



# *Canadian Association for the History of Nursing*

## *Association canadienne pour l'histoire du Nursing*

### **Newsletter**

**Volume 21, Number 1, Spring 2008**

#### **President's Message - Geertje Boschma**

We have exciting times ahead of us. Two decades of commitment to the history of nursing is worth a celebration. CAHN/ACHN is looking forward to a remarkable conference on nursing history in Toronto on June 5-7. The CAHN/ACHN International Nursing History Conference will bring together a large group of national and international scholars and people interested in the history of nursing. We are proud to let you know that we will have over 60 presentations of senior and junior scholars and graduate students at the conference, including two Hannah Lecturers, Catherine Choy and Katrin Schultheiss, as well as four theme sessions and an Editor's Forum with invited speakers.

We are grateful for many groups sponsoring the conference, including the Associated Medical Services for providing a conference grant and travel support for graduate students. The local arrangements committee under the capable leadership of Carol Helmstadter and Judy Young is hard at work to finalize the organization. It will be great to meet, connect, and talk. The sessions will provide ample opportunity for debate and critical reflection on important political, social and cultural developments and events that shaped nursing and health care. We are fortunate to have some exciting new opportunities to promote nursing history scholarship, especially in the area of Northern Nursing due to the new Vera Roberts Endowment Fund. During the June conference the first research award from this fund will be announced. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the conference.

Future conference planning was also on the agenda of the Board at their last teleconference meeting. The Board discussed the value of a more regular approach to joint conferences with the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine (CSHM) in the future. We have had several joint conferences over the last decade and the experience has been a good one. Opportunities for interdisciplinary connections and networking with related fields contribute in an important way to working towards our goals of bringing nursing history scholarship to the attention of a wide audience. We are in touch with CSHM about the idea of having a joint conference regularly. You will hear more about it at the annual meeting. The Board also developed an investment policy to guide board decisions on the financial management of the organization.

I conclude my president's message with one other topic of fundamental importance to our organization, and that is membership. YOU, our members are the group who keep the organization vital and thriving. We depend on our members to promote our goals and join in the effort to promote nursing history and to encourage a new generation of students and scholars into the field. You can all help to make the opportunities we have for scholarships and research support known within your own networks. We are very fortunate that the AMS Nursing History Research Unit has volunteered to serve as a permanent basis for membership management. Jayne Elliot, one of the unit staff, is currently our membership chair. Many of you may already have received your confirmation of membership for 2008 from her and others may have received a reminder to pay. As membership is the lifeline of our organization, I invite every single one of you to think about a friend, a student, a current or past colleague, or any other co-worker you can think of who might be interested in the history of nursing and the goals of our organization, and to invite that person to become a member. By sharing your enthusiasm about nursing history and its vital role in understanding the continuous, and often rapid changes in nursing and health care, YOU have a vital role in our organization. You are our organization.

Santé!

Geertje Boschma

## **Editors' Message -**

Marilyn Beaton & Jeanette Walsh

This is our last newsletter for CAHN/ACHN. We cannot believe that three years have passed since we began as editors but we have enjoyed the experience. It has given us the opportunity to meet many nurses and historians from across Canada and other parts of the world, either in person or via the net, who share similar interests in researching and documenting nursing history. Our involvement with CAHN/ACHN began with our first research project into the history of nursing in Newfoundland and Labrador. Participation in CAHN/ACHN has increased our awareness of the importance of getting the history of nursing recorded before the valuable contribution of nurses to health care is lost to future generations. Marilyn and I are currently completing our third oral nursing history project or as Marilyn calls it: 'our trilogy'. We are also editing our second book, this one with Marilyn Marsh, to be published in the Fall, 2008.

While it is not always wise to single out people for a thank you, we do want to thank Judith Hibberd who has 'tied up loose ends' and made us look good in the final draft of each newsletter. Thank you to Judy Norris for getting it on to the CAHN/ACHN website although we haven't always made her work easy by sending the newsletter in different formats she couldn't open. Thank you to Marg and Geertje, Presidents of CAHN/ACHN, who have been so supportive of our efforts. Thank you to Carol for paying the bills. Thank you to all who submitted pieces for the newsletter, it made our job easier. A special thank you to the nurses of British Columbia who always sent us their "History of Nursing News" and were so willing to share the information with CAHN/ACHN members. They are a very active group and we watch their activities with interest. To all of you, our time with the newsletter has been fun because of your support.

We wish the new editors good luck and hope they enjoy their time with the CAHN

Marilyn Beaton & Jeanette Walsh

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## **Treasurer's Report -**

Carol Helmstadter

Thanks to the good work of our Membership Chair and the growing interest in nursing history, I am happy to report that CAHN/ACHN finished the fiscal year 2007 in good financial shape. We are especially pleased that we received almost \$2000 in donations.

In the next month our Finance Committee, consisting of the Treasurer, Vice-President and one or two members of the Board, will hold a telephone conference with Robert Hager, Vice-President for Finance at the Heart and Stroke Fund of British Columbia and the Yukon. This committee is a new initiative designed to keep us aware of our financial responsibilities and better ways to handle them. Canada Revenue Agency requires us to spend 80% of our donations and an amount equivalent to 3.5 % of our investments on our charitable mission, namely the fostering of nursing history. In the past we have always exceeded this requirement and will continue to do so with our Vera Roberts grants, Allemang Scholarships and annual conferences

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## **Membership Report -**

Jayne Elliott

Membership currently stands at 102 and letters have been sent out reminding those who haven't renewed yet to please do so.

## ***Executive Board and Committee Chairs***

### ***President***

Geertje Boschma (2007-2009)  
[Boschma@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:Boschma@nursing.ubc.ca)

### ***Vice President***

Marion McKay (2007-2009)  
[Marion\\_mckay@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Marion_mckay@umanitoba.ca)

### ***Past-President***

Marg Gorrie (2007-2009)  
[mlgorrie@shaw.ca](mailto:mlgorrie@shaw.ca)

### ***Treasurer***

Carol Helmstadter (2006-2008)  
[carol.helmstadter@rogers.com](mailto:carol.helmstadter@rogers.com)

### ***Secretary***

Sandra Bassendowski (2007-2009)  
[S.bassendowski@usask.ca](mailto:S.bassendowski@usask.ca)

### ***Member at Large***

Janet Beaton (2007-2009)  
[Janet\\_beaton@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Janet_beaton@umanitoba.ca)

### ***Member at Large***

Allison Cowell (2007-2009)  
[ccowell@mts.net](mailto:ccowell@mts.net)

### ***Co-chairs***

Marilyn Beaton (2005-2008)  
[mbeaton@mun.ca](mailto:mbeaton@mun.ca)

Jeanette Walsh (2005-2008)  
[mj.walsh@nl.rogers.ca](mailto:mj.walsh@nl.rogers.ca)

### ***Membership Committee***

Jayne Elliott, (Chair) (2007-2009)  
[jelliott@uottawa.ca](mailto:jelliott@uottawa.ca)

### ***Scholarship and Research Committee***

Florence Melchoir (Chair) (2006-2008)  
[Florence@mhc.ab.ca](mailto:Florence@mhc.ab.ca)

### ***Finance Committee***

Carol Helmstadter (Chair) (2006-2008)  
[Carol.helmstadter@rogers.com](mailto:Carol.helmstadter@rogers.com)

Marg Gorrie (Chair) (2007-2009)  
[mlgorrie@shaw.ca](mailto:mlgorrie@shaw.ca)

### ***Long-Range Planning Committee***

Marion McKay (Chair) (2007-2009)  
[Marion\\_mckay@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Marion_mckay@umanitoba.ca)

### ***Conference Co-Chairs 2008***

Carol Helmstadter (2007-2008)  
[Carol.helmstadter@rogers.com](mailto:Carol.helmstadter@rogers.com)

Judith Young (2007-2008)  
[Judith@primus.ca](mailto:Judith@primus.ca)

### ***Conference Chair 2009***

Marion McKay (2007-2009)  
[Marion\\_mckay@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Marion_mckay@umanitoba.ca)

## **CAHN/ACHN Scholarship & Research Awards Committee**

**Members:** Florence Melchior (chair); Judith Young; Heather MacDougall; Diana Mansell; and Cynthia Toman. .

The committee has received excellent submissions for both the CAHN/ACHN Margaret Allemand Scholarship and the Vera Roberts Endowment. Recommendations for recipients from the February 2008 intake of applications will be made to the Executive Board at the Spring meeting. As chair, I would like to express my appreciation to our committee members for their thorough and timely reviews.

The first funds from the Vera Roberts Endowment were awarded in the Fall of 2007. A panel of four scholars will disseminate their research on northern nursing at the 2008 CAHN/ACHN International Nursing Conference in Toronto. Congratulations to the conference co-chairs (Carol Helmstadter and Judith Young) who organized this panel to fit with the conference theme of “borders, boundaries and political context in health care practice.” Also, at this conference, the Scholarship and Research Awards Committee will hold a discussion on the suitability and variety of proposals for funding that fit the criteria of the Vera Roberts Endowment.

Carol Helmstadter

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## **CAHN/ACHN Nominations Committee**

### **Call for Nominations 2008-2010**

**Marg Gorrie, Chair**

CAHN/ACHN is seeking members to participate on our Association board. A number of members will be completing their term of office in 2008.

The number of members on each committee is defined by the Association’s By-laws. Persons who have completed a first mandate may wish to remain for the 2008-2010 period. Please consider submitting your name, or encouraging other members to become involved in the Association.

The following positions and committee memberships become open for two years in June 2008:

Treasurer – 1 position

Publications – 1 Committee Chair and 2 members

Membership – 1 committee member

Scholarship and Research Awards – 1 Committee Chair and 2 members

Nominations – 2 committee members

Long-Range Planning – 2 Committee members

Send nominations to any of the following Nominations Committee members:

Laurie Clune [lclune@ryerson.ca](mailto:lclune@ryerson.ca)

Kathy Gates [kgates@ryerson.ca](mailto:kgates@ryerson.ca)

Marg Gorrie [mlgorrie@shaw.ca](mailto:mlgorrie@shaw.ca)

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the AGM in June.

## **Update on International Conference June 5-7 2008**

As we draw closer to June the Local Arrangements Committee is really excited about our conference. Our Hannah Lecturers and theme sessions promise to be very stimulating with speakers from Australia, Germany, Switzerland, the United States, Sweden and Canada. We are also delighted with the presenters who submitted abstracts. They come from Colombia, the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Denmark and Brazil as well as Canada. In addition eleven are students, fulfilling one of CAHN/ACHN's fundamental missions, encouraging the study of nursing history. It is a great pleasure to see nursing history becoming so widely studied and truly international.

The tentative program is now up on our website [www.cahn-achn.ca](http://www.cahn-achn.ca), with information about registration and accommodation. For people who do not have access to the web and who would like more information please contact:

Carol Helmstadter  
34 Chestnut Park Road  
Toronto ON M4W 1W6  
Phone: 416-921-3672

OR

Judy Young  
355 Millwood  
Toronto ON M4S 1J9  
Phone: 416-488-0597

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## **News from the Margaret Allemang Centre for the History of Nursing**

The Centre is an Ontario organization set up in the early 1990s for the purpose of collecting and maintaining nursing archival materials and for promoting the study of the history of nursing. Over the years, the idea of creating a permanent archive has become less and less a possibility for us so we were delighted when the University of Toronto Archives recently accepted the major part of our collection (textual materials). We still have to negotiate a home for a number of artifacts. We shall continue to offer advice to anyone seeking a home for nursing archival materials and are willing to act as "brokers" when requested. Our efforts to promote the history of nursing will continue through our newsletter, meetings, the website, our annual essay prize, and our support for organizations such as CAHN/ACHN and the Museum of Health Care in Kingston. We are also planning an oral history project.

Judy Young, Secretary/Treasurer

## **Carol Helmstadter receives Canadian Nurses Association Centennial Award**

Congratulations! In December 2007 Carol Helmstadter was the recipient of the Canadian Nurses Association Centennial Award, honoring Canadian registered nurses. The Centennial Awards signify a celebration of 100 exceptional registered nurses whose personal contributions have made an outstanding and significant impact on the nursing profession.



Currently treasurer of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, Carol has held many executive roles on our board, including the presidency from 2001-2003. She worked in neuroscience nursing and was government relations officer at the Ontario Nurses' Union for many years before retiring. She has made many important contributions to the area of nursing history. She is an outstanding scholar, whose ongoing work in nursing history is well received. Her article "Early Nursing Reform: A Doctor-Driven Phenomenon," published in *Medical History* in 2002, won the Lavinia Dock Award from the American Association for the History of Nursing and her articles "A Real Tone: Professionalising Nursing in Nineteenth Century England," *Nursing History Review*, 2003, as well as "Building A New Nursing Service: Respectability and Efficiency in Victorian England," published in *Albion*, 2003, are important contributions to a better understanding of nursing's past. We are fortunate to benefit from Carol's leadership in various capacities on the Board of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing since its foundation. Her work is a major contribution to nursing and nursing history in Canada.

Our sincerest congratulations and appreciation of your leadership in the history of nursing Carol!

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## **Book Reviews**

Grypma, Sonya. (2008). **Healing Henan: Canadian Nurses at the North China Mission, 1888 - 1947**. Vancouver: UBC Press. (Hardcover, 292 pp., illustrated.) Reviewed by Glennis Zilm

This engrossing book is based on intriguing stories of some 30 Canadian Presbyterian/ United Church missionary nurses set against the backdrop of the remarkable history of China during 60 turbulent years of war and revolution. Based on research for her doctoral thesis, Sonya Grypma makes a major contribution not only to history of nursing, but also to church history and theory, to feminist history, to medical history and most importantly, to China-Canada cultural relations of this important era.

Her work was originally sparked by a small collection of letters from nurses published in the *Canadian Nurse* in the 1930s and 1940s. These letters told of their experiences when western medicine was being introduced into the Henan province of northern China. The author set out to find how and why health care was introduced by these Canadian missionaries into China, and how and why it flourished and then declined – but changed forever Chinese approaches to nursing. Various portions of these dramatic events are scattered in other often-hard-to-find Canadian biographies, but Dr. Grypma thoroughly examines this full period and the efforts of and effects of this large group of nurses. She also weaves in the inter-locking stories of doctors, other missionaries and their families, and Chinese Christians attached to the missions so that this is a history rich in the stories of people. The resulting tapestry is further enlivened by more than 40 wonderful photographs, illustrations, tables, and maps.

## **Book Reviews Cont'd**

Although this is a thorough and academic study, it is interesting, unique, absorbing, and highly readable. Do get a copy, enjoy it, and be sure that it is available in nursing libraries of your local colleges and universities.

Dr. Grypma is a member of CAHN and will be presenting on further work related to her China studies at the CAHN meeting in Toronto in June.

Ritchie, Margaret B. (2007). **A History of Nursing through Philately**. Limekilns, Fife, UK: Teragram. (Softcover, limited edition, 62 pp., illustrated color.) Reviewed by Glennis Zilm

This delightful little book by retired Scottish nurse Margaret Ritchie provides a brief – and enchanting – look at history of nursing through color reproductions of her extraordinary stamp collection. More than 160 stamps from around the world are shown, each a brief note related to its recognition of nursing history. More than 50 countries that have acknowledged the work of nurses and nursing range alphabetically from Australia and Aruba to the United States and the United Kingdom, and include such diverse nations as China, Iceland, Ethiopia, and Vatican City. Individual nurses honored range from St. Benedict (480-547 AD), to Canada's Elizabeth Smellie (1884-1968), to near-present-day nurses such as Barbados' Dame Nita Barrows (1916-1995). Seven Canadian stamps that honor nurses or nursing are in the book, including one issued in 1930 that features Mount Edith Cavell. Another will be issued by Canada Post in 2008 to recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Nurses Association.

Dechant, Germaine M. (2006). **Winter's children. The emergence of children's mental health services in Alberta 1905-2005**. Edmonton AB : The Muttart Foundation. ( 181 pages, 8 x11" ISBN 1-897282-06-0; paper.) Reviewed by Shirley M Stinson, OC, AOE, RN, EdD, Professor Emerita, University of Alberta

This book is highly significant in substance, well-documented, and has a format that induces clarity and easy reading. Author Dechant, a nurse who is an experienced mental health CEO, does not purport to be an historian but her description of the "emergence" is given within a broad context, and stands as testimony to the "interplay" of economic, political, cultural, social and other forces precipitating the relatively slow development of mental health services needed by Alberta children and their families. The choice of title, "Winter's Children," reflects the realities of those children being "left behind, 'out in the cold.' compared with those needing physical medical interventions." Ronald LaJeunesse's (2002) Political Asylums, also published by The Muttart Foundation, is "an historical account of the impact of public attitudes and social policy on mental health services delivery in Alberta," whereas Dechant's book entails a detailed focus on mental health services for children. Copies of Dechant can be ordered @ \$15.75 total ( incl. GST) : [www.rcvo.org](http://www.rcvo.org) or through contacting the Resource Centre for Voluntary Organizations, Grant MacEwan College: [rcvo@macewan.ca](mailto:rcvo@macewan.ca)

## New Releases

Lambertus, Dr Sandra (2007). **Violence Against Aboriginal Women in Alberta.**

This is a timely, unparalleled reference on the topic, especially relevant to professionals in academia and in the fields of the health and social sciences, education, sociology and law. Dr Shirley Stinson describes the book as an excellent basic description of the current “history” of what’s going on – and not going on – in this realm.

Only 40 hard copies were produced, but the e-mail distribution is not in any way limited. For further information on how to access the report, the email address of the author, Dr Sandra Lambertus, is [LambertusS@shaw.ca](mailto:LambertusS@shaw.ca).

Toman, Cynthia (2007) **An Officer and a Lady ; Canadian Military Nursing and the Second World War –**

During the Second World War, more than 4,000 civilian nurses enlisted as Nursing Sisters, a specially created all-female officers’ rank of the Canadian Armed Forces. They served in all three armed force branches and all the major theatres of war, yet nursing as a form of war work has long been under-explored. *An Officer and a Lady* fills that gap. Cynthia Toman analyzes how gender, war, and medical technology intersected to create a legitimate role for women in the masculine environment of the military and explores the incongruous expectations placed on military nurses as “officers and ladies.”

Their stories will interest diverse audiences: students and professionals in the healthcare fields; nursing and medical historians; and scholars and readers of women’s history, military history, and Canadian history.

In Canada, order your copy of **An Officer and a Lady** from UTP Distribution at:

UTP Distribution  
5201 Dufferin Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
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Phone orders: 1(800)565-9523 or (416)667-7791

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## **Dr. Glennis Zilm shares nursing history**

On November 5, **Dr. Glennis Zilm** gave a public talk about *Pride in the Profession: Nursing History in Undergraduate Programs*. Dressed in period costume of black and white, Zilm tells the story of Canada's first military nurse, Kate Miller, whom she has thoroughly researched. Zilm is a passionate historian, and spoke of the importance of having a shared collection of experiences, stories and tradition in order to create a sense of pride in a profession. She mentioned the importance ensuring that history is inclusive of all members in the profession and important technological advances which impacted the profession. The next day, Dr. Zilm spoke to Canada's Nursing Officers (Sisters) about Nurse Kate Miller's role as a field nurse during the Louis Riel Rebellion. She discussed the nurses' role in the military during the 1880s, how they were recruited, and the role of nurses on the front lines. Zilm, now semi-retired, is a freelance writer, editor, and writing consultant working with organizations and individuals in the health care fields. Using her diverse educational background - a BScN from UBC, a Bachelor of Journalism (Carleton), and Master of Arts in Communications (Simon Fraser University) - she



merged a nursing background with a long career as a professional journalist, freelance writer and broadcaster. In 2006, she received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Kwantlen University College. Zilm has been a member of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing since its inception and is a founding member of the B.C. History of Nursing Group. In 2004, she received the prestigious John B. Neilson Award from Associated Medical Services, Inc., of Toronto (the former Hannah Foundation) for continuing, long-standing contributions to history of health care.

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## **Acknowledgements**

*Fiona Wilson, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta.*

## **Do you know this nurse?**



Lena Ruehle of Oakville, Ontario is doing family research and found this photo. The woman's name is Emma Hill and she may have been the first black nurse in Canada/ Ontario or in WW I. Lena was directed to CAHN/ACHN and we are asking your help in gathering information about this nurse. If you have anything that might be of interest to Lena, please email her at [ruehle@gmail.com](mailto:ruehle@gmail.com).