



# NEWSLETTER

## VGH Nurses in WW 1

As we continue to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary years of World War I, we recognize the contributions of Canada's and BC's nurses in what was then hoped to be "the war to end all wars." During the four years, according to **Cynthia Toman**, who has a new book out about Canada's WW 1 Nursing Sisters, about 2,850 Canadian nurses signed on and served, some in veterans hospitals in Canada, but most of them overseas. Of these, 85 were married; their average age was 29. In the 1920s, a listing showed 47 Canadian Nurses who died in the line of duty; historian researchers now give much larger numbers for the nurses who died, at least 76, including those who died from malaria and the global epidemic of Spanish flu that followed the signing of the armistice.

**Ann Cavers**, a long-time instructor at VGH, wrote an excellent history of the School in 1949, and she listed 54 VGH graduates who served. They nursed in or near terrible battle areas in France, Belgium, Russia, Greece (at least 18 of the VGH grads served in the dreadful conditions in Salonica and Lemnos), Gallipoli, Egypt, and Malta, as well in base hospitals in England, on the hospital ships, and at veterans' hospitals in Canada.

This "Great War" illustrated just how advances in new military technology far out-stripped new medical technologies. At the beginning of the war, German technology was far advanced over that of the Allied forces, with new and better "killing machines" with new guns such as the "trench mortars" (causing death and shell shock that devastated British and Canadian troops), U-boats, submarines, and torpedoes, airplanes that carried bombs, and nerve and mustard gasses.



*Continues on page 16*

All VGH Grads invited to attend the

### Annual Alumnae Luncheon

CELEBRATE the MEMORIES...  
RENEW the SPIRIT

Honouring the 1967 classes

**Sunday**  
**May 7, 2017**  
**12:00 to 3:00**

Cost: \$25



Guests at the luncheon are the 1967 and 1957 graduates.

#### St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Centre

3150 Ash Street

Vancouver, BC V5Z 3C9

Between 14th and 16th Avenues

**Registration begins at 12 noon**

**Lunch 12:30**

Parking is available at the Centre.

Wheel chair accessible.

Payment must be received by the deadline

**April 18, 2017**

You do not have to be a paid up member to attend the luncheon. We encourage you to join.

If you wish to sit with your class, you must register by the deadline otherwise we cannot promise you a place at your class table. Seating is arranged ahead of time and is posted at the lunch so you can find your table.

If you require assistance at the lunch please notify us and we will help you.

If you are unable to attend after registration notify us as it affects catering and seating plans.

**See registration form on page 24**

**or visit our website**

**[vghnursingschoolalumnae.com](http://vghnursingschoolalumnae.com)**

**and register on line.**

For information contact:

**Suzanne Stothers** 406.263.8059

Email: [stothers1@gmail.ca](mailto:stothers1@gmail.ca), or

**Myrna Braun**: 604-266-7202

Email at [mrynabraun@shaw.ca](mailto:mrynabraun@shaw.ca)

**ARCHIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 2016**

2016 was another busy year for us. With increasing interest in genealogy, we continue to receive requests for information on our graduates. Work is continuing on sorting and organizing various documents such as calendars and various programs. A list of publications has been completed and will be posted on our website. We have many museum items - some in triplicate and will have to determine how many to keep. New storage boxes will be purchased for the student annuals,

**Displays:**

Our display window in the Jim Pattison Pavilion continues to attract attention from patients, staff and visitors. It is changed 5 times a year and features the following themes.

Pediatric nursing, OR, polio, military nurses, TB, VGH 50th reunion classes and the history of VGH and the School. We are so pleased Norma Guttormsson kindly volunteered to act as the contact person for these displays. The following are members of the display committee and we thank them for their interest in this important work. **Cathie Cousins, Janie Birkeland, Jane Robertson, Linda Allardyce and Marg Shugg.**

An important event is the Annual Luncheon where a selection of our beautiful silver collection, historical dolls and student uniforms are viewed.

**Requests:**

We received a request from the Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation to borrow our pediatric iron lung for a display at the end of January 2017. We agreed to this request as long as they pay for the costs of safe transportation, insurance and copying of our posters. Also to credit to us for this loan of such a valuable piece of history about the care of polio patients.

**Tours:**

We experienced more requests for tours of our archive and museum in 2016. Most have been related to class reunions. Members of the Royal Columbian Hospital SON Alumnae visited in November to view our collection as they are proceeding with the organization of their archive. As we have limited space, we can accommodate only 10-12 people/tour. Please contact us if you are interested in visiting us – you are very welcome.

**Donations to the Archival Development Fund** continue. A special thanks to all who so generously donated to this fund. Your generous support ensures we have sufficient funds to preserve our collection and prepare for the future.

Heartfelt thanks to committee members: **Peggy Etchell, Betty Kirkwood, Betty Anne Rogers, Marg Shugg, Anne Williams, Jan Wood** and to our archivist, **Naomi Constant**. We appreciate all your work in preserving our historical collection.

*Ethel Warbinek & Mary Watt – co-chairs*

**VGH SON ARCHIVAL DEVELOPMENT FUND REPORT**

For the period ending December 31, 2016

**General Account**

**Revenue**

Funds carried forward.....	\$2,847	
Donations received in 2016 .....	\$10,948	
<b>Total revenue .....</b>		<b>\$13,795</b>

**Expenses**

Computer upgrade .....	\$2,625	
Office supplies, postage.....	\$267	
Web site maintenance .....	\$2,268	
Archivist .....	\$1309	
Bank charge .....	\$44	
Transfer to GIC .....	\$5,000	
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>		<b>\$11,513</b>
<b>Balance in chequing account .....</b>		<b>\$2,282</b>
<b>Long Term Investment .....</b>		<b>\$71,000</b>

Submitted by:

*Ethel Warbinek - Trustee – December 31, 2016*

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2017**

**Officers**

President: Kathy Murphy  
 Vice President: Mary Raikes-Tindle  
 Recording Secretary: Lynne Dunbar  
 Treasurer: Bonnie Lantz  
 Executive Member: Suzanne Stothers  
 Executive Secretary: Norma Guttormsson

**Committee Chairs**

Archives: Ethel Warbinek & Mary Watt - co-chairs  
 Education: Joan Kerr  
 Friendship: Lorna Hoare & Diane Parker - co-chairs  
 Publicity: Ethel Warbinek  
 Pin Bank: Anne Williams  
 Luncheon: Myrna Braun & Suzanne Stothers - co -chairs

Submitted by:

*Diane Parker & Lorna Hoare*

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2016**



It is an amazing fact that this Alumnae Association has been meeting for the past 108 years! Although the activities have changed over the years, many volunteer hours ensure that the association continues on a successful basis each year. As mentioned last year, the majority of the Executive and Executive Secretary graduated over 50 years ago. The Executive members would really appreciate assistance from those members who graduated in the 1970’s to 1998.

A large group of graduates from the Class of 1966 was honoured at the Annual Luncheon in May. The Class of 1956 was also honoured for their 60<sup>th</sup> Year. Each year, those attending the gathering reflect on the memories and friendships of the past.

Due to a change in the BC Societies Act, our association had to review and revise our Constitution and By-Laws to ensure that it meets the new standards and format. The revised document will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting March 7, 2017.

The Alumnae is proud of the many opportunities to provide financial assistance to those continuing with their education and completing research projects. In addition to the Alumnae Education Bursaries for graduates and their descendants, the VGH Bursary managed by the Registered Nurses Foundation provided 13 bursaries to graduates and their descendants. In the 2016/17 fiscal year, the Trust Fund of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Building Society/Association managed by the VGH/UBC Hospital Foundation provided funding to nine employees for educational programmes, \$9,540.00 for In-House Education, and a \$5000 Research Grant for a project in the ICU.

The work of this association would not happen without the expertise of Norma Guttormsson, our Executive Secretary, and the Chairs and members of the Committees. Thank you for your time and talent.

**Kathy (McCutcheon) Murphy**  
*September, 1965.*

**TREASURER’S REPORT 2016**



The year-end revenue at December 31, 2016 is \$23,199.83 and the expenditures are \$27,680.41 leaving us a negative variance of \$3,223.11 for our 2016 budget. The bank balance at December 31, 2016 was \$1,257.47.

The two investments matured and earned \$4,273.51 in interest over the two years. The total amount of the combined investments is \$142,397.38

The bank was instructed to:

- Reinvest the total amount of \$70,000.00 for the Trethewey account, and
- Reinvest \$65,000.00 of the total of amount of the General Fund of \$68,000.00
- Leave \$3,000.00 in the current account as revenue for the 2017 budget

The Draft 2017 budget was re-worked with the \$3,000.00 revenue from the General Fund investment and the year-end bank balance of \$1,257.47 for a balanced budget of \$30,130.47 including a discretionary fund of \$580.47.

The ledger and financial statements for 2016 were submitted to James Morrison, Chartered Accountant, on January 12, 2017 to ensure completion for the AGM March 7, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Bonnie Lantz, Treasurer**

**VICE PRESIDENT REPORT 2016**

Co-chaired the Nominating Committee for the Year 2016-17 with Suzanne Stothers.

Available to chair executive meetings or represent the President as necessary

Conducted tours of VGH for both February & September '66 classes following the 2016 luncheon Sunday, May 1st, 2016. In addition, conducted a hospital tour for the Class of 1956 on May 19, 2016

**Mary (Raikes) Raikes-Tindle September 1965**



**PIN BANK REPORT 2016**

The pin bank is alive and well.

In 2016 three pins were sent to new owners. Two of these requests were received in 2015 but unfortunately there were no replacement pins available at this time and we had to wait.

Please continue to remember our program. We work closely with Archives and do not use pins that are needed by them.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Anne E. Williams Sept/54**

**PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Bulletins & Newsletters**

In December 2016, 1200 Bulletins were printed and mailed to members. In March 2016, 700 newsletters were printed and 520 were sent by email. The number being sent electronically is increasing each year which decreases printing and mailing expenses. The 2016 newsletter is posted on our web site. Three E newsletters were sent to those on our email list. Thanks to all who sent in news and photographs. Please continue to do so by mailing your news to me at the Alumnae office or e-mail me at: [ethel@ethelwarbinek.com](mailto:ethel@ethelwarbinek.com). Articles about you, classmates, news about VGH graduates and/or the School are welcome and will be considered for publication. If you are planning a reunion, send the information, and it will be published in the newsletter and if you agree, posted on our web page. A report on your reunion with photographs is appreciated.



**Our Web site: [vghnursingschoolalumnae.com](http://vghnursingschoolalumnae.com)** is popular and is in the process of being revised as it is 5 years since it was launched and updated programs are required. Events, reunions and news about members (blog) are constantly added. Send your news and we will post it. Remember to check the site for updates on our annual luncheon, view our archives and museum collection and find information on our bursaries. Newsletters and Bulletins are also posted. Sign up for email alerts and special notices. E newsletters continue to be sent, the most recent one in December 2016. This one contained the 2017 Bulletin and a selection of 2016 Luncheon photos.

Visit our site. Comments are welcome.

*Ethel Warbinek, publicity chair*

**FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2016**



The highlight of each year is the delivery of the Spring Florals honouring our senior alums with flowers & visits. This year it took place in March. The recipients included 26 in the Lower Mainland, 12 on Vancouver Island and 1 in Kelowna. This could not be achieved without our volunteers. Many thanks to **Kathy Murphy, Gail McKay, Suzanne Stothers, Marg Hooper, Norma Guttormsson, Betty Kirkwood, Joan Kerr & Gloria Scoten**, who covered the Lower Mainland; **Judy Reid, Anne Geddes & Charlotte Cronin** on Vancouver Island, and **Kay Raisbeck & Helen Foster** in Kelowna.

2016 also saw the loss of 42 alumni. Sympathy cards were sent where we had a known address. Also sent were Get Well cards, and 2 cards to celebrate 100th Birthdays. We would also like to thank **Roberta Tottle** who once again sent out the Christmas cards. We will soon be compiling our 2017 list for the annual floral deliveries, & would like to hear from you in regards to recipients we may have missed. We would also like to hear of special birthdays, get wells & families where we might send a sympathy card. We are always looking forward to having more volunteers to deliver flowers & visits. Our Senior alumni enjoy sharing their nursing memories. We are also looking for volunteers for the North Shore.

Respectfully submitted

*Diane Parker / Lorna Hoare Co-Chairs Friendship Committee*

**LUNCHEON COMMITTEE REPORT 2016**

We were treated to another fair weather day for our annual alumni luncheon at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Catholic Church Centre on May 1 2016 honouring the graduates from 1956 and 1966. Two hundred and thirty-eight nurses attended.

**Mary Raikes-Tindle** received an alumni Life Membership award recognizing her service to our alumni association. On May 7 2017 we will be meeting at the same venue to honour our 1957 and 1967 graduates who are our guests. All others are asked to pre-register and submit payment by April 21 as finalized catering and seating arrangements need to be made.

Membership renewals are also available at the luncheon. “Celebrate the Memories and Renew the Spirit” with us on the 7th of May.

Respectfully submitted,

*Myrna Braun*



**MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2016**

Our membership numbers have been gradually decreasing over the years and are now down to a total of 906.

Of that number 836 are paying Alumnae. Special Alums, of whom there are 36, are generally nurses who graduated in the 1940s and remained paying members until the executive made the decision to waive their fees. There are 27 Life Members who are granted that status after years of service as executive or committee members. Finally there are 7 honorary members. These are not VGH grads but have given great service to the organization.

The Membership campaign for 2017 began in January. We encourage all of you who receive this newsletter to renew your membership and to reach out to classmates who may not have been involved in the Alumnae Association in the past. There is a membership application form on the back page. Please take the time to fill it out and send your \$20 so we can sustain this vibrant organization.

We are constantly updating class lists to keep contact information current. If you are planning a class reunion we can assist.

Remember those incredible years of living, learning, laughing and crying together? They helped form us into who we are today!

Let's work together to maintain our history and support current VGH RNs to continue their education. Remember that children and grandchildren of VGH grads are eligible to apply for bursaries.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Sue (Cathcart) Kerr F'69**

Membership Committee Chair



*Sue Kerr Feb '69 taking good care of the membership lists.*

**GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**



Our alumnae office and archives are located in *Heather Pavilion* – where you have many memories of your “training days”. Its red bricks and gray stones still stand amid the many buildings of VGH. Let me know if you would like to visit. A tour includes viewing our historic display in the atrium of Jimmy Pattison Pavilion. In May, we feature the 1967 Graduates.

We are pleased to be discovering “family graduates”. Please let us know about your relatives who are also graduates of the VGH School of Nursing.

Your faithful support is our only revenue to maintain our Society. We are not engaged in fund raising. You are appreciated.

WRITE: Executive Secretary VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association  
 855 West 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9

PHONE: 604.875.4111 Ext 6-2049 - or - 778-572-0665

**Norma Guttormsson 1958**



## MEMORIAL BOOK

In 1959, a Memorial Book was created by the class of September 1954 in honour of Helga Thordarson, a classmate. The graduate’s name is entered in the book along with the year of graduation, year of death and the name of the person who made the request. Often the request is from classmates, family members and friends.

The original book has been filled. The calligrapher is Trudy Philips Feb. 1953.

The two books can be viewed at the annual luncheon which is held on the first Sunday of May each year.

A donation of \$15.00 is suggested which is given to support our Bursary Fund. To honour a graduate, please contact the Alumnae office to obtain the Form which will be sent by mail. After filling out all the information, it is returned to the office along with a cheque payable to the **VGH School of Nursing Education Fund**. It will be deposited in the Education Committee bank account. Acknowledgements will be fulfilled.

**Office Phone: 604.875.4111 Ext. 62049**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2016**

The Education Committee is very pleased with the continued interest in our bursary program. The VGH graduates express how proud they are to be VGH grads. The children have stated how proud they are to be following in their parents' footsteps to be involved in the nursing profession.

In 2016 we had eight applications for bursary awards. There was one VGH graduate and seven children and/or grandchildren of VGH grads. Seven bursary awards were given out.

**VGH/SON Alumnae Association Funds.**

This bursary was awarded to Sandra Stam – Feb.'90. Sandra has been pursuing her Bachelor of Nursing degree over several years while continuing to work as well as overcoming many challenges. She deserves recognition for her dedication and for her courage to continue with her studies to achieve her goal. Congratulations Sandra!!



**Harvey/Cain Endowment Fund. (Margaret [Dorset, 1929] Harvey & Dorothy Cain, sister)**

The following children and/or grandchildren of VGH grads received a bursary award:

<b>Child</b>	<b>VGH Grad</b>	
<i>Lisa Bouliane</i>	Philippa Kirkhope	Feb.'88
<i>Meaghan Collis</i>	Erin Skilling	Sept.'81
<i>Caitlin Marie Funk</i>	Calli Cooper	Feb.'80
<i>Carrie Anne McKellar</i>	(grandmother) Marjorie Pauline Jukes	Nov.'41
<i>Chelsea Stark</i>	Andrea Vickers	Feb.'85

An interesting note from Meaghan Collis in her letter outlining her education goals: "I am extremely happy with my career choice and thoroughly enjoying school and all that it has to offer. I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation nurse with my great grandmother - Zella Doraty Class of 1923-24; grandmother - Inez Fox, Sept.'55; mother - Erin (Skilling) Collis, Sept.'81 all VGH grads."

**The Eileen(Lewis) Johnston Memorial Fund**

This bursary was awarded to:

<b>Child</b>	<b>VGH Grad</b>	
<i>Brittany Neuleben-Groff</i>	Sonja Neuleben	Feb.'90

The Education Committee was pleased to grant a total of \$11,250.00 in bursary awards. We are also pleased to see the interest in children and/or grandchildren who are taking advantage of this source of funding to assist with their schooling. The source of funding is very dependent on the interest earned from our investments with the VGH/UBC Foundation and our GIC with BMO. We are also very thankful for individual donations made to our VGH/SON Education Fund which helps immensely to facilitate presenting bursary awards to all eligible applicants. The Education Committee would like to thank the following people who made donations to our general education fund in 2016 to be used for bursary awards.

**Individuals:**

Joyce Beaton	Janet Fleming	Elsie McDonald
Helen Chambers	Joan Kerr	Kathleen Murphy
Cecelia Clark	Reta Kidd	Barbara Quenville
Lynne Dunbar	Christina Larsen	Jane, Drew, Jeff, David Stanfield
Kathie English	Geraldine Marshall	

**Classmates:**

Class of February 1953	Class of February 1958	Class of September 1956
Class of February 1959	Class of September 1957	Class of February 1966
Class of September 1958		

**The Memorial Book** – the donations from classes or individuals to honour and recognize a deceased classmate by having her/his name entered into the Memorial Book are given to the education bursary fund. (suggested donation is \$15.00)

*Continued on page 7*

*Continued from page 6*

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2016**

For the 2017 bursary year, the committee will welcome applications from:

- The VGH/SON diploma program
- The UBC/VGH Collaborative Nursing Program
- Children or grandchildren of parents/grandparents from the above programs

Please be sure to check out the information on the website ([www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com](http://www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com)) and link to “Bursaries” OR inquiries and request for application forms can be made by phoning the Alumnae Office at 604-875-4111 – local 62049 (please leave a message).

Deadline for applications is September 30 of the current year.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joan Kerr, Chair, Education Committee*

**Reunions – Celebrate The Memories - 2016**

**August 1956** celebrated 60 years on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Twelve attended the Luncheon followed by dinner at the Arbutus Club. It was wonderful to share memories and get caught up on family news. All were from the Lower Mainland, except **Marilyn Carr** who traveled from California. We were saddened to learn of the sudden death of **Pauline Klassen** who attended our reunion and died shortly after.



*Class of August 1956 at the luncheon*

**September 1956** held their 60<sup>th</sup> reunion at the Arbutus Club in Vancouver in September. Twenty-five classmates attended with lots of enthusiasm and good will. We were impressed so many came from faraway places



*Class of September 1956*

and in spite of aging problems, made the trip, some with daughters, who added to our enjoyment. We have lost only 11 classmates in all this time which is pretty good for 60 years. We keep in touch yearly via a newsletter.

**February 1958** Reunion September 12-15 in Victoria. Our headquarters was at Berwick Royal Oak, a luxurious retirement facility, where classmate **Nancy O'Toole** has now made her home. Thanks to Nancy and Berte and all their planning, We had a wonderful reunion.

Day 1, after happy hour in Nancy's condo, dinner was in the Berwick Pub.

Day 2, was a visit to Butchart's Garden, including “high tea “for lunch.

Day 3, we lunched at the Legislature Dining Room (it's Victoria's best kept secret), and toured the parliament bldg. afterwards. Following dinner in the Berwick Pub we were piano entertained by Nancy's friend and resident of Berwick (96 yrs. old). She was fantastic! Played all our old favourite songs.

After all these years it was so nice to meet again!



*Marilyn, Donna, Ruth, Jackie, Leigh, Pam (Leigh's daughter) ,Nancy, Isobel, Barb S, Barb B, Berte, Margie.*

## Reunions – Celebrate The Memories -2016

**September 1959** celebrated their **57<sup>th</sup>** anniversary at a luncheon in Van Dusen Gardens restaurant on Sept. 18,16. 21 alumnae were able to attend and there was much laughter as we reminisced about our training days and caught up on all the news since our last reunion. Thanks to Lucy and her committee for organizing the lunch.



**February 1963**

**Penny Millway, Barbara (Mason) McInnes, Patricia (McGregor) Marini, Alice (Falk) Doherty, Willetta (Johns) Preston.** had their annual get together on an Alaskan Cruise. Great fun!



## Reunions – Celebrate The Memories -2017

**September 1957** will celebrate its **60<sup>th</sup>** reunion over the first weekend of May 2017. Twenty six of us are looking forward to re-uniting in Vancouver’s west-end on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Our hotel is located close to English Bay and the city centre making for easy access to local sights. Out of town classmates are expected from Australia, the United States and locally from Vancouver Island and B.C.’s interior. Planned activities include a welcome reception and dinner, an evening theater production, a city tour, a film, a Saturday evening banquet at our hotel and happy gatherings in our hospitality suite. We look forward to “capping-off” the weekend by attending the Alumnae Luncheon on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>. **Arden (Gardner) Kidd**

**September 1962:** We had a lovely Xmas lunch at the Arbutus Club in early December with eighteen gals in attendance. Plans are underway for our 55th reunion in Victoria, May 9th-11th at the Parkside Hotel. We shall miss our classmate **Wendy (Grove) Cowan** who died in November 2015, as she was such an integral part of all our reunions and get togethers. Contact persons for the reunion are **Sheila Yeoman, Sharon Baxter and Sharon Kardera.**

**September 1967** 50 year reunion is planned to coincide with the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Luncheon. We will be staying at the Granville Island Hotel on May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 followed by 2 nights at Harrison Hot Springs. Our first event will take place in the penthouse of the hotel where we will have nibbles and “oh, you haven’t changed a bit” chatter! On Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 we will join many other alumnae as we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our graduation. This will be followed by a tour of VGH, taking special note of the Alumnae display in the Jim Pattison Pavilion, provided by the Archives Committee of VGH SON. We are planning a breakfast gathering on Monday morning before heading off for rest and further chatter at Harrison Hot Springs.

There were 83 graduates in our class and we are expecting 47 attendees. For more information please contact **Pat Morrice Ross at ethelandharry@hotmail.com**

### Member News *continued from page 9*

#### 1980s

**Trudi (Willis) Perkes February 1981** writes: After a diverse and successful career starting with bedside nursing at Royal Columbian Hospital in 1981 and expanding into informatics and capital planning and projects, I am now enjoying retirement in Coldstream BC. *Good for you!*

## Member News

### 1930s

**Daphne Walstrom '47** wrote to tell us Friday May 20, 2016, “a golf tournament was held honouring **Margaret North Mainwaring '31** who used to golf with us. Every year low scores get their name on the plaque. Daphne made arrangements for Margaret to attend. Everyone enjoyed seeing her saying she looked **wonderful for 105 years.**”



Daphne Walstrom & Margt. Mainwaring

### 1940s

**Billie (Eva) Williamson (class of 1940)** celebrated her **100th birthday** on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017, at the Terraces, in Vancouver. Prior to her retirement, Billie was the highly respected Director of Public Health Nursing for the City of Vancouver. Many of her family and friends joined her for the celebration, enjoying birthday cake, perusing photograph albums, remembering past occasions, and admiring her nursing memorabilia, including the Dr. Allison Cumming gold medal for



Billie Williamson's donation to the VGHSNAA Archives



Beautifully inscribed on the back: “Dr. Allison Cumming Prize Highest Standing in Medicine, Eva Moody Williamson, 1940”

highest standing in Medical Nursing. Billie has kindly donated the pins to the Alumnae Archives.

**Anne Williams and Margaret Shugg** attended the tea and felt privileged to have been invited.

**Olga (Yuckin) Rice January 1947** writes to say she is now 91 and lives in a retirement apartment. She enjoys having a dinner she doesn't have to cook and having her apartment cleaned. She still drives, but not on free-ways anymore – her car is the last of her independence. Until 2 years ago, she played golf and bowled, but fell and fractured her right shoulder, so now has to find other activities to keep her bones from hardening.

### 1950s

**September 1951.** Four members attended the “Grandmother’s for Africa” event in Penticton. They were – **Shirley (Osterhout) Clarke, Norma (Mc Donald) Johnston, Lorelie (Lang) Cavanaugh** and **Jean (Sutherland) Duncan**. It was a great evening and being together was really special. Thanks to Jean for submitting this along with a photo.



The VGH 1957/UBC1958 class launched an emergency endowment fund for UBC nursing students and opted for a group fund. This award's purpose is to provide quick amounts to help students who have emergency financial needs. It was established in 2008 to mark their 50th reunion. So far 8 undergraduates have received financial assistance to help defray costs such as tuition, textbooks and even groceries and rent. Source: *Touchpoints, School of Nursing, Fall/winter, 2016, p. 23.*

### 1970s

**Pat Ratner February 1979** has been appointed Vice-Provost and AVP Enrolment & Academic Facilities at UBC for a five-year term commencing July 1, 2016. On the recommendation of Interim President Martha Piper, the Board of Governors approved her appointment at its meeting on June 14, 2016.

Continued on page 8

## Member News

**Norma (Anderson) Cobern Feb 1954:** Recognized for volunteer service to her community

Norma's daughter, Carla Glazebrook contacted us with the following story about her mother which she thought would be of interest to our readers. It is about Sierra Ambulance's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and her mother's contribution.

### Ambulance Service Celebrates 50 Years



More than 100 former volunteers, board members, and thankful residents of the Mountain Area gathered in Oakhurst California Oct. 25 2014 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sierra Ambulance Service (SAS).

Norma Colbern, all 5-foot, 88-pounds of her, was one of the first to volunteer for the little start-up service that had one ambulance in 1964. A registered nurse, Colbern said she enjoyed her 17 years with Sierra Ambulance.

"I got to know a lot of nice people throughout the Mountain Area and was honoured to serve the community," Colbern, 82, said. Canadian-born Colbern, who owned and operated Colbern's Department Store in Oakhurst with her husband Ray from 1964 to 1981 after relocating from Los Angeles, was accompanied to the celebration by her son Jeff, and daughter Carla (Colbern) Glazebrook.

"It was great to see a lot of old friends today and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sierra Ambulance," Colbern said. "Sierra Ambulance has provided a great service to this community for 50 years, and I wish them another successful 50 years."

Carla had this to say about the event: "It was a joyous day for my mom to be with her friends and former colleagues, particularly as it was her first outing since losing her vision. Everyone treated her with such kindness and respect. Mom and our entire family will remember the day with warm hearts. Thanks to everyone who played a role in making wonderful memories!"

Sierra Ambulance is a unique organization that remains a non-profit community centred organization serving about 30,000 residents of Eastern Madera County along with the tens of thousands of visitors to the area annually. It is proof of the good things that can happen when people come together for the betterment of their community. In 1964 the Mountain Areas population had reached more than 3,600, and being located 40 miles

from the nearest ambulance service, it was clear the Mountain Area was in need of ambulance service. Now servicing a population of more than to 30,000 Sierra Ambulance has seen its staff grow to more than 25 (20 full EMT's, an operations supervisor, office manager and several part-time EMT's and paramedics. SAS has logged 64,300 calls for service and ambulances have traveled 4.5 million miles.

Copyright 2014 - *Sierra Star (Oakhurst, Calif.)*

Carla kindly emailed several photos of her mother and classmates which we have added to our digital collection.

### Three Generations of VGH Graduates, Four Generations of Nurses



It all started with my paternal grandmother, **Zella Doraty**. She graduated from VGH School of Nursing in 1923 and was in the first class to write the RN exams in the Province of BC. As far as I know she only practiced Nursing for a few years as a Private Duty Nurse.

My mom, **Inez Mowat (nee Fox)** graduated September 1955. She

travelled from Vancouver after graduation to work in Emergency Departments in both Los Angeles and New York. Returning to Vancouver she worked in the ER at RCH and finished her career off in the OR at VGH in 1994.



I, **Erin Collis** graduated from VGH in September 1981 and started work on W5, PAR, ICU and



Critical Care Float Pool and eventually landing in the ER in June 1984 where I continue to work.

I have 3 daughters all of whom have continued in the medical field. My oldest daughter, **Lauren** graduated from UFV with her BSN, my second daughter, **Meaghan** is currently completing her BSN at UFV with graduation in January 2018 and my youngest daughter, **Shelby** is a Paramedic with BC Ambulance.

*Erin Collis*

## More Member News

**Devina (Rasmussen) Dennis January 1947** wrote to say “It is hard to believe 72 years have gone by since I entered nursing in January 1944, graduating in 1947. I am so grateful for my training at VGH. I nursed for 50 years. My husband, Gordon, and I are still living in our home with help for lawn cutting, snow shovelling and housekeeping. Still driving our cars. How fortunate to be independent at our ages of 90 (me) and 93 (Gordon)

We remain active in going to hockey games. I keep in touch with **Daphne Walstrom**. We are quite healthy just slower. We have been married for 66 years. Our city of Camrose has a population of 19,000 and growing. We have good medical care and facilities. Would love to know of any of our class are still around. “ Devina attended her 25<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> reunions.

### Request For Committee Volunteers

The following committees are requesting volunteers who live in the Lower Mainland

#### Membership:

Time commitment is one day/ week – times are flexible. As this involves computer skills, an interest in data entry is needed in order to work with Excel. We welcome your help in keeping our membership lists current. They are used for sending newsletters, keeping track of members for reunions and other events. If interested please contact **Norma Guttormsson**, executive secretary, at [normceline@telus.net](mailto:normceline@telus.net). She will provide an orientation to our data entry system.

#### Archives:

As one of our co-chairs will be resigning from this committee in 2018, we require new members interested in preserving the wonderful history of our School. The committee works closely with our archivist and meets twice a month. We also have a display subcommittee who needs new volunteers to maintain our display window in the Jim Pattison Pavilion. This window is changed 5 times/year and the hours are flexible. An orientation will be provided. For further information please contact the alumnae office at 604.875.62049 or email: [kathleen.murphy@vch.ca](mailto:kathleen.murphy@vch.ca)

### UBC Dean’s Medal Awards

April 14, 2016, the Faculty of Applied Science at UBC, celebrated the remarkable achievements of our community. In commemoration of the University of British Columbia and the Faculty of Applied

Science’s 100th year, the Faculty of Applied Science created a Dean’s Medal which was bestowed upon 100 distinguished individuals.

Of the 10 nurses recognized, four VGH graduates were recipients of this prestigious award.



Alice Baumgart 1958



Rose Murakami 1959



Helen Shore, 1949



Glennis Zilm 1958

**Alice Baumgart 1958, Rose Murakami 1959  
Helen Shore, 1949 and Glennis Zilm 1958  
Congratulations to all!**







## Luncheon Speech by Shirley Henderson February 1966

Madam President, honoured guests, fellow VGH classmates and the class of Sept 66 who are joining us to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Preparing and executing speeches is not something I am experienced with but somehow I was **voluntold** at the last alumnae luncheon by virtue of being one of the Feb 66 attendees.

Yes, we were the class of Feb 66. We were small compared to classes of well over 100, but we were unforgettable. We started out as 86 individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds and very soon were "molded" into 63 nurses just as varied. We saw the most precious moments surrounding everything that life has to offer and learned to be a part of helping some into this world, some journeying through it and some passing from it. We had the privilege of making special bonds that are like no other, created by living together for 3 years and sharing with each other. By virtue of that we have become "one" in so many ways.

The fading memories of some of the idiosyncrasies of residence life of 50 years ago are fun to remember, so will touch on some of them.

One 12 o'clock in the first 6 months, signing in and out, calling in the tunnel for passage to the residence - the matrons being able to see us (made it a challenge if someone was sneaking in), no purses on the floor in pharmacy classes, instructors who left out the male anatomy lesson, changing uniforms every 6 months, wearing the ugliest black oxfords that God ever created, living in a feudal system, room inspection, running for phones, matrons' friendly faces who knew the voices of all who called us. Long chats in the centre lounges to solve the problems of the world, and always having a friend who we could share our deepest concerns with and who would have kind words when we needed them most.

There is no way that I could possibly share all of the wonder in our three years, but I will do my best to give you a small peek into some personal experiences my classmates provided.

### ***A wonderful experience or the end of the world***

There were the gals who had wanted to be a nurse as long as they could remember and then others who wanted to get out of the house and this was their ticket. For some, it was such a traumatic experience to be away from home. I remember telling my parents not to contact me for the next week, as I said my tearful farewells. Did I live in the far northern corner of BC---not really, I came from North Vancouver.

When anyone entered the nursing station who was "higher up" than us, we had to jump up like little puppets. Is there anyone in the room today who would stand today to greet a Dr? The respect is still there, but we are on a much more level playing field. In the 23 hours and 55 minutes the Dr is not in your hospital room, it is the nurse who keeps you alive.

### ***Meal times***

We sat in a separate dining area and had our own cafeteria, so we would not take anything from the "paying customers" line. We knew which table to sit at as we searched the room, the uniform differences were unmistakable. 20 minute discussions were the best and we all learned how to pig out and eat an entire 3 course meal in 30 seconds. Unfortunately, I still eat that way today.

### ***Learning male anatomy***

Some of it we studied using books provided and under the direction of an unmarried instructor who would talk about everything EXCEPT male anatomy. What could we do? We had to find our own way of learning this and became pros at it. There was nowhere in the residence to learn about such things, as males were not allowed above the main floor and the small "meeting rooms" were equipped with folding doors that strangely did not close completely. So Little Mountain became one of the favourite spots. I think we had the topic well covered by the time our three years was up.

### ***Front line stories we can laugh about now.***

Being asked to escort a female psychiatric patient to Heather Pavilion to meet with the psychiatrist and sitting painfully while she failed to communicate. No worries, we were in front of a mirror where I checked my hair, crossed and uncrossed my legs, checked my teeth, put on lipstick and twirled around---only to find to my horror, when I was asked to leave the patient and wait in the next room, all the interns had been watching through a 2-way mirror.

### ***Residence Life***

One of our classmates managed to continue nursing while secretly married and 8 months pregnant by graduation. None of us knew until grad night. What an amazing gal. Good for her

Getting dressed in uniforms that consisted of:

1. A basic blue dress complete with buttons held in place by removable clips.
2. A white starched collar and set of cuffs that also had to be attached



## Luncheon Speech by Shirley Henderson February 1966

3. A bib that needed to be held in place with safety pins  
 4. An apron that required several studs to keep it firm around our waist.

5. Nylons that were black for the first 2 years and white thereafter.

6. Lace-up sensible leather shoes with old lady heels

This was no easy task but one of our classmates had figured it out – she slept in her uniform. Oh yeah – including her cap and could get from her bed to the ward in seconds. Names will not be shared and she will forever live in our memories.

A student was involved in a motor vehicle accident and her jaw was broken and of course, she was supplied with a blender to assist with preparing food. How wonderful to be able to experiment with this amazing machine for our cocktails.

Utilizing the keys accidentally left by a cleaning lady to turn the lamp in a 12th Avenue facing room into a red beacon. Didn't take long for the matrons to march down the hall and put an end to it, but I bet there were lots of smiles on passing motorist's faces that night.

In the lounges on each floor gourmet items were stocked so we could whip up a toasted peanut butter and jam sandwich that would make Martha Stewart envious.

The contest of how many different meals can you make out of rice krispies, milk, bread, jam, peanut butter and butter, was often the exciting challenge of the day.

Changes in nursing 1966 versus 2016  
**1966** Patients were settled every night with their bed straightened so you could bounce a dime off of the draw sheet, hands, face and back washed and a back rub. Take the garbage from each bedside and put the neatly folded paper bags back onto the sheet, securely held in place with a safety pin. Replace the ice water. Laundry taken to the laundry chute and all garbage emptied.

**2016** At the change of shift "good night".

**1966** All RNs wore starched white uniforms that were dresses, sensible lace-up oxfords, caps that would indicate where we received our training. LPNs didn't wear caps, orderlies wore white trousers and shirts, attending physicians wore dress clothes with lab coats over them, residents wore lab coats over scrubs with their names clearly embroidered. Interns wore scrubs with names on them, cleaning staff had specific blue uniforms,

**2016** RNs, LPNs and residents all wear scrubs and any kind of shoe that will cover their feet. Attending physicians have gone the way of the dinosaur. I think you get

the picture. It is a challenge for a patient today to determine who they should tell about their exciting hospital stay.

**Small sample of what my classmates have done** in the past 50 years using our nursing skills.

Hospital supervisor, head nurse of the hyperbaric unit, outback nursing, doing everything from suturing, being the ER doctor and janitorial work, head of a nursing home, flying all over the world to assist clients returning home, first to do the BC Nurses Help Line, Veterinarian, financial management, director of many different charities, helpmates for their fisherman husbands (went to sea with them), helpmate for their husband in the mission field, took over the post office, general store and bakery on a small island, Acting Head of a Health

Unit at a Men's Medium Security Federal prison, coordinator of the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Programme in Dawson City, Yukon, home care in 10 communities in Nunavut, volunteered for medical assistance after the tsunami in Sri Lanka and the earthquake in Haiti, worked with a doctor in Cyprus to give medical help to trafficked women and foreign workers who did not have medical insurance, going to India with CUSO in 1967 & '68 as a nursing instructor, lawyer, owner of men's clothing store, coroner, flying Dr service, Boston marathoner. Last but not least-the health care hero from Vancouver Coastal Health in 2014.

**Remember once a nurse, always a nurse.**

I want to end with a thank you to all of my classmates who created bonds filled

with memories like no other on this earth and to the following:

- \*all the patients who have had a part in making us who we are today

- \* the wonderful physicians and nurses whom we have had the privilege of working with, who taught us so much. We have learned to be strong and stand up for what we believe

- \*our families who put up with all of the ups and downs through our careers - many more ups than downs

- \*the VGH SON Alumnae and luncheon committee who work tirelessly through the year to preserve the VGH history and make this such a special time for all of us to get together.

**Remember** Our job as nurses is to cushion the sorrow and celebrate the joy every day while we are "just doing our jobs".

Thank you for the privilege of sharing my memories with you.

Once  
 a nurse  
 Always  
 a nurse!

**VGH Nurses in WW 1** *Continued from front page.*



*Allied forces played “catch-up” with military technology*



*Photo taken 2 months following the destruction of No.3 Canadian Stationary Hospital in Doullens*

Allied forces played “catch-up” with military technology, and also were forced to improvise and improve their battlefield medical care. Among some of the major improvements in medical care were better field hospitals (based on the tent field hospitals introduced in Canada during the 1885 North West campaign), motorized ambulances, triage in battle areas and field hospitals, inoculations and new tetanus shots (in a war where horses were still common), and better use of anesthetics (ether, chloroform).

Two VGH grads were killed in action. **Eleanor Charles**, a 1913 graduate, died in the sinking of the British ocean liner, the *RMS Lusitania*, May 7, 1915; she was one of many nurses on her way to join up in Britain. The liner was torpedoed by a German U-boat, killing 1,198 and leaving only 761 survivors and **Eden Lyal Pringle**, a 1915 graduate who died in France in 1918.

Eden was born in Glasgow, Scotland September 4, 1893. She worked in the operating room at VGH prior to joining the Canadian Army Medical Corps in May 1917 to serve in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force.

After a short period in England, she arrived in France and was assigned to the No 3 Canadian Stationary Hospital at Doullens in Northern France, situated in an old fortress dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Large red crosses were painted on all the roofs. It was surrounded by

fields and was used for hospital purposes alone. From March 21 to July 10 1918, 93,000 casualties were treated there.

At 1 a.m. on the night of the May 30<sup>th</sup> 1918, an enemy raid began with a flare and a bomb and the four-story hospital, got a direct hit – right in the centre of a red cross painted on the roof.



*100 years on, the graveyard today is beautifully tended*

*Funeral for the thirty eight who were killed, including three Canadian Sisters, one Canadian Doctor and one American Doctor, in a German air raid on 3rd Stationary Hospital, Doullens.*



## VGH Nurses in WW 1

The bomb went through to the ground floor, where one team was still at work operating on a British officer. All OR staff met their deaths instantaneously. Two surgeons, three nursing sisters, including **Eden Pringle**, four patients and 16 orderlies were killed; a sister and 13 other ranks were wounded. To add to the horror, fire broke out and threatened to add to the number of victims. The hospital nurses displayed strict devotion to duty, staying at their posts till every patient had been evacuated from the wards. While the rescue was in progress, the German planes returned and dropped more bombs, but did not cause further damage.

A large number of British soldiers arrived quickly as well as French infantry who provided assistance in putting out the fires- fortunately no lives were lost from the fire.

A military cemetery near the hospital was transformed into a pretty bed of flowers on June 30<sup>th</sup> when the personnel of the No. 3 Canadian Stationary Hospital, joined by every nation in the Allied Armies and all colonies of the British Empire, and hundreds of civilians, decorated the graves of the Canadians who gave their lives for their country. In this cemetery, the remains of the officers, sisters and others who lost their lives in the bombing raid are interred. The graves are all marked with a wooden cross, on which are the full particulars of the deceased stamped in a maple leaf of copper.

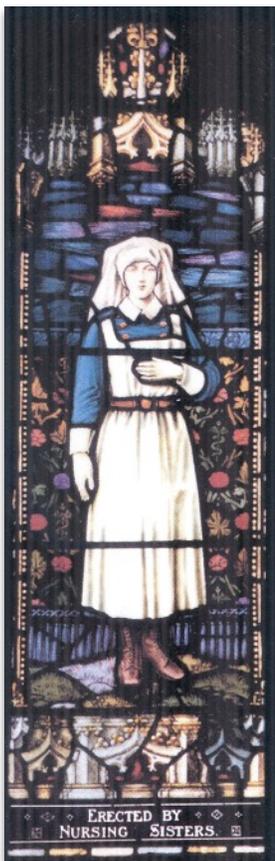
Eden received the British War Medal and Victory Medal

Among other VGH nurses who served overseas was Emily Edwards, class of 1904; she later married Major J.S. Mathews, founder of the Vancouver City Archives, who commissioned a bronze bust of his wife, which is now housed in the Vancouver City Archives. A ward at VGH, now long gone, was named for N/S Pringle as a memorial; she is featured in a "Heritage Minute" (tv spot) released in May 2015. Watch for this to be shown again in November or view it on the Internet at <http://www.macleans.ca/news/Canada/here-are-all-53-heritage-minutes>. A memorial stained glass window in honour of Vancouver nurses who served in WW1 for Christ Church Cathedral along with many other memorials to the nursing sisters.

A more important memorial to their efforts may be in the way that they changed women's roles in society. In Canada in 1917, the right to vote was extended to all British subjects, male or female, who were active or retired members of the Armed Forces; that December about 2,000 military nurses voted, the first time Canadian women voted at the federal level. And the first woman to be elected to a legislature anywhere in the British Empire was N/S **Roberta MacAdams** (in Alberta).



*A group of Canadian nurses in France during WWI. They are wearing their working uniforms and were nicknamed "Bluebirds" because of the colour of the dresses.*



*Cathedral Window  
"Erected by Nursing Sisters"*

*Glennis Zilm 1957, Author. Notes on Eden Pringle added by Ethel Warbinek -National War Records Office. Photos: Canadian War Records Office No.s 0.2727; IWM (Q 9125)*

## Recollections of a Career - Carol (Mead) Tyrrell Feb 1966

Fifty or so years ago, I decided that I wanted to be a nurse. I heard all sorts of reasons why this would be a good thing but I was never told that the life would be as varied as the life I have led.

Fresh out of VGH training, and a brand new bride, I worked in the ER for a year, moved to Surrey and worked as a maternity nurse at the now closed St Mary's hospital for 3 years, left that to have our 2 children and then looked around for something that interested me, would pay the bills and would not disrupt my life too much. So I worked as an industrial nurse for Woodward's. This consisted of managing all the paperwork surrounding employees sick leave and responding to emergencies among the customers. I remember having to deal with a man, the fiancé of one of our employees, who had a fatal heart attack at the jewelry counter on the \$1.49 day before Christmas and doing CPR (just coming into vogue) until the ambulance came. That was the first time that I had to do CPR, definitely not the last!

Leaving that position, a friend who owned a religious supply store needed help over the Easter season so I became a clerk and general dogs body to help him until he could find someone else. Three years later I decided that nursing paid much better so I hired my replacement and set about to find another job.

I then worked as a casual float (a doer of everything that they probably don't have any-more) at a hospital near where we were now living in Abbotsford. One night shift, I started to feel quite unwell, thought I was getting the flu, got checked out by the LPN on the ward who sent for the Supervisor who immediately admitted me to the CCU with a very irregular heart rate. How embarrassing!

After tests, a Cardiology consult and a few days in hospital, I was told I needed to find a job with no nights and a regular shift, decrease my stress, and have an ablation. The ablation done, I set about trying to find a position that fit the criteria. In the Canadian Nurse there was an ad for nurses for Corrections Canada, I applied and got a position as a job share Health Care Nurse in a men's medium security prison. The rest of the team were very experienced and taught me a lot, I really enjoyed the

work and when the door clanged behind me at the end of the day, I learned to leave my job there and go home to my family, stress free. I became the Acting Nurse in Charge and stayed there for 5 years.

My husband had felt the call to the full time ministry in the Anglican church and applied to a Seminary in Wisconsin which meant moving yet again and getting a job under the Free Trade Agreement in the US. I eventually landed at a Home Care company and tried to work well in the American health care non-system where I spent every Friday on hold or talking to insurance companies, usually in Atlanta, Georgia, trying to persuade them to allow me to do the care my patients needed but which the insurance guidelines disallowed.

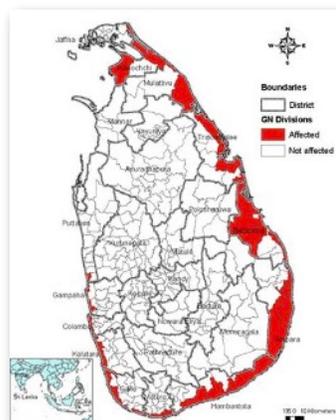
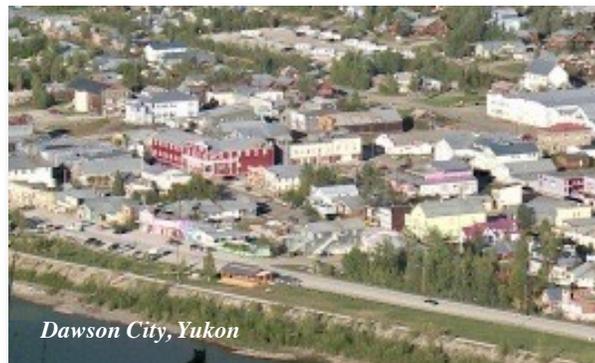
Once back in Yukon, Canada, I worked at the local Health Care unit, or Cottage Hospital, learning to do things that I never would be doing down South. The first X-ray I did was on a dog hit by a car, the only doctor in town also did emergency vet calls, I learned to take blood, do some tests and prepare some of it to be sent to Whitehorse or Edmonton for more complicated work. I learned how to develop X-rays, dipping and timing them in almost total darkness and remembering to close the package of film before I turned on the light! I met and learned to appreciate the First Nations elders and others who taught me a lot about the medicines, herbs and other plants, that they used. I soon realized that I needed to have my degree if I was to continue working in the North in a meaningful way.

So I became a part-time student at the U of Victoria distance education for a post RN degree programme. Interest in alternative therapies led me to take a course in traditional Chinese medicine where myself and 27 other nurses went to China. After 5 years of part-time study I graduated, with distinction no less, and now had the requisite BSN on my resume.

We had been transferred to Dawson City, Yukon and I applied for and became the



Woodward's



Sri Lanka. Areas affected by Tsunami 2004

## Recollections of a Career - Carol (Mead) Tyrrell Feb 1966

Home Care Nurse for the town. It involved so much more than the job description revealed, visiting clients and tending to their needs, of course, but nowhere did it mention helping the Manager of the Assisted living facility to pack up a deceased miner's belongings and discovering pill bottles filled with gold dust under his bed. It was about \$30,000 worth according to the CIBC manager when he weighed it up in the "gold room" and he knew what to do with it, thank goodness!

At Christmas 2004 the world responded to the effects of the tsunami and John and I offered our services (he was a paramedic in his spare time). In March 2005 we were sent for a month, to the area around Alumnae, Sri Lanka, to bring health care to the very disorganized refugee or IDP camps, to teach the nurses and trauma councillors first aid and to make sure the money donated got to where it would do the most good, not an easy or safe, task.

Then my husband retired, as did I, for the first time. We made the mistake of listening to the Bishop of the Arctic's woes and sympathetically saying, "Gee Bishop, if there is anything we can do for you don't hesitate to call us". That is how we ended up in Iqaluit, Nunavut for three, stretched to 8, months and then 4 months in Cambridge Bay. After that, we took a vacation. On a cargo ship, as passengers, around the world for 141 days! A fabulous time, learned a tremendous amount and came back to Canada with a very virulent disease; the travel bug!

After spending so much time in the Arctic, we decided to offer our services to the Anglican church in Europe. We spent time, some of it working, in England, two places in Spain and in Germany over a Christmas. We learned of a vacancy of the post of Dean of the Cathedral (English speaking church) in Nicosia Cyprus (I had to get a map to find out where Cyprus was!) , applied and

John was offered the job. We packed up and headed off to Cyprus for 5 years.



While John was working, I looked around for something to do. As I do not speak Greek, I could not work as a nurse in Cyprus, so instead I did contract work with Home Care in Nunavut with an Agency, Venture Healthcare. They were very good to me, never asked me to give more time than I was available for, and supported me in many ways. I loved going to Nunavut and working with the Inuit. I even learned a bit of Inuktitut, which amused the elders (I think it was my accent).

The earthquake in Haiti gave me the opportunity to go on a medical mission to Leogone, the epicentre, and I worked with Medical Teams International (MTI) taking healthcare to the refugee camps.

I worked as a volunteer with a Doctor to do health care for foreign workers with no insurance and for trafficked women. People trafficking is big business in that part of the world, almost all women, mostly seeking jobs as caregivers or restaurant workers, many beaten into submission and put out on the street as prostitutes. Really bad stuff and we helped where and when we could.

We are now back in Canada, in Alberta, and I look back on my over 50 years as a nurse and think that I have done a lot, had many adventures and am not finished yet. I am off to Uganda with MTI to work in a refugee camp there for the month of March 2017 and I just may take another contract in Nunavut!



*In Memoriam 2016*

*But not forgotten*

*our classmates*

1940	Hopkins	Anne	
1941*	Gall	Jeanne	Nunns
1941	Juckes	Marjorie	McKellar
1942	MacCallum	Freda	Woodworth
1943	Blackhall	Evelyn	Chambers
1943	Scott	Barbara	Lawrance
1944	Hermon	Gwen	Lockie
1945	Eddleston	Vivian	Wilson
1945	Howden	Jocelyn	
1945	Sherborne	Patricia	McGillis
1947	Finlayson	Mary	Hackett
1947	Forsyth	Enid	Dunfee
1947	Wilson	Zelda	Petch
1949	MacDonald	Marion	Weekes
1950	Carnie	Sheila	Powe
1950	Gunning	Eileen	Brown
1950*	McLennan	Marnie	Mathe
1950*	Ward	Greta	King
1951	Allin	Dorothy	Hanson
1951	Anderson	Evelyn "Andy"	Holob
1951*	Coleman	Mavis	Standfield
1952	Bartley	Margaret	Mirko
1952	Watt	Luella	Henderson
1953	Chadwick	Muriel	Gallagher
1954	Anderson	Norma	Colbern
1954	Wolff	Patricia	Poole
1955	Ceaser	Elaine	Locke
1956	Evans	Margaret Rose	MacLeod
1956*	Kahr	Alexis	Redekop
1956*	Udesen	Pauline	Klassen
1957*	Bell	Jan	Scott
1957	DeLisle	Barbara	
1957	Fleming	Shirley	Osbourne
1957	Ganton	Patricia	Estabrooks
1957	Parent	Marilyn	Lamb
1958	Binkley	Alice	Lundin
1959	North	Shirley	
1960*	Lane	Wendy Anne	MacIntyre
1961	Leopold	Lynne	McBryan
1966	Cumberland	Lynne	Mottershead
1967	Duxbury	Elizabeth	Borthwick
1968	Chambers	Helen	
1974	Addie	Marion	Hembroff

\* Denotes UBC class

**Mavis (Coleman) Stanfield UBC 1951**

**A Tribute**

We were very sad to hear of the death of Mavis Stanfield who died August 19, 2016. Peggy Etchell, close friend and colleague, wrote the following:

Mavis made a great contribution over the formative years of the Archives Committee and in the years to come. She started to organize our textile collection. Textiles are all the uniforms, caps, capes and any other pieces of clothing or shoes, stockings etc. As pieces arrived Mavis carefully cleaned and cared for them in the correct manner. This often meant very special care such as washing them gently by hand, rinsing them well and then putting them out in her garden in the sunshine as using bleach would have been too hard on the delicate fabric.

As the collection grew, Mavis was ably assisted by Janie Birkland and our archivist Naomi Constant. The uniforms were always perfectly put together, everything from caps to capes and pins to shoes. Our mannequins are now perfectly dressed in uniforms dating from the beginning of the school. Full length uniforms "dresses" with full length aprons over the top, high neck collars, black mid heel shoes and the usual student pin. Over the years the uniforms changed to a simple light blue short sleeved wash and wear dress, white stockings and low heeled white oxfords.

Mavis worked very hard to always have a selection of perfectly dressed mannequins ready to go off to a class, conference or a display. In order to have these precious "ladies" transported in good shape, she designed and sewed fabric covers for each of the mannequins.

Another skill Mavis brought to this endeavour was her ability to sketch and colour pictures of the various uniforms and like everything else they were beautifully done.

She made a wonderful contribution to the work of our Alumnae, we are all most grateful for all she has done. We really miss her presence and contribution since she has not been able to come to our meetings and now realize she is no longer with us.



**Mavis (Coleman) Stanfield UBC 1951  
A Tribute**



A bit about Mavis's life and career:  
She lived most of her life on the North Shore, graduating from VGH in 1951 and from UBC with a BASc(Nursing) in 1952. While at UBC Mavis met her husband, Barry. After taking some time to raise her family, Mavis returned to work as a public health nurse. She became the Director of Long Term Care for North Shore Health for more than 20 years where she was a compassionate and well respected leader. She enjoyed life, had a terrific sense of humour and was incredibly smart.

Source: Obituary *The Vancouver Sun*, September 9, 2016.



**Archival Items**

**School of Nursing Sports Days**

The Alumnae Archive has a collection of trophies won in various sports events which took place between Nursing Schools in the lower mainland and in some cases between students and instructors. Sadly a number of them are in poor condition and have had to be deaccessioned from the collection e.g.. SNABC Annual Badminton Doubles (and also a singles trophy) and a VGH Inter-class Badminton Trophy.



However a grand rose bowl trophy won in 1957 and 1958 by VGH Student Nurses in the S.N.A.B.C Annual Track Meet is in perfect condition. Also pictured is the annual softball trophy, students vs instructors. Student triumphed in all three years 1985-87. Also in good condition is a trophy for track and swim meet, won by VGH Students. Do you know any more history about these trophies or were involved in the winning?



**Treasured Rugs**

The rugs made by Karen MacKenzie '75 are one of the favourite items requested for display at the annual luncheon. Look at them carefully on May 7. They are a work of art depicting the crest of UBC School of Nursing and the VGH School of Nursing.



*Karen MacKenzie  
Class of 1975*

**Dolls  
& Changing  
Uniforms**

1898-1999





### Honorary Members

Mrs. Matilda Bara      Mrs. Naomi Constant  
 Mr. Charlie Etchell      Dr. Don Hutchins  
 Mr. D.E. McTaggart      Mrs. Nellie Ryzak  
 Mrs. Sheila J. Rankin Zerr

### Life Members

Sharon Baxter (Francis) '62	Janie Birkeland (Schwab) '66
Vivian Blake (Jackson) '50	Myrna Braun (Wagstaff) '62
Peggy Etchell (Thompson) '51	Barbara Gillies '46
Lorna Hoare (Snider) '66	Adelaide Hutchins (MacLean) '53
Sheila Kirk (Poersch) '61	Joan Kerr (Dunbar) '56
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*Kathy Murphy, president, presents Mary Raikes-Tindle with Life Membership to VGHSN AA for the work and the dedication she has given to the association. Well deserved! Thank you Mary.*

**Wear your VGH Pins to the Luncheon!!**

## Uncovering our hidden potential in research

In 2015, the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association funded *CHOKe: Factors Associated with Dysphagia in Post-Operative Cardiac Surgery* as part of the VCH Research Challenge. This project examined whether transesophageal echocardiography (TEE), duration of tracheal intubation and lower body mass index (BMI) was associated with dysphagia after cardiac surgery. *CHOKe* was co-lead by **Patti Choy** a nurse practitioner in cardiac post-surgical care and **Claire Kariya** a clinical dietician in cardiac surgery and cardiology. **Natalie Barlow**, a doctor and director of cardiac surgery post-operative care and **Heather Longstaffe**, a speech language pathologist, rounded out this interdisciplinary team. Their mentor, Priscilla Taipale was a valuable addition to the team.

The *CHOKe* team was inspired to examine dysphagia as it was an unexpected complication from cardiac surgery. Currently data collection from 863 charts is complete and data analysis is underway. The VCH Research Challenge was a wonderful fit for their question as the program provides support, guidance and mentorship for clinical staff new to research.

"The VCH Research Challenge allowed us to answer a clinical question that we all shared. We are appreciative of the opportunity for our team of clinicians who are new to research, to lead this project," says Kariya.

With the Alumnae Association's support, the teams are able to increase their involvement with health research and gain valuable knowledge conducting their own clinical practice projects which will, in turn, help strengthen the health care system overall.

Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute is grateful to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association for its support. For more information on the VCH Research Challenge: <http://www.vchri.ca/researchchallenge>  
 Submitted by **Jerri Abramson**, Manager, Research Education & Internal Awards, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute



*Kathy Murphy, President, VGHSN AA along with our funded 2015 VCH Research Challenge team, at VCH Research Challenge Presentation Day January 17, 2017*

**2016 DONATIONS TO OUR ARCHIVAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Thank you for your continuing support for our Archives and Museum. At some point Heather Pavilion will be restored and we will be relocated. It is essential we have the necessary funds to preserve our incredible history. Four donors wish to remain anonymous. For more information on this fund, go to page 2.

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*Note: donations received in December 2016 will be listed in the 2018 newsletter because of an early request for 2017 donations.*

**V.G.H. School Of Nursing Alumnae Association Executive Committee 2017**

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VGH SCHOOL OF NURSING  
 ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION  
 855 West 12th Avenue,  
 Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1M9

Phone: 604 875 4111 local 62049.  
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If you have not done so yet please fill in the forms below and send with the appropriate funds to the VGH SON Alumnae office. Or – you may renew on-line: [www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com](http://www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com)

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 Membership Fee of \$20.00**

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**Registration for the School of Nursing  
 Alumnae Association Luncheon**

**Sunday May 7, 2017 12: noon to 3:00 pm**  
**Cost \$25.00.**

Register by April 18, 1967 and 1957 classes no charge.

**Name:** .....

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Return this form with your cheque by APRIL 18, 2017 payable to:  
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**Newsletter:**  
 Ethel Warbinek (McIntyre) '56  
 Mary Watt (MacKinnon) '54  
 We appreciate your input!