

NEUROSCIENCES WINDOW DISPLAY- TUPPER BUILDING - NOV 2024

- Gloria (Webb) Stephens

The Neurosciences display window highlights the beginning of this specialty and is located in the



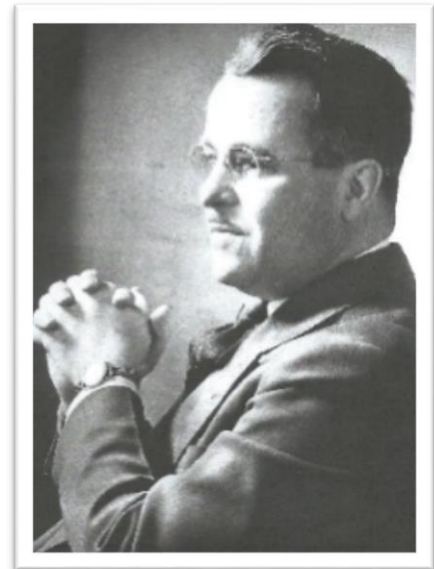
Tupper building, Halifax, NS. It is sponsored by the Association Health Sciences Archives & Museums NS (AHSAMNS) and prepared by members of the Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing Archives, who founded the AHSAMNS in 2007. This Archives is located in the Bethune building, VG site and opened Mondays - 930 to 230 or on request. For information on the archives visit: www.halifaxvghnursesalumni.ca/nova-scotia/archives

The Neurosurgery/Neurology department, the first in Atlantic Canada, was developed by a team of doctors and nurses and the founder was Dr William D Stevenson, in 1948, who is pictured on the left.



DR WILLIAM D STEVENSON, MD, MS, FRCS ©

Dr Stevenson served overseas in the Neuro unit during WW2; 1948 - 1ST Neurosurgeon -Atlantic Canada at the VG & Division Head for 26 years; 1950 combined Neurosurgery with Neurology and Psychiatry; Established Neurosurgery Department at Dalhousie University and Head 1948- 1974; 1965 President 'Canadian Neurology Society'; 1967 designed a 'self-contained' Neuro Unit – 2nd floor Centennial building; 1st president 'Canadian Congress of Neurosciences Services'; worked with government driver safety laws and safety devices such as wearing of helmets; Annual Neuroscience award – Dalhousie University established in his name to honour him; died in Ontario, September 28, 2006 at age 93



The original nurses, who were also pioneers in this field, were Don Carruthers, VGH class 1941, Head Nurse of Neurosurgery (pictured to right in the top main photo, along with his nursing background)

DON CARRUTHERS, RN, VGH Class 1941

Served in the Air Force WW2; 1946 Diploma Operating Room Technique from Toronto General Hospital; established Neurosurgery Nursing program 1948; 1st Neurosurgery Operating Room Head Nurse; Chief & OR Supervisor for 28 years at VG Hospital ; founding member 'OR Nurses Association NS' - 1968 ; founding member 'National OR Nurses Committee'; active long-standing member VGH School of Nursing Alumni and Archives; instrumental in developing the VGH Infection Control Program; 2009 recipient College Registered Nurses NS Centennial Award of Distinction ; died 1999 at age 81





The first picture on the next level shows the first Neurosurgery operating room staff: Gertrude Hickey of Cape Breton, Gloria Webb, VGH class 1953 and Rae Howe of Saint John General (both of these nurses are still living).

Followed by Evelyn Pyle, VGH class 1936, who was the first Head Nurse Neurology Ward. Both Evelyn and Don were sent to the Montréal Neurological Institute to learn ‘the ropes’ for setting up their respective units.

EVELYN PYLE (Elliott), RN

1947- Diploma specialized program in Neuro Services Patient Care – Toronto General Hospital; pioneer Neurosurgery/ Neurology patient care nursing at the VGH; 1st Neurosciences patient ward supervisor – 1948 to 1961; died 1973

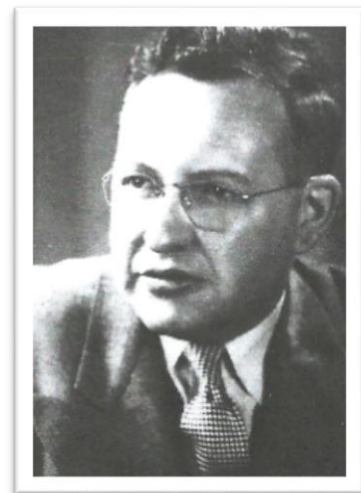


At the same time frame the department of Psychiatry was developed within the VG and included the NS Hospital, located in Dartmouth. This hospital has a very interesting beginning and long history of this specialty. Describing the last two pictures within the above frame: the Psychiatry department was spear-headed by Dr R D Jones with the Ward Head Nurse being Dorothy Gill, VGH class 1935, pictures to the left in the above frame. Dr Jones and Dr Stevenson worked closely together as at this particular time, in order to ‘control’ severe mental conditions, a Frontal Lobotomy was performed at the VG hospital. Fortunately drugs were discovered with the same outcome which allowed the patient to live more comfortably in a family situation.

NEUROSCIENCES & PSYCHARITY AS ONE UNIT

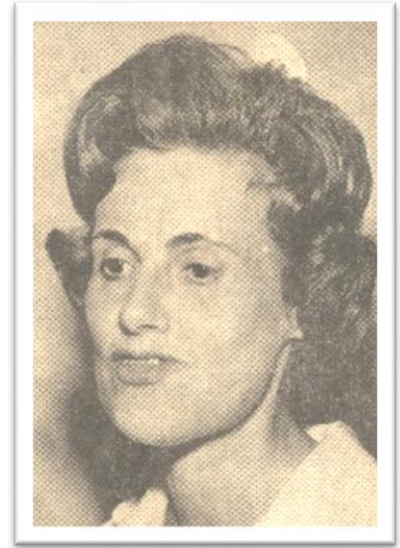
DR R.O.JONES

1941 – Founder & Associate Professor (1949) Psychiatry Dalhousie University & Head for 26 years; 1955 Neuro and Psychiatry officially became one unit at VGH with Dr W D Stevenson – Neuro Head and Dr R O Jones as Psychiatry Head; President & Fellow Canadian Psychiatry Association; Charter & Life Fellow (1973) American College Psychiatry’ President of: Medical Society NS, Canadian Medical Health (NS Division), Atlantic Provinces Psychiatry Association; 1981 received the ‘Order of Canada’; died 1984



DOROTHY GILL, RN, VGH CLASS 1935

Diploma Nursing Administration – McGill University; 1949 Diploma Psychiatry Toronto University; 1943-1950 instructor nursing VGH; established nursing section in Psychiatry 1955 at VGH; lectured at the VG, Children’s, Public Health nursing program at Dalhousie department – psychiatry; Supervisor Psychiatry Unit; President and Secretary Halifax Branch RNANS; member Alpha chapter, Beta Sigma Phi & named ‘Woman of the Year’; 1958 awarded Margaret Hiscottkeys White Cross Medal – 1st time awarded



The evolution of neurosurgery nursing in Halifax included many nurses who contributed greatly to the expansion of this medical specialty but due to space only a few could be featured. Pictured below are Shirley Stark, Jane Clattenburg, and Debbie Beveridge.



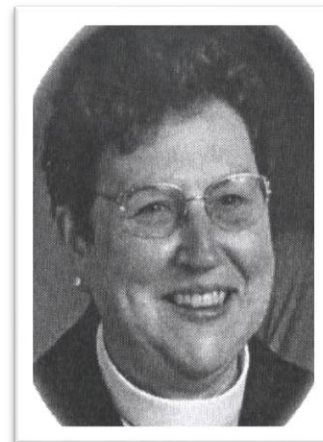
SHIRLEY STARK, RN, BScN, VGH Class 1954A

Diploma Psychiatry program; Diploma Neuroglial Institute with Dr Wilder Penfield, Montreal; 1969 Founding member Association Neurosciences Nurses (CANN); & 1st Province Councilor, NS; 1967 -Committee member planning for new Neuro Unit Centennial building; Member Spinal Cord Injury Prevention Association; 1980 Neurosurgery Patient Care Coordinator; 2014 - Co-author book: ‘Halifax Neurosurgery Nursing: 1st 50 years’.



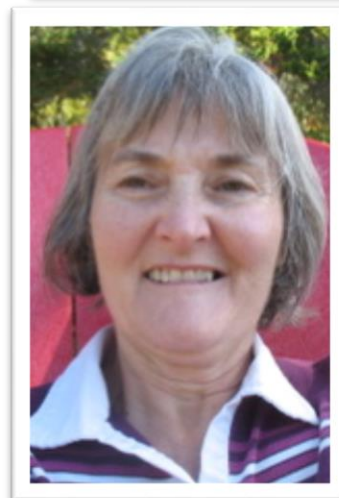
JANE (Casscadden) CLATTENBURG, RN, MDiv, VGH
Class 1965A

Diploma Neurological Institute , Montreal; Staff nurse VGH Neuro unit; BScN – Mount Saint Vincent; President Canadian Association Neurosciences Nurses; CNA Certification Neurosciences Nursing; 1987-1997 VGH Nephrology; 1999 Master of Divinity



DEBBIE BEVERIDGE, RN, CNN©, VGH class 1974

Neurological ICU Unit VGH; Diploma SRN – Great Briton; Critical Care Level #2; Assisted in the development of Neurosurgical IMCU after the amalgamation hospitals – QE 2 complex; Mentored new nurses to Neurosurgical Unit; published papers in Axon – Neuro Journal; Item-writer for CNA Neuro Certification exam; President and also served as secretary CANN; Girl Guide leader



Sample - A FEW NEURO NURSES –

1950 GRADUATE

- LILLIAN BOWSER , RN– VGH Class 1958A; Supervisor Neuro/Psychiatry & West Annex; Active VGH Alumni member and served as President and other executive offices of the VGH School of Nursing Alumni

1960 GRADUATE

- GAIL LOGGIE, RN, BN , CNN©– VGH Class 1968; Neurosurgery Head Nurse; Neuro Manager 1968 -1998; 1987 developed the first Neuro bed-scale in Atlantic Canada & the Halifax Head-Clamp for cervical fractures which is used internationally

1970 GRADUATE

- IRVING DEAL, RN– VGH Class 1971; Neurosurgical Unit for 21 years; Active memner as Provincial Councilor and presented papers at several National conferences; Editor CANN national journal – ‘AXON’; President & Treasurer NSGEU and Shop-Stewart; died 1997 at age 51

LIST OF NEUROSCIENCES HIGHLIGHTS: (1948-1991)

- 1947 – FIRST NEUROLOGY/ NEUROSURGERY UNIT, MARITIMES
- 1ST FOUNDING MEMBER & UNIT HEAD– DR W STEVENSON-
- 1ST NEUROSURGERY HEAD NURSE – DON CARRUTHERS, VG CI – 1941
- 1ST NEUROLOGY WARD SUPERVISOR – EVELYN PYLE. VG CI 1936
- 1ST SEVERAL YEARS SUBDURALS; FRONTAL LOBOTOMIES - PERFORMED, CONTROLLING THE VIOLENT MENTAL PATIENT UNTIL, FORTUNATELY, DRUGS - 1950'S, THE SAME EFFECT.
- 1960 – NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY UNIT MOVED TO THE PRIVATE PAVILION –VG SITE
- 1967 – NEUROSURGERY DEVELOPED A SPECIAL HEAD CLAMP FOR CERVICAL FRACTURES & USED INTERNATIONALLY – KNOWN AS THE 'HALIFAX CLAMP'
- 1967 – THE NEURO UNIT MOVED TO THE CENTENNIAL BUILDING AS A SELF-EQUIPED UNIT: X-RAY, LAB, RECOVERY, WARD AND ICU
- 1987 – FIRST NEURO BED-SCALE IN ATLANTIC CANADA, GAIL LOGGIE – HEAD NURSE, VGH CLASS 1968
- 1991 – 1ST FETAL TISSUE TRANSPLANT – DR RENN HOLNESS

The Neurosurgery department as it expanded soon included several neurological researches and Dr 'Jock' Murray was renowned for his research in Multiple Sclerosis as he developed the MS Clinic in Halifax along with the nurse Pauline Weldon.

PAULINE (VEINOT) WELDON, RN, BN, CANN©
VGH Class 1959 B

VGH Neurology Unit for 15 years-Head Nurse; Clinical Instructure; Rehabilitation Centre; Coordinated the first Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Research Unit East of Montreal at Dalhousie University; Founding member MS Clinic in Halifax with Dr 'Jock' Murray and only nurse from 1980 to 1992; CNA Certification in Neurosciences Nursing, MS nursing & Research, all at the same year; Co-published 'Newly Diagnosed MS Patient'; CANN National Secretary, Treasurer and also President, Provincial Councilor and editor CANN National Journal - Axon; 1971 CANN 1st Affiliation Interest Group within CNA; 1980 - Chair 1st CANN Standards Patient Care Committee'; Awards received: 1st 'MS Recognized Nurse' award in Canada, International MS Nurses Organization award, June Harper award, Berlex Canada award & Honourary Life Member Canadian Association History Nursing (CAHN)



Dr THOMAS ‘JOCK’ MURRAY , OC, MD,
FRCP©, MACP, CMHF

1986 – Founder & President International Consortium – MS Centers ; 1986 – 2003 – Director MS Research – Dalhousie University; Published 300 articles and a number of Neurology books; 1995 – appointed to the White House by the American Society of Physicians – Working Group on disabilities in US Presidents & was endorsed by Presidents Clinton, Carter & Ford; 2009 – Canadian MS Society established the Dr Murray Fellowship Award; 2010 – MS Research Award was established at Dalhousie University in his honour; 2014 inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame



The shelf contains the recent published Neuro Book; different types of needles and sutures, biopsy needles, glass syringes, glass and metal head plate that were first used.



This shelf contains several different instruments such as Weck Clip & Kerr Clip applicators and clips for cranial aneurysms, Raney clip applicator and clips for controlling the scalp bleeding as the incision was made, nerve stimulator, Hudson hand drill with bits – perforator and burr to make the cranial opening, water thermometer to control warmth of the irrigating fluid, picture of bed weighing apparatus, straight razor as the head was completely shaved then and other artifacts.

There are posters with important explanations, history and biography of the individuals shown. A worthwhile visit to have a short course on the development and foundation of Neurosurgery in the Maritimes.