



VGH SCHOOL of NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2026

In Memory of Mary MacKinnon Watt, June 1932–October 2025



Left: Nurses night out, Mary MacKinnon, Peggy Johns, Esther Hulland, circa 1954

Mary was a proud member of the Class of September 1954. Following graduation and marriage to Dr. John Watt, together they raised six children, managed a farm, cared for livestock, and welcomed people to their home in south Langley.

A woman of endless curiosity and quiet accomplishment, Mary published the *BC Simmental News* for 20 years and was a member of the docent corps at the Langley Centennial Museum for more than 25 years.



Mary was an active member of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Archives Committee. She was the lead committee member that resulted in the Archival holdings being added to the Alumnae Association website. In addition, she was the Editor of the annual *VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Newsletter* for 28 years and received an award from the BC Historical Federation for the *Newsletter*.

Mary believed in aging well, connecting with others and making space for joy and wonder. She was small in stature but she had a big reflection and the ripples of her influence and care extended far beyond her reach.

Dissolution of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association

At the Special Meeting held during the Annual Luncheon on September 18, 2025, the members present voted to dissolve the association by 2028. The Board of Directors then began to list the many tasks required to close down this association which commenced operation in 1908. Some of these tasks are:

- Notifications have been sent to the Chief Operating Officer of Vancouver Coastal, the VGH/UBC Hospital Foundation, the UBC School of Nursing, the Registered Nurses Foundation, and the BC History of Nursing.
- Legal counsel has been hired to assist with the registered charity status.
- Identification of appropriate places for the Archives and Artifacts has commenced.
- Consideration of the alumnae association programmes that would continue as the dissolution process proceeds.
- Determining the future of the website and display windows.
- Listing where the furniture and display materials should go.

Needless to say, it is going to be difficult as we try and complete the dissolution process and deal with the many aspects of the operation at the same time.

We have been able to hire Andrea Lister to be the Editor of the Newsletter so through it and the website you will be kept informed.

The need for your membership fees and donations continues and is appreciated as we will have additional expenses with the dissolution.

The Board of Directors
January 30, 2026



VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Board members 2026

Annual Reports for 2025

President's Report

The year 2025 was challenging to say the least as The Board of Directors had to face the reality of continuing to operate the Alumnae Association. At the AGM held March 4, 2025 via Zoom, a motion to dissolve the association by 2028 was approved to take to the membership. It was determined to hold a Special meeting during the annual luncheon on September 18, 2025 as voting for this motion had to be done in person. Detailed information was published in the 2025 Newsletter. The motion passed at the luncheon and the Board members are now addressing the various aspects of the dissolution. In addition to this momentous decision, the association activities carried on and will continue to do so until the dissolution is complete. To summarize:



- membership is maintained at over 600,
- the excellent financial situation continues,
- educational bursaries were awarded from three different sources,
- names were recorded in the Memorial Book,
- communications improved with the renewed website,
- interesting archives and artifacts were donated and assessed,
- the display windows were changed regularly,
- members were visited,
- reunions were supported with financial grants,
- and the third Fall Luncheon was held.

These activities were made possible by the dedicated Board members who carry on despite the annual pleas for additional volunteers to help. I can't thank them enough for the hours they devote to maintain this organization.

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. Thank you for supporting our VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association with your memberships and donations which will be needed as the activities will continue.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy (McCutcheon) Murphy, 1965
President

Membership Report

The total paid membership for 2025 is 563 (down from 612 last year) In addition to the paid members there are 32 Special Alums, 5 Honourary Members and 19 Life Members for a total of 616 active members.



Of those 563 paid members 305 made a donation on top of the \$20 membership fee.

The application form, which was included in the renewal package, makes it easy to donate to your choice of the General, Archives or Education fund. A tax receipt will be issued for the total amount.

The membership broken down by decades is as follows: 1950s (79); 1960s (243); 1970s (127); 1980s (95); and 1990s (19).

As you are aware, the difficult decision to dissolve the Alumnae was made at the at the Fall luncheon following the motion that was passed at the March 2025 AGM. However, it is business as usual until December 2028. Your membership fees and donations allow the Alumnae to continue with bursaries, care and disposition of the artifacts, preparation and distribution of the *Newsletter* and all the general functions of the maintaining office communication.

In 2019 we began the practice of mailing personalized letters to all members of the classes who graduated 50 and 60 years ago inviting them to join or renew their membership in our Alumnae. Each year since then we have had an average of six alums join for the first time or rejoin after a break of many years. Rather than the Spring luncheon that was held in the past where the 50 and 60 year grads were celebrated the Alumnae is offering funding to put towards a reunion activity. We are inviting two representatives from each of those four classes, who must be members of the Alumnae, to apply for funding towards a reunion activity. \$1,000 and \$500 respectively for the grads of the classes of 50 and 60 years ago.

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 for pursuing education in the field of nursing. A database of the over 8,000 graduates from our

School of Nursing is maintained. If you know of any address changes or any deaths of your classmates please forward that information to the Alumnae office.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue (Cathcart) Kerr, 1969
Membership Director

Executive Secretary & Treasurer Report

I hope all of you stayed healthy in 2025. This past year, I have continued with my various Alumnae duties at the office and my focus continues on digital record keeping.

This year we were thrilled to provide funding to the applicants of the four classes from 1965 & 1975 for their 50th & 60th Anniversary Celebrations. The 50 year anniversary classes received \$1000.00 and for those celebrating their 60th anniversary, we gave \$500.00. My class was fortunate to receive \$1000.00!!!

If you have any queries about reunion planning, don't hesitate to contact the office.

The question on our membership form—"Are you interested in a fall function?" has become a huge success!!! We had well over 100 members attend to enjoy a lovely lunch, visits with people not seen for years and lots of laughs. Mark your calendar for September 17, 2026 at the Arbutus Club. Closer to the date, there will be an invite sent out to those who indicated *Yes* on their membership form. Seating is limited so when your invitation has been received, get your \$\$ in early to assure a seat for you. Many classes now tie the luncheon into their planned reunions.

Thank you for the increased use of electronic payments, be it a credit card or e-transfer, but for those who choose to e-transfer their payment to the office email address, PLEASE & THANK YOU, we still need the membership form completed and returned. This information helps keep our database current. And lets us know of your interest in the fall luncheon. Or save postage and use the convenience of our website when renewing. Visit us at: www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com/membership/join-vghson-membership/ where there is an option available that provides a link to your financial institution to complete the e-transfer.

The 2025 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!!! Your dues and donations primarily support the Education Bursary Program, as well as maintenance of the Archives and general operating costs.

The 2025 Financial Report and Donation Records are included in the *Newsletter* for your reference.



Although the motion to dissolve our alumnae association by year end 2028 passed, we will continue to function as always. We are here to support all members until dissolution is complete.

Beverly DuGas' book and our "window" cards continue to be very popular and are still available for purchase.

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 2026!

Cheers,

Sue (Gammon) Goguen, 1975
Executive Secretary and Treasurer



Lorna Hoare and Diane Parker



Roberta Tottle

Friendship Committee Report

This past year has continued to be busy—floral deliveries were done in the spring—the recipients truly enjoy being recognized as well as receiving floral arrangements and especially the visits. We thank those who volunteer and assist us.

We also send sympathy cards to the families where we have a known address, as well as recognizing special birthdays if known.

We were pleased to welcome three new volunteers—who came forward at the annual luncheon: Kris Brundell Feb '82, Catherine Jarvis Feb '92 and Marsha Zappa Buis Sept '91

Please continue to update the alumnae office re: obituaries and keep the alumnae office aware of current needs. Floral deliveries will be done in the spring.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane (Sjerve) Parker, 1966
Lorna (Snider) Hoare, 1966
Roberta (Cork) Tottle, 1965
Co-Chairman Friendship Committee

Financial Report

The Board of Directors extends a heartfelt thank you to the 300+ members who generously donated monies in 2025. This year we had some very generous donations. The monies received primarily support our Education Bursary Fund, the tireless work of our Archivist, Naomi, and the Archives Committee, assists in the general operation of the association and keeps your alumnae membership database current.

2025 Membership income	\$11,507.55
------------------------	-------------

2025 Donations

Education Bursary Fund	\$14,302.58
------------------------	-------------

Archival Fund	\$5,785.00
---------------	------------

General Fund	\$10,237.51
--------------	-------------

Memorial Book Donations	\$1,005.00
-------------------------	------------

Donation Income	\$31,330.09
-----------------	-------------

TOTAL	\$42,837.64
--------------	--------------------

Revenue	\$63,845.19	includes GIC % & Luncheon income
---------	-------------	----------------------------------

Expense	\$75,960.98
	*(-\$12,115.79)

Investments	\$59,274.99	@ 3%	Matures June 2026
-GICs			
	\$157,652.71	@ 3%	Matures July 2026
	\$75,000.00	@ 3%	Matures Sept 2026

*This deficit year's (\$12,115.79) explained:

The alumnae association subsidized the 2025 luncheon by approximately \$1,200.00

Far more requests for bursaries than expected (more than double than what was budgeted) which is great!!!!

Going into 2026, we are financially secure with a bank balance in excess of \$70,000.00 with early signs of strong financial support, so far in 2026.

We purposely time the renewal of the GICs in the latter half of each year to provide us choices for the use of the earned interest and/or using some of the principal of those investments, be it for Bursaries or Archive needs.

Archive Committee Display Windows/ Communication Report

I just wanted to introduce myself. I am Arlene Vanderhoeven (Schindel) a graduate of the Feb 89 class. I am currently in my 36th year working 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. These displays allow visitors, patients, and staff to see the history of the hospital, VGH School of Nursing, as well as other important and interesting historical medical facts and information. We get many people coming up to us as we are working on the displays, stating how much they love seeing the displays, and sharing stories with us.

Members of the display team are Arlene Vanderhoeven, Jane Birkland, and Kathy Murphy with spares being Norma Guttormsson, Marg Shrug, 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 in providing the items to showcase in the Display Windows.

We hope that you find the new VGH SON AA website easy to use and navigate. New posts to the website highlighting upcoming reunions, and display changeover pictures and information, etc. have been added as well as a Mary Watt Tribute "Page of History" to the website. Please email the VGH SON office if you have any suggestions or requests to add anything.

It is my sincere pleasure to volunteer my time to support this amazing association which is such an important part of mine and so many people's lives. It is very sad that it will dissolve in 2028, but unfortunately as the baby of the committee at 59 yrs of age I have witnessed and appreciate how much work, time and dedication they have committed over the decades with some having been a committee member for 25 years. With no new members coming forward to assist with keeping this Association going, regretfully there is no other option. I am so grateful to be a part of this amazing Association, and give back, but I am so sorry I did not join earlier. Respectfully submitted,

Arlene (Schindel) Vanderhoeven, 1989

Chair of Communications, Website & Window Display

Archive Committee Report

Many donations were gratefully received by the archivist and myself during the past year. We are saddened to report that we are no longer accepting donations. We are actively looking for a new home for our collection as the association will not be functioning after December 2028. Dialogue has started with UBC Rare books regarding our archive collection.



We have had several visitors touring our collection this past year. Visitors have included classes celebrating a milestone anniversary, employees of VGH who expressed an interest in our collection and a group from a retirement home. Several from the Home were retired nurses, a retired Doctor who interned at VGH several years ago and some were just for general interest on an outing arranged by their residence. We plan to continue to offer tours for as long as our collection remains intact. To visit our collection interested parties are asked to contact:

vghsonarchives.99@gmail.com.

We are saddened to report the passing of two of our members this past year. Mary Watt was the driving force behind our digital repository project and Betty Kirkwood could be found polishing articles from our silver collection prior to the annual luncheon.

Work has now been completed on the Digital Repository project. This can be found on line at:

vghnursingschoolalumnae.com.

Articles from our collection are used in the window displays. These are changed five times a year under the direction of Arlene Vanderhoeven.

Respectfully submitted

Barbara (Rosval) Kissuras, 1966

Archives Director

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

Archival Report

Memorable donations for 2025 have included a book from 1915 and a large panoramic photograph. The donor's mother was a graduate from the Class of 1915. We received a registration card, photograph, and diploma from the Class of 1933. Another class photograph from 1943 was also donated this year. Last spring we received a BC Rotary pin and a VGH Life Member pin.



S. Nixon from the B.C. History of Nursing Society visited to see how our Archives functions and the processes used to collect and store archival holdings. Research was conducted using our past copies of Class Annuals, by I. Goldstone. A UBC MSN student visited last fall and was assisted by Barb K. and Sue K. in researching the history of the cardiac care unit at VGH. She was looking for sources for her research project.

The textile collection was reviewed and updated last spring. An inventory of the large oversized class photographs was completed. The computer hard drive was replaced on the laptop in the Archives and the software was also updated to the end of 2025.

Archivist K. Laszlo, of UBC Rare Books and Special Collections, visited the Archives in early January 2026, to see the extent of the Archival records and see if UBC Rare Books and Special Collections might take the Archival material by the end of 2028. My hope is always to keep the entire museum and archival collection together but this may not be possible.

We will work tirelessly to find a future home for all the material presently in our collection. This includes textiles, museum equipment, a large pin collection, as well as Archival documents, publications and photographs. We plan to keep the online collection of images active and maintained so it can be used for future research purposes.

We continue to offer tours, conduct research opportunities and field questions pertaining to this important collection. Questions can be sent to:

vghnursingschoolalumnae.com

Thank you to Barb K. and Arlene for another successful year.

Naomi Constant
Archivist



Silver sugar bowl with engraving of “VGH”, marked “Benedict Canada Proctor/E.P.N.S./Indestructo/2207”, date unknown.

VGH SON—ARCHIVE & MUSEUM COLLECTIONS,
ITEM 999.61.11

Education Report

The Education Committee is 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 and men 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 2025 we had twenty-two applications for bursary awards. We were pleased to award a total of \$49,400.00 to the bursary applicants.



Harvey/Cain Endowment Fund

Sisters Margaret (Dorset, '29), Dorothy Cain

Descendant	VGH Grad	Class
Claudia Baxter	Charlotte Toews	Feb '69
Billson, Erin	Janis Slotylok	1982
Billson, Laura	Janis Slotylok	1982
Blusson, Mitchell	Mona Gallaway	1962

VGH/SON Alumnae Association Education Funds

Descendant	VGH Grad	Class
Lisa Boulaine	Phillipa Kirkhope	Feb '88
	Colleen Christensen	Feb '86
Kirstyn DeNitali	Kristine Brannlund	Feb '82
Jocelyn Elliott	Sheila Watt	1962
Jenna Gill	Leanne Neitch	1991
Emma Hacock	Catherine Grant	1966
Natalie Kjellbotn	Mary MacLeod	1968
Dylan Ko	Cathryn Duerksen	Feb. 91
Courtney MacDonald	Karla Smith	June '90
Ashley Mahood	Laura Mahood	1991
Natalie Selvage	Caroline Dixon	1998
Rebecca Smith	Beverly Halliwell	1971
Kimberly Tronrud	Lois Hurst	1947
	Marsha Zappa Buis	Sept '91

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

Descendant	VGH Grad	Class
Carolyn Hicks	Roberta Iallonnadro	1979

The Edith Mary (McCallan) Cork Memorial Fund (VGHSONAA) Nurse Practitioner Special Bursary

Descendant	VGH Grad	Class
Michelle Aspinall	Sarah Treadgold	1987
Janelle Tucker	Coralee Visser	Sept '87

The Eileen (Lewis) Johnston Memorial Fund

Descendant	VGH Grad	Class
Morgan Desjardins	Luauna MacAlpine	Feb '91

The Education Committee would like to thank the many individuals who made generous donations to the Bursary Program in 2025. This helps immensely to facilitate presenting bursary awards to all eligible applicants. We will continue to award funds through our Bursary Program until December 31, 2028.

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 2026 bursary year, the committee will welcome applications from:

- Graduates from the VGH/SON Diploma program
- Graduates from the UBC/VGH Collaborative Nursing Program
- Descendants of graduates from the above programs

Please see the information on our website: www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com and link to "Bursaries". Application forms can now be downloaded from the website. 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, 1965

Chair, Education Committee

Recording Secretary

Thank you to our faithful, pleasant, accurate, recording secretary. We appreciate your work!

Lynne (Meir-Gildea) Dunbar, 1965

Recording Secretary



VGH Bursaries



I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for being awarded the Edith (McCallan) Cork Memorial Bursary (class of 1936) through the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association once again this year. It is truly an honour to receive this bursary, given in memory

of Edith Cork. I am currently completing the Master of Science in Nursing—Family Nurse Practitioner (MScN-FNP) program at the University of Northern British Columbia, with an anticipated graduation date of August 2026.

Receiving this bursary has been incredibly meaningful to me, both financially and personally. The support it provides allows me to focus on my studies and clinical training as I work toward becoming a NP. I am especially grateful that this bursary recognizes and supports advanced nursing education. I hope to carry forward the values of compassion, service, and commitment to patient care that this bursary represents throughout my nursing career.

My mother, Coralee Tucker (Visser), graduated from VGH SON in September 1987 and was my inspiration for pursuing a career in nursing. I currently work as a rural Emergency Room nurse in 100 Mile House and have a passion for critical care and emergency medicine. I hope to become an ER/Acute Care NP once I graduate. In my spare time, when I am not studying or working, I love to be outside and will often be found at a lake paddleboarding or kayaking in the summer or cross-country skiing in the winter.

Thank you again for your generosity and for your continued support of nursing students through the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association. Your kindness has made a meaningful difference in my educational journey, and I am deeply appreciative.

Sincerely,

Janelle Tucker



My name is Claudia Baxter, and I am one of the humble recipients of this award! A little bit about myself, back in 2022, I completed my first Bachelors of Science in Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University. I was then accepted into the Advanced Entry Bachelor of Nursing Program at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in 2023 where I began my journey in nursing. I will be completing my nursing degree this semester and will soon be finishing my final preceptorship. Throughout this final semester, I have been completing my preceptorship on the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at BC Children's Hospital. I truly feel that I have found my passion in pediatrics as well as critical care while working on this unit. There are extensive learning opportunities as well as many roles that I could potentially grow into one day. I plan to work there this coming winter and begin my career as a registered nurse!



This award could not have come at a better time for me. Since beginning my preceptorship, I have been working full time at the hospital and therefore have not had the time to work at all. Of course, this has placed a significant financial burden with the extensive commuting I have been doing on top of paying for my tuition. I cannot express enough how truly grateful I am for this award. I will never forget the immense generosity that you have shown me. I cannot thank you enough.

*Warmly,
Claudia*

VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Building Society/Association Fund

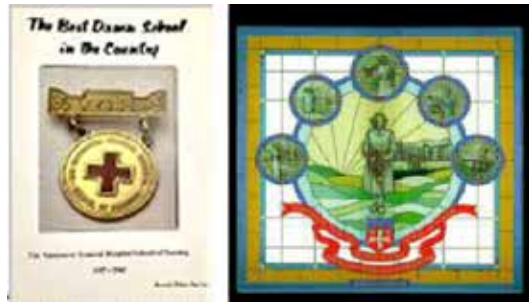
During International Nurses Week in May, the annual awards managed by the VGH/UBC Hospital Foundation were presented. The President of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association presented 32 Awards and the Research Grant of \$5000. During the year, \$16,387 was also given to 32 different In-House grant requests.

The Endowment Fund that provided this funding was established in 2002 to promote life-long learning for nurses in the Vancouver General Hospital, UBC Hospital, GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre, and Vancouver Community Health Services. The closing balance in the fund at March 31, 2025 was \$915,198.70. The Income Fund balance available was \$58,585.

VGH SoN 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.



Right: Joan with the Memorial Book.

Below: Sue and Lynne with painting.



The Registered Nurses Foundation of BC

In 2025, the RNFBC received 2,912 applications for the 38 funds and awarded 668 bursaries. There were 15 bursary winners of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Endowment.

The RNFBC was established in 1979 as a non-profit organization 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.



The RNFBC celebrated 45 years of supporting nursing at a luncheon on March 5, 2025.

The VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Endowment was created in 1984. There have been additional donations from the Alumnae Association, former graduates, and from the proceeds of the sale of the VGH Manor. This Endowment is available for:

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

Disbursements of the funds is restricted to investment income only.

Sincere appreciation was expressed to the members of the Alumnae Association in all of the thank you letters from the 2025 Bursary winners. Permission to publish some of the thank you letters was granted by the winners selected.

Dear Vancouver General SoN Alumnae Association Bursary Donors,

As a recipient of the 2025 Vancouver General SoN Alumnae Association Bursary, I would like to thank you for your contributions to this generous bursary. I have just started my graduate studies in the Master of Nursing—Nurse Practitioner (MN-NP) program at the University of British Columbia and am incredibly excited for the next couple of years of my studies.

Since completing my Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2020, I have been working fulltime in the emergency department at St. Paul's Hospital, which has been a challenging yet immensely rewarding experience. Working in emergency has highlighted the immense shortage of primary care providers in BC, and the negative effect this has on the health of our communities.

This motivated me to pursue a spot in the MN-NP program because as a primary care NP, I would be able to directly address this gap in our health care system. I look forward to my future role as an NP where I can provide a continuum of care that is so desperately needed for individuals and families in BC.

While I received this bursary during my undergraduate studies, receiving this bursary now as a graduate student is even more meaningful. It is my paternal grandmother—a graduate of the VGH School of Nursing—who made me eligible to apply for and receive this bursary. She sadly passed away last year and couldn't see me be accepted into the MN-NP program. It would have made her extremely proud to see me pursuing graduate studies, and even more proud that her training as a nurse is continuing to support me. The financial assistance this bursary provides me is incredibly valuable. This bursary allows me to only work part-time, providing me with more valuable time to dedicate towards my studies.

Thank you for your investment in the RNFBC and providing undergraduate and graduate nursing students alike with the financial support to pursue higher levels of education.

***Sincerely,
Meaghan Matthews***



Dear Members of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association,

I am writing to sincerely thank you for awarding me the RNFBC General Bursary through your organization. I am currently in my third and final year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Langara College. This support is a meaningful encouragement as I complete my studies and continue developing the skills needed to provide high-quality, compassionate patient care.

My primary goal is to gain expertise in and work in surgical nursing, building the clinical competence and critical thinking necessary to excel on a post-operative unit, ideally at Vancouver General Hospital. Looking further ahead, I plan to pursue a Master's degree in Nursing after some years at the bedside. I am passionate about pursuing further education in the future so that I may combine learned clinical expertise with teaching and mentorship to positively influence the next generation of nurses. I am inspired by the opportunities nursing offers to continuously learn, develop, and make a tangible difference in the lives of patients and communities.

I am particularly motivated by the career of my great-aunt, Catherine Barbara (Grant) Sterna, a VGH SoN alumna who had a distinguished 37-year career as an Operating Room Nurse. Her dedication and impact on patient care set an example I hope to emulate in my own nursing practice. Knowing that this bursary comes from an organization with such a rich history of supporting graduates and their descendants since 1984, and is a part of nearly 100 years of dedication to advancing nursing education, makes receiving this award especially meaningful for me.

Thank you again for your generosity and encouragement. Your support allows me to continue to focus on my education and clinical growth while reinforcing my commitment to providing compassionate care and contributing positively to the nursing profession.

***Sincerely,
Emma Hacock
Bachelor of Science in Nursing Student, Langara College***





My name is Charlotte Zickmantel, and I was awarded the Vancouver General SoN bursary this year. I am 23 years old, born and raised in Kitsilano. I am in my first year of the two year accelerated nursing program at UBC. Out of high school, I studied Microbiology and Immunology at McGill University, as I always had a passion for studying science and health. Though I knew I always wanted to pursue a job in healthcare, I was never quite sure exactly what that would look like. Luckily, I grew up in a family of nurses - my mom, my grandma, my great aunt, and my aunt (who is the alumni of the Vancouver General program). These women always greatly inspired me and gave me an idea of what nursing could look like. After graduating University, I took a few months reflecting on what I wanted out of my future career, and decided nursing was the best fit for me.

As someone who enjoys learning and problem solving, a career in nursing is the chance to be a lifelong learner, with opportunities for growth and specialization, as well as the day to day learning required on the job. My family hasn't only exposed me to what it means to be a health care worker, they have also instilled in me values of caring for others. My grandfather, who was a respirologist, looked after me growing up and emphasized the importance of empathy, honesty, and conscientiousness essential skills for looking after patients. Along with my grandmother, they also worked internationally, and from them I learned to value cultural sensitivity, tolerance and open mindedness as well as the importance of good patient care. Overall, this inspired me not only to one day be in the healthcare field myself, but also to be an honest, hardworking, and ethical person in my day to day life. As a student paying for my own tuition, this bursary will help me pay my tuition payments and reduce my stress around having to take out student loans. The accelerated program is also quite time consuming, so being able to work part time was not an option for me.

I really appreciate the Vancouver General SoN Alumnae Association for providing nursing students with financial assistance to encourage more students out there to pursue their passions! It was also a really sweet way to connect with my aunt and hear about her experience attending this school. Thank you so much for awarding me this bursary.

Best

Charlotte Zickmantel

With gratitude, I accept this bursary administered through the Registered Nurses Foundation.

For the past 20 years, I have dreamt of continuing my nursing education. Now, I finally have the opportunity. I began my masters in Health Quality at Queen's University on September 1st. I am now halfway through the second course of 8. This degree is administered by the Nursing Faculty, and shared with the Faculty of Medicine.

The goal of the program is to learn the science behind improving the quality of patient care and satisfaction, and to get that care to as many people as possible at the lowest cost. My extensive clinical background makes my learning so rich. I am passionate about nurses being at the forefront of decisions. In class, we are currently learning to identify waste in our cherished system so we can contribute to making it sustainable.

My personal clinical passion is to help women breastfeed their newborn infants. Our rates in Fraser Health are amongst the worst in Canada. A recent series published in *The Lancet* in collaboration with the World Health Organization called on leaders throughout the world to improve breastfeeding rates. With solid evidence that breastfeeding improves children's intelligence quotients by three to four points, and reduces rates of breast cancer in women by six percent a year, it is one of the most powerful health interventions we have. I expect that this degree will give me the credentials I need to do this work.

Having recently known poverty and faced with high tuition fees at Queen's University, I am thankful for your financial aid. I am also grateful for the monetary gifts from other proud VHG SoN nurses who have gone before me. I know it is because of their gifts that this bursary is available. I am also thankful to each of you for continuing the work of our association.

Sincerely,

Colleen Christensen, RN, BSN, Feb '86



RNFBC Leave a Legacy that Cares for Generations

Your legacy can help shape the future of health care in British Columbia, supporting generations of nurses to come.

Since 1979, the Registered Nurses Foundation of BC (RNFBC) has been committed to strengthening the nursing profession through bursaries and advancing education. RNFBC has helped remove financial barriers for nursing students and practicing nurses, enabling them to pursue their studies, deepen their expertise, and continue serving communities across the province. RNFBC gratefully acknowledges the support it has received from The Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association in the creation of its own bursary award several years ago.

Today, British Columbia is facing a growing shortage of nurses at the same time as demand for care continues to rise. An aging population, increasing complexity in patient needs, and mounting pressures on the health care system mean more nurses are needed, now and in the years ahead. RNFBC responds to this challenge by providing financial support to students becoming Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), Registered Nurses (RNs), Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs), and Nurse Practitioners (NPs), as well as nurses pursuing post-graduate education to advance their practice.

A legacy gift is a powerful way to invest in the future of nursing. By including RNFBC in your estate plans, you help build the strength, skill, and leadership of the profession for generations to come. Your legacy gift will support the education and growth of the next generation of nurses, ensure the profession remains strong and prepared to meet tomorrow's challenges, and offer a meaningful way to honour your life's work or personal connection to nursing.

Ways to Leave Your Legacy

There are many ways to create a planned gift that aligns with your values and financial plans:

Bequest in Your Will

Leave a percentage, fixed amount, or residual gift to RNFBC.

Gift of Securities

Donate publicly traded stocks or mutual funds and benefit from tax savings.

RRSPs, RRIFs, and TFSAs

Name RNFBC as a beneficiary and make a tax-smart gift of your registered funds.

Life Insurance

Donate a new or existing policy by naming RNFBC as the owner or beneficiary.

Named Bursaries

Create a legacy with a gift to establish a bursary in your name or in honour of a loved one.

Where Your Gift Makes an Impact

Planned gifts support nursing education in areas of greatest need, including:

- First Nations, Inuit, and Métis education
- Mental health and substance use
- Complex seniors' care

Each legacy gift helps ensure nurses have the resources they need to care for patients, families, and communities across British Columbia.

Leaving a legacy is deeply personal, and RNFBC is honoured to support you through the process. Whether you have already included RNFBC in your estate plans or are simply exploring your options, the Foundation welcomes confidential conversations.

To learn more, contact RNFBC at info@rnfbcc.ca or 604.739.1944 ext 258, or visit www.rnfbcc.ca.

Charitable Registration Number: #11911 4544 RR0001

Every legacy gift, large or small, helps build a stronger, more compassionate future for nursing in British Columbia.

VGH Foundation Legacy—The Jungs



Lory and Lynn Jung are making the world better, one tossed can at a time.

The couple, who have been married for 45 years, spend at least one full day a week riding their bikes—to reduce their carbon footprint—around routes near their home in Delta to collect as many returnable cans as possible. They have built custom gear for their bikes to hold their bags, and make their way out early in the morning, before most of us have woken up for the day.

“And if I see a can on the street, I’ll pick it up. It just adds up. You’d be surprised,” says Lynn.

By adds up, Lynn means they’ve collected thousands of dollars’ worth of returnable cans over the years. In fact, to date, they have donated over \$50,000.

“We also acknowledge that we receive a great deal of support from households along the routes for this charitable endeavour,” says Lory. “We don’t keep a dime of this money, it all goes to charity.”

Even the overhead costs like bike maintenance and repair are all paid for by the Jungs.

Lory and Lynn have a rotating selection of charities near and dear to their hearts. They give the money to animal non-profits, local municipal charities, Downtown Eastside support, and VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation.

By supporting VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation, the Jungs are supporting more than hospital care. With like-minded philanthropists, they’re supporting multiple health care sites across our Vancouver community—plus groundbreaking research, plus cutting-edge technology, plus world-class medical teams who provide the best possible care to save lives.

Lory and Lynn know the importance of this firsthand. After a brain injury, Lory turned to VGH for treatment. Lynn did the same when she faced skin cancer.

But why put in all this effort to not keep a dime themselves?

“What are we going to do with this money? And especially when we collect from people who are just throwing money away. Why not give it to somebody that can benefit from it? I just feel from my heart that I’ve got to do what we do. I don’t know. I don’t know how else to explain it,” says Lynn.

In addition to their can collection efforts, Lory and Lynn Jung have also chosen to leave a gift in their wills to charities, including VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation.

To them, it’s the obvious choice.

“Why not give back to the community?” adds Lory. “It feels good to be doing it. We just want the money to go to help people.”

The couple’s philanthropic endeavours, together with VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation’s compassionate community of legacy donors, ensures that future generations will have access to the same great care Lory has received.

You know the reality: excellent health care doesn’t just happen. It requires investment in research, equipment, innovation, and the future. It’s built by people who care—people like you.

Ride along Lory and Lynn’s quest to power healthier communities for future generations by leaving a gift in your will. Your legacy gift will fuel groundbreaking research, equip health care teams with cutting-edge technology to tackle complex cases, and accelerate medical breakthroughs for everyone in BC.

To learn how you can fuel world-class care for generations to come like Lory and Lynn, visit vghfoundation.ca/legacy. You can also call Lisa Shearer at 604-290-1455 or email at lisa.shearer@vghfoundation.ca.



In Memoriam 2025

But not forgotten

Date	Current	First Name	Graduation	Class
2025	Anderson	Victoria (Vicki)	Anderson	Feb-64
2025	Belknap	Kathleen	Lunny	Feb-53
2024	Best	Helen	McWilliams	UBC 45
2025	Blusson	Mona	Galloway	Sep-62
2025	Brigden	Lerae	Parrott	Sep-57
2025	Buchanan	Kilby	Harding	Sep-63
2025	Byers	Nancy	Trotter	Sep-58
2025	Childs	Eileen	Curtis	Jan-48
2025	Church	Dawn	Kirschke	Sep-57
2025	Cockburn	Florence	Seidler	Jan-51
2026	Coenen	Elizabeth (Betty)	MacGillivray	Sep-56
2024	Corbett	(Eleanor) Ann	MacNeill	Feb-53
2025	Croizier	Maralind	Croy	Feb-66
2025	Deforrest	Patricia	Malloy	Sep-56
2025	DeJong	Betty Lou	Bridge	Feb-62
2024	Fanstone	Alberta Janice	Eykelbosh	Feb-58
2025	Finn	Lesley	Mitchell	Sep-66
2025	Finnie	Joan	McMynn	Sep-56
2025	Gold	Joan	Gray	Sep-71
2026	Hannah	Audrey	Gossen	Sep-60
2025	Hergel	Anne Marie (Alice)	Marusyk	Feb-56
2025	Hitchman	Fran	Nelson	Jan-50
2024	Jeffrey	Margaret	Jones	Sep-55
2025	Johannes	Judy	Boniface	Aug-59
2025	Kawashima	Shirley	Endo	Sep-67
2025	Kereluk	Cheri	Kopperson	Sep-69
2025	Kidd	Arden	Gardiner	Sep-57
2025	Kirkwood	Elizabeth (Betty)	Miles	Feb-53
2025	Lauener-Romses	Patricia	Drummond	UBC 57
2025	Laufer	Lucy	Langer	Sep-59
2025	Little	Edna	Campbell	Sep-60
2025	Loden	Margaret	Jefferson	Jan-47
2025	MacMichael	Betty Lou	Caplette	UBC 49
2025	Mathewes	Donna	Worth	Sep-70
2025	Mattei	Dorothy	Lee	Feb-62
2025	Morris	Maureen	Thompson	Sep-57
2025	Phillips	Trudy	Smith	Feb-53

Elizabeth (Betty) Kirkwood

May 1931–December 2025



One of our Life Members, Betty Kirkwood, passed away with courage and enduring grace in December 2025. Betty was a 1953 graduate and following graduation nursed in the Heather Pavilion and at the Lions Gate Hospital.

Betty was an active member of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association and also held the role as President. She worked with the

Archives and Artifacts Committee and cared for the Silver collection.

As a founding member of the Heather Heritage Society in 1994, Betty advocated with that Board of Directors for the preservation, restoration and protection of the Heather Pavilion which was the first building of the Vancouver General Hospital opening in 1906. In 2002, the City of Vancouver designated the original building a protected heritage structure.

Betty was also an active member of her community, contributing her time and talents numerous clubs and boards such as the Truce Club, a Chaine des Rotisseurs, and the RNABC.

Betty was a gem of a person who appreciated all that life offered.

Trudy (Smith) Phillips

Class of 1953

The Board of Directors regrets to announce that Trudy (Smith) Phillips of the Class of 1953 passed away in 2025. Trudy was a Life Member of the Alumnae Association. For twenty years, she recorded the names of former graduates of the *VGH School of Nursing in the Memorial Book*.

The Memorial Books are kept in the Alumnae Office so that those touring the area could view them. They are also displayed at the Fall Luncheon.



Dr. Marilyn Jean Wood

October 1936–September 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Marilyn Jean Wood, BSN, MPH, Dr.PH, Professor and Dean Emerita of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta, and founding Dean of the School of Nursing, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.



After earning her BSN at UBC, she became a staff nurse at Vancouver General Hospital before moving to California, where she was appointed Assistant Head Nurse, UCLA Center for Health Sciences. She completed her MPH at UCLA, following which she was Regional Administrator of California Home Health Services in Hollywood, and then Coordinator of staff development at Valley Presbyterian Hospital, Van Nuys, California. Completing her DrPH at UCLA, she was appointed Assistant Professor, UCLA School of Nursing, where she published several leading textbooks.

In 1979, as founding Dean of the School of Nursing at Azusa Pacific University, she established basic and graduate programs in nursing. Returning to Canada in 1987 as Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta, her vision, leadership, and commitment to collaboration transformed the faculty and advanced nursing education nationwide.

A tireless advocate for research, she was instrumental in guiding the Alberta Foundation for Nursing Research and she spearheaded the creation of Canada's first doctoral program in nursing, having mounted a campaign to secure its funding. Under her leadership, Alberta's nursing scholars became nationally and internationally recognized for excellence in funded research. She also served as editor of the *Western Journal of Nursing Research* and authored numerous texts that shaped nursing education for generations.

Marnie championed innovation in education, from merging and strengthening northern Alberta nursing programs to fostering international collaboration, including a lasting partnership with the Department of Nursing in Ghana. At the University of Alberta, she was a founding member and Chair of the Coordinating Council of Health Sciences, advancing interdisciplinary education across health faculties. Honours include the Outstanding Faculty Award conferred by graduate students, UCLA: the Ethel Johns Award of the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing, Honorary Life Membership in Western Region CASN and the UBC School of Nursing Alumni Award of Distinction.

She will be remembered as a trailblazer in nursing education and research, a gifted mentor, a devoted family member, and a woman of vision, generosity, and spirit—whose legacy will endure in the many lives she touched.

Ellen Elizabeth Rukholm PhD, RN

December 1946–July 2025

Ellen Rukholm (née Murray) was born in Vancouver in 1946, to William and Elsie Murray.



Ellen was devoted to family and the nursing profession. She started her career in nursing by completing hospital training at the Vancouver General Hospital in 1968. After traveling the world for three years with Toivo, she returned to school to complete her BScN in Nursing at Laurentian University. She went on to get her Master's Degree in Nursing at the University of Toronto and then her PhD in Nursing at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Ellen worked as a professor in the Laurentian University School of Nursing, rising to be the Director of the School. Before retiring, she took on the role of Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) commuting to its national offices in Ottawa from Sudbury. Upon retirement Laurentian University granted her the title Professor Emeritus.

During her professional career, Ellen authored numerous academic papers on nursing research. She was active in the Canadian Council of Cardiovascular Nursing and was a founding member of the Canadian Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing. The Journal had national circulation and was produced in Sudbury. She was a dedicated volunteer with Heart and Stroke and Heart Health Sudbury. She was very pleased to visit Iqaluit to assist in the establishment of a nursing education program in Iqaluit, Nunavut. She also travelled to Saudi Arabia to advise on the nursing program in Riyadh.

During her busy professional career Ellen raised four children with her husband Toivo.

The family has established the Dr. Ellen Rukholm Memorial Fellowship Award to assist nursing students in the School of Nursing at Laurentian University. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Ellen by going to <https://impact.laurentian.ca/> and selecting the Dr Ellen Rukholm Memorial Fellowship Award.



Eileen Vera (Curtis) Childs

March 2025



Eileen Vera (nee Curtis) Childs, VGH graduating year of 1948, died on March 1st, 2025 at the age of 98.

After her graduation, she worked in Welland, Ontario, then travelled to Europe with a girlfriend for some months. On coming back to Canada, she became an army nurse at Wainwright, Alberta where she met and married my father who had joined the Lord Strathcona Horse regiment.

She went back to nursing whenever she could once her children were in school. She worked at the Boundary Hospital in Grand Forks, BC, where we moved to be with her mother and uncle the year my father was sent to Vietnam to be an observer. After his next posting to Quantico, Virginia for a year, he was sent to Ottawa, where we moved to a small town called Kemptville which had a hospital and my mother worked there as an operating room and emergency nurse. After three years there, my father was posted to Ghana, West Africa for two years. While there my mother helped the Canadian doctor give many children and their mothers vaccinations. They returned to Kemptville and my mother took up her nursing job again and retired some years later. She mostly did nights. She was the only owl in a family of larks!

My mother sadly succumbed to dementia when in her early 80s, as had her mother and I cared for her in her home for her last 10 years. She had wished to die in her home and happily her wish was granted.

Although I am not a nurse, I must have had some of her nursing skills rub off on me as during these 10 years, I would know, such as when a syncope episode was going to happen and what to do when one did, also, during her palliative care stage, although she had nurses and PSW's to help her, there was still the need for me to keep clean her pressure wounds, administer frequent (24/7) pain medication through a port in her leg and repositioning her. I would like to think that I would have made her proud!

I was sorry to hear that the Alumnae Association will be dissolved in 2028 but thank you so much for all the years of sending my mother the *Newsletters* which we both enjoyed.

Caroline Childs
(daughter)



Audrey (Gossen) Hannah

Class of September 1960

"Artistic nurse takes top VGH Award" was the headline in the May 11, 1960 *Province* newspaper. Mom won the highest award in the largest graduating class in Canadian nursing history. She was awarded scholarship and gold medal for the highest standing in general proficiency throughout the three-year course. The year previously Mom had won first prize for a Christmas decoration of a window in the nurses' residence.

Mom was a skilled nurse, talented artist, and dedicated volunteer.

She passed away at almost 87 year of age on January 29, 2026 from dementia. She is survived by her loving husband, Farrell Hannah, her daughter Brooke Hannah and son Sam Hannah.

Submitted by Brooke Hannah



Allison Grace (Telford) Weir

January 1952–December 2024



Allison Weir succumbed to a six-year battle with lung cancer in December 2024.

Her 72 years of life were filled with kindness by always reaching out to help others with warmth and love.

She attended Crofton House School where she made lifelong friends. In 1970, she attended Neufchatel Junior College in Switzerland,

returning in 1972 to enter the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing graduating Feb 1976. Upon graduation she began working in the Emergency department at VGH until 1984.

Allison relocated to Victoria where she married Dr. Rene Weir. They raised a loving family of four.

Allison was the Head Nurse at St. Michael's University School for 19 years where she administered medical care and social support to hundreds of students, teachers and staff.

Allison constantly tried to help people with their problems by contacting her extensive network of friends. She was a mentor to many and always empathetic—her usual closing phrase was "you can do it". She always downplayed her problems by first stating "let's talk about you and your family." She was truly an angel to those in need.

Excerpt from Allison's Obituary

Ann (MacNeill) Corbett

November 1931–December 2024

Eleanor Ann Corbett of Fredericton, NB, passed away in December 2024.

Ann was a member of the St. Mary's Alter Guild, Women's Institute, St. Mary's Quilters Guild, Fredericton North Heritage, a member of St. Mary's Anglican Church, and a February 1953 VGH graduate. After completing a nursing refresher course, mom returned to nursing in the early 1980s, with the closure of a nursing home by the provincial government. The residents were moved to a wing in the then recently closed Victoria Public Hospital. After beds were found for the residents of the home, mom went to work at Pine Grove Nursing Home. She worked there until she suffered a fractured hip in 1987.

She spoke of her memories training at VGH, the girls of the residence and the problems which were faced in health at the times well as the social life they enjoyed. Your Newsletters were always found interesting and she enjoyed the pictures and the names brought back memories to her.

Mom's last six months were spent in hospital and for some strange reason, I think she enjoyed it, watching the other patients, the "nurses" doing their work and the busy activities found on any hospital floor.

Submitted by Kevin Corbett, son of Ann Corbett



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).

The books are on display at the office and the fall 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.



Memorial Book Donors

Deceased Name	Graduation Name	Date of Death	Class	Donor	On Behalf of
Ann Corbett	MacNeil	Dec-24	Feb-53	Kevin Corbett	Family
Dr. Ellen Rukholm	Murray	Jul-25	Sep-68	Cherry Harriman	
Kathleen Belknap	Lunny	Apr-25	Feb-53	Betty Kirkwood	
Maureen Morris	Thompson	Apr-25	Sep-57	Beverly & Michael Holman	family
Dawn Church	Kirschke	Jun-25	Sep-57	Frances Dye	one of her best friends
Patricia Hudson	Hockridge	May-24	Feb-53	Trudy Phillips	classmates
Alice Hergel	Marusyk	Jun-25	Feb-56	Louise Joiner	family
Margaret Jeffrey	Jones	Apr-24	Sep-55	Kerry Frazer	
Maralind Croizier	Croy	Feb-25	Feb-66	Marcena Croy	
Pat De Forrest	Malloy	Jan-25	Sep-56	Nancy Milley	classmates
Joan Tamboline	Tamboline	Jun-25	Sep-56	Nancy Milley	classmates
Joan Finnie	McMynn	Oct-25	Sep-56	Nancy Milley	classmates
Lerae Brigden	Parrot	May-25	Sep-57	Hanna Spatola	
Dawn Church	Kirschke	Jun-25	Sep-57	Hanna Spatola	
Betty Wynne	Donald	Jan-25	Aug-56	Ethel Warbinek	classmates
Christine Satterlee	Sydneysmith	Jan-25	Sep-65	Joan Kerr	classmates
Arden Kidd	Gardner	Aug-25	Sep-57	Thelma Kilburn	classmates
Dawn Church	Kirschke	Jun-25	Sep-57	Thelma Kilburn	classmates
Lerae Brigden	Parrot	May-25	Sep-57	Thelma Kilburn	classmates
Christine Shipp	Caldwell	Mar-25	Sep-57	Thelma Kilburn	classmates
Betty Lou DeJong	Bridge	Oct-25	Feb-62	Mollie Addison	life long friend
Kathleen Boothroyd	Rudkin	Mar-23	Sep-60	Jane Robertson	classmates
Cheri Kereluk	Kopperson	May-25	Sep-69	Maureen Sands	classmates
Kuniko (Nancy) Morishita	Moroshita	Oct-24	Feb-54	Reta Kidd	classmates
Elizabeth Coenen	MacGillivray	Jan-26	Sep-56	Nancy Milley	classmates
Maureen Tickner	McCrory	2025	Feb-66	Lorna, Diane & Barb	classmates
Lucy Laufer	Langer	Jul-25	Sep-59	Ron Laufer	son
Judy Johannes	Boniface	Nov-25	Aug-59	Jo-Mary Hunter	classmates

Reunions

Class of Sept '65, 60th Reunion

Twenty-five members of the Class of September 1965 celebrated their 60th Rustic Reunion at Loon Lake in September 2025.



Arriving in glorious sunshine, we gathered for refreshments before dinner in Bentley Hall. The evening entertainment had us guessing who was described in the student pre-entry interviews, followed by sharing of memories and some games.



Following breakfast on Day 2, we gathered for mental and physical exercises, free time, navigating the rope ferry, a Do You Remember time at lunch and review of the description of an Elder. Two hardy souls went in swimming in the chilly lake and then it was



the Mad Hatter Tea Party with silver service and fancy cups. Student Daze Memories were shared after dinner complete with three members in Harold's Night costumes and Goody Bags were given to all. Day 3 was reviewing our quiz answers, ending with singing our adapted theme song "Moon River" and planning for future times together.

Class of Feb '76, 50th Prelim Reunion

In September 2023 the Class of February '76 had a prelim 50th Reunion calling it "50 years since we all met". We generally meet every 5 years with most reunions entailing a 2 day event with various activities at a Hotel or Resort somewhere in various areas of BC. We have anywhere from 23–40 classmates attend. We had missed our 2021 reunion in person due to COVID and had a Zoom Reunion in place of.

The 2023 reunion had rave reviews and was attended by 38 of our classmates and was held at the Sylvia Hotel in English Bay. We opened with a wine and appetizer evening at the hotel, free time to attend Granville Island or other areas near the hotel, a dinner held at the Vancouver Tennis Club organized by our late classmate, Allison (Telford) Weir and breakfast the following morning at the Sylvia in their dining room.

There are 6 of us that plan our reunions and we are presently taking requests and making plans to pick the location and date for our true 50th Reunion in the Fall 2026. See page 23 for more information.



Class of February '75, 50th Reunion

June 17, 18 & 19, 2025 30 of us gathered for a three night stay at the Bayside Oceanfront Resort in Parksville for our much anticipated 50th reunion celebration. The venue was lovely—we all had waterfront rooms.



Our first evening was a “Meet & Greet” where we instantly reconnected with life long friends and shared memories over yummy hors d’oeuvres. Conversations reflected the strong bonds still present between so many of us.

Our second evening was special—our classmate Deb Hendry (Rapanos) hosted a fabulous salmon BBQ at her home. Such good food and laughter as stories and shared experiences were told from silly antics to unforgettable moments and of instructors remembered with gratitude for the impact they had on our lives and values.

Our final evening we had a delightful catered four course meal that was served in our own private room. It was really nice as we could laugh and talk as much as we wanted without disrupting the hotels’ dining room guests. It provided opportunity to wander around and visit with those classmates we don’t often see. It was wonderful opportunity to reflect and appreciate how far everyone had come personally and professionally. There was pride in the diverse paths classmates had taken and the achievements they had accomplished. We got to share stories about our families along with photos of grandchildren!!

We all took a moment to remember the six classmates we have lost too soon.

As the our last evening together drew to a close, one thing was clear: while years go by, the spirit of our VGH days

remains alive and our memories are not just chapters of the past, but foundations that continue to connect us.

A heartfelt thank you to the VGHSON Alumnae Assoc. for the generous gift of \$1,000.00 we used towards the overall costs of our fun!!! An immense thank you to my Feb '75 classmates for a very successful reunion with more to come!!!

Cheers . . . Sue Goguen



Class of September '75—50th Reunion

Our 50th reunion of the Sept '75 class was held on two occasions at the Gillnetter's Pub in Port Coquitlam. It is a nautical themed pub offering seafood and casual eats, with a patio with river views. There were 26 classmates who attended the May 3rd date, and 17 enjoyed the Sept 13th date. So many memories and good laughs were had by all, with many promises to get together again sooner than later!

*Sincerely yours,
Betty Bjornson (Janse)*



Fall Luncheon

The 2025 Luncheon was held at the Vancouver Arbutus Club on September 18 2025. It was a very memorable event for all that attended.

The 2026 September luncheon date will be on September 17, 2026 at the Arbutus Club. More details will be sent out to members soon.



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.

More Fall Luncheon Photos



The BC History of Nursing Society (BCHNS) (<https://bcnursinghistory.ca>) originated in 1989 as the BC History of Nursing Professional Practice Group within the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (RNABC). It was formed by nurses concerned about the loss of historical records and professional memory. In 2008, it was formally incorporated as the BC History of Nursing Society. Today, BCHNS continues as a volunteer-led organization with a mission dedicated to discovering, preserving and sharing British Columbia's rich nursing heritage.

In December 2025, as UBC School of Nursing relocated to the center of UBC into the new Gateway Health Building, the BCHNS historical artifacts and display materials were moved to a designated heritage space keeping nursing history physically present in the School's new home and integrated into everyday teaching, learning, and community engagement. BCHNS had already transferred its formal documentary archives to UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections in 2022, to ensure long-term preservation and public access. It is well worth a trip to UBC to explore this amazing collection.

You are warmly invited to explore BCHNS's award-winning website and its Pages of History, a curated collection of short, accessible essays documenting key people, places, and moments in BC nursing history. The section also honours personal acts of remembrance, including the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Board of Directors' dedication to Mary (Mc Kinnon) Watt, VGH School of Nursing, Class of September 1954 who was the Editor of the Alumnae Association Newsletter for 28 years. VGH Alumnae have made numerous contributions to nursing in BC and you may also want to honour one of your colleagues.

BCHNS holds regular meetings, publishes newsletters, offers student bursaries, and supports student scholarship interests in the history of nursing. Readers of this Newsletter feature are encouraged to use the website's Get in Touch (<https://bcnursinghistory.ca/contact/>) to connect, learn more about current projects, and find out how to get involved in preserving BC's nursing heritage.

Submitted by Cathy Ebbehoj and Margaret Scaia

Heather Pavilion on the 2025 Top10 Watchlist

The Heather Pavilion

The Heather Pavilion is a historic building located at 2733 Heather Street in the Fairview neighbourhood of Vancouver, British Columbia. It is the oldest building on the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) Fairview campus, opening in 1906 to serve the healthcare needs of a rapidly growing city. A landmark example of late Romanesque Revival and Beaux-Arts, the Pavilion was the largest and most modern hospital in western Canada and became a model for hospital organization when it opened. The building played a significant role in the development of the nursing profession in British Columbia. Former City Councillor Marguerite Ford emphasizes the Pavilion's significance in Vancouver's civic development and public decision-making. She highlights that constructing a new hospital aligned with broader civic policy priorities at the time, stating, "Incidentally, people voted on a plebiscite to buy the land for that building. It was really because they badly needed a new hospital," illustrating strong public support for a modern and permanent healthcare institution.

In 2002, the City of Vancouver designated the 1906 Heather Pavilion and the 1908 end bays and towers of the south addition as municipally protected heritage structures. This designation was part of a broader rezoning of the Vancouver General Hospital precinct and was accompanied by a Heritage Revitalization Agreement (HRA) intended to secure the building's conservation and adaptive reuse as the hospital campus evolved.

With heritage designation and legal protections in place, the Heather Pavilion was expected to be restored, adaptively reused, and integrated into the hospital campus as a functional and landscaped heritage asset. However, concerns regarding the Pavilion's future have re-emerged in the context of proposed long-term redevelopment of the VGH campus. In October, the *Daily Hive* reported that Vancouver Coastal Health has presented a multi-decade, phased redevelopment plan for the hospital, identifying the Heather Pavilion site within Phase 2. This phase involves the demolition of the 1906-built Pavilion to make way for the campus's largest new building, which would expand inpatient bed capacity, include a logistics hub to support hospital operations, and be accompanied by a new energy centre on an adjacent site. Several nearby buildings would also be cleared to prepare for future development in Phase 3. These plans remain preliminary and are subject to future rezoning, approvals, and funding decisions. The Heather Heritage Society (HHS) also states that earlier site planning associated with VGH redevelopment had included options for the Pavilion's adaptive reuse, but no longer.



PHOTO BY JODY WIGMORE COURTESY OF HEATHER HERITAGE SOCIETY [HTTPS://WWW.HEATHERHERITAGESOCIETY.COM/](https://www.heatherheritagesociety.com/)

Why on the Top10

According to the HHS's interactions with Vancouver General Hospital, an application for the City of Vancouver to remove the Heather Pavilion's heritage designation seems probable. HHS has initiated a campaign to try and ensure the building does not lose its designation. It is still very early, an application has yet to be made and much is still not publicly known but it would be a significant decision to de-designate and demolish and would undermine and call into question the purpose of the City of Vancouver's heritage program.

Ever since local writer Eve Lazarus posted this news on *Every Place has a Story*, there has been a mixed reaction and debate over the value of heritage, personal memories, and practical hospital needs. The post has elicited a variety of feelings about heritage buildings and it is informative to see public perception and conclusions to retain or demolish.

One of the more popular opinions elicited by the post so far argues for the practicality of demolishing the heritage building because it is not as important as healthcare needs. It is often the case where the attention is turned towards setting the choice between either "a" or "b", in this case keeping the building vs healthcare.

Our initial reaction to this news is if VGH is indeed planning for demolition, what is and has been the overall process to make a decision? It is generally accepted that good planning involves a bigger process with guiding principles that steer the dialogue. Whether the building is demolished or not gets the most attention in the built heritage discussion. But there is also supposed to be an overall process particularly because there is a large public and social history component to the building. A good process with guiding principles is supposed to be there to help us through all the matters surrounding the building and what happens to it.

Republished with permission

<https://heritagevancouver.org/category/2025/Ottawa>

Member News

Dear VGH Alumnae Executive

Thank you for your years of dedication managing our alumnae. I may be miles away, but I do appreciate all your efforts. Our school of nursing was an excellent learning experience for me, not only clinical, but how to become involved in the political and advocacy for Nursing & Health care in general; I became the class rep each year to President of VGH School of Nursing.

Upon graduation I had nursing advocating to bring Sex Education in high schools.

When I moved to Ottawa I organized an Ontario Nursing Association (OSA) union at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. I then became the Legal Rep. for Eastern Ontario from the St Lawrence seaway up to Algonquin Park: relating with provincial and federal politicians. I was elected to represent Nurses at the College of Nurses of Ontario for 6 years.

I am now old & living in a retirement residence, but continue to advocate.

Janise Johnson

Grad of February 1960

I am writing this as I am looking at VGH's last newsletter which arrived in the SPRING 2025. I love this publication, especially I enjoy reading about the changes at VGH, the reunions, the work experiences of VGH graduates and the individuals who are pursuing a nursing career.

I attended Grade 13 at North Vancouver High School and then applied to the nursing program. I had an aunt who was the night supervisor at VGH. I graduated in the Sept '67 class and was well prepared for a career in Administration. I worked from September 1967–71 at VGH. I was promoted to Assistant Head Nurse where my duties included providing assistance to the Head Nurse, working with and providing training to nursing students, assisting physicians, facilitating ward conferences and other administrative and nursing duties.

I took a break from nursing in 1971. I was on vacation in Hawaii where I met my husband on a beach in Waikiki. We moved to Long Beach, California where my husband was pursuing a Master's degree. We married in 1972 and I received my permanent resident card. I then worked at Kaiser Foundation Hospitals/Permanente Medical Group as a Team Leader from 1972–74. I supervised and coordinated



activities in the Internal Medicine Clinic which consisted of 30 physicians, 28 employees and six specialty clinics (Oncology, Gastroenterology, Hypertension, Obesity, Adolescent and Thyroid). I also provided back-up to OBGYN and Paediatric clinics.

My husband went back to Hawaii to pursue a Phd in 1972. I worked at Kauaikeolani Children's Hospital in Honolulu as a nurse in the Isolation Unit from 1974–75. I went from using glass syringes at VGH to disposable syringes. I had *on the spot training* as I was called to go up to CCU to start an IV in an infant's scalp vein. It was this work experience that lead me to go into community health.

From 1975–1984 I worked at Parent and Child Center of Hawaii as Health Services Coordinator. This was a pre-Headstart program for low-income families with children between ages of newborn and three years and expectant mothers. Along with management duties there were individualized services such as home visiting, health screening, crisis intervention etc. I also pursued a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. In 1984, I received a call from Kaiser Permanente Hawaii Region to interview for a new position, Director of Employee Health and Well Being. When I entered the Human Resources office I was given a pharmacology exam. I hadn't given medication since 1975. Thank you VGH for the training I had as I passed the exam and was hired for the job. I worked there for 27 years and phased in new programs starting with Employee Health (Occupational Health Assessments, fitness for duty, medical surveillance, infectious disease screening/vaccination and health education/ counselling etc.). I loved this job.

In the last 6 months of my student training at VGH, I was assigned as a night Supervisor on the Psychiatric Ward. This contributed to my later work in crisis intervention and developing an Employee Assistance Program free for our physicians and staff at Kaiser.

Over the years with the support of my boss, we developed a number of quality of work-life programs to support staff in the achievement of a balanced and productive work-life.

While working at Kaiser I obtained a Master of Arts in Organizational Management. My topic throughout the coursework centered around telecommuting and Virtual Office. This was introduced into the Kaiser culture prior to COVID and when I retired in 2011 there were 60 staff members who worked at home. The VGH nursing program taught me a lot and prepared me for my career in Administration where I could develop quality programs, facilitate change and make a difference.

Thank you again VGH for preparing me for the best career one could ask for.

Dianne (Baldwin) Goff

September 1967

VGH School Of Nursing Alumnae Association Board Of Directors 2026–27

President	Kathleen Murphy (McCutcheon '65)
Vice President	Vacant
Rec. Secretary	Lynne Dunbar (Meir-Gildea '65)
Exec. Secretary/ Treasurer	Sue Goguen (Gammon '75)
Archives/Artifacts	Barb Kissuras (Rosval '66)
Education	Joan Kerr (Dunbar '65)
Friendship	Lorna Hoare (Snider '66) Diane Parker (Sjerve '66)
Membership	Susan Kerr (Cathcart '69)
Communications	Arlene Vanderhoeven (Schindel '89)



2026 Planned Reunions

Feb '66 60th

Due to high cost of accommodation during the FIFA World Cup in our area, the reunion will be September 15–16 at the Executive Inn Richmond—luncheon on September 16 at the hotel. This timing will allow some alumnae to be able to attend annual luncheon on September 17 if they wish.

Information is being sent via email, please reply to Judy Evans or Lorna Hoare.

We look forward to seeing classmates in the fall.

Sept '66 60th

Sept '66 is planning their 60th reunion September 15 & 16, 2026 at the Sylvia Hotel.

Contact Jill Watson.

Feb '76 50th

Feb '76 Plans are underway for the 50th reunion for Feb '76 class. Contact Debbie McMullen.

Sept '76 50th

Sept '76 50th anniversary celebration will be September 9–11, 2026 at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort.

Contact Diane Ratcliffe or Susan Dearlove.



**Class of 1976 year pins
from graduation pin sets.**

VGH SON—ARCHIVE & MUSEUM
COLLECTIONS, ITEM 1976A-C

Honourary Members

Matilda Bara
Naomi Constant
Anita Petersen
Jens Petersen
Sheila Rankin Zerr



Life Members

Sharon Baxter (Francis) '62
Jane Birkeland (Schwab) '66
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
Sheila Kirk (Poersch) '61
Barb Kissuras (Rosval) '66
Kathleen Murphy (McCutcheon) '65
Diane Parker (Sjerve) '68
Mary Raikes-Tindle (Raikes) '65
Nancy Semke (Bousovetsky) '57
Pat Sexmith (Kay) '62
Margaret Shugg '54
Suzanne Stothers '70
Jean Tsuyuki (Lyons) '57
Ethel Warbinek (McIntyre) '56

Join the Membership with the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association

In order to be a member of the VGH Alumnae an annual membership fee is required, please check to see if you have already renewed or joined. You will receive our publications such as newsletters, access to educational bursaries and assistance with planning reunions. As well, membership funds help support the alumnae's many activities. Membership fees for are \$20.00 in CDN funds.

You have 2 options for Membership

- 1) Fill out the form online and pay via Credit Card or e-transfer, www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com/membership/join-vghson-membership/
- 2) If you wish to pay by cheque download the Membership PDF Form from the website and mail it back to us along with your cheque to the Alumnae Office.

VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL of NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
855 W 12th Ave, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1M9

TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED FOR FEES AND DONATIONS

VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL of NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

2026 Annual Membership Fee: \$20.00
Your fee provides support to the Education Bursaries, Website, Newsletter, Friendship Committee and office operations

Please Print

Name: **Business as Usual**

Surname at Graduation: _____

Graduation: Month _____ Year _____

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

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ Email: _____

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

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 _____

**** Will you be attending the Fall Luncheon - September 17, 2026 ?** Yes _____ No _____
We're here to support you until December 2028

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

Your donations provide support to:

- Education Bursaries to VGH Graduates and Descendants of VGH Graduates
- Archives preservation and storage
- General Fund

MEMBERSHIP Fee: \$ 20.00

Please direct my donation of \$ _____ to: Education Fund
\$ _____ to: Archive Fund
\$ _____ to: General Fund

TOTAL: \$ _____

For Office Use Only

Date received: _____

DB entry: _____

Receipt #: _____

Date receipt issued: _____

Charitable registration number 89269 4407 RR 001

Payment Options: _____ cheque payable to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association
_____ e-transfer to: vghson99@gmail.com

Canadian Funds preferred

Thank you

TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED FOR FEES AND DONATIONS

Education Bursary Applications

We are now accepting Applications for the 2026 VGH SON Alumnae Bursaries. The deadline is September 30, 2026.

Bursary applicants can submit online at:

www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com/about-us/bursaries/



Editor and Designer

Andrea Lister

Granddaughter of Norma Jean Richardson, RJH '32

Thank you to the board for their hard work.

www.absolutelyliterate.com

Absolutely Literate