



SPECIAL EDITION



Friendship



EST. 1931

HXH SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI

APRIL 2026

KEEPING MEMORIES ALIVE



GRAD AND UNDERGRAD CIRCA 1918

*Old school friends are like stars.
You don't always see them but you
know they are there. - Anon.*

*Sometimes you never know the value
of a moment until it becomes a
memory. - Dr. Seuss*

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REMEMBER WHEN



PHOTO COURTESY MARY DAHLQUIST

*We didn't know we were making
memories - we just thought we
were having fun!*



TEA PARTY, 1957

SHARING



PRECIOUS



MEMORIES



TOGETHER

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Graduating from the Holy Cross School of Nursing has given each of us a sense of belonging.

Some of our dearest lifetime friendships came from attending the school, living in residence and our shared connection in the history of the Holy Cross Hospital. Through our continued association with our alumni members, we have formed friendships that surpass all the flowers originally planted in our Holy Cross "garden". The alumni is about keeping our memories alive through friendship and connection.

We are excited to share the newsletter theme of "Keeping Memories Alive through Friendship" and hope you enjoy the memories shared throughout this year's newsletter.

Marion Kelly (McIntyre '75)
Maureen Robertson (McGrath '63)



EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE

2025 Executive

President: Pat Jeffery (Jensen '78) 403-830-7735
Past-President & Banquet: Elaine McKiel ('61) 403-242-6563
Vice President: Leslie Perry (Morrison '76) 403-818-6449
Treasurer: Sheila Padley (Carleton '64) 403-819-5333
Secretary: Carol Logan (Gomer '71) 403-813-2507

Members at Large

Patricia Hnatiuk (Baird '70) 403-966-8536
Marie Shushelnitsky (Maloney '70) 403-651-9423
Dolores Bramall (Tench '58) 403-252-3416
Rita Frandsen (Sautner '70) 403-278-9047 (Contacts & Courtesy)

Newsletter and Website

Marion Kelly (McIntyre '75) 403-281-8918
Maureen Robertson (McGrath '63) 403-375-7395



EXECUTIVE REPORT

PAT JEFFERY (JENSEN '78)

2026 will mark my 3rd year as your President. I have been so blessed to work alongside such a wonderful group of women who make up my executive.

Following elections at the AGM in March, **Carol Logan** (Gomer '71) was voted in as our new Secretary and **Rita Frandsen** (Sautner '70) is our new chair of the Courtesy committee. A huge thank you goes out to both **Marie Sushelnitsky** (Maloney '70) (Secretary) and **Dolores Bramall** (Tench '58) (Courtesy) for their many years of hard work on behalf of the Alumni. **Yvonne Stappler** (Elliott '67) will also see a welcome reduction in her workload as she will no longer need to sit at the registration table to collect money at our quarterly luncheons; more on that later in my report. Ladies, please take a well-deserved bow and enjoy your second attempt at retirement.

Sharon Iversen (Kovacik '78) also felt it was time to relinquish her role as managing editor of the annual newsletter. As always, Sharon did a masterful job of designing not only the cover and layout of the 2025 newsletter, but compiled the various reports and did a final edit of the grad profiles. I have lost count of the number of hand written "Thank you" comments added to the bottom of the returned membership and banquet forms. **Marion Kelly** (McIntyre '75) and **Maureen Robertson** (McGrath '63) have graciously stepped into her shoes to help pull together our annual publication.

In 2024, with the unexpected passing of **Pat Bowers** (Stark '61) we learned just how many administrative pies Pat B had her fingers in. It took three of us to take over her roles in the

executive. **Elaine McKiel** ('61) now does all the behind the scenes work of putting together the fall banquet. I handle membership and banquet registration, and **Rita Frandsen** (Sautner '70) is my new research partner as we collect grad biographies as part of the Ancestry project. I would also like to take this time to thank **Janette Burgoyne** (Kennedy '67) who is totally amazing when it comes to tracking down information on some of our missing grads.

Our Holy Cross website could not be in better hands than with **Johanna Schwartz**. No, she is not a Holy grad, but after helping out with the newsletter and reading the various grad profiles, she has fallen in love with our organization.

Each year, the Alumni host three quarterly lunch meetings as well as our fall banquet. It is our way of staying connected with each other. That being said, **a big change moving forward is the fact we will no longer be holding our quarterly lunches at the FCJ Centre**. The FCJ has been so supportive of our Alumni over the years, but sadly, due to the economy and our decreasing numbers, it came down to a financial decision. On a positive note, we have been very fortunate to connect with Hudson's Pub in Shawnessy, where we will hold our June lunch. It has oodles of free parking right outside the door, a private room complete with screen and microphone, and a lunch menu under \$25 with plenty of variety and gluten free items to choose from.

Dates for the 2026 quarterly luncheons are June 3rd and December 2nd. Make sure to circle September 20th on your calendar as once again the Carriage House Inn will be the site of our annual fall banquet.

While we relish our past, we continue to strive to make the world a better place. We provide bursaries for our Alumni as well as to U of C undergraduate nursing students. We donate to needy seniors at Christmas time as part of the Secret Santa program and to the Veterans' Food Bank. We send cards of condolence to grads who have lost a family member. We maintain a display at U of C and another at Rockyview Hospital, along with the memorial quilt and time capsule. And last, but certainly not least, the Nuns and Nightingale statue in front of the

"old" Holy Cross Hospital continues to stand proudly as we have the grounds landscaped and rejuvenated each spring.

In closing, I hope to see many of you at our upcoming luncheons and banquet. Please remember that your annual membership fees and donations are what keep the Holy Cross School of Nursing Alumni alive and kicking.

Class of 1970 Celebrates 55 Years as Holy Cross Hospital School of Nursing Graduates!

This was a special reunion for the members of the Class of '70 because Covid robbed us of our 50th reunion celebration! This year, we had 23 class members return for our reunion. Two came from far away - Texas and California; one came for the first time in 55 years; several were able to brag about being at every one of our reunions held every 5 years! We enjoyed getting ready for our reunion. We enjoyed our traditional "Gab Fest" on Friday evening. We enjoyed our dinner out on Saturday evening. AND we really enjoyed the Alumni Annual Luncheon on Sunday!

Hopefully we will all be here for our 60th reunion in 2030!

Class of 1975 Celebrates Our 50 Year Anniversary

2025 was a special year for the Class of 1975 and we had a wonderful turnout to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. On Saturday, September 27, about 7 of us toured the University of Calgary Faculty of Nursing Skills Lab. We were amazed at the changes that technology and skills lab training offers to new nursing students. Saturday evening, thirteen of us enjoyed an informal social gathering with a collection of memorabilia and a picture slideshow from our years in residence, followed by dinner at the Carriage House. Sunday, sixteen of us attended the Holy Cross Alumni Luncheon. It was a memorable weekend of reunion and reconnection!

Friendship
Keeping Memories Alive

Going to the Tivoli movie theatre for popcorn with butter...but signing back in for your 10pm curfew!



2025 LUNCHEON REPORT

MARIE SUSHELNITSKY (MALONEY '70)

Another year has gone by, and we gathered yet again to celebrate our history as graduates from the Holy Cross Hospital School of Nursing on Sunday, September 21, 2025. This year three of our Registration Table volunteers Juhlie Hilton (Williams '67), Yvonne Stappler (Elliott '67) and Donna Louch (Oliphant '76) were proud to help welcome 170+ attendees.



We started out with a surprise musical introduction to our program entitled "A BLAST FROM THE PAST!" "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" got the toes tapping and the interest piqued!



We DID, We DO and We WILL continue to have fun!

Our hard-working Executive Committee members were introduced to the crowd of participants and were sincerely thanked for their time and efforts given to making the continued success of the Alumni's activities a reality.



This year's luncheon started off a little differently. We honoured the grads from three decades of nursing education - the 50's, 60's and the 70's - with musical selections they remembered well from their younger years.

A big THANK YOU also goes out to Mike Sushelnitsky who helped our Mistress of Ceremonies, his mom (Marie), with the logistics of providing the music selections during the afternoon and for photographing the event.



Mike, Marie and Johann Sushelnitsky

We enjoyed a delicious hot meal served with efficiency and by pleasant hotel staff following Grace offered by Sheila Padley who is our Treasurer.

We were attentive to an interesting brief presentation from our guest speaker, Stephanie Ng, representing the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary and we thanked her for attending our Luncheon again this year.

We also acknowledged and thanked Johanna Schwartz who has turned into our "special friend" by contributing her time and skills to the production of our website and yearly Newsletter—and she is not even a Holy Cross Graduate!

We honoured the classes celebrating their special reunions playing the music from their grad year: 1975, 1970, 1965, 1960, 1955 and the 1950's.

We honoured those grads who traveled the longest distance to attend: Pat Willis ('70) flew up from Katy, Texas to help her other 22 classmates celebrate their 55th Anniversary.



Guest speaker Stephanie Ng, Faculty of Nursing



Johanna Schwartz receiving a token of our appreciation from our alumni President Patricia Jeffery



The youngest grad attending:
Pamela Scott ('79)



And our most senior grad present:
Yvonne "Kippy" Lambert (Pullar '50)
Still young at heart at 96.



Pat Willis ('70) came from
Katy, TX

We also honoured the grads who fit into the "90+" age group as these are very special people! Those included were Yvonne "Kippy" Pullar (Lambert '50), Rita Williamson (McAlese '51), Joan Scott (Bell '53), Jean McCarthy (Velker '54), Mildred Krenzel (Velker '54), Patricia Sherritt (Tumoth '56) and Anne Campbell (Bellak '56).

Lifetime Memberships were awarded to two very deserving candidates. One Lifetime Membership was awarded to Patty Hnatiuk (Baird '70). The other Lifetime Membership was awarded to Fran Howell (Morris '66) - see pages 9-10 for more stories and photos!

We were able to offer our thanks and gratitude to those graduates and their families who donated so many articles from the past to help make our display tables the best-ever this year. Of special interest were the displayed uniforms that covered 30+ years of changes to our student and graduate uniforms.



And we still had time to visit, toe tap and do a little chair dancing to the music provided throughout the afternoon.

The surveys we provided were well received and notably, grads were glad to have a chance to express their opinions. There were 150+ surveys completed and returned. Responses to each question were tabulated and for the most part each question received a "very satisfied" rating. There were excellent suggestions for future events, and the executive is considering those in their planning process. Thank you everyone for taking the time to complete the survey.

And so we look ahead to the 2026 Luncheon Event!

It will be special as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the closing of the Holy Cross Hospital and the 15th anniversary of the unveiling of the Nuns and Nightingale Statue which stands in front of the MacNab wing of the former Holy Cross Hospital.

**We will see you soon and we will continue to
"Keep Memories Alive!"**



Joan Scott (Bell '53)



Mildred Krenzel (Velker '54)



Rita Williamson (McAlese '51)

AND THE SURVEY SAID!

Submitted by Marie Sushelnitsky (Maloney '70)

A big THANK YOU goes out to all the registrants at our annual luncheon held in September! Thank you for taking the time to respond to the questions on the survey we circulated. This was a first in a very long time and necessary to "update" since the start of our luncheons at the Carriage House Inn instead of the banquets at the Palliser Hotel. We had approximately 150 completed surveys returned, and it took about 3 days of dedicated attention to tabulate and interpret the feedback you provided. In a nutshell, here are some of the survey results:

- You like having registration forms available in the newsletter and on the website. Some preferred email as compared to hard copy.
- The cost of the Luncheon was found to be acceptable with 60% strongly agreeing, and 40% generally agreeing, that the price was reasonable.
- The use of e-transfer to pay Luncheon fees is becoming more acceptable with 76% of respondents indicating they will use e-transfer in the future.
- The registration process received a positive response from 96% of respondents and several suggestions were offered to help streamline the process.
- Appetizer service will be discontinued as a cost saving measure as 86% of respondents agreed with this suggestion.
- The coffee bar will be available again as 88% of respondents wanted it to remain.
- The cash bar was found to be acceptable by 96% of respondents and suggestions included "providing sparkling water, non-alcoholic beer etc." will be considered for future events.
- The salad was found acceptable by 90% of respondents and suggestions for soup as an alternate will be considered for future events
- The main course (pork) was found to be acceptable by 93% of respondents. Alternate choices (chicken, beef, fish, veg pasta) were noted by 47% of respondents. Main course will change for 2026.
- The dessert was rated as agreeable by 93% of respondents.
- The theme of "Keeping Memories Alive" was positively received by 100% of respondents
- The musical choices were very positively received by 95% of the respondents. Adjustments to the volume and timing of selections will be in place for the next event.
- The table placement related to ease of mobility was positively rated by 96% of respondents. Some spacing issues were noted.
- The program for the Luncheon was strongly positive with 100% of respondents identifying a good variety of speakers and entertainment.
- The "Mistress of Ceremonies" received very positive comments regarding speaking clearly, keeping the program on time, use of humour etc.
- The special floral arrangements for presentations were positively received by 100% of respondents. Categories may be changed in the future.
- The displays of uniforms and memorabilia items were given 100% approval by respondents, and there were many comments about the number and quality of items to view.
- There were several positive general comments to consider. The presence of an Alumni Honour Guard at the funeral services for members was noted. Logistics may make this too hard to manage.
- Other comments included "This was my first event and I was not disappointed!" and "The Best Ever!" "Well done. Thanks!" "Everything was lovely and enjoyable. Job well done!"

Again, thank-you for your feedback and comments!
Marie Sushelnitsky (Recording Secretary)



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

PAT JEFFERY (JENSEN '78)

2025 was a wonderful year for our Alumni with our membership increasing by a whopping 21. A big thank you goes out to Marie Sushelnitsky (Maloney '70) for encouraging her classmates to attend the annual banquet as it was their 55th anniversary.

As of December 31, 2025, 937 of our graduates were still with us and 263 had paid up memberships = 28% (a 2% increase over last year)

Another reassuring fact was this year 301 grads (32%) paid their membership, or paid to attend the annual banquet or made a donation to the Alumni. In many cases, they paid all three. This was an increase of nearly 3%.

Again, I'd like to send a huge thank you out to everyone who renewed their memberships or made a donation to the Alumni this year as they are our only sources of funding.

If you have a change in your status or you have a classmate you are searching for please email me at: patjeffery@shaw.ca or call me at 403-830-7735.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The Ancestry Project has opened my eyes to the amazing lives of many of our Alumni members. Please consider nominating someone for a Life Membership.

Life Membership is an honour voted to an active member for outstanding service to the Association, the profession of nursing, or to the community.

The name of each nominee must be supported by the signatures of ten (10) active members and submitted in writing to the President. The completed nomination form shall then be forwarded to the Executive Committee for review and approval.

Life members are not required to pay annual membership dues, but many of them do anyway, as a donation to the Alumni.

Friendship
Keeping Memories Alive

Hoping mail from home would include some cash to go shopping at The Betty Shop for their 2 for 1 sales

2025 Life Membership Recipient Patty Hnatiuk (Baird '70)

Patty Hnatiuk (Baird '70) is being nominated for a Holy Cross Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Lifetime Membership Award in 2025.

Patty is originally a farm girl who grew up in Sarcee Butte in a one bedroom home and attended elementary school in Trochu, Alberta and High School in Three Hills, Alberta. She graduated from the Holy Cross School of Nursing in 1970 at the age of 20 years. She continued her nursing education and received the CAN Certification in Gerontological Nursing in 2006.

Patty's dedication to her profession is supported by her employment record. Patty utilized her nursing in a professional capacity during her entire adult life working at the Holy Cross Hospital, the Foothills Medical Centre, the Drumheller General Hospital, the Strathmore General Hospital, the Devon General Hospital, the Royal Alexandra Hospital and in 2015 was employed at the Providence Care Centre.

Patty's dedication to her community is exemplified by her volunteer record with Wheatland and Adjacent Districts Emergency Medical Services (WADEMSA) where she volunteered as a first responder. She has special interests in sewing, building, playing the piano/organ, dancing and travelling to world destinations including Bermuda, Mexico, Costa Rica to name a few.



Patty has been an active member of the Class of '70 and assists with and attends all of our special reunions. She has been a member of the Executive Committee of our Alumni for the past two years in the capacity of Member At Large. Despite life's challenges, Patty takes on any job given to her and completes the tasks involved with trusted research in a timely and efficient manner. She is a deserving candidate for this award.

2025 Life Membership Recipient Frances M. Howell (Morris '66)

Frances Howell (Morris '66) is nominated for a lifetime membership pin for being friendly, always upbeat, positive and reliable. She is an organizer, good communicator, inspires others and always enjoyed nursing and being at work. Her road to becoming an R.N. had a few good twists and turns but she was determined to make it happen and we are all better because of her determination.

Her fellow workers have mentioned that she had a "calming effect on other staff members," and was very good at developing good team work. The student nurses found her to be patient, kind and always willing to help share her knowledge and expertise with them. She worked well with everyone – other staff, doctors, other professionals as well as parents of her patients. She was even known to have done a few home followup visits for her patients!

She worked Pediatrics at HXH and RVGH, then day surgery at the old ACH ending her career on day surgery at the new ACH. During this time she moved from full time to part time and then casual. This covered a span of years from graduation in 1966 to May 2019. In her spare time she was co-owner in "Blooming Baskets" for 10 years. They had 2 green houses of plants and made about 900 baskets each year – of course everyone wanted theirs for the May 24th weekend! She also worked for about two years in Dr. Motta's office as well as running a B&B from her home. Her home was always open and welcoming to family and friends. Oh yes, and she had a husband and two children whom she was devoted to.

She had some difficulty adjusting to computer usage and one day (due to a fire) the computers



went down – all the staff went to her for advice on "how to fill in forms on paper!"

As she lived north of Cochrane, the drive to work was 60 to 90 minutes depending on the weather, but this didn't stop her from rising early to bake muffins, buns and or coffee cake for the staff each day.

Her mother Maggie lived with the family and then was moved to long term care – every day after work she went to the nursing home and settled her mother for bed. Her husband was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease; she and her family cared for him at home until his death last year.

She has been a strong supporter of our Alumni – always attending yearly banquets and quarterly luncheons as well as helping to organize our class reunions. She has been a credit to the nursing profession, her family, her community and the HXH School of Nursing.



2024-25 COURTESY COMMITTEE

Remembering Alumni who have passed away

RITA FRANDSEN ('70)

If you are aware of an Alumni member or a family member who has passed, please inform our Courtesy Committee Chair Rita Frandsen ('70) at rfrandsen@shaw.ca

RIP 2024

Iris Dorothy Swidinski (Stuart '49)
Marie Therese Clark (Berze '50)
"Josie" Theresa Urban (Chrumka '51)
Elvera Gertrude Linders ('51)
Viola Theresa Baay (Aiello '52)
Rose Marie Schneider (Kraemer '53)
Lois Clara Ketchey (Tetzlaff '53)
Mary Lillian Finch (Long '53)
Noreen Enid Peebles (Muirhead '53)
Lorraine Edna Hall (Bourque '55)
Monica Ruth Metka (Holden '55)
Hazel Marie Haggerty (Gordon '56)
Oriol Ellen Miller (Howie '56)
Mary Delores Lockie (Chaput '57)
Cleta Janette Haggerty (Umbach '57)
Noreen Kary (Manion '58)
Patricia Kenney (Johnson '59)
Patricia Ellen Bowers (Stark '61)
Laurette Standish (Blackwell '62)
Rosemary Lynne Wilson (Porter '62)
Lorraine Harach (Kuntz '62)
Marlene Alma Wensel (Hoffman '63)
Bonnie Claire Schmelke (Gessner '65)
Anne Wansink (Clandfield '66)
Jeanette Grimshaw (LaBarge '69)
Faith Arlene Andersen (Siewert '70)

RIP 2025

Mauna Mae Minue (Hutchinson '50)
Rosemary Batdorf (Drinkwater '50)
Mary Joan Molden (Sheridan '53)
Shirley Ann Valentine (Thielen '55)
Jean Marion Knight (Brooks '56)
Phyllis Mary Jarrett (Martin '56)
Patricia Carol Epton (Hrdlicka '56)
Helen Magdeline Kubasek (Hugo '56)
Helen Carson Fitzpatrick (Nicol '57)
Marcella Schwenk (Seredynski '57)

Eva Alice Campbell (Crawford '60)
Maria Marysia Skarzynski ('60)
Evelyn M Murphy (White '60)
Mona Jean Zahara (Hauck '61)
Marilyn Frances Murphy ('63)
Joan Kathleen Boyd (Baird '66)
Colleen Connolly (Kennedy '70)
Marilyn Joan McAlister (Spady '70)
Zoria Ann MacDonald (Gogal '75)

2024 Family Loss

Genevieve McCarthy (Velker '54), Son David
Mildred Theresa Krenzel (Velker '54), Nephew David
Lorraine Edna Hall (Bourque '55), Husband Clifford
Phyllis Mary Jarrett (Martin '56), Husband Don
Caroline Mae Johnson (Thumlert '61), Husband
Maureen Robertson (McGrath '63), Sister
Frances M Morris (Howell '66), Husband
Juhlie Hilton (Williams '67), Sister
Judith McIntyre (Sturdy '68), Brother
Sharyn Ann Kenner (Smith '69), Husband Doug
Debra Jane Jennings (McDonald '74), Brother
Johann Maria Duncan (Dekort '79), Husband

2025 Family Loss

Margaret Ruth Nicol (1956), sister Helen
Joan Eileen Kura (Curtis '63), husband 2025, son 2026
Kathleen Louise Gingles (Cunningham '64),
husband Lloyd
Joan Palardy (Senger '66), husband John 2025,
daughter Pamela 2026
Cheryl F. Kanai (Quinlan '67), husband Warren
Patricia Anne Sutherland (Baker '75), husband Russ
Debra Margaret Wood-Zybutz (Wood '76),
husband Leonard
Patricia Gaye Jeffery (Jensen '78), brother-in-law Ron



TREASURER'S REPORT

SHEILA PADLEY (CARLETON '64)

Our bank account continues to maintain a healthy balance thanks to your continued support of our membership dues and donations.

As of January 2026 our bank balance is \$18,989.69

When paying your membership fees or donations we continue to accept cash or cheques but also have added a 3rd option for e-transfers. (See 2026 membership renewal insert regarding e-transfers).

Donations made in 2025:

\$1000.00 to the U of Calgary Nursing Bursary Fund

\$1000.00 to Canadian Veterans Services Society (Veterans Food Bank of Calgary)

\$1000.00 to Seniors Secret Service Society of Alberta

“Not only do we currently have five (brick and mortar) food banks to assist with food security, clothing and household items, we also have Clearwater Retreat near Caroline, Alberta. This is where Veterans and First Responders can go to relax and unwind, or attend PTSD Treatment group therapy, or Peer-to-Peer support workshops.”

- Veterans Food Bank of Calgary.

The University of Calgary Faculty of Nursing student recipient for the 2025 Holy Cross School of Nursing Alumni Bursary was

Huda Syed

(Bachelor of Nursing transfer program)

receiving \$2900.00

“I am deeply grateful for your generous support through this student award. Receiving this recognition not only helps ease the financial challenges, it also reminds me of how far I have come and motivates me to continue to work diligently towards my goal. Before entering nursing, I struggled with choosing the right degree and finding a path that truly fit me. Transferring into the nursing program has given me a true sense of purpose and belonging. Your generosity inspires me to keep striving for excellence and to give back to others. Sincerely, thank you for supporting my journey and helping me pursue my dream of becoming a nurse who makes meaningful differences in people’s lives!”

Friendship
Keeping Memories Alive

Kraft dinner suppers in the lounge, and sunbathing on the roof on your one day off per week.

A Blast from the Past: 2025 Reunion Luncheon



Class of 1954, 1955



Class of 1978



Class of 1977 and 1979



Class of 1975



Class of 1975



Class of 1970



Class of 1970





1956 and 1958



Class of 1960



Class of 1960 and 1961

*Girls just
wanna have
fun!*



Class of 1962 and 1964



Class of 1963



Class of 1967



Class of 1970



Class of 1970



Class of 1969 and 1971



DONATION REPORT

PAT JEFFERY (JENSEN '78)

Each year, the Alumni receive monetary donations from members and their families. The Alumni Executive sincerely thanks all those who have contributed to supporting your Alumni. I apologize if anyone has been inadvertently missed on this list. We are not a registered charity; therefore do not issue tax receipts.

Donation total as of December 31, 2025: \$6025.00 (\$5470.00 last year)

Gladys M Sirola (Doran '44)
Alice M Munroe (Holladay '46)
Faye Mary Hutcheon (Blake '51)
Marguerite Pauline Muza (Boutry '51)
Marion Doris Wandio (Wilton '53)
Joan Scott (Bell '53)
Constance Anderson (Durand '53)
Marie Waytuck (Neeser '53)
Winona Isabelle (Rouleau '54)
Genevieve McCarthy (Velker '54)
Helen Agnes Kana (Fabian '55)
Mary Underschultz (Hawkey '55)
June Edith Gardin (Echlin '55)
Phyllis Mary Jarrett (Martin '56)
Evelyn Anne French (Valentine '57)
Irene Thomas (Lynch '58)
Danelle Kuntz (Williams '58)
Betty K Lodermeier (Gieck '60)
Lillian A Friedenbergl (Colpitts '60)
Sharon A Langley (Free '60)
Mary E Fockner (McNeill '60)
Marilyn A Marshall (Thompson '60)
Mary Elizabeth Devolin (Page '61)
Margaret Guta (Christensen '61)
Beverly Ann Wilson (Church '61)
Elizabeth Anne Abt (Shannon '61)
Lauretta Mary Luciani (Durand '62)
Lynne Pettit (Krause '62)
Patricia Ann (Bateman '63)
Irene Emilie Huff (Kahler '63)
Joey Joann Stewart (Leier '63)
Edwina Mary Madill (Shackleton '64)
Virginia Cecilia Murray (Bohonis '64)
Sheila Beth Padley (Carleton '64)
Loretta Fay Darago (Clary '64)
Margaret Agnes Bobick (MacDonald '64)
Patricia Anne Sirbaugh (Peszat '64)
Marlene Wallace (Bergh '65)
Judy Danyschuk (Dahl '65)
Marie Laframboise (Schmaltz '65)
Marjorie Cooksley (Gibson '65)
Sandra Schaaf (Greiner '65)
Catherine West ('65)
Annette L Vasseur (Labonne '66)
Eloise (Elly) Jarvis (Bettin '67)

Lois E Reiffenstein (Ernst '67)
Mary E Kalyniuk (Hughes '67)
Valerie Jean Fritz (Nadon '67)
Julaine Louise Hamer (Lengyel '68)
Janet Christensen (Stevenson '68)
Mildred Elaine Mercer (Bosch '69)
Anne Ardiel (Duckmanton '69)
Kathleen Mary Farrell (Judge '69)
Karen Lois Murdock (Lubbers '69)
Kathleen Ellen Oliver (Spalding '69)
(Any) Antonia Donaldson (Van Haaster '69)
Jemma Lynch (Kehoe '70)
Barbara Mary Osachoff (Kohlman '70)
Marie Sushelnitsky (Maloney '70)
Susan Marie Rosgen (Rosgen '70)
Carol Logan (Gomer '71)
Beverly Ann (Robinson '71)
Suzanne Taitinger ('71)
Frances Katherine James (Whittaker '71)
Gladys Marilyn Buye (Weinberger '72)
Joan Catherine Small (Rusler '72)
Debra Louise Kolla (Baker '73)
Leslie Wilfreda (Caddy '73)
Barbara L Olsen (Stephenson '73)
Janet Marie (Nesbitt '74)
Isabel Diane Nordquist (Sauter '74)
Laurie Ann O'Neil (Lothian '76)
Jeanie Susan Culligan (McKnight '76)
Lois Irene Walker (White '76)
Deborah J (Aikens '77)
Brenda Gail Best (Wappel '77)
Patricia Gaye Jeffery (Jensen '78)
Sharon Elaine Iversen (Kovacik '78)
Grace Ann Brittain (Leskosky '78)
Lorraine Samis (Rust '78)
Frances Joanne Godfrey (Sherritt '78)
Eulana Louise Sears (Smith '78)
Marilyn Grace Hannay (Whalen '78)
Pamela Jane McClinchy (Scott '79)

2025 Donations in Memory Of:

Phyllis Mary Jarrett (Martin '56) by her son Doug
Karen Atkinson (Lloyd '62) by Lynne Pettit (Krause '62)
Pat Bowers (Stark '61) by Patricia Gaye Jeffery (Jensen '78)



ANCESTRY RESEARCH PROJECT

PAT JEFFERY (JENSEN '78)

The "Ancestry Research Project" was originally started in 2007 by Lucille Horne (Hawkins '62). Lucille had always been curious as to what became of her fellow Holy Cross grads. Every nurse has a story to tell and Lucille literally became a cold case detective as she took it upon herself to track down as much information as she could.

Upon Lucille's untimely passing in 2016, Pat Bowers (Stark '61) and I stepped forward to continue her dream of collecting biographies on each of our colleagues.

With Pat B's untimely passing in 2024, Rita Frandsen (Sautner '70) graciously reached out to be my new partner. Every time we get together, we discover something fascinating. While it should come as no surprise that Holy grads have worked in every aspect of nursing; be it bedside, management and teaching, a few travelled to the far reaches of the world to provide care to the less fortunate, others took to the skies as flight attendants, several started their own business, and at least three felt the only way to effect real change was to bravely step into the political arena.

Of the 937 grads still with us, 558 (59.5%) have yet to submit their bios. Some have told me that because they never worked as a nurse, they have little (other than nursing school) to write about. Nothing could be further from the truth. Each biography captures a specific moment in time; of what life (and nursing or nursing school) was like back in the 1920s, 30s, 40s, 50s etc. Historians will be able to utilize this information (minus any identifying markers) for future research.

That being said, 2025 proved to be one of our better years as we received a veritable influx of bios; 50 in fact. Perhaps 2026 will be the year you take a moment to jot down your life's story. A single page will do. Key things to include are your date of birth and location. The rest can be summed up as simply or as detailed as you like; where you grew up, what you did after nursing school, did you work as a nurse and where, did you go back to school and obtain a degree or specialty certificate, awards, hobbies, interesting things you have done, places you have visited. Photos are wonderful too.

As a member of the second last class (1978), I will continue to update the Ancestry database for as long as I am able. At some point in the future, the data (electronic and hard copy) will be placed in storage at the University of Calgary to be added to other Holy Cross historical archives.

Submit your story!

Our website www.hxhnursing.com has an easy to fill out form which you can print off and mail to:

Ancestry Project
c/o Patricia Jeffery (Jensen '78)
131 Sunmeadows Crescent, S.E.
Calgary, AB., T2X 3H1

Or you can simply write your story down in a letter and mail it to me.

Alternatively, you can type your history in a word document and email it to me at:
patjeffery@shaw.ca

Cool facts we have learned (so far) about our graduates

Advanced Education Degrees obtained:

Bachelors: 115

Masters: 50

PhD: 9

Medical doctors: 4

Engineer 1

Lawyer: 1

Order of Canada: 1

Lifetime memberships awarded: 80

Grads that helped with the war effort: 47

Grads with family members who also attended the Holy: 283

Oldest Grads:

105.59 years, Rita Andrews (Cassidy '39)
(1917-2022)

12 other grads lived to be over 100 years old.
Of the 937 grads still alive, 7 are over the age of 100 and 40 are between the ages of 95 and 99.

According to Stats Canada, only one person in 5000 makes it to 100. The fact that we've now had 20 out of 2426 grads surpass that mark is truly incredible.

Friendship
Keeping Memories Alive

Coming off the wards, taking off our bibs and aprons, settling in with coffee & a cigarette & catching up with friends.

Nurses in Profile: WINONA ISABELLE ROULEAU (1954)

INTERVIEWED BY SHARON IVERSEN, NOVEMBER 2025

Winona, do you have a memory of your nursing school years that stands out?

Yes, sadly it was a bit of a dark time at the school. Some of the third-year students of 1953, the class ahead of us, decided to go on strike complaining of unfair working conditions, long hours and low pay (\$10 per month). Sister was having none of this and contacted each of their parents informing them to come and get their daughter, essentially expelling all of them in their final year. Eventually the dispute was resolved, but the conflict was an upset to the whole school. This impacted my opinion of strikes and unions.

Did you always want to be a nurse?

Yes, and my mother always wanted to be a nurse. She enrolled in Holy Cross in 1926 for 6 months; however, she developed a skin reaction to green soap, it was severe enough to require her to withdraw. So, in a way, I entered and completed nursing school to fulfill my mother's dream as well as my own.

My first job was in Olds, then to Magrath, Holy Cross in Calgary, Pincher Creek, Hanna and High River. During my 3 ¾ years in High River, I accepted an assistant Director of Nursing (DON) role for about a year, entering the world of administration. Leaving High River I enjoyed a month-long trip to Europe.

In 1963 Milk River was building a new 30-bed hospital, and I was selected as DON and 2 years later also administrator. I had courses and received certificates in nursing administration



and hospital administration. When I arrived in Milk River, the many tasks of starting up the new hospital were before me, sourcing all supplies, medical and surgical equipment, linens, kitchen essentials. As with all small hospitals, we needed a pharmacist so why not? I did that too. I was authorized to order and control narcotics within our facility. I loved my job and knew every aspect of our hospital.

In 1967 as a Centennial Project my mother and I toured the world by air and ground, visiting 42 destinations in four months.

Papua New Guinea 1974-75

After ten years I was seeking a change and I applied for and received a volunteer placement in Papua New Guinea with CUSO (a Canadian-

based global organization dedicated to alleviating poverty and creating opportunities for greater equity). My 2 years there were the highlight of my life complete with both fulfilling moments and frustrating times. For example, locals would steal hospital blankets so it was necessary to add grommets to the blankets so they could be chained to the bed. I taught English, math, anatomy and basic nursing skills to local girls and boys with 4 years basic education in English under very primitive conditions where we adapted and made the most of our circumstances. The basic health concerns were T.B., pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria. Leprosy was also an entity. The students were to learn to differentiate among them and treat accordingly until further care could be accessed, if necessary. Students were to speak English only as all their books and training were in English and they had to be fully knowledgeable in it.



While volunteer service did not offer a rich financial compensation, it had its own rewards in providing superb satisfaction in helping to bring a very primitive people into the modern era. We were constantly upgrading our standards and requiring more of the students to achieve higher academic levels of understanding. No students were turned away from the field of learning. If they failed to achieve, they were given the option to repeat a year or to drop back into the Nursing Aide Program which we also taught. These students had a lower level of education and could not even tell time when they arrived. They learned basic nursing skills but next to no medical training. I learned a lot from my students, and in return I hope that I advanced their nursing skills and health care education. On the way home I toured Eastern Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands of American Samoa, Tahiti, Fiji and Hawaii. Once home I relaxed for a few months and started as Director of Nursing at the Claresholm hospital in 1976.

I was always active in the administrative years while in Milk River. I was involved with the South District Hospitals of the Alberta Hospital Association and for a few years was their secretary. While in Claresholm, I was on the negotiating team of A.H.A. one year. In both places I was always involved with the Lethbridge branch of the Holy Cross Alumni, attending their meetings and spectacular pot-luck suppers and I attended the reunion banquets. Does anyone get the "food" connection? I am a Leo and that means "Let's eat out".

I was in Claresholm 12 years until retiring as an RN in 1988. It was timely.

Winona, what activities or hobbies presented themselves in retirement?

I had the usual hobbies - petit point, knitting and crochet, sewing, all sorts of crafts, reading and crosswords. I even did some oil painting. In retirement I reinvented myself by furthering my involvement in the Order of the Eastern Star in Alberta. I was proud to hold many positions including the elected role of Worthy Grand Matron in 1989-90. I was the organizer and major campaigner in 1997-2000 selling rhinestone pins for the Eastern Star Foundation. In three years, this charitable project raised over \$250,000.



1954 Grad Class – Second Row Far Right

In 2011, I researched, compiled and had published a 218-page book "100 Year Historical Record" of the Grand Chapter of Alberta Order of the Eastern Star. In 2025 I have attained 75 years of continuous active membership in the Order. Spanning these years, I have travelled across Canada several times and throughout the United States including twice to Alaska – even crossing the Arctic Circle (and the equator). I moved into independent living in Pincher Creek in 2018.

In summary

I am now 93 years old and looking back on my life I would not change a single thing. I worked hard, was resourceful, and travelled around the world. I am grateful to the Holy Cross School of Nursing for giving me a solid work ethic and foundational nursing skills that served me so well over my long life.

Friendship
Keeping Memories Alive

The young men awaiting us in Ponoka
(a few found husbands) and residence
windows full of faces checking out dates

Nurses in Profile:

DOROTHY HELEN CHRISTENSEN (WHITTAKER '48)

SUBMITTED BY HER DAUGHTER FRANCES JAMES ('71)

Dorothy Helen Christensen, the youngest of five children, was born on August 16, 1926, on a farm in Dalum, Alberta. She died in March 20, 1990, in Calgary, Alberta, at the age of 63 and is buried at the Rocky View Garden of Peace Cemetery, east of Calgary. She died due to respiratory complications caused by Myasthenia Gravis.

Dorothy attended Grades 1-9 in a one room classroom at Blue Springs School approximately one mile from the farm. She completed Grades 10-12 at Drumheller Composite High School and then continued her education in Calgary at the Holy Cross Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1948.

Shortly after finishing the nursing program, at the age of 22, she married Glen Allen Whittaker on November 23, 1948, in Drumheller. They had eight children in 13 years. Dorothy and Glen were divorced in 1972 in Calgary, after 23 years of marriage.

Dorothy was very unfortunate during her life with illnesses and complications. She first battled Scarlet Fever in 1942, then contracted Rheumatic Fever in the late 1950s and struggled from long-term effects. Then in 1963 she had a hysterectomy and the doctor cut her bladder during surgery. This resulted in years of chronic bladder and kidney infections. Also, unfortunately, due to a fall, she had numerous back surgeries and spent a great deal of time in the hospital.

Illness and raising a large family prevented Dorothy from working in her chosen profession,

in addition to often living in small hamlets (Beynon and Wimborne) where there were no hospitals or even doctor offices. Her last attempt to work was at the George Boyack Continuing Care Facility in Calgary, but her dream of returning to healthcare was shattered due to poor health.

Although she was unable to utilize her nursing education fully, she valued post secondary education and supported all of her children in their pursuit of education and sports. Her hobbies and interests included sewing, reading and politics but her family was always the centre of her life. Everyone benefited from her caring personality and her home was always open as a gathering place. Everyone knew what day her famous cinnamon rolls were baked and would conveniently stop by at just the right time. Her family legacy included 7 adult children, 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.



Nurses in Profile: MARYSIA SKARZYNSKI ('60)

TAKEN FROM HER ANCESTRY SUBMISSION AND HER OBITUARY

Marysia was born in Warsaw, Poland, on April 25, 1939, four months before the start of the Second World War. During the war her father worked as secretary general of the International Red Cross. He produced a highly accurate report concerning the murder of thousands of Polish officers at Katyn. This report placed full responsibility for these war crimes at the feet of Stalin and the Russian secret forces. As a direct result, Marysia's family was smuggled out of Russian-occupied Poland immediately after the war, never to return to live there freely in their lifetimes. This was a loss that she always carried deep within her.

After several years of exile and waiting in various European countries, the whole family was reunited in Canada in 1949. Marysia's early experiences started on a ranch near Kisbey, Saskatchewan. She became a Canadian citizen in 1951, something that she was always very proud of. In 1952 the family moved to Calgary. As the years passed both Marysia and her brother Marek received most of their education at traditional boarding schools.

Marysia attended Sacred Heart Convent. Upon graduation she entered the Holy Cross School of Nursing, receiving her RN in 1960. She worked in multiple Hospitals from Calgary to Vancouver and all the way up to Inuvik in the Northwest Territories. In the mid 1960's she settled in Calgary and worked at the Holy Cross and Foothills hospitals. She was described as an excellent nurse: kind, giving, and intelligent.



She was both lead nurse of the Foothills Hospital open-heart surgery team, and head nurse of the Neurological OR. She worked with some of the country's leading neurosurgeons at the time, one of whom, Dr. Charles Taylor, described her as, in a word: "irreplaceable". In the early 1980's Marysia left nursing and went into medical sales with 3M Canada. She worked for 3M as a surgical representative in Alberta and Saskatchewan for 17 years and won two Best Sales Awards.

She also started a long and deeply committed phase of her life where she dedicated much

of her energy to supporting Polish causes - both in Canada and in Poland. This phase was to continue into the last years of her life. She was president of the Calgary branch of the Friends of the University of Lublin, raising tens of thousands of dollars to support the only free university behind the iron curtain at that time. She was vice-president in the Solidarity Foundation in Calgary, sending hundreds of parcels to imprisoned Solidarity activists, and was president of the Polish Canadian Association in the late 1980s - advocating tirelessly for provincial grants to support the Polish community. As the official delegate of the Canadian Polish Congress, she participated in a small group of volunteers who sponsored over 1500 Polish immigrants to Canada, personally signing for fourteen families herself. She also worked for 3 years with the Federal government in helping immigrant seniors obtain the help for them that they were due but hadn't received.

She greatly enjoyed a succession of summers as the camp nurse with the Polish Scouting Association and was zealously involved in the "Poland in the Rockies" series, along with multiple other Polish cultural initiatives too numerous to list.

She also worked as secretary in the Polish Parish for 6 years and then worked another 6 years for Whippetree Housing Co-op.

Marysia loved chess, horses, songs and stories with meaning, humour and history (especially Polish history). She took care of her mother's elder care needs daily. She deeply loved her son Mark and her granddaughters, Sophia and Scout and her many friends. Above all, she loved listening to people and helping in any way she could. Even into her 80's, she was focused on others. People felt seen and enjoyed in her presence. She was both deeply traditional in some matters, and colourfully

rebellious in others. As did her mother Zofia, she always had a dog nearby who adored her, and for whom she regularly broke all the rules. At times unpredictable, she was a romantic and a pragmatist, an idealist and a realist. She was very Polish, while remaining passionately Canadian. She enjoyed retirement, driving seniors to appointments, walking her dog, and writing the story of her immigration to Canada.

In her last home at the Colonel Belcher independent living centre, she interviewed other residents about their lives, publishing these alongside pictures of the residents in the centre's newsletter. She continued to spend many hours at the Polish church, at Polish Veteran's meetings and with spiritual leaders. One of her last critical thinking queries at age 86 was: Are young people being truly heard and understood by the church and the community? She won many awards, much recognition, and never mentioned any of it.

She was constantly striving to live a meaningful life and to stay young in her heart and mind. She was a truly unique character.

Marysia Skarzynski passed away peacefully on the morning of Wednesday, December 10th, 2025, at the age of 86 years, after an extended battle with cardiovascular disease. She will forever be lovingly remembered by her son, Mark and wife Willow; by her granddaughters, Sophia and Scout; by multiple close relatives; many Polish immigrants and members of the Polish community; as well as by countless people whose lives she touched with her generosity, humour, intelligence and love. She was predeceased by her brother, Marek (December 10th, 1957); her father, Kazimierz (June 10th, 1962); and her mother, Zofia (November 3rd, 1999).

Nurses in Profile: YVONNE ISOBEL "KIPPY" PULLAR (LAMBERT '50)

INTERVIEWED BY ELAINE MCKIEL

Yvonne Isobel are her given names, but when she was little, her father used to call her his little 'kippykins.' Over time it got shortened to "Kippy" and it has been with her ever since.

Kippy tells us:

"I was born in Coronation, Alberta but our family settled in Aldersyde, where I grew up. My primary school, "Maple Leaf", was a mile and a half from our house! High school was in High River, where I boarded. My goal upon graduation was to attend the Holy Cross Hospital School of Nursing in Calgary."

Kippy was one of 56 grads in the class of 1950. She began her training in 1947, the year marked by the introduction of the capping ceremony signifying successful completion of the probationary (probie) period. Prior to that, caps were just given to students with their uniforms when they commenced their program, so Kippy was one of the first students to participate in a ceremony that became a rite of passage until 1969.

It was also the time when student uniforms went from bib and apron to dress then back to bib and apron when the war ended and cotton fabric became more plentiful. Kippy's uniform was a dress so she was spared the rigor of coping with pinning together a starched collar, bib and apron prior to going on to the wards. It also meant that, when she finished training, she did not have the brown stain on her neck which those of us who wore the starched collar had until it disappeared over time after graduation. Her grad pin marked another change. Instead of the single gold cross, Kippy's grad pin featured a small gold cross within a gold circle on which the words Holy Cross School of Nursing were engraved.



Kippy continues:

"After graduating and thanking our teachers we all felt ready, willing and able to do our best. I worked in Seattle for a year and a half and found while working there, the nurses seemed to have training in specific areas, while I felt I was able to step into any situation with knowledge, ability and confidence. It was an eye-opener.

When I returned to Calgary in 1954, I was a supervisor for many years and felt that my thorough training enabled me to learn as well as teach. I have had young patients learning Morse code to keep brains busy while healing broken legs and accepting their situation.

I married two weeks after graduating and over twenty-five years I had four children; two sons and two daughters but lost my eldest son to polio. I have three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. All of my family live in Calgary and all visit me often.

I am in my own home, and my son lives with me now and is a blessing. My health is fair, but I do need my walker as my energy level has waned. I enjoy old friends, right from training days, and new ones too. I also enjoy gardening (or planning what has to be done!) and have been actively involved and a proud lifetime member of the Holy Cross Alumni and regularly attend the meetings and banquets."

Indeed, Kippy was actively involved. She served on the executive of our Alumni from 2010 until Covid stopped our on-site meetings. In addition to attending meetings, she managed the social committee with Rosemary Batdorf (Drinkwater '50) and contacts committee with Marg Jacques (Hutton '48) all of which kept her busy and always with her beautiful smile.

"I love travelling and have been to Hawaii three times, England three times, and on thirteen cruises – to Peru in South America, the Caribbean and the Mediterranean, as well as car trips to the USA and BC to visit friends and family members."

Last but not least, she says:

In the winter at home, I collect crystal and tiny boxes. I just turned 97 in October 2025. I am still alert and moving! Over the years I have had seven surgeries and currently have eye care, but with one good eye read every book I can get my hands on. I still try to help out around the house but no longer drive. I have cross stitched, crocheted, and knitted and sewed a lot over the years and have been a busy gal, but not so much now."

Thank-you, Kippy, for all you've given to the nursing profession, to your family, and to your community of friends and colleagues. As in the past, you continue now to create precious memories.



We are the Bridge

By “Richard” August 15, 2025

We were born in one world & grew up in another
A world where summers meant open windows,
the hum of a box fan, and the smell of fresh-cut
grass.

Where neighbours waved from their porches,
and if your bike chain broke, you didn't Google it
– you knocked on a door and someone came out
with a wrench.

We lived in a world built on patience.
We waited for letters to arrive.
We waited for the library to open.
We waited for our favourite song to play again
on the radio – and when it finally did, it felt like
magic.

Then, almost overnight, everything changed.
Phones shrank. Music became invisible.
News arrived before the coffee finished brewing.
We learned to type, to swipe, to tap.
We learned to talk to machines & to have them
talk back.

We've seen milk delivered to the door in glass
bottles, and we've scanned groceries without
speaking to a single cashier. We've dropped
coins into payphones, and we've made video
calls to loved ones across oceans. We've known
the deep quiet of a world without notifications,
and the noise of one that never stops buzzing.

And sometimes, the younger ones look at us like
we're behind. But what they don't see is this:
We know both worlds.

We can plant tomatoes and write an email.
We can tell a story without Google – and then
fact-check it with Google. We know the weight
of a handwritten letter and the reach of a
message sent in seconds.

We've lived long enough to understand that you
can change without losing yourself. That you can
honour where you came from while still learning
where the world is headed.

We've buried friends & welcomed grandchildren.
We've seen diseases disappear and new ones
arrive. We've unfolded paper maps and followed
glowing blue lines on GPS. We've sent postcards
with stamps – and emojis with a single tap.

And maybe that's our greatest gift:
The memory of a slower, gentler time,
And the courage to adapt to a world that never
sits still.

We can teach the young that not everything
needs to happen instantly. And we can
remind our peers that it's never too late to try
something new.

Because that's what we are – The bridge
between what was and what will be.

And as long as we keep standing strong,
The world will always have something solid to
cross on its way forward.

Because every generation builds the road a little
further. And ours? Ours remembers both the dirt
path and the highway.

Friendship
Keeping Memories Alive

Mrs. Meeres weekly Friday anatomy 10
question exam & the day I was called
“Nurse” and it filled me with pride.



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