



# HISTORY of NURSING NEWS

VOLUME 16

Issue 1

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## Nurses Week 2005



The B.C. History of Nursing Group travelled to three sites during nurses' week, B.C. Women's and Children's Hospital, Langley Memorial Hospital and Vancouver Hospital, UBC site.

The "Pageant of Nursing History" was requested by a member of B.C. Children's staff after seeing the Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection on display in the RNABC Library. Four cases of portrait dolls, depicting the history of nursing from early times to modern day, moved throughout the units to help staff and children celebrate nurses' week.

Yvonne Haney, history group member, invited fellow members of the history group to the Langley Memorial Hospital to display our materials and costumes on May 11th. Lenore Radom and Sheila Zerr set up a display table in the hospital lobby. The most successful part of this visit occurred when Lenore and Sheila went from unit to unit in costume to reach the staff unable to visit the hospital lobby.

Sharilyn Buchanan, of Vancouver Hospital UBC site, arranged for the history group's Costume Parade of Nurses Uniforms to be presented at a luncheon on May 12th. Nine members of the nursing staff dressed in the costumes for the luncheon fashion show then paraded throughout the hospital units and to the units of the Purdy Pavilion. Staff and patients enjoyed seeing the nurses' parade in the costumes of the past

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## *from the editor's desk*

*by Ethel Warbinek*

In this issue of the newsletter we are featuring the excellent accomplishments of our hard working committees and executive. Committee reports were given at the recent annual meeting in April and are reproduced in this issue. These outline the many projects undertaken by your executive, many of them ongoing. We were sad to lose Glennis Zilm as membership chair, as during her watch membership increased yearly, but welcome Genelle Leifso as our new chair.

An exciting year is ahead as we finalize plans for the 2006 Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) Conference and Meeting next June. The planning committee led by Sheila Zerr, has been working diligently over the past year. More information and the call for abstracts will be included in more detail in future issues of the newsletter.

We are pleased to publish an article submitted by Bett Lauridsen and welcome submissions on the subject of nursing history. Thanks to Joan Doree and Naomi Miller who continue to provide such interesting information. We were saddened to learn of the sudden death of Margaret Allemang and have included a tribute to her.

## *editorial board*

Lois Blais | Lynne Esson | Beth Fitzpatrick, Chair | Beverly Leipert | Naomi Miller  
Ethel Warbinek | Shelia Zerr | Glennis Zilm

Editor: Ethel Warbinek | Design: Anita Warbinek

*The HoN Newsletter is published 4 times a year. Submissions for the next newsletter are welcome. Please submit articles and news by September 15, 2005 to Glennis Zilm at [gzilm@telus.net](mailto:gzilm@telus.net)*

# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual MEETING

Our Annual Meeting was held April 18, 2005 in the Lord Byron Room at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver. It preceded the RNABC Annual meeting, the last one as the Registered Nurses Association of BC.

A continental breakfast was enjoyed prior to the meeting which was chaired by our president, Sheila Zerr. Reports were given by committee chairs. Glennis Zilm was thanked by Beth Fitzpatrick for her valuable contribution as Membership Chair. Ethel Warbinek was congratulated by Lenore Radom on receiving the RNABC Award of Distinction in Nursing.

As is our usual practice, we had a display table at the RNABC Annual meeting and raised \$244.00 from a raffle of 2 beautiful dolls created by Sheila Zerr and spoons advertising our upcoming CAHN conference in June 2006, as well as \$400.00 from the sale of note cards.

## Scholarship COMMITTEE | ANNUAL REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by *Kathly Murphy*

One \$500.00 Scholarship was awarded in December 2004 to Linda Lemke, a Masters student enrolled at UBC. She was writing a paper entitled "Analysis of a Primary Document" which examined a newspaper article of October 1963 entitled *"This is a friendly house which will cap the lives of devoted nursing service"*. The article described the opening of the apartment building by the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Assoc. Linda submitted her paper to the History of Nursing Group and has been invited to prepare an abstract for the CAHN Conference being held in Vancouver in June, 2006.

The Scholarship Application form was revised by Glennis Zilm and Sheila Zerr to make it easier to use when applying through the History of Nursing web site. Receiving more applications for this Scholarship is still a concern and will be addressed.

## Membership COMMITTEE | ANNUAL REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by *Glennis Zilm*

*Membership figures stand, as of December 31, 2004, at 150 members*

2004 (year end)		2003 (year end)	
Honorary	6	Honorary	6
Full	60	Full	54
Affiliate	38	Affiliate	30
Student	46	Student	40
TOTAL	150	TOTAL	130

*another  
record  
year!*

# President's Report

## ANNUAL REPORT

*Our Group continues to thrive due to the dedicated members and supporters. The 6-month presidential terms continued successfully with Kathy Murphy and Sheila Zerr serving as the leaders. Sincere appreciation is extended to those who carry out the many tasks of this active group.*

### **The first 6 months (May 2004 – October 2004)**

#### **President: Kathy Murphy**

The 2004 Annual Meetings of the History of Nursing Group and RNABC were historically attended by many of our members in vintage nursing uniforms and other costumes. There was a wonderful response and many photos taken including one published in Nursing BC. The memorial Portrait Collection Celebration in May was a night to remember for all who attended. The stories behind each doll in the collection explained by Sheila Zerr to the donors, guests and members were so interesting. The beautiful display now resides in the RNABC Library.

A guest speaker joined our June meeting to explain the many aspects of creating a museum. Bud Sakamoto, an architect currently involved with the redevelopment of VGH, discussed space requirements, potential funding sources for capital and operating budgets, the need for accurate recording of the project among other topics.

The annual July workshop reviewed the objectives for 2003/04 and identified objectives for 2004/05. These included monitoring the effects of the Health Professions Act, joining the Historical Federation, developing an Archival/Artifact brochure, continuing plans for the CAHN Conference in Vancouver in June 2006, promoting membership and the scholarship programme. A highlight of the day was a salute to Glennis Zilm who received the Associated Medical Services/John B. Nielsen Spaulding Award later in the year.

The group was grateful to receive a bequest from the estate of Esther Paulson which has been placed in the Archival fund. Several Professional Practice Group meetings were attended as well as the RNABC Leaders Conference. It has been a pleasure to work with such a supportive group.

### **The Second 6 months (November 2004 to April 2005)**

#### **President: Sheila Rankin Zerr**

Our group carried out a busy schedule throughout November 2004 to April 2005 as the annual executive and committee reports reveal. In January, history group members Lenore Radom, Glennis Zilm and Sheila Zerr traveled to Malaspina University College to present the history of nursing to students and staff on the annual BSN day. The auditorium was full and our efforts were well rewarded with several students and faculty joining the history group.

Programs were carried out during regular monthly executive meetings. In March we enjoyed a presentation by Linda Mauve-Orr of the Burnaby Heritage Museum on her impersonation of a VON nurse. In April, the meeting took place at the Ladner Museum and Archives.

*President's Report | Shelia Rankin Zerr | continued from page 04*

with a tour of the museum and exhibit of early health care in Ladner. This exhibit included artifacts from the BC History Group. We are looking forward to the special program planned for Hycroft on May 6th when we hear about the early 1990's flu epidemic.

We had the privilege of sharing 90th birthday celebrations for Helen Mussallem and Verna Huffman Splane. Our congratulations to both of these outstanding nursing leaders. The BC History Group, as part of RNABC, faced changes in November and December as the B.C. Government prepares to pass legislation to provide for a common regulatory framework for the governance of all health professions in BC. Once the legislation is in force for registered nursing, the Health Professions Act will repeal the Nurses (Registered) Act of Registered Nurses of BC and place nursing under the Health Professions Act. RNABC will be called the College of Registered Nurses of BC. (CRNBC). This year the RNABC annual meeting on April 18 and 19 will take place following the usual format. The BC History Group will meet at 8:30am April 18 for its AGM. This will be an historic meeting as the structure of College will change; chapters will no longer be a part of the structure in the future, although professional practice groups will exist in a revised form. The BC History Group executive will be involved in planning the new constitution and by-laws that will govern our status in the future.

## Editorial BOARD | ANNUAL REPORT

*Respectfully Submitted by Beth Fitzpatrick*

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 2004-2005 calendar year. We continue to enjoy the variety of format's & focus in each edition. We have just published, Volume 15, # 4. This year we reached an historical milestone: 15 years of newsletter publishing for a total of 60 issues! Thanks to Ethel Warbinek, Lois Blais, Sheila Zerr and Lynne Esson and Bonnie Leipter and Beth Fitzpatrick for their work as newsletter editors. A special thanks to Glenn's Zilm, Membership Chair, who supplies each editor with the newsletter mailing labels. This is greatly appreciated.

Once again we qualify for Canada Post Publications Mail rates which is about half the cost of regular first class postage. However we are considering sending the newsletter by e-mail as a PDF attachment for those members who would like to receive it this way.

The Editorial 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.

This past May we were honored to receive a \$250 Web site prize from the B.C. Historical Federation. We continue to progress in developing the web site. We had a very successful meeting with Kevin Lee our web-master to explore the possibility of developing part of our web-site into a virtual museum.

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.



# Archives

## ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by *Lois M. Blais, Chair*

**MEMBERS:** Don Ransom, Janet Gormick, Helen Niskala, Lois Blais (Chair)

**MEETINGS:** One meeting was held

**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. This Center will be an archive and museum with easy access for nurses & the general public.

### ACTIONS

1. Several Masters students have made use of our archival material for their studies
2. A revised archival brochure was produced, thanks to Anita Warbinek
3. Melanie Hardbatt (archivist) continues to maintain our database and archival material

**PLANS:** We continually receive materials & collections from nurses, their families and colleagues. Our proposed website will include pictures found in our archives & other archival information.

**THANK YOU** to the committee members and Melanie Hardbatt, our archivist, for her advice and work. Thank You to all who have donated to the Archives.

# CAHN 2006

## CONFERENCE PLANNING REPORT

Submitted by *Shelia Rankin Zerr, Chair*

Committee: Sheila Zerr, chair | Beth Fitzpatrick | Faye Meuser | Lois Blais | Lenore Radom | Lynne Esson | Jackie Ratzlaff | Cheryl Entwistle

**THEME:** Frontline Nurse: Historical Milestones | St. Paul's Hospital – Vancouver, BC

**THUR JUNE 8** AM Registration & Welcome

**FRIDAY JUNE 9** AM – concurrent paper sessions

Box lunch CAHN general meeting

PM – concurrent paper sessions

Evening – Banquet/Opera

**SATURDAY JUNE 10, 2006**

AM – concurrent paper sessions

10:45 – 12 noon – Hannah Lecture

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:** Will be circulated at the CAHN 2005 conference in Ottawa

**SOCIAL:** Plans for the opening social speaker, Hannah speaker being confirmed. Plans for excerpts from the Nightingale Opera at the Friday evening dinner being confirmed. Jo Scott has offered to develop a conference image/painting

**HOTELS:** Lois Blais has booked a block of rooms at the Wall Centre

**MAILING LIST:** Lenore is working on a master mailing list – 1st mailing July/August 2005.

**PROMOTION:** New committee members from around the province will be added to help with promotion. Posters and flyers will be developed.

**BUDGET:** Faye Meuser has developed a draft budget. An account has been opened. Advance of \$1000.00 from CAHN and the B.C. History Group provided start up money.

**DISPLAYS:** Plans for displays to be shared at the CAHN 2005 conference in Ottawa

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED FOR:** Volunteers, promotion

# Nominations

COMMITTEE | ANNUAL REPORT

Respectfully Submitted by *Beth Fitzpatrick*.

*On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I am pleased to present the slate of Executive Officers for the next two years. The individuals named below have all agreed to let their names stand.*

## REMAINING ON THE EXECUTIVE FOR ONE MORE YEAR:

PRESIDENT:	May 05 to October 05	Beth Fitzpatrick
	November 05 to April 06	Ethel Warbinek
VICE PRESIDENT:	Lois Blais	MEMBER AT LARGE: Jackie Ratzlaff

## FOR TWO YEAR TERMS OF OFFICE:

SECRETARY	Inga von Maydell	TREASURER: Faye Meuser
MEMBER AT LARGE:	Lynne Esson	MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: Genelle Leifso

# Biographies

COMMITTEE | ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by *Jane M. Gornick*

*We have five people who have indicated their interest in joining this committee. Some live outside the Lower Mainland. Hopefully this will enable us to identify more candidates from a variety of areas throughout the province.*

## MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Diana Bright | Delcie Hill | Carolyn Lush | Isobel McDonald | Helen Niskala

**OUR HOLDINGS** have grown to a total of 137 biographies. This year we have also received a considerable amount of additional material to many of our current biographies. We encourage all those who have a biography on file with us to send additional information. Consider new positions, publications, awards and other photos. **MANY THANKS** to those who have submitted names to the committee and especially the Oral History Group members who ask every interviewee!

# Program

COMMITTEE | ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by *Lenore Radom*

## MAY 10, 04 CELEBRATION & DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL DOLL COLLECTION

*Sponsors were invited to view the collection they had sponsored and to meet creator Sheila Zerr.*

**OCTOBER 16, 04 LUNCHEON | VANCOUVER LAWN & TENNIS CLUB** *Japanese internment & TB Nursing film "She Journeyed with Them" by Denise Calderwood featuring her aunt, Beth Shirley.*

**MARCH 2005 PRESENTATION BY LINDA MAUVE - ORR** *from the Burnaby Museum who gave her impersonation of a VON nurse in the early years of Burnaby.*

**APRIL 7, 05 TOUR OF LANDER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES** *of early health care in Ladner*

## PROPOSED PROGRAM

*May 2005 - Celebrate Nurses Week at Hycroft with guest speakers Betty O'Keefe and Ian MacDonald, authors of "Dr. Fred and The Spanish Lady" Fighting the Flu HoN may take the show on the road to Kamloops in 2005.*

# Treasurer's REPORT

for year ending December 31, 2004 | Submitted by *Faye Meuser, Treasurer*

## GENERAL ACCOUNT

Cash in bank \$1397.06

## ARCHIVAL ACCOUNT

Cash in bank \$ 3,157.95  
GIC's \$21,971.55

## SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT

Cash in bank \$1,161.54  
GIC'S \$18,000.00

## CONFERENCE 2006 ACCOUNT

Cash in Bank \$ 300.12

# Display COMMITTEE | ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by *Sheila Rankin Zerr, Chair*

## MEMBERS:

Sheila Zerr, chair | Lenore Radom | Lois Blais: St. Paul's | Glennis. Zilm/Ethel. Warbinek - UBC

**RNABC DISPLAYS** – Boardroom display case, Lobby mannequin, Library/bulletin board & display table. The "Celebrate School of Nursing Alumnae" revolving display, initiated in September 2003, continues throughout 2005. The purpose is to draw attention to the history of nursing and activities of the various school of nursing alumnae in B.C. and to join in partnership with them to promote and preserve the history of nursing.

Sept to Nov 03 RJH Alumnae

Nov to Feb 04 "Honour Roll" alumnae honour rolls of military nurses

Feb to May 04 VGH

May to Sept 04 St. Joseph Hospital/Sisters of St. Ann, Victoria

Sept to Feb 05 St. Paul's Hospital

Feb to June 05 Royal Columbian Hospital

June 2005 on Royal Inland Hospital, Kamloops

## LIBRARY HISTORICAL CORNER

A section of the library has been designated for historical purposes. This section now holds the *Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection* on permanent display. Also on display, two albums of "Pages of History" and the *Oral History Collection*. There is also a section of nursing history books catalogued with historical labels.

## UBC DISPLAY

The displays at UBC are managed by Lynne Esson, Ethel Warbinek and Glennis Zilm. Displays have featured UBC's first graduating class, UBC Nursing Undergraduate Society, 85th Anniversary of the UBC School of Nursing, and books published by UBC faculty. Glennis Zilm has initiated a nursing history display in the School's Learning Centre. This display includes a mannequin showing various nursing costumes and a table of historical materials that provide opportunity for students to enjoy "hands on" books and artifacts for review and study.



# Memorial Book

COMMITTEE | ANNUAL REPORT  
Submitted by *Lynne Esson, Chair*

During the year, the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group has no nominations for the RNABC Memorial Book. There was one nomination for the CNA Memorial Book.

## CNA MEMORIAL BOOK NOMINATION

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

My thanks to Elizabeth Bruce of RNABC for her assistance and support during the nomination process. If you know of or hear of someone who should be nominated, please let the Chair of the Committer know.

# Oral History

COMMITTEE | ANNUAL REPORT  
Submitted by *Ethel Warbinek*

**MEMBERS:** Inga Von Maydell | Margaret Scaia | Sheila Zerr | Ethel Warbinek – chair

**NEW MEMBER:** Isobel McDonald

## INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED APRIL 2004-MARCH 2005

June 2004	Dolores (Gus) Kilpatrick	June 2004	Shirley McAllister
June 2004	Mary Rodgers	August 2004	Peggy Lynch
Feb 2005	Ray Thompson	Feb 2005	Pat Wadsworth

**PLANNING:** Jean (McKenzie) Loney and Nancy Breton have agreed to be interviewed

**PLANS FOR 2005** To investigate digital recording of interviews so they can be saved on CD/DVD's as many nurses do not have tape recorders.

# Pages of History

COMMITTEE | ANNUAL REPORT  
Submitted by *Sheila Rankin Zerr*

**MEMBERS:** Sheila Zerr, Chair | Lenore Radom | Sandra Broad

**FUNDS:** Funds raised go to the Archival Fund of the History of Nursing

**PAGES TO DATE:** Complete: 72 | To complete: 4

**DISPLAY ALBUM:** The flyer promoting the pages of history has been revised to correlate with the web page description of the pages project and request for sponsors. RNABC chapters are closing around the province and have been encouraged to buy a page of history for their retiring executive and members. A section of the web page is planned for the pages project and a system to rotate different pages on the web page is under development. The committee will continue to work on promotion of the project and will consider increasing the \$25.00 cost of a page of history.

# Nursing through the years

## PART 1 - Student Days

By Bett Lauridsen

In the Spring of 1948, when I was seventeen, my father accompanied me to an interview with the Director of Nursing at the Winnipeg General Hospital.

My first impression was of a huge building that smelled strongly of disinfectant. My second impression was my first view of Miss Bertha Puller; an imposing, stately, very tall woman who had a no-nonsense look about her. I remember nothing of the interview except trying to impress her.... and failing. The last step of this beginning process was being measured for uniforms.

In September, I left home for the first time and placed my feet on the road to a nursing career. I was one of 100 young women (no men) who milled around in the lounge of the nurses residence getting two uniform dresses and several aprons and bibs. Next came the books, and at last we tottered along behind the matron of the Nurses Residence to be assigned rooms and roommates.

The first few months brought only studying; we applied ourselves to the books with a vengeance. History of Nursing was considered essential and failure meant expulsion from the program. It was a thick book, with dry as dust text and boring pictures of long ago nurses. In retrospect, it was interesting that the nurse who taught this subject absented herself from the examination room for most of the 2 hours given to complete the exam. As you can imagine, there was much sharing of information and all but two students passed. I hope they weren't the ones who refused to take advantage of the situation. Several books were assigned reading; I chose the life of Florence Nightingale. Why are books about nurses so boring? I got up at 6am every day for 6 weeks but tended to doze off before I completed a chapter. As far as I read, Florence is still in the Crimea.

In 1948 training for nurses was done in the hospitals. The Winnipeg General Hospital admitted 100 applicants twice a year, (no men; it was unthought of that men could be nurses). Classes were given in the nurses' residence classrooms by registered nurses. The course took 3 years to complete. In 1948 no one could get a nursing degree in Manitoba.

During the probationary period students attended classes all day. After the first 6 months they were initiated to the wards to put into practice what had been learned. The "bed bath" was memorable. I remember my first patient, a very shy man with a history of epilepsy. I was a shy student nurse with no knowledge of male anatomy. What with him tugging the sheet up and me tugging it down, we managed to have it end up on the floor! A crash course in "private parts"

Beginners had a junior designation. After a year on wards, students were considered intermediate, and would be in charge of a ward on evenings or nights. The day shift was split so that from 10 am until 2



pm students attended classes. Nurses on night duty were required to attend these classes, but otherwise could not leave the residence until 4pm.

There was no such thing as disposable equipment. The same needles and glass syringes were used over and over, as well as catheters, enema tubes and forceps. Everything was kept on the "sterile cart". It was an assigned student duty to boil up the equipment on the cart daily. If a dressing tray or catheterization tray was needed, a nurse placed the appropriate equipment on a sterile towel and took it to the bedside. Once, when a nurse dropped her lipstick into the sterilizer and boiled the equipment, all the syringes turned pink!

Night shifts were 12am to 7am and lasted 6 weeks without a day off. At the end of this period the nurse was given a weekend off. For young women used to sleeping after midnight, the nights seemed incredibly long.

All nurses wore uniforms and one could tell the experience of the student by the uniform she wore. Probationers did not wear a nursing cap. During the probationary period "probies" were not allowed to go up the front stairs of the residence or enter the front door; they were required to go in the back door. After the capping ceremony this territory was open to them. Hospitals had a rigid pecking order. Physicians were considered gods; all levels of nurses stood up when the doctor came on the ward. Doctors got on the elevator first, with head nurses, graduate and third year students following in order of rank. It was a very rare event when a "probie" rode the elevator.

The nursing dress was blue. First year students wore their sleeves rolled up with a white cuff covering the roll; bib tails were worn under the apron. At the beginning of second year, students wore the sleeves long with starched cuffs at the wrists. During year three, they wore the bib tails out i.e.; over the apron. A foundation belt kept the apron band smooth and was so stiff breathing was difficult. Graduate nurses wore a white uniform and cap and could wear an apron and bib (as in year three) if they desired.

Every student nurse had a 'buddy' assigned from the 3rd year class. The buddy was to ensure the student fit in to the program and that any difficulties were dealt with. All students lived in residence and shared a room with one other person. A matron was in charge of the residence. Someone was on duty round the clock to watch for any violation of rules. In winter curfew was 10:30 pm and in summer 11pm.



*Bett graduated from the Winnipeg General Hospital in 1951 and spent a year as OR nurse in Thief River Falls, Minnesota before returning to Winnipeg. She worked with the VON for 7 years, had 2 sons, then returned part time to WGH. In 1968 joined the VON in Vancouver, and when the province absorbed the VON worked with Home Care until 1980. When the VGH Short Term Assessment and Treatment Centre opened was hired as Nurse Practitioner and within 2 years became the Manager. Bett retired from that position in 1995 and immediately accepted and developed the 2 half time positions of Transportation Consultant to VGH and Transportation Coordinator to the Cambie Corridor Consortium; a transportation management association interested in reducing the number of cars coming into the Cambie/Broadway area. A shuttle bus service now goes to all hospitals in Vancouver. She is still responsible for these 2 positions.*

*Part 2 of Bett's story will be published in the next newsletter*

# PRESIDENT'S *Report*

Beth Fitzpatrick, President

On a beautiful sunny warm day the History of Nursing Group and friends celebrated Nurse's Week 2005 and the birthday of Florence Nightingale. The event was A Spring Afternoon High Tea held at historic Hycroft, a magnificent neoclassic English home, located in Shaughnessy.

This home was originally built for Alexander McRae, a leading B.C. businessman and politician. This home and it's surrounding buildings and grounds became the center of the social scene in Vancouver in the early 1920s. Remnants of the original garden plantings remain including the rare handkerchief (dove) tree, which was in full bloom at the time of our visit. After the McRae's passed on the house was given to the Federal Government and used until 1960 by the Department of Veteran's Affairs as a convalescent hospital for disabled veterans from World War I and the Boer War. The home was left unoccupied until 1965 when it was purchased by the University Women's Club and restored to it's present glory.

We were welcomed with cool drinks and tasty morsels. After a social time we gathered in the drawing room and I was pleased to thank Kathy Murphy and Lenore Radom, organizers of the event, and recognize History of Nursing honorary members Beverly DuGas and Nina Rumen. Another special guest was June Newton, a Nursing Sister whose mother had the Spanish Flu while pregnant with June. (*June has often been called a "miracle baby"*).

Ethel Warbinek, who recently received the RNABC Award of Distinction, then introduced our guest speakers, Betty O'Keefe and Ian Macdonald, authors of the book *Dr. Fred and the Spanish Lady: Fighting the Killer Flu*. The book tells the story of the infamous 1918 Spanish flu, it's effects on the lives of Vancouver citizens and the story of Dr. Fred Underhill, Vancouver's medical health officer. The two authors expounded on selected passages from this fascinating story of courage and determination. The afternoon concluded with tea, sweets, more conversation and laughter. I'm sure that if Florence had been present she would have enjoyed her birthday party!

## SUMMER *Meeting*

*Take a Break!* join us for a trip to Victoria on July 19!



**WE ARE GOING TO VICTORIA ON TUESDAY, JULY 19TH TO VISIT A NURSING HISTORY EXHIBIT AT ST. ANN'S ACADEMY INTERPRETIVE CENTRE**, 835 Humbolt Street, Victoria, B.C. The display, *The Sisters of St. Ann in Healthcare 1858 to Present*, features a recreated hospital infirmary room, photographs, uniforms and other personal memorabilia on loan from the Sisters of St. Ann's Archives and from private family collections. It tells the story of the Sisters and nurses who lived by the motto: *Non Nobis Solum*: "Not for Ourselves Alone". The display is open 10 am-4:00 PM daily until September 4, 2005. Admission for Adults is \$5.00 and Senior and Students \$2.00.

The History group members plan to catch the 9:am ferry from Tsawwassen. We will do some planning for next year onboard the ferry and travel by bus to downtown Victoria. Lunch will be on our own. All members are welcome to join us for this interesting day trip. For further information please call Beth Fitzpatrick, President (604-898-3156) or e-mail her at [bethfitz32@shaw.ca](mailto:bethfitz32@shaw.ca).

# MEMBERS *in* PRINT



**HELEN SHORE.** (2005). Book Review: *Bloody practice: Doctoring in the Cariboo and around the World*, by Sterling Haynes. Prince George, BC: Caitlin Press, 2003.

**MARY RAZZELL** (2005) *Runaway At Sea*, Maderia Park, BC, Harbour Publishing.

*Sharing with the Land of Dancing Lights.* A long-distance mentoring team model by **LINDA GOMEZ** and others. Canadian Nurse April 2005, pp. 22-25.

## UBC *Alumnae* Achievement AWARDS 2005

HoN member **CATHY EBBEHOJ**, BSN'75, MSN'99 has been awarded the 2005 Blythe Eagles Volunteer Leadership Award. It will be presented at the Annual Alumni Achievement Awards Dinner on Thursday, November 3, 2005 at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel. **Congratulations Cathy.** It is time you were recognized for all the years you were president of the UBC Nursing Division.

## PHOTO *album*



Photos from the HoN's trip to the Ladner Museum & Archives on April 07, 2005



# BOOK Review

By Glennis Zilm



*Runaway at Sea*, by Mary Razzell [Mary Nicol]. Surrey: Harbour Publishing, 2005. ISBN 1-55017-327-8 \$9.95 softcover. Available for loan RNABC Library.

*Runaway at Sea* is a delightful historical novel for teen-agers based on a true story about a typhoid outbreak on a cruise ship visiting Vancouver harbour in 1970. Long-time HoN Group member Mary Nicol (writing as Mary Razzell) has a long string of excellent young adult novels to her credit. This latest features 16-year-old Anne, who slips away from home in San Francisco while her parents are on vacation. She gets a job on a cruise ship going Vancouver where she wants to live with her aunt. Her job involves working in the Sick Bay of the ship.

Well-written, fast-paced, and interesting, the book has a strong medical storyline. Young readers will soon empathize with Anne, the engaging central character, and the other characters are also strong and intriguing. The plot navigates through family conflicts, a rebel's moral courage, and a budding romance. The author draws on actual incidents related to the typhoid outbreak and on her own background in nursing to create a gripping medical adventure. Because of the wide general knowledge today about the Norwalk virus on cruise ships and about the SARS epidemic of last winter, the history of a past typhoid scare will spark young readers' interest enormously.

However, the book also has an appeal for older nurses, especially those who might remember nursing in the 1970s, for those interested in the image of nursing, and for those who are interested in the history of the Centres for Disease Control. To sum up, I found it a "great read" – and a lovely gift for young women thinking of entering nursing.

*mark your calendars*  
**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE 2006  
CAHN CONFERENCE**

Papers should be 20 minutes in length. The programme committee welcomes proposals for symposiums. Sessions should include three 20-minute papers, a 20-minute comment from the chair or moderator, plus another 20 minutes for questions and discussion from the audience.

Deadline: January 15, 2006. LOOK FOR MORE INFO IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OR CONTACT SHELIA RANKIN ZERR



## Margaret Allemang: An Appreciation



*We are saddened to report on the recent death of Margaret Allemang. She was an active 90 – year old until she died suddenly on April 14, 2005. Judy Young wrote an article for May 2005 issue of the Allemang Centre Newsletter part of which is reprinted here. According to Judy, many of the details are from a taped interview which Natalie Riegler did with Margaret in 1993.*

### *Preserving Nursing History*

In the mid 1970's Margaret received funding from the Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine to interview world War One, and later World War Two, Canadian nursing sisters. As a member of the Nursing Sisters Association, Margaret was known to many of the nursing sisters who gave her photos, uniforms, medals and other memorabilia from their time in the services. Margaret's dining room began to resemble a mini-museum. Her interviews with the nurses were transcribed and copies made accessible to historians.

In the 1980's, interest in nursing history was on the rise and, in 1987, with Barbara Keddy of Dalhousie University, Margaret organized the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing. Margaret became the first Vice President and organized the first two conferences (in Charlottetown, PEI and Quebec City). Throughout this time a small group continued to meet at Margaret's house, often over a tasty casserole, to discuss issues in nursing history, listen to a speaker, or to encourage each other's work. Known informally as the Ontario Society for the History of Nursing, the group incorporated in 1993 as the Margaret M. Allemang Centre for the history of Nursing with aims to promote nursing history and to save nursing archival materials. Margaret maintained a strong interest in both CAHN and the Allemang Centre to her death. She only recently asked to step down as a director of the Centre.

Margaret led a full life. She admitted to a stubborn streak, a quality which no doubt enabled her to achieve many goals in her life. She was loved and highly regarded by family and friends. As a colleague and teacher Margaret generously gave of her time and expertise. She will be greatly missed.

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# NEW Media

*don't miss out!*

## *Helen Randal Speaks* [DVD]

**PREPARED BY** the Registered Nurses Assoc. of B.C., Vancouver, May 2005.

**AVAILABLE FROM** RNABC Publications Department for \$6 (inc. shipping/handling).

**ORDER** online at [www.rnabc.bc.ca](http://www.rnabc.bc.ca) or call the RNABC publications clerk: 1-800-656-6505.

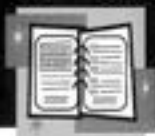
At the final annual meeting of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. before becoming the College of Registered Nurses of B.C., a special visit was made by Helen Randal, the first registrar of the association and president from 1917 to 1919. Helen Randal was portrayed by well-known Canadian actor Nicola Cavendish, who delivered a captivating, 20-minute, illustrated address. Following the meeting, the presentation was prepared in DVD format and is being made available to members.

Beautifully delivered by Miss Cavendish, the presentation reviews the history of RNABC from its inception in 1912 as the Graduate Nurses Association to the present. Helen Randal attended that first GNA meeting, and immediately helped to begin lobbying for registration to protect the public from untrained or poorly trained nurses. Registration was granted in 1918, when Randal was the current president. She was named first Registrar and also assumed the duties of what is now called Executive Director. Delightful historical photographs and a wonderful dramatization of vignettes make this program a joy to watch.

All members of the HoN Group will be interested in seeing this video, and it will be a useful tool for teaching history of nursing. Credits for the production are given to the BC History of Nursing Group.



*mark your calendars*



**HISTORY GROUP EXECUTIVE MEETINGS** are usually held the first Thursday of every month at the RNABC offices from 4 PM to 6 PM. All members are welcome! For further information please visit the website at [www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca)

# NEWS from MEMBERS

## JOAN DOREE

keeps us up to date by clipping pertinent articles and stories from the local newspapers. She sent

along a two-page newspaper ad, paid for by the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), which answers many questions about the role of nurse practitioners and their integration into Canada's primary health care system. A related story points out that while nurse practitioners have worked in Canada for decades, there has been little consistency in their roles, educational requirements or core competencies. Health Canada and CNA are funding the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative to consult professionals and governments and address this need.

Another news report informs us that the B.C. Nurse's Union has filed a petition with the B.C. Supreme Court to order the provincial government to investigate alleged illegal billing practices by some private medical clinics in the province. It is alleged that private billing of patients for services covered under the Provincial Medical Service Plan, "possibly breaches" the Canada Health Act.

**NAOMI MILLER** sends along this true story taken from a reprinted 1938 Cranbrook Courier newspaper.

*"A Ktunaxa lady visited Dr. F.W. Green because she was constantly tired. He suggested she take some iron. Later she came back to the doctor complaining of a sore stomach. An X-ray revealed a store of spikes which Dr. Green subsequently removed surgically." Naomi notes that a granddaughter of Dr.*

*Green donated the spikes to the Green Medical Clinic when it celebrated its 100th anniversary. The spikes are on display in a glass case in the clinic with a few other heritage items.*

## MARGARET BESSIE SMITH REMEMBERED

*By Naomi (Allsebrook) Miller*

Nursing Sister M.B. Smith was born June 25, 1879 in Kegworth, Leicester, England, eldest child of William George Smith MD and Elizabeth Pateman Smith. Her father died in 1898 but she continued as a "blue stocking" student at a boarding school. She took nurses training at Guy's Hospital in London, where her uncle Fred was chief of surgical staff. She was one of the earliest recruits for the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps in 1914, and was promptly sent to France when hostilities commenced.

The uniform for QA's included starched white cuffs but those on the front lines switched to wearing celluloid (early plastic) cuffs. Bessie and others were in the habit of carrying a small metal teapot and a spirit lamp to make a cup of tea whenever needed. While on a train in France the spirit lamp tipped over and when she reached to correct this, the flame caught her celluloid cuff. Fellow nurses quickly smothered the blaze but Bessie had to take time off for her wrist to heal.

As the war progressed, Captain Smith was transferred to Mesopotamia (since renamed Iraq) and Egypt. When that area was stabilized she served in Malta, largely caring for flu victims or convalescent servicemen. She stayed in service at Netley, near Aldershot for some time post war then returned to duty in civilian hospitals in London.

Bessie never married but she wore a ring which her sisters guessed was from a lover lost in battle. M.B. Smith was an auntie who wrote lovely letters to me as a child in British Columbia. I met her for only a few days in the fall of 1937, when I was ten years old. She passed away on December 23, 1937.

# NEWS about MEMBERS



## CAHN CONFERENCE June 17-19, 2005 Ottawa

Eight HoN members are attending this conference.

### SHEILA RANKIN

**ZERR, GLENNIS ZILM, LYNNE ESSON, HELEN NISKALA, BRENDA FLYNN, MARGARET SCAIA, STEPHANIE BUCKINGHAM, and MICHELE ENG**

Sheila Rankin Zerr is presenting a paper on Operating Room Nurses and Technology, Stephanie Buckingham and Margaret Scaia presenting on Teaching Historical Research Methodology Online and Geertje Boschma on Listening to Nurses and Families: The Use of Oral Histories

in Understanding Transformation of Mental Health Care. Congratulations!

A more complete reporting on this conference will appear in the next newsletter.



**ETHEL WARBINEK** received the **RNABC Award of Distinction** in Nursing at the 2005 RNABC Awards Ceremony, April 18,

2005. The following was published in the June issue of Nursing BC

*Ethel Warbink is a respected Professor Emerita at the University of British Columbia's School of Nursing. After a long and successful career marked by excellence as a clinician and nurse educator, Ethel is now devoting her attention to chronicling nursing history in organiza-*

*tions, institutions and provincial health care as well as through the lives of those who are or have been part of it..*

Among her historical publications is a co-authored history of RNABC's Richmond-Delta Chapter from 1967 to 1997. She is accepted as a nursing historian of note nationally through the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing. Ethel has been a strong and enthusiastic supporter of the Vancouver General Hospital and University of British Columbia alumni associations, and is responsible for establishing and maintaining archives for both. She co-authored *Legacy: A History of Nursing Education at the University of British Columbia, 1919-1994*. Ethel Warbink's teaching skills and knowledge have influenced a generation of nurses and she is now providing leadership in collecting, preserving and disseminating nursing history, collaboratively and on her own.

Long-time members **KAREN ABBOTT** and **SHARON SIMPSON**, with colleagues **PENNY HEASLIP** and **CHERYL LYALL**, have had a paper accepted for presentation at the Congress of the International Council of Nurses in Taiwan in June. Karen will attend and present the paper, which is titled "Expanding Horizons in the Himalayas: Evaluation of the impact of an international project on Nepalese nurses' practice." The paper concerns their evaluation research on a rural health worker project in Nepal 1999-2004.

Long-time affiliate member **SHIRLEY STINSON** attended the Edmonton State Dinner for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in May. The dinner, hosted by the Prime Minister and Mrs. Paul Martin recognized the contributions of honored Albertans.

Honorary Member **HELEN SHORE** recently celebrated a milestone birthday, her 80th. *Congratulations and best wishes, Helen.*

The 2006 B.C. Historical Federation Conference



# PHOTOalbum

ANNUAL MEETING 2005



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