

# HISTORY OF NURSING NEWS

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JUNE 2003

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## **Nina Rumen - Our New Honourary Member**

At our Annual Meeting on April 14 2003, Nina Rumen was awarded Honourary Membership in the BC History of Nursing Group. The award was presented by Sheila Zerr. Now, a few words about this remarkable woman.

Nina was born in 1927 in what was then Poland, now Belarus. When Nina was two, she "brought her mother to Canada" to join her father, who had immigrated earlier to the Fernie/Cranbrook area of B.C. She is the eldest of four surviving daughters.



Nina attended a one-room school in Jaffray from grades 1 to 8. As there was no bussing for high school students, the family moved to Fernie where she completed high school. She graduated from St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing in Vancouver in 1949. Following graduation, Nina worked at St. Paul's in Pediatrics and in the "Premi" Nursery, a new speciality, for the grand sum of \$175/month. In 1951, she planned to move to the United States, but was unable to obtain a visa, so instead joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corp.

Her army career started in Kingston at the Military Hospital "H" huts. The salary was \$150.00/month, board and room, with a sagging bed but a beautiful view. In 1952, Nina completed a 6-month operating room course and was posted to Churchill Manitoba, where she was the OR nurse on call.

Her next assignment was overseas, to Iserholm Germany at the British Military Hospital where the "colonials" worked with the Queen Alexandra Nurses. When this tour of duty was finished, Nina returned to Canada, where for the next five years she worked at various Military Hospitals from BC to Nova Scotia. During this time, she obtained a BScN from the University of Toronto.

In 1970, Nina went overseas again to the German Military Hospital in Lahr. In 1974 she retired from the Military and moved to Vancouver, where she worked on short-term contracts at St. Vincent's Hospital and at the the "old" and "new" Children's Hospitals. She retired in 1980.

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### History of Nursing Involvement

Nina is a founding member of our Group and a pillar of strength. Even before the Group was founded, she was active in the collection of oral history tapes for RNABC's 75th Anniversary. Nina was our first treasurer and sat on many committees. She served with great distinction on the planning committee and as treasurer for the successful International History of Nursing Conference in 1997. For several years she organized various programs and planned gala dinners to raise funds for the Archives Committee. As well, Nina was the force behind the production of our four successful nursing history cards. All this was accomplished with passion and dedication. In addition, Nina has been active with the B.C. Registered Nurses Foundation, the St. Paul's School of Nursing Alumnae, and the Nursing Sisters Association of Canada.

In April 1999, we presented Nina with an RNABC Recognition Award to acknowledge her devotion and dedication to the promotion of nursing history. As well as being enthusiastic, energetic, warm, friendly, hard-working, honest, bright, happy and a fabulous cook, Nina is also "feisty." She loves a challenge and will battle for what she believes is right no matter what the odds. We treasure her as a member of our group and this award of honorary membership is well earned.

*Sources: Nina Rumen, Sheila Zerr & Glennis Zilm*

Mark your calendars now for the History of Nursing Group's **June Luncheon**. This will be held at 11:30 am on Saturday, June 21, 2003, at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Bowling Club. The club is located at 15th and Fir Street. Guest speaker following the lunch will be **Jan Robertson**, who is doing research into the Queen Alexandra Memorial Window, which honored 21 nurses massacred on February 16, 1942, in the Far East. Participating in the presentation will be *Nikki Grewal* and *Deborah Bonnar*, 4th year students at Kwantlen University College.

Jan is on the nursing faculty of Kwantlen University College in Surrey and is a member of the RNABC Board of Directors. The cost of the luncheon is \$30.00. Please RSVP to Lenore Radom, 604-277-6782 by June 14th to ensure a reservation. Cheques should be made payable to B.C. History of Nursing and can be sent to Lenore at 10095 #5 Road, Richmond, B.C. V74 4E4.

## History of Nursing News Editorial Board

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604-270-4992 by **September  
15, 2003.**

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History Group **Executive Meeting**  
are held the first Thursday of every  
month. They usually take place at the  
RNABC Offices and begin at 4 pm and  
end about 6 pm. All members are  
welcome to attend. For further  
information, call President Beth  
Fitzpatrick at 1-604-898-3156.

BC HISTORY OF NURSING  
ARCHIVAL OFFICE at UBC  
now has a phone and voice mail.  
The number is **604-822-1714.**

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## Annual Meeting Report

Our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting was held April 14 2003 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, just prior to the start of the RNABC meeting. Twenty-two attended. Reports were given by the officers and committee chairs.

We completed the year on a sound financial basis. This was due in part to increased membership and generous donations from members and non-members. Our scholarship fund is viable and for the first time, we are offering \$1000.00 to a graduate student and \$500.00 to others. Two Scholarships were awarded in March 2003, to Deborah Bonner and Sarwant Grewal, students enrolled in the nursing program at Kwantlen University College. They are working alongside HoN member Jan Robertson studying the story of the stained glass window in London England, depicting the Queen Alexandra Nursing Sisters who were executed in Singapore during WW11. We are looking forward to hearing more about their work.

Membership in 2002 broke the previous record at 122 members, up from 118 a year ago. We are fortunate to have several RNABC Board members and members of the executive staff. Affiliate members include some of Canada's well-known nursing historians. We also have increased numbers of students, many sponsored by HoN members and we thank you.

The Editorial Board continued to produce 4 newsletters as well as take on the extra work of expanding and developing the web pages. Having guest editors under the leadership of the two co-editors has worked well.

The Display committee had a busy year mounting displays at RNABC, UBC and other venues such as G.F. Strong, Nanaimo General Hospital, Pearson Hospital and Langara University College.

Our collection of Biographies and Oral Histories continue to grow. We now have over 100 biographies. Five nurses were interviewed. They were Catherine Hurd, Shirley McInyre, Debra McPherson, Jean Dorgan and June Newton

Over the past year we initiated or assisted with five nominations for the RNABC Memorial Book and all were accepted. They were: Mary Richmond, Clara Lim, Wilma Elaine Crockett, Margaret Duncan Jensen, and Sister Virginia Surina SSA. Two names were submitted and accepted for the CNA Memorial Book. They were: Marilyn Turner Jackson and Mary Richmond.

The Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection is almost complete - 25 of the 27

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dolls are in the collection and the two remaining ones will be added in 2003-04. Three attractive plexi glass cases were designed to store and display the collection. Negotiations are underway to have permanent display space at RNABC.

Pages of History have grown and there are 58 in the collection. The viability of the project is being considered in light of the funds raised and the amount of work entailed.

Four successful programs were held over the past year. A luncheon is planned for June 21, 2003 at the Vancouver Lawn and Tennis Club.

A By-Law change was accepted and submitted to RNABC for approval. This will give us more flexibility in our terms of office.

A new slate of officers was presented and the following were elected for 2003-05

Secretary **Inga Von Maydell** Treasurer: **Faye Meuser**  
Member-at-Large **Stephany Grasset** Membership Chair **Glennis Zilm**

Sincere appreciation was extended to treasurer, Lois Blais who is stepping down so she can devote more time to the Archives Committee. We wish the new executive and committee chairs well as they face the challenges of the coming year.

*Submitted by Ethel Warbinek*

## **Heather Pavilion - Hot off the Press!!!**

At a recent meeting of the Heather Heritage Society, Ida Goodreau, President and CEO of Vancouver Coastal Health, reiterated Vancouver General Hospital's commitment to the preservation of Heather Pavilion. She stated there would be a museum. The City of Vancouver has established a 3 million dollar trust fund to assist with the restoration which is estimated to cost in the range of 20 million. Now that the Jim Pattison Pavilion is opening at the end of May 2003, work will begin on moving patients from Centennial Pavilion which will be renovated over the next few years. Plans are in the works for an Ambulatory Care building and when this is up and running, work can be begin on the restoration of historic Heather Pavilion. Several older buildings will be demolished and replaced with a 5 acre park with underground parking. Willow Pavilion as well as the Nurses Residence we were told are "keepers". This was a great relief for the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association which has occupied space in the Residence since it opened in the early 1950's and which houses an extensive archives. If all goes according to plan, we may well have our museum by the deadline of 2012!

## From the President's Desk

This will be a very brief report since I have only had the privilege of being your president for the past 3 weeks. Many thanks to Ethel Warbinek who has been at the helm for the previous 6 months and helped guide us through a very successful Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in conjunction with the RNABC AGM.

Sheila Zerr, Ethel and others worked very hard up front and behind the scenes to be sure that our resolution was successfully passed. And it was! Many History of Nursing supporters spoke in favor of the resolution. Some Chapter delegates asked for clarification on the voluntary nature of the donation of an hour's pay, and when the vote was taken, there was not a dissenting voice! It was a proud moment.

And now more work lies ahead. Thank you Bev DuGas, for the article in the recent issue of Nursing B.C. where you clearly outline our goals and give readers specific suggestions as to how they can support us.

Your executive will be meeting for a summer retreat on Wednesday, July 9th from 10 AM to 3 PM at the RNABC where the the focus will be on fund raising, setting goals for the next year and finalizing our committee structure and chairs. We have invited a professional fund raiser to attend the morning session. We welcome all history of nursing members to this retreat. Please give me a call at 604-898-3156 if you would like to join us to facilitate catering for the luncheon. *Beth Fitzpatrick, President*

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### ***THE BROKEN CRUTCH***

The Post-Polio Awareness & Support Society of BC are trying to track down a film called "The Broken Crutch" which was made some time in the 1950s or 1960s at Pearson Hospital (George Pearson Centre) in Vancouver. It featured some of our members who were being treated for polio. If anyone knows the whereabouts of this film, please would you contact Jennie Bedford Editor, PPASS News (Newsletter of the Post-Polio Awareness & Support Society of BC) 21407 River Road, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 2B4 Tel: 604-476-0130 e-mail: jenniebedford@telus.net.

## A Visit Worth Making: The Florence Nightingale Museum in Turkey

By Patricia Wallace, RN, BN, MHSA

*We now have four miles of beds - and not eighteen inches apart. We have our quarters in one Tower of the Barrack - and all this fresh influx has been laid down between us and the Main Guard in two corridors with a line of beds down each side, just room enough for one man to step between, and four wards...I hope in a few days we shall establish a little cleanliness. But we have not a basin nor a towel nor a bit of soap nor a broom...I have ordered 300 scrubbing brushes...But one half the Barrack is so sadly out of repair that it is impossible to use a drop of water on the stone floors, which are all laid upon rotten wood and would give our men fever in no time...*

Such was the way Florence Nightingale described the Selimiye Barracks in a letter to Dr. William Bowman, on November 14, 1854, ten days after her arrival in Constantinople from England with 38 nurses to tend to the sick and wounded Turkish and Allied soldiers from the Crimean War. Originally built between 1794 and 1799 during the reign of Sultan Selim III (hence the name Selimiye), the Selimiye Barracks, a vast building which was a Turkish military base, was later burned down in a janissary uprising. It was rebuilt over the next 50 years, and largely

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completed during the reign of Sultan Abdülmeçid, from 1839-1861. In 1854, with the onslaught of thousands of war casualties from the Crimea that could not be cared for in the nearby General Hospital which had filled up with cholera patients, the Ottoman government turned the Barracks over to the French and British and it became known as the Barrack Hospital at Scutari. (photograph, page 10)

Scutari (the Greek name for Üsküdar, which is what the area of Istanbul is called today), is almost synonymous with Florence Nightingale. Pitted against enormous challenges of appalling conditions, such as overcrowding and poor sanitation (the latter common to all hospitals of the time); an almost total lack of basic supplies; hospital mismanagement by the British who ran the military hospitals; and dismal standards of care and hygiene, she worked day and night for two years to care for the soldiers, bringing a high level of compassion, transforming the hospital and administrative practices, and laying the foundations of modern nursing care.

It was with a certain knowledge of and profound admiration for the “lady with the lamp” that prompted me to make a visit to the Selimiye Barracks, now home to the Turkish First Army Group, to visit a small museum dedicated to Florence Nightingale. Our guide book, which had a brief write-up on the museum, said that it was closed and not likely to re-open in the near future. Assistance sought through a tourist bureau and hotel concierge proved to be unsuccessful. Not to be discouraged, we made a decision to go anyway!

Üsküdar, which is comprised of a series of hillsides rising directly from the sea, is situated at the entrance of the Bosphorus Straits on the Anatolian (Asian) side of Istanbul. The easiest and most enjoyable way

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of getting to Üsküdar from the European side, is by taking a 20 minute ferry ride from Eminonu, which is on the south side of the Golden Horn, near the Galata Bridge. On arrival in Üsküdar, it is approximately a 2 km walk to the Barracks, or a short taxi ride. On reaching the Asian shores, it is not long before the Barracks, with its huge walls, come into view high on a hill. It is an enormous building, consisting of 4 wings, 3 floors, a large parade ground in the centre, and 4 imposing towers at the corners.

The surrounding area has been changed considerably since Nightingale's time. A shipping terminal and large railway yard have been built on reclaimed land in the Bosphorus in front of the Barracks, so the landing pier on the waterfront where the sick and wounded soldiers from the Crimea came ashore no longer exists.

Making our way up a steep hill to the Barracks, and winding around the Selimiye Mosque, built in 1804, we finally reached the iron gates of the main entrance in the northeast facing wing of the building. After peering through the gates, waving my guide book and saying "Florence Nightingale Museum!", I got the attention of the head sentry. He disappeared and soon produced a young officer on the National Service, who spoke good English, to act as our escort! The Museum is located in the northwestern tower of the barracks, and according to our escort, was the *actual* headquarters of Nightingale and her nurses. This tower afforded the best view of ships arriving with more casualties coming down the Bosphorus from the Crimea, across the Black Sea.

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*Selimiye Barracks, circa 1854*



*Nightingale with Wounded Soldier*

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*The Lady with the Lamp*



*Museum "Examination Room"*

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Walking down the long corridor on our way to the Museum set the imagination on fire! Hardly the same scene that Nightingale painted in her letter to Dr. Bowman. Nonetheless, it was not difficult at all to picture what it might have been like under the terrible conditions and hardship she faced that November, with soldiers lining the corridor on raised wooden platforms, that served as beds.

The Museum consists of two rooms, one on the ground level which was used as an examination room, and the second up an iron spiral staircase (in Nightingale's day, this was a stone stairway), which was Nightingale's sitting room. To enter the Museum on the ground level, it is necessary to first pass through a one-room regimental museum of the Turkish First Army portraying its valour in all wars in which it participated. As this room leads into the Florence Nightingale Museum "examination room", one can imagine that it could well have been used as one of the wards.

There were two striking aspects of the entrance to the Museum. The first was a marble plaque on the wall from the Turkish Nurses Association, dated April 7, 1954 commemorating the 100 years of Nightingale's arrival at the Barracks. The (then) Turkish Federation of Nurses was instrumental in establishing the Museum. Successful in having their application to the Turkish First Army Command approved to have the Selimiye Barracks northwestern tower opened as a museum that year, a room in the tower was carpeted as it had been when Nightingale lived there and fitted with original writings and photos.

The second was a life-size bronzed statue of Florence Nightingale reaching out to a wounded soldier, as he was being carried by two comrades into the examination room. (photograph, page 10)

This room primarily contains furniture and medical equipment that pertain to her service at the Barrack Hospital. It is set up to give a realistic portrayal what it would have looked like during the War. The desk, chair and lamp, clock, mirror, couch and carpet were actually used by Nightingale. While not all of the furnishings and decorations in the Museum are authentic, everything possible has been done to recapture the original style of the period. (photograph, page 11)

Behind Nightingale holding her lamp and tending a wounded soldier on a stretcher, are a variety of medicine bottles on the shelves and a suction apparatus on the wall behind the right shoulder of the soldier. (photograph, page 11)

The second floor room was her sitting room, and historical exhibits include her personal items such as her table and coffee service; an original letter in her handwriting; copies of letters donated by the Nightingale School in London; photographs and certificates; and various pictures depicting Nightingale and her staff caring for the sick and wounded. A valuable bracelet that Sultan Abdülmejid presented to Nightingale in 1856 for her outstanding work is one of the prized treasures of the Museum. Known for being a reformist himself, he greatly admired and respected the major reforms that she instituted in the military hospitals during the Crimean War.

Although the Museum is relatively small, it is exceptionally well-done, and a tremendous source of pride not only for the Turkish Nurses

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Association and its members, but for nurses from around the world who have had an opportunity to visit this historic site and Museum. For me, the real *magic* of the visit was the overwhelming feeling of awe and wonder at actually being *there* in the *very place* where it happened! And for a brief time being deeply touched by, and reliving the story of Florence Nightingale and the Crimea...

Since the Museum is not easily accessible, it is suggested that future visitors make arrangements with the Canadian Consulate in Istanbul prior to going. Individuals holding other than Canadian passports should contact their own national consulates in Istanbul. This approach should eliminate any disappointment in arriving at the Selimiye Barracks, and being denied permission to enter. Visitors, regardless of having made prior arrangements or not, must have their passports or photo ID as proof of citizenship to enter the Barracks and therefore, the Museum.

Patricia Wallace, RN, BN, MHSA is a health care consultant and former senior hospital executive living in Ottawa.

*DID YOU KNOW?*

*The 150th anniversary of the beginning of Florence Nightingale's nursing career occurs in August, 2003. Nightingale began work on August 12, 1853 as superintendent of the Institution for Gentlewomen, 1 Upper Harley Street in London, England.*

## NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

New member **Jessie Mantle** of Victoria, is a professor emerita, Nursing Faculty at the University of Victoria School of Nursing. One of Canada's leading geriatric nurses, she is the author of a new book, soon to be published, on "The Priory Method: A Restorative Care Model for Older Persons (1967-1979)." Further information about the book is available from the author at her email address: [jmantle@uvic](mailto:jmantle@uvic).

Another new member is **Dr. Natalie Riegler** of Toronto. Dr. Riegler is the author of the book "Jean I. Gunn: Nursing Leader" (Toronto: Associated Medical Services/ Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1997). She is a founding member of the Margaret Allemang Centre for the History of Nursing in Toronto and of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing and for many years editor of a newsletter on history of nursing in Canada.

Associate Member **Carol Helmstadter** of Toronto will be giving a paper on Maria Machin, a graduate of one of the earliest classes from the Nightingale school of nursing at St. Thomas' who became nursing director of the Montreal General Hospital. Carol will give this paper at the History of Medicine Conference in London this July and another paper at the History of Nursing Conference sponsored by the Royal College of Nursing and held at Oxford University in September.

Retired nursing leader and long-time HoN Group member **Ferne Trout** (of Penticton) took an African safari during the fall, touring Kenya and Tanzania. She continues to be active in writing her memoirs.

Our Honourary Life Member **Verna Splane** will be among the honorees at the YWCA's Women of Distinction 20th Anniversary Awards Dinner in early June. Dr. Splane was one of the original award winners for her contributions to health care locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally when the Vancouver awards were initiated.

**Sheila Zerr**, Past President, gave an illustrated talk to the History Group on

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March 15th at UBC titled "Nurses Residences Opened Doors to New Freedoms" Sheila spoke about Begbie Hall, the Royal Jubilee Hospital Nurses' Residence in Victoria, which has been chosen for heritage recognition by the Government of Canada. This recognition honours the role nurses' residence played in promoting professional nursing and education. The nurses' residence provided a facility for women to gain an education and to assume new roles in society. With a designation of national historic recognition, Begbie Hall stands as an important part of Canadian women's history.

**Lois Blais**, Chair of History of Nursing Archival Committee, attended the Archives Association of B.C. Conference in Nanaimo in April, 2003. Lois writes: "Attending the AABC Conference enhanced my appreciation for Archival Material. Networking with others made for excellent links for the future with our nursing artifacts and treasures collection. It is comforting to know that many archivists struggle with the same concerns as we do: what to keep, what not to keep. I look forward to communicating with this most interesting group of people during the upcoming years".

**Ethel Warbinek**, immediate Past President, recently assembled a display at the UBC School of nursing on Evelyn Mallory, the 3rd director of the School from 1941-1967. This display includes a collection of pins, several photographs of her with faculty and students, a silver tray presented at the time of her retirement, signed by members of the School and University, as well as biographical information and highlights of her career.

#### HELEN SHORE ENDOWMENT FUND

Sally Thorne, director of the UBC School of Nursing, recently announced a new initiative with the establishment of the *Helen Shore Nursing Endowment Fund*. This fund supports an annual research grant competition for students and junior faculty members in nursing care related to adults, especially senior adults, living with chronic conditions. Helen is an honorary member of the History Group.

## IN PRINT

Hoyt-McGee, Arlee. (2003). *Badges of honour: New Brunswick nurses' pins*. Fredericton: NANB Nursing History Centre. ISBN 1-895613-38-8 (Information available from the Nurses Association of New Brunswick. Cost is \$25 plus shipping and handling.) **Arlee** is an Associate Member, and a noted N.B. nursing historian.

Member **Beverly Leipter**, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor recently published a biographical sketch highlighting the accomplishments of **Shirley Stinson**, OC, AOE, RN, EdD, LLD (Hon), DSc (Hon). The article was published in the newsletter of the Association of Community Health Nursing Educators, Volume 21, Number 1, Spring 2003 issue. Dr. Stinson was the featured member from the International Region.

Honorary Member, **Beverly Witter Du Gas** published an article entitled **A Home of Our Own**, in the April 2003 issue of *Nursing B.C.*, pages 29-30. The article highlights the Group's activities to raise money for a B.C. Nursing archives and museum.

The March 5, 2003 issue of the Vancouver Courier contains a column *Now: on the senior side*. Member **Lois Blais** contributes regularly to this column and recently wrote on the subject of "Intentions".

### **Cadet Nurse Stories: The Call for and Response of Women During World War II**

by Thelma M. Robinson, RN, MSN, PNP, and Paulie M. Perry, AD, RN, PHN

More than 50 years after World War II, cadet nurses tell their stories about how they helped win the war on the home front by serving in hospitals during the worst nurse shortage in history. Recalling what it was like to serve their country, these women share touching historical and personal stories about their experiences. (2000) 210 pages.

### **As We See Ourselves: Jewish Women in Nursing**

Read about nursing from a Jewish perspective, including excerpts of "real-life" stories of more than 100 Jewish nurses. The author explores Judaic roots in nursing history, discusses the contribution Jewish women made to the nursing profession and describes the experiences of contemporary Jewish nurses, including the recent initiatives of the Hadassah Nurses Councils. Inspired by the author's commitment to tell the untold story of Jewish women in nursing, this book speaks to the society's mission of recognizing and celebrating contributions to nursing made by diverse ethnic groups. Authored by Evelyn R. Benson, RN, MPH. (2001) 188 pages. \$24.95

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## WORLD WAR I NURSE'S BELT WITH BADGES



The B.C. History of Nursing Group recently was given a most interesting artifact -- a nursing sister's leather belt possibly worn during service in World War I and studded with brass badges from patients from various units and regiments. Such souvenirs reportedly were fairly common among overseas nurses, but until this donation we did not know of any in collections.

The belt was donated to the Group by **Marian Buechert** of Langley, seen on the right in the above photo along with member **Glennis Zilm**. Marian had been given the belt many years ago by a neighbour, Helen Wickham. Mrs. Wickham, a nursing graduate from the Vancouver General Hospital, indicated the belt belonged to an older relative who had been a nursing sister during the Great War and may have served in Africa. The fact that one of the badges is definitely from South African regiment of the time supports this assumption. As well, several of the badges show the George V crown, which was worn by British and Canadian regiments in that war.

Ms. Buechert decided this winter that the belt should be donated to a nursing museum, and got in touch with the B.C. History of Nursing Group through its Web site. She now will try to obtain further information for us from the former owner, who lives in Penticton.

The photograph shows the belt at present. Working with our Archivist, we will try to identify each of the badges and report when further information is available.

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**Rosemary Brown (1931-2003), worked for RNABC**

Jamaican born Rosemary Brown, wife, mother, social worker, lawyer, feminist, and lover of opera passed away in April of 2003. In 1972 she won a seat in the B.C. provincial legislature and in 1975 became the first person of color to seek the leadership of a Canadian national political party, the NDP. During her lifetime Brown was an Officer the Order of Canada and recipient of the Order of B.C. The following account of how this accomplished woman began her public service career at RNABC was told to Nina Rumen by Esther Paulson.

In the 1950's when Esther was president of RNABC and Alice Wright was the Registrar, Rosemary applied for an advertised position at RNABC. Alice Wright interviewed her and ascertained that Rosemary was "over qualified" for the position but with Esther's encouragement and blessing, offered her the job under the provision that Rosemary would keep looking for a position "more in keeping with her qualifications".

We salute these amazing women who were so forward thinking and supportive at a time when qualified women struggled for recognition in the job market. If you can provide any information on Rosemary Brown's time at RNABC, please contact the editor.

**THE STORIES OF CANADIAN SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN**

Two new projects dedicated to the preservation of Veterans' personal memorabilia and oral histories have come to our attention. The Memory Project Digital Archives will enable students and interested Canadians to view the significant and diverse stories of Canadian service men and women in a new accessible medium. This bilingual project, funded by a **Canadian Culture Online** grant through the **Department of Canadian Heritage**, will be made up of the memorabilia, text and audio stories of 300 Veterans from across Canada. For more information visit [www.thememoryproject.com](http://www.thememoryproject.com).

The Canadian Letters and Images project "in their own words" is a permanent online archive of the Canadian war experience, from any war, as told through the letters and images of Canadians themselves. The objective of this project is to collect and electronically archive previously unpublished materials

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concerning Canada at war, both from the home front and from the battlefield.

This project is seeking any previously unpublished correspondence such as letters or postcards, diaries, photographs, memoirs, documents, or other personal materials connected to any aspect of the Canadian wartime experience from any period. Those materials will then be made freely available to everyone interested in Canadian wartime heritage through a searchable online archive.

This non-profit project is funded by the **Malaspina Foundation**. For more information visit their web site: [www.mala.bc.ca](http://www.mala.bc.ca).

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership for 2003 is doing well, with 114 members to the end of April. We are especially blessed with new student members, which the Executive considers a most encouraging sign. The high numbers of new student members comes about because each year long-term members Dr. Shirley Stinson and Dr. Helen Niskala provide gift memberships to numbers of graduate nursing students at the University of Alberta and the University of B.C. As well, this year, Ethel Warbinek provided gift memberships for three students at Langara. A significant number of these students renew their own memberships and remain interested in history of nursing. The Membership List for 2003 will be ready for mailing to all members in late June or early July.

## RNABC MEMORIAL BOOK

The following are the 2003 inductees added to the Memorial Book in April: Wilma Elaine Crockett (1951-2001), Margaret Duncan Jensen (1921-1999), Clara (Kwan) Lim (1916-2001), Dr. Mary L. Richmond (1920-2002), and Sister Virginia Surina SSA (1937-2002). Visit the B.C. History of Nursing web site ([www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca)) or the RNABC web site ([www.rnabc.ca](http://www.rnabc.ca)) to learn more about these honored nurses and their many accomplishments.

Nominations for 2004 are now being sought and should be submitted to Lynne Esson, Chair of the Memorial Book committee, ([esson@ubc.nursing.ca](mailto:esson@ubc.nursing.ca)) by November 3, 2003.

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**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF NURSING/  
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR L'HISTOIRE DU NURSING  
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Friday June 11 - Sunday June 13, 2004**

**York University  
Toronto, Ontario**

The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing invites abstracts for papers on any topic on the history of nursing. Papers must represent original work not already published or in the press. We are seeking papers from community scholars, students, full-time researchers and academics. Papers should be 20 minutes in length. The programme committee welcomes proposals for symposiums. These sessions should include three 20 minute papers, a 20 minute comment from the chairman or moderator, plus another 20 minutes for questions and discussion from the audience.

**Guidelines for the submission of abstracts**

Abstracts should be 250 words in length, can be in either French or English, and may be submitted by e-mail or in hard copy. If submitted by e-mail, please use either WordPerfect or Microsoft Word. The abstract should include a complete title, the author's name, address, and institutional affiliation if he/she has one. Please also include contact details: telephone number, email address, fax, and full postal address.

**Deadline for submission of abstracts:**

**on or before 15 January 2004**

**Email to:** carol.helmstadter@rogers.com

**Mail to:**

CAHN 2004 Conference  
c/o Carol Helmstadter  
34 Chestnut Park  
Toronto, ON M4W 1W6 Canada

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**Call for "Vignette" Submissions  
History of Canadian Nursing, 1608 to the Present**

(The following call for vignettes was received from Dianne Dodd, Historian, Parks Canada)

"We are working on a book on the history of nursing in Canada, to be published in French and English editions in 2005 by the Canadian Museum of Civilization and an outside publisher, and edited by Christina Bates, Dianne Dodd and Nicole Rousseau. Within each chapter, we plan to include short "vignettes" or sidebars featuring specific people, events and themes.

Each vignette will tell an interesting story - avoiding a list of facts and dates - using a narrative and anecdotal tone. The vignette should also illustrate some important theme in the history of nursing in Canada. A biographical vignette could be a brief portrait of someone who has had a significant impact on nursing. An event could be either a pivotal point in Canadian nursing such as the founding of a religious community devoted to health care, or the achievement of registration legislation in the 1920s. An event could also show nurses playing an important role, such as during the Halifax explosion, the polio epidemic, or D-Day. Vignettes should be very focused.

We are particularly looking for vignettes relating to specialized nursing, male nurses, nurses of colour, nursing in the international scene, Aboriginal nurses, mental health nursing, children's nursing and military nursing prior to 1885.

We will choose approximately 25 vignettes for the book. However, as we value the efforts that go into all the vignettes, we hope to find an alternate venue to publish any we are unable to include in the book. Submissions in French or English are welcome.

**Length**

Texts should be 200-300 words (no more than 300), doubled spaced, without endnotes. Authors may include one or two pertinent publications related to their topic, as sources for additional reading, however, the editors reserve the right to omit those which have already been referred to elsewhere in the book.

**Format**

Times New Roman font

Please avoid use of macros or other complicated formatting

**Style:** Chicago Manual of Style (History, not Scientific) with

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Canadian spelling

**Illustrations**

We encourage vignette authors to include one illustration, for example an archival photograph, painting, photograph of artifact or site, portrait. Please provide a caption with complete references. Authors are responsible for copyright clearance. Final submission of 8x10 black and white glossy photograph with copy of copyright clearance is required by February, 2004.

**Editing Process**

All submissions will be subject to editing for length, style and content. Authors will have the opportunity to review changes to their copy.

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: SEPTEMBER, 2003.**

Submit to:

Dianne Dodd

Historian, Parks Canada

5th Floor, 25 Eddy St.

Gatineau, Quebec

**FUTURE CONFERENCES**

**September 4-5th, 2003** International History of Nursing Conference, Exploring Diasporas: Nursing and Midwifery Cultural Migrations 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, Wadham College, Oxford, UK.

**September 19-21, 2003** The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing and the American Association for the History of Nursing will hold a joint conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**June 11-13, 2004** The Canadian Association for the History of Nursing/L'association Canadienne pour L'Histoire du Nursing (CAHN/ACHN) will hold their annual conference at York University in Toronto.

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\* **SAVE THESE DATES!** \*

\* June 12, 2003, History Group **Executive Meeting**, RNABC offices, 4-6 PM. \*  
\* (Note: one-time change of date). \*

\* June 21, 2003, **June Luncheon** with guest speaker Jan Robertson, 11:30 \*  
\* AM, at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Bowling Club. Please RSVP to \*  
\* Lenore Radom, 604-277-6782 by June 14th to ensure a reservation. \*

\* July 9, 2003, **Summer Planning Retreat**, RNABC Offices, Wednesday, 10 \*  
\* AM-3 PM. All members welcome. Lunch provided. Please RSVP to Beth \*  
\* Fitzpatrick (604-898-3156) or Ethel Warbinek (604-538-5066) to facilitate \*  
\* catering. \*

\* September 4, 2003, History Group **Executive Meeting**, RNABC Offices, \*  
\* 4-6 PM. All members welcome. \*

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