

HISTORY of NURSING

NEWS

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The Royal Jubilee Hospital Heritage Sites Preserve Healthcare and Women's History

By Sheila J. Rankin Zerr

Introduction

The grounds of the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, British Columbia hold a legacy of healthcare and women's history. Two national heritage sites have been acclaimed, Begbie Hall, the Nurses' Residence of the School of Nursing and the 1896 Pemberton Operating Room. Other historical sites include the Pemberton Memorial Chapel, the School of Nursing Alumnae Archives located in the lower level of the Chapel and the Memorial Gardens that surround the site of the Chapel and the Operating Room. This paper will discuss the historical significance of the Royal Jubilee Hospital site and examine the challenges faced in the future.



The Royal Jubilee Hospital Nurse Residence.

Begbie Hall

Begbie Hall, the Residence of the School of Nursing, was cited for national heritage recognition in 1998. It was one of five nurses' residences chosen by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for acknowledgment of women's history. The stand-alone women's residence played an important role in advancing women's history and represents a part of women's struggle for a respected occupation (Mitchell, 1998)¹.

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President's Annual Report 2007-2008

BC History of Nursing PPG

The following BC History of Nursing Objectives was set at our April 12, 2007 Annual General Meeting: the extent to which each of these objectives has been met will be the bulk of this report. Further evidence from the Annual Report of the various committees will also serve as evidence of the scope to which these objectives have been met.

1. Coordinate fund raising needs and develop skills in order to apply for appropriate resources.
Hiring our present Archivist, Marilyn Ramen, provides our group with proposal writing skills. One proposal was written to the I. K. Barber Library and now provides a template for further proposal writing.
2. Develop the Virtual Museum Project
Embedded within the development of the new website for the History of Nursing is the concept of the Virtual Museum. Plans for the website to go live are June 2008.
3. Coordinate display presentations with other similar groups (VGH Alumnae, St. Paul's Royal Jubilee, and Military Museum).
A work in progress.
4. Develop a plan to amalgamate the Biography, Oral History and pages of History Committees and provide information for the Archives Committee and the College of Nurses Library.
Preliminary work started especially with the natural match of the Archives and Biography committees.
5. Clarify with the CRNBC the status of the Constitution and By Laws regarding Professional Practice Groups.
Excellent work accomplished in this area. First, I commend the ad hoc committee members of our Executive for the comprehensive work they did exploring and investigating the issue involved with the detachment of the PPG's from the CRNBC. Sandi Broad, Isobel MacDonald, Genelle Leifso and Geertje

President's Report cont'd on page 4

EDITORIAL BOARD

design layout: Julie Lees

Diana Bright, Lynne Esson, Beth Fitzpatrick (Chair), Naomi Miller, Ethel Warbinek and Sheila Zerr.

The History of Nursing Newsletter is published four times per year. Submissions are welcome. Deadline for submissions for the Fall issue is September 15th, 2008. Please send articles and news items to Ethel Warbinek (warbinek@telus.net).

Vice-President's Report : AGM April 2008

It has been a pleasure to serve this year as Vice-President, and not much is new! Again, fortunately, I did not have to assume the main vice-presidential role of "standing in" for the President at any time. I have, however, had three other main duties.

Note Cards

Note Card sales in 2007 totalled \$ 1,176.89, with minimal expenses during the year. This is slightly down from the 2006 income from cards (\$1,703.25) – but that included income from the Florence Nightingale Opera cards, which were "special."

We had (and still have) a huge "inventory" of cards, although this inventory is still not completely accurate because cards are stored in so many different places. We reduced the prices, by 50%, of the Christ Church Cathedral Christmas cards and of the Lennie sculpture cards to try to reduce inventory, and it did increase sales somewhat of these two cards, which are really dated. However, at the end of 2007, the inventory still was worth approximately \$3,400.00. As I reported last year, many of these cards are becoming dated. (For example, all cards refer to Registered Nurses Association of B.C. rather than College of Registered Nurses of B.C., and some packages – especially the Lennie and Christ Church Cathedral cards – are becoming "shop-worn" from storage in basements and handling when being transported for sale.)

Our goals for 2008 for the cards are: (1) continue to reduce overall inventory, and (2) sell out the remaining Christmas Cards.

Nominations for Parks Canada "Persons of National Historic Significance"

In the Spring of 2007, I prepared nominations for Jean Matheson, Laura Holland, and Ethel Johns and submitted them to Parks Canada (Historic Sites and Monuments Board) for inclusion in the national listing of "Persons of National Historic Significance." The listing contains names of more than 600 Canadians who have made "outstanding or lasting contributions to Canadian history." However, few of those listed are women, and only four are nurses. Other than an acknowledgement that the names had been received, we had little other information from Parks Canada, although in this Spring (2008), we did hear that the names of Jean Matheson and Ethel Johns were going forward to the next level for consideration. The wheels of bureaucracy turn slowly!

Task Force on a Virtual Museum Project

During 2007, I took on role of Chair of a "Task Force on the Virtual Museum" to help us decide how to proceed with a virtual museum project on our website. Other committee members were: Beth Fitzpatrick and Michele Rooney and our part-time archivist Tracey Krause. After several meetings, it was recommended to the Board that the whole website would have to be significantly improved and changed. As well, the Task Force now was asked to consider how the Archival Holdings should be incorporated into the site and Lois Blais, the chair of the Archives Committee joined the committee. After further reports, the Executive decided that the Task Force should enlarge its mandate to look into how the site should be administered and whether we needed to change the current webmaster.

The Task Force received input from three individuals/firms, plus a submission from the existing webmaster, related to design, activities, and administration of our website. After much consideration, the Task Committee recommended that the Group contract with the firm of Biz a la Carte, of Richmond, take over as webmaster and coordinator of an improved and expanded website that would incorporate more information about archival holdings online as well as include a virtual museum. A contract was arranged and signed with Biz a la Carte, and the new website is to be up and running by July 31, 2008.

Vice-President's Report cont'd on page 4

President's Report cont'd from page 2

Boschma, all members of our BC History of Nursing PPG, compiled information about the issues and the progress of the other PPGs. I attended the PPG council meeting in February and found other PPGs are similarly unclear and confused as to the present mandate of the CRNBC. Some PPGs have folded, others were only beginning to explore the options while a couple have gone on to establish associations under the Society Act. The main issue is whether the BC History of Nursing can remain under the umbrella of the CRNBC given the CRNBC's present mandate. The ad hoc committee members explored the possibility of being under the Canadian Associations for the History of Nursing (CAHN) or possibly the Canadian Association of Nurses (CNA). At this point this is not feasible and we are looking toward either being under the Society Act or remain with CRNBC. A special meeting for the PPG Council to provide further discussion on these points was held on March 31, 2008. Further discussion will be held at the Annual General Meeting April 17, 2008 to determine the position of the members of the BC History of Nursing PPG.

6. Develop the Criteria for Honorary Membership in the BC History of Nursing Group.

Work in progress.

Serving as President would not be possible without the sharing, good humour and hard work of all the executive members of the BC History of Nursing PPG. I am honoured to be part of this organization and glad to do my part as I take my turn at being president.

Thank you,
Lois Blais

Vice-President's Report cont'd from page 3

At this point, in late October, the Task Force was disbanded and a new standing committee – the Website Committee – was established to take over the role of working with Biz a la Carte, including the design and layout for a new design for the site. The chair of the new committee is Michelle Rooney, with members to include: the Vice-President (currently Glennis Zilm), the Chair of the Archives Committee (currently Lois Blais), the Chair of the Editorial Board (currently Beth Fitzpatrick), the Archivist (Marilyn Raman), ex-officio, and other members as deemed necessary. This new committee will report to the Board. Although their work is proceeding well this Spring, this is a major job, and we should all wish them well!

Other

In my role as Vice-President, I have continued to keep in touch with the public relations staff at B.C. Women's and Children's Hospital site about a proposed memorial to Jean Matheson, whose name was removed from the Pavilion that had been part of the former Shaughnessy site. So far, little progress has been made in getting this Memorial going. The building is to become a psychiatric unit for children and adolescents – but so far the administration has not been able to find a donor who would give a sufficiently large amount to warrant the naming of the Pavilion for that individual. I recently spoke to Peter Cech, a public relations person at W&C Hospital site. He has the portrait of Jean Matheson in his office, which was formerly hanging in the board room of the Pavilion, and he wonders if we have a better location for it.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to have served as your Vice President these past two years, and I thank you for the honor.

Submitted by Glennis Zilm

RJ HOSPITAL cont'd from page 1

The phenomenon of “female institutions” was born with what has been called the women’s movement in the transitional period from the 1870s to the 1920s (Pederson 1987)². This phenomenon of a separate female public sphere enabled women to draw considerable strength from shared female values and an intensive network of friendships and interpersonal relations. Pederson believes the female residence enabled women to challenge successfully the discrimination they faced in the male dominated public sphere.

Purpose built residences for nurses were established across Canada. The School of Nursing at the Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital (PRJH) was inaugurated on December 16, 1891³, the first school in British Columbia. At the beginning, students lived in the upper floors of the PRJH. The first nurses’ home was completed January 5, 1909 accommodating twenty-five nurses. It was enlarged in 1918. In 1929, a three story brick building was built to house 209 students, and opened February 14, 1930. It was later named Begbie Hall.

Begbie Hall contained educational features that had long been sought by nursing educators and leaders. A training school was housed in the lower floor. This consisted of two lecture rooms, a science laboratory, a dietetic laboratory, a demonstration and practice room and a reference library. A large reception room, known as “the Pink Room” was located on the main floor. A variety of functions including graduations receptions, capping services and student dances and amateur plays and concerts were carried out in this room.

The residences for nurses were designed to attract middle-class girls to nursing and to reassure parents that their young unmarried daughters were well chaperoned. The nurses’ residence represents a part of women’s struggle for a respected occupation (Zerr, 2006)⁴. Following a study by the Historic Sites and Monument Board of the Government of Canada⁵ five sites were chosen for national heritage status. Begbie Hall was the only site chosen west of Winnipeg and received this official dedication in a ceremony, hosted by Parks Canada on May 13, 2003.

Pemberton Memorial Operating Room

The PRJH operating room (O.R.), designed by Dr. John Chapman Davie Jr., was part of the new pavilion style PRJH. This dream was realized when Joseph Pemberton, Vancouver Island’s first Surveyor General, died suddenly in 1896 and the family provided the money to build the O.R. in his memory. The operating room was opened in 1896 and embraced Lister’s principles of antisepsis. The operating room was a free standing octagonal building, connected by a small corridor from the hospital, without observation areas in order to apply Lister’s carbolic antiseptic techniques to promote a microbe-free area. A small sterilizing room was attached to the north end of the building. Lister visited PRJH operating room in 1897 and suggested they add recovery room facilities along the hospital corridor leading to the operating room. Recovery rooms were added to this corridor in 1902 (Zerr)⁶.

Once the operating room was functional, student pupil nurses at PRJH were required to spend six months of their training in the operating room. The Pemberton Memorial Operating Room was no longer used as an operating room in the 1920s when the hospital expansion included a more modern facility but was used for a variety of hospital needs well into the 1970s.

In 2006, the Victoria Medical Society obtained National Heritage Status for the restoration of the 1896 Pemberton Operating Room. This operating room stands in it’s original form on the hospital grounds and once restored will complete the historical centre of the hospital.

cont'd on page 6

Pemberton Memorial Chapel

In 1909 once again the Pemberton family gave generously to the PRJH and funded the construction of the Pemberton Memorial Chapel. The completed chapel served as the spiritual centre of the hospital and was a vital part of the lives of patients, families and students of the PRJH⁷. In the 1980s the chapel fell into disuse and was closed. In 1979, the city of Victoria declared the chapel a heritage building.

The Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae with the guidance of the Greater Victoria Hospital Society undertook the restoration of the chapel. It was reopened in a ceremony on June 20, 2003. Today, completely restored with the installation of the unique pipe organ, the chapel serves as a multi faith sanctuary, in use 24 hours a day for patients and their families as well as a vehicle for community concerts, services and weddings.

The Royal Jubilee Heritage Park Gardens

The gardens that surround the chapel and operating room include the Pemberton Memorial Chapel gardens and the Japanese Memorial Garden in honour of Dr. Inazo Nitobe. The chapel garden was funded and developed by members of the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae and by members of the Victoria community. Patients, family and staff are able to enjoy wheelchair accessible gardens for tranquility and solace.

The Royal Jubilee Alumnae Museum and Archives

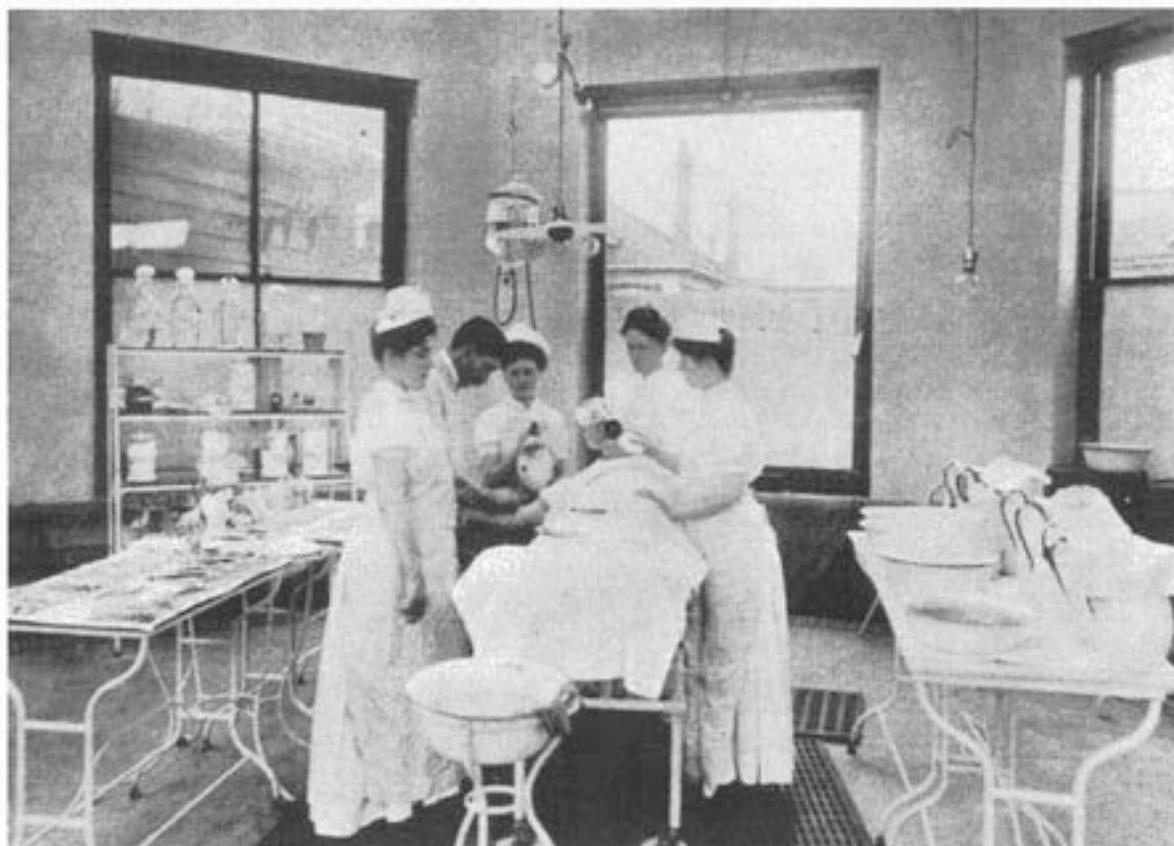
The Archives Committee of the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae undertook another major project by raising funds for the development of a permanent nursing museum and archives facility in the lower level of the chapel. The legacy of the PRJH is brought together with the chapel, operating room and garden site that now includes the completed museum and archives. Strict archival standards were put in place such as air and humidity control, and a vault to safeguard precious documents and artifacts. A century of historical information is preserved in the vault and holdings of the museum and archives. Information about the nursing professional and women's history is preserved for future generations. The nursing museum and archives were officially opened in a ceremony on June 6, 2007.

The Challenge for the Future

Much has been accomplished. Those who have dedicated their efforts to build this legacy of healthcare and women's history must find ways to assure survival into the future. The many separate historical organizations and community partners need to continue to work together. Joint committees of the various bodies need to search out strategies to consolidate efforts and fundraising to put in place a long-term plan for the future. Not an easy task but one that must be addressed to preserve this important historical site. Many of the dedicated volunteers graduated from the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing. The last class graduated in 1981 and the active volunteers are aging. This is our greatest challenge – to preserve and promote the bond that brought these volunteers together and carry their legacy into the future.

Summary

The strong linkages between the Royal Jubilee Hospital, the Victoria Heritage Society, the Victoria Medical Society, healthcare historians and the citizens of Victoria resulted in this lasting heritage to healthcare and women's history. The future of this historical site will depend on commitment to protect and preserve this priceless heritage site.



Operating room of the RJ Hospital

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2. Pederson, Diana. (1987). Building today for the womenhood of tomorrow: businessmen, booster and the YMCA, 1890-1930, *Urban History Review*. Vol.15, No. 3, pp. 225-226.
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Committee Reports

CRNBC Professional Practice Group, Editorial Board, 2007 Annual Report

The Editorial Board held two meetings in the past year: one meeting in January, a second one in June. Other routine business was conducted by e-mail the remainder of the year. Bev Leipert and Sarah Baker resigned from the Board. Diana Bright and Naomi Miller continue to participate although neither is able to attend meetings on a regular basis.

Four issues of the History of Nursing News were published this past year on tabloid sized paper. Editors for the year were Beth Fitzpatrick (Spring and Winter issue), Lynne Esson (Summer HON AGM reports), Ethel Warbinek (Fall issue). A huge thank you to these editors who spend many, many volunteer hours working on the newsletter. A second thank you to all the members of the History Group who regularly submit news items, book reviews, stories and articles for publication. This is much appreciated.

We are grateful for the assistance of Anita Warbinek and Julie Lees who help with the design and graphics, Genelle Leifso who faithfully supplies us with the mailing labels, and Lynne Esson who maintains the file with e-mail addresses of student members and others who receive the History of Nursing News electronically.

A concerted effort was made this past year to keep our newsletter costs down by increasing our electronic mailing. I'm pleased to report that the Spring newsletter was electronically received by 105 members (34 full, affiliate, honorary; 54 students; and 17 complimentary). Only 82 were sent via Canada Post which now costs us 55 cents per issue for postage.

The chair of the Editorial Board is a member of the Web Site committee which is actively working to re-design the website to include virtual exhibits. The Editorial Board can now focus its efforts on continuing to bring you a quality publication for your enjoyment.

Beth Fitzpatrick, Chair, Editorial Board

Submitted at the April 2008 History of Nursing Annual General Meeting

Committee Report, Visual Displays

AGM April, 2008

Displays at UBC are managed by Glennis Zilm. Over the year, displays have featured the following:

- UBC School of Nursing. Display Case. "Medication Administration: Bits of History and Historical Artifacts." June 2007 until April 2008.
- UBC School of Nursing. Display Case. "Physical Assessment: Then and Now." History of Temperature, Pulse, Respiration, and Blood Pressure. Case features collection of thermometers, blood pressure cuffs, and physical assessment tools. January until June 2007.
- UBC School of Nursing. Display Case. "Lyle Creelman: Tribute." January 2007 until June, 2007.
- UBC Learning Centre. Maternity Books and the Mannequin dressed in late 1900s black dress of midwife (courtesy of SZ); January 2007 until June 2007.
- UBC School of Nursing. Display Case. "Happy Birthday CNA: Celebrating 100 years of the Canadian Nurses Association." [BC and UBC Connections]. April 2008.



Sheila Zerr's display of nursing miniatures in the CRNBC Board Room. Committee members include Cheryl Entwistle and Jackie Ratzlaff.

CRNBC Library Historical Corner:

In the historical section of the CRNBC library members are able to locate the following:

- Memorial Nursing Portrait Collection
 - o Miniature doll tribute to Janet Gormick 2006
 - o Miniature doll tribute to Faye Meuser 2007
- Two albums of "Pages of History"
- Oral History Collection
- History Nursing books

Plans for the Near Future:

Plans are being put in place to prepare the TB Display for presentation at the PIC Net's 2008 Educational Conference "Building Bridges" between Occupational Health, Public Health and Infection Control to be held in Vancouver on May 8th and 9th.

Archives Committee

AGM April, 2008

Committee Members: Lois Blais – Chair; Don Ransom; Michelle Rooney; Helen Niskala; Marjory Ralston

Over the past year, we have had no Archive Committee meetings per se. Instead the focus has been on the website for the BC History of Nursing PPG. As a member of the Website Committee, I have worked with the website committee sharing information from the Archives for the new website. These website committee meetings have taken up most of the time, however, an open communication has continued with the Archive committee members.

The Archives continues to receive artifacts, letters and items pertinent to the Archives. A new Archivist Marilyn Ramen was hired and the work of the archives continues.

Submitted by
Lois Blais (chair)

Website Committee Report

AGM April, 2008

The following phases have been completed to date:

Phase 1. – Expectations and requirements of the BC HoN Website

Phase 2. – Website design and homepage

Phase 3. – Front-end development

On March 25, 2008 the Website Committee (WC) received a new design from Fahim for our home page. This proposed homepage and the three previous homepage designs were considered and discussed. All WC members agreed that the new/fourth design was the most appropriate and served to be the most functional with the exception of two minor modifications.

After considerable discussion, a list of 12 main sub-sections was approved. These following sub-sections are on the left hand side of the homepage.

Current Events; Membership; Archives; Student resources; Newsletter; Gallery; Note Cards; Donations; Contact Us; Site Map; Links; Home

Many thanks to the members of the WC for their hard work and dedication to this project.

Respectfully submitted by
Michelle Rooney Website Committee Chair

Report excerpted from Website Committee Minutes March 25, 2005 taken by Glennis Zilm.

Report of Membership Chair

AGM April, 2008

While memberships in 2007 didn't quite match our record breaking year in 2006, it is encouraging to observe that the trend to steadily increasing membership continues – 1999 (85), 2003 (130), 2006 (167).

The membership numbers for 2007 are:

2007 (year end)		2006 (year end)	
Honorary	5	Honorary	5
Full	65	Full	64
Affiliate	42	Affiliate	41
Student	46	Student	57
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total	158	Total	167

I am optimistic that our current membership will continue to grow. As the various professional practice groups transition away from the umbrella of the CRNBC, I think that some will find this group a safe place in which to honor their profession. Without the visibility associated with attendance at the CRNBC AGM, membership reminders must be sent out individually. And so, the trend is for membership renewals to trickle in.

In our ongoing effort to be fiscally responsible, student members receive the Newsletter in an e-format. In the coming year (2008) full and affiliate members are being offered the Newsletter in the e-format as well.

Once again, I would like to mention the value of introducing nursing students to this group. We have a few students who become members of their own volition. However, most of these memberships are due to the generosity of current members. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Dr Helen Niskala, Dr Glennis Zilm, and Drs Shirley Stinson, Pauline Paul, and Janet Ross Kerr who sponsored interested undergraduate and post-graduate nursing students. This is a particularly tangible way in which BC nursing history is being shared with the next generation of nursing leaders. After receiving a gift membership, I am observing that some students continue on as student members and on graduation become full members.

I would again like to thank the Executive for their support and patience with me in this role. As well, I would like to express my thanks to Sheila Oxholm, our Treasurer, who worked so closely with me in tracking new and renewing members.

As we continue to “discover, disseminate, and preserve Nursing history in British Columbia,” please keep enthusiastically recruiting new members for the HON group.

Respectfully submitted
Genelle Leifso, Chair

Nomination Committee Report

AGM April, 2008

The following members have agreed to let their names stand until December 2008

President	Lois Blais
Vice president	Sheila Zerr
Member at Large	Nan Martin

Remaining on the executive for one more year:

Secretary	Lynne Esson
Treasurer	Sheila Oxholm
Member at Large	Sandra Broad
Membership Chair	Genelle Leifso

We express our appreciation and gratitude to two members of the executive who are retiring:

- *Glennis Zilm, who has been Vice President for two years and who will continue to look after our note card sales and inventory and to*

- *Isobel McDonald who has filled the position of Member at Large for 2 years.*

Kathy Murphy, Sheila Zerr and Ethel Warbinek



BC Historical Federation Report

AGM April, 2008

I am pleased to be the new contact person between our group and the Federation. In November 2007, Beth Fitzpatrick handed over her well organized portfolio of files, journals and newsletters. Thank you, Beth, for your work and commitment for the last four years.

I introduced myself (via email) to the Federation's Honourary President, Ron Hyde, and renewed our annual membership (\$75.00).

The 2007 activities of the Federation include:

- A very successful convention in May in Victoria
- Publication of their Newsletters and quarterly journal – British Columbia

History

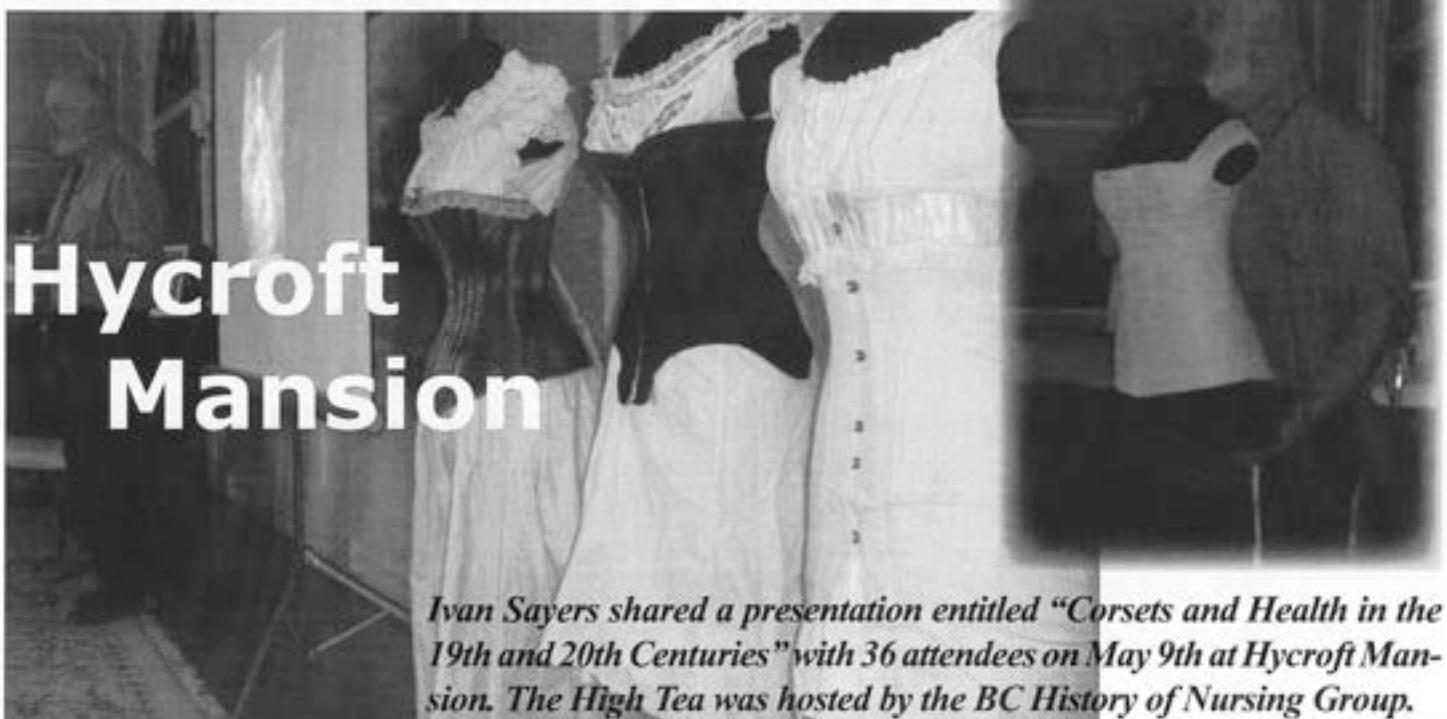
- A newly designed website – www.bchistory.ca
- Planning of their Annual Conference:

A Capital Idea! Celebrate British Columbia's 150th Birthday
New Westminster
With a Field Trip to Fort Langley
May 8 - 11, 2008

- Ron Hyde is working on a BC 150 pictorial journal edition with wonderful old photographs and postcards received from members.

Once I start receiving the Journals and Newsletters, I will be happy to share them with any of our members. Please contact me for any information about the Federation.

Respectfully submitted, Nan Martin



Ivan Sayers shared a presentation entitled "Corsets and Health in the 19th and 20th Centuries" with 36 attendees on May 9th at Hycroft Mansion. The High Tea was hosted by the BC History of Nursing Group.

Oral History Committee Report

AGM April, 2008

Committee members: 2007-2008

Ethel Warbinek – chair

Roberta Hamilton; Delcie Hill; Isobel McDonald; Inga Von Maydell; Sheila Zerr; New member – Frank Gilispie

Interviews completed:

Joyce Campkin

Jean Fernie

Kathleen (Billie) Murphy

Kathryn Matusiak

Ten interviews were summarized and the cassette tapes/CDs placed in the CRNBC library.

Saving interviews on CDs

In consultation with Joan Andrews, CRNBC librarian, our oral history interviews are now saved on CDs and not on cassette tapes. Some of our committee members record on cassettes and I am able to convert them to CDs by using a program called "Audacity." Digital recorders are also used which makes saving to CDs easier. To date, 13 interviews have been saved on CDs.

Thank you to the members of the committee for your interest in oral history. Work commitments and other responsibilities often pose a problem when trying to plan and interview, however your efforts are appreciated.

Ethel Warbinek

Program Report

AGM April, 2008

The 2007 program started with a change of our AGM venue being held at CRNBC with 29 members attending the catered supper on April 12th. Instead of a "Summer" meeting to brainstorm our goals, we combined it here at the AGM.

April 20th was our annual event at Hycroft mansion. We showcased our authors and 52 attended. Glennis Zilm and Sheila Zerr co-authored with Valerie Grant, gave excerpts from their book "Labour of Love," a Memoir of Royal Jubilee Grad, Gertrude Richards Ladner 1879-1976.

November 17th we had our fall luncheon at Vancouver Lawn and Tennis Club combining Remembrance Day. Forty-five guests including seven nursing sisters attended. Jessie Middleton, at 90 years of age, drove herself in from Abbotsford! Guest speaker was Mr. Adrian French, he is the curator of the Military Museum.

Next event will be May 9th at Hycroft Mansion, see Newsletter for details/or the e-mail sent to you.

Submitted by Lenore Radom

Pages of History Report

AGM April, 2008

Committee: Sheila Zerr (chair) Lenore Radom, Sandra Broad

Funds: Funds raised go to the Archival Fund of the History of Nursing.

Pages to date: Complete – 79; In progress – 8

Display album

Three duplicate display albums of the first 76 pages of history now complete. It is now necessary to go into a 3rd album. One set of albums has been placed in the CRNBC library. The other two sets of albums are available for display at conferences etc. The original first 78 pages will be placed in the archival collection.

Ongoing project

The flyer, promoting the pages of history, has been revised to correlate with the web page description of the pages project. This is found under the title Nursing History on our current web page.

A section of the web page devoted to the pages project and a system to rotate different pages on the web page is under development.

The committee will continue to work on promotion of the project and will consider increasing the \$25.00 cost of a page of history.

Report submitted by
Sheila J. Rankin Zerr, Chair

Biographical Files Committee

AGM April, 2008

Committee Members:

Linda Lister

Lois Blais Chair

Over the past years Linda and I have taken on the task of organizing the Biographical files, working at the CRNBC Library with Joan Anderson (Librarian) creating copies for the Helen Randal Library. Also, the original files are housed at the History of Nursing Archival office located at the School of Nursing, University of British Columbia.

To date all the files are processed except for more recent submissions. The next steps for the committee of two is establishing a template for the structure of each file and then review each file so as to standardize the content.

Thank you goes out to Linda Lister for her library skills and help with the work this past year.

Submitted by Lois Blais, Chair

Memorial Book Report

AGM April, 2008

During the year, the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group had no nominations for either the CRNBC or CNA Memorial Book.

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

Respectfully Submitted by Lynne Esson
Memorial Book Chair
History of Nursing Professional Practice Group

BC School of Nursing Trivia

by Bob Nitychoruk

The first two schools of nursing in British Columbia were established in 1891, one at the Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria (the School operated 1891-1982) and the second of short duration at the now long-forgotten St. Luke's Home, Vancouver (the School operated 1891-1910).

First university-based nursing program established at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, in 1919. In 1923 the first three graduates became the first university graduates in Canada and the British Empire.

At St. Joseph's Hospital, Victoria, their first nursing graduate in 1901 also was the first male nurse to complete training.

Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island, BC has the distinction of operating the shortest duration nursing school. It opened a nursing school in 1918 and closed it some 6 months later, with students transferring to Victoria's Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital to complete their studies.

In March 1942, as a result of the growing conflict in the Pacific, Vancouver Hospital dismissed the three students of Japanese ancestry enrolled in their nursing program but St. Paul's Hospital-Vancouver refused to follow Vancouver Hospital's lead.

The first oriental graduate in British Columbia commenced her studies at Nanaimo Hospital in 1926 and upon closure of the Nanaimo school in 1928, transferred to the King's Daughters' Hospital, Duncan and completed her training in 1929.

When initially constructed in 1912, Rest Haven Hospital and Sanatorium, Sidney B.C. was promoted as "A Sanatorium for Nervous and Mental cases {serving} all classes of nervous cases, including Hysteria, Insomnia, Depression, and mild and severe mental disorders". The School of Nursing operated between 1922 and 1938 with 68 graduates in that period.

Scholarship Committee Report 2008

AGM April, 2008

A Scholarship was awarded in 2007 to Jennifer Dunlop, a UBC master's student, who is studying the historical context to the current debate of the role of nurse anesthetists in Canada.

Kathy Murphy
Chair, Scholarship Committee

Book Review

by Don Ransom

St. Paul's Hospital, A Proud Tradition of Compassionate Care, 1894 - 2007

By Karen Spears

Echo Memoirs Ltd. Vancouver, 2007 (Hardcover, 253 pp., illustrated colour \$35.00)

This coffee table book was commissioned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing in 1907 by the Sisters of Providence.

I was one of forty individuals asked to review a draft. I found the book to have a lack of consistency. In many instances a lack of detail and insufficient research made for unfortunate omissions and errors. The School of Nursing played such a pivotal role in the development and growth of the hospital and indeed it seems unfortunate that this important area was not explored to its full potential. Simple things like captioning photos could have been handled more accurately.

I did find the logical organization of the book very easy to follow; also the many quotations from current and retired staff members and doctors added a very personal prospective.

The development of the hospital and school was referenced into the growth of Vancouver and British Columbia. This approach was both stimulating and interesting, and it added an educational aspect to the book.

While books of this nature often do not have a broad appeal and are most interesting to those with an association with the topic, it does make an interesting read for the lay person.

The last chapter which is devoted primarily to research into major health initiatives and future development, made me very proud to have had a personal and lengthy association with St. Paul's Hospital.

This local interest book may be purchased by contacting the Communication Department of Providence Health Care, Kim Mulder at 604-806-8022.

BOOK REVIEW

by Glennis Zilm

Recently, Naomi Miller reviewed, for B.C. History, the journal of the B.C. Historical Federation, a copy of *Canadians at Table: A culinary history of Canada*, by Dorothy Duncan (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2006). Naomi made the book sound so interesting I went to the local library to borrow it. The library also had another by Duncan, called *Nothing More Comforting: Canada's heritage food* (Toronto/Oxford: Dundurn Group, 2003).

Duncan was an elementary school teacher who became a teacher-guide, then later curator at Ontario's Black Creek Pioneer Village (a living restoration and reproduction of a United Empire Loyalist village); this led her into the fascinating world of culinary history, on which she now is an internationally known expert and museum advisor.

Both books take a lively look at the history of Canada based on foods and eating habits of our ancestors – from the First Nations peoples to the earliest settlers (many of whom died of malnutrition or complications caused by the same), and from the pioneer farmers (and what they could grow and store) to the present day multicultural fare. They offer thousands of fascinating tidbits – such as the fact that without pemmican, a staple of First Nations' fare, Canada's early fur trade might not have been productive; pemmican provided voyageurs with a way to carry supplies of highly nutritious protein-based food on long voyages in small canoes where the flour-based staples of the old world (e.g., hardtack) would have taken too much space and been too heavy for any kind of extended trip. Canada's indigenous foods are fascinating – and it is astonishing how many there are. *Nothing More Comforting* also contains recipes – wonderful, basic, old recipes from the past.

These two books illustrate insights that Shirley Stinson recently shared with five University of Alberta graduate students who now are members of the B.C. History Group. She sent them two excerpts about “history told by women” cited in a brochure issued about an exhibition at the University of Alberta's library:

History told by women is often seen as an addendum or adjunct to the dominant and official channels of historical record-keeping. Women's perspective is considered marginal to the main arena and battlefield of ‘real’ history. This exhibition presents ways of conceiving a history that makes women's accounts absolutely central in any historical imaginary. ... [W]omen's voices offer a complex understanding of what happened in the footnotes and interstices of received history. At the same time, their methodologies of telling the tales of a place and a time gesture towards the many other stories that still await discovery and disclosure in the annals of revisionist history.

– Mridula Nath Chakraborty [Exhibition Curator]

History is not found in the present. It is found in every recipe book, every court document, every support group resolution, and every business ledger. It sits in photographs, in sketchbooks, and in love letters. It peeps out from behind the covers of diaries and journals, banquet programs, and minute books. It waits to be heard in recordings, speeches, and protest songs. When history is not recognized in the present, it will never exist in the past.

– Patricia A. Myers, *Preserving Women's History: An Introductory Guide to Preserving the Records of Women's Lives*. [No further details cited.]

I know many of you do not have time to read just for pleasure – but if you go to libraries, get one of these books just for a quick browse. I like *Nothing More Comforting* the better of the two – although the other is “more serious” and more in-depth history. And perhaps these will spark you to recognize that history of nursing, like culinary history, needs to be part of mainstream history. And that it can be just as fascinating.

Member News

Sorry, Sheila!

Apologies to member Sheila Yeomans for the incorrect spelling of her last name in the previous issue of the History of Nursing News.

Dr. Helen K. Mussallem Biography Project

There won't be a book launch of Helen's biography anytime soon. That's because it will all be online. For some time Helen has been collecting anecdotes and recollections of important events in her professional life and now her niece and nephew are creating a website that will house all of Helen's own stories, anecdotes from her friends and even video clips. The website is under construction but can be accessed at www.drhkm.ca. If you have a personal anecdote, photograph, memory or conversation you would like to share for Helen's Biography Project please e-mail her nephew, Bruce Finlayson at bruce@harpfin.ca.

Canadian Nurses Centennial Awards

In honour of the Canadian Nurses Association celebrating 100 years, the CNA honoured 100 nurses with a one time Centennial Award. These awards were given to exceptional registered nurses whose personal and professional contributions have made an outstanding and significant impact on the nursing profession. Visit <http://23072.vws.magma.ca/centennial/eng/awards-program-centennial-awards.aspx> to view the honourees.

Pilgrimage to Korea

June Newton RCAMC WWII is going to the Pilgrimage to Korea in July as a Nursing Sister. Her picture was in the last bulletin of the Nursing Sisters.

Shirley Riddals

"I have been a member of the Royal Canadian Army Medical which became Canadian Medical Services Corporation for 29 years. I am active in military affairs – would and should become more active in oral history of our veterans." Shirley has also volunteered for Oral History committee.

Electronic Review

Glennis Zilm

Bibliography of histories of Canadian hospitals and schools of nursing.

By David Crawford (April 29, 2008).

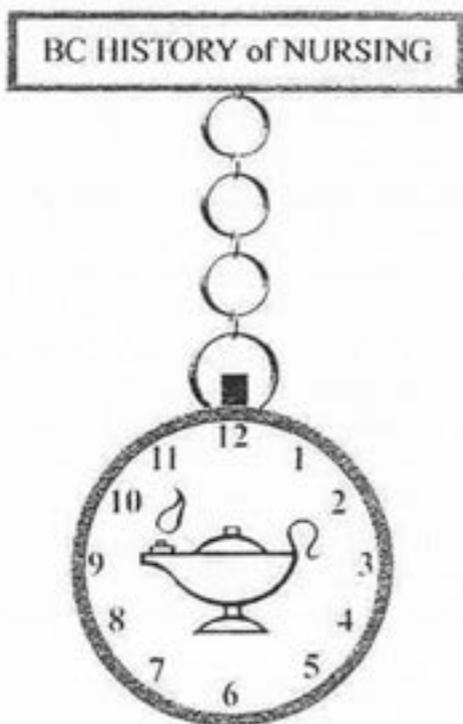
Retrieved May 16, 2008 from <http://internatlibs.mcgill.ca/hospital-histories.htm>

Nurse historians will want to add this to their list of "favorite places" on the Internet. This electronic bibliography aims to list all separately published histories of Canadian hospitals and Canadian schools of nursing. (It does not include articles from journals, nor theses except for a few that give histories not available in a published form.)

The work began as a "labor of love" by the David Crawford, Emeritus Librarian of McGill University, who started it in an attempt to find such histories that were missing from the excellent, in-depth Osler Collection at McGill. He expected to find about 100, but this list now contains more than 700.

If you print off a hard copy, you will find you have about 57 standard pages, but it is also easy to search electronically. The brief bibliographic entries are listed alphabetically, first by province, then by city, then by hospital or university school, then by item. Those available at McGill are marked. McGill is hoping to add to its collection. Professor Crawford is especially interested in hearing of any omissions to his list.

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