

# *Nursing Memorial Book*



Nurses and  
Nurse Practitioners  
of British Columbia

The nursing histories entered into the Memorial Book tell the stories of courageous nursing pioneers who made significant contributions to nursing in British Columbia, to the nursing profession, and to the health of people and communities.

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## Alice Lillian Wright

1894 - 2000

Alice Wright, Registrar and Executive Director of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. from 1943 to 1960, pioneered major changes in working conditions and salaries at a time when nurses were just beginning to use a collective bargaining approach through their professional association. She was described as a “woman of vision” and received tributes from the RNABC in 1952 for her work in labor relations, and was named an Honorary Member of the Canadian Nurses Association in 1962 for her many professional contributions nationally and internationally.

She took over as Executive Director at a time that she described as one of “great restlessness” among nurses, and immediately began to try to change working conditions. She presented a Charter of Rights for Nurses at the 1946 Annual General Meeting, and proceeded to act on those principles. Until 1951, when Evelyn Hood was hired to take over the labor relations program, she frequently assisted local staff associations in individual hospitals and other worksites to negotiate for improved salaries and working conditions. In 1959, the nurses and hospital associations moved toward province-wide bargaining for one collective agreement. Later, this bargaining arm became a separate entity as the British Columbia Nurses’ Union. During these years, she also was active in introducing reforms in nursing education and closing small hospital schools of nursing that did not meet standards.

Alice Wright was born in Charlottetown, P.E.I., but moved with her family to B.C. as a young child. She graduated from the Vancouver General Hospital in 1918 and began an early career in pediatric nursing and nursing education. After a year as pediatric head nurse in Vancouver, she moved to California, then New York, and made pediatric nursing her early career. She took post-graduate courses in pediatrics at the New York Nursery and Children’s Hospital as well as a special course at the Kenny Institute, University of Minnesota. In the late 1930s, she began work on a Bachelor of Science degree at Teachers College, Columbia University, and graduated in 1941. She then returned to B.C. as Executive Director of RNABC.

During her tenure with RNABC, she was naturally active with the Canadian Nurses Association, but also was appointed to several committees of the International Council of Nurses. She continued to work with the ICN following retirement, chairing the membership committee and traveling to South and Central America, Australia, Denmark, and Britain on this work.

Following retirement, she remained interested in nursing and took part in many other activities and family affairs until increasing deafness forced seclusion in the last few years. She died March 15, 2000, at the age of 105 years.



## Anne Elizabeth Williams

1930 - 2020

Anne was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta before she moved to British Columbia. Anne received her RN Diploma from the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) School of Nursing in 1954, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 1955, and her master’s degree from Columbia University in 1963.

Anne led a successful career in public health nursing in Toronto, Ontario before returning to Vancouver, where she joined the North Shore Union Board of Health and remained there until her retirement as the Director of Nursing in 1989. Anne was highly respected by her colleagues at the North Shore Union Board of Health, an organization which provided education programs throughout North and West Vancouver areas.

Anne was instrumental in starting the Parent-Infant Program for postpartum mothers and their infants. Meeting on a weekly basis with a public health nurse, the mothers were able to learn about a wide array of topics including breastfeeding, nutrition, immunizations, safety, dental care, adjusting to parenthood, play, and preparation for return to work. The program is still in operation today across the Vancouver coastal region.

In her career, Anne acted as an advisor for many nursing leaders and organizations including the Community Health Professor at the UBC School of Nursing, Prenatal and Cardiac Coordinators and Community Health Nursing in Community Care Licensing and was also the liaison nurse for the Psychiatric Day Centre at Lions Gate Hospital. Additionally, Anne was a member of the Vancouver Chapter of the Registered Nurses Association of BC (RNABC) and also served on its Board of Directors.

Upon retirement, Anne was actively involved with the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association, where she managed a membership database of 8768 graduates from the VGH School of Nursing. Anne was awarded Life Membership for the VGH Nursing Alumnae Association for her invaluable service.



## Annie Stewart Keith

1897 - 1942

Annie Keith was born in Portrush, County Antrim, Ireland and immigrated to Canada in 1920 at the age of 23. She entered the psychiatric nursing program at the Provincial Mental Hospital, Essondale, B.C. in 1930 and graduated, three years later, in the first graduating class of the hospital in 1932. She was soon promoted to a Head Nurse position and it was noted that her concern for patients and staff alike was unrelenting. It was commented that "she had a gift for commanding love and respect due to her willingness to work alongside her nursing staff in pursuing her relentless goal of scrupulous patient care."

Noted for her exceptional standard of service to the welfare of her patients, staff and management of her ward she was rewarded with an appointment to the position of Day Supervisor of the Nurses Home.

At the time of her death she had the longest service record of any employee. The Keith Memorial Medal was introduced in her memory by the members of the 1944 graduating class. Annie was widely known, highly esteemed by her colleagues, and was the model of unselfish loyalty to her work and associated friends. The dedication ceremony immortalized her principles of patience, kindness and devotion to duty.



## Beverly Witter Du Gas

1923 - 2012

A native British Columbian and a distinguished Canadian nursing leader, Dr. Beverly Witter Du Gas made contributions to nursing in a multitude of areas. She graduated from Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing, and then received her bachelor of arts from the University of B.C., a master of nursing from University of Washington, and a doctorate in education from UBC.

She started her career as a nursing instructor, then director, of the VGH School of Nursing. She began writing nursing textbooks during this time, and her first of several major texts was Fundamentals of Patient Care in 1967. Few Canadian nurses have graduated without exposure to one or more of them, including Nursing Foundations: A Canadian Perspective, second edition, published in 1999.

Major early milestones in her career include positions with Health and Welfare Canada and the World Health Organization. She served on the faculty of the University Of Ottawa School Of Nursing, her last two years as Acting Associate Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Director of the School.

Following retirement, she carried out international consultancies for WHO and was an invited scholar, working in China, the Philippines, and Hong Kong. She served as a consultant for the establishment of the Guru Nanak College of Nursing in India. She received the Order of B.C. in 2000 and the Order of Canada, the highest honour in this country, in August 2001. A strong supporter of history of nursing, she was founding president of the B.C. History of Nursing Society. She died November 22, 2012.





## Carol Mae Acton

1944 - 2021

Carol was born in Strathroy, Ontario to parents Ada and Ernest Orville. She lived on the family farm just south of Watford, attended the local Watford High School, and later graduated from the Victoria Hospital School of Nursing in London, Ontario in 1966. After moving to Vancouver, BC, Carol worked at St. Paul's Hospital as a staff nurse and head nurse on surgical units. Carol advanced her career by completing both her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1974 and Master of Science in Nursing in 1987 at the University of British Columbia. Following her master's degree, Carol worked as Director of Care at the GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre, then as Patient Services Manager at UBC Hospital for medical units, and later moved to Vancouver General Hospital.

Carol was a nursing leader who knew where she was going and what the change involved, and she invited others to join her journey. In 1999, Carol became the first Patient Services Manager for the ACE (Acute Care for Elders) units at VGH. Carol's ACE journey began when she led a restructuring process that changed three family practice units (64 beds and more than 100 staff), becoming the subacute medical and ACE units, and also established the ACE Committee where staff could share ideas about the new unit. On the ACE Committee, Carol inspired people to join into an innovative model based on research and shared purpose, greater involvement in decision making, and ultimately fostered collaborations between nursing, medicine, and interdisciplinary teams. Each person felt valued for their contribution. As well, Carol actively demonstrated that a collaborative approach best contributed to quality, patient-centered care. She led the ACE Committee towards consensus in philosophy and mandate, which at that time was almost revolutionary! Carol supported the team to work towards shared outcomes by trusting the process. Despite challenges, Carol remained positive while supporting, respecting, and assisting each nurse to make decisions based on their values and best interests. Carol cared deeply for the individual circumstances of all nurses and did everything she could to help them with their concerns while, at the same time, upholding professional standards and collective agreements. She was committed to the value of each nurse, the quality of work life, and professional nursing practice. Carol had a great sense of humour which she used to lighten situations and to convey appreciation. The ACE unit remains at VGH today, a model for elder care in Canada and around the world and it is a genuine tribute to Carol's nursing legacy.

Carol was also deeply committed to St. Andrews Wesley United Church and contributed her gifts to just about every committee and volunteer position from ministry and personnel, pastoral care, camp spirit, the music library and representing the church at presbytery, and much more. When Carol retired from nursing in 2002, she volunteered for the Red Cross and First United. Her kindness and generosity were widely shared. Carol left a legacy to St. Andrews Wesley United Church, UBC School of Nursing and the Registered Nurses Foundation of B.C.

Carol had a zest for life – she enjoyed worldwide travel and maintained strong friendships and professional connections.



## Charlotte (Scharley) P. (Wright) Bryce Brown

1879 - 1944

In 1912, Charlotte (Scharley) P. Wright was instrumental in bringing together 68 nurses from Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster, and Kamloops to organize the Graduate Nurses Association of British Columbia, forerunner of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia. She was the association's first president and one of the dedicated group of B.C. nurses who lobbied and worked for registration for B.C. nurses. When the Nurses (Registered) Act passed in 1918, the RNABC gave her the honor of Registered Nurse #1.

Born in Toronto June 1, 1879, she took her nursing education at Farrand Training School, Harper Hospital, Detroit, graduating in 1904. Although little is known about her early career, she moved to New Westminster and about 1908 became that city's first School Nurse when the move to public health nursing began.

She was third president of what is now the Canadian Nurses Association, holding office from 1914 to 1917, during which time she married. Issues prominent during her term of office were purchase of The Canadian Nurse, incorporation of the Canadian National Association for Trained Nurses (as CNA was called at that time), affiliation with the Canadian National Council of Women, and support for nursing care and the war effort in World War I. She also served as matron of a military hospital in Alberta with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Nursing Corps until the end of the war. As was typical of nurses of her era, she retired from active nursing following her marriage, but remained active in local health care issues in New Westminster throughout her life. She died June 9, 1944.



## Christine Charter

1913 - 2012

Christine Charter, a former director of the Vancouver Branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses and BC's VON regional director, died in Vancouver in 2012 at age 99. She was born in England, and the family immigrated to New Brunswick when she was 14. She took basic nursing education at St. John's General Hospital and public health nursing at University of Toronto.

Miss Charter's career with VON dated from the Great Depression in a small Nova Scotia community. There, during World War II, she helped doctors set up an emergency "hospital" in the basement of a school to care for injured crew of ships attacked by German Uboats; these survivors suffered severe burns, and frostbite during rescue in small boats in frigid weather.

She was transferred to Toronto in 1942, then to Vancouver in 1944 as assistant director of the Unit and later became BC's regional director. During this time, Miss Charter worked closely with schools of nursing to ensure as many students as possible had VON field experience.

She introduced many innovative home-nursing and home-care programs, including an early program to allow 11 male quadriplegic patients to move from hospital to a home setting. To do so, the Vancouver branch hired the Order's first male registered nurse and added physio- and occupational therapy services. She also set up Vancouver's Meals on Wheels program. She retired in 1976 but remained a lifelong supporter of community health nursing, VON board member, and volunteer with her church, especially in support of programs for the homeless.



## Claire Budgen

1946 - 2017

Dr. Claire Budgen was committed to excellence throughout her career as a nurse clinician, educator and researcher. Her unwavering dedication to the campus and community health movement defined her life and career. Prior to her death in January 2017, she was an Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing in the Faculty of Health and Social Development at the University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBC-O) Campus.

Throughout her career, Dr. Budgen provided visionary and innovative leadership in mental health, nursing education and in promoting the health and well-being of campus communities. She dedicated her work at UBC-O and Okanagan College to educating and inspiring others and was instrumental in improving the health and wellness of the Okanagan campus community through her roles as Director of Campus Health and Wellness, Principal Investigator with the Campus Health VOICE project, and most recently as Campus Lead for UBC's Wellbeing Initiative.

Through this work, Dr. Budgen was a driving force within Canada and internationally in bringing forth a vision for developing post-secondary institutions that not only foster and role model healthy communities internally, but help shape healthy societies as well. The impact of her work has been far reaching and extended beyond the Okanagan community into provincial, national and international arenas. As Chair of the International Conference on Health Promoting Universities and Colleges in 2015, Dr. Budgen brought together delegates from 45 countries as well as representatives from the World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). During and following this meeting, she played an instrumental role in producing the International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges, known internationally as the Okanagan Charter. This Charter calls upon post-secondary schools to embed health into all aspects of campus culture and to lead health promotion action and collaboration locally and globally. The Charter is an important part of Dr. Budgen's legacy and will serve to motivate and energize all who are concerned about health promotion in Canada and around the world for years to come.



## Clara (Kwan) Lim

1890 - 1973

Clara Kwan was born in Revelstoke in 1916 and entered the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) School of Nursing in 1939. She chose nursing, as it was “a place to get a good education during the Depression.” She was the third Chinese student to enter the School. (Her older sister, who graduated from Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing, was the first Chinese nurse to graduate from a B.C. school of nursing.) Clara graduated in 1941 at the head of her class and came first in the provincial registered nurse examinations.

Following graduation, she did general-duty nursing then became evening, night and day supervisor of the Private Ward Pavilion, VGH. During this time she took a nursing administration course at the University of Toronto and was invited to sit on the committee planning Centennial Pavilion. Shortly after it opened, Clara was put in charge of Medical-Surgical and Emergency Nursing with responsibility for 500 patients and 290 registered nurses. She was instrumental in the opening of the Intensive Care and the Coronary Care units at the hospital—the first ones in B.C. Because these units were new, classes were organized to teach nurses critical care nursing. In order to keep abreast of all of these changes, Clara attended night school and took clinical nursing courses. Later on she became Supervisor of Centennial Pavilion. In 1981, she retired after spending more than 30 years at VGH.

During her lifetime, she was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the Chinese Benevolent Association. She was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Richmond Lions Manor, Governor of B.C. Addiction Research & Rehabilitation Association and member of the Board of the Registered Nurses Foundation of B.C. For this work, and her dedication to the nursing profession, in 1977 she was awarded the Queen’s 25th Anniversary Commemorative Medal and in 1979, she was honoured as a Member of the Order of Canada. In 1992, she was awarded the Governor General’s Medal. After her retirement in 1981, Clara became an active member of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association, serving as President for six years.

According to close friend and classmate Nettie Burge, Clara loved to dance and was addicted to playing mahjong. She married Ken Lim and they had one daughter. She spent the last year of her life in the Purdy Pavilion at UBC.

Clara Lim died on June 29, 2001.



## Cynthia Stutzer

1952 - 2018

Cindy Stutzer was born and raised in New Jersey, obtaining her BSN from the University of Delaware in 1974 and her MS from the University of Oklahoma in 1986. Cindy held nursing positions in Virginia, New York City and Oklahoma City from 1974-1986 prior to moving to Vancouver and obtaining her Registered Nurses License in BC. In 1987 Cindy began the role of Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Oncology, Hematology Blood & Marrow Transplant program at British Columbia Children’s Hospital. In this role, which Cindy maintained for her entire career in British Columbia, she was a clinical nursing leader and contributor to the nursing community particularly in the field of pediatric oncology nursing.

Cindy held a joint appointment as Adjunct Faculty in the UBC School of Nursing, teaching, mentoring and supporting graduate and undergraduate nursing students. In 1995 she received an Award of Excellence for Nursing Practice from the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia and in 2010 Cindy received the Award of Distinction in Nursing from the College of Registered Nurses of BC. Cindy was an instrumental nursing leader in pediatric pain management, bereavement, pediatric palliative care and end of life care, acting as a consultant in issues relating to pediatric oncology at the hospital, regional, provincial, national and international levels advancing nursing practice through research, presentations and publications.

Cindy’s contributions reached across British Columbia as she participated with the Provincial Pediatric Oncology Network to create levels of service for pediatric oncology nursing care in communities outside of Vancouver by enabling community partners in hospitals and care settings to have the knowledge and skills to care for children with cancer in their own communities. In the field of pediatric palliative care Cindy’s contributions excelled as she developed policy and advocated for improved care and seamless transition for children at the end of their lives. Cindy also participated in a national initiative to improve end of life care in developing education for health care providers. She was a Pediatric Trainer with the End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) and was a contributor to the Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses (APHON) Palliative Care Guidelines. In 2015 Cindy was awarded the Dr. Casey Hooke Distinguished Service Award for her demonstrated excellence in service and leadership to APHON.

Cindy captured professionalism in all aspects of her career as she taught and contributed to nursing research and in numerous publications with her wealth of both theoretical and practical knowledge in pediatric oncology nursing. She leaves a legacy for the next generation of nurses who will benefit from her clinical expertise, passion for practice, and unwavering commitment to mentoring and teaching. Her kindness, knowledge, strength and respected listening and communications skills are valued and respected by all those who were fortunate to know and work with her.





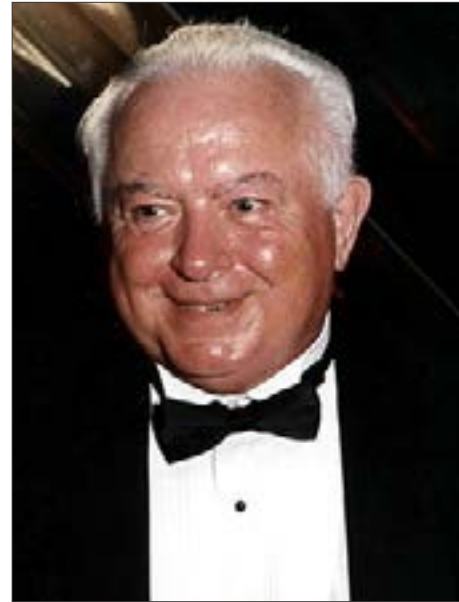
## David John Davies

1936 - 2016

David graduated from Prestwich Hospital, England as an RPN in 1962 and obtained his RN at Bury General Hospital in 1965. He immigrated to Canada in 1966 and registered as an RPN. David was employed as a Nurse 1 at Riverview Hospital in the North Lawn Unit. He was a Post Graduate Student at Royal Columbian Hospital during which time he was promoted to a Nurse 4 Supervisor, then a Clinical Nurse 4. During this period, David was responsible for the orientation program for new staff and students and Instructor in the Mental Health Education Services Department. He was an Administrative Assistant Nurse 5, Special Projects Officer and a Human Resources Instructor until his early retirement in November 1993.

During his career at Riverview he attended the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) studying Labour relations and Research. He also attended Simon Fraser University (SFU) where he studied Commerce, Economics, Philosophy and Linguistics and also undertook study at the University of British Columbia (UBC) where he studied Statistics and Nursing Research.

David set a high standard of commitment, compassionate care and advocacy for the mentally ill and was held in high regard by staff and served as a founding member of the Riverview Hospital Historical Committee, a group of staff dedicated to preserving the history of the hospital. David also contributed to numerous articles which highlighted his passion and commitment to mental health care and services.



## Donelda Joan (Ellis) Parker

1936 - 2022

Donelda Joan Parker (nee Knight) was born in 1936, in Meaford, Ontario. She chose an innovative, "two years plus one" nurse intern program at the Atkinson School of Nursing, Toronto Western Hospital. This program was composed of two years of mostly classroom learning and related clinical, followed by one year of clinical nursing, including one month at a Red Cross Outpost. On Graduation, she enrolled in the two-year degree program at the University of Western Ontario (now just 'Western') where she focused on nursing education.

On completion of the degree program, Donelda moved to Edmonton where she was employed as the Nursing Supervisor-Instructor in the Maternity Department at University Hospital. That position included teaching at the University of Alberta Hospital School of Nursing as well as being the nursing supervisor on the hospital maternity ward. She moved with her family to Vancouver and studied public health nursing at the University of British Columbia (UBC) from 1972-73 and subsequently worked in Vancouver for a year as a public health nurse. The family traveled to Nigeria for two years and Donelda took the position of Acting Principal of the School of Nursing at Wusasa Hospital, a Church of England-established school. That position involved both administration and classroom teaching.

In 1976, the family settled back in Vancouver, and Donelda commenced study in the MSN program at UBC. On completion, she became a member of the UBC School of Nursing Faculty (1978) and taught maternal and infant nursing (classroom and clinical), international nursing, and communication; she also conducted research, particularly related to breastfeeding.

To employ some of her international experience, she was one of a small team from the UBC School of Nursing to make two overseas visits to Punjab, India, to teach the faculty in a school of nursing there (Guru Nanak College of Nursing). Also in her international experience was a year on sabbatical in Canberra, Australia where she wrote up research and taught in the School of Nursing in the Australia Advanced Education College.

Over the years, Donelda had also studied and completed the examinations to become an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), and practiced that one morning a week for a number of years in a Breastfeeding Clinic. In addition, she continued this IBCLC practice for two years after her retirement from the School of Nursing faculty in 1999. After retirement, she was also the instigator and chair of a pilot study to initiate a Parish Nurse program in her church (Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver).

Donelda passed away in Vancouver on October 20th, 2022 at the age of 86.



## Donna M. Higenbottam

1943 - 2016

Donna was born in North Battleford, Saskatchewan where she completed high school and entered the Psychiatric Nursing Program at the Saskatchewan Hospital, graduating at the top of her class. Donna then embarked on a long and very successful career as a psychiatric nurse, nurse leader and educator. Early in her career, she moved to Kamloops where she was rapidly promoted to a Night Supervisor, then to Victoria where she was hired as an Assistant Director of Nursing. She then returned to Saskatchewan Hospital where she became their Director of Nursing, followed by a return to B.C. where she worked as an educator and Assistant Director of Nursing at Riverview Hospital. Donna then took a position in Victoria as a psychiatric nursing consultant and educator for the BC Ministry of Health. After retiring from this position, she became the Registrar for the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of BC (CRPNBC).

Donna was always known as a wonderful role model for her family as well as her colleagues and could also be tenacious and firm when required. Her years in nursing were exemplified by strong professionalism and a commitment to her profession and those with whom she worked and served.



## Dorothy Byers Logan

1926 - 1995

Dorothy Byers Logan was born in New Brunswick on October 16, 1926. The family moved to Vancouver where Dorothy later enrolled in the Nursing Program at the University of British Columbia. At the time, the program was a combination of two years of university, three years at the Vancouver General Hospital, and a final year of university. Dorothy's choice for her final year was teaching and supervision, which earned her the degree of Bachelor of Applied Science (Nursing). While she was a student, Dorothy served on the executive of the Nursing Undergraduate Society. Her classmates found her to be competent, pragmatic and very supportive of both patients and colleagues.

After graduation in 1950, Dorothy returned to the Maritimes to join the teaching staff at St. John General Hospital where she worked until she married Gordon Logan in 1956. They returned to B.C. in 1956 where Dorothy joined the teaching staff at the Vancouver General Hospital. In 1973, Dorothy became the Director of Nursing Education, a position she occupied until her retirement in 1986. During these years, she was active in both the VGH and UBC nursing alumnae, and served on a wide variety of committees of health and nursing education organizations where she was welcomed for her progressive and innovative ideas.

Following retirement, Dorothy continued to be active in nursing affairs, the alumnae and in scholarship matters. She contributed greatly toward the advancement of the nursing profession. In 1986, Dorothy was honoured by receiving a Life Membership in the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association. In 1987, she was made an Honourary Member of the RNABC. In 1989, she received the UBC Nursing Division Award of Distinction.

A daughter, Sandy, was born in 1966 and the family shared interests in many outdoor activities - skiing, boating, fishing, swimming - as well as travelling and a retreat on Bowen Island.

Dorothy will be remembered by many whose lives she influenced over the years she was involved in nursing and in her community. She had integrity and compassion, and she served as a mentor, role model, leader and friend. She will be remembered with admiration and respect. A scholarship in memory of this special person has been established at UBC.

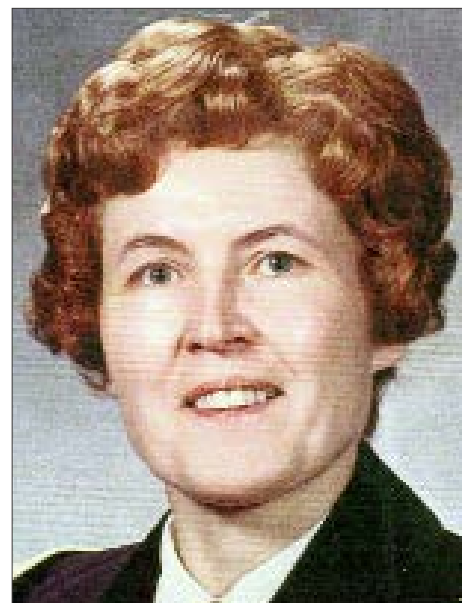


## Edith Landells Lees

1922 - 2004

Edith Landells Lees' three-volume set of *The Military Nurses of Canada: Recollections of Military Nurses* will stand for many decades as one of the most significant and valuable histories of Canadian nursing.

Born and raised in Alberta, Edith Landells graduated in nursing in 1944 and immediately joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. Such service was a family tradition; Edith's aunt served as a Nursing Sister in World War I. Besides, an older brother was serving in the Navy. Although the war ended shortly after Edith enlisted, she worked in military hospitals in Canada, on an Australian cargo ship transporting war brides, and then in the Royal Canadian Navy. When the Korean War broke out (1950-1953), she joined the United States Army Corps - the start of a long and distinguished career as a U.S. military nurse and senior officer, including service in Vietnam and Cambodia.



Following retirement, she moved to B.C. and joined the B.C. History of Nursing Group. She decided to collect the personal reminiscences of Canadian military nurses, a highly ambitious and complex project as she attempted to get in touch with every living Canadian Nursing Sister. With dedicated determination, she contracted nurses and families and urged them to write first-hand stories and personal memories and to loan photographs and memorabilia. As well, she wrote or found authors for background histories of Canadian military nursing from the Riel Rebellion of 1887 to Canadian nursing support in the 1990s in Somalia and the Persian Gulf.

Edith compiled, edited, and arranged these stories and, in 1995, financed and published a 628-page book that contained the personal stories of 218 nursing sisters, with background maps and hundreds of photographs showing nurses in everyday working roles both during war and peacetime. More stories arrived, and in 1999 she compiled them into two more superb volumes, with updated and improved background material. Proceeds from the books were given to the Canadian Nurses Foundation. Edith turned mentor and advisor to many nursing and non-nursing researchers pursuing history of military nursing and is responsible for increased interest in and awareness of Canadian nursing military history.

She died January 13, 2004; her legacy as a nursing historian will live on.

## Eleanor Scott Graham

1914 - 1978

Eleanor Graham was executive director of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (RNABC) from 1960 – 1970. She enjoyed a varied and interesting nursing career in Canada and Asia. Her career included public health nursing, clinical nursing supervisor, nursing instructor, nursing administration, executive director and international consultant.

In 1959, Eleanor began her tenure at RNABC as assistant to the director. She travelled throughout the province to meet nurses in their working environments. In 1960, she was appointed executive secretary; this position was renamed executive director at the annual general meeting in 1969. The responsibilities of directing the business of the RNABC increased tremendously from 1959 – 1970, total membership increasing from 7,746 to 12,770 and staff increasing from 3 to 11 persons. She retired in 1970.

She was born in 1914 in New Westminster, British Columbia. She graduated from high school with honours and scholarship in French. Her fluency in French served her well throughout her career. She graduated from the University of British Columbia and Vancouver General Schools of Nursing in 1936. In 1945, she obtained a Master of Science (Supervision and Administration) from the University of Chicago.

She began her nursing career as a staff nurse with the British Columbia Health Service and she worked as a member of the Metropolitan Health Committee. She served in various areas of the province, first as supervisor of the Cowichan Health Centre, then as senior nurse at the Prince Rupert Health Unit. She spent 1940 in Powell River establishing the first public health service in that community. She nursed in Tranquille from 1942 – 1944.

After obtaining her masters degree, Eleanor's career expanded. She served as second assistant to the Victoria Order of Nurses in Ottawa, and a nursing instructor at the Metropolitan School of Nursing in Windsor. She returned to B.C. to become director of nursing of the Royal Columbian Hospital from 1949 to 1953.

Eleanor's international career began in 1953 when she accepted a position with the World Health Organization (WHO) as regional nursing advisor for South-East Asia. She held this position until 1958. She worked out of the regional office in New Delhi, travelling extensively throughout India. She worked with government officials, at the national level, to plan WHO projects in the countries of South-East Asia.

Following retirement, Eleanor accepted a commissions with WHO in Maldives, India. She died April 16, 1978 at her cottage on Horsefly Lake near Williams Lake, B.C.





### Elizabeth G. Breeze

1888 - 1938

Elizabeth Breeze was Vancouver's first school nurse (1910), then supervisor of the city's growing school nurse program, then (1923) director of nursing for the Vancouver City Public Health Department, then (1937) director of nursing for the newly-formed Metropolitan Health Committee of Greater Vancouver. She was well known across Canada as an extraordinary force in the movement to educate the public about better health, especially through education in the schools.

A graduate of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, she took post-graduate training at Roosevelt Hospital, New York City and later at University of California. Throughout her career, she was active in professional nursing and public health associations. A founding member, in 1912, of the Graduate Nurses Association of B.C. (Later the Registered Nurses Association of B.C.), she was almost continuously a member of the executive throughout her career, serving as president from 1921-1923. She also was president of the Public Health Nursing Section of the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses (later Canadian Nurses Association) and active on the executive of the B.C. and Canadian Public Health Associations.

In 1925, she introduced a course on health for school children at the University of B.C.'s summer school for teachers. A culmination of her career was her book, *Health Essentials for Canadian Schools* (Boston/Toronto: Ginn & Co., c1938), co-authored with J. Mace Andress. This text for high school students was part of a popular "Canadian Hygiene Series" and was in use for more than 20 years after her death.



### Elsie ("Rannie") McLeod Ransom

1896 - 2000

"She was always a nurse with an amazing, inquiring mind, and she was very loved by family and friends," writes the daughter of Elsie McLeod Ransom. Mrs. Ransom lived a long and full life, serving as a honorary Stampede Parade Marshall in Williams Lake in her 95th year. Born in a log home on a ranch south of Kamloops to Scottish parents, both she and an older sister wanted to be nurses. Elsie McLeod, as the youngest daughter, remained at home looking after her father and an unmarried brother until the brother married. She then, at age 28, entered St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver and graduated in 1927.

She immediately accepted a position at the Mayo General Hospital in the Yukon. She met and married Percival Ransom, and their son and daughter were born there. They left Mayo in 1933 – the Depression years – and she managed to obtain a position at Tranquille Tuberculosis Hospital, near Kamloops. Because she needed to live in residence at Tranquille, her family stayed in Kamloops with her eldest sister. Nicknamed "Rannie" by patients and staff, she was supervisor on the 2nd floor of the Greaves Building at Tranquille, but stayed with her family on days off and during vacations. When Tranquille closed as a TB sanatorium in 1958, she transferred to the TB unit of the Provincial Mental Hospital at Essondale until she could receive her pension in 1961.

Following "retirement," however, she continued to "special" (private duty nursing) at the Royal Inland Hospital and was much in demand. A younger nursing colleague recalled that Elsie Ransom had been an active member in the 1950s and 1960s in the Kamloops Chapter of the RNABC.

After a spell of living with her daughter following a second retirement, she took a long trip to England and Germany, then purchased a home for herself at Little Shuswap Lake. In later years, she moved to live with her son in Williams Lake. She was an avid sports fan, enjoyed making bread and preserves, and was skilled in several handicrafts. In 1999, she was the honorary parade marshall for the Williams Lake Stampede Parade. When her 100th birthday was publicized, she was sent a note by a former patient from Tranquille who had been especially touched by her kindness and care back in 1956.

She had two children, six granddaughters, 16 great grandchildren, and one great-great grandson when she died at age 104 years on October 16, 2000.





## Emily Susan Branscombe Patterson

1835 - 1909

Emily Susan Patterson is commonly known as the first lay nurse midwife in Vancouver. This depiction disregards native women healers and other lay nurses who may have been in the community and not had their history recorded.

Patterson and her family came to Hastings Mill in April 1873. She and her husband, John Peabody Patterson, came from Maine and went first to Stamp's Mill at Port Alberni. They were parents of the first white child born there, a daughter, Alice born February 26, 1874. Patterson and her husband came from Maine and travelled to New York, San Francisco and China after they married. Once at Hasting's Mill, and later at Moodyville, they were both deeply involved in the life of the community. John Patterson as ill supervisor, Emily as nurse midwife. Their lifestyle was consistent with the community's elite of the time. The Patterson's four children made up the necessary complement for the opening of the first public school. A minimum of 15 children were needed and Adelaide Patterson, aged four, made up that number.

Pioneer settlers told of Patterson's willingness to care for white settlers and natives alike in their burgeoning community. The closest hospital was the Royal Columbian in New Westminster. Patterson was midwife, delivering babies and caring for families, accident victims, and those with infections and other common illnesses. She is described as fearless in her response to suture lacerated, drunken settlers, or travel by canoe at night, from Moodyville to Point Atkinson, to tend the wife of the lighthouse keeper. A poem "The Heroine Of Moodyville" published in Chatelaine magazine in June, 1936 recounted her exploits. Patterson nursed in Moodyville where they moved in 1874.

The dedication to a stained glass window in Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver, "To nurses in Vancouver from 1873 to 1954" was placed to commemorate Emily Eliza Edwardes Matthews, but also recognizes Patterson as the first nurse in Vancouver. Emily Susan Patterson died 12 November 1909 and is buried in Mountain View cemetery.



## Esther Irene Paulson

1906 - 2004

Esther Irene Paulson was born in New Westminster, BC in 1906. She graduated in 1928 from the Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing. Her first position was a staff nurse in the Tuberculosis building, Royal Columbian Hospital and later ward supervisor. In 1930 she earned a post-graduate certificate in obstetrical nursing from the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and in 1934, a diploma in public health nursing from the University of British Columbia. In 1935, she was appointed to the Welfare Field Service, which combined services of Public Health Nursing and Social Welfare.

In 1940, Esther joined the Vancouver Metropolitan Health Committee and in 1943 was appointed Director of Nursing for the Vancouver Hospital and Chest Clinic. In 1944, she was appointed Provincial Director of Nursing for the Division of TB control, overseeing nursing care for patients in Vancouver, Victoria and Tranquille. Thus began her memorable career in the field of TB nursing that was to continue until she retired in 1966. When Pearson a new TB hospital opened in 1952, she was appointed Director of Nursing while continuing to act as Nursing Consultant for the Division of TB control.

Esther was involved in professional nursing throughout her career. She was an active member of the RNABC, holding offices of secretary, Vice President and President from 1951-1957. In recognition of her management in TB nursing in Canada, she received the Centennial Medal and Honorary Life Membership in the Canadian Lung Association.

Esther was a noteworthy writer. She published articles on TB nursing, poliomyelitis and nursing issues. During her retirement she continued to write historical articles, such as the History of the Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing and biographies on many prominent BC Nurses. One cannot talk about Esther without mentioning her incredible memory and her ability to recall accurately names and events long forgotten by most of us. This was an exceptional gift.

Esther Paulson was an honorary member of the BC History of Nursing Group. She died January 2, 2004 after a brief illness.



## Evelyn Hood

1912 - 1999

Evelyn Hood was born on the 28th of May, 1912 in Cadomin, a mining town in Alberta. Cadomin became a ghost town as the mining in that area petered out, the mines closed and the town ceased to exist. She attended the University of Alberta in a general arts program thinking of entering law. She excelled in Mathematics and during her first year she won a prize in mathematics, a collection of math books. However, she switched to the nursing program and graduated in 1936.

Evelyn worked as a private duty nurse for several years and as a staff nurse at the Vancouver General Hospital for a year until she went abroad in the fall of 1939 to nurse in London, England. In the summer of 1940, Evelyn went to the United States where she continued nursing in Olympia and Vancouver, Washington and graduated from a diploma program in public health nursing at the University of Washington.

Evelyn returned to Vancouver in the fall of 1946 and worked as a public health nurse until she joined the staff of the RNABC in August, 1951. The Association's labor relations program had begun in 1946 with the appointment of a Select Committee on Labor Relations and the start of a campaign to educate all members on the need for organized employer-employee relations.

Miss Alice Wright, then executive secretary, carried out the labor relations duties along with her other responsibilities. When Miss Hood took over the labor relations work, the RNABC was the certified bargaining agent for 1,200 British Columbia nurses. Although British Columbia nurses were at first reluctant to become involved in collective bargaining, once action was taken it led the way for nurses across Canada.

Miss Hood's expertise in the labor field was recognized in 1964 with her appointment to the Canadian Nurses Association Committee on Social and Economic Welfare. In 1966, she began a two-year term as chairperson of the national committee. She won a well-deserved national reputation in the labor relations field while serving as director of personnel services for the RNABC from 1951 until her retirement in the 1st of June 1970. The focus of her work was on salaries and working conditions for nurses.

Evelyn Hood received the first ever Award of Merit presented by the RNABC on May 26, 1972, two years after her retirement in recognition of her stellar contribution to labor relations for the nursing profession in British Columbia and Canada.

Following her retirement, Evelyn physically built her own house at 23rd Avenue and Arbutus and continued to enjoy golf, gardening and growing vegetables. A serious accident while crossing Arbutus street left Evelyn with serious arm and leg injuries.

Evelyn Hood died on 20 December 1999 in Vancouver.



## Flora Amelia Ross

1842 - 1897

Flora Amelia Ross was the child of a fur-trade family. Her father was chief trader for the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort McLoughlin (Bella Bella, B.C.) and later at Fort Victoria (Victoria) and her mother was the daughter of a trader and an Ojibwa woman. In October 1872 Flora began her work at what was then called the "Provincial Lunatic Asylum" (PLA and most recently known as the Woodland School when it closed in the 1990's) where she was appointed matron of the women's ward. In 1878 the PLA was moved to New Westminster, B.C.

After this move to New Westminster, Flora faced great obstacles in her position primarily because she was a woman. In spite of near constant challenges and harassment, she continued as matron of the women's ward and by 1893 she had four assistant matrons and 41 patients under her care. Entirely self-taught on the subject of mental health, she maintained her ward efficiently engaging patients in a variety of household tasks, organizing regular dances, games and long walks on the PLA grounds. When a new medical superintendent was appointed in 1895, he described the women's ward as the "one bright spot" in the PLA and looked forward to the day when male patients would receive the kind of care Flora gave to her patients. In 1897 Ross became ill with cancer and her final request was that she be allowed to die at the PLA, which had been the focus of her life for a quarter century.



## Frances Ellen Benedict

1902 - 1997

Frances Benedict was born 11 July 1902, the oldest child of O.W. and Sarah Benedict. The family came from Brantford, Ontario. Later, she and her family moved to Vancouver where Frances continued her schooling at King Edward High School. She graduated from the University of British Columbia with a B.A. in 1923 (a member of the Great Trekkers class), and the next year she took teachers' training at UBC and the Normal School. Frances taught English, French and history at high schools in Matsqui, Abbotsford, Penticton and Kamloops.

After working as a teacher, Frances decided to fulfill a long-held dream of becoming a nurse. She graduated with a diploma from St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing in 1936. She obtained the highest standing in the province in the registered nurse examinations, and the Sisters at St. Paul's immediately recruited her to join their teaching staff. She taught nursing arts and history of nursing, and she remained a teaching staff member until she was made director of nursing education, a position she held from 1942-1946.

Seeking a change, she joined the teaching staff at the Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing in New Westminster, B.C. in 1946. A year later, she went to Montreal and worked as a general duty nurse and supervisor at Children's Hospital. On the way back West, she stopped in Dauphin, Manitoba where she taught at the school of nursing and supervised on the wards. In 1949, she returned to the Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing as an instructor and then as director of nursing education. During her tenure in this position, there was a three-fold increase in the school's enrollment and similar increases in hospital admissions, employment and in service facilities. Her involvement in the teaching program of the UBC School of Nursing was sought and she served as honorary clinical instructor from 1959 until she retired, assuming responsibility for the teaching experiences of baccalaureate nursing students. Frances Benedict was known for her understanding and caring for nursing students, for her teaching and supervisory abilities, and as an advocate for nursing students and faculty. She retired in 1969.

Frances Benedict believed in her professional associations. She was active as a member and executive officer of the New Westminster Chapter and served on education committees for RNABC and the Canadian Nurses Association. She was a member and chair of the "instructor's group," a forerunner of today's professional practice group.

Frances Benedict died 7 September 1997.



## Frances Ulva McQuarrie

1914 - 1995

Frances McQuarrie was born in New Westminster in 1914 and graduated with a nursing degree from the University of BC in 1936. Following graduation, she held several responsible positions at the Vancouver General Hospital before joining U.N.R.R.A., the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency. While there, she assisted in the care of displaced persons in North Africa and Italy. When she returned to BC in 1946, she became involved with the Canadian Vocational Training Plan, a program to prepare ex-service personnel for their return to civilian life. This innovative program provided training for women who wished to seek employment in hospitals. The RNABC became an active partner in this venture, and Frances was hired to develop an educational program. She taught the classes and arranged clinical placements. This course continued from 1946-1948 and was the precursor of what would later become the practical nursing course at the Vancouver Vocational Institute.

In 1948, Frances left BC and for the next four years was with the School of Nursing at the University of Alberta. Following this, she joined the staff of the Canadian Nurses Association national office as Assistant Secretary. She returned to BC in 1957 to take a position as Assistant Registrar and later Registrar of RNABC. This appointment ended around 1968. Shortly after, she suffered a devastating stroke which left her dependent on hospital care for the next 25 years. She died in hospital on May 13, 1995.

Frances McQuarrie is remembered for her contribution to nursing at the provincial, national and international levels.





## Gertrude Weimer - Sister Mary Gertrude of Jesus, S.S.A.

1873 - 1914

As a young woman, Gertrude Weimer left her home in Holland to serve in the Pacific Northwest.

As a Sister of Saint Ann, in 1896 she was assigned to St. Joseph's Hospital (opened in 1876) in Victoria, B.C., where she worked with eminent doctors. She listened closely, observed carefully, obeyed scrupulously. In 1900, she was asked to found St. Joseph's School of Nursing (1900-1981) in connection with St. Joseph's Hospital. She continued her hospital presence amid the doctors and among the patients, even as she assumed her new duties as Directress of the School of Nursing, a position she held for 12 years.

Expenditure on books being restricted, she could not get any texts; consequently, she taught from experience. Having no books, she created a course of studies by jotting down nursing principles as best she could, in the odd moments when her various hospital duties allowed it. After finishing her first manuscript course, she submitted it to the doctors, who approved it with many commendations.

She was a nurse, author, and model lecturer in her methodology and delivery of lessons. Her lectures stressed the motto: "Duty and today are ours; results and futurity are God's."

A Victoria physician said at a public dinner: "If Sister Mary Gertrude were to take an examination with the medical men of the Province, I am sure she would carry off the highest average."

At the time of her death, her manuscripts for a three-year course of nursing studies had been tested in successive classes and were ready for publication. But as there was no one person who could replace her as lecturer, the course of studies was divided among several doctors, who lectured in her stead. The publication of her manuscripts became useless.

Doctor J. Helmcken voiced public sentiment at the nurses' graduation exercises shortly after her death: "There is one name I must mention, that of the best little woman in the world, that of the best teacher nurses ever had or can have...Sister Mary Gertrude of Jesus."



## Gwendolynne (Gwen) Eyton Jones Kavanagh

1945 - 2001

Gwendolynne (Gwen) Kavanagh served several terms as Member-at-Large and Director for the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. A warm person, she cared deeply for her family, patients, and profession. She was an exemplary role model for professionalism in nursing.

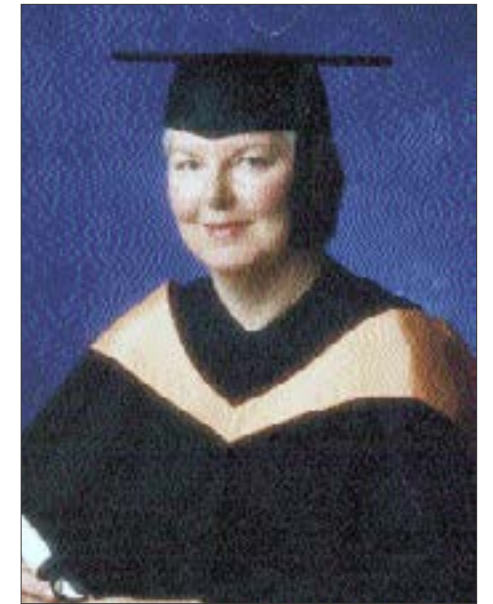
Born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Gwen Jones was received her schooling there and in Burnaby, B.C. She graduated from the Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing in New Westminster, B.C., in the class of 1967. Her mother and her aunt were also Royal Columbian graduates. After graduation, she worked as one of the first nurses in the Intensive Care Nursery at Vancouver General Hospital. She married Pat Kavanagh in June 1969, and they lived and worked in Vancouver until 1972. Subsequently they moved to Kelowna where Gwen worked at the Kelowna General Hospital for six months before they settled in Kamloops in 1972.

Gwen was a registered nurse at Royal Inland Hospital 22 years in both a full-time and part-time capacities as she raised her family. She was an active member of the RNABC locally and provincially, serving on the executive of the Kamloops Chapter for many years and attending annual meetings as a voting delegate. Subsequently elected as a Director-at-Large, she raised her voice formally on behalf of nurses in the District. In addition, she was a member of the RNABC's History of Nursing Professional Practice Group and enjoyed collecting historical information from local retired nurses.

In 1989, Gwen started taking courses at the University College of the Cariboo and completed her nursing degree in 1992. She was an advocate for life-long learning for nurses and was grateful for completing her baccalaureate degree in her home town. She believed in decreasing the barriers that prevent many registered nurses from taking further education.

For almost 10 years, Gwen battled multiple sclerosis with courage and dignity. She shared the latest information she discovered and she advocated for others. She openly discussed her experiences of living with MS with other nurses and student nurses to enhance their learning and understanding. She had a "way with words" and often wrote letters to the editors and to agencies to influence change.

Gwen loved photography, camping, being at the beach, and reading a good book. She was a Kamloops Blazers Hockey Team fan and enjoyed local Western Canada Theatre productions.





## Heather Kilpatrick

1908 - 2000

Heather Kilpatrick was born in Revelstoke, B.C. in 1908. When she was 15 years old, her family moved to Vancouver. In 1928, she graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Arts. In 1930 she graduated from the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing. A year later she obtained a BASc (Nsg) from UBC and received the B.C. Government Award in Public Health Nursing, a field of work she would pursue for many years. After graduation, she was a staff nurse and later supervisor at the Cowichan Health Centre on Vancouver Island. In 1937, she attended the University of Toronto and graduated with a Masters Degree in Public Health Nursing at a time when few nurses in Canada had such degrees. She was sponsored by the Provincial Board of Health.

One of her outstanding achievements was her appointment as the first Director of Public Health Nursing in B.C. During this time, she instigated many changes such as expanding public health nursing services into new areas of the province, adding preschool immunization programs and well baby clinics to existing school nursing services. She also eliminated non-nursing activities such as transporting children home from school and routine school inspections.

Heather Kilpatrick found time to start a monthly newsletter Public Health Nursing News and Views. This publication provided much needed communication amongst nurses, fostering collegiality and relieving feelings of isolation. She encouraged the public health nurses to attend monthly study sessions that were held during the work week. In 1943, the Public Health Nursing Group — later the Public Health Nursing Council — was formed in response to Heather Kilpatrick's suggestion that concerns should be presented to the Public Health Department by a recognized group rather than by individuals.

In 1945, Heather, along with three other B.C. nurses, joined the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNNRA) and was stationed in Greece. Upon her return to Vancouver in 1946, she was appointed nurse-in-charge of the Outpatient Department at Shaughnessy Hospital. She retired in 1971.

During her retirement, she continued her love of sewing, creating beautiful handicrafts for family members. She was described as friendly and gracious with a wonderful sense of humour.

She maintained a high quality of life and lived independently until her death at 92.



## Helen Shore

1925 - 2020

Helen Shore, retired RN, died November 3, 2020 at the age of 95. Over a long and celebrated career, Helen was recognized as a powerful voice for public health nursing in our province. She began her nursing career in 1946 with an RN diploma from Vancouver General Hospital. Her initial work as a staff nurse in a psychiatric ward was followed by brief periods of work in Bermuda and Calgary, and longer periods at the Royal Columbian Hospital at New Westminster and as a Public Health Nurse for the Vancouver Health Department. She also taught nursing for nine years at the Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing. Helen obtained her BSN from the UBC School of Nursing in 1961, and an MA in adult education in 1971. In 1972 she received a Woodward Foundation award to travel to England to survey health needs of the elderly, and services available to them. Helen was a member of the faculty of the UBC School of Nursing from 1965 to 1990, retiring as Associate Professor Emerita. Over those years, she was actively involved in curriculum innovation both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and became an influential and vocal nurse leader, especially in public health nursing.

Helen was known as a strong advocate for nursing's voice in policy, raising awareness of nursing's important roles in addressing public health problems. Helen was described by her colleagues, friends, admirers, and students as a passionate teacher, high spirited, feisty, loyal, and generous. She was a pioneer and advocate for the nursing profession and patient-centered care, and she recognized the many ways nursing makes contributions to people's lives. In retirement, until very late in life, Helen remained enthusiastically engaged in nursing, helping establish a graduate research award at UBC in public health nursing and contribution funding for a nursing history scholarship. She was actively involved in the Consortium for Nursing History Inquiry in the UBC School of Nursing and was a founding member of the BC History of Nursing Society in 1989, for which she ultimately was named an honorary life member.

Helen was proud of sharing common ancestry with Florence Nightingale (whose father was born a Shore but changed his name as an adult as a condition of inheriting the Nightingale properties). In 2019, she published an illustrated family memoir Shore to Shore: A record of the Shore family of Sheffield, England, to London, Ontario, building on the stories her own father had passed down to her (she had traced relatives back to 1440), and capturing anecdotes that included the Florence Nightingale branch of the family.

Helen's achievements were recognized by many awards throughout her career, including: a Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching (1975); the Nursing Division's UBC Distinguished Alumnae Award (1990); the UBC School of Nursing Partnership Award (2013); the UBC Faculty of Applied Science centennial Dean's Medal (2015); and the UBC School of Nursing Centenary Medal (2019).



## Helen (McCauley) Gemeroy

1912 - 1997

Helen Gemeroy was a leader in developing and expanding the speciality of psychiatric nursing for registered nurses in Canada and in British Columbia. Perhaps the greatest tribute to her comes from the extensive number of nurse educators and nursing leaders who identify her as one of their strongest, most influential mentors. She led by example. She supported, cajoled, and encouraged staff to continue their education. She had warm stoicism, a quiet wit, and a twinkle in her eye. She was a strong woman with a will of her own coupled with a pragmatic belief in others' abilities to overcome obstacles and to achieve success.

Born in Tofield Alberta, she began her professional career as a teacher. After teaching elementary school in rural Alberta for 6 years, she took general and psychiatric nursing education at the provincial mental hospital at Ponoka, Alberta, moving on to a post-basic certificate in psychiatric nursing at the Toronto Psychiatric Hospital and later to a Bachelor of Arts from Sir George Williams and a Master of Arts (Consultation/ Mental Health) from Columbia University.

Her administrative and leadership capabilities were recognized early and she held positions as Assistant Director of Nursing at Ponoka and the University of Alberta Hospital within a year of completing her basic nursing education. She also held administrative positions at the Allen Memorial Institute in Montreal and the Provincial Hospital in Dartmouth, before joining the nursing faculty at McGill. She was a charter member of the Pacific Rim Conference on Mental Health and was a World Health Organization consultant in Taiwan and New Zealand.

Helen first moved to Vancouver to assume the senior nursing leadership position, Assistant Director, of the new University of B.C. Health Sciences Center Hospital with a joint appointment at the UBC School of Nursing. The primary focus of her role was to establish a facility that provided exemplary psychiatric care in an academic environment supportive of the educational needs of students. During her nine-year tenure, she was an inspiration and role model for a new generation of registered nurses who wanted to develop expertise or careers in mental health, psychiatric nursing, nursing management, and professional leadership. She provided such innovative ideas as an all-registered-nurse staff with baccalaureate prepared head nurses, commitment to a theoretical nursing model for implementation of the nursing process, and development of a pilot project to demonstrate an expanded role for nurses as therapists within a multi disciplinary team.

In June 1976, she was promoted to full Professor at the UBC School of Nursing and she received an Honorary Associate Professor appointment in the UBC Faculty of Medicine in recognition of her contribution to the education and training of undergraduate medical students and postgraduate residents.

After her retirement Helen Gemeroy worked as a nurse surveyor for the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation. She died in Victoria on May 17, 1997.



## Helen K. Mussallem

1923 - 2012

Dr. Helen Mussallem began her nursing career in British Columbia and, although she became an internationally renowned nursing leader with myriad national and international honors, she maintained close ties with B.C. nursing throughout her long life.

Born in Prince Rupert, she completed her nursing education at the Vancouver General Hospital, and then worked in the VGH operating room. She joined the Royal Canadian Medical Corps in World War II, seeing active duty overseas as an operating room supervisor.

After the war, Helen obtained a baccalaureate in nursing at McGill and masters and doctoral degrees from Columbia University. Between her studies, Helen was a VGH instructor and later Director of its School of Nursing until asked by the Canadian Nurses Association to do a study of nursing education in Canada. Her comprehensive report, *Spotlight on Nursing Education*, led to major changes. She then was hired as CNA's Executive Director.

Frequently called upon for advice by the federal government, the International Council of Nurses, and the World Health Organization, she completed numerous consultations and was the first non governmental representative on a Canadian Government delegation at the World Health Assembly (1977). Among her many honors are the Companion of the Order of Canada and Honorary Doctorates at UBC and six other universities.

Symbolic of her determination to create the best possible education for nurses, she was founder and strong supporter of the Canadian Nurses Foundation and of the BC Nurses Foundation and as well established many special funds to assist nursing students. Her legacy has helped ensure that following generations of nurses will engage in national and international networking and nursing scholarship.



## Helen Louisa Randal

1876 - 1963

Helen Louisa Randal was Registrar of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia from the time of its inception in 1918 until 1941. A consummate nursing leader, she was one of the founding members of the Graduate Nurses Association of B.C., forerunner of RNABC, and one of those who worked and lobbied for registration for nurses in the province.

Helen Randal was born in Compton, Quebec, in 1876 and was educated as a teacher. After teaching for a few years, she returned home to care for a sick mother and decided to enter nursing. She graduated from the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and spent the years 1903 to 1912 in supervisory positions in Canada and the United States before appointment as Superintendent of Nurses at Vancouver General Hospital from 1912 to 1916. During the 1910s, she was active on the elected executive of most provincial and national nursing organizations and was president of GNABC from 1917 until 1919. During her term of office, the Nurses (Registered) Act was passed and she was appointed the first Registrar and Inspector of Training Schools, the only paid staff at RNABC. She was instrumental in establishing standards for nursing education programs in the province and in closing many of the small hospitals schools that failed to meet educational standards

In addition to her responsibilities with RNABC, she worked from home as the unpaid editor and business manager of The Canadian Nurse from 1916 to 1924. During this time she helped create a more viable and independent professional journal. At RNABC, she worked hard to improve educational standards and working conditions for nurses. In a period long before unions were recognized for women and nurses, she was a skilled negotiator and was active in reducing daily hours of work to 8 from 12.

Helen Randal retired in 1941 at age 69 years. She received the Mary Agnes Snively Memorial Medal, the Canadian Nurses Association's highest award, in 1944. She died in Winnipeg in 1963. The Helen Randal Memorial Library at the RNABC is named in her honour.



## Jane Hassen - Sister Mary Victor, S.S.A.

1873 - 1961

When Jane Hassen was a child, her family emigrated from Ireland to Philadelphia. Years of growth and adaptation followed that move, years about which no record seems to exist. Somewhere in her young adult years, Jane, through her work in a doctor's office, began her professional involvement with health care. Her experiences in the doctor's office provided her with the practical knowledge that complemented her innate sense of prognosis and infallible diagnostic ability.

Jane Hassen's journeys took her to the West and then, around 1908, to Fairbanks, Alaska, where she arrived with a group of nurses answering an appeal to help staff St. Joseph's Hospital, recently opened in that northern town. When the other nurses withdrew from their commitment to the hospital, Miss Hassen stayed on, even to the extent of covering some of the debts accrued by the hospital.

In 1910, Jane decided to join the Sisters of Saint Ann in Victoria, B.C. for she had heard of the health care ministries of the Congregation. In 1912, as Sister Mary Victor, she was assigned to St. Ann's Hospital in Juneau, where she nursed until 1915; subsequently, she was transferred further north to St. Mary's Hospital, Dawson, in the Yukon Territory.

Sister Mary Victor had a marvellous fund of stories which revealed her Irish wit and rare understanding. Her storytelling made clear to her patients whatever counsel, advice, or reprimand she wished them to hear. She loved her patients, had their genuine good at heart, and adapted well to the rough ways of some of the old miners and sourdoughs of the North.

From 1923-1926, Sister Mary Victor was the nurse at Holy Cross Mission, a boarding school/orphanage at one end of a village by that same name. Aboriginal boys and girls from Eskimo or Indian homes in distant parts of Alaska benefitted from her care. Tuberculosis and periodic epidemics had orphaned many of the young people. Residents of the village also came to Sister Mary Victor for help, especially with accident and maternity cases.

After leaving Holy Cross, she was again at St. Ann's Hospital, Juneau, for a year before returning to British Columbia, where she nursed at Kuper Island and Victoria: first, at St. Joseph's Hospital and then in the Infirmary at St. Ann's Academy.



## Janice Christine Buller

1972 - 2013

Janice had a passion for rural nursing and a natural ability to deliver quality care within a relational practice. Janice graduated with her diploma in Nursing from the University College of the Caribou after completing an Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies.

She worked in a number of positions in McBride and Kamloops before settling on a path as a rural nurse at the Lillooet Hospital where her practice included maternity, palliative care, emergency and operating room nursing along with general ward duties.

Janice then moved into a community health nurse role where she became a certified CVAA nurse, completed complex wound care courses (often consulted by others for her expertise) along with many other specialized courses. As the sole nurse in this role, Janice was successfully able to blend the roles of Home Care, LTC Case Manager, Palliative care support and the Ambulatory Care Clinic for Lillooet and the surrounding area.

Janice's smile was infectious and she met every challenge with 'gusto'. Her support of a more remote community in the area who had been without Home Care Nursing Services for an extended period of time was driven by her commitment to clients who could not travel to Lillooet. It was during her travel into this community that Janice's life tragically ended on January 17, 2013.

Janice touched many lives with her compassion, enthusiasm and laughter. She held many hands and ensured that her clients lived and died with compassion and integrity. She will be remembered for her courage and her legacy will live on in those that were blessed to have known her.



## Janice Lillian Stanbury

1955 - 2015

Janice Lillian Stanbury was born on April 14, 1955 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1975 Janice obtained her RN Diploma from St. Boniface General Hospital School of Nursing. Janice completed her Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan in 1979 and her Master of Science in Nursing at the University of British Columbia in 1989.

Janice devoted herself to nursing and health as a Community Health Nurse in Vancouver, and later as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in the care of older adults in the Vancouver area. In 1989 she graduated as one of few nurses prepared as a CNS in Gerontology. Janice pioneered advanced nursing practice roles with a Clinical Outreach Team in Vancouver and later with the Geriatric Assessment and Treatment Program at St. Paul's Hospital. She later assumed the position of Clinical Director with the Elder Health Program in the Fraser Health Authority, providing leadership for excellence in the nursing care of older adults with complex conditions. Janice was known for her competence and dedication to enhancing the lives of older adults in clinical and community settings. Her practice exemplified health promotion including multidisciplinary approaches, falls prevention programs and initiatives to improve housing and other vital aspects of the lives of older adults.

In the last 12 years of her nursing career, Janice fulfilled her passion for life-long learning and nursing education in her role as an educator in the School of Nursing at the University of British Columbia (Okanagan). She was known for her student-centeredness and creative teaching practices (including theatre), evident to the many first and third year nursing students who benefited from her wisdom, knowledge, care and excellent sense of humour. Janice was a faculty leader for gerontology in the nursing program and acted as a consultant for many community groups and services. As a researcher, Janice explored older adults' care, housing needs and wound management. Janice presented her work at teaching and research at national conferences.

Janice Lillian Stanbury's nursing practice made a significant difference to the lives of older adults and her legacy lives on in her many nursing students who have been inspired by her leadership, passion, commitment and competence.

Janice passed away peacefully on May 6, 2015 at Kelowna General Hospital surrounded by devoted family and friends.





### Jennifer Kryworuchko

1969 - 2019

Jennifer Kryworuchko was born and raised in Ottawa, and forged a rich history and career in nursing, receiving her BScN degree in Nursing, Graduate Diploma in Health Services and Policy Research, and PhD from the University of Ottawa. She was licensed as a registered nurse in Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, and held certification in Critical Care Nursing through the Canadian Nurses Association. She served in the Canadian Forces, Department of National Defense for eight years, and worked as a nurse in the Ottawa Hospital Intensive Care Unit. As an Assistant Professor at the University of Saskatchewan, she served as Interim Graduate Chair, managing major revisions of the Master of Science, Nurse Practitioner, and PhD programs, before joining UBC as an Associate Professor in 2015. Jennifer worked at the UBC School of Nursing for almost five years, where she was a deeply valued member of the community, generously sharing her expertise with students and colleagues.

Jennifer’s memory will remain forever with her husband of 26 years and their four children as well as her parents, siblings and numerous other family members, friends and colleagues whom she touched throughout her life.



### Jessie F. MacKenzie

1867 - 1960

Jessie Ferguson MacKenzie, the third president of the Graduate Nurses Association of B.C. (later RNABC), was one of B.C.’s more controversial nurses of the 1910s and 1920s. A strong and outspoken advocate for improvements in hospitals and nursing education, she was active on committees to improve the standards of nursing education in British Columbia.

Born in Toronto, she first obtained her teaching certificate from the University of Toronto and taught in several schools in Ontario before moving to California to take her nursing education.

Following graduation, she was superintendent of two large hospitals in that state, organizing their nursing schools. She moved to Victoria in 1914 to become lady superintendent and head of the training school at the Royal Jubilee Hospital. There, she was instrumental in introducing many changes. Despite opposition from medical staff and board, she reformed the training school and lengthened the nursing course from 30 months to three years. She hired the first nursing instructor at RJH and introduced a library, teaching equipment, fee textbooks, medical care for students, demonstration rooms, diet lab, and obstetrical instruction.

Because of her many advances in the School, RJH did not have difficulties attracting students even during World War I and post-war period. She encouraged her nurses to vote when women won the franchise and hired a car to take them to the polls. As well, she gave demonstrations at the high schools to attract students; arranged a reception room for students; and wanted an affiliation with the University of B.C.’s nursing degree program (similar to the arrangements with the Vancouver General Hospital, although this did not happen).

She was active in the nursing associations, and she and others of the GNABC (especially Helen Randal and Ethel Johns) developed and recommended a “standardized reformed curriculum” to the B.C. Hospital Association in 1918 and 1919 and later to the B.C. government. She was elected GNABC president in 1919 and also was active on the board and committees of the Canadian National Association for Trained Nurses (CNATN, the early name of the Canadian Nurses Association), especially working for improved standards for nursing education.

Following her enforced retirement, she remained active with the RJH Alumnae. She died in 1960, age 92.



## Jessie Mantle

1932 - 2021

Jessie was born and raised in Chemainus, British Columbia. She was the daughter of Frank and Helen Mantle.

On completing high school, Jessie trained as a nurse at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria where she graduated in 1950, and later graduated from McGill University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1966. Jessie continued to expand her academic accomplishments, starting in Boston where she received her certificate in psychiatric nursing, followed by training in public health. Jessie then obtained her master's degree from the University of San Francisco and pursued post-degree work in gerontological nursing.

At the core of her contributions as a staff nurse in Nanaimo, Victoria, and Vancouver, Jessie quickly showed her leadership qualities and became a head nurse from 1963 to 1965 at St. Paul's Hospital. In her career, Jessie joined academia as a teacher and graduate chairman at the University of Western Ontario from 1969 to 1981 before moving to the University of Victoria (UVic) from 1981 to 1994. Jessie was a Clinical Nurse Specialist and continuing with her drive to be an engaging and influential mentor, she served as a member-at-large for the Canadian Nurses Association Board of Directors in 1987.

After extensive travel and working in England, the US and eastern Canada, Jessie resettled in Victoria in 1981 to take up a joint appointment as professor at the University of Victoria School of Nursing and Clinical Nurse Specialist at Juan de Fuca Hospitals, with 50 percent of her time spent at each institution. Over the next 13 years, she taught Registered Nurse programs at UVic, developed one of the distance learning programs for the School of Nursing, and established courses in gerontological nursing.

At Juan de Fuca Hospitals, Jessie helped establish a wide set of clinical programs and committees to improve resident care. The interdisciplinary team she led founded a clinical council, an ethics committee, and care programs for special ailments. The Clinical Nurse Specialist position was so successful that it became permanent. In 1988, Mantle authored "Nursing practise in long term care agencies," included in *Canadian Nursing Faces the Future* (eds. Baumgart and Larsen).

Jessie gave countless presentations and authored publications on nursing innovations and received a Canadian Nurses Foundation Scholarship in 1968, the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations Teaching Award in 1975, a World Health Fellowship in 1975, the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia Award of Excellence in Nursing Practice in 1992, and the Canadian Nurses Association Centennial Award in 2008.

Jessie retired in 1995, but in post-retirement she coauthored a book with Jeanette Funke-Ferber titled *Geriatric Nursing in Canada: Growth of a Specialty*. From 1999 to 2006 she coordinated the "Night Shelter" and the Parish Health task force at St. John the Divine Anglican Church. She also established the Jessie Mantle Fellowship in Nursing at UVic to assist students in graduate programs, specifically those who focus on improving the care and lives of the elderly, and strengthening the relationship amongst service agencies, researchers, and academics.

Jessie Mantle, Professor Emeritus, UVic School of Nursing age 89, of Victoria, British Columbia passed away on Thursday, September 2, 2021. Over a 40-year nursing career, Jessie Mantle championed high standards for nursing practice, research, education, and mentorship. She responded to community needs and made a difference to those around her.



## Joan Florence Alice Doree

1919 - 2016

Joan entered nursing school in Saskatchewan during the Great Depression of the 1930's amid great family sacrifice. This sacrifice was never forgotten and shaped a career focused on support and mentorship to others.

Following her graduation, Joan enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. She served overseas and worked in a variety of areas, notably the then new and cutting-edge burn and plastic surgery units in England.

Upon returning to Canada Joan used veterans' financial aid and worked part-time to advance her nursing education at University of British Columbia, receiving her baccalaureate in 1949. Subsequently she was hired by Vancouver Health Department, first as liaison nurse then as supervisor where she worked until her retirement. While at the Vancouver Health Department she initiated many new programs for the family unit and is credited by many nurses who worked with her for encouragement in furthering their careers. A federal grant allowed her to obtain a Master of Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley in 1967.

Joan was a committed and involved member of the Registered Nurses Association of BC (RNABC), serving two terms on the Board of Directors. As a founding member of the Registered Nurses Foundation of BC (RNFBC), her legacy is the *Mabel and Henry Doree Family Memorial Bursary* which offers financial aid to aspiring nurses.



## Judith (Judy) Mogan

1924 - 2021

Born and raised in Switzerland, Judy raised her children in Toronto, Ontario before she relocated to Vancouver, BC in 1980 and joined the University of British Columbia (UBC) School of Nursing faculty. There, she launched a nursing education research program as well as a scholarship program within her substantive clinical fields of infant care and public health. A fierce proponent of active aging, Judy ensured she was able to teach in a sessional capacity for many years.

One of Judy's most notable contributions to nursing academia is the development of instruments to improve teaching effectiveness. In a paper entitled "Characteristics of 'best' and 'worst' clinical teachers as perceived by university nursing faculty and students", Judy and coauthor Janet Knox presented a new instrument they had developed – the Nursing Clinical Teacher Effectiveness Inventory (NCTEI). The NCTEI has been widely cited across nursing literature, and the Director of the UBC School of Nursing continues to receive requests for permission to use the tool to this day. The NCTEI instrument developed by Mogan and Knox is now housed in UBC Open Collections.

Additionally, Judy published an impressive body of work on infant development and its implications for public health nursing. A further listing of Judy's legacy to scholarly literature.

Upon her eventual retirement, Judy remained an energetic and high-spirited champion of physical activity and health. Even after Judy sustained serious injuries following a transit accident while riding her bike in downtown Vancouver, she continued to ride her bicycle regularly. Colleagues remember her as "a force of nature in her time," and "an example of resilience personified."

Judy passed in Vancouver on May 12, 2021, at the age of 97.



## Kathleen Wilhelmina Ellis

1887 - 1968

Kathleen Ellis was one of British Columbia's outstanding nurses. Born in Penticton to the first permanent white settlers in the Okanagan Valley, Kathleen was determined to pursue a nursing career. She graduated in 1915 from John Hopkins School of Nursing. Following graduation, she was Matron of the Vancouver Island Military Hospital in Victoria. From 1918 – 1921, she held important positions in Detroit and Toronto.

In 1921, she returned to B.C. as Superintendent of Nurses and Principal of the School at Vancouver General Hospital and was a strong supporter of the new nursing degree program at UBC. During this time she was president of the Vancouver Graduate Nurses Association and sixth president of the Graduate Nurses Association of B.C.

In 1929, she left B.C. to enroll in a public health nursing course at Bedford College in London, England. Upon her return to Canada, Kathleen Ellis embarked on a remarkable career. She was Director of Nursing at the Winnipeg General Hospital, Vice-president CNA, and for 13 years registrar for the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association. During World War II, she was national emergency advisor for CNA, as well as secretary-treasurer.

Her most memorable accomplishment was the opening of the School of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan in 1938. She was the first director and held that position until her retirement. In 1955, she received an honorary degree from the University of Saskatchewan, and a year later a new nurses residence on the campus was named Ellis Hall in her honour. In 1967, she received the Centennial Medal in recognition of her valuable service to the nation.

In 1950, she retired to her birthplace - Penticton - where she remained active in community affairs serving on the Penticton Hospital Board. She was an avid gardener until her death.

Kathleen Ellis died in Vancouver on March 9, 1968 at age 81.





## Laura Holland

1883 - 1956

Laura Holland was a qualified nurse and social worker who maintained active participation and a leadership role in both professions at the national and provincial levels. She received many honours and awards for her achievement.

Laura Holland graduated from the Montreal General Hospital School of Nursing in 1914. She joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1915 and served with distinction overseas and was awarded the Royal Red Cross. On release from the Army she qualified in social work at Simmons College in Boston. Her career and achievements in Eastern Canada from 1920 – 1929 were outstanding. As Director of Nursing Services for the Ontario Red Cross, she established the first four Outpost Hospitals, for which she was made a Commander of the British Empire in 1923. She became Director of Social Work for the Toronto Public Health Department, serving until 1927 when she accepted an invitation from the Vancouver Children's Aid Society to reorganize and coordinate child welfare in the province. Despite many difficulties, she successfully reorganized the system of child welfare in B.C. and helped initiate the Infants Act, the Adoption Act, and the Children of Unmarried Parents Act. She spent many hours in court to support unmarried girls who faced this crisis alone in their lives.

In 1932, she was appointed Superintendent of Neglected Children and, in 1933, Deputy Superintendent of Child Welfare. In 1934, in the midst of the Great Depression, Dr. G.M. Weir, Minister of Health and Welfare, reorganized the department to deal with the closely related problems of poverty and ill health, as well as with major health problems of tuberculosis, venereal disease, and mental health. Laura Holland was the ideal choice to select and prepare qualified applicants for the Welfare Field Service, as it became known. She recruited many nurses and was a pioneer in promoting the importance of the broad concept in nursing – the subtle needs and conditions that impede or prevent recovery or successful rehabilitation. In 1938, she was appointed Advisor to the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Throughout her career, she was active in professional nursing affairs. She early recognized that nurses outside the Vancouver and Victoria areas did not have opportunities for participation in committee work or elected offices. The RNABC was taking steps to bridge this gap and appointed Laura Holland to chair a committee to explore the possibility of a system of "branches." The committee's recommendations for Entered in the RNABC Memorial Book in 2000 districts and chapters were accepted at the 1941 annual meeting. Later, Laura Holland took an active role in development of the Placement Service and Labour Relations Programs of RNABC.

For her outstanding leadership and influence on health and social policies and services in Canada — all so vital to the well being of people of all ages from infancy to adulthood — she was given an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of B.C. in 1950. She died in 1956.



## Lavina "Vin" Mary Crane

1923 - 2017

Born in Alberta, Lavinia (Vin) moved to B.C. in 1936 and in 1942 joined the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (Wrens). As a member of Wrens, Vin trained as a wireless telegrapher and worked at special operations stations which were part of the larger British Bletchley Park code-breaking Enigma Program.

After the war, Vin graduated from Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing in 1950 and from the University of British Columbia (UBC) with a BSN in Public Health Nursing in 1951. She joined the provincial department of health as a public health nurse and worked in a variety of settings throughout B.C. In 1961 she completed a Master's degree in Public Health at the University of Michigan and was awarded the American Public Health and American Universities Honor Awards.

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

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

Retirement saw Vin serving on several health and association boards and taking on volunteer positions in Victoria.





## Lianne Ritch

1962 - 2022

Born in Edmonton, Alberta, and moving to Vancouver during her high school years, Lianne attended Langara College, graduating as a registered nurse in 1986. She began her nursing career at the University of British Columbia Hospital before travelling extensively throughout Asia, including working at a street clinic in Calcutta. She ultimately arrived in Myanmar (then known as Burma), where she spent 3 ½ years providing nursing care in refugee camps on the Burma-Thailand border under the auspices of the All Burma Students Democratic Front, an organization representing all students, social classes, and Burmese ethnicities in the struggle to achieve democracy and human rights.

Returning to Canada after her years in Asia, Lianne worked as an outreach nurse in the Downtown Eastside and as a public health nurse with new immigrants and refugees. Then, in 1994, she saw a posting for an on-call sexual assault nurse at BC Women's Hospital – it was the first time such a role had been considered. This began what became a 25-year career as nurse coordinator building the Sexual Assault Service Program in BC and beyond. Lianne's passionate commitment to working with disenfranchised populations was expressed in her steadfast advocacy for women. Because she felt drawn to emotionally supportive care, especially for those who were disenfranchised or marginalized by society, the patient-centred and trauma-informed focus of sexual assault services was a perfect fit with her values and expertise. She developed and coordinated the Provincial Sexual Assault Examiner training program to support nurses and physicians in the provision of care for survivors of sexualized violence. She was also involved in the development of numerous policies in the field, most notably the creation of the BC provincial evidence storage policy and a provincial protocol giving survivors access to their non-forensic drug and alcohol screening results. Within this role, Lianne was instrumental in developing the sexual assault response teams across multiple jurisdictions across BC and the Yukon and, under the auspices of the Canadian International Development Agency, she served as a consultant on sexual violence in South Africa, helping its Ministry of Health establish a sexual assault service model based on the Vancouver program.

In 2020, Lianne was recognized with the Award of Distinction in Community Safety and Crime Prevention by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. This award acknowledged her longstanding and exemplary commitment to supporting women and communities in the field of sexual assault and gender-based violence. As the Chief Operating Officer of BC Women's Hospital wrote at the time, "Lianne, has been an amazing role model, inspiring to many. A clear and steadfast advocate in this area for decades. The work Lianne has done with our community, hospital and health authorities, will continue to support a legacy of infrastructure and services that will continue on with the good work that she started."

Lianne died – far too soon – on December 11, 2022 from multiple myeloma. She left to mourn her husband Adam Diamond and an extended network of family, friends and colleagues who cherished her. She will be remembered as a values-based leader, a nurse who touched the lives of so many in this province and beyond, from survivors to constabulary to government representatives, in her drive to empower survivors and make change for sexual violence injustice.



## Lorna Horwood

1908 - 1996

Lorna Horwood began a long and distinguished career in psychiatric and public health nursing in Ontario. Early in her career, she recognized the need for additional education in nursing by completing a certificate course in psychiatric nursing before going on to university to obtain undergraduate and graduate degrees. As professor in nursing at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, she taught mental health and public health nursing principles to undergraduate nursing and medical students.

She served the World Health Organization for 12 years, first in Taipei, China where she was senior advisor in public health nursing for eight years and later in Bangkok, Thailand for four years.

On her return to Canada, she held several advisory positions with the provincial government in Vernon, B.C. and with the federal government in the Canadian Arctic.

She retired to her home "Ho-La-Na" near NanOOSE Bay, B.C. where she lived happily for 20 years.

Lorna Horwood died 29 October 1996 in Victoria B.C. following a prolonged illness.



## Louise Marie Tenn

1941 - 2022

Louise was born in Montreal, Quebec on November 9, 1941, and received her nursing diploma from St. Mary's School of Nursing in Montreal. When Louise began her nursing program, she was primarily a Francophone in an English-speaking hospital. With courage and determination she mastered English thereby giving rise to her ongoing love of and facility in languages. She graduated in 1966 from the University of Ottawa with a BScN and completed her MEd degree at the Université de Montréal in 1980.

The breadth of her involvement in nursing prior to arriving at the University of British Columbia (UBC) is remarkable. From Stratford, Ontario to Kingston, Jamaica followed by working in several locations in Quebec, she held numerous positions including course planner, curriculum developer, nursing supervisor, administrator, community health nurse and a Local Community Service Center health coordinator involving several health disciplines and citizen groups. Her excitement for nursing research was enhanced when she was part of McGill University's School of Nursing's three-year demonstration research project on a nursing staffed centre which focused on the extended role of the nurse and innovative strategies for health promotion in the community.

Louise joined the UBC School of Nursing in 1980 as Instructor, was promoted to Senior Instructor and held an appointment as Faculty Associate in the UBC Institute of Health Promotion Research. She retired in June 2001 as a Senior Instructor Emerita.

During her tenure at UBC, her passion for health promotion, public health nursing and the furthering of primary health care, as differentiated from primary care, continued. She believed strongly that our health care system needs to focus on people's whole health needs, versus a system that is solely disease and illness focused. She taught primarily in the community health nursing courses both as a lecturer and supervisor of students' work with individuals, families and groups. Louise played an instrumental role in the development, completion, and publishing of a seminal study on the integration of primary health care in the curricula of Canadian university schools of nursing. Her interest in the promotion of the health of young children and adolescents saw her named as a representative of the BC Council of the Family. Her early work included crisis intervention strategies for adolescents and the prevention of spinal cord injuries.

Louise accepted assignments by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to initiate a nursing project in Cambodia and Laos, and the development and evaluation of a post-basic public health nursing course in Tonga.

Louise died in North Vancouver on September 19, 2022.



## Lyle Morrison Creelman

1908 - 2007

Born in Upper Stewiacke, Nova Scotia, she moved with her family to British Columbia as a child. Her first brief career was as a teacher, but when she graduated from the nursing program at the University of British Columbia in 1936, she immediately entered the public health sector. A Rockefeller scholarship in 1938 took her to Teachers College at Columbia University in New York for a master's degree. During the early 1940's she worked with Metropolitan Health in Vancouver, first as a supervisor then as director, and served on the board of directors and as President of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia.

Her international role began at the end of World War II, when she was invited by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) to be chief nurse in the British Zone of occupied Germany. Her job was to organize nursing services to help care for millions of people of many nationalities who had been displaced during the war.

Following her work with UNRRA she was the field director for an extensive study of public health services in Canada conducted by the Canadian Public Health Association and was co-author, with Dr. J. H. Baillie, of a highly acclaimed report used for many years as a reference for public health professional in Canada.

Canada's first nurse to serve with the World Health Organization (WHO) was Lyle Creelman, whose dedication to health for all at the international level remains an inspiration to Canadian nurses two generations later. In 1950, she was invited to become a nursing consultant in maternal and child health in WHO's newly formed Nursing Unit and, in 1954, she became WHO's second Chief Nursing Officer, a position she held until her retirement in 1968.

During her work with WHO she visited many countries and collaborated with nurses from many nations. She also recruited many well-prepared nurses to initiate international projects that could later be carried on independently by the host country. She recognized the importance of national self-sufficiency in health care and used her superb administrative abilities to put this philosophy into practice. She was a frequent advisor to the International Council of Nurses and on her retirement from WHO, an editorial in ICN Calling recognized her many contributions, "stating in these fourteen years, she has probably achieved more for nursing throughout the world than any other nurse of her time".

Following her retirement in 1968, she was commissioned by WHO to help study maternal and child health services in South-East Asia. She received many tributes, including recognition from nurses associations at provincial, national and international levels and honorary doctorates from the universities of British Columbia and New Brunswick. The government of Canada awarded her the Canada Centennial Medal and the Medal of Service-Canada, and she is a member of the Order of Canada. She also received the Jeanne Mance Award in 1974 the highest honour of the Canadian Nurses Association.

She died peacefully at Hollyburn House a senior's residence in West Vancouver, at the age for 98. Though never married, she is survived by many nieces and nephews.





## Margaret Duffield

1884 - 1969

Margaret Duffield was a leader in Canadian nursing. She was born in County Antrim in 1884 and educated at Victoria College and Queen's University, Belfast, Ireland. She graduated from Kimberly Hospital School of Nursing in Kimberly, South Africa in 1908. She received a midwifery certificate, studied Massage and Electricity, and was a staff nurse at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and Queen's Hospital in London, England before emigrating to Canada in 1913.

Shortly after coming to Canada, Miss Duffield, then 30, joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps. Stationed overseas from 1914 – 1919, she received the Royal Red Cross medal for outstanding service — one of 267 nursing sister recipients throughout World War I. Upon return from the war, Margaret Duffield spent the next 25 years in nursing leadership positions across Canada including Alberta, Ontario, and British Columbia. She began by serving as Matron at the Sunnyside Veteran's Hospital in Calgary, Alberta from 1919 – 1922. She resigned to return to school where she completed the University of Toronto's public health nursing program in 1923. After completing her course, she began her career with the Victorian Order of Nurses as Superintendent in London, Ontario. Five years later, she assumed the same position in the larger Vancouver office. Miss Duffield was enthusiastic about all nursing projects she engaged in. She was known for keeping herself and her staff abreast of the newest and best procedures in the nursing profession and for maintaining the highest standards possible.

Margaret Duffield's article in The Canadian Nurse provided an example of her actions that were visionary and progressive in her time and multifaceted. This advanced the development of the nursing profession while making a major difference to the health of Japanese and Chinese Canadians in Vancouver. She believed strongly that all racial groups should receive the same programs and services that the VON provided to white, native born, English speaking Vancouverites. She determined that this could best be accomplished by providing nurses who could speak the language and were knowledgeable of the native traditions and ideas regarding health matters held by these subgroups on Vancouver residents. Miss Duffield first lobbied B.C. Schools of Nursing to admit Japanese and Chinese women. Those women were then encouraged to complete the post-graduate course in public health nursing at the University of British Columbia. This ensured complete training in the profession and practice of nursing as well as the application of prevention and curative nursing. She then hired these graduates as VON nurses who operated clinics and made home visits in the Japanese and Chinese communities. The largest service in both racial groups was to tuberculosis cases, suspects and contacts. Home visits to babies and preschoolers followed and finally, they implemented prenatal and well baby clinics. All of this was accomplished before May 1941.

Concurrently in her career as Vancouver VON Superintendent, Miss Duffield was also active in professional activities and organizations. She served on the RNABC Council continuously from 1928 – 1938. Shortly after coming to Vancouver she became president of the Vancouver Registered Nurses' Association 1928 – 1929. This independent organization provided a local forum for nurses before RNABC had districts and chapters. From 1938 – 1943 Margaret Duffield served as the 10th President of the RNABC. During that time RNABC established a direct link between the Association and its grass roots membership by organizing districts and chapters.

Margaret Duffield retired in 1944 at age 60. She died April 3, 1969, aged 85 years.



## Margaret Willard Duncan Jensen

1921 - 1999

Margaret Duncan Jensen was a nursing leader in her time, recognized both in British Columbia and the United States. She was born in Revelstoke, B.C. in 1921 and graduated from the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) School of Nursing in 1945. She also earned BScN and BA degrees from the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 1946. After graduation, Margaret became a clinical instructor in medicine at VGH for a three-year period and then served on the UBC School of Nursing faculty from 1950-1963, where she was an extremely popular teacher. There she taught nursing arts and maternity nursing in clinical areas as well as helping to supervise small hospital administrative experience for final-year students.

Margaret received a Kellogg Foundation Fellowship and attended the University of Chicago to earn a Master of Science degree with emphasis on maternal child health. In 1962, she went to the University of California at Berkeley for her doctoral studies and while there, she married.

From 1963 on Margaret lived and worked in California. She joined the faculty at San Jose State University (SJSU) as an Assistant Professor in September 1964, and rose to the rank of tenured Full Professor before she retired in June 1983. During these years, Margaret taught maternity nursing to junior-level students, acted as a mentor and role model to new faculty members, and was a preceptor for masters students who were learning about teaching. All who knew Margaret speak highly of her teaching ability, keen mind and delightful sense of humor.

During her years at SJSU, Margaret began writing and communicating her vision of maternity and family nursing. She made an outstanding contribution to nursing literature as a co-author, along with Irene Bobak and Dr. Robert Benson, of the first edition of Maternity Care, the Nurse and Family. Irene Bobak and Margaret Jensen collaborated on the subsequent editions of this book (and four others) for 13 years, writing an updated version every two years. Starting with the second edition, their textbooks won eight Book of the Year awards from the American Journal of Nursing. Her well-known maternity nursing texts were translated into several languages and used in nursing schools throughout the world. The texts continue to be published with new nursing authors.

In 1970-1971 Margaret made a brief return to UBC to act as chief lecturer for a series of maternity nursing workshops. In 1978 Margaret was the first UBC graduate to give the Marion Woodward Lecture at UBC. Her topic was "The Expanding Family: A Nursing Perspective." For her contributions to nursing, the March of Dimes named Margaret Jensen "Nurse of the Year" for 1978-1979.

After retirement, Margaret continued to live in California. She died on December 25, 1999 in San Jose after a short battle with cancer. A memorial service was held in Vancouver, B.C. in January 2000 and a scholarship fund was established in her name at the University of British Columbia.





## Margaret E. Kerr

1900 - 1976

Throughout her influential career, Margaret Kerr was proud to have been a member of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. and a "B.C. nurse." Born August 27, 1900, in Amherst, Ontario, she moved to British Columbia to attend Normal School. She taught for two years before entering the new baccalaureate nursing program at University of British Columbia (UBC). She graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Nursing in 1926 and worked for two years in Nanaimo, B.C. as a school nurse. She then received a Rockefeller Foundation scholarship and spent two years at Columbia University, New York, graduating with a Master of Arts in 1929.

She returned to UBC to teach public health nursing, remaining until 1944. During these years, she was active in nursing politics at the provincial and national levels, serving, for example, as Chair of the Public Health Section of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) from 1938-1942 and as President of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. (RNABC) for 1943-1944. She was an active contributor of articles to journals and she compiled a brief history of the RNABC.

In 1944, she moved to Montreal to become Editor of The Canadian Nurse (until 1965). During her tenure, the magazine grew enormously in size, responsibility, circulation, and influence and became recognized internationally as an exemplary nursing journal. When she was appointed in 1944, the mailing list stood at a respectable 5,000 subscribers, but Margaret Kerr believed it should be read by every practising nurse in Canada. She began a program to link subscriptions with registration fees. Recognizing the need for a bilingual national journal, she increased the French-language component to reach nurses in Quebec and ensured English-speaking nurses were aware of activities of their French-speaking colleagues. Through a vigorous campaign that required extensive lobbying with each provincial association, she achieved her goal; in 1959, all registered nurses in Canada began to receive the journal as part of their association fees.

Throughout her editorial career, she was noted for her strong, well-written, and outspoken articles. She continued her interest in nursing education and was a frequent guest speaker on nursing history. Her strong editorial abilities and her business acumen won her admiration from nursing editors internationally, and she was a sought-after consultant by professional editors around the world. By the time of her retirement in 1965, the journal was also reaching 113 countries outside Canada.

Throughout her career, her vision, commitment, loyalty, and sound judgment were combined with humility, sensitivity, warmth, and a puckish sense of humor. She retired to Vancouver where she kept in touch with the many hundreds of nurses whose lives she had touched. When she died on June 27, 1976, her obituary in The Canadian Nurse summed up her superb contributions under the title "teacher, editor, colleague, and friend."



## Margaret (Prowse) Neylan

1924 - 2005

Margaret Prowse was born October 24, 1924 in Brandon Hills Manitoba. Her early prairie roots on the farm during the Depression were the source of her exceptional work ethic and zeal for gardening. She began her work life as a teacher in a one room school on the prairie before entering the Brandon General Hospital School of Nursing in 1943. She graduated in 1946, and against family objections, chose psychiatric nursing as her specialty field. Her work took her from the Brandon Hospital to West Chester New York USA then back to Canada to St Anne de Bellevue Veterans Hospital.

In 1950, Margaret won a scholarship to take a one year supervision course at McGill University and after graduation she worked in the psychiatric unit at the Montreal General Hospital. As head nurse of this unit she instigated, among other things, afternoon tea for the patients, music therapy and clinical teaching for the students that resulted in a series of article published in Nursing Outlook.

Margaret completed her Bachelor of Nursing at McGill University in 1957. She married Craig Neylan in 1958 and moved to British Columbia to take up a position at the School of Nursing, University of British Columbia (UBC). In 1966, she completed a Masters of Arts degree from UBC. From 1968-1974 she was Director of Continuing Education from the School of Nursing, UBC and from 1973-1976 served as Assistant Director, Division of Education Planning for BC Medical Centre in Vancouver. In 1976, she moved on to take a position as the Acting Department Head, Patient Care Services and retired in 1991 as the Associate Dean School of Health Sciences, BC Institute of Technology.

Margaret served two terms as President of the Registered Nurses Association of BC 1971-1973 and 1989-1991. She also served as Vice-President of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1992-1994. She served on numerous committees and community organizations including being Nursing Advisory Chairman, St. John Ambulance 1974-1980.

In her distinguished career, Margaret was devoted to her family and also to health care and education where she pioneered the development of numerous nursing programs including advanced nursing specialties delivered through distance learning. Margaret mentored many with wisdom and compassion and vigorously advocated for health professionals, elders and patients needing psychiatric care. In her retirement, she was Chair of the Seniors Advisory Council of BC, Senior Advisor to the Care for Elders Advisory Committee at UBC and Chair of the Circle of Friends, in which she was helping design a program to assist health professional support families for seniors with chronic health issues at the time of her death. She worked tirelessly for the development of effective health care and education in Canada and other countries including Malaysia and South Africa.

In her 60 year career she earned several recognitions including the Jeanne Mance award from the Canadian Nurses Association and the Lieutenant Governor's Award of Recognition for Women of BC. Margaret received a Button Blanket from the Nisga'a for her work in developing nursing programs. She held the rank of Serving Sister with St. John Ambulance in recognition of her work as chair of the Nursing Advisory Committee.

Margaret died March 18, 2005. She was predeceased by her husband Craig and is survived by her three children Shawn, Michael and Meghan.



## Margaret Jill Thompson

1937 - 2001

Although Jill Thompson was born and raised in Saskatoon, she spend over forty years practising in B.C. as a staff nurse, family practice nurse and public health nurse. In 1977, she began her teaching career and for eighteen years taught nursing students at Okanagan University College and at the University College of the Fraser Valley. An exemplary teacher and role model she was enthusiastic and sincerely interested in her students.

Jill spent 1965-66 at Guy's Hospital in London, England. This was the beginning of her life-long interest in Florence Nightingale. As a result of her extensive research, she became an authority on Nightingale's life. Over the years, she amassed an extensive collection of books, artifacts and other memorabilia. This collection, at Jill's request, has been donated to the History of Nursing Group.

After taking early retirement in 1995, Jill joined the BC History of Nursing group and remained an active member until her death in November 2001. She held positions on the executive such as chair of the Oral History Committee, taping several nursing leaders including Dr. Beverly Du Gas (8 tapes) and chair of the Membership Committee, publishing a yearly membership list with the help of her husband Bruce Beaudreau. Other responsibilities included membership on the Editorial Board for the History of Nursing News, and acting as guest editor. Jill also coordinated various historical displays at RNABC and created an inventory as well as protocols, forms and procedures for these displays.

Jill was frequently invited as a guest lecturer to teach nursing history classes to students at Okanagan University College and at University College of the Fraser Valley. Her presentation to the History of Nursing Group on "Florence Nightingale: Her Life and Times Revisited" was scholarly and well received. Shortly before her death, she was invited to present a similar lecture to RNABC chapter presidents in Kelowna. Even though she was ill, she felt committed to do this and could not negate on her promise. Such was her sense of responsibility and need to share her love of nursing history with others. At this time she also gave a class to nursing students at Okanagan University College.

Jill was also a skilled writer, contributing numerous articles and book reviews to the History of Nursing News.

Jill Thompson died peacefully November 20, 2001 at age 64.



## Maria Fillmore

Unknown - 1946

Maria Fillmore was born in River Philip, Cumberland, Nova Scotia in 1863. She received her nurse's training in New England and had several years experience as an Attendant in large western "asylums". She was employed at the Public Hospital for the Insane in New Westminster, B.C. April 1, 1893, promoted to Assistant Matron May 18, 1896 and appointed to the position of Matron November 2, 1897. She retired in 1940 after forty seven years of service at the age of 77.

It was noted that she provided "efficient and faithful services during these years. She grew up in the service of the hospital and was a tower of strength in aiding its maintenance and progress. Miss Fillmore was devoted to her work, was on call day and night, and was an outstanding example to all those working with her."





## Marie I. Fillion, Sister Mary Peter, S.S.A. (Sister Marie Pierre-aux-Liens, S.S.A.)

1876 - 1969

Sister Mary Peter exemplifies the story of many nurses, who, from their early years, feel an innate ability to work among the sick. Despite a lack of formal education in her childhood years, Sister Mary Peter, through determination and hard work, accomplished her goal of devoting her life to the many aspects of nursing care.

Sister Mary Peter came from Quebec to British Columbia immediately after her religious profession in 1897 and began working at St. Joseph's Hospital (Victoria, B.C.) that same year. She continued her loving service to the sick for 30 years. During that time, in 1927, she became the first Sister of St. Ann to receive certification.

She left Victoria only to help at St. Ann's Hospital, in Juneau, Alaska. In 1932, she returned to St. Joseph's Hospital in Victoria, where she continued her nursing ministry until 1952.

Her constant solicitude was to relieve physical suffering, show concern for patients, soothe moral anguish. Other nurses felt she was interested in promoting their professional competence. Doctors testified that she was sincere, eager to serve, and responsible.

In her era, nursing students made up the patients' rooms after discharge. When Sister Mary Peter was called upon to check the students' work, everyone knew a thorough examination would take place. Every corner of the bedding had to be exact, or the bed remade. A former student remembered that on a slack day, cleaning the utility room was a priority. In order to satisfy Sister Mary Peter's high standards of order, everything had to be made immaculate and returned to its rightful place.

All of this effort for cleanliness and order arose from her concern for the health and comfort of the patients. At the time of Sister Mary Peter's death, one of her friends recalled: "I remember how touched I was, 20 years ago, when she sat at my bedside in Room 229, at St. Joseph's Hospital and wept because she thought I was going to die within a few months."

The quality of Sister Mary Peter's nursing truly was marked by professional care and loving concern.



## Marilyn Jackson

1933 - 2000

Marilyn (Turner) Jackson was born in Calgary Alberta then moved with her family to Alliston, Ontario. In 1954, she obtained her RN from Wellesley Hospital in Toronto. Marilyn (Lyn) completed her Baccalaureate in Nursing at the University of Manitoba in 1969 and her Masters in Education at the University of Toronto in 1977.

From 1954 to 1964 her career moved through several phases - staff nurse at Wellesley and St. John Rehabilitation Hospital then in 1957 she was head nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Greenacres. She then moved to Winnipeg where she worked as staff nurse at the Misericordia Hospital and Grace General Hospital. In 1969 Marilyn began her teaching career at the Grace Hospital. When she moved to Toronto in 1972 she joined North York General Hospital as teacher for staff development then she became chairperson of Scarborough Regional Campus of Centennial Community College School of Nursing.

In 1977, Marilyn joined the faculty of the University of Victoria (UVIC) School of Nursing. Her years at UVIC were distinguished by her many outstanding contributions to the nursing profession, to teaching and to research. She published extensively and contributed to many nursing conferences and organizations.

She is best known for her writing and research in the field of Neurology and Gerontology. She contributed to development of assessment tools and models of care for the frail and elderly in the community. She was active in Multiple Sclerosis and Gerontological Associations at the local, provincial, national and international level. Marilyn received honourable acclaim during her career as an outstanding teacher and researcher. She was the recipient of a World Health Fellowship and she was presented with Honourary Life Membership Awards in both the Vancouver Island Multiple Sclerosis and the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association. In 1999 The Registered Nurses Association of BC (RNABC) awarded Marilyn special recognition for her contribution to professional nursing. She served as RNABC Director-at-Large and she was founding secretary of the Canadian Association for Gerontological Nursing.

Marilyn was a tireless community worker, active on many Boards, Committees and Charitable Organizations. She loved to play golf, squash and bridge. Family and friends were Marilyn's greatest accomplishment. Her husband John, daughter Patricia and sons John Jr. and David, their families and her beloved grandchildren held the highest place in her heart. She died of cancer, at home in the loving company of her family, on January 2, 2000.





## Marilyn Dawn Willman

1928 - 2021

Marilyn Dawn Willman was born in Hancock, Michigan on December 31, 1928. Marilyn obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1952, and went on to obtain her master's degree in 1959 and her Doctorate in 1961. She then joined the Nursing faculty at the University of Texas Austin, progressing through the ranks to become Dean and ultimately President of the University of Texas Nursing School (system-wide). In the role of President, she initiated development of four new nursing programs, expanding the statewide system from two to six campuses. In 1973, as an established nursing leader in the US, she became one of the Charter Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing.



Marilyn arrived at UBC School of Nursing in 1977 to take up the position of professor and Director, a position she held until her retirement in 1993. A strong champion of the need for a highly educated nursing workforce, Marilyn was intrigued by the challenge of a new country and health care system. On arrival, she acknowledged institutional challenges and proactively redesigned the 'laddered' program that had been in place at the UBC School of Nursing whereby students could achieve an RN diploma after two years or a BSN degree after four. A proponent of a flat hierarchical structure with widely distributed decisional authority, Marilyn removed the two assistant director positions. Instead, she led a caucus of all faculty as the School's primary decision-making body, establishing standing committees to deal with major concerns. The newly formed curriculum committee then developed the framework for the new four-year curriculum which was launched in the 1979-80 academic year.

In 1989 the VGH Hospital School of Nursing integrated with UBC, doubling the size of the UBC Nursing undergraduate program. Marilyn also instituted a "nursing outreach" program through which diploma-prepared nurses around the province could complete an innovative baccalaureate degree supported by live televised lectures and interactive phone-in sessions, which reflected advanced use of learning technologies for the time. The program approved for the 1982-93 academic year and developed over the next decade took the university beyond the campus and allowed more flexibility for on-campus students. By 1991, it was possible for BC RNs to complete the full degree through independent study.

During her 17-year tenure, Marilyn strongly supported the development of nursing research, including doctorate completion for many of the existing tenure track faculty as well as the recruitment of new doctorate-educated nursing professors. She worked to develop funding options for faculty, and smaller internal grants to allow them to compete for external funds, a research unit to provide them with administrative support, and an annual UBC Nursing Research Day. She supported establishment of a nursing honour society in 1990, later to become the Xi Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

In September 1991 UBC launched Canada's second PhD program in nursing. The format of that PhD program, including a relatively small number of core disciplinary and philosophy of science courses and emphasizing research training and mentorship, became the model for Canadian doctoral nursing education over time.

Marilyn retired in December 1993 to live a quiet life in Richmond BC. From the time of her retirement, she remained in contact with a few of her former School of Nursing colleagues and was always interested in catching up on the latest news. She served as co-editor for the School's newsletter, TouchPoints, lending her famous eagle eye to each edition before it was put to print. In time, her declining health required relocation to a care facility in Richmond.

An endowment was established in 2015 named for Dr. Marilyn Willman in recognition of her contributions as former dean and president of the University of Texas System School of Nursing. Distributions from this endowment will be used to support students engaged in doctoral study at the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing. Marilyn D. Willman, Professor Emerita and former Director of the UBC School of Nursing, died on May 20, 2021. Her enormous contributions to shaping the today's UBC School of Nursing constitute a major chapter in the School's illustrious history.

## Mary Palma Campbell

1879 - 1958

Mary Palma Campbell was born 10 November 1879 in Rosneath, Dumbartonshire, Scotland. She was the eldest of four children of Janet and Captain Donald Campbell of SS Prometheus. She grew up in Scotland and graduated as a nurse-midwife from the Royal Infirmary and Fever Hospital and St. Mary's Obstetrical Hospital at Grenock in 1906. In 1911, Mary, her parents and her two sisters, Janet and Agnes who were also nurses, came to Canada. After a short stay in Toronto, they moved to 1075 Comox Street in Vancouver and later to an apartment at 1625 West 10th Avenue, which they occupied for more than 50 years. She and her sisters did home nursing in Vancouver and Richmond. Mary registered in British Columbia on 23 January 1919 (#270 on the registration roll). According to information excerpted from her application for registration, her nursing experience indicated institutional (Vancouver General Hospital) and private nursing, school nursing and also nursing in the North.



She joined the Vancouver School Board as a school nurse in 1918. Four years later, she studied at the University of Toronto to obtain a certificate in public health nursing. She joined the Metropolitan Health Board of Vancouver in 1936 and became charge nurse of Health Unit 3, a post she held until her retirement in 1940. Although she was diminutive in stature, she was a fierce competitor in the battle of wits where she showed great personal strength. She served as the seventh president of the RNABC from 1929-1933, a position she filled with distinction. It was during this time (1932) that George Weir published Survey of Nursing Education. Much to the delight of the Graduate Nurses Association of British Columbia, it recommended that nursing education should be placed within the general education system.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, she was active in volunteering at the Seafarers depot in downtown Vancouver and, along with her sisters, was active in the life of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church. While caring for a friend in 1952, she suffered damage to her back, which required a body brace that she wore without complaint for the rest of her life.

Mary Palma Campbell died 7 December 1958.

## Mary Bernadet Ratsoy

1936 - 2009

Bernadet was born in 1936 and grew up in Edmonton Alberta. She was the daughter of Hungarian immigrants and was the eldest of two children. In 1957 she graduated from the Edmonton General Hospital School of Nursing. After graduation she worked for a few months in the Emergency Department at Sacred Heart Hospital, in Spokane, Washington. In 1958 she married Edward Ratsoy and they returned to Edmonton. Once back in Edmonton, Bernadet worked in obstetrics, both as a staff nurse and supervisor. Later in 1960 Bernadet and Edward moved to Vancouver so Edward could attend UBC School of Architecture. In 1961 Bernadet's extensive 28 year history with St Paul's Hospital in Vancouver began. During this time she held various positions from staff nurse in Obstetrics, to clinical instructor, to administrator.



She began her undergraduate nursing studies at UBC in 1968 and graduated in 1970 with a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing. Bernadet was responsible in the early 1970's for developing the Family Centered Maternity Program at St Paul's Hospital, the first of its kind in Canada.

In 1981 she graduated with a Master of Science in Health Science Planning and Administration from UBC. In 1979 she was promoted to Director of Nursing later renamed Vice President Nursing at St Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, BC. She remained in this position until 1989. During these years she was instrumental in providing the nursing leadership to develop a rapid and effective response to the AIDS epidemic in Vancouver. Bernadet initiated a staff nurses Journal Club that celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2001, this journal club was renamed the Bernadet Ratsoy Journal club which remains operational today.

In 1989 she returned to Edmonton as the Executive Director of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses. She returned to BC in 1991 as the Associate Dean in the School of Health Sciences at BCIT. She held this position for 11 years until her retirement in 2002. During her tenure she was instrumental in the introduction of specialty nursing courses and the development of the Nursing Baccalaureate program.

Throughout her career Bernadet was involved in many professional nursing activities. She served on several RNABC (now CRNBC) committees and was elected President of RNABC from 1983-1985.

Bernadet served on numerous boards and was active in the CNA along with a number of provincial and national committees.

After her retirement in 2002 she wrote the history of the Nursing Education Council of BC from 1972 - 2000. In 1990 she received the RNABC Award of Honour; in 2003 she received the Life Time Achievement award from the Health Care Leaders Association of BC. Bernadet's work was always directed at supporting nurse to become better nurses. She believed strongly that this is achieved by educating nurses a critical element in safe and effective patient care.

On October 2, 2009 Bernadet passed away peacefully in the Palliative Care Department of St Paul's Hospital Vancouver.

## Mary L. Richmond

1920 - 2002

Mary Richmond's nursing career spanned more than 50 years of dedicated commitment to excellence in nursing education and practice. A native of Vancouver, she finished high school in 1937, and the Depression meant university was out of the question. She spent two-and-a half years as a volunteer in the Canadian Youth Congress before entering nurses training. Her life and career were shaped by this early experience. In her words, "I believe that being a 'nurse' means serving on community boards to help people recognize our broader concerns for a healthful environment. This service confirms the nurse as citizen."

Mary graduated from the Vancouver General Hospital/University of British Columbia program in 1945. She began her professional career teaching anatomy and physiology to nursing students at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH). She obtained a teaching diploma from McGill University and, later in her career, taught there for a period of four years. She was the director of nursing education at Royal Jubilee Hospital (RJH) in the 1950s, and during her tenure she taught anatomy and physiology to numerous RJH students. She is most remembered for the neurology lectures she based on her nursing experience at the Montreal Neurological Institute. She is also remembered for her demanding lectures and exams in Materia Medica. In her role as director of education, she helped start programs in public health, tuberculosis nursing and psychiatric nursing.

In 1964, Mary returned to VGH to serve as director of nursing until 1973. During this time period she served on, and chaired, the Canadian Nurses Associations' (CNA) National Committee of Nursing Service, as well as chairing the Western Canadian Board of Review in connection with CNA's pilot study on the accreditation of schools of nursing in Canada. She was also active in forming the Council of Hospital Schools of Nursing, a committee of representatives from all the nursing schools in B.C., which in 1967, recommended that the training of nurses should take place in the post-secondary educational system. In addition, she served on an ad hoc committee on nursing research set up by the CNA. Mary was a charter member of the Canadian Nurses Foundation.

In 1974, she moved on to undertake two concurrent jobs in Victoria: administrator for a number of departments at the RJH in Educational Resources and consultant, adjunct professor and Acting Director of the University of Victoria's (UVIC) School of Nursing. With the transition of hospital-based programs to community colleges, Mary also served on the committee that saw the formation of Camosun College's School of Nursing. At this time she also involved herself with the RNABC's Oral History Project and later helped enlarge this project to form the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group, becoming a founding member.

Although she relinquished her duties at RJH in 1982, she continued to teach at UVIC as a visiting professor until 1988 and as Acting Director of the School of Nursing until 1992, when she retired from nursing. Her career and life accomplishments have been honoured with numerous awards. She was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree during the University of Victoria May convocation in 1991. In 1993, she was recognized for her contribution to the profession with RNABC's highest award, the Award of Honour.



## Mary Tremble - Sister Mary Bridget, S.S.A.

1845 - 1933

Among the Sisters of Saint Ann, who served in the early days of British Columbia, was Sister Mary Bridget, first superior of St. Joseph's Hospital, Victoria, B.C., and later whole-heartedly involved with nursing duties in that same institution.

With the imminent opening of St. Joseph's, which the Sisters of Saint Ann, although primarily a teaching community, had agreed to staff, Sister Mary Bridget left Victoria in 1875 to follow medical courses at St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland, Oregon, where the Sisters of Providence shared with her their nursing knowledge and experience.

On returning to Victoria, Sister Mary Bridget was given the leadership role in St. Joseph's Hospital, which opened on June 25, 1876. The sisters introduced a type of hospital insurance plan administered by St. Joseph's Hospital Society. The insurance plan helped to bring some financial stability to the hospital.

As the challenges of the new hospital evolved, Sister Mary Bridget met them with professional attitudes and solutions that carried the hospital successfully through its first year. Sister Mary Bridget, always attracted to nursing, left her position of leadership after only one year. Later she was a nurse for many years at St. Joseph's, where her charity, especially to the poor, became well-known.

At her death in 1933, the local papers wrote tributes about her long service at St. Joseph's Hospital. "She was an accomplished nurse, and it would be impossible to over-estimate the contribution she has made to the relief of human suffering in her long association with this fine institution." (The Times)

"There are many stories told of her association with people and events during the time when Victoria's history was being made...She was the type bound to win a place in the highest estimation both in pioneering days and more civilized times." (The Colonist)





## Mary Ann Trethewey

1834 - 1908

Mary Ann Trethewey was born in Derbyshire, England in 1834, the daughter to Joseph Ogle. We do not know how she became a "certificated nurse," but we do know that she was hired in that capacity to care for Eliza Trethewey in Crich, England. The date was 1855, and it establishes her as a contemporary of Florence Nightingale.

After Eliza died, Mary Ann's sister, Rebecca, married Samuel Trethewey and they emigrated to Canada. Mary Ann came with them and later that year married James Trethewey in Barrie, Ontario. They farmed in the Niagara Peninsula and then near present day Bracebridge, and had six children. At some time during this period she resumed her nursing career.

In 1873, James left Ontario to explore British Columbia. In spite of being a Methodist, he was attracted by the site of St. Mary's Mission. The Oblate fathers had just built a grist mill, and James was a miller by trade. Before long he had secured employment at the Mission, at Sumas, and at Pavillion in the Cariboo. In 1882, he went back to Ontario and brought Mary Ann west with him. They built a house near the Mission but spent the first winter at Spuzzum. While they were there Mary Ann was hired by the CPR as a nurse. For several years she travelled between Kamloops and Port Moody on a hand-car attending accidents and maternity cases.

Her most important initiative, however, was the establishment of a store, a small hotel, and a nursing home just below the Mission on the banks of the Fraser. She advertised herself as a "duly qualified and certificated nurse and accoucheur." Ten years later she added that she had "never lost a patient." She was a business woman well ahead of her time. She became the postmistress of the growing district, and her store and hotel were successful, but she is best known for her nursing role. For a number of years she was the only nurse in the area.

The Trethewey men prospered greatly and moved on to the Harrison and Chilliwack areas. Mary Ann continued her work in Mission until 1896 when she retired. She died in Vancouver in 1908.



## Maude I. (Dolphin) Anderson

1915 - 1995

Maude (Dolphin) Anderson had an interesting career in nursing administration, education and practice. She served with the World Health Organization from 1953 to 1959. During that time she helped to establish schools of nursing in Dacca, Pakistan and in Mauritius.

Her efforts helped to modernize health delivery systems and improve nursing education and practice in these regions. In her appointments as Director of Nursing in two British Columbia hospitals (Maple Ridge Hospital and Nanaimo General Hospital), she fostered collaborative relationships among all health professionals, supported the promotion of excellence in health and patient care and encouraged the development of staff. She enjoyed her contacts with students during her two appointments as a faculty member at the universities of Toronto and British Columbia. Early in her career she was staff nurse in hospitals in Montreal, Canada, London, England and Edinburgh, Scotland. She was a public health nurse on Indian Reservations in several locations in British Columbia.

She was born on August 12, 1915 in Nelson, B.C. Prior to entering nursing she taught music in that community. She received a Diploma of Nursing from the School of Nursing at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal in 1944, a Bachelor of Nursing from McGill University in 1947 and a Master's of Science (Nursing) from the University of Washington in 1961.

Throughout her career she was an active member of the RNABC. She was also very involved with the Nursing Administrator's Association of B.C.

In 1989, she was awarded the RNABC Award of Excellence in Nursing Administration for her six years with WHO and for her work as an administrator, consultant, educator, lecturer and conference leader.

Maude Anderson died at Richmond General Hospital on May 1, 1995.



## Monica Frith Green

1917 - 2004

Monica Frith Green was one of British Columbia's most distinguished and honored public health nurses.

Born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, in 1917, she moved to B.C. as a child. She graduated from the six-year, double-degree nursing program at the University of British Columbia, with her RN from Vancouver General Hospital, and her Bachelor of Arts (1939) and Bachelor of Applied Science in Nursing (1940). Soon after graduation, she joined the Provincial Public Health Nursing Service, working in the Okanagan and in Creston. After a leave to obtain a Master's degree in Public Health Nursing from the University of Michigan, she returned to the B.C. PHN Service as a Consultant. In 1948, she was promoted to Director. Under her gifted administrative skills, the nursing service expanded and she introduced, among other advances, a post-hospitalization home-care program, one of the first in Canada. She held the Director's position until her marriage and retirement in 1975.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Green was active in professional associations and was, among other positions, president of the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA). In 1967, she was honored by her U.S. colleagues and became Honorary President of the American Public Health Association and in 1968 was made an APHA Fellow. In 1975, she received the Award of Merit from the B.C. Branch of the CPHA for outstanding contributions to public health services and public health nursing.

Following retirement, she wrote the thoroughly-researched and well-illustrated *Through the Years with Public Health Nursing: A History of Public Health Nursing in the Provincial Government Jurisdiction British Columbia* (Ottawa: CPHA, 1984), now a classic reference book. In recognition of her writings, she was named an Honorary Life Member of the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group of the College of Registered Nurses of B.C.

Monica leaves a lasting legacy - her outstanding service and writings and her generous endowments to health care, nursing history, and nursing scholarships. She died December 28, 2004.



## Nan Kennedy

1914 - 1996

Nan Kennedy, a native British Columbian, influenced nursing in Canada and abroad during her 43-year nursing career. She graduated from the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing in 1933. She spent the next nine years as a general duty and private duty nurse in Vancouver and Bralorne, B.C.

After earning a public health nursing diploma at the University of British Columbia, she joined the World Health Organization as a public health nursing consultant in East Pakistan and Iran. She left WHO four years later to begin a year's study for a master's degree in nursing from the University of Washington in Seattle.

She joined the RNABC in 1959 as director of education services. She was appointed executive director in 1970.

Her eight years as executive director was a period of dramatic change for the Association. The number of registered nurses in B.C. went from 13,000 to more than 20,000. The number of staff grew from 23 to 45. Basic nursing education began moving away from hospitals to education institutions. The RNABC labour relations division was created (the forerunner of the BCNU) and province-wide collective bargaining for nurses was initiated.

The association structure was modified to allow direct elections of directors by the full membership. The RNABC disciplinary process was formalized. Working relationships were expanded with the provincial government—with nurses being appointed to provincial health care committees — and other health organizations. Furthermore, RNABC expanded its influence on health care delivery in B.C.

In 1978, Nan Kennedy was recognized for her contributions to nursing when she received the RNABC Award of Merit, the Association's highest honor.

Nan Kennedy died in Port Coquitlam at the age of 82.



## Nancy Wright

1964 - 2020

Nancy Wright, NP completed her Diploma in Nursing at Vancouver General Hospital in 1987, her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Nursing degrees at University of Victoria in 1999 and 2002 respectively. She completed her Nurse Practitioner designation at University of Northern British Columbia in 2008. Nancy was a devoted registered nurse, college and university instructor and nurse practitioner, always striving to advance social justice, fighting the good fight in her life and through her work.

Nancy was a foundational member of the BC Nurse Practitioner Association (BCNPA) and worked tirelessly to advance the profession as a member of the BCNPA, ensuring that the strength of the NP perspective was clearly highlighted in all aspects of care. Her passion for advocacy was demonstrated through her work in mental health and substance use as a member of teams who work to reduce the health risk associated with high risk behaviours and/or addictions.

Nancy loved to travel, was passionate about music, and was an arbiter of taste. Beneath her signature shock of flame-coloured hair and pierced nose, she was a truly modern alternative lady, who managed to infuse joy, art and music into everyone's life. She travelled the world working as a nurse in places ranging from Saudi Arabia to the Yukon. Along the way she collected a huge swath of friends, with whom she kept in regular touch.

On August 28th, 2020, Nancy passed away very suddenly from a cerebral aneurysm. She was a devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend and will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Nancy's family has created an award in Nancy's name through the University of Victoria, School of Nursing. If you would like to donate, kindly mail cheques made out to "University of Victoria" with "Nancy Wright Nursing Award" in the memo line and send to:

Development Officer; Human and Social Development, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700 STN CSC, Victoria, BC, V8W 2Y2, or [donate online](#).



## Nina Rumen

1927 - 2022

Nina Rumen was born in 1927 in what was then Poland and is now Belarus. In 1930, she immigrated to the Fernie/Cranbrook area of British Columbia. She graduated from St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing in Vancouver in 1949 and then joined the Royal Canadian Army Corps in 1951.

Her military career took her to Churchill, Manitoba, then on to Germany with the British Army. She served with NATO from 1970-1972.

Following completion of her nursing degree from the University of Toronto and her retirement from the services, she returned to Vancouver and worked in short term contracts for various agencies. Nina was a great supporter of the BC History of Nursing Society and provided significant funding for the Bursary Programme. In 2009, Nina was honoured for her devotion and dedication to the BC History of Nursing Society and a Memorial Portrait Doll was created by Sheila Rankin Zerr.

Before the Society was founded, Nina was active in the collection of Oral History tapes for the Registered Nurses Association 75th Anniversary. She served on the planning committee of the International Nursing History Conference in 1997. Nina was also active in the BC Registered Nurses Foundation, the St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, and the Nursing Sisters Association of Canada. Nina was instrumental in the staging of the Florence Nightingale Opera in 2006.

Nina was named a Honourary Life Member of the BC History of Nursing Society and was also awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 2012.

She passed away April 26, 2022 in Vancouver, BC.





## Patricia Ann Paton

1947 - 2018

Patricia Ann Paton (Pat) was a proud Registered Nurse having spent much of her nursing career working in pediatrics. She retired from nursing in 2012 and is fondly remembered by colleagues for her thoughtful approach and patient-centered care, always putting the needs of patients at the forefront. Pat exemplified the spirit of nursing by blending knowledge and experience with grace, kindness and warmth.

In her retirement, Pat enjoyed spending time with her husband of nearly 40 years, Don Paton, and with her children and grandchildren. Pat was also a proud 'Mrs. Claus' during the holiday season, spending many years brightening the days of children and adults alike dressed as Mrs. Claus. Pat loved to travel and is remembered with love for her beautiful spirit.

Pat passed away from pancreatic cancer on April 24, 2018.



## Patricia Mary Wadsworth

1931 - 2017

Patricia (Pat) Wadsworth was a graduate of the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) School of Nursing (1954) and the University of British Columbia (UBC) with degrees in Nursing (1955) and Adult Education (1970). Her career was varied with roles as a staff nurse, supervisor, instructor, Director of Ambulatory Services and then Patient Services at VGH, Executive Director of the BC Health Association, a surveyor for the first Canadian Association on Accreditation, Clinical Professor in the UBC Department of Health Care and Epidemiology, and Health Care Management Consultant.

In addition to her work, Pat made time to be an active member of local and national professional organizations filling a variety of committee and leadership roles. As President of the Registered Nurses Foundation of British Columbia (RNFBC) she was instrumental in ensuring that the Capital Campaign to increase funding for basic and continuing education nursing bursaries was a major success. When she was President of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association she helped many others recognize the closure of the school after 99 years, and as the Chair of the UBC School of Nursing 80th Anniversary Committee, she led the celebration of the first degree granting school of nursing in the British Empire.

Pat was an innovative leader with a passion for nursing who used her knowledge, skills and connections to deal with a wide variety of issues and challenges. Her many presentations and publications included broad themes such as strategic planning, patient care standards, communication, sharing of resources, staff development, continuing education and quality assurance.

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



## Patricia Whitehead

1947 - 2003

Patricia (Beck) Whitehead was born in Hamilton Ontario. She obtained her Baccalaureate degree from McMaster University in 1969. As a new graduate Pat worked for a short time in London, Ontario at the local hospital. She then went on to work in Public Health in Hamilton Ontario until 1972. In 1972 Pat and her family moved to British Columbia. Initially, Pat worked at Vancouver Community College-Langara Campus teaching nursing students. But, in 1974 Pat returned to her first love public health and worked in Coquitlam until 1976. Pat and her family returned to Ontario and from 1979 to 1983 she returned to work in public health in Hamilton Ontario.

Pat returned to British Columbia and from 1985 to 2003 she worked as a Public Health Nurse and Supervisor at the Mission Health Unit. From 1985-1993 Pat served as shop steward. Pat was a visionary with the ability to see the "big picture". She was instrumental in initiating and supporting community development projects in Mission, such as the "women's transition safe house and the beginning of the Mission "family place". She believed all community players were important and worked hard to bring them together. She was an energetic, positive member of many community groups. She valued and facilitated their interconnectedness. Pat constantly sought and supported input from others but was not interested in seeking personal recognition for successes. Her colleagues, friends and community celebrated and honoured her personal and professional contributions.

Pat's common sense, intellect and empathy for families in Mission made her a popular and well-respected Public Health Nurse. She had a unique ability to promote and encourage people to strive for their personal best, which made her a unique leader. She led by example and believed in the ability of her staff. Her mentorship skills made it a privilege to work with her.

On August 5, 2003, the Public Health Nursing Community lost a unique leader and dear friend with the passing of Pat. She is survived by her husband Ray and sons Andrew (Samantha) and Tim. Recognizing the central power of reading in her own life, the "Pat Whitehead Books for Children Fund" has been established in her honour.



## Pauline Alice Joy Siddons

1919 - 1999

Pauline Alice Joy Siddons made great contributions to development of public health nursing programs in British Columbia throughout her long career as a staff nurse, supervisor, and finally a senior consultant with the B.C. Division of Public Health Nursing. She accomplished many goals, in particular a change to more and better mental health care in the community.

Born in Saskatoon, Sask., August 27, 1919, she took her nursing program at the Saskatoon City Hospital, graduating in 1942. After a few months of general duty because of a major shortage of nurses in Saskatoon, she joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, serving from 1944 to 1946, first in England, then with the Canadian Army Occupational Force in Germany, and then in Belgium.

On her return to Canada, she moved to B.C. to take the Certificate Course in Public Health at University of British Columbia. On graduation in 1947, she was hired by the B.C. Division of Public Health Nursing, and served as a staff Public Health Nurse in Keremeos, McBride, and Agassiz. In 1967, she completed her nursing baccalaureate degree in administration and supervision at the University of Toronto. She then returned to the B.C. Public Health service as supervisor at Cranbrook for the East Kootenay Health Unit, and later to Kelowna in the South Okanagan Health Unit.

From 1969 to 1981, she was assigned to the central provincial Public Health office in Victoria as Consultant. During these years, she also received her Master of Public Health Degree from Johns Hopkins University, specializing in mental health. Because she felt strongly that nurses could make stronger contributions to care of the mentally ill in the community, she was given special responsibility for the growth of this program; during her tenure, mental health nursing care in the community was greatly expanded. She was a top administrator and regularly visited the public health units in the field, introducing programs of continuing education. As a senior consultant in the department, she was one of the nurses instrumental in shaping public health nursing policy for British Columbia.

She also provided consultations on mental health nursing to the Yukon Territories during the 1970s.

Following retirement in 1982, she lived in Victoria, maintaining an active lifestyle working with her Church, and attending the opera and symphony. She died May 9, 1999.



## Raymond 'Ray' Malcolm Thompson

1942 - 2022

Raymond Malcolm Thompson, known as Ray at the UBC School of Nursing, was born on October 8, 1942 in New Annan, Nova Scotia. He completed his RN diploma programme at Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing in Halifax. In September of 1964 he began his studies towards a BScN degree at the University of Western Ontario, graduating in May 1966. Starting in 1965, Ray worked as a general duty nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in London and moved to Toronto General Hospital upon graduation. Ray began his teaching career in 1967 at The Wellesley Hospital School of Nursing in Toronto, where he remained until 1969. He then enrolled at the University of Western Ontario, graduating with his MScN in 1972.

In 1972 Ray began his academic career as Assistant Professor of Nursing at the University of British Columbia teaching in the BSN and MSN programmes. Ray was an avid believer in health promotion and illness prevention, as well as the vital importance of community (public) health nursing. He always believed that clinical practice was the essence of nursing and of teaching, and according to his students, was a champion of clinical teaching in the community context.

Ray was the first male tenure track faculty member to join the UBC School of Nursing and remained the only male in a tenured position until his retirement in 2001. He led the way for future tenured male faculty members at the UBC School of Nursing and was influential in eliminating gender barriers in community health nursing and in recognizing men's health as a substantive area of nursing.

Ray was an active member of the Registered Nurses Association of BC (RNABC), a member of the Canadian Public Health Association, the B.C. Public Health Association, RNABC Nursing Research Interest Group, Canadian Red Cross Society (BC/Yukon Division) Health and Community Services Committee, RNABC Community Health Nurses Group (President: 1993-95), British Columbia Clinical Nurse Specialist Group, Canadian Association for HIV Research, Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing, Western Region (President: 1978-80), and member of Sigma Theta Tau International – Xi Eta Chapter. His contributions were recognized in 1996 with a Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia Member Recognition Award for his work with the Community Health Nurses Group, and in 2002 for his contributions to the BC Network contributing to the development of Standards for Community Health Nursing, Community Health Nurses Association of Canada.

Retiring from the School of Nursing in 2001, Ray maintained close relationships with a wide circle of friends.

Ray died in Vancouver on June 17, 2022.



## Ruth Echo (nee Littlejohn) McIlrath

1913 - 2001

Ruth Echo Littlejohn McIlrath was described at her funeral as a strong, capable, private, caring nurse – a professional, a role model, an advocate, an administrator, a quiet nurse who made a difference in the lives of many.

Born June 2, 1913 in Arcola, Saskatchewan, she was youngest of three daughters. Although her family lost their farm during the Great Depression, Ruth was able to enter the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1936. She came to Vancouver and worked at the Vancouver General Hospital until 1942. She joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps to serve overseas in World War II and was stationed first at the Vernon Military Hospital. She was then recruited to the hospital ship, Lady Nelson. This was Canada's first hospital ship, and its nine medical officers and 14 nursing sisters cared for the up to 500 sick and woundpatients on trips from battle zones back to England or Canada.

She wrote movingly of her war-time experiences, especially of the care needed following a dock explosion in Italy where she and a skeleton staff managed to return to and climb aboard their devastated ship to care for 80 to 100 dockside casualties, most with severe burns. A friend said she was devastated by the war, especially the trips to Italy where there was limited supplies, poor food, and many casualties. "She spent the rest of her life caring for and working on behalf of Canada's veterans," added this friend.

Following the War, she was assigned to Shaughnessy Military Hospital in Vancouver, first as Supervisor, then as Assistant Director, and finally as Director of Nursing (Matron). She was there until her retirement in 1976. She married during this time to Tom McIlrath in 1951, but continued with her career.

She is described as having great respect for her nursing staff and a profound belief in the profession of nursing and nursing standards. Once, despite considerable medical opposition, she closed a unit because she felt that the failure to meet standards put patients in jeopardy. Because of her field experiences with treatment of kidney failure in post-War European military hospitals, in 1948, she was involved in the first renal dialysis treatments in Vancouver and trained two teams of nurses. She was involved in a definitive research study of "golden staph" (S. Aureus) in the early 1950s. She was also an early investigator of home care for veterans, and her findings were adapted for veterans throughout Canada and indirectly influenced the development of home care for all Canadians.

Following retirement, she served on the Board of the George Darby Veterans' Home for nine years and was involved in establishment of Vancouver's innovative "Hard to House" project to improve living quarters for impoverished veterans. She also remained active in the Nursing Sisters' Association of Canada, both locally and nationally. She served on the Board of the Practical Nurses' Association and was involved in establishing standards for credentialing for practical nurses. She was a founding member of the Nurse Administrators' Association of B.C.

She died September 6, 2001 after a long, private battle with cancer. A major story on her career was carried in the Toronto Globe and Mail immediately following her death.





## Sandra Tetrault

1959 - 2019

Sandra was a Registered Nurse of 35 years and a practicing Foot Care Nurse for over 10 years. She was a Certified Foot Care Nurse (CFCN) with the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB- U.S. Certification) and worked as a Foot Care Nurse Educator. Sandra also served as the B.C. Advisor to the Canadian Association of Foot Care Nurses (CAFCN), the Association of Registered Nurses of BC (ARNBC) Network Lead for Foot Care Nursing, Co-Instructor for Foot Care Nursing programs at Vancouver Community College and co-writer of online foot care nursing program for Camosun College. Sandra was the proud owner of Healthy Feet Foot Care and Co-Owned Pededucation: B.C. Centre for Nursing Foot Care Education.

She enjoyed travels with her husband of 30 years, Paul, and was immensely proud of her three sons. Sandra connected with people on a deep level and was well known for her compassion and dedication to her career and community.

Sadly, Sandra and her husband Paul passed away together in a road accident on July 20, 2019. They will both be forever missed.



## Sara (Sally) Staples

1926 - 2012

Sally graduated from the St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing in 1953 and worked in a variety of positions at St. Paul's Hospital until her retirement in 1986.

Commencing as a staff nurse on a Medical Unit, she was soon appointed the Head Nurse, a position she held for seven years. In 1966, Sally was appointed the first Head Nurse of the new Medical Intensive Care Unit. This appointment was preceded by her developing, with others, the policies and procedures for Nursing Practice and Patient Care which became the foundation of the Intensive Care Nursing Specialty. The following year, Sally was appointed the Nursing Supervisor of the Medical Units, Intensive Care and the Emergency Department. In 1970, Sally was promoted to Assistant Director of Nursing and following changes in the Nursing Administration organization, she was appointed Senior Nursing Director-Operations. In this position she was responsible for all department staffing and support services.

From 1967 to 1986, Sally was instrumental in making many changes which enhanced patient care. This included standardizing the Unit Clerk Program and the expansion and standardization of the Unit Manager Program. In addition, two major initiatives impacted on nursing practice at St. Paul's Hospital and provincial nursing. In 1972, Sally and colleagues initiated a pilot project to implement the Extended Work Day for Nurses.

This required support from hospital administration, the nursing union, the professional association and other associated groups. After successful evaluations, the program was expanded throughout the province. This program led to the development of Master Rotations for Nurse Scheduling. Considered a provincial expert, Sally provided workshops throughout the province to assist other nursing departments.

Sally completed her nursing career by being awarded the RNABC Award of Excellence in Nursing Administration in 1986 as she demonstrated that she frequently surpassed professional standards, consistently showed responsibility for professional development, demonstrated progressive ideas in nursing, and acted as a role model and mentor.



## Sharon Dorothy Simpson

1946 - 2013

During her 46 years as a nurse in British Columbia, Dr. Sharon Simpson exemplified the highest commitment to professional nursing. Sharon graduated with an RN diploma in 1966 from the Prince Edward Island Hospital. In search of adventure, she moved to Vancouver in 1967 where she enjoyed general duty and then teaching student nurses at Vancouver General Hospital.

Sharon is remembered by graduates, colleagues, and nurses for the way in which she developed strong professional relationships for influencing change and promoting quality education through inspiration, mentorship, leadership, teaching/learning, collaboration, and compassion. Sharon served the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) on the Board of Directors and chaired the CASN Standing Education Committee.



She was also an active member of the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC, formerly known as the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia [RNABC]) including serving as Kamloops RNABC president for two years. Sharon participated on several RNABC/CRNBC committees from 1971-2007. She attended most annual general meetings, participated on the Discipline Committee, Approvals Committee, and the Speaker's Bureau for a provincial legislation project, and for several years acted as the professional association's representative to the Canadian Nurses Foundation. Sharon was a member of the Aids Society of Kamloops Board of Directors and fundraiser for the AIDS Walk, on the Kamloops Hospice Association Board of Directors, and a fundraiser for the Kamloops Hospice House. Sharon served as a Member-at-Large for the BC Western Region of CASN, and was a member of the BC History of Nursing and Global Health Interest groups as well as the Canadian Society for International Health and the Sigma Theta Tau International Society.

In 1971 she earned a BSN degree in Nursing from the University of British Columbia and in 1973 Sharon joined Cariboo College as one of the first four nursing faculty hired to develop the new college-based nursing program. During her tenure, Cariboo College (CC) became University College of the Cariboo (UCC) and then Thompson Rivers University (TRU). Sharon taught in the diploma nursing program, post-RN BSN program, and the general BSN program.

In 1991 she received a Masters in Nursing Degree from the University of Portland, where her scholarship focused on The informational and support needs of men with prostate cancer. In 2000, Sharon was awarded the Cariboo College Master Teacher Award. Sharon re-engaged with the University of British Columbia School of Nursing when in 2003 she took on the role of coordinating the inaugural UBC masters in nursing program at TRU.

Sharon retired in 2008 and was awarded a TRU Honorary Distinguished Alumni Award, was named Professor Emerita and received the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia award for Nursing Excellence in Education. She was instrumental in developing several nursing scholarships for TRU, including Sharon Simpson award for a BScN student who conveys compassion and demonstrates professional action for local or global vulnerable populations. In 2010, Sharon co-authored a definitive history of the School, titled "Traditions and Transitions: History of Nursing Programs at Thompson Rivers University, 1973-2003.

An exemplary teacher and lifelong student, Sharon was awarded a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership (EdD) from Simon Fraser University in October 2013. Her dissertation was entitled Professional Nurses as Global Citizens: Developing an Integrated Approach in Undergraduate Nursing Curricula.

Sharon passed away on December 25, 2013, and is survived by her husband of 40 years Dr. Terry Simpson and her children son Phillip and daughter Sarah, and her family in PEI with whom she had maintained close all her life.

## Shelagh (Wheeler) Smith

1928 - 2021

Shelagh was born in 1928 in Dawson City, Yukon and lived life with a pioneering spirit and passion for adventure. She began her Nursing Degree in 1944 at the University of British Columbia (UBC). After completing her BSc(N) in 1950, she taught at Montreal General Hospital for two years and for one year in New York City.

She then returned to Vancouver, volunteered for Brownies and Guides, was camp nurse for kids' camping trips, and was the informal neighbourhood community health consultant. At the age of 50 she enrolled in refresher courses and then taught as a sessional lecturer in the UBC School of Nursing. She earned an MSN in 1982 from UBC. Teaching was an inspiration to her, and it was her privilege to be able to mentor students with whom she could share her knowledge and wisdom of life and community work.



Following her retirement in 1992, Shelagh generously supported a variety of nursing scholarships and funds at the UBC School of Nursing and, in 2014, she established the Shelagh J Smith Award for Mature Students in Nursing. This award ensures that undergraduate students who must balance their intensive, rigorous studies with work, volunteer commitments and family responsibilities need not compromise their academic excellence due to financial need. In recognition of her ongoing commitment to supporting students she was recognized with the UBC Nursing Donor Partnership award in 2017.

Throughout her retirement years, Shelagh was actively involved in alumni events, and was an enthusiastic champion of the UBC School of Nursing and its vision for nursing. She was honoured a second time in 2019 with a Centenary Medal to celebrate the UBC's School of Nursing 100th anniversary. Living close to campus, Shelagh remained a regular presence at School of Nursing lectures, seminars, and events throughout her retirement years.

Shelagh passed away peacefully in Vancouver at the age of 93 on December 27, 2021.



## Shirley Anne Steele

1933 - 1999

Shirley Anne Steele was born to a single mother living in humble circumstances in Vancouver B.C. in 1933. She attended Charles Dickens Public School at Kingsway and Broadway streets in Vancouver, King Edward High School, and the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing, from which she graduated in 1955.

In 1956 she married her East Vancouver neighbourhood schoolmate, Ralph Sultan, and with him embarked on a career which would take her to Montreal, then Buffalo, then Boston, then Montreal, then Calgary, then Toronto, and finally back to Vancouver.

After graduation from VGH, Shirley was employed as a ward nurse at Vancouver General Hospital. Subsequently, she was employed as a surgical nurse in Humber Memorial Hospital in Toronto, and after that, as a nurse specialist at the Queensway Clinic in Toronto.

While her spouse attended Harvard, Shirley attended Boston University on U.S. Government scholarships, graduating first with a Bachelor of Nursing Degree in 1963 and a Masters Degree in Nursing in 1964. Her thesis examined the determinants of quality of nursing care in an American setting. After graduation from BU, Shirley Steele served as an instructor in Surgical Nursing at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Shirley then became a surgical nurse at a private hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, working with Dr. Kurt H. Thoma, born in Basel, Switzerland in 1883, and Professor of Oral Surgery at Boston University's dental school where he became famous for facial bone reconstruction, and who appreciated Shirley's surgical nursing skills.

Moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts, she was employed at the Boston Memorial Hospital. While in Boston, she bore four children, Nels, Kirsten, Christina and Karla, and lived in Cambridge Massachusetts, and later in Weston, Massachusetts where she and her husband built a home while her husband pursued an academic career at Harvard. Moving to Montreal in 1973, Shirley Steele served at Montreal General Hospital. Her responsibility was quality assurance, hospital wide.

Relocating to Toronto, she entered into a partnership with Dr. Charles Gregory, a psychiatrist specializing at work-related rehabilitation, with whom she jointly owned and operated the Columbia Health Centre for Integrated Health Management. Columbia, with offices in Toronto and Vancouver, serving the Worker Compensation Boards of Ontario and of British Columbia. Selling her interest in Columbia, she and her husband relocated to West Vancouver in 1990 to be closer to Shirley's ailing mother.

In July 1999, at age 65, she collapsed suddenly from a brain aneurism while finishing the deck of the family cruising trawler prior to launching. She died within a few hours despite the best efforts of the emergency staff at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

At the time of her death, she was engaged in a private project aimed at reducing the incidence of surgical nurse injuries from "sharps" (needle sticks) in consultation with Kaiser Permanente HMO in California. That project was never completed.

She is survived by her husband Ralph Sultan, politician, banker, economist and engineer, her four children, and five grandchildren as of 2015.



## Sister Columkille, S.P.

1890 - 1973

Sister Columkille served as president of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. from 1949 to 1951. She made many contributions to nursing, nursing practice, and nursing education throughout her long nursing career.

Born Alice Lane Hamer on February 18, 1890, in Torquay, South Devon, England, she emigrated to Montreal with her father in 1907. Following her conversion from Anglicanism to Catholicism in 1911, she entered the Sister of Providence at the Novitiate in Vancouver, Washington, August 20, 1915. After professing her vows February 29, 1917, Sister Columkille was assigned to St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, B.C., where she began studies at SPH School of Nursing, graduating in the fall of 1919. She was then assigned to the laboratory, where she was the first to receive a Diploma as a Laboratory Technician in 1925.

Later, Sister went on to Seattle University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in the summer of 1937 and on December 15, 1938, she was transferred from the Laboratory to the position of St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing, according to Sister "a red letter day in my life." Throughout the 15 years she served as Director of the School, 1,240 nurses graduated, including the first male graduate of a B.C. school of nursing to become registered with RNABC (1951).

Sister served on the Executive of RNABC from 1941 to 1953. On leaving St. Paul's School of Nursing in 1953, she was appointed Administrator of Notre Dame Hospital, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, then Sacred Heart Hospital, McLennan, Alberta, then St. Eugene Hospital, Cranbrook, B.C. Although a capable administrator who had the ability to appreciate and draw on the strengths of her faculty members and staff, hers was a very sensitive nature. This combination endeared her to many.

After a lengthy career with a number of outstanding accomplishments to her credit, one would expect comments and echoes crediting her with initiating progressive movers in nursing and practice – and rightly so. However, most prominent in the hearts of those who knew her were her kindness and sensitivity, her ability to overlook faults and failings, and her adeptness at stressing the finer points in people's characters and personalities.

Sister retired in the fall of 1962 to Father Lacombe Nursing Home, Calgary, and in 1965 was transferred to the Sisters' Infirmary at Providence Centre, Edmonton, where she died at 82 years on February 4, 1973.





## Sister Virginia Surina SSA

1937 - 2002

Virginia Surina was born in Kaslo B.C. in 1937. She was the youngest of 10 children born to Czechoslovakian parents living on Shutty Bench, a rural community named for her grandfather. She grew up in a deeply spiritual home and the death of her father when she was eight was difficult for the family. Virginia was a great support and strength to her mother and family. She attended a one-room schoolhouse for her elementary education and graduated in 1955 from Kaslo High School. She left Kaslo in 1956 to attend St. Paul's School of Nursing in Vancouver.

In 1959, on entering the Novitiate of the Sisters of Saint Ann in Victoria, she was given the name of Sister Leanne Marie. Sister Leanne combined nursing studies with religious enrichment. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Seattle in 1962. Her first posting was to St. Joseph's Hospital in Victoria. There she was Head Nurse on Pediatrics for one year and Supervisor of Obstetrics for two years. Following that she served from 1966-1968 as Director of Nursing at Sacred Heart Hospital, Smithers, B.C.

From 1969 to 1984, she was the much-loved and hard-working Director of Nursing at Mount St. Francis (Geriatric) Hospital in Nelson, B.C. She was in charge of staff hiring and scheduling. She worked through the transition from Roman Catholic management to an institution under the government of British Columbia. In the mid-1970s, she and fellow sisters were able to return to their maiden names.

Former staff members repeatedly affirm: "Sister Virginia was always there for staff and patients." She conducted mini-programs for patients, and instituted a monthly Memorial Service so that staff could remember recently deceased patients. The families of staff and patients have acknowledged numerous kind deeds and helpful counselling. Sister instructed new Aides until Selkirk College introduced a course for Licensed Practical Nurses.

In 1985, she spent a sabbatical year studying in Ottawa. At the end of her sabbatical year she returned to Mt. St. Mary's hospital in Victoria as Sacristan and Pastoral Visitor. She continued her education at St. Paul's University taking theological studies. During this time she was diagnosed with a blood disorder and advised to follow a less stressful lifestyle. She returned in 1989 to Mount St. Mary's Hospital and continued to do pastoral care work. There she created superb programs for the frail elderly.

In 1999, she returned to Kaslo to nurse her sister Sophie. Virginia underwent surgery in June 2000 and spent the rest of her days at the Saint Anne's residence where she continued to minister.

She died in Victoria on March 6, 2002 four days after her 65th birthday.



## Sonia Acorn (nee Griffin)

1939 - 2020

Sonia Acorn (nee Griffin) was born in Webster's Corner, PEI, on April 3rd, 1939, she graduated from St. Joseph's Convent and Notre Dame Academy, Charlottetown and went on to a career in nursing. In 1960, she graduated with a nursing diploma from St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Boston. After nursing in New York City, she returned to her studies and received a Bachelor of Nursing from McGill University, in 1964.

In 1966, Sonia returned to Prince Edward Island and was Nursing Instructor and later Director of Nursing, Hillsborough Hospital, Charlottetown. Subsequently she was Director of Staff Development and Training, PEI, Civil Service Commission

In 1972, Sonia received an MSc (Nursing) from Boston University, served as President of the Association of Nurses for Prince Edward Island, and as a Board Member of the Canadian Nurses Association. Moving to Edmonton in 1982, Sonia taught at the University of Alberta and in 1987 completed her PhD Nursing at the University of Utah.

In 1988 Sonia accepted a faculty position at the University of British Columbia. She was promoted to full professor in 1999 and accepted the role as Interim Director of the School of Nursing from 2000-2002. In 2019 she received the School of Nursing Centenary Medical of Distinction which was created to mark the celebration of the school's 100 Anniversary.

Sonia was actively involved in a partnership between the University of British Columbia School Of Nursing, and the Guru Nanak College of Nursing in Dhahan Kaleran, Punjab, India. She consulted with schools of nursing internationally on the development of nursing curricula, including the University of Jordan, in Amman and the Peking Union Medical College Hospital School of Nursing in Beijing. Sonia had an infectious laugh and a kind and mentoring spirit which she lent to all her endeavors. Over her professional career Sonia had numerous publications and received honors and awards including the Award of Excellence in Nursing Research from the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia and an Award for Accreditation Review Excellence from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing.

Sonia passed away peacefully in Vancouver on June 14, 2020.



## Stephany (Haimov) Grasset

1931- 2022

Born on September 26, 1931 in Bulgaria, Stephany received her senior matriculation in 1948. She studied philosophy and history at the Sorbonne University, Paris in 1949 and then immigrated to the United States graduating from the New York Bellevue Hospital School of Nursing in 1953 where she received a clinical nursing award. She obtained her BSc from Louisiana State University in 1955 before moving to Canada in 1961.

Stephany achieved her University of British Columbia (UBC) Public Health Nursing in 1968 and attained several other credit and certificate courses. Her many positions have included adolescent counselling, instructor in nursing, and district nurse for the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON). She was also a nurse practitioner at a senior citizen housing project and with a family practice group in Vancouver. She regarded her internship in the Palliative Care Hospice at Victoria General Hospital in Montreal as a highlight of her career.

From 1977-1985 she instructed in the Psychiatric Nursing program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), during which time she also lectured at the UBC School of Nursing and other institutions. From 1985-1986 she consulted in psychiatric and geriatric nursing for the World Health Organization in Barbados. From 1989 she instructed in Acute Psychiatric Nursing in BCIT's RN diploma program. She was President of the Registered Nurses Association of BC from 1980-1981, and received the Presidents Award. Stephany's outgoing personality and enthusiasm found her on many committees and involved in various Research Projects.

Stephany passed away peacefully on March 17, 2022 at age 90. She will be remembered for being well read and outspoken and with a unique ability to meet and surround herself with a diverse circle of good friends who enjoyed her amazing hospitality.



## Thurley Mary Duck

1929 - 1997

Thurley Duck was born in Victoria, B.C. on 28 October 1929. She was the only daughter of Dr. Charles and Florence Duck. She grew up and went to school in Victoria. She graduated as a nurse from the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing in 1951. She worked as a general duty nurse at the Vernon Jubilee Hospital.

She went to Montreal where she completed a post-graduate course in psychiatric nursing at the Allen Memorial Institute in 1961. She worked as a staff nurse, head nurse and assistant supervisor at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. She completed a diploma in teaching and supervision and a baccalaureate(B.N.) at McGill University in 1964. From 1964-1966, she was an assistant to the assistant director of nursing at the Allen Memorial Institute.



Returning to Vancouver, she served in a number of administrative positions at Vancouver General Hospital: assistant supervisor of the Centennial Pavilion from 1966-1973; supervisor of the Heather Pavilion; and director, nursing administration, from 1975 until her retirement in 1978.

Also active in the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia, she was a member of the Board of Directors from 1975-1978. She was first vice president of RNABC before being elected as the 24th president, 1975-1977. During her presidency, the labour relations department of RNABC was set up as autonomous division, but under the umbrella of the Association. It was also at this time that a two-year baccalaureate program was first offered at the University of Victoria. In 1976, RNABC introduced major programs on quality assurance and safety to practice.

After her retirement, she moved to Shawnigan Lake, B.C. where she had the opportunity to breed and raise Dalmatian dogs under the kennel name "Wilddeer." She was devoted to her dogs and studied all aspects of behaviour and breeding, acting as a resource for others with her wealth of knowledge. She took every opportunity to promote responsible dog breeding and was an active member and executive officer of several clubs, the Tyee Kennel Club, the Victoria City Kennel Club, the Cowichan Dog Obedience Club, the Dalmatian Clubs of Vancouver Island, B.C., Canada and America.

Thurley Duck died on 26 September 1997 at the Cowichan District Hospital in Duncan, B.C.

## Tracy Truant

1963- 2021

Tracy Truant played a leading role in the development of cancer nursing in British Columbia, Canada, and internationally over her impressive career. From the moment she completed her Bachelor of Science of Nursing degree at the University of British Columbia (UBC) School of Nursing in 1988, she fell in love with cancer nursing. Tracy's professional career spanned teaching at UBC School of Nursing and clinical practice leadership at BC Cancer Agency. Over the years, and with two more UBC nursing degrees, a Master of Science in Nursing in 1998 and a PhD in 2018, Tracy was instrumental in the establishment of national practice guidelines and promoted models of care designed to support the experience of cancer patients and their families in the most safe, equitable, and compassionate manner possible.

Tracy was sought after internationally as a speaker, consultant, facilitator and mentor for cancer nurses and organizations seeking to strengthen the evidence basis for supportive cancer care in their regions and to optimize their capacity to help patients navigate services across the full spectrum of the cancer journey, including into survivorship. A widely published scholar in her own right, Tracy was also an innovative collaborator and an enthusiastic champion for integrating knowledge generation and translation into cancer nursing practice, including supporting opportunities for graduate students to build the knowledge base that is foundational to equity and quality in cancer care. She served on numerous committees and Boards of Directors, including a term as President of the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology and as Board Director for the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care. In 2017, the Association of Registered Nurses of BC awarded her its Excellence in Advancing Nursing Knowledge & Research Award, and in 2018, in acknowledgement of her stellar contribution to patients, practice and the profession, she was recognized by the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

In April 2018, Tracy was diagnosed with glioblastoma. Although this forced her to step down from her newly acquired dream job as Director, Research, Education and Innovation at BC Cancer, she continued to participate in cancer nursing strategizing and research until shortly before her death on April 8, 2021. She left behind her husband Michael McKenzie, daughters Sophie and Molly McKenzie, and a wide circle of colleagues and friends all of whom miss her warmth and presence deeply.



## Trenna Hunter

1906 - 1996

Trenna Hunter had a successful career in two professions — teaching and nursing. At the age of 17, she taught in one-room schools in Alberta, first at Rocky Mountain House and later at Hannah, Stettler and Banff. After her contract ended, she decided to become a nurse. She entered the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing in 1936.

After graduation, she immediately enrolled in the certificate public health nursing program at the University of British Columbia School of Nursing. When her course was completed, she began work as a staff public health nurse with the Metropolitan Health Board in Vancouver. Soon, she was encouraged to get her degree in nursing, which she did in 1944.

Trenna Hunter played a unique role in the wartime relocation of Japanese people who were situated at the Pacific National Exhibition grounds at Hastings Park. She was seconded from the Metropolitan Health Board to the British Columbia Securities Commission. Thirty-two thousand Japanese, the size of a small town, were housed in what had formerly been cattle and horse sheds. Trenna Hunter was in charge of health services for all of them - children with communicable diseases, pregnant women, the mentally ill and the elderly. The able-bodied men were sent to work on the Hope-Princeton Highway. The hospital was organized using the help of the Japanese as much as possible. The women sewed linen and the men built walls on rollers for flexibility of room size and space. Evidence of the regard in which Trenna Hunter was held are to be found in her album. Letters of appreciation and commendation from many Japanese and Canadian officials have been kept as acknowledgment of her personal contribution to the Japanese community and serve as a reminder of that difficult period in Canadian history.

Trenna Hunter worked for the Metropolitan Health Board for 26 years until her retirement. Throughout this time she also had extensive involvement in the Canadian Nurses Association. She served on executive committees for nine years before becoming president in 1956. She led the Canadian delegation at the International Congress of Nursing in Rome in 1957.

Throughout her career Trenna Hunter was recognized by staff, medical health officers and key personnel in tuberculosis and mental health services as an outstanding nursing leader.





## Vicky Bach

1951 - 2014

Vicky Bach was a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), Medicine at Fraser Health. She was also an expert in gerontology, medicine and palliative care, and her expertise was regularly sought out by health practitioners and leaders at all levels. Born in Barbados and raised in Montreal, Vicky worked in an office, in a print shop, as a legal secretary, and then operated her own typesetting business before going to nursing school.

Vicky earned her BScN Summa Cum Laude from McMaster University in 1993 and was awarded the Ruth Burke Memorial Prize for the highest standing in her class, as well as the University Award for Special Achievement.

Vicky then worked at a seniors' facility (residence and nursing home) in Hamilton, Ontario and remained at that facility for 13 years, beginning as Volunteer Coordinator, then Activities Director, moving up to Director of Resident Services, Chaplaincy Nurse, and finally Acting Director of Care. While working in Hamilton, Vicky also became certified in Long-Term Care management, as a Parish Nurse, and was educated in palliative care. At 51 Vicky undertook another challenge by working towards her Master of Science degree, while working full-time. In 2005 she graduated with a Master of Science from McMaster University.

In 2006 Vicky and her husband moved to Abbotsford where she worked at Fraser Health as a CNS until illness prevented her from working any more in November 2013. Vicky was a mentor to her colleagues and coworkers, and she was a teacher to many. She approached the world with care and creativity, and she cherished her husband, her daughters and her son-in-law. In addition to her devotion to her immediate family, Vicky was a beloved friend and sister, and had been a devoted daughter to her parents.

Vicky made a significant and exceptional contribution to nursing in British Columbia, and she demonstrated leadership and the highest standard of care in her work. Vicky was certainly multi-faceted in carrying out her nursing role. She advanced the development of the nursing profession and created a legacy of nursing knowledge through her work. Vicky was honoured in the profession, and she has set an example which is emulated by others. In September 2014, Vicky was recognized by the College of Registered Nurses of BC

(CRNBC) with the Award of Excellence in Nursing Practice. At the request of the World Health Organization (WHO), Vicky's research on an Acute Ischemic Stroke Care Path has been included in the WHO library.

As a side project, Vicky and her sister co-wrote several biographies for the Dictionary of Canadian Biography (DCB). Vicky also authored several movie reviews which are published in Movies in American History: An Encyclopedia (ABC-CLIO).

On December 31, 2014 Vicky passed away as a result of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) two years after its onset in early 2013. As she approached her life, Vicky met her death with quiet grace and dignity.



## Verna Huffman Splane

1914 - 2015

Excerpted from: [theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/Deaths.20150114.93355196/BDAStory/BDA/deaths](http://theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/Deaths.20150114.93355196/BDAStory/BDA/deaths)

Verna Splane was a giant in the profession of nursing. She served as a practitioner, civil servant, teacher, researcher consultant and author from the high Canadian Arctic to the African Sahara and on every continent.

Born in Peterborough, Ontario to a family of modest means, after high school Verna took a job as a nurse and was encouraged to go into public health. Together with some saved money and a scholarship from the Victorian Order of Nurses, Verna attended the School of Nursing at the University of Toronto obtaining a Diploma in Public Health Nursing in 1939. As a part of her scholarship, she worked for the Victorian Order of Nurses for the two years following.

Verna continued her formal education at Columbia University in New York where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree (1957). She continued her graduate work at the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan where a social program was created for her to take senior nursing roles when she returned to Canada. While studying for her Master's degree (1964) at the University of Michigan, she did field work with the US Surgeon General's office.

Verna was especially proud of her work overseas and particularly with the World Health Organization ('WHO'). Prior to her return to Canada, from 1959 to 1962, Verna served as a WHO nurse advisor to the health ministries of what today is Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and the British controlled Windward and Leeward Islands of the Caribbean.

When Verna returned to Canada, she joined the federal Department of National Health and Welfare where from 1963-1966, she was a public health nursing consultant with professionals from many different fields developing policies that eventually lead to our Medicare system.

In 1966, she undertook another national health planning project for the WHO in Libya. In 1967, Verna became Canada's first Chief Nursing Officer (the highest nursing position in Canada) at what is now Health Canada and served in that role until 1972. From 1975 to 1984, Verna was a faculty member in USC's School of Nursing and from 1985 to 1991 at the School of Nursing at the University of Victoria.

Throughout her career as advocate for the health of the public, she concentrated on national and international health planning, policy development and the extended role of the nurse.

Not content to retire into their golden years, Verna and her husband Richard undertook a ground-breaking



multi-year study of the role of chief nursing officers in more than 50 countries. Chief Nursing Officer Positions in National Ministries of Health: Focal Point for Nursing Leadership was published in Verna's eightieth year. Even in retirement Verna and Richard hosted young nurses in their home at UBC to discuss issues and challenges relating to nursing abroad.

Verna was the proud recipient of many honours for her many contributions to nursing. She was an Officer of the Order of Canada (1975), the Jeanne Mance award which is the highest honour of the Canadian Nurses Association (1982), the Registered Nurses Association of BC Award of Merit (1987), and the Queen's Silver and Golden Jubilee Medals (1977, 2002). She has also received commendation from the Canadian Red Cross, the YWCA of Vancouver and the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). Verna was also recognized as an Outstanding Public Health Nurse by the University of Michigan and received several honorary degrees and memberships.



Virginia Geraldine Lapointe

1932 - 1997



Geraldine Lapointe was President of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. from 1973-1975. An "allaround" person, she was an exemplary nursing educator, administrator, and practitioner and made many contributions to development of nursing in the province.

Geri was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and received her early schooling there. She graduated from McKellar General Hospital School of Nursing in Thunder Bay in 1953 and worked as a general staff nurse at McKellar General Hospital until 1955. She was a keen skier during this time and received a number of awards for downhill ski-racing.

In 1955, she studied at University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario. She then became science instructor at McKellar Hospital School of Nursing for two years. She moved to Kamloops B.C. in 1957as science instructor. After one month, she was named Associate Director of Nursing Education. In a history of the School, she was described as "the person who was to make the greatest changes and have the greatest influence on the school." In 1959, she attended University of Washington in Seattle, to take nursing courses.

In 1960, she was named Director of Nursing Education at RIH, a position she held until the school closed in 1974. One-half of all graduates from RIH School of Nursing graduated when "Miss Lapointe" was the director. In the 1970s when nursing schools were being moved from hospital settings to educational institutions, Geri was instrumental in the transition of the nursing program from RIH to Cariboo College. In 1975, she became Planning Director for Royal Inland Hospital and continued to work in administration at RIH until she retired in 1991.

Geri was a very active member of the RNABC locally and provincially. She was President of the Kamloops Chapter and served on numerous committees While she was President of the RNABC, a report titled Health Security for British Columbians by Dr. Richard Foulkes recommended that nurses should be represented on hospital boards and other health committees or boards responsible for policy-making. It was also during her presidency that public representatives were first appointed to RNABC's Board of Directors.

Geri received a number of awards during her lifetime, including the Woman of the Year Award in 1977 presented by the City of Kamloops and a commemorative medal from the Queen in 1977. This medal marked the 25th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's reign and was awarded as "an expression of the esteem in which they are held by their associates." When Geri wasn't absorbed in her career, she was an avid sports enthusiast. She served as president of a local curling club and golf club. She enjoyed gourmet cooking and making wine, and she loved to entertain. She also was an animal lover and for years was accompanied by her dog 'Whipper Billy Watson' at work.

Geri died in Kamloops in 1997 at the age of 64.



## Wilma Elaine Crockett

1951 - 2001

Wilma Crockett, our leader, coworker, friend and highly respected member of our renal family, died in a motor vehicle accident on November 28, 2001. Wilma was a woman with a mission: always on the move, and there was no stopping her. She was on her way to the opening of the Sparwood Dialysis Unit when she died.

Wilma graduated from the Prince Edward Island School of Nursing in 1972. She came to the Trail Regional Hospital (TRH) in September 1972 and worked in Pediatrics and the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). In 1977 she left for a short time to work at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. She returned to the Trail Regional Hospital in 1978 where she worked ICU Emergency; in 1980, she began her career in dialysis. Wilma took on the leadership of the Trail Renal Unit as Head Nurse in 1986, where she remained until her untimely death. Her title later changed to Patient Care Coordinator of Renal Program and Pediatrics.



Wilma took pride in her job and was always improving and expanding her knowledge. In 1994, she received a Certificate in Health Care Management from the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). In 1996, she completed the Canadian Nurses Association Certification in Nephrology. She became the Kootenay Regional Renal Program Manager and, as of 1998, served on a number of B.C. Renal Agency committees and working groups. She was involved with other organizations such as the nephrology-nursing program at BCIT. Wilma was dedicated to the improvement of renal care and was influential in the development of four other Kootenay community dialysis units.

In 1999, Wilma was recognized for her valuable contributions to the nursing profession by her colleagues, who presented her with an RNABC Recognition Plaque. This recognition says it all: she was an outstanding nurse. In November 2001, she received a pin honouring her for her 20 years of service to the Trail Regional Hospital.

Wilma waited patiently for everything - she never complained and she felt everything came in its own time. She was our resource and inspiration. We did not always agree and sometimes we would argue, but Wilma was our devoted leader and she held us together. Our future is uncertain right now, but what we do know is, we will all go on, because that is what we learned from Wilma, and she would not want it any other way. She was an incredible woman: as a professional as well as a patient, she was an advocate for all with kidney disease.