

BC History Of Nursing Professional Practice Group

History of Nursing News

March 2002 Volume 12 Issue 4

NOTE THESE DATES!

**Saturday, March 23,
2002 at 1 PM**

Visit to Riverview Hospital Museum

Anna Tremere has graciously offered to host a tour of the newly opened museum in the Industrial Division Building at Riverview Hospital, Coquitlam for BCHN members and guests.

If driving from the Vancouver area on the Lougheed Highway, turn left at the Colony Farm lights and follow the road to the right as it enters the hospital grounds. The main road is Holly Drive. Stay on that road until Oak. Turn left on Oak and go up

the hill to Clover. It's at a stop sign. Turn left on to Clover and the Industrial Division building is a long blue building on the right hand side.

There is lots of parking around the building. The museum is upstairs. Tea, coffee, and cookies will be served. Anna's pager number is 604-443-7920.

**Monday, April 15,
2002 at 8:00 AM**

History of Nursing Annual General Meeting

No, that's NOT a mistake!

The RNABC Annual General meetings are being held this year on a Monday and Tuesday, a departure from previous years.

The location is the same: the **Hyatt Regency Hotel** in downtown Vancouver. The meeting room is the **Lord Tennyson**. A continental breakfast will be available at 8:AM and the meeting will take place between 8:30-10:00 AM. Members are cordially invited to attend and bring a potential new member. A display is planned and there will be door prizes. For details, please contact any member of the executive. Hope to see you there!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW DUE

A reminder to members that, if not already mailed, membership dues can be sent to Lois Blais, Treasurer. A participating and supportive membership is critical to our success.

History of Nursing News Editorial Board

Lois Blais
Lynne Esson
Beth Fitzpatrick
Beverly Leipert
Naomi Miller
Ethel Warbinek
Sheila Zerr
Glennis Zilm

Editor: Beth Fitzpatrick
Design by: Eagle Publishing

The History of Nursing News is published four times a year. Submissions for the next newsletter are welcome. Please submit items to Ethel Warbinek, e-mail: warbinek@telus.net, phone: 604-538-5066 by June 1, 2002.

History Group Executive Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month. They usually take place at the RNABC Offices and begin at 4 pm and end about 6 pm. All members are welcome to attend. For further information, call President Sheila Zerr at 604-943-3012.

WHAT'S INSIDE.....

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Appreciate your uniqueness
 Build on your strengths
 Make a fresh start
 Take the necessary steps
 Envision success
 Know you can do it
 Imagine the possibilities
 Keep your dreams alive
 Look forward
 Savour your strength
 Overcome obstacles
 Stay happy
 Let your spirit soar
 Launch new ideas
 Reach out
 Aim high
 Think big
 Live fully
 Rejoice in your capabilities
 Invest in your potential
 Take a great leap forward
 Don't look back
 Believe in yourself
 Seize the moment
 Hold tightly to dreams
 Colour them possible!

Regular meetings of the Archival Development Sub-committee take place each month. Sometimes they meet in the History of Nursing office at UBC, but most often meet around Nina Rumen's dining room table where ideas and plans flow. If you are interested in working on this committee, please call Lois Blais at 604-224-5130.

A TRIBUTE TO MARGARET JILL THOMPSON 1937-2001



Although Jill Thompson was born and raised in Saskatoon, she spend over forty years practicing in BC, as a staff nurse, family practice nurse and public health nurse. In 1977 she began her teaching career and for eighteen years taught nursing students at Okanagan University College and at the University College of the Fraser Valley. An exemplary teacher and role model she was enthusiastic and sincerely interested in students. She spent a year at Guy's Hospital in London, England in 1965-66. This was the beginning of her life long interest in Florence Nightingale. As a result of her extensive research, she became an authority on her life.

Over the years she amassed an extensive collection of books, artifacts and other memorabilia. This collection at her request, has been donated to the History

of Nursing Group. After taking an early retirement in 1995, Jill joined the BC History of Nursing group and remained an active member until her death in November 2001. She held positions on the executive such as chair of the Oral History Committee, taping several nursing leaders including Dr. Beverly Du Gas (8 tapes) and chair of the Membership Committee, publishing a yearly membership list with the help of her husband Bruce Beaudreau. Other responsibilities included membership on the Editorial Board for the History of Nursing News, and acting as guest editor. Jill also coordinated various historical displays at RNABC in the foyer, Board Room and Helen Randall library and created an inventory as well as protocols, forms and procedures for these displays. Jill was frequently invited as a guest lecturer to teach nursing history classes to students at Okanagan University College and at University College of the Fraser Valley. Her presentation to the History of Nursing Group on "Florence Nightingale: Her Life and Times Revisited" was scholarly and extremely well received. Shortly before her death she was invited to present a similar lecture to RNABC chapter presidents in Kelowna. Even though she was ill at the time she felt committed to do this and could not negate on her promise. Such was her sense of responsibility and need to share her love of nursing history with others. At this time she also gave a class to nursing students at Okanagan University College. Jill was also a skilled writer, contributing numerous articles and book reviews to the History of Nursing News. Jill Thompson died peacefully on November 20, 2001 at age 64.

Tribute written by Ethel Warbinek. Top photograph shows *Jill* with History of Nursing colleagues Nina Rumen and Sheila Zerr. Bottom photo shows *Jill* presenting a paper at a History of Nursing meeting.



*From the President's Pen
by Sheila Zerr*

As your President, I sit on the Council of Professional Practice Groups of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. The Council purpose is to promote the role of professional groups within RNABC and to provide an opportunity for networking. Also, the Council provides a forum to identify and discuss common issues and concerns. We meet five times a year. The Council invited Ann Sutherland Boal, B.C.'s Chief Nurse Executive, to our meeting in March. She provides strategic advice and nursing expertise to the government of B.C. She has asked that Council members provide information about their specific area of nursing practice and she specifically requested "indicators of outcomes."

I gave this request some thought. What can I put forward from our group? To begin, I looked at our main purpose: to stimulate interest, teaching and professional activities in the history of nursing; to promote study of and research into the history of nursing in B.C.; and to assist in the preservation of the nursing materials. I believe we have evidence of our progress toward these goals and that I can supply materials that indicate "outcomes."

Here are the thoughts I intend to share with the PPG Council and with Dr. Sutherland Boal. We have accomplished outcomes to preserve and promote the history of nursing in B.C. in several key areas:

- ♦ Publications through our group newsletter and web site and by individual presentations and publications.
- ♦ Archival documentation and preservation of materials and artifacts with our established archival holdings and procedures.

- Promotion of education and interest in the history of nursing through our scholarship fund, general meetings, and presentations at professional and public functions.
- Biographical collections on B.C. nurses in many areas such as; the oral histories and biographical files in the RNABC library, memorial book submissions to the Canadian Nurses Association and RNABC, pages of history and memorial doll projects, publications in historical and nursing journals, and biographical papers prepared and presented at conferences and forums.

Much of the history of nursing in B.C. can be traced through the biographical efforts of our group. I will share evidence of this work by explaining the scope of our activities and by providing copies of the published biographical works by our group members. I will also, share evidence of our member's biographical research by providing the abstracts from conference presentations. Preparing for this presentation made me aware of the extent of our biographical activities and of the mounting documentation of our efforts. It will be a privilege to make this presentation to the PPG Council and to provide Dr. Sutherland Boal with evidence of our "outcomes."

OPERATING ROOM NURSE MAKES HISTORY

History Group member *Helen Niskala* sent us a clipping from the Gulf Island Driftwood newspaper, announcing the retirement of **Shirley (Taylor) McIntyre**, a 1950 graduate of the Toronto Western Hospital School of Nursing. Shirley worked in the operating room at the Lady Minto Hospital in Ganges, Salt Spring Island B.C. until late November, 2001.

What makes Shirley's retirement unique is that she is 74 years old and continued to work right up to the date of her retirement dinner! "People don't realize there are no operating room nurses on the island," McIntyre said. Her family claims that she's been trying to retire for 10 years. In the newspaper article McIntyre is claimed to be "the oldest working O.R. nurse in B.C., possibly in Canada."

HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....

We are looking for a new chair/ co-ordinator for the **Memorial Books Committee**. This person does not have to be in the Lower Mainland, but should have a computer and e-mail. Glennis Zilm, who was previous chair (and the whole committee), would be willing to remain on the committee and assist the new chair, but thinks it is time we spread the work around a bit more. The heaviest workload for this committee comes at the end of the year (November through January), when you need to co-ordinate the "nominations" to go to the Awards Committee. Before that, it is merely trying to identify possible nominations and seek individuals to write them up. If you would be willing to take on this job, please get in touch with President Sheila Zerr or with Glennis Zilm.

The Group is also looking for a new **Displays Co-ordinator** to take over the work most recently organized by Jill Thompson. This person probably should be able to attend most monthly Executive Meetings, but does not have to do any displays (unless he or she wants to do so). The Co-ordinator ensures displays are planned for our four regular venues (the RNABC Board Room Display Case, the RNABC Library Bulletin Board, the Uniform Mannequin in the RNABC Lobby, and the Display Case at UBC); all of these change about four times a year. As well, the Co-ordinator helps plan displays for the Annual General Meetings of the Group and of RNABC and works with any member who has ideas for displays in other locales (such as local public libraries, shopping malls, hospital lobbies, anywhere there are free display cases). He or she also keeps the record book of displays and supervises the box of display materials. Glennis Zilm has been filling in for Jill, but thinks perhaps another member would bring newer, better ideas. She would be willing to stay on the committee and assist the Co-ordinator for the coming year. If you would be willing to take on this job, please get in touch with President Sheila Zerr or with Glennis Zilm.

(Editor's comment: Being involved in creating displays is really a "fun" job. I found, much to my surprise, that I really enjoy this type of project. It's a chance to express your hidden creative talents. Why not give it a try?)

Our Members Write.....



Bev Leipert says that life in Windsor is much improved over life in Prince George - not so isolated and with lots of cultural choices. She is close to completion of her PhD. At the time that she wrote, she was teaching a 4th year community nursing clinical course, and a Master's advanced practice course and enjoying both.

Student member **Cynthia Toman** of Ottawa writes to let us know that she has been appointed as a research assistant for the Canadian Museum of Civilization project on nursing history. She writes that, for this, she "is especially interested in contact with researchers in areas of public health and psychiatric nursing and with native nursing history." Her own research area for her doctoral degree at the University of Ottawa is Canadian Nursing Sisters of World War II and she has collected a number of oral history tapes. (You can reach her by e-mail at ctoman@attglobal.net or write to her at 2391 Ogilvie Rd., Gloucester, ON K1S 7N4).

In October, 2001 we received a letter from **Margaret Scaia**, recipient of one of the History Group's scholarship winners. Margaret writes: "I just wanted to update you on the progress I am making with my master's thesis. I am currently working on interviews with 8 women who had children as teenagers between 1940-2000. I am looking at the transcripts of the interviews for themes related to the discovery of pregnancy, labour and delivery, bringing baby home, the experience of

motherhood, perceptions of professionals and the public about early motherhood, and reflections on the meaning of the experience. The next step will be an analysis of the themes, and putting them in a historical and social perspective. I am hoping to finish the whole thing by the spring. Once again, I want to thank the nursing History group for their support. I will keep you updated as things progress."

Word was received that Dr. Shirley Stinson was awarded the Order of Canada in January, 2002. Dr. Stinson was instrumental in establishing a funded doctorate program in nursing at the University of Alberta in 1991, two years before she retired. She is a tireless supporter of the B.C. History of Nursing group and sponsors many of our Alberta student members. Congratulations!

And congratulations also to new member Jan Robertson who has been elected to the RNABC Board.

COLLECTED WORKS OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

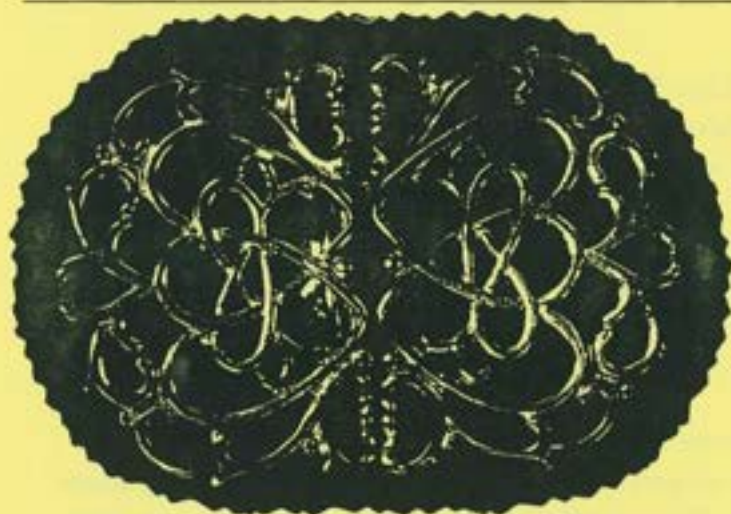
Volume 2: Florence Nightingale's Spiritual Journey: Biblical Annotations, Sermons and Journal Notes is now available from Wilfrid Laurier University Press 75 University Avenue West Waterloo, ON N2L 3C5

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By phone: (519) 884-0710 ext. 6124.



*Interesting
Artifacts:
SILVER
BUCKLES
by
Glennis
Zilm*

News of an interesting history of nursing artifact arrived recently from member Shirley Stinson of Edmonton. The Alberta Association of Registered Nurses Museum and Archives in Edmonton recently acquired a typical English Nurse's Silver Buckle, a traditional part of an English staff nurses' uniform.

The silver buckle, shown in the photo above, was donated to the AARN Museum and Archives by Patricia Hayes, retired professor of the University of Alberta Faculty of Nursing, who came to Canada in 1959 and became a well-known nursing leader. Among other things, she was heavily involved in activities related to the recognition and education of nurse-midwives.

Pat Hayes bought her buckle in 1958, as soon as she passed her State Registration Exams after graduation from the Royal Free Hospital in London, UK. At that time, large formal graduation ceremonies were not customary. Many nurses received these buckles as graduation presents; some came as heirlooms from family members who had been nurses and some were expensive antique Victorian silver buckles.

Pat said that she purchased her own, and that, as she had little money at the end of her nursing course, she opted for silver plate. "I have to say that it was not one of the really glamorous buckles because I did not have the money to buy any-

thing 'posh' at the time," she added. "The most I can say is that it was serviceable."

Nurses fastened the buckles onto cloth belts that matched the color of the uniform used in the hospital in which they were working (not the hospital from which they graduated); they wore a pin that identified their hospital program. Pat was working at a hospital in Winchester at the time, and so her buckle is on a black fabric belt. She added that the buckles went from job to job the same way as black bands on caps used to do in Canada. Now that starched aprons are not as common for graduate nurses in England, she is not sure whether the tradition of buckles still continues.

However, Pat says that these sorts of buckles now are becoming a fashion trend in the same way as Victorian and estate jewelry. Perhaps some of our members have silver buckles of their own? If so, we would be interested in hearing more about this tradition and perhaps having other photographs to share.



The Beatty Street Armory in Vancouver, B.C. was opened with great fanfare on September 30, 1901 by HRH the Duke of Cornwall and York, who in 1910 would become King George V. In connection with the ceremony, the Duke presented South African war medals to one nursing sister, one officer and 26 men.

The sister was **Mary Afflick**, who had gone overseas with the first contingent to sail from Canada at the outbreak of the war. Reports of the day tell us that when Afflick received her medal she also received "a sympathetic smile from the duchess, who always appeared particularly pleased at the recognition of merit to members of her own sex." The duchess is best remembered today as Queen Mary.

Submitted by Naomi Miller, excerpted from an article in the Vancouver Sun, Saturday Review, "Postcard from the Past" by Bob Scullion and Fred Thirkell.



EDITORIAL by Beth Fitzpatrick

Get Rid of Mercury: Start With Thermometers

Who would have thought that the glass thermometer, so familiar to many of us, would become a dangerous tool? A familiar image of the nurse often shows her shaking down the mercury in the thermometer with a quick "flick of

the wrist."

The mercury thermometer is now being legislated out of existence by environmentalists, health groups and government officials concerned about the potentially lethal mercury contained within the thin glass rods.

Mercury is in the water we drink, the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the fillings in our teeth. It can be toxic to the developing brain and nervous system of fetuses and children. The problem with mercury is that when it reaches the water, it easily transforms into extremely toxic methyl mercury, which then accumulates in the food chain - eventually showing up in the fish we eat.

In a report published in the July 2001 issue of *Pediatrics*, pediatricians are encouraging parents to avoid mercury, whenever possible, by properly discarding mercury thermometers and limiting the type of fish that they eat and feed their children.

The number one way to reduce the amount of mercury that ultimately makes its way into the environment is to safely get mercury thermometers out of the home. Each mercury thermometer contains approximately one gram of mercury. One gram of mercury per year deposited in a 20-acre lake is enough to raise the levels of mercury in fish high enough to trigger consumption advisories. In the United

States it is estimated that mercury fever thermometers contribute 17 tons of mercury to the solid waste stream annually.

Charlotte Brody, RN, the coordinator of Health Care Without Harm, an international campaign designed to reform the environmental practices of the health care industry, agrees that mercury thermometers need to be taken out of homes. "Even people who are careful with them, break them."

If you have a mercury thermometer it should be disposed of during your community's hazardous material recycling day. Many replacements for mercury thermometers are available, from the simplest digital thermometer that costs a few dollars to very sophisticated ear thermometers. Several national drugstore chains are phasing out mercury thermometers in favor of affordable digital thermometers.

By now you may be wondering what all this has to do with the history of nursing. Many questions come to mind. How do we safely store these artifacts from the past in our collections.....Do we even bother to collect them? Should we now be taking detailed photo-graphs of thermometers and documenting how they were used? Think about it!

long time history of Nursing member, Glenora Lee Erb
(1937-2001) passed away December 24, 2001 after a valiant
struggle with cancer. Our sympathy is extended to her family
and friends.

This That and The Other

History of Nursing member **Dr. Sally Thorne** assumes the position of Director of the U.B.C. School of Nursing for a five year term starting January 1, 2002. She is a graduate of the Toronto Western Hospital School of Nursing and received her BSN and MSN from UBC before completing her PhD in Nursing and Anthropology at Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. She first became a sessional lecturer at the School of Nursing in 1979, and was hired into a tenure-track position in 1983. She currently holds the rank of Professor. Since February 2001, she has been the Associate Director for Graduate Programs and Research.

In Print

Mill Judy, **Leipert Beverly** & Duncan Susan (2002) A History of Public Health Nursing in Alberta and British Columbia, 1918 to 1939. *The Canadian Nurse*. 98(1): 18-23.

The authors examined public health nursing during the interwar years. Significant challenges existed during this time as public health nursing evolved in BC and Alberta into a specialized category concerned with promotion of health and prevention of illness. The article concludes with the statement "The creativity, commitment and knowledge of the early PHNs enriched the lives and health of the people of Alberta and British Columbia. PHNs today can rightfully be proud of these early PHNs and inspired to continue this important work."

A Request from Cindy Milner

I am a student member, I am doing my Masters thesis on the History of Nursing (RNABC) Disciplining (Professional Conduct) from 1918 to present day. I was hoping to receive some information from members who were practicing in the early 60's onward.

My focus is after the formation of the RNABC, Professional Conduct Inquiry Process in 1975. Do you know anyone who was disciplined by their school or professional association (RNABC) from misconduct, ethical concerns or use of title infractions?

Any information would be very helpful. My email is cindyminer@shaw.ca or via Canada post, please have mail sent to:
Attn: Cindy Milner, RN, BHS(N), MA(can)
c/o School of Nursing
University of Victoria, Lower Mainland Campus
5th Floor Library Building
100 West 49th Avenue
Vancouver BC V5Y 2Z6

A Giggle from Naomi Miller...

"My hairdresser's grandmother had a heart attack two weeks ago and was admitted to hospital. A week later the family gathered at her bedside, not in a deathwatch, but to honor her on her 88th birthday. A nurse was caring for the patient in the next bed. One procedure was to stick an electronic thermometer into the patient's ear. Grandma turns to her daughter (both had trained as nurses in their youth), "How'd you like to take a temperature like that?" Both laughed and made the wrist shaking gesture needed by the old mercury thermometers.

Later, when the nurse had gone, someone asked Grandma what she thought of the modern nurses. Grandma did not mince words. "The female nurses all drive me crazy. But the only male nurse... well, he makes my bed in the evening and gives me a good back rub with attention to my sore shoulders. I sleep well. He's great!"



WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

The Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry at the School of Nursing, University of Virginia:
www.nursing.virginia.edu/centers/cnhi/index.html

The Margaret Allemang History of Nursing Center in Ontario has a new web site: www.allemang.on.ca.

The Australian Nursing History Project:
www.nursing.unimelb.edu.au/anhp/anhppros.htm

University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing:
www.nursing.upenn.edu/history/

United Kingdom Centre for Nursing History:
www.qmuc.ac.uk/hn/history

Historical Health Information Locator Service-Canada (HHILS-CAN): www.fis.utoronto.ca/hilscan

ORANGE DATE BARS

- 1 1/2 CUP MARGARINE
- 1 1/2 CUP WHITE SUGAR
- 1 TEASPOON ORANGE PEEL
- 2 TABLESPOONS ORANGE JUICE
- 1 CUP FLOUR
- 1 1/2 TEASPOON BAKING SODA
- 1 EGG
- 1 1/2 CUP CHOPPED NUTS
- 1 1/2 CUP CHOPPED DATES



MELT MARGARINE, ADD SUGAR, ORANGE JUICE AND ORANGE PEEL AND BLEND. STIR IN FLOUR AND SODA, ADD EGG AND BEAT WELL. ADD NUTS AND DATES LAST. POUR INTO 9 INCH GREASED PAN, BAKE AT 350 DEGREES FOR 25 MINUTES. COOL IN PAN. FROST WITH ICING MADE BY MIXING 1 TABLESPOON BUTTER OR MARGARINE WITH 1 CUP ICING SUGAR AND 4 TEASPOONS ORANGE JUICE.

At the monthly History of Nursing meetings we usually take a break from the business of the day to enjoy food and fellowship. Recently *Nina Rumen* brought these delicious Orange Date Bars. The recipe was taken from the St. Paul's Hospital Alumni Cookbook, published in the 1950's and was contributed to the cookbook by Frances Benedict.

Frances had a long distinguished career as a high school teacher and nurse educator. She graduated with a B.A. from UBC in 1923 (a Great Trekker) and from the Faculty of Education at UBC and the Vancouver Normal School. After additional graduate studies and employment teaching high school in several B.C. communities, she fulfilled a long-held ambition to become a nurse. *Frances* graduated from St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing in 1936 with honors and the highest marks in the provincial R.N. exams.

Frances Benedict served as educational director at St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing in Vancouver for 10 years and at the Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing in New Westminster for 20 years until her retirement. In addition she was honorary clinical instructor in the UBC School of Nursing serving as field guide to nursing students practicing teaching in nursing schools. She passed away in 1997 at the age of 95.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- ⇒ The 15th CAHN/ACHN Annual Conference and General Meeting May 24-26, 2002. University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. To be held jointly with the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine. The congress theme is "Boundaries: Geographies, Genres, Gender".
- ⇒ "Unsettled Pasts: Re-conceiving the West through Women's History" June 13-16, 2002, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta. The conference hopes to encourage dialogue among generations of women's historians, and among practitioners of women's and gender history.
- ⇒ The 2002 International Human Science Research Conference, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C. June 19-22, 2002. Professionals from education, social work, child and youth care, nursing, philosophy and other disciplines who are pushing the boundaries of human science research will come together to share new approaches and methodologies.
- ⇒ The 19th Annual History of Nursing Conference, September 27-29, 2002, Salt Lake City, Utah. Co-sponsored by the American Association for the History of Nursing and Brigham Young University College of Nursing.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The following officers of the History of Nursing Group are to be elected at the Annual General Meeting on Monday, April 15th, 2002. **President, Vice President, Membership chair, and Member at Large.** If you are willing to let your name stand for any of these positions, please contact Beth Fitzpatrick (1-604-898-3156)

IN THE NEXT ISSUE.....

Photo's and report on the Christmas luncheon with Norma Fieldhouse

"The Dumpster Saga....the continuing story", by Lois Blais



HISTORY OF NURSING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE GROUP OF THE REGISTERED NURSES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The History of Nursing Professional Practice Group provides a forum for those interested in the history of nursing to exchange ideas and information. The Group, formed in 1990, strives to stimulate interest in history of nursing and promotes study of and research into history of nursing in British Columbia. The Group also encourages the teaching of nursing history in educational programs and can assist in the preservation of historical nursing materials.

Membership categories are honorary, full, affiliate and student. **Full members** must be paid-up practicing or paid-up non-practicing members of RNABC. Interested individuals not paying RNABC practicing or non-practicing fees may join as **affiliate members**. If you are enrolled in a nursing education program or are a registered nurse enrolled in a graduate program, you may join as a **student member**. Please get in touch with any member of the executive if you are interested in membership.

Dues for 2002 are: Full and Affiliate \$30; Students \$5. Membership year is January 1 to December 31. Send name, address, telephone number, or name of the educational program. Make checks to "History of Nursing Group" and send to: **Lois Blais**, Treasurer, P.O. Box 72082, RPO Sasamat, Vancouver, B.C. V6R 4P2.

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