

# HON

B.C. HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY NEWS  
volume 21 | issue 4 | December 2010



## CONGRATULATIONS GLENNIS ZILM!

Glennis Zilm receives the Blythe  
Eagles Volunteer Award from  
The UBC Alumni Association



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*Newsletter Committee*

Diana Bright, Beth Fitzpatrick, Naomi Miller,  
Ethel Warbinek, Lynne Esson & Sheila Zerr (co-chairs).

*The BC History of Nursing Society  
Newsletter is published 4 times per year. Submissions are  
welcome. Deadline for the Spring Issue is March 15 2011.  
Please send submissions to:  
Sheila Zerr: [szerr@telus.net](mailto:szerr@telus.net)*



## President's Message

BY KATHY MURPHY, PRESIDENT

### BEST WISHES AS WE COMMENCE THIS NEW YEAR

As I send you all best wishes as we commence this New Year, I reflect on how quickly the last one progressed. Once again I can report that the History of Nursing Society had a very active time in 2010 with the many functions that the various committees completed. Highlights from the December, 2010 meeting:

#### **The 2011 meeting dates at the CRNBC have been confirmed:**

- Thursdays on Feb. 3, April 14 (AGM), June 2, September 8, October 13, and December 8. The meetings are held from 4-6pm and the Annual General Meeting will probably be a supper meeting. Any member is most welcome to attend. If a meeting date has to be changed, the website will state the revised date.
- The Fall Luncheon, arranged by Lenore Radom, was attended by 37 guests and included six Military Nursing Sisters. Our guests enjoyed hearing member Barbara Bavinton describe the history of the six first Navy Nurses who were stationed in BC in WW1.
- Scholarship Awards were given to Helen Vandenberg, a UBC student, and Christine Switzer, a student at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.
- Julie Lapinsky reported that the membership for 2010 was 174 members. This amazing number includes 75 student members. The membership forms are being revised and a donation request will also be included this year.
- All donors to the BC History of Nursing Society will receive a charitable tax receipt. The investments of the society are in the same state as the national economy. In order to be able to continue with the collection and preservation of the archives and artifacts, to award financial assistance to students studying nursing history topics, and to maintain our website, any additional funding will be gratefully received.

# GLENNIS ZILM RECEIVES THE BLYTHE EAGLES VOLUNTEER AWARD

FROM THE UBC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Dr. Glennis Zilm - was recognized for her volunteer work as a member of the UBC Alumnae Association. She is best known by the history group for her twenty plus years as a loyal volunteer for our group. Most of the work cited below is based on her contributions to the history of nursing, not only in BC but throughout Canada and beyond. To mention a few: She initiated the group's newsletter and was the sole editor for 10 years and continued for the next seven as co-editor. The growth of this newsletter owes much to her expertise and dedication. Her passion for passing on her knowledge is exemplified in the inspiring classes she teaches to nursing students where she frequently dresses as historical nursing figure, Mrs. Miller. She has held executive roles such as Vice President, Membership Chair, Member-At-Large, member of the web site committee, and for the last few years, promoter of the sales of our nursing history cards which raise funds for scholarships. Congratulations, Glennis.

## From UBC Nursing News: UBC Alumnae Affairs

Ms Glennis Zilm is a historian, writer and teacher who has performed a great service to the nursing profession in Canada by researching and preserving its past, in particular the central role played by her alma mater and its nursing alumni. Zilm's meticulous research and documentation has ensured

that the vital contributions of key individuals are accurately recorded and never forgotten.

As an honorary UBC professor and popular guest lecturer, Zilm instills in students the importance of nursing history and inspires pride in the profession through an appreciation of its past. In the School of Nursing is a showcase containing nursing artefacts and information. Zilm changes the showcase display on a regular basis, keeping history uppermost in the minds of trainee nurses. She also assists UBC Archives in the preservation of nursing artefacts, along with the work of important nursing leaders.

She co-authored the book *Legacy: History of Nursing Education at the University of British Columbia* (1994), which documents 75 years of institutional and individual achievement. She has authored several more books, some on history and others on helping nurses improve their writing skills (she holds degrees in journalism and communications as well as nursing). Recognizing the importance of clear and effective communication, she mentors students on writing skills for their written assignments and advises faculty on their publications.

Zilm is considered an expert on nursing history and is often consulted by nursing organizations. She is a founding member of the volunteer BC History of Nursing Society (established in 1989), editing its newsletter for many years. She is also a founding member of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing. Zilm has produced many papers and articles and is often invited to present at conferences and at other nursing institutions, committing many volunteer hours to this every year.

In 2004 Zilm was appointed to the advisory board of directors for the Museum of Healthcare in Kingston. In 2006, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from Kwantlen Polytechnic University. She is also a recipient of the John B. Neilson Award from the Associated Medical Services, a prestigious medical historical society, for her long-standing contributions to the history of healthcare in Canada.

PHOTOGRAPH and COVER IMAGE USED BY PERMISSION:  
*Photographer: Don Erhardt*



Visit the link to see a video interview with Glennis wearing her Mrs. Miller historical costume: <http://www.alumni.ubc.ca/events/awards/2010/recipients/zilm.php>



# Editor's Desk

BY BETH FITZPATRICK EDITOR

Congratulations to "our" Glennis Zilm who was chosen by the UBC Alumnae Association to receive the Blythe Eagles Volunteer Recognition Award for her outstanding contributions to her alma mater and its nursing alumni. Be sure to check out the video on You Tube to hear Glennis talk about her philosophy of volunteering. It will inspire you!

I was unable to attend the Fall luncheon but I understand that it was a memorable event. Six Nursing Sisters were the honoured guests. The speaker, Barbara Bavinton, presented her research on the First Navy nurses. She spoke about Jon Johnson, a stamp collector who lives in Calgary, Alberta and specializes in envelopes, letters, and postcards sent from military medical units. It was a simple post-card from one of the Navy Nurses that sparked his interest and led to the discovery of the Navy's First Hospital Ship, the HMCS Prince George. Jon worked on and off researching this piece of history for 20 years!

Chasing the Bluebird is dedicated to the memory of Vancouver author and broadcaster Chuck Davis who passed away in November 2010. Chuck and I shared information about Elizabeth Clark's life story and fame as a song writer. Before he died Chuck was working on The History of Metropolitan Vancouver, which will be published posthumously in 2011 and will include several pages about Elizabeth and her famous song.

As always I am thankful to receive newsletter contributions from our members: Marjorie Ralston who reviewed the book by Karen Abbott & Sharon Simpson: Traditions and Transitions: History of the Nursing Programs at Thompson Rivers University, Carol Harrison for submitting a light hearted look at public health nurses' uniforms in the 1970's, and others, too numerous to mention individually, who sent in photo's of special events and gatherings. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Finally, my appreciation to the talented Anita at [www.thinkscarlet.com](http://www.thinkscarlet.com) who works her magic to make our newsletters look so attractive and readable!

**AS ALWAYS I AM THANKFUL TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS**

## SAVE THESE DATES

**The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing annual general meeting** will be held jointly with the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine at the University of New Brunswick, from Saturday May 28 to Monday May 30, 2011. The theme of the 2011 Congress is Coasts and Continents: Exploring Peoples and Places. Further information can be found on the CAHN website at <http://cahn-achn.ca/>.

### **Ethel Johns Research Forum February 4th and 5th 2011, St Paul's Hospital Bits and Bytes: Uploading Technology in Nursing Practice**

The Ethel Johns Research Forum for 2011 will focus on the use of technology in Nursing. The focus will be on four underlying concepts: Research-Based Practice, Education, Communication, and Evaluation. Some issues to be explored will be privacy, human connection and data collection. Technology in Nursing has multiple facets and has great potential along with challenges. The objective of the forum is to provide the opportunity to explore ways for us all to be a part of shaping the uploading of technology in Nursing Practice. Visit our website for more information: [www.xieta.nursing.ubc.ca](http://www.xieta.nursing.ubc.ca)

# NURSING UNIFORMS OVER THE AGES FASHION SHOW

BY SHEILA ZERR



It was a pleasure to return to Vancouver Island University (VIU) in Nanaimo, at the request of Dr. Cheryl Warsh, to present "Nursing Uniforms Over the Ages Fashion Show". This lecture was presented to VIU history and nursing students. Dr. Warsh invited her daughter Sarah's grade 7 class from Ecole Pauline Haarer School.

The lecture was open to the public and was recorded by Shaw Television. Eleven historical uniforms were modeled by VIU students and faculty, grade 7 students and members of the B.C. History of Nursing Society. Sheila Zerr moderated the presentation with Lenore Radom managing the fashion parade.

Each model gave a commentary on the uniform they were wearing. The VIU students, and the grade 7 students, enjoyed stepping back in history to experience wearing the nursing uniforms of the past. Members of the public joined into the open discussion that followed the presentation.



back row L-R: Helen Niskala, Moya Jack, Shirley Riddalls  
front row L-R: Joan Doree, Nin Rumien, June Newton

## FALL LUNCHEON

In November, BC History of Nursing Society members and their guests gathered at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club, to enjoy a fine lunch, honor our military nurses and hear member Barbara Bavinton's presentation: Missing from History: The Royal Canadian Navy's First Nurses. (An article about these navy nurses was featured in the Fall Newsletter). If you are interested in reading Barbara's

complete speech, which contains some additional information about the nurses and her research findings, she has kindly given us a copy. Please contact Beth Fitzpatrick for more information.



Barbara Bavinton and Kathy Murphy

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR JAN-DEC 2011



## DEAR HISTORY OF NURSING MEMBER:

Hello! It's that time of year again – time to renew your membership. We hope that we can count on your continued support with your membership. Please be reminded that taxable donations are much appreciated for your consideration as well.

Fees remain the same for the coming year. In our efforts to be fiscally responsible, we are again enclosing the Renewal Form in the Winter Newsletter. As a further cost-saving measure, perhaps you would consider joining those who are receiving the four Newsletters per year, in electronic format.

- To renew, please fill in your renewal form carefully, indicating your preferences in the appropriate spots. **Remove and mail the form along with your cheque to the address provided.**
- We invite you to attend any Executive meetings, which are currently held at the CRNBC offices in Vancouver (2855 Arbutus Street, Vancouver, BC V6J 3Y8.) Dates for these meetings are posted on our Web site: [www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca).
- In addition, details about our Annual General Meeting, as well as information about the various special “programs” held each year will be included in the Newsletters.

If you would like further information, please contact me.

Membership Chair: Julie Marie Lapinsky  
Phone: 604-940-0040  
E-mail: [julielapinsky@dccnet.com](mailto:julielapinsky@dccnet.com)

*\*\*If you received a gift membership (i.e. student gift membership) for the 2010/2011 year, you do not need to renew your membership at this time. However, if there have been any changes to your contact information; please email Julie Lapinsky with these changes.*

## PART 1: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership fees are due by March 1st, 2011. Check the type of membership that applies:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full (a current or former who was registered in BC)         | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate (a person who supports the constitution & bylaws) | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Nurse   | \$ 5.00 |

Please print your name and address as you wish it to appear on the mailing label. Your name and city will be published in the Membership Directory, which is only sent to members. However, the BC Freedom of Information and Protection Act, RSBC 1996, s30 states that groups that maintain membership lists “must protect personal information by making reasonable security arrangements against such risks as unauthorized access, collection, use, disclosure or disposal.” **Please indicate clearly each other item of information that you are unwilling to have published in the Directory. Write ‘YES’ or ‘NO’ on the “\_\_\_\_\_” following the information you insert to indicate what you wished published in Directory.**

Publish in Directory:

No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (This will be published)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Province \_\_\_\_\_ (This will be published)

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Only one number will be published) (home) \_\_\_\_\_  
(work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the Newsletter by:  Email  Canada Post

*Make cheque payable to the BC History of Nursing Society*

Forward by March 1, 2011 to:

BC History of Nursing Society (Attn: Sheila Oxholm, Treasurer)

P.O. Box 72082, RPO Sasamat, Vancouver, BC, V6R 4P2



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## PART 2: INFORMATION ABOUT YOU (For use by Executive)

We would welcome information about History of Nursing projects on which you are working, especially if you would like to be in touch with other Society members with similar interests. For example: Were/are you a member of Canada's Military Medical Corps? Are you a student working on a thesis or dissertation related to History of Nursing? Do you have a particular research interest? Are you actively involved with a School of Nursing Alumnae Association (and which one)? Are you affiliated with a University or College? Would you like to be involved in a project-and if so which area?

Can we publish this information in the Newsletter? Again, indicate on the "\_\_\_\_\_" line below your information with a YES or NO.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PUBLISH:  YES  NO.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PUBLISH:  YES  NO.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PUBLISH:  YES  NO.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PUBLISH:  YES  NO.

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## PART 3: I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES DURING 2011:

- Archives  Membership  Biography  Programs  Memorial Portraits  
 Nominations for Memorial Books  Newsletter  Pages of History  Oral History  Displays

**Please Remember:** All members are welcome to attend Executive meetings, which are usually held at the CRNBC in Vancouver. Please check our website: [www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca) or telephone an executive member to confirm the date, place and time.

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Office Use:

- Received  Receipt Sent  Entered Member List  Label Made

# DONATE TODAY

*The BC History of Nursing Society funds several major projects. For example, in 2010, we gave two scholarships, totalling \$1,000; this money comes from interest on Scholarship Funds donated by members in past years – and of course during the past year, interest rates are way down! Other donated money goes to the Archives Funds, which maintain a Website that is rapidly becoming famous as a “virtual museum” showing our artifact collections and research work. The Archival Fund also helps us pay for a part-time archivist who during 2010 has catalogued much archival information, such as that related to Bernadette Ratsoy, Edith Tisdall Hatfield, and several other nurses. (Check the Website < [www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca) > and especially have a look at the Archives pages and Online Exhibits pages.*



**I would like to make a donation to the BC History of Nursing Society.  
(You will receive a tax receipt for the donation.)**

\$ 25  \$50  \$100  Other amount \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Make cheque payable to the BC History of Nursing Society**

BC History of Nursing Society (Attn: Sheila Oxholm, Treasurer)  
P.O. Box 72082, RPO Sasamat, Vancouver, BC, V6R 4P2

**We are developing a list of donors that to be published in the newsletter at the end of 2011.**

May we include your name in the list?

Yes  No

# CHASING THE BLUEBIRD:

BY BETH FITZPATRICK

In a previous issue of the History of Nursing News there was a brief article about Elizabeth Clark, a Canadian nurse who wrote the well known popular song of the 1940's "There's a Bluebird on Your Windowsill". This follow up article is the result of further research and an attempt to answer the questions: Who was this nurse-song writer? What is her personal story and legacy?

## Elizabeth's Family

Her father, John William Huber married Katherine Steinhauer in Bangert, Russia and came to Canada in 1897. The Hubers initially settled in Beausejour, Manitoba and had six children, one boy and five girls. Elizabeth, also known as Carmen and later called Betty, was the youngest child. She was born in Winnipeg on August 8, 1911. Two of Elizabeth's sisters died of pneumonia in their youth.

In 1917 the family moved to Hodgeville Saskatchewan, a small farming community outside of Swift Current, joining other Huber brothers and their families. The Hodgeville history book describes the father John as being "somewhat of a straight-laced individual" while the mother Katherine "was noted for her stories and tales, this being typical of the Steinhauer clan".

Elizabeth is portrayed as a shy, brown-eyed girl who liked to play the guitar and write poetry. She trained as a nurse and graduated from the Swift Current General Hospital, built in 1912. The exact year of her graduation is unknown (possibly early 1930's). In an interview she says "it was in Swift Current that I first made my dreams come true by being accepted into training and finishing as a nurse".

## The Bluebird Song

Elizabeth married Dr. John Wanstall Clark, the son of English parents. He was born in Baldur Manitoba in 1886. Elizabeth and John set up practice in Hodgeville Saskatchewan in the 1930's. In the 1940's they moved to Vancouver where Betty, as she was often called, practiced as a nurse at what was then the Hospital for Sick and Crippled Children. It was here that she and a young boy noticed a sparrow hopping on the windowsill by his bed. The bird kept looking in and she and the boy would talk about the bird. Elizabeth, who was interested in music and in writing, turned the conversation into a poem, changing the sparrow to a bluebird. She later set the poem to music.

Elizabeth's friends and co-workers kept telling her that the song was a good one. The Rhythm Pals introduced Bluebird on radio station CKNW and in 1948 the song was published by Empire Music and first recorded by Don Murphy for Aragon Records. Many other country artists recorded the song, and versions in 1949 by Doris Day and Tex Williams were hits in the US pop and country markets respectively. The song was chosen as the theme song for the 1950 US March of Dimes national fund raising campaign, and was later used in the 1986 Canadian feature film My American Cousin. Bluebird was the first Canadian song to sell a million copies. **In 2010 "Bluebird on Your Windowsill" was inducted into the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame.** What makes this story heart warming and an example of extreme generosity, is the fact that Elizabeth Clark donated every dollar in revenue she received from the song to Canadian children's hospitals.

Elizabeth and John had no family. John died in Royal Jubilee Hospital 1958 at the age of 72 from coronary thrombosis. Sadly Elizabeth passed away after suffering a stroke in 1960. She was just 49 years old. They are buried side-by-side in Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Burnaby.

Elizabeth was survived by her father, one brother, and one sister. Her grave marker is plain and the inscription makes no reference to her famous Bluebird song.



Elizabeth Clark

### Archival Sources

- British Columbia Archives, Death Registrations
- Dallas & Company, Barristers and Solicitors
- Hugh Henry, Director, Swift Current Museum
- Vancouver Sun, obituaries July 27, 1960
- Victoria Daily Colonist, obituaries, August 1, 1958

### Published Sources

- Greenblat, Jim (1971) Those Were The Days In Swift Current, Saskatoon Saskatchewan: Modern Press
- [http://www.vancouverhistory.ca/archives\\_bluebird.htm](http://www.vancouverhistory.ca/archives_bluebird.htm)
- <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=T>



## BLUEBIRD ON YOUR WINDOWSILL

There's a bluebird on your windowsill, there's a rainbow in your sky. There are happy thoughts your heart to fill, near enough to make you cry.

With every tear you've washed away, all the things you've kept inside. You count your joys this lovely day, and you wonder why you cried.

### Refrain

And if per chance your heart grows sad, you still can smile again. With every tear you ever had, comes the sunshine after rain.

### Refrain

The rainy days may come and go, but the clouds still roll away. Everything will come that you wish it so, as an answer when you pray.

### Refrain



Hear Doris Day sing the song on YouTube!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzaBAgCaRHo>



## IN PRINT

"Florence Nightingale At First Hand: Vision, Power, Legacy" by Lynn McDonald has now been published by Wilfred Laurier University Press and is available through local bookstores, Amazon or possibly U of T Press. Described as "a concise yet scholarly view of Florence Nightingale's extraordinary life and career that gets to the heart of her range of interest and achievements." ISBN 9781554581917 paperback 197pp including 8 illustrations, \$24.95.

# THE VGH SCHOOL

UNIFORMS & PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY BY SHEILA ZERR

**A teaching module, developed by Sheila Zerr, will examine the development of the professional image of nursing.**

The module will use the nine portrait dolls portraying the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) training school uniforms from 1899 to the 1970s as a basis of study. The project is part of the University of British Columbia (UBC) School of Nursing N344 synthesis project. Students registered in the fourth level N344 course are asked to choose from a possible 25 synthesis projects that match the students with community partners in clinical and community nursing. Students earn 2 credits for project participation and are expected to spend approximately 50 hours from September to February researching and developing their topic for presentation at the end of the project. They will search out research tools and sources, learn to examine their subject,

and then present their findings in a final written and poster format.

Two UBC nursing students chose to study the professional influence of the VGH training school uniforms. They will examine and research the influence the uniform had on the development of the professional image of the nurse. Research sources include the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Archives, the College of Registered Nurses library and historical holdings and the UBC library and History of Nursing Society Archives. The students are asked to use their research to examine current nursing attire and discuss how the nurse today can use this knowledge of the past to influence the development of their future professional attire and image.

Sally Thorne is partnered with Sheila Zerr in this project. Another synthesis project on maternal health has been developed by History of Nursing Society Member Julie Lapinsky.

“The students are asked to use their research to examine current nursing attire and discuss how the nurse today can use this knowledge of the past to influence the development of their future professional attire and image”



# IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS: PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING UNIFORMS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

BY CAROL HARISSON, BSN, MSC, RN

My earliest memories of public health nurses come from Quesnel and Mission in the 1950s and '60s. To me, the nurses who worked in the community were tall, anonymous, vaguely threatening women in military-style navy blue uniforms and wore peculiar pillbox hats on their close-cropped heads. These important-looking grownups tended to do things that made us school children uncomfortable, if not downright terrified, such as lining us up for shots, testing our eyes, or (horrors!) showing us strange diagrams to explain where babies came from. They were hardly someone you'd want to be.

Years passed and in 1971 I graduated from the University of British Columbia School of Nursing with my degree. After graduation I became a public health nurse and found myself willingly—even joyfully!—being fitted for The Uniform whose color had changed to a royal blue. (Some of our clients called us “bluebirds”). By this time I knew quite a bit more about public health nurses. For one thing, they were no longer as tall as they had been when I was a child, and I had discovered that most of them were lovely people—intelligent, creative, resourceful, charming, and fun.

The uniform was still a bit formidable in appearance: jacket with the provincial insignia on the sleeve, white blouse, straight skirt, and the dreaded pillbox hat. The man who made the hats, in his store located in downtown Vancouver, assured me that The Hat was an essential part of the uniform. I took consolation in the fact that I was going to Terrace and didn't know anyone there. To my relief, on arriving in Terrace I discovered that in the Skeena Health Unit, at least, no-one wore The Hat. They did however still feel it necessary to place The Hat prominently in the back window of the government car in case a supervisor asked where it was.

In the late 1970s we were allowed to purchase the regulation royal blue material and have it made into a pant suit uniform, as long as the pattern was officially approved. Soon after came the day when uniforms were “optional”, which for most of us meant they disappeared altogether. The “bluebirds” were now wearing a new, more casual yet functional attire, in keeping with the times.



*Unidentified group of Skeena Unit Health Nurses and other staff (1962) showing the uniform at that time*

# BOOK REVIEWS

## **Karen Abbott & Sharon Simpson: Traditions and Transitions: History of the Nursing Programs at Thompson Rivers University, 1973-2003**

REVIEWED BY MARJORIE RALSTON

This detailed history of the transformation of one nursing program from a hospital based school to a university program granting a degree in nursing is compelling reading. It has wide appeal because both nurse educators and students will be able to relate to the constant change that occurred at this time. This book captures the dedication and hard work of the faculty and although the history is specific to this university many of the growing pains and the triumphs will resonate with nurses across Canada.

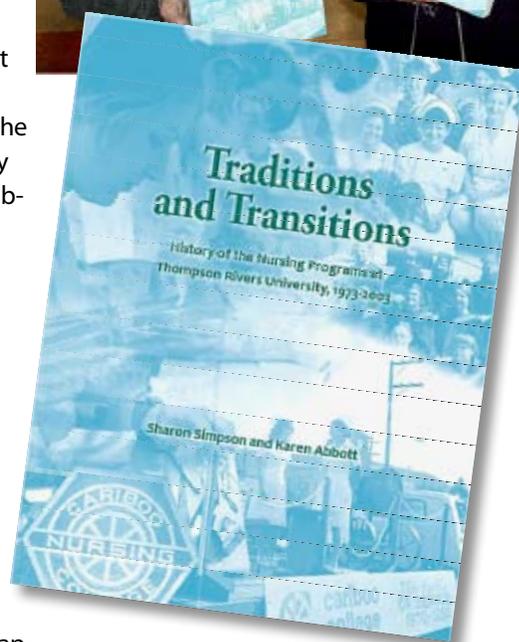
The first major leap was from the well respected Royal Inland Hospital's diploma program to a two year diploma program at Cariboo College. Historically the event reflects the trends across Canada in the early 1970s. The book describes this period as somewhat unstable and very demanding. There were many changes in leadership and the new process of becoming an integral part of the college system took much of the faculty energy. Added to this, major decisions had to be made and processes and structure established. The most pressing and difficult was the new program approval system at RNABC which, at this time, was establishing its own ground rules. Despite these difficulties the program flourished and moved into calmer waters in the 1980s.

The 1980s brought more stability in leadership resulting in movement towards effective faculty functioning. These positive changes resulted from a united effort by the entire faculty and the documentation of this makes enlightening reading. A more positive climate promoted new incentives. Many diverse nursing-related programs emerged in response to the health care needs of the region. Chinnama Baines became chairperson in 1985 establishing a consultative approach to decision making which involved full time faculty in meetings and committees. New strategies resulted in increased admission and reduced attrition. Program evaluation provided a basis for change. A successful Access program for RPN/RN was established in 1987. Finally in 1988, after much correspondence with the RNABC Approval Committee about process, approval for the Diploma Program was granted until 1992. With a more stable infra structure established the College was preparing for more major changes in the late 1980s and 1990s.

In 1989 Community Colleges were changing status to University Colleges. This was the impetus for nursing to provide baccalaureate education across B.C. At UCC the nursing department continued to expand the number of programs and increase international contact. The development of a BSN curriculum began. Chinnama Baines became Associate Dean working on the BSN degree program. An enthusiastic faculty worked hard in the development. The Collaborative Model with the University of Victoria was chosen. The Post-RN BSN program started in 1989 and the four year generic BSN was offered in 1992. By 1996 the nursing department at UCC moved to the Professional Schools division. From 1997 until 2003 the department continued to respond to local program needs, look toward developing a MSN curriculum and to maintain international contacts. In 2002 leadership existed on many levels of faculty and Chinnama Baines became the first dean of the now separate School of Nursing. By 2005 UCC would become an independent university: a successful journey for nursing and UCC.

This book is a work of dedication. The history of the college is also a story of leadership in nursing and of ongoing teamwork by the faculty through thirty years of change. The book is also an evocative pictorial history of the period giving insight into the profound changes taking place and the dedication of the faculty to maintain traditions throughout the major transitions. It is a legacy for all students and faculty, past present and future. More importantly, this detailed record of the long journey from hospital school, to college, to university college and finally to full university status is an important addition to the history of nursing in B.C. and in Canada.

Cost for the book is \$25 plus \$10 for taxes, shipping and handling. To order: mail cheque payable to Cheryl Zawatduk, TRU, Box 3010, Kamloops, BC V2C 5N



# BOOK REVIEWS

## University of Toronto School of Nursing 90th Anniversary Publication

REVIEWED BY GLENNIS ZILM

The University of Toronto School of Nursing celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2010, having been founded in 1920. To celebrate, the School put out a special 48-page issue of its regular publication, Pulse, in which it offered historical background on the school and on 90 of its famous faculty, students, and alumni. Among those whose lives are highlighted are Kathleen Russell, Florence Emory, and Jean Wilson.

Of particular interest is an article by Dean Sioban Nelson, a noted nursing historian, on the "Rockefeller Legacy"; from 1924 to 1955, the Rockefeller Foundation provided major fellowships to allow students from around the world to study at the School. This contributed to its international reputation, and created a Canadian connection with a large group of international nursing leaders who would, over the decades, transform nursing around the world.

The booklet is lavishly illustrated with wonderful historical photographs. There is a relatively limited run of hard copies, but the entire issue is available online on the school's website at <http://bloomberg.nursing.utoronto.ca/media.htm> (Click on the 90th Anniversary issue)



# WEBSITES TO VISIT

## 01) <http://www.schoolsofnursing.co.uk>

This website is about the schools of nursing which trained the vast majority of nurses who practiced in the UK. Click on the history link at the top of the page to see a display of nursing pins.

## 02) <http://hospitalhistory.multiply.com>

If you have any interest in the history of the buildings, organisation and staff of the many different hospitals, asylums, infirmaries and health care structures of the UK, you may find them in these pages.

## 03) <http://cpa100.ca/history/history-e-book>

There is a new e-book available for free-downloading: Public Health: A Canadian History, By Christopher Rutty and Sue Sullivan. (161 pp. illustrated)



# DISPLAYS

## **UBC Hall Display:**

A collection of Remembrance Day items honouring UBC nurses who served in World War II. Among the featured items are insignia flashes and buttons donated to the BC History of Nursing Society by Nina Rumen.

## **UBC Learning Centre:**

A display of "collectibles" showing how changes in technology affect bedside hospital equipment. Small bedside items in blue-and-white enamelware were used for basic hospital equipment until the 1950s. Stainless steel, patented in 1912 to 1915, began being used in bedside hospital equipment in the mid-to-late 1940s and in common use by mid 1950s. By the 1970s, blue plastic was in common use. One of the items on display is a lidded, enamelware slipper bedpan, used in 1910 in the Vancouver Maternity Hospital. It was donated to the BC History of Nursing Society by Helen Dennis.



# LETTER OF INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN HISTORY OF NURSING RESEARCH

## **Understanding Women in Labour, 1960-1976: Work, Nursing and Motherhood**

This is an invitation to participate in a research study. The purpose of the study is to discover, through completion of a 15 minute demographic questionnaire and a 75 minute audio-taped confidential conversation, your unique experience of being a nurse in western Canada the 1960s and early 1970s. This demographic questionnaire and audio-taped conversation will take place in a location of your choice or over the telephone. Participants will have the option of not completing the demographic questionnaire. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and if you agree to participate, you may change your mind and withdraw at any point without the need for explanation. You need not answer any questions that you are not comfortable answering nor do you need to address any topic you are not comfortable addressing, including questions on the demographic questionnaire.

The criteria for this research is that you received your nursing education in either Calgary, Alberta or Vancouver, Canada between 1960-1976

### **These conversations will be relatively unstructured, but some questions could include:**

- What was your experience of becoming a nurse in western Canada in the 1960s and early 1970s and did your role as a woman at that time influence that experience?
- How did your role as a woman influence your experience of being a nurse during this time period?
- What other factors were significant in shaping your experience of being a nurse during this time period?
- What meaning do you now make of being a nurse during this time period?
- What questions about the experience of being a nursing during this time period have not been asked in this interview and that are important for me to know about?

If these topics are of interest to you, please call or email Margaret Scaia, RN, MN, PhD (C) at the University of Victoria. I can be reached at 250-598-9994 to leave a confidential voice mail message, or email to [mrscaia@uvic.ca](mailto:mrscaia@uvic.ca)



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