



# HISTORY of NURSING NEWS

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*The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing and the B.C. History of Nursing Group held the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual CAHN Conference at Providence Health Care St. Paul's Hospital Site, June 8-10 2006*

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual conference of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) was planned and hosted by the B.C. History of Nursing Group. The conference theme was ***Frontline Nursing: Historical Milestones***. It was a resounding success. Seventy-seven registrants from Canada, the United States and Great Britain gathered to share their commitment to the promotion and preservation of the history of nursing. Enthusiasm and collegueship was evident throughout the welcoming reception, plenary and concurrent paper sessions and social events. The exhibit room provided outstanding displays and a gathering place for mutual interests. The evening dinner with opera excerpts from ***Florence: The Lady with the Lamp*** provided the conference highlight. The success of the conference was a tribute to the hard work of the planning committee. This newsletter is dedicated to the planning committee, and their efforts are described and illustrated in the following pages.



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# President's message

Well, autumn has arrived here on the West Coast and we are gearing up after a wonderful summer. Twenty attended a successful and energizing meeting in July, hosted by Glennis Zilm. Several goals were set for the upcoming year – some we will be able to achieve, others may be a tad ambitious.

The top three are:

- Organize joint meetings with other nursing archival groups to discuss joint projects
- Explore our virtual museum project
- Review website service and get quotes from other webmasters.

We will keep you posted on our progress.

Ethel Warbinek



## EDITORIAL BOARD

Lois Blais; Diana Bright; Lynne Esson; Beth Fitzpatrick, Chair; Beverly Leipter; Naomi Miller; Ethel Warbinek; Sheila Zerr

*The HoN Newsletter is published four times a year: submissions are welcome. Please submit articles and news by November 15th to Naomi Miller, Naomi-j@telus.net*

# Conference Planning

Planning for the conference began in 2004. Flyers were distributed at the 2005 CAHN conference in Ottawa. Lenore Radom managed the conference e-mail fan out and registration.

Faye Meuser, our treasurer, did a superb job of financial management and kept us on track to realize a conference profit. Lynne Esson, with assistance from Geertje Boschma, managed the call for papers and the review committee for paper acceptance.

Lois Blais managed the main conference events and provided the conference program. Social events were planned by Cheryl Entwistle and Jackie Ratzlaff and the results speak for themselves.

A good time was had by one and all. Finally, Beth Fitzpatrick and Linda Lister put out the call for exhibits then managed the heavy task of setting up displays and the many mannequins that portrayed nursing costumes throughout the ages.

Their effort resulted in a highly successful display area with a section for selling books and nursing historical materials.



## Planning Committee

Sheila Rankin Zerr (chair)

Faye Meuser

Cheryl Entwistle

Jackie Ratzlaff

Lenore Radom

Lynne Esson

Lois Blais

Beth Fitzpatrick

Linda Lister

Geertje Boschma



*Lenore Radom and Faye Meuser*



*Lynne Esson and Lois Blais*

# Acknowledgments

We express special thanks to Lynette Best, Chief of Professional Practice and Nursing Providence Health Care, for her valuable support. We thank her for the donation of the conference centre facilities at St. Paul's Hospital as well as giving a cash donation of \$3000.00 to support the conference.

Also, we express special thanks to Dr. William Seidelman, President and CEO of Associated Medical Services (AMS) for the continued support from AMS for the annual conference Hannah Lecture as well as for AMS support for student sponsorship. A number of nursing students attended the conference and presented papers with the help of AMS funding that was obtained by Carol Helmstadter, treasurer of CAHN.



*Lynette Best*

## We would also like to thank

Providence Health Care- St Paul's Hospital Site

Associated Medical Services for the Hannah Lectures and Students Travel Support

Canadian Association for the History of Nursing/ Association Canadienne pour l'histoire du nursing

British Columbia History of Nursing Professional Practice Group Donators:

Dr. Helen K. Mussallem and Nina Rumen for supporting the Music Students' Performance



*Carol Helmstadter and  
Dr. William Seidelman*

## Thank you, Jo Scott - B

Vancouver artist Jo Scott-B provided the line drawing for the image on the front of the CAHN program (and on page one of this newsletter). She is an Associate of the Federation of Canadian Artists, represented by Hambleton Galleries in Kelowna, BC. Her paintings have won numerous awards and are in corporate and international collections. Her print of a nurse from the old Georgia Medical building was used as the image for the International History of Nursing Conference held in Vancouver 1997.

[www.joscottb.com](http://www.joscottb.com)



# Welcoming Reception

## Thursday, June 8, 2006

### 1800-1900

Registration – Foyer of the Education Centre  
Refreshments

### 1900

Welcome – Lecture Theatre

**Kathy Murphy**, Past President, BC HON,  
master of ceremonies

**Ethel Warbinek**

President – BC History of Nursing PPG

**Marg Gorrie**

President – Canadian Association for the History Of  
Nursing

**Sandra Lewenson**

President - American Association for the History of  
Nursing

**Christine Hallett**

Director – UK Centre for the History of Nursing

**Meryn Stuart**

Director – Associated Medical Services Nursing  
History Research Unit, University of Ottawa

**Laurel Brunke**

Executive Director of the College of Registered  
Nurses of British Columbia

**William E. Seidelman MD, FCFP**

President and CEO  
Associated Medical Services

**Lynette Best**

Chief of Professional Practice & Nursing  
Providence Health Care  
"Excerpts from St Paul's Hospital Nursing History"

### 2000

Refreshments – Foyer of the Education Centre

The Thursday evening welcoming session was chaired by Kathy Murphy. This session began with registration in the capable hands of Lenore Radom and Faye Meuser. Conference participants gathered in the main lecture hall to receive greetings from the leaders of nursing history organizations in B.C., Canada, the United States and Great Britain. Laurel Brunke brought greetings from the College of Registered Nurses of B.C. and William Seidelman brought greetings from Associated Medical Services. The evening highlight was given by Lynette Best, who presented excerpts from St. Paul's Hospital History by giving us a glimpse into written accounts of the Sisters of Providence who established St. Paul's Hospital.



*Kathy Murphy*



*Lenore Radom, Lynette Best and Faye Meuser*



*A reception of cocktails and finger food followed the opening welcoming session.*

# Registrants

A total of 77 registered for the conference, 65 for full registration, seven for one day sessions, 12 students and three guest speaker registrations. Canadians ranged from St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, B.C. The seven Americans attending the conference came from six different states. The one registrant from the United Kingdom came from Manchester.



*Mary Ellen Jeans, Shirley Stinson, & Jeanette Funke-Furber*

*Marilyn Beaton,  
Marg Gorrie,  
Marilyn Marsh and  
Jeannette Walsh  
(seated)*

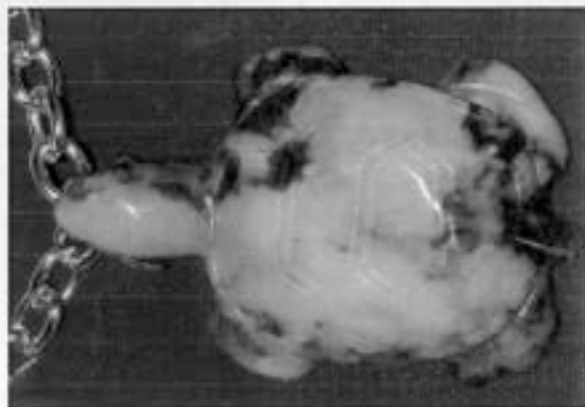


# Door Prizes



*Spoon*

Prizes were drawn during coffee breaks on Friday and Saturday. Nina Rumen donated the conference coffee spoons that each registrant received in their conference package as well as the prized jade turtles won on Friday by Nerrisa Bonifacio, a student at the University of B.C. and on Saturday by Sandra Lewenson, President of the American Association for the History of Nursing, New York City, USA. Jade is the stone of nursing. It is a powerful emotional stabilizer that is known to increase life expectancy and radiate divine love. The color green promotes healing and harmony.



*Turtle*



*Nina Rumen*

# Nurses and the creation of historic memory



Opening Hannah Lecture

Dr. Dianne Dodd

Historian-National Historic Sites Directorate

Gatineau, Quebec

This paper will explore the pioneering role of nurses in the commemoration of Canadian women's history through historic plaques, monuments and sites and suggest some reasons that nurses appear early and prominently in the efforts to commemorate women in history. The work of nurses, particularly military nurses, combines a nurturing, 'womanly,' role with a non-traditional role. By entering into the military, by lending aide

to the defense of Canada, by demanding and achieving professional status, nurses symbolically placed women in the public sphere as history makers.

One of the earliest and most prominent examples of nurses being recognized for their role in the history of Canada was made possible by the concerted efforts of the Canadian Nurses Association who launched a successful campaign to memorial the nurses who died in The Great War. The Nurses Memorial in the Parliament building was unveiled in Ottawa in 1926, and it set a precedent for women in the creation of history.

The paper will also examine trends in women's history commemoration from the inception, in 1919, of Parks Canada's advisory body, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to the present, vis a vis nurses. The first woman to be commemorated was not a nurse, but a woman playing a military role—Madeleine de Vercheres, who defended the family fort from attacking Iroquois in 1692. Later in the century, a few elite women who had achieved national prominence were included among the history makers. These included Margaret MacDonald and Georgina Fane Pope, both military nurses. Following the 1970's, fuelled by the rise of women's history and the women's movement; there was an increase in the number of women's history designation and a widening of scope. Now we are seeing a shift toward recognizing women's collective efforts, through organizations active in social welfare, education and health. In the field of nursing we have seen recent designations of five nurses' residences as representative of the collective achievements of nurses, of two outpost nursing stations and a few nursing leaders, outside of the military sphere.

Through the blending of traditional and non traditional roles, as exemplified in the 1926 nurses' memorial, nurses have been among the first to gain recognition in public spaces as women who made history. Nurses helped open the door to a fuller exploration of women's history in memorials, plaques and national historic sites.

# Concurrent Paper Sessions



*Lynne Esson*

The historical paper committee was chaired by Lynne Esson and the review committee of Dr. Geertje Boschma, Marg Gorrie and Anne-Marie Arsenault. Twenty five papers were accepted for presentation and a wide range of historical research was presented.

**The religious sister orders and the catholic hospitals in Canada: a French heritage resulting from the Christian tradition (1639-1894)**  
by Dr. Brigitte Violette

**Myth, memory and the Great War nurse: interpreting the sources**  
by Christine Hallett

**Canadian "Mishkid" Nurses in China, 1923-1947**  
by Dr. Sonya Grypma

**Supplementing the Nursing Shortage: The Nurses Aide Debate of the Great War"**  
by Jennifer Casavant

**The Adventurous Newfoundland Nurse**  
by Marilyn Marsh, Marilyn Beaton and Jeanette Walsh

**The Victorian Order of Nurses: Front Line Nurses of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries**  
by Dr. Barbara Keddy

**Reconstructing lives: some reflections on subjectivity in biography and oral history**  
By Dr. Geertje Boschma, Dr. Sonya Grypma and Dr. Florence Melchior

**Soldiers of Peace: Canadian Nurses and the UNRRA Nursing Brigade**  
by Susan Armstrong Reid

**The Sky is the limit: Origins of the RCAF Nursing Service 1940**  
by Nancy M. Shiner

**Nursing Reform-Nightingale Style**  
by Joyce Schroeder MacQueen

**Florence Nightingale: Maternal Mortality and Gender Politics**  
by Dr. Lynn McDonald

**Lost in the Sands of Time: B.C.'s Pioneer TB Nurses 1895-1960**  
by Ethel Warbinek, Glennis Zilm



*Ethel Warbinek*



**"The Moment of Truth": The Conception and Birth of the Modern Hospice Movement, 1963-1971**

by Dr. Joy Buck

**The Priory Method: A Nursing Revolution in Care**

by Jessie Mantle, Jeanette Funke-Furber

**Relationship between Hospital Architecture and the Work and Deployment of Canadian Nurses**

by Raquel Meyer

**"Nursing and Marital Status within the Grenfell Mission of Newfoundland and Labrador"**

by Heidi Coombs-Thorne

**Frontline Nurses among the Navajo Indians, 1924-1955: Cultural Sensitivity and Cooperation**

by Arlene W. Keeling

**Madness, Nursing and Pakistani Culture: The Punjab Mental Hospital, Lahore Pakistan 1947-1977**

by Colleen Bowers

**"Firmly and Wisely": Community and Identity in Margaret Litton's Memoir of Manitoba Red Cross Nursing in the 1920s"**

by Dr. Linda Quiney

**"My Eyes Well Up and my Throat Gets Tight:" Visitor Response to A Caring Profession Exhibition**

by Christina Bates

**Nursing History On-Line and Hybrid: Teaching a Nursing History Elective**

by Dr. Sandra B. Lewenson

**The Nurses' Alumni Association of the Winnipeg General Hospital and the Health Sciences Centre School of Nursing 1904-2004: A Celebration of 100 Years.**

by Jean Bissett and Anne Crossin

*Colleen Bowers*



*Raquel Meyer*



# Conference Exhibits

The exhibit and sales room was ably managed by Beth Fitzpatrick and Linda Lister. The call for exhibits resulted in a variety of important historical artifacts on display. Joyce MacQueen exhibited the original presentation of the opera *Florence: the Lady with the Lamp* at the Elora Festival, Elora Ontario. The Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae presented an outstanding collection of nurses' costumes displayed on mannequins as well as a valuable collection of nursing practice artifacts. St. Paul's Hospital Alumnae presented a pictorial display of the history of the hospital and school of nursing. The B.C. History Group displayed the Memorial Portrait Collection with an important addition, the pink 1960s University of B.C. student nurse uniform in memory of Janet Gormick. The Registered Nurses Foundation of B.C. also participated with their display. The "Store" was staffed throughout the conference breaks by Beth and Linda with help from the authors promoting the sale of their historical publications.



*Glennis Zilm serving a customer.*



*Joyce MacQueen, Anne Crossin  
and Jean Bissett*



*Christina Bates examines the St. Paul's Hospital display.*



*Elora poster*



*Ray Zerr and Cheryl Entwistle 2006 opera display*



*Historical nursing uniforms*

# CAHN AGM and highlights



*Box lunch Friday June 9<sup>th</sup> allowed folks to join the CAHN Annual General Meeting chaired by Marg Gorrie, President (right) and assisted by Geertje Boschma, Vice President (left).*

The CAHN/ACHN AGM was held on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Much of the recent work of the organization has focused on the Vera Roberts Endowment. Florence Melchior, chair of the Scholarship and Awards Committee reviewed this initiative, through which interest from the \$200,000 endowment will be used to fund historical research and publication on the history of northern nursing. During the past year, an ad-hoc sub-committee of the Scholarship Committee was formed (co-chaired by Judith Hibberd and Florence Melchior) to set up guidelines and new terms of reference. The main terms specify awards

will be given for original scholarly research and publication of new knowledge on the history of Northern Nursing in Canada. Eligible applicants include graduate and post-doctoral students, established researchers in nursing history and persons with informal experience in historical research. The terms will be posted on the CAHN/ACHN website (<http://www.cahn-achn.ca>), along with the guidelines. The first award will be made in 2007, with a deadline for applications of February 1, 2007.

Congratulations to Chris Dooley who won the annual CAHN/ACHN scholarship this year.

The 2007 conference will be held jointly with the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine at the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences in Saskatoon. The 2008 conference will be an international conference and will be held in Toronto.



*Geertje Boschma and Marg Gorrie*



*Geertje Boschma and Sheila Zerr*



# Dinner/Opera Evening



Lois Blais

The Friday Evening banquet was a highlight of the conference. The courses of the exquisite meal (for example, the maple roasted squash soup trio with nutmeg and walnut oil, ginger and honey-infused crème fraiche) were interspersed with music from the UBC Opera Ensemble, culminating with excerpts from the Canadian opera, *Florence: The Lady With the Lamp*.

Joyce MacQueen, CAHN Newsletter August 2006



Glennis Zilm,  
Shirley Stinson  
and Barbara  
Boyle

## CAHN Conference Banquet Menu

7:10 pm  
Maple Roasted Squash Soup Trio  
with Nutmeg and Walnut Oil  
Ginger and Honey Infused Crème Fraiche

7:45 pm  
Herb Mustard Basted Breast of  
Mount Lehman Chicken  
Chevre and Tomato Tapanade  
Fresh Basil Leaves  
Okanagan Pinot Noir Reduction  
Buttermilk Spun Red Nugget Potato

9:00 pm  
Dessert  
Freshly Brewed Coffee and Selection of Teas



Singers Andrew Stewart and  
Dionne Sellinger

Banquet menu

# Closing Hannah Lecture



## "Florence's Web:" Links that help discover, preserve and disseminate nursing history

by Glennis Zilm, B.S.N., B.J., M.A., Litt.D. (H.)

Honorary Professor, School of Nursing, University of B.C.

In recent years there has been a proliferation of resources related to the history of nursing – thanks in no small way to organizations such as the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing / Association canadienne pour l'histoire du nursing. This presentation will peek into the tangled web of agencies, institutions, and organizations that contribute to the development of history of nursing in Canada today. A wide number of networks exist – but often nurses, including nurse historians and researchers as well as history of nursing organizations, are not recognizing and using them to the full extent. That matter is also of concern because many of the nodes on the network compete for financial resources. This brief overview, or "momentary glimpse," will attempt to identify and briefly describe various institutions and organizations that form parts of the history of nursing web. As well, it is hoped that this presentation will stimulate discussion about ways that nursing historians, researchers, teachers, archivists and organizations can strengthen the web as they attempt to discover, preserve, protect and disseminate knowledge and materials about nursing history.

Please note that an abridged version of the presentation is available on our Website [www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca) click on Florence's web.



## Summary

The CAHN/ACHN Executive Committee thanks the B.C. History of Nursing Group for hosting and organizing a very successful annual CAHN/ACHN History of Nursing Conference at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver in June. Their dedication and skillful organization made it a great, well-attended event. We were appreciative of the high scholarly level of the presentations from local, national and international scholars of the field. Noteworthy were a number of presentations analyzing the central role of religious women in the origins of modern nursing in Canada, addressing the work of sisterhoods in seventeenth century Quebec, but also in the place of the conference itself, St. Paul's Hospital. We learned about a wide range of topics from the history of nursing and a substantive number of students presented and attended, which may demonstrate that the field of nursing history is growing and thriving, providing an opportunity to analyze and reflect upon the critical role of nurses in a continuously shifting and changing health care system. We are looking forward to meeting again in Saskatoon in 2007!

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Marg Gorrie and Geertje Boschma.

# Member News

Long-time member **Betty Robertson**, one of the three authors of *Mission's Living Memorials*, the history of Mission's hospitals, was in touch recently. Her book is still selling well and a recent new review strongly recommended it. Betty had a busy year, with a trip to Northern Ireland and London in 2005, then a successful hip replacement. This May she took a trip to Calgary for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her graduation from the Calgary General Hospital School of Nursing.

**Cathy Ebbehøj** has been much honored recently for her contributions at UBC. This summer, she received the 2006 Slonecker Award from the University of B.C. Alumni Affairs Office. This award recognizes a UBC staff member who volunteers time and talents to the Alumni. Cathy, who was honored in 2005 with an Alumni Achievement Award, this year also garnered the "Last Class" award given on the final day of the year by Nursing students to their "first-class teacher."

Honorary Life Member **Helen Shore** has recently been active on her various projects to increase knowledge about Vancouver's early nurses. Helen has had her biographical entry on Sister Frances Redmond, one of Vancouver's earliest nurses, accepted for publication by the *Canadian Biographical Dictionary*; the multi-volume *Dictionary* is one of Canada's most prestigious reference resources, and provides authoritative biographical information on historic figures. As well, Helen recently unveiled the Isabelle Maud Hill Memorial Fountain, which she generously donated for the Healing Garden at the Vancouver Health and Home Care Society's Family Respite Centre; the Society was formerly the local Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) branch. Ms. Hill was the first permanent VON nurse in Vancouver, hired in December 1901.

**Sheila Zerr** was recently the guest speaker at the annual tea of the Royal Jubilee Hospital Nurses Alumnae Association in Victoria. She and co-author **Glennis Zilm** went to promote their new book *Labor of Love: A Memoir of Gertrude Richards Ladner 1879-1976*. **Lenore Radom**, who is treasurer of the RJH Alumnae, was also in costume at the book signing.



*Sally Thorne, Director, UBC School of Nursing, visited the Florence Nightingale Museum on a recent trip London.*

## You are Invited!!

B.C. History of Nursing Fall Luncheon

**PLACE:** Vancouver Lawn Tennis Club, 1630 West 16th

**DATE:** November 10th      **TIME:** 1200 - 1400

**TOPIC:** Military Nursing

**SPEAKERS:** Glennis Zilm, Northwest Rebellion

June Newton, Italy

Nina Rumen, Post War Military Nursing.

**RSVP:** \$30 cheque made out to B.C. History of Nursing

**Send to** Lenore Radom

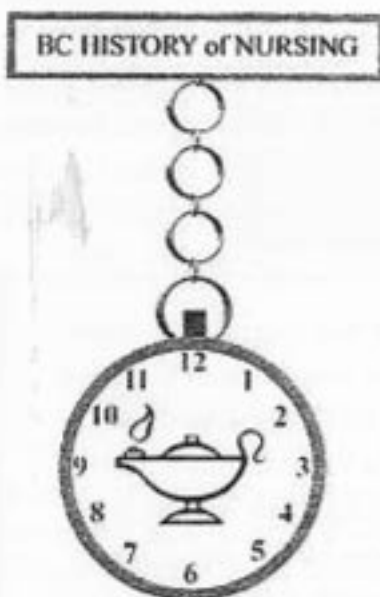
10095 No.5 Road, Richmond, BC, V7A 4E4

**Reservation with cheque deadline: November 3rd.**

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PA



*New Florence Nightingale photograph found. Florence reads in the grounds of her family home, Embley Park, Hampshire, May 1858. This photo will go on display at the Florence Nightingale Museum in London to mark the 150th anniversary of her return from the Crimean war.*