

Canadian Nurses Association

Memorial



Welcome to the Online Memorial Book

Each page of this book describes the contributions of some of Canada's honoured nurses, who, in service to their fellow Canadians, elevated the nursing profession and health care in this country.

We are proud to present brief biographies of these distinguished nurses to commemorate their achievements and inspire a new generation.

[*Click here to read the names of Canadian nursing sisters who lost their lives in World War I*](#)

Allemang, Margaret

Bourns, Beulah

Anderson, Maude I. (Dolphin)

Bradley, Margaret Lillian

Anderson, M. Jean

Breeze, Elizabeth G.

Andersson, Gillian Mary

Bryce-Brown, Charlotte Phoebe

Ash, Harriet Ann

Budgen, Claire

Attrill, Alfreda Jean

Burgess, Phyllis

Bach, Vicky

Carpenter, Helen Maude

Barrett, Phyllis L. Wylie

Charter, Christine

Barrington, Sibella Annie

Chassie, Ann Marie

Belanger, Sister St. Odilon

Chesley, Annie Amelia

Bennett, Myra Maud

Childs, Lynn Margaret

Bond, Annie A.

Chittick, Rae

Bouchard, Jacqueline

Courtney, Patricia

Cox, Janet Elizabeth
Crane, Lavinia (Vin)
Crawford, Myrtle
Creelman, Lyle Morrison
Crosby, Bella
Cryderman, Ethel
Denton, Luella Euphemia
Dick, Edith Rainsford
Dickson, Edith MacPherson
Dier, Kay
Doan, Dorothy
Du Gas, Dr. Beverly Witter
Dyke, Eunice H.
Eastwood, Charlotte E.
Egan, Christine
Ellerton, Mary Lou
Ellis, Kathleen W.
Emory, Florence H. M.
Ethier, Margaret
Fairley, Grace Mitchell
Fidler, Nettie Douglas

Fitzgerald, Joan
Flaherty, Dr. Josephine
Flaws, Elisabeth Grace
Gallant, Mae
Gerow, Jerry
Gilchrist, Joan
Girard, Alice M.
Glass, Helen Preston
Goodwill, Jean Cuthand
Graham, Eleanor Scott
Graham, Karen Ann
Gray, Mabel
Green, Monica Frith
Griffin, Patricia Lynne
Gunn, Jean I.
Hailstone, Betty
Hall, Gertrude M.
Harmer, Bertha
Harper-Femson, Lee Anne
Hart, Lyna

Hawkins, Satinder Kaur

Ahluwalia (Sindi)

Hempel, Phyllis Irene

Hersey, Mabel F.

Hill, Isabelle Maud

Hood, Evelyn

Horwood, Lorna

Hoyt-McGee, Arlee

Hunter, Trenna Grace

Jamieson, Ella J.

Johns, Ethel Mary

Johnson, M. E. Archibald

Keeler, Hazel Bernice

Keith, Catherine W.

Kennedy, Nan

Kergin, Dorothy Jean

Kerr, Margaret E.

Kikuchi, Dr. June F.

Kinley, Douglas Walter

Knox, Beryl

Lagrave, Sister Marie M. E.

Lammer, Marie

Laroza, Nelia

Lees, Edith Landells

Lesmond, Dr. Joan

Lewis, Daurene

Lewis, Jean

Lin, Tecla

Lindeburgh, Marian

Livingston, Marion Christine

Livingston, Nora

Loder, Millicent Blake

Lynch, Mary Teresa (Egan)

Lyons, Sister Clare Marie

MacDonald, Margaret

(MacCallum)

MacKay, Ruth

MacKenzie, Mary Ardcronie

MacLaggan, Katherine E.

MacLennan, Electa

Mailloux, Mère Élodie

Mallory, Evelyn Harriet

Malloy, Nancy Lisbeth
Matheson, Jean
McArthur, Helen
McCann, Elizabeth Kenny
McClure, Ruth
McGrath, Catherine
(Kit) Marie
McIntyre, Elizabeth Ruth
McKillop, Madge
McLean, Margaret D.
Meiklejohn, Harriet
Tremaine
Metcalf, Cherie
Millman, Mary Beatrice
Miner, Louise
Moore, Edna L.
Moore, Tina
Morrison, Ruth MacIntyre
Munroe, Fanny
Mussallem, Dr. Helen K.
Neill, Col. Agnes C.

Nelson, Jean (Major)
Nevitt, Joyce
Newburn-Cook, Dr. Christine
Neylan, Margaret
Nield, Sharon
Nutting, Mary Adelaide
Oliva, Teresita (Tessie)
O'Shaughnessy, Catherine
Parsons, Mona Louise
Pemberton, Evaline Mary
Phillips, Lillian
Pinet, Edith Branch
Pocock, Patricia (Pat)
Pope, Georgina Fane
Potts, Florence Janet
Purcell, M. Geneva
Randal, Helen Louisa
Rayside, Edith Catherine
Redmond, Frances D.
Reimer, Marlene Audrey
Richard, Noreen

Robb, Isabel Hampton

Ross, Anne Glass

Ross, Marie (Pictou)

Rossiter, Edna Elizabeth

Rovers, Maria

Rowsell, Glenna S.

Russell, Edith Kathleen

Sabin, Helen Mary

Santos, Josephine

Saunders, Ruth

Saydak, Marion Irene

Schumacher, Marguerite

Sharpe, Gladys

Shaw, Flora Madeleine

Shepherd, Lillian Mary

Shewchuk, Muriel

Simpson, Kathleen

Simpson, Ruby

Sloan, Harriet

Smith, Alice Katherine

Smith, Marie LaCroix

Snively, Mary Agnes

Southcott, Mary Meager

Splane, Verna Marie Huffman

Stanbury, Janice Lillian

Stanley, Margaret

Stewart, Isabel Maitland

Stinson, Shirley M.

Stirling, Jan

Stiver, Pearl

Story, Janet Steer

Street, Margaret Mary

Stutzer, Cynthia

Summers, Elizabeth R.

Sutherland, Jean Frances

(Ferguson)

Sweetwater, Indigo

Swenson, Wendy

Tennant, Claudia

Thomlinson, Elizabeth Helen

Thomson, Jean E. Browne

Turnbull, Lily

Wadsworth, Patricia (Pat)

Watson, Helen G. McArthur

Watt, Jean Cockburn

Weir, Joan Marlene

Wekel, Sister Mary Felicitas

Wilson, Jean S.

Wooldridge, Joanne

Wright, Alice Lillian

Wright, Katherine D.

Wylie, Dorothy

Yakimchuk, Clotilda A.

Canadian nursing sisters who lost their lives in World War 1

Serving with the Canadian Army Medical Corps Nursing Service

Baker, Miriam E.

Garbutt, Sarah E.

Baldwin, Dorothy M. Y.

Green, Matilda E.

Campbell, Christina

Hennan, Victoria B.

Dagg, Ainslie St. Clair

Jaggard, Jessie B.

Davis, Lena A.

Jenner, Lenna M.

Douglas, Carola J.

Kealy, Ida L.

Dussault, Alexina

King, Jessie N.

Follette, Minnie A.

Lowe, Margaret

Forneri, Agnes F.

MacDonald, Katherine M.

Fortesque, Margaret J.

MacPherson, Agnes

Fraser, Margaret M.

McDiarmid, Jessie M.

Gallaher, Minnie K.

McIntosh, Rebecca

McKay, Evelyn V.

Sare, Gladys I.

McKenzie, Mary A.

Sparks, Etta

McLean, Rena

Stamers, Anna I.

Mellet, Henrietta

Templeman, Jean

Munro, M. Frances E.

Tupper, Addie A.

Pringle, Eden L.

Wake, Gladys M. M.

Ross, Ada J.

Whitely, Anna E.

Sampson, Mae B.

Serving with the Imperial Army Nursing Service

Hannaford, Ida D.

Nicol, Christ

Serving with the United States Army Nurse Corps

Graham, Florence B.

Walker, Anna A.

Overend, Marion L.

Welsh, Anne K.

Symmes, Kathleen E.

Whiteside, Lydia V.

Margaret Allemang

1914-2005

Dr. Margaret Allemang co-founded the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing and the Ontario Society for the History of Nursing, later renamed the Margaret M. Allemang Centre for the History of Nursing. Dr. Allemang's contributions won her many accolades, including the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and the Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.

After obtaining her diploma in nursing from the University of Toronto in 1940, Dr. Allemang worked as assistant head nurse of the cancer unit at Toronto General Hospital before joining the Royal Canadian Air Force. After the war, she completed a BScN and a BA at the University of Toronto and taught nursing at Belleville General Hospital. In 1951, she began a 30-year teaching career at the University of Toronto. Dr. Allemang earned a master's of nursing and a doctorate in education with a focus on the history of nursing education from the University of Washington in 1956 and 1974 respectively.



Maude J. (Dolphin) Anderson

1915-1995

Maude Anderson's contributions to the nursing profession include establishing nursing schools abroad and advocating for the position of nursing alongside that of medical staff.

Ms. Anderson obtained her baccalaureate degree in nursing from McGill in 1944. She then taught nursing at the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing before joining the World Health Organization and establishing schools of nursing in Pakistan, Syria and Mauritius. Upon her return to Canada in 1959, Ms. Anderson obtained a master's degree in nursing from the University of Washington. She subsequently received faculty appointments at two universities and held director of nursing positions in two hospitals.

She served on the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (RNABC) Board of Directors, and she was the president of the Nurse Administrators' Association of British Columbia. In 1989, Ms. Anderson was awarded the RNABC Award of Excellence in Nursing Administration.



M. Jean Anderson

1918 - 2013

Jean Anderson came to nursing after a year caring for her dying mother. A graduate of the Montreal General Hospital school of nursing, she spent 16 years as a nurse in Montreal and Vancouver while completing a diploma in schools of nursing administration from McGill.

Jean then became director of nursing services for the Victoria Public Hospital in Fredericton, earning a BScN from Columbia University during a study leave. In 1964, she assumed the presidency of the New Brunswick Association of Registered Nurses (NBARN, now NANB) and, in 1968, was appointed executive director – a role she retained until her 1976 retirement. Afterward, Jean frequently volunteered with the provincial mental health association, the heart and stroke foundation and many others.

Her several awards include the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal (1977), NBARN's Honorary Life Membership (1979) and the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Confederation (1992).



Gillian Mary Andersson

1941 - 1996

Gillian Mary Andersson was regarded as one of Manitoba's expert nurses in maternal and newborn care.

Ms. Andersson served as the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) vice-chair and chair for Manitoba-Saskatchewan and led the creation of the first AWHONN chapter in Saskatchewan. As a trained nurse-midwife, she was an active member of the Manitoba Midwifery Implementation Council and a founding member of the Association of Manitoba Midwives.

As an in-service educator for combined care and gynecology, Ms. Andersson continually strived to provide nursing staff with current and applicable knowledge. Her expertise in education was recognized by the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg with an Achievement of Excellence Award for Education.

Ms. Andersson received a bachelor of nursing from the University of Manitoba. She completed her second year of the master of nursing program at the same university before succumbing to breast cancer.



Harriet Ann Ash

1877-1959

Harriet Ann Ash was a pioneer in the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) of Alberta.

Miss Ash graduated from the King's County Hospital Training School for Nurses in New York City in 1903. After graduation, she was a private nurse for 10 years before joining VON. Her training took place in the Toronto branch of the order.

She was appointed VON's Calgary Branch supervisor in 1918 and served in that role for 25 years. The Glenbow Museum in Calgary recently acquired the VON archival materials and recognized Miss Ash as having made a significant contribution to the order.

In 1934, Miss Ash was awarded a silver platter by the Association of Alberta Registered Nurses. In 1935, she received the King's Silver Jubilee Medal.



Alfreda Jean Attrill

1877-1970

Alfreda Jean Attrill graduated from the Winnipeg General Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1909 and remained at the hospital until 1914. In World War I, she served with distinction in Macedonia, Egypt, France, England and at sea, and was presented with the Royal Red Cross Medal by King George V. On her return to Canada, Alfreda was employed by the City of Winnipeg's Department of Health.

She resumed her pre-war involvement with St. John Ambulance, becoming superintendent of the Fort Garry Division (1924), Serving Sister of St. John (1933-36), Life Member (1937) and Commander Sister (1964). A highlight of her career occurred in 1966 when Governor General George Vanier, a former World War I patient, proclaimed her a Dame Grace of St. John. The following year, she was named Dame of Justice, the highest honour that can be awarded a woman by St. John Ambulance.



Vicky Bach

1951-2014

Through her life's work, Vicky Bach has left a multi-faceted legacy of knowledge and tools which will continue to advance clinical practice and the nursing profession as a whole.

She was an active contributor to nursing in British Columbia as a clinical nurse specialist and as an expert in gerontology, cardiac medicine and palliative care. She led the creation of practical nursing resources, including a tool for competency assessment planning and evaluation that was adopted by many health authorities in the province. Also, her research to establish an acute ischemic stroke care path is in the World Health Organization library.

Vicky consistently demonstrated leadership, setting the highest standards of care in her work. She was honoured by her profession with the 2014 Excellence in Nursing Practice Award from



Phyllis L. Wylie Barrett

1920-2009

Phyllis Wylie Barrett will forever be remembered as a “nurse of note” whose personal and professional accomplishments and contributions to the nursing profession were many and varied. Phyllis served as a staff nurse, head nurse, instructor, field consultant to Newfoundland’s cottage hospitals and director of nursing. Appointed to the provisional council of the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (ARNNL) in 1953, she sat on its first council and served as president from 1970 to 1972. In 1973, she took on the job of executive director, a position she held for eight years. Phyllis received a diploma in nursing education and administration from the University of Toronto and a baccalaureate of nursing from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Phyllis was recognized both provincially and nationally with the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977. She is an honorary member of ARNNL and the General Hospital School of Nursing Alumni.



Sibella Annie Barrington

1867-1929

Sibella Annie Barrington was a true pioneer.

A 1904 graduate of Nova Scotia's Aberdeen Hospital nursing school, she became an RN in 1922 when provincial registration first began. She pursued post-graduate studies in public health, tuberculosis treatments, maternity and child welfare in the U.S. and Ireland.

After a stint in England, Sibella returned to Nova Scotia in 1917 where she established a thriving practice. From 1918 to 1923, she held key positions as superintendent of the Halifax Infants' Home, vice-president of the Children's Aid Society, president of the Graduate Nurses' Association of Nova Scotia and delegate to the National Council of Women of Canada.

Her contributions were achieved in great part through the Red Cross. She taught home nursing programs in the Maritimes, organized outpost hospitals in isolated areas of New Brunswick and provided nursing care at the world's first port-nursery in Saint John.



Sister St. Odilon / Sister Anita Belanger

1904-1998

Sister St. Odilon graduated from Oak Park School of Nursing in Chicago in 1937. She obtained a BScN from Loyola University (Chicago) in 1939 and an MScN from Marquette University (Milwaukee) in 1951. She served in various leadership positions at the Misericordia General Hospital in Winnipeg between 1951 and 1966. During her career, she demonstrated both vision and spirituality. She advocated for higher educational standards for nurses and higher standards of care for patients. She encouraged nursing graduates to further their education to become more competent in their chosen field of practice. Through her own example she transferred many valued principles to others.

Sister St. Odilon pursued an enriched personal life as well as an active nursing career. She received a City of Winnipeg Community Service Award in 1963 in recognition of her active involvement in civic affairs.



Myra Maud Bennett

1890 -1990

Dr. Myra Bennett completed her general training in Manchester, England, in 1913, and began her career as a district nurse and midwife in the London area during the First World War. She left England in 1921 to work for the Newfoundland Outport Nursing Association in Daniel's Harbour.

Dr. Bennett's desire to help others went far beyond the call of duty. Trained primarily as a midwife, she was the only source of medical aid along 200 miles of rugged coastline for more than half a century, setting broken limbs, suturing and dressing wounds and extracting teeth, often in her own home. She received Coronation Medals from both King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II and was awarded the Medal of the British Empire in 1937. She was appointed to the Order of Canada in 1974, and later received a doctorate of science from Memorial University.



Annie A. Bond

1854-1943

Annie A. Bond was a midwife, military nurse and nursing educator who made significant contributions to the profession of nursing in Britain and in her adopted countries of New Zealand and Canada. She founded New Zealand's first nurse training program in 1883.

After her arrival in Winnipeg in 1903, she immersed herself in the health-care needs of a city whose population growth had outstripped its capacity to provide effective public health and welfare programs. She was a founding member of the Margaret Scott Nursing Mission, Winnipeg's first visiting nursing organization. She also lobbied for the improvement of obstetrical care. However, she is best remembered as the founder of the Winnipeg Children's Hospital. Its opening in 1909 was the culmination of several years of tireless work on behalf of sick children whose parents were unable to afford proper medical care. Bond died in a special ward reserved for her at the Children's Hospital in 1943.



Jacqueline Bouchard

1933-1978

An enthusiastic and demanding educator, Jacqueline Bouchard established and developed a baccalaureate nursing program for francophone nurses in New Brunswick.

Born in Baker Brook, New Brunswick, in 1933, Mme Bouchard attended l'École des infirmières, Hôtel-Dieu d'Edmundston, and earned her bachelor of nursing science at the Institut Marguerite D'Youville. Between 1957 and 1962 she was registrar at Hôtel-Dieu. She then obtained her master's in nursing at the Catholic University of America.

In 1964, Mme Bouchard realized a long-held dream when she founded the School of Nursing Science at the University of Moncton. She directed the school until 1971, when she left to do postgraduate studies at Boston University. She returned to the university as a professor of nursing in 1972, and in 1976 she again became its director.

Throughout her career, Mme Bouchard also participated on numerous nursing association committees at the local, national and provincial levels.



Beulah Bourns

1906-1990

Beulah Bourns, a 1929 graduate of Winnipeg General Hospital Training School, served in Korea for most of her 42 years with United Church missionary nurses. During the Second World War, she was interned and repatriated to Canada. Returning in 1948 to Severance Hospital, Seoul, she established a nurse training program that evolved into the first nursing degree program in Korea.

She is remembered for her outstanding humanitarian service: setting up milk stations, organizing baby clinics, caring for orphaned or abandoned children and assisting refugees and war casualties during the Korean conflicts. She was awarded an honorary professorship from Yonsei University, where a chapel carries her name; the Korean Presidential Medal; and an honorary life membership and Jubilee Award from her alumnae association. The ashes of the nurse Koreans called their "blue-eyed angel" are buried in Yanghwajim International Cemetery, Seoul, Korea.



Margaret Lillian Bradley

1918-2010

Mrs. Bradley became an honorary member of the Registered Nurses' Association of Nova Scotia (RNANS) in 1983, retiring in her 18th year at Dalhousie University school of nursing. She served as lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, assistant director and acting director. She spent over 30 years in nursing education and was instrumental to the success of Dalhousie's school of nursing.

Many nurses will remember her involvement in the RNANS on committees and as president from 1972 to 1974. She said the RNANS became more vocal about nursing issues, more involved with government regarding nursing and more interested in grassroots concerns. "I became involved with the RNANS because of my belief that if you wish to be a true professional, you must contribute in some way to the development of your professional association. You cannot sit back and complain about what is being done if you haven't participated in some way."



Elizabeth G. Breeze

c. 1885-1938

Elizabeth Breeze was a dynamic force in school nursing services and professional organizations in British Columbia.

A graduate of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario, Ms. Breeze continued her education at the University of California, where she obtained a certificate in public nursing.

In 1910 she started a school nursing service in Vancouver, British Columbia, and was its chief nurse and supervisor for 27 years. She also co-authored the textbook Health Essentials for Canadian Schools.

Active in her profession, Ms. Breeze became a charter member and elected president of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia. She spent her final year as director of nursing, Metropolitan Health Committee of Greater Vancouver.



Charlotte Phoebe Bryce-Brown

1879-1944

Born in Toronto, Ontario, in 1879, Ms. Bryce-Brown graduated from the Farrand Training School for Nurses, Harper Hospital, Detroit, Michigan, in 1904 and became the first school health nurse in New Westminster, British Columbia. She was instrumental in organizing the Graduate Nurses Association in 1912 and became its first president. When the Registered Nurses Act of 1918 was passed, she was the first nurse entered on the B.C. register.

She was president of the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses (CNATN), the forerunner of the Canadian Nurses Association, from 1914 to 1917. During her term Canadian Nurse was purchased and CNATN was incorporated. She also served as matron of a military hospital in Alberta with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Nursing Corps.

Like most women of her era, she retired from active nursing after marrying, but she remained active in the Victorian Order of Nurses and Red Cross for many years.



Claire Budgen

1946-2017

Dr. Claire Budgen was committed to excellence throughout her career as a nurse clinician, educator and researcher. Her unwavering dedication to the campus and community health movement defined her life and career. Prior to her death in January 2017, she was an Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing in the Faculty of Health and Social Development at the University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBC-O) Campus.

Throughout her career, Dr. Budgen provided visionary and innovative leadership in mental health, nursing education and in promoting the health and well-being of campus communities. She dedicated her work at UBC-O and Okanagan College to educating and inspiring others and was instrumental in improving the health and wellness of the Okanagan campus community through her roles as Director of Campus Health and Wellness, Principal Investigator with the Campus Health VOICE project, and most recently as Campus Lead for UBC's Wellbeing Initiative.



Phyllis Burgess

1917-1988

Phyllis Burgess was born in Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and trained as a nurse at Toronto General Hospital. She took postgraduate courses in administration at the University of Toronto's faculty of nursing and was a founding member of the Ontario Oncology Association for Health Professionals.

Ms. Burgess was concerned not only with the treatment of patients but also with the emotional needs of nurses. She pressed for psychological counseling and training programs for nurses whose patients suffered from life-threatening illnesses.

In 1957, Ms. Burgess was appointed the first director of nursing at Princess Margaret Hospital, a position she held until her retirement in 1977. That same year, she received a Civic Award of Merit from the City of Toronto for her outstanding contribution to oncology nursing and the care of cancer patients. In 1988, she was named Volunteer of the Year by the Canadian Women's Breast Cancer Foundation.



Helen Maude Carpenter

1912-2003

Helen Carpenter, dean of the faculty of nursing, University of Toronto (1962-72), began her long association with the faculty in 1945 through a joint appointment to the school of hygiene and to the East York-Leaside Department of Health. Before 1945, she held positions at an Ontario Red Cross outpost hospital, the Victorian Order of Nurses and the British Columbia Department of Health.

She was president of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1960 to 1962. With awards from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Canadian Red Cross, Helen earned a master's in public health from Johns Hopkins in 1945 and a doctorate in education from Columbia University in 1965. Later, as chair of the graduate program, she helped establish postgraduate preparation in nursing at the University of Toronto.

Her dedication to community health and teaching inspired her to write many articles on nursing education in Canada as well as a monograph that was published in 1982.



Christine Charter

1913-2012

Christine Charter's four-decade career with the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) began in 1936, at the time of the Great Depression. During World War II, as the only VON nurse in Liverpool, N.S., she helped establish an emergency "hospital" in a school that cared for crews injured by German U-boats. After transfers to Toronto (1942) and Vancouver (1944), Christine became the B.C. order's assistant director and then regional director and worked with nursing schools to ensure students received community field experience.

Among many home-nursing and home-care innovations she introduced was a program enabling quadriplegia patients to move from hospital to a home setting. To make this work, the Vancouver branch hired its first male nurse and added physiotherapy and occupational therapy to its services. After retirement, Christine served on boards and as a volunteer, especially to support programs for the homeless, until her death (age 99) in 2012.



Ann Marie Chassie

1968-2011

Ann Marie Chassie was a northern nurse, out of the University of Victoria's bachelor of science in nursing program at Aurora College (Yellowknife). She entered nursing with established health and safety interests and great life skills, which she fulfilled as a Stanton Territorial Hospital RN.

In 2011, her nursing career and life were tragically cut short in a plane crash in Resolute Bay, Nunavut. Her potential for greater achievement in nursing was not fully realized but remains unquestioned, as the recollections of colleagues and all who knew her show.

Ann Marie was a perfectionist and an inspiration to those around her. She is fondly remembered for her laughter, sense of humour, ability to put people at ease and her talent as a great storyteller. Articulate, with a strong work ethic and undying compassion, Ann Marie was a naturally caring, nurturing person, whose zest for life would have taken her far.



Annie Amelia Chesley

1858-1910

Annie Chesley was born near Toronto, Ontario, and moved to Ottawa with her parents when she was young. She began her career as a nurse after graduating from the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1895, where she remained for some time after as head nurse.

When St. Luke's General Hospital opened in Ottawa in 1898, Ms. Chesley took charge as lady superintendent, and she continued in that capacity until several months before her death. She was the first president of the Ottawa Graduate Nurses Association and, with several other nurses, was instrumental in starting the Central Registry for Nurses at Ottawa.

A woman of exceptional ability and talent, with a great power for imparting knowledge, Ms. Chesley was widely respected and loved by those in her profession.



Lynn Margaret Childs

1948-2005

It is said that leaders lead by example, and Lynn Margaret Childs paved the way for countless other nurses to follow in her footsteps. Lynn was a charismatic leader who loved nursing unequivocally.

Over her 36-year career “she moved from neurology to ICU to cardiac care, from the bedside to program development to continuing education and then to management. Along the way she helped set national standards in cardiovascular nursing, started online education for university credit and participated in setting up the clinical requirements of a celebrated telehealth initiative” (Canadian Nurse, January 2006).

Lynn was an exemplary champion for the nursing profession. She dedicated her professional life to enriching the lives of those with whom she came in contact and inspired others to aim for excellence in all aspects of their work.



Rae Chittick

1898-1992

Rae Chittick was a major influence in the advancement of nursing education and professionalism.

Born in Burgoyne, Ontario, in 1898, Ms. Chittick graduated from Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing in 1922 and later earned master's degrees in public health nursing and in education.

She was nurse and health educator at the Calgary Normal School for 25 years and president of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses from 1940 to 1942. In 1946 she was elected president of the Canadian Nurses Association and organized its incorporation. She also helped launch the first two-year basic nursing program in Canada. As director of the McGill School of Graduate Nurses from 1953 to 1963, she set up a master's program as well as a basic nursing course leading to a bachelor of science in nursing.

After retirement, Ms. Chittick worked with the World Health Organization developing nursing education programs. In 1975 she was made a member of the Order of Canada.



Patricia Courtney

1940-2004

Patricia (Paddy) Courtney was a leader in the organization of neuroscience nursing in Newfoundland and Labrador and, indeed, Canada.

As a new head nurse, Paddy worked with colleagues to establish the first and only neuroscience nursing unit in Newfoundland and Labrador. A founding member of the first provincial chapter of the Canadian Association of Neurosciences Nurses (CANN), she was subsequently elected CANN's national president. She inspired CANN colleagues to develop neuroscience nursing as the first Canadian Nurses Association certification exam, was instrumental in developing the national certification process and was one of the first nurses to be certified in Canada. Paddy also developed and taught the first provincial post-basic course in neurosciences nursing and later developed a core curriculum to serve as the foundation for a number of post-basic nursing specialty courses, another first for the province.

Patricia Courtney had many other accomplishments, but it is her significant contribution to neuroscience nursing that demonstrates her inspirational leadership.



Janet Elizabeth Cox

1946-2015

Janet made an outstanding contribution to the nursing profession by her leadership as a Clinical Research Assistant for Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colon Cancer (HNPCC). She moved such studies from the realm of clinical research to practical clinical care that benefited the lives of countless patients and their families.

She contributed significantly to the profession and health care through providing patients and the communities she served with high-quality clinical and genetic services. The model that she developed of providing comprehensive and fully integrated family-based services was the basis for the introduction of a similar program province-wide.

She was strongly committed to the profession and consistently supported initiatives to improve client outcomes especially the genetic cause to the high incidence and premature mortality from colon cancer.

Janet was a caring, compassionate professional and a team player with a winning personality and committed herself to the communities she served within Newfoundland and Labrador.



Lavinia (Vin) Crane

1923-2017

Born in Alberta, Lavinia moved to B.C. in 1936 and in 1942 joined the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (Wrens). As a member of Wrens, Vin trained as a wireless telegrapher and worked at special operations stations which were part of the larger British Bletchley Park code-breaking Enigma Program.

In 1950, after the war, Vin graduated from Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing and from the University of British Columbia (UBC) with a BSN in Public Health Nursing in 1951. She joined the provincial department of health as a public health nurse and worked in a variety of settings throughout B.C. In 1961 she completed a Master's degree in Public Health at the University of Michigan and was awarded the American Public Health and American Universities Honor Awards.

On her return to B.C., she continued her career in public health nursing as a nursing consultant for the BC Ministry of Health, Assistant Director and Provincial Director of Public Health.



Myrtle Crawford

1923-1989

Myrtle Crawford was a respected leader of Canadian nursing whose unselfish devotion to her chosen profession and her community benefited thousands of nurses and other health-care workers.

A practitioner, teacher, historian, researcher and author, Ms. Crawford's foresight and willingness to challenge tradition was counterbalanced by a steadfast determination to preserve what she deemed valuable. She shared her knowledge of nursing and her expertise in moral, ethical, legal and political issues by lecturing at conferences all over the world.

Ms. Crawford not only fulfilled obligations to her colleagues and students at the University of Saskatchewan but also served on provincial and national nursing associations. From 1963 to 1965, she was president of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association, and she held the presidency of the Canadian Nurses Foundation from 1984 to 1988. Her contribution to nursing spans international, national and provincial boundaries.



Lyle Morrison Creelman

1908-2007

Lyle Creelman's dedication to community public health and to health for all at the international level remains an inspiration today. She was a nursing consultant at the World Health Organization for four years before becoming its second chief nursing officer in 1954, a position she held until her retirement in 1968.

Lyle's international role began near the end of World War II, when she became chief nurse for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, organizing care for displaced peoples in the British zone of occupied Germany. Later, she was field director and coauthor (with J. H. Baillie) of an extensive study of public health services in Canada, which was for many years a classic reference for public health professionals.

Her many tributes include the Canadian Nurses Association's highest honour, two honorary doctorates, a Canadian Centennial Medal and a Medal of Service of the Order of Canada.



Bella Crosby

1867-1950

Bella Crosby was the first nurse editor of Canadian Nurse and an active supporter of the need for registration.

Born in Campbellford, Ontario, Ms. Crosby taught school for some years before deciding to become a nurse. She graduated from Toronto General Hospital School of Nursing in 1901 and worked in private nursing.

Ms. Crosby campaigned tirelessly for the submission of a bill to institute the registration of nurses. She was also very active in the Graduate Nurses' Association of Ontario, serving as its recording secretary from 1905 to 1906 and later as its president from 1910 to 1913.



Ethel Cryderman

-1963

Ethel Cryderman's passion for maternity care changed the approach to maternity welfare in Canada.

Miss Cryderman graduated from the school of nursing of the Toronto General Hospital. After graduation she enlisted with the Canadian Army Medical Corps and served as a nursing sister until 1919.

Following her discharge, she received her certificate in public health nursing. In 1925, after courses in midwifery and in mothercraft, she joined the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) for Canada as a national supervisor. In 1934, she was appointed director of the Toronto branch of VON.

Miss Cryderman's training in midwifery and mothercraft proved of great assistance in the expansion of VON's maternity welfare program. She gave leadership to several maternity institutes in various parts of Canada.

Ethel Cryderman was president of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1948 to 1950.



Luella Euphemia Denton

1888-1938

Luella Denton was renowned for her compassion and diligence in the Red Cross during World War I and was awarded the Order of the British Empire.

Born in 1888 in Owen Sound, Ontario, Ms. Denton graduated from the University of Michigan Hospital in 1915. She volunteered for nursing service in World War I and served overseas until the end of the war, when she was decorated with the Royal Red Cross for distinguished service. After the war, she continued her work with the Red Cross, serving at several outpost hospitals in Saskatchewan.

In 1935, in recognition of her service to humanity, King George V conferred on Ms. Denton the highest honour then obtainable by women – the Order of the British Empire.

In 1926 she became matron of the Lady Grey Hospital, Nipawin, Saskatchewan, where she served with “unselfish devotion” for 12 years.



Edith Rainsford Dick

1906-1978

Edith Rainsford Dick has been credited with improving every aspect of nursing education throughout her career. She also worked to improve work conditions for nurses, including shorter hours.

Ms. Dick graduated from the Johns Hopkins Training School for Nurses in Baltimore in 1930. In 1941, she was charged with nursing services at the Toronto Military Hospital. That same year, she was appointed assistant to the matron-in-chief of the Royal Canadian Medical Army Corps.

Ms. Dick later became director of the Nurses' Registration Branch at the Ontario Department of Health. Even after retiring from that position in 1964, she continued to work as a nurse.

She was awarded the Royal Red Cross (first class) at Buckingham Palace in 1948. The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario awarded her with an honorary life membership in 1965.



Edith MacPherson Dickson

c. 1876-1966

Edith MacPherson was president of the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses (CNATN), the predecessor of the Canadian Nurses Association, from 1920 to 1922. In that role, she focused on issues related to the education of nurses and studied the impact of state medicine on nursing.

At the time of her appointment to the CNATN, she was assistant superintendent and lady superintendent at the Hospital for Consumptives in Weston, Ontario.

Ms. MacPherson graduated from the Toronto General Training School in 1905.

Edith MacPherson's contribution to nursing was recognized in 1936 when she was awarded the Mary Agnes Snively Memorial Medal. In 1958, she received honorary membership of the Canadian Nurses Association.



Kay Dier

1922-2018

Over her nursing career, Kathleen (Kay) Dier served in Canada and abroad in a wide range of nursing leadership positions including staff nurse, associate dean, and consultant. Kay established the nursing station in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, and in 1973, established an early nurse practitioner program at the University of Alberta, in collaboration with medical colleagues. She worked as a senior nurse advisor and consultant with the World Health Organization in various countries. The common theme evident in her contributions was her interest in the most vulnerable members of society, including older adults and people in the Canadian North and internationally. Many nursing education programs around the world (in Pakistan, Thailand, India, and Ghana) can credit their existence and strength to the contributions of Kay Dier. Furthermore, her contributions as an academic leader at the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta were exemplary and transformational.



Dorothy Doan

1915-2006

Dorothy Doan was a nurse of courage and leadership who consistently performed beyond the call of duty.

She nursed during World War II in Cape Town, South Africa, and in Cairo. A pragmatic and spirited leader, she often said, "There was a job to do, and so we did it." After the war, she worked as assistant superintendent and then superintendent at Strathroy.

Completing a nursing service administration degree at the University of Toronto in 1956 and certification in hospital organizational management in 1959, Ms. Doan became one of the first women in Canada to attain a fellowship in the American College of Hospital Administrators. Her pioneering leadership in a health-care world dominated by men helped change the perception of nursing at the time and inspired many generations of nurse leaders.

She was a member emeritus of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. In 1992, Ms. Doan was awarded the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada Medal.



Dr. Beverly Witter Du Gas

1923-2012

Few Canadian nurses have graduated without consulting one or more nursing textbooks authored by Dr. Beverly Witter Du Gas. Introduction to Patient Care has been translated into six languages and adopted in more than 40 countries.

This distinguished nursing leader contributed to the advancement of nursing in both theory and practice. She pioneered educational programs and introduced innovative teaching methods. She held senior postings at Health and Welfare Canada and the World Health Organization. She also consulted extensively in other countries including India, China and Korea.

Dr. Du Gas was a teacher and director for the University of Ottawa's school of nursing as well as acting associate dean at the faculty of health sciences. She was also the founding president of the B.C. History of Nursing Society. Dr. Du Gas received the Order of British Columbia in 2000 and the Order of Canada the following year. Her influence will be evident for many years to come.



Eunice H. Dyke

1883-1969

Eunice H. Dyke was a pioneer in public health and geriatric care and in relating nursing to the services of other health workers at the community level.

As director of the Division of Public Health Nursing at the Department of Public Health in Toronto from 1911 to 1935, she creatively developed and evolved the role of the public health nurse into the prototype that is the foundation of public health nursing today. In 1917, the department was recognized as the world leader in public health and public health nursing practice.

She was one of the first to recognize the need for knowledge and skills related to aging and the problems of elderly people.

A graduate of the Johns Hopkins School for Nurses in Baltimore (1909), Ms. Dyke founded the Public Health Nurses Association in 1913 and became an active member of the Canadian Nurses Association in 1917. In 1937, she founded the Second Mile Club in Toronto.



Charlotte E. Eastwood

c. 1875-1933

Charlotte Eastwood, a leader in nursing professionalism, drafted the first Nurses Act in 1905 and succeeded in having it tabled in the House of Commons before women even had the right to vote.

Ms. Eastwood graduated from the School of Nursing at Bellevue Hospital, New York, and worked as a visiting nurse in Chicago. In 1898 she became the first superintendent of the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), Toronto Branch, and established a training school for graduate nurses. She was acting superintendent for VON Canada for one year and retired from the Toronto branch in 1913.

Ms. Eastwood wrote numerous articles in Canadian Nurse in support of registration and the setting of nursing standards. She was also a charter member, and one-term president, of the Graduate Nurses' Association of Ontario. She chaired its legislation committee and used her powerful negotiation skills to guide the Ontario Nurses Act through two readings until it was passed in 1922.



Christine Egan

1946-2001

Dr. Christine Egan spent most of her life as a nurse practitioner and researcher engaged with life in the Canadian north and its Inuit and First Nation people in Nunavut and Manitoba.

She believed in professional education and pursued studies that led to a doctorate in 1999. Interest in potential health risks subsequent to contamination in the Arctic food chain led to research in the areas of Inuit understanding of the benefits of traditional foods and women's perceptions of contaminants. She listened closely, involved Inuit women and shifted her focus toward documenting their pressing concerns about pollution in the form of drugs and alcohol and their sociocultural impact. She explored ways to expand educational opportunities to attract and retain nurses in the north to improve health care to communities. Dr. Egan actively promoted the provision of nursing education in the north and supported Inuit studying nursing in Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.



Mary Lou Ellerton

1946-2003

Mary Lou Ellerton was a powerful force in the advancement of nursing in Nova Scotia and a renowned leader in pediatric health care, nursing education and research. As a member of the faculty of Dalhousie University's school of nursing, she was dedicated to fostering excellence in clinical teaching and nursing research. Among her accomplishments, Mary Lou co-authored Nunavut Arctic College's BScN program, participated in 20 research studies related to pediatrics and the evaluation of nursing programs, published 36 articles and presented at regional, national and international conferences.

Mary Lou's commitment was further demonstrated through her involvement as a member of the college's governing body (1986-88) and the Professional Conduct Committee (1999 until her death in August 2003). Mary Lou epitomized the values of self-regulation and was known for her insight and determination to enhance the competence of registered nurses. Overall, Mary Lou Ellerton raised the bar for excellence in nursing.



Kathleen W. Ellis

c. 1900-1968

Kathleen Ellis, founder of the University of Saskatchewan School of Nursing in 1938 and its director for twelve years, was a well-known nursing educator and leader.

After graduating from Johns Hopkins Hospital and Columbia University, Ms. Ellis became a nursing instructor in Saskatchewan. As founder and director of the University of Saskatchewan School of Nursing, she worked diligently to advance the profession at both the national and provincial levels. In 1943, the Canadian Nurses Association appointed Ms. Ellis director of its survey of nursing, part of the National Health Survey. Ms. Ellis also worked as registrar for the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association during the 1940s.

From 1943 to 1944, Ms. Ellis was general secretary (executive director) of the Canadian Nurses Association. She retired in 1950.



Florence H. M. Emory

1889-1987

Born in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Florence Emory was a respected teacher and author whose work influenced the development of public health nursing in Canada and throughout the world.

Author of the textbook Public Health Nursing in Canada, Ms. Emory dedicated much of her time to the community. She was elected first president of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario in 1927 and served as the president of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1930 to 1934. Through her long-standing involvement with the Canadian Public Health Association and the International Council of Nurses (ICN), she helped nursing groups in developing countries join ICN.

Ms. Emory considered it a privilege to contribute to the fields of education, health and welfare. In 1953, she was awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal by the International Committee of the Red Cross – the highest international award for nurses.



Margaret Ethier

1943-2017

Margaret Ethier was a union activist and tireless advocate for nurses. Her strong leadership was instrumental during the tumultuous, strike-filled years of the 1980s. During her time as North Central District Representative and later President of the United Nurses of Alberta (UNA), Margaret led Alberta's nurses through many strikes and intense negotiations. Margaret was a relentless bargainer. Her passion and determination led to many fruitful agreements with significant pay increases and contract improvements. Alberta's nurses owe much of what they have today to Margaret's unwavering dedication and courageous leadership.

Margaret Ethier is remembered as a tough and courageous leader. She was a North Central District Representative for the United Nurses of Alberta (UNA) in April 1980 when 6,400 nurses walked off the job in a legal strike at 79 Alberta hospitals to seek significant pay increases and improved scheduling provisions. They were ordered back to work three days later by the Alberta cabinet, but remained on strike while they challenged the order in court. An agreement was reached that included a pay increase of 39.8 per cent in addition to more than 50 contract improvements.



Grace Mitchell Fairley

1882-1969

Grace Mitchell Fairley was a leader in Canadian nursing. She held leadership roles in three provinces and lobbied and implemented a number of progressive changes to nursing education during the Great Depression.

Ms. Fairley became director of nursing at the school of nursing of the Vancouver General Hospital in 1929 and held that position until her retirement in 1943. During her tenure, Ms. Fairley improved the education of nurses. She was determined to make her school an educational centre second to none in Canada.

She was president of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1938 to 1942, third vice-president of the International Council of Nurses and vice-president of the American Hospital Association.

In 1942, she was presented with the Mary Agnes Snively Memorial Medal by the Canadian Nurses Association. In 1949, she was awarded the Centennial Medal.



Nettie Douglas Fidler

1894-1973

Nettie Douglas Fidler was born in Montreal in 1894. She graduated from the Toronto General Hospital in Toronto in 1919.

During her career, she was director of nursing at the Toronto Psychiatric Hospital and the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital as well as a faculty member at the school of nursing in Toronto.

In 1939, she received a travelling scholarship from the Rockefeller Foundation and spent four months in England and Europe. From 1945 to 1949, Ms. Fidler was the president of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario. Following this, she became director of the Demonstration School in Windsor and then director of the school of nursing at the University of Toronto.

She was appointed to the Dominion Council of Health in 1952 and received honorary life membership of the Canadian Nurses Association in 1962.



Joan Fitzgerald

1920-2013

Colonel Joan Fitzgerald graduated from the Halifax Infirmary School of Nursing in 1941. In 1942 she joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps as Lt. and served in Newfoundland, England, Italy and Belgium during WW2. Joan was trained as a flight nurse with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Korean War 1950-1953, rescuing the wounded from the combat zone via air evacuation.

Joan was involved in restoring the health of prisoners of war and returning them to Canada. In 1968 she was promoted to Lt. Colonel and became Matron-in-Chief of Canadian Forces Medical System. She modernized nursing staff education and the caring of military patients Canada wide. In 1973 Joan was the first military woman to graduate from the National Defence College and the first woman to travel with the College team on lecture tours. In 1972 Joan was promoted to Colonel becoming Canadian Forces Director of Nurses until retirement in 1976. Joan died at age 93 after a brief illness.



Dr. Josephine Flaherty

1934-2015

Dr. Josephine Flaherty is widely recognized in the nursing community as one of its strongest leaders and enduring role models. At age three, she already knew she would be a nurse.

With a degree in nursing from the University of Toronto, Dr. Flaherty joined the Ontario Red Cross, first at an outpost in northern Ontario and later in a research position at St. Michael's Hospital. Then, armed with a master's and PhD, she held teaching and executive positions at several nursing schools, including four years as dean of nursing at the University of Western Ontario. She was also Canada's first principal nursing officer.

A fierce advocate, Dr. Flaherty boldly asserted that every nurse is a leader – from the bedside to the boardroom. She is remembered vividly for inspirational leadership and her devotion to nursing practice and education. She passed away on May 24, 2015, at age 81.



Elisabeth Grace Flaws

c. 1880-1926

Elisabeth Flaws was renowned for her keen and active interest in raising and advancing the standards of the nursing profession.

After graduating from the Toronto General Hospital, Ms. Flaws worked as a supervisor at an Ohio hospital and a superintendent in Kingston, Ontario, and Michigan. During her time in Michigan, she was president of the State Board for Nurses – likely the only foreign citizen ever to hold the position. In 1912 she returned to Canada as superintendent of the Wellesley Hospital in Toronto, where her earnest work, intelligence and gracious personality contributed substantially to the hospital's success. She was secretary to the Canadian Division of the Red Cross during World War I.

Ms. Flaws held executive positions in several professional organizations. She was president of the Canadian Association of Nursing Education and its representative on the Rockefeller Committee.



Mae Gallant

1959-2006

Mae Gallant, a faculty member at the University of Prince Edward Island School of Nursing and a doctoral candidate at McGill University School of Nursing, had a diverse and accomplished nursing career.

Professor Gallant demonstrated excellence in nursing education, research, administration and practice, with a focus on promoting teaching and building a program of research. Through her teaching, Professor Gallant promoted a vision of an independent and collaborative role for nurses supported by strong assessment skills, critical thinking and evidence-based practice. She was involved in a number of research projects, including a national study investigating the costs and outcomes of nurses' turnover. Her doctoral work was investigating the nurse-client partnership.

Professor Gallant demonstrated strong leadership while serving as nurse manager at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. She received the Exceptional Service Award from the provincial Heart and Stroke Foundation and served on the Canadian Nursing Advisory Committee on the Quality of Nurses' Worklife.



Jerry Gerow

1919-2016

Jerry Gerow was eight when she decided to be a nurse. In 1941, after graduating from the Belleville Hospital school of nursing, her career began with caring for airmen at the RCAF in Trenton, Ontario and, during the Second World War, in Goose Bay, Labrador.

After the war, Ms. Gerow earned University of Toronto diplomas in public health nursing (1947) and in public health nursing, administration and supervision (1951). In her early fifties, she returned to complete the U of T nurse practitioner program.

Over the next 35 years, Ms. Gerow was a tireless leader and advocate for nurse practitioners, becoming a founding member of the Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario and serving on its executive for two decades.

In 2005, NPAO honoured her with its Lifetime Achievement Award and established the Jerry Gerow Nurse Practitioner Leadership Award for contributions to the profession as a pioneer. In 2012, she was given the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.



Joan Gilchrist

1928-2020

Former CNA president (1976-1978)

Joan was a force of nature in the nursing world. After functioning as a staff nurse in Toronto, Victoria, and Juno, Alaska, she returned to her alma mater, the School of Nursing at Wellesley Hospital in Toronto as head nurse and instructor. In 1956, she became nursing supervisor at Mount Sinai. It was clear she was headed for major administrative responsibility, and in 1959 she became director of nursing and principal of the School of Nursing at Jewish General Hospital in Montreal. She later went on to become assistant professor of nursing at McGill University and then was promoted to Flora Madeline Shaw Chair as full professor of nursing. In 1983, she went on to become the dean of the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Western Ontario. Her activities within the community of nursing in Canada were no less distinguished, culminating in her presidency of CNA.



Alice M. Girard

1907-1999

Alice Girard spent her career focused on nursing education and the evaluation of schools of nursing.

Ms. Girard graduated from L'Hôpital St. Vincent de Paul in 1931. She obtained a BScN from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and then a master's degree from Columbia University in New York.

In 1962, Ms. Girard became a professor at the University of Montreal's faculty of nursing. She was named dean of nursing at that university in 1972, and in 1975 she became the dean of science.

Alice Girard served as president of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1958 to 1960 and as president of the International Council of Nursing from 1965 to 1969.

Ms. Girard was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1968. She was also awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal.



Dr. Helen Preston Glass

1917-2015

Dr. Helen Preston Glass was a nurse educator, administrator and innovator who inspired nurses to expand their roles and help transform the health system in the interest of Canadians.

Dr. Glass lent her expertise to developing new policies and nursing education programs as the concept of health care shifted from institutional care to community-based health promotion strategies. As president of the Canadian Nurses Association (1982-1984) she had a great influence on the wording and scope of the Canada Health Act.

A tireless advocate for advanced nursing education, nursing research and a larger role for nurses in primary health care, Dr. Glass led the formation of the University of Manitoba graduate program and the Manitoba Nursing Research Institute.

Her many awards include the Order of Canada (O.C.), five honorary doctorates and the Jeanne Mance Award. Dr. Glass earned her RN designation in 1939 and held master's and doctoral degrees in education from Columbia University.



Jean Cuthand Goodwill

1928-1997

The contributions of Canadian Cree nurse Jean Cuthand Goodwill are documented in Wikipedia. In 1954, she became Saskatchewan's first Aboriginal woman to complete a nursing program and to serve as special advisor to Canada's minister of health and welfare.

Goodwill grew up on the Little Pine First Nation in Saskatchewan. Her nursing ambition was born at the Prince Albert Sanatorium, where she spent three years recovering from tuberculosis. A graduate of the Holy Family Hospital nursing program, she first worked in rural Saskatchewan, responding to emergencies via bush plane or dog team, and later in Bermuda.

In 1983, Goodwill helped establish the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada, serving as its first president. She taught Indian health studies at the First Nations University of Canada and helped to create a Native access to nursing program at the University of Saskatchewan. A genuine nursing pioneer, Goodwill was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1992.



Eleanor Scott Graham

1914-1978

Eleanor Scott Graham graduated from the University of British Columbia and Vancouver General School of Nursing in 1936. In 1945, she obtained a master of science degree from the University of Chicago.

After years as a staff nurse and senior nurse, she served as second assistant to the Victorian Order of Nurses in Ottawa and as a nursing instructor at the Metropolitan School of Nursing in Windsor. She became director of nursing at the Royal Columbian Hospital in 1949 and stayed in that role until 1953.

That year, Ms. Graham became the regional nursing adviser for the World Health Organization in southeast Asia. She worked from the New Delhi office to plan World Health Organization projects in the countries of southeast Asia.

In 1959, Ms. Graham began her tenure at the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia. A year later, she was named executive director. She retired in 1970.



Karen Ann Graham

1949-2015

Karen Ann Graham wrote, "Northern nursing has been a most rewarding career. . . . northern nurses can combine clinical expertise in primary care with knowledge of family and community which gives them a unique opportunity to offer primary health care in a truly holistic way."

That she did and more. In her 45-year career, Karen furthered the profession by advancing nursing education for northern nurses, first in professional development and later by creating a master's program for nurse practitioners in primary health care. When funding was cancelled in 2015, she forged ahead, building a rural and remote advanced nursing program, which has grown posthumously into a blend of distance learning and on-site delivery.

Karen put her stamp on the profession by being an inspirational teacher, a mentor to many and an exceptional leader in the development of rural and remote nursing education and advanced practice nursing.



Mabel Gray

1880-1976

Mabel Gray, a distinguished professor and head of nursing at the University of British Columbia, was acting president of the Canadian Nurses Association 1927 to 1928.

Born in Brampton, Ontario, Miss Gray taught school before enrolling in nursing at Winnipeg General Hospital in 1902. She remained at the school as an instructor, assistant superintendent and, in 1914, superintendent and principal. She studied in Boston in 1919, then returned to Regina, where she organized a course for nursing housekeepers and became registrar of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association.

As assistant professor and head of nursing at the University of British Columbia from 1925 to 1941, Miss Gray was instrumental in keeping the school going during the Depression. She was elected vice-president of the Canadian Nurses Association and was its president in 1927. Miss Gray was also president of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia from 1933 to 1939. She retired in 1941.



Monica Frith Green

1917-2004

Monica Frith Green was one of British Columbia's most distinguished and honoured public health nurses.

In 1948 she became director of the provincial Public Health Nursing Service. Under her gifted administrative skills, the nursing service expanded, and she introduced, among other advances, a post-hospitalization home care program, one of the first in Canada. She held the director's position until 1975.

Throughout her career, Monica was active in professional associations and was, among other positions, president of the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA). After retirement, she wrote the thoroughly researched and well-illustrated Through the Years With Public Health Nursing: A History of Public Health Nursing in the Provincial Government Jurisdiction British Columbia, now a classic reference book.

Monica leaves a lasting legacy: her outstanding service and writings and her generous endowments to health care, nursing history and nursing scholarships.



Patricia Lynne Griffin

1945-2007

Pat Griffin, PhD MHA BSc (Nurs Ed) RN, was a vivacious, inspiring, lifelong nurse leader whose career was a rich mix of clinical practice, education, research, administration and policy, from institutional to international levels. Pat held a powerful mission and vision around the importance of nursing education and research to practise. She was a vociferous advocate who strove to put nursing students, educators and scientists in the minds and hearts of policy decision-makers. Among many leadership positions, Pat was a director at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, senior nursing policy consultant in the federal Office of Nursing Policy, and executive director of the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing. She was the driving force behind establishing the Consortium for Nursing Research and Innovation, and in the final year of her life, she energetically led a major project to improve culturally sensitive nursing education and retention of aboriginal nurses.



Jean I. Gunn

1882-1941

Jean Gunn's nursing career included several key institutional roles and numerous years of service to the Canadian Red Cross during and after the First World War.

A graduate of Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in New York, Jean Gunn began her career as a staff nurse. She became superintendent of nurses at the Toronto General Hospital in 1913 and stayed there until her retirement in 1935.

With the Red Cross, Ms. Gunn helped enlist nurses for service in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1914, was a member of the executive of the Ontario Division from 1918 to 1927 and became an honorary adviser in 1928.

Despite her busy professional career and her association work, Jean Gunn served as president of the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses (the Canadian Nurses Association's predecessor) from 1917 to 1920.



Betty Hailstone

1927-2007

A registered nurse "first, last and always," Betty Hailstone leaves a legacy of excellence in health-care service and nursing leadership. Her innovation, organization and advocacy excelled in nursing administration. For four decades she projected a persuasive voice for the knowledge, skills and abilities of registered nurses.

Ms. Hailstone participated in the Regina Catholic Nurses Association, VON Home Care Advisory Committee, Catholic Health Council of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Health Care Association, Saskatchewan Association of Health Service Executives and the Canadian Association of Health Care Associations. She was also a founding member of the Regina Palliative Care Inc. As chair of the provincial Nursing Task Force on Computers in Nursing, Ms. Hailstone aided the introduction of the nursing information system of Saskatchewan. This tool improved nurses' work with planning, monitoring and evaluating patient care. She was a committee member, president-elect, president and past-president with the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association and served on the Canadian Nurses Association Board of Directors.



Gertrude M. Hall

-1960

Gertrude Hall's nursing career contributed to the advancement of nursing education in Manitoba and across Canada.

As a young public health nurse in Manitoba, Miss Hall was in charge of health services in Portage la Prairie and taught health education in the Winnipeg Normal School. From 1931 to 1935, she worked as supervisor in Manitoba's department of health, where she organized various health services, surveyed nursing homes and developed a nursing manual.

Before Miss Hall's appointment as general secretary to the Canadian Nurses Association in 1944, she served for four years as executive secretary and school of nursing adviser for the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses.

Her appointment as director of nursing at the Calgary General Hospital in 1952 gave her the opportunity to put her ideas about nursing education into action.



Bertha Harmer

c. 1890-1934

Bertha Harmer's enthusiasm, thoroughness and intelligence made her a leader in nursing education in the United States and Canada.

After graduating from the School of Nursing at the Toronto General Hospital in 1913, Ms. Harmer spent two years working and learning about various aspects of her profession. She then went to Columbia University and earned her BSc and MA.

In 1918 she became an instructor at Vassar College Training Camp, preparing nurses for World War I. After the war, she instructed at the school of nursing at a New York City Hospital. In 1923 she was appointed assistant professor at Yale University School of Nursing and assistant in administration at New Haven Hospital.

Ms. Harmer returned to Canada in 1929 as director, School for Graduate Nurses, McGill University. Ms. Harmer's most enduring contribution to nursing is her classic textbook Principles and Practice of Nursing.



Dr. Lee Anne Harper - Femson

1957-2010

Dr. Lee Anne Harper-Femson was a devoted registered nurse and an award-winning educator whose contributions to the nursing profession involved quality improvement, staff development, education and mentorship.

Her interest in teaching and mentoring developed as her career progressed, from positions as a critical care staff nurse and a coordinator of staff development and education to senior roles in quality improvement, risk management and education for major Toronto hospitals.

After completing a doctorate of education at the University of Toronto, Dr. Harper-Femson returned to her alma mater, Ryerson University, to teach nursing students. Among her teaching interests were adult learning, leadership development, professionalism, theoretical models, research and risk management.

Her efforts as a fourth-year lead teacher in the Ryerson-Centennial-George Brown bachelor of science in nursing collaborative program were recognized by the Lambda Pi-at-Large chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, who awarded Dr. Harper-Femson the Gail J. Donner Award for Excellence in Nursing Education.



Lyna Hart

1954-2015

A prominent member of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, Winnipeg's Indigenous community, Lyna Hart made a lasting contribution as a residential school survivor, a registered nurse and a community activist who advocated tirelessly for Indigenous rights.

At age four, she was sent to live at the Guy Hill Indian Residential School in The Pas. Her experience as a survivor was retold in the gripping 2012 documentary We Were Children. Helping others became her life's work. She trained as a nurse and administered various Indigenous health-care programs with the Southeast Resource Development Council.

Lyna died in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in January 2015, at age 60. As reported in the Winnipeg Free Press, she will long be remembered as a "woman whose footsteps traced a map from the shameful history of residential school to the American Indian political rights movement of the 1970s and the vibrant indigenous cultural renaissance that followed it."



Satinder Kaur Ahluwalia (Sindi) Hawkins

1958-2010

Sindi Hawkins was a graduate of the school of nursing of Foothills Hospital and the University of Calgary. After several years as a general duty nurse, she became a lawyer and a politician, making her most significant contributions to nursing in her role as a politician (1996-2009).

Ms. Hawkins was responsible for providing nursing with a voice at senior government tables as well as directing millions of dollars toward initiatives to recruit, retain and educate nurses. In her role as minister of health planning in B.C., she moved forward key legislation on entry to practice for registered nursing and was instrumental in establishing the nurse practitioner role in the province.

Her work in advocating for improved cancer care and research is credited with raising nearly \$3 million for the BC Cancer Foundation and over \$20 million for cancer research and care in B.C.



Phyllis Irene Hempel

1952-2010

Phyllis Hempel graduated from Royal Alexandra Hospital in 1973 and earned a baccalaureate in nursing from the University of Alberta in 1983. She was an inspiring, committed advocate for excellence in geriatrics and long-term care. Her leadership, advocacy and zest for education and research made her a role model for colleagues and a valued partner for stakeholders.

Chief nursing officer of a regional health authority in Alberta, and chief executive officer of the largest public sector operator of continuing care services, Ms. Hempel led with passion and integrity. Her work resulted in province-wide improvements in long-term care and improved research capacity in her chosen area of nursing practice. A consummate professional, Ms. Hempel personified honesty and common sense. Throughout her career, she demonstrated what can be achieved within health care when there is visionary and resolute leadership, proactive mentoring and a firm commitment to evidence-based decision-making.



Mabel F. Hersey

1872-1943

Mabel Hersey was recognized by peers and students as a great proponent of nursing education.

Miss Hersey graduated from the school of nursing of the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1905. Three years later, she became superintendent of nurses at the same hospital, a position she held for 30 years. During her tenure, student enrollment increased, and new teaching methods and increased curriculum content aligned the school with modern conceptions of nursing education. Miss Hersey also helped establish the School for Graduate Nurses at McGill University.

She was president of her alumnae association, the Association of Registered Nurses of the Province of Quebec and, from 1928 to 1930, the Canadian Nurses Association.

She received the Order of the British Empire and the Mary Agnes Snively Memorial Medal for her outstanding service to nursing. In 1938, she received an honorary doctor of laws degree from McGill University.



Isabelle Maud Hill

1871-1936

Isabelle Maud Hill was a pioneer nurse with the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) in Vancouver, British Columbia, and the province's first occupational health nurse.

Born in Hillsborough, Ontario, Ms. Hill graduated from the Hamilton General Hospital and took VON training in Montreal. She was specially chosen as the first and only VON nurse in Vancouver in 1901. In her general practice, she taught mothers how to provide healthy households and persuaded them to stop using opiates for crying babies. In 1905 she became the province's first occupational health nurse at the Britannia Mining Company in Howe Sound, providing care to employees and their families.

Her nursing and organizational abilities were sought as matron of community hospitals in Sumas, Washington, and Port Alberni, British Columbia. In 1911 she opened the province's first private hospital, in New Westminster, and in 1917 she helped open Shaughnessy Hospital.



Evelyn Hood

1912-1999

In 1940, Evelyn Hood attended the University of Washington to complete a public health nursing diploma. Evelyn returned to Vancouver in 1946 and worked as a public health nurse until she joined the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (RNABC) in 1951. Miss Hood assumed the labour relations work for RNABC, which was at that time the certified bargaining agent for 1,200 B.C. nurses. Evelyn Hood served as an adviser and consultant for other provincial associations.

In 1966, Evelyn was appointed to the Canadian Nurses Association Committee on Social and Economic Welfare and began a two-year term as its chairperson. She was active on both the provincial and national fields in labour relations until her retirement in June 1970. She focused her work on improving salaries and working conditions for nurses.

Evelyn Hood received the first-ever RNABC Award of Merit in 1972, which recognized her stellar contribution to nursing's labour relations.



Lorna Horwood

1908-1996

Lorna Horwood began a long and distinguished career in psychiatric and public health nursing in Ontario. Early in her career she recognized the need for additional education in nursing, completing a certificate course in psychiatric nursing before going on to obtain undergraduate and graduate degrees. As a professor of nursing at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, she taught mental health and public health nursing principles to undergraduate nursing and medical students.

Horwood served the World Health Organization for twelve years, first in Taipei, China, where she was senior adviser in Public Health Nursing for eight years, and later in Bangkok, Thailand, for four years.

On her return to Canada, Horwood had several advisory positions with the provincial government in Vernon, B.C., and with the federal government in the Canadian Arctic.

Horwood retired to her home, "Ho-Lo-Na," near Nanoose Bay, B.C., where she lived happily for 20 years.



Arlee Hoyt-McGee

1932-2003

Arlee Hoyt-McGee was a strong advocate for patients' rights and the preservation of nursing history. In 1981, she published the first book on patient rights in New Brunswick, and in 1990, she founded the Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB) Nursing History Resource Centre, a repository of artifacts and archival material that capture the legacy of New Brunswick nurses. Her research on nursing history has been widely published.

The recipient of many certificates and awards, Arlee was named honorary president of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing in 2000 and received an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of New Brunswick, Saint John campus in 1997. The NANB nurses' window was named the Arlee Hoyt-McGee Nurses' Window in recognition of her work in preserving nursing history.

"Knowledge of nursing history makes a difference in how nursing is understood" is how Arlee Hoyt-McGee summarized her passion and drive for her work.



Trenna Grace Hunter

1906-1996

Trenna Grace Hunter had a successful career in teaching and nursing.

Before graduating with an RN diploma from Vancouver General Hospital in 1939, Ms. Hunter spent 13 years teaching in one-room rural schools in Alberta. In 1940, she received her certificate in public health nursing from the University of British Columbia's School of Nursing.

In 1942, Ms. Hunter was put in charge of health services for the Japanese people interned at Hastings Park. In 1944, she received her BASc(N) from the University of British Columbia's School of Nursing. She was then appointed director of nursing, Metropolitan Health Services, where she stayed until her retirement in 1966.

After nine years serving as third, second and first vice-president of the Canadian Nurses Association, Ms. Hunter became president of the association from 1956 to 1958. During her term, she led the Canadian delegation to the International Congress of Nursing in Rome.



Ella J. Jamieson

c. 1885-1939

Ella Jamieson was an innovator in school nursing services and an influential proponent of registration for nurses in Ontario.

Ms. Jamieson graduated from the School of Nursing at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and in 1910 she became one of the first school nurses for the Toronto Board of Education. In 1919 she conducted surveys of rural schools for the Department of Education and was then appointed the province's chief school nurse.

Ms. Jamieson was the first Canadian to receive a Rockefeller Foundation travelling scholarship. Her visits to health organizations in the United States led to an exchange of ideas and information between the two countries.

While president of the Graduate Nurses' Association of Ontario from 1919 to 1923, she worked to secure registration for nurses. The Nurses Act was passed in 1922. Ms. Jamieson was a signatory and a first director of the re-organized Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.



Ethel Mary Johns

1879-1968

Born in England, Ms. Johns graduated from Winnipeg General Hospital in 1911 and studied at Columbia University. In 1914 she became nursing superintendent at the Children's Hospital of Winnipeg. By 1919 she was in charge of the new department of nursing at the University of British Columbia - the first in the British empire to offer a baccalaureate degree in nursing. In 1925, she left to serve the Rockefeller Foundation in the United States and Europe.

In 1933 she became editor and business manager of Canadian Nurse, which flourished under her leadership. In 1944 she retired from the journal and published the "Just Plain Nursing" pamphlets and two books, The History of the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing 1889-1949 and History of the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing 1887-1953.

In 1958 she became an honorary life member of the Canadian Nurses Association.



Margaret Etta Archibald Johnson

1871 -1929

Margaret Etta Archibald Johnson was an early nursing entrepreneur and avid advocate of registration for nurses and standards for hospitals and nursing. She was active in the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses (later the Canadian Nurses Association), serving on its board and main committees and always championing standards for nurses and for hospitals. A founding member of the B.C. Hospital Association in 1918, she was also active in the early days of the Canadian Hospital Association, speaking out vigorously on behalf of nursing and on standards for small hospitals and ensuring that nursing had a voice in hospital administration at the national level.

Mrs. Johnson helped elevate standards of nursing, hospitals and training schools in B.C., and she advocated at Canadian nursing and hospital associations for similar standards nationally – leading to the report of the Survey of Nursing Education in Canada by G. M. Weir.



Hazel Bernice Keeler

c. 1910-1971

Hazel Keeler was renowned for her expertise and leadership in nursing education in Saskatchewan and Canada.

Born in Lang, Saskatchewan, Ms. Keeler received her basic nursing at Vancouver General Hospital and obtained her bachelor's degree at the University of Saskatchewan. After earning a master's degree from Columbia University, she went on to become director of the School of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan for nearly 20 years, from 1950 to 1969. Ms. Keeler was part of a steering committee to coordinate and plan the centralized teaching program for schools of nursing. This plan was implemented in 1953. She also inaugurated a three-year diploma course in Saskatchewan in 1954, and participated on the educational policy committee that set curriculum and standards for students.

She was second vice-president of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1960 to 1962 and chair of the Canadian Nurses Association Committee on Nursing Education.



Catherine W. Keith

1919-1993

After receiving basic nursing education in Campbellton, New Brunswick, Miss Keith served with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps during World War II. She earned a bachelor of nursing from McGill University and a master of science in nursing and a certificate in nurse-midwifery from Columbia University.

From 1950 until 1976 she worked for the Medical Services Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, in roles ranging from outpost nurse to director of hospital nursing services.

Miss Keith devoted her spare time to establishing standards and legislation for nursing. In 1975, the Northwest Territories' Legislative Assembly passed an ordinance respecting the nursing profession. The standards of care were accepted by the Canadian Nurses Association and the Northwest Territories Registered Nurses Association (NWTRNA) joined the national association. In recognition of her leadership, Miss Keith became an honorary life member of the NWTRNA in 1978.



Nan Kennedy

1914-1996

Nan Kennedy influenced nursing in Canada and abroad over the course of her 43-year nursing career.

After spending years as a staff nurse and public health nurse in British Columbia, Ms. Kennedy became a public health nursing consultant with the World Health Organization in East Pakistan and Iran.

She obtained her master's degree in nursing from the University of Washington in Seattle before joining the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (RNABC) as the director of education services. She was appointed executive director in 1970. During her eight years as executive director, Ms. Kennedy oversaw a period of unprecedented change for the association: the number of B.C. nurses and of RNABC staff doubled, basic nursing education began moving away from hospitals to education institutions, and province-wide collective bargaining for nurses was initiated.

In 1978, Ms. Kennedy received the RNABC Award of Merit as recognition for her contributions to nursing.



Dorothy Jean Kergin

1928-1989

Dorothy Kergin played an outstanding role in the development of nursing and health-care programs in Canada and other countries.

She began her career as a public health nurse in British Columbia and worked as a university lecturer and professor in Canada and the United States before becoming director of the School of Nursing at the University of Victoria. Her expertise as a nursing adviser and consultant led her to assignments in Pakistan and Malawi.

Ms. Kergin was also an active member of many nursing and community organizations. She served as president of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing, and vice-president, Canada, of the American Public Health Association. She received numerous accolades during her career, including the Jeanne Mance Award from the Canadian Nurses Association and the Ethel Johns Award from the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing.



Margaret E. Kerr

1900-1976

During the 21 years Margaret Kerr served as editor of Canadian Nurse, the journal grew in size, circulation and influence. Believing that all registered nurses in Canada should receive the journal, Kerr was the driving force behind linking subscriptions and registration fees.

Born in Amherst, Ontario, Kerr graduated with a bachelor of applied science in nursing in 1926 from the University of British Columbia (UBC). She spent two years at Columbia University on a Rockefeller Foundation Scholarship, graduating in 1929 with a master of arts.

She joined the UBC nursing faculty and taught public health nursing until 1944, when she became editor of Canadian Nurse. She served as president of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia from 1943 to 1944.

Her strong editorial abilities and business acumen made Kerr a popular consultant and speaker. Throughout her career, Kerr was noted for her outspoken articles, humility and sense of humour.



Dr. June F. Kikuchi

1939-2014

With every milestone, Dr. June Kikuchi made a real difference to advance the nursing profession. She was a public health nurse; she worked at SickKids; she taught at the University of Alberta. She also influenced the thinking of students, peers and leaders everywhere she went.

Dr. Kikuchi was a respected international scholar and leader in the philosophy of nursing, co-founding the world's first Institute for Philosophical Nursing Research at the University of Alberta, after a post-doctoral year at University of Toronto in 1986. The institute ignited a series of conferences, entitled Philosophy in the Nurse's World, which contributed to the formation of an international panel of thinkers and researchers in the field. The conferences, attended by scholars from around the world, continue to contribute to the philosophy of nursing.



Douglas Walter Kinley

1950-2008

Douglas Kinley graduated from the Winnipeg General Hospital school of nursing in 1972. He had a deep and profound commitment to nursing education and nursing practice development, exemplified by his pursuit of a BSN (1975), an MScN (1979) and a PhD in education (2001). Throughout his career, Dr. Kinley demonstrated strong leadership. As director of the Health Sciences Centre school of nursing in Winnipeg, Dr. Kinley initiated a complete review and development of the curriculum, which was instrumental in the school offering the first joint program with the University of Manitoba's baccalaureate nursing program. He also participated in several professional and community organizations. His commitment to the nursing profession and his accomplishments have been an inspiration to students and colleagues. As a friend and mentor, Dr. Kinley was without equal. Many successful nursing careers have been influenced by his unflagging enthusiasm, commitment and sense of humour.



Beryl Knox

c. 1895-1938

Beryl Knox played a key role in developing the prototype for public health nursing practice and was described as “one of the best informed executives in the field of public health nursing.”

A native of Shawville, Quebec, Ms. Knox graduated from the School of Nursing at Toronto General Hospital in 1916. A year later, she became the special nurse investigator in a Department of Health field study of infant mortality in Hamilton. Ms. Knox participated in the first Child Welfare Clinic, at a Department of Health exhibit during the Canadian National Exhibition. She spent two years organizing local clinical services for infants and young children. She then developed and taught a six-week course in public health nursing that was later taken on by the University of Toronto.

From 1920 to 1926, Ms. Knox directed the technical work of Ontario's Health Nurses. She spent the last years of her career with the Division of Public Health Education.



Sister Marie - Marguerite - Eulalie Lagrave

1805 -1859

Sister Eulalie Lagrave was a pioneer nurse in Manitoba. She began her life's work as a nurse shortly after her arrival in Saint-Boniface in 1844. Although she combined nursing with teaching in parish schools, Sister Eulalie was especially respected for her skills as a nurse. She showed leadership, skill and courage in her work with the sick, the poor and the dying.

Sister Eulalie's work enhanced the reputation of the Grey Nuns in Saint-Boniface and reshaped the focus of their mission in Manitoba from teaching to the provision of health care. Their first four-bed hospital was opened in Saint-Boniface in 1871. They went on to establish hospitals, personal care homes and community-based health-care agencies throughout Manitoba. All of these institutions are visible tributes to Sister Eulalie, the first of their order to serve as a nurse in Manitoba.





Marie Lammer

1933-1997

Marie Lammer was a dedicated nursing professional who gave more than 20 years of service to the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA).

After graduating from Queen's University in 1956, she worked as a public health nurse in Arcola, Moose Jaw and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. She taught nursing in Yorkton, Moose Jaw and Regina, and then joined the staff of the SRNA in 1977 as the communications officer. She received additional responsibilities in 1985 for investigations and the discipline of SRNA members accused of professional misconduct and incompetence.

More than 1,000 nurses from across Canada attended the 1986 Canadian Nurses Association biennial meeting and convention in Regina that she coordinated.

Marie Lammer was a driving force behind the creation of the National Registered Nurses Discipline Data Base in 1994 and the Council on Licensure Enforcement and Regulation Committee.





Nelia Laroza

1951 -2003

Nelia Laroza risked her own health and safety to protect her patients, families and colleagues during the 2003 SARS outbreak in Toronto, Ontario. Nelia, a registered nurse at North York General Hospital, lost her battle with SARS on June 29, 2003, and became the first Canadian health-care professional to die of the disease. She courageously gave of herself to protect the community and died in the line of duty. This tragedy reminds us of the potential risk nurses and other health-care professionals take every day, and the sacrifices they make.

Nelia is an exemplary role model for all nurses, a leader who sacrificed her own life to save others. Nurses across Canada will never forget the year we lost this dedicated and selfless colleague in the line of duty. We must ensure we never forget Nelia, a hero, a consummate and courageous nurse.



Edith Landells Lees

1922-2004

Edith Landells Lees' three-volume set of The Military Nurses of Canada: Recollections of Military Nurses will stand for many decades as one of the most significant and valuable histories of Canadian nursing. Edith collected the personal reminiscences of Canadian military nurses, an ambitious and complex project. She also wrote or found authors for background histories of Canadian military nursing from the Riel Rebellion of 1887 to Canadian nursing support in the 1990s in Somalia and the Persian Gulf.

Edith compiled, edited and arranged these stories, and in 1995 she financed and published a book containing the stories of 218 nurses. More stories arrived, and in 1999 she compiled them into two more volumes, with updated and improved background material. Edith turned mentor and adviser to many nursing and non-nursing researchers pursuing history of military nursing and is responsible for increased interest in and awareness of Canadian nursing military history.



Dr. Joan Lesmond

1951-2011

In 2011 the nursing profession lost a true leader with the untimely passing of Dr. Joan Lesmond, a former president and board member of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO). The St. Lucia native was at the helm of RNAO from 2004 to 2006. As president, she promised to work "to have the profession reflect the diversity of our population." She kept that promise by becoming a leading force behind RNAO's project to embrace cultural diversity in health-care.

Joan held a bachelor of science in nursing, a master's in community health nursing and a doctorate in education (health policy). After three decades in community health, her last role was as executive director at Saint Elizabeth Health Care (SEHC) for both community engagement and the SEHC foundation. In 2011, Joan received a YWCA Woman of Distinction Award. In addition, she has two scholarships in her name, one of which was created by RNAO and SEHC.



Daurene Lewis

1943-2013

Dr. Daurene Lewis was the seventh generation of Black Loyalists who settled in Annapolis Royal in 1763. Her many careers included administrator, nurse, nursing instructor, businesswoman and politician. She was a graduate of the Children's Hospital School of Nursing (RN) in Halifax in 1963 and Dalhousie University (diploma in teaching). In 1979, she entered municipal politics and won a seat on the Annapolis Royal town council and in 1982 became the deputy mayor. In 1984, she was elected mayor of Annapolis Royal, becoming the first Black mayor in Canada. Later, determined to give back to the people of Nova Scotia, Dr. Lewis began working with the Home Care Association and volunteered on committees and boards. Years later, she became the executive director at Mount Saint Vincent University's Centre for Women in Business. Among her many awards, she was named to the Order of Canada in 2003.





Jean Lewis

1919-2011

Jean Lewis started nursing in England in 1936, moving to St. John's in 1945. Her calling was public health, where her leadership brought significant improvements to the quality of care provided by "district" nurses working in cottage hospitals in 1300 outport communities in Newfoundland and Labrador. Ms. Lewis was also instrumental in advancing the profession, helping to draft legislation for the formation of ARNN and becoming its third president. As a community leader, she volunteered widely and received many accolades, including the National Red Cross Society's Distinguished Service Award, the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, Honorary Memberships in ARNN and the Newfoundland Association of Health Services Executives and lifetime membership in the Canadian Public Health Association. Jean was a pioneer and a steadfast leader who made a difference to public health nursing and health care in Newfoundland and Labrador.





Tecla Lin

1944-2003

On July 19, 2003, Tecla Lin, a respiratory services RN from West Park Health Centre, lost her battle with SARS. She became the second Canadian registered nurse to succumb to the disease during 2003 SARS outbreak in Toronto, Ontario. She was one of the first nurses in Ontario to step forward, courageously caring for 14 health-care professionals stricken with the disease. She endlessly gave of herself to protect the community and died in the line of duty. This tragedy reminds us of the risk nurses and other health-care professionals take every day.

Tecla exemplified the true meaning of dedication and professionalism, sacrificing her own life to do her job and to save others. Indeed, nurses across Canada will never forget the year we lost this dedicated and selfless colleague in the line of duty. We must ensure that we also never forget Tecla, truly a hero.



Marian Lindeburgh

-1955

Marian Lindeburgh's career was dedicated to furthering nursing education in Canada.

Miss Lindeburgh entered the nursing program at St. Luke's Hospital, New York, in 1916, after teaching in public and high schools for 12 years. She secured both her bachelor's and master's degrees at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Miss Lindeburgh was director of health education at the Provincial Normal School in Regina from 1922 to 1929. She then joined the faculty of the McGill School for Graduate Nurses as instructor in schools of nursing teaching and was appointed director and associate professor in 1939. She remained at McGill until her retirement in 1950 and was appointed professor emeritus in nursing in May 1953.

Marian Lindeburgh produced the Proposed Curriculum for Schools of Nursing in Canada in 1936 and became president of the Canadian Nurses Association in 1942. She was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1943.



Marion Christine Livingston

-1981

Marion Christine Livingston graduated from the School of Nursing at the Hamilton General Hospital in 1930. She received training in public health at the University of Toronto and later obtained a bachelor of science degree at Columbia University.

Ms. Livingston joined the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) in 1933 and became its director-in-chief in 1949. She invested time and energy in numerous associations and committees during her career, including the National Committee on Aging and the Canadian Public Health Association. An active member of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO), she served as its vice-president from 1953 to 1956 and president from 1956 to 1957.

Ms. Livingston retired from VON in 1960. Two years later, she was awarded honorary lifetime membership in both the RNAO and the Canadian Nurses Association for her contribution to the profession of nursing.



Nora Livingston

1848-1927

Gertrude Elizabeth Nora Livingston is considered a pioneer of Quebec nursing schools. Born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, she came to Como, on the shore of the Lake of Two Mountains, when her father retired. Almost as soon as she finished training with the New York Hospital Training School for Nurses, the Montreal General Hospital asked her to manage nursing care and start a hospital nursing school.

When she began work on February 20, 1890, her task was arduous, given the hospital's deplorable state of services. One year later, nothing remained of the previous conditions.

Nora Livingston founded the nursing school in 1890, and with Dr. Kirkpatrick, she designed the student uniform.

After 30 years of managing nursing care and maintaining order and cleanliness, her school boasted 637 graduates. When she retired in 1919, Nora Livingston had 18 nurses and 135 nursing students reporting to her.



Millicent Blake Loder

1915-2003

Millicent Blake Loder's nursing career was dedicated to serving the people of Labrador.

After her 1940 graduation from St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, Minnesota, Dr. Loder worked with the International Grenfell Association in charge of the hospital in Mary's Harbour, Labrador. In 1949, she moved to Hopedale, where she was called upon to deliver babies and to travel to other communities by boat or dog team for varied medical emergencies. In 1968, Dr. Loder became the first administrator of the new Infant's Home in West River. She later became the director of nursing at the hospital.

Millicent Blake Loder received many honours for her dedication to nursing, including an honorary membership from the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador, an honorary degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland, and the Order of Canada.



Mary Teresa (Egan) Lynch

1945-2022

A pioneer in Parish nursing, Mary Teresa Lynch was highly respected for her vision and remarkable commitment to outreach within her local Oshawa community and for Indigenous populations of northern Ontario.

Mary's ongoing desire to include spiritual care in nursing practice led to her becoming one of the 2002 founding members of the Parish Nurse Interest Group (PNIG) of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. Emigrating from Ireland in 1968, her early midwifery, operating room, gerontological and palliative care experiences prepared her well for care and advocacy for the vulnerable and underprivileged.

She was president of PNIG from 2010-2011, the membership officer for six years, and regional representative until 2022. Her multiple hours volunteering for St John Ambulance, the St. Vincent's Kitchen, Street Ministry, and so many others, resulted in the receipt of the Order of Canada and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.



Sister Clare Marie Lyons

1916-2008

Born Winnifred Mary Lyons in Calgary, Sister Clare Marie entered the Sisters of St. Martha in Antigonish, NS, in 1934. Between 1939 and 1970, she served as an instructor and director of nursing education at St. Martha's Hospital and St. Francis Xavier University, and later as director of the nursing school in Glace Bay. Throughout, she inspired students and was held in high regard as an extraordinary educator and innovative leader. Her legacy for the nursing profession includes the four-year nursing program at St. F.X., which she developed. As nursing education consultant with the Registered Nurses' Association of Nova Scotia (RNANS), Sister Clare Marie advocated for nurses' continuing education and was instrumental in establishing post-diploma programs. She served on numerous provincial education committees, including several directed by the Canadian Nurses Association. In 1980, she was awarded honorary life membership with the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia (formerly RNANS).



Margaret (MacCallum) MacDonald

1897-1977

Born on Pictou Island, N.S., Margaret MacDonald attended Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital school of nursing, where she worked for two years upon her 1918 graduation. After fifteen years at Gardner Memorial Hospital in Massachusetts, she returned to Pictou Island to care for her sister. Staying on as the 'community health' nurse, Margaret's challenges included having no electricity or running water and being isolated by an ice floe each winter.

As the island's only medical expert, she delivered babies, set bones, embalmed the deceased and conducted funeral services. She also counselled, taught health classes and engaged in community work. Generations depended on her nursing skills and generosity for their survival. Yet, Margaret received no salary until late in her career, often paying for supplies from personal savings.

Margaret's determination, loyalty and lifelong commitment to nursing, without question or complaint, are inspiring. She lived a life in service to others.



Dr. Ruth MacKay

1926-2003

Dr. Ruth MacKay worked throughout her career to advocate for the nurse as a professional, believing that nurses are the principle observers of patients and should be intimately involved in their care decisions.

She also believed that the nurse is a valuable resource for research and data collection, as an integral member of the research team. As exemplified by many writings on the doctor-nurse relationship, Dr. MacKay felt that team-based care led to better health outcomes.

Her most extensive research was in the field of empathy and its positive effect, both on patients and caregivers. Investigations she developed were among the first scholarly attempts to quantify the role of human emotion for improving efficacy in the health professions.

During her career, Dr. MacKay helped establish four graduate nursing research programs in three countries. She challenged nurses to become involved in research and to advance the role of nurses as important members of the health community.



Mary Ardcrone MacKenzie

c. 1870-1948

Mary MacKenzie, a leader among visiting nurses, was president of the Canadian National Association for Trained Nurses, forerunner of the Canadian Nurses Association, from 1912 to 1914.

Born in Toronto, Mary MacKenzie began her career as a teacher and principal. In 1901 she graduated from the Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses in Boston, and from Sloan Maternity Hospital in New York City. She held positions as a visiting nurse, first in Washington, D.C., then in Chicago.

In 1908 she returned to Canada as chief superintendent of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada and expanded the organization's educational programs for visiting nurses. After working as a consultant in the United States from 1917 to 1920, she returned again to Canada as the public health instructor in the new public health program at the University of British Columbia, and lecturer in Canada's first university nursing degree program. She retired in 1923.



Katherine E. MacLaggan

1915-1967

A pioneer in nursing education reform and an energetic leader, Katherine MacLaggan was president of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1966 to 1967.

Born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Ms. MacLaggan began her nursing career in 1943 as an industrial and public health nurse. She returned to school to earn her bachelor's in nursing administration from McGill University in 1952, and her master's in nursing from Columbia University. She then became assistant director of Public Health Nursing in New Brunswick and a health instructor at Teachers College in Fredericton, where she developed a unique school health program for teachers.

While president of the New Brunswick Association of Registered Nurses from 1962 to 1964, Ms. MacLaggan took a leading role in moving schools of nursing out of hospitals and into the university. Her proposal to radically upgrade nursing training in New Brunswick, Portrait of Nursing (1965), received widespread attention.



Electa MacLennan

-1987

A graduate of the Royal Victoria Hospital School of Nursing in Montreal, Electa MacLennan received her diploma in Teaching in Schools of Nursing from McGill University and her master's in public health nursing supervision from Columbia University.

She worked as national office supervisor for the Victorian Order of Nurses in the Maritimes and as assistant director of the McGill School for Graduate Nurses before becoming the first director of the School of Nursing at Dalhousie University. Her involvement in community health nursing ranged from launching in-service education programs in Nova Scotia hospitals – when such a need was scarcely recognized – to organizing annual nursing institutes.

Ms. MacLennan served as president of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1962 to 1964 and was a board member of the International Council of Nurses from 1962 to 1969. In 1967, she was awarded a Centennial Medal for her achievements.



Mère Élodie Mailloux

1865-1937

Born in Iberville, Quebec, Mère Mailloux founded Hôpital Notre-Dame in 1898, the first French-speaking nursing school in Canada.

Mère Mailloux graduated with a diploma from St. Vincent Hospital's Nursing School in Toledo, Ohio. She worked as a teacher, director of nursing and superior of Hôpital Notre-Dame, and was instrumental in organizing the Association of Registered Nurses of the Province of Quebec. Her knowledge of the English language often permitted her to serve as an interpreter for her English-speaking colleagues. In 1927, she was among those who opposed the proposed amendments to the Act concerning the Association of Registered Nurses of the Province of Quebec, which was submitted by the College of Physicians of the Province of Quebec.

Mère Mailloux brought to her work a wide perspective, solid judgment and a profound religious spirit, and she had a keen comprehension that she passed on to others. She was awarded the Mary Agnes Snively Memorial Medal.



Evelyn Harriet Mallory

1902-1993

Evelyn Harriet Mallory was a leader in nursing education in Canada and president of two provincial nursing associations.

Born in Barrie, Ontario, Ms. Mallory attended the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing and earned a bachelor of science degree at Columbia University in 1930. Among her many appointments, she was director of the school of nursing at the Children's Hospital of Winnipeg (1935-41), president of the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses (1939-40), president of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (1945-49), vice-president of the Canadian Nurses Association (1946-49) and president of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing (1948-52).

After earning a master of arts from Columbia University in 1950, Ms. Mallory became director of the school of nursing at UBC. She separated the school from Vancouver General Hospital and established a master's program before retiring in 1967.



Nancy Lisbeth Malloy

1945-1996

Nancy Malloy was a career nurse who specialized in hospital administration.

Ms. Malloy graduated from the Kingston General Hospital in 1968. She worked at the Vancouver General Hospital before joining the Red Cross in 1988. She then supervised an outreach program for clinics servicing six remote B.C. communities.

In 1990, Ms. Malloy began her work overseas, providing nursing and administrative services in many of the worst international conflict zones (Ethiopia, Kuwait, former Yugoslavia, Bosnia, Zaire and Chechnya).

On December 17, 1996, Ms. Malloy was one of six nurses murdered in a field hospital in the Chechnyan capital of Grozny. She was the first Canadian Red Cross worker to be murdered abroad.

Nancy Malloy was posthumously awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal from the International Committee of the Red Cross, which honours nurses, in time of peace or war, who have distinguished themselves by exceptional courage and devotion and exemplary service.



Jean Matheson

1874-1938

Jean Matheson's career epitomizes that of the dedicated career nurse of the early 1900s in Canada.

Following her graduation from Winnipeg General Hospital in May 1899, Ms. Matheson served as matron of Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops, British Columbia. From 1907 to 1912, she was matron of the new Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Tranquille, B.C. She helped make it one of the premier provincial tuberculosis hospitals in Canada.

In 1914, at the start of the war, she was assigned as matron with the No. 5 Canadian General Hospital at Salonica, Greece. In the latter part of the war, she worked in England. She received the Mons Medal, the Victory Medal, the Royal Red Cross, and later the King George Jubilee Medal for her wartime services.

At the end of the war, she became matron of the Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver, which was established for returning veterans. She remained there until her retirement in 1937.



Helen McArthur

-1975

Helen McArthur was a career nurse who was acutely aware of the need for progressive leadership in nursing.

Miss McArthur completed her undergraduate training at the University Hospital in Edmonton. She then attended the University of British Columbia to major in public health nursing. She secured her master of arts from Teachers College at Columbia University in New York.

Miss McArthur's first appointment in 1934 was as senior public health nurse with the Foothills Health District in High River, Alberta. In 1937, she moved to northern Alberta to carry out a rural generalized program, which included maternity care and morbidity services.

In 1944, she was named director of the public health nursing division of the Alberta Department of Public Health. In 1946, she was appointed national director of nursing services with the Canadian Red Cross Society. She was elected president of the Canadian Nurses Association for the term 1950-1954.



Elizabeth Kenny McCann

1917-1986

An outstanding nursing educator, Beth McCann was prominent in the development of nursing education in British Columbia and in Canada.

She taught nursing at various hospital schools before joining the University of British Columbia in 1947 as the first professor to instruct students during their hospital training. She remained on the faculty for 35 years and was acting director from 1967 to 1971.

Ms. McCann's dedication to her profession is reflected in the many positions she held during her career. These include president of the Nurse Administrators Association of British Columbia, chair of many committees of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (RNABC) and president of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing. Among her many honours she received an RNABC Award of Excellence in Nursing Education.



Ruth McClure

1918-2006

Ruth McClure was appointed director of the University of Alberta school of nursing in 1957. Under her leadership, the school became autonomous from the medical faculty in 1976, and she became the first dean. During her 20-year career at the university, she established the four-year baccalaureate degree, the master's degree in health administration, the nurse practitioner program and several continuing education programs.

Ruth worked with numerous committees and organizations including the Canadian Public Health Association, the Canadian University Schools of Nursing and the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses (AARN). In 1976 Ruth was invited to Penn State University to evaluate computer-assisted programs in nursing. Her leadership in education was recognized by two travel fellowships awarded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the World Health Organization. She also served as an education consultant to the government of Syria. Ruth received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Alberta in 1984 and AARN honorary membership in 1983.



Catherine (Kit) Marie McGrath

1927-2008

Kit McGrath was well known and respected in the Placentia area for her contributions to health care and the profession of nursing for over four decades, from her appointment as nurse-in-charge of Placentia Cottage Hospital in 1955 to the completion of her term as a health-care board trustee in 1995.

Kit was an extremely dedicated nurse. She had exceptional obstetrical skills and delivered over 2,000 babies in her career.

Kit's greatest contribution to health care was through her teaching and mentoring of physicians and nurses who came to work at Placentia Cottage Hospital. She served as a role model for area health-care providers and was never too busy to provide advice on patient care issues.

Kit also volunteered on health-care committees and was active in her parish. Her contributions to the community were recognized through a number of awards and honours.



Elizabeth Ruth McIntyre

1923-2017

Elizabeth Ruth McIntyre was a role model of extraordinary professionalism for her 70-year nursing career. She was highly respected for her vision and pragmatism in identifying holistic health-care needs and pioneering innovative solutions.

Mrs. McIntyre made major contributions to nursing practice, education, and hospice palliative care. Her early hospital, community and occupational health experiences facilitated her involvement with college transition educational programs. From 1968 to 1988 she established and coordinated Conestoga College's RNA programs.

She co-founded the Guelph Wellington Hospice (1980) the Grey Bruce Hospice (1993) and the Palliative Care Hospice Association (1998). In advocacy she was involved in the Aids Education Awareness Committee, Guelph (1987-1990) and actualized the Nunavut foot-care specialist program (1988).

After retirement Mrs. McIntyre maintained nursing affiliations and developed Hospice Palliative Care training courses for Conestoga and Georgian Colleges. Her professionalism was often acknowledged and included the June Callwood Outstanding Volunteer Award (2007).



Madge McKillop

1918-1997

Madge McKillop was a nursing professional who was active in registered nurses associations in both Quebec and Saskatchewan.

She obtained her early education at the Moose Jaw General Hospital of Nursing and completed her bachelor of nursing at McGill University in Montreal. She had a varied career in nursing, including serving four years with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps during World War II in Canada, England, Europe and North Africa.

Upon her return to Canada, she worked at the Royal Edward Chest Hospital in Montreal. In 1964, she left her position as director of nursing to become the nursing administrator at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. Madge McKillop served as president of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association for two years. She worked to maintain standards for entry in practice, assisted with continuing education for nurses, identified the needs of RNs and planned programs to meet those needs.



Margaret D. McLean

c. 1920-1993

Margaret McLean was a visionary leader who helped establish nursing practice standards and develop nursing education in Newfoundland.

After graduating in 1939 from Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal Quebec, Ms. McLean obtained a master of arts from Columbia University with a major in nursing education. She held several nursing positions, including nursing consultant, Health and Welfare Canada, before coming to Memorial University School of Nursing in Newfoundland.

As director of the school from 1973 to 1983 she started a master's program in nursing and set up programs in nursing midwifery, outpost nursing, psychiatric and mental health, and community nursing.

Ms. McLean served as president of the Association for Registered Nurses of Newfoundland (1978-83), second vice-president of the Canadian Nurses Association (1974-76) and president of the Canadian Nurses Foundation (1976, 1980-82).



Harriet Tremaine Meiklejohn

-1952

Harriet Meiklejohn graduated in 1906 from the Presbyterian Hospital, New York. She went to Montclair, New Jersey, to assume the position of superintendent of nurses. When the First World War began she went overseas at her own expense and signed on as a nursing sister with the Canadian Army Medical Corps in France. She was awarded the Royal Red Cross for distinguished service.

After the war she enrolled at the University of Toronto and completed a course in public health. She remained in Ontario for a year, and then went to Saint John, where she was instrumental in establishing the health centre, public clinics and a branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses.

In 1925 she was appointed superintendent of St. Catharines General Hospital, and in 1927 she became the superintendent of Women's College Hospital. She retired in 1944. The alumnae association has since established an annual scholarship to perpetuate her memory.



Cherie Metcalfe

1973-2012

Cherie Metcalfe obtained nursing diploma in 1996 from Lethbridge Community College in Alberta and, in 2007, went on to complete the primary health care nurse practitioner program at Aurora College in Yellowknife. She spent most of her nursing career working in the North, including several as an NP.

Cherie's nursing career was cut short when she lost her battle with breast cancer at age 39.

When she became ill, she embraced healing with body, mind and spirit. She would often speak to her nursing colleagues about their own health, encouraging them to take care of themselves and not take their body for granted. She would say, "if you do not look after yourself, who will?"

Cherie possessed a great sense of humour and was full of life. Her journey cannot be defined as a cancer journey but as a journey of strength, acceptance and friendship.



Mary Beatrice Millman

-1982

Mary Beatrice Millman graduated from the school of nursing at Bellevue Hospital, New York, in 1920. She began her career as a staff nurse and supervisor with Public Health, Toronto.

Ms. Millman was an original signatory to the documents that established the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) in 1925, and she served as the association's third president. She joined the staff of the University of Toronto as a lecturer in 1935 and went on to develop the public health interest in the university's school of nursing.

As a member of the RNAO's Legislation Committee, she spearheaded the creation of the Nurses Registration Act of 1951, which transferred control of registration from the Ontario Provincial Secretary to the RNAO – a vital step forward for the profession of nursing. In 1964 she was awarded honorary life membership in the RNAO.



Louise Miner

1915-1999

Louise Miner was a public health nurse who served as president of both the Canadian Nurses Association (1970-72) and the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association.

She earned her baccalaureate in nursing from McGill University and a master's in public health from the University of Michigan in 1955.

She worked as a nurse in communities as diverse as Burns Lake, British Columbia, and Hafford, Saskatchewan. From 1961 to 1981, Ms. Miner was director of public health nursing for the Saskatchewan Department of Public Health. She served as a member of the Department of National Health and Welfare Task Force on the Cost of Public Health Services and helped establish a scholarship to assist a registered nurse in studying at the master's level in nursing at a Canadian university.

Ms. Miner received the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Award in 1978 for her outstanding contribution to the nursing profession in Canada.



Edna L. Moore

c. 1890-1969

Edna Moore, chair of the Public Health Committee of the International Council of Nurses and director of Ontario Public Health Nursing, was a highly regarded leader in her field.

A graduate of Toronto General Hospital in 1913, Ms. Moore worked as head nurse in the emergency department before serving overseas as a nursing sister during World War I. After the war, she studied maternal and child hygiene, tuberculosis and venereal disease control, health education, administration and social work in New York.

In 1929, Ms. Moore was appointed assistant director of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing in New York City. She returned to Ontario in 1931 to become chief public health nurse, Ontario Department of Health. She was appointed director of Public Health Nursing in 1944 and held the position until her retirement in 1957. For seven years Ms. Moore was chair of the International Council of Nurses' public health committee. She was also first vice-president of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario in 1946.



Tina Moores

1973-2009

Tina Moores has been described as a nurse who cared for her family and her patients proudly, unconditionally and compassionately. Six years into her nursing practice, Ms. Moores died while rescuing a 9-year-old child from drowning in a lake. Tina's co-workers spoke of her as a nurse who helped others, went above and beyond what was required in her work and provided optimal care. Her act of heroism was acknowledged provincially and nationally. She was posthumously awarded the 2010 Carnegie Medal, given to those who voluntarily risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others. Ms. Moores' selfless act of bravery brought respect to the nursing profession.



Ruth MacIntyre Morrison

c. 1900-1978

Ruth MacIntyre Morrison was an outgoing, proactive advocate and teacher of public health nursing.

Born in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Ms. Morrison received her R.N. diploma from Toronto General Hospital School of Nursing and worked in Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. She obtained her bachelor of science and master of public health nursing degrees at the University of Minnesota. In 1946 Ms. Morrison became an assistant professor of nursing at the University of British Columbia. Through her sustained efforts, new public health nursing content was introduced into the baccalaureate curriculum each year. She also designed and taught a one-year diploma program in public health.

Ms. Morrison was a member of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing in its formative years, and president for two terms during the 1950s. In 1951 she was appointed to the World Health Organization's Expert Panel on Nursing. Ms. Morrison retired in 1965.



Fanny Munroe

-1954

Fanny Munroe gave to the duties of the nurse's life her full devotion.

Miss Munroe graduated from the Royal Victoria School of Nursing in 1914. She served in various posts at the hospital until 1917, when she went overseas with the Canadian Army Medical Corps. For her First World War services she was awarded the Royal Red Cross, the highest distinction in the nursing profession.

In 1924, she was named assistant superintendent of nurses at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, and was later appointed superintendent of nurses. She became nurses' superintendent and head of the school of nursing at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal in August 1938 and remained in those posts until her retirement in 1949.

During her career, Miss Munroe served as president of the Alberta Registered Nurses' Association, the Overseas Nursing Sisters Association of Canada, the Alumnae Association of the Royal Victoria Hospital and the Canadian Nurses Association (1944-46).



Dr. Helen K. Mussallem

1915-2012

Dr. Helen K. Mussallem was a remarkable nurse leader who, across a stellar international career, would become one of the most compelling and influential figures in Canada's nursing history. The former CNA executive director (1963-1981) was an inspiration to many and is considered Canada's most decorated nurse.

Helen, fondly known as "Dr. M," began her career as a nurse at a Vancouver hospital before serving as a battlefield hospital nurse during the Second World War. She later pursued higher education, culminating in a doctoral degree in education from Columbia University. Excellence in education was always among Helen's passions. During her studies, she wrote an influential CNA report on nursing education and, soon after, was instrumental in founding the Canadian Nurses Foundation.

Helen received seven honorary doctorates and many awards, including the Companion to the Order of Canada, the Jeanne Mance Award, and the Florence Nightingale Medal.



Col. Agnes C. Neill

-1950

Col. Agnes C. Neill was a nurse of marked administrative ability combined with sympathy and tact. She is most noted for her contribution to the war effort of the Second World War.

Col. Neill graduated in 1926 from the Toronto General Hospital School of Nursing. In 1939 she enlisted with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and went overseas as matron. She returned to Canada in 1945 as matron-in-chief.

In 1946, Col. Neill retired from active service and received an honorary degree of doctor of laws from the University of Toronto. In 1947, she was president of the Toronto Unit, Nursing Sisters Association and the Toronto General Hospital Alumnae Association.



Major Jean Nelson

1909-1992

Jean Nelson graduated from Halifax's Victoria General School of Nursing in 1932, and joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1939. In France, she was assistant matron of a 600-bed hospital: "no building, under canvas." As Major (principal matron) of a 1,200-bed hospital in Ghent, when casualties arrived from the front, she declared, "Sometimes conditions became frightening." Jean received numerous medals and was presented to King George VI. From 1946 to 1974 she served with the Department of Veterans Affairs. She became director of nursing services at Camp Hill hospital in 1966, and retired in 1974 after 40 years of continuous service. Jean founded the "Nelson Homeward Bound Fund" within the VGH foundation in 1992. She was secretary and treasurer of the Halifax branch of the Registered Nurses' Association of Nova Scotia and an honorary life member of the VG Nurses Alumni. In 2009, Jean was presented the CRNNS Centennial Award of Distinction.



Joyce Nevitt

1916-1998

Joyce Nevitt is considered a nursing pioneer in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Miss Nevitt was the founding director of Memorial University of Newfoundland School of Nursing. She also authored the only history of nursing in the province, White Caps and Black Bands: Nursing in Newfoundland to 1934.

In 1965, Miss Nevitt established the first and only bachelor of nursing program in the province. As a faculty of one, she designed a leading-edge integrated curriculum, which introduced health promotion before illness care and included a full course on nursing research. Ultimately, the graduates of her program joined the early nursing leaders in their work to improve nursing practice in Newfoundland and Canada.

Joyce Nevitt was also a tireless volunteer who held many elected and appointed leadership positions in both nursing and community organizations. She received prestigious nursing honours and the Canada Volunteer Award.



Dr. Christine Newburn-Cook

1951 - 2011

From 1996-2011, Dr. Christine Newburn-Cook taught at the University of Alberta faculty of nursing, where she was known for inspirational leadership in building nursing research capacity and for developing areas of excellence to foster nursing education, research and service.

Deeply committed to international nursing, Christine worked to advance nursing research in Pakistan, establishing a culturally sensitive research curriculum and support for researchers at Aga Khan University. She also founded the internationally-recognized Health Research Data Repository, which supported multidisciplinary research for the profession and was instrumental in improving perinatal health in Alberta.

Christine held a BA, a BScN (Queen's), an MN and a PhD (UBC). She received two commemorative medals for Canada's 125th anniversary and a Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for research in perinatal health and the health of Canadians. Her career highlights also include senior positions in the naval reserve, such as navy captain and commanding officer of the HMCS Discovery.



Margaret (Prowse) Neylan

1924-2005

In her distinguished career, Margaret was devoted to health care and education, pioneering the development of numerous nursing programs including advanced nursing specialties delivered through distance learning. Margaret mentored many with wisdom and compassion and vigorously advocated for health professionals, elders and patients needing psychiatric care. When retired, she was chair of the Seniors Advisory Council of B.C., senior adviser to the Care for Elders Advisory Committee at the University of British Columbia and chair of the Circle of Friends, for whom she helped design a program to assist health professional support families for seniors with chronic health issues. She worked tirelessly for the development of effective health care and education in Canada and other countries, including Malaysia and South Africa.

Margaret Neylan served two terms as president of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. She also served as vice-president of the Canadian Nurses Association.



Sharon Nield

1943-2002

Sharon Nield was a wise leader and influential mentor whose passion for nursing was inspirational.

Sharon graduated from the Misericordia Hospital, Winnipeg in 1964. She obtained a bachelor of nursing from McGill University in 1977 and a master's in counselling psychology from the Alfred Adler Institute of Chicago in 1988.

Sharon taught nursing for many years. She taught by example and inspired her students to adopt the same values and high standards that guided her own work. Sharon cared about people. She was a listener, with a great ability to graciously support others to explore issues and find their own answers. She had an enduring enthusiasm for learning and generously shared her knowledge. Sharon worked at the Canadian Nurses Association from 1992, becoming director of nursing policy in 2001. Sharon was truly attuned to the issues facing nurses, and this, combined with her integrity, vision and leadership, made her contributions to nursing and health policy in Canada significant.



Mary Adelaide Nutting

1858-1948

Mary Nutting, described as the nursing profession's most able and far-sighted statesman since Florence Nightingale, was the first professor of nursing in the world.

Born in Quebec in 1858, Ms. Nutting graduated from Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing in 1891 and became head nurse at the hospital. In 1894 Ms. Nutting began instituting education reforms as superintendent of nurses and principal of the school of nursing at Johns Hopkins Hospital. In 1896 she established the three-year course of training and the eight-hour day, while abolishing monthly money allowances to students.

Ms. Nutting was a founding member and two-time President of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses. She was also president of the American Federation of Nurses, forerunner of the American Nurses' Association. In 1921 she received an honorary master of arts from Yale University.



Teresita (Tessie) Oliva

1944-2017

Teresita Oliva was critical in addressing barriers that many internationally educated nurses (IENs) experience in gaining licensure in Alberta. Through research and dialogue with decision and policy makers, she gave a voice to IENs on issues relating to professional accreditation and registration.

Teresita founded the Filipino Nurses Association in Alberta (FNAA) in 1976 to help IENs experience equitable access to nursing opportunities and adapt to their new workplace and homeland. The FNAA still exists and continues to support IENs today.

She was a respected leader in the Filipino community and in the larger multicultural community in Alberta. She was a founding member and former president of the Edmonton Multicultural Coalition and served as president of the Council of Edmonton Filipino Association. She was also a board member of the Edmonton Heritage Festival Association. Her significant contributions were recognized with a 2009 Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards (Government of Alberta).



Catherine (Kitty) O'Shaughnessy

1928-1998

Catherine O'Shaughnessy was an innovator whose concepts led to nursing education reform in Saskatchewan and throughout Canada. Known as "Kitty," O'Shaughnessy was instrumental in nursing research that identified problems in the provision of quality care and resulted in improved orientation and staffing standards.

She received her nursing diploma from St. Mary's Hospital and St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, after which she moved to Saskatchewan. Her career progressed from instructor to director at the Grey Nuns Hospital School of Nursing in Regina.

After receiving her master's in educational administration in 1973, she joined the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA) as a research officer. She won international recognition for her work, and many of her policy papers are still in use today.

O'Shaughnessy was the driving force that prompted the education of Saskatchewan nurses to be moved to the jurisdiction of the Department of Education from that of the Department of Health. She retired from the SRNA in 1982.



Mona Louise Parsons

1901 - 1976

Mona Parsons' early experience of her father and brother in the First World War would influence her decision to go into nursing. Yet, before graduating as a registered nurse from the Jersey School of Medicine in the 1930s, her vocal gifts led her into teaching elocution and performing in the Ziegfeld Follies.

After the Germans invaded Holland early in the Second World War, Ms. Parsons and her husband, now living there, began rescuing, hiding and repatriating downed allied airmen. In 1941 both were arrested.

Ms. Parsons became the first female civilian tried by a Nazi tribunal. Her death sentence by firing squad was commuted to life in prison with hard labour after her dignity impressed the judge. While serving her sentence in difficult conditions, she nursed the ill and dying. Later escaping into Germany, she volunteered at the No. 6 Canadian Field Hospital before her 1957 return to Wolfville, N.S., after her husband's death.



Evaline Mary Pemberton

1867-1965

Evaline Mary Pemberton was the first registered nurse in Canada.

Her signature was the first on the official register when Nova Scotia enacted the first nursing legislation in Canada in 1910. President of the Graduate Nurses Association of Nova Scotia, Pemberton lobbied the provincial government for protection of the public through registration. Nova Scotia was the first province to recognize the need for standards for nursing practice in Canada.

In 1894, Pemberton graduated from the Western Hospital of Montreal School of Nursing. She also received a certificate in home economics from Battle Creek Sanatorium in Michigan, and took courses at New York's Bellevue Hospital.

After attending Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses in England, she was appointed a Queen's Nurse in 1897. Upon her return to Canada, she became matron of the Edgehill Church School for Girls in Windsor, Nova Scotia, at which time she became active in forming the Graduate Nurses Association of Nova Scotia.



Lillian Phillips

1887 -1938

Lillian Phillips, a graduate of the Montreal Maternity Hospital, specialized at the Boston Baby Hospital, which later became the Boston Children's Hospital.

She held the position of superintendent of the Montreal Foundling and Baby Hospital from 1900 until 1933. She was secretary of the Montreal Graduate Nurses Association upon its founding in 1905 and served as its president from 1909 to 1927, participating on the interim committee responsible for drafting the Act concerning the Association of Nurses of the Province of Quebec in 1920. As first honorary secretary-treasurer of the association in 1920, she assumed responsibility until 1926, when she was nominated secretary registrar. She held this volunteer position until 1929, despite her heavy work load as superintendent. She retired in 1936 and died two years later.

"We must be eternally grateful to Lillian Phillips for her loyal and faithful services, for the work she accomplished behind the scenes, and for the first days of the existence of our association." France Upton



Edith Branch Pinet

1904-1999

The people of the Acadian Peninsula in northeastern New Brunswick where Edith Branch Pinet lived and worked over her 50-year career as a nurse and midwife considered her “an extraordinary woman.”

Over the course of her career, she delivered over 3000 babies while raising 10 children. Her work and humanitarianism did not go unrecognized. Known as the “Midwife of Acadia,” she received the Order of Canada in 1979. The Nurses Association of New Brunswick awarded her an honorary membership in 1980. In 1982, the National Film Board produced a film about her life entitled Ordinary Wisdom (Une Sagesse Ordinaire). The Manoir Edith B. Pinet Nursing Home, where she spent the latter part of her life, was named in her honour in 1986. Her life was also featured in a major exhibit at the Canadian Museum of Civilization entitled “A Caring Profession: Centuries of Nursing in Canada” (June 2005-September 2006).



Patricia (Pat) Pocock (Rogers)

1940-2020

Pat Pocock was a registered nurse who worked in the perioperative field for 50 years. She started her career as a perioperative registered nurse at the Grace Hospital in Windsor, Ont., followed by a year of working in the operating room at the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton. The next 14 years were spent in leadership and teaching roles in Windsor. The last 28 years of her hospital career were spent in leadership roles at St. Joseph's Hospital in London, Ont. Pat is past co-chair of the Canadian Operating Room Leaders network and has committed her career to issues related to leadership within perioperative nursing.



Georgina Fane Pope

1862-1938

Georgina Fane Pope, first matron of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, was also Canada's first recipient of the Royal Red Cross. Awarded in 1903, the honour was bestowed for her work in South Africa during the Boer War.

Born in Charlottetown in 1862, Pope trained at Bellevue Hospital in New York and graduated in 1886. She worked in the United States for several years before accompanying the first Canadian volunteer force to South Africa in 1899.

In 1908, Pope was named the first matron of the Canadian Army Medical Corps. At 52, she went overseas with the first group of nurses and served in Canadian army hospitals in the United Kingdom during the First World War. She fell ill in 1917 and returned home, where at age 76 she died and was buried with full military honours.



Florence Janet Potts

c. 1885-1941

Florence Potts was well known for her involvement in professional organizations and her work with the Shriners Hospitals.

A native of Ottawa, Ontario, Ms. Potts trained at the Lady Stanley Institute at Ottawa Protestant Hospital and did postgraduate work in hospital administration at Columbia University.

In 1913 she was appointed superintendent of nursing service and director of the School of Nursing at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. During this time she was an officer of the Canadian Association of Nursing Education, and a councillor and archivist with the Canadian Nurses Association. In 1922, she became director of nursing service for the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children in North America. She organized, staffed and equipped various units throughout the United States and in Montreal and Winnipeg.

Her kindness, understanding and unfailing sense of humour inspired people to work to the best of their ability. She retired in 1934.



M. Geneva Purcell

1910-2011

Geneva Purcell championed quality patient care, first as a staff nurse and then in administrative positions including director of nursing, Brockville General Hospital. She later held charge and supervisory positions at Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital. Geneva received a bachelor of science degree in nursing (McGill University) and a master of science degree in nursing (Boston University).

From 1962 to 1975, Ms. Purcell was director of nursing, University of Alberta Hospitals, where she established continuing education and nursing specialty courses for registered nurses. She countered a nursing shortage by establishing a nursing reserve, recognized as Canada's longest ongoing nurse training program.

She was Alberta Association of Registered Nurses (AARN) president from 1969 to 1971, chairing the committee establishing the AARN Museum & Archives and later receiving AARN's Lifetime Achievement Award. She served on the CNA board, chaired the Canadian Nurses Foundation board and was a Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation surveyor.



Helen Louisa Randal

1876-1963

Helen Randal founded the organization that became the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (RNABC), and was an editor of Canadian Nurse.

Born in Compton, Quebec, Ms. Randal taught school before graduating from Royal Victoria Hospital School of Nursing. She worked as head nurse and superintendent in various hospitals until 1912, when she became superintendent of nurses at Vancouver General Hospital. That same year, she organized the Graduate Nurses Association of British Columbia, forerunner of the RNABC. She served as its president from 1917 to 1919 and negotiated the passage of the Registered Nurses Act in 1918.

Ms. Randal spent the rest of her career at RNABC, working to improve educational standards and working conditions for nurses. Between 1916 and 1924 she was also editor and business manager of Canadian Nurse. She retired in 1941 and received the Mary Agnes Snively Memorial Medal in 1944.



Edith Catherine Rayside

1872-1950

Born in Martintown, Ontario, Edith Catherine Rayside graduated in 1895 with a bachelor of arts from Queen's University in Kingston. She went on to graduate from St. Luke's Hospital in Ottawa.

She made her greatest contribution as a nurse in her capacity as matron-in-chief during World War I. In 1919, she became the first woman to ever receive an honorary degree, mistress of household sciences, from the University of Toronto. In 1924, during her superintendence at the Hamilton General Hospital, the level of theory taught was elevated. This met the requirements for registration in Ontario and New York and equaled that of other large comparable Canadian schools of nursing.

In 1934, Ms. Rayside was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire.



Frances Dalrymple Redmond

1854-1932

Frances Redmond, a hard-working nursing leader, established nursing services and nursing education in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Born in England and trained as a nurse and midwife at Laval University in Montreal, Ms. Redmond moved to Vancouver in 1887. One of her first tasks was to oversee the building of St. Luke's Home, a seven-room and general ward facility reputed at the time to be the only institution of its type west of Winnipeg. Immediately afterward, she set up a school of nursing where she lectured and supervised practical work. Graduates worked throughout the province and helped set up hospitals.

Ms. Redmond was a compassionate and practical woman with a gift for organizing. She opened a soup kitchen in Vancouver, organized isolation hospitals and areas during smallpox epidemics, and established an Anglican women's group. She was recognized as an outstanding nursing leader by physicians, patients, parishioners, aldermen and citizens.



Marlene Audrey Reimer

1943-2005

Neuroscience nursing was the focus of Dr. Reimer's teaching, research and service. Her research focused on quality of life interventions and measurement, particularly with adults cognitively impaired secondary to brain injury, dementia or other neurodegenerative or psychiatric illnesses.

Marlene valued the importance of caring for the neuroscience patient and family, the significance of certification and education in nursing, and the relevant role of nursing research to pave the way for the future. She served on the boards of the Canadian Nurses Association, World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses, Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing and Canadian Institutes of Health Research. She was particularly involved in programs related to training the next generation of researchers and in knowledge translation and best clinical practices. The Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses honoured her work with the Marlene Reimer Neuroscience Nursing Research Award. Her influence on nurses both novice and expert improved health care for innumerable Canadians.



Noreen Richard

1943-2006

Noreen was a mentor and role model who rose quickly to leadership positions. Her expertise in nursing and health care was highly regarded and sought after. She was an early advocate of evidence-based practice and fervently promoted the tangible difference registered nurse practice makes to patient outcomes. Noreen's contributions to policy development and legislative change were numerous and include the introduction of the nurse practitioner role in New Brunswick. She was a leading advocate for the delivery of health-care services to francophone minority communities, which resulted in the creation of the Centre de santé Noreen-Richard Health Centre, named in her honour. Noreen will be remembered for her leadership and strategic direction in professional practice and health policy at the Nurses Association of New Brunswick. Noreen's life, both personally and professionally, was one of giving to others, leading by example and exemplifying the characteristics of an exceptional nurse.



Isabel Hampton Robb

1859-1910

Isabel Hampton Robb was born in Welland, Ontario, and graduated from the Bellevue Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1883.

Following graduation, she served briefly as a relief supervisor at the Women's Hospital in New York. This was followed by two years as a staff nurse in St Paul's Hospice in Rome, Italy.

While not yet 30 years of age, Ms. Robb was chosen to organize the school of nursing of Johns Hopkins Hospital. In 1896 she became the first president of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada - the forerunner of both the Canadian Nurses Association and the American Nurses Association. The author of three influential books on nursing, she was also an original member of the committee to found the American Journal of Nursing.



Anne Glass Ross

1911-1998

Anne Ross inspired others through her unending concern and compassion for her community. Her advocacy efforts added an indelible mark on the fabric of life in Manitoba. Anne is remembered as a registered nurse, health-care administrator, author, broadcaster, social reformer and, to some, as "Anne of the Milk Subsidies."

*Anne's career spanned 50 years, including 37 years at Mount Carmel Clinic. Under her leadership, the clinic became a model for North America's community health-care centres, particularly for its innovative interdisciplinary approach to the changing needs of the community. After her retirement, she "wrote the book" on the clinic, authoring *Clinic with a Heart: The Story of Mount Carmel Clinic* (published in 1998). She also wrote on an issue she cared passionately about in *Teenage Mothers, Teenage Fathers* (1982). In 1985, she was named to the Order of Canada and three years later received an honorary doctorate from Ryerson University in Toronto.*



Marie (Pictou) Ross

1931 -2005

From her days as a clinic assistant to her involvement with national organizations and her role as a health consultant, Marie, a member of the Mi'kmaq First Nation, was passionate about raising awareness of and improving Aboriginal health issues.

Marie was a prolific writer and compassionate speaker. Her work was respected by health professionals nationally and internationally. She was committed to advancing cultural sensitivity and played a key role in enhancing Aboriginal health professionals' expertise in areas such as child development and suicide prevention.

Marie persevered against extraordinary odds to achieve her personal and professional goals. Despite having to leave school in Grade 6, Marie became first a registered nursing assistant then, at the age of 51, a registered nurse. She later attained a BA with honours.

Marie Ross lived according to her belief that the compassion of a society is judged by the manner in which its weakest members are treated.



Edna Elizabeth Rossiter

1905-1988

Edna Rossiter began her distinguished nursing career as a night supervisor at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in 1932. She joined the army in 1941 and served in Canada and Belgium for nearly four years before accepting a position as nursing consultant for Western Canada for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In 1947, after completing her studies at McGill University, Ms. Rossiter was appointed director of nursing at Vancouver's Shaughnessy Hospital, where she stayed until 1968. During that time, she was an active member of many professional and community associations and served on the executive of both the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia and the Canadian Nurses Association.

In addition to the numerous war service medals she received, Ms. Rossiter was awarded the Coronation Medal in 1953, the Centennial Medal in 1967 and the International Red Cross Florence Nightingale Medal in 1979.



Maria Rovers

1943-1988

Originally from the Netherlands, Dr. Maria Rovers began her career as a staff nurse at St. Martha's Hospital in 1966. She graduated from St. Francis Xavier University in 1975 with a master's in adult education and, in 1980-81, became the second Canadian nurse to receive the 3M-International Council of Nurses Fellowship for studies at the doctoral level. She received a doctorate from the University of Toronto in 1982.

Dr. Rovers was associate professor, chair of the Department of Nursing and director of the International Development Office at St. Francis Xavier until 1987. An expert in maternal and child health, her lectures and workshops led her to Israel, Africa, India, and Central and South America. Dr. Rovers was an active member of many professional associations and development agencies. She was awarded the Jeanne Mance Award posthumously by the Canadian Nurses Association in 1988.



Glenna S. Rowsell

1924-1987

Glenna Rowsell was a driving force behind collective bargaining for Canadian nurses, and will long be remembered for her commitment to the socio-economic welfare of nurses.

A native of Newfoundland, she began her career at St. John's General Hospital School of Nursing and later worked as a consultant in social and economic welfare for the New Brunswick Association of Registered Nurses. She was chief executive officer of the New Brunswick Nurses Provincial Collective Bargaining Council for eight years before being appointed to the Worklife Department of the Canadian Nurses Association in 1977.

A member of the International Council of Nurses and the International Labour Organization, Ms. Rowsell firmly believed that the hats of professionalism and unionism could be worn on the same head. Her knowledge of labour legislation in Canada helped nurses achieve necessary amendments to existing legislation and develop new legislation permitting collective bargaining.



Edith Kathleen Russell

c. 1900-1964

Kathleen Russell was a dedicated and innovative educator whose public health nursing program became a model across Canada.

Miss Russell received her bachelor of arts from King's College, then, in 1918, graduated from Toronto General Hospital. In 1920 she became director of the Department of Public Health Nursing at the University of Toronto and developed a model four-year program. Under her leadership the Department of Public Health Nursing became the School of Nursing in 1933.

Miss Russell was the first to advocate a survey of nursing education in Canada, and she served on the Canadian Medical Association and Canadian Nurses Association's joint survey committee.

She was awarded a doctor of civil law, honoris causa, from King's College in 1939, received the Mary Agnes Snively Memorial Medal from the Canadian Nurses Association in 1945, and was made an honorary life member of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario in 1959.



Helen Mary Sabin

1916-2004

After graduating from the University of Alberta with a bachelor of science in nursing in 1938, Helen Sabin worked as a community health nurse in rural communities in the province of Alberta. Her contributions as a friend, health adviser and community leader resulted in her being named to their Legion Hall of Fame in 1975.

During her 17-year tenure as executive director of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses (AARN), Helen guided legislation activities and considerable restructuring of the organization. From 1960 to 1977, when the AARN was certified as bargaining agent for the majority of nurses in the province, she ensured that excellent staffing and procedures were in place for responsible negotiations. She also served as a consultant during the formation of the Northwest Territories Registered Nurses Association.

Helen was honoured for her contributions to nursing with an Alberta Achievement Award in 1976 and an honorary doctorate in nursing from Athabasca University in 1993.



Josephine Santos

1968-2015

Josephine (Josie) Santos was a registered nurse with a passion for gerontology. Very early, she set her sights on improving the health of patients, the effectiveness of health-care facilities and the overall performance of the system.

As program manager for the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario's long-term care best practices initiative, she reached that goal. Thanks to her outstanding brand of leadership and innovative strategies, the initiative has had a significant impact on long-term care homes and the sector as a whole. Resident care and outcomes improved, as did staff recruitment and retention, and substantive savings were achieved. In 2009, Josie and her team won the Ontario Health Minister's Award of Excellence for improving quality and patient safety.

In her quiet way, Josephine Santos touched many lives in her drive to improve elderly care. Her contributions will continue to benefit the nursing profession, inspiring others to follow in her footsteps.



Ruth Saunders

1923-2002

Ruth Saunders served outstandingly as a United Church of Canada nurse missionary in South Korea from 1955 to 1989. Initially, she offered clinics throughout the southeastern hill country. During an epidemic of encephalitis, she set up an emergency hospital in Pusan, for which she was honoured by the city's mayor and the president of the Korean Medical Association. Her leadership in caring for patients with tuberculosis earned her a World Health Organization plaque in 1964 and tributes from Korea's prime minister. On World Leprosy Day in 1969 she was commended by the Korean Leprosy Association for her work with patients with Hansen's disease.

When Wonju Union Christian Hospital opened, she was appointed to head its nursing department and later was hospital administrator and established a school of nursing. Upon her retirement, the Korean government, Yonsei University and the Korean Nurses Association bestowed awards for her humanitarian work.



Marion Irene Saydak

1954-2000

Marion Saydak's boundless energy, integrity and passionate belief in nursing inspired students and colleagues to achieve the high standards she applied to her own work.

Marion graduated from the Winnipeg General Hospital (1974) and the University of Manitoba (BN 1985, MN 1991). Twenty years as a staff nurse and supervisor at St. Boniface General Hospital laid a sound clinical foundation for understanding the health-care needs of patients and institutions and developed expertise in quality assurance. Marion's commitment to nursing excellence was also realized through teaching, scholarly works and committee activities at the hospital's faculty of nursing and through professional associations. Joining Manitoba Health as consultant and analyst during a period of intensive health-care restructuring, she found fruitful scope for her organizational and project management skills. Marion was a generous, caring and private person who moved mountains, quietly, from behind the scenes. She died of cancer at the age of 45.



Marguerite Schumacher

1920-2013

Marguerite Schumacher is described as an intellectual. An advocate for the vulnerable. Influential. Indeed, she was all of these and more.

She was an active board member of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses and served as the organization's president from 1963 to 1965. She was the president of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1972 to 1974.

Being inspirational was also one of Marguerite's strengths, according to the many students and colleagues she mentored while in positions such as director of nursing at Grace Hospital in Winnipeg, advisor to schools of nursing at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, nursing program chairperson at Red Deer College and dean of the nursing faculty at the University of Calgary.

Recipient of the Canadian Silver Jubilee Medal and the Alberta Achievement Award for Excellence in Nursing, among other honours, Marguerite set an example to live up to for all nurses, present and future.



Gladys Sharpe

1902-1975

Gladys Sharpe was a president of the Canadian Nurses Association (1954-56) and the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.

After a 42-year career that spanned active nursing, teaching, administration and military wartime service, Gladys Sharpe retired in 1968 as senior nursing consultant on operating standards with the Ontario Hospital Services Commission.

Among her career assignments, she held positions as director of nursing at the Toronto Western Hospital; matron of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps' hospital at Camp Borden and liaison officer for the Canadian, British and South African army medical services during the Second World War; and director of the school of nursing at McMaster University in Hamilton.



Flora Madeleine Shaw

1864-1927

Born in Ontario, Flora M. Shaw obtained her diploma from the Montreal General School of Nursing in 1896. Nora Livingston recognized her qualities as an administrator and professor and chose her as her assistant.

Flora Shaw graduated in 1903 with a diploma from Columbia University's Teachers' College. During a stay in New York, she assumed the responsibility of the Florence Nightingale Hall, where she taught dietetics. In 1906 she returned to her alma mater to teach.

In 1920, she became the first director of McGill University's School of Nursing. During the seven years she spent as head of the school, her work portrayed high ideals and a healthy teaching practice. She was an executive committee member of the Victorian Order of Nurses of Canada and president of the Association of Registered Nurses of the Province of Quebec. She resigned in 1926 to become the elected president of the Canadian Nurses Association. On her return from an international convention in Geneva, she stopped over in England, where she died suddenly on August 27, 1927.



Lillian Mary Shepherd

1907-1994

(Lillian) Mary Shepherd was highly regarded for her wide professional knowledge, sound judgment and stabilizing influence during her 40-year career at the Winnipeg Municipal Hospital.

In a variety of positions, including nursing instructor and director of nursing, Mary served and influenced many Manitobans. She supervised major transitions that took place at the Winnipeg Municipal Hospital as it became the first purpose-built hospital in Western Canada for long-term rehabilitation and extended treatment for geriatric patients. During several crises, including the Red River flood of 1950 (when she oversaw the complete evacuation of other Winnipeg hospitals) and the polio epidemic of 1952-54, Mary was a pillar of strength for staff and patients.

In addition to teaching, mentoring and serving, Mary found time to document many historical events. In 1958, she authored a history of the Winnipeg Municipal Hospital entitled Our Hospitals through the Years.



Muriel Shewchuk

1940-2017

Muriel Shewchuk was a major force in moving operating nursing ahead as a specialty. She was instrumental in forming the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada (ORNAC) in 1983. She played a key role in developing national nursing standards and led her own teams in becoming certified.

Muriel was the first RN to sit on the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta advisory committee on non-hospital surgical facilities, where she accepted nothing but the highest standards. She was internationally sought as a consultant, speaker and policy developer. She was also a key provincial contact in the organ and tissue transplant arena.

Muriel was acknowledged at the local, provincial and national level for excellence in practice, education, and leadership. She received many awards including: Isabelle Adams Excellence in Perioperative Nursing Award (ORNAC), Lifetime Achievement Award (CARNA), Drake-Thompson Writing Award (ORNAC/Johnson & Johnson), and the 150 Centennial Nurses Award (CNA).



Kathleen Simpson

1936-1996

Kathleen Simpson's career was spent fostering and furthering research into nursing.

Ms. Simpson completed her baccalaureate degree in nursing at the University of Alberta. She continued graduate work in nursing at the University of Utah and later completed her doctoral degree at the University of California at San Francisco.

Her commitment to research was evident in her efforts to form a Nursing Research Interest Group at the Registered Nursing Association of British Columbia (RNABC). Her own research focused on the role of the nurse manager in fostering staff interest in research and on documentation of the patient's view of caregiving quality.

In recognition of her dedication to furthering nursing research, Ms. Simpson was presented with the RNABC award for Excellence in Nursing Research. The last years of her life were spent at Kuwait University, structuring a new curriculum and nursing faculty.



Ruby Simpson

c. 1900-1977

Ruby Simpson was a skilled leader for Canadian nurses during an especially difficult period - the Depression. From 1934 to 1938 she was president of the Canadian Nurses Association and was honoured with the Order of the British Empire for her work.

Ms. Simpson worked as a public health nurse in Saskatchewan, initially as a school nurse with the School Hygiene Branch and after 1922 as director of the branch. In 1928 she was transferred to the Department of Public Health to assume the duties of director of nursing services. She held this position until 1943, for a total of 2 years in public health service.

Ms. Simpson led the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association from 1922 to 1925 and again from 1929 to 1930. In honour of her skilled leadership in nursing organizations, in 1944 she received the Mary Agnes Snively Memorial Medal, the highest honour given by the Canadian Nurses Association at that time.



Harriet Sloan

1917-2016

A veteran of World War II, lieutenant-colonel Harriet (Hallie) Sloan was the personification of leadership in military and civilian nursing for over 50 years.

A member of the Canadian Forces Medical Service until 1968, Hallie rose to the rank of matron-in-chief, advancing military nursing and patient care. She provided educational training; she established public health clinics; she evaluated nursing practice and care; she improved standards of nursing education. She also advocated for male nurses in the military.

After the military, Hallie joined the Canadian Nurses Association as director of the Nursing Abroad and National Nursing Administration programs. She was instrumental in establishing the first research committee.

Improving the system through leadership, remaining steadfastly committed to veterans, bridging military and civilian nursing – all stand as a testament to her indomitable spirit. Hallie received numerous awards, including the Order of Canada in 2004 and the Legion of Honour.



Alice Katherine Smith

1910-1998

Alice K. Smith was a major force behind the development of Canada's northern health services.

A graduate of the Winnipeg General Hospital, she obtained a certificate in public health nursing in 1938. As a young public health nurse in rural and northern Manitoba, she soon appreciated the value of primary nursing services in the many areas of Canada where doctors were not available.

After obtaining her baccalaureate degree in nursing education in 1950, she joined the federal government's Indian Health Services in Winnipeg as the first chief nursing consultant. In her 25 years with the federal government, she initiated continuous refinements in the medical services under her supervision. She helped implement drastic improvements in the health care of the First Nations and Inuit peoples, which led to dramatic decreases in maternal and infant mortality and reductions in the incidence of tuberculosis.

She was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Ottawa in 1975.



Marie LaCroix Smith

1914-1996

Marie LaCroix Smith was a 1935 graduate of the Misericordia General Hospital Training School in Winnipeg. Between 1946 and 1948 she obtained a degree in nursing administration at McGill University.

She was a kind, thoughtful and caring person who is fondly remembered by her students and co-workers. She was dedicated to her alma mater, the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses and the Canadian Nurses Association. Of her varied nursing experiences, outstanding examples of her professionalism and dedication are her services with the South African Medical Nursing Service and the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps during World War II. She received medals and recognition for her humanitarian service in South Africa, England and Europe. Marie LaCroix Smith's participation in successful efforts to implement accreditation procedures for schools of nursing in Manitoba is a lasting and visible symbol of her commitment to excellence in nursing education and practice.



Mary Agnes Snively

1847-1933

Born in St. Catharines, Ontario, Mary Agnes Snively left her career as a teacher to attend Bellevue Hospital Training School in New York. In 1884 she became lady superintendent of Toronto General Hospital, where she developed a skilled nursing service and a training school for nurses.

Ms. Snively recognized the need for a national organization to maintain standards and solidarity. In 1907 she helped organize the Canadian Superintendents' Association, the first national nursing group. In 1908 she founded the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses (CNATN), forerunner of the Canadian Nurses Association.

Ms. Snively was also a founding member of the International Council of Nurses and was its treasurer and vice-president. In 1909, she ensured that CNATN became affiliated with International Council of Nurses.



Mary Meager Southcott

1862-1943

Mary Meager Southcott is considered the pioneer in the professionalization of nursing in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Ms. Southcott completed her basic nursing program and certificate in midwifery from the London Hospital Training School in England. She was appointed nursing supervisor of the General Hospital in St. John's in June 1901. This was the first of such appointments.

Although not the first nurse in Newfoundland, she was the first to recognize that educated nurses were essential to improving the quality of nursing services in the province.

In 1903, she established the first school of nursing – the General Hospital School of Nursing – modelled on the Nightingale system. In 1913, she formed the Graduate Nurses Association of Newfoundland, which later became the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador. Ms. Southcott was also responsible for creating the first registry of nurses in Newfoundland.



Verna Marie Huffman Splane

1914-2015

Verna Huffman Splane was an icon of nursing and a mentor to nurses all over the world.

She was Canada's first principal nursing officer at the Department of Health and Welfare, from 1968 to 1972. During this time, she married Richard Splane, who played a key role in developing public social policies such as the Canada Assistance Plan. Their shared interest in global health and social welfare led them to work with several humanitarian agencies around the world including UNICEF.

After retiring from Health and Welfare, Verna accepted appointments with the World Health Organization, the International Council of Nurses and the International Red Cross. Among two books she authored with her husband was the widely acclaimed Chief Nursing Officer Positions in National Ministries of Health: Focal Points for Nursing Leadership (1994), an extensive study of senior nursing positions in 53 countries.

An Officer of the Order of Canada, Verna was the recipient of the Jeanne Mance Award and several honorary doctorates.



Janice Lillian Stanbury

1955-2015

In 1989, Janice Lillian Stanbury was among the first few in Canada to graduate as a clinical nurse specialist in gerontology. She pioneered advanced nursing practice roles with a clinical outreach team in Vancouver and, later, with the geriatric assessment and treatment program at St. Paul's Hospital.

As clinical director with the older adult health program at the Fraser Health Authority, she provided leadership for excellence in elderly care. Enhancing the lives of seniors in clinical and community settings was her overriding passion. Through health promotion, multidisciplinary care, prevention programs and other initiatives, Janice improved vital aspects of their lives.

In the last 12 years of her nursing career, she taught at the school of nursing at the University of British Columbia, where she had earned her master's. Student nurses appreciated her commitment and dedication, but more importantly, they sought her wisdom, knowledge and brand of humour, all hallmarks of an exemplary nursing role model.



Margaret Stanley

1855-1921

Margaret Stanley was an energetic supporter of nursing education and professional associations.

Born in Prospect Hill, Ontario, Ms. Stanley graduated from Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1896 and was appointed night superintendent. Later, she was superintendent of North Adams Hospital in Massachusetts for six years. In 1906 she accepted the position of superintendent of nurses at Victoria Hospital in London, Ontario, where she remained until her retirement in 1921.

During World War I, Ms. Stanley was active in the local Red Cross, supervising the packing and sterilizing of surgical supplies and instructing lay women.

Ms. Stanley was an active executive member of the Canadian Association of Nursing Education and the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses, now the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA). She was honoured for her work at the Quebec CNA convention in 1921.



Isabel Maitland Stewart

1878-1963

A 1902 graduate of Winnipeg General Hospital Training School for Nurses, Isabel M. Stewart was a founder of its alumnae and a member of the legislative committee establishing the Manitoba Association of Graduate Nurses.

She joined the department of nursing at Columbia University in 1909, serving as director from 1925 to 1948. She spearheaded preparation of the 1917, 1927 and 1937 National League for Nursing curriculum guides. As chair of the Education Committee of the International Council of Nurses, she influenced standards of nursing education internationally. Ms. Stewart also authored books on nursing history and education, 123 articles and 20 monographs, and served nearly 20 years as editor of Nursing Education.

She received honorary degrees from three universities, a medal from the Government of Finland, the Florence Nightingale Award, a chair in her name at Columbia University and honorary life memberships from several organizations, including the Canadian Nurses Association.



Shirley M. Stinson

1929-2020

Former CNA president (1980-1982)

Shirley was an outstanding and visionary nursing leader. Her major contributions to graduate education for nurses and to development of a national and international nursing research infrastructure made her one of Canada's most honoured nurses. A dedicated fundraiser for nursing research, she lobbied the Alberta government for Heritage funds and was a founding chair of the Alberta Foundation for Nursing Research, where she promoted the study of advanced clinical nursing practice, theory, and research both nationally and internationally. She was the first woman and first nurse to receive the federal title of Senior Health Research Scientist. Long a proponent of interdisciplinary education, she was the first nurse to hold a professional appointment with the University of Alberta's Faculty of Medicine. Shirley taught, inspired, and mentored several generations of nurses and hospital administrators, including many of today's leaders in education and in nursing.



Jan Stirling

1927-2017

As a northern nurse, Jan Stirling contributed to nursing and public health in Yellowknife and the vast Arctic. Affectionately known as "Grandma Jan," she had a special empathy for marginalized people. She often offered her home to those in need on a cold night, worked with the NWT Seniors' Society to develop and implement a strategy to prevent elder abuse, and was instrumental in helping Vietnam refugees settle in the north. After graduating from the Saint John General Hospital School of Nursing, Stirling enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps and was stationed in Kure, Japan, during the Korean War. Later, she obtained a BSN from the University of Ottawa. As the manager of the Public Health Centre in Yellowknife for over 25 years, her work included hundreds of medical evacuations from remote communities and the high Arctic. She received numerous honours including the Order of the Northwest Territories (2016).



Pearl Stiver

1908-1987

Born in Grey County, Ontario, Pearl Stiver graduated from the Toronto Western Hospital's School of Nursing. She was a private duty nurse for some years before taking a course in public health nursing at the University of Toronto.

After graduating, she worked with the Victorian Order of Nurses, then with the Department of Health, City of Toronto, and later as regional supervisor with the Department of Health, Province of Ontario. Ms. Stiver took a bachelor of science degree from Columbia University in 1949 and became the director of Public Health Nursing for the City of Ottawa. In October 1952, she was appointed executive director of the Canadian Nurses Association. For 11 years, she filled this demanding role with grace and skill, before retiring in 1963.



Janet Steer Story

1924-2013

Janet Story was a leader in the professionalization of nursing. She played a key role in lobbying the government to pass the Newfoundland Registered Nurses Act, which gave nurses the authority for self-regulation. Soon after, she became a founding member of what was to become the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (ARNNL).

Her contributions to the history of nursing warrant special mention. Ms. Story helped build the extensive medical and health care collection at the Lillian Stevenson Nursing Archives/Museum in St. John's. Over many years, she worked to preserve documents and artifacts now considered highly valuable to the province's nursing, health care and social history.

Ms. Story consistently supported initiatives to improve patient care and nursing practice. As director of nursing at the General Hospital, her department often led improvements in nursing and health-care services.

Among her many awards are a Queen's Jubilee Medal and an honorary doctorate from Memorial University.



Margaret Mary Street

1907-1993

Margaret Street, a member of the Order of Canada, was a respected educator, administrator, researcher and historian. Born in Toronto in 1907, Miss Street was a high school teacher before entering nursing school at Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital. She taught and practised nursing in British Columbia, earned a bachelor of nursing at McGill University, and then taught in Manitoba and Quebec while holding administrative positions in the nurses' associations of those provinces.

From 1953 to 1960, Miss Street was associate director of the Calgary General Hospital School of Nursing, and she served as president of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses from 1957 to 1959. In 1962 she received her master's of science from Boston University. She taught at the University of British Columbia until her retirement in 1972 and wrote Watchfires on the Mountains: The Life and Writings of Ethel Johns.

An honorary member of the professional nurses' associations of British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta, and a recipient of the Canada Silver Jubilee Medal, Miss Street was invested as a member of the Order of Canada in 1982.



Cynthia Stutzer

1952-2018

New Jersey-born Cindy held nursing positions in the United States from 1974-1986 prior to obtaining her registered nurse licence in British Columbia. In 1987, Stutzer became a clinical nurse specialist in the oncology, hematology blood & marrow transplant program at British Columbia Children's Hospital, a role she maintained for her entire career in the province. She was a leader in the fields of pediatric pain management, bereavement, pediatric palliative care and end-of-life care. She participated with the Provincial Pediatric Oncology Network to create levels of service for pediatric oncology nursing care in communities outside of Vancouver by enabling community partners in hospitals and care settings to obtain the knowledge and skills to care for children with cancer in their own communities. Stutzer was a pediatric trainer with the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium and a contributor to the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses Palliative Care Guidelines.



Elizabeth R. Summers

c. 1915-1993

Dr. Elizabeth (Betty) Summers was instrumental in founding the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland (ARNN) and became its first president.

Born and educated in St. John's, Newfoundland, Dr. Summers taught school before graduating from the Halifax Infirmary School of Nursing in 1941. She served in the Royal Canadian Navy until 1946, and then obtained a bachelor of nursing from McGill.

From 1948 to 1956, Dr. Summers worked for the Department of Health Nursing Service in Newfoundland. As president of the Graduate Nurses Association of Newfoundland, she helped develop a constitution and obtain incorporation for ARNN. She became ARNN's first president in 1953 and brought the association into the Canadian Nurses Association in 1954.

From 1967 to 1980 she taught at the new school of nursing at Memorial University, and she earned a master's of nursing science from the Catholic University of America in 1976. Memorial awarded her an honorary doctoral degree in 1991.



Jean Frances (Ferguson) Sutherland

1914-2008

Frances (Ferguson) Sutherland graduated from the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton in 1938 and completed pediatric postgraduate studies at Montreal's Children's Memorial Hospital. A nursing sister during the Second World War, she developed a postwar school for nursing aides in Calgary used as a model for similar schools nationally and internationally. She served as president of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, now the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA), from 1950 to 1953 and became an honorary member in 1971. Active in the Nursing Sisters Association of Canada throughout her career, she helped create a permanent exhibit documenting wartime nursing experiences for the CARNA archives. In 2003, Sutherland received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in acknowledgment of her contributions at both the military and civilian, and national and unit levels. She served as a role model throughout her nursing career, inspiring colleagues, friends and the public she served.



Indigo Sweetwater

1952-2011

A lifelong learner, Indigo Sweetwater earned a nursing diploma in 1988 and a bachelor of science in nursing from the University College of the Cariboo in 1991. She also pursued graduate studies in advanced nursing practice at Athabasca University, graduating in 2006 with a master of nursing degree. She fully intended to earn a doctorate.

Indigo loved the North, its people, the land and culture. Quite naturally, Indigenous health care became her focus. She spent her career in many (often remote) native communities in British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, working as a community health nurse, nurse educator and nurse manager. She was a regular contributor to The Aboriginal Nurse and active in major health and nursing organizations.

In 2005, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award for service to the community from Thompson Rivers University. Her legacy – experience, expertise and enthusiasm – will live on like the North, strong and true.



Wendy Swenson

1953-2004

One of Wendy's many extraordinary contributions to nursing in Saskatchewan was her groundbreaking work in developing a nursing program for the First Nations University and the Nursing Education Program of Saskatchewan. This endeavour has had lasting national significance.

As a person of native ancestry, Wendy dreamed of increasing the number of First Nations people entering the nursing profession. She demonstrated tenacity and leadership when putting her dream into action. These characteristics defined Wendy Swenson and her nursing career. A memorial scholarship has been established in her name at the First Nations University of Saskatchewan.

Wendy was a clinical nurse, a manager and a lifelong learner. She was an inspiration to all and a mentor to many. Her influence was exceptional, and she will long be remembered as a role model for nurses and nursing, now and into the future.



Claudia Tennant

1917-2006

Claudia Tennant graduated from Holy Cross Hospital in 1939 before joining the Royal Canadian Navy. After her discharge in 1945, Claudia earned a baccalaureate degree in nursing from McGill University. She became matron at Taber and then director of nursing at the Galt (Lethbridge Municipal) Hospital (1949 to 1969), and was recognized as Lethbridge Woman of the Year in 1953. Elected several times to the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses (AARN) provincial council, she served as president from 1961 to 1963, playing a significant role in restructuring the organization. She was also president of the Alberta Cancer Society (1963). Following her retirement in 1969, Claudia received two appointments from the World Health Organization: Mauritius (1969 to 1974) and Botswana (1974 to 1977). Claudia later volunteered with the United Nations Development Agency, spending several years at Sana'a, Yemen Arab Republic. Claudia was made an honorary member of the AARN in 1979.



Elizabeth Helen Thomlinson

1942-2004

Rural health was the long-time focus of Betty Thomlinson's teaching, research and service.

In Manitoba, Betty helped establish the northern bachelor of nursing program. At the University of Calgary, she partnered with colleagues to develop a rural network of clinical placements for undergraduate students. Her work with rural and Aboriginal populations was a magnet for graduate students at the master's and doctoral levels. She combined education and research in a preceptorship field study funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Betty was instrumental in developing the Manitoba Research Centre on Family Violence and Violence Against Women. She was part of the founding group for Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE) in Manitoba. Later, she served as interim director of the Alberta section of RESOLVE. Betty co-edited Realities of Canadian Nursing: Professional, Practice, and Power Issues, which is used widely in schools of nursing across the country.



Jean E. Browne Thomson

1883-1973

The first president of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association, Jean E. Browne Thomson was also instrumental in the drafting of the bill leading to the Registered Nurses Act of Saskatchewan. She was the first Saskatchewan representative to the Canadian Nurses Association and served as president from 1922 to 1926.

Born in Parkhill, Ontario, Thomson studied at the Toronto General Hospital, later taking graduate courses at King's College for Women at the University of London in England.

A pioneer of public health nursing in Saskatchewan, Thomson became the province's first school nurse in 1911. Later, she was the first director of school hygiene for the provincial department of education.

During the First World War, Thomson served as a volunteer with the Saskatchewan Junior Red Cross advisory committee. She was appointed national director of the Canadian Junior Red Cross Society in 1922. Thomson was awarded the Florence Nightingale medal by the International Red Cross in 1939.



Lily Turnbull

c. 1930-1991

Described as a “nurse of the world,” Lily Turnbull worked diligently with the World Health Organization for 24 years.

A native of Saskatchewan, Ms. Turnbull graduated from the Regina General Hospital School of Nursing and obtained a bachelor of nursing from McGill. After serving as a nursing sister in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps during World War II, she held positions in education and administration at Grace Hospital in Winnipeg before joining the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1952.

With WHO, she was initially a team leader in Malaysia and then regional nursing adviser, Western Pacific Region. From 1968 to 1976 she was WHO’s chief nursing officer in Geneva, Switzerland. During this time, she received a WHO Director General’s Scholarship and completed her master’s in public health at Johns Hopkins University.

Ms. Turnbull was made an honorary member of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association.



Patricia (Pat) Wadsworth

1931-2017

Patricia Wadsworth was a graduate of the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) School of Nursing and the University of British Columbia (UBC) with degrees in Nursing and Adult Education. Her career was varied with roles as a staff nurse, supervisor, instructor, Director of Ambulatory Services and then Patient Services at VGH, Executive Director of the BC Health Association, a surveyor for the first Canadian Association on Accreditation, Clinical Professor in the UBC Department of Health Care and Epidemiology, and Health Care Management Consultant.

In addition to her work, Pat made time to be an active member of local and national professional organizations filling a variety of committee and leadership roles. As President of the Registered Nurses Foundation of British Columbia (RNFBC) she was instrumental in ensuring that the Capital Campaign to increase funding for basic and continuing education nursing bursaries was a major success. Pat was an innovative leader with a passion for nursing who used her knowledge, skills and connections to deal with a wide variety of issues and challenges.



Helen G. McArthur Watson

-1974

When Helen McArthur Watson died, Canadian nurses lost one of their most beloved and well-known colleagues.

Mrs. Watson was president of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1950 to 1954 and was national director of Nursing Services for the Canadian Red Cross Society. She was awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal and the Coronation Medal, and also received an honorary degree of law from the University of Alberta. During the Korean conflict, she was coordinator of relief services. Mrs. Watson died in Guelph, Ontario, in 1974.



Jean Cockburn Watt

-1984

Jean Watt graduated from the School of Nursing at Victoria Hospital, London, and received her certificate in public health nursing from the University of Toronto. She spent six years as a member of the Victorian Order of Nurses before becoming a school nurse for York Township.

Ms. Watt served with the Royal Canadian Medical Corps in Canada, England and Italy during the Second World War. She worked with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in Germany before returning to Canada and, in 1952, joined the staff at the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. She was Secretary of the Provisional Council of the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO), and played a key role in the development of the Nurses Act of 1961-62. In 1963 she was appointed director of the CNO, a position she held until she retired in 1968.



Joan Marlene Weir

1946–2012

Joan Weir lived personally and professionally with integrity, passion and a commitment for excellence. Her experience with a personal tragedy propelled her to advocate for hospice palliative care by advancing medical and nursing practice. Joan envisioned the integration of hospice palliative care across all sectors of health care (acute, home health, residential and hospice residences) by insisting that care needed to follow the patient-family journey. Joan, who was the first to develop Palliative Symptom Guidelines in B.C.'s Fraser Valley health region, also championed cultural diversity by partnering with aboriginal communities and honouring cultural practices in end-of-life care. Her significant impact on the professional practice of physicians and nurses benefited many patients and families. Joan was the face of palliative care in the community of Chilliwack, and she supported both volunteer and professional sectors in their efforts to achieve excellence.



Sister Mary Felicitas Mekel

1916-2004

Sister Mary Felicitas became an accomplished nurse and nurse leader after graduating from the Providence Hospital School of Nursing in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. She earned a BSc in nursing education from the University of Ottawa and an MSc from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. She spent 26 years at St. Mary's Hospital, Montreal, as director of nursing and director of nursing education.

Sister Mary Felicitas was the first and only Sister elected president of the Canadian Nurses Association (1967-70). Her passion for the nursing profession and for patients was evident in her dealings as president. She was credited with taking a key role in developing education-oriented, as opposed to training-based, programs for preparing nurses.

She earned an alumni achievement award in 1970 from the Catholic University of America and a Commemorative Medal for the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2003.



Jean S. Wilson

-1959

Not only was Jean Wilson the first full-time executive secretary of the Canadian Nurses Association, but she served the association for a longer period than any other officer in its history – 20 years. For half that period, she was also the editor of Canadian Nurse.

A graduate of the school of nursing of Lady Stanley Institute in Ottawa, Jean Wilson's first position was at Jubilee Hospital in Vernon, B.C. Later, she became superintendent of nurses at the General Hospital in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. She became Saskatchewan's first secretary-treasurer and registrar after the passing of the Registered Nurses' Act.

Ms. Wilson became full-time executive secretary of the Canadian National Association of Trained Nurses in 1923, the same year that the association's name was changed to the Canadian Nurses Association. In the 20 years that followed, Ms. Wilson played an integral role in the growth and nurturing of the association.



Joanne Wooldridge (nee Weisgerber)

1967-2019

In addition to being a loving, inspirational wife and mother, Joanne was very passionate about her work with newborn babies and maternal services. She began her career at BC Women's Hospital in the labour and delivery room. There, she made lifelong connections in the nursing community. In 2001, she obtained her master of science, nursing, degree and became the lead in many community programs for mothers and babies through Vancouver Coastal Health and the Provincial Health Services Authority. In 2017 she became the director, maternity and surgical services maternal newborn program, at BC Women's Hospital, a role she treasured as she steadfastly was committed to the progression of the maternal newborn agenda after the successful and triumphant move into the new patient tower just months after her arrival into the director role. Her colleagues speak in celebration of her life that shone brightly and has illuminated the paths for so many along the way.



Alice Lillian Wright

1894-2000

Alice Wright, registrar and executive director for the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (RNABC) from 1943 to 1960, was one of Canada's nursing pioneers in labour relations. She helped initiate major changes in working conditions and salaries at a time when nurses were just beginning collective bargaining through their professional associations. Described as a "woman of vision," she was named an honorary member of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) in 1962 for her pioneering labour relations work, her contributions to improvement in standards of nursing education and her many professional contributions nationally and internationally.

During her tenure with RNABC she participated in CNA activities and was also appointed to several interprofessional committees and International Council of Nurses' (ICN) committees. Ms. Wright also became an observer to the World Health Assembly. She continued to work with ICN following retirement, chairing the membership committee.



Katherine Diane Richardson Wright

1925-1999

Katherine Wright spent her nursing career committed to patients' right to quality care.

Mrs. Wright graduated from the Moncton Hospital School of Nursing in 1948 and from McGill University in 1951. That year, she became an instructor at the Moncton Hospital School of Nursing. In 1953, she was appointed the school's director, and she held that position until the facility closed in 1975. From 1953 to 1967, she was also the hospital's assistant executive director in charge of nursing and most other clinical services. She earned a diploma in health organization and management from the Canadian Hospital Association in 1972.

As president of the New Brunswick Association of Registered Nurses from 1966 to 1968, she played a vital role in having the responsibility for nursing education moved from the hospital sector to the provincial Department of Advanced Education.

In 1995, the Katherine Wright Family Wellness Centre was established in recognition of her contribution to health care.



Dorothy Wylie

1929-2016

Dorothy Wylie's career included work as a nurse, nursing administrator, consultant and educator. In each of these roles, she was highly respected for her intelligence, vision and pragmatism.

Ms. Wylie provided major contributions to nursing leadership. She held senior executive positions at leading hospitals including Sunnybrook and Toronto General. She also helped establish the Ontario provincial nurse administrators' interest group, now the Nursing Leadership Network of Ontario, and the Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership.

Ms. Wylie served on numerous boards including two years as president of the College of Nurses of Ontario. Upon retirement, she taught graduate courses in nursing leadership at the University of Manitoba and the University of Toronto.

Ms. Wylie held honorary lifetime memberships from the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario and the Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario. She was a powerful role model, guide and coach to many nurses who would become acknowledged leaders in their own right.



Clotilda A. Yakimchuk

1932-2021

Clotilda Yakimchuk was a Nova Scotian of many firsts. For example, she was the first Black person to graduate from the Nova Scotia Hospital in 1954; she founded and chaired the Cape Breton Retired Nurses Interest Group; she spearheaded the book, Reflections of Care: A Century of Nursing in Cape Breton, with proceeds being used to create an award for nursing students at Cape Breton University; she founded and was president of the Black Community Development Organization, which provided affordable housing to low-income communities; and she organized fundraising events to provide education to Black youths. Elected president of the Registered Nurses Association of Nova Scotia in 1983, she received many awards, such as the Order of Canada (2003), the Order of Nova Scotia (2018), and an honorary doctorate of laws from Cape Breton University (2010). Her contribution to the community regarding education, seniors, housing, health care, and environmental and human rights continue to benefit all Nova Scotians. Clotilda will be remembered for her groundbreaking career.



