

# Women's History Network of British Columbia

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WHN/BC, 402-9603 Manchester Drive, Burnaby, B.C., Canada V3N 4Y7  
Website: [www.whnbc.ca](http://www.whnbc.ca) Blog: [www.whnbc.blogspot.com](http://www.whnbc.blogspot.com)



## Upcoming WHN/BC Events

- ◆ WHN/BC Conference  
Victoria, B.C.  
December 4, 2010

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## WHN/BC 2010 Conference December 4, 2010, in Victoria



1 - 4 pm, Emily Carr Branch Library, Victoria, BC

### Topics:

History of Asian Indian 1st daughters in BC 1920-1950, with speaker Mahinder Kaur Doman Manhas, Anthology editor/publisher of *Zhindagee, Selected stories of our first daughters* born in BC and Digitizing BC's History, the BC Digitization Coalition.

\$15 per person. Refreshments, free parking, wheelchair accessible.  
Emily Carr Branch Library, 3500 Blanshard St., Victoria.

Please pre-register: Women's History Network of BC [www.whnbc.ca](http://www.whnbc.ca)

or e-mail: [whnbc@shaw.ca](mailto:whnbc@shaw.ca) Registration forms on the website.

Registration available at the door, but space limited.

### Victoria - Accommodation & Travel

Victoria has a great variety of places to stay, with a good range of prices. Check the listings and links on Tourism Victoria's website for both transportation and accommodation information:

<http://www.tourismvictoria.com>

## Women's History Fair, April 2010 Vancouver



## WHN/BC News

### Susan Louisa Moir Allison, Historic Canadian person, now has her plaque.

WHN/BC member Jacqueline Gresko reports that she and WHN/BC member Brenda Smith attended the Historic Sites Plaque ceremony for Susan Allison September 4, 2010 in Princeton, BC. Jacqueline, one of the speakers, thanked the BC Historical Federation, the Okanagan Historical Society and the Women's History Network of BC for their support for the nomination of Allison as one of Canada's Historic Persons.

The Princeton Museum and Archives has published *In Her Own Words: Selected Works of Susan Louisa Allison*, compiled by Diane Sterne, in celebration of Princeton, BC's 150th birthday. The new book is available in Princeton and on-line (\$20) and proceeds of sales go to the Princeton Museum and Archives. More information:

<http://www.moir.moze-on-inn.com> The book includes some material not in *A Pioneer Gentlewoman in British Columbia: the Recollections of Susan Allison*, edited by Margaret Ormsby (Vancouver, UBC Press, 1976).

See the Globe and Mail article, "Celebrating the Female Pioneer Perspective" by Tom Hawthorn, 7 September 2010:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/british-columbia/tom-hawthorn/celebrating-the-female-pioneer-perspective/article1699081/>

### First WHN/BC Women's History Fair a great success.

Thanks to all the participants who brought their displays, artifacts, photographs, books, costumes and their volunteers to the Fair. And a very special thank you to our co-sponsors, Herstory Cafe, Vancouver Public Library Special Collections and the *Vancouver Courier* newspaper and to WHN/BC Board member Jolene Cummings whose idea this was and to the other WHN/BC Fair volunteers—Sheila Colbert-Kerns, Linda Quiney, Rose Maurer and M. Diane Rogers. For a list of all the groups and individuals who participated, see the WHN/BC website: [www.whnbc.ca](http://www.whnbc.ca)

### CCWH/CCHF conference 2010 well attended

A good number of WHN/BC members volunteered or presented at *Edging Forward, Acting Up: Gender and Women's History at the Cutting Edge of Scholarship and Social Action*, the Canadian Committee on Women's History's 2010 conference in August in Vancouver - with sometimes very lively and always very informative sessions.

The CCWH.CCHF now has a new website and is on Facebook:

<http://www.chashcacommittees-comitesa.ca/ccwh-cchf/en/index.html>

WHN/BC Women's History Fair photograph selection, courtesy Judith Ueland, BC Genealogical Society. From top: British Columbia History of Nursing Society display, the Black History display with WHN/BC's Sheila Colbert-Kerns, the Philippine Women's Centre display and author Lisa Smedman at the *Vancouver Courier* display.

## Upcoming BC Women's History Activities

### ***“Peace & Freedom & How To Change the World” by Mary Billy***

*Although I've seen some changes in the last while that have given me hope for the future for women, there is still a long way to go. But one of the things the writing of this piece has taught me is to stick to the old adage, write what you know.*

*Nevermind about peace and freedom and changing the world somewhere else.*

*Start here, right where I am, and try to change this. That's the hardest part, not going off as a missionary in some other place. Do it here. You in your small corner and I in mine.*

*If we change our own lives, our own homes, our own towns and villages and districts, we will eventually change the whole world.*

*Herspectives, Peace and Freedom issue, April 1992, Volume 4, Issue 1, page 18.*

Mary E. Billy was the Editor and Publisher of this journal which was published from 1989 to 1995 in Squamish, BC. At his *ABC BookWorld* site, Alan Twigg calls her “one of British Columbia's most integral grass roots feminists”.

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

### VANCOUVER

**Researching Women in the Archives and in the Family with M. Diane Rogers.** Friends of the City of Vancouver Archives fundraiser, Sunday, 14 November, 2010, 2-4 pm, at the Archives, 1150 Chestnut St. [www.vancouver.ca/archives](http://www.vancouver.ca/archives)

**The Herstory Cafe Book Club: *Maria Mahoi of the Islands* by Jean Barman.** Tuesday, 7 December 2010, 5-6:30 pm at the Rhizome Cafe, 317 East Broadway. [www.herstorycafe.ca](http://www.herstorycafe.ca)

### VICTORIA

Rosalee van Stelten, author of *WREN: Memories of Navy days* speaks Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 7-8 pm, at the Esquimalt Branch, Victoria Public Library.

“ ‘You are going to London and you are

going to work for the Queen.’ With these words, Rosalee van Stelten was jettisoned from *HMCS Naden in Esquimalt to Buckingham Palace and service aboard the royal yacht Britannia. She became the only female yachtswoman in Britannia's history.*”

<http://gvpl.ca>

**Ross Bay Cemetery Christmas Tour with John Adams, 12 December 2010.** Emily Carr's birthday is December 13. A wreath will be placed on her family's grave and stories about her and others buried at Ross Bay will be shared. Old Cemeteries Society. Meet at 1:45 pm in front of Starbucks Coffee, Fairfield Plaza, 1516 Fairfield Rd. \$5 for non-members.

[www.oldcem.bc.ca/tour.htm](http://www.oldcem.bc.ca/tour.htm)



### Room Magazine - 2010 Past and Present Issue

Cover art Series One EarthWater1 by Michelle Sirois-Silver, hand-hooked rug.

*Room Magazine*, “Canada's oldest literary magazine by and for women”, offers some of its own history in this issue which features poetry, fiction and interviews with writers on the theme of ‘Past and Present’.

Janet Nicol's “Life After Room: A Literary History” offers an all too brief look at *Room*'s first 35 years, from its start as *Room of One's Own* in 1975 till today, with reminiscences from Gayla Reid, one of the founding members, one of the ‘Growing Room Collective’. Over 2000 women have had their work published in *Room* since 1975, and *Room* continues to be run by a volunteer collective.

There's a good variety in *Past and Present*'s fiction and poetry. I particularly appreciated Pearl Luke's poignant “Depression Glass” and Valerie Laub's more hopeful “Click”, and Jan Wood's “A Quilt Deemed Irrelevant” made me think.

Editor Janet Nicol included a thank you to WHN/BC for the 2010 Women's History Fair too. *Room Magazine*: [www.roommagazine.com](http://www.roommagazine.com) MDR

## Books We've Read

### Letter to the Editor, Vancouver, 1936

*Women's Drill Team—In all the preparations that are being made for the forthcoming Jubilee festivities, it is inconceivable that the women are to be discriminated against.*

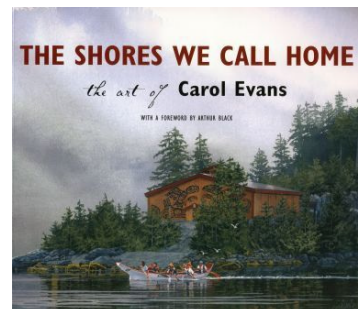
*I am referring to the fact that no female drill team is to be allowed in the Dominion Day parade....It seems that new blood is needed there, but trust the men to see that there should be no competition in the parade from the so-called weaker sex....*

Dagmar Lindquist, writing to the *Vancouver Sun*.

In her letter, Lindquist identified herself as a member of the Scandinavian Fraternity which had, she said, "one of the finest drill teams in the city".

*The Vancouver Sun*, published Wednesday, 10 June 1936, page 6.

*The Shores We Call Home: the art of Carol Evans*, with a foreword by Arthur Black. (Madeira Park, BC: Harbour Publishing, 2010).



This is a deceptively slim book – yet it shows 88 of Carol Evans's water colours of British Columbia coastal scenes, all beautifully reproduced.

In the Preface, Evans writes a bit about some of her experiences living, sailing and visiting along the coast with her husband and describes some of the things they've learned, like when to go out to dinner in Klemtu and where the best laundromat on the coast is.

And what they've learned about BC's coast people's connection to the sea and to each other. This is reflected in this selection of her art. Her depiction of sea and shore, and the qualities of the light on them are striking, but often something quite small, even ordinary draws your eye – a feather, a shell, a leaf, a rock.

Still a good number of the pieces are of people travelling or working on the coast. Among my favourites are 'Crab Boat' (Salt Spring Island) and 'Taking the Dog to Shore' (Pender Harbour), 'The Storyteller' (Kitlope Valley) and 'The Carver's Daughter' (Haida Gwai). Those illustrate one of her introductory themes, that "although this coast has changed from the water-highway it once was, there is still so much beauty and richness as life carries on."

Carol Evans has two previous books of water colours, *West Coast: Homeland of Mist* (1992) and *Releasing the Light* (1997).

Map; 95 pages; photographs; index of the water colours included in the book. MDR

Carol Evans' website: [www.carolevans.com](http://www.carolevans.com)

Harbour Publishing:  
[www.harbourpublishing.com/title/ShoresWeCallHome](http://www.harbourpublishing.com/title/ShoresWeCallHome)

### Received for Review

*The Railroader's Wife: Letters from the Grand Trunk Railway* by Jane Stevenson, based on the letters of Bernice Medbury from 1912-1914 while living along the GTR construction line. If you'd like to be the one to review this for WHN/BC, please contact [whnbc@shaw.ca](mailto:whnbc@shaw.ca)

## Women's History Network of BC

Member:

B.C. Historical Federation,  
Canadian Committee on  
Women's History

### WHN/BC Board of Directors 2010

Elise Chenier

Sheila Colbert-Kerns

Jolene Cumming

Willeen Keough

Linda Quiney

M. Diane Rogers

Kathleen Trayner

Please consider standing for  
the 2011 WHN/BC Board.  
Contact any Board member  
for more information.

Mailing Address:  
402-9603 Manchester Drive,  
Burnaby, BC,  
Canada V3N 4Y7  
604 294 5369  
E-mail: [whnbc@shaw.ca](mailto:whnbc@shaw.ca)

*WHN/BC on the Web -  
WHN/BC has a new domain  
name now - much easier to  
remember.*

Go to:  
[www.whnbc.ca](http://www.whnbc.ca)

Watch for upcoming events  
& other news on our  
website.

Let the Webmistress know  
about women's history  
events & activities.

E-mail: [whnbc@shaw.ca](mailto:whnbc@shaw.ca)  
Telephone: 604 294 5369

## University of Victoria Archives Plans to Digitize Victoria Women's Movement Archives

The University of Victoria Archives is raising money to digitize records in the Victoria Women's Movement Archives. This collection at UVic includes fonds with records from both organizations and individuals, for example, records of Everywoman's Books (1975-1995), the Raging Grannies (1985-2000), the Victoria's University Women's Club (1908-1993), and the Voice of Women, Victoria (1966-1992), along with a newsletter and pamphlet collection from the 1950s to the 2000s. Descriptions of the Victoria Women's Movement fonds are already on-line at the University of Victoria Archives website.

The Times-Colonist has an article about the project, "UVic Digitally Preserves 30 Years of Feminist Chronicles" by Katherine Dedyne, November 4, 2010: [www.timescolonist.com/life/UVic+digitally+preserves+years+feminist+chronicles/3775573/story.html](http://www.timescolonist.com/life/UVic+digitally+preserves+years+feminist+chronicles/3775573/story.html)

Do you have materials relating to the Women's Movement in Victoria, BC that may belong in the Women's Movement Archives? Please contact the University Archivist, Lara Wilson. And financial donations to the UVic Archives are welcome and tax-deductible.

For more information on the collections or on donating either materials or funds towards the project, see the University of Victoria Archives website at: <http://library.uvic.ca/site/archives>

## Caitlin Press - Future Anthologies - calling for submissions

**Canadian Women Travelling alone** - creative non-fiction

**Women Writers of Northern and North-Central BC** - poetry, literary fiction and creative non-fiction for an anthology, edited by Laisha Rosnau, author of *Getaway Girl*, *Lousy Explorers*, *Notes on Leaving* and *The Sudden Weight of Snow* and Debbie Keahey author of *Making it Home* and *waking blood* and co-editor of *The Madwoman in the Academy* anthology.

As well Caitlin Press welcomes submissions of new stories by and about BC women and BC women pioneers. Submission details: [www.caitlin-press.com](http://www.caitlin-press.com)

### Editor's Notes

MDR—I'm just a little lonely here now without LMO's capable assistance -Lynda Maeve Orr - previous co-editor of the newsletter. So, please, if you're interested in helping with the newsletter, contact me at [whnbc@shaw.ca](mailto:whnbc@shaw.ca) or 604 294 5369 (Diane).

And, if you have news or views you'd like included on the website or in the newsletter, please send them to our e-mail address: [whnbc@shaw.ca](mailto:whnbc@shaw.ca)

### Exporting Surplus Women—

....Canada has a surplus  
of men,  
in the West particularly,  
where there are  
thousands  
of young farmers  
who find  
Canadian girls  
turning up their noses  
at the lonely  
life on the prairie.

If English women  
came forward in the  
emigrating procession,  
would probably  
find good matrimonial  
chances.

*The Cariboo Observer,*  
Quesnel, BC, Saturday,  
March 19, 1921, page 2.

### **Kootenay Feminism On-line**

The *Kootenay Feminist*  
website, funded in part by  
the BC History Digitization  
Program (Irving K Barber  
Centre, UBC) is at:  
<http://www.kootenayfeminism.com>

For more about  
digitization initiatives in  
BC, see the BC  
Digitization Coalition  
website: <http://wbtw.ca>

## The Most Significant BC Women Writers?

Alan Twigg's new book, *150 Great B.C. Books & Authors: The Essentials*, Volume 4 of his *Literary History of British Columbia*, (Vancouver: Ronsdale Press, 2010) has raised a bit of controversy already.

Although many more women are mentioned in the text, these are the women Twigg highlights.

Margaret McNaughton  
Julia Henshaw  
Martha Douglas Harris  
Agnes Deans Cameron  
E. Pauline Johnson  
Lily Adams Beck  
Irene Baird  
Emily Carr  
Dorothy Livesay  
Elizabeth Smart  
Ethel Wilson  
Gilean Douglas  
Louise Jilek-Aall  
M. Wylie Blanchet  
Jane Rule  
Christie Harris  
Margaret Craven  
Sheila A. Egoff

Audrey Thomas  
Pat Lowther  
Alice Munro  
Helen Akrigg  
Susan Musgrave  
Terry Reksten  
Margaret Trudeau  
Anne Cameron  
Lynne Bowen  
Jeannette Armstrong  
Sheryl McFarlane  
Alexandra Morton  
Sage Birchwater  
Biruté Galdikas  
Irene, Hazel and Veera Witte  
Maria Coffey  
Ivan E. Coyote

What might your list of significant BC women authors and books look like? What about including more poets, historians (and publishers and bookstores)?

I'm posting this list on the WHN/BC blog, so it's easy to add your comments. Please do. MDR

## WHN/BC Memberships & Renewals

WHN/BC's membership fees support the activities of the Women's History Network of B.C. WHN/BC needs your help to thrive.

Membership brings you

- ◆ networking opportunities
- ◆ our newsletters
- ◆ e-mail updates on women's history activities events around B.C.
- ◆ participation in our yearly conference.

*Membership in WHN/BC now runs from January to December.* It's still just \$25. a year.

Encourage a friend or colleague to join us. A printable membership form is on-line: [www.whnbc.ca](http://www.whnbc.ca)

Please print out a copy of this WHN/BC newsletter and post it in an appropriate location or forward it to a friend or colleague.

## Update - Designations of Women as Persons of National Historic Significance - British Columbia

As of 2009, now a dozen British Columbia women are designated as Canadian Persons of National Historic Significance -

E. Pauline Johnson, Tekahionwakeh, 1945  
 Emily Carr, 1950  
 'Nellie' Helen Letitia Mooney McClung, 1954  
 Helen Gregory MacGill, 1998  
 Elizabeth Muriel Gregory 'Elsie' MacGill, 2007  
 Mary Ellen Spear Smith, 2007  
 Margaret 'Madge' Robertson Watt, 2007  
 Susan Louisa Moir Allison, 2007  
 Alice Ravenhill, 2008  
 Nellie Yip Quong, 2008  
 Ethel Johns, 2009  
 Helena Gutteridge, 2009

The Women's History Network of British Columbia supported several of these nominations. Contact a WHN/BC Board member if you are working on a submission.

Parks Canada—Sites, Persons and Events in Women's History:  
[www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/femmes-women/itm3-/3b\\_e.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/femmes-women/itm3-/3b_e.asp)

### British Columbia Women's Christian Temperance Union conference, September, 1897, Victoria, BC.

*A pleasing feature of the day's session was the presentation to Mrs. Lamb of a magnificent basket of flowers from the world's president of the W.C.T.U.,*

*Mrs. Frances Willard – the presenters of which were two little British Columbians bearing her honored name, Frances Willard Grant and Frances Willard Cunningham.*

*The Daily Colonist, Friday, 3 September, 1897, Page 6.*

Editor—I've noticed a number of other references to the given name 'Frances Willard' in British Columbia's vital events indexes and records.

I'd be very interested to know about any BC women named for women leaders, writers, etc. Please contact me at

[diane\\_rogers@shaw.ca](mailto:diane_rogers@shaw.ca) or  
 604 294 5369 (M. Diane Rogers).

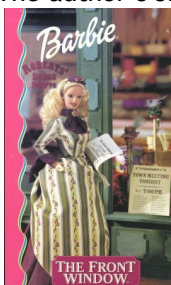
## New Books We'll Be Reading

*A Thoroughly Wicked Woman* by Betty Keller (Halfmoon Bay, BC: Caitlin Press, 2010). Based on accounts of 1905 crimes in Vancouver, BC.

*The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us* by Tanya Lee Stone (New York: Viking, 2010). Interview with the author at Smart Girls Know, Deborah Reber's site:

<http://www.smartgirlsknow.com/?p=2076>

The author's site: <http://www.tanyastone.com>



Yes, I'm one of *those* mums who said 'No Barbies!'. But nowadays I have two of my very own—'CatWoman' and 'suffragette' Barbies. MDR 'The Front Window', Grolier Special Edition Barbie, 2000, includes a book with a story by Claire Jordan and Della Foster.

And we're watching for - *Lillian Alling: Walking Home* by Susan Smith-Josephy. To be published by Caitlin Press, 2010-11. Author's blog: [www.writersglob.blogspot.com](http://www.writersglob.blogspot.com) and her Lillian Alling website: [www.lillianalling.ca](http://www.lillianalling.ca)

Did you see the Vancouver Opera's 2010 world premiere of 'Lillian Alling', its commissioned opera by Canadian composer John Estacio and librettist John Murrell? Listen on the Opera's blog:

<http://lillianallingopera.blogspot.com>