



NEWSLETTER

Looking Back - Memories Exposed

The September luncheon was such a success! So much news to catch up on, so many memories brought to mind. Loud greeting, much laughter, many hugs, lots of “remember when” and many stories told and retold.

For my classmates it brings to mind how much nursing education has changed since our class started. Our first lesson was how to properly make a bed. If the bottom sheet was not tucked tight enough to bounce a dime, your marks were low, and you stayed to practice. But we were being taught what was important for caring for sick patients who were sometimes weeks in bed. Now it seems so outdated, but we were taught, as it is today, that the care of your patient is a priority. We learned what it took to be a good nurse and we were proud to succeed and proud of the good education we got. The lessons and principles we learned stayed with us for the rest of our lives. I just heard that a very sick, very premature baby can have a tiny pacemaker inserted to keep the heart beating. The 1st open heart surgery to fix a hole in a little boy’s heart was yet to come. Science and skill have advanced rapidly in those few years.

VGH’s footprint too has dramatically changed. Our first residence was the Old Home on the second floor . I was in a dorm with six others on the top floor. We probies immediately bonded, and those roommates became lifelong friends. Some time after we earned our caps we were moved to the 1915 Home, a ‘heritage like’ building, on 12th and Heather into a two bed room. The bedtime game there was keeping the light off until you could position yourself partially hanging head first off the bed holding a slipper. The object of the game was to kill as may silverfish as you could with your slipper when the lights came on.



East section of the Old Home on 10th & Heather St.

We then moved to the 7th floor of the New Residence. It felt as if we were now living in a hotel. The kitchen and the lounge room in the center of the building were gathering places for the floor, and we became like a big family of sisters. I think most of the class learned to smoke in that room. Our comings and goings were of course monitored by the matrons.

The extension to the Heather Building on the north side along Heather St. had been completed housing the OR on the top floor. We became very familiar with the surgical wards on the 2nd floor and the medical wards on the 1st floor. A great part of the clinical learning was on these floors, often being alone with another student on night shift.

Orthopedics was a big open ward with a side room, Neurology was also an open ward with many Stryker beds in the side room.

We also spent some time in the “old mens home,” across 12th Avenue. Many stories of marriage proposals, false teeth gathered up at night from side tables to clean in the service room and having no idea where to put them back, men ‘escaping’ in the nude down 12th Ave., and on and on.

Continued on page 13

The September Luncheon



Lots of happy faces at the luncheon

Thank you for your Donations

The Board of Directors extends a heartfelt thank you to the 300+ members who generously donated monies in 2023. This year we had some very generous donations. The monies received assists in the general operation of the association, the awarding of bursaries and the ongoing work of the Archivist and Archives Committee. If the donations are not required for projected needs, they will be invested with varying maturity dates so that interest is available if required.

The donations for 2023 were:

Education Bursary Fund:	\$21,253.50
Archive Development Fund:	\$8015.00
General:	\$9025.36
Memorial Book Donations:	\$975.00
Total:	<u>\$38,293.86</u>

Financial Report 2023

	Revenue	Expense	Investments	Matures
General Account	\$71,334.46	\$57,661.44	\$140,000.00	Jul 2024
Archive Fund			\$55,000.00	Jun 2025
Education Fund			\$76,934.00	Sep 2024

REMINDER

When using e-transfer for your membership fees and donations, please ensure that your membership form is sent to the office to ensure your contact information is correct and that you will get future information about the Luncheon.

Friendship Committee Report 2023

The highlight of each year is the Spring Florals and visits to our Senior Alums. Both the seniors and the volunteers enjoy the visits and the sharing of student days, residence living, memories and career journeys. We could not accomplish this without our volunteers. Many thanks go to Kathy Murphy, Joan Kerr, Lynne Dunbar, Suzanne Stothers, Sue Kerr, Gayle McKay, Mary Raikes-Tindle in the Lower Mainland. The Island is covered by Charlotte Cronin, Judy Reid and Ginnie Taylor. In addition Roberta Tottle sends Christmas cards and cards for special birthdays.

Please keep the Alumnae office aware of current needs, cards or florals, and if one has lost a spouse or other family member. Please also inform the office if you know of the passing of one of our members. Often they are not posted in the papers. We have lost 47 of our alumnae this year.

We are currently planning our 2024 florals and visits.

Hopefully 2024 finds everyone safe and well, with hopes of new beginnings and a new normal.

Respectfully submitted

Diane Parker / Lorna Hoare

Co-chairs Friendship Committee

Roberta Tottle

Committee Member



President Annual Report 2023

Some of you may recognize the wording in the first paragraph as it bears repeating. I have been writing annual reports for the Alumnae Association for over twenty years and am so thankful for the dedicated Board members who continue to maintain this vital organization for the benefit of the 700 members. Due to a number of factors, many volunteer-run organizations are having difficulty continuing their operations. That situation will also face us soon unless some of our members take on the leadership roles.

More than half of the Board members are celebrating a new decade this year!

The Board of Directors meets five times a year and also gathers for the Annual General Meeting in March via Zoom. Each of the Directors manages an activity and the remainder of the work is carried out by Sue Goguen, our Executive Secretary/Treasurer and Naomi Constant, our Archivist. Anyone interested in considering helping is welcome to attend the AGM or the meetings on the 4th Thursday of March, May, September, November or January. Any Board member can also be contacted to discuss opportunities to serve.

The Board of Directors reluctantly accepted the resignation from Suzanne Stothers who has served for many years as Director-at-Large. This role included many tasks related to the Luncheon and, following COVID, the Celebration project to assist classes that were celebrating their 50th and 60th Anniversaries. Sincere appreciation was extended.

The Board of Directors was delighted to welcome Arlene Vanderhoeven as the Director responsible for Communications. Arlene still works part time at VGH but is now doing the Window displays and is also a website whiz!

The Annual General Meeting for 2023 was held via zoom again which allowed for members to join the meeting. All reports are included in the Newsletter.

Our banking change to one account with three separate investments maturing at different times is working well. The interest rates were greatly improved this year.

The First Fall Luncheon, held at The Arbutus Club on September 19, 2023, was appreciated by all and will be repeated on the same date in 2024. There is a limited number of seats so early registration is advised.

The Alumnae Association Board of Directors is continuing to assist Classes celebrating their 50th and 60th Anniversaries. Appointing two class representatives who are current Alumnae Association members to complete the documentation, will ensure some funding to assist with class reunions.

Thank you for supporting our VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy (McCutcheon) Murphy
September 1965



Vice President Annual Report 2023

During the year I attended the Alumnae meetings at the Hospital.

I assisted with the annual delivery of flowers to our identified older graduates, many of whom are in independent living or care facilities.

Additionally as the Vice President of the Alumnae I chaired the nominations committee and presented the new Board of Directors at the AGM in March 2023.

Attended the VGH Alumnae luncheon held at the Arbutus Club. It was very enjoyable and well attended.

In September attended a luncheon with Kathy Murphy at the UBC Golf Club sponsored by the VGH/UBC Hospital Foundation. Dr Lisa Howard, a prominent Orthopedic reconstruction surgeon, gave an informative talk on new reconstruction innovations at VGH/UBC hospital.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Raikes-Tindle



Education Committee Report 2023



The Education Committee is very pleased with the continued interest in our bursary program. A descendant of a grad of the VGH/SON Diploma program or UBC/VGH Collaborative Degree program is eligible to apply for a bursary. This includes daughters, sons, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews. Required proof is a photocopy of the graduate’s diploma and/or a letter of explanation including the relationship to the graduate. With thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Alumnae members our funds continue to increase, and we can offer larger bursaries depending on the category. We have received letters of thanks and appreciation from the students for the generous support of the Alumnae Association. It is encouraging to watch these young women entering the nursing profession with passion and enthusiasm as they look forward to an exciting career. We wish them all the best as they work hard to complete their schooling. We are also pleased to offer funds to VGH/SON Diploma grads and UBC/VGH Collaborative Degree Program grads to assist with continuing education, recertification, conferences, and workshops.



In 2023 we had fifteen applications for bursary awards. There was one UBC/VGH Collaborative Degree Program grad and fourteen descendants of VGH grads. This year we were pleased to award a total of \$24,800.00 to the bursary applicants.

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

	<u>Descendant</u>	<u>VGH Grad</u>	
1.	Allison Hills	Susan Forrest	Feb.'88
2.	Leanne Long	Corrine Hill	Sept.'82
3.	Morgan McCartney	Luauna MacAlpine	Feb.'91
4.	Courtney MacDonald	Karla Smith	June '90

B. The Eileen (Lewis) Johnston Memorial Fund

Genevieve Vadnais	Monique Benoit	June '87
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C. VGH/SON Alumnae Association Education Funds

	<u>Descendant</u>	<u>VGH Grad</u>	
1.	Jenna Anderson	Susan Patzelt	Feb.'88
2.	Sonia Bonato		UBC/VGH grad 1993
3.	Elise Brouwer	Christine McAskill	1956
4.	Abbey Ferreira	Heather Abbey	Feb.'90
5.	Sydney Robinson	Jean Donaldson	Feb.'56
6.	Larissa Shumuk	Ann England	Sept.'76
7.	Kimberly Tronrud	Lois Hurst	1947

The Inez (Fox-Sept.'55) Mowat Memorial Bursary (VGHSONAA)

Lisa Boulaine	Philippa Kirkhope
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The Edith Mary (McCallan) Cork Memorial Bursary (VGHSONAA) Nurse Practitioner Special Bursary

Holly McDonald	Monique Benoit	Feb.'87
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The Eileen (Lewis) Johnston Memorial Bursary (VGHSONAA)

Genevieve Vadnais	Monique Benoit	Feb.'87
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The Education Committee would like to thank the many individuals who made generous donations to the Bursary Program in 2023. This helps immensely to facilitate presenting bursary awards to all eligible applicants. Throughout the year, donations were received for the **Alumnae Memorial Book**. The donations are from classmates and family members requesting a loved one’s name be entered into the book. These donations are put toward the bursary program.

For the 2024 bursary year, the committee will welcome applications from:

1. Graduates from the VGH/SON Diploma program
2. Graduates from the UBC/VGH Collaborative Nursing Program
3. Descendants of graduates from the above programs

Please check out the information on our website (www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com) and link to “Bursaries”. Application forms can now be downloaded from the website, **OR**, further 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 (Dunbar) Kerr, Sept.'65, Chair, Education Committee

Archives Report, 2023



More than 20 donations were received by the Archives during the past year. Major ones included: 1991 photographs of the VGH School of Nursing Faculty prior to its amalgamation with the UBC School of Nursing. Two 1919 Photographs of nurses were transferred from the collection of the Royal B.C. Museum Archives. Class lists from 1970 - 1989 and Newsletters 1967 -1994; Scrapbook, pins, photos from 1948-1951 were also accepted. Accessioning of accepted donations is ongoing.

Work continued on the Digital Repository Project. The Image Collection is currently available on a subset of "Archives". The Doll Collection and Pins and Silver can be accessed. Collections in the process of being put online include Books, Nursing Equipment and Document Collection. These will be worked on in the coming year. There are still some items in the Museum Section of the Image Collection which will be moved to their correct location in the coming year.

Displays in the Pattison Pavilion were organized by Arlene and her team. Themes included: Operating Room, Military, Polio, 99 Years of VGH.

Inquiries for information on material in the collection continued to be received. These were generally from relatives of nurses, or from researchers. These were dealt with as received. New pin donations were accessioned. The Pin Book will be available on the Archives Shelf. A 1949 Class Photo was reframed.

Barb Kissuras continued to attend Board meetings and to assist the Archivist as needed. Mary Watt assisted with Archives duties and the Photography Collection, as available.

The Archivist participated in a panel discussion arranged by the Archives Association of B.C. on March 27,2023, via Zoom. Questions about the VGH School of Nursing Collection were answered.

Naomi Constant, Archivist

Archive Committee Report 2023

The archives is always pleased to offer tours to interested classes. It is hoped that alumnae are following the progress of the digital presentation of material held in the archives. We are grateful for donations received this past year which are related to the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing for the period 1899-1998. Our Archivist Naomi Constant continues to guide with the accession of donated items and the deaccessioning of duplications as well as responding to requests.

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Kissuras, Feb.66



Archives could use your help! Please reply by contacting the Archive Committee
vgksonarchives.99@gmail.com

My Story. Evelyn Mallory, Mother and Me.



Myrna Robinson '59

My mother, Muriel Mabel Collings always wanted to be a nurse and applied to Royal Inland Hospital, but because she was deemed overweight was refused .She was accepted as a student in Revelstoke at Queen Victoria. At that time, 1931, before hospital insurance, hospital boards were able to pay staff but relied on unpaid student nurses as staff. Every hospital in B.C. trained nursing students. During those years Evelyn Mallory was the Registrar of Nurses in B.C. and was obliged to register nurses from these small schools. She and other professional nurses were concerned that inconsistent training was given to student nurses, eg. some were taught how to give injections and other were taught only to make beds and feed patients. My mother and her classmates wrote the hospital board that "they would resign" unless they got more education. As a result my mother was sent to VGH to do pediatrics. Others were sent to other hospitals eg. Tranquille in Kamloops. After three years training she was interviewed by Mallory and was allowed to write the exam in Revelstoke. She passed with ease. In 1935 she married and myself and my brother were born. When war was declared in 1939 many nurses joined up and were

posted overseas leaving the hospital short of staff. She was often called in to work. The wages at that time was \$4.00 for an 8 hour shift and no overtime.

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Hello from your Executive Secretary & Treasurer Spring 2024

I hope all of you stayed healthy in 2023.



This past year, I have continued with my various Alumnae duties at the office and my focus continues on digital record keeping.

Although we live in a world of viruses, it's nice to see that classes are starting to plan reunions again. We have received news and photos of several reunions - those held in 2023 and those upcoming in 2024.



We are thrilled to provide funding to the applicants of the 1964 and 1974 classes this year for their 50th & 60th Anniversary Celebrations, the 50 year anniversary classes can receive \$500.00 and for those celebrating their 60th anniversary, we offer \$250.00. If you have any queries about reunion planning, don't hesitate to contact the office.

The question "are you interested in a fall function?" posed to you last year was a huge success!!! We had 102 members attend to enjoy a lovely lunch. Plans are in the works for another one this year. Mark your calendar for September 19, 2024 at the Arbutus Club. There will be an invite sent out later to those who indicated interest on their Membership Form.

For those who choose e-transfer as a payment method, **PLEASE & THANK YOU**, we **still need** the membership form completed and returned. This information helps keep our database current.

As a result of numerous glitches experienced this past year, work is underway to rebuild our old outdated web site. The end result will be an up to date site that is running on the most up to date platform.

The 2023 tax receipt issuance is complete. Receipts were sent to new members, renewing members and to all those who very kindly and generously donated. We had a tremendous response this past year. A huge heartfelt thanks to all of you for your generosity!!!

The 2023 Financial Report and Donation Record are included in the Newsletter for your reference.

The "Family Graduate" list is ongoing. Members have been very kind in sending in names of VGH nurses and their descendants. Always looking to add names.

Please find it in your hearts to keep your connection to your VGH nursing school by supporting your Alumnae. I wish you good health and enjoyment in 2024!

Contact us: VGH SON Alumnae Association 855 W12th Ave. Vancouver, BC. V5Z 1M9
604 875 4111 ext. 62049 email: vghson99@gmail.com

We are in the Heather Pavilion - the South entrance, first two blue doors on your left. she

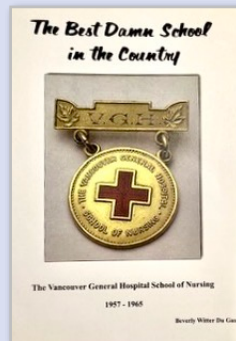
Heather Pavilion is now "keycard access" only, so if you want to visit, please call ahead and we can meet.

Cheers

Sue Goguen (Gammon) Feb'75

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Printing Department at VGH has reproduced, with permission from Beverly DuGas's daughter Barbara, the reprinting of her last book "The Best Damned School in the Country". This can be purchased for \$10 plus shipping from the Alumnae office. The Stained Glass window note cards are also available from the Alumnae office at the cost of \$5 for 5 cards plus shipping.



Nomination Committee Report 2024

Current members or the Board of Directors willing to allow their names to stand for:

President: Kathy Murphy

Vice President: Mary Raikes-Tindle

Recording Secretary: Lynne Dunbar

Executive Secretary: Treasurer: Sue Goguen

Archives: Barb Kissuras

Education: Joan Kerr

Friendship: Lorna Hoare and Diane Parker

Membership: Sue Kerr

Communications Arlene Vanderhoeven

Submitted by:

Mary Raikes-Tindle

Archive Committee Display Windows/ Communication Report 2024



I just wanted to introduce myself. I am Arlene Vanderhoeven (Schindel) a graduate of the Feb 89 class. I started working in VGH in 1989 and have never left. I am currently in my 35th year and have worked in several different areas in – Neuro ICU, PAR, Surgical daycare, and most recently and still currently in the Eye Care Centre as the Clinical Nurse Educator.

The VGH SON display windows located at the west end of the first floor of Jim Pattison Pavilion by the elevators feature five different themes Jan-Mar: TB/Pediatric/Health Centre for Children, April-June: Honouring of the 50th Grad class/Capping ceremony/Nurses week/Artifacts of the 1960, 70 & 80's, July-Sept: The last Grad class of 1991/showcase of 99 years of SON/ OR early years, Oct-Nov: Military/Polio, December: Christmas. I have now officially taken over from Norma Guttormsson who has been my mentor for over the last year and a half. We thank her for all her hard work, commitment, and work in organizing and maintaining this very important part of the VGH SON Alumnae Association. This past year we were also asked to add in special photos and mementos for the 50th grad class in our summer display to coincide with their reunion and tour. Members of the display team are Arlene Vanderhoeven and Jane Birkland with spares being Norma Guttormsson, Kathy Murphy, Marg Shugg, and Kim Beaudry.

We could use some new volunteers to help, so if you can spare three free hours one morning a year please call 778-995-4596

Sincere appreciation is extended to Naomi Constant, our Archivist, for her expertise and assistance.

I have also just recently accepted and taken over as the Communication Chair. My involvement with working with multiple community and parent groups over the decades and computer savviness will hopefully aid me into stepping into and managing this role. We understand the challenges with our current website, which is due to its age, so we will be working on making some changes that hopefully will be operational by the end of the year. We look forward to a new website that will be easy to use and navigate in. My role will also be to assist in the collection of information required for the annual Bulletin in January and for the annual newsletter in the Spring, and to coordinate and make any changes or add things to the website as needed. Please email the VGH SON office if you have any suggestions or requests.



It is my sincere pleasure to volunteer my time to support this amazing association an important part of mine and so many people's lives.

**Respectfully submitted,
Arlene Vanderhoeven (Schindel)- Feb 89**



Many many thanks to Suzanne Stothers.

Suzanne recently retired from the VGH Alumnae Board after many years of service to the alumnae. She latterly held the positions of Member at Large and Communications.



Her devotion and hard work is very much appreciated and will surely be missed.

Thank you Suzanne.

Under Construction.

Our website is under construction

We suggest that you may want to check it out later this year.

vghnursingschoolalumnae.com

Membership Report 2023



The total paid membership for 2023 was 629. In addition there were 51 Special Alums, 7 Honourary and 17 Life Members for a total of 704 active members. This is up from last year. Of those 629 paid members 304 made a donation on top of the \$20 membership fee. The new form makes it easier to donate to General, Archives or Education fund. Also, now a tax receipt is issued for the total amount.



The majority of our members are from the 1950's and 1960's and nearly all of the Board members are from the 1960's classes. In 2019 we began the practice of mailing personalized letters to all members of the 50 year classes. This has resulted in four or five new members each year which is hopeful for our future. There is no longer a luncheon but individual letters are mailed to the 50 year grads inviting them to join the Alumnae and offering \$500 towards a reunion/celebration for their class. The same invitation is sent to the 60 year grads. They are offered \$250.

For those of you who are current members and receive the Newsletter, please encourage others from your class to join or renew their membership. The benefits of membership are numerous. The many hard working

volunteers keep our organization vibrant. Historical items are acquired and maintained by the Archives committee. The Annual Newsletter contains information about events that have taken place and special achievements of our Alums. Flowers and cards are sent to shut-ins or those recovering from illness or surgery and sympathy cards are sent to families of deceased graduates. Descendants of graduates who are members can apply for educational bursaries of up to \$2000 per year for pursuing education in the field of nursing. A database of the over 8000 graduates from our School of Nursing is maintained.

If you know of any changes of address or of any deaths of your classmates please forward that information to the Alumnae office so the database can be as current as possible. I was a member of the Alumnae during my working years but did not participate in any activities. One day I bumped into a friend I'd known for years through OR nursing but didn't realize she was a VGH grad. She was on the Board and invited me to come and see what it was all about. I started helping with membership and after a couple of years became the Membership Director. This is an invitation to anyone who is thinking about becoming involved to act upon it. Many doors are opened.

**Respectfully submitted,
Susan Kerr (Cathcart '69).**

VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Building Society/ Association Fund

This Endowment Fund was established in 2002 to promote life-long learning for nurses. The fund is managed by the VGH/UBC Hospital Foundation and funding is awarded annually to nurses at the Vancouver General Hospital, UBC Hospital, GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre and Vancouver Community Health Services.

In 2023, 17 bursaries were awarded in amounts from \$1,700 to \$2,000.

The Endowment Fund Balance at April 2023 was \$897,254.

The Income Fund Balance at April 2023 was \$95,576.

Archival Photo Project

The Archival photo project has continued throughout the year. We are delighted that Phase V of the collection is on the website. The collection is viewable at

[https://
www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com/wp2/
archive-and-museum-collections/](https://www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com/wp2/archive-and-museum-collections/).

Users can select which collection they want to view.

Phase VI is about to start. We hope that this project will allow the general public be able to use the photos for research as well as enjoyment.

Once again many thanks to those who have contributed to our archival fund. Your donations have made this project feasible.

Reunions

September 1965-55 + 3 years at The Galiano Inn Sept.12-14/23



Arriving at The Galiano Inn, the classmates enjoyed three days of memory sharing and lots of laughter. Dinner at The Hummingbird Pub was followed by the RCMP costumed escort and members in capes, caps, and scissors as Edythe arrived with The Torch. The self-appointed Health Clinic Nurses were presented with a Clinic Kit to ensure a safe night for all.

Gathering for breakfast the next day, the members completed quizzes, sang a revised Adjustment Song, opened Goody Bags, and heard Joan’s evaluation review complete with prizes. The Health Clinic was opened and several remedies were demonstrated before Ocean Potion was served to all. Following Free Time to explore or relax, the group gathered near The Gazebo to hear and view Memories that some had never heard before. Prior to dinner, a tribute to **Charlotte Wynne** was read and Moon River was sung. The Memorial Book was available for viewing. Following dinner, a new Alphabet for Seniors was presented and then The Squirrelles Decades Tour channeling ABBA was revealed! The costumes and act were the highlight of the evening. Door prizes and special gifts were distributed.

September '57 65 Anniversary

Last May those of us September 1957’s who were able gathered for lunch at Van Dusen Gardens to officially celebrate our 65th anniversary. Several of our classmates sent their good wishes but were unable to come.

We were delighted to welcome “Mickey” (Jean Eleanor MacDonald) Evoy, who finally made it from Florida for her **first ever** Class Reunion. It was great fun catching up with her after 65 years! She had a long and interesting career in nursing as does her daughter.

Best, **Arden Kidd**

Pictured standing (lt. to rt): Bonnie (Spearing) Yarmak, Joyce (Sebryk) Roberts, June (Nemis) Cocking, Arden (Gardner) Kidd, Thelma (Fisher) Kilburn, Judy (Markstrom) Langstaff and “Mickey” Jean Eleanor (MacDonald) Evoy.
Seated: Lerae (Parrott) Brigden, Peggy (Matterson) Hamilton, Alma (Hammer) Jones, Chris (Buchanan) Knight, and Dawn (Kirschke) Church.



September 1972

The class of September 1972 recently celebrated our 50th reunion at the Pinnacle Hotel at the Pier in North Vancouver. We lucked into a terrific weekend weather-wise. A good time was had by the thirty of us who attended the two day event. Most of the faces were recognizable, although there was some discussion as to whether we would require name tags for our next event. We are already looking forward to our next gathering, but have decided that we won't wait for another five years.

Donna Brett <donna_brett@telus.net>



Reunions

February '88

The class of February 1988 celebrated our 35 year reunion this past September. Twenty six of us in total, met locally in the lower mainland. Our last gathering was to commemorate our 20 year reunion, so a party was long overdue! Many of us are still nursing, while some of us have met the magic criteria for retirement. It was amazing to rekindle old friendships with everyone that attended. We look forward to planning our next milestone soon, now that we've all survived a pandemic! History for our nursing archive!

Susan Anderson



February 1966

Feb.'66 classmates **Judy Evans** and **Shirley Henderson** organized a mini reunion in Sept 2023. Several members of Feb.'66 met in Vancouver's West End.

Memories were celebrated from 60 years ago when we moved into residence and started our probie term in Feb. of 66, and having completed probie term we were now proudly wearing our caps.

Activities enjoyed were a cocktail party, luncheon, dinner, and breakfast as well as several impromptu gatherings.

September '73 50th Reunion

On Sept 13th our VGH Class of Sept. 73 celebrated our 50th Anniversary with 30 of our class members at my home in South Surrey B.C. We had classmates travel from New Zealand, California, Edmonton, Trail, Vancouver Island, The Interior and the lower mainland. It's hard to believe it's been 50 years since we all graduated to launch our nursing careers. Our Class valedictorian, Karyn Valleau Smith read out her speech from 50 years ago and we all realized how the wisdom of her words still applied to all of us today. Within a short time gathering it was as if no time had elapsed since we graduated. We want to thank you for the generous gift of \$500 towards our luncheon. We celebrated with great company, excellent food, Champagne and a VGH cake for dessert and lots of laughs. Thanks for contributing towards making this day a success.

Kindly, **Denise MacMartin, Ann Price, Cara Penney & Barbara Coghlan & all of our classmates**



Reunions

February '83 40th Reunion Sept 2023

A wild 'n crazy group of gals (plus 2 husbands!) got together to celebrate 40 years of nursing in Burnaby this year. About 23 of 67 students showed up to reminisce and share life experiences. It was lovely to see everyone and acknowledge those that have passed on. We decided to reconnect every five years to make sure we do not lose touch with a wonderful group. Next one 2028!

Thank you,

Allison Kelley Feb 83



February 1962

Feb 62 was overdue for our 60th anniversary celebrations due to Covid. We sent out requests for ideas asking, as in the past, if they would like an overnight reunion. The general consensus was that it was really not practical. Many are



not driving, many have mobility problems, many have partners that they cannot leave overnight. So, a luncheon was planned for May 4th at Shaughnessy Restaurant in Vancouver as it had a central location. The restaurant was very accommodating as to when we had to give them the final attendance numbers. We also could order al la carte, we did not have to have a set menu. In the end, there were 14 of us who enjoyed a very nice lunch there, including four that were able to travel from the Island. We were able to stay as long as we wished to have a good visit. At the conclusion of the meal everyone left with a long stem red rose reminiscent of our graduation.

Our class has been fortunate to stay in touch over the years and there is a group of locals plus anyone else who might be in town at the time, who meet for lunch

every 6 – 8 weeks. We have been doing this for more than 20 years and hope to carry on for another 20!

Sadly, we have lost 21 members of our graduation class of 64.

Submitted by **Pat Berda** and **Mollie Addison**

Reunion Planning

The Class of February 1981

Trudi (Willis) Perkes is updating the Feb 81 contact list to prepare for a possible 44/45 year reunion (maybe a 44 1/2 so it can be in September/October 2025). If you haven't already done so, please send Trudi your current email address to btperkes94@gmail.com. If anyone wants to be part of the planning committee let Trudi know. Thanks everyone!

Trudi Willis Perkes Feb'81 (Note new address) 88-1880 Columbia Valley Rd., Lindell Beach, BC V2R 6G8.



February 1963

The class of Feb. '63 held their 60th reunion at the Pier Hotel in Sydney. Thank you to the Alumnae for the financial support.

Twenty five classmates attended. Brunch was held at Sharon Montague's home. A "great time" was had by all. Top center photo, mini reunion for Penny's Birthday

September 1975 Mini reunion
 Three of us with birthdays last week in September got together for lunch on Sept. 25 in New Westminster. **Diane Kroeger** (who was returning to Calgary from the Yukon) **Betty Bjornson** and **June Gallagher**.
 Submitted by Diane Krueger who is looking forward to our 50th next year.



September 1983

Sept. '83 toured VGH with Kathy Murphy, and held their reunion dinner on May 9, 2023. An Alaska tour was also on the agenda.



February 1975

Well, the Feb '75 class finally had their "45th" reunion June 21 & 22, 2023, but if you do the math, it was actually 48 years !! Good old Covid postponed so many things including our reunion. Twenty-eight of us gathered at Harrison Hot Springs to share good times, wonderful visits and laughs with each other. The hot springs pools are a lovely place to share memories. We all left excited to get together in 2025 for our 50!! **Sue Goguen (Gammon)**



Reunion Planning

The Class of February 1974

The Class of February 1974 is celebrating its 50th! The years have flown past. We started our training on February 15, 1971. Our class has held reunions every five years since graduation and in more recent years have had reunions every two or three years just to keep in touch.

The 50th reunion plans are well underway. The reunion will be held in Vancouver starting on September 16 with a meet and greet. On September 17 a cruise up Indian Arm is planned. September 18 will take us back to 'home base' - a tour of VGH and lunch in the cafeteria, for old times sake. The Alumnae lunch is September 19 for alumnae members. There will plenty of opportunities for visiting with classmates, shopping and sightseeing. More details to follow. We hope many classmates attend and look forward to hearing all the news from the past 50 years. For information on the reunion and receive updates, contact Brenda Heatherington at brenda@ljbmanagement.com or Kathie (Gibbs) Thompson at vghfeb74@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted, **Kathie Thompson.**

The Class of February 1985

Next year the class of February 1985 will be celebrating our 40th reunion. Location and date to be determined. For more information either check out our Facebook group or contact Sandra (Borhaven)Peterson: sandrapeterson7@gmail.com.

Looking forward to reconnecting with our classmates.

Warm regards, **Sandra Peterson**

Continued from page 1.

Looking Back - Memories Exposed

Valedictory 1931

We will always remember with pride and affection our Alma Mater, the Vancouver General Hospital. We will always be interested in her growth and development and will do what we can to advance her interest. We would give our support to those leaders of Medical Science and those agencies which work toward the prevention of suffering and disease.

In saying good-bye to those who will take our places we know that they will have the spirit of devotion to duty and we wish them happiness. We hope we are leaving behind the tradition that they will in turn hand on.

Now that it is time to break with old association what shall we say? We leave many fond memories behind us. Many dear friends must go their separate ways. We see fade our haven of rest - the infirmary. We say good-bye to the old gas stove in the kitchen. Never more will we connect bath tubs and umbrellas. We leave behind that great resounding bell that for three years has rung us into bed and up again.

Lastly we say good-bye to the rooms in which we have lived. There we have held many conferences, there we have drunk many cups of tea and there eaten much toast. Upon their doors we have received many notes of despair but within their walls we have spent many hours of mirth.

Old friends, old places, old sayings -farewell.

Excerpts from archive.
Evelyn Johnson Fond

The Private Pavilion was on Oak and 12th Ave. It was also the infirmary. Once in, it almost felt too good to leave!

The Children's Hospital on 12th avenue was opened in 1951-52. Some children were housed in the basement of the residence until the hospital was completed. Many cases of "D's & V's" occurred testing student nurse's immunity to that pesky bug. After the 'Children's' opened on Oak street in 1982 the building was used for outpatient, psychiatry etc until finally, after a couple years of demolition, it was down to leave a pleasant grassy sitting place.

The infectious disease building was also taken down. Usually it was full of bad cases of hooping cough, measles, mumps, rheumatic fever, and chicken pox. However during the epidemic of polio, the whole of the building was devoted to polio. A number of our class spent the last 6 months of training there. Nurses were in short supply because the fear of transmission to home. Fortunately the "Sugar Pill" was able to curb the spread of Polio.

The old Maternity Pavilion has been modernized and is now for chronic mental health

patients. I fondly remember the nursery and the case room. Both seemed very familiar to me when my 6 kids were born there. Remember the kind lady that ran the elevator?.I can't image how many times a day she opened and shut that steel door while asking "What floor?"

Editor.



1950-51

Top; 1915 Nurses home. Now the Doctor's residence, but when we moved out the interns moved in.

Bottom; New Residence, Infectious Disease Hospital, "old men's home" the Annex.

VGH Bursaries



I am writing to say thank you so much for the VGHSNAA bursary. I was so very excited and appreciative when I got the news I had been selected as a recipient of the bursary.

It has been a big year! I finished my final preceptorship last April on a med-surg unit at Foothills Medical Centre, got a job in May on the same unit, had my grad ceremony in June and passed my NCLEX in July. The last 10 months I have learned and grown so much as a nurse. My critical thinking, time management, and physical skills have all improved. I feel more confident in the leadership role that comes with being a Registered Nurse and enjoy working in such a team environment. Looking forward to the future I have an interest in palliative care and would like to find a position at a hospice to further explore this field.

I have also attached a photo of my mom, **Heather Abbey Feb.'90** and I at my graduation, in the photo I am wearing my grandmother's nursing cape. My grandma passed away while I was in my first year of my nursing school and wearing her cape for my pinning ceremony was an incredibly special way to have her with me on the day and to show my pride in being a third-generation nurse. I graduated 2023 from University of Calgary, my mom graduated 1990 from Vancouver General Hospital and my grandma graduated 1949 from Yorkton General Hospital.

Thank you again for the VGHSNAA bursary, I am so grateful as it has reduced the financial burden of going to school outside my home province.

Sincerely,
Abbey Ferreira



I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for your financial contribution to my Master of Nursing education through the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Bursary. This financial award is incredibly meaningful in my continued success in the program.

I have three VGH SON alumni in my family, and upon reflection, I noticed my own practice has incorporated a little of each of them: Judy's (Hill Sept'65) dedication to school health, Linda's experience with pediatric care, and my mother **Corrine's (Hill Sept'82)** passion for mentorship and health promotion.

I am currently entering my last year of the MN program at Athabasca University, with a double focus in health promotion and nursing education. Nursing education has changed a great deal, even since I completed my baccalaureate degree in 2006, and I find the transformation of teaching theories and strategies fascinating. My passion in nursing is family-centred wellness and mentorship. With the completion of my MN, I look forward to sharing those passions as a nursing educator, where I hope to mentor the growth of our future nurses and colleagues in professional practice.

Leanne Long



Dear Donors to the VGH/SON bursary fund:
 I am writing to thank those who contribute past or present to the VGH/SON alumni education fund. It has allowed me to attend conferences and access educational materials that other wise would have been more difficult to achieve.

I would also like to acknowledge my mom, a VGH graduate of '76 who has been most supportive towards my endeavours as an LPN; in schooling, working with health authorities and currently in my private foot care and home care nursing practice.

In 2018 I relocated to live full time on the gulf islands to assist with family respite care and took the Advanced Foot care Nursing Program offered through a local college. Directed at LPN's and RN's, this training, along with the support of two mentors, allowed me to start offering nursing based foot care to Pender Island residents. The next few years allowed me to offer services to neighbouring Islands to meet gaps in services.

Local nursing groups and universities have been sources that I have turned to for ongoing support through conferences and education opportunities.

As a result of your generous donations to the VGH/SON education fund, many have benefitted indirectly with improved health care. Thank you for making this possible.

Larissa Shumuk, pictured here with her mother **Ann England VGH'79**



I am writing to convey my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the VGH/SON Alumnae Association Education Fund. I feel so lucky to have been selected for a second year. This support allows me to focus on my studies and less on my financial stress that accompanies being a full-time student. I honestly cannot express how thankful I am. I just completed my second year of the BSN program, and I am so excited that I am getting closer to my goal of becoming a registered RN. The support from the VGH/SON Alumnae has played a vital role in my successful completion of my second year. The BSN program is intense and challenging, but I love it and have no doubt that I am on the right career path.

I promise you I will work very hard and strive to be the best nurse that I can be.

Morgan McCartney,
 Pictured here with her mother **Luauna MacAlpine Feb'91**



The Registered Nurses Foundation

The RNFBC was established in 1979 as a non-profit with federal charitable status. Its mandate is to support all nurses and nursing students in BC pursuing basic and advanced education by raising funds to allow for the distribution of bursaries to qualified applicants.



Recent Bursary Distribution:

- RNFBC is able to provide charitable receipts for donations from individuals, businesses, and other charitable organizations.
- RNFBC currently has an investment fund greater than \$4.5 Million.
- Bursary distributions are predominately allocated from investment income.
- It is the intent of RNFBC to protect core funds in order to sustain its ability to continue to offer bursaries.
 - RNFBC has a policy of limiting operating costs to less than 7% of income and has historically managed with an actual operating cost of less than 5%.
 - RNFBC has a goal of annually providing \$200,000 in bursaries. In 2023, there were **1627 applications**: however, with the investment income down at the end of 2022, RNFBC was only able to award **190 bursaries**.

Fundraising Campaign

RNFBC initiated a Campaign in November 2023 called “Reaching New Heights”. There is no specific end date and funds can be targeted to specific funds or areas. RNFBC has identified priority areas for distribution of funds to: applicants in the areas of senior’s care, mental health and a new bursary fund for Indigenous Nurses.

Previous VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Fund contributions and distributions:

This fund was created in 1984 and is available for:

- students enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs
- graduates of the VGH SoN or UBC/VGH collaborative program
- descendants of a graduate of the VGH SoN or UBC/VGH collaborative program
- permanent BC residents who graduated from a BC School of Nursing, if there is no suitable candidate found meeting the forgoing criteria

The last audited statement in December 2022 indicated that the fund was \$403,486.00.

Disbursement of these funds is restricted to investment income only.

In the past 7 years, \$147,000 has been awarded to 147 applicants. In 2022, there were 25 awards but due to weaker market activity in 2022, the investment returns were lower and only 15 bursaries were awarded.

Sincere appreciation was expressed in the thank you letters to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association. Permission to publish portions of the thank you letters was granted by the winners.

I am currently completing my nursing degree from the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). I am in my third year of the program and will be graduating in June 2024. This year, I started BCIT’s High Acuity Cardiac training as part of my nursing education and plan on beginning my career on a cardiac unit. After gaining some experience, I hope to further my education to become a Nurse Practitioner.

I am somewhat of an unusual student in that I returned to school in my early 30s to complete this education. I had completed a B.A. and M.A. in English Literature previously, but realized I wanted a more meaningful career than where I had found myself professionally. My mother is a registered nurse (alumnae of the VGH School of Nursing) and as I—rather emphatically—never wanted to be a nurse growing up, the decision was amusing but deeply meaningful to us both. When I was young my grandmother deteriorated rapidly after her Alzheimer’s diagnosis, and I watched my mom care for her as a daughter and a nurse. I bring this up because this sense of family is rooted in the nursing I seek to practice. Every patient is someone’s family or friend, like my grandmother, and I hope to never lose sight of this in my career. Patients and their families are the centre of the work we do as nurses, and I care deeply about the community and connections we create when we care for each other.

Thank you again for the contribution you have made to my education. Being in school has marked a significant financial challenge. The bursary is greatly appreciated and will impact my nursing school journey for the better.

Sincerely, Kelly Levido





Dear Registered Nurses Foundation of BC,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for being selected as a recipient of the \$1000 bursary. I am truly honoured and appreciative of the support you have provided to me on my journey towards a career in nursing.

Allow me to share a bit about myself and my path to nursing. My passion for helping people achieve physical and emotional well-being began during my extensive travels around the world. This passion led me to become a registered massage therapist, where I witnessed the profound impact of holistic care.

During my undergraduate studies in Health Sciences, I delved into the public health emergency of the overdose crisis in British Columbia. My coursework highlighted the intersectionality of social inequities such as poverty, racism, and trauma, affecting individuals' vulnerability to drug-related harms. It became

clear to me that I wanted to contribute to addressing these issues in a more comprehensive way, leading me to embark on a rewarding career in nursing.

Having nurses in my own family, including my mother and sister, I have witnessed firsthand the fulfillment and diversity that nursing offers. The ongoing pandemic has underscored the invaluable role nurses play in our communities. I am eager to contribute to this field and set an example for my two young children, aged 3 and 5. I want to show them that pursuing one's passion is possible at any age, and with hard work and determination, one can achieve their dreams.

Your generous support through the bursary not only eases the financial burden of my nursing education but also serves as a significant encouragement. I am privileged to have a supportive family pushing me to follow my passion, and your contribution adds another layer of affirmation to my journey.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for this incredible opportunity. I am excited about the future and the positive impact I hope to make in the field of nursing.

Sincerely, Amanda Michaels



Dear Donor,

I hope this letter finds you the best of health and spirits. I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the Vancouver SoN Alumnae Bursary that I was fortunate to receive for my second year in nursing school.

My name is Eden Leslie, and I am 23 years old, currently in my second year of the BScN program at Thompson River University. My inspiration for pursuing a nursing degree comes from my mother, a dedicated single mom of three, who graduated from VGH/UBC in 1993. Her career in nursing not only provided our family with financial security but also demonstrated the flexibility in the profession. She skillfully balanced her work in various nursing fields like infection control, public health, and postpartum to accommodate our family needs.

I moved out at sixteen to live with my boyfriend, graduating early and working at a daycare at a ski resort. We worked diligently to become financially independent, experiencing firsthand the challenges of managing finances, especially now as I pursue full time education. This bursary would significantly alleviate our financial strain, particularly around the holidays. It would not only cover our rent but give us a chance to catch our breath.

My goals include excelling academically to maintain high GPA, specializing in maternal and child care, advocating for patient education, and engaging in community health initiatives, particularly in maternal and child health.

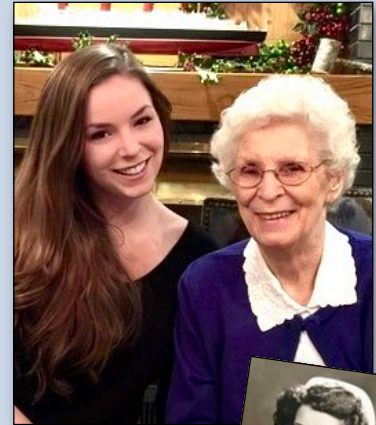
Receiving this bursary has been a tremendous blessing and I cannot thank you and the generous donors enough for their support. The financial assistance this bursary provides significantly alleviates the financial burden of my education and allows me to focus more on my studies and practical training! It is not an exaggeration to say that this bursary has made a world of difference in my life.

Best regards, Eden Leslie



To the donors of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Bursary.
 My name is Meghan and I am a fourth-year nursing student of the University of Victoria at Selkirk College, located in Castlegar BC. I am so grateful for the gift of this bursary, and your continued support as I progress through my nursing education.

You may remember from a previous letter that I've been raised by two nurses, my mother and my grandmother. They have both immensely contributed to my pride and respect for the profession, and have been a huge support over the course of my education. This past year, we lost my grandmother (Lillian). I had the unique experience of being a client within the health care system, as family, while carrying the knowledge gained from my nursing experiences for advocacy and care. My nursing practice has become inextricably linked to how I navigate the world around me, which is a learning I hadn't anticipated before starting this program. I feel nursing is so much more than a career, and I am grateful for the experiences I have had and will continue to have as I have the opportunity to support people in all stages of life. Though I miss my grandmother greatly, I continue to be inspired by her legacy as a nurse. Since her passing, I have had various people share their memories of being in her care, and how she positively impacted their experiences in health and healing. I keep these memories and stories close as I continue to learn and shape my own practice in nursing. I have attached my grandma's nursing graduation picture below.



This year, I have been invited to participate on an international placement to Uganda in January for nursing practice. I hope to consolidate and further my learning on cultural safety and humility, and my knowledge of global health and community nursing. I am excited for this final year of nursing education, and inspired to continue my learning upon graduation.

Your gift of the Vancouver General Hospital SoN Alumnae Bursary is deeply appreciated and an inspiration to continue my education. Thank you again for this support.

**Sincerely,
 Meghan Goertzen**

Dear School of Nursing Alumnae Association Donors,
 My name is Janelle Tucker, and I am a first-year student in the Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Northern British Columbia. I am so grateful for all the donors and the support you have provided to myself, and I am honoured to accept the bursary through the RNFBC.



I have worked as a rural emergency room nurse for most of my career and I am blessed to call 100 Mile House home. Working in a rural facility has given me the skills and confidence to pursue the FNP program and I believe will set me up for success as a Nurse Practitioner. I knew early on in my career that I wanted to become an NP but the financial decision that comes with that is challenging. It is because of support from donors like yourselves that I am able to pursue this education and advance my career.

Moving forward in my career I hope to become an Acute Care NP with a focus on hospital-based care. I have a special interest in women's health as well as pediatrics and hope to incorporate those two areas into my career as an NP. Thank you again for supporting students like myself to reach our goals and pursue our studies without the financial burden that these programs place on us.

You truly make a difference in the lives of nurses and students across the province.

**Sincerely,
 Janelle Tucker**

VGH School of Nursing 2023 Memorial Book

The Memorial Book was created in 1959 by the class of September 1954 in honour of **Helga Thordarson**, a classmate. Requested by classmates, family or friends, the graduate's name is entered in the book with the year of graduation, year of death, and the name or names of those making the request. The pages are decorated, and the calligrapher is **Joan Kerr** (class of September 1965).



A donation of \$15 is suggested which is used to support bursaries for VGH graduates or their descendants. To honour the graduate, contact the Alumnae Office (604-875-4111 extension 62049) to obtain the form. After completing the form, it is returned to the Alumnae Office along with the cheque payable to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association (memo: Education Fund).

As the two Memorial Books have not been displayed to the members attending the luncheon in the last two years, the names recorded for 2023 are included at this time.

The books are on display at the office and at the September Luncheon. It is to be noted that although the graduate may have passed away at an earlier date, the recording of the name is completed when the nomination is submitted.

Date	Name	Donor	Comment
2023	Helen Brandt , (Large, Sept.'60)	Jane Robertson	on behalf of classmates
2023	Lora Byler , (Suderman, Sept.'56)	Nancy Milley	on behalf of classmates
2023	Claire Pat Cameron , (Caldwell, Feb.'57)	Nancy Semke	on behalf of classmates
2023	Joanne Chennels , (Davies Sept.'62)	Pat Sexsmith	on behalf of classmates
2023	Bobbie Curror , (Billings, Sept.'57)	Thelma Kilburn	on behalf of classmates
2023	Janet Fernau , (Montgomery, UBC'56)	Ethel Warbinek	on behalf of classmates
2023	Mary Goddard , (Kerr, Sept.'60)	Jane Robertson	on behalf of classmates
2023	Elsie Lou Lawrence , (Binkley, Sept.'56)	Nancy Milley	on behalf of classmates
2023	Maxine Nicholson , (McCracken, UBC'56)	Ethel Warbinek	on behalf of classmat
2023	Betty Anne Rogers , (Rogers, Feb.'57)	Nancy Semke	on behalf of classmates
2023	Carol Sinclair , (Bride, Sept.'54)	Marg Shugg	on behalf of classmates
2003	Maureen Wilkinson , (Wear, Feb.'75)	Sue Goguen	on behalf of classmates
2022	Maureen Atkins , (Worobec, Feb.'71)	Beverly Holman	on behalf of classmates
2022	Mahri-Anna Brasfield , (Miekle Sept.'66)	Gillian Watson	on behalf of classmates
2022	Sylvia Burkinshaw , (Campbell, Feb.'59)	Pat Sinclair	on behalf of classmates
2022	Magna Den Breejen , (Schock, Feb.'63)	Anne Mitchell	on behalf of classmates
2022	Marilyn Donnelly , (Donnelly, Feb.'71)	Beverly Holman)	on behalf of classmates
2022	Ruth Leask , (Castle, Feb.'62)	Mollie Addison	on behalf of classmates
2022	Marilyn McMorran , (Genier, Sept.'56)	Maureen Speed	on behalf of classmates
2022	Shirley Welch , (Slater, Feb.'54)	Reta Kidd	on behalf of classmates
2022	Anita Wong , (Wong, Feb.'54)	Reta Kidd	on behalf of classmates
2022	Charlotte Wynne , (Wynne, Sept.'65)	Joan Kerr	on behalf of classmates
2021	Gwyneth Lamperson , (Davies, Sept.'58)	Maureen Speed	on behalf of classmates
2021	Valerie Ritchie , (Van Ackerman, Sept.'58)	Maureen Speed	on behalf of classmates

Continued from Page 5



I too wanted to be a nurse and after high school grad I worked all summer at camp, earning \$300 which enabled me to pay my tuition and enter VGHSon. We students experienced multiple affiliations. I was at Health Unit #5 in Vancouver and it was there I decided to become a Public Health Nurse. I was accepted as a PHN and sent to Kitimat for two years. I learned to drive before I left for Kitimat and was ready to accept the snowy conditions and new position when I arrived.

I was successful in my training period and my way was paid to UBC for the Diploma Program as PHN.

It was during one of my lectures with Evelyn Malory I came to know the part my classmates and my mother played toward the betterment of nursing education.

My first post as PHN was to New Denver in the Slocan Valley. It was during the Doukhobor trouble. The children were removed from their home to the New Denver Dormitory to go to school. Due to unrest I was not allowed to visit Krestova.(people of the flaming cross). I was required to serve for two years and report to Office of the Selkirk Health Unit in Nelson. Only one family of new born twins refused the usual "new baby visit" of all the infants born in that valley during my time there.

After my two year posting I travelled the world with my friend. The entire



Queen Victoria Hospital

trip cost me \$4300. We travelled half way to New Delhi, India, with a stop over for six months where I was temporarily employed in New Zealand's public health in Christchurch. The rest of the way from New Delhi to London was overland by bus by way of the Penn Overland Bus Tours - camp cots and sleeping bag, inexpensive hostels and hotels. Back in Canada I was posted to Kamloops.

Evelyn Mallory eventually retired from UBC and moved to Vernon B.C. Evelyn passed away there. Many of the students she had taught attended her service. As I sat with the others I reflected upon the momentous changes in nursing education that she had been a part of.

Original story has been condensed. Editor.

September Luncheon





MEMORIES -

Betty Anne Rogers 1935-2023



A staunch supporter of our School, Betty Anne’s dedication to the Alumnae was remarkable. Her most outstanding contribution was organizing our displays. This involved detailed planning, working closely with a dedicated group of volunteers and

countless trips, often every 8 weeks, to the JP Pavilion to change and set up new displays. This was hard work, involved pushing a cart heavily loaded with items – often a mannequin in a school uniform - from the Alumnae office in Heather Pavilion -not an easy task, dismantling the old display and setting up the new one. Not to mention the dusting and cleaning of the glass shelves. the display items, organized by nursing themes such as TB, polio, pediatrics, history of the school and recognition of special class reunions. These display items were placed in separately labeled boxes, accompanied by a manual listing the contents in each box. For those who followed her, all that had to be done was to select a box. For a couple of years, the archives committee hosted an open house to showcase our artifact collection. Betty Anne was the main organizer of these events and as I recall, the one who suggested it.

Betty Anne was the driving force in the construction of the stained-glass window, created to celebrate the 99th anniversary of our School. She worked closely with the artist in designing this beautiful window. It can be viewed in the JP Pavilion. Another memorable project was the creation of nine miniature dolls dressed in School uniforms. She worked with the artist who painted the faces and with Sheila Zerr, who dressed them working quietly, without fanfare, meeting deadlines.

In addition to her contributions to the Alumnae, Betty Anne was a true friend and colleague never shirking to help others when assistance was requested. These visits were accompanied by a pot of her delicious homemade soup. Many delightful lunches were hosted by her at her home in New Westminster.

Betty Anne was one of a kind – a caring friend. It was a privilege knowing her.

Ethel Warbinek

In Memoriam 2023
But not forgotten



Class	Current	First Name	Name at Graduation
1946	Archer	Jean (Ivy)	Bodaly
1947	Beetstra	Dorothy	Binks
1948	Newell	Elizabeth	Penny
1948	McIvor	Betty	Simpson
1948	Symmers	Helen	Liemen
1949	Covernton	Lois Marie	Webster
1949	Lindsay	Kay	Huntington
1950	Turner	Nell	Christy
1952	Chambers	Lois	Hughes
1952	deGoutiere	Anna Marie	Wouters
1952	Douglas	Mina Joyce	Watson
1953	Ker	Joselyn (Jill)	Wallinger
1953	McWilliams	Lorraine	Clayton
1953	Prescesky	Louise	Dunseith
1954	Sinclair	Carol	Bride
1955	Lang	Beverly	Allan (UBC)
1955	Leggat	Marlene	Duerksen
1955	Mitchell	Gayle	Johnson (UBC)
1955	Stowe	Mary Anne	Johnstone
1956	Byler	Lora	Sudermann
1956	Fernau	Janet	Montgomery (UBC)
1956	Lawrence	Lou	Binkley
1956	Nicholson	Maxine	McCracken.(UBC)
1957	Cameron	Patricia	Caldwell
1957	Curror	Dorothy	Billings
1957	Rogers	Betty Anne	Rogers
1958	McCutcheon	Anna	Rickson
1958	O’Toole	Nancy	Bennett
1959	Drummond	Margt. (Laurie)	Frier
1959	Pincott	Barbara Jean	Dower
1960	Bell	Irene Lavona	Sleen (UBC)
1960	Brandt	Helen	Large
1960	Boothroyd	Kathleen	Rudkin
1960	Goddard	Mary	Kerr
1960	Williamson	Sandra Jean	McLuckie
1961	Young	Penny	Rose
1962	Beattie	Dorothy	Nichol
1962	Chennells	Joanne	Davies
1963	White	Mary Lynn	White
1963	White	Pamela	Stephenson
1965	Flaherty	Anita	Wilson
1965	Williams	Maureen	Gibbons
1969	Butchart	Shirley	Butchart
1971	Duncan	Marilyn	Donnelly
1973	Evans	Joan Marie	Evans
1975	Wilkinson	Maureen	Wear
<i>Died in 2022</i>			
1947	Dennis	Devina	Rasmussen
1955	McGuffin	Margaret	Ralston
1963	Den Breejen	Magda	Wouters
1964	Wickett	Joan	Mitchie
<i>Died in 2021</i>			
1951	Johnston	Norma	McDonald

Correspondence

I am from the class of Feb '86. Charlene Smith (nee Griffin). I had the privilege of serving aboard the Global Mercy in May 2023 and wanted to share a little of that experience, to encourage others to perhaps take that same step.

The Mercy Ship Christian organization has two hospital ships completely outfitted to do surgeries for countries along the West Coast of Africa. There are a limited number of medical resources in these countries and the ships provide life changing surgeries that otherwise would not happen. Look the ships up! I was only in Dakar, Senegal for 2 weeks as an operating room nurse, but it was incredible to volunteer alongside people from all over the world, to provide surgeries. Not a word of complaint from anyone as we all wanted to be there and most so happy to be serving our God as well as the people. An incredible spiritual journey. I want to go again!! I am currently working in the OR in Fredericton NB.

PS Love getting this newsletter!

Charlene Smith <charamy.smith@hotmail.ca>



“Beware and lock your door.”

In 1968 I was a student nurse. My room at “The Res” was on 3North. It was near the start to the tunnel which went to Heather and Centennial Pavilion.

One evening the R.C.M.P. knocked on our doors. They warned us to “beware and lock your door” until the all clear is announced. This was a lock down to keep the students safe. A dangerous criminal was on the loose, in the tunnel trying to gain access to the residence. We were all on high alert. All we could remember was the massacre of 8 student nurses in Chicago!.

This is just a memory I have. Many of the student nurses were from small towns. We learned fast how dangerous the big city of Vancouver could be.

Beryl A. MacLean, '69.



Thank you for your kind note!

I am so grateful for the Alumnae Association. After my Nursing School Reunion in November 2021, I received a book “The Best Damn School”. I am so blessed that I was allowed to attend VGHSN and that the Alumnae has so much passion. I wish I lived closer so I could be a part of the volunteering. at the Alumnae office. I live in West Kelowna but VGHSN days are a highlight in my life and I love to see it keep on going.

Kind regards,

Nancy Matthews, '86

New Life Members

At the Annual General Meeting, Life memberships were awarded to

Lynne Dunbar, Secretary.
Barb Kissuras, Archives Chair.
Suzanne Stothers,

former Member at Large.

Life Membership may be conferred on any member of the association who has given outstanding service to the Association.



Honorary Members

Mrs. Matilda Bara	Mrs. Naomi Constant
Mr. Charlie Etchell	Mr. D.E. McTaggart
Anita Petersen	Jens Petersen
Mrs. Sheila J. Rankin Zerr	

Life Members

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Vivian Blake (Jackson) '50	Myrna Braun (Wagstaff) '62
Lynne Dunbar (Meir-Gildea) '65	Norma Guttormsson (Scobie) '58
Lorna Hoare (Snider) '66	Joan Kerr (Dunbar) '65
Barb Kissuras (Rosval) '66	Sheila Kirk (Poersch) '61
Gail McKay (Glanville) '62	Elizabeth Kirkwood (Miles) '53
Kathleen Murphy (McCutcheon) '65	Diane Parker (Sjerve) '68
Trudy Phillips (Smith) '53	Mary Raikes-Tindle (Raikes) '65
Kay Raisbeck '54	Nancy Semke (Bouzovetsky) '57
Pat Sexsmith (Kay) '62	Margaret Shugg '54
Suzanne Stothers '70	Jean Tsuyuki (Lyons) '57
Mary Watt (MacKinnon) '54	Ethel Warbinek (McIntyre) '56

V.G.H. School Of Nursing Alumnae Association Board Of Directors 2024-24

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Please check first to see if you have already renewed or joined and 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: vghnursingschoolalumnae.com

VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL of NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

Annual Membership Fee: \$20.00

Your fee provides support to the: Education Bursaries, Website, Newsletter, Friendship Committee's support to members, and office operations

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Name: _____ Surname at Graduation _____

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IMPORTANT - Please - these choices **must be** indicated each year

Check how you wish to receive your Newsletter: Email _____ OR Mail _____

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Do you want your contact information given to your Class Rep to update Class list? Yes _____ No _____

**** **Are you Interested in attending a Fall Luncheon?** Yes No

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January 2024 – v1

**EDUCATION
BURSARY
APPLICATION**

Bursary applicants can submit online applications in 2024 as an option. This will reduce the stress in sending documents by mail to meet the September 30 deadline.



Mary Watt (MacKinnon'54)

Thank you , Kathy Murphy and the other members of the Board. I appreciate your advice and help.

Editor
marywatt@shaw.ca
 Please feel free to send me your stories.