



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all the RCH Alumnae. The past few years have been a challenge to say the least. Finally this past year we were able to have in person meetings and this past June we held our AGM on June 1 at the Scandinavian Centre. This is of course because we no longer have access to the Sherbrooke Lounge. The AGM was a wonderful time and we celebrated three years of 50th anniversaries of graduation and had members of 60th anniversaries present also.

The current Executive volunteered to stay on for a further two year term if there were no nominations for any of the positions. There were no volunteers, and so the current Executive will continue.



One of our objectives is to come up with a plan for final disbursement of our charitable funds

and as such we have had volunteers come forward to sit on a committee to gain feedback from alumnae on this. The committee includes Judi Georgetti 69A, Marg Kennedy 78B, Diane Barnhill 71B, May Geach 71A and Sue Hall 76B.

We have had some update on the redevelopment of RCH. The concept design for the lobby of the Acute Care Tower includes a display case designated for the RCH School of Nursing artifacts. There are also potential locations for the placement of the commissioned stained glass window commemorating the school of nursing that we have done preliminary designs for. We still have no answer on whether our graduation photos will be rehung in RCH.

I hope you get some enjoyment from our newsletter. Looking for better times in the future that we can continue to meet up and celebrate our nursing family.

Warm Regards,
Eileen Brown 78B, President

RCH ALUMNAE TREASURY REPORT

Since we have not been able to have an AGM for the past 2 years I felt that a brief synopsis of the past 3 years would be in order. Our fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31. So today actually marks the beginning of my 5th year as the treasurer.

2018-2019: We took over in June and the endowments to Douglas College and RCH Foundation were two big expenditures. The rest were office supplies and postage costs. At the Christmas Luncheon there were expenditures on the rental of the room, centerpieces and door prizes. In the spring there was the cost of the newsletter printing, copying and postage for that as well as ordering more cheques.

Income to the Alumnae came in the form of membership dues as well as a cheque from the Book Committee for \$6,790.43.

2019-2020: Expenditures included refreshments, flowers and decorations for the AGM on June 4th. Then in the fall we decided to try a daytime meeting so we incurred the cost of renting Knox Presbyterian Church for that September 24th meeting. Also Carol, Eileen and Mary headed off to Sechelt to represent the Alumnae at a reception for Mary Gordon when she donated to Douglas College on behalf of the Alumnae (not sure of exact \$ but I think \$200,000). We covered the expenses of that trip which came to just under \$400. Again at the Christmas Luncheon costs for the room rental, centerpieces and door prizes were incurred. February saw us ordering more 50 year pins (250) for just under \$700. Also we spent



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RCH ALUMNAE TREASURY REPORT (continued)

money for the accountant that we hired to get us reinstated with CRA as a charity (\$2,756.25) Another expenditure was for Archive supplies (\$565.82).

2020-2021: Our “spring” newsletter was completed and sent out very late so that it’s cost of formatting, printing and distribution crept into the new fiscal year. The Covid Pandemic was well upon us and no meetings or AGM was possible. The fall saw us spending money to crate and store our grad pictures from the corridor of the tower. We digitalized them all to the tune of \$850. Later in the fall we had the cost of the fall newsletter. There was no Christmas Luncheon.

Besides our usual income from membership we also received \$1000 from the estate of Josephine Chapple. Just before year end our GIC matured and was deposited in our account and not reinvested (\$25,128.01). We also received a donation of \$240 from 71A who were celebrating 50 years.

2021-2022: Finally this past year saw us doing an expanded newsletter in order to commemorate the demolition of the nursing residence which was finally sent out in July. At the end of September Eileen and I closed out the account at Scotia Bank as we felt this would stream line things to only have one account. So \$47,977.27 were transferred

into the Prospera Account and put into a separate savings account. On Oct. 21st we had at General meeting at St. Michael’s in their hall and the rental

for the space was donated by Dianne Barnhill. We were also once again able to do a Christmas Luncheon so the costs, room rental, centerpieces and door prizes were once again covered. Our President Bernice Rolls resigned at the end of 2021 and we presented her with flowers and a gift certificate to thank her for her work and support of the Alumnae. We had another General Meeting on April 21st and we covered the rental of St. Micheal’s hall for the venue since we no longer have Sherbrooke lounge to use. At the end of May I deposited almost \$2500 in membership dues... that’s 7 pages worth of deposits!!

So that brings us up to date. As of the end of May and our fiscal year end our total assets were \$91,677.56 all in the Prospera Account. The costs of today’s AGM and celebration will of course be on the next years expenditures.



Membership Report

We have had a great response for the 2022 Membership recently, especially from the classes celebrating their 50-year Milestone Anniversary. At present, including the payments that were received at the AGM, we have 211 active paid members for 2022. Thanks, we really appreciate your support of the Alumnae.

If you read through the Treasury Report submitted by Eva Aslin 78B, you will realize how many different expenses that occur in the day to day running of this association. Your annual dues help to pay for these expenses. Please encourage your classmates to become paid members. I will attach a membership form for those of you that receive the Newsletter via email and I will include a form in the envelope for those of you that receive the Newsletter via Canada Post. My contact info is on the form.

I am still missing emails from so many graduates. Unfortunately, they miss out on all Alumnae business and Newsletters. Please encourage your classmates to keep connected. We want to keep the legacy of the RCH School of Nursing alive, long after the Alumnae is put to rest.

Have a wonderful Summer and we’ll see you in the Fall.

Carol Schmidt 78B

50th Anniversaries

The member(s) of Class 70A, 70B, 71A, 71B, 72A and 72B were present at our AGM to celebrate their 50th anniversary of graduation from nursing school. Each graduate was presented with a white carnation with blue and yellow ribbon tie, and also the 50 year pin. Pictures are of the members who were present for this celebration.

We also had members of the 62B Class in attendance, celebrating 60 years since graduating, who were also recognized with a carnation.

This took place at the Scandinavian Centre in Burnaby. As we no longer have access to any rooms at RCH (and Sherbrooke Lounge is gone)

we had to find an alternate site and lucky for us Diane Barnhill 71B is also a member of this group. It was a lovely setting and there was lots of parking.





70B

Back Row (L-R): Gloria Brandsma, Grace Nelson, Cherry Dayton, Charlotte Inman, Blanche Black, Gardia Perrault, Dorothy Quanstrom, Sue Stewart. Front Row (L-R): Elaine Olson, Dianne Sharpe, Mary-Ann Andrew, Dawn Carman



71A

Back Row (L-R): Anne Lloyd, Judy Kirk, Susan Cadrain, Barbara d'Easum, May Fong Geach, Brenda Singbeil. Front Row. Ellinor MacEwen, Lynda Walker, Wendy Parfitt, Lynn Doylend



70A
Marg
Appleby



71B

Back Row (L-R): Diane Hills, Joan Hicks, Diane Barnhill, Linda DeJong, Joan Dewinitz, Thelma Otsig, Mary Alice Wood. Front Row (L-R): Maureen Wood, Marian Knock, Linda Sillje, Emily Thomas, Karin Ward



72A

Top Row (L-R): Vicki McNay, Alana Boyle, Ramona Devires, Heather Doig, Bonita Elliott. Front Row (L-R): Millie Matheson, Vicki Thompson, Helen Hendrickson, Colleen Van Ooyen



72B

Left to Right: Donna Rothstein, Donna Carberry, Bev Gartaganis, Lori Hill, Anne Marie Sigalet



62B

Left to Right: Lynda Dingwell, Carol Gilchrist, Anita Phillpotts, Barb Lager, Elsie Griffiths, Louise Wade

76B Reunion - 46 years



The 46th year Nursing Reunion taken outside The Cove Lakeside Resort in West Kelowna on May 11, 2022. We had 20 graduates attend the two wonderful, fun and casual days of hugs, laughs, stories and camaraderie after the last few desolate years. The weather on our main full day was perfect for our outdoor lunch at Frind Estate Winery located on Okanagan Lake. We plan on being in New Westminster in early June of 2026 to coincide with the Alumni presentation of a 50 year pin.

Submitted by Niki Gill 76B

Left to right: Front - Jill Keiffer, Christine Kohlen, Vicki Shepherd, Deborah Boulton, Marilyn Bartel Back - Suzanne Clark, Nicki Gill, Sharon Lindsay, Jane Feely, Teresa Chipera, Terry Dommissse, Sue Hall, Leigh-Anne McElgunn, Cathy Jeffery, Sharon Berglund, Doris Thiessen, Laurie Christensen, Annette Cavey, Vera Busche, Deb Chevalier

Our classmates have always been very close friends since training and ever since we graduated in 1962, we have had regular reunions. Since 1982, we have had our reunions in the Sorrento Center in Sorrento, BC. We chose that facility because it had everything we needed. They provide a facility that almost replicates the nurses' residence where we spent 3 wonderful years. The Center is also quite inexpensive and is in a central BC location right on Shuswap Lake. Attendance at our reunions has always been high with classmates coming from all parts of the province as well as from the US.

This year we had 14 in attendance. Music has always been part of our reunions and this year, we were so fortunate to have the J Tones trio, a singing group from the Sunshine coast come to join us. They provided us with absolute excellent entertainment. One of our classmates, Jan Gillis is a member of the J Tones and the other two members of the trio graciously agreed to come along.

Many of our classmates are very talented and brought items along for a silent auction. We were able to raise \$600.00 which will be given to the RCH Foundation to thank RCH for providing us with an outstanding training school so long ago.

Although we are now in our 80's we plan to continue getting together as dear friends for as long as we can.

Submitted by Carol Gilchrist 62B

62B Reunion



Back - from left to right. Carol Gilchrist, Sharon Dawe, Elaine Sloan, Jan Gillis, Anne MacDonald, Audrey Prestage, Louise Gobolos, Noreen Chila, Jan McLauren. Front - left to right: Flo Manderson, Lynda Dingwall, Lynn Rutherford, Anita Phillpotts, Isie Griffiths.



Class 72B 50th Reunion Celebration

Fourteen members of nursing class “72B” met for the weekend of April 22, 2022 to celebrate our 50th year since graduation from RCH Nursing School. The event was held at the “Inn on the Quay” hotel in New Westminster and it was a very successful affair!

In preparation, over the last year, 23 of the class members had submitted profiles of their lives and careers since graduation. They were then shared to all classmates by e-mail. There have been many accomplished and interesting careers within the ranks of our class! So proud!

The weekend started with a Hospitality Room “Meet & Greet” on Friday night. Everyone enjoyed old friends/colleagues, wine and appetizers. Most of us had not seen each other for 50 years but in no time it was just like 1969 -1972!

On Saturday we took the Skytrain from New Westminster Station, which is conveniently located across the street from the hotel, down to Waterfront Station. From there it was across the calm waters of Burrard Inlet on the Seabus to Lonsdale Quay. It was a beautiful, warm and sunny day. Once there, we divided into smaller groups to explore and enjoy the sites, shopping and fresh ocean air. We returned to the hotel by the same route (Senior Concession Fare \$8.45 for the day!) and met later at “The Boathouse Restaurant” for a celebration dinner. Both the food and service here were really superb! Everyone was very happy with their chosen 3-course meal from a preset menu. This restaurant is connected to the hotel so it is very convenient.

Sunday started early with breakfast at the popular “Angelina’s Dutch Corner” on the Quay.

A 15 passenger van we had hired picked us up at the hotel at 1000. We drove the outside block around the hospital to view the major new construction and



witness the absence of the Nurses Residence!

Continuing on to Highway #1, we travelled past the BCNU office, and on to Lynn Canyon Park in North Vancouver. Most of us bravely walked across the small suspension bridge and enjoyed the nature there.

From North Vancouver we crossed the Lions Gate Bridge and travelled on to the Carriage Horse Stables in Stanley Park. We met with Gerry O’Neil the Carriage Tour owner. Everyone enjoyed a “bag lunch” at the large prepared table and sitting on huge hay bales. Gerry toured us around the stables and entertained us with interesting and funny stories. We learned about the horses, their care, and viewed his specialized carriages as “The Cinderella Coach”. We heard about “The Horse-drawn Hearse” he owns as well, and also about a “New Orleans style” funeral he participated in with it. (with a 20 piece marching band around Mount Pleasant!).

From there we took a lovely horse-drawn carriage ride around the park. It was wonderful to learn many new and interesting things about the park and city history as we rode along with our experienced driver/guide.

On returning to the hotel we refreshed and then walked up to “The Old Spaghetti Factory” for another great dinner! Our cars were safe in the underground parking all weekend!

A wonderful time was had by all, the skies were sunny all weekend, and we determined to meet again soon (or in 10 years!)

Submitted by Donna Rothstein (Stunden) 72B



AWARDS AND BURSERIES

DOUGLAS COLLEGE FOUNDATION:

The Royal Columbian Hospital Nurses Alumnae Award

Awarded annually, through the Foundation, to 3rd and 4th year students with exceptional bedside skills. With the large contribution from Mary Gordon (59B) in 2019, 8 students each year will receive the award.

To donate, contact the Douglas College Foundation at 604-777-6176 or online with this link:

<https://www.douglascollege.ca/givealumni/foundation/donate-online>

Under Donate, click Fund Designation. Select Other, then specify Royal Columbian Hospital Nurses Alumnae Award.

ROYAL COLUMBIAN HOSPITAL FOUNDATION: The Gussie MacPhail Award

Awarded annually, through the Foundation, to a nurse employed by RCH who is actively pursuing a BSN, an MSN or Specialty Certification.

To donate, contact the RCH Foundation at 604-520-4902 or online with this link:

<https://rchfoundation.com/rch-nurses-alumnae/>

Scroll down and you will see Gussie MacPhail Award.

Contacts

PRESIDENT

Eileen Brown (78B)

604-526-1559

prisoners584@shaw.ca

VICE-PRESIDENT

Sue Hall (76B)

604-936-0176

sbhkaylcat@gmail.com

TREASURER

Eva Aslin (78B)

604-942-9658

laslin@shaw.ca

SECRETARY

Diane Barnhill (71B)

604-833-1872

dimbarnhill@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Carol Schmidt (78B)

778-789-0497

rchrnalumnae@gmail.com

ARCHIVES

Anne Kern (73B)

604-534-0893

eakern@shaw.ca

FRIENDSHIP/CARDS

Marilyn McCutcheon(60B)

604-936-8432

marilyncook1939@gmail.com

FRIENDSHIP/SICK & VISITING

Mary Hoodicoff (63B)

604-584-0478

mary8hood@gmail.com

Pat Bingham (Greer) 52B

Congratulations Pat, 90 years young and celebrating 70 years as an RCH graduate. Pat continues to be an active member of the Alumnae. Covid restrictions have kept Pat close to home, but she was able to attend our Alumnae meeting in April. Eileen Brown (president) and Carol Schmidt (membership) were able to present Pat a bouquet of 7 yellow roses, one for each decade as a graduate. The beautiful yellow roses and blue ribbon were keeping in theme with our school colours.

Pat grew up in the small town of New Denver in the Kootenays. Upon graduation she had plans to move back to the Kootenays, but she agreed to stay if they would give her a job in the OR. Well, Pat stayed at RCH, working in the OR for 5 years, a job she truly loved. She took over the position of lone nurse in the Recovery Room, when Marilyn Parsons (53B) went on Maternity leave. The PARR (now known as PACU) was where Pat stayed the rest of her career, eventually morphing into the role of Head Nurse. She retired in 1991 and Bonita Elliott (72A), who Pat mentored, took over the Head Nurse position. Pat was a trail blazer and fought hard for her nursing staff especially for safe staffing levels, new equipment and education. She was committed to creating a cohesive working environment where patients received the absolute highest standard of care. We're glad you stayed at RCH Pat!! Hip, Hip, Hooray!





Joyce Brown - July 19, 1927-March 18, 2022

We recently received an email from Joyce's grand-daughter Lindsey, wanting to let alumnae members know that she had passed away, as there was no obituary published. Lindsay thought she was a school instructor, but when I showed this picture of Joyce at our meeting in April a few members in attendance remembered her as our School Nurse. Louise remembered calling her Mother Brown and her serving the famous Imperial Lemon Drink, when students were ill. Lindsay said many alumnae had kept touch with Joyce over the years with phone calls and letters. Joyce, we appreciated the loving care and comfort you gave to many who were a long way from home and family. Rest in Peace.

Joan Chisholm (Crease) 52B - January 9, 1931-June 21, 2021

Joan was born in New Westminster to Dr. Arthur Crease and Florence Vanwyck. Joan grew up on the Essondale Hospital grounds, later to be know as Riverview Hospital. As a teenager, Joan attended the Banff School of Fine Arts, where she was tutored by A.Y. Jackson, a member of the Group of Seven. She trained at RCH in the class of 52B, graduating 70 years ago! She met the love of her life, Bob Chisholm, while working in the hospital at Campbell River. In 1963 they moved to Kerrisdale, where Joan filled the house with laughter, kids, pets, food and fun, all with a little dash of glamour. Joan was widowed at age 54 and relocated to Vancouver's dynamic West End where she became an integral part of the bustling scene. Her artist life blossomed to include retail window design and her oil painting subjects became the birds, flowers and trees of Stanley Park. Joan continued to paint until just a few years ago. She leaves behind her 5 children, 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. She was one of a kind, rest in Peace Joan!



Mary Gordon (Parker) 59B - June 10, 1936-October 28, 2021

Mary passed away peacefully at her home in Sechelt, BC. We thank her for her generous contributions to Nursing Education. In 2019, she added \$250,00 to the Royal Columbian Hospital Nursing Alumnae Award that we created at Douglas College in 2018. Instead of one award annually, Mary's donation will provide 8 awards each year to 3rd and 4th year nursing students at Douglas College who demonstrate excellence in clinical performance. Mary also created the Mary Gordon Nursing Award. This award provides an annual scholarship of \$10,000 to a Douglas College Student graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Mary wrote *"I'm very happy to join my Royal Columbian School of Nursing alumnae and friends to support nursing students in British Columbia. I hope my gift assists in highlighting the importance of nursing education and encourages the dedication, extensive knowledge, strong commitment to caring and gracious character that nursing requires."* Rest in Peace Mary.

In Memoriam Gone Yet Not Forgotten

Susan Mayfield (Thast)	72A	July 11, 2020
Donna Salmond (Salmond)	62A	November 8, 2020
Margaret Dyck (Dyck)	62A	January 15, 2021
Anne Nelson (Cousins)	57A	January 16, 2021
Mary Anne DeColle (Speight)	74A	April 1, 2021
Lemar Goodlet (Mayes)	66B	May 8, 2021
Irene Thomassen (Templeton)	50A	June 8, 2021
Birdie Staley (Rogers)	51B	June 8, 2021
Anne Keely (Lindgren)	57A	June 15, 2021
Alice Pedersen (Peet)	51A	June 27, 2021
Kazuko Takahashi (Takahashi)	53B	July 15, 2021
Wilma Foster (Dixon)	61A	August 20, 2021
Debbie Trent (Trent)	77B	September 9, 2021
Ev Cross (Symonds)	65B	September 15, 2021
Florence Bell (Edwards)	47A	October 5, 2021
Linda Davies (Davies)	75A	October 25, 2021
Mary Gordon (Parker)	59B	October 28, 2021
Sadie Schuetze (Ratzlaff)	52B	November 7, 2021
Joan Carruthers (Cummer)	47B	March 1, 2022
Elsie Cargnelli (Attaway)	58B	April 3, 2022





The ROYAL COLUMBIAN HOSPITAL GRADUATING CLASS OF 1972



Class of 1972 Names

TOP ROW: Anderliesten, H, Alsop, K, Anderson, B, Armstrong, D, Barber, C, Battison, L, Bell, W, Bustard, M, Byl, C, SECOND ROW: Chester, G, Condon, P, Christenson, D, Davies, H, Davis, K, Director of Nursing, Norah M. Stevens, Dennis, M, DeVeer, R, DeWinter, S, Dirks, J, Dykeman, D, THIRD ROW: Edgeworth, V, Findlay, J, Finlay, T, Forrest, L, Gall, S, Garrick, L, Gemmel, A, Grayeton, L, Halliwell, V, Hellyer, D, Hickok, M FOURTH ROW: Kerr, H, Lemcke, D, Lyttle, J, Lynn, B, MacAllister, M, MacLennan, M, McEachern, C, McEwan, E, McGovern, S, McGrath, L, McMahon, A, Macklin, M, FIFTH ROW: Main, V, Mammel, L, Matheson, M, Maynard, K, Mennear, A, Milligan, B, Nuyens, M, Oikawa, J, Pierce, F, Rithaler, E, Rule, K, Simpson, L SIX ROW: Smith, D, Snider, L, Stunden, D, Sumner, B, Thast, S, Thompson, V, Upton, W, Warman, B, Weins, A, Wilson, B, Wolf, A, Yusko, D.

Upcoming Important Dates

October 5, 2022	Meeting	St. Michael's Parish, Burnaby
December 7, 2022	Christmas lunch	Vancouver Golf Club, Coquitlam
March 8, 2023	Meeting	St. Michael's Parish, Burnaby
May 31, 2023	AGM/ 50 Year Celebration	Scandinavian Centre, Burnaby

