

# ◆ HISTORY OF NURSING NEWS ◆

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## The International History of Nursing Conference: A Pictorial Report

The International History of Nursing Conference, held in Vancouver in June 1997, was extremely successful and attracted widespread attention from the local and international health-care community. Attended by 146 participants representing 19 countries, the Conference was a balanced mix of keynote addresses, historical papers, plenary panels, historical exhibits and social events.

To commemorate this historic Conference, *Sheila Zerr*, conference chair, and *Beth Fitzpatrick*, editor of the History of Nursing News, have prepared the enclosed Pictorial Report for your enjoyment.

The report will bring back fond memories for those who attended the conference; for others, the report will show the truly excellent caliber of the entire proceedings. Many thanks to *Sheila* and her dedicated hard working committee for all their work in making this historic conference a truly memorable event.

## Membership News

### Membership Brochure:

The attractive, light blue 1997 membership list brochure, included in this mailing, has once again been prepared by *Jill Thompson* and *Bruce Beaudreau*. Thank you *Jill* and *Bruce*!

Did you know that we have 4 honorary members, 47 full members, 1 student member and 25 affiliate members, including one from England and another from Israel? This brings our total to 77 members, almost the same number as in 1996.

### New Members:

Two new members have joined



*It's Time to Renew your  
1998 Membership!*

the History Group since the printing of the membership brochure. A warm welcome to:

*Lynda B. Thornton*  
6892 Patterson Avenue  
Burnaby, B.C. V5J 3N6  
Phone: 434-2792  
and

*Naomi Miller*  
Box 105 Maple Road  
Wasa, B.C. V0B 2K0  
Phone: (250)-422-3594  
Fax: (250)-422-3244

### Renewal Time:

It's time to renew your membership in the History Group. Please fill out the bright pink application form included in this mailing and return it along with your cheque by February 28. Your support enables us to offer educational programs and communicate with members and others through the newsletter. A strong financial base gives us the resources and support to move forward to accomplish our mission: honoring nurse's contributions to health care by discovering and preserving the history of nursing in British Columbia.

## A Celebration of Women's History

From May to October 1997 12 cases in the Woodward Biomedical Library featured History of Nursing displays prepared by members of the B.C. History of Nursing Group. Members wished to recognize nursing history during the International History of Nursing Conference and the International Council of Nurses (ICN) Congress, held in Vancouver during the month of June. In addition the group wished to honor the contribution of nurses during "Women's History

month", recognized by the Canadian government and celebrated this past October.

A special program meeting was held on the UBC campus in early October. After an orientation to the displays, the 25 members at the meeting enjoyed a visit to the library foyer. There they viewed a wall display honoring Ethel Johns, and 4 cases highlighting the life and contributions of Florence Nightingale. Another case showed the influence of European nursing orders and the contribution of Mme. Marie Rollet Hebert (1617), Canada's first nurse. Early nursing in B.C. was shown in a display featuring the four Sisters of St. Ann (1858), the Royal Engineers military hospital in New Westminster and B.C.'s first school of nursing at the Royal Jubilee Hospital (1890-91). Other cases displayed early texts written by Canadian and B.C. nurses, the first VON nurses in B.C. and Vancouver, local nurses' monuments, and plans for an international distance education course on 'Historical Trends in Nursing'.

The cases were skillfully prepared by History of Nursing members Janet Gormick, Jill Thompson, Glennis Zilm, Sheila Zerr and Brenda Flynn. Thanks are also extended to the librarians and staff of the Woodward Biomedical Library, especially Dr. Lee Perry, for assistance and support with this project.

For those with internet connections who would like to see pictures of some of the cases or obtain more information, go to <http://www.nursing.ubc.ca/docs/NetEvents.html> and click on The History of Nursing Display.

### History of Nursing Scholarship Awarded

The first B.C. History of Nursing Scholarship of \$500 has been awarded to history member Beverly Leipert. Beverly is an Assistant Professor in the nursing program at the University of Northern B.C.

and is on educational leave to pursue PhD studies. She elected to study at the University of Alberta because they offer a course entitled "History and Politics of Nursing" facilitated by Dr. Janet Kerr. Beverly's goal is to study as aspect of the history of public health nursing in Canada.

We wish her good luck in her studies and congratulations on being the recipient of our first history of nursing scholarship.

### RNABC Memorial Book

The RNABC Memorial Book, unveiled almost a year ago, is an historical record honoring deceased members of the Association who deserve recognition for their contributions to nursing in B.C. Nominations are now requested for this year's entries.

Nominees must have been registered in B.C. and practiced nursing in the province. Nominations should include the full name of the nominee, dates, a maximum 250 word account of the nurse's contributions, other background information, and a photograph.

*Deadline for 1998 nominations is April 1, 1998.* For further information please contact Helen Shore, History of Nursing Professional Practice Group, c/o RNABC or phone (604)-731-9588.

### We Remember.....

Gerl LaPointe, president of RNABC from 1973-1975 passed away on March 13, 1997 at the age of 64.

Gerl's accomplishments were many. Her nursing career began in 1953 when she graduated from the School of Nursing in Fort William (Thunder Bay) Ontario. In 1956 she moved to Kamloops, started out as an instructor in the Royal Inland Hospital School of Nursing, and ultimately became head of the School. In 1974 when the nursing program moved to the University College of the Cariboo, LaPointe worked in administration at the Royal Inland Hospital until her retirement in 1991.



Frances Benedict died on September 7, 1997 at the age of 95. *Frances* had a long distinguished career as a high school teacher and nurse educator. She graduated with a B.A. from UBC in 1923 (a Great Trekker) and from the Faculty of Education at UBC and the Vancouver Normal School. After additional graduate studies and employment teaching high school in several B.C. communities, she fulfilled a long-held ambition to become a nurse. *Frances* graduated from St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing in 1936 with honors and the highest marks in the provincial R.N. exams.

*Frances Benedict* served as educational director at St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing in Vancouver for 10 years and at the Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing in New Westminster for 20 years until her retirement. In addition she was honorary clinical instructor in the UBC School of Nursing serving as field guide to nursing students practicing teaching in nursing schools.

Gwendolyn Elizabeth (Betty) Trainor died on September 22, 1997 at 76 years of age. *Betty* was a graduate of the Montreal General Hospital School of Nursing and did post-graduate training at the Sloan Hospital for Women in New York. She had a lengthy career as an obstetrical nurse in Montreal, Victoria and Vancouver. While living in the Yukon Territory she was a Director of Pacific Giant Steel Corporation and founder of Yukon Native Arts, a life skills program for native youth. While living in Ottawa, *Betty* was co-founder of the Tweedsmuir Center, an organization that pioneered the use of megavitamins in the treatment of mental and behavioral disorders.

Thurley Mary Duck, age 68, passed away on September 26, 1997 at the Cowichan District Hospital in Duncan B.C. She graduated from the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing in 1951. She completed post-graduate work in psychiatric nursing at Allen Memorial Institute in

Montreal and earned her B.N. degree at McGill University.

During her nursing career *Duck* held several positions at the Vancouver General Hospital: Assistant Supervisor, Centennial Pavilion, Building Supervisor, Heather Pavilion and Director of Nursing Administration. After serving several years as an RNABC Board member and Vice-President, she became the 24th President of the RNABC.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of these nursing leaders who have contributed so richly to our nursing heritage.

### News from the Executive Meetings

After a brief well-deserved rest, your executive has been hard at work planning projects and activities. Here are just a few items of interest:

- *Jackie Rotzloff* has agreed to be our Program Meeting co-ordinator and has suggested several interesting topics for future meetings.
- *Sheila Zerr* gave a presentation on the history of nursing to the RNABC Vancouver Island Chapters at Parksville in October. Her topic was "Whence We Come..."
- The *B.C. History of Nursing Group*, along with CAHN, now have a home page on the world wide web. Visit us at <http://www.thenerve2.com/silk/cahn/bchn.htm>. The webmaster, *Kevin Lee*, is interested in receiving your comments and input.
- *Glennis Zilm* volunteered to work on adding to the RNABC nursing pin collection, originated by Irene Goldstone.
- The *History of Nursing Group* has been invited to participate in a commemorative program recognizing the 90 year history of the VGH School of Nursing, which is closing. The event will be held in early May, 1998.
- A committee has been established to look at the feasibility of setting up a B.C. Nursing



Archives/Heritage facility. Members are *Helen Shore, Sheila Zerr, Nina Rummen, and Janet Gormick.*

- A birthday card was sent to *Alice Wright*, previous Executive Director of RNABC who celebrated her 103rd birthday on August 22, 1997.

### New Brunswick Village's Heritage Honored

The Chamber of Commerce of the village of Florenceville and the Nurses Association of New Brunswick joined together recently to celebrate their shared heritage. The two organizations have endorsed a proposal for a plaque to honor Florenceville's namesake, Florence Nightingale.

In 1855 New Brunswick Lieutenant Governor L. A. Wilmot named the community, previously known as Buttermilk Creek on the west side of the St. John River and Buckwheat Flats on the east side. Wilmot decided that the settlement deserved a name more benefitting its dynamic, progressive nature. He found in Florence Nightingale the characteristics to describe the community.

The campaign to recognize the village's origins is led by Fredericton archivist and nurse historian, *Arlee Hoyt-McGee* who recently attended the village's annual business and trade show dressed as Florence Nightingale. She and others organized a display of nursing memorabilia as part of the Chamber of Commerce booth.

"Miss Nightingale's image of a dedicated, motivated, organized statistician and administrator is synonymous with the history of the community which bears her name," said *Hoyt-McGee*. "A plaque to recognize Florenceville's origin would benefit both the village and nursing."

Florenceville has adopted the Florence Nightingale lamp as the village symbol. However, the logo is

the municipality's only visible connection to the famous nurse. Enhancing the Nightingale image is seen as a tourist draw for the community.

*From The Daily Gleaner Newspaper, by Rayanne Brennan*

### From the Editor's Corner

*Apologies: Verna Huffman Spiane* wrote to us pointing out an error in the Summer 1997 Edition of the History of Nursing News. In the report of the Annual Meeting on page 5, paragraph 4 states that "Spiane was president of the ICN...." *Verna* writes "Much as I would have been honored to be president, my role was as vice-president from 1973-1981".

*Making history: Denny Boyd*, well-known Vancouver Sun columnist, now writes about seniors issues. He devoted a recent column to a nurse, *Eleanor van der Woerd*, who received her bachelor of nursing degree at the UBC Fall convocation. "When *Eleanor* walked to the stage of the Chan Center her family whooped and stomped and hollered up a joyous storm. *Eleanor* is what educator's refer to as a mature student. She's 61."

*A Different Look: Your editor* is in the process of mastering a new desk-top publishing program. This means that the History of Nursing News will look somewhat different in the next few issues as we try different formats to see what looks and works best!



### 1998 DATES TO REMEMBER!

Feb. 5 & March 5 Executive Meetings: History of Nursing Group, 4-6 PM, RNABC

Feb. 7 Third Annual Ethel Johns Nursing Research Forum: Bridging Practice and Research, Xi Eta Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau, St. Paul's Hospital

April 2 History of Nursing Annual General Meeting, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver, B.C.

May 10-16 Nursing Week

May 29-31 CAHN/ACHN Conference and Annual General Meeting, University of Ottawa, Ontario