



Canadian Association for the History of Nursing
Association canadienne pour l'histoire du Nursing

Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 2, Fall 2005

President's Message

As the new CAHN/ACHN president I would like to introduce myself to the many members I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting. My interest in nursing history began many years ago. On a personal note, my maternal grandmother was a graduate nurse from the Toronto General Hospital, class of 1921. Her stories of ward life intrigued me enough that I enrolled in TGH's School of Nursing where I earned my diploma in the mid-70s. I enjoyed being a student and moved to Edmonton in 1978 where I stayed and worked for a couple of years after completing my BScN at the University of Alberta.

In the early 80s I enrolled in graduate studies at the University of Toronto and had the opportunity to pursue my interest in nursing history. I enjoyed exploring the archives of my then employer, the St. Elizabeth Visiting Nurses Association. My interest led to contacting members of the Ontario History of Nursing group and CAHN/ACHN. I have been a member of CAHN/ACHN during most of the intervening years and served on the executive in the mid-90s. My interest in nursing history shifted into the area of psychiatric/mental health nursing as I worked in this field during the 90s. I had the opportunity to do archival research and oral histories of former nurses and nursing students (including Margaret Allemang) who had been at the Toronto Psychiatric Hospital.

In 2001 I moved to British Columbia and joined the provincial nursing history group. With the 2006 CAHN/ACHN conference being held in Vancouver, I accepted an invitation to join the executive. I currently teach Home Health Community Nursing at the British Columbia Institute of Technology, a job that keeps me very busy! I look forward to hearing from you and hope to have an opportunity to meet you in Vancouver ... and Saskatoon in 2007!

In October, CAHN/ACHN received good news from Dr. Seidelman, President of the Associated Medical Services (AMS), informing us of AMS' decision to provide ongoing financial support for the CAHN/ACHN Hannah Lectureship for the next three years. This grant is a "vote of confidence" in the work of our association and helps us attract leading speakers to our conferences.

Marg Gorrie

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Editors' Message

Welcome to the first CAHN newsletter published in Atlantic Canada. This newsletter has been described as a bit of a lifeline of CAHN and the most important means by which we communicate with members. We also think it is a way of *spreading the word* about Canadian nursing history to those outside CAHN and a means of recruiting new members to our organization. Hopefully, during our tenure as editors, we can use the newsletter to increase awareness of nursing history in both the nursing and health care community and to expand membership in CAHN particularly in our region of the country. When we reviewed the membership list we realize that we have our work cut out for us in this region but there are things happening here in NL to preserve the history of nursing and I am sure similar activities are happening in the other Atlantic provinces. We just need to get the word out!

Marilyn and I will get our first opportunity to "spread the word" in January, 2006 at the Canadian Nursing Students Association Annual Meeting here in St. John's. Their theme is Nursing: Past, Present and Future." We have been invited to speak on a panel to discuss the history of nursing in NL. I know we will use the opportunity to tell students what is happening related to nursing history across the country.

We want to thank Janet and Marion and all those who have been so helpful as we put together our first newsletter. As this is our first effort as editors we welcome your thoughts and suggestions on the newsletter. What does it need to make it more interesting for you but more importantly to stimulate non-members to read it?

We are also exploring the possibility of distributing the newsletter via electronic format. However, before we do that we need to find out how it will impact the members. What is your preference? Please send Marilyn or I your feedback on whether or not we should send the newsletter through the email, stay with the print format or both. Once we have a sense of the membership's wishes we will bring it back to the Executive for a final decision.

Wishing you all best wishes for the holiday season.

Marilyn Beaton & Jeanette Walsh

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(Vera Roberts Legacy)
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Dr. Geertje Boschma 2005/07
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Membership Report, November 2005

This has been a very rewarding time to be involved with CAHN-ACHN, and I have watched our membership virtually double since 2004, to a current total of **149** members, 41 of whom have joined since January. This year the executive board decided to provide free memberships to new students: in total we have given out 9 free student memberships. We extend a warm welcome to everyone!

Totals	
Renewed memberships	= 110
New memberships (paid)	= 32
New memberships (free student)	= 9
Lapsed memberships	= 8

Total 2005 database = 157

Total 2005 Membership = **149**

Types of Members

Active	= 49
Retired	= 62
Associate	= 24
Student	= 14

Total = 149

New Members in 2005 = 41

All updated membership information has been entered into a database, including provincial registration numbers. Thus, to renew your membership, you may simply make note of any changes since the previous year. **There are 3 ways to renew membership for 2005:** (1) complete and mail the membership form you receive in the mail; (2) download and mail the membership form from http://www.ualberta.ca/~jhibberd/CAHN_ACHN/membership.htm; or (3) email me with your updated information at sonya.grypma@uleth.ca. You may send application forms and cheques or money orders to: Sonya Grypma, School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge, 4401 University Drive Lethbridge, AB CANADA T1K 3M4.*

* *Please note the change in address*

Sonya Grypma
Membership Chair

Treasurer's Report, November 2005

CAHN/ACHN has had a very good year financially. Our membership is up with a corresponding increase in membership fees, the Vera Roberts Legacy of \$200,000 for work on Northern nursing has been successfully transferred into our coffers, and our 2004 and 2005 conferences both made money. We are particularly grateful to Professor Kathryn McPherson who organized the 2004 conference at York University and to Professor Lynn Kirkwood who organized our 2005 conference in Ottawa. Lynn had an especially complex job because she coordinated sponsorship of the conference with the Canadian Nurses Association, the Library and Archives of Canada and the Museum of Civilization. As a result, it proved to be the largest conference we have ever had. Just over 100 people attended which compares very favorably with the 120 who attended the AAHN conference in Atlanta in September. Both the York and the Ottawa conferences were very, very enjoyable.

The surplus from these two conferences have put us in the position of being able to give some financial support to students who present papers and posters at our 2006 conference. The Allemang Centre, which is the provincial nursing history group for Ontario, provided financial help for four students from Ontario to attend our 2005 conference. We were absolutely delighted with this grant because all of these students were people whom we had not met before. We hope the Allemang Centre will continue to provide student support. The generous support which Associated Medical Services provided for students from all over Canada was another key factor in making the 2005 conference such a success. We are also applying to (AMS) for help with transportation and accommodation costs for these students in 2006.

It was wonderful to meet so many young people who were interested in the history of nursing and if we can continue to assist the students to get to our conferences, we anticipate more work in nursing history as a result. We look forward to another good fiscal year in 2006

Carol Helmstadter
Treasurer

A Caring Profession Exhibition Update by Tina Bates, Canadian Museum of Civilization

Since the opening of “A Caring Profession” exhibition 16 June, 2005, over 78,000 people have visited, mostly Canadian, but also people from Iran, France, Belgium, Germany, Brazil, Jamaica, England, USA and Japan. The exhibition is at the Canadian Museum of Civilization until September, 2006. Beyond the number of visitors – which is average for our museum – it is the quality of the visitors’ experience that is so remarkable.

Nurses, of course, have an affinity to the exhibition. Recently, I took a group of 40 nurses who had trained at the Kingston General. They were delighted to see an old “friend”, the Mrs. Chase training doll, the very one they worked on. A couple of weeks ago, I gave a tour to a former nurse (Ottawa Civic) who was one-hundred and seven years old! Standing perfectly straight, in her mauve wool suit and felt hat, she amazed us all with her state of mind and body, and her interest in the exhibition. A veteran Nursing Sister had tears in her eyes in viewing a life-size video of an actor playing a First World War soldier suffering from mustard gas poisoning, musing on the care he got from his dear “Nursing Sister.” The veteran said: “We got them all fixed up, only to send them out again perhaps to be killed.”

In the centre of the exhibition is our “Nursing Station,” staffed by over 30 volunteer nurses, who add so much to the visitors’ experience. With the aid of props, from nursing



*VON Nurse Inoculating Young Girl
1950s.*

uniforms to street nurse Cathy Crowe’s backpack, they demonstrate various themes in the history of nursing. Since June, the volunteers have engaged with over 8,000 visitors!

Many visitors leave comments on a board in the nursing station (all lined up neatly, of course!). I leave you with a few:

“A wonderful exhibit! Many times as I walked through I felt my eyes well up and my throat get tight. I am so proud to be part of this tradition — a member of a remarkable legacy.”

“This is the best nursing recruitment strategy yet. I am humbled by this wonderful exhibit.”

“Thank you for providing my profession with the honor it so deserves. Nursing has come a long way indeed, but I am

proud to realize that its roots in patient advocacy and humour, kindness, remain to this day.”

“Je suis très heureuse que finalement on a souligné le travail et l’énorme effort des infirmières du Canada. Je trouve que l’exposition démontre bien la passion des infirmières. Le lien à faire entre la technologie et humanité n’est pas facile et il faut faire preuve d’une grande vocation pour le faire.”

More information on this exhibit can be found at:

www.civilization.ca/cmcc/nursing/nursee.html

This site provides information on the nursing exhibit on display at the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa entitled “A Caring Profession: Centuries of Nursing in Canada” which is opened until Sept. 4, 2006. It also provides information on the Canadian Nursing History Collection transferred from the CNA Archives.

A second web site related to the history of nursing in Canada can be found at:

www.collectionscanada.ca/nursing-sisters

This site includes a chapter from the book by Allard, Geneviève. “Caregiving on the Front: The Experience of Canadian Military Nurses During World War I.” In *On All Frontiers: Four Centuries of Canadian Nursing*. Christina Bates, Dianne Dodd and Nicole Rousseau (eds.). Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2005, p. 153-167 (Chapter 10).

“Beyond Professionalisation: Towards a History of Practice”

Report on the International Conference of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery History Group on nursing and midwifery history research at the University of Melbourne, Australia, August 25-27, 2005 by Geertje Boschma.

Close to 100 people gathered in Melbourne in August, to present, discuss and reflect on nearly 60 presentations of nursing and midwifery history scholars from a variety of countries and cultures. Sioban Nelson, chair of the conference, welcomed us to much stimulating debate.

Keynote speaker Anne Marie Rafferty, a nurse historian from the UK, addressed the conference theme in her presentation “Beyond professionalisation: ‘reading’ nursing through material culture.” Rafferty argued that despite the availability of a variety of primary sources, going much beyond the traditional professional and administrative records, often the history of nursing is based on the latter, generating a type of nursing history writing by “default” rather than by “design.”

A focus on material culture, for example, has been largely neglected and prevented us from seeking to ‘read’ and write a history of nursing practice. Material culture, she argued, is a perspective on nursing as a material environment mediated through social relationships and perceived as a social product. Examining nursing’s past from such a perspective places it at the centre of historical analysis space and setting of nursing work, the ‘things’ nurses do, their instruments, their

uniforms and costumes, their notes, their care plans, textbooks, manuals, to name a few. A whole new, rich history of nursing practice can be written.

Rafferty gave an example of such an approach by analyzing selected textbook material, quotes and pictures, on nurses and their work, highlighting how this pedagogical literature reveals social relationships of the sick room and the different forces shaping such relationships. It was a fascinating talk that started much interesting debate throughout the conference.

Other themes and session topics included, nursing during Third

Reich Germany, the doing of nursing in tuberculosis, cancer, and fever treatment, education-practice relationships, nursing aesthetics and representations, mental health and disability, pre-nineteenth century nursing practice, ethical and political aspects of nursing care, nursing in various practice settings and national contexts, matters of methods, sources, and approaches.

Of course, there was lots of time to socialize, visit the historical, nineteenth century down-town area and enjoy the various trips, tours and dinners. A vibrant meeting with many promising contributions to a new nursing history.

Announcements

The B.C. Nursing History Group and UBC are planning to mount the Opera "Florence: The Lady with the Lamp" in May for nurses week.

Publications

Joan (Kennedy) Carter, *Tears, Trials and Triumphs is the history of the Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing in Halifax, NS*. Published by Glen Margaret Publishing, Tantallon, NS. October 2005. ISBN 0-920427-63-4.

Graduate of Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing, Halifax, NS. Class of 1963A.

The Women of the St. John Ambulance Brigade: Volunteer Nursing Auxiliaries in War-time and Post-war Halifax. Journal of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society, Vol. 8, 2005. pp 17-34.

The Haligonians: 100 fascinating lives from the Halifax region.' Edited by Roma Senn and published by Formac Publishing in 2005. (It includes an entry on Clara MacIntosh).

Denise Bailargeon, *Un Québec en mal d'enfants. la médicalisation de la maternité, 1910-1970*, les Éditions du remue-ménage, Montréal, 2004.

UBC Opera Ensemble presents
Florence
The Lady with the Lamp
by Timothy Sullivan
Orchestra conductor
Richard Epp
Director
Nancy Hermiston
Friday, May 12, 2006
7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 13, 2006
3:00 p.m.
University of British Columbia
Old Auditorium
(across from School of Music)
Tickets: \$15.00
Ticket reservations and
Credit Card Payments at:
UBC School of Nursing
(604) -822-0328

Expanding How We Think about History

at the 2005 Marion Woodward Lecture by Julie Lees, Office of Nursing Research, UBC School of Nursing

Over 100 people attended the 2005 Marion Woodward Lecture at the University of British Columbia on October 27th to hear Dr. Cynthia Toman talk about history as a research method, and specifically the importance of cultivating the history of nursing.

“Evidence are our fish,” she said after warm welcomes from the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science, Dr. Isaacson, the Principal of the College of Health Disciplines, Dr. Gilbert, and UBC School of Nursing Drs. Johnson, Thorne and Boschma. “The evidence we start with determines the kind of history we can do, what kinds of knowledge we can know. Everything depends on where you start.”

The how and why questions about the development of nursing practice – Why nursing went in certain directions? What factors have shaped nursing? – can only be answered through historical research. “If nurses were not present in the mainstream histories you were taught, the implication is that they didn’t exist, they weren’t important and they had no effect on society,” Cynthia says. “History is important to our identity. It gives us continuity within our discipline and our profession.” Cynthia sees history as an empowerment for professional, social and political change. “When we’re grounded in the history of a particular issue, we become better able to articulate to

others and better able to advocate for change.”

There are many histories, though, and Cynthia goes on to describe them, noting that often, people try to create a global history to tell the whole story of who nurses are and where they’ve come from. Rather, Cynthia suggests “teasing the different histories apart.” For

example there is the history of Nursing Practice, of Nursing Education and of Nursing Research.

Questions followed the formal lecture, along with informal conversation over coffee and tea. The UBC School of Nursing is grateful to the Marion Woodward Foundation for supporting such a valuable event.

Scholarship Committee Report November 2005

by Florence Melchior

Committee: Florence Melchior (chair), Heather MacDougall, Diana Mansel, and Judith Young.

Margaret Allemang Scholarship: The new application form for the 2006 award is on the CAHN/ACHN website (www.cahn-achn.ca). Thus far, we have had one e-mail inquiry from a master’s level student in an Athabasca University program.

Vera Roberts Legacy: A sub-committee, chaired by Judith Hibberd was formed following the executive meeting, June 2005. Other members of the committee include Geertje Boschma, Carol Helmstadter, Florence Melchior, and Cynthia Toman. With input from committee members through questions for discussion, Dr. Hibberd has formulated a draft application document that will be presented to the executive committee, November 2005.

The Margaret Allemang Scholarship in Nursing History

Purpose of Scholarship: To promote, among students, the study of Canadian nursing history.

Terms of Reference:

- 1). The scholarship will normally be awarded for study at the master’s or doctoral level.
- 2). Applicants must be studying Canadian nursing history.
- 3). Applicants must be enrolled at a recognized center for the study of the history of nursing in Canada or the United States, or in a university department of history, women’s studies, or with a recognized Canadian nurse historian.

Application forms and instructions can be obtained on the Canadian Association for the history of nursing in Canada - www.cahn-achn.ca

Please submit completed form(s) to:
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Medicine Hat College
299 College Drive SE
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INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON NURSING HISTORY by Carol Helmstadter

In the past year I have had the good fortune to attend conferences in a number of cities around the world. The traveling was a bit much but it was wonderful to see the increasing interest in nursing history internationally. In addition, I received an enquiry from a nurse at the Office of Nursing Research in Vienna asking for information on Jane Shaw Stewart, one of Nightingale's lady superintendents in the Crimea. After the war Stewart spent several months each in St. Thomas's, Guy's, and the London studying their nursing systems. She then traveled abroad and did the same thing in hospitals in European cities including Vienna and Paris. As a result we've made two more contacts with historians of nursing abroad and our first contact with Austrian nursing history.

In April I gave the D. A. Stewart Lecture at the University of Manitoba's History of Medicine Day and needless to say was delighted that the convenors chose a history of nursing topic for the keynote lecture. In May I gave a seminar at the United Kingdom Centre for the History of Nursing at the University of Manchester. In August Geertje Boschma and I presented at the International Conference on Nursing History at the University of Melbourne in Australia. This conference drew approximately eighty scholars from eight nations, largely Pacific rim countries but we also met old

friends from the United Kingdom. Finally in September I attended the American Association for the History of Nursing Conference at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. The AAHN conferences are traditionally the largest of the conferences and there were about 120 people attending.

The first two conferences were smaller groups and were therefore quite different from the second two but were equally valuable, and because they were smaller, in many ways gave better opportunities for interacting with other scholars. The Winnipeg History of Medicine Day was especially interesting because it had a variety of speakers from different disciplines who were all absolutely top class and who introduced us to many different perspectives on how nursing history fits into the larger picture. The U. K. Centre seminar was attended by all nurses and I was very impressed by the level of their scholarship. Up until the past year this centre was a purely virtual centre but it is now receiving support from both the University of Manchester and the Wellcome Trust and I think we can expect to see a great deal more of the excellent work in nursing history which has been emanating from the U. K. as a result.

The Melbourne conference was equally exciting and worthwhile. The AAHN Conference was notable for us because CAHN/ACHN again scored highly with our Membership Chair, Sonya Grypma, receiving their prize for the best dissertation in 2004. It was also a wonderful conference with many interesting papers and a keynote speaker, Anne Goodwyn

Jones, who spoke on nursing in southern literature and history. She raised a number of very important questions for historians of nursing. She pointed out that nurses have always evoked very ambivalent responses in art, literature and history and asked why this should be so. The only area where nurses seemed to receive consistently positive images were in children's responses. When adults portray nurses they seem to be either angels of mercy, sex symbols or rather dim young women. When depicted as powerful individuals, the nurse's power, often used for evil purposes, is unrelated to their professional competence. Jones did not offer any answers to the question of why nurses elicit such contradictory reactions from the public. Although she suggested that possibly this was a projection of ambivalence towards mothers or women in general, she did not pursue those explanations.

One of the outstanding characteristics of nursing history conferences is the sense of collegiality and friendliness which seems to be unmatched at other conferences. This was certainly true of all four of these meetings where everyone was very welcoming and helpful. In addition to their primary purpose of scholarly networking, one of the great pleasures of these conferences is the opportunity to meet old friends and make new friends in a social situation as well as in circumstances which allow us to forward the cause of nursing and nursing history.

Calls for Abstracts

**History of Nursing Conference
CAHN/ACHN 19th Annual Meeting
Vancouver, BC, June 8-10, 2006**

Hosted by the BC History of Nursing Professional Practice Group, the Conference will be held at historic St. Paul's Hospital, 1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC. The Conference Theme is: "Frontline Nurse: Historical Milestones. A highlight of the Conference will be an evening dinner and opera excerpts from "Florence: The Lady with the Lamp".

Papers should be 20 minutes in length. The programme committee welcomes proposals for symposiums. Sessions should include three 20-minute papers, a 20-minute comment from the chair or moderator, plus another 20 minutes for questions and discussions from the audience.

Guidelines for submissions:

1. Abstracts should be 250 words in length double-spaced, font size 10-12 and may be in either English or French.
2. Submit via Email (Microsoft Word) or Fax followed by hard copy.
3. Abstract should include a complete title, the author's name, address, and institutional affiliation. Please include contact information: telephone numbers, Email address, fax and full postal address.
4. Receipt of confirmation will be sent via return Email.
5. Notification as to status of submission will be no later than March 15, 2006.

Deadline for submission of abstracts is on or before January 15, 2006.

Submit abstracts to:

Lynne Esson
Email: esson@nursing.ubc.ca
604-822-7474 (w)
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Mail to: CAHN 2006 Conference
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**2006 Australian and New Zealand
American Studies Association
Conference
University of Tasmania, Launceston,
Australia, July 9-12, 2006**

Performers, Practitioners and Audiences in American Studies

Proposals that address the conference theme will be keenly welcomed. The concepts of Performers, Practitioners, Audiences and American Studies should be broadly construed. Proposals that address other themes in American Studies will also be welcomed.

Proposals should include an abstract of the paper (250-300 words), academic affiliation and contact details. Please indicate any technical support that may be required such as power point, a slide projector, etc.

Each presenter will be allotted a total of 30 minutes; it is anticipated that most papers will be delivered in approximately 20 minutes, with the remaining time left free for questions and discussion. Normally there will be three papers in an hour and a half session.

Proposals for conference panels will also be welcomed.

Send abstracts via email or post to:

Tom Dunning
ANZASA 2006 Conference
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Launceston, Tasmania 7250
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Email: tdunning@utas.edu.au

**2nd Biennial ANU Missionary
History Conference**

**Asia-Pacific Missionaries: At Home
and Abroad**

**The Australian National University
Coombs Lecture Theatre
Coombs Lecture Theatre
August 25-27, 2006**

Presentations on Canadian, New Zealand/Aotorean, Pacific Islander, Hong Kong, Singaporean, Malaysian, South African and Australian contributions to Christian mission, domestic and foreign, in the Asia-Pacific region, are invited. A common background with British missionary outreach links the 2006 conference.

Abstracts close May 30, 2006. Postgraduate papers are encouraged. A special focus of the conference is the contribution of women to the missionary enterprise. The conference is open to anyone interested.

For further information contact:

Dr. Ian Welch
ANU Missionary History
Conference 2006
P.O. Box 7034
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Australia
Email: ian.welsh@anu.edu.au

PLEASE NOTE:

CAHN/ACHN Conference scheduled for Vancouver, BC Canada, June 8 - 10 , 2006. Please be advised that those registering should make their cheque payable to the: BC History of Nursing Group. We apologize this information was not included in the flyer.