



BC History of Nursing Society

SUMMER BULLETIN 2025

BCHNS Board of Directors 2024-2025

President: Geertje Boschma

Vice-President: Lenore Radom

Treasurer: Marg Gorrie

Secretary: Michelle Danda

BCHNS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING COMMITTEE REPORTS

President's Report

At the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM), we moved forward, setting new goals for our organization, including the renewal of the website and the opportunity to celebrate our 35th anniversary.

2025 is a special year, marking the 35th year of existence of the BCHNS. We truly must acknowledge the valuable work of Lenore Radom, Beth Fitzpatrick, and Margaret Scaia in collaboration with Anita Petersen on the renewal of the website. Last AGM we decided on this main goal - and it has been a major achievement this past year. Special thanks also to Francis Mansbridge and Heather Swallow and the team of members for their essential work on the commemorative booklet that we have compiled at the occasion of the 35th anniversary, which has turned out very beautiful. In setting our goals, we kept in mind the overall goal of the BCHNS, that is, to discover, disseminate and preserve nursing history. Sadly, during the course of this year, we lost several of our longstanding members who have passed away - Marjory Ralston, Carol Harrison, and Cheryl Entwistle. We keep them in our memory and acknowledge their important contributions to the organization. A special tribute to them is also on our website.

The Board of Directors met seven times since the last Annual General Meeting. In four of these, members participated and in which we had an invited speaker. The various committees have continued to carry out their activities. Of note is the work of the Bursary committee, which Marg Scaia and Linda Quiney took on this year; Frances Affleck's work on the Newsletter, and Michelle Danda for keeping track of the minutes. Other committee work of note is the archival committee. Suzanne Nixon took over the leadership role from Nan Martin and in collaboration with Linda Quiney, set up a number of displays and are looking after the important artifact collection, also with input from Wendy Trigg. Thanks also to Brenda Flynn, our board member who also looks after Pages of History and joins Lenore in acknowledging the important contributions of our members. I also gratefully acknowledge the contributions of all of our members, and especially student members who have joined this year. You engaged in our presentations, joined in on important discussions about our directions and decisions.

A special thank you to our treasurer, Marg Gorrie, who has adeptly devoted her time for two years to look after our finances, which, fortunately are in good shape. You will receive a detailed report on our budget later in this newsletter, but I already want to acknowledge your contributions and thank you Marg, as you will be handing over the torch this year to the next treasurer. Thank you all for making essential contributions to the organization and generously give their time and commitment.

We anticipate the move into the new building along with the UBC School of Nursing (SON) some time later in the fall. The in-kind support of the SON will continue, offering space to meet and keeping our artifact collection. Thank you all, board, and members, for your commitment to the BCHNS. We look forward to continue our work in the upcoming year.

Respectfully, Geertje Boschma

Vice President's Report

2025 Nomination Report for AGM April 15, 2025

According to the Bylaws of the BC History of Nursing Society Act for appointment by the Board.

Board of Directors:

President: Geertje Boschma

Vice Pres: Lenore Radom [Website Chair]

Treasurer: Cathy Ebbehøj [Membership Chair]

Secretary: Michelle Danda

Directors at Large:

Directory at Large, Archives Chair: Suzanne Nixon

Director at large, Newsletter Chair: Frances Affleck

Director at large, Pages of History: Brenda Flynn

Director at large, Displays: Linda Quiney

Director at large, Programs & Bursary Chair: Margaret Scaia

Respectfully submitted by Lenore Radom

Treasurer's Report

- ❖ Website renewal – paid in three installments
- ❖ Two payments in 2024, and the final one is going through in 2025 budget
- ❖ Planned previously to pay in 2024 so that expense was accommodated for
- ❖ Budget based on prior year
- ❖ Bursary amount increased
- ❖ Amount on website includes the third payment.

Many thanks to the following people who supported BCHNS with donations in 2024.

Elizabeth Anne Ashcroft, in memory of Katherine Hogarth & Margaret Rauliuk, in memory of Vera McIver.

Cathy Ebbehoj; Beth Fitzpatrick; Sue Forshaw; Irene Goldstone; Sharron Higgins; Genelle Leifso; Nan Martin; Kathy Murphy; Margaret Scaia; Lisa Smith; Anonymous.

Respectfully submitted by Marg Gorrie, Committee Chair. Incoming Chair: Cathy Ebbehoj

Membership Report

	2023	2024
Full Members	40	35
Affiliate Members	2	2
Student Members	5	15
Honorary Members	6	6
Total	53	58

Lenore Radom and Marg Gorrie share the Membership Chair.

Respectfully submitted, Marg Gorrie

- * At the 2025 AGM Lenore Radom was nominated for an Honourary Membership. More details and photos to follow in the Fall Newsletter.

Archive Report

Members: Suzanne Nixon (Chair), Nan Martin (Past Chair), Wendy Trigg, Sharron Higgins, Brenda Flynn, Chris Lemphers

1. Activities:

- In collaboration with Lenore Radom, we reviewed and revised all Archival forms in preparation for the new BCHNS website.
- Collaborated with Linda Quinley for ongoing support of displays throughout 2024-25.
- Received an original “chatelaine” donated by the family of Dorothy Martin, a graduate from Saskatchewan in May 1928. Dorothy worked in Alert Bay and later the tuberculosis ward at VGH for most of her career.
- Responded to a request for BCHNS to consider receiving the uniform doll collection that Sheila Zerr had bestowed to the University of Victoria SON.
- Responded to numerous emails from family members making enquiries about donating their family’s nursing artifacts. Policies/guidelines for determining approval, provenance and processes for authorizing ownership were helpful.
- Visited the RBSC to meet with the Archivist, to 1) understand the process for requesting and booking appointments to review documents and to 2) tour the Reading Room. Later visited on several occasions to review documents about the founding of BCHNS, in support of researching BCHNS history.
- Helped edit and publish the *BC Nursing History* by Francis Mansbridge
- Responded to a request to set up a display at the annual PHC Heart Centre Nursing Education Day, *Cardiac Nursing Over the Years* June 6, 2025.
- Visited the VGH School of Nursing Alumni Association Archives in the Heather Pavillion at VGH for a tour of the Archives and an orientation of archival processes and methods used by the current Archivist.
- Geertje Boschma completed the *Canadian Heritage Institutes* Survey as requested by the Heritage Institute. The last survey was completed four years ago.

2. Biographical Files and Oral Histories:

- One biographical file completed this year for Alice Sims.
- Chris Lemphers has reached out to Marion Crook, author of *Always Pack a Candle*, to complete a Biographical Form. Work is in progress.

3. Future Move to the Gateway Building, Fall 2025

To ensure a smooth transition of our archival materials and artifacts to the new UBC SON location at the Gateway Building, November of 2025, I am working with administrative staff and moving agents to develop a plan to help prepare for a safe and successful move. Also, in consultation with an archivist, I will also seek advice on how to establish suitable configuration and retrieval systems for the archival materials and artifacts within the confines of the new space at UBC SON.

Respectfully submitted Suzanne Nixon, Chair

Pages of History Report

The following two pages of history were obtained & submitted to the website in 2024.

1. Honouring Elizabeth [Betty] Robertson, born February 4, 1924 interviewed by Lenore and sponsored by Glennis Zilm.
2. Honouring Kathleen Viola Raisbeck, October 1929 – July 2024, submitted by Susan Knoll and sponsored by the Perioperative Nurses Association of BC

Respectfully submitted, Lenore Radom on behalf of Brenda Flynn, Chair

Displays Report

As always, the year has flown by. The Displays Committee is adjusting to the departure of our very able guide, Nan Martin, but she is always ready to help by phone and even in person on her visits back to Vancouver. In June of last year, at the start of the summer term, the first of the new BCHNS year's displays was installed in the Hallway Table case to highlight the Archives & Artifacts collection of the BCHNS. Per Nan's welcome suggestion, Suzanne Nixon and myself set up a display based on the artifacts of nurse Jessie May Russell Reynolds, circa 1926. These included some of her small implements such as glass eyewash cups, enamel vessels, and a lovely blue and white ceramic feeding cup.

This display remained in place over the summer months and through to the October/November Remembrance Day display. In the interim, The Doll's Display of Uniforms, dressed by Sheila Zerr was replaced in the upright hall display case in September with the assistance of Nan Martin and Suzanne Nixon.

In October, the Jessie Reynold's display in the hallway table case was replaced by a new student display in honour of Islamic History Month. Titled *Rufaida*, the display was created by one of Lydia Wytenbroek's students, Shamsala M.F. Al-Anzi, and was complimented by a 60-minute student event via Zoom, showing two videos, *Rufaida and Islamaphobia*. This display was subsequently replaced in early November with a Remembrance Day display, using artifacts from the BCHNS collection emphasizing both military nursing and diversity.

The hallway case was emptied over the holiday break, displaying a small selection of the BCHNS nursing history book collection. Then in early February, a new display on the theme of the Nurse's Chatelaine was installed in the hallway case. These are small containers of nursing implements traditionally included as an attachment to the nurse's belt. The BCHNS artifact collection now holds three replica and actual chatelaines. Two of these artifacts were once in active use by nurses in the early 20th century. The third is a replica of the small hide pouch, decorated with beads and fur, used by Amelia Douglas, wife of BC's first Governor General. This display is due to be replaced in the coming weeks.

A final small display for this year was briefly set up for the 35th Anniversary Symposium at Cecil Green Park House on April 14th. This display highlighted the work of the BCHNS over the past years.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Quiney, Chair

Website

A contract was struck with Scarlet Creative [Anita & Jens Petersen owners] on April 3, 2024 for a complete Rebuild of the BCHNS website.

The primary objective was to keep the current website up to date, but this has transitioned to ensuring the final product of the new website would contain current information of forms, titles, and other important details throughout the website.

The newly developed website was launched February 11, 2025 and we are in the process of developing proficiency in this new website.

Website Stats:

March 1, 2024 - March 1, 2025

Users: 7,432

Sessions: 8,322

Increases compared to last year

Top Pages:

1. Archives - up 22% over last year
2. Newsletter - up 532% over last year
3. Pages of History - up 15% over last year
4. Blog
5. Biographical Files - up 15% over last year
6. Artefacts - steady
7. About Membership - steady
8. Nursing Presentations - steady
9. Bursaries - steady

Most visitors came from Canada, the USA, and the UK

Respectfully submitted by Lenore Radom, (Chair) on behalf of the committee, Beth Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Stephens, and Margaret Scaia

Bursary Report

April, 2024 – March 2025

2024 Student Bursary Fund Award Winners

Maki Yimer (Jan 14, 2025)

Title: The History of Black Nursing: Racial Injustice in Nursing.

Amount: \$200.00

Mohadeseh Saki (Jan 15, 2025)

Title: Iranian Nurses International Educational & Leadership Experiences, 1950s-1970

Amount \$400.00

Noor Multani (March 2025)

Title: The Lived Experience of Individuals with a History of Mental Illness as a Resource in Becoming a Mental Health Worker: An Oral History Analysis.

Amount: \$400.00

Respectfully submitted, Margaret Scaia, chair, and Linda Quiney

Program Report Jan 1, 2024- December 31, 2024

June 11, 2024

Dr. Michelle Danda

Title: Persistence of a separate nursing profession: exploring the ethical issues of workforce needs shaping the evolution of Registered Psychiatric Nursing (RPN) education in British Columbia

September 27th, 2025

Marion Crook

Title: Always on Call

November 20, 2024

Allistair White

Title: The Complex Role of Public Health Nurses in the Yukon, 1945-1990

February 11th, 2025

Noor Multani

Title: This presentation explores the transformative journeys of individuals with lived experience of mental illness as they transition into roles as mental health/peer support workers.

Respectfully submitted, Margaret Scaia, Chair

Newsletter Report

- ❖ Newsletters were produced for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.
- ❖ “Summer Bulletin” focusing on the AGM reports emailed out mid-June.
- ❖ January 3rd New Year’s Greeting from President Greetings along with Membership Renewal & Donation forms were included.
- ❖ The majority were sent to members via email. Hard copies are available on request, although no requests received to date. Hard copies can be requested from Frances Affleck (see email address below).
- ❖ We welcome newsletter submissions.

New email address FrancesAffleck123@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted, Frances Affleck, Chair

End of BCHNS AGM Reports

Member Society Report to British Columbia Historical Federation Annual Conference

Williams Lake - May 1 to May 4, 2025

I was pleased to represent the BC History of Nursing Society as our delegate at the four-day event that featured the Federation’s Annual General Meeting.

This year’s conference was centered around the theme of truth and reconciliation.

Just over six years since she began speaking her truth full-time, Phyllis Webstad (orange shirt day) shared her story during her keynote speech here in Williams Lake. She shared stories from her childhood and talked about living off the land with her granny before attending residential school. It was a very moving presentation.

Along with Phyllis' speech, the BCHF Conference included presentations on the fur trade and Chinese Canadian history, the screening of the Oscar nominated film Sugarcane, a field trip to the historic 153 Mile Store and to the grounds of the former St. Joseph’s Mission Indian Residential School.

BCHF awarded the Lieutenant Governor’s Medal for historical writing to Linda M. Ambrose, professor of history at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario for her book: Pentecostal Preacher Woman – The Faith and Feminism of Bernice Gerard.

More information is available on their excellent website: <https://www.bchistory.ca/news> where you will also find the obituary of our own Cheryl Entwistle.

Respectfully submitted, Nan Martin - Our BCHF Representative

Save the Date

All Meetings online 4-6 pm

September 16 - Open meeting with Speaker; Board meeting to follow.

Guest Speaker: Catherine Flo author of Ever a Nurse

October 14 - Board of Directors only.

November 18 - Open meeting with Speaker; Board meeting to follow.

January 13, 2026 - Board of Directors only.

February 10, 2026 - Open meeting with Speaker; Board meeting to follow.

March 10, 2026 - Board of Directors only

April 14, 2026 AGM (online via zoom)

www.bcnursinghistory.ca

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