President’s Message
by Helen Vandenberg

Warm greetings CAHN members. I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of CAHN/ACHN. The board is hard at work ensuring that all of our scholarship, educational, and conference activities have been running smoothly. We have a few exciting updates to share with all of you.

The board is excited to announce that AMS has decided to continue its generous support of our Hannah keynote lectures. These lectures are one of the main highlights of our conferences, so it is great that we can continue with this program. It is important to note that CAHN/ACHN has just partnered with the Nursing History Consortium at the University of British Columbia to record and digitize these lectures, so they can be accessed online by anyone interested in nursing history.

You can find our first recording here.

We were very lucky this past spring to partner with the Nova Scotia Nursing History Society for the 2018 CAHN/ACHN conference. I want to extend a special thank-you to Gloria Stephens and the Nova Scotia Nursing History Society for their excellent hosting of this event. We have included a small description of the conference in the newsletter for those of you who were unable to attend.

Conference planning for the 2019 conference in Vancouver BC is underway. Dr. Karen Nolte, professor and director of the Institute for History and Ethics of Medicine at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, will be our Hannah keynote speaker. She will present on her recent book: Todkrank. Sterbebegleitung im 19 Jahrhundert: Medizin, Krankenpflege und Religion, Goettingen 2016 [Terminally Ill. Palliative care in the 19th century: medicine, nursing and religion]. Dr. Geertje Boschma has been working with other members/groups on the joint 2019 CAHN/CSHM
conference, which will also mark the 100-year anniversary of the UBC School of Nursing. It will be an exciting event to be sure.

For several years now, we have aimed to increase our membership, improve our website and enhance our educational presence online. I look forward to continuing to work on these activities with all of our in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Helen Vandenberg

CAHN-ACHN Spring 2018 Conference - Halifax, Nova Scotia

“Tracing Nurses Footsteps: Nursing & The Tides of Change

From June 16-17 the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing/Association canadienne pour l’histoire du nursing met in Halifax Nova Scotia for our annual conference. We were hosted by the Nova Scotia History of Nursing group led by President Gloria Stephens. There was plenty of dancing, singing, and so much delicious food, to accompany the great papers presented. The conference took place in the Bethune Building of the Victoria General Hospital.
The Bethune Ballroom is home to the VGH School of Nursing Archives and Museum run by volunteers. Coffee breaks made for a great time to study many of the artefacts housed there.

The conference began with an overview of CAHN-ACHN’s history by Barbara Keddy. In addition to providing an historical overview of our association Dr. Keddy also discussed her efforts to recognize the achievements of Sara Corning, a Nova Scotia nurse during the Armenian Genocide, through memorials and her new book *The Lamp Was Heavy: Nova Scotia Nurses-In-

Archives

*Training*, the proceeds of which go to the Yarmouth Sara Corning Society. Following her presentation Dr. Keddy was presented with an Award of Recognition, by CAHN-ACHN Vice President Sandra Harrison in honour of her contributions to the association.

This year’s Hannah Lecture was given by Dr. Janet Greenlees from Caledonian University in Glasgow. Her talk entitled “To develop
the ‘habit’: Nurses and prenatal care for poor women in the United States and Great Britain c. 1880-1939.” compared developments in the industrial port cities of Philadelphia (USA), Liverpool (England), and Glasgow (Scotland). These cities all had before the First World War high maternal and infant mortality rates and welcomed large numbers of immigrants in the time period discussed. Dr. Greenlees highlighted the importance of adequate neighbourhood-based healthcare through district nursing practices to tackle improving the health of mothers and babies. Both Dr. Keddy’s and Dr. Greenlees’s talks are available to listen to here from the UBC nursing history archive.

There was quite a diverse number of papers and conference participants, with 35 presenters, coming from Canada, the United States, United Kingdom, and Brazil. With 23 papers in English and eight given in French. Students were also well represented giving five presentations. A huge thank you to Associated Medical Services (AMS) for providing student travel funding enabling many who would have been unable to attend to participate. This year’s Vick Bach memorial Award for best student paper went to PhD Candidate Catherine Haney for her paper “‘Experienced, Compassionate, and With a Sense of Humour’: Nurses’ Work in Freestanding Abortion Clinics in Canada 1968-1988.”

Very fittingly, given December 2017’s hundredth anniversary of the Halifax Explosion we had two papers featuring the activities of Canadian and American nurses in the aftermath of the disaster. Dr. Karen Keddy examined the physical challenges for caregiving in her paper “Nursing the Injured after the Halifax Explosion: Overcoming brick and mortar challenges for caregiving activities.” While Dr. Deborah Sampson considered the shared values of New England and Maritime nurses in “Nursing Across Canadian/US Boundaries: Shared social, political and professional values and the Halifax explosion response in 1917.” Also of local interest was Kathy
MacDonald’s recounting of the first ex-utero intrapartum treatment (EXIT) procedure at the IWK Health Centre for children in Halifax. MacDonald an RN and the Clinical Leader for Development of Paediatric Perioperative Services at the IWK focused on the importance of having planning meetings before procedures and debriefing sessions following so that future procedures can go more smoothly.

While the papers were interesting and intellectually stimulating, it was the social activities that made this Nova Scotian who had been away for too long in the West, truly feel at home. The Weather Watch room of the Dickson Building offered impressive views and atmosphere both the Welcome Event on Friday night and the Dinner on Saturday. In addition to the evening activities we were also treated to both a bus tour of Halifax highlights and a walking tour of the nearby Public Gardens. The Halifax Public Gardens first opened in 1867 and are designated a National Historic Site of Canada.

In closing we would like to thank Gloria Stephens and her many wonderful helpers for all their hard work in organizing this conference and for showing us some true Nova Scotian hospitality!

Erin Spinney

NOVA SCOTIA GROUP
Iris Shea, Joyce Baxter, Ida Berry, Lyn Thorne, Margo Williams, Gloria Stephens, Lesa Light, Maureen Manuge, Edie Ward, Charlene Day
Call for Papers

Joint Conference: Canadian Society for the History of Medicine (CSHM) and Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN)

June 1-3, 2019

University of British Columbia

The 2019 joint meeting of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine and the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing will take place June 1-3, 2019 at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, unceded x̱məθəkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) territory. In conjunction with the 2019 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Programme Committee calls for papers that address the theme of this year’s Congress: “Circles of Conversation.”

Scholars are invited to present research on the broadly-defined histories of medicine, healing, health, and disease that explores conversations, debates, and dialogues on these themes at the local, provincial, national, and global levels. The programme committee also welcomes papers that critically and creatively explore the relationships between historians of health and medicine and the communities they influence and are influenced by, with a particular interest in relationships between historians and Indigenous communities. Proposals on topics unrelated to the Congress theme are also welcome. Please submit an abstract of less than 350 words and one-page CV for consideration by November 30, 2018 by e-mail to Dr. Whitney Wood at whitney.wood@ucalgary.ca. The Programme Committee encourages proposals for organised panels of three (3) related papers; in this case, please submit a panel proposal of less than 350 words in addition to an abstract and one-page CV from each presenter. The Committee will notify applicants of its decision by January 30, 2019. Those who accept an invitation to present at the meeting agree to provide French and English versions of the accepted abstract for inclusion in the bilingual Programme Book.

Questions can be addressed to the Programme Committee Co-Chairs:
Dr. Margaret Scaia, University of Victoria (mrscaia@uvic.ca)
Dr. Whitney Wood, University of Calgary (whitney.wood@ucalgary.ca)
Appel de communications
Colloque conjoint de la Société canadienne d’histoire de la médecine (SCHM) et de l’Association canadienne pour l’histoire du nursing (ACHN)
Du 1er au 3 juin 2019
Université de la Colombie-Britannique

Le colloque conjoint 2019 de la Société canadienne d’histoire de la médecine et de l’Association canadienne pour l’histoire du nursing aura lieu du 1er au 3 juin 2019 à l’Université de la Colombie-Britannique, à Vancouver, en territoire xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) non cédé. Conjointement au Congrès 2019 des sciences humaines, le Comité du programme lance un appel de communications portant sur le thème du congrès de cette année, à savoir « Cercles de conversation ».

Les chercheurs sont invités à présenter des recherches sur l’histoire de la médecine, de la guérison, de la santé et de la maladie au sens large qui explorent les conversations, les débats et les dialogues sur ces thèmes à l’échelle locale, provinciale, nationale et mondiale. Le Comité du programme accueille également les communications qui explorent de façon critique et créative les relations entre les historiens de la santé et de la médecine et les communautés qu’ils influencent et qui les influencent, en prêtant un intérêt particulier aux relations entre les historiens et les communautés autochtones. Les propositions sur des sujets autres que le thème du Congrès sont également bienvenues. Veuillez soumettre un résumé de moins de 350 mots et un CV d’une page pour examen d’ici le 30 novembre 2018 par courriel à Whitney Wood, whitney.wood@ucalgary.ca. Le Comité du programme encourage également les propositions d’organisation de panels composés de trois (3) communications. Dans ce cas, veuillez soumettre une proposition de panel de moins de 350 mots, accompagnée d’un résumé et d’un CV d’une page pour chaque présentateur. Le Comité informera les candidats de sa décision d’ici le 30 janvier 2019. Ceux qui seront invités à donner une présentation s’engagent à fournir une version
en anglais et en français de leur résumé accepté, qui figurera au document de programme bilingue.

Les questions peuvent être adressées aux coprésidentes du Comité du programme :
Margaret Scaia, Université de Victoria (mrscaia@uvic.ca)
Whitney Wood, Université de Calgary (whitney.wood@ucalgary.ca)

CAHN/ACHN Members Win Awards at American Association for the History of Nursing Conference

At this year’s AAHN Conference in San Diego, California (19-21 September) two CAHN members were recognized with awards! Dr. Susan Armstrong-Reid received the prestigious Lavinia L. Dock Award for her book *China Gadabouts: New Frontiers of Humanitarian Nursing, 1941-51*. The Dock Award is presented annually to recognize outstanding research and writing produced by an experienced scholar in book form. Dr. Erin Spinney received the Teresa E. Christy Award for her PhD dissertation “Naval and Military Nursing in the British Empire c. 1763-1830.” The Christy Award is presented annually to recognize excellence of historical research and writing done while the research was in a student status and is primarily awarded to doctoral dissertations.
2018 CAHN - ACHN Scholarship and Research Awards:

Two CAHN - ACHN Allemang Scholarship awards to be awarded to:

David Hrag Yacoubian, PhD Student, School of Nursing, UBC, supervisor Dr. Geertje Boschma, for the project: Canadian Nurses’ Global-Transnational Leadership to Confront Genocide: The Case of the Armenian Genocide [Le direction des infirmières Canadienne en cas d’affronter genocide: Le cas du génocide Armenienne].

Geneviève McCready, PhD Student, Nursing History Research Unit/ l’Unité de recherche sur l’histoire du nursing de l’université d’Ottawa, supervisor Dr. Marie-Claude Thifault, for the project: Soigner le corps social : savoirs des infirmières francophones soutenues par le Clergé catholique et oeuvrant dans les communautés du Canada (1934-1959). [The project seeks to focus on the influence and role of the Catholic Church beyond institutions and in the development of community-based care, specifically. The essential question is how did the Papal Encyclical Quadragesimo Anno drive changes in nursing beyond the hospital in the timeperiod 1934-1959.]

Two CAHN - ACHN Vera Roberts Research awards to be awarded to:

Dr. Matthew S. Wiseman, PhD, SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History, University of Toronto for the project entitled: “Frontier Healthcare: Nursing at the Fort Churchill Military Hospital, 1948-1984.”

Summary: This project is a historical research study about nursing at the Fort Churchill military hospital. Between 1948 and 1984, Fort Churchill was Canada’s northernmost military base. Located on the shore of Hudson Bay in Manitoba’s northeast corner, the base served as a gateway to the Canadian Arctic and hub for northern medicine. The base hospital accommodated the medical needs of service personnel and local population. The hospital facilitated the training and placement of nurses throughout the Eastern Canadian Arctic, and the federal government regularly transferred patients from Arctic locations south to the military hospital. While nurses at the base hospital served as some of Canada’s northernmost outpost workers, little scholarly research is available on the history of nursing at Fort Churchill. This project seeks to address gaps in the current literature of northern outpost nursing through primary and oral history research conducted in the Churchill, MB. [pending submission of ethical certificate]

Dr. Alessandra Iozzo-Duval, PhD, Research Associate, Nursing History Research Unit, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa for the project entitled: “Nursing the North”: Intersections of gender, race and visual culture in Canada’s North, 1900-1960.”

Summary: This project will undertake a visual cultural analysis to examine photographs portraying nurses and nursing in Canada’s north (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut) from 1900-1960. This project will deepen current understandings of the gendered and cultural intersections surrounding the nursing and healthcare experience in Canada’s north. At the same
time, the proposed visual analysis will lend insight into the national narrative that was being constructed about Canada’s north and the people who lived and worked there. Secondly, this project will take up a pedagogical question about the ways in which to extend a visual cultural analysis to the classroom, specifically to nursing students, as a way to teach critical historical skills which, I argue, extend well beyond histories of nursing but contribute to the development of intellectual rigor in nursing programs generally.

Dr. Helen Niskala (Associate Professor Emerita) 1929 - 2018

04 Dec 2018

Helen Niskala was born July 26, 1929 in North Bay, Ontario, and attended Jarvis Collegiate in Toronto. She graduated with a Diploma in Nursing from Toronto Western Hospital in 1951, where she worked from 1952 to 1957. She spent the 1957-58 year at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases in London, England, as a post-graduate student. From 1958-1963 she was an Auxiliary Medical Nurse for the Royal Canadian Air Force while also working at the Ottawa Civic Hospital in a variety of roles including clinical instructor and head nurse. She graduated from McGill University with a BN in 1964. This was followed by a move to the University of British Columbia where she was a clinical instructor from 1964 to 1968. Helen received her MS from The University of California in San Francisco in 1969, and until 1972 worked at the UBC Faculty of Education as a research assistant to Dr. Coolie Verner. She subsequently relocated to the University of Alberta in Edmonton as an Assistant and then Associate Professor from 1972-1975 and, returning to BC, completed her Doctorate in Adult Education from the University of British Columbia in 1976. The title of her UBC thesis was “Learning Needs of Persons on Home Hemodialysis.” From 1976 to 1982, she was Director of Education Services for the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of BC (which was the combined regulatory body and professional association), helping that organization develop a more effective administration and management group than had previously been the case. Morrie Steele recalls that she was a marvelous mentor to those who were striving to advance the profession of psychiatric nursing at that time. Helen recommenced employment at UBC in 1982 and was appointed as Associate Professor. Her special research interests included treatment of adults and the elderly with long term health problems, particularly in community settings. Her teaching responsibilities included Advanced Nursing Care, Guided Study in Nursing, Clinical Specialization I and II, Teaching in Clinical Nursing, and Nursing and the Delivery of Health Care. She supervised a number of master’s students who went on to stellar leadership careers. By virtue of her special expertise, Helen was also invited to engage in various consultancies over these years, in BC, in other Canadian provinces, and internationally, including UK and Finland. She was active in research and publication, securing research grants from the Social Science & Humanities Research Council, the BC Ministry of Labour, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society, to name a few. Helen spent time in Finland in the fall of 1988 on a World Health Organization Fellowship. The following year, she was presenting a paper entitled “Use of small group activities to learn about coping with long term health problems” at a WHO-sponsored International Nursing Conference of China in Beijing at the time of the historic events at Tiananmen Square in June of 1989. Helen’s niece, Marlene Niskala, recalls that Helen later reported that she had been safely settled in the
consulate building and was given no information on the student protest taking place. Naturally, her brother was frantic until she was safely home.

In addition to her academic involvement, Helen maintained a lifelong commitment to organizations whose aspirations were to build a better world for all. For example, she was a longtime member of Amnesty International, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, and the Social Planning and Review Council of BC. After retirement from the School of Nursing in 1995 as Associate Professor Emerita, Helen remained active and engaged in many School gatherings and events. Glennis Zilm notes that Helen was a founding member of the BC History of Nursing Society, and did a lot to promote the history of nursing.

Helen died in Vancouver on November 30, 2018. She will be fondly remembered for her professionalism, her excitement about the great potential of nursing scholarship and research, her kind and supportive mentorship of junior colleagues, her great enthusiasm for the expanding internationalization of nursing, and – of course – for her great love of her Finnish heritage.

Source: Description of Helen’s career in the BC Nursing of History Society’s Archival Fonds: https://www.bcnursinghistory.ca/archives/nurses/dr-helen-niskala/

DIER, Kathleen "Kay", (Professor Emeritus) October 28, 1922 - October 3, 2018

After a wonderful life, Kay left us on Wednesday, October 3, 2018. Kay grew up in Rumsey, Alberta and graduated from the Holy Cross Hospital School of Nursing, Calgary, in 1945. Subsequently, she completed her BSc (Nursing) at the University of Alberta and her Masters in Nursing at McGill University. After graduation, she worked in Vancouver, Hawaii and Yellowknife before joining Indian and Northern Health Services where she served at the Charles Camessell Hospital, Edmonton and Whitehorse General Hospital. She also served as a nursing sister in the Canadian military from 1952-1953. In 1956 she was seconded to open a nursing station in Cambridge Bay. Kay was a Professor of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan for 4 years. In 1967 she took a position as Senior Nurse Educator with the World Health Organization and spent 6 years in Iran, Africa and Thailand. Upon her return to Canada in 1973, she joined the Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta. She served as Associate Dean for 3 years and completed several short term international assignments in India, Thailand, Columbia and Pakistan. She retired in 1988. During her retirement she continued to do contract and volunteer work internationally with WHO, CIDA and other agencies in Thailand, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Czech Republic, Australia and India. She was active in many local and national organizations and served on a number of boards including the YWCA, the Edmonton Local Board of Health and several senior associations. She was a long-time member of the International Committee of the Canadian Public Health Association. Place as well as her small writing circles. She enjoyed a career and a life full of adventure. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Kay's memory to the Molly and Spencer Dier Scholarship Fund, Development Office, Gift Planning Unit, University of Alberta, Edmonton. Enterprise Square, 3rd floor, 10230 - Jasper Ave. N.W., Edmonton, AB T5J 4P6 or online donations to Ualberta.ca/giving. This scholarship assists women from developing nations to pursue graduate studies. To send condolences please visit www.fostermcgarvey.com

Source: http://edmontonjournal.remembering.ca/obituary/kathleen-dier-1070517269
CAHN EXECUTIVE AND BOARD:  
2018-2019

Updated November 28, 2018 by Lydia Wytenbroek

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helen.vandenberg@usask.ca

Vice-President
Sandra Harrisson (2017-2019)  
sandra.harrisson@uqtr.ca

Past-President
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lydia.wytenbroek@gmail.com

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k_murphy@telus.net

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n.bolton@shaw.ca
Evy Nazon (2017-2019)  
evynazon@uqo.ca

Website
Erin Spinney (2017-2019)  
erin.spinney@usask.ca

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lquiney2@telus.net

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Geertje.Boschma@nursing.ubc.ca

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Sandra Harrisson (VP) (2017-2019)  
sandra.harrisson@uqtr.ca

Nominations Committee
Lydia Wytenbroek (past president)  
(2017-2019)  
lydia.wytenbroek@gmail.com

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Sandra Harrisson (VP) (2017-2019)  
sandra.harrisson@uqtr.ca

Members-at-large
Carrie Lee (2018-2020)  
carolyn.lee@utoledo.edu
Gloria Stephens (2018-2020)  
gloria.stephens@ns.sympatico.ca