



NEWSLETTER

VGH SON AA: We are 114 years old!

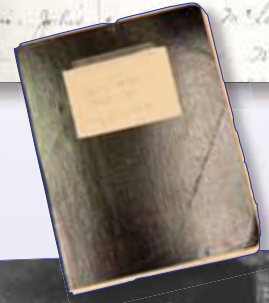
Our Alumnae Association is not only the oldest nursing school association in BC, but is the only surviving one. The dedication of the Board and the volunteers tells that the association is still strong. You can read the annual reports and realize the extent of the alumnae involvement.

The history of our years has been kept in boxes and files in the archives for us to read and to appreciate the work of the Alumnae through the years. It is a privilege to read through these records and imagine the groups of alums meeting, all nurses trained at VGH, working toward a variety of worthy causes and enjoying the camaraderie of special friends.

The first meeting of the Vancouver General Hospital Training School of Nurses was held December 1, 1908 in the brand new Nurses' Home on 10th Ave., with twelve in attendance. *"Miss Macfarlane in the chair. Miss Norcross acting secretary. Miss Norcross read the Constitution as formulated which was approved."* The meeting went on to elect President Miss Roycroft, a 1st and 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer before being adjourned. **And that was that the beginning of our 114 years.**

In the first regular meeting in the New Year, 1909, the agenda included a scientific reading by one of the members, a \$1 annual fee was implemented, and a Magazine Committee was introduced. There was some discussion about which medical or nursing magazine subscriptions were to be bought. The books could then be signed out so they would be available for the the preparation of the scientific reading for the next meeting. A 10¢ fine was imposed if the magazine was kept too long. The meeting adjourned and tea and refreshments were served.

Our history is all there in the boxes waiting to be explored: documents and photos, books, and keepsakes. Some amazing efforts, including fundraising to support overseas soldiers in the two wars, fundraising for soldiers in the Military Annex, and fundraising efforts to build and maintain The Manor, the low income residence for retired nurses. My classmate remembers selling raffle tickets for that effort. Fundraising for bursaries has carried over so many years. The Alumnae was a wonderful support to student nurses - annual graduating teas, flowers, books. The maintenance of our office and archives is another facet (including the manual effort of the then executive members) moving to our fourth location. Thinking of the social aspect, the annual luncheons and reunions have



Lynne Dunbar

1909 graduates



East and West wings of the nurse's residence on 10th Ave and Heather St., built 1907-1908 (Old Home). My 1951 probie class was the last year that students were housed here. Editor

brought together classmates and friends and their memories from years past. Miss Norcross was the first secretary to record our history, but we have to thank all the secretaries who have taken her place and who have written our history and filled those boxes with our story. **Lynne (Meir-Gildea '65) Dunbar** is our present Recording Secretary.

Luncheon Report 2021

At the bottom of Page 1 of the Spring 2021 Newsletter there is a blue banner with bold white letters saying “The Luncheon will return May 1, 2022.” Little did we know what was to come! The Omicron virus reared its head and a collective gasp was heard around the world.



Planning for a luncheon seemed unrealistic, even though we wanted to remain positive and hopeful. The reality meant that not only the classes of February/September 1970, 1971 but now the class 1972 would not be able to celebrate their 50 years since graduation. All the “60-year grads” for those years were also denied their celebrations.

Problems with our venue’s booking, increasing catering and food costs, COVID requirements (which were daunting) made us realize that the Luncheon as we knew it, was going to have to change.

We’ve been so successful in past years with attendance climbing each year to 265 on May 5, 2019, but it wasn’t going to be possible, with COVID, to repeat those numbers. Sadly, a room full of laughing, hugging, smiling Alumnae is not to be at this time.

The Board of Directors is exploring different ways in which the “spirit” of the Luncheon can continue. It’s doubtful that it will look like it has in the past because the logistics of doing so are prohibitive at this time. We will keep the Alumnae updated as soon as we are able to produce a cohesive plan. In January there was a “Special” letter included with the Bulletin sent from the Board of Directors. It outlines the reasons for the changes with the annual Luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Stothers - Sept ‘70

Co-Chair Luncheon Committee.

Nomination Committee Report 2022

Officers


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

Committee Chairs


Archives: Barb Kissuras
 Education: Joan Kerr
 Friendship: Lorna Hoare and
 Diane Parker - Co-Chairs
 Director at Large, Luncheon:
 Suzanne Stothers
 Membership: Sue Kerr
 Communications:

Submitted by:
Mary Raikes-Tindle

1899-1998



VGH SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION



855 West 12th Avenue Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9

VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association
 Luncheon Cancellations 2020, 2021, 2022

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the restrictions that were imposed, the Board of Directors has had to make several changes in the way the association is operating. One of the most difficult decisions was to cancel the Luncheons in 2020 and 2021. It was hoped that the May 1, 2022 luncheon could be held, but several factors had to be considered:

- The venue was not available on May 1 nor April 24. May 8th is Mother’s Day. It has always been a challenge to locate a venue that could accommodate 250+ guests on a Sunday.
- Pandemic restrictions are impacting catering by limiting the options of how the food is served, thus increasing labour costs.
- The number of guests permitted at a venue is governed by the current pandemic restrictions, so each class being honoured would be limited in the number attending and the other guests may also be restricted.
- In the past, the luncheon fee has been \$25.00. At our last luncheon, the minimum catering cost for each guest was approximately \$50.00 which included food, beverages, labour for food preparation and service, room rental, insurance, decorations and the photographer. Historically, the honoured guests do not pay the luncheon fee and given the potential of a large number of honoured guests from the three years, this could significantly limit the attendance of paying guests and thereby decreasing the revenue.

At the November 2021 Board Meeting, an innovative suggestion was considered. The details have yet to be finalized, but the proposal is to provide a financial contribution to all Classes that have been impacted by the luncheon cancellations so that individual classes could stage their own reunion. Help from the Alumnae could be provided by assisting with locating classmates, offering tours of the Alumnae area in the Heather Pavilion and promoting the reunions on the website and in the annual Newsletter which is distributed in March.

It appears that more decisions will need to be made regarding future events and assisting classes who are organizing class reunions.

The Board of Directors
 The VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association
 December, 2021

President Annual Report 2021

What can be said of 2021 other than we carried on, as many in our province dealt with forest fires, massive heat, atmospheric rivers, unusual snowfalls, and several versions of the COVID pandemic and the opioid crisis. The Alumnae Association has been in operation since 1908 and is one of the few alumnae/alumni groups still functioning in this province. We are still housed in the B floor of the Heather Pavilion which first opened its doors to 47 patients in 1906.

The Annual General Meeting for 2021 was held via zoom which allowed for other members to join the meeting. As many of you read in the Bulletin and Membership renewal package, the Annual Luncheon for 2022 has been cancelled due to a number of factors. The Board of Directors is considering other ways of helping classes gather.

The overwhelming response in member donations to the Alumnae Association, since the Canada Revenue Agency expanded the ability of the association to issue tax receipts, was greatly appreciated. The annual CRA report is now being filed online.

On the advice of our Accountant, the three accounts (General, Education, Archive Development) have been merged into one which will streamline the reporting to the CRA. Donations will continue to be recognized for the fund designated by the donor.

Anne Williams, a former active member, was added to the Nursing Memorial Book which is now managed by the Nurse and Nurse Practitioners of BC. To view the book online, locate the website at www.nnpbc.com, search for Nursing Memorial Book, and click on View Memorial Book. The names are listed by first names so Anne is recognized on page 5. Many other VGH graduates are recognized in this book.

As in past years, I am asking for assistance from the 700 members to help in managing this amazing organization. Many of us are tired and really would like to retire before we are forced to do so. Please contact the office at vghson99@gmail.com to discuss what you can do to maintain the Alumnae Association.

We could not operate without our Board of Directors and Committee members, and I extend sincere appreciation to them for all that they do to maintain the Alumnae Association.

Kathy (McCutcheon) Murphy

September, 1965.



Vice President Annual Report 2021

As the Alumnae Association is limping along during the pandemic, I decided in 2021 to volunteer with the vaccination program. My initial thought was as an unpaid volunteer in any capacity that was required. When the recruitment team heard that I was a retired nurse, they quickly suggested that I do the online course to become an immunizer.

This I did and then had to “bid” on any shifts that were available. This proved to be problematic as I didn’t have seniority (I thought that at least my age would count) and also I was unwilling to do 8 or 12 hour shifts. Eventually I connected with the booking clerk in Richmond and she quickly told me to let her know when I wanted to work and what hours.

I spent May, June, and July at the HS Cambie High School, two days a week, four hour shifts. Perfect!!

When the call again came out in January for the booster doses at the Vancouver Convention Centre, I again decided to offer my assistance. I went through a similar process although much shorter and am now working

Tuesdays and Thursdays for 4 hours each day until the end of February. It is rewarding work and I am very happy to be able to help. FYI - I had to join the union and am getting paid!!

Additionally as the Vice President of the Alumnae I chaired the nominations committee.

Mary Raikes-Tindle

September, 1965.



Education Committee Report 2021

The Education Committee is very pleased with the continued interest in our bursary program. In 2021 the Education committee was pleased to announce exciting changes to the Bursary Award Program. Effective with the 2021 Bursary awards, a descendant of a grad of the VGH/SON Diploma program or UBC/VGH Collaborative Degree program is now 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 have increased, and we are now able to 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 and looking forward to an exciting career. We wish them all the best as they work hard to complete their schooling. It has been particularly challenging for these students during the pandemic.

We are also pleased to offer funds to VGH/SON Diploma grads and UBC/VGH Collaborative Degree Program grads to assist with continuing education, conferences, and workshops.



In 2021 we had thirteen applications for bursary awards. There were two UBC/VGH Collaborative Degree Program grads and eleven descendants of VGH grads. This year we were pleased to award a total of \$16,100.00 to the bursary applicants.

Harvey/Cain Endowment Fund.(Margaret [Dorset, 192] Harvey & Dorothy Cain, sister)

The following descendants of VGH/SON grads received a bursary award:

Descendant		VGH Grad	
Elise Bouwer	(grandmother)	Christine McAskill	Sept.'56
Carolyn Hicks	(mother)	Roberta Iallonardo	Sept.'79
Gabrielle Kriegel	(mother)	Joanne Dent	Feb.'90
Sydney Robinson	(grandmother)	Jean Donaldson	Feb.'56

The Eileen(Lewis) Johnston Memorial Fund

Descendant		VGH Grad	
Genevieve Vadnais	(mother)	Monique Benoit	May'87

VGH/SON Alumnae Association Education Funds

The following VGH/UBC grad and descendants of VGH grads received a bursary award:

VGH/UBC Collaborative Degree Program Grad

Heather Hunter -- UBC/VGH May 1996

Descendant		VGH Grad	
Jenna Anderson	(mother)	Susan Patzelt	Feb.'88
Alexa Huebner	(mother)	Linda Toews	Feb.'91
Allison Hills	(mother)	Susan Forrest	Feb.'88
Larissa Shumuk	(mother)	Ann England	Sept.'76
Julianna Vanderhoven	(mother)	Arlene Schindel	Feb.'89
Katya Viskari	(mother)	Allison Kelley	Feb.'83

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

VGH/UBC Collaborative Degree Program Grad

Sonia Bonato -- 1993

The Education Committee would like to thank the many individuals who made generous donations to the Bursary Program in 2021. This helps immensely to facilitate presenting bursary awards to all eligible applicants. Donations were received from cancelled luncheon tickets, from classmates requesting a deceased classmate’s name be entered into the Memorial Book, from families donating in memory of a loved one, and general donations from people interested in assisting students in their nursing education.

Education Committee Report 2021

For the 2022 bursary year, the committee will welcome applications from

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

Please be sure to check out the information on our website (www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com) and link to “Bursaries” OR inquiries and requests 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. Please see letters of thanks on page 14 and 15.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan (Dunbar) Kerr, Sept. '65,

Chair, Education Committee

Friendship Committee Report 2021



2020 & 2021 have been quiet years due to the continuance of COVID restrictions. We continue to send cards but have been unable to reinstate our Spring Florals and visits for the last 2 years. We are hopeful to resume in 2022, but that will depend on restrictions due to active viruses.

Safety for everyone will be a priority in the decision.

We have lost 34 of our Alums this year, that we were aware of. Sympathy cards were sent to known addresses.

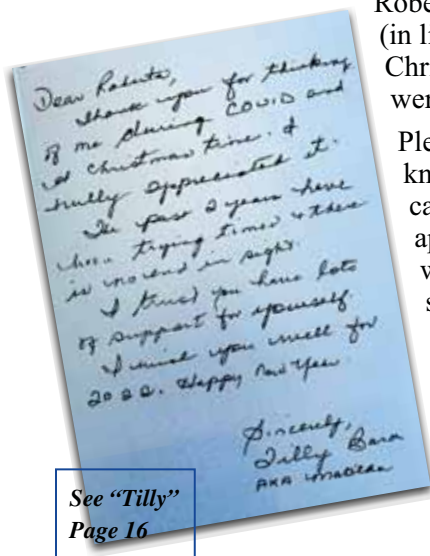
Roberta Tottle sent Spring cards (in lieu of florals) and also Christmas cards. Get Well cards were also sent.

Please inform the office if you know of someone in need of cards flowers, etc. We really appreciate our volunteers, and will be in touch with them as soon as we can reestablish florals and visits.

Hopefully 2022 will be the beginning of a new year and new normal. Keep safe.

Diane Parker / Lorna Hoare

Co-Chairs Friendship



See “Tilly”
Page 16

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



This bursary was started in 2021 by **Erin Collis**, a VGH grad of 1981 and her family in memory of Inez, her mother, and grandmother of her three daughters.

The Education Committee and Alumnae Association appreciates this new bursary which will be awarded annually.

Inez specialized as an Emergency Room Nurse. She worked in ER departments in three states in the US and in three cities in BC.

After 20 years away from nursing, she returned to VGH to work in the OR. She finished her career specializing in the OR on the Neurosurgical team until her retirement in 1994.

Inez was an inspiration for her daughter, a VGH grad of 1981, as well as two granddaughters who became nurses and one granddaughter who became a paramedic. Erin and her daughters now continue a legacy in the medical profession which began three generations ago.

Membership Report 2021

As the Alumnae Members age, our overall numbers are gradually decreasing. The largest active groups are from the 1950s and 1960s. Nearly all the Board Members are graduates from the 1960S, so this is a call out to all graduates from the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. We need your help to ensure that our Alumnae can remain viable.

At the year end of 2021 our total paid membership was **642**. This compares to **716** in 2020. There are 4 categories of membership.

Paid members: (\$20 per year) 642 grads.

Special Members: there are 41 of these graduates of the late 1940s and early 1950s who have maintained active membership. Their membership fees have been waived.

Life Members: there are 17 in this category. These graduates have volunteered for many years and have contributed to the various activities of the Alumnae by serving on the board, heading committees, and doing special projects. Their fees are waived.

Honourary Members: these 7 people are not nurses but have contributed greatly to the work of the alumnae.

The main source of funding for all the Alumnae activities comes from membership fees, so all current members are encouraged to renew their membership. Please reach out to classmates who have not been members in the past and invite them to join.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue (Cathcart) Kerr Feb '69

Membership Director



Hello from your Executive Secretary & Treasurer Spring 2022

I hope all of you stayed healthy this past year of the ever-changing COVID virus. Wow, two years of the pandemic behind us. As the cliché goes “third time lucky” Will our third COVID year be lucky?

This past year I have continued with my various Alumnae duties at the office and my focus has been on the continuance of digital record keeping. The process has been arduous, but makes life better when having to look back for something a member may request. Still quite the learning curve as I’m self taught!

The financial record now being digital makes the revenue and expenses easier to manage. I am still making mistakes, but our accountant helps me through it. The 2021 financial report is included in the Newsletter for your reference.

The 2021 tax receipt issuance is complete. Receipts were sent to new members, the members who renewed their membership, 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 donations!!! This year we

merged the three bank accounts into one which going forward will streamline the deposit process and indirectly save us some money. Because of the merge, I have created a database to keep a record of which dedicated fund you, as a donor, requested.

Early January 2022, the Bulletin and the Membership form was received by almost 1,000 members. The '50s and '60s classes continue to provide the majority of our alumnae support by maintaining their memberships. There is a slight increase of paid members from the classes of the '70s and '80s. Let’s keep that up - reach out to your classmates, reach out to your “big and little sister” classes and encourage them to join and/or renew their membership. Your financial support helps various committees provide for our members in many ways. The Board of Directors is also looking for volunteers to help with the various committees. We are an aging group and would love some younger blood to help out. I’m the youngest and I turn 70 this year!!! Each year, the Newsletter keeps us informed with an activity report from those committees. Read the various reports and see if any of those activities might fit your interests.

We have new neighbours to the north of our office in the Heather Pavilion - Canines for Care, or as I call them the “sniffer dogs” group. They are great neighbours and every once in a while I get a couple of four legged visitors!! They also have been kind enough to store our Adult Iron Lung. It is no longer buried in the tunnel in a room full of Respiratory equipment. It is close to the office and now easily accessible for routine maintenance. They have submitted a great article in this Newsletter with some photos too.

Continued on bottom of page 7



Archive Committee Report 2021



The Archive Committee once again has been faced with challenges due to COVID-19. Our sincere appreciation goes to our Archivist Naomi Constant who continues to guide us with the accession of donated items and the deaccessioning of duplications as well as responding to requests. Norma Guttormsson, leader of the Window Display Team, continues to provide interesting displays in the Alumnae Association windows in the Pattison Pavilion. The members of the display team are Janie Birkeland, Norma Guttormsson, Kathy Murphy, and Marg Shugg. All present and past members are sincerely appreciated. Archive committee members are Karen Armitage, Robin Brenner, Betty Kirkwood, Denise MacMartin, Marg Shugg and Mary Watt. Their dedication is sincerely appreciated. Respectfully submitted, **Barbara Kissuras Feb '66** Chair Archives Committee

A note from our archivist ...

VGH SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM COLLECTION

The purpose of the Archival and Museum Collection is to collect, preserve and display artifacts and archival material relating to the history of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing for the period 1899 – 1998.

This material is available to the general public through provision for research, exhibitions, loans and educational programming. The public may access material in the collection on application to the Archivist at: vghsonarchives.99@gmail.com or tel. 604-875-4111 (local 62049). Information is also available on the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association website at vghnursingschoolalumnae.com



Textile room

Archives could use your help! Please reply.

Financial Report 2021

	Revenue	Expenses	Investments
General Account	\$30,479.73	\$20,778.00	\$135,000.00
Archive Fund	\$13,140.86	\$5,446.00	\$90,000.00
Education Fund	\$15,627.35	\$14,228.00	\$76,516.00

The revenue includes the donations received in 2021.

As recommended earlier by the accountant, the three accounts have been put into one account effective January 2022 in order to reduce bank costs and assist in the reporting to the Canada Revenue Agency.

Continued from page 6. Hello from Your Executive Secretary

This year we have listed all the members who have had their name entered in the Memorial Book over the last two years. We felt it was something to share as we have not had our luncheons, hence no Memorial Book to display.

Please find it in your hearts to keep your connection to your VGH nursing school by supporting your Alumnae. I wish you good health going forward and enjoy 2022!

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

Cheers . . .

Sue Goguen (Gammon) Feb'75

Reunion Plans

February '82

The class of Feb '82 is having their 40th graduation reunion in Whistler on June 13 and 14, 2022. For info contact **Laurel Newman** at lcoghlinnewman@gmail.com.

For singles wishing to share accommodation, contact Karen Swinnard (Blattler) at karenswynnard1@gmail.com

We're still missing contact for several class members. Please spread the word with any classmates you know.



February '74

Feb '74 reunion is September 7, 8 and 9, 2022 in Victoria. Please make your own room booking at <https://www.parksidevictoria.com> as early as possible as accommodation is limited. There is a discount for our group, so let Parkside know that you are with the VGH class. Please let Brenda Hetherington know of your reservation at brenda@ljmanagement.com asap. It is better to book now and if necessary, cancel later. There will be lots to do and plenty of time to visit with classmates and catch up on all the news since we last met. **Kathie (Gibbs) Thompson** has taken on the communications role for our class and can be reached at: vghfeb74@gmail.com. Please keep Kathie up-to-date with email addresses or any other contact information. We hope to have a great turnout for our 50th reunion which is only two years, away so please keep in touch. Thanks **Barb Bassett** for keeping us in touch all these years.



September '67

Hello to our Sept '67 classmates! Our 55th Reunion is booked for September 12-14, 2022 at Loon Lake, Maple Ridge, BC. We look forward to seeing our friends from 55 years ago...a chance to catch up, and relax in this beautiful setting...mask free! Committee: Alison, Kathy, Joanne, Lesley, Christine

Class News

Class of '46

A note of thanks from Curtis Neale who requested and received a 1946 annual from the archive collection as a keepsake of mother **Roxie (Anderson) Neale**. He mentioned he had met Roxie's roommate Rita (Constantine) Baldwin.

September '47

Thank you **Norval (MacDonald) Rhodes** for your note. She mentions she is looking forward to the luncheon and hoping to meet classmate Hazel (Rodger) Hansen of Mayne Island. (Sorry to disappoint re luncheon).

Class of '51

Normal (Dick) Carruthers. "When I went to VGH in September with Janis Renaud we went to see the VGH Alumnae window for a fun viewing. The current display was showing grads of the "one" years. I graduated in 1951 and was being honoured for that year, with a picture of me in grad uniform from VGH and UBC and a writeup I had prepared all my work experience in nursing from 1951-1986 - initially as a staff nurse and then 30 years as a nursing teacher. It was great to see and enjoy all that."

Class of '54

We have sadly lost **Lilie (Harder) Hartwell** this year. Lilie was a Public Health nurse and worked as Director of Civic Buildings, Vancouver, for City Care facilities. She was intense and focused, loved life, and was devoted to her family. **Ann (Lennox) Mitton** remembers working in the basement of the Nurses' Resident in the temporary children's ward while waiting for "Children's" to be finished in 1952.

September '60 held their 60th reunion the 61st year since graduation. After two postponements due to COVID-19 it finally happened! Twenty classmates attended the three-day reunion held September 13th to 15th at the Sylvia Hotel. The first evening was spent in the Hospitality room where everyone congregated to enjoy the fellowship of old friendships. Tuesday was a day to visit individually and enjoy the ambience of English Bay. The rain did not deter from a walk along the Seawall as it was refreshing after the long hot summer experienced by those living in BC. A dinner was held at the Sylvia Hotel

Class News

dining room Tuesday followed by an evening regurgitated skits from reunions past (thanks to Gus). Much laughter ensued, possibly fuelled by the wine and old memories. We all met one last time for breakfast before heading home. Martha Shire, coming from Milton Ont., took the prize for travelling the farthest. We were so happy to be able to hold this reunion in a post-pandemic time. Sadly, during the delay, we lost three wonderful friends: Helga Hooey, Joan Noble, and Bev O’Doud. They were missed by all. Our thanks go to Martha Shire for the wonderful VGH masks that she provided for each of us (see photo), to Martha Loewen who shared her artistry in the form of note cards all received, and to Helen Brandt for the marathons ran in order to join us in Vancouver. Each person who attended this special gathering left enriched having “Celebrated the memories and Renewed the Spirit.” Thank you all who came and to all who were unable to join us. Friendships forged during those three years together remain strong and resilient.



February ’63

Great get-together in Ladysmith on Vancouver Island! We had a great visit, in spite of COVID! Lots of walks on beach etc! Card games, laughing, and wine! Thanks **Patricia Marini** for sending these photos.



Barbara , Patricia, Penny, Alice, Willetta

September ’70

We celebrated our 51st Nursing Reunion September 14-16, 2021 having had to cancel our 50th in 2020. It was held in Squamish and we had a beautiful sunny day to go up the Sea to Sky Gondola. We had a delicious lunch in the Diamond Head Room at the top. The views were spectacular and lots of chairs around outside to sit and chat after walking the trails. Later, we had dinner out at The Nest in Brackendale. Unfortunately, we only had 22 of our classmates attend due to COVID and other circumstances, but it was a nice group and we had lots of fun. We stayed at the Sandman Hotel, and they were very accommodating, letting us use their breakfast room for our evening get-togethers.



Sharon Calvert (Finnsson) and Bonnie Goss (McLaughlin).



September ’81 40th reunion

In September, 23 members of the class of September ’81 managed to gather for a smaller gathering due to COVID restrictions. A beautiful weekend in Vancouver with lots of laughs and memories was had by all. The class has managed to have a reunion every 5 years since graduation, making this the 7th reunion.

Erin Collis



Sept. '81



The Registered Nurses Foundation has been providing bursaries since 1979 to RNs and RN students through the RNFBC Endowment of \$5,000,000. In 2021, 212 Bursaries were awarded from the 39 Named Bursaries. More information about available bursaries can be found at www.rnfbc.ca.

The Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Bursary was created in 1984 from donations from the Alumnae Association, former graduates, and from the proceeds of the sale of the VGH Manor. The funding is available for students enrolled in baccalaureate nursing programmes, graduates of the basic programme, the UBC/VGH Collaborative programme, and for descendants of graduates of these programmes. When all suitable candidates have received awards and there is still funding available, candidates holding the basic criteria can be considered by the RNFBC Bursary Committee if they are permanent residents of British Columbia and have graduated from a BC School of Nursing.

In 2021, the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Bursaries were given to 20 students and graduates. The 20 thank you notes from the winners indicated sincere appreciation for the award and often tell of why nursing was chosen as a career.

Permission to publish portions of some of the thank you letters was granted.

To the donors of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Bursary:

My name is Meghan and I am a second-year nursing student at Selkirk College, located in Castlegar, BC. I am so grateful for the gift of this bursary, which will substantially assist the financial demands as a full-time student.

Becoming a nurse is a long-standing goal of mine; both my mother and grandmother were nurses, which largely influenced my perspective growing up. Having the opportunity to follow in their footsteps is both inspiring and carries great weight for me to honour the nursing profession. My mother is a graduate of the Vancouver General Hospital’s School of Nursing. Her career has provided many opportunities to care for clients in a variety of settings, with Emergency being her preferred area.

Although my current nursing interests are vast, I have recently found working with palliative clients to be a profound experience. I believe it is an honour to care for someone in the end-of-life stage, and would like to focus my nursing practice around advocacy of palliative care. I hope to eventually become a nursing educator to support growth within the profession and future nurses entering the field.

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 bursary.

Sincerely,
Meghan Goertzen



“One is of my mom and I when I was 3, and the other is a recent photo of us together (though the first one is of course my favourite)”.



To: The Donors of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Bursary:

I began my nursing career in 2005 as a Licensed Practical Nurse, and then I went on to complete my Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and graduated as a Registered Nurse in 2010. I spent all of my career working in rural and remote communities in British Columbia. In 2014, I put my nursing career on hold to stay at home and raise my children. In September of this year, I began the Return to Registered Nursing Practice Program through Thompson Rivers University. It is exciting to be on this journey to re-enter the nursing profession after years away and much life experience.

I have four children, and in 2014 my oldest son, who was three at the time, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. He fought bravely for three years, but tragically he passed away in June 2017, a few weeks shy of his sixth birthday. This tragedy has had a profound impact on both my personal and professional life. I am now committed to pursuing a career in palliative care nursing as I see it as a way to honour my son's memory and help other families who have to go through what my family and I went through.

This monetary support means the world to me, and helps so much with the financial burden of going back to school while raising a young family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for donating to the Registered Nurses Foundation of BC and helping me to go back into the nursing profession and pursue my passion.

Sincerely,
Shauna Desa



To the donors of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Bursary:

I am a second-year student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Selkirk College. I would like to express my deep gratitude for this bursary, which has been provided to me through RNFBC.

Because I am not just a full-time student but also a single mother of a young child, I am unable to work through the school year. For this reason, the funding I am receiving from the Alumnae Association is a huge help that will allow me to focus on my studies and make it through the year without undo financial stress. The ability to focus on my studies is invaluable to me, as I am a very engaged student and am passionate about developing skills that will enable me to advocate for vulnerable populations throughout my career.

Thank you so much for creating this bursary; the support means so much to me!

Sincerely,
Katrina J. Bird





To the donors of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Bursary:

I am a first-year student enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at British Columbia Institute of Technology.



I grew up with a family of healthcare workers who were dedicated to helping their clients thrive. This gave me the opportunity to learn about the importance of healthcare, sparking my passion to do the same from a young age. It has been such a blessing to now be on my journey through nursing school. With that being said, I cannot express enough how inspiring it is to see how much support there is in the nursing community as it has been such an encouragement in pursuing my dreams.

As a full-time student it has been quite the struggle stretching out my finances, so I am beyond grateful for the bursary provided through RNFBC. Receiving this donation will be such an incredible help in easing my financial worries. Upon graduating from this program, I look forward to also doing my part in supporting aspiring nurses.

Thank you for creating and donating to the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Bursary.
Sincerely,
Faith Christine Baldo

To the donors of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Bursary:

I am a third-year student in the Baccalaureate Nursing Program at University of British Columbia Okanagan. I want to send my most sincere thank you for the bursary I have received through RNFBC. Throughout my studies and in my future career I want to join the fight in the mental health epidemic. I hope to work in a community setting to offer resources to those living with mental health conditions. As someone who has been affected by mental health, I know first hand the impact it can have on individuals. I also know how inspiring and fulfilling it can be to manage these conditions. A person who inspires me in my efforts is my father's best friend who we unfortunately lost to suicide.



Financial assistance means so much to me because it gives me the ability to spend time volunteering with an organization that serves people experiencing homelessness, a population often affected by mental health. Thank you so much for supporting students like me to reach our goals to better the nursing profession and society among us.
Sincerely,
Emily Spooner

Please volunteer your energy and a little time to your Alumnae Association. You will not be sorry!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Reunion planning?

Add a tour to the archives when you are planning your reunion.

vghsonarchives.99@gmail.com
or tel. 604-875-4111 (local 62049)

VGH School of Nursing Newsletter 2022 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 **Trudy Phillips** (Class of February 1953).



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 2020 and 2021 are included at this time. 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.

2020

Janet MacNeil (Hemminger) Feb '65 died 2020
 Katherine Dilulo (Crooks) Feb '65 died 2020
 Elizabeth Langille (Langille) Sept '71 died 1973
 Glenda Lunt (Grice) Sept '71 died 2001
 Cheryl MacDonald (Prough) Sept '71 died 2013
 Charlene Griesdale (Martin) Sept '71 died 2017
 Barbara Pike (Wilson) Sep '71 died 2020
 Joan MacLean (Kolle) Sept '57 died 2020
 Margaret Hardy (Lewis) Aug '59 died 2020
 Anne Williams (Williams) Sept '54 died 2020
 Margaret Rae Archer (Millard) Feb '55 died 2020
 Mary Hochglaube (Norman) Sept '57 died 2020
 Barbara Defago (Wallace) Sept '71 died 2020
 Beverly Hanna (Hanna) Feb '63 died 2020
 Anne McCauley (Stewart) Aug '59 died 2020
 Elizabeth Darragh (Barager) Aug '59 died 2020
 Annette Stark (Stark) Aug '59 died 2020
 Jane James (Wilson) Sept '69 died 2020
 Shirley Coates (Dorman) Jan '52 died 2020
 Elaine Babb (Varah) Aug '58 died 2019
 Patricia McLennan (Bradley) Sept '56 died 2020
 Joan MacLaurin (MacLaurin) Sept '56 died 2020
 Sally Brand (Cumpston) Sep '56 died 2020
 May Henderson (Tinkham) Sept '47 died 2006
 Muriel Park (Browell) Sept '47 died 2019
 Virginia Dagleish (Walden) Sept '47 died 2019
 Marion Tully (Egleson) Sept '38 died 2005
 Barbara Maureen Insley (Insley) Sept '73 died 2015
 Penelope Koch (Godfrey) Aug '58 died 2019
 Kathie Savory (Burrows) Feb '58 died 2020
 Norma Clay (Yardley) Sep '57 died 2019
 Faye Nelson (Heyland) Feb '65 died 2019

Florence Tickner (Kimball) Feb '53 died 2020
 Jacqueline Wright (Wright) Feb '53 died 2019
 Berte Willoughby (Moi) Aug '56 died 2018
 Louise Lightfoot (Backstrom) Aug '56 died 2019
 Elaine McClintock (Snell) Aug '56 died 2017
 Margaret Mitchell (Cameron) Aug '56 died 2014
 Pauline Klassen (Udesen) Aug '56 died 2016
 Malvina Eidsvik (MacDonald) Aug '56 died 2015
 Alexis Redekop (Kahr) Aug '56 died 2016

2021

Lillie Harder (Hartwell) Sept '54 died 2021
 Nettie Burge (Sebire) Feb '41 died 2007
 Donna Lee Morrison (Sowles) Sept '75 died 2020
 Jessie Hunter (Yorston) Sept '37 died 1993
 Eileen Carson (Smith) Sep '56 died 2020
 Diane Covitz (Hay Roe) Sept '56 died 2021
 Janette Smith (Francis) Feb '57 died 2020
 Sylvia Blanchard (Stevenson) Sept '72 died 2021
 Maureen Olson (Cooper) Sept '56 died 2020
 Diana Kennedy (Bishop) Aug '58 died 2016
 Julie Smith (Winstanley) Feb '53 died 2021
 Ruth Anderson (Creamer) Sept '50 died 2020
 Gail Maynard (Maynard) Feb '75 died 2021
 Moira MacLean (Confortin) Feb '77 died 2021
 Joan Noble (Arnett) Sept '60 died 2020
 Beverly O'Doud (Haggard) Sep '60 died 2020
 Helga Hooey (Jorgenson) Sept '60 died 2020
 Sheila Castle (Gray) Sept '60 died 2021
 Norma Gomerich (Peppers) Sept '60 died 2021
 Janette Cowie (Binkley) Sept '57 died 2021
 Adelaide Hutchins (MacLean) Feb '53 died 2021

Education Committee

**To the Education Bursary Committee
in care of Joan Kerr.**

I am sincerely honoured to receive the bursary award dedicated to children and grandchildren of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae for a fourth year. This bursary not only made the completion of my nursing degree financially feasible, but also serves as a great encouragement. Your willingness to support my goals of becoming a nurse, and eventually a mediator between the health and legal systems to advocate for vulnerable populations, is very appreciated.

I am currently wrapping up the fall semester of my fourth and final year in the nursing program at Trinity Western University. In the upcoming spring semester, I will be doing my final clinical preceptorship at Vancouver General Hospital on a Surgical unit. I am incredibly excited to have been placed here!

Considering that my mother did her nursing school at VGH, this feels very nostalgic and commemorative. My passion for the nursing profession and its ability to validate the worth of individuals has grown even more in the past few months and I look forward to the career that lies ahead.

My future ability to partner with vulnerable populations as a registered nurse will be because of generous people like you who chose to support my journey. I am so appreciative of your support. .

Blessings,
Alexa Huebner



Alexa Huebner and mother Linda Louise Toews '91



To Vancouver General Hospital/ SON Education Bursary Committee.

My name is Allison Hills, and I am a second-year nursing student in the Victoria/ Camosun College Nursing program. I am writing this letter as I was awarded the VGH SON bursary funds for this year and want to share my huge appreciation for these funds. The impact of these funds is far reaching and will contribute to my success in my second-year studies, as this will allow me to focus on my studies and alleviate some of the financial stress from living independently and attending post-secondary.

I am very honoured to be the recipient of this award and feel a strong connection and appreciation to the VGH SON, as my mother Susan Hills graduated from the program in 1988. To this day my mom says going into nursing is one the best decisions she made, and through the VGH SON she was able to embark on the great career she has had. Through the program she was able to gain so much experience from clinical placements in the program, that helped to make her a confident new graduate nurse. My inspiration to go into nursing comes from my mom, as I have always admired the impact she has in nursing.

My mom has always taught my sisters and I to advocate for what we believe in and taught us how through nursing we can do this for others. As well, I saw nursing as a way to connect with others and have a positive impact in so many ways. So far I have not been disappointed by the opportunities I have been able to experience thus far in my first two years of nursing school and I look forward to the many exciting opportunities and people I will be able to meet and touch throughout my career.

Thank you again for choosing to award me for this bursary.

All the best,
Allison Hills



Education Committee :

Dear Education Bursary Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in funding the 2021 Education Bursary. I am extremely honoured to be the recipient of this award.

I am currently in my third year of nursing at the University of the Fraser Valley, with the goal to later complete my master's degree and practice as a Nurse Practitioner. Unfortunately, I have no financial assistance and have struggled throughout my schooling. Thanks to your generous scholarship, I am now one-stop closer to achieving my goal.

By awarding me the 2021 Education Bursary Award, you have reduced my financial burden, which allows me to focus on my studies and pursue my goals. I look forward to being able to give back the way you have for me once I begin my career. I thank you for your confidence and willingness to help me achieve my passion.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Louise Kriegel



*Gabrielle Kriegel &
Mom -Joanne Dent - Feb.'90*

Dear Vancouver General Hospital Alumni Association,

I would like to share my thanks and appreciation for the generosity of those who have donated towards the future of nursing.



My name is Jenna Anderson. I am twenty years old and am a second-year nursing student at the College of the Rockies in Cranbrook, BC. My nursing education has been a challenge from working through online classes, attending Zoom lectures, and Covid outbreaks in the hospital where I have my practicums. Despite the Pandemic thwarting our journey, we have persevered, adapted, and overcome many challenges. Throughout my first two years, I have gained extensive knowledge about the components of nursing practice, became confident in my ability to demonstrate skills, and created lasting friendships along the way. I am confident all the hard work, dedication and sacrifice will be rewarded at the end of my education, with the result of becoming a registered nurse. My dream is to one day work with the Paediatric population at BC Children's Hospital, specializing in Emergency. I found my passion for nursing after admiring my mother's hard work and dedication to her practice, and the intriguing stories she shared around the

dinner table. My mother, Susan Anderson, is a VGH graduate of the February 1988 class and began her nursing journey at VGH. Initially working in Reconstructive Orthopaedics and ER, she eventually found a love for working in the Cardiac ICU. Her drive to provide quality care, while being compassionate, showing camaraderie and having a positive working environment are a few of the many traits that inspire me to one day graduate with a BSN in Nursing and carry on in her footsteps. She is always a Facetime call away to help me understand nursing skills before a day at clinical and helps me laugh through tough days and find positivity in any situation.

I am extremely thankful for this bursary, as it will help me cover the costs of tuition and rent for my upcoming semesters. I have found living on my own in residence was an eye-opening experience and have a newfound appreciation for my parents! I am very thankful for the generous contributions of the Alumni as their donations have helped ease my stress of the financial aspect of nursing school. It has allowed me to focus on my assignments and studying, while maintaining positive mental health. I am so very appreciative of people who are helping support the nurses of the future and making us feel believed in and encouraged.

Thank you once again Vancouver General Hospital Alumni Association for your generosity.

Jenna Anderson

College of the Rockies BSN student.

Thank you for your Donations

In the second year of the Alumnae Association being able to issue income tax receipts for all money sent in, the memberships increased slightly, and the donations have been overwhelming.

All three funds have received significant money to assist in the operation of the association, the awarding of bursaries and the ongoing work of the Archivist and Archives Committee.

This change has resulted in increased workload for Sue Goguen, our Executive Secretary/Treasurer, as the system had to be created and tax receipts issued.

Sincere appreciation is extended to all donors by the Board of Directors as this new funding assisted in upgrading the computer programme, purchasing some items for the office and archive area, and providing increases to the bursary amounts.

With the uncertainty of the past two years, creating the Operations budget has been challenging.

If the donations are not required for projected needs, they have been invested with a variety of maturity dates so that interest is available if required.

The donations for 2020 and 2021 were:

	2020	2021
Archival Development Fund	\$10,750.00	\$12,181.32 *
Education Fund	\$3,545.005	\$5,998.00
General Fund	\$1,288.88	\$15,681.05*
Grand Total	\$15,583.88	\$33,860.37

*Estate donations included

The Board of Directors greatly appreciates all donations that assist in the operation of our Alumnae Association.

Kathy Murphy, President.



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

Sharon Baxter (Francis) '62 Janie Birkeland (Schwab) '66
 Vivian Blake (Jackson) '50 Myrna Braun (Wagstaff) '62
 Norma Guttormsson (Scobie)'58 Lorna Hoare (Snider) '66
 Joan Kerr (Dunbar) '65 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 '65
 Kay Raisbeck '54 Betty-Anne Rogers '57
 Nancy Semke (Bouzovetsky) '57 Pat Sexsmith (Kay) '62
 Margaret Shugg '54 Jean Tsuyuki (Lyons) '57
 Ethel Warbinek (McIntyre) '56 Mary Watt (MacKinnon) '54

Matilda Bara (Tilly) Honourary Member.

Tilly Bara worked in Nursing Services in VGH, responsible for hospital-wide orientation.



In this capacity, in 1980, she worked to implement the New Curriculum for the School of Nursing. She

was also involved with the Annual Nursing Bursary Awards, held during Nursing Week. The Nursing Bursary Fund was made possible by fundraising events by the Alumnae Association, donations from others and the Hospital Nursing Executive, and bequests. Tilly retired in 1996.

Thank you for your kind note, Tilly.

BC History of Nursing

In operation for 30 years, this society

- gathers, stores, and displays archives and artifacts
- provides bursaries for nursing students
- provides interesting articles in regular newsletters and website

To become a member click on www.bcnursinghistory.ca

Does this sound familiar? From one hundred years ago

The 1918 “Spanish Flu,” a H1N1 virus, was amongst the deadliest in history, killing an estimated 50 to 100 million worldwide, roughly 5 percent of the global populace. Nearly 55,000 Canadians died, mostly young adults between the ages of 20 and 40 — almost as many as Canada lost during the First World War. Like today, schools, businesses, and public places were closed. Masks were mandated. People practiced social-distancing. Quarantines were enforced.

Still the pandemic spread, accelerated by returning soldiers travelling home across the country by train and bus. Businesses collapsed. There were shortages of essential goods. The flu came in “waves,” as governments hurried to phase in “re-openings.” As the rates of infection grew, the number of healthy workers declined. Before long, the Canadian economy was paralyzed. Health care professionals were perhaps the hardest hit. In 1919 a federal Department of Health was created which made public health a responsibility of all levels of government.



SPECIAL CARE IN CONVALESCING CASES
 New Arrangements at General Hospital for Influenza Patients.
 Total List in the City Has Turned the Three-thousand Mark.

SPANISH 'FLU
 DON'T GET ALARMED
 SPRAY AND DISINFECT
CN with (Coro-Noleum) The Standard Disinfectant
 West Disinfecting Co.
 1240 GRANVILLE STREET
 Phone Sep. 1451

This is timeless
Written in 1896, reprinted in 1919
*And people stayed at home
 And read books
 And listened
 And they rested
 And did exercises
 And made air and played
 And learned new ways of being
 And stopped and listened
 More deeply
 Someone meditated, someone prayed
 Someone met their shadow
 And people began to think differently
 And people healed
 And in the absence of people who
 Lived in ignorant ways
 Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
 The earth also began to heal
 And when the danger ended and
 People found themselves
 They grieved for the dead
 And made new choices
 And dreamed of new visions
 And created new ways of living
 And completely healed the earth
 Just as they were healed*

Constant Use of a Good Prophylactic Is Practically Indispensable in Good Work.
 One of the first lessons which should be learned by those who are unaccustomed to taking care of the sick but are now attending Flu patients is the necessity of the constant use of antiseptics. A trained nurse thoroughly understands this fact but the many faithful volunteers now assisting in nursing should ever keep the subject before them. The Flu epidemic is supposed to be a germ disease and there is nothing which conquers germs so effectively as antiseptics.



Eighteen Deaths Occur.
 There were 18 deaths in the influenza divisions of the Vancouver General hospital between Wednesday evening and Thursday evening, the names being D. McGillivray, Bert Coleman, T. G. Ogren, George Pannas, William Scripp, Mrs. ...
Big Salary for Doctor.
 Up in a northern logging camp there are a large number of "flu" cases and there is no available medical help. In order to get a doctor for a month or two a salary of one thousand dollars a month has been offered, as will be seen from a glance at the advertising columns, and it is expected this inducement will be sufficient to get a medical man to fill the vacancy.

Gargle and spray, gargle and spray: that is the way to keep flu away.

The "flu" veil, however, is heralded by medicos as a sensible innovation when epidemic germs are constantly endeavoring to wriggle their way into unsuspecting nostrils and throat, and it is a certainty that the busy little "flu" germ stands a whole lot less chance when "strained" through the fine gauze webbing of a "flu" veil.

STANLEY CUP OFF; TEAM IN HOSPITAL
STANLEY CUP SERIES IS OFF
 Five Canadians and Manager Are Very Ill With Influenza
EACH TEAM WINS TWICE
 Lalonde, Hall, Couture, Berliquet and McDonald Have Temperature

Extra Special, 8:30 to 12:30 Women's Rubbers at 79c
 ONE OF the essential points recommended by the health authorities in prevention of "Spanish Flu" is to keep the feet dry. The women of this city will have an opportunity tomorrow morning of buying rubbers for any style of shoe at the remarkably low price of **79c**
 Sizes 2 1/2 to 8, all styles.

Most clipping are from The Vancouver Sun and The Province papers Aug. to Nov. 1918

Kathleen Ellis:

VGH Superintendent of Nurses and Principal of the School of Nursing 1921-29

by Ethel Warbinek



Kathleen Ellis held a leadership position at VGH for eight years in the 1920s and went on to become a highly recognized Canadian nurse leader. So, who was Kathleen Ellis, and how did she contribute to the betterment of nursing during her illustrious career?

Kathleen's father was Penticton's founder. Let's take a look at her early childhood growing up there.

In 1865, nineteen-year-old Thomas Ellis, one of seventeen children, arrived in BC from Ireland. The Okanagan Valley suited him, and he began acquiring land and grazing rights in Penticton for his small herd of cattle. His two-room cottage meant he was the first European to settle here. Seven years later, in 1872, he returned to Ireland, married Wilhelmina Wade, and brought his bride back to Penticton. Over the next several years, the family grew to include seven daughters and two sons. Tom was ambitious, acquiring more property, and adding to his herds of cattle. By the late 1800s, his cattle empire ranged from Penticton and Naramata to the United States border.

Kathleen, the eighth Ellis child, was born in 1887, the third non-Indigenous child born in Penticton. Her future as a nurse was revealed at an early age. When she was six, she wrote in a notebook, "When I grow up I want to take care of people. Uncle Alfred gave me one of his pigeons and I made it better and it flew away." All the Ellis children survived childhood, which was unusual for the times, when communicable diseases were common. There were no local doctors, and the family remained isolated for months at a time. Wilhelmina was doctor and nurse in the rambling ranch house, relying heavily on a medical textbook and medicine. She was also an invaluable help to newly-arrived settlers and Indigenous people. Growing up in such a busy household, Kathleen would have experienced all of this.

There was no school, so the children were taught by tutors. When old enough, daughters were sent to boarding schools in England. Kathleen, displaying her independent streak early, refused to go to England. In 1900, she persuaded her parents to enrol her at Haverger College in Toronto, where she received a high school diploma. When Kathleen arrived there, with what she believed was a suitable wardrobe, she was informed it was unacceptable. Whereupon she stated, "if it is good enough for Penticton, then it is good enough for Toronto." Her mother quickly stepped in, and a new set of clothes was purchased.

When Kathleen returned to Penticton in 1904, Tom was in the process of selling his vast holdings. By 1905, the sale was completed, and the family moved to Victoria. For the next few years Kathleen lived in Victoria, but soon became "bored to tears" with the constant French and golf lessons, and tea parties. Her mother's health was failing, and Wilhelmina died in 1911. Kathleen decided to pursue a nursing career. Tom did not approve, as he believed nursing was not an acceptable profession for a well-bred young woman. Kathleen won this battle also.

Nursing career

In 1912, Kathleen enrolled in the prestigious John Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing in Baltimore and graduated in 1915. She returned to Victoria and, during World War One, was matron of the Esquimalt Military Convalescent Hospital, which treated wounded servicemen. Tom died in Victoria in 1918. Kathleen received \$40,000 (one million in 2021 dollars) from her father's estate. Following the war, Kathleen left Victoria and became supervisor of the operating rooms at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. In 1920, she was named second assistant at the Toronto General Hospital School of Nursing. Her career in nursing administration and education had commenced and would continue for the remainder of her professional life.

Time at Vancouver General Hospital 1921-1929

In 1921, Kathleen returned to BC and was appointed Superintendent of Nursing and Principal of the School at the Vancouver General Hospital, the second-largest hospital in Canada. When Kathleen arrived, the University of BC had just opened the first nursing degree program in the British Commonwealth. VGH, in collaboration with UBC, provided the required student clinical nursing experiences. Ethel Johns, head of the UBC curriculum, and Kathleen Ellis were fortunately extremely compatible as a team, and the program was successfully launched. Under Kathleen's leadership, The VGH school of nursing grew to be the second largest in Canada. Sixty nurses graduated in 1926. Kathleen, committed to promoting the nursing profession, undertook additional responsibilities as president of the Registered Nurses Association of BC and the Vancouver Graduate Nurses Association. This commitment of service

to her profession was a cornerstone of her life. When Kathleen resigned from VGH in 1929, she was recognized by the nursing profession as an outstanding upcoming leader.

Nursing career during the 1930s

Ambitious and goal-driven – her father’s daughter – Kathleen sought more academic credentials. In 1930, she received a Certificate in Public Health Nursing from Bedford College in London, England. Upon returning to Canada, she was appointed Director of Nursing at the Winnipeg General Hospital. To continue her studies, she moved to New York in 1935, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia University Teachers College. This was quite an achievement, as few women earned science degrees during that period.

Nursing career in Saskatchewan: 1937-1950

With her new degree in hand, Kathleen was appointed registrar for the Saskatchewan Registered Nursing Association, a position she held until her retirement in 1950. She initiated the opening of a nursing degree program at the University of Saskatchewan in 1938. Appointed as the director and first professor of the school of nursing, Kathleen held these dual positions for twelve years.



Sixty nurses graduated in 1926.

Kathleen was best known for her work during the Second World War. Temporarily relieved from her responsibilities in Saskatchewan, she was hired as the National Emergency Nursing Advisor for the Canadian Nurses Association. Her responsibilities included surveying nursing needs in every Canadian province. Her findings showed that there was a critical shortage of nurses, because many had signed up for military service, and changes were required to deal with this. She strove to make nursing a desirable profession by advocating for improvements in the education of students, working conditions, salaries, and benefits, as well as encouraging retired nurses to reenter the workforce. She believed that active involvement of nurses in decision-making was critical – “nurses know what is best for nurses.” Many of her recommendations were adopted.

Kathleen’s interests were not restricted purely to nursing. She was a member of various business and women’s groups. On a personal note, she was known for her collection of exotic hats and was rarely seen without one!

Retirement in Penticton

In 1950, after a thirty-eight-year career, Kathleen retired to her childhood home in Penticton, purchasing a modern stucco house with a view over Okanagan Lake. She welcomed visitors and was happy to find neighbours who enjoyed a game of bridge. An avid gardener, she had a lovely garden and said no one would go hungry during fruit season, as her yard had a huge apple tree and two peach trees. Pickers were especially welcome. Interestingly, her father, Tom Ellis, has been credited with planting the first fruit trees in the area.

Awards



When the new university hospital in Saskatoon officially opened in 1955, Kathleen was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree for her lifetime of service to the nursing profession throughout Canada. “No nurse had achieved greater influence in nursing.” In 1956, the new nurses residence at the University Hospital was named Ellis Hall. An annual award – the Kathleen Ellis Prize – was established in her honour and is still bestowed on the most distinguished University of Saskatchewan nursing graduate. When Penticton’s new city hall opened in 1966, she was made a freeman of the city and donated a framed photograph of her parents. A banquet was held honouring the Ellis family and Kathleen, as the only surviving member, was the guest of honour. Continuing her community endeavours, Kathleen became an active Penticton Hospital board member and volunteer worker for St. Saviour’s Anglican Church. In 1967, she received the Centennial Medal in recognition of her valuable service to the nation. Kathleen Ellis died at eighty-one, in Vancouver, on March 9, 1968. She was buried alongside her parents at the Ross Bay Cemetery in Victoria.

Sources: Adapted from an article by the author in the 84th Report of the Okanagan Historical Society 2020.

Class of 1971 - 50 years

A Year Away for an Intensive Care Certificate and Travel, which became a Nursing Career Abroad.

Marguerite (Greville Feb. '71) Calvert

Just over a year after graduation in April 1972 Darlene Stewart (Feb 71) and I left Vancouver for a year away to explore Europe on Eurail train passes and study at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex Near London. The hospital specialty was heart surgery led by Mr (now Sir) Magdi Yacoub who later performed the UK's first heart transplants. A hospital in a country setting where I was startled by a fox on my way to night duty!

Darlene did return to Vancouver, and I am told that she is the member of our class who spent the most number of years nursing at VGH.

I decided to move to Charing Cross Hospital in busy London as a Staff Nurse and later a Sister in Intensive Care. Two different experiences here were having to phone the police when a patient's condition deteriorated, to visit relatives due to no household telephone, and A&E (Emergency) being closed and ambulances rerouted to other major hospitals due to no bed availability (no stretchers in the corridors!)

Having met Roger skiing in Austria, we married in 1976, and I moved to Southampton. Nursing jobs were scarce! However, a new Nuffield 24 Bed Private Hospital was being built nearby. I became 2nd Ward Sister and enjoyed the variety of cases in this consultant-led hospital. Maybe VGH training led to this post as the lead Sister and Matron, both English, had worked at VGH while travelling.

I had a few years at home with our three children which included five months in Vancouver in 1987 during which time I worked part time in Bamfield Pavilion. Roger, on sabbatical from Southampton University, worked at UBC, and the children attended school and community programs. It was a wonderful "catch-up" time with classmates and their families.

I returned as a Staff Nurse to the Nuffield, working mainly in Recovery until 1993 when I left for a school term time job as a School Health Nurse in Southampton. I stayed in community nursing until retirement in 2009. During this time, a part time secondment gave me the opportunity to do asthma research and some work with Asthma UK. I feel that our VGH training with practical experience under supervision and classroom learning equipped us for a wide variety of nursing roles and experiences. Like many, I found that I needed to continue studying just to tread water in the working world. I studied for my Diploma of Nursing Studies at Southampton University.

Since 2009 Roger and I have retired and live in the Lake District. Last year I retired as a First Responder. My only current certificate is FirstAid for Scouting!

My Professional Career has been varied and rewarding and I am thankful that VGH was the "springboard" to my thirty years of nursing.



Marguerite Grenville & Darlene Stewart Feb. '71



The VGHSON AA windows in the Pattison Pavilion.

The display celebrates the 50 year graduation of the 1971 classes. Thanks to Norma Guttormsson and helpers for keeping the windows current.

Heather Pavilion (our home)

Heather Pavilion, the first section of the Vancouver General Hospital, opened on January 8, 1906. Forty-seven patients were transported by horse-drawn ambulance from the old hospital (near Victory Square) across a plank bridge that spanned False Creek.

The ambulance was the first project of the Women's Auxiliary, which was formed in 1902. The horses pulling the ambulance also served a role in the creation of sutures. The preparation of the suture material was one of the duties of the Operating Room nurses.

As we look toward to the 116th year of continuous operation of the

Heather Pavilion, hopefully we will hear something regarding the future of the building.

Kathy Murphy

Memorial plaque erected the Heather Pavilion. "This building originally referred to as the Fairview Building and later renamed Heather Pavilion was erected between 1905-1906. It was the first building allocated at Vancouver General Hospital's new location on Fairview Ridge overlooking False Creek..."



SUPPORTING EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND RESEARCH

In 2002, the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Building Society/Association Endowment Fund was created to promote life-long learning for nurses. The Fund was created for nurses in order to enhance the quality of care and services provided to patients and their families. This 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.

For the second year in a row, the Annual Awards Ceremony, usually held during Nursing Week, was cancelled due to the COVID restrictions. The Research Grant recipient was selected but was unable to carry out the project. The other awards dispersed were \$44,526.00 to 27 Bursary winners and \$14,010.00 for 17 in house unit and programme needs. These were: Cardiac Surgery ICU, Hospitalist Medicine Programme, UBC Surgical Suites, UBC Urgent Care Centre, UBC Sleep Disorder Programme, VGH Emergency, Burn, Trauma, and High Acuity Unit, Diabetes Clinic, Neurosciences, GF Strong Rehabilitation, and the UBC Bladder Care Centre.

To date, over **\$408,536.00** has been awarded through this fund.

Kathy Murphy, January 2022

Our Neighbours in the Heather Pavilion - Canines for Care

Canines for Care, VGH’s Canine Scent Detection Program, is an evidence based biomedical scent detection team, led by multidisciplinary experts and highly trained canines. For the past 5 years, our team has been promoting and protecting the safety of patients, staff, visitors and physicians, by rapidly and non-invasively uncovering hidden reservoirs of *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*). This has supported infection prevention, education, and reduction at acute health care settings across the country.

C. difficile is the most common cause of acute diarrhea in hospitals and long-term care facilities in North America. More than 60 percent of all cases are acquired within health-care facilities. *C. difficile* is extremely resilient and is resistant to common cleaning agents and hand sanitizers. It can persist in the open environment for several months. This makes it difficult to eliminate, as special chemical disinfectants and protocols are required to eradicate it.



Training the ‘sniffers’ in the hallway outside the alumnae office.



Some of the team.

The challenge lies in knowing where the contamination exists in order to take necessary steps to keep our health-care facilities safe, which is why the impact of our canines is so significant. Once *C. difficile* is found by the K9s, the handler is alerted, then unit staff and housekeeping clean and disinfect identified alerted items. Reducing environmental contamination plays a key role in preventing the spread of infection to immunocompromised patients and health-care workers.

Our canines are able to identify the environmental contamination of *C. difficile* with 97 percent accuracy. Since its inception in 2016, our canine detection teams have successfully searched thousands of hospital areas for *C. difficile* with most hospital units screened in less than 30 minutes. Each contamination alert is acted upon immediately and used as an opportunity for in-the-moment education for health-care workers, cleaning staff and patients. Alert

data is also used to design and implement targeted local and system-level quality improvement initiatives.

However, it is the multidisciplinary nature of the canine detection team that makes the program so successful. Our team includes many experts and health leaders including:

- Canine Detection Specialists
- Medical Microbiologists
- Housekeeping staff
- Nursing staff
- Hospital Executives
- Quality Leaders
- Our K9s!

Most recently, by building on our program’s strong foundations, we’ve been exploring canine scent detection for new and emerging pathogens including COVID-19 odour detection. Given the impact of the pandemic, restarting social activity requires systematic and innovative approaches to ensure public safety; support safe reopening of the economy; and make Canada more resilient to possible future surges of COVID-19.

In 2021, the COVID-19 scent detection study launched with great success. The COVID-19 scent detection K9s include two Labrador retrievers, K9 Micro and K9 Yoki, and one English springer spaniel, K9 Finn. These dogs tested with a rate of 100 per cent sensitivity and 93 per cent specificity in identifying COVID-19 in a laboratory setting. The dogs were trained with gargle, breath and sweat, from COVID+ individuals experiencing a range of symptoms. Even considering our team’s prior experience, training dogs to detect a new virus is a huge milestone involving rigorous training and evaluation.

Throughout 2022, we are excited to continue screening hospitals for *C. difficile* while also researching and expanding to new scents. Canines for Care extends a huge thank you to the VGH School of Nursing Alumni for their continuing friendship and support.



*In Memoriam
2022
But not forgotten*



Class	Name at Graduation	First Name	Current
1938	Boulton	Nancy	Leatherdale
1940	Fuller	Grace	Telford
1943	Bryant	Joan	Underhill
1946	Anderson	Roxie	Neale
1947	Campkin	Joyce	Campkin
1947	Walker	Gwynneth	Peters
1947	White	Eleanor	McTaggart
1947	Yuckin	Olga	Rice
1949	Cowtan	Kathleen (Kay)	Radcliffe
1949	Wheeler	Shelagh	Smith
1951	Thompson	Peggy	Etchell
1952	Calkins	Marguerite	Cave
1953	MacLean	Laddie	Hutchins
1953	Winstanley	Julie	Smith
1954	Harder	Lilie	Hartwell
1954	Rogers	Margaret	Rogers
1955	MacQuarrie	Ann	Hancock
1955	Millard	Margaret	Archer*

Class	Name at Graduation	First Name	Current
1955	Steel	Betty Elaine	Bebb
1956	Burr Silvia	Norvena	Lyle
1956	Hayroe	Diane	Covitz
1957	Binkley	Jeanette (Jan)	Cowie
1958	Davies	Gwynweth	Lamperson
1960	Gray	Sheila	Gray-Moir
1960	Jorgensen	Helga	Hooey*
1960	Peppers	Norma	Gomerich
1963	Menzies	Orlene	Urban
1963	Wennerlund	Carol	Hurst
1964	Staley	Anne	Staley
1966	Davies	Alison	McPhalen
1966	Lyon	Marcie	Lyon
1969	Moan	Anne	Walls
1972	Blanchard	Sylvia	Stevenson
1975	Maynard	Gail	Maynard
1977	Confortin	Moira	MacLean
1983	Stewart	Denise	King

* Died in 2020 but not mentioned in 2021 Newsletter

Laddie (MacLean '53) Hutchins

December 18 ,2021

For many years Laddie was a devoted and hard working member of the Archive Committee and a Life Member of VGHSOANA. She with husband Dr. Don Hutchins (Honourary Member) were part of the group that moved the archives from the Nurses Residents basement through three moves to its present place. Laddie, an avid reader, was devoted to her family. She met Don while she was working in the old Emergency (where our office is now) when he was a medical student. They had a special relationship.

Always friendly, Laddie will be missed.



V.G.H. School Of Nursing Alumnae Association Board Of Directors 2022-23

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	Diane Parker (Sjerve Feb' 68)	7036 Ridgewood Place, Delta, V4E 2N4	604-591-6432
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	Suzanne Stothers ('70)	402 - 2409 W. 43rd Ave., Vancouver, V6M 2E6	604-263-8059

Anne Gertrude Staley (Trudy) '64

July 7, 1943 - August 31, 2021

With great sadness we announce the death in Vancouver of our dear friend Trudy, who has lost her battle with Parkinson's disease at age 78. Trudy graduated from Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing and developed a particular expertise in burn care. She became head nurse of the Burn Care Unit at VGH; finishing her career as an instructor where she was instrumental in the teaching and promotion of burn and wound care throughout the hospital and community.



On Trudy's retirement an annual book prize was awarded by the Plastic Surgeons in honour of her work. This would be presented to a nurse chosen by her peers who showed the same commitment to the quality and values that Trudy had practised during her career.

Shelagh (Wheeler '49) Smith (BASC Nursing '50, MSN '82). December 27, 2021



Shelagh, 93, was raised until age 6 in Dawson City, Yukon, and lived life with a pioneering spirit and passion for adventure.

Shelagh began her Nursing Degree in 1944 when training took six years. She went into the General Program at UBC for two years, then training at VGH and a final year at UBC. She taught at Montreal General Hospital and in New York City. After marriage and child rearing at age of fifty, she took refresher courses and then taught as a sessional lecturer at UBC. Continuing to obtain a Master of Nursing. Shelagh taught in Family Nursing for several years and first year with beginning students.

Shelagh generously supported a variety of nursing scholarships and funds at the School, and in 2014, she established the Shelagh J Smith Award for Mature Students in Nursing.

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Eleanor Jeannette (White '47) McTaggart

March 27, 1925 - February 27, 2021

Born and raised in Vancouver, Eleanor graduated from Lord Byng Secondary in 1943. She later graduated from the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing in 1947, with a BScN from UBC in 1948. She married Ted in 1949 and settled in West Vancouver. While raising her family, Eleanor remained active in community causes and events. She dedicated many years of volunteer service to the VGH SON acting as vice president, treasurer and in donations collecting for the VGH SON Building Society.



Joyce Beatrice Campkin '47

December 3, 1924 - August 3, 2021



Joyce was born in Winnipeg MB. In 1939 the family began a westward trek that eventually led to Burnaby. Joyce enrolled in Burnaby North High School, joined Girl Guides, and found friendship and nurture at St. Nicholas Anglican Church. She enrolled in the School of Nursing at Vancouver General Hospital. Graduating from VGH in

1947, Joyce went on to VGH OR post graduate work at VGH, a diploma from McGill University in clinical teaching and supervision, and a BSN from UBC in 1972. She worked mostly at VGH in gynecology, OR, SON clinical instructor, and orthopedics.

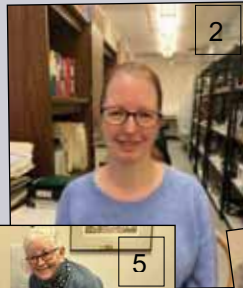
She had life-long career in nursing, enhanced later by additional training at McGill University in Montreal and the UBC School of Nursing. Over the course of more than 40 years, Joyce ministered to patients on various wards, assisted surgeons in the operating room, and taught students the discipline and the craft of nursing. She loved her work, demonstrating benevolent concern for her patients and colleagues alike. She was much admired by her nursing students.

Dorothy Margaret (Peggy) (Thompson '51) Etchell

Died gently in Victoria on February 17, 2021. Peggy was born in West Vancouver and lived most of her adult life in Dunbar/Point Grey, moving in 2017 to Victoria to be nearer to family. Peggy was very engaged in and committed to her community. She was a stalwart of the Jones Girls at St. Philips Anglican Church (Dunbar). Peggy was founding member and president of the Heather Heritage Society, a loyal and hard working member of the VGH Alumnae Association. Peggy was proud to have been a registered nurse. She will be remembered for the very warm welcome she and her husband Charlie showed family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, and grateful strays, to their home, whether for a cup of tea or an extended stay. Peggy delighted in days spent with family – and especially the grandkids – at the family cottage near Sechelt.



Spotlighting the Alumnae Workspace



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
855 W 12th Ave, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1M9

Annual Membership Fee: \$20.00

Your fee provides support to the Website, the Newsletter, the Friendship Committee's support to members, office expenses and subsidizing the Annual Luncheon

Please Print

Name: _____ Surname at Graduation: _____

Graduation: Month _____ Year _____

Address: _____
Apt. Street City Province/State Postal/Zip Code

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ Email: _____
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IMPORTANT - Please - these choices **must be** indicated each year

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

Check how you wish to receive communication from the Alumnae office: Email _____ OR Mail _____

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

DONATIONS to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association are greatly appreciated.

Your donations provide support to:

- Education Bursaries to VGH Graduates, children and/or grandchildren of VGH Graduates
- Archives preservation and storage
- Annual Luncheon Subsidy

Annual Membership Fee: \$20.00

Please accept my donation of: \$ _____ to: Education

Please accept my donation of: \$ _____ to: Archive Fund

Please accept my donation of: \$ _____ to: General Fund

TOTAL: \$ _____

Please make cheque payable to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association
Canadian Funds preferred

Thank you

TAX RECEIPTS ISSUED FOR FEES AND DONATIONS

1. Meeting room
2. Museum storage shelves
3. Hallway display shelves
4. Uniform storage, for display
5. Office
6. Textile storage
7. Uniform display



Editor:
K. Mary (MacKinnon '54) Watt

Thank you to all contributors. I appreciate your input. Due to space confines, some stories do not appear in this print copy of the newsletter. They will be added and appear in the digital version on the website. vghnursingschoolalumnae.com

Special thanks to Kathy Murphy again. She is always extremely helpful.