



# HISTORY of NURSING NEWS

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## Dedication Ceremony

MEMORIAL NURSING PORTRAIT COLLECTION



Nurses Week was recognized on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2004 by a celebration in the RNABC Board Room to dedicate the Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection. This collection of 27 historically dressed miniature dolls was initiated by Sheila Zerr to raise funds for history of nursing scholarships. It also promotes history of Nursing as a visual, lasting portrait to honour a friend or family member. All of the dolls, with a couple of exceptions, were exquisitely hand crafted by Sheila who carefully researched each one to ensure authenticity. The

collection honours nurses who shaped nursing in BC and will be permanently displayed in the Helen Randal Library.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation by Sheila who told us the story of each doll. Donors came forward and were given a beautiful book with photographs of the collection. Ray Zerr was thanked for his valuable contribution as well as David Roberts who photographed the collection and designed the stunning book. A special thank you was given to Sheila for her dedication to History of Nursing and her pursuit of the Scholarship fund which raised \$13,500.00. We admire her patience, artistic talent and sewing expertise! Sheila was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a photograph of the collection.

*continued from page one ...*

The evening was ably chaired by Kathy Murphy, History of Nursing members, Howard Searle, RNABC President, and Laurel Brunke, Executive Director, brought greetings from RNABC. Margaret Scaia, one of our scholarship winners, described her interesting research. Margaret is a member of a panel at the CAHN Conference at York University – June 11-13, 2004. Her topic is: Having Mercy: Constructing Adolescent Motherhood as it Constructs Us, 1939-2001. Cheryl Hobson, another scholarship winner, is presenting her paper on: Belonging to the Sisterhood: RJH Students Becoming Nurses, 1926-1952. Margaret studied at the University of Calgary and Cheryl at the University of Victoria. We are proud of you. The evening ended with a delightful reception.

*Special thanks to Lenore Radom for her excellent planning of a most successful event.*



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## Editorial Board

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Naomi Miller  
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Editor: Ethel Warbinek. | Design: Anita Warbinek

*The HoN Newsletter is published four times a year. Submissions for the next newsletter are welcome. Please submit articles and news by SEPTEMBER 15, 2004 to Lynne Esson (esson@nursing.ubc.ca) or Sheila Zerr (srzerr@telus.net)*

**HISTORY GROUP EXECUTIVE MEETINGS** are usually held the first Thursday of every month at the RNABC Offices. They begin at 4 pm and end about 6 pm. All members are welcome to attend. For further information, call President Kathy Murphy at 604 739-6931 or check the Web site at [www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca)

# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting



*Sheila Zerr & Genelle Leifso*

Our Annual Meeting was held on April 5, 2004 in the Lord Byron Room at the Hyatt Hotel. A continental breakfast preceded the meeting which was chaired by Kathy Murphy. Reports were given by the various committee chairs. Outgoing Member-at-Large, Lenore Radom, was thanked for her valuable contribution. We are pleased she has agreed to continue as chair the program committee.

A few minutes were devoted to remembrances of Esther Paulson who died in January 2004. Special memories and stories were shared.

Following our meeting, several members, in historical costumes, circulated in the exhibit area at the RNABC Annual meeting. This visibility drew attention to our efforts to raise money for a Nursing Museum. Flyers were handed out to delegates and "Slinkies" with colourful promotional cards were placed on delegate tables. Our popular display table was visited by many delegates.

MEMBERS IN COSTUME WERE: Jean Mance - Sheila | Lady Douglas - Beth | 1910 Royal Jubilee Hospital Graduate- Lenore | Student Holy Cross Hospital - Genelle | Mrs Miller - Glennis; Florence Nightingale - Lois | Crimean military nurse - Ethel | 1918 VGH student nurse. - Kathy

## Scholarship

ANNUAL REPORT

*Respectfully submitted by Ethel Warbinek*

One \$500.00 scholarship was awarded in the fall of 2003 to Connie Lapadat - a Masters student enrolled in the new Nurse Practitioner program at UBC. She is writing a paper on The History and Trends for Doctoral Prepared Nurses in Canada. We continue to experience problems receiving applications for our scholarship. We did not receive any applications by the March 31, 2004 deadline. The committee will meet soon to discuss the problem, review the criteria and look at ways to make the scholarship more attractive to applicants.

# President's Report

ANNUAL REPORT

*This past year presented both challenges and opportunities for our group. The 6-month Presidential terms continued successfully, with Beth Fitzpatrick and Kathy Murphy serving as leaders. They were backed by strong support from the Membership chair (Glennis Zilm), Treasurer (Faye Meuser), Secretary (Inga Von Maydell), Vice President (Ethel Warbinek) and Members-at-Large, (Lenore Radom and Stephanie Grasset). Special thanks to the executive and committee members who have contributed so much to our success in preserving nursing history. You will be impressed with the dedication and hard work of all.*



Beth Fitzpatrick

## **The First 6 months (May 2003-Oct. 2003) President: Beth Fitzpatrick**

The successful passing of our resolution at the April 2003 RNABC Annual meeting was a milestone in our fund raising efforts to ensure the preservation of our current archival collection and support the establishment of a "Home of Our Own". We were also delighted at last year's History Group AGM to give honorary membership to Nina Rumen.

In July we held a very successful workshop where the focus was on fund-raising. Our invited guest was a professional fund-raiser who gave us some excellent guidance and suggestions. Subsequently, a Letter to the Editor was published in Nursing B.C. with information about how nurses across the province can give their financial support to the project. Our treasurer will be reporting on the results of that campaign to date.

Our priorities for the year were also identified at the July workshop: to concentrate on fund-raising for a "Home of Our Own" and prepare a vision statement, to ensure the continuing maintenance and development of our current archival holdings, to increase our membership (people power) and to begin planning for the 2006 CAHN/ACHN conference in Vancouver. Members of the executive and committee chairs will be reporting on the progress being made in those areas.

In June, a well attended luncheon/program was held at the Vancouver Lawn and Tennis Club with Jan Robertson speaking on her research into the Queen Alexandra Memorial Window. Later in the month, HON members were also pleased to participate in celebrating honorary member Beverly Du Gas' 80th birthday celebrations.

Beth Fitzpatrick attended one RNABC Board meeting and participated in two PPG council meetings.



*President's Report continued from page 5*



*Kathy Murphy*

## **The Second 6 months (November 2003 to April 2004) President: Kathy Murphy**

In November, Inga von Maydell presented One Hundred Years of German Nursing as the guest speaker at the fall programme. Later in the month, several members participated in the RNABC Leaders Conference.

The History of Nursing Scholarship was awarded to Connie Lapadat, a UBC Masters student who is studying Doctorate of Nursing Education in Canada.

We continue to enjoy four publications of the Newsletter each year, which is edited by a variety of members. The web site also generates interest from a around the globe.

A second session with our fund raising resource person was held in January to further develop our focus for the funding of a Home of Our Own. This provided ideas which will be used at the 2004 Annual General Meetings of this group and the RNABC.

Kathy Murphy participated in three PPG Council meetings which had a variety of topics for discussion.

Our loyal members are so important to the History of Nursing Group. We were saddened by the passing of Esther Paulson and Edith Lees. Many friends and BC History group members were pleased to attend an Open House to honour Helen Mussallem as recipient of the 2003 R. Louise McMann Award from Columbia University.

# Biographies

ANNUAL REPORT

Respectfully submitted by *Janet Gormick*

Our collection of biographies continues to expand. We now have 127 biographies, up over the 106 we had last year. Six new names have been submitted and are being pursued. Fortunately we already held full biographies for the three members we lost recently – Esther Paulson, Edith Lees and Elsie MacDonald. Names of potential candidates are gladly received.

# Archives

## ANNUAL REPORT

Respectfully submitted by *Lois M. Blais, Chair.*

**GOAL:** Our goal is to have a provincial history of nursing center in the Lower Mainland that is linked online with other agencies and /or schools of nursing in the province holding nursing artifacts or other archival materials. The provincial center will be an archival museum with easy access for nurses and the general public. It will house our provincial nursing archives, oral history tapes, biographies of our nursing leaders, and artifacts that we have collected. It will also include a virtual museum online and will maintain an online catalogue of artifacts and other archival items held by the BC History of Nursing Group, as well as those held by other BC agencies.

**OBJECTIVES:** The Archival Committee initiatives are the second most important function of the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group of the RNABC. The long-term objective is to establish a "Home of Our Own" as outlined in our goal above. The short-term objective for the year 2003 was to continue to update the database and process donations of holdings and collections as acquired.

### ACTIONS

1. Through a motion from the Archival Committee to the History of Nursing Executive Committee, Melanie Hardbottle (Archivist) is retained for another year and a half and to raise her salary to \$24 per hour with a maximum amount of \$2000 per year.
2. The Policies and Procedures outlined in the Policies and Procedure Manual were reviewed for ease of use and wording as per recommended in a motion from 2002.
3. A process for notifying the Archives Office at UBC and directions for requesting information and accessing holdings was developed and published in the History of Nursing Newsletter and placed on the History of Nursing Website.
4. Several requests have been processed from the Website and the telephone answering service over the past year.
5. The following collections have been accepted
  - Donations from the Military Nurses – Helen Niskala
  - Various photographs
  - Royal Columbian nurses uniform
  - Black bag (Public Health)
  - A variety of nursing books
  - Belt and pin documents

**PLANS:** Over the next year the committee plans to dialogue on strategies to pursue linkages with other Archival enterprises in British Columbia. Also the committee endeavours to have ongoing pictorial displays of holdings on the History of Nursing Website. This continues to be a work in progress.

**THANK YOU:** The work of the Archival Committee can never be accomplished without the participation of the committee's members. Thank you to all, Bev Du Gas, Janet Gormick, Don Ransom and Helen Niskala.

# Nominations

## ANNUAL REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by *Beth Fitzpatrick, Past President*

### REMAINING ON THE EXECUTIVE FOR ONE MORE YEAR:

Secretary:	Inga Von Maydell
Treasurer:	Faye Meuser
Membership Chair:	Glennis Zilm

*The Executive accepted the resignation of Stephanie Grasset from the position of Member-at-Large after completing one year of a two year term.*

The following members were elected:

Lois Blais:	Vice president for two years
Lynne Esson:	Member-at Large for one year
Jackie Ratzlaff:	Member at Large for two years

The Executive discussed the 6 month's term of office for the President and concluded that this has been workable and should continue.

The following members were elected President:

May 2004 to October 2004	Kathy Murphy
November 2004 to April 2005	Sheila Zerr
May 2005 to October 2005	Beth Fitzpatrick
November 2005 to April 2006	Ethel Warbinek



*Lois Blais*



# THE STORY OF BLUEBIRD *on my windowsill*



Inspired by a bird perched on the windowsill of a Vancouver hospital, nurse Elizabeth Clarke wrote the 1948 hit song *Bluebird On My Windowsill*. The story of how this song came to be written has two versions.

member Nina Rumen. "Elizabeth was working at Children's Hospital in Vancouver. One lovely spring day, as the children were watching birds through a hospital window, a bluebird tried to fly through the window, hit the glass and fell to the ground. The children were upset and Elizabeth retrieved the bird, put it in a box with a supply of food, water and a soft bed, and left it on the windowsill to recover. After watching the bird for several days it flew away and to comfort the children who missed their new friend, Elizabeth was inspired to write her song."

The second version was gathered from Lauri Lyster, drummer for a Vancouver female jazz quintet with vocals called Mother of Pearl where Bluebird is currently being featured in their performances. "Elizabeth Clarke was not a songwriter and had no intention of making music history when she went to work at Vancouver Children's Hospital one day in 1947. During her shift a sparrow happened to land on the windowsill and a young boy became very excited by this occurrence. Clarke, a nurse, was also a creative soul who liked to read stories and poems to her young charges. She transformed the sparrow into a bluebird and the tale of its arrival into a song."

The song found its way to Al Reusch, one of Vancouver and Canada's recording pioneers, Reusch, impressed by the optimism and emotion of the song, gave it to a local artist, Don Murphy to record. Shortly after, the popular Vancouver Group, The Rhythm Pals, cut a version that became a regional hit. The song found its way to Doris Day and then to Bing Crosby and dozens of others. It became the first Canadian written song to sell a million copies.

Elizabeth Clarke generously gave some of her royalties to the B.C. Children's Hospital. She wrote at least one other song "Picking Flowers", a minor hit, but nothing else she wrote ever approached the success of Bluebird. Little is known about Clarke's nursing background. If anyone has more information about this nurse song writer please contact the B.C. History of Nursing Group.

*There's a Bluebird on  
your windowsill  
There's a rainbow in  
your sky*

*There are happy  
thoughts your heart to  
fill*

*Near enough to make  
you cry...*

*And with every tear  
you've washed away  
All the things you've  
kept inside*

*You count your joys this  
lovely day*

*And you wonder why  
you cried.*

*And if perchance your  
heart grows sad*

*You still can't smile  
again*

*And with every tear  
you've ever had*

*Comes the sunshine after  
rain.*

*The rainy days may  
come and go*

*But the clouds still roll  
away*

*Everything will come  
that you wish it so*

*As an answer when you  
pray.*

# Shirley Dean. R.N.

BY BONNIE LANTZ



*The Shirley Dean Pavilion was formerly the King George Private Hospital and was purchased by Surrey Memorial Hospital in 1983*

On October 29, 2003, the residents and their families of the Shirley Dean Extended Care Pavilion located on the campus of the Surrey Memorial Hospital in Surrey BC, were told their home would be closing in June 2005. The building was old despite the renovations that were done in 1993 but the residents/families loved the culture of caring and respect they experienced in the Shirley Dean Pavilion.

To prepare the residents for their move, the decommissioning team decided to develop a monthly Newsletter and highlight residents, staff and memories of their time at Shirley Dean. It was planned that each resident, as they moved to their new home, would be given a book of the Newsletters to take with them as a memento of their former home and friends.

The first question that arose in developing the articles for the newsletter was who was Shirley Dean, the person, and why was the Pavilion named in her honour. With the many changes in Health Authorities, no one could remember the person but everyone felt it was important to find out who Shirley Dean was and to give her her rightful place in the history of Nursing.

A member of the decommissioning team located Shirley's daughter Janet on the internet and forwarded the information to me. I contacted Janet, and we met over lunch. Janet shared the memories she had of her mother when she nursed at Surrey Memorial Hospital. She also shared pictures and documentation that she had kept of her mother's work.

Shirley Dean was born in 1934 in Vancouver, BC. She grew up in East Vancouver on Turner Street. From a very early age, Shirley knew that she wanted to be a nurse. Janet shared the picture below of Shirley at age 3, dressed up and playing "nurse".

Shirley attended Britannia High School and entered training at the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing in 1952. She graduated from VGH in 1955. Janet shared her mother's graduation picture which was taken at a studio. She wore the graduation uniform of white dress with long sleeves and starched bib, apron, collar and cuffs. The apron was distinctive as it was gathered at the waist with a waistband that was held together with four brass studs. At the neck, the VGH graduation pin was worn. On her head she wore the plain white cap of the School. The graduation pictures always portrayed the graduate with a bouquet of red roses and the diploma.



*Shirley Dean, age 3, Playing Nurse.*

Shirley's graduation picture is an example of this tradition.

The graduation ceremony was held in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre and each graduate that night carried a real bouquet of red roses as she crossed the stage to receive her diploma signifying the completion of 3 hard years of work and study and the entrance into a noble and respected profession.

Following graduation, Shirley worked as a staff nurse at Surrey Memorial Hospital. She began in surgery and specialized in urology. She also developed a special interest in geriatric nursing. As she gained experience she moved to other areas of the hospital including emergency, and obstetrics. She was promoted to Head Nurse and worked to develop standards of care and quality assurance programs. Janet thinks her mother wrote a book on Geriatric Nursing and is in the process of tracking it to see if it exists. Janet describes her mother in the Head Nurse role as "running a tight ship." She made sure her patients received the best care and that nurses and doctors met high standards of care. Janet remembers her mother at night working on her typewriter preparing "care plans" to share her knowledge with her nursing staff and improve the standard of care given to patients. Janet also remembers walking to Surrey Memorial Hospital to meet her mother after work each day and to ride home with her. She described this as special time between herself and her mother. Shirley was a single parent.



*Shirley Dean's graduation photo*

Janet shares a story about her mother's sense of humour. Shirley had always wanted a St. Bernard dog and the year before she died, she bought one. Many staff at Surrey lived on farms and one friend brought some leg bones from a cow into work for Shirley's dog. Shirley, being the practical nurse she was, took the bones to the morgue where she stored them for the day. When Janet came to meet her that afternoon, her Mom took her to the morgue to pick up the bones. Janet was uneasy about believing the bones were from a cow!



*Dedication ceremony naming the Shirley dean Pavilion in 1983.*

At the age of 45, Shirley died of cancer while still holding the Head Nurse position at the hospital. She left behind Janet who was only 16, and many colleagues who respected her greatly. When the hospital purchased the King George Private Hospital, they named in honour of Shirley Dean. This was based on the respect she had from her nursing and medical colleagues and her dedication to the nursing of the elderly. When asked why the Pavilion was named in her mother's honour, Janet replied, "In those days people really honoured and valued nurses."

# MEMBER *news*

**GLENNIS ZILM** has been named to receive the Associated Medical Services Incorporated (formerly called the Hannah Foundation for the History of Medicine) John B. Neilson/ Spaulding Award for 2004. The award, which was launched in 1984, is highly regarded, and this is the first time it had been opened to other than physician historians. The award goes to "a Canadian (not a professional historian) who has made a significant, continuing, long-standing contribution to the history of health care in Canada. It is made on the basis of contributions of high quality to the discipline, in the form of noteworthy historical publications, teaching, research, and service to the community of other significant endeavours." The award will be presented in the fall in Vancouver

HoN member, Shirley Stinson, wrote a letter of support to AMS, at the request of Dr Cynthia Toman, who was the Nominator. An excerpt follows: *On the basis of my over 50 years of experience in health care agencies and academia in Canada and abroad, I would rank Glennis Zilm as the nurse who has made the most exemplary combined contributions to the development and promotion of the history of nursing in Canada. Put another way, there are several Canadian nurses who are excellent ... But I believe it is Glennis Zilm who best exemplifies what it is to make outstanding contributions in all these areas in continuing long-standing, substantive and integrated ways. I would add that a key characteristic of Glennis Zilm is that in making such significant contributions to the history of nursing, she has done so in a consistently principled way, with great discretion and modesty -- yet with a fine sense of humour.*

**DR. SHIRLEY STINSON, OC**, one of our long-time and well-honored members, has received another award. In early May, she was named one of "100 Edmontonians of the Century" by the mayor and city council. She was one of about 1,000 persons nominated for the award, which celebrates Edmonton's 100th birthday. The University of Alberta Alumni Association made the nomination for this tribute.

The citation recognizes that she was the first Alberta nurse to earn a doctoral degree and the first

nurse to receive a joint appointment in both nursing and health sciences. The award also recognized her significant contributions in academic nursing research. Dr. Stinson holds many awards, including the Order of Canada, Alberta Order of Excellence, and Queens Golden Jubilee medal.

**DR. BEVERLEY DU GAS, OC**, one of our founding members, has written a collection of short stories about her time in Northern India with the World Health Organization. *Aik Minute* (an East Indian expression meaning "just a moment") was originally written for her family, but is being made available to others in a desk-top publishing format for \$15 a copy. Once printing costs are recovered, all proceeds will go to the B.C. History of Nursing Archival Fund. The book covers the years 1965 to 1967, when Bev left her job as Director of the School of Nursing at Vancouver General Hospital to set up nursing educational programs in northern India. The short stories featuring Bev and her family provide insights into Indian life and the trials and tribulations of an ex-patriot educator. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please get in touch with Bev Du Gas by email at [dugas@dccnet.com](mailto:dugas@dccnet.com) or by phone at 604- 943-0797

**KAREN IRVING**, one of our long-time members, is running for President-Elect of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. She follows a long tradition, because the last three presidents of RNABC have been members of the HoN Group at the time of their election.

**FRAN SUTHERLAND**, a new affiliate member living in Edmonton, served as a Nursing Sister overseas during World War II. She was so impressed by recent issues of the Newsletter (passed along by Dr. Shirley Stinson) that she not only joined but made a generous donation as well. She likely will be known to many members of the Group who are Nursing Sisters. Unfortunately Ms. Sutherland has recently been ill and in hospital. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery.



# HoN *displays*

## CURRENT: ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, VICTORIA - APRIL TO SEPT 2004

St. Joseph's School of Nursing Alumnae members Margaret Rapatz '55, Bea Sinclair '64, and Linda Betterman '64, travelled from Victoria on April 14th with many valuable artifacts in tow. Their display can be seen in the RNABC boardroom cabinet, lobby and library. Their display includes hospital and school of nursing pictures, portrait dolls, books and historical materials. Their display also includes many priceless artefacts loaned by the Victoria Medical Society.

St. Joseph's Hospital was established in Victoria, in 1875, by the Sisters of St. Ann. The hospital was administered by the Sisters until 1972 when it was renamed Victoria General Hospital and functioned on the original site until 1983. St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing was established by the Sisters of St. Ann in 1900. The first graduate was Anthony Williams. The school was administered by the Sisters until 1972 and continued as a training school until 1981. Be sure to catch this outstanding display the next time you are in the RNABC building.

## FUTURE DISPLAYS - RNABC

St. Paul's Hospital - September to November 2004

November 2004 on - Royal Columbian Hospital, Royal Inland Hospital, Essondale/Riverdale and Psychiatric Nursing

## FUTURE DISPLAYS - UBC

University of B.C. Display - Managed by Glennis Zilm, Ethel Warbinek and Lynne Esson

The presentations in the display case in the main hall of the UBC School of Nursing are frequently changed. Displays have featured the "First Class of 1923", and the "The Nursing Undergraduate Society".

## RNABC ANNUAL MEETING AND NURSES' WEEK DISPLAYS

This year costumes were featured in our displays at the History of Nursing and RNABC annual meeting in April. Members of the group wore period costumes with great success. Much attention was drawn to our display table and our efforts to encourage each nurse in B.C. to give an hour's wage.

Nurses' Week in May was celebrated with several nursing costume presentations entitled "What the well dressed Canadian nurse wore 1640 to 2004." History members presented their script and parade of 10 period costumes to the Royal Jubilee Mainland Alumnae, G.F. Strong Hospital, Pearson Hospital and Burnaby Care Home.

## 5TH ANNUAL UBC NURSING ALUMNI KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION EVENING- Celebrating 85 years! •

March 31, 2004

This successful evening, superbly organized by Nursing Alumni president and HoN member, Cathy Ebbehoj featured three interesting speakers. We were asked to provide a display. So Glennis, Sheila and Ethel obliged and wore historical costumes.





# Reviews

**Nursing Illuminations: A Book of Days**, by Patricia T. van Betten & Melissa Moriarty. St. Louis: Mosby, 2004. 776 pp. Copy available in the RNABC Library.

Those interested in nursing history will find this a book to buy, to keep on your desk, and to savor and enjoy each day. Modeled on the traditional "books of days," where a reader is encouraged to read a page a day, this imaginative volume contains succinct, interesting, informative biographies of 366 resourceful nurses throughout history. From Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) to nurses still living, the vignettes portray a wide range of contributions. Not all are famous nursing leaders; some extraordinary bedside nurses who played inspiring and significant roles are there as well.

Whenever possible, the nurse's birthday is used to arrange the listings. Each page then opens with a quotation from the nurse, followed by a brief narrative that illuminates the relevance of his or her contribution. A capsule resume follows, giving pertinent factual details, and a concise references and credits section offers resources that many will want to pursue. All the famous are there, but even dedicated nurse historians may find new names to delight and inspire. A number of Canadian nurses are included.

In the opening note to reader, writer and editor Suzanne Beyea, R.N., suggests reading one page aloud each morning as she did, sometimes to herself, or to family, colleagues, friends, students. This is great advice, for the stories and quotations captivate, and energize a passion for nursing.

- Reviewed by Glennis Zilm

**Nursing Sisters: Honoring the women who have gone to war to save the lives of soldiers.** (2003, December 9). Body and Health [Television broadcast episode 3-422]. Hamilton, ON: CH Broadcasting/ A CanWest Company. Available on Videotape from the RNABC Library. (14 minutes)

For those interested in military nursing history, a new videotape is available through the RNABC Library. Broadcast on the CH network's television program Body and Health last December, the show featured Dr. Cynthia Toman, a nursing historian and Nursing faculty member at the University of Ottawa (and one of the B.C. Group's Affiliate Members). Body and Health's regular host Colleen Walsh introduced the program, and Dr. Toman gave a wonderful synopsis of the history of Canada's military nurses, especially their roles in World Wars I and II. Dr. Toman stood by the Nursing Memorial Sculpture in the Parliament Buildings, and during her presentation the cameras showed many still photographs of nursing sisters in the war zones, mainly from WWII. As well, the show had shots of the Ottawa War Memorial and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Scenes from the Ottawa Nursing Sisters Association's November 11 Reunion and Lunch are featured in the program, showing such well known nurses as Dr. Helen K. Mussallem and Harriet Sloan, both members of our B.C. Group. As well, two Ontario nurses from World War II were interviewed during the luncheon and these tapes incorporated into the broadcast.

The final segment of the show featured an interview between Host Walsh and Major Lee-Anne Quinn, a nursing officer with the Canadian Forces. Major Quinn has served for several years with the Canadian Forces, especially with our peace-keeping missions with the United Nations in Bosnia and in Somalia, where she was involved in air evacuations of wounded soldiers and civilians.

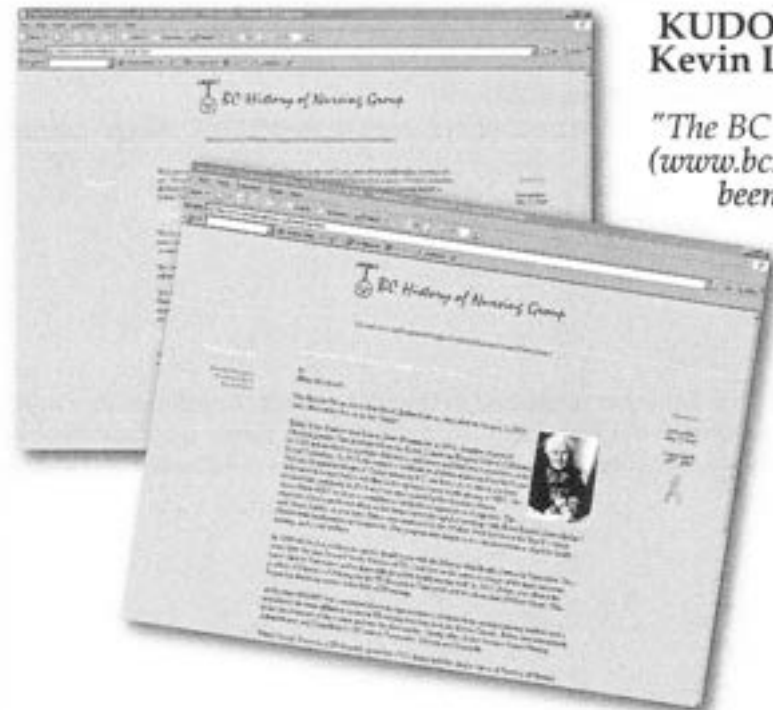
- Reviewed by Glennis Zilm

# CONGRATULATIONS!

**KUDOS to Beth Fitzpatrick and Kevin Lee – our web master**

*"The BC History of Nursing web site ([www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca)) has been declared winner of the British Columbia Historical Federation's 2003 Web Site Award. This award honours web sites that contribute to the understanding and appreciation of British Columbia's past."*

**Well done!**



# IN PRINT!

Cantwell, M (2003) Archives & Archivists: Sisters of Saint Ann Archives, Victoria. *BC Historical News*. Winter, 2003

Miller, N. (2003) Hugh Watt: Physician & Politician. . *BC Historical News*. Winter, 2003



# UPDATE *on donations*

## January 1 – April 30, 2004

Sincere thanks to those who donated for this period totaling \$4,839.81.

Of this total, 13 nurses contributed \$529.81 as a result of the resolution passed at the RNABC annual meeting in 2003.

A special thank you to the following who made significant contributions.

Dr. Helen Mussallen - \$1,000.00

Nina Rumen - \$ 790.00

J. Frances Sutherland - \$ 500.00

### Addendum:

Shirley Stinson has requested clarification of the donation published in the March 2004 Newsletter. Her donation was in honour of Margaret Murray (nee Campbell) Jackson, a BC public health nurse who had been on the University of Alberta faculty some years ago. She died in Edmonton in 2003 and would have been known by nurses here in BC.



## CORRECTION

Note the following correction in the March 2004 newsletter – the item on page #10 – Honoring Helen Mussallam. Helen was a recipient of the R. Louise Mc Mann Award from Columbia University

# UPCOMING *events!*



## *Annual Summer Workshop* MEMBERS WELCOME

Date: Wed July 21, 2004 10:15 -3 PM


Place: Arbutus Village Recreational Centre – Arbutus Shopping Centre at  
Nanton & Arbutus

If planning to attend, please call Kathy Murphy at 604-739-6931

Lots of free parking behind Safeway – look for directional signs. Follow  
the path but if lost phone information desk at 604-732-8114.

## *Film*

Trabiji – “She Journeyed with Them” featured in the last newsletter is  
being shown on Saturday, October 16, 2004 from 12- 2 PM. Look for more  
information in the next newsletter for the viewing of this interesting film  
about the care of Japanese TB patients in New Denver during WW11.



# RNABC Memorial Book

## ANNUAL REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by *Lynne Esson, Memorial Book Chair*

During the year, the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group either initiated or assisted with three nominations for the RNABC Memorial Book. Nominations were submitted to the RNABC Awards Committee in January and were accepted. These individuals will be recognized during the Awards Ceremony and will be entered into the book.

This year the nominees for the RNABC Memorial Book were:

Marilyn Turner Jackson (died 2000) Nomination prepared by Sheila Zerr

Patricia Whitehead (died 2003) Nomination prepared with editorial assistance by the Mission Health Unit

Esther Paulson (died 2004) Nomination prepared by Lynne Esson with assistance from Ethel Warbinek.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked so hard to prepare these nominations. My thanks to Elizabeth Bruce of RNABC for her assistance and support during the nomination process. If you know or hear of someone who should be nominated please let the chair of the Committee know.



*Marilyn Turner*



*Patricia Whitehead*



*Esther Paulson*

# Oral History

## ANNUAL REPORT

Respectfully submitted by *Ethel Warbinek*

Interviews conducted April 2003-March 2004

Dr. May Kommiyama | Sheila Early | Sally Staples

The following individuals have agreed to be interviewed:

Gus Kilpatrick | Jane Carnahan-Schultz | Liz James | Nancy Breton | Shirley McAllister



# Editorial

## ANNUAL REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by *Beth Fitzpatrick, Chair, Editorial Board*

The Editorial Board continues to produce the History of Nursing News and takes responsibility for updating and submitting the content for our web site ([www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca)). The team of guest editor's produced 4 newsletters during the 2003-2004 calendar year. We continue to enjoy the variety of format's and focus in each edition.

This past year we were delighted to welcome Bonnie Lantz and Beverly Leipter as guest editors. A very useful document: Guidelines for Editors of the History of Nursing News was drafted and completed by the Editorial Board under the leadership of Ethel Warbinek. These guidelines were very helpful in the orientation of the new editors.

The Board held 4 meetings during the past year. We are always looking for new members to join the Board and would welcome your input and ideas. We continue to progress in developing our web site. This year we added several new sections including Vancouver Monuments to Nurses. Our archival holdings are also available through the site. We will be considering the addition of a Forum to the site at our May meeting.

Once again, thanks to all the members of the History Group who regularly submit news items, book reviews, stories and articles for publication. This is much appreciated. Thanks also to Sheila Zerr, Lynne Esson, Ethel Warbinek, Glennis Zilm and Beth Fitzpatrick for their continuing contributions and support. A special thanks to Glennis Zilm, Membership Chair, who supplies each editor with mailing labels.

# Membership

## ANNUAL REPORT A NEW RECORD!

Respectfully Submitted by *Glennis Zilm, Chair*

Membership figures stand as of June 15, 2004, at 131 paid-up members – a new, all-time record! . Current figures are:

Honorary	6
Full	50
Affiliate	32
Student	43

This brings the total for 2004 to 131. As we usually pick up new members in September, it is likely we will continue to grow. If you know of anyone who might be interested in a membership, please let the Membership Committee know.

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