



# NEWSLETTER

## THE TIME HAS COME

The members attending the annual meeting of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association held on March 4, 2025 via zoom voted in favour of the following motion:

***That the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association be dissolved by the year 2028.***

### History

1. The Alumnae Association was started in 1908 and has been in continuous operation since then using a variety of operational models.
2. The VGH School of Nursing commenced operation in 1899 with eight students and was based in the hospital until 1991. The graduates received a Diploma in Nursing.
3. In 1989, a collaborative nursing program was established with the UBC School of Nursing. Students graduated with a BSN degree from UBC. The last class graduated from the UBC/VGH collaborative program in May 1998.
4. In 99 years, VGH graduated 8,768 students.

### Operations

1. The VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association operates with the constitution and bylaws which are prepared and approved under the *Societies Act* of British Columbia.
2. The Purposes of the Association are:
  - to promote unity, loyalty, and good fellowship among the graduates of the VGH School of Nursing and the UBC/VGH Collaborative Program
  - to advance the interest and uphold the standards of the profession of Nursing-to provide assistance to Association members with special needs and with limited or no income
  - to preserve the historical records and artifacts of the VGH School of Nursing, the VGH School of Nursing Association, and the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Building Society Association, and the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Building Society
3. The bylaws are statements regarding definitions in the document, membership, general and special meetings, roles of the Directors, signing authority, a non-profit clause, and the dissolution of the association. The bylaws are reviewed on a regular basis and revised as required.

### Current Situation

1. The Board of Directors has been requesting assistance from the membership since 2017 in order to carry out the work of the Committees and the role of the Board of Directors.
  2. As there has not been a positive response for more volunteers to help, the Directors took on the positions of Chairs of the Committees.
    - the Executive Secretary position was expanded to include management of the finances.
    - the annual luncheon was stopped following the COVID pandemic.
    - the three accounts of General, Archive, and Education were merged into one account, and the investments were adjusted to mature on a basis to meet the needs of the association.
- recognition of the classes celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries was addressed by providing grants



**Our Board**

*Continued on page 2*

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## **THE TIME HAS COME**

to the four classes each year to assist with class reunions. the website was renewed and a major archival project has been added to the archival and artifact holdings on the website.

3. The Annual General Meetings have been held via Zoom since 2020 in order to have association members join the meeting. The response has been disappointing as only two members asked to attend on two different times. three non-Board members joined in 2025.

### **Procedure for Dissolution**

1. Considerable time is required to determine the steps in the dissolution process in order to deal with the property and financial assets.
2. Article 8 Dissolution of the Association in the bylaws states:
  - 8.1 The dissolution of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association will be determined by a vote on a Special Resolution by members attending a Special Meeting
  - 8.2 In the event the organization dissolves, after it pays all of the debts and liabilities, it will distribute or dispose of its remaining property to qualified donees as described in subsection 149.1 (1) of the Income Tax Act.
3. Article 3.3 Notice of Special Business states: A notice of a general meeting must state the nature of the business, other than ordinary business, to be transacted at the meeting in sufficient detail to permit a member receiving the notice to form a reasonable judgement concerning that business.
4. Article 3.7 Quorum for General Meetings states: The quorum for the transaction of business at a general meeting is 3 voting members or 10% of the voting members, whichever is greater. (If the membership is 700 members, the number required is 70 members).
5. Article 3.13 Method of Voting states: At a general meeting, voting must be by a show of hands, an oral vote or another method that adequately discloses the intention of the voting members, except that if, before or after a vote, 2 or more members request a secret ballot or a secret ballot as directed by the chair of the meeting, voting must be by a secret ballot.
6. Article 3.15 Proxy Voting states: Proxy voting is not permitted.

### **Proposed Action**

1. The motion to dissolve the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association was proposed at the AGM.
2. If the motion is approved, the details surrounding the decision will be placed on the front page of the 2025 Newsletter.
3. At the Fall Luncheon on September 18, 2025, a Special Meeting will be convened in order to vote on the motion to dissolve. This information will be included in the invitation sent to the members who indicated on their Membership Renewal document that they planned to attend the luncheon.
4. There will be opportunity to discuss the proposal at the Luncheon.
5. Following the Special Resolution vote, the steps to resolve the situation will be discussed at the Board of Directors meeting on September 25, 2025.

**The Board of Directors,  
March 4, 2025.**

### **Vice President Annual Report 2024**

During the year I attended the Alumnae meetings at the Hospital.

Additionally as the Vice President of the Alumnae I chaired the nominations committee and presented the new Board of Directors at the AGM in March 2025.

Attended the VGH Alumnae luncheon held at the Arbutus Club. It was very enjoyable and well attended.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary (Raikes) Raikes-Tindle Sept. '65**



## President Annual Report 2024

The VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Board of Directors is pleased to announce another successful year occurred with membership continuing around 700, an excellent financial situation, educational bursaries were awarded from three different sources, names were recorded in the Memorial Book, communications improved with the renewed website, interesting archives and artifacts were donated and assessed, the display windows were changed regularly, members were visited, reunions were supported with financial grants, and the second Fall Luncheon was held. These activities were made possible by the dedicated Board members who carry on despite the annual pleas for additional volunteers to help. I can't thank them enough for the hours they devote to maintain this organization.

The Board of Directors meets five times a year and also gathers for the Annual General Meeting in March via Zoom. Each of the Directors manages an activity and the remainder of the work is carried out by Sue Goguen, our Executive Secretary/Treasurer and Naomi Constant, our Archivist.

The Annual General Meeting for 2024 was held via zoom on March 4, 2025 which allowed for members to join the meeting. All reports are included in the Newsletter.

Anyone interested in considering helping is welcome to attend the AGM or the meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of March, May, September, November or January. Any Board member can also be contacted to discuss opportunities to serve.

The second Fall Luncheon, held at The Arbutus Club on September 19, 2024, was appreciated by all and will be repeated on September 18, 2025. There is a limited number of seats so early registration is advised.

Thank you for supporting our VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association with your memberships and donations.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kathy (McCutcheon) Murphy Sept. '65**

President.



## Membership Report 2024



The total paid membership for 2024 is 612 (down from 629 last year) In addition to the paid members there are 40 Special Alums, 5 Honourary Members and 18 Life Members for a total of 675 active members.

Of those 61 paid members 319 made a donation on top of the \$20 membership fee.

The application form, which was included in the renewal package, makes it easy to donate to your choice of the General, Archives or Education fund. A tax receipt will be issued for the total amount.

The majority of our members are from the 1950's (104) and 1960's (262) There are 127 from the 1970s, 103 from the 1980s and 16 from the 1990s. Nearly all of the Board members are from the 1960's classes.

In 2019 we began the practice of mailing personalized letters to all members of the 50 and 60 year classes inviting them to join or renew their membership. Originally this was to invite them to the Annual Luncheon. As this luncheon no longer takes place, we are inviting class reps to apply for funding towards a reunion activity.

For those of you who are current members and receive the Newsletter, please encourage others from your class to join or renew their membership.

The benefits of membership are numerous. The many hard working volunteers keep our organization vibrant. Historical items are acquired and maintained by the Archives committee. The Annual Newsletter contains information about events that have taken place and special achievements of our Alums. Flowers and cards are sent to shut-ins or those recovering from illness or surgery and sympathy cards are sent to families of deceased graduates. Descendants of graduates who are members can apply for educational bursaries of up to \$1,000 per year for pursuing education in the field of nursing. A database of the over 8,000 graduates from our School of Nursing is maintained. If you know of any changes of address or of any deaths of your classmates please forward that information to the Alumnae office.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sue (Cathcart) Kerr Feb. '69**

Membership Director.

## Education Committee Report

The Education Committee is pleased with the continued interest in our bursary program. A descendant of a grad of the VGH/SON Diploma program or UBC/VGH Collaborative Degree program is eligible to apply for a bursary. This includes daughters, sons, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews. Required proof is a photocopy of the graduate’s diploma and/or a letter of explanation including the relationship to the graduate. With thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Alumnae members, our funds continue to increase, and we can offer larger bursaries depending on the category.

We have received letters of thanks and appreciation from the students for the generous support of the Alumnae Association. It is encouraging to watch these young people entering the nursing profession with passion and enthusiasm as they look forward to an exciting career. We wish them all the best as they work hard to complete their schooling.

We are also pleased to offer funds to VGH/SON Diploma grads and UBC/VGH Collaborative Degree Program grads to assist with continuing education, recertification, conferences, and workshops.

In 2024 we had sixteen applications for bursary awards. All applicants this year were descendants of VGH grads. We were pleased to award a total of \$31,200 to the bursary applicants.



**A. Harvey/Cain Endowment Fund.** (Margaret [Dorset, 1929] Harvey & Dorothy Cain, sister)

<i>Descendant</i>	<i>VGH Grad</i>	
1. Claudia Baxter	Charlotte Toews	Feb. '69
2. Lisa Boulaine	Philippa Kirkhope	Feb. '88
3. Jocelyn Elliott	Sheila Watt	Feb. '62
4. Emma Hacock	Catherine Grant	Sept. '66
5. Natalie Kjellbotn	Mary MacLeod	Sept. '68

**B. VGH/SON Alumnae Association Education Funds**

<i>Descendant</i>	<i>VGH Grad</i>	
1. Jenna Anderson	Susan Patzelt	Feb. '88
2. Kirstyn DeNitalia	Kristine Brannlund	Feb. '82
3. Leanne Long	Corrine Hill	Aug. '82
4. Morgan McCartney	Luauna MacAlpine	Feb. '91
5. Courtney MacDonald	Karla Smith	June '90
6. Sydney Robinson	Jean Donaldson	Feb. '56
7. Kimberly Tronrud	Lois Hurst	Sept. '47
8. Genevieve Vadnais	Monique Benoit	May '87

**C. The Inez (Fox-Sept. '55) Mowat Memorial Bursary.** (VGHSONAA)

Larissa Shumuk	Ann England	Sept. '76
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**D. The Edith Mary (McCallan) Cork Memorial Fund** (VGHSONAA)

Nurse Practitioner Special Bursary		
Janelle Tucker	Coralee Visser	Sept. '87

**E. The Eileen (Lewis) Johnston Memorial Fund**

Allison Hills	Susan Forrest	Feb. '88
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The Education Committee would like to thank the many individuals who made generous donations to the Bursary Program in 2024. This helps immensely to facilitate presenting bursary awards to all eligible applicants.

Throughout the year, donations were received for the **Alumnae Memorial Book**. The donations are from classmates and family members requesting a loved one’s name be entered into the book. These donations are put toward the bursary program.

For the 2025 bursary year, the committee will welcome applications from:

1. Graduates from the VGH/SON Diploma program, 2. Graduates from the UBC/VGH Collaborative Nursing Program and 3. Descendants of graduates from the above programs. Please see the information on our website [www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com](http://www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com) and link to “Bursaries”. Application forms can now be downloaded from the website. Further inquiries and requests for application forms can be made by phoning the Alumnae Office at 604-875-4111 – local 62049 (please leave a message). Deadline for applications is September 30 of the current year.

Respectfully submitted,

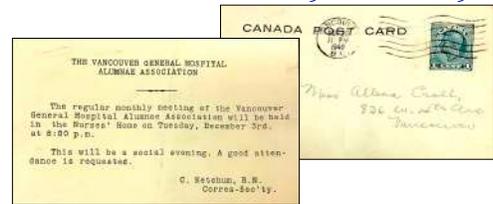
**Joan (Dunbar) Kerr, Sept. '65**

Chair, Education Committee.

**Archive Committee Report 2024**



Recently a card mailed in 1940 was donated to our archives. This card was from the Vancouver General Hospital Alumnae Association. It seems that at that time the alumnae association held monthly meetings. This is just an example of the many donations that we have received this year.



We are always delighted to offer tours to interested groups. This year we welcomed reunions of nurses (Feb. '74), student nurses (from Langara College) and donors of artifacts to our museum. To visit the archives simply contact the office. The email for the archives is: [vghsonarchives.99@gmail.com](mailto:vghsonarchives.99@gmail.com).

Our archivist, Naomi Constant continues to guide with the accession of donated items and the deaccessioning of duplications as well as responding to requests. Currently all the textiles are being reviewed.

Articles from the archives are used in the window displays. These are changed five times a year under the direction of Arlene Vanderhoeven.



The archival Digital Repository Project continues. Stage 6 has been completed. The collection is viewable at [vghnursingschoolalumnae.com](http://vghnursingschoolalumnae.com). We hope that all will be able to use the photos for research as well as enjoyment.

Once again many thanks to those who have contributed to our archival fund. Your donations have made this project feasible.

Respectfully submitted,

**Barbara (Rosvar) Kissuras Feb'66**

Archives Director.

**Archival Report, 2024**

The Archives has been able to accept some exciting new donations this past year. Please see the photos of some of the unique items we received in 2024.

We had a donation of baby scales from the Sheway Programme. We also received a special donation of early ceramic nursing items, and some doctors' equipment, from Dr. Hugh Chaun. He donated these items in memory of his wife, Helen Chaun.



Guy Muhall donated a large photo that belonged to his mother, who graduated in the Class of 1915. He also donated a book from his mother.

Work is continuing on the Digital Repository Project, and more items from the collection will be accessible in the coming year.

Barb Kissuras is continuing to represent the Archives at board meetings, and to assist with the work of the Archives. Mary Watt also continues to help the Archives, particularly with photography of the collection, so it can be put online.

As usual, the Archives is happy to receive donations of documents, photographs, pins, and equipment. We are open by appointment for inquiries, research, and tours.

For information, please email the Archives at [vghsonarchives.99@gmail.com](mailto:vghsonarchives.99@gmail.com)



**Naomi Constant**  
Archivist.

## Hello from your Executive Secretary and Treasurer SPRING 2025

I hope 2024 was a good year for everyone!



This past year I have continued with my various Alumnae duties at the office and my focus continues on digital record keeping.

The classes of 1964 and 1974 celebrated their 60th and 50th anniversaries in 2024. They were very grateful for the funding provided from the alumnae to go towards their celebrations.

This year we are again thrilled to provide funding to the applicants from the two **1975** and the two

**1965** classes for their 50th and 60th anniversary celebrations. If you have any queries about reunion planning, don't hesitate to contact the office.

Our second Fall Luncheon was a huge success!!! We had 113 members attend to enjoy a lovely lunch. Plans are confirmed this year for the third. Mark your calendar for **September 18, 2025** at The Arbutus Club. If you indicated Yes on your Membership Form, you will receive an invitation by email or mail closer to the date of the event.

Our website has been revised and is looking great!! Hope you have had a chance to visit it. <https://www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com/>.

I thank you for the increased use of electronic transactions, either with your credit card on our payment platform called Stripe or by e-transfer to [vghson99@gmail.com](mailto:vghson99@gmail.com).

A gentle reminder: if you choose to use e-transfer, PLEASE, I still need your completed membership form mailed to the office. Or save postage and use the convenience of our website when renewing Visit us at- <https://www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com/membership/join-vghson-membership/> where there is an option available that provides a link to your financial institution to complete the e-transfer. This information helps keep our database current.

The 2024 tax receipt issuance is complete. Receipts were sent to new members, renewing members and to all those who very kindly and generously donated. A big thank you to all of you for your generosity!!! Dues and donations primarily support the Education Bursary Program, as well as maintenance of the Archives and general operating costs.

FYI - we are registered with three Donor Assisted Funds - Benevity, Canada Helps, and GiveWise.

The 2024 Financial Report and Donations Record are included in the Newsletter for your reference.

Please find it in your hearts to keep your connection to your VGH nursing school by supporting your Alumnae.

I wish you good health and enjoyment in 2025!

Contact us: VGH SON Alumnae Association 855 W12th Ave. Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9  
604 875 4111 ext. 62049 email: [vghson99@gmail.com](mailto:vghson99@gmail.com)

We are in the Heather Pavilion at the South entrance, the first two blue doors on your left. Heather Pavilion is now "keycard access" only so, if you want to visit, please call ahead and we can meet.

Cheers ,

**Sue (Gammon) Goguen Feb'75**

Executive Secretary and Treasurer.

## Financial Report

The Board of Directors extends a sincere thank you to the members who so kindly donated in 2024. The monies received primarily support our Education Bursary Fund, the tireless work of our Archivist, Naomi, and the Archives Committee. Donations also help with general operations and keeping your alumnae membership database current.

2024 Donations totals to the:	Education Bursary Fund	\$11,040.36
	Archival Fund	\$7,960.70
	General Fund	\$9,418.60
	Memorial Book Donations	\$850.00
	Third Party Donations	\$4,935.50
	Total:	\$29,269.66
2024 Financial Report	Revenue	\$54,148.00
	Expense	\$52,138.00
	Investments - GICs	\$282,040.00

## Friendship Committee Report 2024

The highlights of each year are the Spring Florals and visits to our senior alums. Both the seniors and the volunteers enjoy the visits and the sharing of student days, and residence living memories and career journeys. We could not accomplish this without our volunteers. In addition, Roberta sends Christmas cards and cards for special birthdays.

Please keep the alumnae office aware of current needs, cards or florals and if one has lost a spouse or other family member. Often notices are not posted in the papers. We have lost 59 of our alums this year.

We are unable to send cards for special birthdays or obituaries unless current addresses are forwarded. We are currently planning our 2025 florals and cards..

Hopefully 2025 finds everyone safe and well, with hopes of new beginnings and a new normal.

**Diane (Sjerve) Parker Feb'66,**

**Lorna (Snider) Hoare Feb'66,**

Co-chairman Friendship Committee,



## Communications, Website, Archival display windows Report

This past year was very busy creating a new updated website <https://www.vghnursing school alumnae.com/> under the guidance and work of Ernest von Rosen from AMG Media Works Inc.

Please send us a message to the VGHSOON office [vghson99@gmail.com](mailto:vghson99@gmail.com) if you have any suggestions, feedback or things that you would like to share on the website.

Window displays are changed five times a year. These displays allow visitors, patients, and staff to see the history of the hospital, VGH School of Nursing, as well as other important and interesting historical medical facts and information. We get many people coming up to us as we are working on the displays, stating how much they love seeing the displays, and sharing stories with us.

We could use some new volunteers to help, so if you can spare three free hours one morning a year, please call Arlene @ 778-995-4596.

**Arlene (Schindel) Vanderhoeven Feb '89,**

Chair of Communications, Website and Window Display.



## Recording Secretary

“Thank you to our faithful, pleasant, accurate, recording secretary. We appreciate your work!”

**Lynne (Meir-Gildea) Dunbar Sept '65**

Recording Secretary.

**Window Displays in the Jim Pattison Pavilion**



VGHSON display windows (located at the west end of the first floor of Jim Pattison Pavilion) have been completed with volunteers. Here are the five different themes of 2024:

**Jan-Mar:** TB, Pediatric, Health Centre for Children

**April-June:** Honouring of the 50th Grad class, Capping ceremony, Nurses week, Artifacts of the 1960s, 70s and 80s

**July-Sept:** The last Grad class of 1991, showcase of 99 years of SON, OR early years

**Oct-Nov:** Military, Polio, December, Christmas

Many thanks to **Kathy Murphy**, and **Jane Birkeland** for their assistance this year and for the other Window Display volunteers **Norma Guttormsson**, **Marg Shugg**, and **Kim Beaudry**.

*Arlene (Schindel) Vanderhoeven, Feb. '89*

**Core Trethewey Endowment Fund Guidelines Revised**

Cora Trethewey, a 1922 graduate of the VGH School of Nursing, left a significant endowment to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association to provide short term financial assistance for VGH graduates who have limited income or who are in financial need. Guidelines were prepared and have been reviewed and revised as required over the years. Since there have been no graduates from the school of nursing or the UBC/VGH Collaborative program since 1998, the purpose of the fund was revised by the Board of Directors in January 2025 as follows:

“The Endowment was established to provide financial assistance to members with special needs and/or limited income, for extraordinary expenses. If there are no requests from a graduate for assistance, requests from descendants of graduates will be considered.

If there are no applications for the fund during the year, the interest is assigned to the Annual Luncheon expenses when needed.”

**VGH School of Nursing  
Alumnae Building Society/  
Association Fund**

This Endowment was established in 2002 to promote life-long learning for nurses at the Vancouver General Hospital, UBC Hospital, GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre and Vancouver Community Health Services.

In 2024, 36 Bursaries were awarded. In addition, a Research grant of \$5,000 was provided to help fund the creation of a Podcast for healthcare staff to deepen their learning of Indigenous Cultural Safety and Indigenous Specific Anti-Racism.

**Archival Photo Project**

The Archival photo project has continued throughout the year. We are delighted that Phase VI of the collection is on the website. The collection is viewable at

[https://  
www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com/  
wp2/archive-and-museum-  
collections/](https://www.vghnursingschoolalumnae.com/wp2/archive-and-museum-collections/).

Users can select which collection they want to view.

**REMINDER**

**When using e-transfer for your membership fees and donations, please ensure that your membership form is sent to the office to ensure your contact information is correct and that you will get future information about the Luncheon.**

## Nursing Reunions, A Family Affair

As a recipient of the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Bursary during the completion of my Master of Nursing, I have had the opportunity to reflect on how being part of a nursing family has influenced my career and growth as a nurse. My mother, Corrine Hill, and my two aunts, Judy and Linda Hill, are all VGH SON alumnae. A family of nurses is a unique privilege and their experiences have made for some entertaining dinner conversations over the years!

Judy (class of September 1965) settled in Forks, Washington with her husband. Their short-term plans for this small town turned into 40 years in this close-knit community. Over the years, Judy worked at the local hospital, drove many miles providing home health around the Peninsula, and cared for students as the school nurse for over twenty years.

Linda (class of September 1979) began her career at VGH in pediatric cardiology before setting with her family in Surrey, where she continued her work in pediatrics and general surgery. While raising her four children, she taught prenatal classes in her community. Moving away from nursing, she followed a passion for travel as a travel agent, exploring many areas of the world.

Corrine (class of September 1982) moved to Brooks, Alberta upon graduation where she worked in their ER/ICU for several years before returning to BC. She graduated with her baccalaureate degree from U Vic in 1993 and her Masters from UBC in 1998. She was drawn to public health where she moved into leadership positions. She finished her career as a nursing educator with BCIT, where she still teaches through distance education.

Growing up, our family heard countless stories of their experiences as VGH nursing graduates. So much so, I knew there was no other calling for myself other than nursing. And so began the next generation of nurses.

Linda's daughter, Christine, has been a nurse since 2008. After working in a variety nursing areas, a family tie to kidney disease led to her specializing in renal care. She now provides hemodialysis and collaborative care to those living with chronic kidney disease. To Christine, nursing has always been a calling—to be a source of advocacy, strength, and comfort for those going through a hard season in their life.

I may have followed my mom, Corrine's, footsteps into nursing, but my passions in nursing are a cumulation of all my mom and my aunts' stories and the impact they have had on their communities. I am drawn to the fast pace of the emergency trauma care, family centered health promotion of children and youth, and mentoring the growth of our future nurses.

We have all taken different paths throughout our careers, but all five of us have one thing in common. We are passionate, strong, capable women who strive to humbly care for those around us. Our patients, our colleagues, our families, our friends, and our communities. Though nursing education has shifted throughout the years and our generation adapts to the ever-changing healthcare environment, the values of quality care exemplified by VGH graduates are still present in our nursing units today and they are invaluable role models for nurses of all experience levels. The essence—the art—of nursing remains steady.

*By Leanne Long*



*Aunt Judy*



*Mother Corrine*



*Christine*

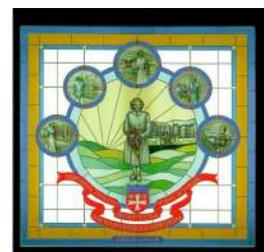
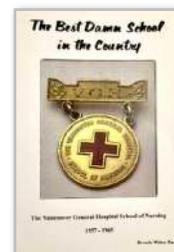


*Linda*



### PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Printing Department at VGH has reproduced, with permission from Beverly DuGas's daughter Barbara, the reprinting of her last book "The Best Damned School in the Country". This can be purchased for \$10 plus shipping from the Alumnae office. The Stained Glass window note cards are also available from the Alumnae office at the cost of \$5 for 5 cards plus shipping.



## Reunions

### Class of February '74 50 year reunion



Feb. 74

The February '74 class held their 50th anniversary reunion in Vancouver, September 16 to 18, 2024. Twenty-six classmates attended all or some of the activities. Reunion central was the Sylvia Hotel where out-of-towners stayed and happy hours were held. Thanks to **Brenda Heatherington, Pam Rorie, and Sue Fisher** who organized the events and kept us as organized as possible. While some classmates have attended many reunions, there were others who were seeing classmates for the first time in 50 years! It was so good to see everyone and catch up with careers, family life, travels, and all the many life events over the years. Sadly, there were several who could not attend due to health issues or family member health issues however we knew they were there in spirit and we missed seeing them.

We got together for dinner on the first evening, a very nice specially catered meal at the Sylvia Hotel. We talked and visited until the staff made it clear they wanted to go home! Tuesday was a free day and some went to Granville Island while others checked out shopping areas or explored a Vancouver very different from our training days. Tuesday evening was dinner at the Robba de Matti in English Bay. The laughter and stories went on all evening. We never seemed to run out of things to talk about. It was as if we picked up where we left off on graduation day.

Wednesday morning was a highlight of the reunion - a very special tour of the Alumnae archive/office, Heather Pavilion, Centennial Pavilion, (now The Blackmore Pavilion) and even a walk through the tunnels. Sadly, the tunnel to the student nurses' residence was closed. Many memories were shared of our time in these places. Many thanks to Kathleen Murphy, Naomi Constant, Barbara Kissuras and Sue Goguen for making our tour so wonderful. They had a hard job keeping us moving as there were so many interesting things to see. There have been many changes to VGH since we donned our white uniforms but it was so nice to see that so much is still familiar. The tour was followed by a catered lunch in the Arbutus Room in CP which was the last event of our reunion. It was hard to say goodbye, but plans are underway for the next reunion which will most likely be in the fall of 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kathie (Gibbs) Thompson**

### Class of September 1956

Most of our classmates are now in their 90s and there are about 26 of us still functioning relatively well. Technology is becoming a hindrance to living in this complex world for most of us. Our Vancouver gals still meet occasionally for lunch and we have a news letter that goes out once a year that serves as a connection with our classmates. We look back with fondness to our days at VGH.

Submitted by

**Nancy (Adams) Milley**

### Class of September 1965

The Class of September 1965 will be gathering September 2-4, 2025 at the Loon Lake Lodge and Retreat Centre in Maple Ridge. This rustic reunion will celebrate our 60th Anniversary and it is expected the sharing of the memories from our 55th +3 years at the Galiano Inn and the many other reunions will keep us laughing for many hours. Although the Musical Ride will not be able to attend this year, memories will be jogged while reviewing copies of *The Drawsheet* and viewing some vintage clothing from our own cupboards!

Contact **Joan Kerr** or **Kathy Murphy** for more information.

**Reunions**

**Class of September '74 - 50 year reunion**

It's **Rita Tracey** with a small recap of our reunion that was held on Sept 20-22 this year at the Penticton Lakeside Resort. We had a great weekend of sunny weather and 28 attendees.

Friday we gathered for a fantastic supper buffet and had a few raffles for 1974 specialty items such as bottles of Baby Duck, Mateus, and a beautiful quilt made by some classmates. We also gifted our classmates a canvas bag with the VGH logo and our class year on it.

Sunday morning came all too quickly and following a great breakfast, we said our goodbyes.

We had such fun, that our class wants to return to this venue in 3 years time!

Take care, Thank you for the \$500 ( paid towards our app night).

**Rita Tracey**



**Class of February 1964**

Our class, February 1964, celebrated our 60th anniversary from the VGH School of Nursing at the end of September 2024. Eleven of us met for lunch at the Shaughnessy Restaurant at Van Dusen Gardens.

We held our first reunion in 1974 and have held reunions every five years. Previous reunions always took up an entire weekend of visiting, reminiscing and laughter. This year our reunion was impacted greatly by travel, health issues, other commitments and the loss of many of our classmates. Attendance from out-of-town classmates was extremely limited with only five of us attending.

As every class said "our class was special". The special status was usually indicated by some noteworthy prank that was pulled off and not by our intelligence as students of nursing. Our most famous prank was sending one of our petite classmates in a laundry bag from the 8th floor to the main lobby on a busy Saturday evening. Even Ms. Du Gas heard of this one!

Also, our class broke from tradition of tying our black shoes and stockings to the Cambie Street bridge when we graduated to white. We contacted the popular DJ at the time, Red Robinson of CKWX to announce to all listeners in Vancouver that we were now Seniors!

Our time was short at the luncheon and we were so busy talking we forgot to take a group photo, so included is a collage of those attending.

Thank you to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae for the funds to celebrate our 60th reunion. Those attending the luncheon voted to return the money to the Alumnae and put it towards an Education bursary from our class.

**Marilyn McPhalen Gardiner Feb.'64**



**Top L>R** Karen (Halvorson) Siggers, Wendy (Tomson) Weiber.

Lorrie (Muralt)Brown, Ruth (Nicholls)Woodley

Louise (MacNicholl Kenwood, Lorrie (Muralt)Brown

**Bottom L > R** Karen (Grant) Falk, Barbara (White) Andrews

Valerie (Lyttle) Aylen, Mariyn (McPhalen) Gardner,

Diane (Wilkie) Elliot, Jo-Anne (Tyrell) Zador, Karen (Grant) Falk

**September '71 53rd reunion**

We had two nights in May at the Parksville Bayside Resort, a place where we've held many reunions. It seems to suit our class, and we had 23 attendees, an appy night, and a dinner the second night at the hotel restaurant. Those who wished, met for breakfast twice in the hotel restaurant, and the day was spent out and about in groups with no structure.

We are at the age that we'll be gathering every two years at the request of the classmates that attended. A fun time was had catching up on each other's lives and remembering what we've shared over the years since we graduated in 1971!

Thanks! All the best,

**Judy Reid**



**February 1960, Martha Shire, Milton Ont.**

Martha has won The *Governor-General Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers*.

Her love of numbers and her do-it-yourself attitude was responsible for the thousands of income tax forms she completed for family and friends and for Allendale long term care home members.



At 86 she is not slowing down having prepared 318

Income Tax forms this past spring. "I never thought of it as being as service. I just did it. Basically being a nurse you had to have empathy and the desire to help, so that just continued what I did."

Apart from that, she has volunteered with the Red Cross, the Senior Centre, the district Hospital, had had two trips to the Dominican Republic with "Friends of Orphans."

"There is always that appreciation, when you help someone and they thank you."

**VGH Bursaries**



I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of the VGH Nursing Bursary Award. It is truly an honour to receive this support as I continue my nursing education at Lethbridge University.

I wanted to let you know that I have received the scholarship check, and I sincerely apologize for the delay in sending this email. The check was mailed to my home address, and since I am currently at school, I was unable to retrieve it sooner.

I am currently in my second year of nursing school (RN program), and this bursary will significantly ease the financial burden of my studies, allowing me to focus on developing my clinical skills and knowledge. The generosity of this award not only supports my education but also motivates me to excel and give back to the healthcare community in the future.

On a personal note, receiving this bursary is

especially meaningful to me, as my grandmother, Sheila Elliott, graduated from the VGH School of Nursing in 1962. She has been one of my biggest supporters throughout my nursing journey, and this connection to VGH makes this award even more special.

Thank you for your generosity, I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity and look forward to making a meaningful impact in the nursing profession.

Sincerely,  
**Jocelyn Elliott**



My name is **Kimberly Tronrud**, and I am currently in my final year of nursing school at Vancouver Community College. This past fall and winter I was placed on the Acute Care for Elders unit at VGH, and every morning on my way up to the unit I passed by the VGH SON archive window display, which made me think of my grandma. She is Lois Hurst Tronrud, an alumnae of the VGH SON, who co-edited the alumnae newsletter for over 30 years. Although I never had the chance to meet her as she passed before I was born, I feel connected to her through nursing. Whenever I am met with challenging situations or moments of achievement at clinical, I always think of her and like to believe that she's supporting and guiding me on my journey.



In my quest to learn more about grandma and the history of what nursing was like during the time she practiced, I reached out to Joan Kerr and Naomi Constant who graciously organized an Archives meeting for my father and I. We truly enjoyed looking through all the newsletters and the Class of '47 Annual where I got to see my grandma's grad picture and read her promise to herself, borrowed from poet Edgar Albert Guest:

*"To Live undaunted, unafraid,  
Of any step that must be made;  
To be without pretence or sham,  
Exactly what I really am"*

She truly was a strong, confident and fearless nurse as evident by the career she enjoyed nursing in the OR, ER, Oakalla Prison, and Great Northern Way Detox Centre.

While reading each newsletter, I discovered so much about other nurses' work lives, stories and accomplishments, but didn't find much written about my grandma herself. I guess as an editor it can be hard to write about yourself. Maybe she was

too focused on celebrating others' achievements than to be writing about her own. So Grandma, this tribute is for you. Through the stories dad has told me ever since I was a little girl, you are truly an inspiration, have done so much for your fellow alumnae, and had an amazing career caring for others. You are loved and lovingly remembered.

My sincerest thanks to the Alumnae and their donors for their support of my studies in awarding me a bursary for the second year running.



**Dear Vancouver General Hospital Alumnae Association,**

I am writing this letter to express my heartfelt gratitude for the bursary I received for my fourth and final year of nursing school.

I will be forever appreciative for the ongoing support over the last four years that the alumnae have provided to help aid in my education and further training to become a registered nurse in the emergency department. The funds I have received have greatly impacted my life allowing me to focus on my education rather than the demanding financial aspects of nursing school. This financial support has allowed me to focus on my studies, clinical training, and has prepared me to care for patients with the compassion and skills needed as an emergency nurse.



This bursary has also brought encouragement and work ethic to achieve both my academic and professional goals. I hope to be able to give back to the healthcare community in a way that reflects the generosity and kindness I have received from the alumnae. I am committed to making a positive impact in the lives of the patients I care for as well as contributing to the ongoing development of my field in health care.

I thank you once again for investing in my future. I am deeply appreciative of this ongoing support for nursing students and new graduate nurses like myself.

Sincerely,  
**Jenna Anderson**



## The Registered Nurses Foundation of BC

The RNFBC is proud to announce a significant milestone in its commitment to advancing nursing education and supporting healthcare excellence in British Columbia. Thanks to a generous \$5 million grant from the Ministry of Health, awarded over five years, RNFBC has been able to expand the bursary program dramatically. This year (2024) alone, bursaries totalling \$901,000 were awarded to 866 nursing students and nurses marking an increase of over 700 bursaries compared to previous years.



The RNFBC was established in 1979 as a non-profit organization with federal charitable status.

Its mandate is to support all nurses and nursing students in BC pursuing basic and advanced education by raising funds to allow for the distribution of bursaries to qualified applicants.

The RNFBC celebrated 45 years of supporting nursing at a luncheon on March 5, 2025.

The VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association Endowment was created in 1984. There have been additional donations from the Alumnae Association, former graduates, and from the proceeds of the sale of the VGH Manor. This Endowment is available for:

- students enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs
- graduates of the VGH School of Nursing or the UBC/VGH collaborative program
- descendants of graduate of the VGH SON or the UBC/VGH collaborative program
- permanent BC residents who graduated from a BC School of Nursing, if there is no suitable candidate found meeting the foregoing criteria

Disbursements of the of the funds is restricted to investment income only.

Sincere appreciation was expressed to the members of the Alumnae Association in all of the thank you letters from the 2024 Bursary winners. Permission to publish some of the letters was granted by the winners selected.

### To the donors of the Vancouver General Hospital SoN Alumnae Association Bursary...

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for awarding me the Vancouver General Hospital SON Alumnae Association Bursary. This support means more to me than words can convey, and I thank you for your generosity and belief in my potential as a nurse.

I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Langara College last summer. Currently I am working as a new graduate nurse in the postpartum unit at Burnaby Hospital. Pursuing a specialized area straight out of school has always been my aspiration, but it has also brought substantial financial challenges, as I've had to take several specialized courses to qualify for this role. Next spring, I will complete my specialty training to become a labor and delivery nurse which truly feels like a dream come true.

This bursary is of particular importance to me because not only did my grandmother graduate from the Vancouver General Hospital SON in 1966, but my great-grandmother did as well in 1938.

Applying for this bursary has allowed me to reconnect with my grandmother in ways I never have before, exploring more about her nursing background and gaining a greater appreciation of her accomplishments and impacts that she had on her community during her time as an ICU, Pediatric, and Emergency Nurse.

Please accept my sincere thanks once again for your valuable support. I look forward to making a positive impact as a new grad nurse in the nursing field and hope to honour your support throughout my career.

Kindest regards,  
**Lauren Muter**



**To the donors of the Vancouver General Hospital SoN Alumnae Association Bursary...**

I would like to start off this letter by introducing myself. My name is Mary, and I am a first-year nursing student at CNC and will be graduating from UNBC. I was born in Pemberton, and moved to Enderby, in 2010 when I was seven years old. I have remained in the Okanagan ever since.

Growing up with my older sister, she always knew she wanted to be a nurse. I was less sure about my path after graduating high school and this always worried me. I completed my Dental Assisting Certificate a year out of school in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I worked as a CDA for the next 2.5 years. After roughly 1.5 years I decided I wanted to expand my career and my options, so I started upgrading courses to apply to nursing school.

After working and doing courses at my local college in Salmon Arm, I applied to many schools nearby, along with CNC in Quesnel. To my disappointment, I was denied from the schools I applied to, but I was accepted to CNC. This became a question about how badly I wanted to become a nurse, and was it worth leaving my partner, and my friends and family to move to northern B.C. After much thought (and tears) I decided that I would move up north to Quesnel. I am now halfway through my first semester and I can safely say that I am exactly where I am supposed to be.

I want to be the nurse that provides comforting care to my patients. I am 22 years old, and in my short life so far, I have been in positions where I had so much uncertainty, and the people around me made it so much easier and provided me with a safe feeling when I needed it, and this included nurses. Having people around you that make you feel like it is going to be ok and can help you laugh and see the brighter side of things can make all the difference.

I have always been a humorous person, and I want to incorporate this in my nursing career by making people laugh and see the human side of the healthcare system. My overall goal is to make people feel comfortable and cared for, and if they feel the smallest bit more of either of those things, then I have done my job.

I have had grandparents in long-term care, and I have seen a lack of care take away from them as people. This was especially hard to see as two of these grandparents were once nurses, and my grandfather fought in the Second World War.

I want to allow my patients to keep their integrity and share parts about them with me that make them who they are. Moving north and starting a new chapter has been scary, and there have been many signs of uncertainty.

Receiving this Bursary means so much to me, as it connects me to my paternal grandmother or, as I know her, "Granny," and even though she is not here to watch me explore my career in nursing, I hope she knows that she has helped me get here in many ways and that this Bursary is just one more leg up to join the noble profession of nursing.

Lastly, I would like to say a genuine thank you to the Vancouver General SON Alumnae Association, for providing me with this great help to cover the financials of my education and providing more comfort to me living alone, away from everything familiar to me.

I will be applying the bursary to my tuition for next semester. And I hope to make the association, and my Granny proud, and thank you again for this opportunity.

**Mary Halvorson,**

College of New Caledonia/University of Northern British Columbia



**To the donors of the Vancouver General Hospital SON Alumnae Association Bursary...**

My name is Ali, I am in the first term of my Master of Nursing-Nurse Practitioner (MN-NP) program at UBC.

I am currently working part-time as a registered nurse while studying, within Vancouver General Hospital on the Burn's Trauma High-Acuity Unit. My intention for continuing and furthering my education is to gain skills and knowledge that will allow me to ameliorate the primary care deficit that profoundly exists within BC.



Although my mind remains open to working in various clinical settings, I have a strong passion for providing equitable care to Vancouver's marginalized youth. My previous work experience with Directions (which is a sub-division of Family Services of Greater Vancouver that provides holistic care to Vancouver's at-risk youth) has elucidated the need for trauma and violence informed, person-centered care within this population, which I seek to provide upon graduation.

Moreover, as a proud member of the LGBTQ2S+ community, I seek to pursue a clinical role where I can provide gender-affirming and culturally competent primary care to youth. My passion for youth is derived from my understanding that this age demographic is highly malleable, and that appropriate and proactive care can be transformative in a way that yields lifelong positive health outcomes. This award will allow me to focus and direct my mental effort towards learning by relieving the financial strains associated with living in Vancouver to attend my in-person program and studying simultaneously.

I greatly appreciate your assistance and will undoubtedly translate this financial aid into compassionate care for our population.



**Life Members**

- Sharon Baxter (Francis) '62
- Vivian Blake (Jackson) '50
- Lynne Dunbar (Meir-Gildea)'65
- Lorna Hoare (Snider) '66
- Barb Kissuras (Rosval) '66
- Elizabeth Kirkwood (Miles) '53
- Diane Parker (Sjerve) '68
- Mary Raikes-Tindle (Raikes) '65
- Pat Sexsmith (Kay) '62
- Suzanne Stothers '70
- Mary Watt (MacKinnon) '54

- Jane Birkeland (Schwab) '66
- Myrna Braun (Wagstaff) '62
- Norma Guttormsson (Scobie)'58
- Joan Kerr (Dunbar) '65
- Sheila Kirk (Poersch) '61
- Kathleen Murphy (McCutcheon) '65
- Trudy Phillips (Smith) '53
- Nancy Semke (Bouzovetsky) '57
- Margaret Shugg '54
- Jean Tsuyuki (Lyons) '57



### An ambitious plan at VGH

An ambitious plan is underway for the expansion of Vancouver General Hospital.

The city is seeking public opinion on the hospital’s rezoning application, which would redevelop the block at 900 and 990 West 12th Ave. to become the site of two new hospital towers housing a long-term care home, a daycare, a public plaza, and more.

The project would provide expanded clinical and office space, while consolidating Coastal Health Authority programs that occupy leased spaces spread elsewhere along the Broadway corridor.

It would keep pace with the province’s aging and growing

population and the first phase of the project is estimated to cost around \$400 million, though that figure “may change as we continue to refine the designed and details,” said the VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation’s senior vice-president, Liza Jerome.

The foundation, which is immediately south of the current VGH campus, bought the lot when it came up for sale in 2022.

It is home to the 14-storey Windermere Care Centre, a 207-bed care facility, and a three-storey rental apartment building with 26 residential units.

“A tenant relocation plan is currently underway, as the new development will not include any residential units on site,” the application reads. The lots are zoned for comprehensive development and residential. The hospital foundation is applying to rezone the lot.

Clinical /Medical Support Amenities

Long term care

Clinical Diagnostic

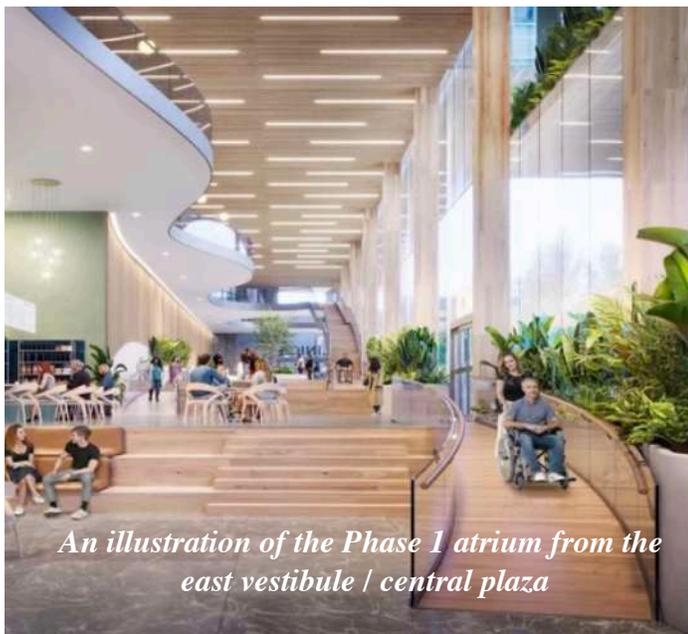
Amenity

Parking



Phase 1

Phase 2



*An illustration of the Phase 1 atrium from the east vestibule / central plaza*

### A trip to the Archives



**Kimberly Tronrud, VGH Alumnae bursary winner investigating Archival material about her grandmother Lois Tronrud. She is with her father, our archivist, Naomi and board member, Joan Kerr.**



*September Luncheon 2024*

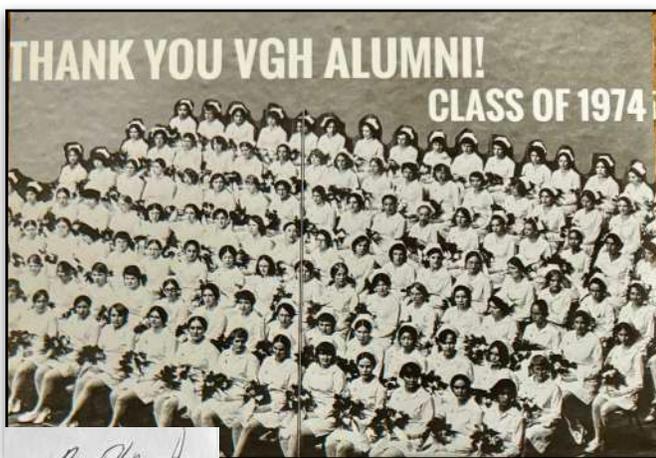


September Luncheon 2024

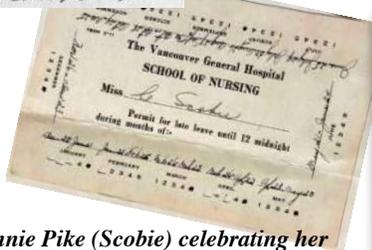


Enjoying the September Lunch \* Elizabeth Bjornson, Janis Yelena, Mary Lowe, Marcie McKay.

Correspondence



*Connie Pike*



Connie Pike (Scobie) celebrating her 93rd birthday 2023.

Probie photo right front.

Late night pass.



**Beryl Ann MacLean (Murray Sept. '69)**

“ My Grandma’s 1950s Nursing Skills.”

Grandma stressed good hand washing to prevent illness and infection . She applied iodine tincture, ozone ointment, and a light gauze dressing to cuts. For the itchy rash of chicken pox and measles she used calamine lotion. For a sty, a warm tea bags was used. The dreaded mustard plaster was applied to my tender, congested chest when I had pneumonia. On winter days we faithfully took our Cod Liver Oil capsules.

Grandma’s medicine cabinet held Dodd’s Kidney Pills, Carter’s Little Liver pills, witch hazel, and vinegar.

**Re: Constance Pike (Scobie '51)**

I am informing you of the death of my mother Connie Pike. She passed away on April 25, 2024, in her 94th year. I have included some interesting photocopies if you would like to make use of them.

She kept her roomies from training as close friends her whole life. I am enclosing a paragraph she wrote for one of the VGH Reunions.

*My strongest memories of training are the friendships which developed with classmates - I cherish today. And what about those engineers/nurses mixers!!*

*I fondly recall sharing “ward” stories over a cup of tea at the end of a shift and our time in maternity witnessing and being involved in the miracle of birth.*

*As a small town girl from the middle of Saskatchewan experiencing “big city” life for the first time, the beauty of Vancouver and vicinity’s quite overwhelming - warm days in summer - flowers in February??? I can never return without experiencing a lump in my throat.*

She did marry one of the engineers from the UBC/ VGH mixer. They had three children and were married for 73 years.

**Daughter, Catherine Pike**

**Phyllis (Brandt) Claudette Randle**

Oct. 1943-July 2024

Phyllis Randle, proud Canadian for 80 years. She epitomized the strength, passion, loyalty and all that is outstanding about this great country. Phyllis consistently inspired hope and encouragement, making the world a better place, one person at a time.



Phyllis was blessed with a gift of intelligence, early mastering all educational challenges. With a natural affinity of caring for others, she followed her dream to become a nurse, Feb. 1965. Later in life she completed a Bachelor of Nursing in Science at UBC. While working at Fort St. John, Phyllis obtained her Public Health Certification as well meeting and marrying Constable Jack Randle of the RCMP.

She was instrumental in setting up the Home Care Program in BC, working over 30 years in the field of Public Health. At the end of her career, Phyllis thoroughly enjoyed teaching nursing at the University of Fraser Valley, Chilliwack.

In 2002 Phyllis volunteered to attend a tsunami disaster in Indonesia. As nurse practitioner, she attended the injured among the destruction and mayhem. Later she volunteered to go to poverty stricken Haiti after the earth quake. She worked for Child Hope at an orphanage in Port-au-Prince.

When Jack retired, they moved to Hope, bought a motel, and operated it for 27 years. They considered themselves lucky to be able to travel extensively before finally moving to Parksville.

In our lives she will be the voice whispering encouragement in times of drought. She will be the strong hand on our back when we stumble and the warmth we feel in our hearts when we remember her strength and celebrate her life.

**Jack Randle. Edited**

**Kuniko (Nancy) Morishita**

July 1932-October. 29, 2024

Nancy will be remembered for her dedication to caring for others. As a 1954 VGH grad, her career took her to Toronto and Montreal and eventually to become head nurse in the Special Care Nursery at VGH.

In later years she cared for her aging parents while volunteering for 30 years with the Japanese-Canadian community organizations.



**Beverly Joan (Billie) Meadows**

Aug. 1933-Aug.2024

Billie was born and lived in Kerrisdale. After graduating from Magee Secondary school she attended UBC and VGH and upon graduation she worked for many years as an RN before taking post graduate courses which qualified her to move into a Head Nurse role at Lions Gate Hospital, a career that she loved.



She leaves behind her two daughters, granddaughters and grandsons and extended family, and host of friends. She enjoyed her retirement at Gower Point on the Sunshine Coast with her many activities and her friends.

A donation to the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation, (LGH Area of Greater Need) in Billie Meadows name would be appreciated by her family.

**Jane Elizabeth Van Roggen**

March 7, 1926-October 11, 2024 age 98

Jane was brought up in Victoria, attending UVic. (which was then held in Craigdarroch Castle) before she moved to Vancouver. She enrolled at VGH and graduated in the class of 1947.



She married in 1949 and she and her husband became very involved with opening the Public Aquarium. She believed in education and took responsibility in developing an educational program and was one of only seven docents in 1964.

Following her husband's death in 1975, Jane continued to be the primary fundraiser for the Aquarium and served as President of the Board of Governors from 1986-1989. Jane established the Dr. Murray Newman Award for excellence in Aquatic Sciences. She worked along side Bill Reid to install the Killer Whale sculpture at the entrance to the Aquarium.

Jane revisited her interest in Public Health and cancer research and was appointed to the Board of Governors of Trustees for the Cancer Agency becoming President of the BCCA in 1990. Jane was instrumental in expanding treatment centres in the province so that all British Columbians could have easier access to cancer treatment. She was awarded the Order of Canada for her many years of volunteer service, both for her work at the aquarium and with BCCA.

In 1984 Jane married Senator George Van Roggen. They enjoyed traveling and sailing BC's coastline in George's boat the *Free Trade*.

She was appointed as a Citizenship Court Judge, her first paying job since she was hired as a general duty nurse at VGH. Jane was proud to welcome and share her love of Canada with newcomers. She was awarded Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 in recognition for her significant contributions to British Columbia.

She leaves behind her loving family. "We have lost a precious person and will raise a glass in her memory this summer and think how lucky were to be part of her exceptional life."

**Kathleen Viola Raisbeck**

October 1929-July 2024



Kathleen (Kay) was born in Hanna, Alberta and was the eldest of 5 children. She was raised on a farm just east of Drumheller until the family moved to Craigmyle.

At the age of 18 Kay made her way to pursue a career in Nursing. She began training at

Essondale Nursing School where she graduated as a Psychiatric Nurse.

Kay then moved to the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1954. After a few months working at the Calgary General Hospital, Kay returned to VGH and began her extensive career there retiring in 1983.

In 1963 Kay was awarded a Diploma Administration of Hospital Nursing Units at University of BC's Autumn Congregation. She became Charge nurse in the Eye and ENT department.

Before retiring Kay was appointed Supervisor of Scheduling Equipment and Supplies in the Operating Room at VGH. During this time, she was elected the 8<sup>th</sup> President of BC Operating room Nurses group (now PNABC), a position in which she served from 1980 to 1982.

Following retirement Kay expanded her volunteering to include a variety of roles at Van Dusen Gardens as a guide and a volunteer in the membership department. She was also active in the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association. For many years she organized the Annual Luncheon, helped organizing class reunions and was on the Executive Committee. She was selected as a Life Member.

In later years she moved to Kamloops to a retirement home where she enjoyed the activities and comradery of the other guests.

Kay was an exceptional nurse and a pillar of the profession.

She was also a great supporter and champion of the BC Operating Room Nurses Group and Van Dusen as well as her own School of Nursing friends.



*In Memoriam 2024  
But not forgotten*



Date	Current	First Name	Graduation	Class
Feb 6 2024	Rutherford	Virginia	Doyle	Sep-46
Oct 11 2024	Van Roggen	Jane	Bolton	Sep-47
Dec 23 2023	McIvor	Constance	Scobie	Sep-51
Aug 16 2024	Stirling	Jean	Wark	Jan-52
June 30 2024	ElliottP	Patsy	Conrad	Sep-52
May 23 2024	Hudson	Patricia	Hockridge	Feb-53
Dec 28 2023	McWilliams	Lorraine	Clayton	Feb-53
Feb 21 2024	Reith	Anita	Boyd	Feb-53
Jan 13 2024	Cunningham	June Averil	Peterson	Feb-54
Oct 29 2024	Morishita	(Nancy)	Morishita	Feb-54
Jul 27 2024	Raisbeck	Kay	Raisbeck	Sep-54
Apr ? 2019	Phelan	Theodosia	Bury	Feb-55
Aug 9 2024	McCreery	Heather	Meekison	Sep-55
Aug 2024	Tibbott	Annette	Mazur	Sep-55
Apr 21 2024	Gertsch	Gwen	Edwards	Feb-56
Aug 15 2024	Meadows	Beverly	Meadows	Feb-56
Apr 1 2024	Edwards	Shirley	Bagnall	Sep-56
May 2024	Matthews	Donna	Bell	Sep-56
Aug 18 2024	Redfearn	Betty	Wilson	Sep-56
Jan 15 2024	Montgomery	Frances	Lees	Feb-57
Dec 27 2023	Radcliffe	Agi	Lindner	Feb-57
Jan 10 2024	Fanstone	Alberta	Eykelbos	Feb-58
Jun 26 2024	Corbett	Consuelo	Forster	Sep-58
Jan 15 2024	Baylis	Gail	Estabrook	Feb-59
Aug 28 2024	Howey	(Joan)	Norman	Feb-59
Mar 4 2024	Partrick	Carole	Fouracres	Feb-59
April 29 2024	Sutherland	Jane	McRae	Feb-59
Mar 11 2024	Thune	Kathleen	McIntyre	Feb-59
Dec 26 2024	Hargreaves	Anne	Sundman	Sep-59
Apr 1 2024	Watkin	Idelle	Hanna	Sep-60
Oct 1 2023	Young	Penny	Rose	Feb-61
Jan 19 2024	Teufel	Alvena	Tortyna	Sep-61
Jul 19 2023	McKay	Gail	Glanville	Feb-62
Jan 7 2024	O'Loan	Beverley	Kennedy	Sep-62
Jan 27 2024	Marini	Patricia	McGregor	Feb-63
Aug 8 2024	Baker	Jackie	MacLeod	Feb-64
Jan 17 2024	Harris	Sharon	Powell	Feb-64
June ? 2023	Flaherty	Anita	Wilson	Feb-65
Jul 1 2024	Randle	Phyllis	Brandt	Feb-65
Apr ? 2022	Scarfe	Susan Jean	Clarke	Feb-65
Jul 1 2024	Balzer	Carole	Mattick	Sep-65
Oct 2023	William	Maureen	Gibbons	Sep-65
Apr 17 2024	Crisp	Helen	Donald	Feb-66
Aug 8 2024	Kroeke	Katie	Kroecker	Sep-66
2024	Henry	Carole	Hollinger	Sep-68
Aug 24 2023	Polkey	Barbara	Long	Sep-68
Jun 26 2024	Enns	Linda Gaye	Carswell	Feb-69
Jan 1 2024	Kellie	Marilyn	Kellie	Feb-69

*Continuation*

Oct 16 2024	Wooldridge	Diane	Leece	Sep-69
Mar 6 2024	Radatzke	Annette	Priester	Sep-72
Feb 14 2024	Umran	Ruth P	Enninga	Sep-75
Dec 11 2024	Weir	Allison	Telford	Feb-76
Jun 1 2023	Clearie	Audrey	Morwood-Clark	Feb-80
2016	Nejbauer	Sally-Jane	Justice	Sep-83
Nov 17 2024	Barge	Janet	Hayne	Feb-62
July 31 2024	Snelgrove	Nancy	Montgomery	UBC 47
Sep 21 2024	Myers	Dorothy	Parfait	UBC 50
Nov 3 2023	Drummond	Marg. (Laurie)	Frier	UBC 59
Dec 1-2024	Mille	Naomi	Walsh	UBC 60
May 14 2024	Etchell	Charlie	Etchell	

**Memorial Book**

The Memorial Book was created in 1959 by the class of September 1954 in honour of **Helga Thordarson**, a classmate.

Requested by classmates, family or friends, the graduate's name is entered in the book with the year of graduation, year of death, and the name or names of those making the request.

The pages are decorated, and the calligrapher is **Joan Kerr** (class of September 1965).

A donation of \$15 is suggested which is used to support bursaries for VGH graduates or their descendants. To honour

the graduate, contact the Alumnae Office (604-875-4111 extension 62049) to obtain the form. After completing the form, it is returned to the Alumnae Office along with the cheque payable to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association (memo: Education Fund).

The books are on display at the office. It is to be noted that although the graduate may have passed away at an earlier date, the recording of the name is completed when the nomination is submitted.



**Memorial Book Donors**

Date of death	Name	First Name	Graduation name	Grad year	Donors name	On behalf
Aug-24	Baker	Jackie	MacLeod	Feb-64	Lorrie Brown	on behalf of classmates
Jul-24	Balzer	Carole	Mattick	Sep-65	Joan Kerr	on behalf of classmates
Jun-13	Clearie	Audrey	Morwood-Clark	Feb-80	Erin Clearie	Erin Clearie
Jan-24	Cunningham	June Averil	Peterson	Feb-54	Reta Kidd	on behalf of classmates
Nov-23	Drummond	Laurie	Frier	UBC 59	Jo-Mary Hunter	on behalf of classmates
Apr-24	Edwards	Shirley	Bagnall	Sep-56	Nancy Milley	on behalf of classmates
Jun-24	Enns	Linda Gaye	Carswell	Feb-69	Linda Blackstock	Linda Blackstock
Jun-23	Flaherty	Anita	Wilson	Feb-65	Barb Hestrin	on behalf of classmates
Jan-24	Harris	Sharon	Powell	Feb-64	Lorrie Brown	Lorrie Brown
?? 2024	Henry	Carole	Hollinger	Sep-68	Susan Harding	on behalf of classmates
May-24	Hudson	Patricia	Hockridge	Feb-53	Trudy Phillips	on behalf of classmates
Oct-22	James	Donalda	James	Sep-71	Judy Reid	on behalf of classmates
May-2	Mathews	Donna	Bell	Sep-56	Nancy Milley	on behalf of classmates
Dec-23	McWilliams	Lorraine	Clayton	Feb-53	Trudy Phillips	on behalf of classmates
Oct-24	Morishita	Nancy	Morishita	Feb-54	Reta Kidd	on behalf of classmates
Sep-24	Myers	Dorothy	Parfitt	UBC 50	Vivian Blake	Vivian Blake
Jul 05	Nejbauer	Sally Jane	Justice	Sep-83	Marcia McKay	on behalf of classmates
Mar-24	Partrick	Carole	Fouracre	Feb-59	Margaret Clow	on behalf of classmates
Mar-24	Partrick	Carole	Fouracre	Feb-59	Pat Sinclair	Pat Sinclair
Aug-23	Polkey	Barbara	Long	Sep-68	Susan Harding	on behalf of classmates
Jul-24	Randle	Phyllis Claudette	Brandt	Feb-65	Barb Hestrin	on behalf of classmates
?? 2024	Redfearn	Betty	Wilson	Sep-56	Nancy Milley	on behalf of classmates
Apr-22	Scarfe	Susan Jean	Clarke	Feb-65	Barb Hestrin	on behalf of classmates
Jul-24	Snelgrove	Nancy Joan	Montgomery	UBC 47	Family	Family
Jul-24	Snelgrove	Nancy Joan	Montgomery	UBC 47	Nancy Milley	Nancy Milley
Aug-24	Tibbott	Anne	Mazur	Sept-55	Kerry Frazer	Kerry Frazer
Mar-24	Thune	Kathleen	McIntyre	Feb-59	Pat Sinclair	Pat Sinclair
1999	Tronrud	Lois	Hurst	Sept-47	Gordon Tronrud	Gordon Tronrud
Feb-24	Umran	Ruth	Peninga	Sept-75	Betty Bjornson	Betty Bjornson
Apr-24	Watkin	Idelle	Hanna	Sep-60	Jane Robertson	on behalf of classmates
Feb-23	Whitmore	Joan	Christoff	Sep-60	Jane Robertson	on behalf of classmates
Mar-23	Williamson	Sandra	McLuckie	Sep-60	Beverley Dorman	on behalf of classmates
Oct-24	Wooldridge	Diane	Leece	Sep-69	Sherry Park	friend & classmate

**V.G.H. School Of Nursing Alumnae Association Board Of Directors 2025-26**

<b>President</b>	<b>Kathleen Murphy (McCutcheon '65)</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Rec. Secretary</b>	<b>Lynne Dunbar (Meir-Gildea '65)</b>
<b>Exec. Secretary/ Treasurer</b>	<b>Sue Goguen (Gammon '75)</b>
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<b>Education</b>	<b>Joan Kerr (Dunbar '65)</b>
<b>Friendship</b>	<b>Lorna Hoare (Snider '66)</b> <b>Diane Parker (Sjerve '68)</b>
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<b>Communications</b>	<b>Arlene Vanderhoeven (Schindel '89)</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Mary Watt (MacKinnon '54)</b>

Please check first to see if you have already renewed or joined and if you have not done so yet please fill in the forms below and send with the appropriate funds to the VGH SON Alumnae office.

**VANCOUVER GENERAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL of NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION**

**Annual Membership Fee: \$20.00**

Your fee provides support to the: Education Bursaries, Website, Newsletter, Friendship Committee's support to members, and office operations

*Please Print*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname at Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Apt. Street City Province/State Postal/Zip Code

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT** - Please - these choices must be indicated each year *Please print legibly*

Check how you wish to receive your Newsletter: Email \_\_\_\_\_ OR Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check how you wish to receive communication from the Alumnae office: Email \_\_\_\_\_ OR Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want your contact information given to your Class Rep to update Class list? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* Are you Interested in attending a Fall Luncheon? Yes No**

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**DONATIONS** to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association are greatly appreciated.

Your donations provide support to:

- Education Bursaries to VGH Graduates and Descendants of VGH Graduates
- Archives preservation and storage
- General Fund

For Office Use Only

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

DB entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date receipt issued: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP Fee: \$ 20.00**

Please direct my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to: Education Fund  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to: Archive Fund  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to: General Fund

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charitable registration number 89269 4407 RR 001

**Payment Options:** \_\_\_\_\_ cheque payable to the VGH School of Nursing Alumnae Association  
 \_\_\_\_\_ e-transfer to: vghson99@gmail.com

**Canadian Funds preferred**

**Thank you**

TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED FOR FEES AND DONATIONS

January 2024 – v1

**EDUCATION  
BURSARY  
APPLICATION**

**Bursary applicants can submit online applications in 2025 as an option. This will reduce the stress in sending documents by mail to meet the September 30**



**Mary (MacKinnon) Watt '54**  
 Thank you, Kathy Murphy, and the other members of the Board. I appreciate your advice and help. Editor  
[marywatt@shaw.ca](mailto:marywatt@shaw.ca)  
 Please feel free to send me your stories and **in focus** photos.