

# THE CANADIAN GERONTOLOGICAL NURSE



*Vol. 28 #4 Newsletter of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association Spring 2012*

## **Networking within our Association**

This time of year our professional organizations are often quite busy with meetings – times to reconnect, energize and in general network with one another. Most of the provinces have had education days and/or their annual general meetings. We have several new Provincial Presidents to welcome and thus also new board members in most provinces. In preparing for the CGNA's annual meeting we are reviewing the goals and strategies that have been approved for the current and future months, the time between our biennial conferences. So in this issue I would like to point out some of the networking that has occurred and will be occurring over the next few weeks. As well we are going to try to profile members from across Canada; we have a diverse membership, not only across the continent but in terms of our roles within nursing and gerontology in particular.

In the spirit of networking, I had the opportunity to meet with members from the east coast provinces in May – some of the topics we discussed were around issue of membership and how to communicate what we do as nurses in gerontology. We discussed advanced practice nurses in gerontology – there is a report on the national study on nurse practitioners in nursing homes; other topics included political action, promoting the association and how to make the CGNA member benefits even more accessible to members. These are on the agenda for the June executive/board retreat and AGM – so expect more news on these in the summer issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Buchanan RN, PhD, GNC(C) CGNA President

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## **REPORTS FROM CGNA PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Alberta Gerontological Nurses Association**

[www.AGNA.ca](http://www.AGNA.ca)

The Alberta provincial conference was held in Red Deer April 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>. TOPIC: 'Aging in Place: In what place are you aging?' The theme was cultural diversity. Alberta has found that use of study groups has been a very effective way to recruit new members; they offer study groups free to members with non-members paying \$20 to attend which the attendee can put towards signing up for a new membership with AGNA. AGNA was also invited to participate as a special interest group with the Chief Nursing Executive and Health Ministry.

**Gerontological Nursing Association of British Columbia**  
[www.gnabc.com](http://www.gnabc.com)

GNABC has voted to change and align their membership cycle with CGNA starting in 2012, so the membership year for 2012 will be shorter. GNABC in planning for the 2013 CGNA Conference to be held in Vancouver, BC – the theme for the conference is “Personhood and Caring: Honouring the Older Adult’s Life Journey”. This will be held at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel from May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 1, 2013. They have launched their new website which they hope will help to attract new members.

**Manitoba Gerontological Nursing Association**

Lesley Dryburgh is the new President for Manitoba.

**New Brunswick Gerontological Nursing Association**

NBGNA held their AGM and education on April 27<sup>th</sup> which attracted new members. Their education session included an overview of how to search the CGNA website and a talk on Elder Abuse and Adult Protection.

**Newfoundland and Labrador Gerontological Nurses’ Association**

Lisa Adams is the new NLGNA President and noted that membership increased with their education day.

**Nova Scotia Gerontological Nursing Association**

[www.nsgna.com](http://www.nsgna.com)

Sohani Welcher is the new NSGNA President. The executive has been in transition and in the past year under Past President Dana McNamara-Morse, they carried out a review and recommended changes for their Operations Manual and By-Laws.

**Gerontological Nursing Association Ontario**

[www.gnaontario.org](http://www.gnaontario.org)

2012 GNAO Annual Provincial Conference will be hosted by the Durham Chapter on November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> in Oshawa, Ontario. Theme of the conference is: “*Through Different Lenses*”.

**Prince Edward Island Gerontological Nursing Association**

Elaine Campbell is the new PEIGNA President. They held an education day on May 9<sup>th</sup> – the topic Excellence in the Care of Older Adults: Paving the way for concepts in caring. For a small provincial association they did well by attracting 80 registrants.

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**MEMBER PROFILE**

Phyllis Lewis & Jan Linscott – Mentor & Mentee to Colleagues

The following is an excerpt taken from a tribute to Phyllis Lewis that Jan Linscott wrote to the Ban Righ Foundation at Queen’s University, a Center devoted to the achievements of mature students. Jan wrote the tribute to honor Phyllis Lewis, a Gerontological Nurse who inspired Jan to specialize in gerontology.

*“Fortunately for me, in 1986 during my first undergrad year I met Phyllis Lewis, a professor in the School of Nursing. Phyllis had a passion for Gerontology and became my mentor and sage advisor at a time*

*when a career in gerontology was a new specialty. Phyllis had a way of questioning that made me think about what I was seeking and where I was going. Although I moved to Toronto after graduation we remained in touch throughout the years by attending and presenting at Gerontology conferences. Upon my return to Kingston in 2001 our teacher-student relationship blossomed into a colleague to colleague relationship as we co-taught a course on Aging at Queen's University. We have graduated from teacher-student to advisor-advisee and now have the pleasure of a memorable friendship as we discuss and share the joys of our outdoor travel and leisure activities."*

Phyllis received her RN from Kingston General Hospital and her BNSc and M Ed from Queen's University. She worked general duty as an RN at Women's College Hospital in Toronto for several years; then worked as an educator – in Toronto, Montreal and finally in Kingston. She has taught health care aides, lay persons and nursing students at St. Lawrence College and then in the School of Nursing at Queen's University. It was when she designed and taught a series of gerontology courses that her link with gerontology was born. Phyllis was a Pioneer in Championing Gerontological Nursing. She was passionate about this specialty and was instrumental in beginning the first Gerontological Nursing Association (GNA) Chapter in Kingston; in 1983 Phyllis became the first President. In 1997, Phyllis received a Lifetime Membership Award to the Provincial GNAO, Kingston Chapter for her commitment and contribution to the field of gerontology.

*"After 40 years of a fulfilling and prosperous career in health care, I (Jan) could not ask for more than the contentment and satisfaction of having being able to influence humanity and touch the lives of so many ... Phyllis fuelled my passion for gerontology and for education and my tribute to her and gratitude is extended to her for helping me embark on a rewarding career"*

Jan Linscott got her roots in nursing in 1969, beginning as a Registered Practical Nurse and subsequently went on to pursue her BNSc from Queen's School of Nursing in 1990 and her MN from University of Toronto in 1999. Jan was a member of the Toronto GNA Chapter and very active in the Political Action Committee in the early 90's when Patient Classification Systems were being developed nationally and internationally. Jan embraced Gerontology as well as a philosophical belief in Patient Centered Care while in various management and leadership roles.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Canadian Nursing Association Biennial Conference – Vancouver, BC. June 19-21, 2012.**

**CGNA 2012 AGM, Sunday, June 17, 2012 – Vancouver, BC – [Watch the Website.](#)**

**National Gerontological Nursing Association (NGNA) will host their annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland from October 4-7, 2012. Info: [www.ngna](http://www.ngna)**

**CGNA 2013 Conference: Personhood and Caring: Honouring the Older Adult's Life Journey to be held May 29 - June 1, 2013. Watch for the CGNA conference website, [www.cgnaconference.ca](http://www.cgnaconference.ca) for the call for abstracts.**

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**ISSN 0825-9291**

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