



# Canadian Association for the History Of Nursing

*Association canadienne pour l'histoire du Nursing*

## Newsletter

Spring 2009

Volume 22, Issue 1

### President's Message– Geertje Boschma

Greetings et sincères salutations!

Our association has had many successes over the past years and we have a number of significant activities planned for the next year or two. I invite you all to continue to help maintain and expand our membership. It is encouraging to see the increase in scholarly work, including some of our members' excellent new books, and the increasing numbers of students of nursing history. Much appreciation is due to our members serving on the executive committee and the various standing committees for their work in enriching our history and making it possible to enjoy a stimulating annual conference, ongoing publication of the newsletter and continuous information on our website to name a few of our ongoing board and committee responsibilities. Teamwork probably most accurately describes our activities and we appreciate your time and energy in the ongoing work of our organization.

Our conference this year will be held in conjunction with the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine at Carleton University in Ottawa from May 29-31. Dr. Meryn Stuart and Dr. Jayne Elliot have been working with their CSHM counterparts to organize the conference program and other activities. You will see more details on the conference program in this newsletter. The Associated Medical Services (AMS) has offered travel support for nursing history students to attend the conference, and we will have a number of student presentations. I look forward to an exciting program and the opportunity to see many of you in Ottawa. As you will see in the program details, we will have two keynote lectures this year, a Hannah Lecture presented by Dr. Judith Leavitt from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, US, and a Patterson Lecture presented by Dr. Angus McLaren from the University of Victoria, BC. AMS support for the Hannah Lectureship expired last year and we have applied for renewal of this grant. AMS has been a generous source of backing for the history of nursing in Canada. AMS has provided support for the Hannah Lectureship from the time of the CAHN-ACHN– [www.cahn-achn.ca](http://www.cahn-achn.ca)

very first CAHN/ACHN conference in Prince Edward Island in 1988. On Saturday May 30 we will hold our Annual General Meeting. We will present the awards, the various committee reports and update you on the various activities of our organization, including the work that has been done with CSHM to develop a memorandum of cooperation to regularly hold joint conferences in the future.

I hope you all have enjoyed the excellent article by Joyce MacQueen on the accomplishments of Vera Roberts, who so generously gave CAHN/ACHN an endowment with the specific purpose to further Northern and outpost nursing history, especially circumpolar regions. Because of the importance of this endowment and to make the research award known to a larger audience we will develop this biography into a booklet to be presented and distributed at the upcoming conference. For our members we will include a copy of the booklet in our next newsletter. Thank you Joyce for helping us with this and I hope you all will support us in distributing this information and making known this funding opportunity.

It has been my pleasure and a privilege to serve as the president of CAHN/ACHN during the last two years. I would like to thank past-president Marg Gorrie as well as incoming president Marion McKay for their ongoing help and support during my term. I welcome Marion McKay into her new role, knowing that the leadership of our organization will be in capable hands. I am looking forward to continued involvement with our organization, furthering the goals of supporting the development of nursing history as an important component of history and of health care. I hope to see many of you in May at our annual meeting. Thanks for your ongoing involvement with our organization. I wish you all a good summer.

*Santé!*

*Geertje Boschma*

#### In this issue:

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Conference Program: CAHN/CSHM 2009</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Book Reviews</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Updates</b>	<b>7</b>

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# Newsletter

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Spring 2009

Volume 22, Issue 1

## 2009 CHSM/CAHN Conference Upcoming Program Highlights

29-31 May 2009

Carleton University, Ottawa

### Pre-Conference Tour

Thursday May 28 2009, 3:30 – 4:30

Registration is free but maximum 25 people

To register, contact Jayne Elliott by **Wednesday May 27**[jelliott@uottawa.ca](mailto:jelliott@uottawa.ca) or 613-562-5800 ext. 8424

### Canada Science and Technology Museum

#### Invites members of the CSHM and CAHN to a Backroom Collection Tour with curator David Pantalony

The Canada Science and Technology Museum has an extensive collection of historic medical artifacts in its storage facilities. The collection (over 1500 artifacts) covers a wide range of instruments from early monaural stethoscopes to Osler's student microscope to a complete 1993 Phillips MRI machine. In addition, we are presently processing the rich University Health Network Collection, which came to us from Toronto in 2002.

Visitors will survey a selection of medical instruments amidst hundreds of shelves representing our other collections in communications, transportations, science, computing, natural resources and domestic technology.

**\*\*See CAHN/ACHN or CSHM/SCHM websites for detailed conference information and paper presentations.**

### DAY 1: Friday May 29

8:45 – 9:00 **Opening remarks / Discours préliminaire d'ouverture**

#### Morning theme sessions:

University and Hospital Schools of Nursing

Le territoire des exclus: The territory of the excluded

Medical Identities

**1045-1200 Hannah Lecture** “*Make Room for Daddy: Men and Childbirth in Mid-Twentieth Century United States.*” Dr. Judith Walzer Leavitt, Ruppel Bascom and Ruth Bleier Professor of Medical History and Gender and Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison

#### Afternoon theme sessions:

Biopolitics in China, Germany and England

Racializing Medicine and Medicalizing Race in the British Imperial World

The Health of Children and Youth

Medical and Media Advice for Good Health

4:30 – 5:45 **CSHM Annual General Meeting**6:00 – 7:00 **CSHM/CAHN Book Launch: Jackie Duffin**CAHN-ACHN– [www.cahn-achn.ca](http://www.cahn-achn.ca)

Spring 2009

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# Newsletter

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Spring 2009

Volume 22, Issue 1

## 2009 CHSM/CAHN Preliminary Conference Program

29-31 May 2009

Carleton University, Ottawa

### Day 2: Saturday May 30

**Morning theme sessions:** Nineteenth-Century Medicine and Nursing  
Wars, Weapons and Medicine

11:00 – 12:30 **Paterson Lecture** : “Divorcing Sex and Reproduction: The Discussion of Artificial Insemination in Britain, 1918-1948.” Angus McLaren, Professor Emeritus, University of Victoria, B.C.

12:30 – 1:30 **CAHN Annual General Meeting**

**Afternoon theme sessions:** Indigenous Medicine and Nursing in  
Women’s Health and Medical Power  
Health Care and Race  
Gender and Health

7:00 Dinner

### Day 3 Sunday May 31

**Morning theme sessions:** Public Health Interventions and Prevention  
Hospitals and Health Care in Quebec, Newfoundland, and British  
Columbia  
Psychiatry in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20th Century

11:00 – 12:00 **Presidents’ Address:** Patricia Prestwich and Geertje Boschma

12:00 **Segal Prize Announcement and Concluding Remarks / Prix Segal et mot de la fin**

La Société remercie l’organisme Associated Medical Services Inc. et la Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines pour leur généreux soutien financier.

The Society thanks Associated Medical Services Inc. and the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences for their generous financial support.

### Registration is still open...

for the joint CAHN/CSHM meeting in Ottawa, May 29-31. Registration and accommodation are available online through the website listed below. When registering please select the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine (**Society #70**) – not CAHN.

For any questions or help with registration, contact Jayne Elliott at [jelliott@uottawa.ca](mailto:jelliott@uottawa.ca), or 613-562-5800 8424. The preliminary program is also available on both the CAHN and CSHM websites. <http://fedcan.virtuo.ca/index.php?action=artikel&lang=en&id=20>

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# Newsletter

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Spring 2009

Volume 22, Issue 1

## Book Reviews

### New works in the history of nursing and health care

**Connolly, Cynthia (2008).** *Saving sickly children: The tuberculosis preventorium in American life, 1909-1970.* New Brunswick NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Known as “The Great Killer” and “The White Plague,” few diseases influenced American life as much as tuberculosis. Sufferers migrate to mountain or desert climates believed to ameliorate symptoms [...] The “preventorium,” an institution designed to protect children from the ravages of the disease, emerged in an era of Progressive ideals in public health. In this book, Cynthia Connolly provides a provocative analysis of public health and family welfare through the lens of the tuberculosis preventorium. This unique facility was intended to prevent TB in indigent children from families labeled irresponsible or at risk for developing the disease. Yet, it also held deeply rooted assumptions about class, race, and ethnicity. Connolly goes further to explain how the child-saving themes embedded in the preventorium movement continue to shape children’s health care delivery and family policy in the United States.

**Fairman, Julie (2008).** *Making room in the clinic: Nurse Practitioners and the evolution of modern health care.* New Brunswick NJ: Rutgers University Press.

For years, nurses expanded their practice boundaries to meet their patients’ needs, both with and without physician consent. But during the 1960s and 1970s, their level of recognition and authority changes dramatically. Today, nurse practitioners hold graduate degrees in nursing specialties and are responsible for an enormous range of services from delegated medical regimens

to independent care provision in hospitals and clinics. They provide primary health care to a range of clients along a scale from healthy to chronically ill and from wealthy to poor and uninsured.

In this book, Julie Fairman examines the context in which the nurse practitioner movement emerged, how large political and social movements influenced it, and how it contributed to the changing definition of medical care. Drawing on a wealth of primary source material, including interviews with key figures in the movement, Fairman describes how this evolution helped create an influential foundation for health policies that emerged at the end of the twentieth century, including health maintenance organizations, a renewed interest in health awareness and disease prevention, and consumer-based services.

### First Notice: CAHN/ACHN 2010

This is a reminder that the Canadian Association for History of Nursing Conference is in **Winnipeg, Manitoba in 2010.** Please mark your calendars. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, **June 18, 19 and 20 2010.** The conference will be held at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Nursing

#### Theme:

**Continuities, Contingencies and Faultlines: Nursing 100 Years after Florence Nightingale.** 2010 is also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Florence Nightingale

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# Newsletter

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Spring 2009

Volume 22, Issue 1

## Book Reviews

### New works in the history of nursing and health care

**Grypma, S. (2008). *Healing Henan: Canadian nurses at the North China Mission, 1888-1947*. Vancouver: UBC Press.**

While volumes have been written about the Protestant missionary movement in China, scant attention has been paid to the role of nursing and nurses in these missions. Set against a backdrop of war and revolution, *Healing Henan* brings sixty years of missionary nursing out of the shadows by examining how Canadian nurses shaped health care in the province of Henan and how China, in turn, influenced the nature of missionary nursing.

From the time Presbyterian (later United Church) missionaries arrived in China in 1888 until the abrupt closure of the North China Mission in 1947, Canadian nurses were ubiquitous in Henan. As China underwent a tumultuous transition from dynastic kingdom to independent republic, Canadian nurses advanced a version of hospital-based nursing education and practice that rivaled modern nursing care in Canada. In *Healing Henan*, Sonya Grypma offers a highly readable and fresh perspective on China missions and the global expansion of professional nursing.

**Nathoo, T. & Ostry, A. (2009, to appear in April). *The one best way? Breastfeeding history, politics, and policy in Canada*. Toronto: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.**

In recent years breastfeeding has been prominently in the public eye, in relation to debates on issues ranging from parental leave policies, work-family balance, public decency, the safety of our food supply, and health care concerns such as health care costs and the obesity “epidemic.” Breastfeeding has officially been

considered as the “one best way” for feeding infants for the past 150 years of Canadian history. This book examines the history and evolution of breastfeeding policy and practices in Canada from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup>. The authors’ historical approach allows current debates to be situated within a broader social, political, cultural and economic context.

Breastfeeding shifted from a private matter to a public concern at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Over the course of the next century the ‘best’ way to feed infants was often scientifically or politically determined, and guidelines for mothers shifted from one generation to the next. Drawing upon government reports, academic journals, archival sources and interviews with policy makers and breastfeeding advocates, the authors trace trends, patterns, ideologies, and policies of breastfeeding in Canada.

**Toman, C. (2007). *An officer and a lady: Canadian military nursing and the second World War*. Vancouver: UBC Press.**

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. 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.” This study in Canadian military history is published in association with the Canadian War Museum.

*Compiled by Geertje Boschma. Taken from the back covers/flyers of the respective books.*

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# Newsletter

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Spring 2009

Volume 22, Issue 1

## Book Reviews

### New works in the history of nursing and health care

**Diane Sims.** *A Life Consumed: Lilly Samson's Dispatches from the TB Front.* Ontario: Your Scrivener Press. 2008. Reviewed by Joyce Schroeder MacQueen

“In 1923 Lilly Samson, a teacher in a one-room school in Goulais River north of Sault Ste Marie, contracted TB. She was 20 years old and engaged to be married. A year later she entered a sanatorium in Gravenhurst, Ontario. She died there in 1927. Before she did, though, she wrote a series of letters that her niece Diane Sims has made the centrepiece of a remarkably moving and thought-provoking look at TB in Canada in the 20s.”

Combining Lilly's letters and her knowledge of family history, Diane Sims has painted a picture of life for a young woman diagnosed with tuberculosis in the 1920s and admitted to a private Canadian sanatorium. We see her relationships with nurses, doctors and other patients and gain an understanding of the roles the staff played in the patients' lives. We experience medical decisions and treatments through Lilly's eyes. Her letters also give a brief but telling comparison of tuberculosis treatment in the private sanatorium where she resides and the public sanatorium nearby.

In a brief closing chapter of this 200-page book, Diane Sims examines the role of poverty and class in our failure to eradicate tuberculosis in our world - “eight million people will contract TB this year; three million will die.” She is donating any royalties from the book to TB treatment.

This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of nursing, of tuberculosis and of women's lives in 1920s Canada.

## CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION CENTENNIAL NURSE AWARDS

By: Carol Helmstadter

At the end of November I had the privilege of attending the Canadian Nurses Centennial Nurse Awards. It was a lovely, very warm reception, extremely well organized and most enjoyable. I met many old friends as well as making new ones. I was especially pleased to see the history of nursing well represented — Meryn Stuart, Kathleen MacMillan, Sandra Bassendowski and Verna Splane all received awards. Verna gave a moving thank you to CNA, reminding us all of those who went before us and laid the path for the Association's second hundred years. I sensed that nursing history is finally becoming incorporated into mainstream nursing. I have noted with pleasure that the *English Journal of Nursing Management* has just published an article on nursing history, and the *Journal of Clinical Nursing* has one in press.

At the elegant luncheon I sat next to a former colleague from Ontario Nurses Association and three nurses from the North, two of whom had actually worked with Vera Roberts. All three made the same comment about her, 'She was a legend!' The Northern nurses were very interested in Vera's bequest to CAHN which they said was very much in character. They also gave me an opportunity to advertise our Vera Roberts grants and of course CAHN itself. Nursing history is making its well-deserved mark!

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# Newsletter

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Spring 2009

Volume 22, Issue 1

## Updates

### **SPRING SEMINAR/ CONFÉRENCE DU PRINTEMPS**

Sponsored by the AMS Nursing History Research Unit/  
Présenté par l'Unité de recherche sur l'histoire des sciences  
infirmières de l'AMS

### **"Competence, Coolness, and Control of Clinical Moments: Re -thinking the Trope of Obedience in Nursing"**

Patricia D'Antonio, PhD

Associate Professor of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

Professeure agrégée, école des sciences infirmières

Friday 3 April /vendredi le 3 avril /2009

This paper re-considers the currently disparaged emphasis on nurses' need to embody traits of discipline, loyalty, and obedience. Certainly, representations of disciplined, loyal, and respectful practice remained important. But these representations were also presented by nurses among themselves and to their public as traits that served the production of even more important ones: those of competence, coolness, courage, and absolute control of the clinical moment. And such traits drew nurses into the prestigious scientific orbit of modern medicine and differentiated them and their work from their main competitors: equally modern, middle-class mothers.

These representations, I argue, did create a shared, internalized, and fairly stable conceptualization of "nursing" and, as importantly, a strong nursing identity. They ran across - although never bridged - racial, gendered, and classed divide. But they did provide a common scaffolding upon which nurses built additional meanings attendant upon their particular gendered, racialized, classed, and geographic worlds. In the end, nurses' representations of nursing created powerfully imagined (if not always real) communities of meaning throughout the United States. And such meanings encouraged nurses to consider themselves empowered participants in the battle against disease in homes and hospitals throughout the country.

### **CAHN/ACHN Nominations Committee**

#### **Call for Nominations 2009-2011**

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 2009.

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 2009-2011 period. Please consider submitting your name, or encouraging other members to become involved in the Association.

The following positions (and several committee memberships) become open for two years in May 2009:

Vice President

Secretary

Members-at-Large

Membership – 1 committee member

Please send nominations to:

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

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the AGM on May 30.

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# Newsletter

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Spring 2009

Volume 22, Issue 1

## Updates

### Canadian Nursing History Collection Online

<http://www.civilization.ca/cmc/exhibitions/tresors/nursing/ncint01e.shtml> (English)

<http://www.civilization.ca/cmc/exhibitions/tresors/nursing/ncint01f.shtml> (français)

### Canadian Nursing History Collection Online

The Canadian Nursing History Collection Online website is a searchable database dedicated to the nursing collections at the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Canadian War Museum. As an active site, it includes not only objects currently in the collections, but any subsequently acquired. While emphasis is on three-dimensional objects, associated photographs and documents often exist, and in a final phase of the website project, this important contextual material has been digitized and attached to the site.

The following will give you some idea of the types of material, and the terms you can use to find these items on the website:

cartoon or caricature	list or liste
certificate or certificat	manuscript or manuscrit
diploma or diplôme	newsletter or bulletin d'information
Document	notebook or carnet
instructions sheet or feuille d'instructions	photograph album or album de photos
invitation letter or lettre d'invitation	photograph or photographie
laundry list or liste de blanchisserie	poster or affiche
leaflet or dépliant	sheet music or feuille de musique
letter or letter	textile sample or échantillon de textile

### Digitization of Canadian War Museum Collections

A final project to digitize collections, especially military nursing uniforms, at the Canadian War Museum has been completed. This will greatly enhance the visual understanding of the collections.

<http://www.civilization.ca/cmc/exhibition/tresors/nursing/ncint01e.shtml> (English)

#### *Acknowledgements*

*These projects were sponsored by financial donations, principally from the Canadian Nurses Association, but also from individual and organizational donors, to whom the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Canadian War Museum would like to express their sincere appreciation.*

Christina Bates  
 Curator, Canadian Nursing History Collection  
 Chair, Canadian Nursing History Collection Project Committee  
 Canadian Museum of Civilization

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# Newsletter

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Spring 2009

Volume 22, Issue 1

## Call for Papers



## Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine Inc.

Reg. No. A003154W ABN 88 095 106 769

ELEVENTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE  
 MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER - FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2009  
 THE UNIVERSITY CLUB, UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
**WESTWARD HO!**  
**HEALTH & HISTORY AT THE FRONTIER**

We invite proposals for papers from members of the ANZSHM and from others working on the history of medicine. We are particularly interested in the themes listed below; but we also welcome proposals on other medical history topics. We encourage proposals that bring together a panel of presenters on a common theme. Standard papers will be of 20 minutes' duration, with 10 minutes' discussion. Most sessions will run for 90 minutes.

### Conference Themes are:

Aboriginal Health  
 Health, Medicine & Maritime Exploration  
 Health & Medicine on the Frontier  
 Medicine's Frontiers  
 Industrial Medicine/ Occupational Health & Safety  
 Infectious Diseases  
 Infant & Child Health  
 Healthcare occupations [e.g. pharmacy, nursing, dentistry]  
 Medicine and Religious Orders  
 Medicine in Numismatics  
 One thousand words on an image/ artefact/ place ["Show & Tell"]

*To submit your proposal, please follow these steps:*

1. Please supply your name, that of your institution (where applicable), the title of your paper, an abstract (150 words max.), and a brief bio (50 words max.).
2. Send your proposal to both these addresses: [L.Layman@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:L.Layman@murdoch.edu.au) & [crienafz@inet.net.au](mailto:crienafz@inet.net.au)
3. Please put **ANZSHM 2009** in the subject line of your email message.
4. The deadline for submissions is **30 April 2009**.

*For any further enquiries, please contact:* Lenore Layman (email as above; mob. 0411 373 608) or Criena Fitzgerald (email as above; mob. 0417 980 553). Stay the extra day on Friday 2 October and learn about life and health in the nineteenth century Benedictine monastic town of New Norcia, 132kms north of Perth.

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# Newsletter

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Spring 2009

Volume 22, Issue 1

## Executive and committee members for 2008-2009

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

**Vice-President :** Marion McKay (2007-2009)  
[marion\\_mckay@umanitoba.ca](mailto:marion_mckay@umanitoba.ca)

**Treasurer :** Lorraine Mychajlanow (2008-2010)  
[lmychajlanow@nurses.ab.ca](mailto:lmychajlanow@nurses.ab.ca)

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

**Members-at-large:** Janet Beaton (2007-2009)  
[jibeaton@shaw.ca](mailto:jibeaton@shaw.ca)

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

**Communications:** Jaime Lapeyre  
[jaimelapeyre@hotmail.com](mailto:jaimelapeyre@hotmail.com)

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

Judith Hibberd (2007-2009)  
[jmhibberd@shaw.ca](mailto:jmhibberd@shaw.ca)

**Finance:** Lorraine Mychajlanow (2008-2010)

Marion McKay (2007-2009)

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

**Scholarship and Research Awards:**  
 Beverley Hicks ((Chair,  
[hicks@mts.net](mailto:hicks@mts.net)

Florence Melchior  
[Florence@mhc.ab.ca](mailto:Florence@mhc.ab.ca)

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

Veryl Tipliski  
[tipliski@telus.net](mailto:tipliski@telus.net)

**Long-Range Planning:** Marion McKay (Chair) (2007-2009)

Nicole Rousseau (2007-2009)  
[Nicole.rousseau@fsi.ulaval.ca](mailto:Nicole.rousseau@fsi.ulaval.ca)

Chris Dooley (2008 – 2010)  
[Chris\\_Dooley@MTS.net](mailto:Chris_Dooley@MTS.net)

Judith Young (2008 – 2010)  
[judithy@primus.ca](mailto:judithy@primus.ca)