



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.

History of the Mattawa General Hospital 1878-1978

Source: Courtesy of
Mattawa Hospital

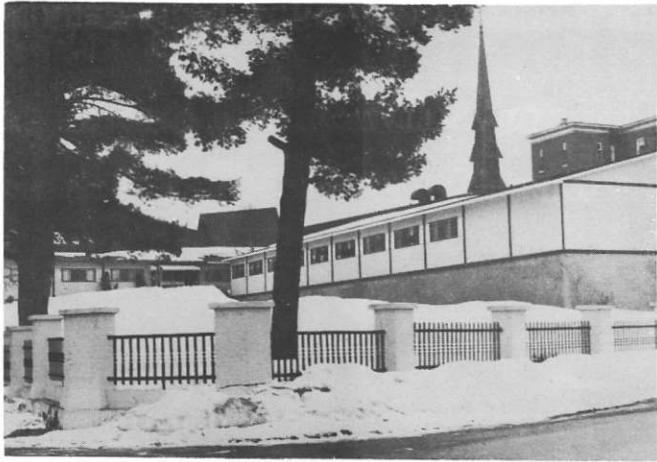
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HISTORY
OF THE
MATTAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL
1878 - 1978



BY THE LADIES OF THE
MATTAWA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY



HISTORY
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THE MATTAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL
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LADIES OF THE MATTAWA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY



I. - Le père Jean-Marie Nédélec, o.m.i.

Founder of first Hospital 1878

REFERENCES

Le Voyageur du Bon Dieu 1834 - 1896 by Father Gaston Carrière

St. Anne's Church 1889 - 1949 by Father J. R. Windle

Father S. F. Grier

Sister Fleur-Ange Thibault,

Administrator of Mattawa General Hospital, 1966

Records of Mattawa General Hospital by Sisters on Staff

The North Bay Nugget

Besides the above-mentioned sources, we owe a debt of gratitude to all persons, in providing us with information on the Mattawa General Hospital on the occasion of its One Hundredth Anniversary.

Anne Hartman

1st Vice President of

Hospital Auxiliary,

Executive 1978.

Pictures by Rhéal Bélanger

Instructor of Photography,

Algonquin Composite School,

North Bay, Ontario.

Robert Emond, Mattawa, Ontario

F. R. Hallé, Mattawa, Ontario.

INTRODUCTION

Mattawa is situated on the banks of the Ottawa and Mattawa Rivers along the foothills of the "Laurentians." In the seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth century, two important Indian bands of the Algonquin Tribes, occupied this area. When the first white settlers arrived, the Mattawa River was the dividing line between the hunting grounds. The band leaders were Chief Antoine Kikiwiwies and Chief Amable Dufond. Chief Antoine's band hunted north of the Mattawa River including Rosemount, and Temiskaming area whereas Chief Amable Dufond's band hunted on the present site of Eau Claire, Rutherglen, and Lake Talon. The Chiefs named the area Mattawa meaning "The meeting of the waters."

Over one hundred years later the Mattawa General Hospital occupies a site on Rosemount overlooking the two rivers.

MATTAWA

There is a story here where rivers meet,
Too noble for the vehicle of rhyme,
A tale of searching eyes, intrepid feet,
A tale whose telling mocks the hand of Time.
I stand where once the dauntless Champlain stood,
And scan the foothills on the neighbouring shore,
I sense the awe inspiring solitude
And feel a peace I've never felt before.
This cradle on the north once rocked a dream,
And nursed a breed that made the dream come true.
O conquerors of forest, hill and stream,
How shall a poem mark a grave for you!
No! Let these meeting rivers be your shrine;
Yours is the deed... the heritage is mine.

Len G. Selle
Mattawa, Ontario.

The following Sisters served as Superior/Administrator since 1878.

NAME	DATES
Sister St-Alexis	1878 - 1879
Sister St-Jean	1879 - 1886
Sister d'Youville	1886 - 1890 (died during term)
Sister St-Basile	1890 - 1891
Sister Ste-Cécile	1901 - 1908
Sister St-Basile	1908 - 1912
Sister St-Charles	1912 - 1915
Sister Ste-Laure	1915 - 1918
Sister Ste-Adélaïde	1918 - 1921
Sister Marie Auxiliatrice	1921 - 1924
Sister Ste-Priscille	1924 - 1925
Sister St-Honoré	1925 - 1928
Sister Ste-Reine	1928 - 1931
Sister Louis-Paul	1931 - 1933
Sister St-Hermas	1933 - 1936
Sister St-Firmin	1936 - 1942
Sister Ste-Marcelline	1942 - 1944
Sister St-Firmin	1944 - 1947
Sister St-Tharsicius	1947 - 1953
Sister Germaine-de-Marie	1953 - 1959
Sister Marie-Idella	1959 - 1966
Sister Fleur-Ange Thibault	1966 - 1969
Sister Camille-de-Lellis	1969 - 1972
Sister Marie Adam	1972 - 1975

In September 1975, the superior no longer assumed the duties of Administrator of the Hospital. An Executive Director/Administrator was appointed.

Sister Elisabeth Rapin
Executive Director
1975

The following doctors served the hospital from 1885 to present. For your information please note that the records from 1878 to 1885 were destroyed in the fire.

NAME	DATES
Dr. Haentchel,	1885
Dr. Christie,	1885
Dr. Michael James,	1889 - 1927
Dr. J. A. Bergeron,	1924 - 1951
Dr. Fink,	1925
Dr. Mursky,	July 9, 1925 - Nov. 8, 1925
Dr. Smith,	1927
Dr. Moore,	Sept. 13, 1933 - Sept. 18, 1941
Dr. Jean Therrien,	Jan. 24, 1942 - May 1946
Dr. Roland Marchildon,	June 3, 1946 - Feb. 18, 1952
Dr. Roland Marchildon,	June 3, 1946 - Feb. 18, 1952
Dr. Louis Dussault,	Oct. 12, 1946 - June 12, 1953
Dr. Belzile,	June 25, 1951 - July 3, 1951
Dr. Dodd,	July 11, 1951 - Sept. 15, 1951
Dr. St-Firmin Monestime,	Sept. 13, 1951 - Oct. 27, 1977
Dr. Thivierge,	Sept. 15, 1951 - Sept. 21, 1951
Dr. Sainé,	1951
Dr. Joseph Schubert,	Aug. 4, 1952 - Sept. 19, 1953
Dr. Jean-Marc Caron,	Sept. 17, 1952 - to date
Dr. Andrews,	Jan. 1957 - June 1957
Dr. Creaghan,	1958
Dr. E. Fournier,	Oct. 8, 1958 - March 1960
Dr. Malcolm Marks,	April 1960 - May 1965
Dr. St-Marcary,	1964
Dr. Andrew Voitk,	Sept. 1967
Dr. Kenneth Basil Bender,	Jan. 2, 1971 - to date
Dr. John Howell,	Feb. 10, 1975 - Feb. 25, 1976
Dr. Gail Hollands,	July 2, 1976 - Sept. 30, 1977
Dr. R.T.A. Ginige,	Feb. 9, 1978 - to date

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman	Armand Ribout
Vice Chairman	Anne Hartman
Secretary	Sister Elisabeth Rapin
	Dr. K. B. Bender
	Robert Corriveau
	Sister Marie Dubord
	Rev. Maurice Gaudreault
	Sister Denise Lachapelle
	Annie Lamont
	Sister Léolande LeBlanc
	Rev. Gary Mayhood
	Sister Thérèse Nolet
	Laurent Roberge
	George Richards
	Marguerite Ross
Recording Secretary	Sister Edouard-de-Marie

EXECUTIVE OF THE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Honorary President	Sister Elisabeth Rapin
President	Marguerite Ross
1st Vice President	Anne Hartman
Secretary	Noella Ribout
Treasurer	Madeleine Tyler
Tuck Shop Convener	Irene Roberge
Membership Convener	Annie Lamont
T.V. Convener	Bernadette Villeneuve

It is my pleasure, as the twenty-fourth executive director/administrator of the Mattawa General Hospital to express my thanks and praise to the Lord for the blessings He has bestowed upon the Mattawa General Hospital during the past one hundred years.

The Mattawa General Hospital, the second of our Congregation's hospitals, was founded in 1878. Although the day-to-day operation of the hospital continues to become more complex and demanding, we are proud of the manner in which the entire staff have carried out their duties. Each and everyone has contributed toward maintaining and improving the quality of patient care, which has been achieved only through the team spirit existing throughout the past century.

As we look back over the past one hundred years, we ascertain the hospital has been the beneficiary of many generous donations from individuals and organizations. Today, it is through the courtesy and generosity of the Ladies of the Mattawa General Hospital Auxiliary, we are able to present to you a brief history of our Hospital.

We owe a special word of gratitude to these women for this undertaking. Without their assistance, the short story of the Mattawa General Hospital would have been difficult to complete.

To Mrs. Marguerite Ross, her associates and to many other benefactors, we express our sincere appreciation.

We are confident that with the continued support of so many devoted people, the Mattawa General Hospital will always be, not only a hospital where the sick are the object of professional solicitude, but one where Christian friendship is established between those who suffer and those who serve.

Sister Elisabeth Rapin
Executive Director

MATTAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL

After a small beginning, 100 years later, the present Mattawa General Hospital stands high on Rosemount, where the Ottawa River meets the Mattawa River.

Father J. M. Nédelec, Father J. Poitras, and Father J. P. Guégen were the first missionaries in charge of the vast area surrounding Mattawa. As the population increased to about one hundred and sixty families, it was evident that Mattawa was becoming the centre of a growing lumber industry. Father Nédelec could foresee the need for a hospital in order to care for the sick and injured.

In 1873, he wrote insistent letters to his superiors in Ottawa, explaining the urgent need for a hospital. Finally, in 1878, a modest hospital of five beds was built on Timmins Street, next to the home of Miss Annie Lamont. For many years, the Lamont Family occupied this site. It was a combination of chapel and hospital, the latter being on the first floor. The church happened to be on the west bank of the Mattawa River so it was somewhat difficult to attend Mass regularly. Fortunately, the small chapel at the hospital could now be used for the public on the east side.

When the hospital was opened in 1878, it was staffed by the Grey Nuns of the Cross. The first followers of Mother Elisabeth Bruyère who came to Mattawa were Sister St. Alexis, superior and her assistants Sister Eudoxie and Sister Mélanie.

At the request of Father Nédelec, two representatives of Mattawa, Mr. Arthur Fink and Mr. Noé Timmins, arranged to meet the nuns in Ottawa. For that special occasion, Mr. Timmins had purchased a team of horses and a large sleigh, so as to transport the Sisters, with their luggage and equipment, to the hospital. At the time there were no direct roads as such, so they had to follow a winding, twisted, and ice-packed trail made by the lumber companies. After several days of hard travelling the three newcomers and their guides finally reached their destination on January 12, 1878.

A few days later, the first patient was admitted. The Sisters not only carried out their duties in the hospital, but they also

made house calls. It often happened that they had to travel many miles in order to reach the shanties to care for a sick lumberjack. During those days, travel meant rough trails, which frequently wound or pushed through forest or marshy land. This gives us an idea of some of the hardships these missionaries had to undergo in order to accomplish their duty among the sick. In the summer, they journeyed by canoe and on foot, plagued by mosquitoes and heat, whereas in the winter, they used snow-shoe and dog-sled, hampered by extreme cold, often sleeping outdoors overnight in the quiet of the forest, their only shelter.

The citizens of Mattawa tell many tales handed down by word of mouth, from their parents and grandparents, about this first medical venture.

In 1878, there were few stores. The main foods, such as flour, sugar, rice and spices etc., were brought in through rough trails. To keep the hospital well supplied with fruits and vegetables, the Oblate Fathers bought land along the Ottawa River. An orchard was planted on the lot behind the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Hector Morel. Nearer to the hospital was a large garden, which the parishioners helped to seed and care for. As the fall season arrived, the "Cold Cellars" and "Root Houses" were well stocked with the fruits of the labour.

In the middle of the eighteen hundreds, some of the first white settlers who came to the Mattawa area, were Mr. Noé Timmins and Mr. F. C. Bangs.

Their homes were built and the gardens planted with the help of the Indians. The main vegetables were potatoes, corn, beans and turnips. The tomato* at the time was considered poisonous, and it was grown only as an ornamental plant. It was through the aptness of Mr. Timmins, who, returning from one of his many trips to Montreal, brought back several cans of this fruit to show the

**Encyclopedia Britannica*

Tomato: Native South America - belonged to Night Shade family which was poisonous - grown in Mass., U.S.A., in 1648 as an ornamental plant. - not popular as food in United States till after Civil War in 1860.



The first Hospital was to the right of the Dufoe home 1878



Timmins home where the Oblat Fathers lived 1878

settlers and the Indians that the tomato was edible. At first, the settlers were cautious. Finally, the seeds were saved and the following year, these were planted in their gardens. The Sisters added this delicious fruit to their garden. In autumn, it was canned and stored for winter use.

No pictures have been found of the Isolation building, but many remember it to have been on the present site of the Valois Motel. Later on, as new settlers built their homes along the river, a second one was built at Boom Creek, some distance away from homes. This is where the nursing sisters brought back to health many settlers and Indians struck with a contagious disease. Many deaths occurred from these epidemics in the eighteen hundreds. The building was called the "Death House" or "Pest House," by the citizens.

In 1878, medicine was not as advanced as it is today and hospitals were not as well equipped. The word "rehabilitation" was practically non-existent, but the Sisters of the little hospital in the wilderness, with their training and foresight, realized that during convalescence, their patients improved and recovered much faster when they were occupied or interested in their surroundings. It was then that craft-work was introduced into their busy schedule.

Arthur Mailloux, one of the senior citizens recalls his father, Anthony Mailloux, telling of his long stay in the hospital as a teenager, in 1879. During his convalescence, the Sisters taught him craft work. This proved to be helpful in later years, when he was married and had a family; his evenings were spent by the fireside, knitting socks and mitts for his little family.

Many elderly citizens remember the small herd of cattle owned by the Grey Nuns of the hospital. These were cared for by some of the church parishioners. To prevent the milk from spoiling, it was placed in pans on the cool earthen floors of cellars or in ice boxes.

To make butter, the cream was skimmed off from the top of the milk. After a few days, by the use of a "Dasher," the thick cream became butter and buttermilk. The butter was put in a large wooden ferkin, salt was added, then cold water,

and by the use of butter ladles it was mixed until all the buttermilk was removed. It was then packed into one-pound prints or blocks; then it was set in a cool place, ready for use.

The large district of Nipissing was once the mecca of the trading Indians, outpost of the renowned Hudson Bay Company, later the gathering place of thousands of sturdy woodsmen better known as shanty men or lumberjacks. They worked in the woods, north of the Ottawa River to Kipawa Lake, also west to Lake Chant Plein and Lake Talon, for various lumber companies such as, Booth, Mackey, McLaren, and Gillies. In 1880, the lumber labour force reached between three and four thousand men. Accidents often occurred among these sturdy woodsmen and, frequently, there was a fatal outcome. In order to receive medical care the wounded men had to be transported by canoe or boat, then on land over rough roads in wagons and often on horse back. To ease the pain and suffering, these victims were given a strong swig of John de Kyper which maintained them in a state of drowsiness so that they would be able to stand the long and rough ride.

It was with great relief that the travellers delivered their patient to the door of the only hospital in this vast area, knowing now that he would get good care.

Travelling became easier with the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the construction of the C.P.R. bridge across the Ottawa River. This connected Ontario and Quebec in 1869.

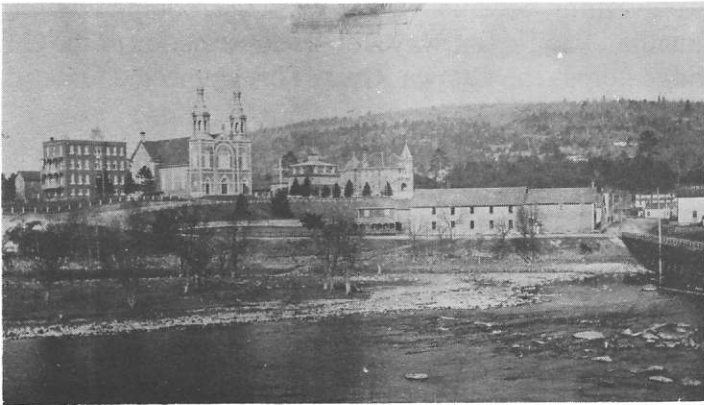
Since the opening of the hospital, numerous and various are the changes which occurred over the land and water through this vast stretch of country.

The missionaries of this northern part of the country were men and women of great fervour. Father Nédelec is remembered as one of these missionaries as well as a founder of Mattawa's first hospital. His last days were spent in this hospital and after his death in 1901, he was buried in the Mattawa cemetery.

In 1884, the Mattawa area experienced a steady growth. The population continued to increase, so there was a greater



The second Hospital in Mattawa 1885



Hospital built 1901
Courtesy Public Archives of Canada

need for a larger and better equipped building to care for the sick. For some time, the Grey Nuns had cherished the idea of having a larger hospital, where they could better care for their patients.

Mr. J. St. Jean was given the contract to build a new hospital on Rosemount in 1885. This new building was close to the church and the rectory. It was a well equipped two storey building, with a basement measuring forty by sixty feet. The work progressed rapidly and was scheduled to be ready for occupation by the end of the year. The Mattawa Church records infer, that it seemed fate contributed to hastening the work of the builders because, on the night of October 14th, of the same year, the first hospital was burned to the ground. Many citizens well remember the disaster, and it was amazing how the news spread to the surrounding areas, even to the very heart of the forest, where astonished trappers and woodsmen could hardly believe the tale.

The patients who were well enough were sent home, whereas the others were transferred to the Catholic Church hall. Here, beds were installed; equipment and supplies were set up. The work on the new hospital was hastened and, before the final touch was added, the patients and Sisters had moved in.

In 1886, Father Poitras celebrated the first Mass in the small chapel. A few weeks later, the building was blessed by his Excellency, Bishop Lorrain of Ottawa.

The cost of this new hospital was eleven thousand dollars. This larger building answered an urgent need of an increasing population, as in 1892, Mattawa was incorporated as a town. 1896 marked the construction of the bridge for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Mattawa Hospital was the only hospital for hundreds of miles around. In addition to catering to the needs of the immediate community, it also served as a medical centre for the large Temiskaming district which, at that time, extended to the most northern part of Ontario and over to James Bay. Mattawa was the first large outpost of civilization in this vast area.

In the year 1901, Mattawa sustained a great loss when, for the second time, fire destroyed the hospital operated by the Grey Nuns. The loss was felt all the more because it came with the approach of winter and the festive season of Christmas. The sympathy of the townspeople, Catholics and Protestants alike, took the form of a general meeting held a few days before Christmas, in which ways and means were discussed for the construction of a new hospital.

In the beginning of 1902, young and old toiled and laboured until gradually through box-socials, concerts, picnics etc., sufficient funds were raised to begin the construction of a new hospital. In July 1902, a picnic realized \$300.00; in September \$425.00. A soirée in aid of the hospital brought in \$35.00. In July the following year, a bazaar was sponsored by the parishioners and this realized the large sum of \$1,185.00. The balance of the construction costs remained a debt for the sisters to pay.

This new hospital was also a two-storey, red brick building with a capacity of 52 beds. It has been reported that the sisters who braved the rigors of winter now braved the industrial centres where they received a ready and generous response to the requests for aid. The hospital was built on Rosemount and was "The Pride of the North in 1904."

In 1927, a new wing was added to this hospital to accommodate more patients and services.

On April 1, 1966, at 4:45 p.m., fire partly destroyed the hospital. It began as the result of burning rubbish in the incinerator. The blaze quickly spread into the partitions between the roof and the false ceiling, and to other parts of the third floor. The fire was held to the top floor, thanks to the combined action of three area fire departments.

This fire proved the value of the Mutual Fire Aid System and also the Emergency Measures Organization in coordinating and providing communications. The forty-one patients were safely evacuated and lodged. Seven of the most critically ill were transferred by ambulance to hospitals in North Bay. Others were taken to Ste. Anne's Parish Hall and



the overflow was accommodated at the Rectory. All the equipment and most of the supplies were salvaged.

Perhaps one of the most unheralded acts was performed by Mr. and Mrs. Don Nelson of Eighth Street, who took into their home the small babies from the pediatric ward. On that special occasion, Mrs. Nelson, who was assisted by Winnie Byers R. N., took care of the "wee" ones until they were strong enough to go home.

The part of the hospital which was occupied by the Sisters was less damaged. After the clean-up, the patients were re-admitted. Eleven beds were set up; the male patients in the Sisters' Community room and the female patients on the third floor, in the Sisters' rooms.

The home of the late Dr. Bergeron, which had been purchased by the Sisters in 1957, was used as the Sisters' living quarters until a new hospital could be built.

Many feared that there would no longer be a hospital to serve Mattawa, but once again the Mattawa spirit arose. A civic delegation met with members of the Provincial government and finally they received a grant which amounted to two-thirds of the cost of a new hospital. A local fund raising drive brought in \$15,000. or just about \$5.00 per capita; the remainder of the construction costs was paid by fire insurance settlement. The cost of the new building was approximately \$300,000.

In order to cut time to a minimum, a prefabricated building was agreed upon. The structure was a prototype design finished on the outside with aluminum siding. These units were built in Calgary, Alberta by the Atco Co., then shipped in sections to Mattawa. The units were set on a prepared foundation built by Arthur Huard, a resident of Mattawa. This hospital has a complement of thirty-one beds and six bassinets. Thirty-nine persons were on staff, in 1966, including eight Sisters.

The new wing was based on a one storey plan with provisions for an additional storey if needed. It provided for a nursing unit, emergency facilities, operating theatre, laboratory, x-ray, pharmacy and maternity section,

administrative offices, medical records and central sterile supply services. This new wing was joined to the ground floor of the previous hospital building. On the ground floor of the old hospital, the dietary and linen services, and the staff's lunch and locker rooms were housed. The third floor provided storage space, hospital stores, housekeeping service and a conference room. The heating unit for the new wing and previous hospital is located in the basement of the former hospital, as well as the general maintenance and plant service.

At the Hospital Convention in Toronto in October 1967, a replica of this new hospital was on display in the main hall of the Convention floor; it was the first hospital to be erected using this type of construction.

Many citizens, clubs and organizations donated money and furniture to equip the various rooms in the hospital.

LIST OF DONORS

Weyerhaeuser of Canada
Knights of Columbus
Catholic Women's League
Fédération des Femmes Canadiennes Françaises
Mattawa Lion's Club
Masonic Lodge
Anglican Church Women
United Women's Church Group
Cameron Township
Mattawan Township
Mr. Jack Grant
M. et Mme Fortunat Therrien
Mr. George Davidson
Mr. Albert Hurdman
Mr. Alex H. Ross
Mr. Sydney Brown
J. C. Wardill, M. D.
Mr. and Mrs. Pat McCool
Mrs. Maxwell McCool
M. et Mme Armand Ribout
Mme. Rose Guilbeault

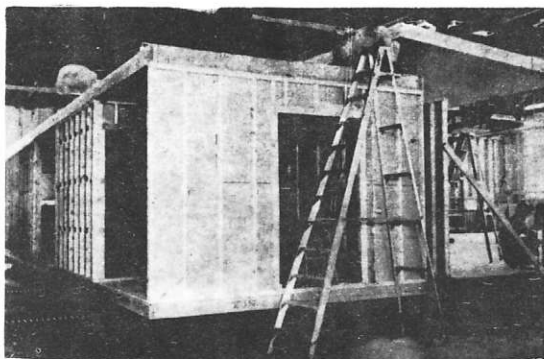
Mrs. A. Hargreaves
M. Roy Parizeau
Mr. William McBrien
Mme. Joe Losier
Mr. Harold Bell
Mrs. Hazel Thomson
Mr. Allister Johnston, M. P.
Miss Annie Lamont
M. J. A. Thibault
M. et Mme. Phil Rainville
Mr. and Mrs. Mel Edwards
Mr. Ted Wichens
Mr. Roy Koivisto
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 254
Women's Institute
Mattawa and District Golden Age Club
Municipal Library
Mr. G. F. J. Barrett
Mr. Max Consky
Mr. B. Bateman

On the wall in the main entrance of the hospital is an oil painting a winter scene of the early logging days. This is the work of the late Gordon Dufoe, a resident of Mattawa.

The Hospital Board spent many hours in meetings and trips to Toronto to bring about our new hospital.

The members of the original planning board were:

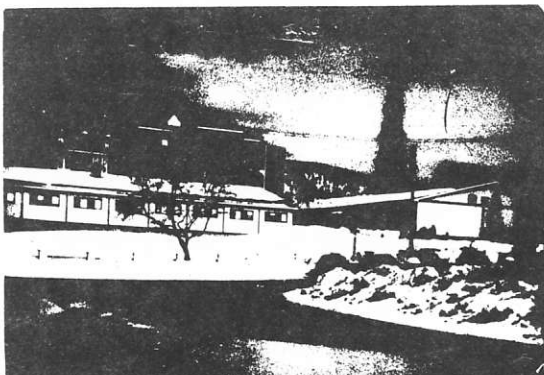
Mother Marie Dominica, Ottawa
Mayor George Davidson
Msgr. N. H. Lafrance
Dr. J. M. Caron
Mr. Pat McCool
Mr. Léo Morel
Mr. Armand Ribout
Mr. Marc Ducharme
Mr. A. Serré
Sister F. A. Thibault, Administrator and Superior
Sister Marie Adam, Accountant



Units being built in Calgary Alta. by ATCO Co.



Units being trucked to Mattawa



Hospital complete in 1967

The Official Opening took place Monday, May 8, 1967 at 3:00 P.M.

PROGRAMME

Address of Welcome

His Worship Mayor George Davidson

Allocution: Mr. Carl Legault M.P.

Cutting of ribbon: Very Reverend J. A. O'Mara J.C.L.

· Commissioner, Ontario Hospital Services Commission

Blessing: His Excellency W. Smith, D.D., J.C.L.

Bishop of Pembroke

Hospital Tour

Refreshments

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Marc E. Ducharme

NIPISSING AREA JOINT HOSPITALS LAUNDRY

The Nipissing Area Joint Hospitals Laundry Inc. commenced operations in July 1967. The concept of one hospital laundry providing this service for other area hospitals was not new. However, this was the first time in Ontario, if not in Canada, that hospitals had pooled their resources to provide working capital for a separate corporation to furnish this segment of the health care program. This central laundry and linen service, started as a joint venture of North Bay's two general hospitals. The advantages of this cooperation were soon realized by the Ontario Hospitals Services Commissions and other hospitals in the district. Mattawa General Hospital became a member in 1968 and St. Jean de Brébeuf Hospital in Sturgeon Falls started using the service on January 9, 1969. In January 1972, the North Bay Psychiatric Hospital began purchasing laundry services only, supplying its own linen. This necessitated the construction of a thirty foot extension to the rear of the building. During the last four years, equipment replacements and additions have made possible the change from a two-shift to a single shift operation.

The laundry operation is directed by a Board of Directors consisting of eight Directors representing all the participating hospitals. The Mattawa General Hospital has had a member on this Board since 1968.

There are now several of these laundries across Ontario, - Peterborough, Toronto, London, Sudbury, etc. We are proud to have taken part in the introduction of this service to the hospitals of Ontario.

J. A. Ribout

Chairman of Board of Directors.

MATTAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The first meeting of the Mattawa General Hospital Auxiliary was held on June 26th, 1973, with Sister Marie Adam, Administrator of the hospital as Honorary President.

A temporary executive was appointed.

Honorary President	Sr. Marie Adam
President	Anne Hartman
1st Vice President	Dorothy Sword
2nd Vice President	Yolande Bélanger
Secretary	Marguerite Ross
Recording Secretary	Linda Lessard
Treasurer	Noella Ribout
Membership	Annie Lamont
Library Cart	Hazel Swindle

By-Laws and Constitutions were drawn up and approved by the membership.

It was decided to operate a Tuck Shop and Cart. Sister Adam assured the members of the Hospital Auxiliary that a space would be found as close to the Admitting Office as possible.

Our Hospital Auxiliary membership of 108 was soon engaged in all kinds of projects: bridge tournaments, bingos, Tag Day during Hospital Week, showers for the Tuck Shop and a June Tea to mention only a few. Many raffles were held at the time of the tea with gifts donated by various members of the community.

One of our "fun" projects is making favours for the patients' trays on special occasions during the year. These are lovely and help to add a little cheer to one's stay in the hospital.

As a service to the patients, the Auxiliary undertook to provide T.V. service. Small individual black and white



Anne Hartman making out a cheque to present to Sister Elizabeth Rapin for the purchase of a centrifuge and serofuge for the hospital laboratory. On right Marguerite Ross president of Hospital Auxiliary.

T.V.'s with earphones can now be rented for a nominal daily fee.

A gift is presented annually to the first baby of the year born in our Mattawa Hospital.

Various members of the Auxiliary have attended conventions and workshops in Toronto, Sudbury and North Bay. Here they can exchange ideas with other auxiliary members and find out what other centres are accomplishing.

Our Auxiliary, over the years, has provided the funds to purchase equipment such as: Speed clave instrument sterilizer, croupette for pediatrics, Hyfrecator for use in the Surgical suite, Electrocardiograph, Centrifuge and Sero-fuge for the laboratory, toys and storage cabinet for the children's ward.

TUCK SHOP AND CART

Under the capable chairmanship of Irene Roberge and her committee of Hilda Hurdman, Marguerite White and Helen Paupst the Tuck Shop and Cart gradually became a reality.

Aided by a loan from the Auxiliary, a cart from Sister Adam and the donation of a display case from Pat McCool, the ladies bravely started a brand new venture. What a stock? How much? These were questions that only time could answer. In no time at all the loan to the Auxiliary was repaid and a cart of their own purchased.

Gold smocks with the hospital Volunteer crest were purchased for the ladies to wear as they make daily rounds of the hospital.

Over the years, the Tuck Shop and Cart have flourished; thanks to the unflinching work of the chairman and the many lovely gifts received at various showers which were held throughout the years. Many members have been busy knitting for the shop i.e. slippers, sweaters, baby sets, mitts, etc.

The money earned by this worthwhile venture has helped in the purchase of equipment donated to the hospital by the Auxiliary.

Anne Hartman

* * * * *

This short history of the Mattawa General Hospital has been written in a modest way by the ladies of the Auxiliary, and is dedicated to the future generations, in the hope that they will make their contributions, wherever, and whenever they can, to the betterment of our community.

Marguerite Ross

President of Hospital Auxiliary 1978

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