



NEWSLETTER

Stories of "Training Days"...

during the 1930s Depression & Obstetrical Nursing in the 1940s.

The following stories are from interviews of VGH graduates recorded by members of the BC History of Nursing Society as part of a 1987 Oral History Project.

Obstetrics: *Shirley (Émigré) McAllister 1947*

Every patient was given some form of sedation as soon as admitted in labour. Nembutal, Seconal and by the time she reached the labour room was incapable of helping herself. Nurses gave all the general anaesthetics. Vaseline over the patient eyes, a cloth mask and dripped ether on it and also chloroform out of a bottle.

Every baby had to be resuscitated. Given warm and cold baths, dipped from one to the other and no end of hanging and slapping. At the end of the war (WWII) 12 deliveries per shift.

You were alone with a doctor in the delivery room. Absolute nightmare. Following a death, the hospital began to have an anesthetist in the labour room.

Nurseries: Babies were on different formulas with different nipples. Breast feeding not "pushed". Patients didn't get out of bed for a week. No end of bed baths. When they finally got up they were so weak.

Source: OH 117 BC History Nursing Society Archive



Archival photos: 1940's; setting up the case room; the nursery; triplets.

Gladys Rogers photos.

Continued on page 11

All VGH Grads invited to attend the

Annual Alumnae Luncheon

CELEBRATE the MEMO- RIES...
RENEW the SPIRIT

Honouring the
1968 classes

**Sunday
May 6, 2018
12:00 to 3:00**

Cost: \$25

Guests at the luncheon are the **1968
1958, and 1948** graduates.

**St Mary's Ukrainian
Catholic Centre**

3150 Ash Street

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

Registration begins at 12 noon

Lunch 12:30

Parking is available at the Centre.

Wheel chair accessible.

**Payment must be received by the deadline
April 18, 2018**

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

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

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

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

**See registration form on page 24
or visit our website**

vghnursingschoolalumnae.com

and register on line.

For information contact:

Suzanne Stothers 406.263.8059

Email: stothers1@gmail.ca or

Myrna Braun: 604-266-7202

Email at myrnabraun@shaw.ca



2017 ARCHIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2017 was another busy year for us as we continue to evaluate our museum collection. There are many instruments such as forceps, syringes, and other multiple items as well as larger pieces of equipment such as a very old incubator. Hopefully, this task will be completed in 2018. The inventory of textbooks is complete and a list of books will be posted on the website. Original copies of student annuals have been placed in proper storage boxes. Items related to the Building Society and executive and luncheon committee minutes are being sorted and organized. Mary Watt and Marg Shugg continue their work on the pin collection. Mary also keeps busy looking after our textiles and taking photographs and the cataloguing of our collection. We received a request for the loan of our pediatric iron lung from Fraser Valley Care Foundation for an event on January 31, 2017. Requests for tours continue to be received from our members. We welcome visits. These are arranged by contacting us. We limit our group tours to 10 due to space restrictions. A new printer was purchased to replace the old one and replacement computer is being planned for 2018.



Ethel Warbinek & Mary Watt

Displays

Our display windows in the Jim Pattison Pavilion continue to attract attention from patients, staff and visitors. They are changed 5 times a year and feature the following themes:

Paediatric Nursing & Polio History
VGH School of Nursing 50th Graduating Classes/Capping/ Senior Tea
Military Nursing/TB History
Christmas featuring Student Nurses.

We also provide displays at the annual luncheon each year. In 2017, we arranged a sale of our deaccessioned items and \$150.00 was donated by members who purchased these items. We plan to do this again in 2018.

Archival Development Fund

A special thanks to all who donate to this fund. Your generous support ensures we have sufficient funds to preserve our collection and prepare for the future.

As December 31, 2017, the 3 members who have been managing this fund since 2003, have resigned: Peggy Etchell, Betty Anne Rogers and Ethel Warbinek.

Members of the Board of Directors will now be managing this fund.

Heartfelt thanks to 2017 Archive committee members: **Peggy Etchell, Betty Kirkwood, Betty Anne Rogers, Marg Shugg, Anne Williams** and to our archivist, **Naomi Constant**. We appreciate all your work in preserving our historical collection. Thanks also to our Display committee members: **Norma Guttormsson, "captain of displays", Janie Birkeland, Linda Allardyce, Jane Robertson, Marg Shugg and Cathie Cousins**.

Ethel Warbinek & Mary Watt – Co-chairs

VGH SON ARCHIVAL DEVELOPMENT FUND REPORT

For the period ending December 31, 2017

General Account

Revenue

Funds carried forward	\$2,259.00
Donations received in 2017	\$14, 330.00
Total revenue	\$16,589.00

Expenses

Office supplies, postage	\$264.00
Web site maintenance	\$1,764.00
Archivist	\$1792.00
Bank charges	\$28.00
Transfer to GIC	\$7,000.00
Printer	\$430.00
Archival supplies	\$19.00
Total Expenses	\$11,297.00

Balance in chequing account\$5,292.00

Long Term Investment\$79,786.00

Submitted by:

Ethel Warbinek - Trustee – December 31, 2017

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2018

Officers

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

Committee Chairs

Archive:
Education: Joan Kerr
Friendship: Lorna Hoare & Diane Parker - co-chairs
Luncheon: Myrna Braun & Suzanne Stothers - co -chairs
Membership: Sue Kerr
Publicity:
Pin Bank: Anne Williams

Submitted by:

Mary Raikes-Tindle



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017

In the 109th year of operation, our Alumnae Association continues to carry on successfully while dealing with issues as they arise. The revised Bylaws, required due to the changes in the BC Societies Act, were approved at the Annual General Meeting and the renamed Board of Directors has managed this change well.

Our Executive Secretary, Norma Guttormsson, retired in the summer after providing excellent service in this important position for eight years. Sue Goguen was hired to fill this position after many years of service at VGH.

Ethel Warbinek also gave notice that she will be leaving the lower mainland in the summer of 2018 so will be stepping down as Co-Chair of the Archive and Artifacts Committee, Chair of Publicity and Co-Editor of the Newsletter, and Trustee of the Archival Development Fund.

Due to other volunteer changes, the Archive and Artifacts Committee is in great need of some replacements.

The Board of Directors is keen to keep the association functioning but needs assistance in locating volunteers to help.



The Class of 1967 was honoured at our Annual Luncheon as well as several graduates from the Classes of 1957 and 1947. Norma Guttormsson was presented with Life Membership.

The Alumnae continues to provide financial assistance to those continuing with their education and completing research projects. In addition to the Alumnae Education Bursaries for graduates and their descendants, the VGH Bursary managed by the Registered Nurses Foundation provided 14 bursaries to graduates and their descendants. In the 2017/18 fiscal year, the Trust Fund of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Building Society/Association managed by the VGH/UBC Hospital Foundation provided funding to individual employees for educational programmes, for In-House Education, and a \$5000 Research Grant.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Pat (Beck) Wadsworth in August. Pat was a former President of the Association and an international nursing and health care leader. Her name has been included in the Association of Registered Nurses of BC Memorial Book and a Bursary has been established in her name at the Registered Nurses Foundation of BC.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the members of the Board and Committee members who carry out the important work of our Alumnae Association.

Kathy (McCutcheon) Murphy

September, 1965.

Hello from your Executive Secretary



This past September I was warmly welcomed to join your VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Executive. I'm grateful to my predecessor, Norma Guttormsson, '58 Grad, who has been very kind for sharing her experiential knowledge - discovering daily the many "hats" one wears in this role. Prior to joining, admittedly, I was somewhat naive about the Alumnae, but now I value and respect the tireless work of the volunteers who keep our Alumnae and nursing history alive.

Thank you for your 2018 membership renewals. I now realize the importance of the \$20 fee, which provides financial support to endeavours that keep us connected, such as the annual luncheon and the Newsletter and Bulletin publications. Membership also provides an opportunity for you, your children and/or grandchildren interested in pursuing a nursing career or furthering a nursing career to apply for bursaries and/or other funding.

Entry to the "Family Graduates" data base is an ongoing endeavour. So VGH grads, please let us know of children, grandchildren or other family members who are Nursing graduates along with their school name.

Your Alumnae office is located just inside the South entrance of the Heather Pavilion - first blue door on the left.

Address: VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association

855 W 12th Ave. Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9

Phone: 604 875 4111 ext. 62049

Email: kathleen.murphy@vch.ca

Sue Goguen Feb. '75

2017 TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2017 operating budget was supplemented with \$3,000.00 earned from the two investments. This was necessary as the revenue from membership fees had been decreased and the costs for the luncheon increased which almost caused us to finish 2017 in a negative variance. With the generous donation of \$10,000.00 from Peggy Etchell, we finished the 2017 fiscal year with a healthy bank balance and were able to reinvest both the principle and interest from the Trethewey and General funds for 2018.



Revenue from membership fees has decreased and luncheon costs have increased. The archivist salary has been increased. Mileage expenses have decreased due to removal of bridge tolls, more executive membership residing in the Vancouver area or using transit. Postage has also decreased with more members wishing to receive correspondence electronically. The proposed 2018 budget has been prepared with these considerations.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Lantz

2017 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The final tally of members for 2017 is 999. Our goal for 2018 is to surpass this. There has been a general decline in numbers over the past few years and this can most likely be attributed to the aging of our members. The largest group of active members are graduates from the 1950's but we must consider that the youngest of these Alums are now in their late 70's. We are anxiously awaiting the grads of the 70's, 80's and 90's to step into some of these roles so our Association can continue.

In 2002 there were 1433 members, in 2008 there were 1213 and by 2016 we were down to 906 members.

In April 125 reminder letters were sent out to those Alums who had not renewed since 2014 and 27 replies were received.

Keeping class lists updated is an ongoing process. Thank you to all class reps who have forwarded this information. Many grads whose information is gathered for class reunions are not members of the Alumnae Association. It is easy to join/renew for just \$20 per year. These funds support the work of the alumnae in maintaining archives, sending cards or flowers and visiting elderly grads and providing bursaries to grads, children or grandchildren of grads who are pursuing education in the field of nursing.



A data base is maintained of all graduates of The VGH School of Nursing from when it opened its doors in 1899 until the last class graduated in 1998. We have 8253 graduates in this list.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue (Cathcart) Kerr Feb '69

2017 LUNCHEON COMMITTEE REPORT

"Just a Plate of Sandwiches"

The Luncheon Committee would like to address concerns some alumnae have about the cost of the Annual Alumnae Luncheon. We'd like to clarify that the \$25.00 which is charged is for more than "just a plate of sandwiches".

The cost for only the food and beverages at the luncheon is actually around \$22.00 per person, but that does not include the following such as catering staff, including gratuities, rental of all the equipment, dishes, and cutlery. Costs also include rental of the Church Hall and insurance for the venue, the photographer, the printing of the programmes and invitations.

The Alumnae purchases the floral centrepieces, balloons, plastic table cloths, napkins and plastic glasses for water and punch.

Years ago we made a decision to purchase table linens to cut rental costs. Committee members take the table cloths home and wash them! The luncheon committee and other alumnae volunteers set up the whole venue rather than paying staff at the Ukrainian church hall to do it.

So the actual cost per person is about \$48.00 for more than "just a plate of sandwiches"



On May 6, 2018 the grads from 1948, 1958, and 1968 will come as our guests to celebrate their graduation year.

**Suzanne Stothers,
Myrna Braun, Co chairs,
Luncheon Committee**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who make this event so successful.

2017 PIN BANK REPORT

2017 was a quiet year for the Pin Bank with only 3 requests. These replacements were sent to Alberta and Vancouver Island. Two names were also removed from the waiting list as the individuals involved did not respond to explanatory letters.

Following discussion at an Executive meeting it was decided to raise the price of the pin replacement from \$100 to \$125 as costs have risen and we were supplementing the program. This price includes verification of the graduation name, year, any necessary repair of the pin, cleaning, removing the previous engraving before the new name and year are added. Postage is also included. If there is any money left over (rarely happens!) it is given to the Education Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne E. Williams Sept/54



2017 EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Education Committee is very pleased with the continued interest in our bursary program. The children and grandchildren have stated how proud they are to be following in their parents' and/or grandparents' footsteps and to be involved in the nursing profession.

In 2017 we had eleven applications for bursary awards. All applications were from children and/or grandchildren of VGH grads.

A. Harvey/Cain Endowment Fund.

(Margaret [Dorset, 1929] Harvey & Dorothy Cain, sister)

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

<u>Child</u>	<u>VGH Grad</u>	
1. Michelle Aspinall	Sarah Treadgold	Sept. '87
2. Michelle Bos	Kelly Burm	1991
3. Carrie Anne McKellar (grandmother)	Marjorie Pauline Jukes	Nov. '41
4. Krista Munro	Janet Macpherson	Feb. '85
5. Julia Overton (grandmother)	Margaret Millard	Jan. '55
6. Jacqueline Purcha	Jill Armstrong	Feb. '90
7. Jacqueline Robinson	Cynthia Blaschek	Sept. '84
8. Alison Scott	Lesley Bennett	Sept. '87
9. Meaghan Sutherland	Erin Skilling	Sept. '81
10. Janelle Tucker	Coralee Visser	Sept. '87



B. The Eileen(Lewis) Johnston Memorial Fund

This bursary was awarded to:

<u>Child</u>	<u>VGH Grad</u>	
1. Jessica Porth (grandmother)	Mary Raikes-Tindle	Sept. '65

As a note of interest, Mary Raikes-Tindle was a classmate of Eileen (Lewis) Johnston. The Education Committee was pleased to grant a total of **\$11,000.00** in bursary awards. We are also pleased to see the interest in children and/or grandchildren who are taking advantage of this source of funding to assist with their schooling. The source of funding is 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 VGHSON 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 2017 to be used for bursary awards.

Individuals:

Elsie (Fran) McDonald Kathy Murphy

Classmates:

Class of February 1965 (they made a substantial donation from their 50th Nursing Reunion)

The Memorial Book -- donations from classes or individuals to honour and recognize a deceased classmate by having her/his name entered into the Memorial Book. (suggested donation of \$15.00)

Individuals:

Ruby Boechler Barbara Coughlin Thelma Kilburn Margaret Sage

Classes Feb. '50 (UBC), Feb. '53, Feb. '59, Feb. '65, Feb. '66
Sept. '55, Sept. '56, Sept. '57, Sept. '60, Sept. '62

For the 2018 bursary year, the committee will welcome applications from:

1. The VGHSON diploma program.
2. The UBC/VGH Collaborative Nursing Program.
3. Children or grandchildren of parents/grandparents from the above programs.

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

Deadline for applications is **September 30** of the current year.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Kerr, Chair, Education Committee

2017 PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Bulletins & Newsletters

In January 2017, 1200 Bulletins were printed and mailed to members. In March 2017, 750 newsletters were printed and more than 500 were sent by email. The 2017 newsletter is posted on our web site. Three e-newsletters were sent to those on our email list.

Thanks to all who sent in news and photographs. Please continue to do so by sending them to the Alumnae office or by e-mail to Ethel Warbinek at ethel@ethelwarbinek.com or to Mary Watt at marywatt@shaw.ca. Articles about you, classmates, news about VGH graduates and/or the School are welcome and will be considered for publication. If you are planning a reunion, send the information, and it will be published in the newsletter and if you agree, posted on our web page. A report on your reunion with photographs is appreciated.

Our Web site: vghnursingschoolalumnae.com has been updated and revised. Events, reunions and news about members (blog) are constantly added. Send your news and we will post it. Remember to check the site for updates on our annual luncheon, view our archives and museum collection and find information on our bursaries. Newsletters and Bulletins are also posted. Sign up for email alerts and special notices.

Special thanks to **Mary Watt**, who co-authors the newsletter, for formatting it and for her help with photographing our archival collection and museum items. Some are posted on our website. Please take a moment to visit our site. Comments are welcome.

I am resigning as chair of the Publicity Committee effective March 1, 2018. Mary Watt will continue to work on the newsletter. We are searching for a new chair, so if you can assist, please let us know.

Ethel Warbinek, Publicity chair



2017 FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Our committee remains busy sending Sympathy & Get Well Cards throughout the year to Alumnae members. We have also honoured special Birthdays if known. This past year 43 Sympathy cards were sent (3 for loss of family members), plus 8 Get Well cards & flowers, and 3 Easter cards. 48 Christmas cards were sent by Roberta Tottle.

The highlight is always the Spring deliveries & visits to our Senior Alumnae, occurring in March/April. There were 24 in the Lower Mainland & 10 on Vancouver Island. Thanks to our volunteers **Kathy Murphy, Joan Kerr, Gail McKay, Suzanne Stothers, Marg Hooper, Roberta Tottle and Sue Goguen**, and on Vancouver Island **Judy Reid, Charlotte Cronin & Helen Crisp**. It would not be possible without their assistance. The visits are always enjoyed by both volunteer & recipients, and the sharing of memories. We will be compiling the 2018 lists, so please let us know if we have missed someone, or special birthdays are near. You can contact the Alumnae office to provide information & current addresses. Respectfully submitted: Co-chairs Friendship Committee.



Diane Parker



Lorna Hoare

MEMORIAL BOOK



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

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

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

A donation of \$15.00 is suggested which is given to support our Bursary Fund. To honour a graduate, please contact the Alumnae office to obtain the Form which will be sent by mail.

After filling out all the information, it is returned to the office along with a cheque payable to the VGH School of Nursing Education Fund. It will be deposited in the Education Committee bank account. Acknowledgements will be fulfilled.

Office Phone: 604.875.4111 Ext. 62049

Office Email: kathleen.murphy@vch.ca

Class News – Celebrate The Memories - 2017

1940s

Ivy “Bubbles” (Balderston) Phillips January 1944 has contacted us and would like to hear from her classmates. Please contact her at [604 530 3417](tel:6045303417) or email bubbles17@shaw.ca. She is 100 years old, lives alone and is an active paid-up member.

Barb Gillies 1946. Loves living at the “gardens” in Qualicum Beach in independent living. Walks daily and long-time neighbours, friends and second cousins check in on her. Is bright and spry.



Barb Gillies

Kathleen “Kaye” (Huntington) Lindsay 1949. Has been struggling with glaucoma for 30 years and is now blind. Walks daily with Barb Gillies as she lives in the same complex. They have been friends for 40 years. Submitted by **Judy Reid** who delivered flowers in March 2017.

Shelagh (Wheeler) Smith UBC 1949 received the Donor Partnership Award at the UBC School of Nursing Awards Gala event May 4, 2017. This event awards and recognizes outstanding alumni who have supported the School of Nursing.

Bev. Atkinson (Jeffares) 1949 writes: The only person I have contact with is **Dorothy Clerkson**, we phone every Christmas. I will be 91 in a couple of months and our class had quite a few older women so I guess it's not surprising. After graduating and then taking an O.R. course at VGH I worked there for a few years. Marriage and children and I never went back to nursing. I went to U.B.C. where I majored in music and then taught at Capilano College for the next 25 years. I loved the OR but it's a 24/7 job. One can still do music at this age, I have a wonderful duet partner and we have been playing piano duets for the last 40 years. We still play for people. I'm in good health, exercise regularly and travel a lot: 3 weeks in Rarotonga in January and I'm off to Japan in May. *Many thanks Bev for your news.*

1950s

Dolores “Dee” (Smith) Kyle 1950. lives at Berwick on the Lake in Nanaimo. Is spry. Sent by **Judy Reid** who delivered flowers in March 2017.

Naomi (Allsebrook) Miller UBC 1950 was recognized as the 2017 Electoral Area E Volunteer of the Year at an event held at the Town Hall in Wasa BC July 4, 2017. Naomi has been a volunteer in the Wasa area for over 35 years. She worked tirelessly to rejuvenate the Fort Steel Graveyard, is a member of the Wasa Historical Society and a member of the Wasa Memorial Garden. In addition,



“Dee” (Smith) Kyle

Naomi is a key member of the Arm Chair Travelers, a group that meets to share photos and stories of their travels. She is an author of note, having written several books and spends countless hours researching,

recording and writing articles of historical interest for the “History Bytes” column in the local Tri-village Buzz newsletter. For many years, Naomi served as editor of BC Historical News. Her contribution in preserving the history of people, place and events in the local area and across the Province

has been described as “impressive” leaving a legacy for future generations. Naomi is also an active and very supportive member of the BC History of Nursing Society, writing articles on local nurses.

Source: *Kimberleybulletin*, July 5, 2017

Sue (Uldine) Webber 1951. has her graduation photograph on her wall in her care home in Wexford Creek in Nanaimo. She is now in a wheelchair or bed due to arthritis. Is bright and happy where she lives. Sent by **Judy Reid** who delivered flowers in March 2017.



Sue Webber

Ruby (Dirks) Boechler 1955 sent a message saying her brother was the first blind student to graduate from a sighted high school. Gerry lived a remarkable life. In spite of losing his sight entirely at an early age, he was able, with strong family support, to graduate from the University of British Columbia and to go on to complete an M.A. at Queen's University and to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. In addition to a long and successful teaching career in the Politics department at Brock University, Gerry published extensively on the subject of Canadian immigration and refugee policy. After taking early retirement in 2002, in addition to his professional achievements, Gerry made a significant contribution to the CNIB both as a volunteer Board member and, for a short period in 1984-85, as Executive Director of the Ontario Division. He played a central role in the establishment of Voiceprint in Canada and worked to improve the lives of the blind in other parts of the world through his involvement in the World Blind Union and his support of the World Braille Foundation.

Source: *The Times Colonist*, Victoria, BC 2008-03-08

Class News

1960s

Margaret (Godwin) Gage 1964 submitted the following about her classmate **Vicki (Killer) Hall** who died on April 17, 2017. Her husband Rod, passed away in 1978 and she was left to bring up 3 young children. She had to learn to drive again, pay the mortgage and take the nursing refresher course. Vicki worked for years at Burnaby General Hospital. She was able to look after her children, pay the bills and buy their clothes. She must have been very lonely and never asked for help. She was a very kind, private person and did not want her classmate to know her struggles. She did talk to me and wanted to know about other classmates." *Thank you for keeping in touch with Vicki and being such a supportive friend.*

1970s

September 1978 class: Betty (Janse) Bjornson occasionally picks up casual hours on renal dialysis unit at VGH. **Chris (Leske) Blackman** has a gardening business near Sechelt. **Diane Krueger** retired in 2017 from hospice – frustrated from the demands of paper work taking precedence over meaningful patient-centred care. **Diane (Marr) Price** also retired. **June Gallagher** lives in Port Coquitlam and was working part time VGH PAR.

Reunions – Celebrate The Memories -2017

60s

September 1960 held a mini reunion at Harrison Hot Springs in September. It was attended by 28 members of the class with **Martha (Letkeman) Shier** taking the prize for travelling the greatest distance to attend, from Milton Ontario. The weather was wonderful and everyone enjoyed Tea on the Patio, swimming in the wonderful pools and of course non stop snacking and chatting late into the night. The class collected money from each attendee to have the names of our classmates, now deceased, added to the memorial book. We miss them all! We decided that the next reunion should be held closer to the city and we are presently looking into the possibility of the Sylvia Hotel on English Bay. It will be the first weekend in May of 2020 to coincide with the Alumnae luncheon as we will be honoured as the grad class of 60 years. Can you believe it? I guess only first thing in the morning! I hope any of our class who reads this will get in touch with **Jane (Winkelaar) Robertson** at mejane@telus.net to update your info and give us your input. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Alumnae Luncheon this year, May 6th.

Best wishes to everyone from the class of September 1960.

February 1962 June 5, 2017 25 members travelled to Victoria to attend our 55th reunion at the Chateau Victoria. We had a

suite with a large sunny deck where we could congregate and share our news and stories. The hotel provided a delicious dinner in their top floor



dining room. On Tuesday we enjoyed the sights in Victoria and that evening, harbour ferries were organized to take us to Spinnakers Pub for dinner. Then back to the suite for more laughter and chatting. The time flew and we were sad to have to check out on Wednesday morning and head home. Many thanks to **Donna Street (Coghill)** and **Josie Bergman (Park)** for organizing such a fun filled reunion for us. Sent in by **Pat Berda**.

February 1963 April 2017 the class had a get together at the Chemanius Dinner Theatre and a great three days at Tigh-Na Mara Lodge, Vancouver Island.

Wonderful! Thank you



Penny Millway, Barbara (Mason) McInnes, Patricia (McGregor) Marini, Alice (Falk) Kucey, Willetta (Johns) Preston

September 1967 Our 50th Reunion was held on May 6th and 7th at the Granville Island Hotel. It was a great success! We started with a meet and greet in one of the Penthouse Suites on the Saturday evening. The weather co-operated so the views were amazing and it really started things off with a festive air. Vancouver at its best! As you can imagine, it was hard to hear anything except the constant chatter and laughter when



Reunions – Celebrate The Memories -2017

everyone had a chance to get caught up with classmates. For the remainder of the evening most people wandered around the Island and joined others to have a quick bite to eat. Some returned to the Penthouse. Others opted for an early night in preparation for the Luncheon and pictures the following day.



Everyone was up early on Sunday for breakfast prior to arriving by 10:45 AM for pictures at the Church Hall. I think most people were surprised at what a large event this was. There were approximately 250 people present. Our class had about 46 attendees. The hall was decorated with flowers and various articles from the

Alumnae Archives. Both classes had memorabilia tables. While other classes were having their pictures taken, there was time to visit all the memorabilia and archive tables. Once the pictures were finished, we were seated and welcomed by Lorna Horne. Grace was said and the luncheon began. The sandwiches and goodies were very nicely presented and enjoyed by all. Following the luncheon, the various classes were recognized and Kathy Murphy gave an update of VGH and the Alumnae. It was very interesting to hear about all the changes and future plans. A Life Membership was presented and then it was time for Class Memories. Judy Wilbee was the speaker for September 67. She did an excellent job at taking us right back to our time in training. Judy presented a wealth of moments in our 3 years at VGH that triggered our memories and had us nodding and laughing. Her speech was a highlight of our reunion.

Following the closing remarks by Kathy Murphy, we split into two groups to tour parts of VGH including the Archives. Everyone wanted to see the tunnels and that was our last stop of the day. We returned to our hotel before going out to various spots for dinner and more socializing.

Monday morning was a group breakfast and more socializing and making of plans to meet up with classmates. We also decided who will be in charge of organizing the next reunion, our 55th. It was farewell time for everyone except those carrying on to Harrison for another 2 days of R&R. There were 9 of us at Harrison and it truly was restful and relaxing, a nice ending to our reunion with the weather co-operating.

As a class we would like to thank the VGH Alumnae for a wonderful day and in particular the Luncheon Committee for a lovely, well organized luncheon. We came to have a better understanding of the Alumnae Association and the work they do. We felt truly honoured to attend! I feel sure many of us will be back

next year and will continue to support the Alumnae. VGH and our classmates will always hold a special place in our hearts! September 1967 Reunion Committee.

February 1969

Ten members of the class got together over 2 successive weeks for lunch at Mandeville Gardens.



Feb. 1969

70s

September 1971

Twenty-three met at "the Cove Lakeside Resort" in West Kelowna on Sept. 12th for 2 nights for our 46th reunion. It was a great spot for a reunion. All the rooms were suites, on the lake, so we met both nights in a 3 bedroom suite and enjoyed our wine and cheese evening and our second night's meal there. The resort is situated in a wonderful rural location, just 15 minutes south of Kelowna. We had a choice of vineyard visits, lunch, walks, hikes, shopping and sitting around the pool.

We took pictures but forgot to do a group pic! This was our 9th gathering in 46 years. We are now planning our 50th in 2021, hard to believe! Submitted by **Judy (King) Reid**

February 1974



Feb. 1974

Fifteen members had a wonderful catch up and reunion at Middle Beach Lodge near Tofino in September. Beach walks, a group dinner, much laughter

and chatting reconnected the group. This is the class where most will receive their first OAP cheques in 2017. There are several who continue to work as RNs. Most say they are happily retired or busy with grand kids, travels, other work and volunteering. We missed seeing those who were unable to join us for this get together. Well wishes were extended to all.

Plans are in the works for a 45th reunion in the Okanagan in 2019.

80s

February 1982. Nineteen classmates came together, from as far away as Australia, for a weekend in Feb 2017 at the Vancouver Pan Pacific hotel. We celebrated our 35th reunion with a weekend of lighting speed chatter, surprising revelations, and constant laughter. Hotel security tried very nicely, 5 times, to ask us to 'keep it down'. A complete impossibility!

Reunions – Celebrate The Memories

There was a tour of the SON archives with uniforms, bedpans, ventilators etc looking very familiar but frighteningly old. That was followed by a tour of the current VGH including the spooky tunnels. There was no problem finding our way underground after all these years. We also barged uninvited into the lobby of our old residence, now an upscale apartment building that had many archival school pictures on the walls.

The final event was a special private dinner at the Terminal City Club.

Any missing class mates, please contact **Laurel Coglan-Newman** at lcoglinnewman@gmail.com for news of our 40th.

February 1987 had a 30 year reunion June, 2017 in Victoria BC. Here is one photo of our group who met for brunch. The rest of the weekend activities included



dinners, sightseeing, and bicycle riding at Fisherman's Wharf Park. It was fabulous to see everyone again! Thanks to **Nancy Wright**

September 1987 30 year reunion was planned for June 30 till July 2 at **Yvonne Cafik's** house in Issaquah Washington.

2018 reunions

September 1958 will be celebrating their 60th anniversary May 6-8, 2018 beginning at the SON Alumnae Luncheon in Vancouver and then 2 nights at Harrison Hot Springs Resort.

Contact person: **Maureen (Leathem) Speed**
tomspeed@telus.net 604 987-9796

September 1968 50th Reunion May 4th -6th, 2018 at the Inn at the Quay New Westminster. Contact: **Susan Smith Hardin** at cobidog@telus.net or 604 576 1499 for more information.

February 1968 Reunion May 4th and 5th at Harrison Hot Springs.

We already have a number of classmates attending this and the Event including a luncheon on May 6th. If you have not received this information or you know the contact for anyone from that class please contact **Gail Page** at egailpage@hotmail.com. Thanks.

2019 reunions

The class of **September 1984** will celebrate its 35th anniversary in 2019 and we are putting together a reunion! Planning is underway for a weekend filled with catching up and of course a little celebrating! Join our Facebook page – **We're September '84** and find out what your classmates have been up to!

Class of 1933 member celebrates 107 years Margaret (Neily) Mainwaring 1933

Margaret's 107th birthday was celebrated on Feb 5, 2018 at her apartment in White Rock. Kathy Murphy attended and presented her with flowers and a card from us. She is still amazing and even sang a song. Margaret graduated from the Vancouver General Hospital in 1933. Her first job following graduation was at VGH where she earned \$54.00 / month plus board and room.



This was a temporary position because it was during the depth of the Depression, and jobs were scarce. She left VGH to secure more permanent employment at Port Alice and later in Kelowna.

In 1940 she joined the Armed Forces and was stationed on Vancouver Island for a while before being sent to Halifax. Two months after arriving in Nova Scotia she boarded the troop ship Orion and arrived in Scotland in March, 1941. For the next year, she was stationed at various military hospitals in England before shipping out to Italy. The ship carrying her and the other nurses was supposed to dock in Bari, Italy, but just before it arrived, the Germans bombed the harbour and sank 17 ships. They were deployed to Taranto instead and from there Margaret travelled north by train. From 1943-45, she nursed in various hospitals in Italy, wherever she was needed. She recalled being one of the first to administer penicillin.



Kathy Murphy with Margaret at her 107th birthday celebration

A few years later Margaret married and lived in Wells, BC and Quesnel before moving to Ladner BC in 1957. During the 1950's she was busy raising her four children but did work for a while at Pearson Hospital in Vancouver.

Margaret's husband became interested in nursing homes so over the next ten years, they owned and operated three nursing homes, the first one on 121 3rd Street in New Westminster, "The Cypress" in Vancouver and the "Garden Manor" in Ladner.

Margaret regularly attended our annual luncheons until a couple of years ago.

Photos by **Bruce Holvick** . email: bholv@hotmail.com

Continued from page 1 Stories from interviews of VGH graduates recorded by members of the BC History of Nursing Society as part of a 1987 Oral History Project.

Training Days During the 1930s Depression:

Bernice (Hadden) MacDonald 1937.

There was a problem with supplies. Could not throw away the soap. Couldn't have soap in the water—was wasteful. Linen was a problem—had to reuse sheets at times. Miss Grace Fairley, Director of Nursing, was strict but dedicated. Stressed all the time for nurses to be professional. Impressed on us patient care was very important. Nursing was person-to-person

Patients were kept in hospital, for example, following an appendectomy a patient had to stay in bed for at least 2 weeks and being rolled over from side-to-side by the nurse, being tied up with a binder, all pinned in place because the sutures might break. You were close to the patients. You washed them and their backs—not restrained as this was not allowed. Beds were high. Had to notice patient's colour and breathing.



Setting up the O.R. 1930 & 40's

Miss Fairley did not want nurses to look like women who were dressed up. Nurses who came in before me had nice tight dresses which showed off the figure very nicely. When Miss Fairley arrived and discovered that, she had new dresses ordered that were loose. During the previous Director, all the students went and got their hair cut so there was nothing she could do about that! They wore high boots and wanted to wear low shoes—quite a fight over this.

When Bernice was close to finishing her program, she was walking by Miss Fairley's apartment in a VON uniform, holding the "berry" (VON hat) in her hand. She received a call to see her and was told "You went out not properly dressed, Miss Hadden. Had your cap in your hand. You must remember as a nurse to wear your cap". Miss Fairley wore a silk uniform—no one else was allowed to wear one.



*Miss Grace Fairley,
Director of Nursing &
Principle of VGH School
of Nursing 1929-1943*

Dances:

At the dances, students and all the other people, would be sitting in a row watching everything that was going on and you were expected to be called in the next day if anything questionable happened. For example, one student requested the orchestra for a certain piece to be played and that person was called up the next day. You didn't do that.

We were treated like children in many ways.

Source: OH 108 BC History of Nursing Society Archive.

More 2017 Luncheon photos can be found on the Website: vghnursingschoolalumnae.com

To register of the 2018 Alumnae Luncheon, fill in the form on page 24 and mail, along with your cheque to:
VGHSON Alumnae Assoc. Luncheon, 855 W. 12th Ave., Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9



Addition to Reunions

The **September 1962** class had a reunion in Victoria this past May with 18 of the class able to attend. We had a great tour of the Legislature with lunch in the adjacent dining room. During the reunion, we received the sad news of the death of **Linda (Barton) McKittrick**. The Vancouver and Island girls also got together for a Christmas lunch at the Arbutus Club which has become an annual affair.



Luncheon 2017

2018 Luncheon
May 6



CAROL TAYLOR – February 1967

Address to the VGH SON Alumnae Luncheon. 50th Celebration

Bon jour mes amies, et mes soeurs.

Three weeks ago our classmate Carol Hooten died. She planned, along with Jean Anderson and members of the organizing committee, this special gathering. Months ago, Carol asked me to speak on behalf of our class. She said three years in training was and eternity but fifty years flashed by like the speed of lightening. She so looked forward to our celebration luncheon. So Carol, you are with us now, in this room, in our memories and forever in our hearts. Carol is leaning over my shoulder right now saying “get on with it.” So, it is an honour to speak on behalf of the February 1967 graduating class.

In the early 1960’s while travelling aimlessly through Asia, I met two Canadian nurses working in a make-shift clinic in Saigon. Their praise of the new Canadian health care system called “Medicare” impressed me. Where I came from no one could afford to be sick. One of the Canadian nurses had worked at the Vancouver General Hospital and she spoke of its excellent reputation as one of Canada’s teaching hospitals. Half way through my travels I applied to the VGH School of Nursing and six months later I wore the probe uniform. So began the journey of my life.

Our classmates came from upcountry, Vancouver Island, the prairies and the USA. We were the Brauns, Weibes, Dehanns, Peters, Doersksens, Duecks, Thiesens and Enns. The Kwaks, Lies, Lombardos, Woziaks, Andersons, Vimbs, and Morrisons. And that’s just to name a few. At the start of training there was talk of the Second Narrows Bridge. which had collapsed a few years earlier killing 59 workers. We heard of the dedication of VGH personnel who worked steadfastly through the aftermath of that tragedy, The Second Narrows was renamed the ‘Iron Workers Memorial Bridge’, during our training.



Lester B. Pearson was the Prime Minister. He was a kind man and the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. The Maple Leaf replaced the old Red Ensign and today the Maple Leaf Flag is recognized



everywhere in the world. But let not forget the “sixties’ Scoop” as thousands of aboriginal children lost their families, language, culture and identity when they were placed in and adopted by non-aboriginal families. In 1964 I left a country intent on escalating the Vietnam War. The world’s heavy-weight boxing champion Mohammed Ali, faced jail time for refusing to fight in that war, and Rosa Parks sparked the fuse for civil rights, and the feminists continued to organize.

In the residence basement we caught the black and white TV news of those tumultuous times, but, truth be told, we preferred watching Dr. Kildare, General Hospital, the Beach Boys, the Beatles and Wayne and Schuster. In January 1965 the Hope Slide spewed rock and mud over 3 kms of Highway. Four known motorists were killed. A ward nurse told us she was convinced her fiancé had been buried beneath the debris because she never heard from him again. Relentless rains confined us through miles of tunnels leading to our assigned rotations in the Heather, Fairview and Laurel Pavilions. It felt as though we were an integral part of an intricate circulatory system. We were connected to the heart of VGH which would shape the rest of our lives.

Half a century ago open heart surgery was in the pioneer stages. The world’s first heart transplant took place in South Africa and the patient lived eighteen days. But, the floodgates opened and innovations in transplant procedures have been astounding; imagine: a few years ago a double lung transplant took place and six years after surgery the fellow with a pair of new lungs hiked Grouse Mountain’s Grouse Grind cycled twice across BC raising money for Cystic Fibrosis research.

Near the end of our training in the Centennial Building, to answer a patient’s call button we ran from the nurse’s station to the far end of the very long corridors. After a shift we felt our feet would never carry us back to the residence. Clearly, architects of that massive new building did not consult us nurses in the trenches. Some might recall and elevator operator in the maternity building. She perched on a stool and in a fixed frozen manner, opened and closed the elevator’s metal grate to take us in the ‘cage’ to the third floor. Someone said she had had a pre-frontal lobotomy. In the 1960’s *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* was a best seller, and Jack Nicholson won an oscar for his lead role in the film.

CAROL TAYLOR – February 1967

A few years ago in the Okanagan's Lake Country I was in an enclosure with hundreds of racing pigeons. It was feeding time. I stepped into that pigeon coop and back in time to the newborn nursery at VGH where we fed, burped, changed and seldom had time to cuddle those tiny infants. In both settings I wished for ear plugs.

Among the perks for students living in residence were complimentary tickets to the Vancouver Symphony. We sat in the front row seats to see Igor Stravinsky, Victor Borge, Marion Anderson and Liberace across that stage.

To celebrate our 35th reunion we gathered in Kelowna and I'll share some candid memories from that time. "Training was like a female boot camp with those 9 P.M. curfews. We were expected to be highly responsible but were treated like incompetents. One said that those pots of peanut butter in every residence fridge was a cruel reminder of her 100 pound weight gain. Another classmate said she nearly vaulted the nursing station to strangle the neck of the condescending doctor. Thank goodness, the times they are 'a changing'. Many at the reunion were still actively nursing, and some were sole providers for families facing tough times. We commiserated with one who, after completing a refresher course, said, "here I am middle aged, starting all over again, learning new

technology, working 12 hour shifts and seeking direction from younger nurses". Some were financing boomerang children and one spoke of her family's

curse and course through debilitating mental illness. We talked about the resignation of divorce and the strength in discovering new challenges. A career in nursing provided a safety net for many of us. I pay homage to the chefs of VGH. A friend recalls dashing to the cafeteria for her 3 - minute meal break, and back then on Fridays, the smell of baked Alaska cod remains with her to the day. Another classmate had scrubbed in to assist a thoracic procedure. She watched the surgeon slice through the sternum and, protractor in hand, separated the rib cage. Half a century later she still can't eat spare ribs. I also pay homage to the hospital's immigrant workers who swept and mopped floors, cleaned windows and processed mountains of laundry.

Before closing it is worth remembering that in 1971 Canada was the first country in the world to adopt Multiculturalism as an official policy, and we are richer for it. My classmate from nurses training summed it up when she said "We're a tough lot, you know. We learned to be survivors". Merci, VGH., Merci Canada. Je t'aime. Thank you., **Carol Taylor**



Long corridors in the Centennial Building. Now renamed the Leon Judah Blackmore Pavilion



Elevator foyer and ballroom in the residence



Section of VGH tunnel system



Feb. 1967

2017 VGH Reunion Speech: Stroll Down Memory Lane

Judy Wilbee (Gibbons) September 67

Fifty-three years ago we embarked on a journey of nursing education where you followed the rules, practiced until you got it right, respected your elders, and worked until the job was done. That model worked for us!

Through the experience of living and working together for 3 years, we made life time friends, shared moments of both joy and sorrow with each other and with our patients, we helped to guide the first breaths of a new life into this world, and as best we could, we supported those who were leaving this world. And we provided compassionate care for all of those in between.

Let's take a stroll down memory lane and revisit some of those experiences that taught us how to be real nurses that could adapt to an ever changing world. Do you remember in September 1964 when we nervously stood on the steps of the Nurses Residence wondering how we would ever survive. For some of us it was our first venture away from home, a scary lonely time that was filled with homesickness and bedtime tears. For others it was a welcome escape from home, after all, where else could you get an affordable education, have your own room and 3 square meals a day.

Ours was the generation that did not believe we had a lot of career choices. It was be a teacher, nurse or secretary, and at that time cashiers at Safeway made more money than a nurse! Some of us always wanted to be a nurse and for others it was the safe fallback position, not really the calling of our heart but an acceptable alternative. We came from a broad variety of backgrounds but we all had one goal in mind, we were going to be nurses. The secret sauce for many of us were the words, "be a nurse, you can go anywhere" and we did.

Being a probie.

The first 6 months of being a probie in residence was definitely a sink or swim experience. We learned to follow rules. There were even room checks. We were in class 5 1/2 days a week, There was one night a month when we could stay out until 12 o'clock, we signed in and out. We stood up when a doctor or any other individual of a higher standing entered the room or nursing station. There were matrons who quickly learned our names and the name of our boyfriends, amazing ladies they were! There were 3 phones on each floor and the matron would buzz you to say "call on line 3" and away you would go in search of a phone. There were Beau rooms where you could entertain your boyfriend with doors that did not close. Germs were everywhere and for goodness sake, do not put anything other than your feet on the floor. Our Saturday morning sociology and psychology classes were taught by UBC faculty members, some who have since then become quite newsworthy and memorable.

And then, after six months, our capping ceremony. At last we received our white cap to proudly acknowledge our progress from Probie to Junior.

This brings me to the topic of our uniforms and appearance. There was no hair allowed on your collar. There were no rings, earrings or other jewellery. In 1964, your uniform was like your rank and serial number. It told everything about your progress through the system; a changing bib from narrow to broad and a cap that told even more. Cap or no cap, and did it have a black velvet band to indicate your senior status? Our dress was a delightful shade of blue with starched white detachable collars and cuffs, and a myriad of buttons, stays, studs and safety pins holding us together. Our first lesson in community living and assisting each other was in getting dressed. We definitely needed help. In the morning (actually, we had to assemble this collection the night before, there would never be enough time in the morning to pull this act together). We wore a heavily starched white apron and worst yet, the length was determined by a pre-determined distance from the floor. Shorter students had perky aprons that came to their knees; tall gals like me had aprons 14 inches from the floor, which was approximately halfway from my knees to my ankles, but nothing that hemming it up with white adhesive tape couldn't fix. The worst were the black Oxford shoes and stockings. We were learning to adapt.

Food.

We ate like fiends from the students-only section. For those who smoked, there was no need to scurry outside, just light up at the table. If you were working shift, you could muster up a breakfast or lunch in the kitchen on your floor. Certain staples were supplied, a quart of chocolate milk was a once a week delight. Such delicacies as cheese whiz and sardine sandwiches were regularly whipped up. While meal-time was rushed, we used every opportunity possible to talk about our current learning experiences on the wards. Sharing our stories became an important learning tool and remained so throughout our time in residence. Residence life was full of ups and downs. Social life outside of the hospital ground to an almost standstill, rotations were set, and we learned all about shift work. We had "big sisters" to initiate us into our new life, and when working on the wards, we had competent senior students as our role models. There were annual picnics at Whytecliff Park. We had carol singing and Christmas dinners, casino night, debates, and other organized social activities designed to forge bonds and fill the void of loneliness. We had a library with a roof top to sunbathe on. Bicycles took us all over down town and further, but most importantly, there were our friends and fellow classmates to confide in, learn from, and support as we met the challenges of being a student nurse. We laughed a lot, teased each other, and most importantly, supported each other on this learning journey.

Rotations.

It was being on the wards that our classroom learning had true meaning. We learned to multi-task; signs and symptoms became more than words. "Oh, so this is jaundice"? And this is what COPD



Roses for a big bib celebration

Continued from page 16

Judy Wilbee (Gibbons) September 67

looks and sounds like. A stroke was not merely a textbook description; it was a devastating event that impacted a real person and his loved ones. We experienced compassion and I am sure that remains embedded within all of us to this day.

But oh my goodness, some of those ward experiences were priceless, and some were actually terrifying! It was a good thing we learned our procedures thoroughly as there was often no time to think about what to do next. You just did it. Here we were, so young, so naïve and having to make decisions that could save or lose a life. Trial by fire, and we learned to step up to the plate! Maternity was amazing, who could ever forget the first time they witnessed the miracle of the birth of a baby. I can remember clutching the hand of my classmate as we watched this new life emerge. We were both in tears, and I think I have cried at every delivery since. And then there were the “border babies” awaiting adoption, we had such love in our hearts for those wee ones and joy when we had the privilege of dressing them and passing them on to their adoptive parents. Emerg., PAR, the OR and critical care with doctors and nurses who could be intimidating, critical, demanding and impatient.

We did all we could to provide for everyone in our care. We learned the fundamentals of good nursing care; clean linen, bed baths, morning care, mouth care, a back rub. Did you notice how many times you heard the word care? It was the essential ingredient.

When I mentioned earlier that our mantra was “be a nurse, you can go anywhere” Just where did we go and what did we do in the last 50 years? This is what one of our classmates had to say:

“I only retired 3 years ago and since we graduated 50 years ago, my role as a nurse evolved and changed over time. I took time off when my children were young, went back after my divorce, changed specialties a number of times, went back for more education along the way and ended up in Chemotherapy which I loved! All I can say is that the profession gave me so much! I have met not only coworkers but patients that have had a lasting affect on my life. I am very grateful to have had that opportunity.”

Here is a small sampling of our accomplishments.

We nursed in rural and urban communities throughout BC and worldwide. We worked in practically every specialty. We received post grad diplomas, bachelor, master degrees, and PhD's in a variety of disciplines. Became an artist, jeweller, landscape gardener, equine therapist, owner of a catering business. We used our nursing skills teaching first aid and CPR. We travelled the world volunteering with various humanitarian organizations.

And one of our classmates received a Governor General award for bravery. Well done Alison!

And now retired, we volunteer in our communities.

We are so privileged to be here today and I want to thank all of my classmates for creating and sustaining the amazing network of shared memories that has held us together. Fifty-three years ago we chose a path that brought us together and created bonds that will never break. Let me remind you of the words from our capping song “walk on, walk on with hope in your heart and you'll never walk alone”.

I would like to acknowledge those grads who wanted to be here, but for various reasons, could not. With sadness, I especially want to acknowledge those who have passed on.

Thank you to the wonderful doctors, nurses, patients and health care workers who have taught us so much, so often with patience and a gentle sense of humour, and the amazing VGH SON Alumnae and luncheon committee who work tirelessly throughout the year on the behalf of all VGH grads to preserve our history and to make this event such a special time for all of us here today.

As a former speaker said, our job as nurses is to cushion the sorrow and celebrate the joy every day while we are just “doing our jobs”.

Thank you. **Judy Wilbee**



Adventures of Ruthanne (Glass) Hanbidge 1948 and classmate Claire Kinnis 1948

By Ruthanne's daughters, **Barbara and Beverley Hanbidge**.

Barbara contacted us offering to write an article about her mother, Ruthanne and her friend, Claire, based on memories pooled from her mother.

Ruthanne Glass from Prince Albert Saskatchewan and **Claire Winifred Kinnis** from Vancouver British Columbia met when they were students at VGH School of Nursing. Ruthanne and Claire shared caring and compassionate natures, outgoing personalities and winning smiles. Both had a love of learning and finding new experiences.

While in training, they enjoyed playing golf. Claire continued golfing as well as playing bridge regularly for the rest of her life. Both gals were avid skiers, and hiked up the mountains carrying their skis and gear as the facilities on the lower mainland were nothing like they are today.

Graduating from VGH in 1948 was reason to celebrate and the first thing Claire and Ruthanne did was to accept new jobs and take their nursing expertise to Bermuda. They first travelled to New

York staying with Ruthanne's sister Phyllis for a short time until their boat left for Bermuda on December 1, 1948. In those days, accepting work for a

minimum of a year meant their travel costs to the Territory of Bermuda were paid in full. The four day trip to Bermuda was aboard the S. S. Townshend.

They worked at the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital. The hospital was described by the gals as "primitive" in comparison to their experience at VGH and stood until 2011. When the new hospital opened in 1965 the "old hospital" housed a variety of Department of Health and Education offices. Patient care services returned there in 2009, when the Centre for Cancer Care opened. Prior to the 2011 demolition, the oncology ward was relocated to the new hospital.

Ruthanne and Claire began work and met other young nurses, some of whom they would stay in touch with for the rest of their lives. Ann Marshall and her sister Dallas from Ottawa became good friends with Ruthanne and Claire. Ann is now in a senior's complex in Nanaimo

after suffering a stroke. Her sister Dallas passed away some years ago. Ann and Ruthanne continue to keep in touch to this day.

Bikes were one of their first purchases and this allowed Claire and Ruthanne to explore during their time off. In those days there were few cars on the islands. Many days were spent on the beautiful white sand beaches as seen in the photo.

Adjusting to life in the British West Indies was an adventure. Some of the stories shared included placing table legs in tins of salt to deter the ants from making their way up to the tops of the tables. Finding the trick to ripen green bananas overnight may have seemed a good idea at the time--until there were dozens of them! Refrigeration as we know it was not in existence in the nurse's residences.

Most of their time away from work was spent with other nurses but friendships were also formed with local residents and staff.

On Friday nights there were regular dances at Kindley Air Force Base. The gals would dress up, hop on the bus taking them out to the Base where they were treated like gold. They remarked how safe they felt at the dances so there must have been a "protocol" to ensure the nurses would attend.

After the Bermuda contract ended Claire worked at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria B.C. and then in Los Angeles California. Following these work experiences, she returned to University. This led to a research assistant position with the Vancouver children's health care facilities studying FAS and pediatric blindness. Claire lived in Chilliwack and maintained her friendship with Ruthanne until she passed away in January 2011.

After leaving Bermuda, Ruthanne worked in New York City and Mount Kisco New York until 1954. She then married Robert Hanbidge, whom she had known since childhood and moved back to Canada to start their family. After raising 6 children, Ruthanne Hanbidge returned to bedside nursing in her early 50's. She completed a nursing refresher course at the U of S in Saskatoon and worked ophthalmology and neurosurgery until her retirement in 1988. The 4DE Neurosurgery Unit at the Royal University Hospital was her favourite. Although she had a serious stroke in 2015, she still maintains contact with her friends from 4DE.

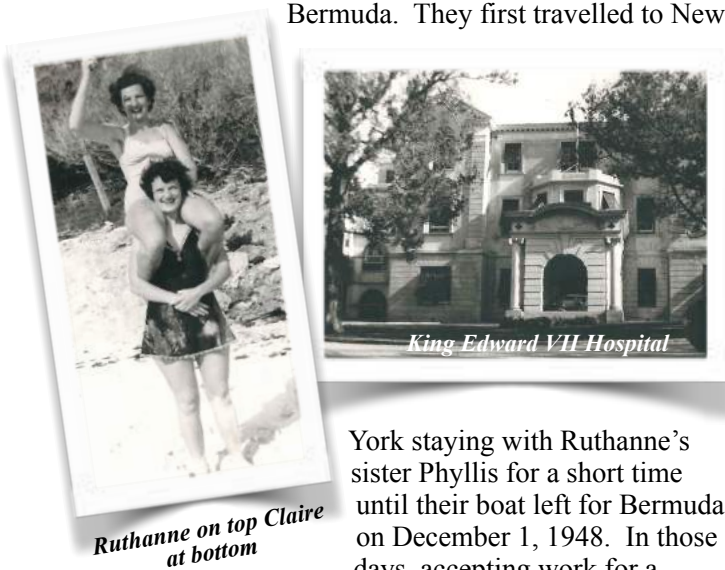
Nursing supported a lifetime of fond memories and friendships for these adventurous gals.

Barbara had this to say about writing this for us:

"It was a good lesson for me to realize how these wonderful memories and stories are so quickly and easily lost."

This is a lesson for all of us to remember.

Barbara Hanbidge is a biologist/policy specialist with Ducks Unlimited Canada in Saskatchewan and **Beverley Hanbidge** is a nurse on Vancouver Island.



Ruthanne on top Claire at bottom

King Edward VII Hospital

In Memoriam 2017

*But not forgotten
our classmates*

Class	Surname	Maiden name	Married name
1940	Pattison	Margaret	Rush
1941	Burd	Bea	Paradis
1941	Ruddock	Kathleen	Poole
1942	Jamieson*	Doreen	Lovely
1943	Trythall	Joyce	Grimwood
1944	Fryer	Ruth	Drysdale
1945	Messenger*	Georgina	MacEwan
1947	Barber*	Bernice	Gregory
1947	Stannard	Jean	Hart
1948	Fell	Roxanna	Yelf
1948	MacDonald	Ruth	McLeod
1949	Elliott	Jean	Morrey
1949	Fullerton*	Margaret	Fleming
1949	Penn	Muriel	
1950	Crane *	Lavinia	
1950	Jarman	Gladys	Porter
1950	Radcliffe	Elaine	Campbell
1951	Anderson	Florence	King
1951	Jamieson	Norma	Riley
1952	Cornish	Margaret	Galbraith
1952	Henery	Pat	Schless
1953	Blackwood*	Barbara	Kozier
1953	Carson	Margaret	Beddoes
1953	Stewart*	Margaret	Heath
1953	West	Sharon	Wickson
1954	Bacon*	Jan	Hebberts
1954	Beck*	Pat	Wadsworth
1955	Lee	Barbara	Rae
1956	Cooper	Bridget	Brand
1956	Newcombe	Jill	Flemons
1956	Snell *	Elaine	McClintock
1957	Camm	Leonora	Williams
1957	Meikle	Margaret	Blackwood
1957	Woodfield	April	Austin
1958	MacDonald*	Sheila	Slinn
1959	Needler	Edith	Hesson
1962	Jenkins	Pam	
1962	Tardiff	Sharon	Key
1962	Williams	Joyce	Schmidt
1963	Hamm	Emily	Patton
1964	Killer	Vicki	Hall
1965	George	Cindy	Honhart
1966	Jenkins	Barbara	Coughlin
1966	Lawrie	Sherry	Fossum
1967	Hooton	Carol	Clarke
1969	McBryde	Heather	McKie
1971	Martin	Charlene	Griesdale

* Indicates UBC graduates

Remembering Pat (Beck) Wadsworth 1954

May 1, 1931–August 16, 2017

A graduate of the VGH School of Nursing (1954) and UBC with degrees in Nursing (1955) and Adult Education (1970), Pat also achieved a Fellowship in the American College of Healthcare Executives.



Her awards include a scholarship from the Canadian Nurses' Foundation, a Queens Silver Jubilee Medal, Meritorious Award from the BC Health Association, RNABC Award of Distinction, Regents Award and Honorary Member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, RNFBC Honourary Membership, UBC Nursing Alumni Recognition, Recognition by the Missionary Sisters of Immaculate Conception, Honourary Member of the Canadian College of Healthcare Professionals, Honourary Life Member of the HealthCare Leaders Association, and was a charter member of the UBC Nursing Honour Society and Xi Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Pat's career was varied with roles as a Staff nurse, Supervisor, Instructor, Director of Ambulatory services and then Patient Services at VGH, Executive Director of the BC Health Association during a challenging time in healthcare in BC, a surveyor for the first Canadian Association on Accreditation, Clinical Professor in the UBC Department of Health Care and Epidemiology, and then was a Health Care Management Consultant for over 15 years.

As an innovative leader, Pat used her knowledge, skills and connections to deal with a wide variety of issues and challenges. Some of these included:

- Operational reviews at numerous acute care and long term care facilities located outside urban areas
- Accreditation surveys and education consultations for over 200 health care facilities in Canada
- Extensive consultation and on-site visits to health care facilities
- Organizational reviews and on-site patient care and resident care administration at several hospitals
- Extensive task force and committee work provincially and nationally
- Being a member of several hospital and foundation boards.

Her many presentations and publications included the themes of strategic planning, patient care standards, communication, sharing of resources, staff development, continuing education and quality assurance are featured.

A majority of these presentations were delivered at a time when the technology innovations that are taken for granted today were just being introduced.

Pat Wadsworth (continued)

In addition to these work assignments, Pat made time to be an active member of more than 16 local and national professional organizations filling a variety of committee and leadership roles:

- As President of the Registered Nurses Foundation, she was instrumental in ensuring that the Capital Campaign to increase funding for basic and continuing education nursing bursaries was a major success
- As President of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association, she helped many others recognize the closure of the school after 99 years of preparing quality nursing graduates
- As the Chair of the UBC School of Nursing 80th Anniversary Committee, she led the celebration of the first degree granting school of nursing in the British Empire which was established in 1919.

Pat had so many unique qualities: her passion for nursing, the ability to assess a situation and devise an action plan was second nature to her, her background knowledge of issues ensured that changes were presented and accepted, her mentoring skills to guide those in need, and the amazing ability to recall details of people's personal and professional lives.

This was submitted by Kathy Murphy for the ARNBC Memorial Book in 2017.

A Tribute to Honorary Member - Dr. Don Hutchins

Don was an active and dedicated member of our Association. He passed away in March 2017.

We appreciated his input and encouragement for our Archive committee activities. Our thoughts at this time are with Laddie and her family.

Ruth Drysdale VGH 1944 1918-2017

"Renaissance woman, beloved nurse, journalist, artist, musician, athlete, adventurer, devoted, wife, mother and friend". She lived a life with determination and without intimidation, and with many self-learned skills! She played the harmonica with gusto from ages 3 to 98, and drew cartoons from childhood to her 90's.

She was extremely bright, graduating early from Gordon Bell High School in Winnipeg. She played violin in the Winnipeg Youth Orchestra on CBC radio; played on a hockey team; skied; golfed; and canoed. She attended a secretarial school, and won a trophy for speed typing, until old enough for entry to United College. Adventurous, she took a train to Vancouver, and entered VGH School of Nursing, graduating in 1944. She was known for humorous cartoons depicting war-era nursing. She made house calls in Chinatown by bike. On a shift in Heather Pavilion, her colleague was stabbed by an addict, and Ruth was left to manage an open ward of patients, alone at night, while the assailant was still on the run. After graduating, she and a girlfriend cycled Fraser Canyon "highway," sleeping under tables and at a gas station. She rode

Continued on page 21

Remembering Lavinia ("Vin") Mary Crane 1950

April 27, 1923 – April 12, 2017



Born in Alberta, Lavinia "Vin" moved to BC in 1936 and in 1942 joined the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (Wrens). As a Wren, she trained as a wireless telegrapher and worked at Special Operations stations, which were part of the larger British Bletchley Park code-breaking "Enigma" program. After the war, Vin graduated from VGH in 1950 and from UBC with a BSN in Public Health Nursing in 1951. She joined the

Provincial Department of Health as a public health nurse and worked in a variety of settings throughout BC. In 1961 she completed a Master's degree in Public Health at the University of Michigan and was awarded the American Public Health and American Universities Honour Awards.



Four of the original Coverdale operators. (L-R): Lavinia Crane, Alice Rutherford Adams, Muriel Ramsey McRobbie and Mary Black Gamble.

On her return to BC, she continued her career in Public Health Nursing as a Nursing Consultant for the BC Ministry of Health (1961-1974), Assistant Director (1974-75) and Provincial Director of Public Health Nursing (1975-85). When she commenced her consultation role, she was responsible for developing the BC Home Care Program. After setting up demonstration projects in Kelowna, Vernon and Saanich, the program expanded throughout the province. Under her leadership as a consultant and as a Director, the Provincial Department initiated many research projects.



When Vin retired in June 1985, she was presented with the President's Award from the Public Health Association of British Columbia which recognized her commitment to addressing issues such as preventive health actions and ensuring involvement in decision making by those affected.

Retirement saw Vin serving on several health and association boards and taking on volunteer positions in Victoria. She died on April 12, 2017. Lavinia was entered in the *ARNBC Memorial Book in 2017*.

The Archives is missing the following annuals 1985 & 1988

If you have a copy and wish to donate, it would be appreciated.
Please contact the office and leave a message. 604 875 4111 local 62049

Ruth Drysdale *Continued from page 20*

horses at a dude ranch. She helped deliver babies in Nelson and Vernon, before returning to Winnipeg for a 2-yr Diploma in Public Health Nursing.

In 1949, she married Rod Drysdale, a Winnipeg engineer, embarking on a 66-year adventurous partnership. At home with children, Ruth began writing, and read her humorous story on CBC's Trans Canada Matinee, at a time when speaking across the nation was really impressive! She sold over 50 human-interest articles and fictional short stories were published. After moving to Calgary, Ruth took Psychology courses at U of Calgary, alongside students half her age. She nursed on psychiatric wards at Foothills Hospital, and later worked for Alberta Mental Health visiting psychiatric outpatients. Job expectations included visiting post-psychotic murderers in their homes alone, and she hoped they were taking their medications! To write about building the Calgary Husky Tower, the tallest structure of its type in North America in 1968, she walked on open-air planks 626 ft. high, wearing a hard hat and using safety ropes to take photographs.

She was a terrific mother, supporting science fair projects by picking up animal organs at meat-packing plants, and allowing her kitchen for use to boil down remains of a coyote. There were educational and exciting road trips, hikes in the mountains, ski trips, and boating. Of most importance, she was kind, intuitively understood us, and helped us feel that our interests and friends were important, no matter our age. As a strong role model, she taught that challenges were character-building.

In 1976 they moved to South Surrey, for 39 yrs of rural happiness. Ruth worked at Burnaby Mental Health inpatient ward, where she amused patients and staff by playing audiotapes of her singing poodle over the sound system! She provided nursing assessments in Long Term Care in the community. At her retirement, the restaurant's belly dancer whisked her onto the floor, and she proudly received money for her belly dancing! After "retiring" she typed for a pain clinic.

Athletic, she excelled in golf, winning trophies. She skied in her late 60's, cycled in her 80's, swam in the lake in her 90's, and gardened. With artistic talent she created impressive oil paintings of vistas and portraits. She drew "pen and ink" sketches, printed them for Christmas cards and sent them to 120 friends annually for 40 yrs.

Music was essential. She played nightly piano serenades for years, and later played the organ daily. She taught herself to play the accordion, guitar, and recorder. Her harmonica playing always provided comic relief in any situation, including her rendition of "Nearer my God to Thee," on a bus trip on a narrow road in the Alps. She sang in choruses throughout her life, and loved singing with the Kent Street Choristers for over 25 yrs, to age 96.

She was loyal and reached out to others. She lived by the phrase "When in doubt, do the friendliest thing. She stressed the importance of staying humble, yet standing up for oneself. Ruth and Rod looked for the humour in situations and laughed daily. They believed in "not quitting when the going gets rough," and for that, they reaped many blessings in every way. *Source: Vancouver Sun, October 8 2017.*



Ruth Drysdale

Changes At VGH

Segal Centre for Family Health at VGH

In August 2017, the Joseph & Rosalie Segal Family Health Centre opened for patients – a \$82 million facility at VGH that provides, inpatient and outpatient mental health services. The facility has 100 private rooms. Open House tours were held on August 14 and 15 and on August 16 the date of the Official Opening ceremony. This building is on the site of the former Willow Chest building which was demolished. This was also the location of the Arts and Administration building for the newly established University of BC which opened in 1915. It had originally been built for McGill College which operated there for a few years.

Re-naming of Centennial Pavilion: Leon Judah Blackmore Pavilion

In May 2017, VGH received a 18- million gift from **Leon Judah Blackmore** who died in 2015. He was a successful real estate developer who built thousands of housing units in Metro Vancouver. He also built a Foundation that today is bestowing this special gift, which will benefit patients in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region and beyond. Centennial Pavilion will be renamed the **Leon Judah Blackmore Pavilion**. This gift will be phased in over 6 years and will be spent on a state of the art operating room, men's health and wellness programs, a new cardiology diagnostic centre, expansion of the Sleep Disorder Clinic and cardiology research. The amount of the gift - \$18.4 million - has symbolic meaning as explained by Dr. Larry Goldenberg. The Hebrew word for life (chai) has a numerical value – 18- so giving gifts in multiples of 18 represents the gift of life.

Source: Pamela Fayerman, Vancouver Sun, May 25, 2017, A6.

Jim Pattison Renovation

Sixteen state of the art operating rooms are planned for the third floor of the Jim Pattison Pavilion as part of a \$102 million expansion. These will replace the existing rooms which are too small to accommodate the new technology and equipment. As part of a broader strategy to improve patient access to surgery and reduce wait times, some surgeries that were traditionally done at VGH are shifting to UBC Hospital. A new eight-bed high acuity unit will support more complex cases. Inpatient units will be enhanced and expanded to improve patient care.

Vancouver Coastal Health is responsible for the delivery of \$3.3 billion in community, hospital and residential care to more than one million people in communities including Richmond, Vancouver, the North Shore, Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky corridor, Powell River, Bella Bella and Bella Coola. VCH also provides highly specialized care and services for people throughout BC and is the province's hub of health care education and research.

Source: Vancouver Sun, December 23, 2017. P G3.





Honorary Members

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 Mr. Charlie Etchell 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
Norma Guttormsson (Scobie) '58	Lorna Hoare (Snider) '66
Adelaide Hutchins (MacLean) '53	Sheila Kirk (Poersch) '61
Joan Kerr (Dunbar) '56	Elizabeth Kirkwood (Miles) '53
Gail McKay (Glanville) '62	Eleanor McTaggart (White) '47
Kathleen Murphy (McCutcheon) '65	Diane Parker (Sjerve) '68
Trudy Phillips (Smith) '53	Mary Raikes-Tindle '65
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Nancy Semke (Bouzovetsky) '57	Pat Sexsmith (Kay) '62
Margaret Shugg '54	Jean Tsuyuki (Lyons) '57
Ethel Warbinek (McIntyre) '56	Mary Watt (MacKinnon) '54
Anne E. Williams '54	

Norma (Scobie) Guttormsson UBC 1958



Life Membership awarded to Norma (Scobie) Guttormsson UBC 1958 at the 2017 Luncheon.

Norma was welcomed as the Executive Secretary in September 2009. She is a graduate of the UBC Class of 1958 and brought many skills, knowledge and leadership experience to this position. As the Executive Secretary, she maintains an accurate confidential record of all our graduates, and their contact information. She is also responsi-

ble for alumnae communications, including mail, email and phone messages. Managing the annual membership renewal is carried out efficiently, and with appropriate follow-up when required. Working with other members of the Alumnae Executive, she keeps aware of the needs of the members, and carries out activities as requested. She also assists with the Friendship Committee, visiting and delivering florals to our senior alums. As a signing officer, Norma prepares all cheques, and ensures all deposits are completed in a timely manner.

Norma also ensures that the Office Operations Manual is regularly reviewed and revised. Recently Norma has added the role of Window Display Coordinator or as she describes it "captain" to her list of talents. We feel that Norma is very deserving of this honour.

Nightingale Tea

In honour of **National Nurses Week** May 8-14, 2017, Westerleigh Parc in West Vancouver invited more than 30 of its residents, some former nurses, for a Nightingale Tea in the afternoon on May 12.

VGH grads **Virginia (Doyle) Rutherford Sept 1946, Bette (Tufts) Hanna Sept 1953, Nell (Christy) Turner Sept 1950** were in attendance.

Some of nurses brought mementos of their previous careers and wore uniforms from their early days of nursing. Wearing a nursing uniform from 1905, **Cheryl Entwistle** of the B.C. History of Nursing Society talked to the invited guests about nursing and the contributions nurses made to the community. The guests also enjoyed a light lunch and tea served by the staff of Westerleigh.



Top: Bette (Tufts)
 Hanna Sept '53,
 Nell (Christy)
 Turner Sept '50
 Bottom: Virginia
 (Doyle) Rutherford

VGH Pins

Wear your pin to the 2018 Luncheon.

Did you know that the style of pins changed over the years? This recent donation to the pin collection is a valued 1905 pin.



2017 DONATIONS TO OUR ARCHIVAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Thank you for your continuing support for our Archive and Museum. Two donors wish to remain anonymous.

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VGH SCHOOL OF NURSING
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
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Please leave a message.



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Sunday May 6, 2018 12: noon to 3:00 pm
Cost \$25.00.

Register by April 18, 1968 and 1958 classes no charge.

Name: _____

Name at Graduation: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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We appreciate your input!