



HISTORY of NURSING NEWS

VOLUME 16
Issue 2
October 2005



B.C. Shares the Stage



BY SHEILA ZERR

Nurse historians gathered in Ottawa in June, 2005, to celebrate a number of nursing history events. Eleven members of the B.C. History of Nursing Group participated in the proceedings, meetings, and celebrations.

First, the Hannah 2005 Nursing History Conference, funded by Associated Medical Services (AMS), was held from June 14 to 16. Organized by Meryn Stuart and Cynthia Toman of the University of Ottawa Faculty of Nursing, this conference brought together scholars in the field of nursing history. During the conference, a reception was held to officially announce the opening of the AMS Nursing History Research Unit. This unit will be headed by Dr. Stuart and will include graduate studies in History of Nursing, an online course, a web journal and the availability of summer internships. The unit is jointly funded by AMS and the University of Ottawa for \$1.5 million.

A highlight for B.C. History of Nursing Group members was their participation in the ceremonies to mark the opening on June 16 of "A Caring Profession: Four Centuries of Nursing in Canada" at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC). About 600 people gathered in the Museum's Great Hall for the unveiling of this year-long exhibit. Seven members of the BC Group joined the parade

of historical nursing costumes, wearing uniforms depicting early Canadian and B.C. nurses. The parade, which also featured military nursing uniforms from 1885 to the present, provided a great opportunity to promote B.C. nursing history.

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The CMC nursing exhibit will run until September 3, 2006; if you are going to be in the Ottawa area be sure to allow time to visit. It is the first ever major exhibition to explore four centuries of nursing in every region of Canada. It brings together the two parallel nursing traditions in Canada: the religious French-inspired model and the secular British-inspired model. A Caring Profession will contribute to building an understanding of the

historical and current role of nurses in the health care system. Hundreds of artifacts (from stethoscopes to nursing uniforms), documentaries, and historic photos tell the story of nursing in Canada: its beginnings in 17th-century New France, the hardships and isolation nurses experienced on the frontiers, the increasing modernization and professionalism of health care, contemporary issues, and concerns about the future.

The exhibit, organized by CMC's Assistant Curator Tina Bates is made up of nine sections that explore all aspects of nursing history and practice in Canada, including in the hospital, at the bedside, in the home, in the community, on the frontiers, on campus, and on the battlefield. The central section, The Nurses' Station, features interactive presentations with volunteer nurses, reference materials, and an area for quiet reflection. This military section was organized by guest curator Dr. Cynthia Toman with materials loaned by the Canadian War Museum.

A book co-edited by Ms Bates, Dianne Dodd, and Nicole Rousseau was released to coincide with the opening. Titled *On All Frontiers: Four Centuries of Canadian Nursing*, it compiles research on the history of nursing in Canada. Contributions from B.C. scholars Glennis Zilm, Ethel Warbinek, Sheila Rankin Zerr, Cecilia Bens, and Dana Carroll, as well as photographs from the HoN Group and the Vancouver General Hospital and Royal Jubilee Hospital Nursing alumni associations help document B.C. nursing. (A review of the book will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.)

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FROM THE *President's Pen*

BY BETH FITZPATRICK

The History of Nursing Group had a busy summer beginning with a very successful visit to Victoria where members and guests enjoyed the exhibit and displays at St. Ann's Academy. The exhibit featured the contributions to health care in B.C. made by the Sisters of St. Ann from 1858 to the present. (More on page 4)

During the ferry trip and at our September meeting, we took time to review the previous year's goals and discuss where we would focus our attention in 2005-2006. Here are our objectives:

1. We will continue planning for the 2006 CAHN/ACHN conference being held in Vancouver in June of 2006. A dedicated committee, under the leadership of Sheila Zerr, will intensify its work in the next few months. More help is always welcome. Please let Sheila know if you can assist.
2. Fund raising for a "Home of Our Own" will be ongoing under the direction of Kathy Murphy. Fund raising is never the job of one person. Be alert for sources of funding. Your input and ideas are always welcomed.
3. We will continue to monitor the impact of the Health Professions Act on the status of the History of Nursing Group. On August 19, 2005, registered nursing in British Columbia was placed under the Health Professions Act and the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. became the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC). The CRNBC Board is now reviewing the objectives of the Professional Practice Groups.
4. We will continue to work at increasing our membership. Genelle Liefso, the new Membership Chair, reports that we now have 128 full and associate members. Please encourage your nursing friends to support us by joining.
5. We will begin taking digital photos of nursing artifacts in our archives as a first step in establishing a virtual museum.
6. We will purchase updated equipment for the recording of oral histories. Ethel Warbinek is currently experimenting with some of the newer technology.
7. We will continue to promote the History of Nursing Scholarships. If you know of nursing student researching & writing about nursing history, please encourage them to apply.

Can we accomplish these objectives? Yes, I believe we can. Please give us your support as we look forward to another successful year.

[Editor's Note: Ethel Warbinek will assume the presidency from November 2005 to April 2006. Check the membership directory for information on how to get in touch with her.]

Summer Event in Victoria



Several members of the BC History of Nursing Group joined the executive for a trip to Victoria July 19 to visit the Nursing History Exhibit at the Sisters of St. Ann's Academy. Fifteen gathered on the ferry where an executive meeting was chaired by Beth Fitzpatrick. "Burning Issues" were discussed. Upon arrival at the Academy we were joined by four members from Victoria for the self-guided tour, a total of 19 turning out for the event!

"The Sisters of St. Ann in Healthcare: 1858 - Present" was a beautiful, well-documented display of the history of the Nuns who first brought organized nursing to B.C. during the gold rush years in 1858. The history of the St. Joseph's Hospital, founded by the Sisters, and its School of Nursing, which graduated its last class in 1981, was a main focal point. Graduates featured in the display included those who served in World War I and II. The display also recognized the training of X-ray and Laboratory technicians as well as the work of the Sisters of St. Ann in the Yukon and other areas of B.C.

Although the Nursing exhibit in the display rooms on the main floor closed in early September, the Academy itself and its adjoining Chapel is maintained and open to visitors. The Sisters turned over the building and its grounds to the Provincial Government and the main part of the old school building is used only for weddings now. It was a visit that everyone came away "glad they had gone" and some came away having gleaned additional new information & ideas!

Following the tour, the group dispersed for lunch and ferries. Those of us on the 5 pm ferry were "treated" to Sheila's purchase of "teas from Oak Bay." While sifting herbs through our teeth sipping the interesting blends, we laughed and enjoyed discussing "nursing issues."



mark your calendars!

HON GROUP "TEA PARTY" - OCTOBER 27, 2005 1-4 PM

The HoN Group will host a drop-in tea for Dr. Cynthia Toman, the UBC Marion Woodward Lecturer, on Thursday, October 27 in the afternoon from 1 pm to 4 pm at Sheila Zerr's (#103 - 1720 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver). This will allow our members to meet and chat with her more easily than at the Lecture. Many of our members met with Cynthia when she was in Vancouver a few years ago gathering data for her doctoral thesis on World War II Nursing Sisters. If you wish to attend the tea, please RSVP to Nina Rumen at 604-733-7529 by October 24.



(Note that parking is available on 12th Avenue until 3 pm only.)

MARION WOODWARD LECTURE - OCT. 27, 2005

Cynthia Toman, noted Canadian nursing historian, will present the Marion Woodward Lecture at the University of B.C. on Thursday, October 27, 2005 at 7 pm in Classroom 6 of the Woodward Instructional Resource Centre. Her presentation is entitled "What you catch depends on where you fish: Nursing science and historical research." Dr. Toman is Associate Professor in the School of Nursing and Associate Director of the newly opened AMS Nursing History Research Unit, both at the University of Ottawa. Focus of her recent research is on Canadian Nursing Sisters in World War I and II. Dr. Toman will also visit and be available in the UBC School of Nursing on Friday, October 28 and students and others will have an opportunity to meet her there as well. That day, she will attend a history of nursing seminar at a "bring-your-own-brown-bag" lunch. For more information on her schedule at UBC, please get in touch with Geertje Boschma (boschma@nursing.ubc.ca).

SPEAKERS AT NOVEMBER 3, 2005 HON MEETING

CAHN President Marg Gorrie and CAHN Vice-President Geertje Boschma (both members of the B.C. Group) are scheduled to attend the November 3, 2005 Executive meeting to report on activities and long-range plans of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing. *Remember that Executive meetings are open to all members.* The November meeting will be held at the College of Registered Nurses of B.C.. The Executive meeting starts at 4 pm, and the presentation on CAHN activities will start at 5:30 pm. The next annual CAHN meeting is in Vancouver in June 2006 and is co-hosted by our Group; the 2007 meeting is planned for Saskatchewan and the 2008 meeting for Toronto. The latter likely will be held in conjunction with some of the events related to the 100th Anniversary of the Canadian Nurses Association.



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE OPERA

The B.C. History of Nursing Group and the University of British Columbia's School of Nursing and Department of Music will present the opera "Florence: The Lady with the Lamp" on May 12, 2006 at 7:30 pm in UBC's renovated "Old Auditorium" (across from the School of Music). Tickets will be limited and will cost \$15. To order tickets, please get in touch with Cheryl Entwistle.



18TH ANNUAL CAHN/ ACHN HISTORY OF NURSING CONFERENCE

The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) and the B.C. History of Nursing Professional Practice Group will host the 18th Annual History of Nursing Conference June 8-10, 2006 at historic St. Paul's Hospital, 1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC. The Conference Theme is *"Frontline Nurse: Historical Milestones."*

The deadline for the Call for Abstracts for peer review is January 15, 2006. Abstracts should be 250 words in length, double-space, font size 12 point and may be in either English or French. Abstract should include a complete title, the author(s)'s name(s) and institutional affiliation if this applies. The complete address of the contact author should include full postal address, phone number, and email address. Receipt of confirmation will be sent and you will be notified by March 15, 2006 as to the status of your submission. Papers should be 20 minutes in length. Sessions will include three 20 minute papers, a 20-minute comment from the chair or moderator, and 20 minutes for questions and discussion from the audience.

Abstracts should be submitted to Lynne Esson esson@nursing.ubc.ca (email) or 604-822-7466 (fax) using the subject line CAHN 2006 Conference or mail to CAHN 2006 Conference, c/o Lynne Esson, Unit 5 - 8060 St Albans Road, Richmond BC V6Y 2K9 Canada.

For full information about the Conference and a registration form, please get in touch with Lenore Radom (email lenormail@lightspeed.ca) at 10095 No 5 Road, Richmond BC V7A 4E4 Canada. The Conference hotel is the Vancouver Wall Centre. Information on hotels and parking is available through Lois Blais (lblais@interchange.ubc.ca) and information on UBC campus accommodation is available through Lynne Esson (esson@nursing.ubc.ca). Special student rates are available and financial assistance for students presenting papers may be available; for further information on the latter, get in touch with Sheila Zerr (szerr@telus.net).

HISTORY CONFERENCE NEXT MAY

The 2006 Conference of the B.C. Historical Federation (of which the HoN Group is an affiliate member) will be held May 4-7 in Kimberley, B.C. HoN Group member **NAOMI MILLER**, who lives in nearby Wasa and who was a long-time editor of the Federation's journal, is Conference Convener for this event, which will feature a visit to Fort Steele (*about which Naomi has written a book*). The program includes speakers on the history of several local communities, a book fair, entertainment, bus tours to the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel and the Sullivan Mine Museum, films, annual general meeting, and the Awards Banquet. Beth Fitzpatrick, our Group's contact for the Federation, plans to go. The Executive hopes other HoN members will want to travel to Kimberly to attend. Registration packages will be available in January 2006. More information will be available in the next newsletter

Nursing through the years

PART 2 - Graduate Nurse

By Bett Lauridsen

When I graduated in 1951 the salary for nurses was \$148.00 monthly; private duty nurses received \$8/shift. A private room cost \$11/day.

In 1968, after moving to Vancouver, I began work with the Victorian Order of Nurses. Home nursing with the VON was carried out with the nurse having all her equipment in a shoulder bag. In the patient's home the nursing bag and supplies were placed on newspaper as it was often the cleanest thing around. Forceps and syringes and needles were boiled in a pot in the patient's home. We had a small piece of whetstone to keep the hypodermic needles sharp. To save time, we encouraged the patient to have the pot

boiled and cooled. In some cases a clothespin was used instead of a forceps to pick up the cotton balls for swabbing the wound. Catheters and rectal tubes were also boiled up in the home after use (*usually in a 48-ounce juice can*), so the rubber ware could be returned to the nursing bag. Dressings were made and sterilized in the home's oven at 350F, for an hour (30 minutes with a pan of water for moisture, and 30 minutes with dry heat). They were then stored in a pillowcase or paper bag.

I remember one diabetic patient who had a huge ulcer on her heel; the calcaneus was exposed. I visited daily and soaked her foot in Dakins solution. After many months the ulcer was healed and her foot saved.

After 1975, palliative care visits were made at home. This involved supporting the caregiver and having special equipment ordered from the Red Cross loan cupboard. Palliative care was not the specialty it is now, and we used an oral morphine solution for pain control. In those days physicians were strict about QID orders and many patients had to wait in pain until the time arrived to give the drug.

In 1980, I began working at the Vancouver General Hospital as a nurse clinician at the STAT Centre. Geriatrics was just coming into its own. At that time, Alzheimer's disease was only a little known syndrome. Seniors were seen as old adults; the difference in function, metabolism, and so on was not widely known. But there were no wait lists for treatment or surgery.

We've come a long way in the past 50 years. Nurses have seen the eradication of poliomyelitis, the advent of transplants, the scourge of AIDS, and the loss of the back rub. We seem to spend more time caring for machines; the art of nursing has mostly given way to science. Patients are being admitted the morning of surgery and having pre-op tests as outpatients. Patients with hip replacements are discharged on the fourth day and heart transplants not much later. It will be interesting to see what the next 50 years bring.




Bett Lauridsen

This is the second part of a two-part article (Part 1 dealt with "Student Days" – see the June 2005 issue) by Bett Lauridsen, who graduated from Winnipeg General Hospital's School of Nursing in 1951 and who is still working in two half-time positions both related to nursing and transportation.

KEEPING THE FIRES STOKED

BY BARBARA BAVINTON

Photos from the Author's Collection



A TRIBUTE TO THE RED CROSS
OUTPUT NURSES OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

In April 2005, the Western Division of the Canadian Red Cross ended an 85-year tradition when the agency transferred responsibility for the operation of the last six remaining outpost hospitals in British Columbia, to the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA, 2005). The nurses, who found themselves with a new employer at that historic moment, are the last in a long line of incredible people who have provided health care to those Canadians living in remote rural areas around the province.

In 1920, eight Red Cross nurses were hired to provide health services to early residents in such isolated districts as Sayward, Melville, Cowichan, and Colwood on Vancouver Island as well as Waldo, Shuswap Lake, Arrow Lakes and Creston in the B.C. interior (Smith, 1990). In 1921, additional nurses were hired for Red Cross service in Port Renfrew, Malakwa, Kamloops, Duncan, and Vanderhoof. However, in 1923, Red Cross was forced to discontinue most of these operations because of lack of funds and, in spite of several years of meetings and community discussions, new outposts were not established again until 1930.

From 1930 until 1967, 18 Red Cross outpost hospitals were managed by nurses in remote communities around the province (Smith, 1990). Over the years since then, some were closed as populations waned; others were taken over by the growing communities they served, leaving six in operation – in Bamfield, Kyuquot, Atlin, Alexis Creek, Edgewood, and Blue River – at the time of their transfer to PHSA.

Names to Remember

Nurse Nina Sharp lived in the "Red Cross cabin" while she provided health care to the pioneer residents of Shuswap Lake starting in 1920. As was the custom, on her marriage in 1923 she was relieved of her duties by Winnifred Ehlers, a 1922 graduate of the Royal Jubilee Hospital. This was Nurse Ehlers' first job after graduation and for many years she delivered babies, nursed fevers, and transported patients to hospital by sleigh and horse just as her grandmother had as a Red Cross nurse in the American Revolution (Smith, 1990).



Alexis Creek, B.C.

In 1919 Nurse Kathleen Hastie coped with unbelievable hardships while meeting the health care needs of pioneer settlers around Pouce Coupe on the BC./Alberta border (Watson, n.d.). Although Red Cross sent several young doctors to assist her, none stayed very long until a Red Cross Hospital was built there in 1921. Josephine Collins was the first Matron, with Nurses MacDougal, Watson, and Kathleen Mixer as staff members. Miss Painter did 12-hour night shifts for two years taking just one night a week off duty. When a patient required an operation, the night nurse stayed up to assist while the housekeeper kept an eye on the two 5-bed wards. Along with the nursing duties the night nurse was also required to do the babies' washing and keep the fires stoked, and on cold nights this was a continuous task and the water supply often froze solid in spite of her efforts (Paul, n.d.).

In 1938 Nurse Vi Woodward, a graduate of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing, saw an advertisement for a nurse for Cecil Lake and her Red Cross adventure began. She travelled by train from Vancouver to Edmonton, then on to Dawson Creek where the mail truck took her to Fort St John. There she was greeted by one of the Cecil Creek residents with a homemade cutter and team of horses. Since it was thirty below, he gave her a canvas hood with slits cut for eyes to break the wind. The trip to Cecil Lake took 12 hours. Nurse Woodward went on to become an integral part of that community's life and describes an experience that required "a lot of instinct" as "you might not have had the knowledge or equipment you needed" (Woodward, 1996). This was an understatement as sometimes the only equipment she had at hand was that of a basic frontier kitchen and fire melted ice blocks for water.

KEEPING THE FIRES STOKED *continued from page 9 ...*



Bamfield, B.C.

Margaret Darby Pardy, a graduate of the Winnipeg General Hospital in 1942, became the nurse in charge of the Bamfield Red Cross Outpost Hospital in 1962 after spending some years at the Grenfell Mission Hospitals in Newfoundland and Labrador (Keenleyside, 1987, chap.28). She spent 21 years in Bamfield before she retired as a much respected member of that coastal community. The framed display of fish hooks she removed from non-marine flesh during those years now hangs on the wall of the beautiful new clinic building across the inlet from the original tiny cottage hospital of Nurse Pardy's time. Nurse Sheila Chambers now adds to the collection.

The Atlin Red Cross Outpost Hospital started life in 1952 when the old Atlin Hospital was reopened and Nurse Norah Roxborough Smith was placed in charge. Built in 1916 to serve the large gold rush community, the old building leaked profusely during spring breakup and stories are told of Nurse Smith rigging umbrellas over patients' beds in an attempt to keep them dry (Luckner, 2005). The present clinic is housed in a newly renovated building that sits among Atlin's beautifully restored historic buildings. It is staffed by Nurses Carol Boyko and Donna Hall, whose mother Jessie James was herself a Red Cross nurse at the Atlin Outpost.

Over the years a large number of amazing Red Cross nurses have provided health care to many isolated rural communities throughout British Columbia. They shared a professional life that was isolated from their peers, demanding of their privacy, and often hampered by a lack of supplies and equipment for the most rudimentary procedures. Many of them are not named in the historical documents and their identities have been difficult to determine. However the stories of their successes and the impact they have made on the lives of many generations of British Columbians are worth repeating. In "stoking the fires" they have been part of a very special era in nursing in British Columbia. Their achievements and the respect they earned have helped lay the foundation for independent nurse practitioner practice today.



Atlin, B.C.



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NEWS and NOTES ABOUT MEMBERS



MONICA FRITH GREEN, an honorary life member of the History of Nursing Group, left a \$5,000 legacy to the Group in her will. Mrs. Green was named an honorary life member in 1992 in recognition of her work to compile a history of the

provincial public health nursing service, for which she had worked her entire career from 1940 to 1976. Her book, *Through the Years with Public Health Nursing*, published in 1984, is one of the few well-researched, well-documented histories of public health nursing in Canada. For more information on her life and work, see her obituary in the March 2005 issue of the Newsletter.



Monica Frith Green

Associate member **SONYA GRYPMA** has received the American Association for the History of Nursing's distinguished Teresa E. Christy Award for 2005 for her doctoral dissertation. Her dissertation, which is available in the RNABC Library, is titled *Healing Honan: Canadian Nurses at the North China Mission, 1888-1947*. The story of approximately 30 Canadian nurses who served as Methodist/ United Church missionaries is told against the background of the various major revolutions in China's history, and is both touching and deeply interesting. The story behind Sonya's work was featured in the Spring issue of the University of Alberta Faculty of Nursing newsletter; she was the 50th doctoral graduate from the UofA. Sonya now is enrolled in a post-doctoral program at the School of Nursing at the University of B.C. working under the direction of HoN Group member Dr. Geerje Boschma.

Long-time Associate member **SHIRLEY STINSON** attended the 3rd International Conference on Community Health Nursing Research in Tokyo, Japan, September 28 to October 2, 2005. She was a speaker at the Opening Ceremony and was English Coordinator at two Oral Presentation Sessions, both on nursing ethics research. Shirley organized the 1st International Conference on Community Health Nursing Research in Edmonton in 1993. And, on her return to Edmonton, she was scheduled to be the guest speaker on history of nursing in Alberta at a special ceremony in her small hometown of Tofield, Alberta. (*As Shirley says: "From Tokyo to Tofield, quite a distance."*)

The **2005 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES** have been mailed out to all members of the Group. Membership Chair **GENELLE LIEFSO** asks that if you find any errors or omissions to please get in touch with her. Remember to let her know about any changes of address. Membership has grown to 130 members. Recent new members and one correction can be found on page 18.

SHEILA ZERR and **VALERIE GRANT** gave a presentation at Victoria's Royal Jubilee Hospital Nursing Alumnae Tea held in the historic Begbie Hall on September 19, 2005. The topic for the presentation was the new nursing exhibit at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec, and the RJH Miniature Operating Room designed by Valerie Grant. Both our members wore costumes as Gertrude Richards Ladner, a 1908 graduate of RJH who returned after graduation to work in the operating room. About 40 RJH Alumnae attended and the presentations were a great hit. Sheila reports that the RJH Alumnae Association has started to transfer their archival holdings into the upgraded and renovated basement of the fully restored Pemberton Memorial Chapel, for which the Alumnae Association helped raise the funds.

Sheila and Valerie also met with Dr. Stuart Henning of the Victoria Medical Society, which is working to raise funds to restore the old, octagonal-shaped Pemberton Operating Room on the RJH grounds. This municipal heritage building is a wonderfully preserved example of an operating theatre of 100 years ago.



Cathy Ebbehoj

Long-time HoN member **CATHY EBBEHOJ** has been awarded the University of B.C. Alumni Association's prestigious Blythe Eagles Award for her volunteer leadership in alumni activities on the campus. The presentation was announced during Homecoming Week in early October. Cathy has been an active member of the UBC Nursing Division of the Alumni since her graduation from the BSN program 30 years ago. She increased her involvement after achieving her master's degree in nursing and joining the faculty of the School of Nursing and has been the faculty alumni liaison since 1996 and president of the Division since 1999. She served on numerous committees in the Alumni Association and, under her leadership, the number of active Nursing alumni more than doubled. She is responsible for increasing the number of Nursing alumni programs, including the annual "Knowledge and Innovation Evening" during which recent graduates of the School speak on their creative nursing careers in unusual and creative settings. *Congratulations Cathy!*

A fabulous photograph of **VALERIE GRANT** taken during the fashion parade at the opening of the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC) Nursing Exhibit in June was featured in the Ottawa Citizen newspaper. The paper carried major feature articles on the opening and on nursing history and a photograph and parts of an interview with **HELEN K. MUSSALLEM** also appeared. Valerie is shown wearing a costume depicting Gertrude Richards Ladner which she recently made.

MARGARET SCAIA and **BRENDA FLYNN** also were photographed at the opening by the CMC's own photographer and their photo now is featured in the Museum's calendar of events for the 2005-2006 season. Student member **MICHELE ENG** also was in the original photograph, but had to be "cropped out" to make the photograph fit the calendar.



DIANA BRIGHT, one of our relatively new HoN Group members, is researching the work of the Sisters of St. Ann in the B.C. Interior, especially the Oliver area. She writes that she was born in St. Martin's Hospital in Oliver, which was founded and run by the Sisters of St. Ann. Her family moved away when she was age two and a half, but after living in Vancouver, Terrace, and Prince George, B.C., she returned to the Okanagan in 1990 when her husband, John, retired to Naramata. She completed her BSN from UBC in 2004 by doing courses online, and became interested in the HoN Group when she received a student membership courtesy of Helen Niskala. She found that most of the history of nursing in B.C. seems to center around the Victoria and Vancouver areas and thought "What of the rest of the province?" She then decided that the history of the Sisters of St. Ann, who developed many hospitals in the province, was worth investigating, and what better place to begin than her birthplace? She and her husband made a trip to Oliver where the Archivist for the Oliver and District Heritage Society, Lynn Alaric, was most helpful in locating records and photographs. She found quite a bit of information from the beginnings of St. Martin's Hospital in the 1940s, to its closure and subsequent demolition in 1981. We hope to have an article based on her findings in a future issue.

ETHEL WARBIK and **GLENNIS ZILM** attended the opening networking dinner and presentation of the Women's History Network of B.C.'s annual conference, which was held September 30-October 1 in Burnaby. Theme for the Conference was "Saints & Sinners: Unruly and Respectable Women in British Columbia's History." The opening presentation was "British Columbia Women as Canadian Historic Persons" by Jacqueline Gresko, WHN/BC President, and Diane Rogers, WHN/BC Chair.

BEVERLY DU GAS, one of our honorary life members, is currently at work on a second volume of her memoirs, dealing with her experiences as director of nursing education at the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing in the 1950s. Copies of the first volume, *Aik Minute*, about her experiences in Northern India with the World Health Organization, are still available from Dr. Du Gas (dugas@dccnet.com or 604-943-0797) for \$15 plus mailing. Proceeds go to the History of Nursing Group Scholarship Fund.

LAUREL BRUNKE, executive director of the College of Registered Nurses of B.C. and one of our members, was guest speaker at the University of B.C. School of Nursing Alumni Lunch during Homecoming week at the beginning of October.

LUCY BARNEY, one of our student members (part-time) at the University of British Columbia, attended the national conference of the Aboriginal Nurses Association, which was held in Vancouver in September. She helped promote the B.C. History Group. Lucy works at the B.C. Centre for Disease Control.

for more information on the BC History of Nursing Group

www.bcnursinghistory.ca



New HoN Displays

The new displays at the College of Registered Nurses (*in the Board Room, Foyer, and Library*) feature the history of the Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops. These were compiled by Display Chair **SHEILA RANKIN ZERR** with assistance from members of the RIH. Assisting with the display were Liz Giddens and Melrose Scott from the RIH Alumnae and HoN Member **SHARON SIMPSON** from Thompson River University. These displays will remain until January 2006, so if you are visiting the CRNBC, be sure to see them. Sheila would appreciate hearing from members who would be interested in creating displays for the College.

ETHEL WARBINEK created a new display for the case at the University of B.C. School of Nursing. It features the chief nurses of the UBC student health service, which was originally set up as part of the Vancouver School Board's school nurse program in 1927. When the Vancouver Public Health Department was reorganized in 1936, Muriel Upshall, a graduate of UBC's school of nursing, became the nurse in charge, a position she held for 25 years while the University and its Health Service grew. Relatives of Muriel Upshall recently left a significant number of her papers and artifacts to the School of Nursing Archives, which are housed with the Group's Archives, and these formed a major part of the display. The former display from the UBC case featured the 100th Anniversary of The Canadian Nurse, and this has been revamped and now is on display in the School's Learning Centre.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHIP SCOTT



BOOK REVIEWS

Griffith, J. Kirstine Adams Buckland. (2005). *Don's Story*. Vancouver: Author.

Long-time History of Nursing Group member **KIRSTINE BUCKLAND GRIFFITH** has written a delightful biography of her late first husband, Don Buckland, for family members – but portions of it about her own life are of interest to nursing historians. Don Buckland (1917-1956) was born in New Zealand, but raised in British Columbia. He took his undergraduate degree at the University of B.C. and graduate work at Yale before eventually

returning to teach at UBC. His field was Forest Pathology and he was well-known and well-respected in this area. His life was not without adversity, as Kirstine points out; he suffered from diabetes in the early days of insulin therapy and eventually lost his sight and died at an early age (when their children were aged 8, 5, and nearly 2 years). As his family knew little of his stories, Kirstine, using family stories, letters, scrapbooks, and interviews put together well-researched and well-written family history.

Don's mother, whose story Kirstine wrote up for the HoN Newsletter (January 2004 issue), and sister, whose uniforms from Alaska Kirstine has donated to the HoN Archives, were nurses, and some of their stories are included. Of special interest to nurses are the chapters about Kirstine's own life story and, especially Chapter 12 about her years as a student nurse Vancouver General Hospital in the UBC Nursing degree program in the early 1940s. She includes enjoyable vignettes about working on the wards, about the social life of student nurses in residence, and about her final year on the UBC campus and their marriage soon after graduation. After the chapters about their married life, the birth of their three children, and Don's work at UBC, she has to deal with the story of his death and her return to work as an instructor at the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing. The book concludes with sections telling about Don and Kirstine's children and what they are doing now.

The book is lavishly illustrated with photographs, letters, and copies of clippings and memorabilia from the scrapbooks. Formatting and layout was done by Kirstine's neighbor Mark Sumner and son David Buckland. The book is available from the author either in a printed photocopied book for \$35 or, using the latest technology, on a Compact Disk (CD) that you can read on your computer for \$7 (including mailing). I used the latter version and recommend it heartily because the photos and memorabilia are beautifully presented in a wonderfully professional manner. Copies of the CD will be available in the RNABC Library and in the B.C. HoN Archives.

REVIEWED BY GLENNIS ZILM



Wilkinson, Maude. (2003). *Four score and ten: Memoirs of a Canadian Nurse*. Brampton, ON: Margaret M. Armstrong.

This charming autobiography covers the life of Maude Wilkinson 1882 to 1978 and was originally written for and circulated among her family. Wilkinson was the daughter of a relatively impoverished clergyman but grand-daughter on her mother's side of a well-to-do and prominent Toronto family, and grew up with an interesting mix of family backgrounds. Determined to be a nurse, she entered a school of nursing in the United States but returned immediately to Toronto to work in the Wellesley Hospital and began a nursing career that lasted 47 years. One of the most interesting chapters concerns

many details of her time as Nursing Sister with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps during World War I, and because of this chapter the book deserves a place among Canadian military memoirs. She also provides vivid descriptive chapters of her work as Coordinator for Red Cross Outpost Hospitals in remote areas of Ontario, as lady superintendent of a Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Toronto, and as owner/operator of her own private nursing home in Toronto. She continued working as holiday relief and in special hospital situations into well into her 70s. The final chapter of the book contains a delightful story of a trip to Western Canada in the early 1960s and a few notes on her final years.

Extracts from the book appeared in *The Canadian Nurse* in 1977, just before Wilkinson's death at age 96. Margaret Armstrong, Maude's niece, had promised Maude (Monie to the family) that she would try to have the book published, although the enterprise took some years. Mrs. Armstrong's daughter, Cindy Delage, undertook to make the book available to Canadian nurses who might be interested in these memoirs. Copies may be obtained at cost (\$20) from Cindy Delage, 48 Broadway Ave., Ottawa ON K1S 2V6 or get in touch through email at cindy.delage@sympatico.ca. A copy is available in the CRNBC Library history section.

Hibberd, Judith M., & Smith, Donna L. (Eds.). (2006). *Nursing Leadership and Management in Canada (3rd ed.)*. Toronto: Elsevier/ Mosby.

Although this is not a history of nursing book, two sections have special relevance for the topic, especially for those who are interested in biographies related to nursing leaders and those who teach "trends and issues" to students. Section 1, especially its first chapter by Janet Storch and Carl Meilicke, succinctly sets the context of the political, social, and economic forces that have shaped and are shaping the health care system. Chapter 14, by the editors and Dorothy Wylie, is on leadership and leaders and also provides brief profiles on 14 of today's influential nurses who are shaping nursing history. For example, one of these is Anne Sutherland Boal, who recently left the position of Chief Nurse Executive and Assistant Deputy Minister for the B.C. Ministry of Health Planning. A copy is available in the CRNBC Library.

Members In Press

Grypma, Sonia. (2005). *Florence Nightingale's changing image: Part 1, Nightingale the feminist, statistician, & nurse*. *Journal of Christian Nursing*, 22 (3), 22-28.

Grypma, Sonia. (2005). *Florence Nightingale's changing image: Part 2, From saint to fiend to modern mystic*. *Journal of Christian Nursing*, 22 (4), 6-13.

The following vignettes all appeared in:

Bates, Christina, Dodd, Dianne, & Rousseau, Nicole. *On all frontiers: Four centuries of Canadian nursing*. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press/Canadian Museum of Civilization:

Zerr, Sheila. (2005). *Jessie F. MacKenzie 1867-1960*. (p.204).

Zilm, Glennis, & Warbinek, Ethel. (2005). *Laura Holland 1883-1956*. (p. 159.)

Zilm, Glennis, & Warbinek, Ethel. (2005). *Ethel Johns 1879-1968*. (p. 203).



ADDITIONS TO THE 2005 Membership Directory

FULL MEMBERS:

- Robyn Austin, Nanaimo
- Barbara Boyle, Richmond
- Wendy McKenzie
(correction to email address: mckenzie.wm@shaw.ca)

continued from page 2 ...



Friday morning was the opening of the 2005 Conference of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing/ Association canadienne pour l'histoire du nursing (CAHN/ACHN) in the impressive Library and Archives of Canada (LAC) building on Parliament Hill. Conference Chair Lynn Kirkwood (a HoN Group affiliate member) and her committee organized an outstanding program featuring speakers from the LAC staff, the AMS/ Hannah lecture by Dr. Margaret Sandelouski, and a banquet featuring Ms Bates, who spoke about creating the CMC exhibition. A wide range of scholarly papers was presented, including several contributions by B.C. Group full and affiliate members. These papers demonstrated the B.C. History Group's efforts to preserve and promote nursing history. Stephanie T. Buckingham and Margaret Scaia shared their exciting

work in developing online assignments for their computer-based history course. Geertje Boschma's paper addressed the use of oral histories and life stories in historical analysis, and Sheila Rankin Zerr explored challenges faced by the operating room nurse in 1896 to 1908. Affiliate members Sonya Grypma and Carol Helmstadter also presented. Valerie Grant exhibited her miniature reproduction of the Royal Jubilee Hospital's Pemberton Operating Room, circa 1908.

There is a strong representation from B.C. on the new CAHN/ACHN executive for 2005-2006, with Marg Gorrie as president and Geertje Boschma as vice-president. The Group members were also able to promote next year's CAHN/ACHN Conference, planned for Vancouver in June 2006. It was a rewarding week, rich in nursing history and experiences.

note this date!

**American Association for the History of Nursing (AAHN) 23rd Annual Conference
Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota September 29 to October 1, 2006.**

Published quarterly by the B.C. History of Nursing Group, P.O. Box 72082, RPO Sasamat,
Vancouver, British Columbia V6R 4P2
Canada Post, Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement 40622042



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The HoN Newsletter is published 4 times a year. Submissions for the next newsletter are welcome. Editor for the next newsletter is Naomi Miller (naomi-j@telus.net), Box 105, Wasa BC V0B 2K0. Please submit articles and news for this issue by November 15, 2005.