



# NEWSLETTER

SPRING  
2010

## Our Pride & Joy – the



**We are proud of our archives and appreciate the numerous donations you have made over many years to make it a reality. It was time to show case it to our members and friends.**

Last spring, the executive heartily approved the suggestion from the Archives Committee to host an Open House in the fall. Betty-Anne Rogers, co-chair of the Archives Committee, drew up plans for the open house and work began right away to clean the rooms and prepare the displays.

Work parties came in over the summer to get things ready for September. It was decided to have several stations featuring different historical collections, so they were set up in the office, lounge, textile room, hall and museum area.

Our valuable uniform collection is always of interest, so the textile room contained mannequins dressed in various uniforms, the Nettie Burge collection and a dressing cart – remember them?

In addition, mannequins were strategically placed throughout. Our pin collection, military nursing, capping, historical photographs and books were displayed in the hall and the silver collection was in the lounge.



*Reta Kidd in the textile room*

The museum room featured the Florence Nightingale collection, exhibits of hospital dishes, paediatric nursing with an incubator, polio treatments including an iron lung and Bird Respirator. Shelves of artifacts, many described, some still mysteries were on display.

Balloon clusters were placed at the entrances to Heather Pavilion. Invi-

tations were sent to interested groups and it was publicized in Current Events section of the VCH News, BC History of Nursing Society's newsletter and by e-mail to UBC nursing students.

A sign was placed in our display window in the Jim Pattison Pavilion.

Everything was ready so on Saturday September 12, 2009 we welcomed visitors to our open house.

Approximately 45 people attended. Many positive comments were received as visitors viewed the displays, asked questions and shared personal experiences. The open house was deemed a success and plans for another one will be considered in the future.



*Betty Kirkwood, Marg Shugg, Naomi Constant*

*our archivist at the Open House*

## Alumnae Lunch

Sunday May 2, 2010  
12:30 — 3:00



### Join us for Lunch to honour the 1960 graduates

Place: Vancouver Masonic Centre – 1495 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver  
Registration begins at 12 pm

Guests at the luncheon are the 1960 graduates and if you graduated in 1950 or earlier, you are also our guest, but **remember to register**.

To guarantee you have a seat, register and pay for the lunch before the deadline of April 16, 2010.

If you have questions contact Myrna Braun: 604 266 7202 - e-mail myrna\_braun@telus.net or Pat Sexsmith: 604 261 8293 - e-mail psexsmith@shaw.ca

# Memories of the 75th Alumnae Anniversary

**Achival Material**  
Shown at the open house

**F**aded photos of nameless women in long-skirted nurses' uniforms, a grim looking assortment of medical instruments, yellow-paged manuals from 1900s all add up to a collection oozing nostalgia. But for many members of VGH Nursing School's alumnae attending the diamond jubilee reunions this week (April 1974) the collection, reverently displayed in the school, will bring back very real memories.

Graduate of the class of 1918, Margaret Faulkner remembers, without resentment, struggling into her heavy, starched strait-laced uniform and sitting through a daily service before setting out at 7 a.m. to start a 12-hour shift.

In those days a student nurse was paid \$6 to \$10 a month. Mrs. Faulkner remembers that nurses on the night duty had to cook their own supper: "We were hardly off the ward."

After graduation she stepped out into nursing proper in the midst of the flu epidemic when people, she said, 'were dying like flies.'

For five years she worked at VGH, much of it in Ward R, "the posh ward", where there were private rooms costing \$8 a day, "a fantastic sum."

"The building always brings back memories. There was a room kept especially for Orientals, can you imagine? In the basement of Ward X they kept isolation cases and mental patients. That section is now the orthopaedic department.

"Just to tell you how real it seems, a classmate of mine went into that ward not long ago and cried for days to think she was in the room with all those dark memories."

Mrs. Faulkner married, had a family and didn't return to nursing until the Second World War. She went through a refresher course but says a lot of it was the same, although not having to sterilize everything by hand was a new experience. "There's not a lot of difference, only perhaps in technique, but I think we were a little bit more humane than nurses are today. With all the paper work they have to do they haven't the time to give to the patients".

For 30 years Margaret Faulkner was executive secretary of the alumnae which numbers more than 6,000 members. About 1,200 of them are making a trip to the reunion, Thursday to Saturday, which coincides with the year's graduation. Alums Galore in '74 has been chosen by the nurses as a slogan for the celebration years, culmination of two years of organization by the alumnae.

Nurses and former nurses from all over the world will be converging on Vancouver. To mark the 75th anniversary the alumnae commissioned a history of the school which has been written by a UBC student, just in time for the big event.

School director, Mrs. Dorothy Logan, herself a VGH grad, says VGH nurses are welcomed all over the world and that is testimony enough to the kind of training they receive.

"When our girls leave we like to think of them as competent basic nurses, who recognize the need for continual learning, certainly who recognize that nursing and the needs of our patients are continually changing. Here we hope a nurse develops a problem-solving approach so she can solve each problem as it presents itself. Many of our students go on to advanced preparation either at university or in other chemical fields".

Nursing has become more of a career over the years, to be only temporarily interrupted by marriage and children, if interrupted at all.

"In the early years if a nurse did marry she rarely came back unless there were exceptional circumstances, for example if she were widowed or there were financial problems. Others who were extremely dedicated to their career stayed in it all their life," said Mrs. Logan.

"The alumnae members from the school's early days will probably be surprised by the number of people in the clinical area, when they tour the hospital this week. In the early days there were doctors and nurses, Now, with development of the multi-disciplinary approach in health care, at any given time you have the doctor, the social worker, the nutritionist, the physiotherapist, the occupational therapist and the nurse. For nurses to function well her role has to be clearly defined."

As the former graduates mingle with today's student nurses they will probably notice that they are academically well equipped and specially selected by the school for what Mrs. Logan thinks are qualities that make a good nurse in 1974. "Today's nurse must **Continued on page 11**



*Do you remember dressing carts?*



*Glassware on display at the open house.*

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## Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association Executive 2010

President	Kathleen Murphy (McCutcheon '65)
Vice President	Mary Raikes-Tindle (Raikes '65)
Acting Treasurer	Norma Guttormsson ('58)
Rec. Secretary	Vivian Blake (Jackson '50)
Exec. Secretary	Norma Guttormsson ('58)
Exec. Member	Kay Raisbeck ('54)
Archives/Artifacts	Ethel Warbinek (McIntyre '56) Betty-Anne Rogers Feb'57
Education	Joan Kerr (Dunbar '65)
Friendship	Lorna Hoare (Snider Feb.'66) Diane Parker (Sjerve Feb' 68)
Membership	Anne E. Williams ('54)
Publicity	Ethel Warbinek (McIntyre '56)
Past President	Pat Wadsworth (Beck '54)

# ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS - MARCH 2, 2010

## 2009 Luncheon Committee

The VGH School of Nursing, Alumnae Association, Annual Luncheon was held on May 3rd 2009, at the Vancouver Masonic Centre, with 286 members attending. The VGH and UBC Classes of 1959 were honored guests.

Anne Sutherland Boal, VGH Chief Operating Officer, introduced the guest speaker, Dr. E. Bryce, V.G.H. Dept. of Microbiology. Dr. Bryce gave an overview to date, of the H1N1 pandemic, how to prevent spread and treatment.

A "Silent Auction" of memorabilia and relics, was held, with moderate success.

A selection of "choice items" from the Alumnae Silverware Collection, were displayed.

Memories of "Student Days" were recalled by all who attended, as the Honored Classes of 1959, entertained with reminiscences of their days as Student Nurses.

The Classes of 1960 will be the Honored Guests, at this year's Luncheon, to be held May 2nd, 2010, at the Vancouver Masonic Center. All Alumnae Members including Honored Guests are requested to pre-register. Members other than the Honored Guests are requested to submit payment for the Luncheon prior to April 16th. This will decrease congestion at the door and facilitate catering and seating arrangements.

Co-Chairs of the Luncheon Committee are: Pat Sexsmith and Myrna Braun.

Please join us on May 2nd 2010 to celebrate, "Thanks for the Memories".

Respectfully submitted

*Kay Raisbeck*

## 2009 Publicity Committee

In March 2009, 1400 newsletters were printed by VGH Printing.

In November 2009, 1350 Bulletins were printed and mailed along with membership renewal forms and a request for donations to our VGH SON Archival Development Fund.

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: warbinek@telus.net. Articles about you, classmates, VGH and/or the School are welcome and will be considered for publication. If you are planning a reunion send in the information and it will be published in the spring newsletter.

Special thanks to Mary Watt, co-editor, for her help with these publications.

*Ethel Warbinek, publicity chair*

## 2009 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Alumnae Association has enjoyed another active year under the guidance of the dedicated committee chairs and volunteers. The specific activities of the committees will be detailed in their reports but the association also shared in a number of group efforts.

The Nursing Research Grant was formally presented to Priscilla Taipale who works in the ICU at the Vancouver Coastal Health Professional Research Day in March and the results of the research will be presented at the Annual General meeting of the Alumnae on March 2, 2010.

The annual luncheon in May was another highlight with a wonderful turnout. Janie Birke-land, who works with the Archives and Artifacts Committee, was presented with Life Membership and a timely presentation on Infection Control was given by Anne Sutherland Boal and other staff members from VGH.

Throughout the summer, the Archives and Artifacts committee members transformed our limited space into an amazing display of the Archives and Artifacts at the Open House on September 12, 2009. Several books that have been written by Beverly Du Gas and Kristine Griffiths were sold as well as the VGH 100th Anniversary Book.

In September, Norma Guttormsson (Class of 1958) was welcomed as the new Executive Secretary as Judy Sherlock had resigned earlier in the year. Norma has learned her role rapidly and brings many skills and knowledge to the position.

As the north side of the Heather Pavilion was being demolished throughout the year, we carried on in our space on B South. The purchase of new computers for the office and the Archives collection is helping us manage the alumnae work.

A significant donation was received from the estate of Margaret Halley Makepeace which was given to the Education Fund at her request. This was deeply appreciated as the economic downturn affected the amount of money available from the two Trust Funds that are managed by the VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation.

It was my pleasure to represent the Alumna Association at several functions. The annual Nursing Bursary Awards Reception hosted by the VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation where 9 nurses received financial support, the annual VGH and UBC Hospital Thank You Luncheon, and the 30th Anniversary of the RNFBC event.

I am proud to be associated with the members who keep the alumnae association operating. Sincere appreciation is extended to all who spend many hours maintaining our 101 year old association!

*Kathy Murphy (McCutcheon), September, 1965*

## 2009 FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

<b>General Fund Balance</b>	December 31,2009 . . . . .	\$18,827.40
<b>BMO Investment Acct Balance</b>	December 31,2009 . . . . .	\$68,000.00
<b>BMO Cora Trethewey Balance</b>	December 31,2009 . . . . .	\$70,000.00

The large, year-end balance continues to reflect the fee payments that arrive in advance of the year for which they are credited. I have moved the investment accounts from RBC to BMO for ease of access.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Sharon Baxter*



# ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS - MARCH 2, 2010

## 2009 ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

### Open House – September 12, 2009

In order to prepare for this major event, Betty-Anne Rogers (co-chair) organized a plan – April through July – where the alumnae rooms were cleaned, furniture moved, equipment and supplies reorganized, mini displays set up, artifacts labelled and signs printed. Sincere thanks goes to our archival members: Janie Birkeland, Peggy Etchell, Kay Raisbeck, Reta Kidd, Betty Kirkwood, Ethel Warbinek (co-chair), Naomi Constant, Archivist, and executive members: Kathy Murphy, Lorna Hoare and Diane Parker. Charlie Etchell – honorary member- hung pictures in the office, lounge and hall and Alex Etchell – student – reorganized the archival publication and document boxes.

A successful open house, attended by approximately 45 people, was held from 10 – 12 noon on Saturday September 12, 2009. All of the alumnae rooms and the hallway were used as we show cased our valuable historical collection. Stations were set up featuring our pin collection, military nursing, polio, paediatrics, capping, historical photographs, books, museum artifacts and many others in the office, lounge, textile room hall and museum area. Mannequins dressed in various uniforms were strategically placed in each area. A successful book sale was held and our note cards were available for sale in the office. It was publicized in the Current Events section of the VCH News, sign placed in the window in JP Pavilion, BC History of Nursing Society's newsletter and by e-mail to UBC nursing students. Many positive comments were received as visitors viewed the displays, asked questions and shared personal experiences. The open house was deemed a success and plans for another one will be considered in the future. Thank you to the executive members who helped at the open house.

A laptop computer and printer were purchased for the archives so a researchable data base could be established. Jens Petersen, Technica Systems, set up the computer and gave two classes on data entry. There is an automatic backup system and connection to the hospital internet. Work has begun on computerizing the museum collection and others will be added. We welcome Mary Watt to the committee. She is working along with Naomi on data entry.

An inventory of the textiles was completed by Reta Kidd. The capes were sorted as to length, style and condition and the selected ones dry cleaned. The remainder will be deaccessioned. Peggy Etchell arranged to have 6 cotton covers made for the mannequins and display uniforms.

The Jim Pattison window displays continue to generate interest and are done by Janie Birkeland, Reta Kidd and Betty-Anne Rogers.

**Doll Project:** Due to the deterioration of the original historical doll collection, a total of nine porcelain dolls will be made and

### VGH SON Archival Development Fund Report

For the period ending December 31, 2009

#### General Account

Revenue	
Funds carried forward .....	\$103.94
Donations received in 2009.....	\$6894.86
Fund Raising - Silent Auction.....	\$130.55
Interest.....	.05
<b>Total revenue: .....</b>	<b>\$7129.40</b>

#### Expenses

Production of two VGH student dolls.....	\$130.68
Dry cleaning of capes.....	\$132.47
Office supplies.....	\$185.03
Bank charges .....	* \$91.20

**Total Expenses: .....** \$548.38

**Balance in chequing account: .....** \$6581.02

**Term Investment: .....** \$19,829.34

Bank charges include processing US cheques which were debited and then included in revenue in CDN funds.

Submitted by:  
Ethel Warbinek - Trustee – January 28, 2010



Pat Sexsmith, Kathy Murphy, Myrna Braun

dressed. Two have been completed. Your donations to the Archival Development Fund have allowed us to proceed with this project as well as the dry cleaning of the capes.

#### Betty-Anne Rogers & Ethel Warbinek – co-chairs. Request for student annuals for our archives

We would appreciate receiving copies of the following annuals

1960, 1961, 1981, 1985, 1986 & 1988.

If you have a copy and wish to donate it, please phone the alumnae office or email Ethel Warbinek warbinek@telus.net.

# ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS - MARCH 2, 2010

## SUCCESSFUL FUND RAISING FOR OUR ARCHIVES.

A special thank you to the following who so generously donated \$6894.86 to our Archival Development Fund in 2009. Be assured your money will be used wisely to preserve our historical collection.

Seven donors wish to remain anonymous

Lucile Adderley	Catherine Hurd
Ruth Anderson	Rochelle Farquhar
Rae Archer	Jacqueline Farris
Marion Atherton	Maureen Findlat
Maureen Anstey	Nancy Gregson
Karen Atkin	Teresa Hannesson
Maureen Atkins	Kirstine Griffith
Valerie Barager	Mary Hardy
Marie Baumert	Annie Hess
Margaret Beduz	Jocelyn Howden
Patricia Berda	Jo-Mary Hunter
Margaret Bickford	Sandra Hyslop
Lorna Biglan	Norma Johnston
Marion Boyle	Linda Clark Jones
Rose Marie Braithwaite	Jean Kerr
Betty Brannan	Mary Kershaw
Evelyn Calow	Barbara Kissuras
Joyce Campkin	Maureen Kochanuk
Rita Carle	Lynn Kropinak
Patricia Carroll	Barbara Lake
Norma Carruthers	Bonnie Lantz
Eileen Carson	Wilma Latham
Libuska Cernohorsky	June Latin
Patricia Chern	Nan Levesque
Isobel Chester	Sylvia Lyle
Jo Anne Clendenning	Shirley-Mae Lister
Edith Clark	Christine Lobb
Muriel Climie	Mary Lundquist
Margaret Clow	Diana Laustrup
Ellen Coates	Laurie MacCaulder
Delores Codville	Marie Mackay
Patricia Cookson	Maureen MacNamara
Margaret Cool	Irene Marsaw
Consuelo Corbett	Marney Mathe
Lorraine Crouse	Margaret Matthews
Aleida Cruickshank	Meg McDonagh
Mirth Doyle	Alice McMillan
Christine DeVissen	Bernice McNabb
Penelope Dumas	Lorraine McKenzie
Joan Duncan	Margaret McSweyn
Nadiene Eaton	Sandra Mikkelsen
Denise Edwards	Naomi Miller
Shirley Edwards	Winifred Miller
Sheila Elliott	Nancy Milley
Jennifer English	Mary Gordon Moir
Margaret Etechell	Marilynn Montgomery
Anne Favell	Mary Moody
Jean Finnie	Joan Moore
Pamela Fisk	Rose Murakami
Susan Fullerton	Helen Mussallem
Lucille Giovando	Dorothy Myers
Norma Gomeric	Elizabeth Newell
Anne Gray	Laurel Coghlin-Newman
Nancy Halliwell	Sylvia Nielsen
Sharon Harris	Barbara Norris
Joan Hawkins	

*Continued on page 6*

## 2009 EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Most of the 2009 VGH/SON Bursaries were awarded to graduates working in post-graduate studies. The applicants this year are studying and working in a variety of nursing specialties. Some examples are: community and public health nursing; further studies to become nurse educators; leadership roles to nurse clinicians, hospice palliative care and health care management.

The following is an excerpt from a thankful bursary award recipient: "As I advance through my career, I am honored to be a nurse and carry with me the valuable experiences from my nursing education as a former graduate of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Program. I am thankful the Alumnae association actively promotes the advancement of nursing practice. Thank you for your valuable support."

The Alumnae is pleased to be able to provide bursary awards to VGH graduates as they pursue further education to fulfill new dreams, goals and career pathways. We indeed have a legacy to leave in the medical world that began with our three year hospital training. So many graduates have achieved wonderful accomplishments and you are all to be sincerely congratulated by your fellow alumnae.

The Education Committee was delighted to award \$13,480.00 to twelve bursary award recipients for 2009. Four Alumnae members are pursuing their Master's Degree and six are working towards their Baccalaureate Degree. Two received funds to attend an annual geriatric conference.

The following are the 2009 Bursary Award Recipients

### Eileen Lewis Johnson Endowment Fund

Lynne (Meir-Gildea) Dunbar	Sept.'65
Joan (Dunbar) Kerr	Sept.'65

### Harvey/Cain Endowment Fund –

#### Margaret (Dorset, 1929) Harvey, & Dorothy Cain (sister)

Melinda (Mah) David	Feb. '89
Debra Ann (Dernisky) Mayer	Sept. '80

### VGH/SON Alumnae Education Fund

Leslie (Holleth) Boden	Feb. '89
Elizabeth (Heisler) Deforest	Sept. '84
Tania (Tobler) Lepage	Sept. '88
Kya (Monteith) Milne	Feb. '90
JoAnne (Rennie) Nelmes	Feb. '89
Deborah (Hughes) Shields	Sept. '79
Sandra Stam	Feb. '90
Joan (Vandeven) Woodley	Sept. '89

Three applications were rejected this year as they did not meet the criteria for eligibility. ie. the students had not taken their courses between August 31, 2008 and September 01, 2009. They were encouraged to apply again in 2010.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lynne (Meir-Gildea) Dunbar Sept.'65 for her interest in the Education Committee and assisting with the selection process.

The committee welcomes applications from VGH/SON graduates and graduates from the UBC/VGH Collaborative Program for the 2010 Alumnae bursary award program. Inquiries and request for application forms can be made by phoning the Alumnae Office at 604-875-4111- local 62049 (please leave a message) or by email to Joan Kerr at [ajkerr44@hotmail.com](mailto:ajkerr44@hotmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,

*Joan Kerr*

*Chairman Education Committee*

# ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS - MARCH 2, 2010

## 2009 FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE

Our yearly deliveries of the Spring Florals remain a huge success. This past year we sent 22 orchid arrangements in the lower mainland, plus 3 on Vancouver Island and 2 in Nelson. All recipients were pleased to be remembered, enjoying a visit with their deliverers and talking of their nursing days.

We were also able to send 4 get well cards, 3 floral arrangements, and remembered 20 obituaries. Unfortunately there were some that we did not have an address for to send a card, but we still remember them and include them in our binder. A gift certificate & card were also given to Peggy Etchell at the AGM, to thank her for her many years of service to the Alumnae, and her special gift with organizing our Archives.

We are very grateful to our many volunteers and once again, extend our thanks. We would like to acknowledge Gail McKay, Anne Derksen, Jacquie Aird, Jennie Leese, Betty Kirkwood, Ethel Warbinek and members of our Executive. Also, thanks to Nancy Gregson on the Island & Nadiene Easton in Nelson.

This past December we lost Norma Boyle, who has delivered in the White Rock area for several years. She passed away at Hospice.

Once again, if you know of someone who is in need of some cheer, please let the Friendship Committee know so that we can include them on our list.

Respectfully submitted

*Diane Parker / Lorna Hoare*  
*Co-chairs, Friendship Committee*

## SUCCESSFUL FUND RAISING FOR OUR ARCHIVES.

*Continued from page 5*

Beverly O'Loan  
Beattie Paradis  
Norma Parker  
Trudi Perkes  
Christine Phillips  
Ivy Phillips  
Trudy Phillips  
Elizabeth Piper-Lapp  
Patricia Poole  
Gwen Proust  
Barbara Quenville  
Marion Reaburn  
Betty Redfern  
Norval Rhodes  
Christine Robertson  
Catherine Robinson  
Diane Robinson  
Nancy Semke  
Helen Saunders  
Irene Senft  
Joan Sharman  
Joan Schinbein  
Helen Shore  
Sheila Silversides  
Donna Sinclair  
Joyce Smallwood  
Carol Smith  
Jan Smith  
Jean Smith  
Kathleen Rosloski

Maureen Speed  
Marietta Stangroom  
Darlene Stewart  
Dorothy Sullivan  
Carole Teather  
Elaine Tinckler  
Deanna Turnbull  
Nell Turner  
Lucy Turri  
Elizabeth Underhill  
Jill Wall  
Patricia Whalley  
Daphne Walstron  
Barbara Ward  
Marion Weeks  
Idelle Watkins  
Mary Watt  
Marion Weeks  
Gail Whitley  
Tena Wiebe  
Donna Whyte  
Eva Williamson  
Margaret Willaimson  
Katherine Woods  
Nancy Wright  
Shirley Wright  
Elizabeth Wynne  
Sheila Yeomans  
Valentia Young  
Lydia Zingel

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2010

The executive of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association for the year 2010 is as follows:

### Officers:

- President – **Kathy Murphy**
- Vice President – **Mary Raikes –Tindle**
- Recording Secretary – **Vivian Blake**
- Acting Treasurer – **Norma Guttormsson**
- Executive Member – **Kay Raisbeck**
- Exec. Secretary – **Norma Guttormsson**

### Committee Chairmen:

- Archives/Artifacts – **Betty-Anne Rogers & Ethel Warbinek** – Co-chairs
- Education – **Joan Kerr**
- Friendship – **Lorna Hoare & Diane Parker** – Co- chairs
- Membership – **Anne Williams**
- Publicity – **Ethel Warbinek**

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Kay Raisbeck*

## 2009 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Once again it has been a busy year for Membership. The number of paid up members has decreased again from 1213 in 2008 to 1152. Some of this might be due to members' deaths, some have moved, or have some lost interest?

We appreciate the up-to-date addresses that the class reps send and try to send a letter of introduction to those who have not paid fees recently. It is important to stress that we do not give out information from these lists to any other organization.

However, if a class is planning a reunion we would be happy to give all the help we can in tracing "lost members." The following is a list of missing class lists. Although it is shorter than last year we still need your help—

1972 . . . . .allclasses  
1973 . . . . .February  
1974 . . . . .September  
1976 . . . . .all classes  
1977 . . . . .all classes  
1978 . . . . .February  
1979 . . . . .all classes  
1980 . . . . .September  
1981 . . . . .February  
1982 . . . . .September  
1984 . . . . .all classes  
1985 . . . . .September  
1986 . . . . .all classes  
1987 . . . . .September  
1989 . . . . .all classes  
1991 . . . . .February

There were 186 introductory letters mailed in 2009 but the rate of reply was only 20%. Interestingly there was a better response to the reminder letters sent to those who had not renewed their membership for 2009. Of 302 letters mailed, 64% sent in their fees frequently accompanied by a much appreciated note.

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

## PIN BANK

Although the bank still exists we have not received any requests for replacement pins

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

**If you are a UBC graduate – Mark your calendar  
Advance notice of the annual UBC SON Alumni luncheon.  
Date: May 29, 2010 Place: UBC Botanical Garden.**

## VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Research Award

This award was presented to **Priscilla Taipale** at the VGH research day last year. The award supports nurses working at Vancouver Acute to conduct research related to patient care, nursing practice and the health care system.



*Kathy Murphy, president of VGH SON Alumnae presents award to Priscilla Taipale*

## Registered Nurses Foundation of B.C.

**The VGH School of Nursing Alumnae created a bursary to be managed by the RNFBC in 1984 with an initial gift of \$5,000. Since then there have been additional gifts from the Alumnae Association in 1987 and 1995. In 1998, Margaret (McCutcheon) Wildman, who graduated in 1935, gave another donation and then in 2002 a donation was given from the proceeds from the sale of the VGH Manor. As of December 2009, the restricted capital in this fund was over \$375,000.**

The initial bursary was designated for graduates of the VGH School of Nursing and the UBC/VGH Collaborative program, but as the programs ended the bursary was revised to include the children of graduates.

In October, 2009, the RNFBC celebrated 30 years of providing bursaries for basic and graduate nurses continuing their education at the baccalaureate, masters and PhD level. In December 2009, 97 bursaries were awarded from the various funds managed by the RNFBC. The VGH School of Nursing Bursary was awarded to 10 winners for a total of \$13,750.

More information on how to apply for a bursary or how to donate to the VGH Bursary at the RNFBC can be found on the website at [www.mfbc.ca](http://www.mfbc.ca). Information can also be obtained by writing the RNFBC, PO Box 33957, Station D, Vancouver B.C. V6J 4L7. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$50.00 or more.

## THE VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNAE BURSARY

**The VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Bursary at the RNFBC was created in 1984 with an initial gift of \$5,000. Since then there have been additional gifts from the Alumnae Association in 1987 and 1995. In 1998, Margaret (McCutcheon) Wildman, who graduated in 1935, gave another donation and then in 2002 a donation was given from the proceeds from the sale of the VGH Manor. As of December 31, 2008, the restricted capital in this fund was \$374,447.**

The Vancouver City Hospital Training School for Nurses began in 1899. The name was changed in 1902 to the VGH Training School. A combined UBC/VGH nursing program commenced in 1919 and existed until 1958 when UBC implemented its own undergraduate program. In 1989, a collaborative nursing program was established with the UBC School of Nursing. The last VGH class graduated in 1991. Until May 1998, the students graduated with a BSN degree from UBC. At that time, VGH withdrew funding for the collaborative program. In 99 years the school graduated 8,768 new nurses.

The initial bursary was designated for graduates of the VGH School of Nursing and the UBC/VGH Collaborative program, but as the programs ended the bursary was revised to include the children of graduates.

The Alumnae Association is pleased to be able to provide funding for graduates of these programs as they continue to develop in their careers

*By Kathy Murphy, President of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae*

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## Excerpts from thank you letters from recipients of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Bursary

### Jill Purcha

#### Student Nurse BSN Program, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

I want to thank the Alumnae Association very much for the extremely generous award. It will help a great deal towards schooling costs as I complete my BSN. I am very proud to be an alumnae of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing and wish the program still existed so my daughter could have the opportunity to create amazing memories there, as I have.

### Debra Mayer, RN, BSN

#### MSN Program, University of Victoria

I am proud to be a VGH graduate (class of September 1980) and am honoured to receive this bursary. The funding from this award will enable me to continue my master's studies at the University of Victoria. My thesis involves the notion of "knowing self as spirit" and the healing that emerges as individuals embark upon and move through their end-of-life journey. I am hopeful that my research will improve the quality of life for all individuals in the hospice palliative community.

### Rhodina Hobbs, RN, BSN

#### MSN Program, UBC Okanagan

After graduating from VGH's School of Nursing in 1983, I feel very fortunate to have had opportunities to continue my education. The financial support provided to me to be able to complete a Masters in the Science of Nursing through the University of British Columbia Okanagan with significantly less stress. As I enter the winter semester, I have one more course to complete in addition to my thesis. My thesis is a naturalist inquiry using qualitative description as a method. I am exploring the concept of helpfulness in relation to healthcare services as perceived by the homeless and/or otherwise marginalized clients of the Cammy LaFleur Street Clinic and Street Nurse Outreach Program.

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## INFECTION CONTROL-DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

As many of you are aware, infection control has become a global concern in the past year with the various outbreaks. At VGH, a major campaign was launched to make all staff, patients and visitors aware of how to prevent infection.

It was thought that the graduates of our school of nursing may have some interesting stories to share as to how they carried out infection control measures when they were working.

If you are interested in sharing a story and a photo of you in the past, please send these to the Kathy Murphy, VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association, 855 West 12th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1M9. Permission should also be given to have your story used in the hospital infection control project.

# KEEPING IN TOUCH -CLASS NEWS

## 1940s

**Joan (Underhill) Bryant Jan'43** wrote to say she lost her husband Nov 28.08 otherwise is Ok – enjoying reading and art work and hearing from old friends. She wanted to tell us how impressed her younger sister is with the care at VGH. Enid Underhill as been a frequent patient at VGH and can't say enough good things about my old Alma Mater - cleanliness, infection control, nursing care. She should know as she was an infection control technician. Miss Yates taught us infection control and she would be horrified at conditions in some hospitals today! I think things deteriorated when the nurses training was taken out of the hospital setting and given to the junior colleges.

**Bonnie (Hoyt) Scott Jan'49** wrote from London ON to say she enjoyed a big family visit in BC in August 2009. She wanted to come back and live. In London, she has many relatives now - 3 daughters live there.

## 1950s

**Florence (Kimball) Tickner, Feb'53** writes to say she is now driving for the Cancer Clinic after having a total hip replacement in September. Also driving for hubby, Les, as he is now using an electric cart. "We are still doing pretty good, after almost 55 years together. Wonderful seeing **Nita, Trudy, Laddie** etc this summer."

**Joyce (Warren) Smallwood Sept' 57** reports that **Kathleen (Thompson) Wilson** is caring for her terminally ill husband Peter at home. Kathy has also undergone recent knee replacement surgery, which has added considerably to her stress. The Wilsons hosted our classmates on visits to Melbourne, Australia before their recent move to Tasmania. Kathy would no doubt appreciate hearing from her VGH alums. **Ruth (Low) Schiller** has just returned from an African safari. **Hannah (Hudson) Spatola** and **Beverly (Knowlden) Gray** will be in town in late April, so classmates can look forward to a get-together then. Thanks, to **Arden (Gardner) Kidd**

## 1960s

Sept'61

In 2009, classmates really have made considerable strides, literally, as many have travelled extensively to a great variety of places all over the globe. Cruise ship companies love us! We remain quite a mobile group despite the fact that, in 2010, we will all be at least 70. None of us can quite believe that – after all, that was the age of your mother, your aunt, BUT certainly not YOU! We keep in touch in many ways – and a number of

mini reunions are held on an ongoing basis, whether in Vancouver, Victoria, Las Vegas – or other places. Our class has sadly dwindled by 2 classmates this past year, **Barbara (Slye) McCombe**, who died in August, and **Joyce (Griffin) Markel** who passed away after a short illness in October. They will be missed. A few of us are still working casually or volunteering in nursing related positions. Most have retired and are doing things that concern them extensively. Many have added new members to their families, most with new grandchildren, but in several cases, new great grandchildren. We are prolific lot as we have many children amongst us, so much so that our family tree would be very large at this point! Quite a few are finally finding they have the time to pursue long awaited hobbies, and we have a number who are budding artists and other crafters. Keeping, getting, or trying to get in shape, is a topic often discussed in communications with each other. As we have grown gently more "wise", (the "O" word is not in vogue), most of us have had some health problems, and a few unfortunate classmates have serious or very serious health issues. As we head into our 50th Reunion, next year, our Class is beginning the planning and organizing of that auspicious event, although what exactly we are going to do has yet to be decided. A questionnaire sent to everyone at Christmas has elicited some interesting responses as there are many options. However, it is a certain thing that whatever we do the MOST important part is renewing our long time friendships. Alas, our Address List is missing a few Class members, some who have not been in touch for years. So, if any Alumnae members can shed a light on their location, it would be greatly appreciated. On that list are **Lynne Adams or Pettus (Stromberg), Pat (Ruse) Hagen, Anne (Ironsides) Richardson, Eugenie (Wright) Poole**. In synopsis, currently in our class, we have 3 snowbirds living between the US and Canada, 8 living in the US, 1 in Europe, 4 in Ontario, with everyone else (49 classmates) living in beautiful BC.

Submitted by **Nancy (Bain) Gregson**

Our 2011 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion contact: **Nancy Gregson, 250-658-8087** or email [nancy10187@aol.com](mailto:nancy10187@aol.com).

## 1970s

**Diane Kroeger Sept'75** writes to say that while visiting family in the Okanagan in October, she met up with **June Gallagher** who was cycling in Oliver. They had a nice visit. A week later she visited **Betty (Janse) Bjornson** in Westbank. It had been 14 years since they had seen each other. She contin-

ues to work part-time in hospice and enjoys the unique atmosphere.

## 1980s

**Lynn (O'Donovan) Lock, Sept'89** writes to say she is currently working at Creekside Withdrawal Management Centre in Surrey and would like to hear from other classmates.

## REUNIONS: CELEBRATING THE MEMORIES

### 2010 reunions

**Sept.'50** Plans are underway for the celebration of our 60th Anniversary, April 30th to May 2<sup>nd</sup>, culminating at the Alumnae Luncheon in May. Twenty-two graduates, plus husbands / daughters / friends, will gather for a weekend of renewing friendships and sharing memories. Information - contact [Vivian—ivblake@shaw.ca](mailto:Vivian—ivblake@shaw.ca)

**August'56** will be meeting at the Glenhouse Resort on the St Lawrence River Oct 5-7, 2010. Please book on their web site [www.glenhousesort.com](http://www.glenhousesort.com) under UBC Nurses Reunion. Activities include: Boat Tour of the 1000 Islands and Tour of Bolt Castle or Singer Castle, play at Gananoque Playhouse and dinner. Other Options- Tour Rideau Canal locks at Jones Falls, Chaffey's Lock or St Lawrence Seaway Lock at Iroquois; day in Ottawa, or tour Brockville's Fulford House and lunch/supper at the McClintocks. Looking forward to seeing everyone! For information contact **Elaine McClintock**: [emcclintock.i@sympatico.ca](mailto:emcclintock.i@sympatico.ca).

**Sept' 65** will gather in Whistler from September 17-19, 2010 to celebrate their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As usual, we will enjoy the Friday evening reception, a full day of activities on Saturday with a western BBQ that evening. For those who have not registered yet, please contact **Fran McDonald** at 604-946-2328 or **Kathy Murphy** at 604-739-6931.

**The Class of Feb.70** are hoping to get together in Sept. 2010 to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Would fellow classmates please contact: **Joan Murphy (Vallance)** – 604 465-7114. Email: [joanmmurphy4@yahoo.ca](mailto:joanmmurphy4@yahoo.ca) or **Gail Hawke (Hogdkins)** 250 545-5502 Email: [gail\\_hawke@hotmail.com](mailto:gail_hawke@hotmail.com)

**Feb'75 – 35<sup>th</sup>** reunion will be held in



# REUNIONS: CELEBRATING THE MEMORIES

Kelowna, June 4-6, 2010. For information and accommodations, please call **Cheryl Dunlop** at 604 796 3935.

## 2012 reunions

**Feb'77 35th reunion.** A group of us are now starting to think about our 35th reunion. We are planning it for 2012. Time and place yet to be determined. Please contact **Rhonda Cromarty** and let her know your whereabouts. [e-mails and home addresses. contact info : E-mail- ancrom@telus.net 11910 97A Ave Surrey B.C. Phone- 604 -583- 7308 and or **Wilma Bully** Email:wilmabully@hotmail.com]

## 2009 reunions

### January 1949

A happy hour of coffee and chatter, organized by **Bev (Jeffares) Atkinson** preceded the Alumnae Luncheon May 3, 2009 at the Masonic Centre. Twelve graduates of our class attended and enjoyed sharing conversations of today and past memories. There were many laughs due to comparing lumps, bumps, aches and pains. All in all everyone looked very well. On a sad note, I received word after the luncheon of the demise of **Rae (Swartfiguer) Barnard** on May 29, 2009. She had been ill and when found, her invitation for the luncheon was unopened. I talked with her son and sent our condolences to the family.

Thank you **Lois Wilson** for sending this.

**Sept' 49 – 60th anniversary** was celebrated in



January '49

Beverly Jeffares Atkinson & Margaret (Peg) Parker Nygard

Doreen Feris Canning & Ruth Clark Darby

June. Most attendees were from Vancouver, the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island. Despite the years, members showed their old vim and

vigour in reminiscences of training days and stories of their lives since then. Laughter and good food make the day an enjoyable and memorable one. It was co-chaired by **Shelagh (Wheeler) Smith, Mary (Plews) Semple** and **Doreen Pope** who unfortunately was unable to attend. Sad news: Doreen Pope died December 26, 2009 at Hospice House in Vernon. **Sept'52** gathered on September 4 & 5, 2009



Sept 1949

*Front Row: Mary Plews Semple, Co-chair; Betty Caplette MacMichael; Muriel Penn "Penny", Mary MacDiarmid Herman, Host; Back Row: Sylvia Nielsen; Jean Elliot Morrey; Shirley Gowe LeBrasseur; Marion Boyle; Shelagh Wheeler Smith, Co-chair; Dottie Everett Roskill; Vee Packman Staples; Norma Morris Mooney; Kay Radcliff Cowtan; June Hodges Mussenden; Genie Butler Wilson; Missing, Doreen Pope, Co-chair*

to celebrate their 57<sup>th</sup> year since graduation with classmates coming from Denver, Australia and Toronto. The event started with a no-host dinner at the Plaza 500 at Cambie and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The following day **June "Robbie" (Robson) McKenzie** was hostess at her home for lunch and that evening a final banquet at the hotel – lots of reminiscing and catching up on current news as we once again shared that special bond with our classmates.

### Feb' 54 Reunion – 55 years

The Vancouver Island class members arranged a great 3-day mid week reunion in May at the Old Dutch Inn in Qualicum Bay. Many enjoyed the indoor pool, walking on the seawall and visiting the antique shops, but as **Norma (Anderson) Cobern** wrote from California – "the fun we had getting together makes it seem like time has stood still." There were less than 20 attending so that was a disappointment. We discussed a reunion

in 2011 or 2012. Any ideas? Write to **Reta Kidd**, #811 – 928 Beatty Street, Vancouver BC V6Z 3G6. Missing from the photo - **Gerry (Murray) Morrow**.

### Sept '54- 55th reunion

Many thank to our class committee (**Kay Raisbeck, Marg Shugg, Carol Sinclair (Bride) and Mario Watanabe** who organized a won-

derful three-day event for us. Lunchtime at Granville Island Hotel on Saturday let us all remember, laugh and catch up on each other's lives. Have we changed in spirit? I don't think so. It was as if we stepped back in time!

On Sunday 16 were able to attend the May 3rd Alumnae Lunch enjoying the lunch, the speakers, visiting and meeting alumnae from other years. Merio arranged for classmates and guests to meet at the new Richmond Oval on Monday for a very interesting tour.

A newsletter was sent out to the whole class list with updates (and emails) from those attending the reunion and news from those unable to attend who sent regrets and best wishes.

Sadly **Jean Hardie (Begg)** died on Jan. 30, 2010.

**Feb'55** met for a "mini reunion" in July 2009 to celebrate their 54<sup>th</sup> reunion, in the beautiful garden of **Loretta (Diasy) Wick** in North Vancouver. Assisting Loretta with the lunch were **Amy (Cherney) Hamilton, Margie (Hoare) Neate, and Diane (Jardine) Lindsay**. Nineteen classmates were able to come from the Island, Sunshine Coast, Lower Mainland, Okanagan and Calgary. A wonderful afternoon was spent renewing old friendships. Thank you Loretta for getting us all together. Sent by **Diane Lindsay**.

**Aug'58/UBC1959 BSN** class celebrated the 50th year in June.

# REUNIONS: CELEBRATING THE MEMORIES



2009 marked fifty years since our class graduated from the UBC SON degree program. Our celebration was held on the waterfront of Vancouver Island on June 10th & 11th in perfect weather. We first gathered at the home of **Daryl (Dede) Giegerich Achtem** in Qualicum for dinner and entertainment. We were delighted to be greeted at the door by Dede wearing her original uniform – including the cap! Brunch was enjoyed the next day at the home of **Barbara (Mckenzie) Baker** in Parksville. Our good friend, **Dr. Elvi Waik Whittaker**, an anthropologist, was our special guest. We enjoyed reminiscing with her about her thesis at UBC. In 1956, each student in our class participated in a case study and it was amazing to hear our comments and opinions from back then – unidentified, thankfully!



**Daryl Giegerich Achtem - fondly known as Dede - could still wear her uniform - here's a photo taken at our reunion, but the socks and shoes didn't quite fit.**

In Sept. 1955, we had enrolled in First Year at UBC and then continued our program at the VGH SON in May 1956 when we embarked on the journey to become RNs. Following graduation in 1958, we completed the degree in the fall of 1959. We fondly remember the hallowed brick and stone walls of the Heather Pavilion – the tunnel connecting us to our cherished residence life – where friendships were bonded forever.

Thanks to **Norma Guttormsson** Feb'64 had their

45th year reunion at the Lake Okanagan Resort on Sept 18-20, 2009.

Friday evening a lovely brunch party. Saturday swimming, golf or wine tour with a big dinner in the evening. **Bernice Muir** gave a wonderful slide show of our nursing class pictures and pictures of her trips to Inuvik where she worked, Tanzania, Israel, Ottawa and her visit

wore her leopard bra and said she would never miss a reunion.

We lost our dear classmate **Sharon (Hughes) Miller** this year. The plan is to have our next reunion in 2014 in Vancouver in a large hotel (in case we're all using walkers). Also will have everything catered to give the wonderful organizing committees a break. Thank you to this year's committee. Sent in by **Margaret (Godwin) Sage**.

**Feb' 74** held a reunion in Vancouver from May 15th through 17th. Our headquarters were at the Hampton Inn and Suites in downtown Vancouver.

In total, 35 of our class attended one or more of our events. We had a meet and greet on Friday night at the hotel and **Rita Seipp**, our Ortho instructor, joined us there. The weather cooperated for our walk around False Creek and lunch at Granville Island on Saturday. Then we had a great dinner at the Boathouse Restaurant on Saturday night. We even started planning for our 40th reunion in 2014!



*February '74 reunion at Granville Island*

to Iqaluit. On Sunday there was a lovely breakfast brunch.

Thank you **Wendy (Macey) Altomare**

Our class which is down to 57, had 30 attending. **Diane Voripaief** from Nova Scotia



*Class of Sept '54 55th reunion*

## 2009 LUNCHEON SPEAKERS



*Marilyn Taylor Sept'59*



*Eileen Depeel Feb'59*



*Jo Mary Hunter Aug'59*



*Dr. E. Bryce, VGH Dept. of Microbiology gave an overview of the H1N1 pandemic, how to prevent the spread and treatment*



*Anne Sutherland Boal*

## MY CAP

**H**ere it lies on the top of a parcel of laundry just a strip of folded linen pressed quite flat, an inanimate object, most insignificant in appearance and yet how precious! With a certain twist of the fingers and two common pins that bit of linen becomes a very precise cap with the regulation four-and-one-half-square forming the back, all corners at right angles and not one visible wrinkle. This is an exacting process and usually demands doing on the night I am most weary or the morning when I have managed an extra forty winks.

It is something of a tyrant and like a willful child can cause much consternation by taking on an inconceivable number of oblique lines and obtuse angles. It is also full of temperament and promptly proceeds to make its wearer look ridiculous as a clown in a circus if it is just an infinitesimal part of an inch out of plumb or springs loose from its moorings to ride on the nape of the neck.

Nor does it always retain its crisp, immaculate appearance. Just let it meet a few stray raindrops or come in contact with a screen at a patient's bedside, and where can you find a weary and more dejected object?

Surely it is not an easy cap to satisfy - but, like an erring child, I love it with complete understanding. It is my cherished possession.

During the unforgettable days of my preliminary period of training, it began to impress me most vividly. It no longer was merely part of a uniform, an entirely useless bit of muslin perched on the head of a nurse but a thing of charm and magic, an object which filled me with definite longings intermingled with a keen consciousness of the gulf between myself and those whose privilege it was to wear it.

What a happy day when it became a possession! My whole world changed. Patients asked my advice. Doctors discovered my existence; friends beamed upon me. All of which I realized were tributes to that bit of crisp white linen.

But now that my student days have passed, my cap is even more precious. It is a sign of my profession. By virtue of its own design it represents my training school - the dear old institution which for three years taught me nursing principles and practices and whose imprint will be part of me for the rest of my life. In strange places an under strange circumstances it becomes the tie between the present and the past. In it are compounded my profession, my training school and myself.

*Source: 1930 VGH student annual p.53, Author unknown*



*Jim Patterson Pavilion window displays done by Janie Birkeland, & Betty Anne Rogers*

### *Continued from page 2* **Remembering**

like people and have a willingness to serve. They have to be innovative and young people these days fall far more easily into that category because of their more outgoing nature".

Margaret Faulkner died in 1986.

*From an article written by Vicki O'Brien, Tuesday, April 30, 1974 and published in a local Vancouver newspaper.*

## Honorary Members

Mrs. Matilda Bara  
Miss Jean Fernie  
Mr. D.E. McTaggart

Mr. Charlie Etchell  
Dr. Don Hutchins  
Mrs. Nellie Ryzak

## Life Members

Sharon (Francis) Baxter '62

Vivian Blake (Jackson) '50

Peggy Etchell (Thompson) '51

Barbara Gillies '46

Evelyn Holob (Anderson) '51

Sheila Kirk (Poersch) '61

Kathleen Murphy (McCutcheon) '65

Diane Parker (Sjerve) Feb '68)

Kay Raisbeck '54

Helen Saunders '39

Margaret Shugg '54

Jean Tsuyuki (Lyons) '57

Ethel Warbinek (McIntyre) '56

Anne E. Williams '54

Janie Birkeland (Schwab) '66

Hazel Boulton (Bell) '32

Dr. Beverly Du Gas (Witter) '45

Lorna Hoare (Snider) Feb '66)

Adelaide Hutchins (MacLean) '53

Mrs. Eleanor McTaggart (White) '47

Dr. Helen Mussallem '37

Trudy Phillips (Smith) '53

Betty-Anne Rogers '57

Nancy Semke (Bouzovetsky) '57

Mavis Standfield (Coleman) '51

Pat Wadsworth (Beck) '54

Mary Watt (MacKinnon) '54

Marjorie Wilson (Espley) '35

## Janie (Schwab) Birkeland Feb'66 Honoured



*Life Membership was awarded to Janie (Schwab) Birkeland Feb'66 at the Lunch for her valuable contribution over the years to the Archival Committee, especially her work with displays and uniforms.*

## CHANGES AT VGH

- A new \$60 million research centre is being built at Laurel Street and West 10th Ave.

It will become VGH headquarters for developing new treatment and cures for prostate and ovarian cancer as well as hip mobility problems. It is expected to be completed by spring 2011. It will be named The Robert H.N. Ho Research Centre. The Ho's family foundation donated \$15 million towards to cost of the centre. The provincial government contributed \$22.5 million and the federal government \$24.7 million.

- Renovation of historic Heather Pavilion - revealing the original building.

Work has begun on the renovation of Heather Pavilion. The main addition on West 10th Ave is being demolished and we have been informed that the beautiful rose garden that once was the "pride of Vancouver" will be restored. So far we are safe in our present location at the south end of the building.



*Heather Pavilion at the time of its completion. This part of the VGH site was the original Vancouver General Hospital, built in 1906. The first patients were 47 people that were transported from the old hospital by horse-drawn ambulance across a plank bridge that spanned False Creek. The original VGH site was designed and built by George W. Grant, who also designed the Carnegie Library at Main and Hastings.*



*Peggy Etchell retiring chair of the Archives Committee, is thanked by Kathy Murphy for the service she has given over the years.*



*At the 2010 AGM retiring Chair of Finance Committee, Sharon Baxter was honoured for her work with the VGH SON Alumnae Association.*

# NURSES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Beverly Du Gas '45

**This well known author has published another book - The best damn school in the country: The Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing 1957-1965. The book contains her reminiscences about the School and various happenings during the time she was Director.**

Bev is well known, both nationally and internationally, for her work in nursing education and for her nursing textbooks which have been widely used throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the South Pacific.



She was made a member of the Order of B.C. in 1999 followed by a member of the Order of Canada in 2001 for her contributions to the health field.

Her newest book can be ordered through the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association, 855 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver BC V5Z 1M9; \$20 plus \$4.95 shipping and handling.

## Rose Murakami Feb' 59

**Rose Murakami and her brother Richard were selected from the local Japanese-Canadian community to meet Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko during their historic visit to BC last year.**

The choice was fitting as Rose and Richard had generously donated half an acre of land worth \$1.2 million to help build the 27-unit Murakami Gardens, Salt Springs' first affordable housing project. The Murakami family suffered greatly during 1940's and experienced widespread racism but in spite of this, they wished to honour their parents and thank the Island community. As Rose said: "I hope what we're being recognized for is giving back to our community and to be able to be positive about the many things that happened to our family on Salt Spring Island." She also said if she got the chance, she would tell the Emperor that "Canada has changed in terms of being multicultural and making it more comfortable for people of colour to live here among citizens as equals."

This memorable event was held on Saturday, July 11, 2009 at Government house in Victoria. It was touch and go as to whether Richard would be able to attend as he had been hospitalized prior to the visit. Fortunately he recov-

ered sufficiently to make the trip to Victoria. The Consul-General of Japan, Mr. Seiichi Otsuka, learning of Richard's health problems, arranged for special vehicle access inside Government House. Rose and Richard were two of the few people personally introduced to the Emperor and Empress. "Then the Empress came over especially to talk to Richard again, said Rose



**Rose & Richard Murakami with Emperor Akihito & Empress Michiko at Government House in Victoria. Photo by ken sakamoto**

and "I got to shake the Emperor's hand three times." They spoke to the 125th monarchs about the Murakami name which comes down from the seventh son of the 62nd emperor.

All of us congratulate both of you for this great honour so richly deserved.

Special thanks to **Mary Kitagawa**, Rose's sister for providing the above information.

## Billie Williamson Jan '40

Billie Williamson has written a book about her experiences titled *Billie girl: a story of life in progress* which was published in 2007. Billie donated a copy which has been placed in the CRNBC library. Call # WZ 100 L33 2007.

## VGH Nursing Staff honoured

The VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation, along with Professional Practice Nursing for Vancouver Acute, acknowledged nine nursing staff

at an awards tea in October 2009. Recipients receive monetary awards to help finance their education. These awards are offered every year by the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Building Society/Associ-



**VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Building Society Association Oct 7, 2009 (2)**

ation. Two of the recipients this year were VGH Graduates:

**Donna Brett Sept' 72** CML Neurosciences, and **Kerri Berrymann, Sept' 86.** Patient Services Manager for Acute Medicine/Medical Assessment Unit. Kerri was awarded the 2009 Clara Y. Lim Scholarship based on her leadership qualities that contribute to the improvement of patient care through preceptorship, mentorship, development of standards of practice and involvement in leadership activities.

## CELEBRATING CANADIAN NURSES!

**Mary Kershaw Sept'48** was asked to cut the cake at a ceremony on June 19, 2008 in Nelson to publicize the release Canada-wide of the commemorative stamp recognizing 100 years of Canadian nursing. It was sponsored by Canada Post's Nelson branch.

In her letter to us Mary said she "could not figure out how come the honour came to me until one of my friends said - don't you realize you were the oldest person there - 105. I have had an interesting life."



## *In Memoriam*

	Grad name	Given name	Married Name
1932	Reid	Chelta	Snowsell
1938	Ketchum	Elinor	Colquhoun
1938	Malcolm	Mary	MacKinnon
1943	Carter	Bernice	Harvey
1944	Kenny	Wanda	McConnell
1944	MacQuarrie	Joanne	Dunford
1945	Hobden*	Betty	Berry
1946	Arnold	Doris May	Wold
1946	Balfour	Betty	Kelvin
1946	Broadwood	Mary	Ensworth
1946	Knowles	Marion	McIntire
1946	Messinger	Anne	Boyes
1947	Greenhorn *	Doreen	Clarke
1948	Boake	Irene	
1949	Cambon	Noreen	
1949	Hazeldine	Lorraine	Guichon
1949	MacKay	Joan	Counsel
1949	Pope	Doreen	
1949	Smiley	Lorna	
1949	Smith	Marguerite	Haywood
1949	Stewart	Peggy	McKillop
1949	Swartfiguer	Rae	Wohlschlegel
1950	Cure	Sheila	Grant
1952	Gill	Shirley	Phillips
1952	MacLeod	Winifred	Boyle
1952	Robertson	Elizabeth	Giles
1953	Murray	Anne	Williams
1954	Begg*	Margaret Jean	Hardie
1955	Slade	Jocelyn	Cramb
1957	Chapman*	Jacquie	
1957	Hewitt	Loretta	Peereboom
1957	Niles	Yvonne	Goheen
1958	Anderson	Anne	Jack
1958	Copeman*	Edith Ann	Hungerford
1958	Janzen`	Johanna	Lowther
1959	Stark	Mary	Anderson
1960	Heselton	Lynette	James
1961	Griffin	Joyce	Markel
1961	Slye	Barbara	McCombe
1962	Zmud	Leona	Eickson
1962	Tullidge	Ann	Eliot
1963	Fisher	Janet	McCormick
1964	Caverly	Judy	McLean
1964	Giegerich	Helen	Mark
1964	Hughes	Sharon	Miller
1969	McDougall	Eva-Marie	Marchioro
1971	Cannon	Betsy	
1971	Woods	Cheryl	Carpenter
1975	Macdonald	Lorelei	O'Byrne

\* UBC

## **Remembering**

### **Doreen Pope '49, UBC BASc(N)**

**1949**

**Doreen was born in Vancouver, the eldest daughter of Harold and Arthena Pope and the granddaughter of Dr. S.D. Pope, who was instrumental in the establishment of the public education system in BC.**

Doreen attended schools in Golden, Merritt and Courtenay before attending UBC. She graduated from VGH in 1949, with a BASc(N) from UBC in 1950 and later a BA from the University of Victoria.

Her career included V.O.N., Community Health Nursing in Vernon, Victoria and Burns Lake. She also taught obstetrics at Royal Jubilee Hospital and at St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Victoria.

A consummate traveller, Doreen made her first trip to London in 1953 where she worked in public health at the East End. Then to Montreal to study obstetrics. Following this, she was with the 4 Fighter Wing, Canadian Air Base in Germany. Many trips were made to Asia, Australia, New Zealand and South America.

She did not forget her roots, and travelled with her father to Fort St. John, where he taught in 1910. An art lover and intellectual, Doreen treasured her friends and was fiercely loyal. A busy person, she pursued gardening, lawn bowling, Scottish Country Dancing, bridge, attending concerts, plays and symphonies, skiing and golfing.

Seven years before her death, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and remained active. Doreen died on December 26, 2009 in Vernon. *Source: Sunday January 3, 2010. The Morning Star, B13.*

### **Noreen "Nonie" Cambon Jan'49**

**June 22, 1919 – April 7, 2009**

**Noreen, known affectionately as "Nonie" graduated from Commissioners' High School in Quebec City and worked first as a secretary in the Quebec Ministry of Education.**

She began training as a nurse in Hamilton but discontinued this when she learned her brother Kenneth was declared missing in action after the fall of Hong Kong. She felt a need to serve, so joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and was one of the first to serve overseas in the RCAF's women's contingent, where she quickly achieved officer rank.

Nonie became very involved in the newly developed and secret field of radar. She liked to talk about meeting Frank Sinatra and Guy Lombardo at the Stage Door Canteen in New York. After the war, she resumed her nursing career, first at the University of Toronto, and then

at VGH where she received the gold medal award at graduation.

Her love of military life drew her into the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps where she served as a nurse from 1950-1968. She served with distinction in responsible positions in Europe and throughout Canada. While in Manitoba, her encounter with a hungry polar bear always made for a good tale. She retired from RCAMC as a major and moved to Vancouver where she worked as a medical secretary and for RNABC.

Nonie loved to travel and was a great travelling companion. She is remembered for her love of simple things such as writing letters and in keeping in touch with family and friends. While at Granville Park Lodge, according to Nonie, "she was the matron in charge," nursing to the end.

She died on April 7, 2009.



**Noreen Cambon**  
Jan '49

## Jacqueline (Jacquie) Sue

**Chapman Aug '57**  
1935-2009



**B**orn Vancouver about 1935, she was raised in the city and attended schools there, including Lord Byng High School, graduating in the spring of 1953.

She then entered the BSN program at the UBC School of Nursing which involved two academic years on campus, 28 months at VGH followed by one academic year back on the UBC campus. She graduated from VGH in 1957 and received her BSN in May 1958. Following graduation, she was a head nurse on C5 then moved to an instructor position at the UBC School of Nursing from September 1962 to September 1965.

She moved to Cleveland to take her master of science in nursing degree from Case Western Reserve University, working part-time as an instructor in medical-surgical nursing. During teaching stints in other U.S. colleges and universities, including Cornell University, where she taught research, she carried out her own research projects in perinatology in premature and low-birth weight infants. She was named an American Nurses Foundation Scholar in

1971.

A PhD in Nursing from New York University was completed in early 1975. She then returned to Canada to teach in the Nursing program at the University of Toronto and quickly became a full professor.

Jacquie was the first nurse in Canada to be awarded the prestigious National Health Research Scholar Awards, and received these for the maximum six years from 1975 to 1981.

She garnered many honors including invitations to serve as post-doctoral visiting scholar the University of Washington (Seattle) and the University of California (San Francisco) and was the March of Dimes Summer Research Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania in June 1991 and June 1992. She was especially proud of having been a student of and later an honored colleague of noted U.S. nursing research icon Martha Rogers and of being invited to be a Founding Fellow of the Nightingale Society.

In retirement, she was an ardent traveler and enthusiast of the Arts and an active member of her church and community in Beaverton, Ontario, sharing generously in the lives of those around her. She maintained a special passion for infants, children and education. She will be remembered fondly and missed by many, particularly by all the "grandchildren of her heart." She died in Beaverton on July 9, 2009.

## Helen Louise (Giegerich) Mark

**Feb '64**  
May 8, 1941-December 26, 2009

**H**elen was born in Kimberley, BC, the fourth child of Joe and Eva Giegerich. In 1959 she moved to Vancouver and graduated from VGH in 1964.

In 1966 she embarked on a trip around the world on an ocean liner and met Don Mark. They were married in 1968 and had four children, twin daughters and two sons. Helen was an avid skier and outdoor enthusiast all her life, from climbing the ski hill in Kimberley on foot in her childhood, through skiing with the UBC ski team, to family ski weeks at Big White, and many snowy weekends spent at Whistler among friends.

Helen's other favourite outdoor pursuit was cycling, which she enjoyed with a great group of Crescent Beach area friends. She cycled with her husband and friends in France, Belgium, Ottawa/Gatineau, the Gulf Islands, the San Juan Islands, the Kootenays, the Okanagan, the Sunshine Coast and Vancouver Island. After adopting her youngest son from Vietnam in 1975, she began to gather and distribute information to assist people in the adoption of children



from overseas. Her organization grew from her kitchen table into the Adoptive Families Association of BC incorporated in 1981. Her belief that every child deserved a loving home fuelled her thirty year commitment to the AFA, first as a volunteer, and later as an employee.

In 2004 the AFA created the "Helen Mark Excellence in Adoption" award, which is given annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to adoption.

Helen died at home after an eight month illness of multiple myeloma. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

*Submitted by classmate Margaret (Godwin) Sage*

## Margaret Jean (Begg) Hardie

**Sept '54, BSN '55**

**B**orn in Whitehorse, Yukon and brought up in Carcross until age 14 when she attended boarding school in Vancouver, and graduating from Lord Bynd High School. she went on to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.



She married Barrie Hardie in 1954 and had 2 daughters. the family moved to Kamloops where Jean taught at Royal Inland Hospital. She volunteered in many capacities, one being on the board of directors for the YWCA and was the driving force in the construction of the 1st YWCA complex in Kamloops. Jean returned to UBC in 1976 and obtained a Masters in Councelling Psychology and she returned to her calling, teaching at Cariboo College ( now Thompson Rivers University. The family moved to Jamaica, Bermuda then back to Canada in 1989 to Gibsons Landing and finally to Surrey . Jean made many friendships along the way through her love of bridge and community .She rose above life's challenges and embraced every day

## BOOK OF MEMORIAM

**T**his book lists the names of deceased classmates and is kept in a special cabinet in the Alumnae Association office.

The Class of September 1954 created this Memorial Book to honour Helga Thordarson (Sept '54).

For those wishing to recognize classmates in this way, please forward the name, grad class, and year of death to Trudy Phillips, 387 Laurentian Crescent, Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 1Y6. Phone: (604) 939-1800

A suggested donation of \$15 is appreciated and is forwarded to the Education Fund for use as bursaries. The Memorial Book will be available at the lunch.

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

Phone: (604) 604 875 4111 local 62049.  
Please leave a message.



**COMING UP!**

- Sat April 10, 2010. Women's History Network of BC** is hosting a Women's History Fair . VGH SON Alumnae Archives will be sharing a table with History of Nursing. Time: 1-4 pm. Place: Promenade - Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver Admission is free. For further information visit their web site at [www.whnbc.ca](http://www.whnbc.ca)
- Sun. May 2, 2010 VGH SON Alumnae Annual Luncheon** Vancouver Masonic Centre 1495 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver. Registration starts at 12 noon.
- Sat. May 29, 2010** If you are a **UBC graduate** – Mark your calendar Advance notice of the annual **UBC SON Alumni Luncheon**. Place: UBC Botanical Garden.
- Sun. May 30 at 2 pm- Heather Heritage AGM.** Meet at the main entrance of Centennial Pavilion.

✂

Help us keep in touch with you! Do we have your correct name and address? If not, please fill in the address form below and send it to V.G.H. School of Nursing Alumnae Association.  
Mailing address c/o 855 West 12th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1M9

Current Name .....

Name at Graduation ..... Month & year of graduation .....

Address .....

Postal Code .....

Phone ..... Spouse's Name .....

Tell us your news! .....

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**Wear you VGH Grad  
and Class Pins to the**



**ANNUAL LUNCHEON**  
**Celebrate the Memories-**  
**Renew the Spirit**

**SUNDAY MAY 2, 2009**  
**At the Vancouver Masonic Centre**  
1495 West 8th Avenue  
**Time: 12:30-3:00 PM**

Newsletter:  
Ethel Warbinek (McIntyre) '56  
Mary Watt (MacKinnon) '54  
We appreciate your input!