcome. Please submit articles to Jill Thompson by September 15, 2001. Executive Meetings are held at the RNABC the first Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. All Members are welcome.



President's Report

By Sheila Zerr

The History of Nursing Annual General Meeting, April 5, 2001 provided many opportunities for members and guests to share the years accomplishments and individual dreams. We greeted honorary members Helen Mus-sallem and Verna Huffman Splane. Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (RNABC) Board members Howard Searle, Karen Irving and Debora Northrup joined us. We were pleased to have two faculty members from University of British Columbia, also History of Nursing Group members, at the meeting, Cathy Ebbehøj and Lyren Chiu. We regret that honorary member Esther Paulson was unable to join us. We missed her.

The committee reports, submitted and circulated by members, gave evidence of a busy year (past)



Helen Shore receives
Honorary
Membership



Mrs. Miller
AKA
Glennis Zilm

and an even busier year ahead. Of vital importance to members was the motion passed to raise annual fees from twenty dollars to thirty dollars beginning January 2002. Student membership will remain at five dollars.

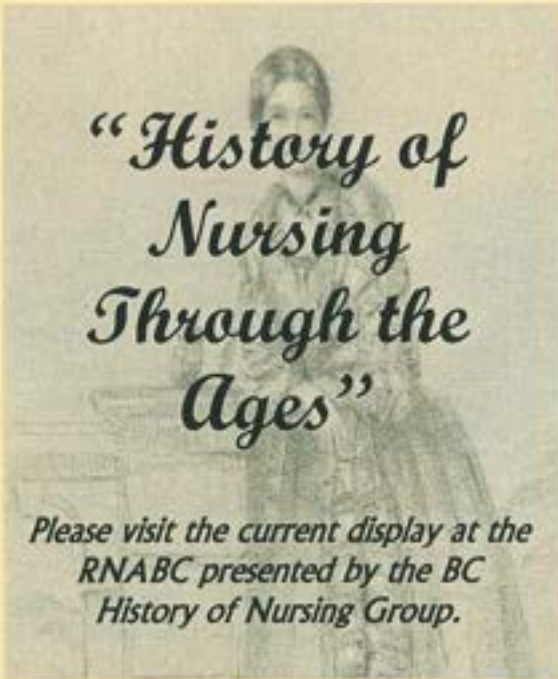
We were happy to present Helen Shore with an Honorary Membership. Janet Gormick kept us listening and laughing with her tribute to Helen.

Mrs Millar, in full costume of Canada's first military nurse from the Louis Riel Rebellion, joined us and showered us with gifts. Thanks Glennis Zilm.

Helen Shore presented the slate of officers for year 2001-2002 as following:

(continued on page 5)

Announcements



“History of Nursing Through the Ages”

Please visit the current display at the RNABC presented by the BC History of Nursing Group.

This latest display, featuring historical figures dressed in uniforms and habits of nursing care givers over the centuries, can be viewed in the RNABC Boardroom.

BCHN President Sheila Zerr created these replica costumes depicting the clothing worn by various nurses throughout history from earliest times to present day. The show demonstrates with clarity and historical accuracy, how nurses presented themselves to the people they sought to assist.

In Print

Associate Member **Arlee Hoyt McGee** had an article on

“Katherine E. MacLaggan: New Brunswick’s Nurse Revolutionist with Evolutionary Strategies”

in the January/February issue of the *Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership* (Vol. 14, No. 1, pp.32-33).

Setting the Record Straight

Apologies are in order to do with the following items in the BCHN Newsletter “Spring 2001, Volume 11, Issue 4”

1. Our archivist is Melanie **“Hardbattle”** (page 8)
2. Uniform made **“for”** Anna Tremere (page 11)
3. Verna Splane received Jeanne Mance Award in **“1982”** (page 13)
4. **“Vancouver Lawn Tennis & Badminton Club”** (pages 7,8)

President's Report cont...

- ◆ Inga Von Maydell - is starting her third term as secretary
- ◆ Lois Blais - is starting her second term as treasurer
- ◆ Joan Doree is starting her first term as member at large. Welcome Joan.

Finally, a special note. At the RNABC Annual General Meeting our members were busy manning our table and promoting our programs. The History Group was given a unique boost when Victoria chapter members put forth a resolution calling for RNABC members and the RNABC Board to assist in gathering historical materials. They asked that efforts be made to identify retired nurses to the members of RNABC so that districts, chapters and/or individual nurses may have the opportunity to acknowledge their contribution. History of Nursing members seized the opportunity to call attention to the work being done by our group and to appeal for added members to assist with our projects. RNABC members flooded our table at coffee break and new members were recruited. One new recruit agreed to serve on a committee for the pages of history project. I express a big thanks to all the history of nursing members who helped plan and contribute to the success of the meeting. The results were well worth the effort.



We've Got it!

By Dr. Beverly Du Gas

And just exactly what have we got? We have a promise of a space for a home of our own in the planned restoration of the Heather Pavillion at VGH. The 1906 structure is to be kept as a heritage building. At a public meeting of the Heather Heritage Society, on May 7, 2001, Dr. Bernard Bressier, Vice President, Research and Education, VGH and Health Sciences Centre, said that if we can find the money for our proposed museum/archives, they will give us space in the Heather Pavillion when it is restored – RENT FREE!

The nurses present at the meeting, agreed that we, the BCHON, and the alumnae of various BC schools should all work together to raise the funds to reach a goal for a home of our own. This goal is threefold. One to have a History of Nursing archival museum on the Lower Mainland. Second to develop a virtual archival museum online. And lastly to establish a travelling antique road show.

"Good Luck Bev on a Speedy Recovery"



NOTE THESE
DATES

Calendar of Events 2001-2002

**Sat, August 11, 2001
14:00-17:00**

*Tea Party at Hycroft, the
University Women's Club*

Cost \$40 (tax receipt \$20) Call Helen
Shore before August 1st at
(604)-730-9588.
Tickets limited to the first 50.

PLANS FOR
FUTURE PROGRAMS

October 2001

Visit to Riverview Museum

November 2001

*Canada's Military Nurses
with Norma Fieldhouse*

December 2001

Christmas Luncheon

February 2002

*The Dumpster Saga
with Lois Blais*

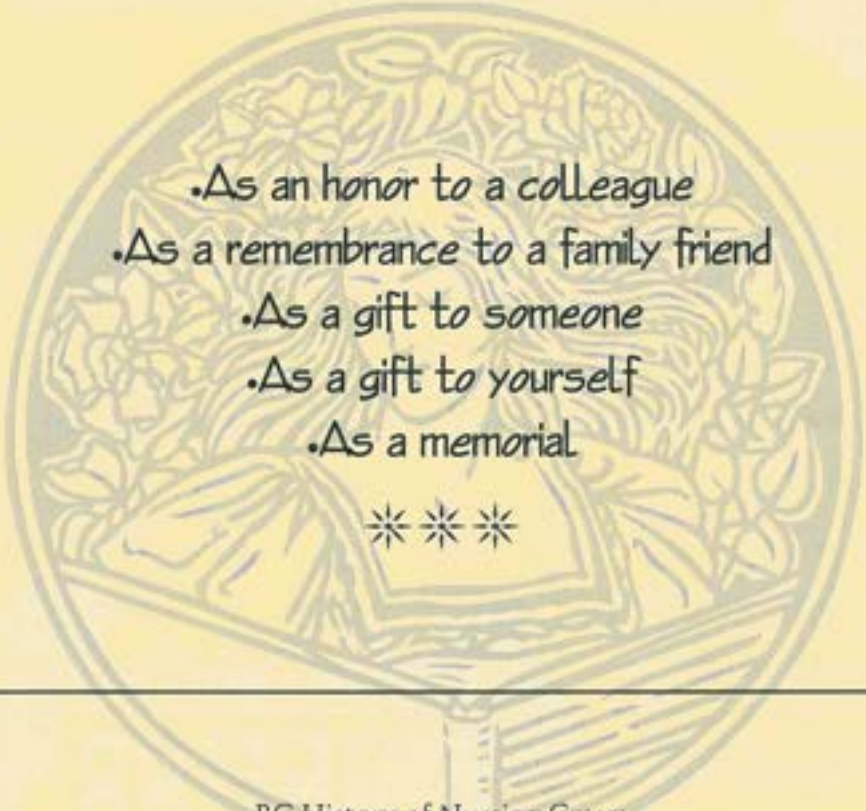
May 2002

*Papers given at the 2001
CAHN conference*

June 2002

Annual Dinner

Pages of Nursing History

- 
- As an honor to a colleague
 - As a remembrance to a family friend
 - As a gift to someone
 - As a gift to yourself
 - As a memorial



BC History of Nursing Group
Professional Practice Group
Registered Nurses Association of BC

Buy a Page of Nursing History



Why?

The BC History of Nursing Group plans to have a permanent facility to house our historical artifacts and materials

What?

At the moment, many nursing historical Treasures can be found in basements and Shoeboxes around the province.

The RNABC houses a part of our history in the form of Oral History Tape Recordings Biographies and the Memorial Book for Outstanding Nursing contributions.

We plan to raise funds to develop an on-going expansion of our archival facilities. As our campaign develops we will seek industrial and corporate support.

How?

The BC History of Nursing group plans a fund raising campaign. We are asking nurses to show their support and buy a "Page of Nursing History"

The pages will form an album of "Pages of Nursing History" to be placed for permanent record in the future archival museum.



In Honour of...

Ethel (nee McIntyre) Warbinek

R.N.A.B.C.
NURSING HISTORY



Ethel Warbinek

Ethel Warbinek is a vibrant personality worthy of the title "Friend of Nursing History." Since her early retirement from the faculty of the UBC School of Nursing, she has devoted special attention to promoting and preserving the history and biography of BC nurses. She was a founding member of the BC History of Nursing Professional Practice Group and has been almost constantly on its executive, having served as president. She is active in the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association, and the UBC Nursing Alumnae Division.

Born and raised in Vancouver, she took her nursing program at the University of British Columbia, receiving her Registered Nurse diploma (VGH, 1956) and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in (UBC 1957). She joined the teaching staff at VGH for 12 years, during which time she married and became a working mother. She returned to UBC to take her Master of Science in Nursing in UBC's first nursing graduate degree program, graduating in 1970.

She joined the faculty of the UBC School of Nursing in 1970. During her years at UBC, she taught adult acute care nursing and mainly clinical nursing courses with an special interest and expertise in peripheral vascular nursing. She was coordinator of undergraduate courses in second and fourth year, was faculty advisor to master's degree students, and chaired numerous committees. When UBC gave its first television distance education course – live – on the recently established Knowledge Network, Ethel taught the opening lecture, which was on assessment and management of acute cardiovascular disease. She was also active in the workings of the Registered Nurses Association of BC as a district director and served in many capacities on the executive of the Richmond-Delta Chapter.

She remarried in 1973 to Rudi Warbinek and they combined families for a wonderful happy group. Her many contributions to history of nursing in BC include numerous articles in professional and other journals and she is co-author of two books, *Legacy: History of Nursing Education at the University of British Columbia 1919-1994* and *Richmond-Delta Chapter History 1967-1997: Thirty Years of Professional Growth*.

Application Form

Join the action NOW. *All nurses deserve a place in history.*

Easy as 1,2,3.....4!

Step One: Choose a deserving nurse

Step Two: Search out an appropriate photo. Write name and address on the back

Step Three: Write up a biographical sketch of no more than 300 words

Step Four: Fill out the application form below and send in with your donation of \$25 to:

(Any donation over \$25 will receive a tax-deductible receipt)

The BC History of Nursing Group - Archival Fund

Lois Blais - Treasurer

B.C. History of Nursing Group

4074 West 16th Avenue

Vancouver, BC, V6R 3E1

Application for a Page of Nursing History

I would like to buy a page of Nursing History in honour of

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Cheque \$ _____

A tax-deductible receipt will be issued with donations over \$25.

Making Headlines



March 10, 2001 General Meeting

The History of Nursing Group joined the University of Victoria class at Children's & Women's Hospital of BC, Chan Centre for Family Health Education, for Lois Blais' lecture on Nursing Ethics. Twenty-three students, along with the history group members, gained insight into the concept of "Moral Agency for Care Providers". Two of the students in the class joined the history group. Efforts to meet with students and share our efforts to promote interest in nursing history proved successful as well as enjoyable.

Coquitlam Library Display

The History of Nursing Group filled four large showcases at the Coquitlam Library for the month of May. Brenda Flynn, who arranged the demonstrations, displayed her collection of illustrations of Vancouver nursing monuments in one case. In the other three cases; Glennis Zilm's display of Canadian authors, Ethel Warbinek and Beth Fitzpatrick's display of memorable artifacts, and Sheila Zerr's Barbie portrait historical dolls. The display cases were in the central corridor of a busy library. Students from the school next door to the library traversed the corridor continuously resulting in constant exposure to the historical display.

Research Day, University of Victoria

The conference, A Celebration of Nursing Research: Advancing Practice, was held May 12, 2001. Sheila Zerr's paper "Begbie Hall, The Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing Residence: Designation as a Heritage Site" was received enthusiastically by the research community. The paper documented the contribution of the nurses residence to women's history and more specifically the honour of heritage designation for Begbie Hall. Parks Canada selected Begbie Hall as one of five Canadian nurses residences chosen for this designation after a study for appropriate sites across Canada.

Sechelt, RNABC chapter dinner

The RNABC Sunshine Coast Chapter held their annual dinner meeting June 5, 2001. Twenty five to thirty members gathered for dinner at Keepers Restaurant. Two BC History of Nursing group members provided the program. Marie Montgomery spoke of her nursing experiences in TB nursing, and her friendship with Esther Paulson. She also shared her experiences in Eastern Canada and Newfoundland. Sheila Zerr shared the work done with Glennis Zilm to examine the memoir "Labour of Love". Valerie Grant was in attendance to help with questions about the

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memoir and about Gertrude Ladner's life and family. It was an enjoyable session. Of particular pleasure was the accommodation at Laureen Reid's beautiful home high up on a hillside with a magnificent view of the sunshine coast.

Pages of History

This edition of the newsletter provides an insert promoting the project "Pages of History". This project was initiated in 1998 to raise funds for the Archival Fund. The album of "Pages of History" is growing and now consists of 41 pages honouring nurses and their careers. We encourage you to donate a page to a friend, or to honour the memory of someone who made a special contribution to nursing.

Currently, the pages are designed by Sheila Zerr and Martica Jelik. Anyone interested in joining forces to promote the pages of history project please call Sheila Zerr at 943-3012 or Lois Blais at 224-5130.

Canadian Association for the History of Nursing Conference

The 14th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN), "Professionalizing the Profession: An Elusive Dream", was held at the Helen Glass Centre for Nursing, University of Manitoba Winnipeg, June 8-10, 2001. The Hannah Lecture, given by Dr. Meryn Stuart, "Professionalizing the Profession: Elusive Dream or Anachronism", set off the conference participants search for meaning around the professionalization of nursing.

Dr. James Hanley closed the conference with a thought provoking lecture "Medicine, Public Health and Professionalization in Victorian England". His lecture outlined the development of power structures and the medicalization of public health in 1830s and 1840s England.

Twenty three papers were presented. The toughest part was choosing which paper you would have to miss. Scholars from Sweden and from the United States joined the Canadians in sharing their historical research. The four papers from the BC History of Nursing Group were:

Blais, Lois M. - *Nurse Harrower: Typical Nurse of the Boer War?*

Zilm, Glennis - *Nurse Miller: The Florence Nightingale of the Canadian Rebellion.*

Zerr, Sheila, & Zilm, Glennis - *Education for Professional Practice: Gertrude Richards Ladner 1902-1905.*

Tremere, Anna - *Changing with the Times: History of Psychiatric Care in BC*

Social gatherings added levity and an opportunity to connect with colleagues. A fashion show and lunch featured a variety of nursing costumes including three early nursing costumes modelled by the BC History Group members. A tour to St. Boniface Museum and Grey Nuns Archives included a traditional church basement supper. We salute the Manitoba History Group for their efforts to provide a valuable and enjoyable conference.



Eight Nurses Added to RNABC Memorial Book

By Glennis Zilm

Brief biographies of eight nurses were added to the RNABC's *Memorial Book*



at the Annual General Meeting in April. The nominations were co-ordinated and put forward by the History of Nursing Group executive.

In the tribute to these nurses in the package given to delegates to the meeting, the RNABC noted that the nurses in the *Book* represent "courageous pioneers." The tribute goes on to say: "These nurses advanced the development of the nursing profession [and] ... played leadership roles ... often as trail-blazers implementing innovations and new roles and creating new knowledge in nursing."

Sister Columkille (Alice Lane Hamer) (1890-1973) served on the RNABC executive from 1941 to 1953 and was president from 1949-1951. She took her vows with the Sisters of Providence in 1917 and was assigned to St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, and graduated in nursing in

1917. Following further studies, she was appointed Director of the School of Nursing and while there 1,240 nurses graduated during her term. On leaving St. Paul's in 1953, she was administrator of several other hospitals in BC and the Prairies. The nomination was prepared by Don Ransom.

Helen McCauley Gemeroy (1912-1997) was a leader in development of and expansion of the specialty of psychiatric nursing for RNs in Canada, and especially in BC. She began her career as a teacher in her home province of Alberta, then took general and psychiatric nursing education. Later her baccalaureate and master degrees, and held several administrative and teaching positions before accepting a joint appointment as Assistant Director of the new University of BC Health Sciences Centre Hospital and Professor at the UBC School of Nursing. She was also an Honorary Associate Professor in the UBC Faculty of Medicine. Mary Jane Duke and Dale Walker, who prepared her nomination, described her as "an inspiration and role model for a new generation of registered nurses who wanted to develop expertise or careers in mental health nursing, psychiatric nursing, nursing management, and professional leadership."

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Evelyn Hood (1912-1999) was a pioneer leader in labor relations for nurses in BC and across Canada. Following a career in public health nursing, she was hired in 1951 to take charge of labor negotiations for the RNABC. Under her direction, BC (along with Quebec) led the way in introduction of collective bargaining for nurses. When provincial governments required labor negotiations to be distinct from activities of the registering bodies, she was instrumental in the separation of labor relations activities and establishment of a nurses' union, and thus can be considered one of the founders of the BC Nurses Union. Her nomination was prepared by Helen Shore.

Margaret E. Kerr (1900-1976), after a brief career as a teacher, was an early graduate (1926) of the University of BC School of Nursing and, with a Rockefeller Foundation scholarship, went on immediately to take a master's degree at Columbia University. She then returned to teach at the UBC School of Nursing. Active during these years in nursing organizations, she was president of the RNABC from 1943-1944. She then became editor of *The Canadian Nurse* and achieved an international reputation for her nursing journalism. Under her influence, provincial nursing associations across Canada began to take subscriptions as part of registration fees so that by 1959 the journal was received by every practicing nurse in the nation. Her nomination was prepared by Glennis Zilm

Heather Kilpatrick (1908-2000), after graduating from the Vancouver General and from UBC, spent the majority of her career in public health and was the province's first Director of Public Health Nursing. She expanded the service into new areas of the province and instigated many changes, adding, for example, pre-school immunization programs and well-baby clinics and eliminating many non-nursing duties. At the end of World War II in 1945, she joined the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and was stationed in Greece. Upon her return to Vancouver, she was appointed in charge of the Outpatient Department at Shaughnessy Hospital until her retirement in 1971. Ethel Warbinek and Jan Bell Scott prepared the nomination.

Virginia Geraldine ("Geri") Lapointe (1932-1997) was president of the RNABC from 1973-1975. Described by nominators Sharon Simpson and Karen Abbott as an "all-around" person, she was an exemplary nursing educator and administrator at the Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops, but she made many contributions to the development of nursing in BC. She was active in local and provincial affairs outside nursing and was named Kamloops' Woman of the Year in 1977 and the same year received the 25th Anniversary Queen Elizabeth Commemorative Medal for "service ... in many walks of life."

Pauline A.J. Siddons (1919-1999) served as a nursing sister during World War II, then spent almost her entire nursing career with the B.C. Division of Public Health Nursing. Her Master of Public Health Degree from Johns Hopkins made her a specialist in mental health nursing, and following her return to B.C. she made many innovations to the rapidly changing mental health care. As senior consultant, she was instrumental in shaping public health nursing policy for B.C. and the Yukon. She was nominated by Monica Frith Green, who worked with her for many years in the Department.

Alice Lillian Wright (1894-2000) as RNABC's Registrar and Executive Director from 1943 to 1960 pioneered changes in working conditions and salaries when nurses were just beginning to use collective bargaining. Described as a "Woman of Vision," she also received tributes from the provincial and national nursing associations for her many contributions nationally and internationally. A graduate of the Vancouver General Hospital, she worked in pediatric nursing in Vancouver, California, and New York before taking a Bachelor of Science degree at Columbia University. The nomination was prepared by Sheila Zerr and Glennis Zilm.

Because of their many contributions nationally, **Alice Wright** and **Evelyn Hood** were also included this year in the Canadian Nurses Association's *Memorial*

Book; **Margaret Kerr** was included previously.

History of Nursing Group members are encouraged to keep watch for names of individuals who should be nominated for the *Memorial Books*. If you have any suggestions, please get in touch with Glennis Zilm, chair of the committee for this project.



Last Call for BCHN Membership Renewals 2001

*We are pleased to report our
BCHN Membership remains at
over
100 members!*

This is the last newsletter, regretfully, that will be sent to members who have not paid their 2001 membership dues. Please do re-join us. We value each and every member.

Forward cheques to BCHN
treasurer, Lois Blais, at
4704 West 16th Ave.
Vancouver, BC V6R 3E1

THE HISTORY OF NURSING GROUP PRESENTS

A Summer Afternoon Tea Party

Saturday, August 11th, 2001
2-5 p.m.



The University Women's Club of Vancouver
"Hycroft"
1489 McRae Avenue
Vancouver

*
Historical Nursing Uniforms, Period Costumes,
Summer Tea Hats – Optional

*
Program: History of Nursing in BC (Illustrated) by Glennis Zilm

*
Sandwiches, cakes and tea will be served

A Fundraising Event for
The Museum Project
Cost \$40
Tax Receipt \$20

For tickets and information
Please call
Helen Shore (604) 731-9588
Please RSVP by August 3, 2001

