

# Ethel Johns Plaque to be Unveiled at UBC

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada will this fall unveil a plaque to honor Ethel Johns (1879-1968), a national and international nurse leader who promoted university nursing education as a key strategy for improving health. In 2009, Johns was named by the federal government as a Person of National Historic Significance, and the unveiling of the plaque at UBC will further recognize her remarkable contributions to development of professional nursing. Johns was nominated for the honor and plaque by the BC History of Nursing Society.

The ceremony, hosted by Parks Canada for the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, will take place on the UBC campus and will be attended by federal government representatives and by representatives of UBC, the School of Nursing, and the BC History of Nursing Society. Johns was the founding nursing director of the UBC School of Nursing, which, in 1919, was the first baccalaureate program for nurses in Canada (or anywhere in the then British Empire). It is planned that the bronze plaque will be permanently located in the UBC Patient Park to the west of the UBC Acute Care Hospital.

Born in England, of Welsh parentage, Johns came to Canada with her family in 1888 when her father took a position as a teacher in Ontario. After doing some teaching herself, then graduating from Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing in 1902, Johns practiced as a nurse in Winnipeg. She was a

founding member of the Manitoba Association of Graduate Nurses, serving as its president in 1911. She then continued her education at Teachers College, Columbia University 1914-15. Although she could not finish her degree because of illness in her family, she returned to Winnipeg as superintendent of the Children's Hospital and took active roles on provincial boards. In 1919, she was selected for the role of Director of Nursing Services and Education at Vancouver General Hospital, with the commitment to establish a baccalaureate Nursing department at UBC.

She left this dual role in 1925 to take a position with the Rockefeller Foundation for a stint as a researcher in the United States, where she worked to advance the status of black women in nursing, and then as a fieldworker in Europe, where she was instrumental in helping to develop advanced education for nurses. She returned to Canada in 1933 to become editor of Canada's national nursing journal, *Canadian Nurse*, a position she held until retirement in 1944. Ethel Johns made her home

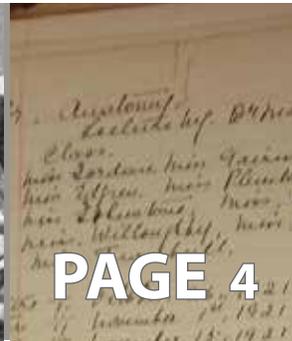


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## Newsletter Committee

Lynne Esson (chair) Beth Fitzpatrick, 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 Feb 15, 2015.  
Please send submissions to:  
Lynne Esson [esson1@shaw.ca](mailto:esson1@shaw.ca)

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in British Columbia, where she died in 1968. On the occasion of its golden jubilee in 1969, the UBC School of Nursing sponsored a historic record of Ethel Johns' career. As a result, the classic biography, *Watchfires on the Mountain: The Life and Writings of Ethel Johns* by faculty member Margaret Street, was published in 1973.

As Sally Thorne, director emerita of UBC Nursing, has stated: "Ethel Johns was a talented thinker, orator, and writer. She had the capacity to articulate complex ideas to inform the medical community and the public at large about the important role well-educated nurses could play in the health of nations. She was passionate about both nursing education and the standards for nursing practice, seeking opportunities to educate the public and policy makers about the important contribution of nursing to society in each of the positions she held."

As Kathy Murphy, president of BCHNS, has said, "The B.C. History of Nursing Society is thrilled with this recognition of Ethel Johns, whose extraordinary pioneering efforts in nursing education, international nursing, and nursing journalism marked her as an outstanding Canadian figure."

Watch for announcement for the date of the plaque unveiling.

Photos courtesy of UBC Archives Digital Photo Collection

## COMING EVENTS

- 1 A "History of Health Care in White Rock"** display will open at the White Rock Museum and Archives in early January. Various members of the BCHNS are assisting Display Manager Amanda Sittrop in researching and searching for artifacts for the display.
- 2 March 6–7, 2015:** The University of Toronto's Health History Group will hold a symposium on public health histories, titled "**The Public's Health**" in Toronto. Additional information: <http://torontohealthhistory.ca>
- 3 September 17–20, 2015: The American Association for the History of Nursing will hold a conference in Dublin, Ireland.** Additional information: [www.aahn.org](http://www.aahn.org)
- 4 April 10–11, 2015: Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada will hold its 2015 Conference - "Victorian Bodies"** – in Kelowna. Additional information: <http://web.uvic.ca/vsawc/vsawc-conferences/2015-conference>

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KATHY MURPHY

The wonderful summer weather does not want to end but the activities of the Fall period beckon. Another successful summer Planning Session was hosted by Glennis Zilm in June. At that time, the group considered possible uses for the generous donation from Nina Rumen provided earlier in the year. Some of the money has been invested and the remainder will be used for the activities of the Society. A creative list of ideas was generated and the members present at the Executive meeting in September commenced reviewing and ranking the suggestions.

*“Any member is welcome to attend the meetings, which usually are held at the CRNBC building.”*

After a considerable period of waiting and reminding, news was received in late July that the recognition and presentation of a plaque honoring Ethel Johns, the first Director of the UBC School of Nursing, would occur in the near future. Glennis Zilm, Cheryl Entwistle, Marg Saunders, Nan Martin, and Catherine Haney then created four displays related to the commemorative event. There are two in the Woodward Library, one in the UBC School of Nursing hall display case, and one in the UBC Learning Centre. It was hoped that this event will occur in 2014 as it is the 95th Anniversary of the School of Nursing.

Society members are looking forward to the second Nursing History Symposium being held on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at UBC. (See separate item) Future meetings of the Executive are posted on the BCHNS website. Any member is welcome to attend the meetings, which usually are held at the CRNBC building.

## REMEMBERING NURSING SISTERS IN WWI

BCHNS Member Shirley Riddalls, a former Nursing Sister, had organized an event to be held at Victory Square in Vancouver on Sunday, October 26, 2014, to recognize Women in the War – specifically, Canadian Nursing Sisters. Because of the terrorist incidents in Canada involving the military, this event had to be cancelled just days before. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1914-1918 Great War, and many events were being planned for the public this fall.

Shirley had arranged for Cam Cathcart, radio personality and master of ceremonies for the Vancouver Remembrance Day Services, Colonel John Blatherwick, Honorary Colonel for 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance unit, and additional members of the Field Ambulance Unit to attend this special service. BCHNS President Kathy Murphy was to represent the Society.



Canadian Nurses at No 3 Casualty Clearing Station, 1916. Retrieved from: Veterans Affairs Canada; <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/>

# EDITORS' DESK

BY GLENNIS ZILM AND CATHERINE HANEY



As we begin to notice the autumn leaves crunching underfoot, we hope you will make a cup of tea, get cozy, and enjoy this fall edition of the BCHNS newsletter. In her feature article, Ethel Warbinek shares the intriguing story of Mary Mack Woollen, a rural public health nurse practicing in the 1950s and 60s. She explores important topics of the era that remain relevant to the profession today including infection control and vaccinations, nursing wages, and nurses' engagement in political activism. Lydia Wytenbroek brings us an overview of the contributions BCHNS members made to this year's Canadian Association for the History of Nursing conference that took place in June at York University in Toronto. ... York University in Toronto. If you can go online, we encourage you to make it a point to regularly visit our Website and check out the Blog Page for up-to-the-minute news and postings. Finally, we invite you to catch up on all the latest news and peek into the BCHNS archives. As always, we encourage you to submit your news items, stories, and historical photographs for inclusion in future newsletters. Thank you for reading, and stay warm this fall!

*“We hope you will make a cup of tea, get cozy, and enjoy this fall edition of the BCHNS newsletter.”*



## *Archival Corner*

Among the fascinating documents in the BCHNS Archives is a ledger book from the Kootenay Lake General Hospital (Nelson, BC) School of Nursing. Most lists of graduates from this School show 92 names from 1922 (a three-year program opened in 1919) until 1934, when the school officially closed. However, BCHNS Member Irene Goldstone, working on an earlier project, had identified a graduation pin and RNABC registrations for graduates from earlier dates. Member Glennis Zilm then used the ledger book to find that the Hospital ran an apprenticeship-type school, augmented with classes from medical and nursing instructors from 1906 until 1916. During this period, 31 “pupil nurses” graduated.

The Ledger and files are just one of many fascinating archival documents and records being preserved by the Society. For more information, check the Website.



# CAHN CONFERENCE

BY LYDIA WYTENBROEK

The 2014 Conference of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing was an exciting and well-attended event held at York University in June. It was co-organized by Dr. Kathryn McPherson and **LYDIA WYTENBROEK**, a York University graduate student and BCHNS member. Theme of the conference, “Local Work, Global Health and the Challenge of Transnational Nursing,” brought scholars from various academic backgrounds together and inspired many interesting presentations and discussions. Several BCHNS members were in attendance and their involvement in the conference is noted below.

## HIGHLIGHTS

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War (FWW). There have been many events to commemorate the centennial of the FWW, but nurses and their activities are often overlooked as historical actors in these proceedings. The CAHN Conference opened on Friday evening with a special panel, generously sponsored by the Associated Medical Services, entitled “Rethinking Nursing in the First World War.” It featured three scholars, Andrea McKenzie (York University), Cynthia Toman (University of Ottawa), and Mélanie Morin-Pelletier (Canada War Museum), who discussed the role and activities of nurses during and after the war. A welcoming reception and a celebration of new research followed this session.

CAHN attendees congratulated BCHNS member **SUSAN ARMSTRONG-REID** on the publication of her newest book, *Lyle Creelman: The Frontiers of Global Nursing*.

The 2014 AMS Hannah Lecture was delivered by Dr. Juanita De Barros of McMaster University on Saturday afternoon. She discussed her research on maternal and infant health policy in the British Caribbean in her talk entitled, “Grannies, Midwives, and Infant Welfare in the Post-slavery British Caribbean.” This keynote address was followed by a banquet in downtown Toronto at the Boulevard Café. CAHN members enjoyed a delicious dinner outside on a patio while engaging in a lovely evening of conversation.

## BCHNS MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

BCHNS members were well represented at this year’s conference and presented some exceptional papers! **MARGARET SCAIA**, president of CAHN, did a fantastic job leading the AGM and fostering discussion about the future of the organization. Any CAHN members who were not able to attend this year’s conference, but who wish to complete a questionnaire pertaining to the future of CAHN, are encouraged to contact Margaret at: [mrgrtscaia@gmail.com](mailto:mrgrtscaia@gmail.com). Margaret also gave a paper at the conference, which explored how

gender and class influenced women’s decisions to pursue nursing education. **LYDIA WYTENBROEK**, vice-president of CAHN, gave a paper on American missionary nurse involvement in the development of trained nursing in Iran. In her fascinating paper, **SUSAN ARMSTRONG-REID** explored the work of Chinese nurses within the China Convoy, a section of the Quaker-sponsored Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU), and their involvement in humanitarian aid. **SHEILA RANKIN ZERR’S** interesting paper (presented in absentia) examined Millicent Coleman’s experience in the North in the 1950s and the challenges faced by northern nurses. Finally, **CATHERINE HANEY**, **GEERTJE BOSCHMA**, and **JENNIFER STEPHENS** (in absentia) organized and presented papers on a panel that examined the use of oral history as a legitimate and useful research tool for nursing history. The panel generated a lot of interest and discussion among conference attendees. In addition, **GLEN-NIS ZILM** attended the conference and her insightful comments at the AGM were much appreciated and well received.

The 2014 conference was a friendly and enjoyable event. BCHNS members contributed significantly to the number of high-quality papers that were delivered at this year’s conference!

## Local Work, Global Health and the Challenge of Transnational Nursing



Third Canadian Stationary Hospital, France [between 1914 and 1919] (Archives of Ontario, C 334-2-0-04)

Canadian Association for the History of Nursing/  
association canadienne pour l'histoire du nursing  
Annual Conference  
York University, Toronto, ON  
June 13-15, 2014

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# RURAL NURSING IN B.C. IN THE 1950s & 60: MARY MACK WOOLLEN

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BY ETHEL WARBINEK

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This article is based on an interview done September 12, 1988, apparently for the RNABC's Oral History Project. Recently no recording could be found, although a summary of the interview is available in the BC History of Nursing Society Archives. The names of the interviewer and the person who did the summary are unknown. Because it contains fascinating information about a rural public health nurse, Ethel Warbinek, chair of the Oral History Committee, decided to share it.



Mary was born and raised in Enderby, BC, and graduated from Vancouver General Hospital in 1933. She said she was the first nurse VGH ever had who went through without sick leave. She worked 12-hour shifts and when she worked 7pm to 7am, she had three hours off and was expected to attend class that day. She received \$5 a month for first year, \$7 for second year, and \$10 in third year. When in second year, during the Depression, students were asked to take a 10% cut in pay, and later a further 5% cut.

**She recounted the following amusing stories about her VGH days:**

"My friend and I made ... beach pyjamas and we went over to where my sister was boarding, to show her what they looked like. We wore them over to her house, and were called up on the carpet [at the School] for wearing them. And the funny part was the little carpet was one of those small sample pieces and we had to stand on it. A very superior Superintendent of Nurses kept saying she would like to spank us.

"Of course you had to keep up the traditions, so a friend and I climbed out of the window at VGH - everyone did

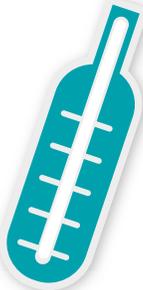
that. But when you got out there was no place to go, but you still had to do it.

"With money so short and weight being a problem, we used to do a lot of walking. We would walk what was called the streetcar line for exercise and for anyone who knows Vancouver it was across Broadway, down Main, across Hastings, down Granville. I wonder at the number of miles we walked after all the hours of walking on hard floors."



Following graduation, Mary worked at VGH and became interested in public health nursing. She enrolled in the PHN diploma course at UBC, graduating in 1936. She describes her reason for selecting this program as

“I think it was the number of people in poor health that took you to public health. It was the coming thing then - a lot of people realized there were a lot of life years lost. The feeling was to prepare a lot of young nurses. I remember being told, ‘well, they’re 65, they’re old, they’ve had a good life.’ That there was ‘nothing you could do for them.’ But going to the public health program at UBC, they had set up a sample health unit, one in North Vancouver and one around Victoria. They had very interested instructors. Our training was very complete. There were no social services at that time; we covered everything from money matters relating to health care and one-day instruction in home deliveries. [We were] told the Mounted Police were doing it now, so I guess you can do this too. We objected, as we didn’t feel one day was qualification enough.”



The greatest killer of young people at the time was tuberculosis, so after she finished at UBC Mary went into TB control at the new centre at VGH and worked there until she married, because married nurses weren’t allowed to work in those days.

“In 1955, I was asked to go back because there wasn’t a nurse; ... the nurse from Enderby was leaving. I was only supposed to give a token service, looking into communicable diseases, preventing their spread. Our funding came through the school district. Yet we were continually reminded we were not really schools nurses, we were public health nurses for the whole community. I went right into polio, the Salk polio injections. They were a lot of work and we had so much equipment. We were cleaning our own syringes, our own needles, sharpening them, boiling them, sterilizing them, all things now covered by disposables. We started in 1955 and by 1956 we completed three doses to all children up to 18. Then we started on the adults. The polio ... injections were only a small part of the program, as we were giving protection to children for diphtheria, whooping cough, lock jaw, and smallpox. The inoculations were given as babies, repeated at age three, grades one, three, five, nine, and 12. We inspected the children at school for impetigo, head lice, scabies, ringworm. We examined all the grade one children. The public health nurse arranged that, drew up the schedule of all the schools to go to, encouraged the parents to be there to hear the doctor, and that went over well. Parents had never seen their children examined from head to toe.

“Inoculations had started with the family doctors. When I came back, the nurses were doing it and examining newborns. We picked up the notices of birth and death from the RCMP. We went at least once a week to pick up the notices and tried to visit the mothers in hospital, find out where they lived, give one home visit, and invite them to attend baby clinics. Family doctors were well aware of the program; some continued to see their own

patients, but most encouraged them to attend our clinics. This was a time where there was no medical insurance, or at least in very few cases.



“There were measles, chicken pox, and scarlet fever. The children were kept out of school until the infection was over. Ringworm was a tough one to get rid of, but head lice wasn’t as common. I remember standing at the door of the classroom and asking the teacher to send me a particular child. Later she asked me why just that child and I told her it was the way the child’s hair was standing up. The nits were all at the roots of the hair. Nowadays, with the hairstyles, you’d be hard pressed to pick one out in a room of children.

“In a one-nurse unit, you weren’t expected to carry all the programs. But people moved around and if they had those programs in other places, they wanted them here. And the driving [it wasn’t foreign to me but this was a huge territory. We set up clinics so people would know where and when to meet me. We were allowed a stenographer - I think it was 45 hours per month. We did all our own buying and paying of bills and there were all the notices to get out. We handled the traveling clinic for TB. If [a patient] had been a TB patient or contact, we did skin testing. Also we had cancer patients to be referred when the traveling clinic came. That’s when mental health came in; there were tremendous reports to do for them, to look at why the children weren’t doing well in school, getting them to the clinic because these were experts coming up doing the follow-up. We did children mostly, though there were adults, too. It was more or less child guidance type of help then. We know now through TV what problems a child can have that we wouldn’t have been able to pick up. ... The biggest thing was to persuade the family doctors you weren’t infringing on their territory, ... weren’t trying to take anything away from them, and they would get a full report.”

Mary worked very closely with the doctors.

“It all changed as time went on, especially with the organization of polio clinics. People were really frightened. I was able to get a higher registration of people because they knew me. I was able to get the Jehovah Witnesses because I promised I would give them nothing that contained blood. I had terrific volunteers for the polio. We took it street by street, neighbourhood by neighbourhood. We brought everybody. It was quite a thing to walk into a clinic, say at Sicamous, and be faced with a couple of hundred people. We took all our supplies with us - packed it all on ice.

“I drove about 20,000 miles a year. The government paid mileage, 14 cents up to so much. Then 8 cents after that. I drove my own car at that time, because the government cars broke down so often on the rough roads. My husband did all the repairs, changed the oil, etcetera. C.O.D. Call on Dad!”

Before the Roger’s Pass opened, Mary regularly traveled more miles on gravel roads than any other nurse in BC. When the

Pass opened in 1962 and the road improved, Enderby area had increased traffic and population.



"You had this road building crew and they all had young families and you saw all of these babies. We had a lot of Americans up to the Taft area. To begin with they were most appreciative because the inoculations cost \$25 at home, and it was free here. We packaged all our needles and syringes, and took them to the hospital autoclaves. We were getting away from sterilizing our own needles - it was a step up.

"At one time I knew the weight of what I packed in the back of that car. You had a suitcase, all your literature in case they asked, mother and child pamphlets, and disease pamphlets, the bathroom scale, the baby scale (it sat on the back seat because it was more temperamental than the bathroom one). Then you had your box of freezes to keep your medications cold. TB patients went to the closest health unit for their inoculation, but I took them their medications. Usually the clinics were held in one school in an area, so you had your vision chart. To begin with, we did the visions throughout the whole school, but later the teachers did it, and sent the ones to you who were questionable. We had to because the health ministry had no money. When we were trying to stop the epidemics, it was necessary to get in there quickly and give temporary protection to the people so they would have some immunity so it wouldn't go from a household to a community. So you went in and told them if the disease spread the men wouldn't be able to work. We got good cooperation. They just shut down their activities until the epidemic was over.

"The wages at the time would probably surprise people. When I went back to work in '55, nurses were no longer expected to be on call on the weekend. I got \$221 a month and it rose to \$245 at the end of the 60s. That was a day when you left for work at 8:30 and you closed for the day at 5, but then paperwork had to be done and I always cleaned up after."

When she was in Enderby in the 1950s, there had been nuclear bomb testing in the Pacific and there was a national concern about the possibility of attacks in North America.

"We were warned there could be retaliations. ... The public health nurse was expected to make a record of all buildings in the area that could hold evacuees, what buildings there were, how many they could hold. We were expected to keep them up to date. The senior staff was given instructions about what to do in emergency situations. We were sent instructions about backyard shelters and what to put in them. We were told we should be the first ones to build one to set a good example. But something that surprised us, we were told that the public health nurses knew the area and people better than anyone else, so in case of an emergency, we would be instructing the RCMP.

Her PH unit held a couple of demonstrations. "I knew

my area pretty well because my husband was in the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers, which was a local volunteer group. ... We knew where the bottlenecks were. We were instructed there would be this evacuation from Vancouver... We were all to be in readiness. There was another one in the Cariboo. It amused us no end. They couldn't get the people past Hope - the bottleneck at the road. ...

"Once in the summer, I remember I had a gentleman stop in at the office. That wasn't unusual, as our doors were open to everyone. After asking about many things in the area, he introduced himself as the Medical Health Officer for the area. That made me think back to the greeting I'd given him: "Come into my parlour, said the spider to the fly." I had the reputation that no one got out of my office without getting an injection for something, mostly polio.

In summarizing the years, Mary said she had enjoyed working with the people of the area.

"It is still the people I meet today that I worked with then who really make it all worthwhile. They appreciated the amount of work that was accomplished and their help as volunteers. There were a lot of good times and we were accustomed to work in those days. ... We worked for the people. It was our only allegiance."

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

**SANDRA HLINA** of Kamloops received BCHNS Scholarship award this Spring. She is a student at the University of B.C. and is working on a paper "to explore and understand the transition of nursing education from the hospital-based model to the academic model using the biographical framework of Mary Lewis Richmond." Congratulations, Sandra.

Applications for the fall awards must be submitted by November 30, 2014. B.C. nurses who are members of the Society (including student members) and who are pursuing studies in historical aspects of nursing are eligible for financial assistance from the Society. The purpose of the scholarship funding is to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to undertake a project or study to add to the rich heritage of nursing history.

Further information about BCHNS scholarships, including an application form, is available on the Website at [www.bcnursinghistory.ca](http://www.bcnursinghistory.ca)

# UPDATE FROM THE CONSORTIUM

BY CATHERINE HANEY

The Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry at UBC Nursing invites BCHNS members and all interested parties to attend its second annual Nursing History Symposium. Led by Dr. Geertje Boschma, the Consortium is hosting the event at the UBC School of Nursing on November 20, 2014. Esteemed scholars Mona Gleason and Linda Quiney will discuss their recent historical projects with panel responses to follow.

Linda Quiney will specifically focus on nursing history in WWI, sharing her investigations of Voluntary Aid Detachment nurses and military nurses practicing in Canada and abroad during the war. Glennis Zilm and Susan Duncan will respond to this presentation and invite audience discussion. Mona Gleason will speak about her work examining the way health professionals contributed to the construction of the concept of the "normal" or "healthy" child in early 20th century Canada. UBC Professors Judy Lynam and Gladys McPherson will respond to this presentation.

Please join The Consortium for this year's symposium. Lunch and coffee will be served. Registration is \$15.00 in general and \$10.00 for retirees and students. Please register online by November 19.

For more information about the Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry and to keep up with our ongoing activities, please visit our blog at: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/nursinghistory/> Here you will find links to previous consortium lectures and workshops and a wide variety of nursing history resources. We are especially excited to share new additions to the History of Nursing in Pacific Canada digital collections hosted by UBC Library. This digital archive is a collaborative effort by The Consortium, the BCHNS, and UBC Library Digital Initiatives to preserve and share historical sources related to BC and the Yukon that are of interest to nursing history buffs. Visit the blog to explore these fascinating online documents or access them directly at: <http://digitalcollections.library.ubc.ca/cdm/landingpage/collection/nursing>

## CHECK OUT THIS WEBSITE!



The Nova Scotia History Group has recently developed an interesting website ([www.nursinghistorynovascotia.com/](http://www.nursinghistorynovascotia.com/)). The Nova Scotia group, led by former BCHNS member Gloria Stephens, was formed in 2007 and has been making steady progress in preserving the history of nursing in that province.

### Nursing History Inquiry

School of Nursing  
Faculty of Applied Science

## Nursing History Symposium

**Thursday  
November 20, 2014  
10:00am – 2:30pm**

JBC School of Nursing  
Room T182 • UBC Hospital  
2211 Wesbrook Mall  
Vancouver, BC

**Registration**  
General: \$15.00  
Students and Retirees: \$10.00  
**RSVP Online by Nov 19th**  
For assistance call 604-822-1409



**PROGRAM**

10:00	<b>Welcome &amp; Coffee</b>
10:15 – 10:30	Geertje Boschma, Professor, UBC School of Nursing & Faculty Lead for the Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry: "Historical Research: Context and Perspective on Nursing and Health."
10:30 – 11:10	Mona Gleason, Professor, Educational Studies, UBC: "Constructing Child Health."
11:10 – 11:45	Commentary & Discussion: Judy Lynam, Professor, UBC School of Nursing and Gladys McPherson, Assistant Professor, UBC School of Nursing
11:45 – 1:00	<b>Lunch in Room T187/T188</b>
1:00 – 1:40	Linda Quiney, Historian: "Veiled Concerns: Social and Professional Tensions of VAD's and Military Nurses during the First World War."
1:40 – 2:15	Commentary & Discussion: Glennis Zilm, Honorary Professor, UBC School of Nursing and Susan Duncan, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, Thompson Rivers University
2:15 – 2:30	<b>Closing</b>

nursinghistory@nursing.ubc.ca  
@ubcnursing #ubcnursinghistory

## Nursing History Symposium

### Abstracts

**Mona Gleason: Constructing Child Health**

This presentation explores how health professionals contributed to conceptions of "the healthy child" in early twentieth century Canada. Based on her recently published book *Small Matters: Canadian Children in Sickness and Health, 1900 to 1940* (McGill-Queens, 2013), Mona Gleason will focus on how and why increasing attention to the health of children on the part of doctors, nurses and educators in schools changed the culture of childhood and the culture of nursing in this critical period of change. Gleason asks how, and with what consequences for youngsters and their families, adult professionals contributed to the social construction of what was considered "healthy" and "normal."

Mona Gleason is a Professor in the Department of Educational Studies at UBC. She specializes in the history of children and youth and the history of education. Her new book, *Small Matters: Canadian Children in Sickness and Health, 1900-1940* appeared in 2013 with McGill-Queens University Press.

**Respondents:** Judy Lynam, Professor, UBC School of Nursing  
Gladys McPherson, Assistant Professor, UBC School of Nursing

**Linda Quiney: Veiled Concerns: Social and Professional Tensions of Voluntary Aid Detachment's and Military Nurses during the First World War**

Some 2,000 Canadian and Newfoundland VADs were recruited to serve as Voluntary Aid Detachment nursing assistants during the First World War. With only a brief training and minimal hospital experience, the VADs entered the unfamiliar world of the military hospital to overseas, performing tasks that ranged from scrubbing floors and cleaning bedpans, to applying dressings and foment, and even assisting in the operating theatres. In this discussion Linda Quiney examines the boundaries that defined the VADs' place at the bedside, the contested space of the wartime hospital wards, and the challenges they presented to the authority of the nursing professionals.

Linda Quiney is a historian. She has taught health history courses at the Department of History at UBC and is affiliate member of the Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry at the UBC School of Nursing. Currently she is working on a book on Canadian Women as Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurses during and after World War One.

**Respondents:** Glennis Zilm, Honorary Professor, UBC School of Nursing  
Susan Duncan, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, Thompson Rivers University

# NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

**MEMBER GEERTJE BOSCHMA** has received the 2013 M. Adelaide Nutting Award of the American Association of the History of Nursing for exemplary historical writing and research. This well deserved award recognized Dr. Boschma's article "Community Mental Health Nursing in Alberta, Canada: An Oral History," which was published in the Nursing History Review journal in 2012. Here she investigates the work of community mental health nurses in the context of deinstitutionalization in the 1960s and 70s. Dr. Boschma received her award at the annual conference for the AAHN held in Cleveland, Ohio in 2013. Congratulations!

**PROGRAM CHAIR LENORE RADOM** and her husband had a late-summer, early-fall trip of a lifetime, RVing across Canada and back, and visiting all sorts of Canadian historic sites. She kept up her duties as Chair of the Website Committee as she traveled because she took her computer with her. She adds, however, that she drank a lot of Tim Horton's coffee – because these shops offer free wi-fi!

Member **LINDA QUINEY** was a guest on CBC Radio's "The Homestretch" in August. She spoke with host Doug Dirks about women in the First World War and how the war changed the face of gender relations in Canada. You can listen to the talk online at: <http://www.cbc.ca/homestretch/episode/2014/08/06/women-and-the-first-world-war/>

**NERRISA BONIFACIO**, a former member and one of our past scholarship awardees, has successfully defended her PhD (Nursing) candidacy exam for her project: Social and Technological Transformations in Operating Room Nursing, 1940s-1980s. She will now be proceeding with her doctoral dissertation. Congratulations!

**JENNIFER STEPHENS**—Social Media Coordinator for the BCHNS—also successfully defended her PhD (Nursing) candidacy exam for her project: Exploring Issues of Identity and Embodiment in Adult Haematological Oncology Patients. She is presently hard at work on her doctoral dissertation. Congratulations!

## BCHNS DISPLAYS

The large BCHNS Display Case that was in the CRNBC Library has been permanently moved to a new location in the UBC School of Nursing because of renovations to the College building. The new location makes it easier to feature BCHNS archival materials and vintage artifacts. The current display features the Memorial Portrait Collection created by **SHEILA RANKIN ZERR**, which also was moved to our Archives from the old CRNBC Library. As well, the bottom shelf exhibits porcelain figurines of nurses, such as the Royal Doulton "Sairey Gamp" donated by member **JOAN DOREE**, and BCHNS's collectible Florence Nightingale Memorial Doll. The CRNBC Library space has been now closed to the public and has only offices on the third floor; it will do most of its work by mail and email, indicative of the changes in library usage in the last decade.

Other displays featured at UBC this fall are related to Ethel Johns, the first director of the UBC School of Nursing, who is to be honored soon by Parks Canada. **Two displays are set up in the foyer of the Woodward Medical Library.** A display in a large wall case highlights books by and about Ethel Johns, and provides background about her donations to the Woodward Library before her death. A nearby secure glass table contains the Ethel Johns Pins and Medals, which she also donated to the UBC Woodward Library in the 1960s.

**The UBC Nursing Display case** outside the School's Administration office provides information about Johns' tenure as the first Nursing director of the School (1919-1925) and features artifacts from the BCHNS Archival Collection. Among these display items is a rare single copy one of her pamphlets, titled *Just Plain Nursing*, containing her thoughts about nursing, interesting short articles, and literature reviews. When she first wrote these pamphlets for US publishing company JB Lippincott, they were used as promotional flyers, but they became so popular that Lippincott began selling them for 15 cents a copy. Their popularity increased, and the publisher eventually produced and sold bound collections of the pamphlets. A copy of one of these books is also on display.

**The display in the UBC Learning Centre Table** also highlights photos and information related to Johns' tenure as head of the UBC School of Nursing, with vintage items from the 1920s.



# RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS

***Conceptualizations of Culture and Cultural Care among Undergraduate Nursing Students: An Exploration and Critique of Cultural Education***, by Helen Vandenberg and R. Grant Kalischuk, in *Journal of Cultural Diversity*, Fall 2014, 21 (3), 99-107.

***Negotiating Relationships of Power in a Maternal and Child Health Centre: The Experience of WHO Nurse Margaret Campbell Jackson in Iran, 1954–1956***, by Lydia Wytenbroek, in *Nursing History Review*, 2015, 23: 87–122. Available online <http://dx.doi.org/10.1891/1062-8061.23.87>

***“Lest we forget ...”: A Project to Identify University of British Columbia School of Nursing Graduates Who Served in the World Wars 1914-1918 and 1939-1945***, by Glennis Zilm and Ethel Warbinek. White Rock, BC: November 2014. Electronic copy available through the UBC Library’s cIRcle Project at [https://circle.ubc.ca/bitstream/handle/2429/50418/Zilm\\_G\\_et\\_al\\_Lest\\_We\\_Forget](https://circle.ubc.ca/bitstream/handle/2429/50418/Zilm_G_et_al_Lest_We_Forget)

***Marriage of Convenience: “Girl Nurses” in the China Convoy, 1941-1945***, by Susan Armstrong-Reid. September 20, 2014. Presentation at the 31st Annual Nursing & Health Care History Conference of the American Association for the History of Nursing. September 18-21, 2014, in Hartford CT.

***International Nursing History: The International Council of Nurses History Collective and Beyond***, by Geertje Boschma. *Nursing History Review*, 2014, 22:114-118.

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The three poster presentations from last year’s History of Nursing Consortium have also been made available on the UBC Library digital history of nursing collection (to view these posters, follow the links below):

***Transforming Maggie May to Miss Pu: Neoculturalism through Missionary Nursing in North China, 1924-1943*** [Poster], by Jennifer M.L. Stephens. Presented at UBC School of Nursing Consortium for Historical Inquiry in Nursing and Health Care Symposium, November 21, 2013. Posted on cIRcle, 2014. <https://circle.ubc.ca/handle/2429/46101>

***From Methodist Mission to Modern Hospital: The History of Steveston’s Japanese Hospital, 1895-1942***, by Helen Vandenberg. Presented at UBC School of Nursing Consortium for Historical Inquiry in Nursing and Health Care Symposium, November 21, 2013. Posted on cIRcle, 2014. <https://circle.ubc.ca/handle/2429/46679>

***Considering Oral History: Methodological Questions and Reflections*** [Poster], by Catherine Haney. Presented at UBC School of Nursing Consortium for Historical Inquiry in Nursing and Health Care Symposium, November 21, 2013. Posted on cIRcle, 2014. <https://circle.ubc.ca/handle/2429/46680>

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In addition, this interesting article related to history of collaborative nursing education in BC has just been published (Cheryl Zawaduk is a former member of BCHNS):

***Mission Possible: Twenty-Five Years of University and College Collaboration in Baccalaureate Nursing Education***, by Cheryl Zawaduk, Susan Duncan, M. Star Mahara, B. Tate, D. Callaghan, D. McCullough, M. Chapman, and J. Van Neste-Kenny. *Journal of Nursing Education*, October 2014, 53 (10), 580-588. The abstract can be downloaded through DOI: 10.3928/01484834-20140922-04

## NOMINATIONS FOR MEMORAL BOOKS

If you would like to suggest, through the BCHNS, a nominee for either the CNA or the CRNBC Memorial Books, the dates for deadlines for submissions have been announced. The nomination date for submissions to BCHNS for assistance in preparing the nominations is October 31, 2014. Please get in touch with Lynne Esson at [esson1@shaw.ca](mailto:esson1@shaw.ca).

# Remember When...

... student nurses had a rotation through the "Diet Kitchen" and spent some night shifts in the "milk lab" making formula for the maternity and pediatric wards?

(Photo, c1956, from G. Zilm personal collection; used with permission)



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The Winter issue of the BCHNS Newsletter will be a small holiday bulletin to come out in January 2015 and mailed with the annual membership renewal notices.

Articles, news, and ideas for items to be included in the Spring 2015 issue should be sent to Lynne Esson, Chair, Newsletter Committee, preferably by email to [esson1@shaw.ca](mailto:esson1@shaw.ca), or to the BC History of Nursing Society address given above.

Deadline Date for that issue is February 15, 2015.