

HISTORY OF NURSING NEWS

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HAPPY
HOLIDAYS TO
YOU!

CHANGE IS AN INTERRUPTION: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lois Blais

Viewing change as an interruption might offer some insights into this often complex and ambiguous concept. How many times have we been interrupted to find ourselves frustrated and stressed by the occurrence, for me this is what change is all about.

As the British Columbia History of Nursing heads into this coming year, several decisions need to be made regarding its future. The College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC) has notified us that as a Professional Practice Group we will no longer be under the mandate of the CRNBC. This is a change and definitely an interruption. So how will we deal with this change? Scads of stuff have been written on change and as nurses we are not unfamiliar with change and especially now amidst all the changes in the Health Care System.

As an interruption we have a choice, should we frame this change as a break, an opportunity for us to review our organization to see what we have accomplished and to review the possible path we might follow? Naomi Klein in her recent book *The Shock Doctrine* stressed the point that our culture depends on our stories, our narrative, for any shock can erase the cultural core of a group or race unless the narrative and stories are maintained. Separation from the security of the CRNBC changes our way of being and sends various reactions: mixed emotions; maybe anger. Different it will be for sure.

Stepping into the President's shoes at this time alerts me to draw from my experiences with change: to hang on and breathe. So over the coming year plans will be developed by an Ad Hoc committee headed up by Sandra Broad, one of our executive members, to explore options for our Professional Practice Group (PPG). As some of you know, some PPG's have folded, however, the BC History of Nursing Group is still standing and for me will continue to stand as the core values and beliefs on nursing are embedded in the stories and narratives so protected by the history group. I believe it will be the history of nursing of British Columbia that will weather the change and will enter the new forum speaking for nurses from the voices of those who have gone before and who have lived through change and from these accounts future nurses will draw strength as to how to meet change and in fact be change agents and leaders to forge ahead carrying with them the tenets of praxis.

Yes, change is here, we have been interrupted, the shudder has happened, and so to the future. With a positive stance and support from all the members of the History of Nursing, we name the interruption and begin the task of co-creating our new group, framed in a new found freedom.

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

It's time to renew your membership for the year 2008. Just remove the colored insert from the centre fold of the newsletter and follow the directions. We value each and every members contribution to the History Group in these ever changing times and we look forward to your continuing support.

The History of Nursing News is now available in PDF format by e-mail and if you so choose, will arrive in your in-box in full color. Read the newsletter on-line or print a copy if you desire. Student members already receive their newsletters this way. By electing to receive your copy electronically you save us both postage and printing costs. It is also eco-friendly by saving paper and thus trees. Note: members without internet access will still be mailed hard copies...it's your choice.

Advance notice: the History of Nursing Group's Annual General Meeting will be held in April, 2008. The date and details will be announced in the Spring.

This issue is full of interesting items and was put together before the December festivities. Many thanks to all the contributors who submitted items for our enjoyment. And a Happy New Year to all our readers.

Beth Fitzpatrick, Editor

WHAT'S INSIDE?

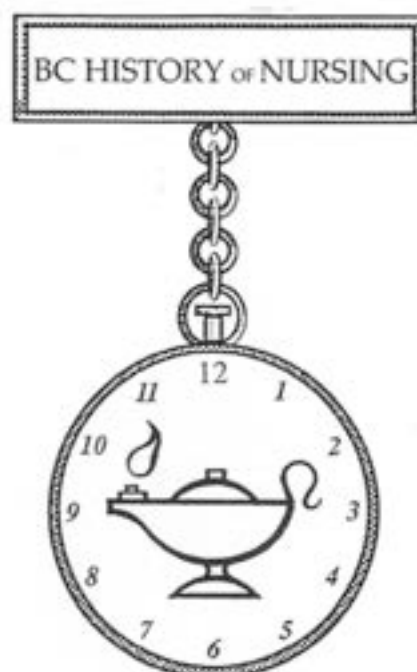
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.bcnursinghistory.ca

EDITORIAL BOARD

Lois Blais, Diana Bright, Lynne Esson, Beth Fitzpatrick (Chair), Naomi Miller, Ethel Warbinek, Sheila Zerr. The History of Nursing Newsletter is published 4 times per year. Submissions are welcome. Spring Issue: Deadline for submissions for the next issue is **February 15th, 2008**. Please submit articles and news items to Beth Fitzpatrick (bethfitz32@shaw.ca).





SPEAKING IN EDMONTON

On November 5, Dr. Glennis Zilm gave a public talk about *Pride in the Profession: Nursing History in Undergraduate Programs*. Dressed in period costume of black and white, Zilm tells the story of Canada's first military nurse, Kate Miller, whom she has thoroughly researched. Zilm is a passionate historian, and spoke of the importance of having a shared collection of experiences, stories and tradition in order to create a sense of pride in a profession. She mentioned the importance of ensuring that history is inclusive of all members in the profession and important technological advances which impacted the profession.

The next day, Dr. Zilm presented spoke to Canada's Nursing Officers' (Sisters') about Nurse Kate Miller's role as a field nurse during the Louis Riel Rebellion. She discussed the nurses' role in the military during the 1880's, how they were recruited, and the role of nurses on the front lines.

Zilm, now semi-retired, is a freelance writer, editor, and writing consultant working with organizations and individuals in the health care fields. Using her diverse educational background - a

BScN from UBC, a Bachelor of Journalism (Carleton), and Master of Arts in Communications (Simon Fraser University)- she merged a nursing background with a long career as a professional journalist, freelance writer and broadcaster. In 2006, she received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Kwantlen University College.

Zilm has been a member of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing since its inception and is a founding member of the B.C. History of Nursing Group. In 2004, she received the prestigious John B. Neilson Award from Associated Medical Services, Inc., of Toronto (the former Hannah Foundation) for continuing, long-standing contributions to history of health care.

Photograph and text by Fiona Wilson and used with permission.

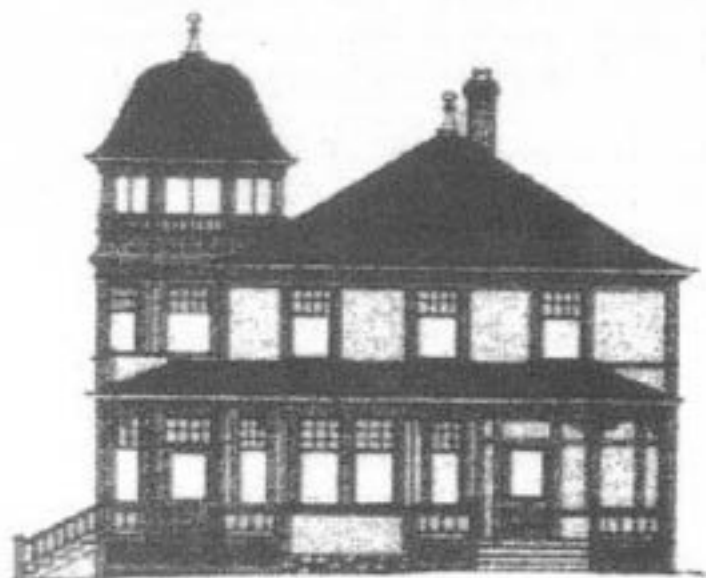
ATTENTION STUDENT MEMBERS

The Manitoba Association for the History of Nursing invites applications for its Research Costs Award for 2008. This award exists to support research on the history of nursing in Manitoba and to promote the use of materials that relate to the history of nursing held at Manitoba archives.

This award is open to any student in any discipline who is registered in a program of study at a recognized post-secondary institution. Applications must be for support of research costs connected with a defined project which contains a significant component that is concerned with the history of nursing in Manitoba, broadly defined. Preference will be given to research that will be incorporated into the major work of a degree program, e.g. an Honours Paper, Masters Thesis/MRP or Doctoral Dissertation.

Applications can be made for amounts of up to \$500 and must be received no later than Friday, 11 January, 2008. For further information contact Chris_Dooley@UManitoba.CA

Roedde House Museum



WOMEN'S HISTORY NETWORK OF B.C. CONFERENCE October 12-13 2007

The Women's History Network of B.C. (WHNBC) conference began Friday with a festive evening at Roedde House Museum. Members of the B.C. History of Nursing Group attended this evening in vintage nursing costumes. Historical display from the Vancouver General Hospital Alumnae and St. Paul's Hospital Alumnae were part of the evening presentations.

Historic Roedde House, designed by Rattenbury, is part of a city block of vintage houses, now known as *Barclay Heritage Square* (bordered by Barclay, Broughton, Nicola and Haro Street. There is a total of nine houses dating from 1890 to 1908 that have been saved and restored. A unique park surrounding the nine homes is maintained by the Vancouver Parks Board. The Roedde House was built in 1893 by Gustav and Matilda Roedde, immigrants from Germany whose book binding and printing business flourished in early Vancouver. More information

Celebrating Vancouver's Past for the Future

can be found at www.roeddehouse.org

The Saturday paper sessions took place at Providence Healthcare Learning Centre, St. Paul's Hospital. Four of the six papers were given by B.C. History of Nursing members. Nerrisa Bonifacio and Deborah Hamilton, University of B.C. students assisted by Dr. Geertje Boschma, presented *Family visitation and post-anaesthetic recovery room nurses in BC, 1960-1985* and *The History of the Development of Intensive Care and Intensive Care Nursing at Vancouver General Hospital (1960-1985)* respectively. Both students received B.C. History of Nursing Scholarships to assist with their research projects. Linda Quiney and Geertje Boschma presented *Visualizing Nursing in BC: Issues Involved in Selecting Images for a Photographic History*, and Sheila Rankin Zerr presented *Royal Jubilee Hospital Sites Preserve Healthcare and Women's History*.

It was a pleasure to network with fellow historians from a wide range of historical interests and endeavours. Many fascinating books and artefacts were on display. WHNBC members displayed considerable interest in the history of nursing. For more information check their website at www.members.shaw.ca/whnbc.

Submitted by Sheila Zerr

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

The work of member **Valerie Grant**, an accomplished miniaturist, has been published in the November issue of *Miniature Collector Magazine*. A write-up, description and photographs of the Pemberton Memorial Operating Room are featured in an article titled *Medical Marvels*.

Two book reviews written by **Naomi Miller** were published in a recent issue of *British Columbia History* (Volume 40 Number 1). *Canadians at Table: A culinary history of Canada* by Dorothy Duncan is described by the reviewer as "bite sized servings of Canadian history". *To Touch A Dream: A wilderness Adventure by Sunny Wright* recounts the inspiring story of pioneer women in the bush in northern BC.

Our President **Lois Blais** continues to write an inspiring newspaper column titled *On the Senior Side*.

New member **Sheila Yeomans**, has just completed an MA at the University of Victoria, majoring in medical history. Her thesis topic was "*The Delivery of Medicine to the Northwest Region of British Columbia, 1880-1960*." Welcome, Sheila and congratulations.

Many thanks to **Glennis Zilm** and **Helen Niskala** who continue to sponsor student memberships in the History Group. With the recent addition of 12 sponsored students, our membership in the student category comes to 46.

A recent article in the *NOW*, a Port Coquitlam newspaper, features **Beverly DuGas** who participated in Simon Fraser University clinical trials using robotic devices designed to help train the brain to perform specific functions of the hand and arm.

Nina Rumen has donated an 18 minute DVD to the Archives titled *Memories: 100th Anniversary of the St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing, 2007*.

Many thanks to **Joan Doree** who sends us interesting clippings from the *Vancouver Sun* newspaper. One recent article featured Judi Fairholm, a Vancouver nurse, who received the Florence Nightingale Medal from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Fairholm has spent 22 years with the Red Cross and has developed a series of programs directed at preventing violence and abuse directed at children.

And if you are wondering whose picture is featured on this page, turn to page 11.



(Editor's note: This article, submitted by Naomi Miller, is a follow-up to Atlin Hospital, published in the December 2006 History of Nursing News).

ATLIN HOSPITAL: 1902 ONWARD

By 1902 St. Andrew's Hospital was a busy place. The 15 beds were usually occupied. Mining accidents were frequent and serious, and babies arrived routinely. Cases of scurvy and typhoid had declined, but pneumonia and frostbite were common complaints. The newly arrived nurses Kate Smith and Kate McTavish were quick to rise to their challenges. Miss Smith had been in charge of New Westminster Women's Hospital and Miss McTavish had been assistant matron at the Toronto Home for the Incurables. McTavish had worked as a schoolteacher before entering nurses' training at age 34 at Toronto General Hospital. She became matron in Atlin at age 47, described as "a woman whose firm confidence was backed by excellent schooling and experience, and whose words carried certain authority." The two engrossed themselves in their work, and in the life of the community. The system of selling tickets was continued and it was often the nurses who tramped to the creeks, met the miners and requested their support. They had no trouble selling \$5 tickets which guaranteed miners five months of free medical care. They enjoyed working with Rev. Turkington, and assisted him with the Presbyterian Sunday School.

At times there was funding for a housekeeper, but usually the nurses did the cooking and chores themselves. In 1902 the Toronto committee allowed \$25 per month for a helper but it was difficult to keep anyone at that wage when other workers in the mining town were earning three or four times as much. A Miss Dickenson, and then a Miss Douglas were sent by the Church from Vancouver. The Atlin trustees added \$10 to the salary paid by the Toronto Committee. The helper's salary, however, was withdrawn in 1905 and afterward when help was needed, the trustees paid the entire wage.

Kate Smith left Atlin in October 1904, but Kate McTavish stayed until August 1906 when she returned east to take further training. Before she left Atlin the miners (who held her in high esteem) gave her a gold nugget watch chain and a purse of money. For a time the Toronto Committee hoped that she would return to Atlin, but instead she became Matron at the new Prince Rupert Hospital, where she was also responsible for training nurses.

A few years later another extraordinary woman became Matron of St. Andrew's Hospital. She was Rachel Hanna, a woman of great spirit and adventure. She graduated from the Toronto General Hospital School of nursing, joined the Victorian Order of Nurses, and signed a contract to serve anywhere in Canada for a salary of \$300 a month. "Anywhere" led her on a journey to Dawson City with three other nurses of the Yukon Field Force. Her service in the Klondike was exemplary. During the height of the gold rush Nurse Hanna had cared for thousands of sick, undernourished and injured miners. When the Victorian Order of Nurses withdrew from Dawson, Rachel Hanna stayed on to work as a Presbyterian missionary nurse at the Good Samaritan Hospital. As matron of St. Andrew's Hospital during 1910-11 she was irrepressibly cheerful, willing to tackle any task under any conditions, dedicated hardworking and revered.

Over the years a few of Atlin's nurses married and stayed in the community. Rachel Hanna's niece Alma Hanna, married Sidney Smith of Atlin. They had two children but in 1918 the entire family was lost when the S.S. Princess Sophia sank near Juneau. Mary Queen, a local girl who nursed at the hospital for a short time, married

Dr. A.K. Connolly. One of Atlin's nurses, Annie R.W. Moore taught piano lessons. Rev. John Pringle's tall imposing sister Lucy, served St. Andrew's Hospital for a short time in 1922.

In 1906 the Atlin Nurse Committee, now known as the Women's Missionary Society, considered withdrawing their support from Atlin. There was considerable apprehension at St. Andrews. Atlin was a well established community no longer considered a missionary situation. The Society was deeply involved with a number of other hospitals in western Canada and its resources were stretched. But, because Atlin had been the first Presbyterian Hospital in Canada, as well as their first project, for sentimental reasons the Society continued to pay salaries for two nurses until 1929.

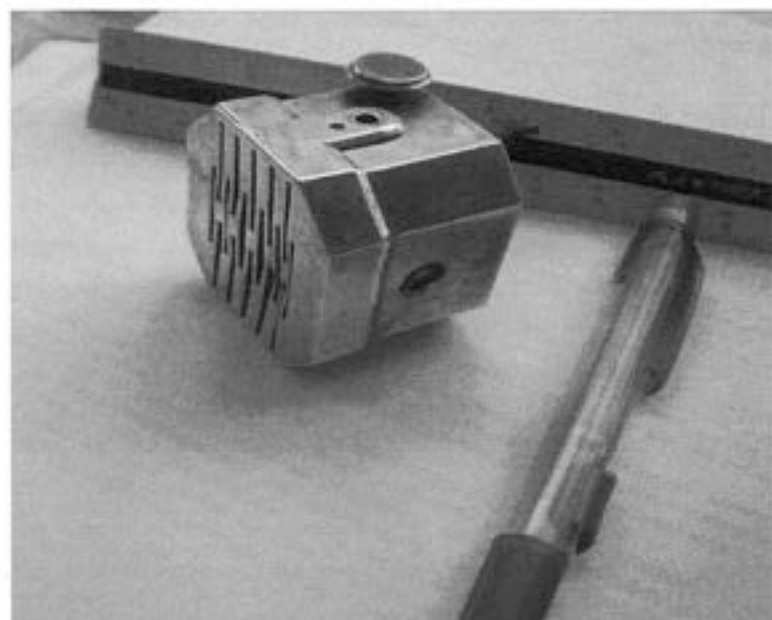
The nurses were not alone in their work. Usually there was at least one doctor in town. In the boom days there were dozens but most preferred mining to medicine. Only a few were licensed to practice in British Columbia. This became a matter of contention between the residents who needed doctors and Government whose regulations denied them the right to practice. Dr. F.T. Troughton came to Atlin in 1898 becoming successful in a number of business and mining ventures. He often found himself awkwardly placed between his desire to help an ailing neighbor, and the threat of prosecution if he did. On one occasion when there was no doctor in town, he received a telegraph from the Premier asking him to attend an urgent case. Dr. Gustave Lewis was the first doctor to practice at St. Andrew's. He stayed until the summer of 1902. His replacement, Dr. Lazier, stayed only a month, saying the country was "too damned healthy".

Henry Esson Young was the doctor most closely associated with Atlin for a long period of time. He practiced for some time without a British Columbia license, then in October 1902 he was appointed Medical Officer of Health. A dedicated doctor and an immensely popular man, Young was elected to the Legislature in 1903 and from that time needed a replacement for the months he was in Victoria. He returned whenever he could to care for residents of Atlin. Even after he was appointed to the Cabinet in 1907 he worked hard to ensure that the hospital was adequately funded and that there was a resident physician.

Atlin's population dwindled so nursing duties were for the most part quite manageable. The world was reeling from the ravages of World War I when the great influenza epidemic spared no corner of the globe. The staff and resources at St. Andrew's were strained in March 1919 and school was closed. A second wave occurred in the spring of 1920 when 50 citizens lay ill, 19 of whom died. The nearby Tlingit people lost 15 of their number.

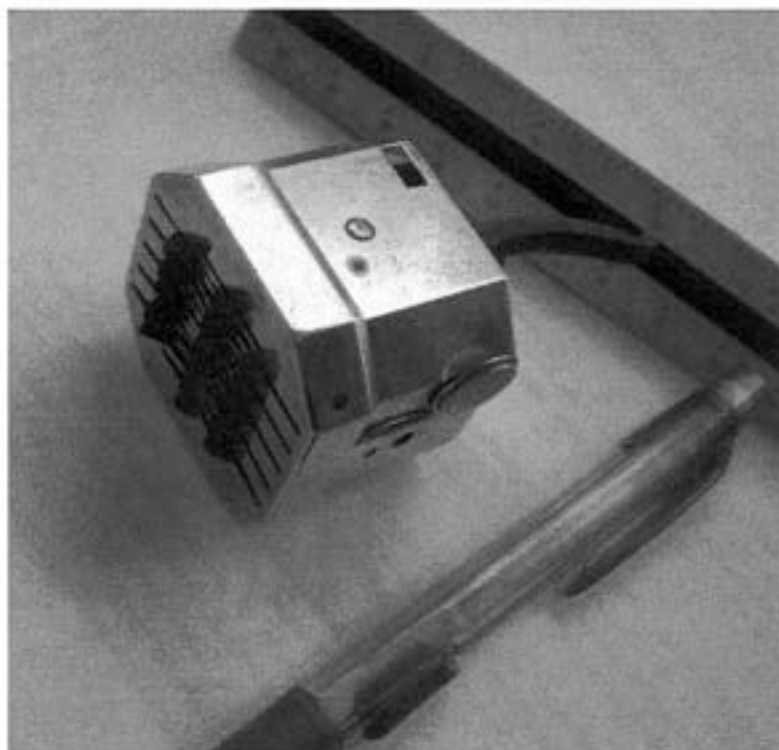
The building which had been so helpful in its many years as Atlin's hospital was condemned by the Fire Marshall in 1940 and a hotel was appropriated for use as a hospital. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Hospital vanished from everything except the history books.

(Thanks to Christine Frances Dickinson and the late Diane Solie Smith for permission to share the chapter THE CARE OF THE SICK from their book ATLIN; The Story of British Columbia's Last Gold Rush. Winner of the BC Lieutenant Governor's award, this book traces the history of the Atlin gold rush of 1898, which would be BC's last.)



AUTOMATIC BLEEDING MACHINES

The shiny little brass boxes shown here belonged to Naomi Miller's maternal grandfather and great grandfather. Both gentlemen were physicians practicing in England prior to 1897. When the button is pressed, fifteen little very sharp almost 1/2 inch blades pop out. This was the instrument used to induce bleeding when a physician deemed it necessary to lower a patient's blood pressure or to sap his strength.



Imagine this being applied to the patient's forearm, pressed until blood flows, then removed. The arm is laid over a curved bowl with two hollows in it. Apparently there were different sized bowls or cups to measure the extracted blood. Once the intended volume was collected a pressure dressing would be applied. Can you remember references to bleeding King Richard or Robin Hood? The wound left after this "treatment" might be something early nurses had to deal with.

Editor's Note: Another name for bleeding machines is scarificators. For a complete discussion of blood letting and the various instruments that were used visit www.collectmedicalantiques.com. For more pictures visit www.alllancets.com.

BOOK REVIEW

By Diana Bright

This story by Charles Kahn and Sue Mouat, depicts the eternal struggle of a small community to balance the medical needs of the public with adequate funding and staffing. It begins with the people of Salt Spring Island in 1912 when the population was 900. Enterprising individuals such as retired British army doctor, Surgeon Colonel Lionel Beech, and the local women's group called Guild of Sunshine, had the foresight and energy to advocate for building the hospital, which has kept running nearly a century, to the present time.

Various government officials were approached for funding the new hospital, and the Gulf Islands (Cottage) Hospital was officially opened in May, 1914. A donation of \$1000 from the Lady Minto Fund was received and the hospital was subsequently renamed the Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital. (Lady Minto was the wife of Canada's eighth Governor General Gilbert Elliot, 4th Earl of Minto.) As there was no provincial medical plan at the time, voluntary hospital insurance was offered. Subscriptions cost \$6 per annum for adults and \$1.50 per annum for children. Subscribers were assured of a hospital bed and nursing care.

An attempt to train nurses at the Lady Minto in 1919 was not successful. The program only attracted two women who could not gain adequate nursing experience in such a small hospital.

Finding staff for the hospital was difficult for the first twenty years of operation. Due to inadequate funding doctors came and left. During the depression years, doctors often worked for no pay from their patients, or received farm produce in exchange for services. In other years, there were not enough patients to provide two doctors with a living, and too much work for just one doctor to do.

Hospital matrons were not always up to the task, and sometimes inadequately trained people were hired to assist. It was not the custom to have married women working, which also reduced potential available staff.

As the population of the island grew, and new technology was introduced, the hospital needs changed too. Several expansions to the original building were made before a new hospital was built in 1958.

Interesting anecdotes full of humour, pathos, and love, are interspersed throughout the book, which brings the wonderful community spirit to light. Lovely photos of individuals and staff, hospital buildings, and medical equipment help to bring the history of the Lady Minto Gulf Islands Hospital to life.

This book is a soft-cover edition, has 96 pages and is published by: Salt Spring Press, 302 Channel Ridge Drive, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 1G6. ISBN 978-0-9739990-2-0

Cost: \$24.95 To order contact ckahn@saltspring.com.



REQUESTING YOUR HELP.....

An invitation to participate in an **Oral History** interview about the history of the Vancouver General Hospital Intensive Care Unit

Former VGH intensive care nurses or health professionals who worked in the Adult General ICU at VGH between 1960 and 1982 and would like to share their story about their involvement with the unit are invited to participate in an oral history research study. The purpose of this project is to develop a history of intensive care nursing from the perspective of nurses and other health professionals. This research is part of a completion of a graduate master's thesis at the university of British Columbia School of Nursing. Interviews will be tape recorded. If you would like to participate, or know someone who might like to be interviewed for 1 to 1.5 hours, please contact **Deborah Hamilton** at 604-315-3345.



UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA SCHOOL OF NURSING HISTORY PROJECT

Dear BC History of Nursing Group,

Following the success of the 30th anniversary of the University of Victoria School of Nursing, a small working group comprised of Lynne Young (Chair), Christine McLaren, Anita Molzahn, and Margaret Scaia have come together to discuss the process of documenting the history of the School of Nursing. The intention is to prepare a history that captures the many successes of the school with the goal of celebrating our work and achievements. We are looking for con-

tributions from former faculty and students. These materials could be in the form of print or images that reflect your experience at the University of Victoria School of Nursing. Also, we are planning to conduct a number of oral history interviews with faculty and students, and invite you to contact **Margaret Scaia** at mrscaia@telus.net if you are interested in hearing more about this part of the project, or have any materials that you would like to contribute. Thank you for your interest!

CELEBRATING A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

Yes, that is "our Nina" on the occasion of her 80th birthday! At a delightful evening event hosted by Sheila Zerr, members of the History Group gathered to wish Nina many more happy years. And yes, that's her picture on page 5!



CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

June 15th-18 2008 are the dates when the CNA will celebrate their 100th anniversary at the Ottawa Congress Centre. The theme is *Be The Change*. For further information visit www.cna-aiic.ca

NEW STATUE HONORS NURSES IN WAR

A new statue dedicated to the memory of Canada's Nursing Sisters who served during both World Wars, was unveiled in Regina on October 1, 2007. The bronze statue, based on a photograph of First World War Nursing Sister Elizabeth Matheson, took its place beside that of a First World War Canadian soldier. Lt. Col. Hallie Sloan (ret.), now 90 years old, helped to unveil the statue exclaiming "It's so beautiful. It's perfect. Every detail about her is right...And she's got boots on."

Credit: News release: The Leader-Post (Regina), Monday, October 1, 2007 by Heather Polischuk.

(Editor's note: Thanks to Sheila Oxholm for alerting us to this tribute.)

IN MEMORIAM

Gloria Violet (Barwell) Kay, B.S.C., B.A., M.S.C.N. passed away on October 25th 2007. Some 30 years ago she noted that nurses were not wearing a cap, the historical symbol of a nurse. She collected and preserved over 170 nursing caps from individual schools of nursing. Her collection was donated to the Canadian Museum of Civilization and is regarded as the largest one known.

Elvira Eveline Nordlund passed away on November 18, 2007. She was a graduate of St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing (1942). Early in her career she served in supervisory positions in hospitals in Williams Lake, Kimberley and Salmon Arm. In 1948 Elvira joined the Ministry of Health in Victoria where she worked as an Inspector of Hospitals and Hospital Consultant until her retirement in 1983. Elvira was a Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve and a very active member of the Retired Nursing Sisters Association.

BC History of Nursing Professional Practice Group



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SAVE THESE DATES!

January 10, 2008 BC History of Nursing Executive Meeting, CRNBC offices, Vancouver, 4-6 PM All members are welcome to attend.

May 8-11, 2008 The British Columbia Historical Federation will be holding its annual conference in New Westminster. The theme will be "the first Capitals of British Columbia". Be sure to visit their newly designed web site at www.bchistory.ca.

May 30-June 1, 2008 The Canadian Society for the History of Medicine Annual Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC Theme: "Thinking Beyond Borders—Global Ideas: Global Value"

June 2-4, 2008 Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting University of British Columbia Vancouver, British Columbia

June 5-7, 2008 CAHN/ACHN International History of Nursing Conference Toronto, Ontario Theme: "Borders, Boundaries and Political Context in Nursing and Health Care History"

June 5-8, 2008 Educate and Celebrate 2008 When friends gather to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of St. Ann in Victoria, and the establishment of St. Ann's Academy, they will be taking their place in history, and, once again, participating in some of the wonderful traditions of St. Ann's. Each of the celebratory events of 2008 have historical precedent, as described in notations in journals and logs. See, [Friends of St. Ann's Academy](#).