



Kate McTavish

Lady Superintendent and the formative years of the School for Nurses, Prince Rupert General Hospital

By Irene Goldstone

In the early 20th century, a commonly held belief was that running a school of nursing would save a hospital money by saving the salaries of staff nurses. However, few hospital boards stated it as clearly as a proposal for a School for Nurses at the Prince Rupert General Hospital. Despite objections of the newly appointed Lady Superintendent Kate McTavish and the physicians that, “at this stage of the development of the hospital,” recruiting for probationers began within a few months;¹ applications were submitted to a board committee.²

The story of Kate McTavish and the early years of the Prince Rupert hospital and school for nurses is similar to the experiences

of lady superintendents in B.C.’s settler communities. When the hospital board established the school in 1912, there were 21 hospital-based schools in the province. Although this included what became prominent hospitals with large schools of nursing, 13 were serving small, relatively isolated, resource-based communities.³ These hospitals and schools were led by peripatetic matrons who had a sense of adventure and a commitment to the professionalization of nursing. Hospital boards represented the local elite committed to providing access to hospital services.⁴

Even in those early days, the tension between providing care at a minimum cost and the professionalization of nursing existed.

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newsletter committee

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SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME.

Deadline for the Fall Issue is September 15, 2022. Please send submissions to: esson1@shaw.ca



Archival Corner

Remembering Honorary member Esther Paulson (1906 – 2004)

NAN MARTIN, Archives Chair

Esther Paulson was born in New Westminster. She graduated from the Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing in 1928 receiving the Dr. E. Walker Memorial Medal 1928 for Highest Marks (very few such medals exist). This medal was included with nursing insignia transferred from our society's archival collection to UBC Library Rare Books and Special Collections in 2021!

Esther began her lifelong interest in tuberculosis as a staff nurse in the Tuberculosis building at the Royal Columbian Hospital. In 1940, she joined the Metropolitan Health Committee in Vancouver, and in 1942 was on loan to the Division of Tuberculosis Control. One year later, she was appointed Director of Nursing for the province, overseeing nursing care for patients in Vancouver, Victoria and Tranquille. Her career in TB nursing continued until she retired in 1966 from being Director of Nursing at Pearson Hospital. In 1967, she received the Centennial medal for her contributions to the control of tuberculosis in Canada, and an Honorary Life Membership in the Canadian Lung Association for her leadership in the advancement of TB nursing in Canada. Esther Paulson was an active member of the BC History of Nursing Group and often referred to the history members as "her family."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KATHY MURPHY

The Annual General Meeting was held in April via Zoom with 19 in attendance. Being able to welcome members from outside the lower mainland has been one positive action connected with the pandemic restrictions. The personal contact is missed but the work of the society carries on in a limited basis as will be realized as the annual reports from the Committees reveal. All of the Board members positions were filled for the next year.

The preparation for the dissolution of the society is underway with much to consider. Francis Mansbridge, our former Archivist, has agreed to write the history of the BC History of Nursing Society.

At the recent UBC School of Nursing Gala, a major endowment from Helen Shore was announced. This significant donation is to support Nursing History Fellowships and space in the new Gateway Building which is now under construction.

The Society will continue to meet with speakers offered at the beginning of the meetings.

The website is regularly revised and always has the dates of the meetings which are on the second Tuesday of the month (except in July and August) via Zoom at 4:00pm.

I continue to be most appreciative of the efforts of the current leaders of the society who continue to carry on, regardless.



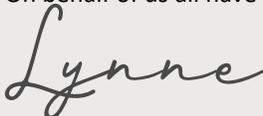
EDITOR'S DESK

LYNNE ESSON

As I write this sun is finally shining after a month of wet and cold weather, let us hope it continues. Covid-19 restrictions continue to be lifted, and dare I say we are moving toward some new normal. Let us hope that this pandemic is finally in the rear view mirror. This summer edition contains our annual reports which provide information on the ongoing work of our Board of Directors and our Committees. Our feature article by Irene Goldstone looks at the life of Kate McTavish and the early years of Prince Rupert General Hospital.

We have a superb collection of biographies, oral histories on BC nurses as well as artifacts. See our website: www.bcnursinghistory.ca. As always we will be taking a break for the summer and look forward to providing you with our news in the fall.

On behalf of us all have a wonderful summer. Be safe!



Lobbying to achieve the registration of graduates from approved schools of nursing in B.C. began as a first step in 1912⁵ and was achieved with the act creating the Graduate Nurses Association of British Columbia (GNABC) in 1918. Establishing the essential minimum standards of education and improving working conditions for students was the second step.⁶ This process began when Helen Randal⁷ was appointed Registrar and Inspector of Training Schools, also in 1918.⁸ In 1919 she began annual site visits to all schools of nursing in the province. The issues confronting Kate McTavish and subsequent matrons were addressed systematically but incrementally by Helen Randal. Until the Registrar began her annual tours of inspection, lady superintendents had little support for improving the quality of training for pupil nurses. Helen Randal became a life line for matrons and at the same time provided guidance and direction to hospital boards.⁹

Creating a Settler Community

Named for the first Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company,¹⁰ Prince Rupert was established to support the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway's (GTPR) link to a new deep sea port to rival Vancouver's access to the Asia-Pacific trade. With government assistance, the GTPR purchased a 14,000 acre First Nations reserve and received grants to create the townsite. Surveying and logging of the heavily wooded site began in May 1906 with lots available for purchase in 1909. This provoked a bidding war and "phenomenal growth" when 800 houses were built in six months. The population grew to 3,500 with substantial commercial enterprises.¹¹ The provincial government provided a \$200,000 grant (approximately \$4,606,660 in 2021) to finance plank sidewalks, roads, sewers, and water mains. The provision of sewers and water mains was unusual in the creation of new townsites in B.C.,¹² but it did mean that Prince Rupert never experienced a typhoid epidemic as did many other settler communities.

Fishing, a saw mill, dry docks, and government services were integral to the economy of Prince Rupert. However, GTPR Manager Charles Melville Hay's dream of a population of 50,000 proved to be grandiose and lost impetus with his death on the Titanic in 1912.¹³ Despite significant economic turbulence, Prince Rupert is now the second-largest container port in Canada.¹⁴ with a population of 13,177.¹⁵

Prince Rupert lies in the heart of Coast Tsimshian territory. Archeological evidence supports Coast Tsimshian occupation of the Prince Rupert harbour area for at least 5,000 years.¹⁶ First contact with Europeans likely occurred in 1787 with the arrival of Captains Charles Duncan and James Colnett who were in search of sea otters for trade with China.¹⁷ With contact, epidemics of infectious disease came in waves, notably three waves of smallpox (beginning in 1862), endemic tuberculosis (ongoing)¹⁸, and the influenza pandemic (1918-1920); all had devastating loss of life for the Tsimshian.¹⁹

Delivery of Healthcare

The first doctor in the area was Dr. H.E. Tremayne (1874-1942), a GTPR doctor who later served the community.²⁰ A one-storey

frame building for use as an emergency hospital was built solely for company use. BC Directories (1910) identifies Harry Coons as the nurse for the company hospital and Dr. Frances J. Ewing (1868-1924) as the physician.²¹ As part of the infrastructure of the port, the GTPR built a three-storey quarantine hospital with electricity and indoor plumbing to accommodate 10 patients and a resident nurse. A separate house was built for the doctor. Although some beds were moved to the general hospital during the influenza pandemic of 1918, the quarantine hospital was never used and was destroyed in 1922.²²

A number of dedicated physicians²³ served the community and supported the school of nursing by providing regular lectures.²⁴ Of special note is the Kergin family: Dr. W.T. Kergin (1876-1961) moved his family from Port Simpson in 1910. Dr. W.T. was joined by his brother Dr. L.W. Kergin (1887-1954).²⁵ The two families produced several generations of nurses and physicians.²⁶ One notable national nurse leader was Dr. Dorothy Jean Kergin (1928-1989), a 1952 graduate of the University of British Columbia /Vancouver General Hospital nursing program and later Director of the School of Nursing, University of Victoria (1980-1988).²⁷

In the absence of a hospital to serve the community, physicians improvised to provide care. For example, an emergency appendectomy on a local woman was carried out in the hotel with a temporary operating room set up by a Nurse Gallant.²⁸ With no access to the GTPR hospital, a committee of citizens met in February 1909 and formed a hospital association. Land was secured from the GTPR and, with financial support from the provincial government, a public hospital was formally opened in February 1911.²⁹ The hospital had a capacity of 20 beds with a mix of public men's and women's wards, semi-private, and private rooms. The first floor up held wards and an anaesthetic room and the operating room. The nurses' dining room was in the basement. Two nurses' bedrooms and a separate room for the matron were in the attic.³⁰

The inadequacies of the nurses' accommodation became a thorny issue for the hospital board and were addressed over time. Accommodation in the Connaught Wing, which opened in 1913, improved the situation modestly.³¹ In her first visit of 1919, Helen Randal insisted that the hospital provide accommodation so that nurses could get "right away from their work." She also urged an eight-hour day.³²

Following her visit in 1920, a private home was rented and accommodated some but not all students and graduates. The Daily News reported there is "*no suitable recreation and sitting room [A] number[of nurses] have slept in the same room and night nurses were not able to sleep because of noise [D]irectors [must] make life as attractive as possible in order that nurses may be induced to take up the work [O]nly recently has the pay of nurses been increased.*"³³ In her 1922 visit Helen Randal recommended that a 25 single-room residence be built adjacent to the hospital - with capacity for an addition.³⁴ A front-page article argued that the board of the hospital was overpaying students as a recruitment strategy but, given the poor accommodation, the strategy was failing and the board was paying for seven graduates when four would do.³⁵

A free-standing residence was opened in August 1923 with donations from the public, corporate bodies, Rotary Club, Red Cross,³⁶ and Trade and Labour Council.³⁷ The long-standing president of the board, David G. Stewart, is reported to have considered the opening of the nurses' home his crowning achievement.³⁸

First Lady Superintendent: Kate McTavish

Katherine Elizabeth McTavish (always referred to as "Kate") was appointed lady superintendent in September 1910 on a motion from Thomas Dufferin Pattullo, later a premier of the province. She was selected by secret ballot from six candidates at a salary of \$100 a month, relatively high for the time.³⁹ Kate McTavish arrived in November 1910 and was immediately confronted with problematic beds chosen by the physicians; the decision was left to her.⁴⁰ The first staff were Rachel Hanna and Margaret M. Carmichael both of whom she had known when she nursed in Atlin.⁴¹ At age 48, she was well prepared for a formidable task. A school teacher with normal school training,⁴² she graduated from the Toronto General Hospital School of Nursing in 1890.⁴³ After 10 years as head nurse of the Toronto Home for Incurables, a charitable home with 135 beds,⁴⁴ she joined classmate Marguerite Clendenning, matron of Vancouver City Hospital (later Vancouver General Hospital, VGH), as assistant matron, 1900-1902.⁴⁵ Kate McTavish was actively engaged in the training of the first graduating class of VGH and was considered "a capable instructor." On her departure she was given a silver-handled umbrella from the nursing staff and gold cufflinks from the porters.⁴⁶

Kate McTavish, a committed Presbyterian, then served as matron of Atlin's St. Andrew's Hospital (fifteen beds) arriving in early November 1902 just as the gold rush in Yukon petered out and tourism took over. Sponsored by the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church, the hospital had opened in February 1900 and was the Society's first Canadian frontier hospital.⁴⁷ Salaries were low - \$50/month in 1904, and sometimes in arrears. The nurses did the cleaning because a "charwoman" cost \$5/day.⁴⁸ Kate McTavish, with her colleague Christine Smith,⁴⁹ was active in local fundraising to support the hospital.⁵⁰ In August 1906 Kate McTavish left Atlin for a rest, a holiday with relatives in Ontario, and to do private duty in Toronto. Her contribution was described as "untiring and diligent." Grateful citizens gave her a gold nugget watch chain.⁵¹ She returned to Atlin to continue her role as matron until her appointment at Prince Rupert; she was the longest serving matron of St. Andrews.⁵²

With her appointment as lady superintendent in 1910, Kate McTavish was faced with the challenge of staffing the hospital, a significant issue for many years. The idea of a school for nurses was raised by local businessman and Chair of the Hospital Board, David G. Stewart, in May 1911 who felt the time had come "to undertake the training of probationers who help out the work of trained nurses at less cost." The idea was modeled on the experience of Port Simpson and Hazelton hospitals. Both the physicians and Kate McTavish opposed the idea "at this stage of the development of the hospital." At the time, the hospital had 13 patients.⁵³

Recruiting Probationers

The first advertisement to recruit students appeared in the Vancouver Daily Province in December 1911 for "young ladies to take a full course of training in nursing."⁵⁴ There is some evidence that two probationers were admitted in late 1911.⁵⁵ However, the first confirmed class of four probationers entered in April 1912. The hospital board retained tight control over the students; when, for example, the first class passed their preliminary exams, the hospital board approved their status as probationers.⁵⁶ In 1919 the board recommended "a full complement of eight probationers" and authorized (temporary matron) Mrs. R. A. Addison to sign the graduation papers of Eva Horswill as she "had served her three years and passed the exams."⁵⁷ Control over affairs of the hospital and the school was not ceded to the lady superintendent until the persuasive insistence of Helen Randal on her annual inspection tour in 1924.⁵⁸

In a higher profile advertisement in 1912, the Prince Rupert General Hospital Association advertised for students offering a salary for the first year of \$8 dollars/month, for the second year of \$10 dollars/month, and for the third year of \$12/ month. In addition, board, room, laundry, and uniforms were also offered.⁵⁹ It was not unusual for students to supply their own uniforms. No doubt this reflected the difficulty recruiting students. In 1920 the board advertised for probationers in the Canadian Nurse offering an eight-hour day.⁶⁰ This never materialized. Probationers were on trial for two months and subject to dismissal without notice but, once accepted as pupil nurses, were entitled to one month's notice if dismissed.⁶¹

Newspaper reports of the annual general meetings of the hospital board in 1912 and 1913 focused on the election process for board members and the financial statements. However, the "hard work" of the secretary (financial administrator), matron, and staff was recognized; the training school was described as an "unqualified success." At the 1912 meeting the matron's report was reported as "read"; at neither meeting was Kate McTavish reported as attending.⁶² This pattern continued until Helen Randal's tour of 1924 when she pointed out the benefits of improved communication with the board.⁶³

As early as the fall of 1911, the hospital was "crowded to capacity" and plans for a new wing began.⁶⁴ In July 1912, the Duke of Connaught, Governor General of Canada, laid the cornerstone.⁶⁵ The Connaught Wing brought the hospital to a capacity of 60 beds, expanded the operating room, and added an elevator. Later, as standards for the operation of a school of nursing were increased, this brought the hospital above the minimum bed count for the operation of a school. With the exception of affiliation with VGH for dietetics training (an issue Helen Randal first raised in 1924⁶⁶) combined with affiliation at Tranquille for tuberculosis training in the 1930s,⁶⁷ students completed their program at Prince Rupert, unlike other schools in the north with fewer beds.

The First Graduating Class - 1915

The first class – Marjory Campbell,⁶⁸ Lillian McLeod,⁶⁹ Agnes Lasswitz,⁷⁰ and Elizabeth Walker⁷¹ – graduated in 1915. A detailed report on the front page of the Prince Rupert Daily News described the ceremony at the Railway Men's Hall. Following the ceremony, which included the Florence Nightingale pledge, a dance was held and at midnight a supper was served with the directors of the hospital board acting as waiters and dish washers.⁷²

Duties of pupil nurses were recalled by Agnes Tugwell (nee Lasswitz) (Large, 1972): *We didn't have much time off! Only a half day a week – and we worked 12 hours a day – sometimes 18 hours when things were very busy. If we weren't too rushed on the wards we had to fill in our 12 hours by making dressings, etc. and cleaning in the operating room. Rules were quite strict: only one evening a week we were allowed to stay out until 12 midnight; all other nights we had to be in by 10 p.m I don't think any of us ever managed to get away with skipping breakfast in order to go on duty on time. We were always found out and sent to the dining room regardless of how busy we were – Matron was very strict about us having breakfast before starting work. There was extra help for the cleaning work, floors, windows, etc., but no orderlies. We had to take care of male patients ourselves – bathing etc., but if we ever needed help ... we had to call on the janitor to come up from the basement.*⁷³

Mentally ill male patients posed a special threat to the nurses. One nurse, on night duty, was attacked by a patient and was saved from strangulation by the male administrator who lived in the hospital and heard her calls for help. Another nurse was rescued when a patient was in the process of throwing her out of the window. Agnes Tugwell noted: *"Another man ... – I think it was the D.T.'s – he would strip off all his clothes and wait behind his door for the nurse to come when he would jump on her. ... [We] had to always go in two at a time and carry blankets to throw over him. Blankets were kept on the hall table, too, ready for him if he managed to get out into the hall."* But there were also thoughtful patients who, for example, brought fresh crab feasts to the nurses.⁷⁴

Perhaps due to the pressures of the First World War there were no graduation ceremonies reported for 1917-1919; a short-coming Helen Randal addressed on her inaugural tour in 1919.⁷⁵

Kate McTavish Resigns

Kate McTavish resigned in August 1915 to return East; the board accepted her resignation with regret and applauded her service as matron and in the training of probationers. She was held in high esteem - when the Hon. Dr. Henry E. Young, provincial secretary with responsibilities for health, opened the Connaught Wing in 1913 he praised the Board for hiring Kate McTavish whom he knew from his days in practice in Atlin.⁷⁶ But, the circumstances of her resignation were more complex than was reported in the press. Economic pressures forced the hospital board to cut salaries of the nurses in 1914. Doctors were required to supply their own rubber gloves and instruments for surgery, patients had to prepay for x-ray and surgical services, and the position of operating



Prince Rupert General Hospital, first graduating class 1915. Left to right Elizabeth Walker, Agnes Sybella Lasswitz, Lillian McLeod, Marjory Blanche Campbell, Katherine Elizabeth McTavish, Matron. From Large, R. G. (1972). *History of the Prince Rupert General Hospital*. Vancouver, Mitchell Press. Also held by Prince Rupert City & Regional Archives, Dr. R. Geddes Large Collection.

room supervisor and matron were combined. This decision forced Kate McTavish's resignation.⁷⁷

A farewell tea was held at the hospital. On behalf of the students and graduates, Phyllis McCroskie⁷⁸ made a presentation to her of a silver mounted toilet (dresser) set with her monogram on each item, stating "we should like to express our great pride in having you as our lady superintendent We have all heard of the many difficulties you have had to contend with [W]e realize how much you have accomplished in this great work."⁷⁹ Numerous teas were held in her honour.⁸⁰ On her departure Kate McTavish made a terse comment on long hours, hard work, lack of space, and the need for equipment.⁸¹ She returned to her home in Chatham, Ontario; I have been unable to trace her career after she left Prince Rupert. Kate McTavish died in hospital in 1938, reported to be the last member of her class.⁸²

Having graduated in 1890, Kate McTavish was part of the first generation of formally trained nurses⁸³ who, later as matrons, laid the foundation for the delivery of nursing care in hospitals across Canada. It was this period of nursing practice that the value of a trained nurse was recognized by physicians, the public, and the government.⁸⁴ Despite this, Kate McTavish and her peers were faced with significant structural barriers in establishing a young profession's vision of nursing practice. Nevertheless, Kate McTavish staffed a hospital, established a school of nursing, and provided access to advances in surgery and obstetrics⁸⁵ to an isolated coastal community.

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to Jean Eiers-Page, Archivist, Prince Rupert City and Regional Archives, for accessing the minutes of the hospital association (1910) and for her assistance with the photograph of Kate McTavish and nurses of Prince Rupert Hospital (1915). As always, I am indebted to the editorial assistance of Glennis Zilm, with whom I am working on a History of BC Hospital Schools of Nursing.

Author Note

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Photographs

1. Prince Rupert General Hospital, 1913. (Postcard in private collection Irene Goldstone.)
2. Graduation pin, Ida Giraud (later Gordon), 1938, BC History of Nursing Society Collection, Rare Books and Special Collections, University of British Columbia, Photograph by Dave Robertson Inc. (Private collection Irene Goldstone.)
3. Prince Rupert General Hospital, first graduating class 1915. Left to right Elizabeth Walker, Agnes Sybella Lasswitz, Lillian McLeod, Marjory Blanche Campbell, Katherine Elizabeth McTavish, Matron. From Large, R. G. (1972). *History of the Prince Rupert General Hospital*. Vancouver, Mitchell Press. Also held by Prince Rupert City & Regional Archives, Dr. R. Geddes Large Collection.

Endnotes

1. May take probationers at the hospital soon, (1911, May 27), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1; see also Want to revise bylaws of hospital, (1911, May 27), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 6
2. New wing needed by General Hospital, (1911, December 5), Prince Rupert Daily News, p.1.
3. Goldstone, Irene, current research; see also Goldstone I.L., (1989). Reclaiming our artefacts: graduation pins from the schools of nursing of British Columbia, 1891-1987. *Bulletin, History of Nursing, Royal College of Nursing*; 2(8): 6-14.
4. Gagan & Gagan, 2002.
5. Goldstone, 1981, pp. 10-15.
6. Goldstone, 1981, pp. 16-26; pp. 118-138; see also pp. 27-42; 151-170.
7. Helen Randal graduated from the Royal Victoria Hospital Training School for Nurses, Montreal, in 1903 and served as head nurse until 1905 when she was appointed matron of City Hospital, Rutland, Vermont (1905-1907), followed by several months of private nursing in Los Angeles. Before becoming Lady Superintendent of Vancouver General Hospital (1912-1916), she was Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, San Francisco (1908-1912) (deForest, 1994, p. 178); see also Personals, 1908, 4(2), 140; Randal, Helen, Typhoid fever vaccination. *Canadian Nurse*, 1912, 8(1), 7-8. In 1909 she spent several months in Europe coinciding with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) meeting in London, July 1909 (Personals, *Canadian Nurse* 1908, 4(1), 42; see also Hospitals and Nurses, *Canadian Nurse* 1909, 5(8), 543 and <https://icntimeline.org/1899-1909/0018.html>); likely she attended the ICN. Once in Vancouver she was instrumental in advocating for the registration of nurses from approved schools of nursing.
8. Ex registrar of nurses dies at 91, (1963, August 9), *The Province*, p. 6; see also BC nursing leader dies, (1963, August 9), *The Sun*, p. 44.
9. The only example of a transcript of Helen Randal's report to the board: Miss Randal is satisfied, (1924, October 11), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 6. The Prince Rupert Daily News reported detailed accounts of Helen Randal's interactions with the hospital board and presentations at community meetings.
10. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Rupert_of_the_Rhine
11. Phenomenal growth of Prince Rupert - eight hundred houses built in six months, population 3,500, (1910, April 14), *Vancouver Daily Province*, p. 13.
12. https://bccd.vpl.ca/index.php/browse/title/1910/Henderson%27s_BC_Gazetteer_and_Directory_Part_2.
13. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Rupert,_British_Columbia#cite_note-5.
14. <https://www.rupertport.com/about/>.
15. https://www.citypopulation.de/en/canada/britishcolumbia/admin/skeena_queen_charlotte/5947012_prince_rupert/.
16. <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/tsimshian> ; see also <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsimshian>.
17. http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/duncan_charles_4E.html.
18. <https://cps.ca/documents/position/tuberculosis-among-first-nations-inuit-and-metis-children-and-youth>.
19. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsimshian>.
20. Henry Ernest Tremayne, died in Kelowna, BC, Royal BC Museum Genealogy; see also https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metlakatla,_British_Columbia, and Large, 1960, p. 97.
21. https://bccd.vpl.ca/index.php/browse/title/1910/Henderson%27s_BC_Gazetteer_and_Directory_Part_2 ; Henderson's Directory, British Columbia, Prince Rupert, 1910, p. 985; see also <https://www.gent-family.com/BC/drfrancisjamesewing.html>.
22. Brinton, Stuart. 1985. The hospital that never was. *Beautiful BC*, Fall, 27, (2), 37-39. See also Influenza - workers are wanted at General Hospital, (1918, October 17), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1.
23. Large, 1960, pp. 97-100.
24. "Thanks are also due to the physicians of the city for their services to the indigent sick, and for lectures and instruction to our pupil nurses." Hospital board elected and reports are read at annual meeting city hall last night. (1923, January 27) Prince Rupert Daily News, pp. 1-2.

25. Royal BC Museum Genealogy.
26. For example: Dr. Fred G. Kergin wins his FRCS. (1935, November 30), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1.; see also [https://www.jtcvs.org/article/S0022-5223\(15\)02311-9/fulltext](https://www.jtcvs.org/article/S0022-5223(15)02311-9/fulltext) .
27. Leading nursing student appointed to Princeton Public Health. (1952, June 4), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1; see also Local News Notes, (1936, August 3), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 3. , <https://www.uvic.ca/hsd/nursing/people/home/emeriti/profile/kergin-dorothy.php> .
28. Large, 1960, p. 97. No information has been found about Nurse Gallant.
29. Early history of hospital. (1925, May 13), Prince Rupert News, p. 2; see also <https://www.memorybc.ca/prince-rupert-general-hospital-association> .
30. Hospital for Rupert - Plans for new institution have already been completed. (1910, April 14), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 13.
31. Enlarging hospital. (1912, May 8), Victoria Times, p. 11.
32. Miss Randall (sic) visits the local hospital - meets directors of institution and addresses the high school pupils. (1919, October 11), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 4.
33. Home secured for nurses. (1920, August 5), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1.
34. Urgent plea: Resolve to establish nurses home follows appeal by Miss Randal. (1922, August 18), Prince Rupert Daily News, pp. 1, 2.
35. An unvarnished statement of facts about the hospital. (1923, May 9), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1.
36. Nurses' home, (1922, August 23), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 4; see also Red Cross to donate \$2000, (1920, February 2), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 2; Large, 1960, p. 101; Premier Gold Mining Co donation for nurses' home, (1923, August 4), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1.
37. Labor behind nurses' home - active support shown for project by donating half of Labor Day proceeds. (1923, May 9), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1.
38. Early history of hospital Prince Rupert, (1925, May 13), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 2; for an image of the residence taken in 1972 see <https://princerupertarchives.ca/search/?searchKeywords=nurses&showPhotosOnly=1> .
39. Email communication, April 22, 2022, Jean Eiers-Paige, September 20, 1910; see also Large, 1972, p. 3.
40. Large, 1972, pp. 2-3.
41. Large, 1972, p. 5. Rachel Hanna is a 1891 graduate of Toronto General Hospital; see also Mills, 1978, p. 89 and Names of nurses who have obtained certificates from Toronto General Hospital Training School for Nurses, Canadian Nurse, 1905, 1,(2), 52-72 (see p. 58). Margaret M. Carmichael, initially operating room supervisor, was matron 1915-1918; she returned to Ontario (Social and Personal, Vancouver Daily Province. (1919, January 22), p. 8). Born in 1875, the 1901 Census finds Margaret age 26, a nurse, living in Collingwood, Ontario with her widowed mother and 4 siblings; she may have trained at the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital. Her career is difficult to trace, with no entries in the Canadian Nurse.
42. Kate McTavish (Katherine Elizabeth McTavish) was born at Brampton, Peel, Ontario March 7, 1861 and in 1881 was living with her widowed mother and three siblings and seven boarders (Canada Census 1881). There are no entries in the Canadian Nurse 1916-1938 that report on her career. Canada Census 1921 is not helpful. She was reported to be the last survivor of her graduating class when she died January 22, 1938 at Western Hospital, Toronto. Deaths, (1938, January 25), Globe and Mail, p. 7. Miss Kate McTavish, (1938, March 1), Vancouver Sun, p. 3; this article cites Kate McTavish's graduation as 1888.
43. Names of nurses who have obtained certificates from Toronto General Hospital Training School for Nurses, Canadian Nurse, 1905, 1,(2), 52-72 (see p. 56).
44. Lazenby & MacLeod, 1984, Kate McTavish is described as head nurse, (p. 33). Initiated by the St Andrew's Benevolent Society and the Presbyterian Church, The Toronto Home for Incurables opened in 1874 (at Bathurst and Kings Streets) and received patients from Toronto General Hospital, primarily those with advanced tuberculosis, heart disease and paralysis. The home is now known as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.
45. Provincial News, Vancouver, (1900, November 9), Victoria Daily Times, p. 7. Note this source suggests she served as matron of the Toronto Hospital for Incurables for nine years.
46. Cavers, Anne S. (1949).p 18; See also Medals and diplomas were awarded to nurses, (1902, October 15), Vancouver Province, p. 5.
47. Mills, 1978, p 54; Burrows, 2004, p. 32-34; see also Gibbon & Mathewson, 1947, p. 265; The Toronto General Hospital Training School for Nurses, Canadian Nurse, 1905, 1,(2), 21-23; Men and Women, (1902, November 28), Vancouver Province, p. 3.
48. Mills, 1978, p. 54.
49. Christine (also Christina E.) Smith, 1899 graduate of Toronto General Hospital, Mills, 1978, p. 89; see also Names of nurses who have obtained certificates from Toronto General Hospital Training School for Nurses, Canadian Nurse, 1905, 1,(2), 52-72 (see p. 66).
50. Mills, 1978, p. 54.
51. Hospital and Training School Department, Canadian Nurse, 1906, 2 (4), 39; see also Retiring hospital matron and nurse honored by residents of camp, (1906, August 4), The Atlin Claim, p. 3, and Card of thanks, (1906, August 11), The Atlin Claim, p. 2; see also Hospitals and Training School Department, Canadian Nurse, 1906, 2,(4), 39. The Atlin Claim ceased publication in 1908.
52. Mills, 1978, p. 90, footnote 127.
53. May take probationers at the hospital soon, (1911, May 27), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1; Want to revise bylaws of hospital, (1911, May 27), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 6.
54. Help wanted - female, (1911, December 19),Vancouver Daily Province, p. 25.
55. Correspondence with Irene Goldstone, 1986, Prince Rupert Chapter, Registered Nurses Association of B.C., see also Prince Rupert General Hospital local institution has high service record, (1952, May 10), Prince Rupert Daily News, pp. 1, 3.
56. "Two probationers are to be engaged and possibly two more will be engaged before long ," Classified Ads, (1911, December 13), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 4; see also Consider supply systems for the general hospital, (1912, April 6), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1; Large, 1960, p. 99.
57. Hospital board holds meeting, difficulty is reported in getting suitable nurses and matron, routine business reported, (1919, March 1), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 4.
58. Miss Randall (sic) visits the local hospital - meets directors of institution and addresses the high school pupils, (1919, October 11), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 4; Miss Helen Randal is visiting the city: Registrar of the Graduate Nurses Association of British Columbia and Inspector of Training Schools arrives, (1924, September 17), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 6.
59. Help wanted female, (1911, December 19), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 25; Prince Rupert General Hospital Association, Training School for Nurses, (1912, November 25), Vancouver Daily Province, p. 8.
60. Miss Randall (sic) visits the local hospital - meets directors of institution and addresses the high school pupils, (1919, October 11), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 4; see also Classified Advertising, Probationer Nurses Wanted, Canadian Nurse, 1920, 16(1), p. 52.
61. Large, 1972, p. 5.
62. Nearly five hundred were treated at the hospital. (1913, January 30), Prince Rupert Daily News, pp. 1, 3, 4; see also Hospital annual meeting most interesting occasion – hard work of secretary and matron – (1912, January 27), Prince Rupert Daily News, pp. 1, 6.
63. Board strikes out resolution: training school in local hospital discussed last night with Miss Randal RN. (1924, September 19), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 6.
64. Prince Rupert Hospital, (1911, October 19), Victoria Daily Times, p. 12.
65. Nearly five hundred were treated at the hospital, (1913, January 30), Prince Rupert Daily News, pp. 1, 3, 4.
66. Miss Randal is satisfied, (1924,October 11), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 6.
67. Will go to Tranquill (sic) – plan for local nurses to be taken advantage of by local training school, (1930, August 21), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 6; Dietetics training, (1931, October 15), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 5.
68. Marjory Blanche Campbell was born in 1893, in New Westminster. Following graduation she lived and worked in Smithers, B.C., where two siblings lived, and she was staff nurse at Prince George Hospital 1924-1927 (Local and Personal, (1927, February 11), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 3. She immigrated to the United States in 1928 working in Ohio in the 1930s and in Georgia in the 1940s (Vancouver Public Library, Ancestry.ca). She died in Chilliwack in 1989, aged 96, and was buried in Telkwa with family members (Royal BC Museum Genealogy).
69. Lillian McLeod was born (c1893) in Montana, but lived in Seattle at the time of her application (New wing needed now for general hospital, (1911, December 5), Prince Rupert Daily News, p.1). She is shown in Large (1960, p. 101) wearing her graduation pin; at age 24 she married William Thomas Picketts (also Pickett), age 35, on December 28,

1917, in Vancouver. William, born in Prince Edward Island, described himself as a canner man. Canada Census 1921 shows Lillian (age 27), William (age 38), and two young children (both born in the United States) living in Kildonan, Barclay Sound, Alberni Inlet. No record of her death could be found.

70. Agnes Sybella Lasswitz (also Lasivitz, Lassowitz, Lasivtz), the daughter of a staff sergeant of the North West Mounted Police, was born in Regina and was living in Atlin where she had worked at the hospital (Large, 1972, p. 5). See Large (1960, p. 101), her graduation pin is not visible; at age 23 she married Thomas Hillier Tugwell, age 35 (born Victoria B.C., 1879, died 1958), a baker in Ucluelet, in Vancouver October 12, 1915; Canada Census 1921 shows Agnes with two children - Ruth Evelyn, age 4, Thomas, age 1 - living in Ucluelet. A third child was born. Agnes died December 12, 1971, in Burnaby and was buried in Ucluelet. Royal BC Museum Genealogy and Vancouver Public Library Ancestry. ca Library Edition.
71. Elizabeth Walker was born in Scotland, 1881, immigrated to Canada c1910, and lived in B.C. the rest of her life. She is shown (Large, 1960, p. 101) wearing her graduation pin. She registered with the GNABC (#998) September 1920 and was living at 630 28th Ave E, Vancouver at the time of registration. She worked as a nurse her entire life and died by suicide November 3, 1949, age 68. The cause of death was haemorrhage with lacerations to both wrists; there was a medical inquiry. At the time of her death she lived in the West End, Vancouver. The informant on the registration of death was her nephew D. Cowan, New Westminster (Royal Museum BC Genealogy).
72. Charming nurses graduated - first class local hospital, ceremony at Railway Men's Hall - McIntyre Block, (1915, January 28), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1; see also Large, 1972, pp. 27-28 who cites March, 1915 as their graduation date.
73. Large, 1972, p. 6-7.
74. 74 Ibid.
75. Miss Randall (sic) visits the local hospital- meets with directors of institution and addresses the local high school girls, (1919, October 11), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 4.
76. Hon. Dr. Young formally opens new hospital wing, (1913, March 24), Prince Rupert Daily News p. 1, 4.
77. Large, 1972, p. 8.
78. Large, (1972, pp. 27-28.) does not list Phyllis McCroskie as graduating; she is described as "nurse" on her marriage certificate (July 6, 1917), Royal BC Museum Genealogy.
79. Staff takes farewell of Miss McTavish, (1915, August 28), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 4; see also Miss McTavish leaves for her old home, (1915, September 15), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 1.
80. For example, Farewell tea, (1915, August 31), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 4.
81. Prince Rupert General Hospital local institution has high service record, (1952, May 10), Prince Rupert Daily News, pp. 1, 3.
82. Deaths, (1938, January 22), Globe and Mail, p. 7; Bulletins: Dies in Toronto. (1938, March 3), Prince Rupert Daily News, p. 3
83. McPherson, 1996, p.18-19.
84. 84 Ibid.
85. 85 Ibid.

Graduation pin, Ida Giraud (later Gordon), 1938, BC History of Nursing Society Collection, Rare Books and Special Collections, University of British Columbia, Photograph by Dave Robertson Inc. (Private collection Irene Goldstone.)



Prince Rupert General Hospital, 1913. (Postcard in private collection Irene Goldstone.)



B.C. History of Nursing Society 2021 Annual Reports

The following reports were presented at the Annual Meeting on April 12, 2022. Due to space restrictions, some reports may have been edited. If you wish to see the entire report, please contact us or the committee chair.

01. President's Report – by: Kathy Murphy, President

At this time, we are now realizing that we will have the COVID situation for some time to come but at least many of the aspects of our lives are returning to a new normal.

In this 32nd year of operation, the members have continued with activities that could be carried out within the restrictions. The Zoom capability showed that we could continue to meet and to include many of our members in different locations who wished to join the regular meetings.

Unfortunately, we also had to face the fact that this Society had to face the future situation. A survey was sent out to all members and a summary of the results was distributed.

At the January 2022 meeting, it was decided that the Society

could not carry on due to a number of factors so planning is now underway to dissolve the society by the AGM in 2024.

The Board of Directors has met seven times since the last Annual General Meeting. The various committees carried out the activities that were possible with the restrictions in place.

The Nursing Symposium was moved to November and was very successful.

In these difficult times, the dedicated volunteers have carried on and for this I am so grateful.

Many have indicated that they will continue to fill their positions until the Society is dissolved.

02. Treasurer's Report – by: Suzanne Forshaw, Treasurer

The financial status of the History of Nursing is very stable.

- The membership went up in 2021 (51 - 54) from 2020.
- The donations went down \$200.00 from 2020.

The following activities are complete or will be before the end May:

- 2021 BCHoN Summary of Revenue and Expenses
- 2021 financial review done by Wendy Orvig (paid consultant)
- 2021 T3010 and T1235 forms filed with the CRA online

The bank account was \$4,677.41 as of the end of Dec. 2020.

The investment total was \$85,634.63 as of the end of December 2020.

The 2021 budget has been presented for information at the annual meeting.

03. Archives – by: Nan Martin, Chair

Members: Francis Mansbridge (Archivist), Jennifer Stephens (Biographies), Wendy Trigg, Nan Martin (Chair).

- The good news is that the packed boxes containing our 30 years collection of archival holdings were moved to UBC Library Rare Books Special collections on Friday, August 13, 2021!
- Francis was present when the boxes were transferred to Special Collections. He has been extremely helpful but has finally completed his time with us. He has given us excellent service and we wish him well in his future endeavours.
- To ensure the efficient processing of the BC History of Nursing Society Archives by the Rare Books section of the UBC Library, our society funded a Cooperative Graduate Library student for a period of 4 months starting January 2022 at a cost of \$13,000.00.
- Krisztina Laszlo attended our March board meeting and introduced her very enthusiastic student, Marion Arnott.
- Another piece of news is that our office at UBC School of Nurs-

ing was moved from T260 to T280 in another pod beside our storage room (T271).

- I have transferred the boxes of Newsletters and Notecards from the storage room to the bookcase in T280. For your information, we have single paper copies of every newsletter since the beginning of our society in 1990.
- The boxes of Notecards contain:
 - Florence Nightingale – 80 cards
 - Memorial Window – 445 cards
 - Lennie Sculptures – 135 cards
- I continue to respond to 'Contact Us' requests and phone calls. I note specially that Glennis Zilm always replies with excellent information. Thanks, Glennis.
- Biographies: Jennifer has moved to the United States and will no longer do Biographies. We thank Jennifer for her support and enthusiasm for history and our archives.
- Oral Histories: All over at UBC Library Rare Books to be integrated to their archival system.
-

04. NEWSLETTERS – by: Lynne Esson, Chair

Committee: Lynne Esson (chair) Beth Fitzpatrick, Ethel Warbinek, Naomi Miller, Sheila Zerr, Lenore Radom and Glennis Zilm

Meetings: At the call of the chairperson, no meetings held all communication was by email.

Committee Activities:

Three full issues of the history of nursing newsletter were published in 2021. All issues were guided by Anita Petersen's design and graphics. We thank Sue Forshaw for her assistance with the membership list. Also thanks to Lenore Radom who works with the printer and facilitates the mailing of newsletters for those who do not have e-mail and Lynne Esson who sends out the newsletters electronically. I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all who contribute information and articles for the newsletter.

Editors for 2020

- Winter: Membership renewal/Presidents message mailed out by Lenore Radom
- Spring: Lynne Esson
- Summer: Lynne Esson
- Fall: Lynne Esson

Overall, the costs for the printing and mailing of the newsletter for 2021 is approximately \$500 dollars. Anita Peterson for the three newsletters receives an honorarium in total of \$600 dollars

Future Plans:

We will continue to issue 3 newsletters per year with the winter issue being replaced by a special membership mailing.

05. Pages of History – by: Sheila Zerr, Chair

Committee: Sheila Zerr (Chair), Lenore Radom

There are 104 pages of history, 80 hard copies and 28 on the web site. There are three sets of display albums. Two sets of display albums are used for History of Nursing Society displays. One set is archival and contains consents. Consent forms have been revised to obtain consent for web site and future digital access,

Currently:

1. Lynne Esson
2. Board member page to come, Sue Forshaw

Recommendations:

1. We recommend that we complete the pages of history of our executive members and place them on our web site.
2. The pages of history are listed and promoted on the web site. Interest is growing as members wish to honour friends and family.

Sheila and Lenore will meet to review and update the album containing the information and consent forms for the current pages of history on the website. This album will be prepared for transfer to UBC as part of our official documents.

06. PROGRAM – by: Margaret Scaia

This past year we listened to the following presenters at our Board meetings. These were 30-minute presentations mostly by former BCHNS award winners and included generally a power point, presentation of current or recent work, and a question period.

- **March 9, 2021:** Sarah Cook, Presentation: Accepted in Bella Bella: A Historical exemplar of a missionary nursing education, in British Columbia 1921-1925.
- **April: AGM**
- **June 8, 2021:** Hrag David Yacoubian, Presentation: A History of Nursing and Humanitarianism in the Near East, 1890-1930.
- **September 14th, 2021:** Michelle Danda, Presentation: Exploring the History of Registered Psychiatric Nursing Education in British Columbia from 1913 to 2012.
- **October 12, 2021:** Presentation by Anna Tremere cancelled
- **November 9th, 2021:** Alysha McFadden, Presentation: Two-Eyed Seeing as a Strategic Dichotomy
- **November 23rd, 2021:** Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry at the University of British Columbia School of Nursing: Nursing Artifacts & Nursing Uniforms: Preserving Nurses' Cultural History
- 2021 UBC Nursing Symposium, a Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the BC History of Nursing Society (<https://blogs.ubc.ca/nursinghistory/2021/10/14/nursing-artifacts-nursing-uniforms-preserving-nurses-cultural-history/>) (zoom, recorded).
- **January 11, 2022:** Ethel Warbinek, Presentation: The story of Kathleen Ellis: 1887-1968.
- **February 8, 2022:** Dr. Catherine Haney, Presentation: Abortion Nursing in the 1960s to 1990s
- **March 8, 2022:** Krisztina Laszlo, Presentation: UBC Rare Books and Special Collections & Marion Arnott, Graduate Student

07. Membership – by: Suzanne Forshaw

The 2021 membership went up by 6 from 2020

IN 2020 THERE WERE:

Full Members:	33
Affiliate Members:	5
Student Members:	8
Honorary Members:	5
Total:	51

Two died in 2020

IN 2021 THERE WERE:

Full Members:	35
Affiliate Members:	4
Student Members:	10
Honorary Members:	7
Total :	56

No one died in 2021

08. Memorial Book – by: Lynne Esson, Chair

During the year (2021), the History of Nursing Society submitted four nominations to the Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia Memorial Book. There were no nominations for the CNA Memorial book. Nominated individuals will be recognized during the Awards Ceremony and will be entered into the book.

There were four (2021) nominees for the NNPBC

(Formerly the ARNBC, RNABC) Memorial Book:

- Helen Shore
- Nancy Wright

This year (2020) the following names were inducted into the CNA Memorial Book:

- Marilyn Dawn Willman
- Jessie Mantle
- Anne Williams
- Carol Mae Acton

This year (2021) the following names were inducted into the CNA Memorial Book:

- Cynthia Stutzer (1952-2018)
- Daurene Lewis (1943-2013)
- Jan Stirling(1927-2017)

If you know of or hear of someone who should be nominated please let the Chair of the Committee know.

**Please note that the ARNBC is now known as the Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia. This change happened September 2018.*

08. Website – by: Lenore Radom, Chair

Committee: Lenore Radom (chair), Beth Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Stephens, Margaret Scais, Glennis Zilm.

Website activity has been steady through 2021 in spite of Covid pandemic, and with the help of Lindsay MacKay hired by Anita Petersen we accomplished quite a bit.

1. Online Exhibits:

- Monuments was changed to add Commemorations: ie adding Mountains, schools, street names given in memory of nurses.
- Nurse Presentations: Preserving Nursing Cultural History through Uniforms, slide show & script added
- Pages of history added: Glennis Zilm, Jean MacDonald, Brad MacIver, Cheryl Entwistle, Marion Walker, Don Ransom.

2. Displays: photos changed as supplied by that committee

3. Resources: updated

New Publications: Articles:

- Submitted by E. Warbinek “Unsung Women of Penticton”
- Article by Glennis Zilm & Margaret Scaia “BC Geographical Places Named For Nurses”
- Videos: 2021 Nursing History Symposium and Black History Month

4. Blog:

- Nursing Symposium Event/registration posted
- Season’s Greetings
- CAHN Events ..Papers & scholarship award
- REMEMBRANCE DAY FEATURE
- Obituary notice Jessie Mantle
- 4 Books featured
- Lydia Wytenbroek Health Care Project Grant received

5. Biographical Files platform still not repaired for access to do additions and edits.

6. Face Book & Twitter are added to as events occur by Jennifer

Contact US remains active for inquiries, Membership applications & Renewals, card sales.

10. Displays - by: Linda Quiney, Chair

Members: Linda Quiney (chair), Nan Martin, Geertje Boschma and Francis Mansbridge

Classes in the Nursing School remained online during the Fall and Winter terms, but unlike the previous year, the Displays did not remain dormant. During the 2021/2022 academic year the Displays in the UBC Nursing School hallway display case were brilliantly revived thanks to the efforts of Geertje Boschma and Lydia Wytenbroek, and Lydia’s very talented students. The Fall term display was installed by Geertje Boschma. The focus was on Nurses in Public Health, to include a pandemic theme referencing the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, and the subsequent development of the role of the public health nurse.

Remembrance Day was also commemorated through the work of Beth Fitzpatrick and Lenore Radom who posted a photo celebration of Nina Rumen’s war service, and brief summary of her work. This was surmounted on an earlier photograph of a field of poppies.

The Public Health Nursing display was followed by a celebration of Black Nurses, which included both a physical display in the hallway case, and a 60-minute virtual walk-through on February 14th. This innovative and creative installation was completed under the direction of Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek, with the assistance of doctoral student Ismalia Desousa, and BSN students Tamasha Hussein, Kelly Nguyen, Ariel Tzu-Han Chiao, Brandon Moeller, and Merielle Moffat. The Display will be left in place over the summer term for the enjoyment of returning nursing students. My sincere thanks to Geertje, Beth, Lenore, Lydia and her talented students for their work and creativity in keeping the Displays active despite the restrictions.

I anticipate being able to return to doing the actual work of the Displays in the Fall term, but all suggestions and offers of assistance are very welcome.

11. Bursaries - by: Kathy Murphy, Chair

The Bursary Committee was pleased to award one Bursary in 2021.

- **Michelle Danda, a Doctoral student at the University of Alberta**, received an award in order to complete her study entitled "Exploring the History of Registered Psychiatric Nursing Education in British Columbia 1913-2012".
- The final bursary will be awarded in December 2022 due to the dissolution of the Society in early 2024.

12. Friendship Report – by: Sheila Oxholm

- Cards have been sent to members or member's families as requested
- Christmas and Easter cards were sent to long term members of the society.
- Nina Rumen has been visited three times during the last year. Flowers and the Newsletter were taken and the Newsletter was read to her.

13. The BC Historical Federation Annual Conference (BCHF) – by: Nan Martin

Connections 2021 Virtual Conference June 3 - 5

Glennis Zilm and Nan Martin were pleased to represent the BC History of Nursing Society as delegates. Also present were Kathy Murphy, our President, representing VGH Alumnae and our recent bursary winner, Michelle Danda.

For the first time in the BC Historical Federation's 99 years, the annual conference was held fully virtually in partnership with the Surrey Historical Society! From Thursday June 3rd to Saturday June 5th over 100 delegates from member societies around the province settled down to an amazing selection of presentations, field trips, the AGM and workshop, and the celebration of the Awards Gala! What a schedule over these three days!

The Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Historical Writing was won by Catherine Clement for Chinatown Through A Wide Lens. Her book explores the photography and legacy of Yucho Chow, Vancouver's first Chinese photographer.

Check out their excellent website www.bchistory.ca / blog / BCHF News Categories / annual conference / 2021 Surrey / Page 1 has the presentations / Page 2 – BCHF Conference: Connections 21 at Surrey. There you will find some more interesting information and some of the delegates on zoom (Glennis and I are there!).

12. Transition Task Force - Nan Martin

Members: *Geertje Boschma, Sue Forshaw, Irene Goldstone, Nan Martin (Chair), Kathy Murphy (Recorder), Lenore Radom, Margaret Scaia, Wendy Trigg, Glennis Zilm*

1. Since the society's last Annual General Meeting on April 13, 2021, the Transition Task Force Committee members have gathered via zoom for seven meetings: April, May, June and October of 2021. January, February and March of 2022.
As the mandate of the group is to consider the future of our group, lively discussions were generated at these meetings based on planning notes of 2020 and results of the membership survey of 2021.
2. In April 2021, it was decided that for the remainder of this year, the focus be on the website, newsletter and bur-saries, and meeting with Krisztina Laszlo from UBC Library Rare Books regarding some questions raised about the transfer of our archival holdings.
3. Met with Krisztina in May and discussed hiring of graduate student.
4. June 2021, following Board approval, payment of \$13,000.00 was sent to University Development for the hiring of a Cooperative Graduate Library student to process our archival holdings for integration to Rare Books archival system.
5. The committee continues to review the financial and people resources required to keep the major activities of our society alive and vibrant (ongoing).
6. October 2021, it was decided that the Board be requested to determine the future of the society at the January 2022 meeting with timelines and responsibilities.
7. In February 2022 two motions by this committee were presented and carried: 1. That the BC History of Nursing Society be prepared to dissolve at the 2024 Annual General Meeting. 2. The Transitions Task Force prepare the preservation of the virtual material at an appropriate site and work with the UBC School of Nursing regarding the placement of the artifacts and other items.
8. The difficult decision to prepare for dissolution generated much discussion about the website and our connection with the UBC School of Nursing Consortium for Nursing History. Geertje will check about adding the website to the UBC Library Open Collection and will speak with Elizabeth Saewyc regarding the future of the relationship between the School of Nursing and the BC History of Nursing Society.
9. A few of our members would like to see the society survive even with reduced activities. Can this be done? Only time will tell!

“Reading History to Transform Nursing Care”:

A nursing history conference presentation about student experiences within student-led anti-racism book club

Recruiting and training nurses to serve in war and peace

BY RACHEL O REILLY

Beginning in January 2021, a group of University of British Columbia nursing students, led by BSN student Selyen Singh, have participated in a book club themed around understanding the history and ongoing impact of racism in health care, and increasing our capacity for anti-racist action. In March 2022, this group, supported by UBC faculty member Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek, had the opportunity to present our experience participating in the book club at the 2022 Agnes Dillon Randolph International Nursing History Conference, hosted by the Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry at the University of Virginia School of Nursing (Charlottesville, Virginia). The presentation offered an opportunity to reflect on learnings from book club as we complete nursing school and transition to nursing practice. The following is a brief summary of the conference presentation given by Selyen Singh.

Our cohort of students began nursing school following a summer of Black Lives Matter protests after the murder of George Floyd, and 3 short weeks before the horrific death of Indigenous mother Joyce Echaquan in a Quebec Hospital. These events spurred us to understand more about the systemic and interpersonal racism embedded in nursing and health care, in a deeper way than was possible within the courses offered in our 20-month BSN program. We also wanted to learn from the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and people of colour (BIPOC) people within health care systems, and recognized the importance of books and stories as an alternative medium to traditional academic journals and textbooks. Lastly, in retrospect, the group reflected on how we had been seeking space to discuss these topics with peers who were similarly invested in understanding systemic injustices in health care, and developing capacity for anti-racist action.

Under the leadership of BSN student Selyen Singh, and faculty facilitator Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek, the group met six times, to discuss three books: Rebeca Skloot’s *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Damon Tweedy’s *Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor’s Reflections on Race*, and Bob Joseph’s *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act*. These books touched on topics of racism from both patient and health care provider perspectives, and the effects of the “Indian Act” on Indigenous peoples within Canada.

Ultimately, participating in book club helped us to understand how histories of systemic and interpersonal racism in nursing have shaped the systems in which we operate today. These books provided an opportunity to listen to the voices of BIPOC patients, health care workers, and scholars, and allowed us greater awareness of our own biases and blind spots. Discussing the themes of these books and their connection with our experiences in nursing practice informed our practices of anti-racism as nurses, and built our ability to engage with peers and colleagues about these topics. Book club participants also selected one word to represent their connection to book club and their further learning about systemic injustices and created a video in which they highlighted these words. I will conclude by recounting the words we selected to describe our experience in book club: courage, hope, aspiration, community, perspective, responsibility, resolve, and commitment.

Written by Rachel O’Reilly, on behalf of book club leader and participants Selyen Singh, Allison Bray, Elliott Cordingley, Rachel O’Reilly, Emily Peacock, Ailsa Sirois, Julie Sou, Hannah Sutherland, and Eleanor Wearing, and faculty facilitator Dr. Lydia Wytenbroek

We would like to gratefully and respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we participated in book club is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwataʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.



TRIBUTE TO NINA RUMEN

1924-2022

BY SHEILA ZERR & LENORE RADOM



Nina Rumen, a founding member of the BC History of Nursing Society has passed at the age of 95 years, following many years in a Care Facility.

Nina was born in 1927 in what was then Poland, now Belarus. At age 2 she “brought her mother to Canada” to join her father, who had immigrated earlier to the Fernie/Cranbrook area of BC. She graduated from St. Paul’s Hospital School of Nursing in Vancouver in 1949 and joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1951. She was sent to Churchill, Manitoba (1952-1954), then to Iserlohn, Germany with the British Army of the Rhine, then to Lahr, Germany. She served with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) from 1970-1972.

Nina completed her Bachelor of Nursing from the University of Toronto. Following retirement from the Services, she moved to Vancouver working on short term contracts with various agencies.

Before the BCHNS was founded, Nina was active in the collection of Oral History tapes for the RNABC’s 75th anniversary. As a founding member, Nina was the BC History of Nursing Group first Treasurer and served on many of its committees throughout the years. Nina served with distinction on the planning commit-

tee for the History of Nursing International Conference in 1997. She was also very active with the BC Registered Nurses Foundation, the St. Paul’s School of Nursing Alumnae and the Nursing Sisters Association of Canada, and was always a strong advocate for Nurses.

In 1999 Nina received the RNABC member recognition award for her dedicated participation in professional activities.

At a luncheon on November 14, 2009 the BCHNS honoured Nina for her devotion and dedication to the History Group with a Portrait Doll dedicated to Nina in the History Group Memorial Doll Collection.

Nursing Sister, Nina Rumen was among other recipients of the Queen’s Jubilee Medal August 2012

Nina has been a valued member of the Society, a pillar of our group and received Honourary Membership April 14, 2003.

Nina was enthusiastic and loved a challenge, she would battle for what she believed was right no matter what the odds were, thus in 2006, the history group mounted the Florence Nightingale Opera thanks to Nina’s belief and determination.

Nina truly enriched our group and our lives.

MEDICAL MUSEUM VISIT

BY KATHY MURPHY



The mannikin in the 2nd photo has a veil from the BC History of Nursing collection (an extra one that Nan washed and prepared) and the hair is actually Brigid's hair (Adrian's wife). She grew it years ago to be used for wigs if needed for chemo patients.)

On May 17/22, Adrian French, Curator of the Military Medical Museum housed at the Seaforth Armoury, welcomed members of the BC History of Nursing and two other groups. The Armoury is the home of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and the Seaforth Museum, an official Canadian Forces Museum.

The two display areas created by Adrian French are the Medical Museum on the second floor of the Armoury and the 12 Field Ambulance, Canadian Forces Medical Reserve Unit, on the second floor of the Hoffmeister Building.

The detailed stories, photos, mannikins in a variety of uniforms, instruments, and other memorabilia have been carefully researched and displayed. The group members learned of some of the untold stories of those who served and survived. The corridors in the Field Ambulance area have historical items displayed on the walls.

Following the tour of the museum areas, refreshments were served by Brigid French. These included homemade scones and other treats.

Adrian is to be commended for his devotion to the meticulous research he has completed in order to create the displays. Bruce Holvick also provided assistance in restoring many photographs.

IN MEMORIAM STEPHANY GRASSET

1931-2022

BY LENORE RADOM



Born in Bulgaria in 1931, Stephany studied philosophy and history at the Sorbonne in 1949. She immigrated to the United States and from there to Canada in 1961. She graduated with a BSc from Louisiana State University in 1953 and in 1968 from UBC in Public Health Nursing. Her many positions have included adolescent counselling, instructor in nursing, and district nurse for the VON. She has also been a nurse practitioner and Public Health nurse. She regards her internship in the Palliative Care Hospice at Victoria General Hospital in Montreal as a highlight in her career. In the latter part of her career, she was involved in work, research and teaching in the psychiatric field, especially at UBC and BCIT. From 1977-1985 she instructed in the Psychiatric Nursing program at BCIT, during which time she also lectured in UBC's SON and other institutions. In 1985-1986 she consulted in Psychiatric and Geriatric Nursing for the WHO in Barbados. From 1989 she instructed in Acute Psychiatric Nursing in BCIT's RN diploma program. She was President of RNABC in 1980-1981.

Stephany passed away peacefully on March 17, 2022 and is survived by her children Antoinette and Stephen and grandson Rylan. She will be remembered for being well read and outspoken. She also had a unique ability to meet and surround herself with a diverse circle of good friends. Her amazing hospitality and the wonderful foods she lovingly prepared will be very fondly remembered and missed by all.

We are grateful to Stephen Grasset for notifying us of his mother's passing, for this photo & message.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

June 1 marks the start of National Indigenous History Month in Canada. Formally declared in 2009, the month encourages Canadians to take time to learn about the history, heritage, resiliency, and diversity of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

We recognize and honour Tania Dick, a member of Dzawada'enuxw First Nations of Kingcome Inlet. She is a renowned Indigenous health care leader and joined the UBC School of Nursing as its first ever Indigenous Nursing Lead in the Fall of 2021. The role was created to help guide work on reconciliation and prepare future nurses to uphold Indigenous Peoples' human rights and end racism in health care.

Tania informed us that there are some allocated Indigenous specific seats on the Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC (NNPBC) Boards and the British Columbia Nurses Union (BCNU) has established the "Indigenous Leadership Circle" an equity seeking caucus that formally meets regularly.

More info: <https://apsc.ubc.ca/news/2022/health-care-leader-tania-dick-joins-ubc-its-first-indigenous-nursing-lead>



Photo Credit: Kai Jacobson

The Helen Shore Nursing History Endowment

An endowment to support fellowships, nursing history, and nursing space, all those things that will bring the distinction and recognition that is appropriate to a modern and progressive School.



The Helen Shore Nursing History Endowment to continue the work of the Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry and support the School

Following the announcement at the Nursing Gala on May 10, 2022, the Nursing History Consortium is pleased to announce that the Helen Shore Nursing History Endowment has been established for the support of scholarship in the history of nursing. The Consortium is grateful to be receiving a part of this endowment for our continuing work, which Professor Emerita Helen Shore has been instrumental in spearheading.

Helen was an alumna (BSN '61, MA in education '71), a faculty member from 1965 to 1990, and a longstanding friend of the School of Nursing.

As a member of our faculty for 25 years, Helen was actively involved in curriculum development for both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Even after her retirement, Helen remained dedicated to the School: she helped establish an internal research award in

public health nursing, and contributed funding for nursing history scholarship.

In 2013, Helen's support was integral in the launch of the Consortium for Nursing History. Helen then remained actively engaged as the Consortium's patron.

In recent years, Helen created an estate gift, the "Helen Shore Nursing History Endowment".

In addition to continuing the work of the Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry, these funds will support nursing history initiatives at the School, through scholarly work and research in nursing and health history, community engagement activities, promoting history in nursing programs, preservation of primary and digital sources in nursing history, and connecting with other nursing history units, scholars and groups to exchange nursing history scholarship.

We are extremely grateful for Helen's gifts and her ongoing legacy, which is sure to support us well going forward.

<https://nursing.ubc.ca/news-events/news-story/16-may-2022/helen-shore-nursing-history-endowment>

Erratum by Irene Goldstone

The Fernie Fire

BC History of Nursing Newsletter, Fall 2021, Volume 32, Issue 3 p. 9.

The link to Mary Elizabeth Kidd's account of the August 1908 fire and evacuation of the town of Fernie, British Columbia was inadvertently omitted. Please find the link at:

<https://archive.org/details/thecanadianurse04cnanuoft/page/536/mode/2up?q=Kidd>

M. E. Kidd, Canadian Nurse, 1908, 4, (11), pp. 536-538.

“Teaching Nursing History with Photographs”

Presented at the 2021 Congress of the
International Council of Nurses [ICN]

BY: Dr. G. Boschma

In November 2021 a group of nursing history scholars from the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing and the European Association for the History of Nursing presented at the 2021 ICN Congress, including Helen Vandenberg, Sandra Harrison, Lydia Wytenbroek and Geertje Boschma from Canada, Cecilia Sironi and Anna La Torre, from Italy, and Maria Eugenia Galiana-Sánchez, from Spain.

They presented on the way photographs can be used in teaching nursing history. A video recording of their presentation “Teaching Nursing History with Photographs” is now publicly available in UBC’s library Open Collection and you can watch the presentation at the following link: <http://hdl.handle.net/2429/81060>

Brief description of the presentation:

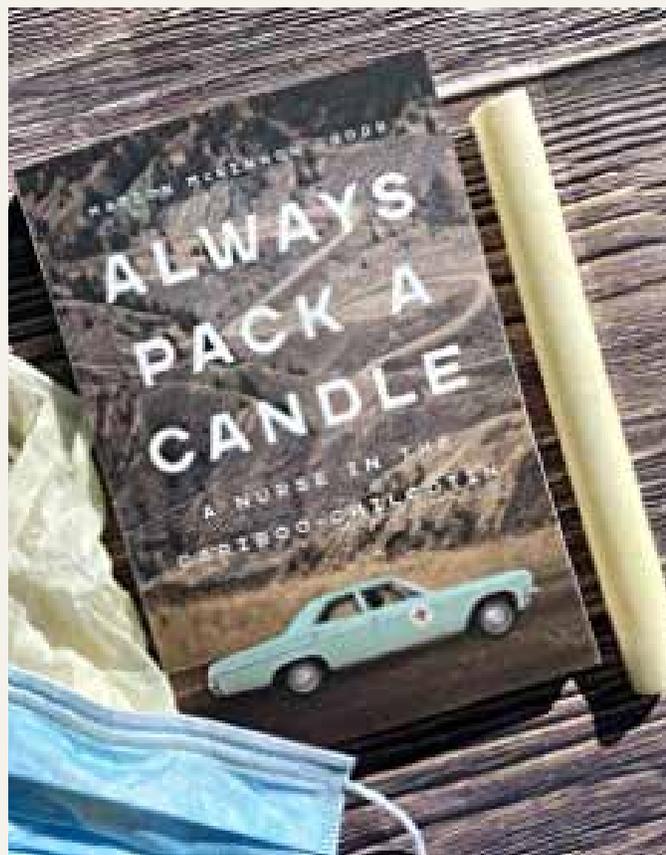
Teaching nursing history through photographs: between realities, cultural constructions and social idealizations. Countless images of nurses have been captured on camera, but what do they tell us about nursing’s past? This symposium examines historic photographs of nurses at various periods in history and from a range of social and national contexts in Europe and Canada. The purpose is to show how the analysis and interpretation of an image may form a way to gain a deeper understanding of nurses’ critical role in maintaining people’s health. Secondly, we demonstrate how photographs can be used as an intriguing educational strategy to teach nursing history. In a panel presentation with a brief discussion period, we will present and explain a series of historical photographs, either as slides or within a short video, and applying multiple analytic lenses, including gender, race, religion, nation and place. What determines an adequate and critical representation of nursing’s past?

Congratulations to Nurse Author Marion Crook!

On June 4, 2022, the BC Historical Federation announced the recipients for the 2021 Lieutenant Governor’s Medal for Historical Writing at the BCHF annual conference. The award recipients were chosen by a three-member panel of judges from 24 books published in 2021 and submitted for the competition.

The Community History Book Award, worth \$500, went to *Always Pack a Candle: A Nurse in the Cariboo-Chilcotin* by nurse author Marion Crook. It is the story of Marion’s nursing experience and adventures in the Cariboo-Chilcotin area of British Columbia in the 1960’s. Published by Heritage House in April 2021 the book has been on the BC Best Sellers List for many months.

A book review written by BCHNS member Linda Quiney, was published in our Spring 2022 newsletter.





Florence Nightingale: “The Founder of Modern Nursing”

In the early 1850s, Florence Nightingale braved opposition from her wealthy parents and attended a school for nurses in Germany. She brought back many ideas for reforms in nursing care and improvements for British hospitals.

This replica costume is based on photographs of her working in her hospital. This typical outfit worn when giving care to patients was a simple dress, with an apron, and a lace mantle or cap to cover her hair. Note the chatelaine: As most women’s dresses of the time did not have pockets, women used a pouch or pocket hanging from the belt for easy access to keys and other essential household items—the chatelaines worn by nurses often included scissors, pill containers, pencils, and other useful items.

When the Crimean War was on, in 1854, Nightingale took a band of 39 nurses to Scutari. Her work there established her and her new nursing methods. Her new ideas saved thousands of lives and made her a national hero—the “Lady of the Lamp.” And we have proved again these ‘basics’ in the COVID 19 pandemic.

Money raised in her name following the war provided funds to open Britain’s first “Nightingale-model school.” Canada and the United States soon adopted this advanced “modern” model. Nightingale introduced standard uniforms for nurses, both for her Crimean nurses and for the Nightingale school at St. Thomas’ Hospital in London. Before that time, those giving care to the sick in the early hospitals wore their own clothing, generally a typical dress of the working class, and nurses learned through a kind of apprenticeship program. Lay nurses, in early hospitals established in Canadian cities, had followed these apprenticeship precepts.

In 1874, the Mack Training School in Saint Catharine’s, Ontario, became the first Canadian school of nursing to hire a “Nightingale-trained nurse” establishing a model nursing school. This costume is also somewhat similar to the uniform of that early school. Today, Florence Nightingale is credited with changing the image of nursing and laying the foundations for modern nursing education.

Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital Graduate in a Walking Out Uniform

Circa 1905. So, the uniform typical of a Particular School of Nursing Hospital has arrived! It identified properly-trained nurses and emphasized their status as qualified professionals. Uniforms were also tied to the growing new knowledge about “germ theories” – recognition that disease was spread by bacteria – and that cleanliness and application of science could help prevent the spread of diseases and infection.

Once Canadian hospitals opened schools of nursing, they quickly established their own distinctive styles for uniforms based partly on the current fashions, as well, to vary from other schools of nursing...for example, the student “basic” dress varied in colour, solid blue or pink, with or without stripes. Victoria’s Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital, instituted this British-style street-cape and bonnet; this feature lasted only for a short time and was unique as no other nursing school in Canada had this particular style of “walking out” costume. It should be noted, after graduation, most nurses provided care in the home. This replica of a 1905 uniform shows a cape and a remarkable little hat that fitted over the cap. The hat was tied with a large bow, which was a fashion accessory of caps from some British hospitals. And note how beautifully it fits over the cap, but can be removed when making the home visit to give care.

Underneath the cape:

This uniform is typical of the kinds of uniforms worn by graduate nurses from many schools of this time. The uniform consisted of a floor-length, long-sleeved white dress with 5-6 inch cuffs that could be removed. RJH graduates wore the square-cut bib with an ankle-length apron to protect the dress, which might be worn for more than one day. Note that there was very little or no starch used at this time – that came later. The large cap was gathered into the brim – and like the school pins that were given at graduation time, it was distinctive for that school.

For cleaning, many of the caps could be untied or unpinned so they would lie flat for ironing. Almost all nurses wore high black boots and black lisle or woolen stockings.



PUBLISHED THREE TIMES A YEAR
BC History of Nursing Society

Special thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the BCHNS newsletter
Next Meeting: September 13, 2022

Articles, news, and ideas for items to be included in the Fall 2022 issue should be sent to
Lynne Esson: esson1@shaw.ca