



# NEWSLETTER

## OUR NEWSLETTER –

### Won A Prestigious Award

We were delighted to discover last June that our newsletter had received an award from the BC Historical Federation for the best newsletter published in 2013. It was presented to **Mary Watt and Ethel Warbinek**, co-editors, at their annual conference on June 7, 2014 at the Sunrise Banquet Centre in Cloverdale.



Our first newsletter was printed in 1938 and although only a few pages long, it provided a vital link to members with class news, marriages, reunions, and changes at VGH. Over the years it has grown and for the past 4 years been available on our website in colour. More and more members are now opting to receive it by email, also in colour, and this year, more

than 450 will receive it electronically.

More articles about our members are being included such as those in this issue about Mildred Neilson who was brutally murdered in 1925 and on Mary Mack Woolen who wrote about her experiences as a public health nurse in the 1950s and 1960s. We encourage you to submit articles to us for inclusion in the 2016 newsletter.



## VGH ANNUAL NURSING AWARDS CEREMONY

The VGH Annual Nursing Awards Ceremony was held May 12/14. The VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Building Society/Association Fund provided twelve bursaries to staff members returning to school.

The winners represented a variety of clinical areas. In addition, \$10,000 was given to 28 Nursing Units or Programmes to carry out education programmes and \$5,000 was provided for the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Challenge Award. **Vivian Blake** and **Kathy Murphy** represented the Alumnae Association and are pictured with some of the award winners who greatly appreciated the funding.



## All VGH Grads invited to attend the Annual Alumnae Luncheon

CELEBRATE the MEMORIES...  
RENEW the SPIRIT

Honouring the 1965 classes

**Sunday**  
**May 3, 2015**  
**12:00 to 3:00**

Cost: \$25

Guests at the luncheon are the 1965 and 1955 graduates.



### St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Centre

3150 Ash Street  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 3C9  
Between 14th and 16th Avenues

Registration begins at 12 noon  
Lunch 12:30  
Lots of free parking in front & back of building and easy wheel chair access.

Payment must be received by the deadline **April 22, 2015**  
If you wish to sit with your class, you must register by the deadline otherwise we cannot promise you a place at your class table. Seating is arranged ahead of time.

If you require assistance at the lunch please notify us and we will help you. If you are unable to attend after registration notify us as it affects catering and seating plans.

*See registration form on page 24 or visit our website [vghnursingschoolalumnae.com](http://vghnursingschoolalumnae.com) and register on line.*

For information contact:  
**Pat Sexsmith:** 604-261-8293  
Email at [psexsmith@shaw.ca](mailto:psexsmith@shaw.ca) or  
**Myrna Braun:** 604-266-7202  
Email at [myrnabraun@shaw.ca](mailto:myrnabraun@shaw.ca)

## 2013 ARCHIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2014 was a busy year for us as we continue to organize the large School of Nursing collection. **Mary Watt** is continuing to scan photographs to add to our collection. Donations have slowed over the past few years but some gems are received such as a delicate gold bracelet. There are sufficient long capes but we are looking for one more short one. With the increasing interest in genealogy, we have received more requests for information on our graduates.



*Ethel Warbinek*

**Displays:** Many favourable comments are received about our displays in Jim Pattison Pavilion where they always attract attention from staff and visitors. Each year we feature the 50-year graduates in May. Other displays are tuberculosis and pediatric nursing at VGH.

November always shows Military Nursing and in December a Christmas window. Another important display event is the Annual Luncheon where a selection of our beautiful silver, historical dolls and student uniforms are on display.

Donations to the Archival Development Fund continue. A special thank you to all who so generously donated to this fund. Your generous support ensures we will have sufficient funds to preserve our collection and prepare for the future. We welcomed a new member to our committee – **Jan Wood**. Heartfelt thanks to **Janie Birkland, Peggy Etchell, Betty Kirkwood, Marg Shugg, Anne Williams, Linda Allardyce, Betty Anne Rogers** and to our archivist, **Naomi Constant** for all your work in preserving and displaying our historical collection.



*Marg Shugg, Sept '54 busy sorting documents in the archival collection.*

*Ethel Warbinek & Mary Watt – co-chairs*

## ARCHIVAL TREASURES

Archival material relating to VGH SON come in so many forms; letters, photos, scrap books, medical equipment of times past and so on, all contributing to the history of our nursing school. These days digitalization of our collection is a major thrust and we are working toward documenting the entire collection. As new material comes in it is exciting to find some treasures. The following were accessioned recently.



*1949 VGH Grad class Tee shirt worn at their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion*



*Hildegard Martin Fond, 1939 Visit of Queen Eliz. & King George 6th, Klassen 4th from L.*



*VGH Gold Bracelet, '45*



*"Thirteen hungry newborn" c.1915, VGH, E. Neiley Fond*



*"An armful of Premies" c.1915, VGH, E. Neiley Fond*

## LUNCHEON COMMITTEE REPORT 2014



Our annual luncheon was held on Sunday May 4, 2014 at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Centre.

The theme was, “**Celebrate the Memories and Renew the Spirit.**” Two hundred and thirty four VGH Alumnae attended the luncheon honouring the classes of 1964. Items selected from the Alumnae silver collection were on display as well as the dolls in their period dress, the memorial book and the book of photographs of pins from years past. Our president Kathy Murphy gave us an update on the many changes happening presently and in the future to the hospital.

This year's luncheon will be held on Sunday May 3, 2015 at the same venue. All alumnae, including the honoured guests are asked to pre-register and submit payment by Wednesday April 22 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for the seating and catering. The 1955 and 1965 Grad classes are our guests.

Join with us on the 3rd of May to celebrate our friendships and memories.

Luncheon committee co-chairs are Pat Sexsmith and Myrna Braun.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Myrna Braun*

## PIN RECYCLING REPORT 2014

Another interesting year for the pin recycling committee. It started in February and we have now sent four pins to new owners. The last pin was sent on Dec.1.

At the present time we do not have any suitable pins available, but, please let us know if you want a pin as hopefully someone will have donated one for our use.

Again I would like to thank Margaret Shugg for her help on this committee.

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



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014

The VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association has been operating for 106 years due to the many volunteer hours and talent that the leaders possess. Sincere appreciation is extended for this amazing service.

The Annual Luncheon held on May 4, 2014 is a highlight each year. Honouring the Class of 1964 who celebrated their 50th year after graduation, the event was enjoyed by 234 guests. The Class of 1954 had a wonderful turnout to recognize their 60th year.

The revised By-Laws governing the Alumnae Association were approved at the Annual General Meeting and also by the BC Registry Services in Victoria. The changes included the process for the dissolution of the Alumnae Association and some other minor changes.

At the AGM, Doreen Orr assumed the role of the Membership Chair and in June, Bonnie Lantz assumed the role of the Treasurer as Sharon Baxter resigned for the last time.

An application to the BC Historical Federation resulted in the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association receiving the Newsletter Award at the Annual Meeting and Conference held in Cloverdale in June. Congratulations to Ethel Warbinek and Mary Watt for this excellent publication.

The Alumnae Association is continuing to be recognized for funding educational bursaries and research due to the various Funds set up through the Alumnae Education Fund, VGH and UBC Foundation, the Registered Nurses Foundation and UBC.

Nursing Week events are another opportunity to display the various activities that the association is involved in.

Sincere appreciation is extended to Norma Guttormsson, Executive Secretary, and the Chairs and members of the Committees who assist in keeping the association viable.

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



## GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**Our active members are living around the world:** 999 in Canada, 68 in the USA including Hawaii, 2 in England, 1 in Ireland, 2 in The Netherlands, 1 in France, 2 in Cyprus, 1 in Singapore and 4 in Australia. There is a great reason why our Association is alive and well – your continuing faithful support to the 30 dedicated volunteers. If you have chosen to receive the Newsletter by Email, it is essential to notify us of a new Email Address. And any change in your contact information needs to be sent, so that you won't miss receiving the Bulletin and Newsletter by regular mail. To honour a graduate in the Memorial Book, kindly phone or email to request the Form which needs to be completed and returned. Our office is located in the Heather Pavilion at the south entrance.

Mailing Address: 855 West 12th Ave Vancouver BC V5Z 1M9

Phone: 604.875.4111 Ext 62049 – voice-mail message

Email: kathleen.murphy@vch.ca

Website: www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com

*Norma Guttormsson '58*



### TREASURER'S REPORT 2014

The opening bank balance for 2014 was \$ 5,840.67.

The investments included 2 GIC's total worth \$138,000.00 and earned \$ 2,150.90 interest in 2014.

\$138,000.00 has been re-invested for 2015 at 1.5%.

The closing bank balance as at December 31, 2014 was \$7,010.16.

Sharon Baxter retired from the treasurer's position after 20 years of service to the Alumnae Association and we thank her for her years of service and support to the association and wish a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Respectfully submitted:

**Bonnie Lantz**



### VGH SON ARCHIVAL DEVELOPMENT FUND REPORT

For the period ending December 31, 2014

**General Account**

**Revenue**

Funds carried forward	1640.00	
Donations received in 2012	10,766.00	
Interest	.17	
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>12,406.17</b>

**Expenses**

Archival supplies	535.05	
Office supplies, postage	241.30	
Web site maintenance	1827.00	
Archivist	770.00	
Bank charges	57.00	
Restoration of photograph and uniform	324.48	
Transfer to GIC	6000.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>9,754.83</b>

**Balance in chequing account: 2,651.34**

**Long Term Investment 55,356.00**

Submitted by:

**Ethel Warbinek - Trustee - December 31, 2014**

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2014

My first year as Chair of the Committee has been interesting and rewarding. Our Membership Campaign was launched the first week of January, a change from November of the previous year. In 2014, there were 1080 active members, 49 fewer than 2013. Reminder letters were sent on March 30th. We appreciate receiving updated Class Lists. An opportunity to send one could be after a reunion. We are pleased to offer assistance with planning your reunion, so keep in touch. We will also provide past Newsletters and Membership Forms. All information about our members is confidential. My personal thanks to Anne Williams, former Chair, for her twenty years of loyal service.

Respectfully submitted: **Doreen Orr '65**



### FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT



2014 was another busy year for the Friendship Committee and our volunteers. Our spring floral deliveries were scheduled in April, and included the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.

This would not be possible if it were not for our volunteers, who deliver the florals and visit with our alumnae. We are always looking for alumnae who we would like to add to our Spring list.

We would like to thank **Gail McKay, Marg Hooper, Suzanne Stothers, Norma Guttormsson and Joan Kerr** who helped with the Lower Mainland, and **Nancy Gregson and Judy Reid** on the Island. We would also like to thank Roberta Tottle who sent out the Christmas cards. In addition we have sent out get well cards as well as sympathy cards. This year we have lost 35 of our alumnae, and some husbands. Cards are always sent to those for whom we have an address.

Please notify the Alumnae office, or Diane and Lorna, who should be added to our list for Spring florals. We have many more alums on the Island, so are always looking for volunteers for this area.

Respectfully submitted:

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

Remember to visit the website for up-to-date information on future reunions, to read the latest blogs, for information of the archival material or to pay your fees or to join in for the Annual Luncheon. If you would like to receive this newsletter in colour delivered directly to you email you may register by leaving a message at the office or on the website.  
[www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com](http://www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2014

There were 14 applications for the 2014 Alumnae bursary awards: two--VGH grads; twelve--children and/or grandchildren of VGH grads. Unfortunately, two were not eligible for a bursary in 2014.

The following received a bursary award from the **VGH/SON Alumnae Education Fund**.

*Kimberley (Chubak) Beaudry* VGH grad, Feb.'80  
*Ashley Seller* Mom; *Shirley Frick, Feb.'73*

The following children and/or grandchildren of VGH Grads received an award from the **Harvey/Cain Endowment Fund**. (Margaret [Dorset, 1929] Harvey and Dorothy Cain, sister)

<b>Child/Grandchild</b>	<b>Mother/Grandmother</b>
<i>Megan Beaton</i>	<i>Joyce Finimore, Jan.'51</i>
<i>Lisa Boulaine</i>	<i>Phillipa Kirkhope, Feb.'88</i>
<i>Shelley Canning</i>	<i>Doreen Ferris, Jan.'49</i>
<i>Kate Julin</i>	<i>Valerie Halpin, Sept.'84</i>
<i>Lisa Knox</i>	<i>Mom; Nancy Halvorson, Sept.'86 .....Grandmother; Christine Munro, Feb.'57</i>
<i>Lori Knox</i>	<i>Mom; Nancy Halvorson, Sept.'86 .....Grandmother; Lynette Munro, Feb.'57</i>
<i>Shannon MacDonald</i>	<i>Carol Schreiber, Sept.'58</i>
<i>Emma Sigmund</i>	<i>Louise Pennington, Sept.'86</i>
<i>Alexandra Williams</i>	<i>Karen Anderson, Feb.'77</i>



The following children and/or grandchildren of VGH grads received a bursary award from the **Eileen (Lewis) Johnston Endowment Fund**.

*Kirstyn DeNitali* *Kristine Brundell* Feb.'82

The Education Committee was pleased to grant a total of \$11,500.00 in bursary awards. We are also pleased to see the increasing interest in children and/or grandchildren who are taking advantage of this source of funding to assist with their schooling. The amount of funds we have available is dependent on the interest earned from our investments with the VGH/UBC Foundation and our GIC with BMO. We are also very thankful for individual donations made to our VGH/SON Alumnae Association Education Fund which helps immensely to facilitate presenting bursary awards to all eligible applicants.

The Education Committee would like to thank the following people who made donations to our general education fund in 2014 to be used for bursary awards.

### Donations to honour an Alum in the Memorial Book

Individuals or classes recognize a deceased classmate by having her/his name entered into the Memorial Book. (suggested donation of \$15.00)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura James and colleagues</li> <li>• Reta M. Kidd</li> <li>• Nancy Milley</li> <li>• Doris Riedweg</li> <li>• Ethel Warbinek</li> <li>• Betty Wynne</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class of September 1950</li> <li>• Class of January 1951</li> <li>• Class of February 1953</li> <li>• Class of September 1954</li> <li>• Class of February 1959</li> <li>• Class of February 1964</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

### Birthday Celebrations (in lieu of exchanging gifts, donations are made to the bursary program)

- |                |             |                 |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| • Lynne Dunbar | • Joan Kerr | • Judy Phillips |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|

### Donations from the authors of three books

- Kirstine Griffith “The Religious Aspects of Nursing Care”
- Beverly DuGas “The Best Damn School in the Country”
- Beverly DuGas “AIK”

With the donations made to the Education fund by the above people and classes one bursary for \$1000.00 was awarded to a deserving and thankful applicant.

The Committee is very pleased to see a renewed interest in our bursary program. The VGH graduate expressed how proud she is to be a VGH grad. The children have stated how proud they are to be following in their parent’s footsteps and to be involved in the nursing profession.

Inquiries and requests 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 ([www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com](http://www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com) and link to “**Bursaries**”). Deadline for applications is September 15 of the current year.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Joan (Dunbar) Kerr, Sept.'65* Chair, Education Committee

**PUBLICITY ANNUAL REPORT 2014**



In January, 1300 Bulletins were printed. In March, 1000 newsletters were printed and 677 mailed. 381 were sent by email. We continue to canvass members to determine those interested in receiving the newsletter electronically. This decreases printing and mailing expenses and as a bonus, you receive a beautiful colour version. The 2014 newsletter has

been posted on our web site. Three E newsletters were also sent to those who requested one. 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 email 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 the information, and it will be published in the annual newsletter and if you agree, posted on our web page. A report of your reunion with photographs is appreciated.

Our Web site: vghnursingschoolalumnae.com is popular. Events, reunions and news about members are constantly added. Send your news and we will post it. Remember to check the site for updates on our annual luncheon, view our archives and museum collection and find information on our bursaries. Sign up for email alerts and special notices. Three E newsletters were sent, the most recent one in December. As well, this electronic version was sent to all who indicated an interest in receiving the annual newsletter by email.

Special thanks to Mary Watt, who co-authors the newsletter, and for her invaluable help with photographing our uniforms and for scanning hundreds of photographs; some are posted our website. So take a moment and visit our site. Comments are welcomed.

*Ethel Warbinek, publicity chair*

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2014**

**Officers**

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

**Committee Chairs**

- Archives/Artifacts: Ethel Warbinek  
Mary Watt
- Education: Joan Kerr
- Friendship: Lorna Hoare  
Diane Parker
- Membership: Doreen Orr
- Publicity: Ethel Warbinek
- Luncheon: Pat Sexsmith  
Myrna Braun  
Suzanne Stothers – (Luncheon Liaison)
- Nomination: Mary Raikes-Tindle  
Suzanne Stothers
- Executive Secretary: Norma Guttormsson

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Suzanne Stothers Sept'70*

**Executive Changes for 2015**



**Vivian Blake**  
Retiring Secretary.



**Lynne Dunbar**  
Secretary



**Bonnie Lantz**  
Treasurer

**MEMORIAL BOOK**

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



The original book has been filled.

The calligrapher is Trudy Phillips, Feb.1953.

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

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

**Office Phone: 604.875.4111 Ext. 62049**

**Office Email: [kathleen.murphy@vch.ca](mailto:kathleen.murphy@vch.ca)**

## Reunions – Celebrate The Memories

### 2014 reunions

#### February 1959 – 55th Reunion: September 9-10, 2014

What a wonderful 55th reunion at the Best Western Hotel in Victoria. Fabulous weather and great food. There were 21 of us in attendance. No one got sick and by the looks on everyone's faces we all had a great time. Thanks to the organizing committee for doing so much work and bringing us all together. The food committee for Tuesday night did a super job. None of us were ever hungry! The wonderful dinner at the Docks on Wednesday night worked out very well. Most could walk home as the Hotel was very central. In attendance: **Shirley Atkinson, Hazel Boone, Glenda Byers** (all the way from Texas), **Eileen Depeel, Pat Borwill, Helen Guerney, Edith Hesson, Joey Johnson, Rose Murakami, Carole Partrick, Glenda Porter, Frances Russell, Carol Saunders, Bonnie Shill, Barbara Schroter, Janet Sims, Pat Sinclair, Ann Slind, Janet Sutherland, Kathleen**

Thirty members attended with one, **Jackie (Umer) Ziegler** coming all the way from Australia. Three came from various points in the States, one from Revelstoke, the rest all from the Lower Mainland – a great time was held by all. Thanks to the organizing committee, especially classmate **Helen (Collver) Overgaard** for arranging the use of the social room in her condo. It was great to be able to visit with everyone and catch up with all the news. Thanks to **Francis (Lamb) Loughton** for sending this in to us.



55th Reunion, Feb. '59



60th reunion, Sept. '54

**Thune and Helen Virgo.** Hope we will all get together very soon, **Pat Sinclair.**

#### September 1959 - 55th anniversary

The class of Sept '59 held a luncheon on Saturday May 3, 2014 to celebrate the 55th anniversary of our graduation.

#### September 1954 – 60th reunion

Thank you to all who attended our 60th reunion, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The luncheon at Van Dusen gardens was a scene of high energy, loud 'older ladies' making a ruckus and probably disrupting a few romantic lunches! We had a wonderful time - laughing, greeting and visiting - and remembering our classmates of 60 years ago, (the food was good too).

On Sunday we met again as guests of the VGH SON Alumnae Association at the annual luncheon. It was enjoyable to meet again to 'finish off our visits', and to meet with friends and grads from other classes. Thank you to VGH SONAA. But we must give the biggest cheer and thank you to **Anne Williams** and **Marg Shugg** for getting us all together by organizing the reunion. It was fun for the 28 that managed to attend. We toasted those unable to attend, wishing them well, and our departed friends. A newsletter was sent out following the reunion with updated information about the class. **Don't forget to come to the Luncheon on May 3<sup>rd</sup>** to continue to keep in touch. **Mary Watt**



## Reunions – Celebrate The Memories

### September 1964 – 50th reunion

We celebrated our 50th year since graduation with a dinner at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club on May 3rd. We are fortunate to be able to keep in touch with a reunion and newsletter every 5 years. It is really hard to believe that 50 years have passed since training days and most of us are now retired. 53 classmates attended the dinner and 50 went to the Alumnae luncheon on May 4th. We spent our time talking, taking pictures and eating. What more could we ask for? The class thoroughly enjoyed both days. Newsletters were sent to 75 classmates living in Canada, Australia and the United States. We honoured our 11 deceased classmates by putting their names into the Memorial Book.

Thank you to **Brenda Johnston (Thorpe)** and **Trudy Staley** for speaking for our class at the luncheon. Also, thanks to the Alumnae luncheon planning committee for



September 1971

organizing the luncheon so well and to our own reunion committee consisting of **Carol Martin (Stanway)**, **Marilyn Barga (Andrews)**, **Susan Goodall** and **Janet Babey (Ogilvie)**.

**September 1971** A gathering of 28 classmates took place in Parksville, B.C., on Sept. 9 and 10, 2014. Great weather, good food and fun visiting took place. Great to see each other again. We have sent out a questionnaire to the class as to what they might like between now and our 50th in 2021! **Judith Reid**



**Merilee Cameron**  
Feb 64, speaking for her class at their 50th reunion.

### 2015 reunions

#### September 1950 65th Reunion

May 2nd and 3rd, 2015 Contact **Vivian Blake**, [ivblake@shaw.ca](mailto:ivblake@shaw.ca) Please register for Alumnae Luncheon.

**January 1955. Winn (Winbigler) Watts** sent the following. A reminder to register for the Annual Luncheon at which we are the honoured guests. Some classmates are planning a cruise trip to start right after the luncheon on May 3rd. My plan, at the moment, is to register for our luncheon and have class pictures taken. Excited to see you and “Celebrate the Memories”. **Margie (Hoare) Neate** is organizing the cruise trip plans. Those involved already know the details. Come early for picture taking and visiting to honour our class as guests.

**February 1960** will hold a reunion on June 10th in North Vancouver. Details from [mariemackay@telus.net](mailto:mariemackay@telus.net) or 604-984-8202.

#### February 1965: 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Feb. '65 is looking forward to attending the VGH SON Alumnae Luncheon on May 3, 2015 as one of the honoured classes, with our 50th Anniversary Celebrations to follow at the Best Western Plus Langley Inn from May 3, 2015 to May 5, 2015. Events planned for the hotel include a reception, a luncheon, a banquet with a comedian presenting, and lots of time to share memories. Close to 50 classmates are registered now, traveling from a variety of places. We are still endeavouring to get in touch with as many more as possible. If anyone has

not yet been contacted, please let me know. Date to register by is March 1, 2015. For additional details, accommodation information and registration please contact:

**Patricia (Conley) Atkinson**,

[patriciaatkinson@hotmail.com](mailto:patriciaatkinson@hotmail.com) Telephone:604-274-4928.

#### September 1965: 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

will be held May 1-3, 2015 at the Coast Plaza Hotel in Vancouver. If you have not already received your package or registered, please contact **Kathy Murphy** at [k\\_murphy@telus.net](mailto:k_murphy@telus.net). Our reunion will include the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Annual Luncheon on May 3 which will honour the total Class of 1965.

**September 1975** is celebrating their 40th reunion at a dinner May 2, 2015 at the Granville Island Hotel at 6:00 pm. For accommodation call the hotel directly at 604-683-7373 by April 2, 2015. Watch your email for more info. Contact **Betty Bjornson** at 604-765-5830 or [bettybjornson@shaw.ca](mailto:bettybjornson@shaw.ca) or **Susan Manifold** (Rowe-



## Reunions – Celebrate The Memories

Sleeman) 604-552-2696 or srowe@shaw.ca. with any questions or to volunteer with planning. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

**February 1980** is celebrating their 35th Reunion –“ A Trip Down Memory Lane” May 8-9, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Vancouver Centre. Events: Saturday, a tour of VGH, reception 4:30-6:30 and dinner at Milestones Restaurant. Sunday – Brunch at Mahony and Sons Restaurant.

**February 1985** is having their 30 - year reunion at Harrison Hot Springs Resort and Spa Sunday May 31st to June 2nd. For information please contact **Sandra (Borhaven) Peterson** by email: sandrapeterson7@gmail.com or phone/text 604-644-5086.

### 2016 Reunions

**September 1966** Unimaginable but true! Next year will be the 50th anniversary of our grad! Time to start planning. **Judy (Winn) Fitzsimmons**, who almost single-handedly organized our past 2 reunions at Harrison Hot Springs, sadly passed away last summer. To say we will miss her hugely contagious enthusiasm is an understatement. Now there are 6 of us attempting to fill her shoes!

We’ve tentatively scheduled our 50th to be held Sept. 20-21/16 once again at Harrison. **Mahri (Meikle) Brasfield** is updating our contact list and will be sending out an e-mail in the near future, requesting updates of contact information. Please notify her with any updates, location of “lost individuals” or “whatever” at mbrasfield10@gmail.com In the meantime, stay healthy, enjoy each day and remember to include September, 2016, Harrison Hot Springs, when making your travel plans for next year.

*Diane, Jill, Randi, Laurel, Mahri, Jacquie*

**February 1966.** Plans are underway to celebrate our 50 - year reunion. We will be honoured at the VGH Alumnae Luncheon on Sunday May 1, 2016. Activities and hotel are being organized. Please check e-mails for updates. Hope to see you there. [lornahoare@shaw.ca](mailto:lornahoare@shaw.ca)

## Class News

### 1930s

**Margaret North Mainwaring** recently celebrated her 104th birthday surrounded by family and friends in her home in White Rock. She graduated from VGH School of Nursing in 1933. Her answer to her long life is “I just keep breathing in and out, and do it again”!



*Margaret (centre) during WWII*

To this end she “takes her wheels and goes to Johnson Road when the weather is good, its only three short blocks”. Until recently she was active in lawn bowling, curling, carpet bowling and golf. On dance nights at the Activity Centre she likes to have a twirl noting it’s easy to dance because someone is always “holding you up”. During her life she has seen the 1st World War and nursed in Scotland, England, North Africa and Italy during the 2nd World War. She has married twice and lost both husbands. Margaret has one daughter and 3 three stepsons. In her 104 years, Margaret has seen unbelievable changes. A loyal fan of



*Margaret holding a picture of her time in Italy, 1941  
Photo by Sarah Massah,  
Peace Arch News.*

John Grisham, she is hoping he will help her celebrate with her on her 105th birthday.

### 1940s

**Joyce Campkin 1947** wrote the following: I have many memories of those years at VGH

– when penicillin first came for our use – 1945 I believe. I was assigned to Ward K (pediatrics – ages 6-19 years). I had been previously introduced to this ward as a patient for tonsillectomy, just 2 weeks before entering the SON as a probie. I now celebrate 67 years as a graduate, 25 years as a retiree and a 24 year owner of my lovely West End apartment. I have contact with classmate **Jean (Stannard) Hart** . In reviewing the latest newsletter it was good to find a few familiar names and faces:

## Class News

**Daphne (Gwilliam) Walstrom**, and her roommate, **Devina (Rasmussen) Dennis** who lived across the hall from us in West House.

Memories of years at VGH are good. I am now in my 90th year, enjoying life although adapting as I sold my car. I miss the independence but am thankful for Handidart and taxi services. My feet tell me they decline lengthy standing/walking exercise. You may remember hearing the old adage – “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks. ‘taint necessarily so”. This old dog has been enjoying singing lessons for a few years during senescence. It just takes longer! Joyce also enjoyed a recent cruise to Alaska. She wrote the following: We were a sextet of retired nurses – 2 very Scottish, 2 very English, man and wife team and me. We shared a lot of laughs. The days tended to be cool– 40-50 F plus wind, so outdoor activity was limited. We saw some whales, porpoises, and eagles.

The food was excellent. I was afraid I might add many pounds, fortunately, just three. This trip took a different route than the one I took 20 years ago. We had a pleasant day in Juneau. I couldn’t believe how many jewelry stores there were. *So pleased you are enjoying life Joyce (eds)*



*Joyce Campkin at the Christmas Bazaar 1988*

### 1950s

**Doris Riedweg 1956** has published her third novel, *Wellspring of Love*, released in 2014 with a very successful book launch in Langley. It is the third book in what she calls her "Water Series", which includes *Still Waters* and *Water in the Wilderness*. If anyone is interested, they can purchase a copy through her publisher, Libros Libertad by e-mailing [infolibroslibertad@shaw.ca](mailto:infolibroslibertad@shaw.ca), or you can go to her website at [www.dorisriedweg.com](http://www.dorisriedweg.com). Doris wrote the following: I dedicated *Wellspring of Love* to my dear friends and nursing classmates, the Robertson sisters -- Diana MacKenzie and Donna Connell -- who both passed away within the last 20 months. Doris also sent us a poem. “While trying to have an after-lunch

nap one day, I was thinking instead of all the jobs I had to do, so I got up and wrote this little poem which I call "Hats", for want of a more catchy name. It has appeared in our local papers and been sent out by numerous readers to their retired friends, especially nursing groups.”

Doris, a native of Saskatchewan and a former registered nurse, began a writing career in 1992 at the age of sixty-two. She has had numerous articles and short stories published in newspapers and literary magazines, and two of her short stories have won awards in magazine-sponsored contests. She is president of the Langley Writers’ Guild, an active group of writers of all genres, and of which she has been a member for eighteen years. For



*Glennis dressed as Mrs. Miller, a volunteer nurse who served in the 1885 North West Rebellion. Photo credit: Margaret Sciaia.*

#### “Hats”

As a graduate nurse I had a white cap,  
and a uniform worn with much pride,  
But then I replaced the cap with a veil  
on the day I became a new bride.  
When I opened the clothes cupboard in my new home,  
I was really astonished to see  
numerous hats that I’d never worn;  
they were quite unfamiliar to me.  
A housekeeper’s hat, and a cook’s hat were there;  
a gardener’s hat filled me with fears.  
But those are now tattered and almost worn out  
as I’ve added more hats through the years.  
A barber’s, a bookkeeper’s, chauffer’s and vet’s;  
a farmer’s from winter through fall;  
hats for a seamstress and laundress, of course,  
and a diplomat’s hat tops them all.  
Well, sometimes I shuffle and change them so much  
those hats get all crumpled or worse.  
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and a uniform worn with much pride,  
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on the day I became a new bride.  
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hats for a seamstress and laundress, of course,  
and a diplomat’s hat tops them all.  
Well, sometimes I shuffle and change them so much  
those hats get all crumpled or worse.  
Oh yes, I forgot – when a loved one is sick  
I still wear the cap of a nurse

## Class News

many years she regularly attended the Surrey International Writers' Conference. Doris added the following: I do enjoy reading the Newsletter, and I'm glad you people are so faithful in keeping us all in touch. Blessings.

See also Page 22

**Glennis Zilm 1957** was guest speaker at the Royal BC Museum on November 16, 2014. Her illustrated presentation: Nursing on the Battlefield 1885-1945 provided an overview of Canada's war time Nursing Sisters beginning with nurses hired by the Canadian militia in 1885, through the Boer War, WW1 and WW11. The talk stimulated lively discourse among the attendees.

### 1960s

**Kathy Murphy 1965**, joined by honorary member **Sheila Zerr**, had a booth at VGH for Nurses Week May 15, 2014 – *A leading force for change*. They were kept busy answering questions, giving out VGH membership forms and History of Nursing bookmarks.



*Sheila Zerr & Kathy Murphy*

### 1970s

**Dr. R. Lynn (Murray) Stevenson 1973** is currently the Associate Deputy Minister of Health responsible for the health services portfolio in the British Columbia Ministry of Health. She is responsible for the divisions of health service policy, quality assurance, population and public health and medical beneficiary and pharmaceuticals. Lynn is a registered nurse by profession and has held senior leadership positions in the Vancouver Island Health Authority, British Columbia Cancer Agency and the Fraser Health Authority in British Columbia. Lynn has extensive health care experience in operations, quality and safety, human resources and research. She currently co-chairs the British Columbia Academic Health Council board, is a member of the Royals Roads University Leadership Advisory Board and the University of Victoria Human and Social Development Advisory Committee.



She has a PhD with a research focus on organizational change, practice and leadership, is a Fellow of the Canadian College of Health Leaders (CCHL), a CFHI EXTRA Fellow, certified corporate director (ICD-D) and holds Adjunct Professor positions in the Schools of Nursing at the Universities of British Columbia and Victoria. Lynne has received awards from the Canadian College of Health Leaders, the University of Victoria and the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia. Source: [www.cfhi-frass.ca](http://www.cfhi-frass.ca)

### 1980s

**Gayle Duteil VGH 1983** is the new president of the BC Nurses Union. – Congratulations.



A critical care nurse since graduating from Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing in 1983, Gail became active in BCNU as a Steward during the 1989 strike. Her passion for nurses' issues led her to accept the opportunity to work as a Labour Relations Officer for the Union. Sixteen years later, she left after having worked as BCNU's Executive Director of Operations. Passionate about advocacy and nursing, she returned to her roots and the bedside in 2010, working as a registered nurse in Acute Care/Emergency at her small rural hospital. This experience catapulted her to undertake this journey and brought her in touch with members' issues. She is skilled in strategic planning, labour relations, policy development, communication, budgeting and fiduciary responsibilities.

Visit her website at [www.gayleduteil.com](http://www.gayleduteil.com) for additional information on her professional nursing career and involvement in BCNU.

### 1990s

**Ingar Lisa Skroder 1990** along with her 3 siblings operates Trinity Air Ambulance International, based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The service is a 24/7 business which acts quickly when calls come in from the U.S., Caribbean and South America. For more information on Ingar and the company visit: [www.trinityairambulance.com](http://www.trinityairambulance.com)



**MEMORIES**



**MEMORIES**

**MEMORIES**





**MEMORIES**



**MEMORIES**



**MEMORIES**



## LUNCHEON 2014. Memories of September 1964 - "A Golden Moment for us all"

### Brenda Johnston & Trudy Staley's presentation

Firstly, aren't we very fortunate to be gathered here today. 50 years since graduation. A golden moment for us all.

I know one thing for sure about each and every one of the 1964 classmates who are here today—that we are all at least 71 years old this year and that is incredible. Our class has been fortunate to have great organizing for our reunions. Thank you **Janet Babey, Carol Martin, Marilyn Bargaen, Susan Goodall** and many others who met every 5 years with great turnouts. Last night we had 53 classmates gather, which is approximately 50% of the class after 50 years. Amazing. Having said that, we remember those in our class who are not with us today. We miss them.

Trudy and I have been asked to capture some memories from our time in training.

For the real memories, a referral to our 1964 annual, and the book by Mrs. Du Gas: *The Best Damn School in the Country*, are excellent ways to go back in time.

I would just like to reflect that as we celebrate our 50th anniversary of graduation, we did truly have golden opportunities with our VGH training, for our time. We were superbly trained for work and for life, whether or not we realized it at the time. We had to be of strong stock to make it through, but our training prepared us well to take on opportunities that were great at the time. Were you ever without a job? VGH grads were in demand. Now, hopefully, we are enjoying our hard-earned retirements and can let the younger generations carry on in extremely different and more challenging working conditions.

We would like to reflect in a more light-hearted manner and share a few snippets of memories that have come back to us and to our classmates. Of course there are thousands of memories that we all have, but here are a few we have come up with:

#### *Do you remember?*

Roll call in probie term—racing down to the classroom with cape and supposedly uniform underneath, (but often pyjamas) to face the matron(s) on duty for roll call and rules.

- The matron saying one morning: "keep your room tidy and there will be no layin' about on the beds"
- Receiving four 9 o'clocks for a transgression
- Going to dinner at 4:30, often through the tunnel, and eagerly anticipating the menu:

Monday—liver n' onions

Tuesday—smoked Alaska black cod

Wednesday—Salisbury steak, carrot coins and junket

- Then back to the residence to practice on Mrs. Chase, or perhaps study?—or better yet, to receive a phone call

from "outside" and race from floor to floor to find a free phone booth.

- Going to the bank to pick up your pay-check—standing in line to receive: \$5 per month, then \$8 per month, then \$12 per month?

- Going to pick up your laundry and spending the evening putting your uniform together—buttons, garter belt, stockings, shoes in from airing on the window sill.

#### *Do you remember residence life?*

Lounge refrigerators packed with peanut butter, tubs of margarine and white bread

The night one of our classmates was ironing in the 8th floor laundry room. The steam iron belched and sent out a burst of steam. She panicked and pulled the fire alarm, whereupon the entire residence was evacuated out onto Heather Street. The main upside of this episode was that we all got to see some firemen—a rare treat during our cloistered lives. I might add that this classmate went on to obtain her bachelor's degree in nursing and became an esteemed professor of nursing. Good for her.

#### *Do you remember?*

Final exams—R.N.'s hanging over our heads the entire 3 years. I still have recurring dreams about studying. How could we possibly remember all that we learned over 3 years? Then, the day came when we had to write them. Here is an example of one multiple choice question on the RN exams that I can remember as clearly as if it were yesterday:

Please listen up, sweep out the cobwebs, and see if you can answer this question correctly: "What is the correct procedure to follow for a female catheterization?"

Insert the catheter 1"

Insert the catheter 8"

Insert the catheter from ear to umbilicus

Eat the patient's cookies

Well, we all passed, or we wouldn't be here today

Trudy and I now want to leave you with one glorious memory: graduation.

Remember how the day came when we got into our all-white starched uniforms, carried red roses, had our families there, and were bussed to the Queen Elizabeth Theatre – with a Harley-Davidson police escort no less! Whereupon we walked across the stage and shook hands with Miss King. What a finale!

We leave you with these memories and look forward to seeing you at our 55th reunion in 2019.



*In Memoriam*  
*And Not Forgotten*

	Maiden name	Given name	Married name
1929	Robinson	Kathleen	
1935	Espley	Marorie	Wilson
1938	Glenn	Vivian	Woodsworth
1939	Bell	Thirza	Clark
1939	Saunders*	Helen	
1939	Putnam	Edith	
1940	Gram	Edna	Affleck
1943	Armstrong	Peggy	McSweyn
1943	Goodwin	Eleanor	Hooson
1943	Stewart	Betty	Maddin
1944	Adam	Kirstine	Griffith
1945	Sutherland	Marguerite	Anderson
1947	Calthrop	Winifred "Win"	Miller
1947	Spark	Joan	Poole
1947	Stephenson	Dorothy	Cowan
1949	Clark	Ruth	Darby
1950	Bridge	Betty	Underhill
1950	Graham	Joan	Mahabir
1950	Holley	Doreen	Atkinson
1950	Lindsay	Denise	Edwards
1951	Bell	Barbara	Nowick
1951	Fraser	Meryl	Jelinek
1951	Gurvitz	Cynthia	Litsky
1951	McConnell	June	McAllister
1951	Skeeles	Betty	Senay
1951	Stewart	Isobelle	Nicoll
1952	Greene	Sura Clare	Sandekian
1952	Sawchuk	Anne	Egerdie
1953	Hogarth	Midge	Jones
1954	Berggren	Roni	Wallinger
1954	Hunter	Win	Taylor
1954	Ross	Shirley	Joy
1955	Dawson *	June	Wick
1955	Grantham	Diana	Laustrup
1956	Cameron*	Margaret	Mitchell
1956	Robertson	Donna	Connell
1957	Munro	Lynette	Halvorson
1958	Andrews*	Beth	Drummond
1958	McKendry	Marian	Lauden
1959	Gopsill	Patricia	Dickson
1960	Dueck	Helga	Voth
1960	Gourlay *	Margaret-Anne	Turner
1960	Lane	Joan	Pierson
1960	Leitch	Nancy	Russell
1963	Brien	Linda	McCready
1963	Offenberger	Marilyn	Beaver
1964	Norrie	Joanne	Loewenthal
1965	Loewen	Linda	Danallanko
1966	McVeigh	Carol	
1966	Winn	Judith	Fitzsimmons
1972	Boyes	Susan	Grout

\* Denotes UBC class

The deaths printed in this newsletter are those reported in 2014

**REMEMBERING HELEN SAUNDERS - 1917 - 2014**

**Helen Saunders**, who many will remember as an Instructor in the OR, died at age 97 in Victoria BC. She wished to stay in her home as long as possible, and this was achieved. I recall climbing up the circular stair case to the OR in the evening to practice draping and other OR procedures in order to be prepared for the next morning. One did not want Helen's disapproval at not being ready. As one VGH graduate said-"I was scared stiff. She was stern and serious." My excellent skill in aseptic technique lasted throughout my entire career, thanks to Helen. In later years, she was rather puzzled by the image she created.



Helen was born in New Zealand and the family traveled internationally before settling in Victoria. She graduated from VGH in 1939 and from UBC School of Nursing with a BAsc(N), in 1940. Following graduation she worked in the slums in Chicago before joining the Army as a nursing sister in 1944. Following the War she took the new Post Graduate Course in OR Nursing at VGH and then the Teaching and Supervision course at UBC. She was hired by VGH and taught in the School for 11 years before resigning to obtain a Masters degree in Nursing Education at the University of Washington. Helen moved back to Victoria where she worked at the Royal Jubilee hospital as an In-service Education Supervisor. She retired in 1975 to care for her parents. While in retirement Helen devoted herself to trying to improve available health care and was an integral contributor

to the completion of the new Patient Tower at Royal Jubilee Hospital. She was a caring aunt and was fortunate in having many dear friends and neighbours who watched out for her. It was said she would love nothing more than for all of us to reminisce with fond memories over a cup of Earl Grey.



Sources: Victoria Times Colonist, Dec 7 2014, Amazing Alumni Stories, UBC School of Nursing website.

**By Ethel Warbinek**

## Recollections of a 1933 VGH Graduate – Mary Mack Woollen.

**“Come into my parlour said the spider to the fly – no one got out of my office without getting an injection for something, mostly polio”** *Mary Woollen, public health nurse.*

Mary graduated from VGH in 1933 and received a Public Health Nursing Diploma from UBC in 1936. *The following was typed from a transcript of an interview done September 12, 1988. No recording could be found and the name of the interviewer or person who recorded the interview is unknown.*



Mary was born and raised in Enderby BC and entered VGH in January 1930. She said she was the first nurse at VGH who went through without sick leave. She worked 12 hour shifts and when she worked 7 to 7 overnight; she had three hours off and was expected to attend class that day. She received five dollars per month for the first year, seven for second year and ten in third year. When in second year, during the Depression, students were asked to take a 10% cut in pay, and later a 5% cut.

She recounts an amusing story – Compared to the liberties they have today, my friend and I made some beach pyjamas and we went over to where my sister was boarding, to show her what they looked like. We wore them over to her house and were called up on the carpet for wearing them. And the funny part was the little carpet, which was one of those small sample pieces, and we had to stand on it. A very superior Superintendent of Nurses kept saying she would like to spank us. Of course you had to keep up the traditions, so a friend and I climbed out of the window at VGH - everyone did that. But when you got out there was no place to go, but you still had to do it.

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

Following graduation, Mary worked at VGH and became interested in Public Health nursing. She enrolled in the Public Health Nursing diploma course at UBC graduating in 1936.

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

The greatest killer of young people at the time was tuberculosis, so after I finished my training at UBC I went into TB control. There was a new centre at VGH and I worked there until married. I quit then, because married nurse weren't allowed to work in those days. I didn't go back to work until 1955.

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

Inoculations had started with the family doctors. When I came back the nurses were doing it and examining newborns. We picked up the notices of birth and death from the RCMP. We went at least once a week to pick up the notices and tried to visit the mothers in hospital, find out where they lived, give one home visit and invited them



Early 1930's-

Collar change -1932



“There were measles, chicken pox, and scarlet fever.”

to attend baby clinics. Family doctors were well aware of the program, some continued to see their own patients, but most encouraged them to attend our clinics. This was a time where there was no medical insurance, or at least in very few cases.

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

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

We went then to the Children's Hospital and worked with the Kinsmen and other organizations to get the children who needed the care to get to the Hospital. They would be seen when the Children's Hospital would travel around. Then we'd make appointments for the parents and all the children to see them when they were in the area, usually in Vernon or Salmon Arm at that time. The biggest thing was to persuade the family doctor you weren't fringing on their territory, that you weren't trying to take anything away from them and they would get a full report back from the clinic on their patient.

I asked one how he would like to educate the public. He told me if I hadn't been there, he would never have done it all. He was always there to help. When I had to figure out the amount of medication to give, worked out per pound of body weight, I used to work it out before I gave it. Having been a teacher before a doctor, he'd say "give me your figures" and he'd work it out and tell me to go ahead.

It all changed as time went on, especially with the organization of polio clinics. People were really frightened. I was able to get a higher registration of people because they knew me. I was able to get the Jehovah Witnesses because I promised I would give them nothing that contained blood. I had terrific volunteers for the polio. We took it street by

street, neighbourhood by neighbourhood. We brought everybody. It was quite a thing to walk into a clinic say at Sicamous, and be faced with a couple of hundred people. We took all our supplies with us – packed it all on ice.

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

It was terrific job. That was the best part. I think coming back in 1955 with all the shortage of nurses, the polio problem and the increasing population. The MHO had all the health units up to Revelstoke. He told me I had a very big territory and I was to organize it any way I saw fit. I had him and the sanitary officer to call on and he called in regularly. He was with me examining the grade one children. Now there is a senior health nurse who is supposed to do that.

But then, he did it all, came out to the little schools.

It bothered me, all the inoculations that weren't completed at the end of the year. People came and went. With the Roger's Pass opening (1962) all these people coming in because the road was improved all the way through. You had this road building crew and they all had young families and you saw all of these babies. We had a lot of Americans up to the Taft area.

To begin with they were most appreciative because the inoculations cost \$25 at home, and it was free here. We packaged all our needles and syringes, and took them to the hospital autoclaves. We were getting away from sterilizing our own needles – it was a step up.

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



“service to the people was

*Continued from page 17*

Before the Roger’s Pass opened, Victoria worked it out that I was traveling regularly more miles on gravel roads than any other nurse in BC. I found the people from outlying districts didn’t get into Enderby during the winter months. Babies had to have their immunizations once a month and if they missed too much time between, they had to start over. It seemed you were forever starting over, never completing. We established regular baby clinics in schools, in homes, in stores – wherever there was a group of people due to their work living in mobile homes. There were special classes in high schools on handling food.

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

When I left in ’67, they were getting down to a reasonable wage. The hospital nurses were getting a way more than the PH nurses especially for the responsibilities you had. Then in the 70s they unionized. I wouldn’t have worked under a union and the old nurses felt that way. They worked for the good of the community and they were proud of their uniforms. I don’t think they even have uniforms now.

In summer when the schools were out you weren’t supposed to be a school nurse per se, you were a nurse for the whole community, and were supposed to pass on your knowledge to others. We were still busy; - you had all your supplies to order and so on. Things that were a headache: -when you sent in a request and it went through to a different government agency. Public Works covered the toilet paper. Enderby didn’t have a Public Works and Highways wasn’t going to supply me with toilet paper.

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

In summarizing the years, I enjoyed working with the people of the area. It is still the people I meet today that I worked with then who really make it all worthwhile. They appreciated the amount of work that was accomplished and their help as volunteers. There were lots of good times and we were accustomed to work in those days. The service to the people was uppermost in our minds as compared to be employed in a government service. We worked for the people. It was our only allegiance.

*Retyped and edited by Ethel Warbinek, January 2015*

**Remembering Kirstine (Adam) (Buckland) Griffith - 1922 – 2014**

Many of you will remember Kristine Buckland, later Griffith, as an Instructor in the School or perhaps earlier, as a nurse in the Student Health Clinic. She died on December 5, 2014 following a brief illness. I remember her wonderful smile and friendly greeting, always interested in others and nursing events. Many will have received her hand crafted cards with pressed flowers. Kirstine or “Kris” as she was known by her nursing friends, was a devoted wife, mother and nurse.



Kirstine was born in Vancouver and from an early age always knew she would become a nurse. Most of her childhood was spent in Chemanius and later the family moved to Vancouver where she attended high school. She enrolled in the UBC School of Nursing program in 1940 graduating from The VGH portion of her course in 1944 and from UBC with a BASc(N) in 1945. During her university years she met her future husband, Dr. Don Buckland who later became a well known and highly respected Forestry Professor.

Following graduation from UBC, Kirstine and Don married and she worked for the Saanich Health Department for 2 years. The family moved back to Vancouver and Kirstine spent the next several years looking after Don and their 3 children Elizabeth, Dorothy and David. Don’s eyesight began to fail as a complication of Diabetes and Kirstine assisted him with reading, writing and just getting around as a visually impaired person. Tragically Don died in 1956 at age 38 and Kirstine returned to her nursing career, as the VGH Student Health Clinic nurse. Later she taught various courses in the School, taking time off to earn a MA degree from UBC.



She married Braham Griffith in 1969 and remained at VGH until her retirement in 1982. Braham died in 1998.

In retirement she remained active with several projects such as dressing VGH dolls in uniforms from 1896-1975. These are now part of our VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Archives. Never idle, in 1996 she wrote the *The Religious Aspects of Nursing Care* which describes the practices of 34 religions. Proceeds from the sales have been directed to our nursing scholarships. Kirstine was an active member of the Nursing community and over the years, graciously hosted many meetings at her home. I fondly remember visiting her and was amazed at her ability to knit, read and talk all at the same time – obviously a master at multi tasking. In 2005, Kirstine wrote *Don’s Story* in memory of her husband. A copy of this CD which describes in detail the history of the Adam and Buckland families is in the BC History of Nursing Archives at UBC.

She will be missed.

## Remembering Marjorie (Espley) Wilson - Class 1935

August 16, 1912 - August 6, 2014

Marjorie passed away peacefully in the Arbutus Care Home on August 6, 2014. Family and friends gathered August 16<sup>th</sup> in her garden which she enjoyed so much over the years. Marjorie was born in North Battleford Saskatchewan – the eldest of four children. Following high school, one year was spent at Regina College and one year in Home Economics at the University of Saskatchewan. Plans were underway for Marjorie and her friend to travel by train to Vancouver where she enrolled in the VGH School of Nursing Training program graduating in 1935.

Marjorie started her career at VGH as a float. For the next 9 years, she worked as a general duty nurse, assistant head nurse and head nurse. In 1946, she was hired in the admitting office and later became chief admitting officer. From this office she also administered the operating room slate.

Marjorie retired February 1, 1976 and received a 25-year Service Recognition from the Board of Trustees. They thanked her for the valuable contribution she had made to the hospital and who had seen and taken part in the many changes. The orthopedic surgeons, in appreciation, presented her with a signed engraved tray.

Marjorie was a Life Member of our Alumnae. She remained active and was always interested in alumnae activities. They say “aging is a work of art” – Marjorie proved that by traveling, enjoying the arts, gardening and visiting. She was always game to go on drives and outings. Family and friends were a special part of her life – and they were there when she needed them.

She is survived by her daughter, grandson, granddaughter and 2 great grandchildren.

*Thanks to Betty Anne Rogers for submitting this in consultation with Marjorie’s daughter who provided background information.*



## OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS A NURSING SISTER

Eula (Ledingham) Wolfenden VGH 1927 1907-1954



*It is interesting to look back on some of our early graduates as we often lose track of them and their careers.*

**Eula** sometimes referred to as “**Peggy**” **Winifred Ledingham** was educated in Vancouver and graduated from VGH School of Nursing in 1927. Following graduation, she moved to Los Angeles where she worked at the California Lutheran Hospital and then moved back to Vancouver where she was employed as a supervisor at VGH. In 1929 she married Marvin Wilson. There is no further information on her until 1943, when she joined the navy as a sub-lieutenant nursing officer, was posted to Halifax at the RCN hospital and then became matron of HMCS Cornwallis. Later on, she was posted to the HMCS Naden Hospital in Esquimalt.

In 1946, she was awarded the Royal Red Cross for outstanding service as a Nursing Sister in the Royal Canadian Naval Hospital in Halifax and at the Naval Hospital at Cornwallis. Her citation read: “Her devotion to duty, cheerful personality, keen and sympathetic interest in her patients have made her a valuable and exemplary Naval Officer.” In 1947, Eula was appointed matron-in-chief of the Royal Canadian Nursing Service and was promoted to lieutenant-commander. Her job was to run the nursing branch of the Royal Canadian Navy and to also serve as nursing officer in charge of the navy hospital, HMCS Stadacona in Halifax.

In 1947, she divorced her husband and a year later, resigned her commission when she married Lieutenant Commander John Wolfenden. Eula died after a lengthy illness at Royal Jubilee Hospital in November 22, 1954 – at age 47. She received full naval honours when her body was taken by gun carriage, drawn by 36 members of the HMCS Gunnery School, to the Royal Oak Burial Park Chapel. The HMCS Naden band was also in attendance. This was the first full naval honours funeral in Canada for a woman.

*Adapted from an article written by Dave Obee published in the Times Colonist, to mark the Centennial of the Royal Canadian Navy, May 23, 2010.*

## STORY OF VGH NURSE - MURDERED IN 1925

Mildred Neilson VGH 1921 1898-1925

*We came across a note in our membership list which stated Mildred Neilson – murdered. No further information was recorded in our VGH records. Beth (Walton) Fitzpatrick undertook research into the memorial fountain which was erected in her memory at Ocean Park Cemetery in Burnaby BC and this is posted on the BC History of Nursing Society web site.*

**This is Mildred's story.**



**Mildred Neilson** was a 1921 VGH graduate who was working at the Trail General Hospital.

On a few occasions, she met Patrick Haney who had taken an interest in her. He was an American-born resident who volunteered to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force with the Trail Company during WW1 and was disciplined for refusing to obey orders. In 1915 he was shipped off to England, sent to the front and was wounded in 1916. He sustained a rather serious leg injury and received medical care at various hospitals in England. There was some question as to whether he had been treated for what was labeled "shell shock" but no evidence of this was recorded in his war records. Declared unfit for physical duty, he spent the remainder of the war assigned to a variety of desk jobs.

Patrick returned to Trail in June 1919 and later on, became the district manager of Monarch Life Insurance Co., establishing himself in the community. He was in Vancouver in early February 1925 and visited Mildred's parents. Her mother had baked a tin of cookies and Patrick was to deliver them to her upon his return. When back in Trail he went to the second floor of the nurses home and shot Mildred through the heart, killing her instantly.

Patrick then proceeded to shoot himself and was admitted to the Rossland Hospital with a non-fatal wound. It was surmised Mildred had not reciprocated his affection and he felt rejected. Another interesting piece of the puzzle was that Patrick had sought medical attention shortly before this incident complaining of nerves and suicidal thoughts.

As a result of her death, a collection was made for Mildred by the citizens of Trail and, in particular, by the smelter workers. \$1,300 was raised as a memorial fund and used to build a fountain at her gravesite in Ocean View Cemetery in Burnaby BC. The inscription: *Erected by The Citizens of Trail, B.C. To the memory of nurse Mildred Neilson 1898 - 1925 So greatly loved.* A service for Mildred was held in Vancouver at the Grandview Methodist Church. Her VGH classmates, wearing their uniforms, acted as pallbearers

### **Update on Patrick Haney:**

On May 6, 1926, Patrick Haney was found guilty of the death of Mildred Neilson and was sentenced to be hung on August 2, 1926.

Annie Garland Foster mounted a campaign which led to Hanley's sentence being commuted to life in prison. She continued her efforts on Hanley's behalf, eventually helping to obtain his release from prison in 1945. Foster and Hanley married soon after his release and by then she was seventy years old, he was fifty-seven.

They lived in White Rock BC until their deaths in the mid-1970s. For a more complete story of this captivating saga on the life of Annie Garland and her relationship with Patrick Haney, read Frances Welwood's book : *Passing Through Missing Pages: The Intriguing Story of Annie Garland Foster.*

Sources:

Newsletter Of The Trail Historical Society. Volume 2, Issue 3 October 2005 page 4.

Frances Welwood : *Passing Through Missing Pages: The Intriguing Story of Annie Garland Foster, 2011, Caitlan Press, Halfmoon Bay, BC.*



*Memorial Fountain built from the proceeds of a Memorial Fund, donated by the workers at the smelter in Trail.*

## "CANADA'S MOST VALUABLE EXPORT TO TRINIDAD"

### Joan Graham Mahabir VGH Sept. 1950 1927-2014

"Canada's most valuable export to Trinidad may be attractive, bright-eyes 33 year old woman from Vancouver". (Montreal Gazette, Sept 1, 1961.)

**Joan Graham Mahabir, September 1950**, died on August 1, 2014 in Victoria, BC. Joan was born in Edmonton in 1927. Her family moved to Vancouver in 1936 and she graduated from Magee High School in 1945. She enrolled in the six-year UBC/VGH Nursing degree program that same year. In her final year at VGH, Joan met Winston Mahabir, then a resident in Medicine. Their courtship scandalized her supervisor and many others, mixed relationships being uncommon in that era.



Joan wrote her RN exams in the spring of 1950, and for her high marks was awarded a scholarship to complete her degree. But love triumphed over academia, and Joan and Winston married in Prince Rupert that September. In December they left on a honeymoon to Trinidad where they remained for 14 years.

Winston and Joan established a medical clinic in San Fernando in the south of Trinidad, where Joan worked as the "unpaid nurse" in addition to bringing three of their own children into the world, two girls and a boy.

The Mahabirs joined the People's National Movement, a political party seeking independence from Great Britain, and in 1956 the PNM was elected to power. Joan was an active speech-writer and campaigner and both she and Winston received death threats. Winston became Minister of Health in the new government and in

1957 the family moved to Port-of-Spain. This meant a busy social agenda for Joan: luncheons, teas, entertaining visiting dignitaries such as Prince Aly Khan, Edwina Mountbatten, Princess Royal, British Prime Minister Harold and Lady Dorothy MacMillan, and Princess Margaret. Despite this schedule, Joan continued to sew her own clothes and outfit her children. An official five-week tour of South America concluded that year and in 1959 their fourth child, a daughter, was born. Next year, an official visit to Britain included the annual garden party at Buckingham Palace. In Glasgow, Joan launched the Scarlet Ibis, a ferry connecting Trinidad and Tobago, which is now an artificial reef. In 1962, Trinidad became an independent country.

Two years later, the Mahabirs returned to Canada, where Winston had been accepted for post-graduate training in psychiatry and Joan planned to complete her nursing degree. That plan changed when a second son was born in 1966, their fifth and only child born in a hospital. Before the Mahabirs purchased their home on the University Endowment Lands, a petition was circulated opposing them as neighbours. Future neighbours opposed to bigotry prevailed!

Nursing runs in the Mahabir family. Joan's second daughter, Gilda, graduated from UBC with a BSc. in Nursing and worked in the community for the Vancouver Health Department. Her daughter, Julia, graduates from UBC's nursing program this May.

Many readers will remember The Valerie Mahabir Academy of Ballet and Jazz in Vancouver. Today, Valerie runs a dance school in Palm Springs. Dr. Mahabir practiced psychiatry in Vancouver, was on staff at Riverview Hospital, and taught at UBC and VGH. In 1990, Joan and Winston moved to Victoria, where he died in 2003.

*The photographs were kindly submitted by her daughter, Gilda Mababir.*





### Honorary Members

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

### Life Members

Sharon Baxter (Francis) '62	Janie Birkeland (Schwab) '66
Vivian Blake (Jackson) '50	Myrna Braun (Wagstaff) '62
Peggy Etchell (Thompson) '51	Barbara Gillies '46
Lorna Hoare (Snider) '66	Evelyn Holob (Anderson) '51
Adelaide Hutchins (McLean) '53	Sheila Kirk (Poersch) '61
Elizabeth Kirkwood (Miles) '53	Gail McKay (Glanville) '62
Eleanor McTaggart (White) '47	Kathleen Murphy (McCutcheon) '65
Diane Parker (Sjerne) '68	Trudy Phillips (Smith) '53
Kay Raisbeck '54	Betty-Anne Rogers '57
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	



*Honorary Member, Charlie Etchell & Life Member, Peggy Etchell '51 pictured at the 2014 Luncheon.*



*Pat Wadsworth (Beck '54), Life Member & President of VGH SON Alumnae for many years enjoying 60<sup>th</sup> reunion with 1954 classmates.*

### ETHEL JOHNS - National Historic Person Of Canada



In a career that spanned more than five decades, Ethel Johns (1879-1968) was a tireless advocate for nursing education, establishing the first university degree program in nursing in Canada at the University of British Columbia and playing a pivotal role in helping to create new standards and expectations for nurses.

From 1919 to 1921, Johns served as Principal of Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing. In 1921 she headed the newly minted department of nursing at UBC. After a stint in Europe where she was instrumental in helping to develop nursing schools for women, Johns

returned to Canada to become editor of *The Canadian Nurse*, a position she held from 1933 to 1944.

Ethel Johns was appointed Director of UBC Department of Nursing (precursor to the School of Nursing) and the director of Nursing Services and Education at the Vancouver General Hospital in 1919. From 1919 to 1925, she was successful in laying the groundwork for the future of nursing education in Canada and the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

She has been honored by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Parks Canada, as a "Person of National Historic Significance." Johns is one of a very few nurses that have been so honoured. A recognition ceremony on February 10, 2015 at Cecil Green Park at UBC was attended by 40 guests. For a full report on the event please visit:

<http://news.ubc.ca/2015/02/10/ubcs-first-nursing-school-director-celebrated-as-person-of-national-historic-significance/>



**Doris Riedweg 1956** has published her third novel, *Wellspring of Love*, released in 2014

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

## 2014 DONATIONS TO OUR ARCHIVAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Thank you for your donations in support of our Archives and continuing development of our popular web site. Four donors wish to remain anonymous. For more information on this fund, go to page 4

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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.



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

**VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL  
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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name

**Surname at Graduation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Apt. Street

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Province/State Postal Code/ Zip

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Your cheque is your receipt. No receipts mailed for cash & Money orders.

Mail to: Executive Secretary VGH SON Alumnae Assoc.  
855 West 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9

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

**Sunday May 5, 2015 12: noon to 3:00 pm**  
**Cost \$25.00.**

Classes of 1964 and 1954 no charge but (please register)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Grad Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with your cheque by **APRIL 18, 2015** payable to:

**VGH School of Nursing Lunch,  
855 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9**

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Newsletter:  
Ethel Warbinek (McIntyre) '56  
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We appreciate your input!