



**Beth**



**Ethel**



**Glennis**



**Lynne**



**Sheila**

## Outgoing Members of the Newsletter Committee - THANK YOU! -

### Thank you & farewell

The BCHNS Board wishes to offer our Sincere Thanks to the outgoing Newsletter Committee for their generous service since the beginning of BCHNS. Glennis Zilm, Ethel Warbinek, Beth Fitzpatrick, Lynne Esson, Sheila Zerr and other members have rotated and shared their expertise in producing the History of Nursing News for many years. We have been proud to share their efforts in our award-winning newsletter with the membership! They all have decided it is time to pass the torch and we wish to offer our sincere appreciation for their work & dedication to BCHNS.

**Beth** lives in Connecticut and helps with the BCHNS website.

**Ethel** happily resides in Naramata and has involved herself in that community.

**Glennis** is happily residing in Campbell River.

**Lynne** is now working for Vancouver Coastal Health.

**Sheila** is now North Vancouver close to Family.

We wish all of you wonderful ladies the best!



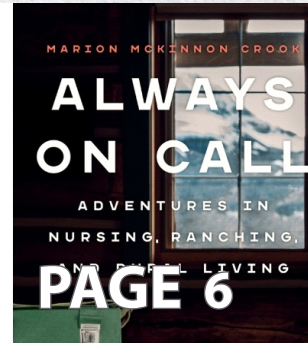
also in this issue



**PAGE 2**



**PAGE 5**



**PAGE 6**

# IN THIS ISSUE:

Outgoing Newsletter Committee Members	Cover
Archival Corner	Page 2
President's Message	Page 3
Dr. Helen Vandenberg	Page 4
Margaret Saunders	Pages 5
New Book to Watch For: / Member News	Page 6
News & Upcoming Events	Page 7

## newsletter committee

Geertje Boschma, Michelle Danda and Lenore Radom.  
The BC History of Nursing Society Newsletter is published 2 times per year.

### SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME.

Deadline for the Fall Issue is September 15th, 2024.  
Please send submissions to: lenoremail@shaw.ca



## Archival Corner

### Nan Kennedy (1914 – 1996)

NAN MARTIN, Archives Chair

In this archival corner, I wish to share a story of how BCHNS and UBC Rare Books and Special Collections (Krisztina Laszlo, Archivist) worked together to respond to niece Glee who asked for info about her aunt, Nan Kennedy (1914 – 1996) a nurse who received her RN from VGH in 1933 and, in 1978, was awarded the RNABC Award of Merit as well as an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Victoria in 1978. Nan's biographical file can be found on our website [www.bc-nursinghistory.ca](http://www.bc-nursinghistory.ca)

I was not able to respond during Covid, but did so once restrictions were lifted. The information we were able to provide was very much appreciated by niece Glee who shared the following kind words of thanks:

#### *Justmeheresayin'*

*~~~ to each and every person who played a role in helping me receive all this amazing information, there are no words that can possibly relay my gratitude effectively!*

*Memories are flooding back, a mix of tears and laughter, with an intensity that has surprised me!*

*Nan gave so much of herself to others I have often pondered whether she had enough time or space for herself?*

*Nan set a high bar for how best to live one's life, a life that encompasses attributes such as integrity, empathy, & work ethic!*

*I can only hope that my own life, in some small measure, has attained some of the qualities that my PRECIOUS Auntie Nan taught us by her incredible example!*

*Again, my heartfelt thanks for your amazing help.*

*Glee*





## Kennedy, Fanny Annette (Nan) (1914-1996)

Nan received her RN from VGH in 1933, and spent the next nine years as a general and private duty nurse. After receiving a diploma in public health from UBC, she spent the next eight years as a public health nurse in Rossland, the Upper Fraser Valley and the Lower Mainland. She received her BSN from UBC in 1954 and spent four years with WHO as a public health nursing consultant in East Pakistan and Iran.

She returned to study for her Masters' in Nursing at the University of Washington in Seattle. In 1959 she joined the RNABC as Director of Education services and became Executive Director in 1970. For the next eight years she managed the dramatic change that growth and changing concepts in nursing education brought to the profession. Her work was recognized in 1978 with her being awarded the RNABC Award of Merit and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Victoria.

The originals of these contents can be found and accessed at the UBC Rare books and special collections of the UBC Archives. For information and access: <https://rbsc.library.ubc.ca/>.

For an overview of the BCHNS fonds: <https://rbscarchives.library.ubc.ca/b-c-history-of-nursing-society-fonds>.

If you are interested to search the collection use the following link (choose "All" – 4980 results): <https://rbscarchives.library.ubc.ca/informationobject/browse?collection=680028&sort=referenceCode&showAdvanced=1&topLod=0&sortDir=asc>.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Geertje Boschma

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to Spring time! We are pleased to present you the Spring 2024 BCHNS Newsletter. We have been moving forward this year with new plans and planning from the board and a series of presentations and meetings with members. In the fall Ruth Derksen gave a most interesting presentation on her book, "Daughters in the City: Mennonite Maids in Vancouver, 1931-61." In January, Helen Vandenberg presented on her research on the history of hospitals in BC, with a particular focus on the interconnections between hospitals and nursing education, which generated an interesting discussion. You will find a report on her presentation in the newsletter. We conferred with the members of the Newsletter committee and learned they would like to hand the torch over to new members. We take the opportunity in this Newsletter to genuinely thank them for their strong commitment and diligence in maintaining the communication with our members and keeping us abreast on important news in nursing history from the early days of the BCHNS.



An important upcoming event is our Annual General Meeting. We cordially invite you to attend the society's AGM on April 16 at 4 pm. The meeting will be held on zoom. We will start with a presentation, where after the committees will present their reports and update you on the BCHNS budget and the plans for the upcoming year. The final meeting of the year will be held on June 11th, the details of which we will follow later. We hope to see you all at the AGM on April 16. Please make sure to RSVP on the website to receive the zoom link for the AGM meeting.

You will have received a message from Lenore Radom to invite nominations for various positions. We welcome your nominations. Members are also welcome to join one of the committees that may be of interest to you. As always, if you have contributions for future newsletters please send them to Lenore. We appreciate member input on interesting works on nursing history you may have read, or on events you may have attended or learned about. We very much welcome your contributions. Finally, yet importantly, follow our updates on nursing history resources and events on the website, kept up to date by Lenore Radom and Beth Fitzpatrick (<https://bcnursinghistory.ca/>)

Best wishes, also on behalf of the board,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geertje". The script is cursive and elegant.

# Dr. Helen Vandenberg presented at the BCHNS meeting in January

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## ***“What can the history of hospitals teach us about nursing education during the interwar period in British Columbia, 1918 – 1931?”***

On January 30, Dr. Helen Vandenberg presented on her research on the history of hospitals in BC at the first BCHNS meeting of 2024. She currently is Associate Professor at the College of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan. Her program of research is focused on the history of hospitals, health systems, and nursing in Western Canada during the turn of the twentieth century.

In a brief abstract, she summarized the key points from her talk: Between 1855 and 1918, the number of hospitals built in British Columbia increased from five to over 80. These hospitals were far from uniform, and included Catholic, Protestant, municipal, provincial, private, Chinese, Japanese, Indian, and specialty hospitals. The introduction of professional nursing and advances in science and medicine, meant that many institutions would eventually fail, or transform from the previous Victorian alms house into scientific factories for health. By the 1920s, governments and health professionals became increasingly interested in hospital standardization, which arose when the American College of Surgeons instituted its first hospital accreditation standards in 1918.

The purpose of this paper is to explore how the history of small hospitals played a significant role in shaping ideas about nursing education. Utilizing records from the British Columbia Hospital Association’s annual conventions (1918-1931), I bring attention to some of the debates and contradictions that still raise questions relevant to rural and remote nursing education today. Utilizing the analytical lenses of gender, place, and profession, I argue that Canadian hospital standardization was primarily defined as the need to transform small remote hospitals into the image of larger metropole ones. Hospital administrators and physicians looked to nurses to make improvements and to fill the gap in knowledge and techniques undertaken in larger

hospitals. Elite nursing leaders questioned this approach, and instead argued for improved education through small-to-large hospital affiliation. Elite nursing leaders aimed to expose rural students to a wider variety of cases in urban placements, rather than to meet the needs of smaller hospitals. The way that hospital standardization was viewed, ignored the fact that rural hospitals and nursing was different and underpinned by vast inequities in resources.

The solutions offered by elite nursing leaders fit well with their agenda to raise nursing educational standards, but continued to obscure the needs of rural communities. This study reveals that there is still much to understand about the relationship between hospitals and nursing education in both small and large hospitals in British Columbia.



*[photo of Dr. Helen Vandenberg]*

# TRIBUTE TO MARGARET SAUNDERS

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*[photo of Margaret Saunders]*

In loving memory of Margaret Jean Saunders, also known as Maggie, a radiant, mischievous soul whose light touched the lives of all who knew her. In sorrow, we share the news of Margaret's passing, leaving behind a legacy of love, kindness, unwavering faith and many lovingly quilted blankets. A pillar of the United Church thrift store community for many years, Maggie had a keen eye for fashion and was a tireless shopper. She was known for her vibrant spirit, witty banter, infectious laughter, cheeky sense of humor and the genuine warmth she extended to everyone she met. Maggie was born in 1936 in Princeton BC, grew up at the Nickel Plate mine high on the mountain above Hedley and beside the Similkameen at the family orchard in Keremeos. She trained at St. Paul's to become a nurse and practiced in San Francisco, Prince Rupert and Vancouver among other places. Her patients were ever grateful for her kind and competent care. Margaret and her late husband Dr. David Boyes were keen golfers and sailors, traveled the world, and seldom missed a happy hour on their deck, complete with stiff gin and tonics, never ending snacks and skinny cigars (never inhaled of course!). Maggie always had a hilarious anecdote ready about nursing, shopping and road trips with her best girlfriends, Winn, Sheila, Juanita, Connie, Peggy, Liz and cousin Rolande who now hold Margaret's memory close in their hearts.

Margaret is remembered by friends and family and all those her famous cheeky (and sometimes salty) one-liners made smile. The world is a little dimmer without your bright light and hilarious happy hours, Maggie B.

The BCHNS thanks David Boyes for his permission to submit this obituary to our newsletter and to Sheila Oxholm for making us aware of Margaret's passing.

We Remember Margaret Saunders who passed in December 2023

Marg Saunders was a long time BCHNS member who eagerly participated in our Nursing Uniform Fashion shows and particularly liked to wear this white Naval uniform. Margaret was a member of the Display committee & helped Cheryl Entwistle set up and man the tables at various events during Nurses Week & Career Days. We missed Margaret's friendly participation when she moved to the island, we thank Sheila Oxholm for notifying us of Margaret's passing.



*Margaret Saunders (on the far left) at Nursing Uniform Fashion show.*

*From left to right: Margaret Saunders, Michele Eng, Lenore Radom, Cheryl Entwistle, Nan Martin.*



# New Book to Watch For:

MARION CROOK

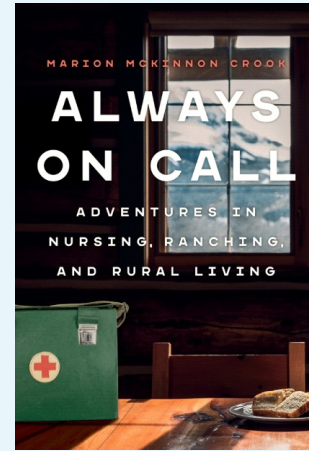
— the sequel to Marion Crook’s bestselling & award-winning memoir, *Always Pack a Candle*, is coming out this April...“*Always On Call*”

*In Always On Call: Adventures in Nursing, Ranching, and Rural Living intrepid public health nurse Marion Crook juggles marriage, children, and a vast array of patients and cases in rural British Columbia in the 1970s.*

It has been over a decade since Marion Crook arrived in the Cariboo for her first job out of nursing school. The vast rural territory that once left her awestruck now feels like home, as she embraces life on the ranch with her husband, Carl, three young children, and numerous farm animals. But things are far from idyllic.

Overseeing a small staff of irrepressible nurses serving a public health district the size of a small country brings new challenges every day. From runaway patients and needle-phobic hockey players to cultural misunderstandings and heartbreaking cases of abuse and neglect, Marion never knows what is coming next. The 1970s bring signs of social progress as women gain more autonomy and the region grows more culturally diverse. Yet, old prejudices persist, and Marion must fight for her patients, as well as for her adopted son.

Recounted with warmth, compassion, and riveting detail, *Always*



[photo of Marion Crook’s new book cover]

*On Call* is a fascinating portrait of the hectic life of a rural nurse and highlights the importance of the helping professions.

Marion McKinnon Crook is a nurse, an educator, and the author of more than fifteen books, including the bestselling *Always Pack a Candle*, which won the BC Historical Federation’s Community History Book Award. In addition to her nursing degree, McKinnon Crook holds a master’s in liberal studies and a PhD in education. Now a full-time writer, she lives on BC’s Sunshine Coast with her dog and cat, who hate each other.

Many thanks to HERITAGE HOUSE Publishing for this heads up!

## Member News - Birthdays

### Kathy Murphy 80th Bday

Happy Belated 80th Birthday to Kathy Murphy who was given a Surprise Mad Hatter Birthday Party!!

Our Congratulations Kathy and Best Wishes from Your friends at BCHNS



[photo of Kathy Murphy at her surprise party]

### Happy Birthday to Shelia Zerr!

Sheila Oxholm and Lenore Radom were pleased to visit Sheila on her birthday! Upon hearing our voices she said “Well this is so nice, it feels ‘normal’ again” Sheila always enjoys a party and said for her birthday she was just going to sit back and enjoy.



[photo of Sheila Zerr with Lenore Radom and Sheila Oxholm]

# News & Upcoming Events

## Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN-ACHN) conference in June

The annual CAHN-ACHN conference will be held in Halifax, NS, from June 21 – 23, 2024, on the campus of St. Mary's University. The organizing committee is chaired by Peter Twohig, currently president of CAHN-ACHN and faculty at St. Mary's University. The program and conference information will be available on the CAHN-ACHN website or by contacting Peter.Twohig(at)smu.ca directly. Nova Scotia is also home to the Nursing History Nova Scotia Society, organizing regular meetings, hosted among others by Gloria Stephen in Halifax.



## Webinar 2023 Nursing History Symposium

On November 21, 2024 the Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry at the School of Nursing at UBC (Vancouver) hosted the 2023 Nursing History Symposium, a webinar jointly presented by members of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN-ACHN) and the European Association for the History of Nursing (EAHN).

## Using photo analysis to examine the history of nursing in political spheres: Canadian and European perspectives

*Presented by Helen Vandenberg; Peter, Twohig; Geertje Boschma; Hugo Schalkwijk; Maria Eugenia Galiana Sanchez; Anna La Torre; Anja Katharina Peters; Sandra Franković; Zvonimir Kralj; Carlos Luzada Lopes Subtil.*

Description of the presentation, a recording of which is available in the UBC Library, Open Collection.

Panel presenters and members of the respective Canadian and European Associations of the History of Nursing present and examine a series of photographs representing key events in the history of nursing from various perspectives, time periods and national and international contexts. The panel shows how photographs can provide insight into nursing's past that may not necessarily be captured by document analysis alone and may invite reflection on the ways in which nursing has interacted with different political influences. The recording can be accessed at the History of Nursing in Pacific Canada collection in the Open Collection of UBC Library.



<http://hdl.handle.net/2429/86672>

<https://open.library.ubc.ca/cIRcle/collections/historyofnursinginpacificcanada/46624/items/1.0437881>

## Congratulations to Linda Buchanan!

On November 21, 2023, public health nurse Linda Buchanan, currently Mayor of the City of North Vancouver, was among the recipients of the Faculty of Applied Science Dean's medal of distinction at UBC.

Linda Buchanan is serving her second term as Mayor of the City of North Vancouver. Prior to being elected Mayor, Linda was a public health nurse for 30 years, working with children and families. She also served two terms as a City Councillor and a term as a School Board Trustee.

Her goal is to build an inclusive and healthy community for all people. By focusing on shared prosperity, mobility, sustainability, vibrancy, and people-friendly places, Linda aims to improve livability across the City. Linda has championed making the City of North Vancouver 'the Healthiest Small City in the World' and has put the health and wellbeing of residents at the heart of her decision-making.

Born and raised in the City, Linda knows this community well and raised her own four children here with her husband Kevin. A proud hockey mom, Linda believes in the power of sport and recreation. She loves the City's amazing local art and jazz music scene, and can often be found riding her bike on the Spirit Trail. Linda holds a Bachelor's Degree with Honours in Nursing from the University of British Columbia and in 2019 she received the Centenary Medal of Distinction for her achievements in nursing.



[photo of Linda Buchanan]

PUBLISHED TWO TIMES A YEAR  
BC History of Nursing Society

PO Box 72082 RPO Sasamat,  
Vancouver, BC, V6R 4P2

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[www.facebook.com/BCHistoryofNursing](https://www.facebook.com/BCHistoryofNursing)

Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the BCHNS newsletter  
Next Meeting: April 16, 2024

Articles, news, and ideas for items to be included in the Fall 2024 issue should be sent to  
Lenore Radom: [lenoremail@shaw.ca](mailto:lenoremail@shaw.ca)