

ABERDEEN HOSPITAL 1897-1997

One Hundredth Anniversary

**Of the founding of the Aberdeen Hospital
(exerts about the School of Nursing Alumnae)**

ALUMNAE HISTORY

School of Nursing

1897-1995

School of Radiology

1929-1966

School of Laboratory Technology

1960-1972

(current 2020 updates added)

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNAE

On this the 100th year since the formation of the Aberdeen Hospital School of Nursing and the 57th year since the origin of the Alumnae it is with pleasure that the Association print the complete 100th Anniversary booklet (found in another document *One Hundredth Anniversary*). This is the fourth such issue, one being printed in 1957, 1967, 1987 and 1997. This is the first issue to contain information on graduates from additional educational programs – Radiology and Laboratory Technology – of the Aberdeen Hospital. In 1996 our By-Laws were revised to include these graduates.

To celebrate this 100th year landmark a reunion of all Graduates will be held in the New Glasgow area on September 12, 13, 14th, 1997. We are anticipation an exceptional response of Alumnae members and look forward to meeting with old friend, reminiscing about our student days, being updated on the years since then, and also on our current situations.

It is especially important that we schedule regular gatherings now that the School of Nursing and the other educational programs have been brought to closure:

School of Nursing	1897 – 1995
School of Radiology	1929 - 1966
School of Laboratory Technology	1960 – 1972

Over the past 100 years we have faced phenomenal change, especially in the past decade when our system of health care has been drastically altered and the outcomes have affected the very core of our system. Never in the history of health care has it been more important to uphold our traditional “Aberdeen Graduate Reputation” and continue to be dedicated to the care of those people entrusted to us.

May we never forget the “people” are, and will always remain, the very basis of our Health Care System.

Faye (Bonvie) Hoare

Class of 1957

President

ALUMNAE HISTORY

The history of the Alumnae Association of the Aberdeen Hospital School of Nursing covering the period of 1940 – 1997 is found in the Anniversary booklet published in 1997. Much of this has been reprinted and brought up to date.

In March 1940, Miss Mary MacGowan, Class of 1907, a graduate of the Aberdeen Hospital School of Nursing and a resident of the United States, wrote to Miss Marion P. Boa the Superintendent of the Aberdeen Hospital asking if an Alumna might be founded. It was felt such an association would add to the prestige of the Aberdeen Hospital School of Nursing.

Various graduates were then contacted and through their efforts and under the guidance of Miss Boa, the Aberdeen Alumnae became a reality – the date April 16th, 1940 with 22 graduates becoming charter members.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee was formed, and was comprised of Isabel (Ballie) Fraser (Class of 1919), Jean (Dick) Murray (Class of 1921) and Jean (Burns) Cumming (Class of 1911).

Yearly dues were set at fifty cents, and meetings were to be held monthly from September to May, inclusively. (Dues are now \$10.00, 2020).

The Aberdeen Hospital Board granted the privilege of using the hospital crest on our stationary.

Mrs. Isabel (MacLeod) Cantley, Class of 1914, was appointed the first President of the Association and Miss Nina Grant, Class of 1917, was named Honorary President; Secretary was Mrs. Isa (DeMings) Douglas, Class of 1920; Treasurer, Mrs. Isabel (Baillie) Fraser, Class of 1919. The current President is Heather (Baker) MacKeigan, Class of 1967.

By the end of the year 1940, all former graduates had been contacted, resulting in 73 members belonging to the Association.

The object of the Alumnae is to uphold and maintain the honour of the nursing profession, and promote unity, loyalty and good feeling among the members.

The Alumnae took an active interest in the Training School, which was founded in 1997. Since that time 1837 nurses have graduated, and have taken their places in all phases of the nursing profession.

Many graduates have occupied responsible positions at home and abroad, as well as being active members of the armed forces.

The Alumnae formerly catered the graduation dance.

In the past years the Alumnae presented a prize at graduation, to the nurse making the 2nd highest aggregate. In former years the prize was a hypodermic and thermometer set; following this a case of instruments was presented; finally this prize was changed to \$10.00, and then in keeping with the changing times, changed to \$20.00, and then to \$25.00 respectively. Later the award was changed to the General Proficiency Award and donated in honour of Mary Jane Ross.

The Alumnae also took part in the annual Capping Ceremony, where \$25.00 was presented to the student nurse making the highest mark in Bedside Nursing during the preliminary period.

The waiting room of the X-ray Department of the New Aberdeen (1955) was furnished by the senior graduates in honour of Miss Sheraton, who was the first Superintendent of the Aberdeen Hospital from 1897 – 1919.

Room 311, in the New Aberdeen Hospital (1955), was furnished in memory of Miss Nina Grant, a graduate of the Aberdeen Hospital, Class of 1917, and Superintendent from 1919 – 1931.

Minutes over the years indicate a number of noteworthy items:

During the war years, a number of bread and butter teas were held at the home of Mrs. Isobel (MacLeod) Cantley to provide funds to assist the Overseas Nurses. (Probably the recent graduates will not realize the shortages of that time, and these teas were just that – bread and butter; also, for meetings, members brought their own tea with them.)

Another point of interest and one that seems hard to believe was that New Glasgow adopted a town in Russia, and the Alumnae contributed to the funds.

During the war, quilting parties were in order, and the Alumnae meetings became sewing bees with the quilts being donated to the Red Cross. Children's clothing was also made and donated to both the V.O.N. and the Red Cross.

Following the Second World War, an honour roll was procured and placed in the front entrance of the Aberdeen Hospital in honour of those Aberdeen graduates who served with the Armed Forces. The roll holds a place of honour on the wall in the Archives Room presently located in the basement of the Aberdeen Hospital. The Alumnae Association also continues to place a wreath on the cenotaph in New Glasgow on Remembrance Day to this day.

In 1945, Miss Richardson, Superintendent at the time, invited the Alumnae members to attend graduation exercises in uniform. During Miss Richardson's term as Superintendent, changes were made in the nurses' uniforms; these changes were not favorably received by the Alumnae members. Through the efforts of the Alumnae, the caps and bibs were reverted to their former style.

The Diamond Jubilee of the Aberdeen Hospital School of Nursing was celebrated in the year 1956. At the time the Alumnae held a reunion which took the form of an afternoon tea and a banquet. They also attended the graduation dance. It was a most gratifying experience for all concerned.

Vespers services were held yearly in the different churches of the four towns. Nurses attended these services in uniform, and they were held on the Sunday nearest the 12th of May, the birthday of Florence Nightingale.

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Alumnae Association of the Aberdeen Hospital were revised in 1996 and are as follows:

“1. To promote and maintain unity, co-operation and loyalty among the graduates of the Aberdeen Hospital.

2. To provide an opportunity for fellowship with members through meetings, social functions and communications.”

Some additional noteworthy activities of the Alumnae have included:

Life membership was presented as a token of faithful dedication and work in the Association to Mrs. Jean (Dick) Murray, 1921; Miss Mary Jane Ross, 1929; and Mabel (Grant) Larsen, 1932. Life members are invited to our annual meetings and banquets.

On November 1st, 1973, Mrs. Nina (Prowse) Ervin, 1915, was made our Honorary President.

Mrs. Flora (Conrad) Otto, 1921, our oldest living graduate of the School of Nursing, honoured the school by cutting the ribbon to officially open Phase 1 – renovation construction project of the hospital.

October 7th, 1971, a tradition began when miniature gold caps and corsages were presented to Mrs. Jean (Dick, 1921) Murray, Mrs. Flora (Conrad, 1921) Otto, Mrs. Rose (Cameron, 1920) Enman, in absentia, Mrs. Anna (Mahoney, 1921) MacQuarrie and Mrs. Gladys (Smith, 1919) Mac Gregor, all graduates of fifty years.

In 1971, Barbie Dolls dressed in uniforms depicting the changes in style of Aberdeen Uniforms were made by Mrs. Andrea Robertson, Mrs. Jean Nunn and students of the School of Nursing. These are on display in the Archives.

At the November 1972 meeting there was a notice of motion that dues be raised to \$2.00 yearly and would be due at the Annual Meeting. In 1984, a motion was presented to make dues \$4.00 yearly. In 1997, a motion was presented to make dues \$5.00 annually (current 2020 annual dues are \$10.00 yearly).

In October 1973 at the Annual Meeting at the Sea Hawk Restaurant, Pictou, Mrs. Sharon (Macdonald) MacPherson, on behalf of the 1963 Class, presented a silver cream and sugar set to the Alumnae Association to commemorate their 10th Anniversary.

In 1974, a letter was sent to the Mayor of New Glasgow and Premier of Nova Scotia expressing the concern of the Alumnae members regarding the widening of the highway in front of the Hospital. Replies were received from Mayor Harquail and Premier Regan.

March 6th, 1975, a design for the memorial cards was presented for approval. Mr. Robert Porter presented a memorial Record Book in March 1977.

The Alumnae Association sponsored a dance on October 4th, 1975, there were 50 couples present.

October 6th, 1977, a motion was made and carried that we purchase a new mannequin for the School of Nursing.

In March 1979, a Dessert recipe Book was compiled of recipes from the members. One hundred and sixty-five books were made and sold.

On November 6th, 1980, Mrs. Alice (Byers, 1940), Thompson donated money to the Alumnae to purchase a lamp for hospital room 311.

On October 4th, 1982, a motion was passed stating the Association hold four meetings per year on the first Thursday in April, June, October, and December. These dates may be changed to accommodate special circumstances.

On October 4th, 1984, the graduates of the 1934 Class presented the Alumnae with a donation of \$100.00.

The Alumnae has contributed to many projects which promote the health and welfare of the community:

1. Tearman House
2. Recovery House in Monastery
3. VON Foot Care Clinic
4. Picnic Drive for Seniors
5. A monetary gift was donated for Archives and Memorial Cards were sent to the families of deceased Alumnae members.

CHARTER MEMBERS – APRIL 16TH, 1940

The name of the Association is *The Alumnae Association of the Aberdeen Hospital School of Nursing* and originated in 1940.

The object of the Association is the maintenance of the honour of the nursing profession, the promotion of unity, good feeling and loyalty among the members.

The following are the Charter Members of the Association:

1911 – Jean (Burns) Cummings	1928 – Annie (MacDougall) MacDonald
1914 – Isobel (MacLeod) Cantley	1929 – Elizabeth (Cowan) Fraser
1915 – Nina (Prowse) Ervin	1931 – Ella (MacDonald) Whooten
1917 – Mabel (MacPhee)	1932 – Mabel (Grant) Larsen
1919 – Isobel (Baillie) Fraser	1932 – Lillian (Harris) Ferguson
1920 – Isa (DeMing) Douglas	1932 – Emma (Wright) Green
1920 – Rose (Cameron) Enman	1932 – Marjorie (Porter) Wright
1921 – Jean (Dick) Murray	1933 – Jean (Murray) MacLean
1922 – Adeline (Himmelman) Chisholm	1933 – Mary (Fraser) MacLean
1925 – Tena (Sutherland) MacLeod	1934 – Marion (Campbell) MacLean
1927 – Anna (MacDonald) Fraser	1934 – Jessie MacLaughlin

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

1911 – Mrs. Jean Cumming
1914 – Mrs. Isobel
1915 – Mrs. Nina Ervin
1917 – Miss Nina Grant
1919 – Mrs. Mabel MacGregor
1932 – Mrs. Emma Green

PAST PRESIDENTS

1940 – 1941	Mrs. Isabel (MacLeod) Cantley
1942	Mrs. Jean (Burns) Cummings)
1943	Mrs. Nina (Prowse) Ervin
1944	Mrs. Tena Belle (Sutherland) MacLeod
1945	Mrs. Jean (Dick) Murray
1946	Mrs. Mabel (Grant) Larsen
1947	Miss Mary Jane Ross
1948	Miss Lillian Harris
1949	Mrs. Lillian (MacCormick) MacDonald
1950	Mrs. Elsie (Fraser) Locke
1951	Mrs. Sally (Miller) Morrison
1952	Mrs. Kathleen (Cameron) Cooke
1953	Miss Aileen Campbell
1954	Mrs. Margaret (Brimicombe) Bull Mrs. Betty (Dunlop) Hoe (April –December)
1955	Mrs. Ad (Matheson) MacNeil
1956	Mrs. Jean (Manor) Chisholm
1957	Mrs. Alice (Hamblen) MacLellan
1958	Mrs. Kay (Nelson) MacLeod
1959	Mrs. Alma (Bagnell) Proudfoot
1960	Mrs. Muriel (MacCulloch) Barbour
1961 – 1962	Mrs. Pearl (MacDonald) Tower
1962 – 1963	Mrs. Sally (Miller) Morrison

1963 – 1964 Mrs. Shirley (Taylor) Farrell Doucette
 1964 – 1965 Mrs. Mary (Frame) Slater
 1965 – 1966 Mrs. Jean (Dick) Murray
 1966 – 1967 Mrs. Jean (Dunbar) MacKay Baudoux
 1967 – 1968 Mrs. Kay (Cameron) Cooke
 1968 – 1970 Mrs. Faye (Bonvie) Hoare
 1970 – 1971 Mrs. Jean (Dunbar) MacKay Baudoux
 1971 – 1973 Mrs. Lillian (MacCormick) MacDonald
 1973 – 1975 Mrs. Andrea (Dunbar) Robertson
 1975 – 1977 Mrs. Ila (MacDonald) MacKenzie
 1977 – 1978 Mrs. Rowena (Reid) Sullivan
 1978 – 1980 Mrs. Faye (Bonvie) Hoare
 1980 – 1983 Mrs. Geraldine (Hamper) Quinn
 1983 – 1985 Mrs. Dorothy (Anthony) Smith
 1985 – 1987 Mrs. Kathleen (Cameron) Cooke
 1987 – 1989 Miss Coleen Pollard
 1989 – 1992 Mrs. Rose (Cluney) Fraser
 1992 – 1994 Miss Coleen Pollard
 1994 – 1995 Mrs. Michele (Makichuk) Ottar
 1995 – 2014 Mrs. Faye (Bonvie) Hoare
 2014 – Present Mrs. Heather (Baker) MacKeigan

OUR LIFE MEMBERS

In the revised (1967) Constitution and By-Laws of the Alumnae Association of the Aberdeen Hospital School of Nursing provision was made (Article 11, Section A) for the granting of Life

Membership. This honour is for the members deemed by the Alumnae as persons who have made significant contributions to the life and work of the Alumnae Association.

The first Life Memberships were given at a banquet held in conjunction with the Seventieth Anniversary (1967) celebration.

Former Life Members

Mrs. Nina (Prowse) Ervin

Mrs. Jean (Dick) Murray

Miss Mary Jane Ross

Current Life Members

Mrs. Mabel Grant Larsen

Mrs. Katherine (Nelson) MacLeod

Currently annual Alumnae dues are \$10.00 with regular meeting the first Thurs each month at 1.30 pm October, November, March, April, May and June. The September meeting takes place during the annual banquet and in December a Christmas luncheon takes place. Both are held on the first Thursday of these months unless otherwise stated.