



NEWSLETTER



Class of 1929 Hollywood tour 1956

'51 class at Whistler

REUNIONS



UBC '60 Brew Creek 2010



Whistler



Mini reunion Sept 11, on the banks of Resolute Bay



1938 Group at VGH Residence

Laughter, nonstop chatter, photos of children and grandchildren, storytelling of student days and escapades – some comical, some tender and some sad – but all shared and relived. And then catching up on current happenings. These are reunions!

They reconnect us with classmates and define us as graduates of the School. Some classes hold yearly get togethers such as lunches, others meet around special events, such as visiting classmates, and most meet around anniversary times, for example at 25, 40, 50, 55 and 60 years.

Those of us who lived in residence have close ties because we bonded as we shared nursing and life experiences. Most reunions are held in the Lower Mainland of Vancouver with Harrison and Whistler the favourites. Cruises have become popular in the last few years as well. A few classes have newsletters – now sent as emails - as a way of keeping in touch. As one person stated “It was wonderful to see one another again and to note how very little we have all changed! Old friendships were quickly renewed.”

And now we have our own website where you can post your class news and reunion plans along with photos. If you require help with your planning remember to contact us so we can assist you. This year a couple of classes are touring our Archives and we are delighted to showcase it.

www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com

VGHSON Alumnae Luncheon

Sunday
May 6, 2012
12:00 to 15:00 hours

CELEBRATE the MEMORIES...
RENEW the SPIRIT

Join us for lunch to
honour the 1962
graduates

Guests at the
luncheon are the
1962 and 1952 graduates.



Please remember to register

St Mary's Ukrainian
Catholic Centre

3150 Ash Street
Vancouver, BC V5Z 3C9

Registration begins at 12 noon
Lunch 12:30
Ample parking & wheel chair
accessible.

To guarantee you have a seat, register
and pay for the lunch before the
deadline of
April 18th 2012

See registration form on page 20

If you have any questions contact
Jane Robertson: 604-985-6673.
Email at mejane@telus.net
or
Linda Allardyce: 604-228-8202
Email at knittingnona@gmail.com

The pictures used in 'Reunion' are from the VGH Archives digital file of photos.

ARCHIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 2011

Open House – May 11, 2011: Fifty-three attended including Dr. D. Ostrow CEO/VGH, Alumnae members and 8 from the class of 1957, BC History of Nursing Society, VGH Staff and volunteers. One of the male volunteers was the first child to go into an iron lung at VGH during the polio outbreak.

On May 20, 2011, Ethel met with Margaret Scaia, PhD student, where specific curriculum and student rules and regulations were discussed.

Displays: May Luncheon featured 9 new dolls displayed in the specially designed case, selected silverware and the Pin album. New display: last VGH class – 1991

Display guidelines were written

Alumnae tours: On September 3, 2011, 3 groups of nursing students from Trinity Western University and 2 guests from Heather Heritage visited the Archives. The tours were conducted by Naomi Constant, Mary Watt and Ethel Warbinek.

CBC Radio Early Edition December 15, 2011 – 6:45 am: Peggy Etchell and Kathy Murphy were interviewed at VGH as part of the Angels Campaign.

CRNBC Calendar: Naomi Constant provided selected artifacts from our museum which were photographed for a calendar for the BC College of Registered Nurses to celebrate their centennial celebrations.

Ongoing work: Listing and photographing our collection, including pins and uniforms. Rotating displays in the Jim Pattison Pavilion.

Website: Over the past year, items have been posted on our website: a series of photographs, silver collection, dolls, artifacts, pins and medals. More will be added as they are photographed.



Thanks to Reta Kidd for all her work on textiles



TWU Nursing students tour the Alumnae archives in Sept. 2011



Betty-Anne Rogers & Ethel Warbinek – co-chairs.

A special thank you to our archivist, Naomi

Constant who has been with us for over 10 years and to our committee members: Janie Birkeland, Peggy Etchell, Betty Kirkwood, Kay Raisbeck, Marg Shugg and Mary Watt. And a good bye to Reta Kidd for all her work on textiles.

LUNCHEON COMMITTEE REPORT 2011

The VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Annual Luncheon was held on May 1, 2011 at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Centre. 248 members attended. The VGH classes of 1961 were the honoured guests. The speaker, Maureen Shaw CNS Gerontology at VGH, gave an informative talk on Care of the Elderly highlighting the ACE Unit (Acute Care for the Elderly). A selection of items from the Archives was on display. This included a few select items from the VGH Alumnae silver collection, the doll collection and uniforms as worn in 1961. The honoured guests entertained with memories of their days as student nurses. A fun time was had by all.

The classes of 1962 (50 years) and 1952 (60 years) will be honoured at this year’s Luncheon to be held May 6, 2012 at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Centre. All Alumnae, including honoured guests, are requested to pre-register. Members, other than honoured guests, are requested to submit payment prior to April 15, 2012. This will facilitate catering and seating arrangements. The Co-Chairmen of the committee are Jane Robertson and Linda Allardyce. Please join us on May 6th to “Celebrate the Memories.”

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Raisbeck

MEMORIAL BOOK REPORT

A Memorial Book was created by the class of September 1954 to honour their classmate, Helga Thordarson. The book lists the married and/or single name, year of graduation, year of death and name of the person or persons putting the name forward. A donation of \$15.00 per name is suggested, the money going to the Education Fund for future awards.

If a family member is known, a note is sent to inform them that the name has been entered. Actually, there have been several instances when a family member has requested a name to be included. In 1995, I took over the recording of deceased classmates.

To date, 160 names have been entered. The original book has been filled and a new one acquired which since 2009 has recorded 50 names.

Those wishing to honour classmates in this way should forward the information with a cheque made out to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Assoc. to: **Trudy Phillips 387 Laurentian Crescent, Coquitlam, BC V3K 1Y6**
Phone: 604-939-1800

Do you have one of these?



Our Archives is looking for a stainless steel bedpan to add to our collection and a 1961 student annual.

If you have one of these and wish to donate it, please contact us.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011

In its 103rd year of operation, the Alumnae Association is still very active due to the dedicated volunteers who carry out the many activities. However, many of us wonder how long this can continue without some assistance from other Alumnae members. The details of the various groups will be described in the individual committee reports but the shared events will be highlighted.



On May 6, 2011, we honored the Classes of 1961 at the Annual Luncheon. Life Membership was given to Myrna Braun and Pat Sexsmith who successfully Co-Chaired the Annual Luncheon for the past four years. The guest speaker was Maureen Shaw, Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist, who described the Acute Care for Elders Unit and Philosophy.

The Alumnae Association is guided by the constitution and a Strategic Plan which is revised every 3 years and reviewed annually. The office has been managed efficiently by Norma Guttormsson who also took on the role of Treasurer. Sharon Baxter agreed to return to assist in the accounting aspect of the Treasurer role mid way through the year.

At the Annual General Meeting held in March, Priscilla Gut who was the winner of the Alumnae Association Research Grant, presented her work that explored the relationship between pain control medications and delirium post-operatively in cardiac surgery patients.

The website that was launched early in the year has resulted in a variety of responses and new alumnae members. The Education Bursary application can be obtained from the website and an interesting number of pictures and items are regularly being added. One enquiry resulted in an appearance on the CBC Early Edition radio programme during the VGH and UBC Foundation Christmas Angel Campaign. Another enquiry led to involvement in the Oakridge Block Party in September.

I have been pleased to represent the Alumnae Association at a number of events hosted by the VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation and the Registered Nurses Foundation when the ongoing financial support for education bursaries is recognized.

It continues to be a pleasure to work with the various Executive Committee members who donate many hours to the maintenance of this organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy (McCutcheon) Murphy, September, 1965.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2011

GENERAL FUND	Balance December 31, 2011	\$17,751.12
BMO INVESTMENT ACCT	Balance December 31, 2011	\$68,000.00
BMO CORA TRETHERWAY	Balance December 31, 2011	\$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. It was not necessary to transfer funds to Education this year due to a decrease in requests. Luncheon costs continue to rise as catering and rental costs become more expensive.

Respectfully Submitted, Sharon Baxter



**VGH SON ARCHIVAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND REPORT**

For the period ending December 31, 2011

General Account

Revenue

Funds carried forward	\$5183.41
Donations received in 2010	\$9555.00
Interest	.71
Total revenue	<u>\$14,739.12</u>

Expenses

Silver restoration	\$84.00
Membership fee	\$35.00
Office supplies	\$312.96
Bank charges	\$64.00
Web site maintenance	\$1428.00
Transfer to GIG	\$7500.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$9,423.96</u>

Balance in chequing account: \$5,315.16

Long Term investment \$34, 500.00

Balance December 31, 2011 \$39, 815.16

Submitted by:

Ethel Warbinek - Trustee – January 27, 2011

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2011

2011 marked the first time we were able to register new members using the web site.

It works very well to up-date our lists but we still have to collect the actual fee. Thus we hope that you will continue to complete the fee slip and send it in with your cheque.



This year 1165 members paid their fees. This number is larger than last year but not as high as 2002 when our number was 1433. Lets continue to grow! This year’s total included a 32% response to a reminder letter and 22% to an introductory letter. Thank you so much for your interesting notes and letters-we like them and often forward them to the editors of the Newsletter.

To all who have held recent reunions we really appreciate receiving the up-to-date addresses. However, we are still missing a lot of lists-remember, we do not sell our lists! **Is your class list named below?**

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1972all classes | 1973February |
| 1974September | 1976all classes |
| 1977September | 1978February |
| 1979all classes | 1980September |
| 1981February | 1982September |
| 1983September | 1984all classes |
| 1985September | 1986all classes |
| 1987September | 1991February |

Respectfully submitted, Anne E. Williams Sept/54

Visit Our Website - www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com

And sign up for our e-newsletter

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT 2011

In March 2011, 1300 newsletters were printed by VGH Printing.

In November, 1300 Bulletins were printed and mailed along with membership renewal forms and a request for donations to our VGH SON Archival Development Fund. Our current Bulletin and 2010 and 2011 newsletters are posted on our web site.

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 graduates 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 and if you agree, posted on our web page.

Web site: www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com was launched in 2011 and we can post your news. Check the site for Alumnae events such as our annual lunch, view our archives and museum collections and find information on our bursaries. Sign up for email alerts and special notices.

Special thanks to Mary Watt, co-editor, for her help with publications and her photographs of our museum collection.

Ethel Warbinek, publicity chair

FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2011



Diane Parker

2010 has been a busy year for the friendship committee. This past year we have lost 37 of our alumnae. Sympathy Cards were sent to family members where we had a contact address. We also sent several get well cards to those recovering from surgery or illness. We appreciate hearing of these, so that we can acknowledge them.



Lorna Hoare

We had 2 very special birthdays this year. Margaret Mainwaring celebrated her 100th in February, and Eileen Evans her 99th in May. Sadly, Eileen passed away in August.

We honored our senior alumnae with the delivery of spring florals in April. We had 29 names on our list (however 2 were away but they will receive next year). In addition to the lower mainland, Nadiene Eaton delivered in Nelson and Nancy Gregson on the Island. The orchids are always enjoyed, and the contact is special.

In addition to Nadiene and Nancy, we would like to thank our volunteers Jacquie Aird, Anne Derksen, Gail McKay, Winn Watts, Joan Kerr, and our 2 new recruits, Pat Sinclair and Marg Hooper. Without them, this would not be possible.

Please contact us if you know of someone who should be on our visiting list, or have had recent illness or surgery, or just need a "hello" card.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Parker / Lorna Hoare Co-chairs

LOOK US UP!
www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2011

The Executive of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association for the year 2012 is as follows:

Officers:

- President - Kathy Murphy*
- Vice President - Mary Raikes -Tindle*
- Recording Secretary - Vivian Blake*
- Treasurer - Sharon Baxter*
- Executive Member - Kay Raisbeck*
- Executive Secretary - Norma Guttormsson*

Committee Chairmen:

- Archives/Artifacts - Betty Anne Rogers, Ethel Warbinek*
- Education - Joan Kerr*
- Friendship - Lorna Hoare and Diane Parker - Co-chairmen*
- Membership - Anne Williams*
- Publicity - Ethel Warbinek*

Respectfully Submitted, Kay Raisbeck

PIN BANK REPORT

After my plea last year I received 6 requests for pins and was able to send out 4. As I write, 1 more is being prepared. If any of you reading this is wondering what to do with your pins, I would be happy to find them a new home! We charge \$75 for each pin and this covers the engraving, polishing and or repairs plus mailing.

Any money left over is given to the Education Committee or Archives.

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



PHOTO GALLERY

Kay Raisbeck -



Chairman of the Lunch Committee, Executive member of Alumnae, a member of the Archive group who spends many hours recording data. A true multitasker!



Luncheon 2011



EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2011

Applicants for 2011 bursary awards have varied goals in their careers. One is finishing her BSN but plans to continue on to obtain her masters degree in nursing or health leadership.

Another applicant is currently a clinical resource nurse for hospice palliative care. She is now furthering her education in the MSN program at Trinity Western University with a goal to teach nursing students.

A third applicant is completing her baccalaureate degree and is already looking to the future to continue on with her masters degree so she can further her knowledge and share her passion for a high standard of care for palliative clients with other nurses in home health.

The fourth applicant has thirty one years of nursing experience. She is in the UVic Masters Program and her goal is to teach others and to inspire a new generation of nurses to continue the caring which has been part of the world of nursing since Nightingale.

The fifth applicant has a passion for working within chronic disease management. By obtaining her Certified Diabetes Educator certificate she feels this will cement together her many years of education and experience.

The Education Committee was happy to award \$5,450.00 to five bursary recipients for 2011. The following are the 2011 Bursary Award Recipients

Harvey/Cain Endowment Fund Margaret (Dorset, 1929) Harvey & Dorothy Cain (sister)

1. *Melinda (Mah) David Feb. '89*
2. *Glenda King Feb. '86*
3. *Kya (Monteith) Milne Feb. '90*
4. *Wendy (Armstrong) Sanders Feb. '80*
5. *Joan (Vandeven) Woodley Sept. '89*

One thankful recipient wrote: "I cannot express my appreciation strongly enough. It was a challenge returning to school after so many years away, taking courses while also working and caring for a family; however, I feel proud that I was successful at reaching my goal. I recognize that the financial support provided by the alumnae association was a large factor in that success. The letter that accompanied the bursary award also made me feel supported and encourage along the way."

Due to the continual decrease in the number of graduates applying for bursary awards, the Alumnae Association will be taking a serious look at the criteria for the awards. Check our website (www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com) and link to: **Bursaries** for new guidelines and opportunities in the spring of 2012.

The committee welcomes applications from the VGH/SON diploma program and/or the UBC/VGH Collaborative Nursing Program for 2012 bursary awards. Inquiries and request for application forms can be made by phoning the Alumnae Office at 604-875-4111 – local 62049 (please leave a message).

Application forms can also be downloaded from our website. Applications are due September 15th of the current year.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Kerr, Chairman, Education Committee



Joan Kerr

UPDATED VGH NEWS

The Breast Cancer Prevention & Risk Assessment Clinic opened on October 20, 2011. This new innovative resource is available for BC women looking to reduce their risk of breast cancer. The clinic is located on the BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre site and is available by referral.

A **Diabetes in the Elderly Clinic** has opened at VGH. It is designed to meet the educational and health needs of ethnically diverse patients and is not yet available anywhere else in Canada. It will offer culturally sensitive support and education, providing participants with the knowledge, skills and motivation they need to better self-manage their disease at home.

New Mental Health Pavilion planned for VGH

In November 2010, Joe and Rosalie Segal made a

12 million donation towards a new Mental Health Pavilion – the largest personal donation ever made for mental health project in BC. It will replace the existing facility, which is 70 - years old, and is estimated to cost 73 million.

Mary-Elizabeth Bradley Eilertsen Sept. '78

recently completed a doctoral thesis at NTNU – Trondheim, Norwegian University of Science and Technology in 2111. **Children and Adolescents Surviving Cancer: Psychosocial Health, Quality of Life and Social Support** Congratulations!



A synopsis of Mary-Elizabeth’s thesis is posted on the website with her permission.

ARCHIVAL LETTERS

First Open Heart Surgery in BC – at VGH – April 1957

VGH Student Nurses wrote some wonderful letters during their residence years, and the School of Nursing Alumnae Association Archives has a few collections of these. Last year, we reported on a collection of letters from Pat Barff (Class of 1929) donated to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Archives. This prompted Norma Guttormsson (Class of August 1958) to look up a collection of letters she wrote to her parents during her student years in the 1950s.

Although her father, a physician and surgeon, had worked in Vancouver, by the time she decided to enter Nursing, her parents had moved to Saskatchewan. They saved 56 of her letters home. Many of them are in their original envelopes, although some stamps have been torn off the corners for family “collectors.” The accumulation provides a wonderful snapshot of the life of a young woman living in residence during the mid-1950s, and the correspondence is full of social details on the times. Any history buff would love the messages. Guttormsson writes extremely well; one gets caught up in the story of her life, her nursing activities, her social events, and the details of the times.

As she was a member of the UBC/VGH class and some of the letters pertain to the first and final years at UBC, she is considering donating them to the UBC Archives. They definitely should be preserved as a complete collection.

One of the most interesting letters (but they are all interesting) is her description of the first open-heart surgery in BC. We are printing a portion of this letter to give you an idea of what happened – and so you can be reminded how health care has changed radically during our lifetimes. (Although she uses abbreviations in the letter, some of these have been spelled out in the excerpt.)

“Last week the first operation with the heart-lung machine ever to be performed in B.C. was done on an 8-year-old boy with an atrial-septal defect. The foramen ovale did not close at birth which presented as a congenital defect. He was anaesthetized generally (intra-trachea) until the chest was opened and the heart exposed. His circulation was then taken over by the machine which stopped his respirations and heart beat thus allowing the surgeon to open the heart and close the hole. Prior to surgery – [but] in the O.R. – a cut down was made in the superior and inferior vena cava and the femoral artery. When the heart surgery commenced, blood from the machine where it was oxygenated, warmed and filtered passed to the femoral artery to the systemic circulation. The circulation to the leg below the cut down was cut off during this time which apparently is not harmful for this short time. The patient is sufficiently anaesthetized to remain asleep while the machine carried on the circulation. The O₂ in the blood apparently does not wear off the anaesthetic. It was highly successful. Two Vancouver heart surgeons performed – no one was allowed in but those who took part, but spectators were able to watch from the gallery. The surgeon told the nursing staff about the operation ... and it was of interest to learn that heart grafting is in the near future. With the machine they will be able to put in a new heart in place of a diseased one.”

The two surgeons mentioned in Guttormsson’s letter – who will be well-remembered by VGH graduates of the 1950s through the 1980s – were Dr. Phil Ashmore and Dr. Peter Allen. Dr. Ashmore died September 1, 2011 and his obituary carried a brief note about the same surgery.

“He did the first open heart operation in April 1957 with Dr. Peter Allen, the beginning of a long professional relationship. Along with a spectacular group of Vancouver colleagues, the team moved pediatric surgery forward for the benefit of all British Columbians. Phil had a great eye for talent, and brought a young Dr. Graham Fraser to Vancouver. He became a pioneer in pediatric general surgery, a long time colleague and an amazing friend to Phil’s last day. In 1976, Phil started to plan for a new pediatric children’s facility with his friend and head of pediatrics, Dr. Rob Hill. They worked tirelessly to lobby government, design the space, survey construction and organize the moving from V.G.H. into the new Children’s Hospital in July 1982. John Tegenfeld, C.E.O. of B.C. Children’s, was an instrumental member of that team. In 1983, Phil brought on his young colleague Jacques LeBlanc, whom he mentored with love and respect. Jacques carried on his work after Phil’s retirement and remained a lifetime support and true friend.”

– Glennis Zilm August '57



ANNE SUTHERLAND CAVERS (1888-1971)

From School Teacher to Nurse Teacher

One can only imagine the pioneering spirit of the 26 students who attended the first session of the Alberta Normal School; all with a dream of becoming teachers. My great aunt, Anne S. Cavers, was one of these students.

Anne was born in 1888 in Ontario, to Walter Cavers and Margaret (nee: McAlpine). Walter and Margaret Cavers were married in Walter's birthplace in Quebec, and then moved on to Dutton, Ontario to start a sash and door business and raise their two children: Anne (fondly called Annie) and Jim. Annie's grandfather, James Cavers II was also born in Ormstown, Quebec to Roxburghshire, Scotland immigrants: James Cavers and Margaret Blackburn.

By the time Annie was a teenager, she had moved to Calgary, Alberta to attend high school, and at the ripe age of 18 years, she graduated from Calgary Normal School with honours. By this time, her parents and younger brother had moved to the Okanagan in British Columbia, and Annie eventually joined them. The Cavers family had first settled in Armstrong, where Annie began her teaching career. Annie taught at local Armstrong schools between 1910 to 1918, and during 1917-1918, she became the acting principal of the Public School in Armstrong, BC. Annie's parents purchased a farm (the "Jack McLeod place") in Beresford, just outside of Kamloops, in 1915. As these were the years of WWI, I am left to imagine that Annie stayed with friends in Armstrong, and with her parents on their Beresford farm during this time. After WWI ended, Mr. and Mrs. Cavers had returned to Armstrong by 1920 leaving their son, Jim, to run the Beresford farm. In Armstrong, Annie's parents had purchased another farm on Pleasant Valley Road, where they lived for most of their remaining years. Annie, however, had greater career aspirations and moved to Vernon, BC to take a teaching position.

I pause here to remind myself that Annie was pursuing a career as a teacher in a time when women had limited rights in Canada; before the "Famous Five" won their "legal and political battle to have women recognized as persons under the BNA Act." One can only wonder if there is any significance in Annie's choice of location for high school and Normal School in Calgary with that of the Famous Five movement. Perhaps this is where Annie developed her austere manner; a much needed cover for her kind and patient essence as she forged onward in her aspirations.

In a letter from the Inspector of Schools dated June 28, 1916, it is written: "Cavers, Miss A.S. – Brilliant. It may not be out of place to add here that the difficulties encountered in getting this school underway were not inconsiderable, and that Miss Cavers' ability, tact, and patience coupled with her firmness and persistence were simply invaluable at a time when an error of judgment on the part of the teacher or the slightest sign of weakening in the face of extremely adverse conditions might easily have meant the indefinite postponement of the whole business."

I am not certain of the factors that would have brought Annie, now 36 years old, to the decision to enter the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing (VGH) in 1924 but by now you will have gathered that Annie was not a woman who was going to sit on a shelf. Just as she

graduated from Normal School with honours, Annie received the Alison Cummings medal for highest standing in medical nursing. Immediately upon graduating in 1927, Annie began her new teaching career as Instructress of Nursing at VGH – a career she loved and completely devoted herself to until her retirement in 1947 at age 59. As is evidenced by student comments in the 1946 annual dedicated to her, Annie was diligent, zealous, and flawless in her contribution to the education of student nurses. "We shall never forget her quick sense of humour, her alter countenance, or her amazing ability to straighten out the points in anatomy which were completely baffling in book form." (VGH Student Annual, 1946).

It is clear that so much more research needs to be undertaken to adequately exhibit and honour Annie's contributions to the nursing profession during her 20 year career. Annie is an awe-inspiring woman, who seemed to be the portent of the teaching world in the early 1900's, and went on to inspire the lives of so many nursing students with this same fervent devotion.

After she retired, Annie wrote "Our School of Nursing: 1899 to 1949". Throughout the book, there is confirmation of her attention to detail, eloquent writing, and impeccable grammar. Indeed, my two elder sisters often shared stories of sending Aunt Annie thank you letters for various birthday and Christmas gifts. My sisters would labour over spelling and handwriting with the inevitability that their letters would be returned with Annie's red correction marks!

My great aunt Annie, age 82, passed away in November 1971 when I was only 10 years of age; I am saddened that I didn't really know her in her lifetime. Annie never married and had no children; I was told that my great aunt never married as she was heartbroken when her fiancée died after WWI. I do know she was a loyal daughter, a warm and supportive sister-in-law, and a loving and devoted aunt to all of her nieces and nephews. As her many great nieces and nephews arrived, she bestowed upon us, her care and guidance.

I feel a warm affection and kinship to Annie; my beloved, albeit barely known to me, great aunt. We are both teachers, love history and love to write. As I conduct the genealogical researching of my family, I have come across the various efforts made by my great aunt in the same vein. I have one of the many knickknacks that adorned Aunt Annie's home, and as I gaze lovingly at the small, framed needlepoint picture Aunt Annie left for me – with her small and perfect handwriting: 'For Patricia. From Aunt Annie.' - I know I was important to her. The paper has torn away in parts, and I can no longer read the balance of the inscription; the written words she intended are lost forever, but her message is in my heart.

By Patricia Gaudreault

Patricia Gaudreault is a college instructor, and a recent, amateur family historian. She is an artist, aspiring writer, and lives in Cobble Hill, BC with her husband, two cats and one dog. This is her first article.





Anne Cavers

MYCAP

Here it lies on the top of my 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-inch square forming the back, all the 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 full of temperament and promptly proceeds to make its

wearer look as ridiculous as a clown in a circus if

it is pushed 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 into contact with a screen at the patient's bedside and where you can find a more weary or 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 most cherished possession.

During the unforgettable days of my preliminary period in 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 crisp bit of 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 and under strange circumstances it becomes the tie between the present and the past. In it are compounded my profession, my school and myself.

From Cavers, Anne S. Our School of Nursing, 1899 to 1949. P 75 Produced to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the School of Nursing, Vancouver General Hospital.



Miss Macleod, Miss Fairley, Anne Cavers

LUNCHEON 2011



50 YEARS OF NURSING

As Read by Colleen Follett, Feb. 1961 at the Alumnae Lunch May 1, 2011

THE BEGINNING

What a process I remember it clear
 Applications, papers, questions, and fears.
 VGH held standards high
 And so we were accepted with pride,
 Though some were denied.
 Then six months of class and a banquet of facts -
 We had to learn fast
 Some could stay, some must go.
 Then they said "now use what you know".
 Weeks into months into years and slowly we
 changed,
 Our wards, our hats, our clothes, our shoes
 And deep inside, we all changed too.
 Thrown to the front line of life's reality show
 Privy to all its joys and woes
 Our innocence we all outgrew
 And a new knowing we pursued.
 We walked on in white
 We said good bye
 Through tears and sighs
 Keen to pursue our unique identity
 Writing our own reality.



*Colleen Follett
 February 1961*

AND SO

Fifty years ago to now
 So much wisdom,
 Knowing the good times and the strife.
 We here are the perfect picture
 Of what is a life.

BUT

How our world has changed,
 New Nurses would think it strange,
 The world we worked in then.
 We carefully printed out cards for meds
 We poured into cups on trays.
 Sometimes pouring meds took over half a day.
 Now no need to pour
 A little bar coding machine
 Spits out the meds
 Knowing who and when and what for.
 Remember the Bottles for IV's, irrigations, and drains,
 Glass syringes, needles and tubes used again and again.
 Now a little machine times our IV's
 We count drops no more.
 Automatic vital signs a breeze,
 IV and IM and SC are all done with ease
 And there's a plastic disposable world for our needs.
 Our patient was with us for days or for weeks
 We bathed them and fed them and made Bessie's beds.
 Now they're sent home in a day
 Unless their near dead.
 We sat in the office with a smoke and a coffee
 And wrote all our info on chart after chart
 Now the computer just opens its heart
 And we point and we click that's our part.

Now Smoking's a crime though coffee's still fine
 We just have to be a techno Einstein.

The orderly was there to cath. and to carry
 But he went extinct and left us all harried.
 There's lots of new meds with lots of new names
 New meds Flossie could share with her flair.
 She'd have solutions and dosages in spades to claim.

BUT THEN

There's lots of disease that new meds can repair.
 MRSA, Aids, SARS, Legionnaire and West Nile
 Potent Malaras and others quite Vile.
 We crumble and clog if not given the meds
 As Osteoporosis, and Cholesterol now something
 to dread.
 We have new STD's and Viagra to please.
 Everyday new maladies.
 We also have Stents and defibs and pacemakers
 To defy that ride to the undertaker.
 There are mammograms, CT, MRI and PET scans
 Fibre optics and scopes and little cameras to pan.

We have angio's and bypasses, -- new parts everywhere
 From joints to organs there's always a spare.
 We don't have death now unless the patient agrees
 Then signs legal papers to set his soul free.

THE MOST AMAZING BUT

Is they have defined
 A double helix that twists like a spine.
 Wow --who knew?
 That the DNA existed and the Genome too.
 Now that presents possibilities,
 Will a cell placed in us grow a part?
 What is the state of this art?
 Will a new part grow in a Petri dish?
 Then there are all the fine designs
 To satisfy the baby wish.
 In-vitro they insert, in test tubes they will grow.
 We freeze sperm and ovaries and embryos,
 Why we can be cloned,
 Now that's an idea --do it again
 Correct the mistakes-- a way to atone.

BUT I WONDER

What future will we see?
 We seem on the edge of remarkable ingenuity.
 Will they unlock the riddle of age?
 Will they make old bodies new?
 Will we remain on life's stage?
 Then I'll see you in 2061 and I'm happy to say
 You'll all be as youthful and beautiful as you are today.
 After all in the last 50 years we've come a long way.

SO

Here's to our 53 years of knowing each other.
 And here's to 50 more

YOU NEVER KNOW

We are the Class of September '61

- read by Sharon Newton at the Alumnae lunch – May 1, 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Nurses, Honoured Guests and the Classes of 1961

It's our 50th reunion and how the years have flown by. We are now in our seventies - still young at heart - slightly older in other parts. We all have memories of our training days at VGH - for most of us the days of frustration, despair, hard work, tears, exam anxiety, and loneliness have been forgotten for the most part. Laughter, good times, supportive colleagues, and good friends are the most frequent memories we talk about today.

But who were we?

We were and are the proud graduates of Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Class of Sept'61. Seventy-one (71) of us walked down the aisles of Queen Elizabeth Theatre to receive our graduation Diplomas dressed in unwrinkled, heavily starched, stark white uniforms (we couldn't sit on the buses - wrinkles, you know). Miss King and Mrs. Du Gas handed our diplomas to us as we juggled roses, diploma, and shaking hands without a fumble. We had some time to make up, RN exams to write but we were graduates.

We first met each other September 15, 1958 as we entered the residence and found our rooms. We soon made friends with our neighbours - all in alphabetical order. We soon expanded our friendships as we went through ward rotations and classes. Nursing Arts taught by Miss Beswetherwick - "feet should be on the floor and they should have shoes on them"; Miss F. Fleming and Pharmacology - "Whew, It's hot in here" as she wiped her brow and Miss Sim, were some of the instructors. And who was the Anatomy Instructor who lost the lamb's heart for classroom study which later beat it way into Lois' bed and several other places before it lost its cold, clammy shock value! Then there was the case of the Kissing Nurse - as new probies, we were all agog. Wow! It seemed that rules were strict. Roll call in the morning when we had to report to the classroom in proper uniform. Some classmates found it difficult to get up in the morning even with such strategies as multiple alarms, dousing with water, and turning the tap on with the sink plugged (there were some floods - Oops!). We worked on many wards both general and speciality. Our maps of the tunnels were lifesavers.

Much of our leisure time was spent in residence with all the attending rules. We had some food - peanut butter, bread, jam, and eggs in our lounges but they could be withheld for minor infractions of the rules. When they were tearing up Heather St, some night nurses trying to get some sleep pelted the workers with eggs, they continued to jackhammer. They tried bread soaked in water with a note pinned to it (quite a missile thrown from the 8th floor!) with no cessation of the noise outside. The workers evidently complained to the residence director - then the noise occurred inside! - unbecoming actions, workers could have been harmed etc. Bridge games were another leisure activity that was ongoing. We learned from one another with the

result that some of the rules bore no relation to the actual rules - confounding future bridge partners. We put on our fashion show several times with a hilarious commentary or so we thought at the time. Most of the holidays were enjoyed along with visits from Santa and we painted our windows with Christmas themes.



Gathering in rooms after lights out and trying not to get caught by the matron was common. One Halloween, it was wall to wall people. In the morning there was a huge semi circle of used wrappers, cigarette butts, smashed pumpkins and other garbage on the ground under the window. What fun we had but we did have a slight problem denying responsibility. Food, other than cafeteria food, was important and fresh fruit was a scarce commodity. One summer we received several watermelons. How to eat them without a mess was a problem solved by going down several floors and sitting on the floor dripping juice and spitting seeds. We left the mess and the explaining to the other class.

Phone calls. When the buzzer went in your room and those magic words came through "You have a phone call", panic set in - where was there an empty phone booth and could you get there before they hung up; was Saturday night ruined; the race was on. Saturday nights were date nights with maybe a late night pass. One young swain probably very nervous, forgot to open the door and walked right through the heavy glass door. One Saturday night, several of us dateless souls concocted a devious plan by which we entered two of our friends' rooms and switched them around complete with all their personal stuff, all bulletin board items and even a magazine on the bed open to the exact same page. Took us hours. When the two happy students came home and opened their rooms, they thought they were in the wrong room, then they thought they were tipsy; they were utterly confused.

Start of senior year meant getting white stockings and shoes but what to do with the well worn black shoes and stockings. We smuggled one of the gas delivery men and a tank of helium up to the sun deck on the 8th floor. Someone managed to get several weather balloons. We released the helium filled balloons with stockings and shoes tied to them - and off they floated. Such jubilation and cheering. All was well until the DOT, RCMP, City Police, Hospital Administrative Staff, Fire Chief and Residence and Nursing staff and who knows who else got involved. The balloons apparently floated up into the flight path to the airport - a federal jurisdiction. We graduated at last.

Who are we?

One classmate stated - "I am convinced that ... we were

Continued page 12

blessed to have received the best, most useful and practical preparation for the health care system and for ourselves in the world we entered."

Sadly, six of our classmates have passed away. We continue to remember them as our friends and classmates. Several of our classmates have not kept in touch; we miss them. Some of our classmates cannot attend the reunion due to illness or other circumstances; we will miss you and wish you well.

About Us:

Some married early (some even in training - tsk! tsk! not allowed) and some married late, some never married and some married more than once. We are parents, aunts, grand-parents, great-grandparents and most of all, friends. Fecundity is not an issue. We have, as a class, 173 children, 101 grand-children (and one on the way in May) and 18 great-grandchildren including stepchildren. What wonderful families we have no matter how small or how large. Many of us have

furthered our education after training - mostly in nursing or health related fields but some have explored other fields and found their niche in this world. There have been self-reported 6 BSNs, 1 masters, and one doctoral in progress, 1 BA with teaching certificate. Classmates have taken courses/diplomas/certificates in one or more of the following: Occupational Health, Public Health, Psychiatry, Geriatrics, Business, Rehabilitation, Real Estate agent, Music Therapy, Medical Office Nursing, Disaster Nursing, Holistic Nursing, to name a few. Since graduation, most of us have travelled - some extensively, some not. We have travelled to all the continents and worked in most. As we have retired, the travelling seems to have increased with the added leisure time. Some of us have enjoyed less strenuous activities than we did in the past. Most of us do some type of volunteer work that gives us purpose and enjoyment.

We are the class of Sept '61

Celebrating 50 Years of Friendship

Read by Judith MacDonald Feb'61 at the Alumnae Lunch, May 1, 2011

When I was little,

I believed in the idea of one best friend,

When I became a woman,

I learned that if you allow your heart to open
Life will show you the best in many friends.

- One friend will meet your Spiritual need,
- Another your shoe and hat fetish,
- Another your love for movies and music,
- Another will be with you in your season of confusion,
- Another will be your clarifier.
- Another the wind beneath your wings.

Today we celebrate long friendships

forged in the fire of our nurses training.

We recall the challenges and successes,
the ups and the downs, the fun and hilarity,
as we progressed toward graduation.

At this wonderful gathering today,

with our dear February 1961 classmates beside us,
we give thanks for **fifty years of friendship.**



Naomi Miller (cont.)

Willow Chest Centre and Pearson Hospital. After marrying, traveling and living outside BC the family moved to eastern BC where Naomi continued to nurse but also became passionate about the history of the region. She was Curator of the Golden & District Museum from 1974 to 1983 when they moved to Wasa.

Becoming actively involved in the local historical societies, Naomi was elected to Council of the B.C. Historical Federation in 1980, serving as president. Her many accomplishments include launching the first annual Writing Competition for B.C History Books, Editor of the quarterly British Columbia Historical News, served as member of the Heritage Minister's Advisory Committee, B.C. Heritage Trust, and Kootenay "Living Landscapes" Committee. She was a founding director of the Friends of Fort Steele and as Secretary of the Wasa and District Historical Association.

Included in Naomi's writing career: editing *The Forgotten side of the Border*, writing articles for the *The History of Nursing Newsletter*, and in 2000 writing *Fort Steel: Gold Rush to Boom Town*. She also served on the B.C. Nursing Society's Editorial Committee and edited one issue a year for a decade.

Congratulations for receiving yet another well deserved award.



**NAOMI MILLER (ALLSEBROOK '50 UBC '51)
Winner 2011 UBC Nursing Alumni Award of Distinction**

2011 UBC Nursing Alumni Award of Distinction was presented to Naomi Miller 1950 at the Annual Alumni Luncheon at Green College on May 28, 2011, in recognition of her many activities in a long and productive career.

Naomi has lead a busy and interesting life as a nurse, mother of six children and as celebrated BC Historian.. Her early training as an aide at Tranquille lead her to VGH where she graduated in 1950 and from UBC in 1951. Her early nursing career included head nurse at

REUNIONS – sharing the memories

2011 REUNIONS

Sept.'56 celebrated their 55th reunion by meeting for lunch at the Arbutus club in Vancouver. A very eager group of 27 gathered, some coming from afar for the day to be with classmates. It was wonderful to see how well everyone looked and even though time was short, we all found it satisfying to be together. We missed several classmates who were unable to travel. We lost **Alice Clayton** this past year after a long illness. **Doris (Robinson) Riedwig** will be launching her third book very soon. Submitted by **Nancy (Adams) Milley**

Feb.'59 We had a class reunion on May 12, 2011 at **Pat Day Sinclair's** house. Thirteen women attended. **Mary Froese, Kathleen Thune, Elaine Kelly, Eileen DePeel, Hazel Boone, Helen Virgo, Arlene Redmile,**



Feb. 59 lunch at Pat Sinclair's home

Glenda Porter, Amanda Brown, Carol Saunders, Doreen Watt, Sylvia Burkinshaw, Pat Sinclair

Feb.'60 When we had our reunion we all donated money to help Marie MacKay buy goats for her village in Kenya. It would be great if someone could update the alums on what has happened since. Rather than wait for a 2015 reunion, a progress report would be super. Sent by **Elaine (Imbeau) Carson**

Sept.'61. 2011 was a banner year for our Sept '61 Class. As appreciative guests of the VGH Alumnae, we enjoyed their fabulous lunch marking our 50th Reunion, allowing all who attended to meet many friends not seen for years - sometimes 53 years.

Our weekend celebrations, held in North Vancouver, gave the 42 class members who were able to attend some or all the functions a chance to reconnect. All agreed it was a wonderful 3 days. Classmates who couldn't attend mostly were unable to do so due to illness. We finally found a long time missing classmate, **Lynn Adams (Stromberg)**, who joined us from Florida. Our co-convenors, **Lynne Dowling (MacAulay)** and **Joan Currie (Livingstone)** did a masterful job of organizing the weekend activities.

At the VGH luncheon, a meaningful grace was given

by **Joanne Gaitens (Golightly)** followed by **Sharon Newton (McBride)** speaking about a touching yet very funny recounting of our class as it was then and is now. **Diana McKone (Richards)** and **Nancy Gregson (Bain)**, with the help of everyone who contributed their personal stories and photos of their past 50 years, presented a "*Memories of the Classmates of September 1961*" book to the Alumnae. We truly re-established friendships and found out that although physically many have changed the spirit lives on and is easily recognizable.

Many classmates continue to travel extensively worldwide, enjoy time with grand children, great grand-children and family, and volunteer in many capacities. We truly are trying to give back some of the good fortune we had by being a VGH Alumnae.

Our Class is sadly one less now with the death of **Ragna Ueberschar (Dinesen)**. There are now 67 of us including 4 vanished members.

2012 is anticipated to provide many opportunities, new family members, fresh adventures, hopefully all being enjoyed the best health possible. A mini reunion is being planned for 2013. So far, no definite place or date involved has been set. Thank you, **Nancy Gregson** for sending this in to us.

Feb.'66 had a nice 45th reunion at Harrison Hot springs in October. There were 25 of us at the dinner. We hope to see more at the 50th. Contact Lorna Hoare: lornahoare@shaw.ca or Nancy Burt at burtan@shaw.ca if interested in Feb. '66 activities.

Sept.'66 Thirty-three of us got together for 2 days last Sept. at Harrison Hot Springs to celebrate our 45th. Familiar faces, though grey hair predominates, many coming a long distance: **Lexi Hendricks** from San Francisco, **Lil (Harder) Macauley** from Texas, **Jocelyn (Todd) Holmes** from Phoenix, **Ginger (Harrison) MacDonald**, to name a few.

Most of us are retired but a few not giving up quite so easily: **Lexi** still in Labour and Delivery, **Patsy (Wright) Farrar** in the O.R....and more.



Feb. '66 reunion

REUNIONS – sharing the memories

Casual meet and greet Thurs. night, a relaxing day or doing whatever on Friday and dinner Sat. night. Not sure when the last person left the common room to retire for the night on Friday, however it was definitely into the wee hours of the morning. A huge thanks to **Judy (Winn) Fitzsimmons** for single-handedly putting this all together. Watch for notice of our 50th, likely in the spring of 2016. Keep in touch. Any changes in address, etc., notify **Judy Fitzsimmons** at HealthFitz@shaw.ca or **Jacquie (Reed) Aird** at rjaird@shaw.ca

Sept.'71 – 40th reunion. Thirty-eight classmates celebrated at the Quality Inn in Parksville September 23-25, 2011. A great time was had by all and we thought we were pretty well preserved. Several of the class are still working full time – a testament to the love of nursing that so many of us have. We enjoyed a Friday night wine and cheese, breakfasts both mornings and a Saturday night mingle and buffet.

Of our 82 grads, 3 have passed on and were honoured with a plaque and a moment of remembrance during our weekend.

Half of the class live in Metro Vancouver, 12 on Vancouver Island, 17 throughout BC, 4 in Alberta, 1 in Ontario and 6 in the US. Our farthest traveling attendee came from Louisiana. Time was spent reconnecting,



walking the beaches and visiting. We plan to meet again in 2014 and 2018 before our big 50th in 2021!

Sent by

Judy (King) Reid and Jan (Martin) Cousins

Sept.'81 held its 30th reunion in October in Kelowna

Sept.'91 held a reunion May 14, 2011, at the home of Margaret Little

2012 REUNIONS

Sept.'52 is encouraging as many as possible to celebrate our 60th by attending the *Alumnae luncheon on May 6th*. Need information? Contact **Marion Reaburn** at 604 535 4688 or bmreaburn@telus.net

Aug.'56 Nineteen classmates will be celebrating 55 years on a cruise on Holland America Statendam May 17-20th. The classmates will be coming from England, Ontario and California.

Feb.'62 class is having their 50th reunion on May 4-6 at The Lonsdale Quay Hotel in North Vancouver, with dinners on Friday and Saturday evenings arranged at local restaurants. We will be enjoying two days of catching up

on everyone's news and doing some exploring of the North Shore. The reunion will be followed by the VGH Alumnae lunch on May 6th and concluded with a tour at VGH. For information, contact **Pat Berda** 3931 Lockhart Rd, Richmond, BC V7C 1M4 604 277-2172 or pberda@shaw.ca.

Sept.'62. Plans are underway for our 50th reunion this spring. Classmates will be meeting at the Coast Hotel in the west end on May 5th and 6th. Sadly, we have lost two classmates, **Gerry (Watson) Large** died of lung cancer in Ontario this past fall and **Helen (Barker) Bishop** passed away three years ago. We hope to see everyone possible at the reunion.

Sept.'72 is planning a reunion in September. We have not finalized the details of the location and exact date, but I would be interested in letting classmates know about the reunion. If you are interested in attending, please contact **Donna Brett** at: 604 421-7689 or by email at: donna_brett@telus.net.

Feb.'77 is celebrating their 35th reunion on a cruise on the Golden Princess - Vancouver to Seattle - May 22-25. For information contact **Rhonda Cromarty**:

604 583-7308, rancrom55@shaw.ca or

Wilma Bull: wilmabully@hotmail.com 604 465-3604.

Feb.'82 is holding a 30th reunion at Harrison Hot Springs Oct. 19-30, 2012. Contact **Laurel Coghlin**: lcnewman@shaw.ca or **Karen Swinnard**:

k.swinnard@shaw.ca with your contact information.

Many of our grads whereabouts are missing. If you know someone from the class, please let them know and then email us.

Sept.'82 is celebrating their 30th reunion at Harrison Hot Springs Resort on September 21st, 22nd, and 23rd 2012. For information contact: **Carmen Doyle** 250 869-0946 carmendoyle@shaw.ca.

Feb.'87 is planning a 25th reunion in May or October. Your suggestions are requested. Please contact **Joy (Hanlon) Vandavelde**

joy.vandavelde@fraserhealth.ca or **Michelle (Proctor) Fisher** michelle.fisher@fraserhealth.ca. Please pass along this information to classmates.

2013 REUNIONS

Feb.'63

Penny Millway, Barbara (Mason) McInnes, Alice (Falk) Doherty, Patricia (McGregor) Marini have been getting together for a Mini Class Reunion for 15 years. We holiday all over B.C. In previous years **Janet (Fisher) McCormack** when she was alive joined us. We all miss her! When she could **Willetta (Johns) Preston** came from Winnipeg to join us! We are all retired well and happy. **Patricia Marini's** e-mail address is zeke61@telus.net. Looking forward to our 50th .

Honorary Members

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

Life Members

Sharon Baxter (Francis) '62 Janie Birkeland (Schwab) '66
 Vivian Blake (Jackson) '50 Myrna Braun (Wagstaff) '62
 Peggy Etchell (Thompson) '51 Dr. Beverly DuGas (Witter) '45
 Barbara Gillies '46 Lorna Hoare (Snider) '66
 Evelyn Holob (Anderson) '51 Adelaide Hutchins (McLean) '53
 Sheila Kirk (Poersch) '61 Eleanor McTaggart (White) '47
 Kathleen Murphy (McCutcheon) '65 Dr. Helen Mussallem '37
 Diane Parker (Sjerve) '68 Trudy Phillips (Smith) '53
 Kay Raisbeck '54 Betty-Anne Rogers '57
 Helen Saunders '39 Nancy Semke (Bouzovetsky) '57
 Pat Sexsmith (Kay) '62 Margaret Shugg '54
 Mavis Standfield (Coleman) '51 Jean Tsuyuki (Lyons) '57
 Pat Wadsworth (Beck) '54 Ethel Warbinek (McIntyre) '56
 Mary Watt (MacKinnon) '54 Anne E. Williams '54
 Marjorie Wilson (Espley) '35

NEW LIFE MEMBERS



Kathy Murphy, President of VGHSNAA presents Pat Sexsmith (Kay) '62 & Myrna Braun (Wagstaff) '62 with Life Membership in the Alumnae in thanks for their many years of service to the association.

MORE LETTERS

A Sunny Visit to a Little Bit of Heaven on Earth

On September 3, 2011, **Daphne (Pearce), Elvidge, Roxy (Fell) Yelf, Jocelyn Howden** all 1948 grads, and **Beverly (Jeffares) Atkinson '49** went on an adventure to visit **Barbara (Elvidge) Maclachlan '48**.

When you get to be an octogenarian, driving many miles through Vancouver traffic ceases to be a pleasure – particularly for the driver. So on Saturday, September 3rd, we four set out by public transit to visit a fifth member of our graduating class, who lives many miles away – the other side of Vancouver.

It was a picture perfect day and a holiday weekend in B.C. Three of us met in Park Royal at the bus stop and amid many holiday makers, PNE attendees and tourists, we wound our way to Vancouver on the WV “Blue Bus”. There we awaited the fourth member of our group who was coming on a different bus from the North Shore. We three sat on the busy corner of Georgia and Granville streets at 10:30 am for half an hour “people watching”. There was a Taiwan Fest in action in downtown Vancouver which added to the colours and feeling of festivity on this sunny morning.



Our fourth friend duly arrived, cane in hand, and we proceeded to the unfamiliar bowels of the city to board the Canada Line. To our somewhat rural eyes, this wonder of the modern age eagerly swallowed us into its cool and mysterious sanctum and off we went! The (to us) rather strange and definitely different attires seen around us kept us intrigued and interested. Just as well, for as I’m sure many of you know, there is no scenery to gaze out the windows at during most of the journey.

With six hearing-assisted ears listening carefully for the names of each approaching station, we sat there hoping we would be getting off at the appropriate stop, as we had yet another phase of our trip to navigate.

Disembarking at Bridgeport Station, as per the carefully written directions of our hostess and negotiating escalators and elevators, we found to our joy a bus island with several bays. Following our directions and conferring with bus drivers just to be sure, we boarded a very plush transit bus headed to Delta – and all this on one concession-priced bus ticket of \$1.75! We then enjoyed a very pleasant half hour drive through the farmlands of Ladner and South Delta, arriving at a McDonald’s restaurant where we were to leave the bus and call a taxi for the remainder of the trip. At this point there was some confusion. We discovered there was a McDonald’s in Ladner also. All set to get off the bus as instructed, a brief discussion with a very helpful driver, and lots of laughs, and discussion among us all, we came to the conclusion that we were not at the appointed McDonald’s. A short ride further on brought us to the one where we decided we were closer to our destination.

Continued on page 18



In Memoriam

And Not Forgotten

	Maiden name	Given name	Married name
1936	Williams*	Eileen	Evans
1938	Merritt	Kathleen "Billie"	Murphy
1941	Collins	Marcia	Taggart
1941	Wood	Flora Elizabeth "Betty"	Vaughan
1943	Birney	Margaret	Hudson
1943	Jenkins	Anne	
1943	McKinley	Mary	Robertson
1946	Laycock	Huddy	Roddan
1946	Shirley	Beth	Edge
1947	Allan	Margaret	
1947	Dwyer	Evelyn	Brown
1947	Mannell	Elvira	Meyer
1947	Roddan	Esther	Carter
1947	Urquhart	Marguerite	Waddell
1947	Wilson*	Mae	Clothier
1948	Edwards	Marguerite	Svalestuen
1948	Gourlay	Patricia	Cookson
1948	Kinnis	Claire	
1948	Treece	Muriel "Murry"	Ivens
1949	Gowe	Shirley	Le Brasseur
1949	Rae	Irene	Berryman
1949	Standerwick	Margaret	
1950	Cameron	Jean	Coats
1950	Chow	Grace	Joe
1950	Patterson	Pauline	Bruels
1950	Walton	Ruth	Murfit
1951	Butters	Margaret "Bunty"	Dawson
1951	Clayton	Joan	Schinbein
1951	Lockner	Beryl	Manning
1951	Stewart*	Patricia	Lott
1951	Turnbull	Nancy	Schmid
1952	Rolf	Rosemarie "Bibsy"	Yates
1953	McRitchie	Elaine Grant	
1953	Smith	Peggy	Harris
1953	Yoshihara	Aiko	Araki
1954	Gee	Eve	Wong
1954	McKenzie*	Carol	Williams
1954	McLeod	Joan	Lander
1954	Stalker	Rosemary	Foerster
1955	Simpson	Shirley	Samuelsen
1956	Clayton	Alice	
1956	Holmes*	Patsy	Gemmill
1957	Ross	Eleanor	
1958	Bennett*	Nancy	Hately
1958	Westwick*	Iren	Jones
1959	Bond	Moirra	Walker
1959	Carrico	Sheila	Wilding
1959	Schofield*	Jill	Wall
1959	Seed*	Lorna	Rae
1959	Smith	Alison	Sclater
1960	Bergman	Audrey	Innes
1961	Dinesen	Ragna	Ueberschar
1962	Reeves	Dale	Collingwood
1962	Watson	Gerry	Large
1964	Hedin	Elvira	Graham
1966	Fulton	Heather	Valentin
1972	Pateman	Norma	Coates
1974	Cart	Bonnie	

*UBC

REMEMBERING

Carolyn (Carol) Isabel Williams (McKenzie '54)

1931-2011



Carol graduated from VGH and the UBC with a degree in Public Health. In 1958, while nursing in Prince George, Carol met and married Verne Williams, a member of the RCMP finally settling in Vernon where she developed a great interest and devotion to her community. She volunteered with the People In Need Crisis Line, Vernon B.C. Summer Games, Friends of the Library, and the Community Foundation, Vernon Winter Carnival and as Chairman of the Carnival Committee. Carol served three terms on council in Coldstream and as chairman of the Okanagan Regional Library.

Carol has been honoured with the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal, the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, Order of Jopo and named Woman of the Year by the Vernon Business Woman's Association.

Carol leaves behind her husband Verne, daughters Joy and Shelley, son Bill, four grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Missing her greatly is her best friend and travelling companion Beth (Walton) Fitzpatrick. '54

Vera Wood.

Some of you may remember Vera Wood who was a supervisor in the Maternity Building at VGH for many years. She died on January 14, 2012

Grace (Chow) Joe '50



Grace graduated from VGH SON in January 1950 and received the Dr. E. Murray Blair Award for "Highest Standing in Gynaecological Nursing". She was a nursing instructor at St. Paul's, Royal Columbian and at the Royal Jubilee hospitals. Grace furthered her education by receiving a diploma in Gerontology and Bachelor of General Studies from Simon

Fraser University. A life-long learner, she appreciated cultural diversity when she embarked on a second career as an E.S.L. teacher. Her caring nature for people made them feel very special. This compassion resulted in over 50 years of volunteer work.

In 2002, Grace was the "City of Burnaby Kushiuro Cup Recipient for Citizen of the Year" in recognition of her outstanding contributions. In 2005, she received the "O'Keefe Shining Light Award" for her community work with senior citizens. In 2007, Grace received the "Governor General's Caring Canadian Award" in recognitions of her outstanding and selfless contributions to the community and to Canada. She will be greatly missed by all who were both touched and enriched by her presence. She leaves behind twin daughters, Alison and Gail. Grace Joe died on July 12, 2011

REMEMBERING

Anne Jenkins, Sept’43

On November 19, 2011 the family of Anne Jenkins, Sept’43, held a tea at the O’Keefe Centre to celebrate her life. Fellow VGH graduates, including Margaret(Peggy) McSwain, a classmate, attended, together with friends and nurses who had worked with her.

One of Anne’s earliest nursing experiences was a position at Dr. Donald Paterson’s Health Centre for Children Outpatient Department. This pediatric department was situated in an old two storey house at 10th & Laurel. She taught in the School of Nursing in the ‘50s. She attended both UBC and U. of T. Anne was present at the opening of the Health Centre for Children in 1954, ending her career as the Director of Pediatric Nursing in 1982 when the Health Centre closed.



Front: Kirstine Buckland Griffith (Adam UBC ‘44), Anne Williams Sept ‘54, Margaret (Peggy) McSweyne (Armstrong ‘43), Jean Morrey (Elliott ‘49)
Back: Margaret Shugg Sept ‘54, Vivian Blake (Jackson UBC ‘50), Kay Raisbeck, Pauline Marshall (Martin Sept ‘54), Nancy Morishita Feb ‘54.

Jean Paterson Fernie 1917-2011

Honorary member VGHSON Alumnae

Many of you would have known Jean Fernie as a supervisor in IDH. She worked at VGH from 1951-1978.

Jean passed away peacefully on March 22, 2011 at Peace Arch Hospital in White Rock BC. She was an amazing nurse and woman who dedicated her life to caring for others. She had the unique ability to make every person she met feel special.



In 1935 Jean began her nurses training in infectious diseases at Knightswood Infectious Diseases Hospital in Glasgow and in 1938 started her 3-year General Nursing Training at Glasgow Western Infirmary. From 1941 -1946 she was a Sister – head nurse - in charge of the Infectious Diseases Ward at the Western Infirmary in Manchester. In 1946 Jean enrolled in a Midwifery course and became the Sister in charge of neonatal nursing.

She won many nursing awards and scholarships including "Nursing Beyond the Call of Duty" for her dedicated work in treating patients of the Glasgow Smallpox epidemic of 1950.

In 1951 she immigrated to Canada and began her 27 year career at VGH. In the 1950s she nursed patients through the Polio epidemics. Then in the late 1960s she was recruited for 3 months to work for the World Health Organization in Burma, India and Hong Kong. She returned to V.G.H. and later on became the Infectious Disease Control Officer.

In retirement Jean spent 25 years as a volunteer with the White Rock Hospice Society. She adored babies, children and dogs and will be lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE 2010

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CLASS NEWS – sharing the memories with letters

Letter from Verna (Parke) Lacchini Sept. '58 from Montodine, Italy

Hi everyone:

I am finally getting around to writing a few lines as my sister, Muriel (Parke) Browell Sept, '47 suggested I do. First of all, it's so refreshing and interesting to get the alumnae newsletter and get caught up on what's been happening over your way.

As you know I graduated in Sept 1958,- great class – great friends! By that time I had met my future husband Luciano Lachini. He had fallen from a high tower while working for an Italian company in the Bridge River area. They were building a dam and he was seriously injured and flown to VGH where we met. He couldn't speak any English & I couldn't speak any Italian. I quickly got myself a little dictionary when he invited me to visit him in the Rehabilitation hospital, through an Italian patient as an interpreter. Anyway, he made a remarkable recovery and returned to finish the dam while I worked in the hospital. We were married in Ashcroft - the first wedding in the newly built Catholic Church and then in January 1960, came to Italy.

Life in a small town in particular was very different from what it's like now. We had no central heating, indoor bathroom, running water, washing machine, etc. But the most difficult part for me was the language. Although I had picked up enough to get by on here, at that time many people spoke dialect and very fast. However, the people are friendly and made me feel welcome. My 4 daughters were born at home and here again I thought "If the others can do it, so can I".

Over the years progress has changed things a lot & most families here have all the necessary modern conveniences – same as in Canada. Mothers have their babies in hospital and are well looked after. The health system here in the North is quite good, but if you want and sometimes need a specialist, then it can be expensive. Dentists, for example are expensive. Years ago if you wanted to be a nurse, you first had to have 2 years of high school then take the 3-year nurses program. Now you have to have your high school diploma before starting the course for nurses, so here again, it's similar to Canada.

My daughter, Viviana works in a home for the elderly and is very dedicated to her "grannies". Christina is a physiotherapist and works with children with neurological, psychological or physical problems. She too loves her profession and her little special children. She also gives various types of therapy to people after work so her days are more than full. Riccarda and her husband Franco have 2 beautiful talented children, Eleonora (18) and Riccardo (13). They both sing in a choir and play instruments – Eleonora – piano- and Riccardo – guitar. Romina (my youngest) and Oscar also have 2 beautiful daughters –Valeria (18) and Elena (9). They also sing in the same choir and both take dancing lessons. Elena plays the piano too.

My life is full and I keep quite busy – family first of course, but also teaching English. I was teaching in a language school until last year, but gave that up and have kept my home tutoring lessons. This way I can organize my day and not have to spend hours and hours at meetings – although I did enjoy being around and working with my students at school.

Well, take care everyone and my best, warmest wishes to you all. If you're ever in Italy and come my way, please drop in – would love to see you. Bye for now. Love, Verna

Continued from page 15 “Little Bit of Heaven” “Go into McDonald's and ask them to call a taxi for you and charge it to my account” were our instructions. This we did, however by this time it was about 12 noon on a holiday Saturday and you can imagine the line-up waiting to collect their “Big Macs”. The nice young waitress we approached was wonderfully helpful in spite of growls and some angry looks in the line behind us. We went outside to await our chariot and soon along came a bright green “Beetle” and we hailed him, saying “here we are”. Two and a half hours after leaving our West Vancouver homes, we duly arrived and were greeted by our hostess at her ‘Little Bit of Heaven on Earth’. A delightful home right on the waterfront overlooking Point Roberts and beyond, Mount Baker, in all its summer glory. A charming cottage surrounded by a mass of colourful flowers and towering trees and a wide expanse of grass beckoning everyone to the benches at the far edge of the beach. Birds, squirrels, hanging baskets, small, welcoming, playful four-legged pooches and a wonderful long-time friend and classmate to greet us.

A gourmet lunch, refreshing cold drinks, many laughs, lots of catching up on the year's news, updating future plans, and the joy of old friendships made the next three hours pass too quickly. The return journey was eased considerably by the very kind offer of a dear neighbour to drive us to a bus stop nearer to the train station. Such a welcome and unexpected help for us four old gals. And so we headed off in the right direction to return to our homes. It had been such a happy day and was so greatly enjoyed by us all, and I, for one, found it such as joy to do something so different from routine, and so very rewarding to be with the wonderful friends we were fortunate to have met about 65 years ago. **By Jocelyn Howden Sept'48**

SUCCESSFUL FUND RAISING FOR OUR ARCHIVES – 2011

Thank you to the 234 who so generously donated to our Archival Development Fund, an increase over last year. Seven donors wish to remain anonymous. This represents 20% of our membership. We are excited about the launching of our new web site in 2011 and some of the funds donated are being used to further develop this. Visit our site at www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com. Money was also transferred to our long term investment which will be used when we move to a new home – date unknown at this time.

For more information see the Archival Development Report on page 4.

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*Ethel Warbinek
-trustee*

VGH SCHOOL OF NURSING
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
c/o 855 West 12th Avenue,
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Phone: (604) 604 875 4111 local 62049.
Please leave a message.



Registration for the School of Nursing Alumnae Association Lunch
Sunday May 6, 2012 12: noon to 3:00 pm Cost \$25.00. Classes of 1962 & 1952 no charge but (please register)

Name:.....Name at Graduation:

Address:.....e-mail:

Phone:Grad Class

Return this form with your cheque payable to:

VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Lunch 855 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9 by APRIL 18, 2011.
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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.
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SUNDAY MAY 6, 2012
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Newsletter:
 Ethel Warbinek (McIntyre) '56
 Mary Watt (MacKinnon) '54
 We appreciate your input!