

NURSING ACTIVITIES FIRST PROMOTED IN CANADA & MARITIMES

The following is a sample of items which are documented with pictures and in several cases, in the original form, within the VG School of Nursing Archives, housed in the Bethune Building:

- The first nurse in Canada to be granted Registered Nurse status occurred in Nova Scotia
- The first nurses association to organize nursing standards of education in Canada occurred in Nova Scotia
- The first association to legalize nursing practice in Canada occurred in Nova Scotia at a meeting held at the VG hospital Nurses Residence and was called “Graduate Nurses Association” - 1909
- The first Registrar for nurses in Canada was in Nova Scotia
- The first Provincial Registered Nurse examination was held in 1925
- The first Provincial Director of Public Health was a VG graduate; Margaret MacKenzie; she served in Gallipoli and was awarded the Mon’s star for her bravery
- The original exam questions for the first written nurses exam of 1891

A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE VG SCHOOL OF NURSING ARCHIVES

- The only continuous functioning nurses alumni in Canada , since 1920
- The only continuous functioning nurses archives in Canada, since 1938
- The VG Nurses Archives of the VG hospital received two awards::
 - The Phyllis Blakeley Archival Award in 1996 for Archival Excellence
 - The 12th International Archival Congress medal, 1992 in recognition of work being done
- The artifacts, memorabilia, within the archives (medical, nursing and health sciences), is from the VG hospital, Camp Hill, Children’s, Infirmary, NS Hospital and the Grace hospital, from the mid- 1890’s onward. Example: original kidney dialysis machine and the first Heart Lung machine and microscopes from the early 1900’s
- The documents, records and annual reports, within the archives (medical, nursing and health sciences), are from the VG hospital, Camp Hill, Children’s, NS Hospital, Infirmary and the Grace, including pictures
- The archives is recognized by Universities across Canada for research projects and has been documented in articles and books from researchers across Canada and the USA
- The archives have loaned articles to the film industry many times ; example Halifax Explosion film and the College Registered Nurses NS for their Centennial celebrations
- Artifacts, posters and documents from the VG Archives are used in displays in the Centennial building, the College RNNS Annual General meetings and in the Dalhousie School of Nursing , Forrest building, in conjunction with the Nursing History NS organization.

There were two rooms with a storage room on the 6th floor, Bethune building which were taken away, without notice, in the late 1990’s.