



## Message from the President,

We've made it so far! Last June when no one would take on the executive jobs, five 'rookies' stepped up to keep the Alumnae going: Eileen Brown 78B, Vice President, Eva Aslin 78B, Treasurer; Diane Barnhill 71B, Secretary and resident parliamentarian. Carol Schmidt 78B accepted the demanding position of Membership Chair. Anne Kern 73B agreed to stay on as chair of Archives and Louise Johnson 69B is continuing the important and much appreciated role as Refreshments Chair. Marilyn McCutcheon 60B and Mary Hoodicoff 63B (Co-chair the Friendship Committee).

There have been many challenges in getting acquainted with our new roles, learning about what we had inherited and each of us had medical challenges...but we kept on. We have now reached the halfway point in our term. I would like to thank each member of our 'crew' for bringing us back from the brink.

Thanks also to the members whose input is both helpful and important to our goal. The general feeling seems to be the desire to keep the Alumnae going at least until the last class celebrates their 50th Anniversary in 2028.

In the coming year we hope to complete our "advanced estate plan" and will then have more time to devote to our main purpose. *"To promote unity, loyalty and good fellowship among the graduates of the Royal Columbian Hospital and maintain contact between them."*

Good health and happiness to everyone.

Bernice Rolls 60B (Rookie #5)

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## ADVANCED ESTATE PLAN

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nursing education in perpetuity               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gussie Macphail Bursary                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ RCH Foundation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• RCH Alumnae Association Education Award                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ Douglas College Foundation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cancel Charitable status               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↳ Charitable tax receipts are now issued by the above Foundations</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Website transferred to RCH Foundation</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daytime meetings</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sherbrooke Centre farewell celebration</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commemorate RCH School of Nursing               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• graduation photo display</li> <li>• stained glass window</li> <li>• artifacts display case</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Revised constitution and bylaws</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Increase communication and involvement of our members</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 'Will' - the last wishes of the RCH</li> </ul> |
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## SUPPORTING NURSES EDUCATION

As per the June 2018 AGM, Alumnae funds have been transferred to endowments at the RCH Foundation and the Douglas College Foundation who will administer the funds in perpetuity.

There are two ways to donate and get a tax receipt:

1. **The Royal Columbian Nurses' Alumnae Association Gussie Macphail Education Fund** via The Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation.

To learn more, please contact:

Catherine Cornish, Associate Director,  
Major and Legacy Giving at (  
604)520-4902 or email  
catherinecornish@fraserhealth.ca

2. **The Royal Columbian Hospital Nurses Alumnae Award** via The Douglas College Foundation. The Foundation accepts donations:

**Online** at [www.douglascollege.ca/donate](http://www.douglascollege.ca/donate)  
Under Fund designation choose "Other"  
and in the "Comments" section type  
"Royal Columbian Hospital Nurses  
Alumnae Award"

By **phone**: contact the Annual Giving  
Officer, Sherrill Cairns at 604-777-6176

By **mail**: send a cheque to:  
Douglas College Foundation  
PO Box 2503,  
New Westminster, BC V3L5B2

**\*\*Include a letter or note that stipulates  
that your donation is for The RCH  
Nurses' Alumnae Award.**



## UPDATE ON OUR WEBPAGE

Submitted by Eileen Brown 78B

The RCH Foundation has agreed to sponsor a webpage for us on their website. We will be responsible (Executive) to send in our updates, newsletters etc. that we wish to have on our page, but they will upload all the material and manage it.

How this will look is:

- you go to the RCH Foundation website
- in the upper right corner click on Menu
- at the bottom of the menu selection is a search box, type in RCH Nurses Alumnae this will bring up a "page" that has all our information on it, including several subcategories that you can click on to get more information on both of our awards with information on how to donate to them if you wish.

*Please note this is a work in progress! Once our page is up on RCH Foundations website, we will delete our former webpage.*

*Many thanks to Judi Georgetti who established and maintained our website for a number of years!*

## ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

The Archive Committee has been very busy sorting through our inventory. We are actively planning for the day when we have to move out of our current site due to the new construction at the hospital which is expected to take four years.

We are hopeful that we will have storage space during this time and that we will have display space in the new wing but that is not a sure thing. At the same time we are in consultation with the New Westminster Museum to see what of our inventory they will take in the event of the Alumnae closing. We are still available for demonstrations for groups or events and hopefully will have a display at the AGM in June.

Contact us for anything to do with our Archives through me.

Thank you for your support.

Anne Kern, Archive Committee Chair  
eakern@shaw.ca



## Class of 57A – A Birthday Celebration!

The picture to the right is of Irene O'Connor's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in Powell River. The ladies of her class (57A) came from all over to help her celebrate.

The ladies from L to R are: Lucy Smythe, Shirley Allen, Irene O'Connor (the birthday girl), Sirkkaa Robertson, Pam Niblock, Lorraine Elliott and Barbara Scott



## Christmas Luncheon 2018



The Christmas luncheon was held in November 2018. at the Vancouver Golf Club.

Back row: Top left (striped shirt): Eva Aslin , Sylvia Bradsmas , Marion Wilkins, Carol Schmidt , Patty Utley , Rene Hefti-Graham . Janet Guenther, Carol Charboneau, Mary Hunter, Pauline Dunn , Norma Chapman, Olga McDonald , Elaine Hamilton , Emilie Semko, Elsie McKay, Stephanie Kirkness

Middle row: Elaine Olson, Marilyn McCutcheon, Doris Gilbert, Nancy Dinsmore, Dianne Barnhill, Carolyn Ledwon, ☺ , Mary Hoodicoff, Marion Downing, Marie Bensley, Barbara Scott, Anne McLean

Bottom: Myrna Bloch, Margaret Kennedy, Sandi Thiessen ☺, Fran Kuhn, Elsie Wrightman, Eleanor Lonneberg, Eileen Brown

## FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE

Marilyn McCutcheon 60B, Mary Hoodicoff 63A

*Please notify Marilyn at (604)936-8432 or [mada1939@telus.net](mailto:mada1939@telus.net) if you know of someone who would benefit from a get well or sympathy card.*

*Please contact Mary (604)584-0478 or [maryhood@shaw.ca](mailto:maryhood@shaw.ca) if you know of someone for whom a personal contact or a visit would be appreciated.*

**If you have moved, changed your phone number or email address please provide us your updated contact information.**

### In Memoriam Gone Yet Not Forgotten



Reynolds, Georgina (Worrell) 48B	April 2, 2018
Tara, Helen (Devine) 54A	April 19, 2018
Fleming, Elsie (Campbell) 49B	April 26, 2018
Chapple, Josephine 48B	May 2, 2018
Patchell, Patricia (McLeod) 44A	May 9, 2018
Hussey, Ellen (Hussey) 53B	May 19, 2018
Hart, Marilyn (Gilley) 48B	July 3, 2018
Saunders, Anna (Wiens) 72B	August 7, 2018
Barclay, Sharon (Schuman) 58B	November 13, 2018
Seidel, Audrey (Evans) 59B	December 17, 2018
Stromgren, Joan (Greening) 61B	January 24, 2019
McLennan, Joan (Harris) 54A	March 1, 2019
Hocking, Lorraine (Downton) 57B	March 27, 2019



## CLASS OF 59B - 60TH REUNION!

**Class 59B:** this is our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and a special milestone celebration for our class. We have continued our closeness and friendship over the years. In the beginning were 5 year reunions with husbands and families. These included the lower mainland, Hawaii, Harrison Hot Springs, Whistler, Kelowna and now a second time in Merritt. We feel 2 year get togethers are important now. We have lost 10 of our class over the years and hope to have all the rest together this September.



We continue to be best friends and have a very close network.

Back row: Mavis Paravantes, Betty Jean Aitchison, Donna Macmillan, Jeanie Vant, Lorena Barnes, Jean Matson, Donata Starton, Phyllis Beach

Front Row: Mavis Campbell, Marlene Matthews, Lorraine Freeman, Fern Gibbard, Betty Frederiksen. (Photo from 2018 newsletter).

Submitted by Jean

## CLASS 68B - 50TH REUNION

68B had a 50th Reunion in September of 2018 in Kelowna at The Manteo Resort. The first night we had a meet and greet to get reacquainted. The next day we had a boat cruise and lunch on the Okanagan Lake. That evening we had a dinner party which also included our husbands for the meal. After the meal, we kicked our husbands out and we sat around in a circle and reminisced about training and laughed until our sides hurt. It was a fun time!



*L to R approximate position. Kathy Stauffer (Kerr), Jan Lincoln (Stapleton), Joanne Haggstrom (Ready), Marilyn Butcher Bettles, Joy (Marshall) Ponting, Joyce (Lowenberger) Leach, Fraeya (Miller) Buhr, Frieda (Hiebert) Zalinko, Muriel (Wise) Anderson, Sue (Dupont) Regehr, Brenda (Thompson) Dalzell, Leni (Reusch) Nickason, Elaine (Watt) Vanderwal. Connie (Harris) Elsdon [seated], Emi (Pigeau) Midtdal, Donna (Thompson) Litke*

*Submitted by: Connie (Harris) Elsdon*

## CLASS OF 73B – 45<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

We met over the weekend of October 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> at Harrison Hot Springs Hotel. We had such a good time. We were all on one floor with a hospitality room too. The floor led directly to the hot tub and the hot pools. Oh boy were they wonderful! Friday night we all met for appetizers and drinks. We had breakfast each day in the hospitality room. Saturday night we had prearranged dinner in the hotel dining room where a band played wonderful music and the dancers danced. The weather was so kind to us – sunshine and light winds. We walked, hiked and hot tubbed. Talked, reminisced and planned – for our 50<sup>th</sup> all weekend. Each person had ten minutes to tell about her life both in nursing and out. We even listened to a CD our classmate had made before her death. Throughout the weekend we reconnected, supported and congratulated from each classmate to each classmate. It felt like we were still in training. Goodbyes were said after our group picture was taken outside with some sadness but also joy and the thought of our next reunion.



Submitted by Anne Kern

## CLASS OF 78B—40<sup>TH</sup> REUNION



**78B** had their **40<sup>th</sup>** reunion at Whistler in May 2018. We had a good turn out and had a lot of fun. Well fun might not entirely describe the “short” hike we did around the lake! Some of us went shopping, others participated in an Escape Room outing. We had a lovely dinner at the golf club and shared stories.

We are as close and supportive as when we were in nursing school.

Starting from top left: Donna, Barb, Kathy, Eva, Sharon, Stephanie, Heather, Marg, Cheryl, Linda, Barb, Laura, Sylvia, Deanna, Heidi, Patty, Carol, Doris, Kathy, Karen, Sonja, Barb, Eileen Dianne, Lydia, Sherry, Nancy

Submitted by Eileen Brown 78B (Riordan)



## A CALL TO NURSE - BOOK COMMITTEE UPDATE

Date: April 27, 2019

Dear Members of the RCH Nurses' Alumnae Association,

The Book Committee for our book "A Call to Nurse" (sadly without Betty Archer, deceased) met recently and decided that we have completed our mandate. Although we are a little sad, we believe it is time to bring this 'ad hoc committee' to a conclusion.

First, is a brief synopsis of our work:

The reality of our aging alumnae, the pride associated with our nursing preparation and the need to review the collection of many artifacts (with no place to go) prompted a few members' wish to document the rich history of the RCH School of Nursing. Early work and contribution by enthusiastic supporters began a collection of artifacts and student stories. The Book Committee was formed and a 'dream' for a book became a reality in 2013.

The Alumnae supported the book in various ways such as initially managing incoming donations, giving us access to the archives and by printing updates in the annual newsletter. We were very thankful for this support and on April 2, 2014 we gave the Alumnae \$2500.00 for Scholarships.

Currently there is \$6,790.00 in the 'Book Committee' Bank Account. Myrna and Elaine (co-signers) will close this account in Fort Langley and forward the balance to the Alumnae.

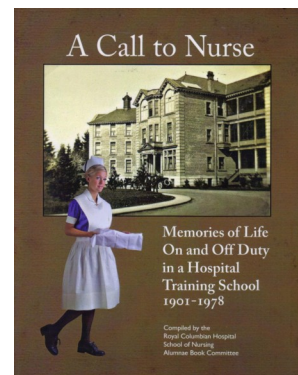
We are obligated by our decision stated on the back cover of the book that "All profits from sales of this book will be used by the Royal Columbian School of Nursing Alumnae to fund scholarships and maintain its archives." A decision has been made that the money will be placed in the Alumnae's general fund. The Archive Committee will have access to 2/3rds of the amount and the remainder earmarked for the RCH and Douglas Foundations at the Alumnae's discretion.

Remarkably, over 825 copies were sold. We now have 30 books and access to the printer, (Island Blue) for further orders. These books could go to the Alumnae for purchase and, when there are no anticipated sales, could be given as gifts to hospitals, libraries, nurses or students. Currently, Myrna is willing to store the remaining books and place an order if needed.

Writing "A Call to Nurse" has been an incredible journey and we have received many positive responses and kudos. We made a productive and enjoyable team and we continue to value the time we had together. We are grateful for the opportunities the project provided and believe "A Call to Nurse" is a professional and significant legacy representative of The Royal Columbian Hospital School of Nursing.

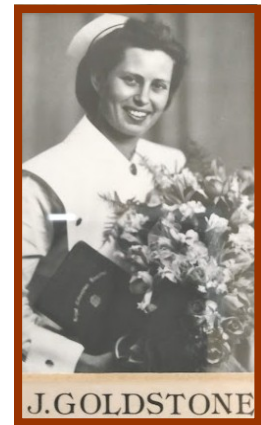
Sincerely,

Marie Bensley, Myrna Bloch, Pauline Dunn & Elaine Olson



## LIFE AT THE FAR END

**Editor's note:** June (Goldstone) Exworthy graduated from RCH School of Nursing in the class of 1947A. She worked in the OR at RCH, then VGH. After marriage to Bert, she continued to work full time but found she was spending more and more time helping Bert with his business. She decided she couldn't do both, so she gave up nursing. There were a lot of new skills to learn, but like any good nurse, June did what needed to be done. She drove a BIG truck, picked up supplies from manufacturers among other tasks to support the business. After retirement June and Bert built boats. Again she learned to handle the big timbers, cut glass, use putty and help with all things to complete a boat. She had a fall at Metrotown in 2017 which resulted in a concussion.



### *Looking back on My Life from the Far End*

*Yes, I have almost come to the Stop sign. It is hard to believe I have made it so far; 93 years. When I look back over the years, I was full of vim, vigor and vitality. I say to myself – “Did I do that?” The comparison today with my past activities is a sharp contrast. I am not exactly a happy camper. I do not take kindly to accepting this slow down.*

*It is a strange feeling to be alone – no brothers alive – nieces and nephews living in the distant BC and Alberta. My past active friends are no more and I do miss them all. Periodically I look at my past mementos, such as sports, photography, nursing (operating room), marriage to Bert, learning Bert's Sash and Door business, birding, building wooden boats, gardening, constructing a new home, and fishing in the Alouette River, Pitt River and Pitt Lake. I can still hear Bert give out a big “Whoop”; he had a trout on his fishing line! What a thrill! I do miss Boston Terriers; they gave me so many happy, playful moments. Oh yes we also had a cabin at the mouth of the Alouette River with boathouses with covered moorage for our boats, and over the years there were many. Bert and I completed our lives building wooden boats. The largest 45 ft. Yes, hard work was so gratifying. We were so fortunate in that a buyer would purchase same (word of mouth advertising!). Also during Bert's life, there were old cars in the background. His last one was donated to the Squamish Railway Museum; it was a 1934 Chrysler, and was a very expensive hobby. We also gave time to St. Alban's Church. When I look back I say, “Did we do so much? We were always busy.”*

*I am still living in Derby Manor. It is very nice accommodation, which I have not been able to appreciate this year due to the concussion being very troublesome. I am unable to take part in activities as the old noggin says, Take it Easy! I gave my car away as I did not think it was safe to drive, due to the concussion. I then lost my independence. At Derby Manor I am not allowed to feed the birds; it attracts rodents and birding is a wonderful hobby.*

*When I look around our planet and view the damage we have done and are still doing, I say it cannot last; there are changes coming. Over the years the planet has evolved and will continue to do so, maybe for the better or the worse. I feel the biggest question will be water. People on earth should appreciate good clean water. We are so fortunate in BC to have lakes, rivers, aquifers, snow, glaciers and rainfall. This gives us a green living where every living thing such as planets, trees, animals, fish, birds, humans, etc., can exist. Oh we are so fortunate. Everyone take good care of these assets.*

**June Exworthy 47A**

## CLASS OF 1969—50TH REUNION

The class of 1969 will be celebrating their **50 year** reunion in June.

Twenty-six classmates from 69B will be gathering at the Sandman Inn Guildford for June 3rd and 4th prior to the AGM. There seems to be lots of excitement about just being together to celebrate this Milestone! There are no planned activities as they are sure there will be too much talking to fit anything else in!!

Prior to the AGM they will have a late lunch at Moxies. The day after the meeting, 17 of these classmates from 69B will get on a minibus and head downtown to the cruise ships in Vancouver. There they will meet up with 16 classmates from the class of 69A and they will board the Volendam to embark on an Alaskan Cruise.

This group of happily retired RCH Nurses are looking forward to their 7 day long pajama party!! Will the ship ever be the same???

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Our Christmas luncheon will be held at the Vancouver Golf Club on December 3 from 1100-1500. This year we will be having the golf club's "Mistletoe Buffet", the price will be approximately \$40.00 (consider this the main meal of your day).

## ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The Annual Fall Meeting will be September 24, 2019 10:30 to 12:30 at Knox Presbyterian Church in New Westminster.

This will be our first experiment with a daytime meeting. We will re-evaluate it's success following the meeting. More info re: location and parking will be sent out closer to the meeting date. ...

**Save the Date! :)**

## ORAL HISTORIES...

(hmmm in our case shouldn't it be HERSTORIES)

Oana (pronounced Wana) Capota of the New Westminster Museum and Archives is collecting oral histories. If you would like to share your stories for future generations, a representative will meet with you at a time and place of your choosing.

Contact Oana at (604)515-3842 or [ocapota@newwestcity.ca](mailto:ocapota@newwestcity.ca)

## 2019 COMING EVENTS

### June 4: AGM and Milestone Recognition Meeting

Milestone years 50, 60 and 70 will be recognized.

**Registration and sign in:** starts at 6:00 pm

**AGM starts** at 7pm.

Sherbrooke Center - 260 Sherbrooke Street,  
(the old nurses' residence)

**Please RSVP to Carol Schmidt 78B at [rchrnalumnae@gmail.com](mailto:rchrnalumnae@gmail.com) if you will be attending the AGM and are not in the Milestone classes of 1949, 1959 or 1969.**

**Sept 24: FALL MEETING:** 10:30 – 12:30

FIRST DAYTIME MEETING!!!

Knox Presbyterian Church -  
403 East Columbia St, New Westminster

**Dec 3: CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:** 11:00 - 15:00

Vancouver Golf Club:  
771 Austin Ave, Coquitlam BC

**TBA** - A celebration of all good times at the Sherbrooke Centre.

We will keep you posted.

## CONTACTS

### President

Bernice Rolls (60B)  
(604)462-7803

### Vice President

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