

## BC History of Nursing Society News Volume 20 Issue 2

July 2009

### *From the President's Pen*

The first AGM of the BC History of Nursing Society was held on April 30, 2009 at the CRNBC. In addition to the annual reports presented by the Officers and Committee Chairs, special awards were given to June Newton and Lt. Col Adrian French in recognition of the support of the History of Nursing group in BC.

Following a light supper, the group then generated potential goals to be considered for the next year. They are to:

- Adapt the previous PPG structure to the new constitution and By-Laws (use the new membership titles, define the roles of the Directors/Officers and Committees Chairs, review the committee structure, define the mandate and membership of each committee)
- Continue the development of the virtual museum
- Continue with the coordination of displays with other nursing groups, museums, schools of nursing, conferences etc
- Increase the membership by 20%
- Raise the profile of the History of Nursing locally (Heather Heritage Society), provincially (BC Historical Federation, nationally (Canadian Association of History of Nursing, Museum of Health Care in Kingston)
- Monitor the results of attendance at events by tracking the number of resource people involved, new memberships, increase in pages of history requested, memorial nominations, donations received
- Continue with fund raising

At the June meeting it was decided that the meeting scheduled for September 10/09 at 4pm at the CRNBC will be a workshop format in order to address the goals in more detail.

Kathy Murphy,  
President

### IN THIS ISSUE

President's Report	1
Recognition Awards	2-4
Museum of Healthcare	5-6
Committee Reports	
President	7
V President	8
Scholarship	8
Web Site	9
Memorial Book	9
BCHF	10
Biographical	10
Member at Large	11
Oral History	11-12
Membership	13
Programs	14
Newsletter	14-15
Treasurer	15
Archives	16
Pages of History	17
Displays	18-19
Lectern Dedication	20-21
VGH Open House	21
Member News	22-23
Nurses Week	23

## BC History of Nursing Society Recognition Awards Honoring June Newton and Lt. Col. Adrian French

On April 30, 2009 the BC History of Nursing Society held its first Annual General Meeting. During this meeting the first Recognition Awards were handed out. Below you will find excerpts of the presentation to the award winners.

### *June Newton—Recognition Award*

On behalf of the members of The History of Nursing Society and other special guests here this evening, I want to congratulate you for being the first nurse to be nominated and to receive the "Recognition Award" given by the History of Nursing Society for having made a significant contribution to the history of Nursing.

June was born April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1919 and raised in Medicine Hat, Alberta. She graduated in 1941 from the Royal Jubilee Hospital located in Victoria, B.C. After graduation, June did one year of private duty nursing followed by a year at the Alexandra Solarium, in Mill Bay. In 1943 June enlisted in the Canadian Military Nursing Sisters Service. She set sail for Port Gourock in Scotland on June 30, 1944 serving in both England and Italy during the war. June returned home to Vancouver, in April 1946 where she met and married her husband Neil in 1949. For several years June stayed home in the role of wife and mother to focus on her growing family.

Over the years June kept in close touch with her colleagues and focused on their professional responsibilities. She strongly represented and promoted the presence of Military Nurse's contributions to the War. To June, Remembrance Day was of special interest. On many occasions, she, as a representative of the "Nursing Sisters" proudly carried and placed the Wreath Of Remembrance. June was always anxious for the Nursing Sisters to be represented at every possible military event.

June was eager to preserve that which contributed to nursing history. She worked closely with Mr. Adrian French in the search for Military Nurse Uniforms and artifacts for the Field Ambulance Military Museum and nursing displays around the province. When in doubt ask June- she just might have one or know to get it!!! June remained a member of her Royal Jubilee Hospital Alumnae in Vancouver.



*Lt. Col A. French and J. Newton*

After the war, June remained an active member of Military Nursing Sisters Association of Canada. She took over the presidency of the association in 2002 and remained so until the BC Branch of the Nursing Sisters Association disbanded.

In 2008, June was chosen to represent the Nursing Sisters Association of Canada, as part of the official Government of Canada's Delegation which traveled to Korea to mark the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Korean War Armistice. Without hesitation June was off accompanied by her daughter, Joanne. June returned home in July with rekindled memories of the past and enough new memories to last a lifetime. She was deeply moved by her eight-day voyage.

June is now a member of the History of Nursing Society. And today June, we, the members of History of Nursing Society applaud your efforts in the creation, support of and preservation of Nursing History.

Without a doubt you have and you continue to truly make significant contributions to the history of nursing and are worthy of the Recognition Plaque!

*Edited from presentation given at the AGM 2009 by Cheryl Entwistle, Member, B.C. History of Nursing Society*



*H. Niskala, Lt. Col A. French, J. Newton and C. Entwistle, April 2009*

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

Diana Bright, Lynne Esson, Beth Fitzpatrick (Chair), Naomi Miller, Ethel Warbinek, Sheila Zerr

*The BC History of Nursing Society Newsletter is published quarterly.*

*Submissions are welcome. Deadline for the fall issue is September 15, 2009*

*Please send submissions to Ethel Warbinek at [Warbinek@telus.net](mailto:Warbinek@telus.net)*

### Lt. Col. Adrian French—Recognition Award

My first contact with Lt. Col. Adrian French was in a non-health care or nursing context. We were both members of the Kerrisdale Lawn Bowling Club. As I got to know him I observed his approach to members of the club and others. I noted his acceptance of other bowlers regardless of their skill with bowling, the use of the English language or nationality. He had a courteous and inclusive manner to all. These characteristics have served him well in the various activities with which he has been engaged. And make him a worthy recipient of the History of Nursing Society Recognition Award.

Lt Col French was born in London England in 1940. In 1945 the family experience tragedy when his father a member of the Royal Air force was killed in action. Adrian completed his preliminary education in London, England.

Post high school he worked on weekly newspapers. In 1965 he decided to immigrate to Canada. He selected Castlegar where he obtained work on a local newspaper for six months. In 1966 he moved to Vancouver to study History at Simon Fraser University. During his studies he obtained part time work with the Canadian Immigration Department accompanying deportees to hearings. In 1974 he obtained fulltime employment with that department. His general responsibilities were to help families with their applications for citizenship and other needs. His clientele included Vietnamese Boat People, 1979, Kosovo Refugees 1998. He recruited churches to sponsor refugees, assist monetarily, assess personal resources and to inform newcomers about Canada and British Columbia. The major focus was to integrate refugees into Canada about occupations and support networks.

A Simon Fraser contact suggested that Adrian become involved with the 12<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance and army Reserve where he assumed an administrative role. He became involved with their Museum which had been founded by older, retired military personnel.

In 2002 Lt. Col French was asked to take over the Department and operation of the Museum. The history of the Reserve Unit is intertwined with the development of the Museum and to build upon the artifacts collected by earlier veterans. The aim became to develop a more comprehensive Museum. Greatly appreciated was the donation from Nursing Sister Edith Landells. The donation of her three volumes about Canadian Nursing Sisters who served in the Military and their photographs made the presence of other veterans more extensive. The addition of Nursing and other uniforms added greatly to the artifacts in the Collection. Today memorabilia from Dentistry, Physical and Occupational Therapists, and the Clergy among others has made the Bowness-Skoebottom Museum a more comprehensive representative of Canadian Military personnel. Lt. Col Adrian French's contributions and skill in interacting with numerous community groups warrant his receiving the History of Nursing Society's Award of Recognition.

It is an honour to introduce Lt. Col Adrian French and to have one of the Executive present him with the Award of Recognition.

*Edited from presentation given at the AGM 2009 by Helen Niskala, Member, B.C. History of Nursing Society*



## For Service to Humanity: the Museum of Health Care's Tribute to Nursing

*Paul Robertson, Curator*

A former nursing student residence in Kingston, Ontario has once again become a place of nursing education – at least in the historical sense. The Ann Baillie Building, located on the campus of Kingston General Hospital and now the Museum of Health Care at Kingston, is the venue and subject of the Museum's newest gallery dedicated to nursing history.

One of the most exciting exhibition projects ever tackled by the Museum, *For Service to Humanity: Nursing Education at Kingston General Hospital* explores the training, work, and residence life of the more than 3000 students who attended the KGH school between 1886 and 1974. The gallery also provides a location to showcase parts of the Museum's nearly 800-item collection of nursing uniforms, notebooks, instruments, photographs, and memorabilia.



### Finding one's roots



In an effort to communicate more effectively the Ann Baillie Building's significance as a National Historic site commemorating the history of nursing education in Canada, the Museum has created an inviting space for interpretive exhibits and audiovisual components that help bring the original function of the building back to life.

Constructed in 1904 as the Nurse's Home, the Ann Baillie Building is the oldest of the residential buildings associated with the KGH school. The KGH apprenticeship-style training programme was typical of nursing education once found in hospital schools across the country.

The new nursing gallery's display is arranged in themes exploring the nature of the nursing profession, curricula, hospital work, life in residence, and school traditions. A key feature of the two-room gallery is a Spartan, yet cosy student bedroom restored to 1930. The voice of its student occupant – a senior nearing graduation recording her memories of training at KGH in a letter home – greets visitors to the room.

In 2004 the Museum began distributing its Memory Book questionnaire to capture graduates' personal recollections. As an extension of the Memory Book, an oral history programme was launched in 2008 to give "voice" to nursing graduates and nearly twenty oral history interviews with nursing graduates from the 1930s to the 1970s have been recorded to date. We have encouraged the nurses to recall memories of the challenges they faced at school balancing education and work, of the lifelong friendships they have forged, and of their commitment to the nursing profession.

This rich legacy of information is an invaluable resource to the long-term work of the Museum. More importantly, it preserves the stories of those who have contributed to the evolving story of Canadian nursing over the past century. Funding has now been confirmed that will allow us to turn some of these oral interviews into short video vignettes to complement the artefact displays.



When additional funding becomes available, the Museum plans to launch a complementary website that will explore the history of nursing education in the Kingston region as it evolved in religious and secular hospital schools, and in a psychiatric hospital school, community college, and university.

We owe a huge debt to the KGH Nurses' Alumnae who have been supportive of this project from the beginning, helping with funding, serving on the advisory team, and coordinating the oral histories with graduates.

For further information: <http://www.museumofhealthcare.ca/exhibitions/forservicetohumanityv.html>

To check the Museum's on-line catalogue of nursing artefacts: <http://db.library.queensu.ca/hosmus/index.html>

**Photographs:** Details from *For Service to Humanity: Nursing Education at Kingston General Hospital*, Museum of Health Care at Kingston (MHC photos, 2009)

## President's Report AGM 2009

The role of the President of the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group was held by Lois Blais in May followed by Sheila Zerr from June to December. The role of the President of the newly created History of Nursing Society was held by Kathy Murphy from January to April.

In addition to carrying out the many activities of this energetic group, considerable time and talent was spent examining our future as the CRNBC stated that our group no longer fit the mandate of the college.

A very successful workshop held in July examined the resources required to carry on and the Disaffiliation Task Group worked out the details to meet the requirements to become a society. Considerable work was also carried out by the Treasurer to ensure that all of the financial considerations were included.

The CRNBC Board gave approval in December, 2008 for the History of Nursing Group to disaffiliate from the CRNBC as a professional practice group. The group was established in 1989 under the umbrella of the RNABC.

In the fall of 2008 the British Columbia History of Nursing Group established their Constitution and By-Laws according to the Societies Act of British Columbia. Those willing to serve as Directors were:

President: Kathy Murphy  
Vice-President: Ethel Warbinek  
Secretary: Lynne Esson  
Treasurer: Sheila Oxholm  
Member-at-Large: Nan Martin

During the year, the members of the group supported Lois Blais as she courageously dealt with her failing health until September, 2008. The touching Memorial Service attended by her many friends and colleagues was a fitting tribute to an amazing woman who blessed so many lives.

The future is challenging as we seek to carry out the established programs and support our plans to preserve British Columbia's nursing history.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Zerr  
Kathy Murphy

## VP Presidents Report AGM April 2009

### Note Cards:

Sales from January 1 to December 31, 2008 - \$786.32

This compares to \$1,1176.89 sold in 2007

Roughly \$3,800 is still tied up in inventory. More cards seem to turn up

Many thanks to Glennis Zilm for her hard work in keeping track of these sales, for carefully looking after the inventory and supreme efforts to promote sales at every opportunity.

**Nominations for Parks Canada "Persons of National Historic Significance Good news – Ethel Johns** as been designated for inclusion in this project. No word yet on Jean Matheson or Laura Holland

Special thanks to Glennis Zilm for her work on these submissions.

### UBC School of Nursing Alumni Stories Project

Biographies were submitted along with photographs for

Bea (Johnson) Wood

Mary Henderson

Jean Dorgan

Betty Cawston

Ethel Warbinek – VP September 2008 – April 2009

## Scholarship Committee Report AGM 2009

A Scholarship was awarded in 2008 to Margaret Scaia, a doctoral student at the University of Victoria, who is studying the significant intersections between the history of women, work and motherhood as reflected in changes in the social construction of nursing during the 1960's.

Kathy Murphy

Chair, Scholarship Committee





## Web Site Report AGM 2009

After a year of slow progress in developing the **new** History of Nursing Website, it was finally made "live" in October with only the current events being "current". March 11<sup>th</sup> marked the next step in the "live" site being updated from a "group" to a "society", but with still some corrections to be made. The Archival material is being diligently entered by Stephanie Kays, our new Archivist and Don Ransom to get that part of the website up and running.

The committee presently is working on learning how to make changes and additions ourselves, whereby we will be able to take over the control of the website.

We sincerely hope that the website is going to be totally completed and fully accessible sooner than later and apologize for how long this process has taken.

We have had two webinars for that purpose and are awaiting a "hands on" session with Fahim from Biz Ala Carte, which when completed we'll be entering into the final phase of our contract with Biz Ala Carte, using them as a resource, then reviewing our needs in six months.

Submitted by Lenore Radom on behalf of Glennis Zilm, Beth Fitzpatrick, Don Ransom and Sheila Zerr.



## Memorial Book Report AGM 2009

During the year, the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group had no nominations for either the CRNBC or CNA Memorial Book.

If you know of or hear of someone who should be nominated please let the Chair of the Committer know.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lynne Esson  
Memorial Book Chair

## BC Historical Federation Report AGM 2009

The 2008 activities of the Federation include:

A very successful Conference in May in New Westminster

Publication of their Newsletters and quarterly journals -

*British Columbia History*

Publication of **Windows to our past** - A pictorial history of British Columbia -

A special edition celebrating BC's 150th birthday

Initiation of a Long Range Plan 2008-2011

Planning for their Nelson Conference May 14-17, 2009 (I will attend)

Maintenance and updating of their excellent website: [www.bchistory.ca](http://www.bchistory.ca)

Sheila Rankin Zerr and I represented our group at the Federation's Council meeting at London Farm on January 24, 2009.

Please contact me for recent newsletters or journals or for any information regarding the Federation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Martin

## Biographical Committee Report AGM 2009

### Committee members

Lois Blais – chair April – June 2008

Ethel Warbinek - chair July 2008 – April 2009

Linda Lister

It took some time for the biographical committee to proceed following the death of Lois Blais who not only chaired the Biographical Committee, but also the Archives.

We are now back on track.

The Policies and Procedures for Biographical Files, initiated by Lois, were approved by the executive.

With the assistance of Don Ransom, files which had not been accessioned were located at the UBC office and we are in the process of making copies for the CRNBC library.

The CRNBC library catalogue lists 203 biographies and the majority of these were submitted by the BC History of Nursing Group.

Special thanks to Linda Lister for her familiarity with the library and photocopying skills

Submitted by,  
Ethel Warbinek

## **Member at Large Report AGM 2009**

The recent changes in provincial legislation required a transition from the professional association status to a College, and the RNABC disbanded as the newly created College of Registered Nurses of BC (CRNBC) became the regulatory body mandated to govern the profession. As CRNBC reviews and refines its mandate, the previous structure which included overseeing Professional Practice Groups is no longer seen to fit with the core functions of CRNBC. The College has advised that within a period of a year or so, PPGs must find an alternate structure to support their function.

The History of Nursing group needed to identify options, select and implement a change in organizational structure that continues to meet the stated purpose and goals of the group, while removing CRNBC involvement. The Members-at-large spearheaded a task group to provide background information, recommendations and leadership in determining an appropriate option. An action plan was developed (available in previous minutes or upon request) and implemented with the successful incorporation of the BC History of Nursing Society in December 2008 and the first meeting in January 2009.

The task group worked diligently to complete the multiple requirements, and thanks goes to: Lenore Radom, Kathy Murphy, Marjorie Ralston and Sheila Oxholm for their commitment and hard work.

Thanks also to Sheila Zerr, Glennis Zilm and others who provided feedback on the very first by-laws and constitution of our new Society.

Respectfully submitted  
Sandra Broad, Nan Martin  
Members at Large

## **Oral History Committee Report AGM 2009**

### **Committee members: 2008-2009**

Roberta Hamilton  
Delcie Hill  
Sheila Zerr  
Frank Gillespie  
Ethel Warbinek – chair

### **Interviews completed:**

Lois Blais - interviewed by Ethel Warbinek  
Delcie Hill in Kelowna interviewed Ethel Wait (96) and submitted her biographical form and a cassette tape.

**Agreed to be interviewed:**

Sally Thorne  
Alice Baumgart  
Hilda Lavois

CD's submitted to CRNBC library.

Jean Fernie + photos  
Jean Dorgan + photos  
Margaret Mainwaring + 24 photos  
Lois Blais + photos  
Marlyn Mclean  
Jean Dorgan + photos  
Joyce Campkin + photos  
Louise Hemming + 1 photo

Copies onto CD's - not yet summarized  
Beverly DuGas's 15 CDs

Oral History and Biographical forms have been updated to BC HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY

**Saving interviews on CD's**

Activities this past year have involved copying interviews to CD's.

Thank you to the members of the committee for your interest in oral history. Busy lives and other responsibilities often pose a problem when trying to plan and interview; however your efforts are appreciated.

Ethel Warbinek  
April 30, 2009



## Report of Membership Chair AGM 2009

As of April 29, 2009, membership figures are:

2009 (year to date)	
Honorary	5
Full	51
Affiliate	32
Student	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>

2008 (year end)	
Honorary	5
Full	53
Affiliate	46
Student	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>

**Full:** Frances Affleck, Delta – rejoined. Currently a clinical associate at the UBC SON. Presently taking MSN and planning to take a HON class.

**Deborah Hamilton**, Vancouver – rejoined. Continuing work on her MSN (UBC) thesis - History of Intensive Care Nursing at VGH 1968-1982ish.

**Student:** Lydia Wytenbroek - UBC nursing grad. Currently a history student (4<sup>th</sup> year) at Trinity Western University. She is entering the new TWU MSN program in September and will be working with Sonya Grypma on history of nursing projects. She has just completed a St Paul's Hospital project (webpage). Gift of Glennis Zilm.

I am continuing to follow up with second "gentle reminders" to encourage membership renewals and am calling those without email addresses. The ongoing person-to-person recruitment of new members by so many of the current membership is important. Any ideas for future recruitment efforts are always welcome.

Genelle Leifso,  
Chair



## Program Report AGM 2009

This year we held three events:

May 9, 2008 we held our annual Nurses Week event at the Hycroft Mansion where we hosted 34 guests including guest speaker Ivan Sayers, who gave us an entertaining delivery of information and visual display of Corsets and Health in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Nov 13, 2008 we enjoyed a delightful tour of the Jericho Hill Medical Museum of which Col. Adrian French is the Curator and gave the guided tour. Also on hand to assist with the tour was June Newton and Shirley Riddalls. Col French has done an amazing job of that Museum and deserves a Medal!

March 19, 2009 Anna Tremere gave us a wonderful presentation with a video on Riverview, formerly known as "Essondale" "The Past, Present and Future of Riverview". Anna has worked tirelessly on behalf of the preservation of those buildings and grounds of which we could lend support in a letter to James Moore, Federal MP . [http://www.coquitlam.ca/Residents/About+Coquitlam/\\_Riverview+Past+and+Present.htm](http://www.coquitlam.ca/Residents/About+Coquitlam/_Riverview+Past+and+Present.htm)

Submitted by,  
Lenore Radom

## Newsletter Committee Report AGM 2009

Most of the business of the Newsletter committee was conducted at the regular monthly Executive meetings or by e-mail. Diana Bright from Naramata and Naomi Miller from Wasa continue to participate in the work of the committee although neither is able to attend meetings on a regular basis.

This past year we changed our name from Editorial Board back to Newsletter committee, which is in keeping with becoming a Society. We also decided that the summer issue should continue to focus on the yearly Executive and Committee reports that are presented at the AGM. This ensures that we are being accountable to our members who live outside the lower mainland or out of Province. We did vote to change the format for the winter newsletter, making it much shorter, no frills, no pictures publication.

Four issues of the *History of Nursing News* were published this past year. Editors were Beth Fitzpatrick (spring and winter issues), Lynne Esson and Sheila Zerr (summer issue), and Ethel Warbinek (fall issue). A huge thank you to these editors who spend many, many volunteer

hours working on the newsletter. A second thank you to all the members of the History Group who regularly submit photographs, news items, book reviews, and stories for publication. This is greatly appreciated.

We are also grateful for the assistance of Anita Warbinek and Julie Lees who help with the design and graphics, Genelle Leifso who faithfully supplies us with the mailing labels, and Lynne Esson who maintains the file with e-mail addresses of student members and others who receive the History of Nursing News electronically.

Our newsletter costs are stable because of members who elect to receive the newsletter electronically. The Spring newsletter was electronically received by eight members. Only 64 were sent via Canada Post which now costs us 57 cents per issue for postage.

The chair of the Newsletter committee is a member of the Web Site committee which is close to completing it's work. The plan is to have all previous newsletters saved electronically and available either on the website or in the archives.

Thank you for the privilege of working on this committee. It continues to be an interesting challenge.

Beth Fitzpatrick,  
Chair, Newsletter Committee

## Treasure's Report AGM 2009

Financial statement as of December 31, 2008  
published in Newsletter March 2009

2009 budget submitted at February meeting.

Application for Registration under Income Tax Act as a charity has passed screening process and is now in "the determination process". This process could take up to six months.

Income tax returns have been filed for 2008.

Many thanks to Donald Ransom and Lynette Best for being members of the Finance Committee

Submitted by,  
Sheila Oxholm



## Archives Committee Report AGM 2009

Committee Members: Lois Blais, Chair until July 2008

Marjory Ralston

Michelle Rooney

Stephanie Kays, Archivist

Donald Ransom, Chair from Aug 2008

The Committee had two telephone conference calls and one meeting.

1. new terms of reference were approved by the Executive
2. Position description and posting at UBC with the aid of the School of Library Archival and Information Systems.
3. Interviewed and hired Stephanie Kays as our part-time Archivist following the resignation of Marilyn Ramon.
4. Arranged for the Archivists' orientation with the Web-master at Biz a la Carte in Richmond.
5. Don Ransom, Stephanie Kays and Susan Knoll, the newly appointed Historian of BCORNG, reviewed photographs to be added along with the BCORNG fonds to our Web site.
6. Visited RCH School of Nursing Alumni Archives at their request as they need to down size their holdings. No artifacts were accepted, as we do not have the space to house them. Some suggestions were explored.
7. Visited Health and Home Care Society of BC to examine artifacts left by the the Victoria Order of Nurses, some very useful display items were obtained.
8. Images and pamphlet covers of the BCORNG web exhibit have been scanned.
9. Archives forms for Researcher Application, Copyright Regulations and Photocopying Regulations have been updated on the test website and four finding aids have been added for British Columbia Operating Room Nursing Group fonds, Community Health Nurses Group of the RNABC fonds, Esther Paulson fonds, and Holistic Health Professional Practice Group fonds. The Current Archives page on the test website is ready to go live and more finding aids will be assess as they become ready.

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Committee Members met in the Office at UBC to review several holding for identification. Most of the items examined were parts of uniforms and after cleaning could be used for display purposes.

Submitted by,  
Don Ransom, Chair

## Pages of History AGM 2009

**Committee:** Sheila Zerr (chair), Lenore Radom, Sandra Broad

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

**Pages to date:** Complete – 77

In progress - 2009 total numbers have been revised as number of pages that were in progress have now been dropped from our totals as information to develop these pages has not been forthcoming.

**Display Album:** Three duplicate display albums of the first 77 pages of history now complete. It is now necessary to go into a 3<sup>rd</sup> album. One set of albums has been placed in the CRNBC library. The other two sets of albums are available for display at conference etc. The original first 77 pages will be placed in the archival collection.

**On going project:**

The flyer, promoting the pages of history, has been reviewed to correlate with the revised web page format.

A section of the web page devoted to the pages project and a system to rotate different pages on the web page is under consideration.

The committee will continue to work on promotion of the project and will consider increasing the \$25.00 cost of a page of history.

Report submitted by  
Sheila J Rankin Zerr, Chair

## DID YOU KNOW?

Under our new Society By-Laws (Part 2) our members are now described in the following manner:

Full member: a current or former nurse who was registered in BC

Affiliate member: a person who supports the constitution and by-laws

Student member: a student nurse

Honorary Life member: elected by members at an AGM in recognition of his or her many contributions in support of the purpose of this society

This summer when you receive the new edition of the Membership Directory, check your designation on the mailing label. If it does not reflect the category to which you belong, please contact the Membership Chair, Genelle Leifso ([gleifso@shaw.ca](mailto:gleifso@shaw.ca) or 604-538-1789) so that she can correct the member database.

## Display Report (edited) AGM 2009

### Committee Members:

Cheryl Entwistle  
Jackie Ratzlaff  
Margaret Saunders

### CRNBC DISPLAYS:

CRNBC Library:  
Military Nursing Display: Collection of World  
War 11 Memorabilia  
November 2008/09

CRNBC Board Room Display: 2008 -2009



This display was dismantled in early January and reassembled in the foyer of Vancouver General Hospital with the assistance of the VGH Alumnae.

### Mrs. Edith Adman's (Dales) May 31, 1914 to May 8, 2007

#### Origin and History of Acquisition Received From Mrs. Edith Adnams (Dales)

As noted in the Blenheim Lodge brief history of Mrs. Adnams, she was a trained nurse, living in Vancouver. Her parents were originally from Hertfordshire in England and in 1935 the family traveled to the U.K. to visit relatives. While there, W.W. 11 was declared and, Miss Dales "decided to join up and help with the war effort." "She enlisted in the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service so she could be part of the action!"

Over the course of her war service, (1942-1946), Mrs. Adnams personal record of her experiences was compiled. It consists of a written and photographic history, plus several original documents, personal items and medals. It is a detailed, interesting and moving account of her wartime experiences. She was repatriated to Vancouver by the Army in 1946.

Mrs. Adnams spent her latter years at Blenheim Lodge, where her sister, Helen, was also a resident.



She passed away at the Lodge on May 8th, 2007.

The History of Nursing Society was very pleased to accept this collection. It came to our Society with assistance of and direction from Blenheim Lodge personnel and Society member, Dr. Helen Niskala.

This inventory may be modified as more information becomes known and items are more precisely identified - i.e. medals, buttons, epaulets.



### **UBC School of Nursing Displays:**

Displays at UBC School of Nursing are arranged and assembled by Glennis Zilm.

Glennis changed the display at University of B.C. School of Nursing on March 4th, 2009. The Display Case in the Hall outside the Director's Office contains a display on "Medication Administration: Bit of History and Historical Artifacts." Plans are that it will stay up until May 1, 2009 when the display will be changed to feature something on Lyle Creelman and tie in with a display on Creelman at the Irving K. Barber Centre.

Glennis also changed the display in the University of B.C. School of Nursing Learning Centre. The display features "Hands-On History: Uniforms Without Uniformity." The mannequin is dressed in a 1960's pink and-white striped uniform and cap. Thanks for assistance from Ethel Warbinek, who keeps this uniform spick-and-span for display. The display contains brief information related to the history of uniforms in the School, including photos (from TouchPoints) of the new student uniform (introduced in 2008). Plans are that this display will stay up until end of May 2009.

### **Community Requested Displays:**

Nursing Week Display Royal Columbian Hospital May, 2008  
B.C. Salute to Our Veterans Burnaby Village Museum, Burnaby, B.C.  
Gerontology Conference Display  
Executive Plaza Hotel Conference Centre, Coquitlam Sept 18, 2008

### **Nursing Uniforms Display:**

Vancouver Island University (Malaspina Campus)

Professor Cheryl Krasnick Warsh and Dr. John Black invited the History of Nursing Society to participate in the Public Lecture Series at the Alexandra Malaspina Research Centre, Vancouver Island University (VIU) (Malaspina Campus), Nanaimo, B.C., on March 12, 2009 – titled "Sources of Identify".

Sheila Zerr and Glennis Zilm gave a presentation –titled "Nursing Costume and its Role in Professional Identity". This featured a power point presentation and incorporated a historical fashion parade with three members of the History of Nursing Society – Lenore Radom, Margaret Saunders, and Nan Martin – and some of VUI faculty and students.

Submitted by,  
Cheryl Entwistle

## New Chapel Lectern Dedication

*By Sharron Higgins*

On Sunday, April 26, 2009, a special ceremony was held by the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae at the RJH Pemberton Memorial Chapel in Victoria, BC.

A new Chapel lectern was rededicated in honour of Alumnae member, Barbara Owen and her exemplary leadership in coordinating the 12-year Chapel Restoration Project.

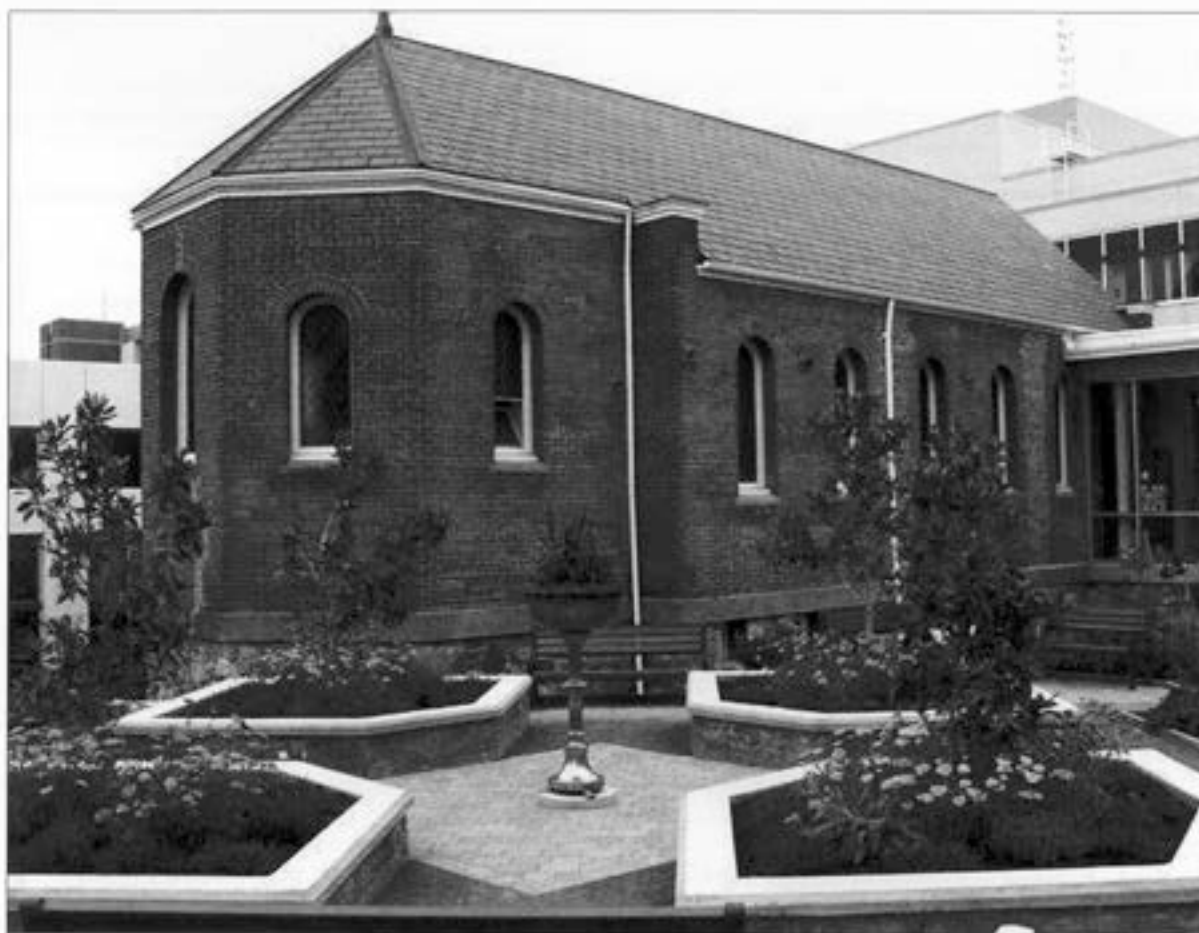
Barbara's friends and nursing colleagues donated the funds to rejuvenate an old brass lectern that was given to the Alumnae by the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia.

With this unique Chapel donation, Barbara's friends evolved a plan to polish and inscribe the brass filigree plate then build a new handcrafted base using BC Pine.



Noteworthy is the fact that the original inscription on the lectern dates back to Rt. Rev. George Hills D.D., the First Bishop of the area of "Colombia" (B.C) who died in 1895 at the age of 79 years.

The historical significance of this new lectern to the 100 year old Pemberton Chapel highlights the importance of the Chapel's multifaith purpose and will be proudly used for future weddings and services.



*Pemberton Chapel*

### **Open House VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association**

**We are having an Open House on Saturday September 12, 2009  
10AM - 12PM**

**Please come visit and see our large and exciting collection of  
uniforms, artefacts and other historical items.**

**Everyone welcome.**

**Place: Historic Heather Pavilion at Vancouver General Hospital**

**West side of Heather Street between 12th and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave**

**The Alumnae rooms are on B (main) floor on the south side of  
the building. Look for balloons and signs!**

## Members News

B.C. History of Nursing Society members were well-represented among presenters at the 2009 Joint Conference of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing and the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine in Ottawa at the end of May.

**Margaret Scaia**, with colleague **Lynne Young** of the University of Victoria, presented a paper on "Writing History: Case Study of the University of Victoria School of Nursing." The two are beginning work on a book on the history of the School.

**Nerrisa Bonifacio**, who recently completed her Master in Nursing and now is beginning her PhD Nursing at the University of B.C., presented a paper titled "Trying to Make Room: Recovery Room Nurses and Family Visitation, 1940-2000." The paper reported on physical changes in recovery rooms and on changing attitudes to admission of visitors.

**Glennis Zilm** presented on "Nursing in the Canadian West, 1800-1900."

Several affiliate members **Carol Helmstadter** and **Judith Young**, both of Toronto, presented respectively on "Navigating the Political Straits: Florence Nightingale and Doctors in the Crimean War" and "Lady Caregivers in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Montreal." **Cynthia Toman** of Ottawa led a panel presentation on Indigenous Nursing in Canada with her paper on "A Suitable Indian Girl: Agnes Samptons, the Wenton Hospital, and the Ontario Women's Christian Temperance Union, 1917-1928." **Lyn Kirkwood** of Kingston also attended the sessions.

**Geertje Boschma**, CAHN president, and **Marg Gorrie**, CAHN past-president, also attended the conference and chaired the CAHN annual general meeting.

## Members News

**Karen Abbott**, Kamloops - coauthoring the 30-year history of the Thompson Rivers University School of Nursing with Sharon Simpson, to be edited by Glennis Zilm.

**Margaret Scaia**, Victoria - currently working on an interdisciplinary PhD at UVic – looking at letters written by Nursing Sisters in World War II, specifically 1944-46. These letters were written to Alice Read Bird from various CGH's in England, France + Belgium. If you know any surviving nursing sister, I would be very interested in talking to them."

## Society Members Active During Nurses Week 2009

BC History of Nursing Society Members helped celebrate Nurse's Week 2009 by their presence at various venue's.

Kathy Murphy, wearing a replica of the 1918 VGH uniform, was an invited guest at the Margaret Fulton Day Care Centre (North Vancouver) and at the Adult Day Care Centre in West Vancouver. Kathy talked about the changes in Nurses Uniforms over time and enjoyed some lively discussions with those attending.

Lenore Radom, Sheila Zerr and Kathy Murphy set up a display table at the BCNU AGM where they recruited new members and sold note-cards.





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**BC HISTORY of NURSING**

