



# 2025 NURSING HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

## BC Nursing History

Celebrating 35 Years Dedicated to Preserving the History of Nursing in BC 1990 to 2025

April 14, 2025

Cecil Green Park House, UBC

# THE NURSES OF HORNBY ISLAND Post-Career Pathways

Megan J. Davies  
Prof Emerita, York University, Canada



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Nursing  
Faculty of Applied Science



School of Nursing  
CONSORTIUM  
FOR NURSING  
HISTORY INQUIRY



B.C. History of  
Nursing Society

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE



- 9.30 Arrival and registration, with refreshments
- 10.00 Welcome, Land acknowledgement, Introductions - *Geertje Boschma & Suzanne Nixon*
- 10.10 **Megan Davies**, keynote presentation
- 10.45 Time for questions
- 11.00 Refreshment break



- 11.20 Panel “Sharing experiences of preserving our history”
- Margaret Scaia** - Facilitator
- Frances Mansbridge** - writing our history
- Nan Martin** - chairing the Archives Committee
- Krisztina Laszlo** - preserving the BCHNS Archival Collection
- Lenore Radom & Anita Petersen** - renewing the Website



- 12.45 Closing remarks *Geertje & Suzanne*
- 12.50 Lunch



**Megan Davies, PhD,  
Professor Emerita, York  
University**

*Megan J. Davies is a Professor (Emerita), Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada. She is a historian of health with a regional focus on BC. She currently works on old age, madness, and everyday medicine. As part of the MadnessCanada.com community, Megan has participated in a number of academic-community collaborations, most notably the 2013 documentary, *The Inmates Are Running the Asylum*. In January 2022, with the support of a Shadbolt Fellowship, Megan launched *COVID in the House of Old*, a public exhibit, website and podcast. She has numerous publications on health history.*



## The Nurses of Hornby Island: Post-career Pathways

Megan's presentation explores the work of a group of nurses pivotal to the establishment of an early home support society on BC's Hornby Island in the late 1970s. The Hornby Island nurses - many of them retirees - served as volunteer members of the society's board, transcending their professional practice by engaging with a new provincial "social health" program, sometimes as health activists representing elders from their remote rural community. Yet they remained definitively nurses. Themes of nursing leadership, nursing identity, nursing practices of organization and management and shared nursing knowledges and ways of seeing shaped their work, and also this study.





Hosted by the UBC School of Nursing History of Nursing Consortium  
in collaboration with the BC History of Nursing Society



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