

B.C. History of Nursing Society News

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

The Past is Present to Guide the Future

Change is underway for the British Columbia History of Nursing Group. The provincial government's recent legislation establishing the Health Disciplines Act means that our History Group is no longer part of the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia. We have embarked on a new path for the future.

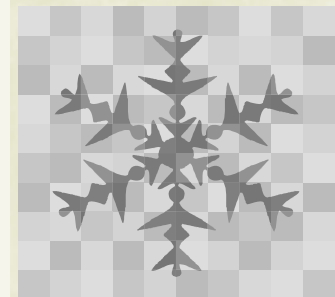
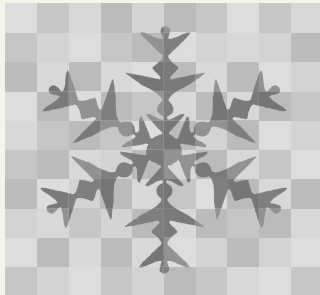
The Past – The History of Nursing Group was organized in 1989 under the umbrella of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia and in partnership with the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing. Our goals have been to discover, disseminate and preserve the history of nursing in British Columbia. We have remained true to those goals for the past 20 years.

The Present - Today, the History Group has 140 members: active, affiliate and students. We have developed a variety of programs to promote nursing history. An archive fund was established to preserve nursing artefacts and records, and a scholarship fund supports student efforts to study and document nursing history. Other activities include continuing programs to collect biographies and oral histories, mounting nursing history displays, arranging interesting programs for members and the public, and partnerships with other historical societies. We circulate a newsletter 4 times a year and recently have expanded and upgraded our website to include several virtual exhibits.

The Future – The History Group recently became the British Columbia History of Nursing Society within the Societies Act of B. C. We have established our constitution and by-laws as an independent body according to the Societies Act. The future is challenging as we seek to carry out our established programs and embark on fund raising efforts to support our plans to preserve British Columbia's nursing history. We have a strong executive in place for 2009 and enthusiastic and capable members to chair our numerous committees.

But we will need the help of **all** our members to carry our plans into the future. We are counting on each one of you to assist us to reach our goals. Begin by renewing your membership for 2009, our 20th Anniversary year. Volunteer for one of our committees. Attend our monthly Executive meetings and network with friends. Share your individual research on pioneer nurses who have shaped nursing practice in this province.

Finally, we wish you and your family a Healthy and Joyous New Year!
Sheila Zerr, President



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This is such a busy time of year for everyone, including the members of the Newsletter Committee. Because of time constraints and supported by a unanimous vote, the committee agreed that the 2008 Winter newsletter should be "short and sweet". And so here it is: important news and requests, no photographs or stories, and your 2009 membership renewal form.

We are already working on the Spring Issue. Look for an article about Elizabeth Clarke RN who wrote *Bluebird on My Windowsill*. There will also be a report on the June 2008 CAHN/ACHN Conference, as well as photographs and a write-up about our November visit to the Museum of Military Medicine. The deadline for the Spring Issue is **February 15th 2009** and items for inclusion should be sent to Beth Fitzpatrick (bethfitz32@shaw.ca).

CAN YOU HELP BARBARA?

I am researching and writing on the lives of Red Cross nurses in rural British Columbia in the early 1900s. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has connections to, or information on, early nurses who worked in the Red Cross hospitals or public health practices around the province. Nurses such as **E. Muriel Claxton** who worked and died in Cecil Lake, **Ida Saressa Crook** an Australian who was matron in Pouce Coupe, **Nancy Dunn** one of the first Red Cross public health nurses, **Rebecca McPhee Bancroft** who opened the Kyuquot hospital, **Helen Isabelle (Molly) Fullerton** of Bamfield, **Winnifred Ehlers** of the Shuswap, and **Vi Garish Woodward** are just a few of the amazing nurses whose lives I have been researching.

Any and all information would be appreciated. Please contact Barbara Bavinton at bbavinton@shaw.ca.

(Editor's note: Keeping the Fires Stoked: A Tribute to the Outpost Nurses of British Columbia by Barbara Bavinton was published in a previous issue of the History of Nursing News (Volume 16, Number 2, October 2005, p8-11). Barbara has diligently continued her research and says "I started out with an article in mind but have discovered such a large volume of interesting detail that I am now looking at a book. These nurses led amazing lives and I think deserve whatever recognition I can give them.")

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

A warm welcome to **Stephanie Kays**, our new archivist who will come on board in January. And thanks and congratulations to Marilyn Ramen who has moved on to full-time employment at Simon Fraser University.

Stephanie will be graduating in April from the Masters programme in Library, Archives and Information Systems at UBC. She also holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (photography) from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Stephanie has completed two projects while studying for her Masters: one at the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research and a three month archives internship at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London UK.

Don Ransom, Chair Archives Committee

ENJOY THIS BIOGRAPHY

You won't regret reading Daphne Sleight's biography of Major James Skitt Mathews, long time Vancouver City Archivist. (Daphne Sleight (2008) *The Man Who Saved Vancouver: Major James Skitt Mathews*. Heritage House ISBN 978-1-894974-39-4) This biography is believed to be the first of a Canadian Archivist.

Based on Major Mathew's own private papers which were sealed for 30 years after his death, the book shows a more personal side of his life. Of particular interest is his marriage to Emily Eliza Edwardes, a nursing sister who cared for him when he was ill with typhoid fever in 1902. Mathews saved records from her nursing service before and during World War 1 and added them to his own collection. After her death Mathews spent his money on a series of artistic tributes to Emily: namely a stained glass window in Christ Church Cathedral and a bronze bust of Emily which remained in his office until his death in 1970. Look for a complete book review in a future newsletter.

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

Congratulations to **Pricilla Lockwood** who, along with members **Irene Goldstone**, **Jessie Mantle** and **Verna Splane**, received a Canadian Nurses Association Centennial Award. (Pricilla: apologies for neglecting to include your name in our last newsletter and thank you for sending the photographs which will appear in the Spring newsletter.)

Honorary member **Beverley DuGas** recently had her second cataract surgery and we wish her a speedy recovery. Bev tells us that her basic nursing text, published in 1982, is being translated into Hindi for use in India and into Portuguese for use in Brazil. The translated text is also being used in France, Spain, Mexico and all Spanish speaking countries in South America.

Member **Joan Doree** keeps her keen eyes on newspaper articles and stories that she feels are of "historic interest". A Vancouver Sun newspaper reporter writes that starting in April 2009 professionals such as doctors, teachers and nurses will be able to transfer freely among all provinces in Canada without passing a new set of tests or certifications. (Jonathan Fowlie, *Labour deal drops barriers for Canadian professionals*, December 6, 2008, *Vancouver Sun*) Joan says "I remember writing a paper about the possibility of Canadian registration for nurses back in 1948 when I was a student at UBC. I think I titled the paper The Feasibility of Canadian Nurse Registration. Sadly in my paper I had to conclude that it wasn't possible at that time, but I guess it's time has now come."

IN PRINT

Congratulations to **Glennis Zilm** on the publication of the 3rd edition of *The Smart Way*. (Zilm, Glennis. (2009). *The SMART Way: An Introduction to Writing for Nurses* (3rd ed.). Toronto: Elsevier.)

Honorary member **Dr. Helen Mussallem** recently wrote an article for the Canadian Nurse highlighting her most memorable experiences during her 18 years as Executive Director of CNA. (Mussallem, Helen. *My time at CNA was a Wonderful Gift*. Canadian Nurse - vol 104, no 9, November 2008 p. 56.)

Rose Murakami tells the story of her pioneer family on Salt Spring Island. (Murakami, Rose.(2008). *Ganbaru the Murakami Family of Salt Spring Island*. The Japanese Garden Society of Salt Spring Island) The word Ganbaru means persevere. Rose dedicates the book to her late parents and all the funds raised from the book's sale go to the Japanese Garden Society which is in the process of creating a remembrance garden for the Japanese Canadians who were on Salt Spring Island since the 1880's.

Congratulations to **Dr. Sally Thorne** on the publication of her latest book. (Thorne, Sally (2008). *Interpretive Design*. Walnut Creek CA. Left Coast Press Inc.) This book is designed to guide both new and more seasoned researchers through the steps of conceiving, designing, and implementing coherent research capable of generating new insights in clinical settings.

Bonifacio, N. C. & Boschma, G. (2008). Family visitation in the PACU, 1984-2006. *Journal of Perianesthesia Nursing*, 23 (2), 94-101.

SAVE THESE DATES

January 8, 2009, 4-6 PM **BC History of Nursing Society Executive Meeting**, CRNBC Offices, Arbutus Street, Vancouver BC. For further information contact Sheila Zerr (srzerr@telus.net)

January 30-31, 2009 **Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, 14th Annual Ethel Johns Research Day**. Deadline for early registration January 16th. For further information visit: www.xieta.nursing.ubc.ca (look under *Ethel Johns Research Day* or *Upcoming Events*)

May 14-16, 2009 **BC Historical Federation Conference**, Nelson, BC Theme: History in Your Neighbourhood. For further information visit www.bchistory.ca.

MAY 29-31, 2009 **CHSM/CAHN Annual Conference**, Carleton University, Ottawa. Register online at www.fedcan.ca/congress2009. Deadline for early registration is March 31, 2009.



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