



[photo: Glennis Zilm]

MEMORIES OF GLENNIS ZILM 1935-2026

The following are special memories shared by our members – Thank you

I met Glennis in 1955 when we were UBC nursing students living in residence at VGH during the clinical por-

tion of our program. I was one year ahead of her, but we saw each other frequently. When we graduated, our paths diverged due to differing careers. We reestablished our contacts when I joined the BC History of Nursing in 1990. The UBC School of Nursing was celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 1994 and Glennis was asked to write its history. She requested a UBC contact and I volunteered to work with her. I clearly remember her saying "I will only work with one person – not a committee." Thus began our close working relationship. For the next two years we met weekly at her home in Crescent Beach writing Legacy - the history of UBC SON. I would share research gathered at the School and UBC library and Glennis her extensive knowledge of nursing leaders such as Ethel Johns - the first director of the school. Meeting in her kitchen, she would type our entries onto her computer. Our next big project was research on the history of early Tuberculosis nursing in BC. By this time, she had moved to White Rock, and we continued our weekly meetings. She always gave me a cup of coffee and tasty treats. Together we wrote papers on TB nursing and presented our findings often in attractive Power Point presentations designed by Glennis. Dedicated

to preserving the memories of BC nursing leaders we wrote profiles on prominent nursing leaders. Over the many years we collaborated we never had an argument or unkind words - did agree to disagree at times. Sometimes I won and at other times she did. An excellent editor, Glennis kindly agreed to edit a couple of articles I wrote – very few changes were required by the publishers due to her expertise.

I remember the special times we spent driving to BCHoN meetings in Vancouver sharing family events and stories. Glennis expressed a genuine interest in my family. She attended Anita's wedding and held a delightful baby shower for her at her home. A wonderful hostess she always made one feel so welcome. Several summer HoN workshops were held at her White Rock apartment. And then Glennis moved to Campbell River to be close to her sister Val and family. We kept in touch through regular phone calls sharing our life and family stories. In the summer of 2024, Anita and I had the pleasure of visiting Glennis in Campbell River. We went for supper at a local restaurant and she gave us a grand tour of Berwick where she was so happy. I spoke to her in early January and she sounded fine - recovering from a nasty virus so I was dismayed to learn of her sudden death. I treasure my 65 years with Glennis and will truly miss her.

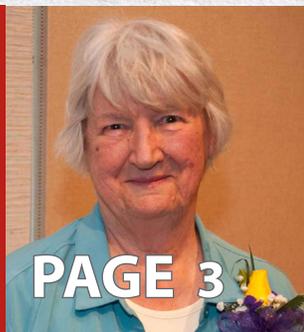
Ethel Warbinek

Glennis lived a long and productive life in a number of different roles, but for me, the most important was her contribution to documenting B.C.'s nursing history. My two favourites are her collaborations with Ethel Warbinek and their history of the UBC school of nursing and their biographical dictionary of BC's TB nurses.

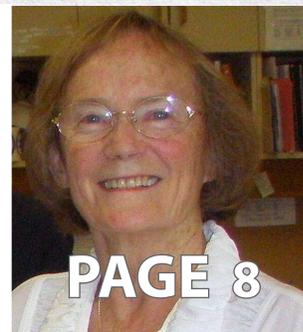
I do not want to overlook the contributions Glennis made

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newsletter committee

Frances Affleck and Lenore Radom.
The BC History of Nursing Society Newsletter is published 2 times per year.

SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME.

Deadline for the Spring Issue is August 15th, 2026.
Please send submissions to: Francesaffleck123@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Geertje Boschma

Welcome to springtime everyone!

We started the spring season with a wonderful presentation by Nan Martin at our January meeting. She shared her experiences as the BCHNS representative on the BC Historical Federation and explained the goals and role of the BCHF. It was a delight to learn about her interesting travels and experiences attending the BCHF conferences over the years. The next 2026 annual conference will be held in Vancouver on May 30th. A great opportunity for those of us who would be interested to attend. We are pleased Michelle Danda will be our representative this year.

We were sad to learn that our longstanding and honorary member Glennis Zilm has passed away in January. Over the last years she lived close to her family in Campbell River. Glennis Zilm was a deeply engaged member of our Society, an inspirational leader in the nursing history community and a dear friend to many of us. A tribute to Glennis with memories and stories is shared in this newsletter. We will miss her.

We invite you all to the annual general meeting on Tuesday April 14 at 4 pm via zoom. The meeting will start with a presentation by Lydia Wytenbroek with one of her students on one of their projects. Thereafter we will present the reports and updates on all matters of interest to our organization. We hope you will be able to join! We also just recently learned about the passing of another longstanding member of the BCHNS, Elizabeth Robertson. We send our condolences to her family. As always, we welcome your input for the newsletter and website. Please share your experiences about interesting nursing history events, books or postings with Frances Affleck or Lenore Radom. Thank you, Lenore and Frances, for keeping us up to date. See you at the AGM!

Respectfully,

Geertje



in supporting other historians of Canadian nursing. Susan Armstrong-Reid (*Lyle Creelman: The Frontiers of Global Nursing, 2014* and *China Gadabouts: New Frontiers of Humanitarian Nursing, 1941-1951, 2018*) and Maureen Duffus (*Battlefront Nurses in WWI, 2009*) both gratefully expressed their thanks to Glennis. I'm sure there are others. I had the privilege of working with Glennis on a project to research and write about the history of B.C.'s hospital-based nursing schools. In that context, Glennis insisted on two basics: the first, no sentence longer than 50 words. And, I have a propensity to write long sentences! Secondly, Glennis would only allow the use of "very" once in an essay! These two rules give me lots of opportunity to remember Glennis and the many contributions she made.

Irene Goldstone

Glennis was such a lovely person. Always so generous with her time, and support for any topic you were researching. She was a true mentor. She helped me several times back when I was doing graduate research for my doctoral thesis. I remember sitting in the Winnipeg airport with her for 2-3 hours on my birthday, while we each waited for our respective flights home from a conference, me to Ottawa and Glennis to Vancouver. It was one of the few airport waits that I actually enjoyed! It was always a delight to spend time with her. There were many times that she contacted me with a bit of information she had come across, a person I could contact for more information, or a book she was happy to lend. It's hard to think of BCHNS without her, she will truly be missed.

Sadly, Linda Quiney



[Glennis Zilm receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for her service to the BCHF Advocacy Committee]

I always felt in awe of Glennis because of her extensive knowledge of nursing history and nursing events throughout the years! However, we became friends due to the many, many times we attended the annual conferences of the British Columbia Historical Federation. We were always welcomed there, starting in 2012 through to 2022. We did lots of

socializing and had lots of fun. My special memory, though, was our trip to the Revelstoke Conference in 2016! There we stayed with another honorary member, Naomi Miller! Sadly, I had news of the sudden death of a friend in Scotland. Glennis was so kind. She comforted and supported me in my grief. I will always remember her bringing me hugs and a cup of tea that I needed.

Nan Martin



[photo: Glennis Zilm]

Dear Glennis: I am heartbroken knowing that you are no longer with us. I remember how you supported me when I became the editor of the History of Nursing News in 1995. History of nursing members and the larger nursing community will not forget you, our first newsletter editor, who along with Ethel Warbinek, wrote, designed and created this professional publication from the

beginning. Your many contributions to our newsletters, critiques, book reviews, news about members and compliments on each newsletter issue were treasured and uplifting. You were a visionary Glennis, and Cheers to you.

Beth Fitzpatrick

"Glennis will know" is a statement that I and others within the BCHNS executive have uttered many times over the years in our relationship with Glennis, and when we did ask her, we always got much more than we'd requested [I somehow can't resist a graphic here, because she always commented on them...so, Glennis, here's my last smiley face to you!] Glennis had a very nice convincing way of empowering one to have confidence in themselves, which is how I all of a sudden found myself taking over the website from her!! She promised she would help and would answer enquiries that came through the 'Contact Us' feature, which I was very grateful for, she was a master resource going above & beyond. I have missed the in-person interaction with Glennis, but so enjoyed our one visit to Campbell River & our telephone chats. We will miss her kind support and sense of humour.

Cheers, *[she always signed off with Cheers]*

Lenore Radom

When Glennis would send me something for the newsletter, she would always say to me "feel free to edit", and I would laugh to myself and say, "as if I would edit an editor". I am not sure that I ever did.

Glennis always made you feel welcome in her home, she loved to entertain and enjoyed having you visit, especially when she moved to Campbell River. We would sit in her sunroom, watching the ships go by and the sun go down sipping our glass of wine. She loved that sunroom, with her desk facing out to the ocean. I think she was happy there. In 2022, when Glennis moved into an "Independent Living Facility", I wondered how she might fit into (she was fiercely independent), but she did, like everything it was a new adventure to be embraced. One of her first emails after she moved, she wrote "It's great! I'm enjoying it." And she did involve herself in all manner of activities, card making being one of them her last Christmas card was one of her" latest

creations”.

She will be missed and I am grateful to have had her part of my life journey.

Lynne Esson

Since learning of Glennis’ death last week, I have encountered her several times. No not via a ghostly apparition, in the dark of the night, at the foot of our bed; but rather in the form of note cards & true to Glennis’ fashion, each of these Gems were/are tucked into books. Books about history, be it history of nursing, local hospitals, Vancouver’s early buildings or Women’s history. I met Glennis at the first history of nursing interest group that I attended, at Bev Du Gas’ home in White Rock in the late 1980s. I found out about the fledging HON group via the best kind of rejection letter one could ever receive.... I’d applied for an Archivist job posted at the then RNABC. The rejection letter informed me that my education & background was indeed applicable, but the RNABC was in the process of hiring a Masters prepared & well-seasoned Archivist. Breathing a bit of relief, I read on...the writer, (Pat Cutchall, I believe) conveyed to me that I may be interested with whom I could contact in this newly organized HoN group. I was given both Nina Rumen’s & Bev DuGas’ contact info; I can’t remember who I contacted but was warmly received & invited to the next meeting in White Rock. This delightful rejection letter was tucked into an envelope & surfaced this past fall, at this time I cannot place my hand on it, but remains tucked back into that same envelope, back into its box, returned to a shelf, to be rediscovered some time down the road.

This AM just making the final revisions to this note of remembrance, I wanted to check if I had Glennis’ name spelt correctly...so I picked out her’s & Ethel’s book Legacy, & out fluttered a note card, yes by Glennis, she had given me names of a couple of potential members & she thanked me for the ‘guest’ speaker I had recommended to the group.... both subjects on the card, dated more than 30 years ago have passed into & beyond my immediate memory. And yes, I did note the correct spelling of Glennis’ name.



[Glennis in a Historical Nursing Uniform]

Another time, while on the organizing committee for the International History of Nursing Conference, dated for June of 1997; I promised myself that I’d submit a project that I was about to undertake, not only for personal interest, but also for credits in completing my BScN UBC. I chose to continue with Nina Rumen’s Monuments dedicated to Nurses in Vancouver. The first task was to submit an abstract... (humm I thought this word was a verb?)...I was able to find examples of an Abstract,

& thought, yes, I think I can mirror this...so wrote one out, a thumbnail sketch of my planned project. It was that very evening that Glennis phoned & she offered to assist me with writing up an abstract. (generous yes...but clairvoyant too?) A short while later, I must of faxed the abstract to her; (remember these were the days before computers, emails & google were in the common domain), I came to her cottage in Crescent Beach & to my delight she was pleased with my ‘abstract’ & offered minor suggestions, which were accepted. Over the years I have kept in contact with Glennis, even visiting her several times in Campbell River. The first time was in her condo, overlooking the waters between Campbell River & Quadra Island, what a most beautiful & ever changing vista. I think it was the view that sold Glennis this home. I remember that lunch...yes it was good, but she had purchased a most excellent bottle of wine... & yes, we polished it off during that visit. And I did stay a little longer to clear my system of that beverage’s undesirable side effects. I visited this home at least one more time, then once or twice in her new assisted living home. When visiting my brothers in Courtenay, before visiting her, I’d phone Glennis, it was during one of those calls she told me of recent health concerns & declared that she was now a frail old woman...upon meeting her a few hours later, she seemed to me to the same quick & nimble minded Glennis, interesting & interested in many things, humour intact, thus in my thinking that she was not greatly changed on the outside since previous visits. The last time we visited, was during a vintage car event, centered in Campbell River... that visit was a little shorter than the others...she’d connected with interesting people in her building & met regularly before dinner. That same sparkle in her eye & bounce in her step to me remained, she was enjoying her time & connecting with others in her new dwelling place.

I hope to have clearly illustrated Glennis’ generosity, of time, expertise & of her thoughtfulness expressed via numerous note cards, her warmth, her interest in others, as well as herself being a most interesting soul.

As I continue to downsize my books, I fully expect more of her cards, yes cards of delight, to find their way to my attention & yes a unique means of visitation.

Thank you Glennis for your generosity of spirit, your kindness, your ability to give constructive feedback, your humour & interest in & of so many things. In my thinking your life was a life well lived.

Brenda Flynn





[Photo of Glennis & Margaret]

meetings, our nursing uniform costume events, which Sheila Rankin Zerr was so much a part of, and events at Sheila's house. I visited Glennis many times in White Rock and then in Campbell River, where she treated me so royally. Glennis was such a warm, lively, funny and generous person to everyone - I loved the sound of her voice. I will miss her.

Margaret Scia

Sadly, Glennis Zilm passed away January 16, 2026 in Campbell River. I will always remember Glennis' enthusiasm and compassion in sharing her knowledge of nursing and nursing history with the nursing students. She had a vivid presence in the UBC School of Nursing. She developed numerous, creative and fun displays in the hall and the student learning centre, inspiring students and making them aware of nurses' rich history and contributions to society, whether at time of war, epidemics, or important social changes. I also remember her compassionate and critical leadership in the BCHNS, having a keen eye for the importance of building archival and artifacts collection and making it accessible and available to students and everyone interested in conducting nursing history research projects.



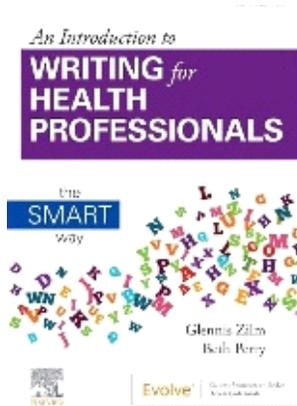
[CAHN 2016 in Vancouver; Glennis with Nurse Scholars & Educators from Spain]

She regularly brought the BCHNS board and members together for planning meetings, kindly inviting us to her place in White Rock. I remember her many interesting presentations at conferences and how she kindly helped students with finding resources, generously supporting them in their learning.

We will miss her.
Geertje Boschma

I first met Glennis via her writing style books and SMART Goals, which I used extensively in the Post RN Diploma program at UVic. I got to know her personally through our in-person BCHNS

I first knew of Glennis from the book, that she and Ethel Warbinek had co-authored entitled, *Legacy: History of Nursing Education at the University of British Columbia, 1919-1994*. Having been a UBC BSN student from 1971-1975, I was interested to see what the book had to say. I found it to be a comprehensive, well-written and well-referenced book that was interesting and easy to read. I can't remember exactly when Glennis and I first met but our paths crossed often when I taught in the School of Nursing at UBC. I enjoyed seeing her around the school and at events. It was an honour to celebrate her many achievements including the UBC Nursing Alumni Award of Distinction and the Applied Science Dean's Medal of Distinction. Glennis was always very pleased to have been chosen but genuinely surprised and humbled that she would receive such accolades.



[Glennis' Textbook Cover]

Glennis was very generous with her time and readily agreed each time I invited her to attend the UBC BSN Orientation. She would arrive dressed in one of the early nursing uniforms and adopt the persona of a nurse of that era. The students were entranced by her stories of nursing in days gone by. Glennis brought BC nursing history to life for them and for me. With no apologies, Glennis would shamelessly market the BC History of Nursing group to the

students bringing bookmarks and membership forms for each student as well as cards and Legacy books as door prizes. Glennis's engaging and enthusiastic approach to the student orientation brought requests from the students for her to return next September. Glennis had a zest for life and she always remained curious about the world around her.

Cathy Ebbehoj

Meeting Glennis during my graduate studies and later as a member of BCHNS were memorable. She always inspired and promoted writing confidence among nursing students and without doubt made a wonderful contribution to nursing, locally and nationally.

It was a special privilege to have had Glennis as a founding member of our BCHN Society.

Suzanne Nixon





A Historic First: Islamic History Month at the UBC School of Nursing

In October 2024, UBC School of Nursing (Vancouver) marked a historic milestone: for the first time since the School's founding in 1919, Islamic History Month was formally recognized and celebrated within our community. This moment was more than symbolic. It represented visibility, inclusion, and an expansion of the histories we acknowledge within nursing education.

At the centre of the celebration was a tribute to Rufaida Al-Aslamia, widely regarded as the first Muslim nurse and one of the earliest pioneers of nursing care. In the 7th century, Rufaida provided clinical care, established mobile treatment tents for the wounded, and trained other women in caregiving practices. Her leadership embodied principles of compassion, public health, and structured nursing practice centuries before the formal professionalization of nursing in Europe.

To honour her legacy, PhD Nursing student Shams M. F. Al-Anzi and Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek created a display within the School that told Rufaida's story through generated images and narrative descriptions. One of the most meaningful elements of the exhibit was a handcrafted model of her mobile care tent, which Shams made by hand. Constructing the tent was deeply personal. It symbolized continuity across time and culture and reflected the enduring presence of Muslim women as caregivers, leaders, and knowledge holders in health.

Seeing Rufaida's name and story displayed within the walls of UBC's School of Nursing, an institution with over a century of history, was profoundly moving. As a Muslim nurse and scholar, I felt immense pride: pride in

our shared professional heritage, pride in the resilience of Muslim women in healthcare, and pride in witnessing the school take an important step toward inclusive historical recognition.

The celebration extended beyond the physical display. As part of a broader initiative, we organized and hosted a webinar that presented Rufaida's story to a wider audience. This event was organized by Shams M.F. Al-Anzi and Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek who played two videos that were created as part of the project, *Untelling Nursing History: Centering the Voices of IBPOC Nurses* (<https://blogs.ubc.ca/nursinghistory/2024/09/25/untelling-nursing-history-centering-the-voices-of-ib-poc-nurses/>). The event created space not only to reflect on Islamic contributions to nursing history, but also to discuss the current experiences of Muslim nurses in Canada navigating Islamophobia within healthcare settings.

Discussions following the webinar brought forward insights into the complexities of practicing while visibly Muslim, the emotional labour of educating colleagues about faith and culture, and the strength required to challenge stereotypes and systemic barriers. The conversation was thoughtful, honest, and necessary. It underscored that honouring history and addressing present-day inequities are deeply connected.

Shams M.F. Al-Anzi, Msn, PhD Student, UBC, School of Nursing
Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek, Assistant professor, UBC, School of Nursing

Shams's Personal Reflection

As someone who has navigated Islamophobia in both healthcare and academic spaces, this moment felt deeply personal. Creating the display, crafting the tent by hand, and planning the webinar were not merely professional tasks, they were acts of reclaiming narrative and honouring legacy.

Standing beside the display, I felt a profound sense of gratitude and pride. Pride in Rufaida's leadership. Pride in the resilience of Muslim nurses in Canada. And pride in witnessing the UBC School of Nursing take an important step toward inclusive historical recognition.

For over 100 years, UBC School of Nursing has educated generations of nurses who have shaped healthcare locally and globally. Recognizing Islamic nursing history broadens our understanding of where nursing knowledge originates. It reminds us that the foundations of our profession are global and diverse, shaped by multiple civilizations, cultures, and traditions of care.

For Muslim nursing students, this first celebration of Islamic History Month carried additional meaning: it affirmed that their histories, identities, and contributions belong within this academic space. History is not static. It grows when we tell fuller stories.

Shams M.F. Al-Anzi, Msn, PhD Student, UBC, School of Nursing



[photo: Shams M.F. Al-Anzi, Msn, PhD Student]

PAGES OF HISTORY

Mary (MacKinnon) Watt June 1932 - October 2025

Sponsored by VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association

Mary was a proud member of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing, Class of September 1954. Following graduation and marriage to Dr. John Watt, she helped raise 6 children and manage a farm and livestock in Langley.

A woman of endless curiosity and quiet accomplishment, Mary published the BC Simmental News for 20 years and was a member of the docent corps at the Langley Centennial Museum for more than 25 years.

Mary was an active member of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Archives Committee. She was the lead committee member that resulted in the Archival holdings being added to the Alumnae Association website. In addition, she was the Editor of the annual VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Newsletter for 28 years and received an award from the BC Historical Federation for the Newsletter.

Mary believed in aging well, connecting with others and making space for joy and wonder. She was small in stature but she had a big reflection and the ripples of her influence and care extended far beyond her reach.



[photo of Mary Watt]

The British Columbia Historical Federation: An Interview with our Representative 2008 – 2026

The British Columbia Historical Federation (BCHF) has been working since 1922 with historical sites, societies, groups, museums, archives etc. throughout British Columbia preserving and promoting British Columbia's history and providing a provincial forum and united voice for local and regional historical societies. The BC History of Nursing Society has been a Member Society of BCHF since 2004, when Beth Fitzpatrick and Glennis Zilm proposed a motion that the B.C. Nursing History Group join the B.C. Historical Federation for the 2004 –2005.

When did you first learn about the BCHF?

I had become a member of the BC History of Nursing in 2006 after attending a book launch at my local library in Ladner. The book was 'Labour of Love' a memoir about Gertude Richards (1879 – 1976) a Ladner lass. Written by none other than Glennis Zilm, Sheila Zerr and Valerie Grant. As a new and keen member since 2006, I attended the regular meetings of the B.C. History of Nursing Group. At that time, the meetings were held in the RNABC building on Arbutus Street. I remember learning about the BCHF well – way back in 2008, I can picture that evening now in my mind's eye when I sat down beside Beth Fitzpatrick. On the desk in front of her, Beth had displayed two magazines with interesting historical pictures on the front covers, I asked if I could borrow them. "Of course," replied Beth, explaining that they were from the B.C. Historical Federation. I took the magazines home and, "as simply as that" I became the representative for our group! I really don't remember much discussion – it just happened.

What has been your experience as our Representative?

I decided to attend the 2009 Conference in Nelson. It was a three-day event. I went alone, took the bus there, and had a wonderful time! It was a warm, friendly atmosphere and the opportunity to mingle with historians interested in all aspects of BC history. The Annual Conference is the highlight of the year and concludes with a lovely Awards Banquet. The BC Lieutenant Governor or representative is invited to attend and award the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Historical Writing to the author of the winning book of that year. I have attended fifteen (15) BCHF Annual Conferences in person, often with our late Glennis Zilm. Over the years these road trips provided opportunities to visit many archives in various towns, we were especially delighted to see the excellent Archives at Barkerville. Sheila Zerr and I were at the Powell River Conference where Sheila showed me the room window in the small house where she was born! I attended the first post-Covid Conference in 2023 alone at Princeton. The founders and principal organizers of the Princeton Traditional Music Festival; Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat provided a most memorable performance. It was a lot of fun.

Why do you think it is important that BCHNS hold an organizational membership?

Well, in the fall of 2005, the decision was made to accept

society membership in the BC Historical Federation, with the recommendation that we appoint one of our members to receive Federation materials, to coordinate and report on Federation activities throughout the year, to perhaps attend the Annual General Meeting. Now in 2026, our society has been a society member in the BC Historical Federation for 22 years!

Currently there are over 100 member societies and 24,000 individuals in the provincial not-for-profit historical sector. Representing quite a mix of interest, from museums and clubs to a postcard club. The Federation produces an excellent quarterly journal – British Columbia History, as well as a quarterly newsletter containing interesting historical articles. It is important that we promote ourselves - that we are alive and well. Being part of this huge group increases awareness of our group but also there are benefits and learning from like minded groups. For example, Glennis was a great advocate to get us into archives across the province. This was especially interesting to myself as I was Chair of Archives for many years.

What do you think would surprise our members about the work of the BCHF?

The Federation also offers Annual Awards and Scholarships. Our society has been the proud recipient of two BC History Web Site Prizes (2006 & 2017) as well as Best Newsletter Award (2010). Glennis also received a Certificate of Appreciation (2017); and our archivist, Francis Mansbridge, received Honourable Mention at the 2012 conference for his book about West Vancouver.

Editors Notes

Here is a link to listen to the 2010 in-depth interview with Nan & Ethel Warbinek :
<https://bcnursinghistory.ca/oral-histories-full-list/>

A \$50.00 individual membership includes a subscription to the British Columbia History Magazine.
<https://www.bchistory.ca>

The BCHF Conference will be held in Vancouver May 30, 2026.



[photo: Nan]

BOOK REVIEW: MISSION'S LIVING MEMORIALS

- REVIEWED BY BRENDA FLYNN -

WRITTEN BY BETTY ROBERTSON, CATHERINE MARCELLUS & BETTY DANDY

Editor's Note

In memory of Elizabeth (Betty) Robinson we are reprinting Brenda Flynn's 1992 review of Mission's Living Memorials, a book she co-wrote with two equally dynamic women. In reading the book myself, I was a bit taken aback at how some of the aspects of health care that are the same challenges we grapple with today. For example, inoculating the community and hospital over-crowding. The photos of early caregivers with their stories, new portable x-ray machines, the May Days and fundraisers in between add a lovely poignancy. It was also delightful to read how our members planned to celebrate the book launch.

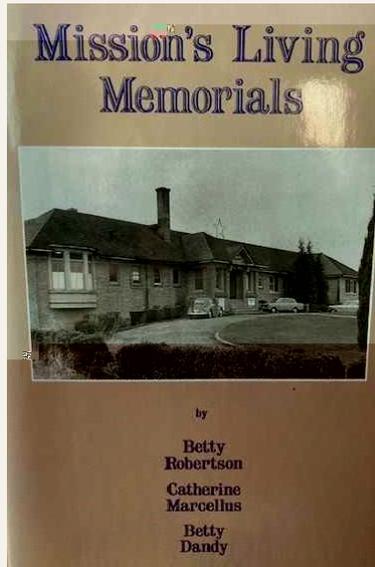
The September Get-Together for the History Group will be held at the Mission Memorial Hospital in Mission on Saturday, September 12, 1992 at 2:00 p.m. This is a special "out-of-town" event, but we hope that many of the Vancouver-area members will also try to attend.

Co-authors Catherine Marcellus and Betty Dandy will also be on hand. Slides from some of the 77 photographs collected for the book will be shown. Those who are interested in learning about an historical book project will have a splendid opportunity to discuss this with the authors. Our Mission hosts will also arrange for a visit to the "Founder's Corner," a permanent display of historical artifacts located in the hospital.

November 1992: MISSION GET-TOGETHER "GREAT DAY!" The September Get Together — to hear Betty Robertson, coauthor of Mission's Living Memorials, review the history of Mission's hospitals — was termed "a great day" by the Executive Committee.

The Book Review

Mission's Living Memorials is a community archivist's dream realized. This history of the Mission Memorial Hospitals is written about the community, using the community's archives, by three residents of the area. The book is personal, humorous, touching, and revealing. Written by Betty Robertson (a HoN Group member), Catherine Marcellus, and Betty Dandy, this is the story of how Mission, B.C., came to have a hospital. The authors take the reader from when the doors first opened in 1920 through to the



present day. The story clearly illustrates the hard work put forth by a group of dedicated women who formed an auxiliary that became the main force in establishing and maintaining Mission's hospitals. Once the original hospital opened, the auxiliary found that operating costs also needed to be met, and quickly realized that a new and even larger structure was necessary. The auxiliary organized May Days, teas, and other community fund raisers and kept the hospital alive through especially trying times before hospital insurance and government funding. I found it interesting that the money raised in May 1929 was just a little less than that raised a year later after the stock market crash. The original organizers wanted to

ensure free hospitalization for veterans from World War I. One of the themes running throughout this little book is the Mission community's appreciation and support of the residents who participated in the wars. While reading this book, I found myself laughing out loud and also reading sections aloud to my husband (such as the chapter on "Politics, Liquor and Hospitals"). When a book can elicit laughter from its readers and a desire to share the contents, this marks it as a success. The many photos and quotations from personal documents obtained from local residents and archives make the book of interest to a large number of people. One of the book's main strengths is also a possible drawback for some readers: because the book is about the community, some of



[photo: Brenda Flynn]

its descriptions are specific. No doubt most of the readers from Mission relate well to these detailed descriptions, but to readers who live elsewhere sometimes the focus on local streets and buildings can detract from the story. Nevertheless, Mission's Living Memorials is a charming and useful book, not only for promoting community spirit and pride for Mission residents, but also for students and researchers of nursing history, women's history, and social history.

Celebrating Nursing's Past: Student Bursaries from the BC History of Nursing Society

Submitted by Margaret Scaia

The BC History of Nursing Society (BCHNS) is proud to support students who are exploring the rich and diverse history of nursing through research, writing, and creative scholarship. Since 2003, the BCHNS Student Bursary Program has helped make student-led historical inquiry possible by providing financial support and professional recognition for outstanding historical work in nursing. Over 40 bursaries have been awarded to date, all funded through Society memberships and donations—reflecting BCHNS's commitment to preserving and sharing nursing's legacy in British Columbia and beyond.

The BCHNS encourages both new and returning student members to apply. Applicants must be, or become, members of the Society, and applications are reviewed by the BCHNS Bursary Committee before being forwarded to the Board for approval. Two deadlines are offered each year—March 1 and November 1—to provide flexibility for students working within academic schedules.

In this newsletter, the Society proudly celebrates the achievements of recent bursary recipients whose work highlights the depth and importance of nursing history:

2024 Fall Recipients

- **Maki Yimer (Trinity Western University)** explored the history of Black nursing and racial injustice within the profession.
- **Mohadeseh Saki (UBC School of Nursing)** examined the international education and leadership experiences of Iranian nurses from the 1950s to the 1970s.

2025 Spring Recipient

- **Noor Multani (University of British Columbia)** conducted an oral history analysis on the lived experience of individuals with mental illness as a resource in becoming mental health workers.

These projects exemplify the breadth of inquiry encouraged by the BCHNS—from social justice and global nursing history to community health and lived experience. Each recipient contributes to the ongoing effort to ensure nursing history remains visible, relevant, and critically examined through a contemporary lens.

If you are a student with an interest in nursing history, this is your invitation to get involved. Whether you are uncovering forgotten stories, recording voices that might otherwise be lost, or interpreting historical shifts in practice and policy, the BCHNS Student Bursary Program is here to support you. For full application details and examples of previously funded projects, please visit the BCHNS website and consider applying today. Your work helps preserve the stories that shape our profession—now and into the future.



<https://bcnursinghistory.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/BCHNS-Student-Bursary-Award-Application-011425.-docx.pdf>

Member News & Future Events



[photo of Betty Robertson]

In Memory of Elizabeth [Betty] Robertson

Shortly after celebrating her 102nd birthday Elizabeth passed away peacefully at home. Elizabeth had been a long time BCHNS member and close friend of Glennis Zilm, they exchanged Christmas cards every year until just the past couple years.

We thank the family for sending us this photo.



Registered Nurses Foundation of British Columbia: Celebration of Nursing Luncheon

Friday April 17, 2026, 1130-1:30

<https://www.rnfbcc.ca/event-registration/>

Join nurse leaders, educators, bursary recipients, donors, and partners from across the province as we celebrate the transformative impact of nursing education and recognize the extraordinary contributions of nurses in British Columbia. We are honoured to welcome The Honourable Josie Osbourne, Minister of Health, and our special guest speaker.

**Event Location: Arbutus Club,
2001 Nanton Avenue**

The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing/Association Canadienne pour l'histoire du nursing (CAHN/ACHN)

Nursing Humanities and Historical Imaginations: Exploring the Context and Politics of Nursing Across Time, Place and Medium.

May 29 to 31, 2025 at York University in Toronto, Canada

<https://cahn-achn.ca/annual-conference-2/>



Future Open Meetings with Guest Speakers followed by Board meeting

Tuesday April 14, 4 – 6pm. AGM

Tuesday September 15, 4 – 6pm.

A link to the meeting will be sent out the day before.



An Open Invitation

The History Group's Newsletter is published regularly two times a year. The Editorial team welcomes book reviews, research projects, and relevant historical articles. We also invite presentations of one's own professional experiences and careers at one our open meetings.

Check out the BLOG

<https://bcnursinghistory.ca/>

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Thank you to all who contributed to this issue of the BCHNS newsletter

BC History of Nursing Society

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