

BC HISTORY OF NURSING NEWS

SUMMER PLANNING MEETING
WELL ATTENDED

Seventeen Members attended the Summer Planning Meeting. Headed up by Sheila Zerr and hosted by Glennis Zilm a fun time and a productive session was accomplished. With everyones participation and effort the BC History of Nursing Group is ready to launch its activities for the coming year. Details of the meeting can be found in Sheila's President's Report on page 3. Below are some of the members enjoying the sunshine and eats..



Above Helen Mussallem sits in the patio during the break.



Above Glennis Zilm, Kathy Murphy & Sheila Zerr enjoying the many sweets and treats of the day.

EDITORIAL BY LOIS BLAIS

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN CELEBRATE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

In the December 1, 2001 Issue of the Globe and Mail, an excerpt from Gena K. Gorrell, winner of the Norma Fleck Book Award for children's non-fiction, was itemized. The item depicted the abominable conditions found by Nightingale and her nurses: *what they found was appalling. The hospital was a vast, filthy building with open sewers running underneath...pilled with garbage...overflowing chamberpots... If the physical conditions of the hospital was foul, it was no worse than the prevailing mood. The government had ordered the army to allow Florence and her party into the Barrack Hospital, but some of the senior doctors considered her nurses' presence an insult, and a threat to their authority.* The excerpt goes on about how Nightingale manages to overcome these barriers through her grim determination: *"the nurses sorted supplies, and improvised shirts, slings and pillows. They bought foods suited for invalids in Constantinople and cooked them on their portable stoves. I think this would be a great book to review. If any of our members wish to review this book, say for our next Newsletter, find the reference below.*

from Heart and Soul: The Story of Florence Nightingale, by Gena K. Gorrell. © 2000, published by Tundra Books

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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 **Naomi Miller** before November 15, 2002. Executive Meetings are held at the RNABC the first Thursday of every month at 4pm. All Members are welcome.

REPORT FROM HON PRESIDENT : SHEILA ZERR



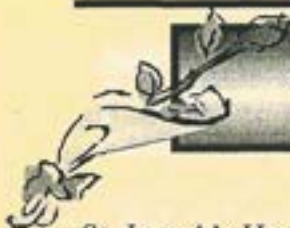
Eighteen members of the history of nursing group met on July 9, 2002 to set our path for the coming year. The setting was ideal. Glennis Zilm's hospitality, comfortable atmosphere and nourishing food gave us all inspiration and resolve to set a workable plan for the future.

The day began with small group discussions to identify key 2002-2003 priorities, keeping in mind the guiding priorities set 2000 and 2001 summer workshops. The results were interesting as the following priorities resulted from discussion:

1. **Communications** - to include newsletter, displays, education outreach, contact with other groups such as BCNU and Heather Heritage Society and the Web site.
2. **Archives** - to include the UBC office space use, equipment and safety of artifacts, cataloguing the collection and contact with other archivists and collections.
3. **Fund Raising** - to include exploring various strategies for coordination of on going projects, exploring possible sources of funding, raising awareness through Nursing BC exploring how the CAHN conference in 2005 can be platform for fund raising.
4. **People Power** - to include recruitment of new members, annual update of membership lists, promotion of individual efforts to encourage new membership and committee activities.

Group members and committee chairs used July and August to get activities underway. Nina Rumen called a lunch meeting to explore publicity concerns for general meetings and for the group as a whole. A think tank to address fund raising priorities was held following a delightful lunch hosted by Helen Mussallem. The session established a preliminary plan to guide coordination of publicity and fund raising. **The most important outcome of these meetings, we need to solicit two group members willing to step forward. One to coordinate publicity activities and one to coordinate fund raising projects. Anyone Interested??**

We have set our path for 2002-2003. The challenges ahead are daunting. We keep saying "one step at a time" as we move toward our goals. Join us on the path toward shaping the future and reaching our goals. -- however daunting they may seem.



ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF NURSING VICTORIA BC

ALUMNAE NEWS

St. Joseph's Hospital opened in 1876 and St. Joseph's School of Nursing opened in 1900. Both of these buildings have been demolished during the past two years. All that remains of St. Joseph's is the 1908 "wing", now declared a heritage building. The Sisters of St. Ann, in bequeathing the hospital complex to the government in 1972, requested that the gift be used in some way for health care purpose. To fulfill that stipulation, a new five-storey extended care facility, Mount St. Mary, is scheduled to open on the old hospital site, in March of 2003. "*Non Nobis Solum*" (Not for Ourselves Alone), the motto of the School of Nursing, has been adopted as the motto of Mt. St. Mary.

Though the physical buildings of St. Joseph's are gone, the dedication of the medical and nursing staff, throughout the long history of St. Joseph's, is remembered with emotion and gratitude. In particular, the alumnae of the School of Nursing (1900 to 1981) look back on their years at St. Joseph's, and fondly recollect - sometimes with tears, sometimes with chuckles - poignant memories carried deep with their hearts.

The alumnae are presently working with Mt. St. Mary staff to display documentation and memorabilia collections, much of which continues to come from the alumnae.

In June and January, the alumnae hold well-attended dinners to renew friendships. The alumnae have contributed a bursary through the Registered Nurses Foundation to assist with the ongoing education of nurses.

Submitted by Margaret Rapatz, Former President of St. Joseph's Alumnae
Margaret Cantwell, S. S. A., Archivist

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Inga Von Maydell, was in Germany, and visited Kaiserworth (where Florence Nightingale received her nursing education). I am sure we will hear more Inga.

Beverly Leipert has successfully defended her PhD dissertation at the University of Alberta (July 30) and is now "adjusting to life after the PhD." A copy of her thesis, titled 'Northern Women Developing Resilience,' will be available on loan in the RNABC library. Dr Leipert now is Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor; she was formerly at the University of Northern BC



*Need some Books to read for
the Fall
see pages 5, 6, & 8 for
reviews*

J. Karen Scott, Editor, with Joan E. Kieser. (2002). *Northern Nurses. True Nursing Adventures from Canada's North*. Oakville, ON; Kokum Publications [199 Queen Mary Drive, Apt. 1505, Oakville, ON, L6K 3K7]. Pb approx 7"x9", 156 pp. Includes snapshots.

I would say that this book is a must for university and /or public library. for the primary data based literature in this area is a rarity. Several other now retired nurses who worked in the NWT/Yukon and who have read the book and have written Karen Scott to say they would like to contribute if she is going to do a second book. Also some RCMPers who worked where there were Northern Nursing Stations have said they would like to tell some tales about experiences working with nurses in the North. I bought several copies myself as there is such a demand for this very interesting book on nurses in the north.

Although many professionals have provided health services to peoples in the remote areas of Canada' North, few nurses have written the stories of their experiences. thus Northern nurses is a rarity, and constitutes not only a significant contribution to the history of

Brownlow, David. C. (2002). *Whistle stop dentist: on the Ontario C. P, R, Dental Car: 1831 to 1935*. Guelph, ON: pp 242, illustrated. Available for \$30 , cheque payable to David Brownlow. 177 Lace Bark Lane, RR#1, Belwood ON N0B 1J0
Author available at email: brownlow@albedo.net

This book had some important public health nursing substance. As well the author said recently that if it had not been for the weekly reports the PHN wrote to her supervisor every week, he could never have written this book because he could not find much of any substance in the Ontario Provincial Archives when it came to Dentistry. It was the PHN Archival collection, with those weekly reports, which was of such help to him. It is not only for dentists but also for nurses interested in history of nursing in Ontario or in history of nursing in remote areas.

Reviewed by Shirley Stinson



BOOK REVIEWS

Dundas, Barbara (2000). A History of Women in the Canadian Military. Montreal: Éditions Art Global and the Department of National Defense. [Available RNABC Library WY300 D86 2000]

This federal-government-funded art book on history of women in the Canadian military is beautifully illustrated. Although the book is not specifically about nurses, the first women in the forces were nurses and nursing sisters were featured throughout. The many excellent photographs (mainly from National Archives collections) come from professional war photographers who had the best equipment available. The wonderful color illustrations of war paintings (mainly from the Canadian War Museum) are by Canadian artists (especially women artists, including Molly Bobak), and there is a biographical section on the women artists.

Unfortunately, the textual information is often sketchy and contains some errors and omissions. The book is not references (not even for quotations, and it appears that the author (about whom we could find nothing) used only secondary sources for early historical information. The bibliography is sketchy and the author often assumes the reader is familiar with military terms, such as HMCS Shearwater, CFS Rockcliffe, CFPU, NACC. Numbers of women serving in the military are quoted in some parts of the book, but there are no numbers on the many Canadian women who served in Korea.

The book opens with a brief history of nurses who provided care during the Canadian Rebellion of 1885. Unfortunately, this information is skimpy and repeats inaccuracies from earlier works. For example, Dundas uses the name "Loretta Miller" for the first Canadian military nurse; according to the signatures on the pay records, this should be "Mrs. Kate Miller." She does name the other nurses in Saskatoon and Moose Jaw hospitals (again, with minor errors). and has tried to pull the information together. there are some interesting quotations that should be followed up but one is hampered by the lack of references.

The second section relates to the four nurses of the newly-formed Victorian Order of Nurses who accompanied the military to the Yukon in 1899, although, strictly, these were not military nurses. It would be interesting to find out whether they were on the military pay roll for the time they accompanied the troops to the Yukon area.

With respect to the South African War (1899-1902), Dundas explains many nurses applied to serve but only four were selected despite an increasing demand for trained military nurses. This

continued on page 7

minimal selections was true of other Commonwealth colonies of the time. For example, few Australian nurses were selected from a long list of applicants, while Tasmanian nurses were refused altogether or were required to pay their own way. Whether this refusal was because of a large Dutch settlement in Tasmania is speculative. Documentation on the Boer War is scarce and information about the nurses even more sparse but this is all the more reason to analyze the historical, political, economic and gender relationships that led to the use of the nurses. Dundas does not present this type of speculation or analysis, which would give a better capturing of the time. Women were caught between the authorities and the altruism, and such analysis of the historical environment would make for a better read. Thus this part of the book is of interest only in that it is a listing of events rather than wholesome account of the period.

The information on nursing WW I (1914-1918) and WW II (1939-1945) is better done, and there is a good explanation of the development of the Military Nursing Services during that period. There also is a good comparison of the Queen Alexandra Military Nursing Service (English) and the Canadian Military Nursing Services. However, one interesting outcome of WWI relates to how Canadian women got to vote in 1917. Prime Minister Borden was unpopular and it was thought that he would lose the election due to the conscription crisis. To ensure a winning outcome, all women over 21 years of age who had sons, brothers, or husbands in uniform were given the franchise, and were women who served overseas. This aspect was not mentioned in Dundas' book and yet it is of interest for view of women's history.

Another aspect not covered concerns the handling of married women in the forces and women who became pregnant. Only single women could enroll, but those who married were allowed to continue to serve. Women who became pregnant women were sent home to Canada. In the 1950's, this policy was changed, and unwed mothers were cared for by the military; if the child was put up for adoption, the women were allowed to return to their former positions, retain their jobs but would be released if they became pregnant. In the 1970's, not only were married nurses recruited into the military, they were allowed to become pregnant, take maternity leave, and still hold their positions. There are many more details related to military life for women which could have been include, such as introduction of marriage allowance, purchasing of uniforms, and the requirements that single women live in residences, share common bathroom, and eat in the mess.

Despite its flaws, anyone who is interested in Canadian Military nursing will not want to miss this book, especially for its wonderful photography and art work.

(Reviewed by History of Nursing Members Nina Rumen, Lois Blais, and Glennis Zilm, who incorporated comments on their areas of expertise into the review).



Sister Heroines, The Roseate Glow of Wartime Nursing 1914-1918 by Margaret Barron Norris. Published July 2002 by Bunker to Bunker Publishing, 4520 Crowchild Trail SW, Calgary AB T2T 5J4. Cost \$22.95 plus GST. Check Web Site: www.bunkertobunker.com. Available on loan from RNABC library

A few years ago, Margaret Barron Norris rediscovered many of her mother's World War I mementos. Jessie Barron had graduated from Calgary General in 1910 and served overseas, first with the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve and then with the Canadian Army Medical Corps. Throughout her life she kept several badges, medals, and photos of her wartime nursing service, including an autograph album with entries from Malta and England - but she had rarely talked of her experiences. Margaret Norris author of several histories of organizations, such as the Calgary Council of Women, decided she should pursue these experience for a possible book.

At first she could find little about her mother's service. For example, despite the family documents that showed her service records, she was not listed on the Roll of Honour at Calgary General Hospital nor was she mentioned in the monthly notations in *The Canadian Nurse*. Margaret Norris persevered - and, in doing so, uncovered the untold and fascinating stories of several other Calgary nursing sisters. In the end, the book *Sister Heroines* tells the wartime stories of 28 Calgary nurses who served on the Western Front, in the Eastern Mediterranean, in England, and in Canada. Only one chapter is devoted to Jessie Barron, although most of the illustrations in the "Album" section come from her records. However, Mrs. Norris has also included as many photos of the Calgary nurses as she could find.

Although the book concentrates on the Calgary nurses, this is the most complete account of World War I nursing that I have read in a long career of research touching on this subject. For example, little has been recorded about the "home-front" hospitals for the injured and wounded sent home to Canada, but the account of Calgary's Hotel Ogden, which was donated "for the duration" provides new insights for those of us reading almost a century later. Other interesting insights came through the story of a Calgary nurse who traveled to England and then France to be near her newly-wedded officer husband - and who ended up working as a volunteer in a French hospital run by a Catholic Order of nuns, with quick trips home to Calgary to raise money to keep the hospital open.

Sister Heroines is an interesting, moving, thoroughly-researched, well-written, and highly readable book. More than once I was moved to tears by the stories, which Mrs. Norris has collected from archival and personal diaries, letters, military records, and newspaper clippings, augmented by a few published accounts by nurses. Furthermore, the author has researched and included much more information about actual day-to-day nursing care given than is found in other accounts. She has woven all the tales into an appealing and engrossing history.

This beautiful book is not to be missed.

-- Reviewed by Glennis Zilm



"IN PRINT"

Zilm, G. (2002) The write time. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership*, 15 (2), 25-30.

Zilm, Glennis, & Warbinek, Ethel. (2002). Lessons from the past: Tuberculosis nursing in British Columbia 1895-1945. *Canadian Journal of Infection Control*, 17 (2), 35-36, 38-40, 42-43.

Blais, L. (2002) Senior side. *Vancouver Courier*, monthly articles for seniors.

Collected Works of Florence Nightingale project.

Vol. 1 is now available, and Joan Andrews has ordered a copy for the RNABC Library. For more information check the Web Site
<http://www.sociology.uoguelph.ca/nightingale>

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR YOUR FUTURE PLANNING



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2002
MARY NICOL'S
"FICTIONAL NURSES"

PLACE: ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL
TIME: 1:30 - 3:00 pm
Call Nina Rumen @ 604 733-7529 for details

...and then:

December 7, 2002 3rd Annual Christmas Lunch - Vancouver Lawn & Badminton Club

February 15, 2003 Program Presentation TBA

March 15, 2003 Program Presentation TBA

April 2003 Annual General Meeting

May 17, 2003 Nurses Week Program

June 14, 2003 4th Annual Dinner

...and topics in the wings:

- Agnes Karll, Co-Founder ICN, Nursing in Germany early 1900's - Inga Von Maydell
- RNABC Registration of Foreign Nurses 1940 - 1970
- Feminism in Nursing - Vera Pogonicoff (Master's Thesis)
- Practical Nurses 1940's
- Infection Control
- "Spare Parts Surgery" - Michelle Rooney (St. Paul's OR Nurse)

COMMITTEE UPDATES



ARCHIVES:

The Archives Committee, despite minimal meetings lately, is thriving. The UBC Office is active and viable. Melanie Hardbattle, our Archivist keeps up to date with the incoming collections. The database is sound and the link with the Web Master is functioning: thus providing an online access to our Collections. Also, Cindy Milner, one of our Scholarship recipients, found valuable information from our collection. Cindy is completing her Master Thesis on the Disciplinary Process of the RNABC. LBlais (Chair).

AD HOC PUBLICITY

Over lunch at Nina Rumen's home, several members discussed the challenge of reaching our members and wider audiences. It was suggested that publicity for programs will vary considerable depending on the program and also other HoN activities need other types of publicity. For example publicity needs are to advise members, to attract new members, to promote HoN to wider audiences of nurses and the general public, to assist with forthcoming national CAHN Conference in 2005 and to assist with fund-raising. A Chair is needed for this committee.

ORAL HISTORY

The Oral History committee has been more active over the past 6 months due to referrals submitted - so please keep sending them to us. the following nurses have been interviewed: **Shirley McIntyre**, Salt Spring Island, she retired recently from Lady Minto Hospital in Ganges after working there for the past 13 years as an OR nurse. She has been described as the "oldest working OR nurse in BC," Shirley said she worked up the date of her retirement as there are "no OR nurses on the Island." Thanks to Rose Murakami who contacted Shirley.

Barbara Andersen, Langley, a children's nurse, trained at the Ottawa Children's Hospital. she was with the RCAF during WW2, stationed in Gander Newfoundland. Barb nursed in Victoria and at the "old children's Hospital in Vancouver. An active member of her community, she spends many hours as a volunteer - started the "shop-by-phone" program. **Catherine Hurd**, Kelowna, worked for 20 years at the hospital in Ocean Falls. During that time she was required to fulfill many roles, such as pharmacist and X-ray technician. In 1968 she moved to Kelowna where she worked for the next 18 years in the emergency department. **Joyce Campbell**, Gabriola Island, was interviewed in 1988 as part of the RNABC's 75th anniversary project. After retiring as Director of Nursing at Lion's Gate Hospital, Joyce did



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COMMITTEE'S Cont'd

private consulting and acted as a surveyor for the Candian Council of Accreditation of Health Care Facilities. This tape describes her later experience.

Three tapes were received from Mary Cooke who interviewed **Alice Wright** in 1981 and 1994. the 1982 tapes are good quality and will be added to our collection

Ethel Warbinek (Chair Oral History)

BIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

Contact Janet Gormick

MEMORIAL BOOK

Contact Lynn Esson



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