



The *Great* Canadian
Catholic Hospital History Project

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the
Congregations of Religious Women in Canada,
their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.



Projet de la *Grande* Histoire
des hôpitaux catholiques au Canada

Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des
congrégations de religieuses au Canada,
leur mission en matière de soins de santé ainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

**75th Anniversary of
St. Martha's Hospital School of Nursing
1914-1989**

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Congregation of the
Sisters of St. Martha
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75th Anniversary
of



*St. Martha's Hospital
School of Nursing*

1914 - 1989

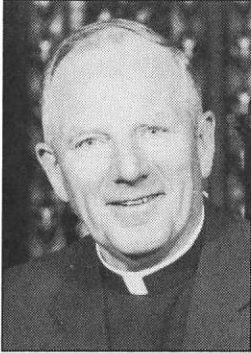
75th Anniversary of St. Martha's Hospital
School of Nursing



Members of the St. Martha's School of Nursing 75th Anniversary Reunion Committee are Tat Bernasconi (seated, left), committee chairman Sr. Clare Marie Lyons, Margaret Fraser and Iona Boyd. Standing are Kathleen Cameron (left), Mary Smith and Marie Walsh.



The Harris House on Bay Street; it became St. Martha's Hospital in 1907.



*The Most Rev. Colin
Campbell, D.D.,
Litt.D.*

Dear Alumnae of St. Martha's:

It gives me great pleasure to help you celebrate the 75th anniversary of St. Martha's School of Nursing. I have a personal stake in this. When I was born at St. Martha's some years ago, I presume that one or other of your alumnae helped the process!

Nursing tends to attract special people. The student who enters the program has a chance to mature. The nurse has many opportunities to see people in suffering and to help them. There can be no substitute for personal care and love, at a time of sickness and suffering.

Jesus has asked us to see Him in the weak and the suffering. You have had this ministry and privilege for years. My prayer and fondest wish is that you continue to minister to the sick and the suffering of this world. In this way, you will find Jesus in them and they will find Him in you.

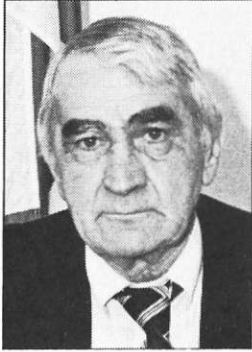
May the celebrations bring new joy, peace and love through human relationships.

Your servant in Jesus Christ,

The Most Rev. Colin Campbell, D.D., Litt.D.
Bishop of Antigonish

*First St. Martha's
Hospital, 1906, located
on St. Ninian Street.*





Colin H. Chisholm

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of Antigonish, to welcome back former graduates of St. Martha's Hospital — nurses, nursing assistants, laboratory technicians and x-ray technicians — on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of St. Martha's Hospital School of Nursing.

It has been Antigonish's privilege to have known you over the past three-quarters of a century. We wish you a pleasant stay and a good reunion as you renew acquaintances in Antigonish. As Antigonish town also celebrates its centennial of incorporation this year, it is a most appropriate time for us to express our appreciation to you for the tremendous service you have rendered to the town all these years.

Thank you for coming back to commemorate this prestigious occasion.

Colin H. Chisholm
Mayor
Town of Antigonish



St. Martha's Hospital with newly completed additions, 1951.



Sr. Clare Marie

What a singular pleasure it is for me to extend greetings to all of you who have returned to St. Martha's School of Nursing on this momentous occasion of the 75th anniversary of the first graduation.

A hearty welcome is extended to each one of you — nurses, nursing assistants, lab and x-ray technicians. It is my fond hope that you will thoroughly enjoy your weekend in an atmosphere of memorable reminiscing.

It is a proud and emotional time for me as I relive with many of you my involvement in St. Martha's School of Nursing which extended over a great many years. My inherent objective as an educator in the roles of instructor, assistant director, director and nursing education consultant was always first and foremost to prepare you graduates to be people of deep Christian principles who would then become members of the health care team as devoted, committed persons in whatever line of profession you were prepared to give service. This weekend celebration promises to be tangible evidence that my objective was realized.

GRADUATES, may you always go forth, loyally carrying the torch of St. Martha's emblazoned with its motto: SCIENCE, SERVICE, SANCTITY.

Sister Clare Marie
Chairperson
St. Martha's Reunion



Sister Thérèse LeBlanc

Congratulations to St. Martha's School of Nursing on this joyous occasion of the 75th anniversary of its founding.

In the name of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Martha, I extend a warm and loving welcome to all the graduates of St. Martha's School of Nursing, as well as to nursing assistants, lab and x-ray technicians, who are part of this celebration.

We rejoice and give thanks to God for these many years dedicated to "Science, Service, Sanctity", the fruitfulness of those full years of study and training at St. Martha's School of Nursing. We are justly proud of our school, of our graduates and of their compassionate and persevering efforts

in the healing mission of Jesus, the care of the sick and suffering.

May our gracious God bless you and your families with peace, joy and love in full measure.

Sister Thérèse LeBlanc

General Superior
Sisters of St. Martha



Fr. John L. Hodgins

I extend greetings and congratulations on behalf of the Anglican parish in the County of Antigonish on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of St. Martha's School of Nursing.

The people of our parish have been very ably served by St. Martha's Regional Hospital and those educated at the School of Nursing, as well as nursing assistants, lab and x-ray technicians. Some of our people have been associated with the school and the hospital for many years. Our prayers and thoughts are with you as you begin work in the new hospital, and it is our hope that this will be an excellent facility for the training of new nurses, as well as continuing the tradition of excellent health care for the people of this county and beyond.

Having had the opportunity, on occasion, of addressing the nursing students, celebrating liturgies with them, and seeing them on my rounds, I personally want to commend you for the fine work that you do. The level of personal care and consideration shown and modeled by the nursing staff and the students at St. Martha's is of an exceptionally high standard.

May God grant you many years of continued service of the community and richly reward you for the fine work that you are doing. I must add one note of appreciation to the Sisters of St. Martha whose wisdom and concern founded and nurtured the nursing school. We all owe them a great

debt of gratitude for their work and faithfulness which they have shown to all of us. I'm sure I join my voice with yours and those of many in giving thanks to God for the witness of our dedicated sisters in the service of Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. John L. Hodgins
Parish of St. Paul-the-Apostle
Antigonish County, N.S.

*Josie England,
secretary, St. Martha's
Alumnae, and student
nurses Karen Long
'89, Janet Dunn '90,
and Kathy Boucher
'89.*



Anniversary Program

FRIDAY, JULY 21

7-9 p.m. Registration, **Bloomfield Center**, St. F.X. campus
8-10 p.m. Wine, Cheese and assorted Refreshments
Social

SATURDAY, JULY 22

9-11 a.m. Registration, **St. Martha's Nurses' Residence**
Open House throughout the day in residence with coffee and snacks available all day.
Groups of classes can use various areas in the residence as a "meeting place" for chit-chat and arrangement of class plans.
TOURS OF THE NEW HOSPITAL will be offered periodically throughout the day.
6 p.m. Social hour, small gym off **Oland Center**, St. F.X.U.
7 p.m. Banquet, **Oland Center**

SUNDAY, JULY 23

12 noon Eucharistic celebration, **St. F.X. Chapel**
Brunch, immediately after Mass, **Morrison Hall**



Architect's drawing of the new St. Martha's Regional Hospital.

History of St. Martha's School of Nursing

St. Martha's graduated four nurses in 1914 — two Sisters of St. Martha, Sister Mary Ignatius Floyd (later to become Mother M. Ignatius, superior general of the Congregation and an influential member of Nova Scotia's Health Care Association for years) and Sister Benjamina Beaton, and two laywomen, Agnes C. MacDonald (later Mrs. Colin F. MacKinnon) and Joanna Lyons. In the ensuing 75 years, there has been a total of 2,045 graduates.

The school came under the administration of several directors over the span of three-quarters of a century, all of whom contributed greatly to maintaining the standards and upholding the solid Christian philosophy upon which the school has always operated. The school motto of SCIENCE, SERVICE, SANCTITY has been well borne out by all directors who were: Sisters M. Remegius MacArthur, Mary Anthony, Mary of the Sacred Heart, Mary Bernard, Mary Joseph Chisholm, Mary Jovita, Mary Beatrice, Mary Peter, Mary Annunciata, Mary of Calvary, Marie Simone, Clare Marie, Marie Barbara, Mary MacLeod and Mary McMahon.

Students were accommodated in a variety of residences over the ensuing years. From 1911-17, students lived in the Harris House which was also the hospital. In 1917 the "Cottage" was built as a residence for both the sisters and the students. This building of nostalgic memories was used as the students' residence until it was demolished in 1957. When the 1926 hospital building opened, the Harris House (hospital of 1907-26) became the nurses' residence. Accommodation in the late '40s and '50s was supplemented by having some students reside in local homes. When the T.B. Annex closed in 1957 that structure became a residence along with the Harris House. In September of '63 an honest-to-goodness residence became the "home" at long last for 120 student nurses and nursing assistants.

Throughout the years the school of nursing kept updated with the standards set by the Registered Nurses Association of Nova Scotia. St. Martha's was the first in the province to have a director qualified at the Master's level when Sr. Mary of Calvary graduated with her M.Sc. degree in Nursing Education from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1940. Subsequently other directors qualified with this preparation — Sisters Clare Marie, Marie Barbara, Mary

MacLeod and Mary McMahon.

When the regulations of RNANS required faculty to have B.Sc. qualifications, St. Martha's worked diligently to meet this requirement. Today all faculty members are at this level and higher.

In the late '60s a movement got underway to prepare diploma graduates in two years instead of three. Along with the Halifax Infirmary, St. Martha's graduated the first two-year diploma graduates in 1971.

In 1926 an agreement was made with St. F.X. University whereby graduates of St. Martha's School of Nursing received a credit of 45 units towards the 128 credits required for a B.Sc. degree. Although St. F.X. University now has its own department of nursing and issues a Bachelor of Nursing Degree, there has always been a close liaison between the University and St. Martha's ever since the inception of the 1926 plan.

In 1957 a program was initiated to prepare nursing assistants for certification with a ten-month course. This program remained in place for 10 years, during which time approximately 150 graduated.

Graduates of St. Martha's School of Nursing have travelled far and wide to give service; they are a source of pride and joy to the institution which graduated them. Many of our graduates have qualified with a variety of degrees: M.D., Ph.D., L.L.B., D.D.S., Masters (of various areas), Bachelors (also of various areas), as well as post-graduate and post-diploma programs representative of a wide cross-section of health care fields. Many of our graduates have been in positions of directors of nursing education of both university and diploma programs, directors of nursing service in hospitals and extended-care facilities, have been hospital administrators and served in the three military services of army, navy and air force during war time. In addition, many have been on the faculties of universities, hospital schools of nursing and other educational programs in health care institutions. Still others have held prominent positions as head nurses and clinical instructors. Included among our graduates are several who have given service in Third World countries.

AND over and above all these are the countless graduates

who remained at the bedside rendering conscientious, dedicated, warm-hearted care to myriads of patients. And also included among our graduates are many women and men who have been the bulwark of strong, Christian families — some devoted full time to this career while others functioned in the dual role of homemaker and professional nurse. We can also claim many who have served in a variety of executive positions both at the national and provincial levels. We have witnessed many of our graduates awarded with scholarships both nationally and provincially and we boast one graduate who received an international award (Ria Rovers, Ph.D., Class '66, killed in a tragic accident in 1988).

In the three-quarters of a century just passed, we've written a glorious history. May the future graduates of St. Martha's continue to write a history that will record a saga of caring commitment to the sick and suffering members of the Mystical Body of Christ. May our motto, SCIENCE, SERVICE, SANCTITY, be forever emblazoned on a flag that will fly high over the institution we are proud to call St. Martha's School of Nursing.

Sister Clare Marie

Chairperson

St. Martha's 75th Anniversary Reunion

St. Martha's School of X-Ray Technology



*Sister Roselina
McMahon*

The first organized two-year educational program for x-ray technicians was formulated by Dr. O.C. MacIntosh, radiologist/pathologist, and Sister Roselina McMahon, head technician, in 1946. Evelyn Thomas, Point Tupper, was the first to graduate in 1948. At that time, the student was required to pass the school exam before being recommended to sit for the National Exam. For many years the success rate was 100 percent. At least two students graduated each year, having come to the program from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

The program at St. Martha's was phased out when it became the requirement of the Provincial Health Department that all students preparing to be x-ray technicians could not do so by enrolling in a program in Halifax given at the Bedford Institute.

The graduates of this program, approximately 35, have done well wherever they have gone. Several have been in head technician positions and all have upheld the standards of the preparation they received when enrolled in the program at St. Martha's.

Sister Roselina McMahon
Head Technician (former)
St. Martha's X-Ray Department



J.A. MacCormick, M.D.

On behalf of the medical profession of Antigonish, it is an honour and great pleasure to extend congratulations to St. Martha's Hospital School of Nursing on its 75th anniversary, and to welcome you nurses, nursing assistants, laboratory technicians and x-ray technicians to this reunion.

We thank you all for what you have done for St. Martha's Hospital and Antigonish over the years. If you consider carefully, you will also realize that St. Martha's Hospital and Antigonish have enriched your lives. Have a wonderful reunion, and return to your homes, families and occupations with renewed joy and commitment.

J.A. MacCormick, M.D.



Sister Mary McMahon

Dear Alumnae:

It is with great joy that I welcome all the graduates of St. Martha's School of Nursing, nursing assistants, laboratory and x-ray technology back to this 75th anniversary celebration. It is a milestone for our nursing program and a privilege to be the current director. The program has undergone many changes over these 75 years. However, the high esteem in which our graduates are held continues to be expressed by employers to this day.

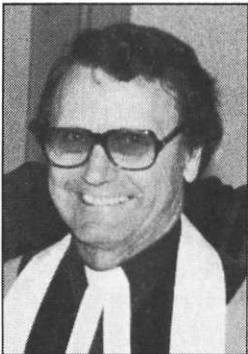
The many graduates of the various programs that have been part of the history of St. Martha's Hospital attest to the great contribution this institution has made to the health care field through Canada and abroad. This is a time for reflecting on this and renewing friendships that began during your student days.

It is also a special year because of the opening of the new St. Martha's Regional Hospital. I am sure you will enjoy your tours of this modern facility and be able to reminisce about the time spent in the old one.

I wish you a very successful and enjoyable homecoming. God bless you all.

Sister Mary McMahon

Director, Nursing Education



Ralph Webber

For over three-quarters of a century the St. Martha's School of Nursing has gained and maintained a justified reputation as an institution which has made a great contribution to the field of medicine. The nurses, nursing assistants, lab and x-ray graduates educated there have been noted for their competence, compassion and caring. We at St. James United Church extend our thanks for all that you have accomplished, welcome you all to this celebration, and congratulate you on your anniversary. Well done.

Ralph Webber

Minister

St. Martha's School of Laboratory Technology



Sister Mary Florence

In 1947, Dr. O.C. MacIntosh was appointed laboratory director and radiologist at St. Martha's Hospital. At that time the staff of the laboratory department numbered two technologists.

Due to the great foresight of Dr. MacIntosh, the hospital was approved for teaching laboratory technology. At the end of two years, the students were eligible to write their registration exams which were set by the Canadian Society of Laboratory Technologist (CSLT) in Hamilton, Ontario, and received their R.T. (Registered Technologist). This qualified them to work anywhere in Canada.

Approximately 74 students received their R.T. during the time in which the program operated.

With the same foresight, Dr. MacIntosh approached St. F.X. University to grant a degree in medical technology to any student meeting required qualifications. Permission was granted in 1960. During the four-year course, the student spent the four college years at St. F.X. and worked during the summer at St. Martha's Hospital in the laboratory, enabling him/her to receive his/her practical experience. Successful candidates were granted a bachelor of science degree with a major in medical laboratory science. They were also qualified to write their R.T. exams. About six students received the B.Sc. and R.T. achievements. Doctors Chou, Haidi and Mertens, who followed Dr. MacIntosh, were instrumental in continuing the educational program.

In 1955, St. Martha's Laboratory was named a regional laboratory, servicing the hospitals in Canso, Guysborough, Sherbrooke, Arichat, Inverness and Cheticamp.

In 1973 the Nova Scotia government decided to open a central school for the preparation of technologists in Halifax. Much to the disappointment of those enrolled in the school, the director of the lab, and the staff, the program at St. Martha's had no other alternative but to phase out.

In the meantime, the quality of the service rendered at St. Martha's has deepened and broadened. Staff now numbers thirty — a far cry from the staff of two who operated the department in the '40s. Many of the present-day staff members are St. Martha's graduates.

Others have gone on to significant positions in locations far and wide from Antigonish.

Sister Mary Florence
Head Technician (for many years)
St. Martha's Laboratory

