

# HON

B.C. HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY NEWS

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## REMEMBERING LOIS BLAIS

### NURSE, VOLUNTEER, SAILOR, SCRIBE, FRIEND. WHAT A WONDERFUL LIFE!

*We lost one of our special History of Nursing members on August 31, 2008 to cancer. Lois Blais was a woman of many talents and we were truly blessed when she joined our group shortly after she retired from nursing in 1999. Not one to remain uninvolved for long, she soon became treasurer, then vice-president and later on, president. Lois loved the traditions of nursing and had a beautiful red authentic Florence Nightingale costume made which she wore proudly at many nursing events. Many of you will remember seeing "Florence" at our Annual meetings and at the Florence Nightingale Opera.*

Passionate about preserving nursing history, Lois volunteered to chair the Archives Committee. Hours and hours were spent organizing our Archives Room at UBC. She enthusiastically supported our idea of developing a virtual museum and was a member of the task force committee. In addition to her executive responsibilities, she chaired the biographical committee and was a member of the newsletter committee. In





November 2007, Lois took on the role of president and planned to continue throughout 2008, but in June she resigned from all her executive positions to spend time with family and friends. As she said: "I need to free myself so I can do my writings and musing. I really want to complete the Boer War Story, my book from my Courier articles and if feasible the sailing adventure story."

Her Boer War Story, also known as the "Dumpster Saga", was a pet project of hers. It began when a dumpster diver in Vancouver found photographs, personal papers and mementos in a dumpster. It turned out they belonged to a Tasmanian nurse, Madeline Harrower, a nursing sister during the Boer War and WW1. When she died, her grand-nephew threw them out. The comment was made that they were dumped because "she was just a nurse." We were able to gain access to most of these items, photocopies were made, and Lois volunteered to research Madeline and the Boer War. She said it was "exciting, almost romantic going through the papers and photographs of a nurse born in 1869." Unfortunately she was unable complete this project and asked us to do this for her. We will honour her request.

In early July, Lois was hospitalized at VGH for a short period and asked to have her collection of beads brought into her. At our Summer Workshop, she gave HoN members lovely bead bracelets, each one as unique as Lois herself. These were worn in memory of her at the Memorial Service.

## :: NURSE

Lois grew up in Thunder Bay and graduated from

St. Michael's Hospital School of Nursing in 1959. Except for a brief hiatus in the early 1980's Lois spent 40 years as a staff nurse, head nurse and patient care leader, mainly at St. Paul's but also at VGH and the BC Cancer Agency. Education was extremely important to her so in 1967 she earned a BA from UBC majoring in English and philosophy. Recognizing the need to have a Master's Degree, she entered the MSN program at UBC, graduating in 1996. Her major paper was on *Moral Agency*. Following retirement, she presented several papers on this topic, including one at an ICN meeting.

Being involved in professional groups was important to Lois. In the 1980s she was active in RNABC: president of the Vancouver Chapter, RNABC Board member and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president as well as sitting on several committees. She was a member of the UBC Nursing Xi Eta Chapter, BCIT Medical Surgical Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee of the Langara College Holistic Health Program. After retirement she studied energy-alternative therapies and was an Integrative Energy Healing Practitioner. As Lois said: "I loved being a nurse. Nursing just shone for me. I would be a nurse again." In recognition of her contribution to nursing, Lois received the RNABC Award of Honor in 1994.

## :: VOLUNTEER

When she retired from St. Paul's, Lois volunteered to meet with staff members to discuss ethical issues. She also volunteered for the Ethics Network at Providence Health Care where she shared her nursing and life experiences. She considered Ethics to be the most important aspect of her nursing career. As Lois said, "I dove right into everything."

## :: SAILOR

In 1980 Lois was fed up with nursing and decided to take a break and go sailing. She and a friend built a catamaran and sailed to Mexico and then to Hawaii, where they parted ways. She hired a new crew and skippered it to Micronesia. Again, there were difficulties with the crew so she decided to sail solo to Australia. On the way the boat had problems and she had to abandon it. So in 1983 she returned to Vancouver ready to resume her nursing career. As far as I know, that was the end of her sailing adventures. However, she and her husband, Dave, did fly a small plane.

## :: SCRIBE

Those of you living on the West side of Vancouver will be familiar with the columns Lois wrote for the *Vancouver Courier* called "On the Senior Side." In 2002, she saw a notice in the *Courier*, a local Vancouver newspaper, for a senior scribe. For the next 5 years she wrote a monthly column on topics such as *Beyond Fear: Find Hope, Storytelling, Imagination: An Antidote for Change, The Buzz on Bladders* and many others just as entertaining and informative.

## :: FRIEND

An outgoing person, Lois made friends easily and she quickly became a friend to all of us in the History Group. We will miss her view of the world, her laughter, energy, compassion, feistiness and love of life itself. She died peacefully on August 31, 2008 at Marion's Hospice in Vancouver. A memorial Service was held at Dunbar Heights United church on September 12, 2008.

WRITTEN BY ETHEL WARBINEK

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## EDITORIAL BOARD

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

*The BC History of Nursing Society Newsletter is published 4 times per year. Submissions are welcome. Deadline for the Spring Issue is November 15, 2008. Please send submissions to Beth Fitzpatrick: [bethfitz32@shaw.ca](mailto:bethfitz32@shaw.ca)*

## CALL FOR PAPERS

*The Canadian Society for the History of Medicine and the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, are calling for papers for a joint conference at Carleton University, Ottawa, May 29-May 31, 2009. The theme is: "Capital Connections: nation, terroir, territoire." Abstracts on other topics are also welcome.*

- \* Abstracts must not exceed 350 words.
- \* Submit along with a one-page C.V. for consideration by 30 November 2008.
- \* The Committee will notify applicants of its decision by January 15, 2009.

E-mail: [Susanne\\_Klausen@carleton.ca](mailto:Susanne_Klausen@carleton.ca)





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SHEILA ZERR

**"OUR SUMMER WORKSHOP WAS NOT ONLY SUCCESSFUL BUT INSPIRING AS WELL"**

Our summer workshop was not only successful but inspiring as well. Executive members and committee chairs summarized their future plans and identified their manpower needs. It was encouraging to hear future plans and to see that there are enough committee members committed to move our plans into the future.

A considerable portion of the workshop was dedicated to our future as a group. Sandra Broad, chair of the Task Force to examine disaffiliation from CRNBC, presented her committee's progress report. The steps to standing independently as a society were explained. The first step requiring us to apply for permission to be called the B.C. History of Nursing Society has been completed. The Task Force was encouraged to complete the submission of our Constitution and By-Laws. A plan to circulate the draft for approval by the executive was put in place. We expressed our sincere thanks to Sandra and her committee for their hard work and dedication to this important task.

At the close of the meeting Lois Blais joined us for a short visit. We were all pleased that she was able to spend this time with us. We are most grateful to our superb hostess, Glennis, for a successful day of accomplishment, superb food and great friendship.

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## EDITOR'S DESK

BY ETHEL WARBINEK, EDITOR

Gifts come in many different forms – time, money, love, friendship, to mention a few. Our members continue to give generously and this edition of the newsletter recognizes some of you.

Lois Blais, who died recently, was a member of our executive for 7 years. When writing the article on her I was struck by the wonderful life she led - so full of energy, adventure and caring. Several photos of Lois are included to illustrate her life. I hope the article captures this.

Verna Spane, and her husband, and Dick, have established a significant endowment - The "Verna Huffman Spiane Global Health Endowment Fund". It will support the UBC School of Nursing in perpetuity to ensure that its faculty and students sustain their involvement in global health education, international projects and interdisciplinary global health initiatives.

Rose Murakami and her brother, Richard, donated a million dollar piece of property for Salt Spring Island's first multi-generation community housing project. It is named Murakami Gardens in honour of their parents and grandparents. Rose and Richard partnered with Community Services for the planning and administration of the housing development. As you may remember, from a previous newsletter, Rose Murakami's house was destroyed by a fire and while volunteering with the housing project, she was also overseeing the re-building of her home.

Others in our group are also contributing to their communities. Anna Tremere, the driving force behind the preservation of the Riverview Museum, is active on several committees looking at ways to preserve the Riverview lands and buildings.



**"WE APPLAUD YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. THE WORLD IS A BETTER PLACE BECAUSE OF YOU."**

# HISTORY MATTERS

AT TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY BY DR. SONYA GRYPMA

Does history matter? In the fast-paced work of evidence-based nursing practice, we rarely pause to consider information written more than five years ago. In our desire to stay up-to-date, we overlook what four centuries of Canadian nursing history can teach us about nursing identity, ideals and idiosyncrasies. This year senior nursing students had opportunities to reflect on how past persons, events and ideas have shaped contemporary practice. In the *Nursing Leadership* course, students examined how both historic and contemporary nursing leaders exemplified (or defined) current notions of leadership. In the *Nursing Issues and Theories* course, 4<sup>th</sup> year student Crystal-Anne Smith considered how class mottos of St Paul's nursing school from a century ago can be relevant to nursing today (see below). Next year we plan to offer a new *History of Nursing* elective for undergraduate students. For students at Trinity Western University, the Christian religious roots of nursing take on particular meaning as a way to understand what it means to integrate faith and practice. History acts as a lens through which we can probe social questions related to marginalization, social justice, ethics, gender, race and equality. And history reminds us that ordinary lives can make a difference.



## THE SILENT CORRIDOR BY CRYSTAL-ANNE SMITH, BSN, TWU CLASS OF 2008

Nestled in the heart of Vancouver stands St. Paul's Hospital, a majestic historical site that has allowed its services to be used since 1894. As I gaze at the aging building I can only imagine the vision that the health care pioneers had for the population then and now. The nurses were driven by class mottos written in the Latin language as rich and distinguished as the nursing profession. The nurses cared for the public under such banners as *Sinceritas et Fidelitas*, *Ex Operibus Fortuna*, and *Age Quod Debes*, serving their community whole-heartedly with commitment.

St. Paul's Hospital was "founded on the pledge of providing compassionate care" (Providence Health Care), an idea adopted from the Sisters of Providence. In 1907, St. Paul's opened up its school of nursing and 14 nurses graduated from the 3 year program in 1910. The nursing class photos that line the corridor of the hospital have peeked my curiosity as their stoic and/or content faces speak of the pride that each graduate felt when she completed the nursing training. It is as though I am taken back in time as I gaze at the preserved nursing history. I often wonder as I walk past each class photo, complete with crisp white uniforms and nursing hats, "in what way were these nurses leaders, what did nursing entail in the early 1900s and were these nurses respected?" *Age Quod Agis*, whatever you do, do it well is one class motto that has stood out for me. It is important that we take our nursing duties seriously and do them well. We would be doing our patients and ourselves a disservice if we were to nurse any other way. As nurses, we are to *Servamus Studiose*, or watch over ardently. The nurses at St. Paul's Hospital are wonderful examples of how we are to act as nurses today. We have been given the ability to incorporate each class motto into our own practice. If we adhere to the idea of *Servatoris Majestatis*, preservation of dignity, than we will be able to wear our nursing title with honor, fidelity and courage.

The nursing pictures only wet my appetite for the silent history that permeates throughout that hospital. There is much to be said about the nurses who paved the way for nursing today. Leadership comes in many shapes and forms and as I look back at the perseverance of the nurses in the past, I am thankful for their courage and integrity. To delve into and translate the nursing graduating class mottos would not only allow us an insight into the lives of the pioneering nurses but also insight into our own nursing practice.

Reprinted with permission from *Scholarship Update Trinity Western University Department of Nursing*. Volume 2, Issue 3, May 2008, page 3.

# WE ARE SO EXCITED ABOUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

## CHECK [WWW.BCNUSINGHISTORY.CA](http://WWW.BCNUSINGHISTORY.CA)

AND VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE. IT IS COMPLETELY REVISED AND EASY TO NAVIGATE. THANKS TO GLENNIS ZILM AND HER COMMITTEE – LENORE RADOM, BETH FITZPATRICK, DON RANSOM AND SHEILA ZERR. LOIS BLAIS WAS A MEMBER UNTIL JUNE.



## ABSTRACT: NURSING & ANESTHESIA: HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN CANADA

Jennifer Dunlop RN, MSN, CPN (C) | [jennifermd@shaw.ca](mailto:jennifermd@shaw.ca) | Geertje Boschma | Rosella Jefferson

Historical accounts of the role that nurses provided anesthesia care in Canada can be linked to their skill, need, availability and flexibility in practice. Existing historiography and primary literature reviewed gives evidence to nurses administering anesthesia in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century in Canada. Limited historiography reveals that nurses who worked in small rural hospitals across Canada were involved in the administration of anesthesia due to the lack of physician specialty and coverage. Particular resources were found through the oral nursing history accounts from the BC History of Nursing group at the CRNBC library. These resources indicated that opportunities for nurses to administer anesthesia were in fact happening in Canada in the time period of 1917-1953. These oral histories clearly identified that there was a need for the administration of anesthesia, that nurses had the skill to provide the anesthesia, and that flexibility in their nursing practice enabled them to accomplish this. Both the oral histories and medical literature prove that there was an increasing need for anesthesia service that was not being filled by physicians.

There is little understanding of why this role no longer exists in Canada but became well established in the United States. The differing conclusions that resulted from the Canadian versus the American legal cases provided some insight into the reasons why nurse anesthetists are not able to currently practice in Canada. The outcomes of the American legal cases favored the nurses and enabled them to establish a professional organization early on. As the Canadian healthcare environment continues to change and the need for anesthesia services increases, the advanced practice role for nurses in anesthesia will continue to emerge. The demand for anesthesia services is increasing along with the aging Canadian population and the shortage is most dramatic in the small, rural hospitals. This physician shortage is a key point in the recent debate about possibly bringing the role of nurse anesthetists to Canada. I would like to thank the BC History of Nursing group for providing me with their student scholarship. I would also like to acknowledge Geertje Boschma and Rosella Jefferson for their on-going support and guidance through out my research for this paper.

Jennifer has worked in the operating room at BC Children's Hospital since 1995, where she first became exposed to the specialty of anesthesia. She received a diploma in anesthesia from Thompson Rivers University and just recently completed a Master's in Nursing from UBC. Jennifer writes, "I first became familiar with the BC Nursing History Group through Geertje Boschma who was teaching a summer course on Nursing History. Little did I know that this course would lead me to finally decide on the direction for my final paper. I am married and live in Vancouver."

[WWW.BCNUSINGHISTORY.CA](http://WWW.BCNUSINGHISTORY.CA)



JENNIFER DUNLOP, A RECIPIENT OF ONE OF OUR NURSING HISTORY SCHOLARSHIPS, SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING ABSTRACT WHICH DESCRIBES HER RESEARCH PROJECT.

# A COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM  
TOUCHPOINTS, JULY 2008, P.7.



## DR. VERNA HUFFMAN SPLANE AND HER HUSBAND DR. RICHARD SPLANE ARE LONG TIME FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE UBC SCHOOL OF NURSING

Verna has been widely acclaimed for her pioneering career in public health, international health and the development of nursing education. On the basis of her public health expertise, Verna became Canada's first Principal Nursing Officer, holding the highest office of any nurse in the country and becoming intimately involved with articulating nursing's perspective to the leaders in federal government. A former Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses, Verna's passion for global health nursing development led to assignments across the globe on behalf of the World Health Organization. In "retirement" she and Dick travelled the world documenting the roles of chief nursing officers. Their book on this project became the authoritative text on this subject, ensuring that nurses had input into government policy in as many parts of the world as possible.

Both of the Splanes have received numerous awards and acknowledgements in recognition of their outstanding contributions, including being named Officers of the Order of Canada. They were also the first joint recipients of a UBC honorary doctorate, signifying the uniquely collaborative nature of their important work on behalf of nursing, health care and Canada.

In the summer of 2006, Drs. Verna and Dick Splane established a significant endowment that will support the UBC School of Nursing in perpetuity to ensure that its faculty and students sustain their involvement in global health education, international projects and interdisciplinary global health initiatives. The "Verna Huffman Splane Global Health Endowment Fund" makes it possible for the School to continue developing international health initiatives that bring a global perspective to what nurses can accomplish and to inspire our graduates to consider careers in international service. The Splanes clearly intend that this support will sustain educational and policy processes toward a more just and equitable social and health care context world-wide, a vision to which the School of Nursing is passionately committed.

Among the many initiatives that will be facilitated by this Fund is an interprofessional learning experience some of our undergraduate students will have this summer in Mulago Hospital and surrounding regional health district in Uganda. Rochelle Einboden, Lecturer, and a paediatric clinical specialist, will be overseeing the student experience. "Midwifery has built a strong foundation on which to have conversations with nursing in that region. This is an opportunity to share ideas, reflect on practice, and learn about working in environments with lower levels of resources," says Rochelle. Susan Dahinten, PhD '01, Associate Professor, and a leading scholar in early childhood assessment initiatives, will be working with academic leaders at Makerere University to explore appropriate partnership opportunities in advancing graduate level education and research training.

It is the fervent hope of the Splanes that the UBC School of Nursing will continue to follow in its proud tradition of preparing nurses capable of making a difference in solving the problem of global health inequities, and will continue to be committed to building the visions of health for all that are advanced by such organizations as the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

## VERNA IS AN HONORARY MEMBER OF OUR HISTORY GROUP

# MEMBER NEWS

**MURAKAMI GARDENS:** Salt Spring Island's first multi-generation community housing project opened recently thanks to the generosity of Rose Murakami and her brother Richard who donated the million dollar property. The 27-unit apartments are bright and cheery and fitted with energy-saving appliances. The rent is affordable for the one-room studios to three-bedroom suites which are described as, secure, healthy and attractive. Rose and Richard partnered with Community Services for the planning and administration of the housing development.

The Murakami's were early pioneers on Salt Spring Island. Her parents owned a successful 17-acre farm and her grandparents, who had lived on the Island since 1896, a network of greenhouses on a 200 acre property. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbour, the Murakami's lost everything and were forced to leave Salt Spring. The next 10 years were extremely difficult for Rose and her family, but by 1954, they had survived interment and by extremely hard work and sacrifice managed to save enough money to return to Salt Spring and purchase property on Rainbow Road. A house was built and her parents established a market garden which Islanders and visitors supported by buying their produce. In time, they were able to purchase more land, including an old fish plant, the site of Murakami Gardens. As Rose says: "That garden that Mom and Dad established was our lifeline, so we named the project Murakami Gardens, so that the people who live here can be safe and re-establish themselves in the community. It was, one, a way to honour our parents, and two, to acknowledge and remember those who supported us during those difficult years. So that's why we wanted to give back to the community."

**Sources cited:** *Gulf Islands Driftwood*, Wed July 30, 2008, p. 5; *The Vancouver Sun*, Saturday September 13, 2008, p. B1, B3; *MACLEANS* August 18, 2008, p. 49.

**GEERTJE BOSCHMA AND MARG GORRIE** have received \$49,888 from the Vancouver Foundation to study Community connections: The development of mental health services in New Westminster BC, 1950-2000

**JOAN DOREE**, who graduated with a B.A.Sc(N) from UBC in 1949, was featured under the title – Did you attend UBC as a War Vet? published in *Trek*, Summer 2008, p. 41. Joan was a Lieutenant/Nursing Sister in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps during WW11. After the war, she used Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) credits to pursue her education at UBC. "We were a much older group who had survived the hardships of the 1930s depression and the horrors of World War 11, and we jumped at the chance of getting a degree from a university. We were a rather shabby-looking lot – most of us living in rooming houses or on campus in slightly-converted army huts. Dr. Norman McKenzie, then president of UBC and always sympathetic."

**SUSAN ARMSTRONG-REID** of Guelph presented a seminar for graduate students on October 10, 2008 followed by a noon-hour public lecture. The topic: Lyle Creelman's Secret Service: Canadian WHO nurses 1952-1968. Dr. Armstrong-Reid, an independent history scholar, is a member of the B.C. History of Nursing Group. Her book, *Armies of Peace: Canada and the UNRRA Years*, with co-author David Murray (University of Toronto Press) was released in May, and she is working now on a biography of Lyle Creelman.

**NEWS FROM RIVERVIEW:** Anna Tremere was unable to attend the HoN summer workshop but sent along some news about her activities. Anna writes "I'm still hanging on to my little museum. I've just had my 2 storage areas combined into 1 so we can barely get in the door and have to be like mountain goats to try and climb over things!" On a more serious note Anna keeps active on several committees that continue to look at ways to preserve the Riverview lands and buildings. A city council committee, of which she was a member, looked at the heritage value of the land, submitted a document and was recently informed that the Riverview site has now been registered for heritage status.



WHAT A WONDERFUL  
AND GENEROUS  
LEGACY IN HONOUR  
OF THE MURAKAMI  
FAMILY.

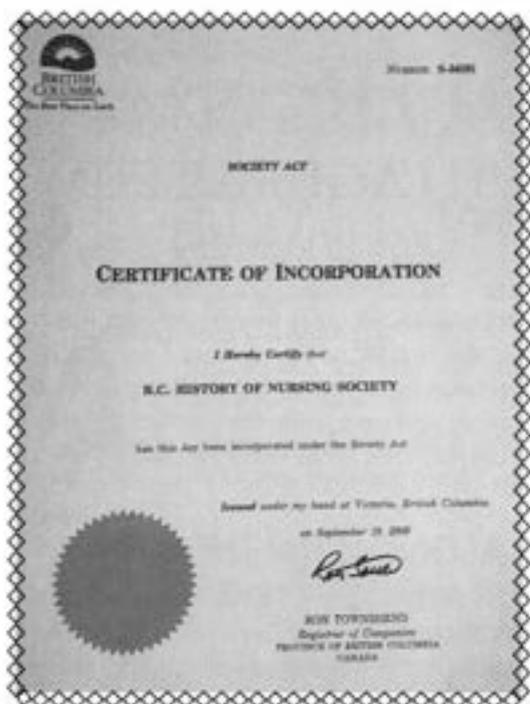
"That doesn't mean that the BC government can't ignore that and go ahead and sell whatever they want, but it gives us more ammunition." Anna also sits on the Board of the Coquitlam Heritage Society which is aiming to form an umbrella group for a variety of heritage societies or groups in the Tri-cities.

**HONORARY MEMBER, DR. HELEN MUSSALLEM** was named by the Royal College of Nurses as "Canada's Most Distinguished Nurse in her Time and Generation." This will join all the other honors that have been bestowed on her over the years.

**FRANK GILLESPIE** has been elected to the CRNBC Board as Director of District 1 – Vancouver-Richmond/Steveston. Frank is an Education Officer with the B.C. Nurses Union and a member of our Oral History Committee.

## SETTING THINGS STRAIGHT...FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT SHIRLEY RIDALLS.

Shirley graduated from Calgary General in 1954. In 1956 she joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps (RCAMC) as a reserve nursing sister. In 1959 the three medical services (army, navy and air force) became the Canadian Forces Medical Service (CFMS) and is still called by that name. Shirley served with Reserve Field Ambulances #22, #24 and #12 medical companies. Reserves are part time soldiers who are trained to live under "field" conditions. Shirley's job was to train medical assistants to provide care to wounded and sick soldiers. She worked two days a week until compulsory retirement at age 47. She continues to volunteer at the # 12 Medical Co. Museum



## NEWS FLASH

AS OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2008 WE ARE OFFICIALLY THE B.C. HISTORY OF NURSING SOCIETY!

*Thank you to Sandi Broad and her committee who worked over the summer to prepare and submit the required documents. Look for more information in the next newsletter.*

## CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE FOLLOWING HISTORY OF NURSING MEMBERS WHO RECENTLY RECEIVED THE CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION CENTENNIAL AWARDS:  
**Irene Goldstone, Jessie Mantle and Verna Splane.**

*These one-time Centennial awards were created to celebrate 100 exceptional registered nurses whose impact on the nursing profession has been outstanding and significant.*



# BC SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

BURNABY VILLAGE MUSEUM  
BY CHERYL ENTWISTLE

On BC Day, August 4, 2008, Burnaby Village Museum hosted a one-time-only celebration to pay tribute to three significant historical anniversaries: the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean Cease-Fire, the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First World War Armistice and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia. All three anniversaries were represented on the Museum's site through static and mobile displays, historical interpretation, military band performances, and songs from the First World War era performed by Linda Jones. The nursing display was arranged and accompanied by four members of the History of Nursing Interest Group: Margaret Saunders, Marjorie Ralston, Nan Martin and Cheryl Entwistle.

THE MAGNIFICENT SUMMER WEATHER ALONG WITH THE INTEREST AND ENTHUSIASM OF THE CROWD MADE FOR A MOST ENJOYABLE DAY!

## EVENT CALENDAR

JOIN US FOR A HON SPECIAL EVENT: TOUR OF THE MEDICAL MILITARY MUSEUM WITH COL. ADRIAN FRENCH

NOV. 13TH, 2008 | TIME: 2:30 – 4:00 Takes ½ hr – 45 min to see the museum.

*Free parking in the Jericho Garrison parking lot (do not park on 4th Ave.) Everyone welcome including family and friends.*

# NEW BOOKS/ BOOK REVIEWS

REVIEWED BY GLENNIS ZILM

ABORIGINAL NURSES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA. (2007). *TWICE AS GOOD: A HISTORY OF ABORIGINAL NURSES*. OTTAWA: AUTHOR. 70 PAGES. ILLUSTRATED.

This excellent history of the Aboriginal Nurses deserves to be in every nursing library in Canada. An easy-to-read and informative book, it looks at four periods using primary records of the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada and the National Archives and drawing on a wide range of oral histories and interviews.

The first period, covering 1900 to 1945, touches on discrimination and barriers to education and nursing programs, but also tells of inroads that a few determined Aboriginal students made. The second period, 1945 to 1969, describes expansion in nursing generally and in the Medical Services Branch, which provided health care to Aboriginal peoples; this helped to allow more vocational training – but students (and patients) still faced racism in the education system, workplace, and society. The next period, 1969 to 1989, examines some changes and the growing determination of people of Aboriginal ancestry to improve health and recruit Aboriginal students into the health professions. During this period, the inaugural meeting of the Registered Nurses of Canadian Indian Ancestry (fore-runner of the Indian and Inuit Nurses Association, now the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada) was held. This section also identifies some of Canada's charismatic and innovative Aboriginal nursing leaders. The fourth period, 1989 to 2006, shows how Aboriginal nurses have brought to light new educational and health issues and emphasized a growing awareness that health is not just physical, but interconnects with psychological and spiritual aspects.

The list of references, most of them indicating primary sources, is excellent. There are a few trivial quibbles about the book: there is no index and no bibliography and the individual nurses in the many of the delightful photographs are not identified. But these are minor in light of the superb and insightful content. The title of the book comes from a quote from Carol Prince, Aboriginal RN: "I've had to work twice as hard to prove myself. But in the end, I am twice as good." Please, if you have influence with a nursing library, encourage the staff to include this book in its collection. Price is \$40 plus 15% shipping and handling. Further information can be obtained from ANAC, 56 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 5A9 or from the Web site [www.anac.ca](http://www.anac.ca)

## IN PRINT

1 >> Armstrong-Reid, S. & Murray, D. (2008) *Armies of Peace: Canada and the UNRRA Years*. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press. This book analyzes Canada's key role and the role of Canadian nurses in UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, established following WW1).

2 >> Boschma, G., Grypma, S. & Melchior, F. (2008) Chapter 7: Reflections on Researcher Subjectivity in Nursing History. In Sandra Lewenson & Eleanor Hermann (Eds.) *Capturing Nursing History: A Guide to Historical Research*. New York: Springer.

3 >> Boschma, G., Scaia, M., Bonifacio, N., & Roberts, E. (2008). Oral history research. In S.B. Lewenson & E. Krohn-Herrmann (Eds.), *Capturing Nursing History: A Guide to Historical Methods in Research* (pp. 79-98). New York: Springer.

4 >> Boschma, G., Grypma, S., & Melchior, F. (2008). Reflections on researcher subjectivity and identity in nursing history. In S.B. Lewenson & E. Krohn-Herrmann (Eds.), *Capturing Nursing History: A Guide to Historical Methods in Research* (pp. 99-121). New York: Springer.

5 >> Boschma, G., Groening, M., & Boyd, M. A. (2008). Psychiatric Nursing from Past to Present. Chapter 1. In: Austin, W. & Boyd, M.A. (Eds.) *Psychiatric Nursing for Canadian Practice*, pp. 3-17. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkens.

6 >> Boschma, G. (2007). Accommodation and resistance to the dominant cultural discourse on psychiatric mental health: Accounts of family members. *Nursing Inquiry*, 14(4), 266-278.

7 >> Grypma, S. (2008). *Healing Henan: Canadian Nurses at the North China Mission, 1888-1947*. Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia Press.

8 >> Grypma, S. (2008). Chapter 5: Critical Issues in the Use of the Biographic Method in Nursing History. In Sandra Lewenson & Eleanor Hermann (Eds.) *Capturing Nursing History: A Guide to Historical Research*. Reprint of article in *Nursing History Review*, 2005. New York: Springer



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