



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.

**Mary Immaculate Hospital
Willingdon, Alberta
Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate
1935-1985**

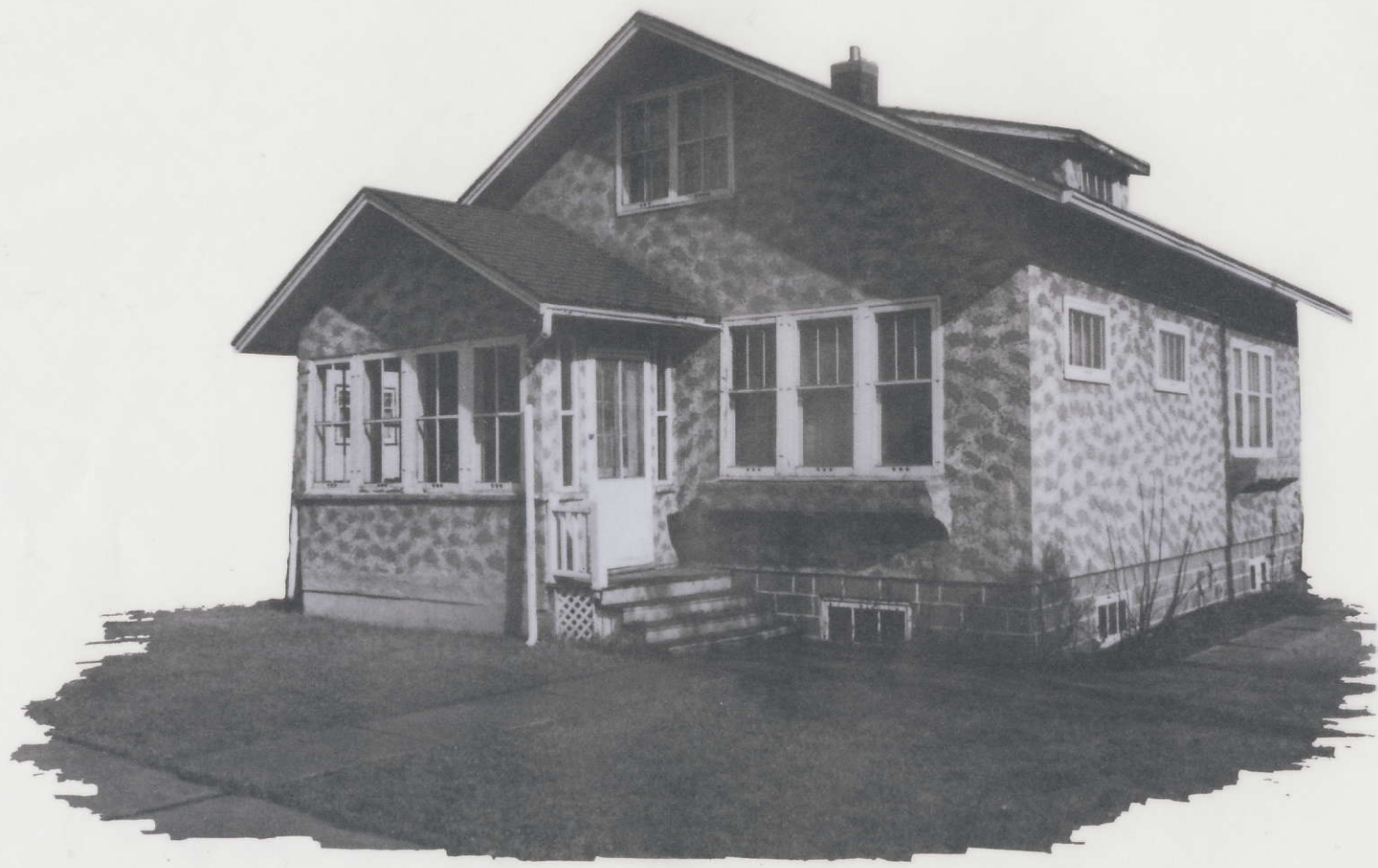
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MARY IMMACULATE HOSPITAL
WILLINGDON, ALBERTA
SISTERS SERVANTS OF MARY IMMACULATE



УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ ШПИТАЛЬ
ВИЛІНГДОН, АЛБЕРТА
СЕСТРИ СЛУЖЕБНИЦІ ПРЕНЕПОРОЧНОЇ МАРІЇ





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1935-1985

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50
GOLDEN JUBILEE

Administrator's Message



As we celebrate this jubilee year we look to its purpose — gratitude and joy for all concerned, a time for celebrating, an occasion for looking back with satisfaction and with pride. For what we are celebrating here is not merely the passage of time but a notable accomplishment. We are celebrating a very positive event — recognition of an example of enduring worthiness. Like the Biblical year of jubilee it isn't a private matter — it is a happiness which a lot of people share.

It was 50 years ago that our Lord (Divine Providence) chose Willingdon as the place to dispense His love, care and compassion for His people. His healing powers would manifest themselves through His witnesses and through His people. His miracles would never cease.

With God as their strength and refuge, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate responded to His call, accepted the challenge and with the help of the residents of this growing community

established the hospital that has grown from a small hotel room where the first patient was cared for to the modern facility we enjoy today.

The task was a difficult one requiring faith, sacrifice and dedication. "It was only with God as our constant companion that we could bear such a challenge. Today we have become more than blessed, but a blessing."

It was through trust in God, the source of all love inhabited by His divine strength and acting as His instrument of His compassion for the sick and suffering, for those that would begin life's new journey and those that have reached its end that we are here today. This hospital gave a new awareness to the inner meaning of life gained from the reality of pain and illness. We have experienced a God that is not indifferent to our needs. We have acquired a new strength and sympathy for the challenges that face us.

Let us go beyond the immediate occasion for this jubilee and ask ourselves what we are celebrating. Ask how much went into the building of what we are celebrating. Ask what made it work; join me in saluting those of our pioneers who made this jubilee possible.

Each generation, every member of our staff, our doctors, our chaplains, our auxiliary, our volunteers, our benefactors, has made a contribution to the totality of human knowledge and wisdom with the help of God's grace. To all who have served and given of themselves in this hospital we are especially grateful.

Today we continue to pray for the gift of wisdom, for a share in the love of God, for all the works of His hands, that we may catch a glimpse of glory in them.

Our Father, You who have opened the windows of heaven and given us blessings far beyond our capacity to receive, today we give You our thanks for being privileged to be part of this rich heritage and humbly ask that You continue keeping us in your loving care that we may continue to provide a visible continuation of Christ's healing ministry in the world.

Sister Stanislaus Soluk SSM.

Sr. Stanislaus Soluk
Administrator

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GOLDEN JUBILEE

Congratulatory Tributes



We rejoice on this day because it is truly a Lord's Day! In this joyous Jubilee Year of the Mary Immaculate Hospital, I am genuinely pleased to extend my warm felicitations on the completion of fifty years of zealous, dedicated care of the sick.

The fine working relationship between the public officials and the hospital administration testifies to the mutual concern for adequate health care in the Willingdon District.

The hospital from its humble beginnings — a makeshift hospital in an old, weather-beaten house, rented by the Sisters for \$20.00 a month — until the present modernly-equipped structure has become renowned for its warm, home atmosphere and devoted, personal care of its patients.

Together with their valiant lay staff, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate serve in this hospital primarily to help enable people

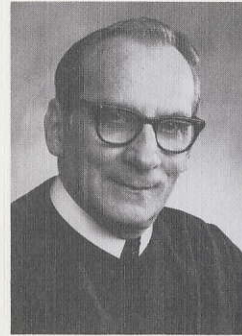
to experience Christ and to communicate His redeeming presence. I pray that this institution will continue to bear witness to these Christian values.

I extend merited praise and sincere congratulations to all who are or were in any way associated with Mary Immaculate Hospital. May these solemn Jubilee celebrations be a memorable event, inviting all of us to thank God for the many gifts with which He has blessed this institution. God's goodness has been richly manifested in the past fifty years. To Him be praise and thanks as we look forward to His continued blessings in the future.

Sincerely in Mary Immaculate,

Sister Frances Byblow

Sister Frances Byblow, SSMI
Superior General
Sisters Servants of
Mary Immaculate
Rome



With great pleasure and honour, the Basilian Fathers of the Canadian Province extend greetings on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Mary Immaculate Hospital in Willingdon. We also extend congratulations to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate for their unselfish dedication to the caring of the sick, both physical and spiritual.

A Jubilee day recalls many memories of the past graces and spiritual favours bestowed by Almighty God through the work and sacrifices of the Sisters. For this reason, it is a day of deep joy and gratitude.

On this Golden Jubilee we ask the Good Lord and His Blessed Mother to continue to bless Mary Immaculate Hospital, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate and the people of the Willingdon area which they serve.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
The Basilian Fathers

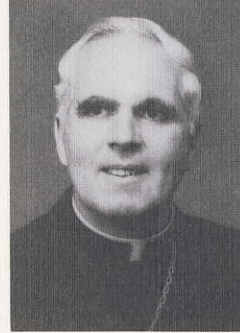
Raphael Melnyk O.S.M.

Raphael Melnyk
Provincial Superior
Order of St. Basil the
Great in Canada



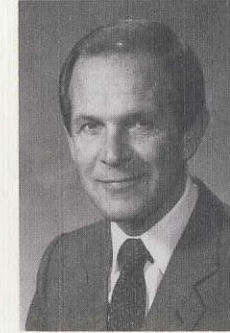
It is with great pride and pleasure that I extend to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate my very warmest wishes and congratulations on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Mary Immaculate Hospital.

The Sisters Servants of Immaculate Mary have rendered an invaluable service to the people of Willingdon and District in providing the community with medical and nursing care over the course of the past fifty years. The continuity and quality with which the Sisters have administered this service has no doubt served as a source of hope and comfort to the many whose lives they have touched during times of illness and despair.



In expressing the appreciation of all Canadians for the contribution made by the Sisters Servants of Immaculate Mary to the institution and progress of medical care in this country, may I offer my hope for God's continued blessings on Mary Immaculate Hospital, the Sisters who serve her, and the people of the Willingdon and District community.

Jeanne Sauve,
Governor General of Canada



With great pleasure I extend my congratulations to you and the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate on this Fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Mary Immaculate Hospital.

I rejoice with you in your joy and thanksgiving. With you I offer praise to the Lord for these years of service to his people and in his name.

May the Lord bless all of you involved in this important apostolate.

Sincerely,

J. N. MacNeil
Archbishop of Edmonton

Congratulations to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. You have come a long way since the day in 1935 when you arrived in Willingdon to provide medical and nursing care to the local residents of Willingdon and District. Over those years you have seen Mary Immaculate Hospital grow with Willingdon and Alberta.

I am sure the residents of the area are thankful for the wonderful contribution made by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. I wish you continuing success.

Dave Russell
Minister of Hospitals
and Medical Care
Alberta





Congratulations on your Fiftieth Anniversary. For fifty years the staff of the Mary Immaculate Hospital has served the people. No doubt today it continues to serve with dedication the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of those settlers who first asked the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate to establish a hospital in Willingdon.

Practises and methods of treatment change with advances in science and research. The tried and true healing powers of sympathetic and caring people remains constant. May you have many more years of dedicated service to mankind.

W. Helen Hunley,
Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta.



“Anniversaries are the vital moments which link the living present with those two eternities – The Past and the Future.”

No better way exists to pass on the history of your hospital to posterity than to publish this brochure to reflect your past. I take great delight in seeing the history of Mary Immaculate Hospital preserved in this manner to benefit the future generations.

I am indeed grateful to all those Doctors, Sisters, Florence Nightingales, and supporting Staff who have seen the genesis of this hospital come to fruition with its many challenges in the half century. You people are to be highly commended for your foresight, perseverance, endurance, and humanitarian values. The superlative qualities of the staffs, past and present are manifested by the faith we, the citizens of Willingdon and area have placed in you Doctors, Sisters, Nurses, and Staff. Thank you citizens for your faith in, and

patronizing our hospital, for its total success depends on your continuous support.

On behalf of the citizens of this community I want to thank all those who have contributed in deed, in thought, and in kind for this brochure, commemorating the 50th anniversary of Mary Immaculate Hospital. A special “thank you” to you Sister Stan for your untiring efforts.

My sincere congratulations go to you Mary Immaculate Doctors and Staff, as you go on to celebrate this special occasion on June 9, 1985, and I know Willingdonians join me in extending best wishes for the future.

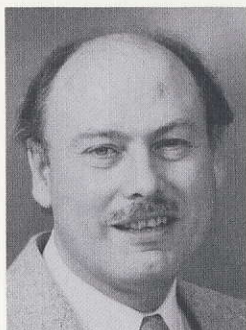
Nick G. Hauca
Mayor
Village of Willingdon



It is indeed a great pleasure and privilege to extend greetings on behalf of the Willingdon Women's Hospital Auxiliary to the Mary Immaculate Hospital on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary. We extend our sincerest and warmest congratulations to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, who were able to endure through the good times and difficult times of the early years of the Willingdon Hospital and for providing an excellent medical facility in our community. As the Auxiliary enters its thirty-sixth year of existence, we thank all those associated with the Mary Immaculate Hospital for all the co-operation and help in all our endeavours as volunteers.

May God Bless you all for continued success for many years.

Marie Kachuk
President
Women's Hospital Auxiliary
Willingdon



On behalf of the Board of the Catholic Health Care Conference of Alberta, as well as all of our institutional, associate and personal members, I extend our congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate and all the staff of the Willingdon General Hospital.

In these days of rapid change, a fifty year anniversary of almost anything is an event to be noticed. But the half century anniversary of a Catholic hospital, in a relatively remote location in the Province, is an event to be celebrated.

May the healing Lord, on whom you and your staff have modelled themselves, continue to inspire all of you and shower blessings upon you. May you continue, during good times and bad in the next fifty years, to faithfully witness Christ's ministry of loving care for His suffering, sick, elderly and dying members, without discrimination or favouritism.

We, who are your confreres in the ministry of Christian health care, are inspired and challenged by your faithfulness. We feel honored and privileged to be able to work side by side with you in this section of the Lord's vineyard.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Leo Klug,
President
Catholic Health Care
Conference of Alberta



I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all those associated with Mary Immaculate Hospital, Willingdon, in this fiftieth year since it was founded by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate.

The Hospital has seen many changes in itself from its first days to present.

For fifty years Mary Immaculate Hospital has provided outstanding medical and nursing care to the people of Willingdon and district. May this exceptional record of service continue for many years.

On this memorable occasion of jubilation and thanksgiving, I send my congratulations and best wishes.

The Honourable
Don Mazankowski, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport

Ottawa



It is a pleasure to contribute to this Jubilee booklet in honour of the 50th Anniversary of Mary Immaculate Hospital.

The reaching of this milestone is an acknowledgement of the significant contribution this facility has made to the community. The staff, past and present, can be proud of the vital role they played in the history of this institution and I'm sure the residents of Willingdon and district recognize and appreciate their efforts.

On behalf of the Government and Province of Alberta, congratulations on this special occasion and best wishes for the future.

Peter Lougheed
Premier of Alberta





"It is I, Yahweh, who gives
you healing."

Ex. 15:26

Fifty years ago at the request of a group of concerned citizens, the Congregation of Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, founded the Willingdon General Hospital, renamed in 1962 Mary Immaculate Hospital. In the midst of the severe economic crisis of the Great Depression and many setbacks and obstacles, Sister Elizabeth Kassian, Provincial Superior at the time, stood by her commitment to establish this mission of compassionate service. The more trials and struggles there were, the more Sister Elizabeth became convinced that the hospital was destined to bring much glory to God and help to the people of Willingdon and district. In this Jubilee year, as we review the history of the hospital and its record of service and as we reminisce about the "good old days", it is easy to see that such indeed has been the case.

What could glorify God more than the ministry of healing, physical and spiritual, made possible because people of different religious and ethnic backgrounds joining hands to manifest their love for those in need. How many patients and their relatives and friends have praised the Lord for the gift of restored health and peace of heart. How many times members of the Staff thanked the Lord for the witness of the sick, their joy in suffering, trust in those caring for them, and their surrender to God's will for them.

Truly with all those who helped to found the hospital, those who played a part in its mission during fifty years, with those who were received as patients, we can sing with joyful voices and grateful hearts:

This is the day the Lord has made,
Let us be glad and rejoice in it.

In the name of the Congregation of the Sisters Servants, I wish to pay special tribute to those who

have collaborated in our health care mission at Willingdon: the three levels of government, the Hospital Board, the Basilian Fathers and all other chaplains, the Women's Auxiliary, the doctors and lay Staff, the many generous friends, benefactors and donors.

We are thankful for what has been, for those Sisters the Lord has called to carry on His ministry of healing. A younger generation of Sisters Servants continues to serve at our hospital in Willingdon in the tradition of those first dauntless pioneers. Please join us in praying for many zealous vocations to our Congregation, for young women eager to bring Christ's healing touch to their brothers and sisters, who reach out for fullness of life, for wholeness.

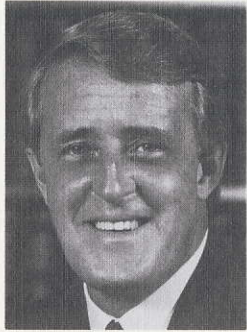
В цім Ювілейнім Році, ми Сестри дякуємо Богові за всі Його благадати, за Його опіку, і за всі добродійства, які ми дізнали впродовж 50 літ в Вилінгдоні. Нехай Господь на далі благословить цю місійну працю милосердя і всіх наших співпрацівників, приятелів, і добродіїв Шпиталю Непорочної Марії.

May this Golden Jubilee be an occasion for us to re-dedicate our hearts and energies to the well-being of our neighbour and to the Christian teaching of respect for life and compassion for the needy.

May the Lord bless you all!

Sister Ambrose
P. Stachiw, SSMI

Sister Ambrose P. Stachiw, SSMI
Provincial Superior
Sisters Servants of
Mary Immaculate
Canada

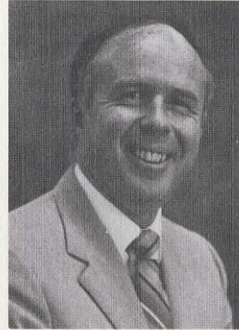


I am delighted to send my warmest greetings and sincere best wishes to all those associated with the Mary Immaculate Hospital on the occasion of your fiftieth anniversary.

When a public institution reaches the milestone of half a century of dedicated community service, it is indeed a cause for joyous celebration. Throughout the years, the staff at Mary Immaculate Hospital have worked long and diligently for the restoration of health, the prevention of disease and alleviation of suffering. Because of your dedication, the community of Willingdon and area have received excellent health care and services. I commend all of you at Mary Immaculate Hospital and I know I join with many who gratefully acknowledge your achievements and admirable history of dedicated service.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to send my very best wishes for a joyful celebration and every success in meeting the challenges of the future.

Brian Mulroney
Prime Minister of Canada
Ottawa



Fifty years of service! Those few words seem totally inadequate to convey the dedication and hard work provided to the citizens served by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate through the Mary Immaculate Hospital.

From its inception in 1935 to the house that became the first hospital, and to the subsequent reconstruction of the original "new hospital" destroyed by fire, the Sisters have displayed that tenacity and dedication so characteristic of Alberta's early pioneers.

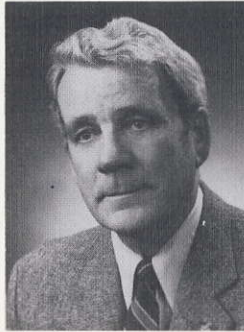
The Alberta Hospital Association salutes the Mary Immaculate Hospital and all associated with it on this truly memorable occasion.

The Mary Immaculate Hospital is a valued and long-time member of the Alberta Hospital Association. To Sister Stan and her staff goes a sincere congratulation on the hospital reaching this jubilee milestone.

It is to be hoped that the Willingdon and District communities will continue to be served by the Mary Immaculate Hospital for another fifty years.

D. A. Macgregor
Executive Director
Alberta Hospital Association





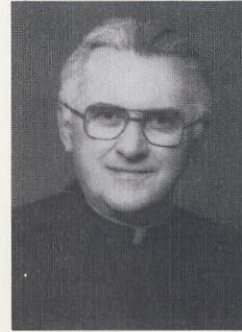
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alberta Hospital Association, it is a true pleasure for me to extend greetings and congratulations to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of health services in the Willingdon area.

The perseverance of the Sisters in establishing the hospital, in weathering the storms of the intervening years and in maintaining a high level of service throughout, deserves special recognition.

The Alberta Hospital Association takes pride in supporting the efforts of our member hospitals in the provision of high quality health care to the communities they serve.

On behalf of our members, the hospital and nursing home community in Alberta, our sincere congratulations on your 50th anniversary.

W. G. McPhail, M.D.
President
Alberta Hospital Association



This year 1985, marks a memorable occasion in the history of the Mary Immaculate Hospital in Willingdon, namely, fifty years since its inception.

As we look back into that period of time, it is very gratifying to realize the large number of the local residents who were provided with medical and nursing care by that hospital. Indeed, what an essential service to a community! This was made possible by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate who dedicated themselves to helping those who required hospital care.

I am most grateful to the Sisters and staff for their commitment

and I congratulate all of them on this the 50th anniversary of the Mary Immaculate Hospital. May God's blessings continue to strengthen you in the essential service you provide.

Sincerely in Christ,

D. M. Greschuk,
Apostolic Administrator
Eparchy of Edmonton

Your Hospital and You

Your Hospital is now 50 years old,
A sound structure and pride to behold.
But though this brick building is strong,
What really counts is what's found,
On the inside of these walls,
All the Departments working along:

To provide comfort and medical aid for you,
To help you, cure you, mend you,
And send your blues away.
From Doctor, nursing staff to cleaning,
From Administration to maintenance,
From Dietary staff to clerical,
We've endeavoured to do, our very best.

The 3 - C's are what we've been taught,
For a Hospital efficiently run,
Courtesy, Co-operation and Communication,
Are an absolute must.
For these — we will continue to strive,
As we continue to try
To make your stay at our Hospital,
As pleasant, as possible

At the end of this poem,
We wish you and your home:
Good Health, Long Life and Fond Memories:
Of Your 50-Year Old Hospital.

Heather Kraemer



October 1962 — Official Opening of the present Mary Immaculate Hospital.

50
GOLDEN JUBILEE



- LOGO** — Holistic Health — Healing Hands
- Cross — Christian health ministry
- Flaming torch — Continuing care with hope
- Hands — Healing touch
- Alberta Rose — Province of Alberta
- M.I.H. — Mary Immaculate Hospital

Historical Annals



In 1931 Willingdon had a local resident physician Dr. V. B. Goretsky who had administered medical aid in his small office and within the homes of the people. As various serious medical, surgical and obstetrical cases presented themselves in his practice, both Dr. Goretsky and the local pharmacist Mr. Stanley Syshka saw the urgent necessity of a hospital in this area. Vegreville, Mundare and Lamont were the closest hospitals to this area. Sometimes, due to unfavorable road conditions and bad weather, it was virtually impossible to transport patients to these hospitals.

In the period between 1934-35, an active and energetic body of Willingdon Chamber of Commerce people began urging the Village and the Eagle municipality to look for an interested group, preferably a religious order to start promoting a hospital to provide medical care for this vast area. Very serious consideration was taken and the Village of Willingdon purchased 7.7 acres of land adjacent to the north end of the Village in March 1935, which was allocated solely for the purpose of a hospital and future health facility expansions. A caveat was placed upon it to assure their intent.

At this time, a dedicated and hard-working Ukrainian Catholic priest from the Basilian Order in Mundare, Fr. Ambrose Wynnyk was providing religious services and spiritual care in a vast area. Fr. Wynnyk was well known by the people of Willingdon for gentle, kind and dedicated concern not only for spiritual needs, but also for the physical and medical needs as well. He was approached by Dr. Goretsky and Mr. Syshka to advise them on the means of interesting and literally luring the Ukrainian Sisters here to Willingdon. Sr. Elizabeth Kassian, the Provincial Superior of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate was then contacted and in May 1935, she had delegated Sr. Gertrude Lesiuk and Sr. Sophronia Sianchuk to meet with both the Village of Willingdon and the Eagle Municipality Councils. This religious community was materially and financially very poor, but these religious women were rich in enthusiasm, dedication, faith and daring adventure. Both of these councils met the Sisters with warm acceptance and requested that these Sisters come as soon as possible, assuring them of their support and assistance. The need for a hospital was so great that both of the councils advised the Sisters to rent a small house immediately, and convert it into a small medical unit and at the

same time plan and canvass for the construction of a new hospital. The young Sisters were enthused with their kind acceptance and took these propositions to their Superiors. This would inevitably mean a great sacrifice as personnel and very limited resources would require the Sisters to go out to canvass from home to home, locality to locality, to beg alms in order to provide funds and resources to build a new hospital. It was also the depression times, and people had very little to share.



First 4 Sisters to come to Willingdon — Sr. Stanislaus, Sr. Theophane, Sr. Onufria, Sr. Gertrude.



Hospital Pioneer — Sister Onufria Hnatiw.

In the same month, the Sisters met with the Department of Health in Edmonton and were granted temporary permission to conduct a hospital in a small renovated house until such a time as a new facility could be constructed according to their specifications and plans. Mr. George Skwarok the Sisters' legal advisor attended to the legal aspects of initiating this hospital. Sr. Sophronia Sianchuk then paid the monthly rent of \$20.00 and arrangements were made to have the selected house renovated and ready for occupancy on June 3rd,

1935. In the meantime, the Eagle Municipality agreed to give \$3000.00 towards the new hospital construction, while the Village of Willingdon supplied the 7.7 acres of land and would later give \$300.00 towards the new building and another \$200.00 for the hospital care of the poor who could not afford hospitalization. The local people of the village and the municipality agreed to excavate the basement of voluntary bases to initiate this project. The Sisters were indeed grateful to God and these good people for their generosity.

Sr. Elizabeth Kassian and her Council then assigned Sr. Gertrude Lesiuk R.N. as the Superior of this hospital, Sr. Stanislaus Koziak R.N. to care for

Dr. David Chew, Sr. Naucratia Hawryluk, Helen Kachuk, Kay Babiuk, Shirley Trach, Sue Chacko, Sr. Joanne Gawlicki, Sr. Stanislaus Soluk, John Kucheraway.

the patients, Sr. Theophane Malowany to take charge of the dietary needs, and Sr. Onufria Hnatiw to provide the laundry and house-keeping services. This cottage hospital (the present home of Kost Kachuk) had very few facilities and items to work with. The hospital in Mundare and the Mundare Convent donated numerous items of necessity ranging from linens, dishes, beds to medical supplies.

June 2nd arrived with great joy and anticipation. The four sisters assigned to Willingdon left Mundare with blessings and ten dollars in cash. A truck was hired and was loaded with donated supplies and furniture for a new residence. Upon arrival, they found the house not ready for

habitation, carpenters milling around and a patient already assigned to this hospital. Dr. Goretsky then took this lady patient to the Willingdon Hotel and requested the proprietor, Mr. Joseph Olmstead to allow the sisters to treat her there. The supplies truck got stuck on the road some miles away from Willingdon and it took a team of eight horses to pull it out sometime near midnight.

The following day the house had to be cleaned and made habitable. Since the proprietor had not lived up to his promise of having the place ready, Sr. Gertrude Lesiuk, the shrewd business

woman that she was, managed to bargain a month's rent off for the services the Sisters rendered in doing this work of clean-up. The Chronicle then states that on the 5th of June, they were able to admit their patient Mrs. Leliuk to their cottage-hospital. On the 28th of June, the legal agreement was drawn up by Mr. Harold Savage, and was signed by the Provincial Superior Sr. Elizabeth Kassian, the Architect Mr. Dewar and the contractor Mr. Thompson. The project was underway. On July 4th the excavation was begun and by the 26th of July the construction commenced. On the 20th of August the walls were erected and by the 25th of August the basement was fully cemented. Plans were now made for the blessing of the Cornerstone for September 15th.

Sincere thanks go to all the benefactors and members of the Hospital Committee who helped not only in the organization of the committee but in the erection of the hospital, namely Dr. V. B. Goretsky, Mr. J. Semboliuk, Mr. Tom Kokotailo, Mr. S. Fedorak, Mr. G. Kowalchuk, Mr. J. Daneliuk and to the rest in the excavation of the basement and hauling the gravel, sand and lumber.

Money was always a nagging problem and the Sisters in other vicinities as well as in this Willingdon area had to beg, request and plead for assistance





to try and keep up with the payments. On numerous occasions there was work stoppage by the contractors because payments were not available on the dates requested. Grants and loans were impossible to obtain as the Sisters Community was poor and depression years left painful consequences. Plastering was stopped in October because of lack of money. The Sisters resorted to prayer and great faith in God. If it was His will that a hospital be here, then He will provide. Help always came, but not necessarily when the contractor demanded it! Heartaches and bitter discouragements did not frighten off the Sisters. There were many kind folks that always lifted their spirits with some kind gesture. Patients kept on coming, and there was always this forward pull to carry on, and they did. Some cases were indeed complicated and required great vigilance, and the Sisters knew they were needed and stayed.

In October of 1936, the new hospital was nearing final completion and now hopes had arisen that the winter of 1936 would be an easier one in the new premises. Then on October 10th, 1936 at midnight a loud noise was heard in the site of the new hospital and a roaring fire swept the whole building into flames. Volunteers tried to

save what they could of the building, but it was in vain. In the spring the village and the municipality began to put pressure on the Sisters to resume the building of a hospital.

On July 28th, 1937, Mr. Luke Koss of Mundare agreed to rebuild the hospital at an approximate cost of \$20,000. All the Sisters had was only \$7,000 and faith in God that funds will somehow come if it is the will of God. The building commenced and by September 19th, 1937, the cornerstone of the rebuilt hospital was blessed. In front of the hospital liturgy was celebrated and a choir from New Kiev came to glorify the event. Dinner was served by volunteer women of the district and a program of speeches followed.



1977 — Dr. & Mrs. Cuts.

Mr. Diduik, mayor of the village greeted the guests in Ukrainian, Mr. Bill Tomyk spoke in English, Mr. Tom Zaharichuk in Romanian, the Agriculturist and landscaper of the hospital grounds Mr. Fred Magera in Ukrainian, Mr. John Koshure in Ukrainian, and the lawyer Mr. George Skwarok in Ukrainian. They all encouraged the people for continued support and congratulated the Sisters for their stamina in the face of unsurmountable obstacles. Dr. W. Cuts (Cutsungavich) had now been the local physician replacing Dr. Goretsky.

On October 29th, 1937, the transfer was made from the cottage-hospital to the new hospital. The Sisters who were now assigned to this hospital in Willingdon were Sr. Luboy Chawrona, Sr. Apollonia Dzubisky R.N., Sr. Innocentia Baraniuk R.N., Sr. Macrina Schab R.N., Sr. Margaret and Sisters Alexandra Doran and Sophronia Sianchuk were on the road canvassing for funds from one end of the province to the other.

On May 7th, 1938, the Eagle Municipality passed a motion that their council purchase an X-ray machine for the hospital. There was a stipulation that in the event that the Sisters should move away, the municipality would reclaim the X-ray. This was supposedly to encourage the Sisters to remain in this area.



1942 — Sister Naucratria, Sister Genevieve, Sister Apollonia, Sister Isidore, Sister Vincent, Sister Olga.

Hospital chronicles indicate that in 1939 there were 630 patients, 194 operations, and 10 deaths. As the years passed, the utilization increased and the daily number of patients was often between 30-37. Maternities were numerous, in the Nursery there were always 4-6 babies. When the bassinets were filled, then the laundry baskets were improvised. The hospital hummed with activity, and life was never dull, uninteresting or boring. There was a transition in the Willingdon Medical Staff. Dr. Cuts left for Holden, Alta. in April, 1942 and Dr. William G. Lazaruk began his medical practice here.

In 25 years the hospital building showed considerable depreciation, and since the second construction was a "patch-up" project from the remains of the 1936 fire. Lack of funds necessitated cuts and compromises in many areas of the construction. As time went on, these compromises began showing up with repeated frequencies. Governmental policies changed, requirements were added to up grade standards of care, community personnel changed, methods of medical practice too changed, and long range plans had to be contemplated to determine the future of the hospital and medical care of the Willingdon area. Some suggested that the Sisters relocate to another area where they were needed more, others rumored that the municipality will take the

project upon itself and rebuild, and still others urged the Sisters to remain and continue their health care ministry within this area as they were needed, and to make efforts to build a new and modern facility. The Chamber of Commerce once again met in August, 1958, with the Provincial Superior, now Sr. Boniface Sloboda, regarding the plans for the new hospital.

Representation was made by the Sisters to the Department of Health and on August 14th, 1959, the Minister of Health, Honorable Donovan Ross approved construction of a new hospital in Willingdon. Mr. G. Thornton, architect, was engaged in planning a new 25-bed hospital here.

On January 25th, 1962, the Willingdon General Hospital was incorporated as a separate entity and was named the Mary Immaculate Hospital.

Tenders were held on June 7th, 1961, and Alta. West Construction was contracted to build the facility. Construction proceeded without too many interruptions and on October 3rd, 1962 the official opening took place. The Administrator, Sr. Sylvia Nakoneshny had headed the planning team for the new facility.

It was a joyous day for the entire locale, and in particular to the local physician, Dr. W. G. Lazaruk. It was a special highlight in his life, a dream come true. The patients would enjoy much more comfort and privacy with so many added necessities of an updated nature, an Emergency Room, Treatment Room, Recovery and Intensive Care Room, a spacious Nursery and Pediatrics,

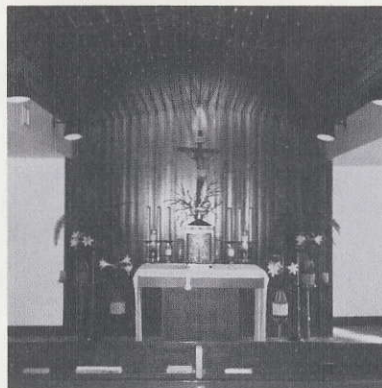
Semi-Private and Private Rooms with high-low beds and all those things that go with the larger urban hospitals.

Life went on at the hospital at the usual pace. As time went on, patterns did change somewhat, obstetrical patients became fewer and fewer and the pediatrics was quieter than it had been in previous years, surgery was referred to the larger urban areas as the transportation system improved considerably and surgical procedures became more complicated. It was the age of specialization and regionalization. The clientele tended to be more concentrated in the older age group with chronic long term illnesses.

Our hospital history was interwoven with many joyous events, but also with some very painful and sad ones. On April 12th, 1967 we lost our Dr. W. G. Lazaruk. He died after a very short illness at the age of 50, after spending 25 dedicated years in Willingdon. This was a crucial time and closure was almost enacted, since the medical schools stressed specialization and rather discouraged general practice. It was hard to attract another doctor to replace Dr. W. G. Lazaruk. Dr. N. C. Strilchuk from Mundare came several times a week to attend to the patients



1962 — Dr. & Mrs. N.C. Strilchuk M.D., Sister Sylvia Nakoneshny, Hospital Administrator, Dr. & Mrs. W.G. Lazaruk M.D.



Hospital Chapel.

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GOLDEN JUBILEE



who kept on coming. Two doctors from St. Albert consented to take turns in providing emergency service. Dr. F. M. Fairfield and Dr. E. N. Gramlich did this until Dr. George Kwong started practice. On November 1, 1967, hospital activities resumed an active pace for another few years. When Dr. Kwong died in an accidental asphyxiation in his residence, the hospital again suffered a setback. This young doctor had provided vital service to the area of Willingdon and was sadly missed by all those who had come to know this fine man in their encounters.

Dr. David Chew arrived in Willingdon on April 17th, 1971 and once again excellent care was available. Dr. D. Chew's son of Paul Chiu came to join his father on internship experience in 1972; and then in 1975 on locum and in summer relief. In October 1975, he joined him in his practice here. It is indeed an ongoing process of God's providence to whom the original hospital was dedicated of divining compatible and self sacrificing individuals to provide medical care in this area.

The wheel of time moves on and so do the day to day activities in the hospital always adapting to the needs of the day. A new program for work experience students was

established in 1978 and has seen many students go through it. December 1, 1980 was a memorable day, as through the efforts of the Hospital Ladies Auxiliary the century tub was unveiled by Mr. George Topolnitsky M.L.A.

Our Auxiliary has been most supportive over the years and in November of 1984, the hospital Administration and staff held an appreciation tea in honor of their 35th Anniversary.

During the period 1983-85 two major upgrading and renovation projects were undertaken to maintain the building in optimum condition.

Life went on at a normal pace until in April of 1984, we arrived at another sad moment, when after 13 years we had to bid farewell to Dr. David Chew, upon his retirement. Once again we were recruiting for a resident physician. Dr. D. Kelly, Dr. T. B. Letts, Dr. Donna Smith, Dr. Hement Katarey, and Dr. Fraser Kennedy have all been providing medical services to the hospital and community since Dr. D. Chew's retirement. Now we are awaiting our permanent resident physician.

This brief history tells the story of health care provided to the Willingdon and district residents. Fifty Years! From the very humble beginnings of the Cottage-hospital we have come a long way. Many changes have taken place over the years in the type of services provided. It is interesting to look back over the statistics and see the changing trends.

For example in 1939 in the month of August, 109 tonsillectomies were performed at the hospital and today this operation is rarely performed even in the city hospitals.

Today "Hospital" is big business and represents not only a facility for health care, but also a large economic input to the town and district.

MARY IMMACULATE HOSPITAL, WILLINGDON
Statistics

Year	Births	Admissions	Out Patients	Operations	Number Staff		Paid Hours	Operating Costs
					Nurs.	Other		
1936	55	306	—	28	2	3	—	\$ 2,147
1945	20	934	—	180	7	7	—	\$ — 23,572
1955	67	901	1,254	121	5	10	49,048	\$ 57,543
1965	32	766	1,045	87	12	15	55,859	\$ 102,525
1975	5	615	1,297	2	17	13	50,417	\$ 300,272
1985	—	462	1,520	—	15	19	56,603	\$1,051,402

Tribute to Dr. William George Lazaruk

Dr. W. G. Lazaruk arrived in Willingdon on April 12, 1942 and served the people of the local community and hospital until his untimely death on April 12, 1967. It is an honor for us who had the privilege to know and work with him to compile this brief tribute.

He was gifted with a keen interest in bringing out the best in people and the resources of the area and was one of the most dynamic personalities who had a profound influence upon the entire community. As a physician, we knew him as conscientious, concerned, talented and very honest.

He knew his people well and was deeply sensitive to their needs and problems. Dr. Lazaruk inspired confidence in the staff and enjoyed a mutually good working relationship with them.

A man of integrity, steadfastness, hard working, with a sense of loyalty to the community; he was a strong force behind getting the new hospital to become a reality. He was a sincere friend to all and shared himself generously with his family, the Sisters and the staff at the hospital. From the years that he practiced medicine at the hospital, we have collected many and beautiful memories which shall live on forever as part of the rich heritage of Mary Immaculate Hospital.

On the occasion of this the Golden Jubilee of Mary Immaculate Hospital, through the hands of your family we express sincere appreciation and gratitude for your contribution to the hospital.



Dr. William George Lazaruk.



Dr. David Yee Wong Chew.

Tribute to Dr. David Yee Wong Chew

He came, he stayed and he left. Dr. D. Y. W. Chew arrived in Willingdon on April 17th, 1971 to take up a medical practice that lasted thirteen years. His dedication, caring and life-healing service will always be remembered.

Dr. Chew graduated from the Sun-Yet Sen University, China, receiving his medical certificate MB, in 1946. In 1961 he received his L.M.S.S.A. from London, England.

Dr. Chew came to the Misericordia Hospital for his Alberta internship and was admitted to the Register of the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1968.

Over the years his kind hand, soft voice and warm smile together with his professional knowledge has healed many a patient in the Willingdon community and surrounding area. He gave of himself to the utmost, usually seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day; that is the dedication of a sole practitioner in a small community. Dr. Chew worked with his colleagues at Lamont, Mundare, Two Hills and Vegreville — always bringing new hope and courage to his patients. Working at Mary Immaculate, Dr. Chew respected life to its fullest, not sparing time or effort, knowledge or skills to bring comfort and healing. His enduring loyalty to the hospital, the Sisters, the staff and the community will always be

remembered by those who came in contact with him.

Dr. Chew was a pious man, which helped him persevere through the good and hard times, always giving thanks to our Lord for his many blessings.

His family was a great support to him. His wife understood the needs of a small community and was at his side, supporting him in every way.

For seven years Dr. Chew's son Paul helped in the practice and that was a team to behold; love, understanding and cooperation working hand in hand.

It was not unusual to see Doctor enjoying a leisurely bicycle ride to see patients at the hospital or at the Clinic, for he was an avid outdoors man. He loved gardening, hunting, fishing and sharing his moments with the staff and Sisters.

It was with great sadness to all, when Dr. Chew decided to retire from active full-time practice in April of 1983.

We at Mary Immaculate Hospital shall always be thankful for his humor, kindness, gentleness and friendship. On this, the Golden Jubilee of Mary Immaculate Hospital, Willingdon we all pay our tribute to one who devoted himself so completely and unselfishly to his profession, people and community.



Inside Perspectives



The Mary Immaculate hospital is motivated by a Christian Philosophy which emphasizes the dignity of the person, respect for human life and compassionate service. The rights and privacy of the patients are respected together with their spiritual, cultural and ethnic heritage. Relatives and friends are encouraged to visit and participate where feasible in the total plan of the patients.

The hospital participates and co-operates with other health care facilities and agencies for the improvement of standards and service.

The Administration of the Hospital is handled by the Administrator and Assistant Administrator. The Administrator, the chief management officer, is for the overall efficient and effective use of financial and human resources and is



Sister Stanislaus Soluk.

accountable to the Local Board and the Department of Hospitals and Medical Care. She ensures that all departments of the hospital are working harmoniously with each other in providing the optimum quality health care to the patients of the Community with the resources available and with the constraints imposed upon her. She acts as the liaison between the Board, Administration and Medical Staff. In her absence the Assistant Administrator maintains the administration functions within the guidelines of the Board and Administrator.



Medical Staff — Dr. David Chew, Dr. Ron Brown, Dr. Nicholas Strilcbuk, Dr. John Sunley.



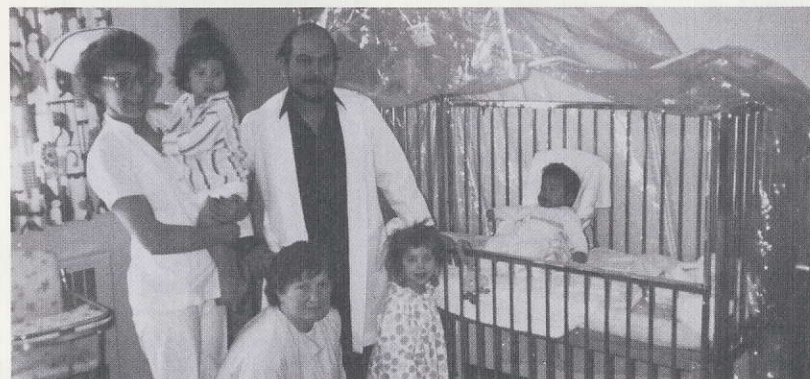
Dr. William Lazaruk.

The hospital strives to provide the highest quality of care to patients. Every patient is ensured the service of a qualified medical practitioner. Medical consultants may be called upon if required. The physicians are expected to abide by the Medical Staff By-Laws and Rules and Regulations as approved by the Joint Willingdon-Mundare Medical Staff Association.



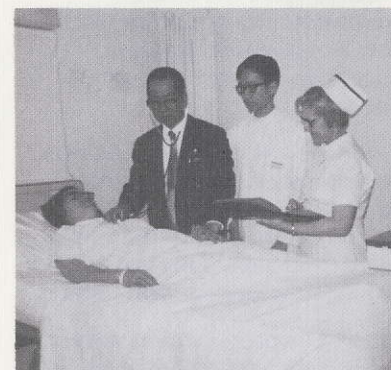
Miss Shelly Soprovich, Mrs. Ruby Lopetinsky.

Mrs. Pat Kowalcbuk, Dr. H. Katarey, Mrs. Gloria Baser.



Nursing Department

Our qualified nursing staff provides tender loving care on a 24 hour basis. Services are provided within the scope of the established policies, procedures and practices. The Mission of Christ is fulfilled in providing healing care by maintaining the dignity of every patient through the meeting of his spiritual, psychological, and physiological needs to the best possible level of attainment.



Dr. David Chew, Dr. Paul Chiu, Mrs. Anne Grykuliak.

Admitting Office and Medical Records

The responsibility of the Health Record Technician is to provide accurate transcribing, processing, checking, indexing, filing, coding and prompt retrieval of medical records.

The Health Record Technician collects data and analyzes the medical record, codes and indexes diseases in the form of P.A.S. (Professional Activities Studies) and does a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the Medical Record.



Sister Sylvia Nakonesbny, Mrs. Anne Grykuliak, Dr. George Kwong.

The Health Record Technician is also the Admitting and discharging clerk of the hospital and is responsible for obtaining the identification data on each individual who comes to the hospital for medical care. The courtesy and friendliness with which she assists the patient in person or on the telephone helps to set the initial impression and tone of the hospital.

The medical record reflects the quality of medical care rendered to the patient, and the records are kept primarily for the benefit of the patient and the protection of the hospital and the physician.

The Health Records moto is "They Who Help Go Forward".



Dr. George Kwong, Sister Doloretta Shalagan.

Mrs. Kay Toma, Mrs. Evelyn Popowich, Sister Naucratria Hawrykuk, Mrs. Kay Babiuk, Mrs. Doris Babiuk, Mrs. Lucy Gorgichuk, Sister Oreste Sereda, Sister Doloretta Shalagan.



Business Office

The Business Office is an essential department within the Health Care Institution. Its primary purpose is to provide useful financial and statistical information about the Hospital's activities and financial affairs which aid Administration in the operation of the hospital, always bearing in mind a goal of high quality patient care.

The network of duties in this department is comprised of implementing the basic accounting system and compiling the various financial and statistical information required by governmental and hospital agencies.

The Business Office at the Mary Immaculate Hospital is adjacent to the Admitting and Medical Records office portraying a triage of harmony and co-operation, a vital part of team effort in a rural facility.



Mrs. Wendy Skoropadyk.

Laboratory — X-Ray

The laboratory plays an important and significant role in the overall functioning of the hospital. The laboratory staff maintains a professional and confidential attitude in dealing with all aspects of the hospital scenerio.

The general purpose is to work in close conjunction with the staff physicians, providing precise and accurate lab results, which aid the doctors in the diagnosis and treatment of the patient's illness.

By functioning in this manner we are providing the Doctor with the primary stepping stone towards his diagnosis. By providing precise results the doctor can monitor a patient's illness, from onset to recovery; thus providing the patient with the appropriate course of treatment and followup.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance that the lab strive for accuracy and precision in all facets of its work in order to maintain a quality level of care to the patients.

Electrocardiograms are efficiently done by our laboratory technicians, as well as routine and emergency x-rays. After the initial reading by the attending physician they are sent to our specialist consultants in Edmonton.



The dietary department plays a very important role in the function of the hospital. Its purpose is to provide attractive, well balanced meals to the patient.

Although the dietary staff very often does not meet with the patient directly, they do enjoy and take pride in doing whatever they can to up-lift the patients spirits. A delicately decorated little birthday cake and candle on the dinner tray will surprise a patient on his birthday. Our young patients have found that the dietary staff is not only good at making faces on apples, but also at marking all art work sent back on the trays.

Many times one may pass the kitchen doors and be caught up in the aroma of a batch of homemade cinnamon buns fresh out of the oven, or a piping hot apple pie.

The Mary Immaculate Hospital dietary department specializes in delicious Ukrainian food. Perogies with sour cream are always a hit. On Easter morning our patients are treated to homemade Blessed Paska along with the traditional breakfast.

We not only strive to look after the nutritional needs of our patients, but also want to make them feel at home and brighten their day.

A Central Supply Room (C.S.R.) pre-programmed automatic sterilizer, water still and small sterilizer are the main equipment which are used regularly to perform the functions of this department.

The C.S.R. personnel routinely checks that all surgical equipment and sterilized bundles have been appropriately



*Sister Melita Krawcbuk,
Mrs. Eva Fedorak.*



Mrs. Gail Weleschuk.

processed to ensure sterility. Out dated items are checked and re-sterilized. The implementation of this sterile technique decreases the chance of contamination of instrument bundles required for various procedures.

The C.S.R. is considered a clean area so that supplies may be prepared without the introduction of micro-organisms.



Sister Naucrattia Hawryluk.



*Mrs. Karon Racette, Mrs. Irene
Basaraba, Mrs. Anne Stetsko.*

The hospital employs a part-time pharmacist who does the drug purchasing and dispenses medications for patients within the hospital. In her absence the pharmacy duties are performed by the Director of Nursing. Over the years, the hospital pharmacy together with the Doctor's Office have co-operated very well in providing each other with assistance in dispensing of medication.

An up to date formulary is available for use by the physician and nurses.



1955 — Sister Oreste Sereida.



1973 First Communion Class — Sister Joanne Gawlicki, Father Steppen Chmilar, Sister Patricia Besko, Dwayne Andrashewski, Clarence Kacbuk, Christopher Lupul.



Pastoral Care — Fr. M. Krywucky.

Mrs. Heather Kraemer.

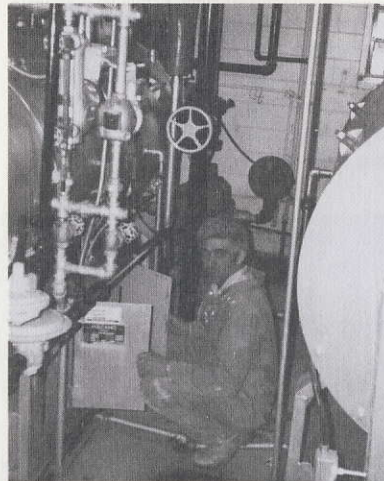


Pastoral Care seeks to meet the spiritual needs of the patients. Although the Basilian Fathers and the clergy of the Orthodox and Romanian faiths visit the patients, everyone is encouraged to share this responsibility in a manner consistent with the patients beliefs. As part of the Pastoral Care Program, a chapel is available for prayer and worship. Divine Liturgy is celebrated daily in the chapel for sisters, patients, staff and visitors. We owe much gratitude to the Basilian Fathers, who for these fifty years have served as chaplains and pastoral care workers.



Mrs. Olga Evancbuk, Mrs. Anne Kozniuk.

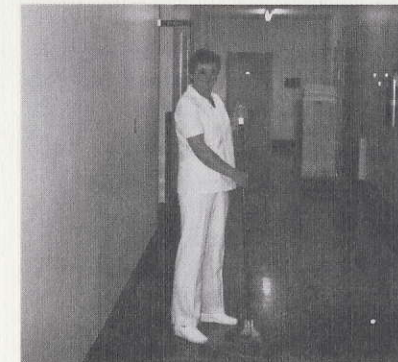
Plant Operation and Maintenance like a doctor to care for the human body, the maintenance man and his department are the “physicians” that keep the hospital’s mechanical and electrical operations working in a proper and efficient manner. Their job is to ensure that the buildings, equipment and grounds are maintained to provide proper support to health care. Heating, plumbing, air conditioning, electrical and general repairs are all part of his work.



Maintenance Supervisor — John Kucheraway.

All the linens from every department of the hospital are brought here. The laundry staff wash, press and fold the linens with great care. All linens leave this room fresh and clean for the patients’ comfort.

The housekeepers fulfill an important function by assisting all departments of the hospital. Their main job is to provide infection control by disinfection and sanitation measures. They help patients by being friendly and showing a feeling of concern for their well being. By providing and maintaining an environment that is safe, clean, pleasant and attractive, a valuable contribution is made to the total commitment of the hospital.



Mrs. Agnes Shukalek.

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GOLDEN JUBILEE



Women's Hospital Auxiliary — Helping Hands

In 1949, a small group of women of the Desjarlais district, along with the Administrator, Sister Sylvia Nakoneshny and the R.N. Christina Fisher, realized the necessity of having a body of dedicated women to work for the common good of the Willingdon Hospital and its patients.

In November of 1949, an organizational meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Steve Shandro. Mrs. Melrose, an expert from Edmonton, defined that its aim be mainly to provide comfort and necessities to the patients in every way possible, be it visiting, looking after their correspondence, reading, looking after flowers. Duties are to voluntarily raise money to help equip the hospital with items that would be to the comfort and betterment of the patients. This organization would work within the perimeters set up by the administrator.

In the first year of operation, the club had a membership of 31 and the working executive of:

President,
Mrs. Rita Shandro
Vice-President,
Mrs. Victoria Lazaruk
Secretary,
Mrs. Marie Zukiwski
Treasurer,
Mrs. Anna Navalkowsky.

Immediately the club began to provide patients with comforts and necessities. The ladies set up a "visiting" committee to the hospital. They took on the sewing of articles, hemming of sheets and diapers, making layettes for needy infants, providing magazines, books, games and radios. Already the hospital began to see marked effects of such labors. These ladies took upon themselves the task to aware the public of their activities by sponsoring films, clinics, canvasses, teas, bake sales and caterings.

As early as 1951, delegates were attending the Alberta Hospital Auxiliaries' conventions. At this time they began in earnest to supplement hospital equipment that was of dire need.

1959 was a special year as plans for the construction of a new hospital were under way. The auxiliary came to the aid and sponsored the sod turning ceremony and other functions. In 1962 with the official opening of the Mary Immaculate Hospital, these ladies hosted teas and tours for two days. A drive to raise \$1,200 for a cardiac arrest machine was launched.

In 1963, Willingdon hosted its first regional conference of the Alberta Hospital Auxiliaries. Later the 1965, 1971, 1975 conferences were held in Willingdon.

In the interim years, countless small tasks and many major ones were carried out. Canvassing for the Red Cross and Cancer was begun.

The Auxilians worked hard at fund raising projects and were always there and ready to lend a helping hand in funding much needed equipment for patient care. Every year contributions were made including some large expensive equipment as an electrocardiograph machine; a monitor defibrillator; and century tub. Other purchases included toys and library books for the children's ward; lamps; radios; wheelchairs; fish aquarium; color T.V.'s; crash cart; electronic scale and many other pieces of equipment. In total since 1962 the Auxiliary has contributed \$33,305 towards the purchase of items for the hospital not supported by the Department of Hospitals and Medical Care.

1974 was a year for the auxiliary's celebration of its 25th anniversary. Members, past and present, dignitaries and guests



25th Anniversary float.



Myrtle Charuk, Vicky Smilar, Sister Sylvia Nakoneshny, Marie Kachuk.

held a banquet and gala dance to commemorate this auspicious day. The newly appointed Lieutenant-Governor for the province of Alberta, Honorable Ralph Steinhauer was the guest speaker and chairperson Mrs. Marie Kachuk carried off the evening in fine style.

And so the years slipped on to 1978. This auxiliary with 25 members had undertaken a massive project to purchase a modern heart monitor defibrillator machine to replace the cardiac machine which has now become obsolete.

Throughout the years, this club has truly become a fraternal society in that it treats its members with love and respect.

Not only can they “work together” very well, but they too can “play together.” Their annual socials and get-togethers are well enjoyed. They show concern for one another through various methods both in times of sorrow and stress and in times of joys and celebrations.

Past presidents of the Auxiliary — Mrs. Rita Shandro, Mrs. Anna Novalkowsky, Mrs. Kay Ewoniak, Mrs. Olga Shandro, Mrs. Edna Charchuk, Mrs. Marie Babiuk, Mrs. Kay Babiuk, Mrs. Elsie Pshyk, Mrs. Georgina Hauca, Mrs. Shirley Kowalchuk, Mrs. Angela Babiuk, Mrs. Vickie Smilar, Mrs. Dora Andriuk, Mrs. Anne Strynadka, Mrs. Myrtle Charuk, Mrs. Eva Hawreliak, Mrs. Kaye Gordey, Mrs. Marie Kachuk.

In 1956 a yearly scholarship to one high school student entering the school of nursing was incorporated. Recipients of \$50 cash scholarships of high school graduands entering the school of Nursing are — 1960, Gladys Cucheran, Diane Zignash; 1961, Sonia Kryklywicz; 1963, Sylvia Serbu; 1965, Janice Ursulak; 1967, Connie Eliuk; 1970, Donna Kotelko; 1972, Bernie Kowalchuk; 1974, Penny Kostelny; 1978, Darlene Hunka; 1982, Shelly Shukalek.

In November of 1984, the Auxiliary celebrated its 35th Anniversary, and at the banquet honored several members who have been vested with a life time membership — Mrs. Annie

Uglanica; Mrs. Marie Babiuk — who are of the original members; Mrs. Kathleen Hunchak; Mrs. Eva Hawreliak; Mrs. Katie Kelba; Mrs. Mary Makowichuk; and Mrs. Kay Babiuk.

Today the membership totals 32 women dedicated to the cause of helping the hospital and the patients through the purchase of new equipment and also providing special patient comforts. Over the years the Hospital Auxiliary has truly been a support and strength.

For all your hard work, dedication, self sacrifice and support we extend our most sincere appreciation. We couldn't have done it without you and we look forward to continuing support in the future.



Ladies Auxiliary sponsors the "Heart Machine".



Golden Moments

1935 - 1937

Dr. V. B. Goretsky — local resident physician.

March, 1935

Village of Willingdon purchased 7.7 acres of land adjacent to the north end of the village allocated solely for the purpose of a hospital.

May, 1935

Department of Health granted permission to conduct a hospital in small renovated house (present home of Kost Kachuk). Official bed capacity: 8 adults, 2 cribs, 3 bassinets.

June 2, 1935 — 11:30 a.m.

First four sisters arrived at Willingdon — Sister Gertrude Lesiuk, Sister Stanislaus Koziak, Sister Theophane Malowany and Sister Onufria Hnatiw.

June 2, 1935

First patient, Mrs. L. Leliuk admitted. As the cottage-hospital was not set up, the patient was admitted to a hotel room and the Sisters cared for her there.

June 7, 1935

First patient scheduled for surgery was Mike Andriuk; plaster cast both arms. Dr. V. Goretsky & Dr. P. Keye & Sister Gertrude assisting.

July 4, 1935

Construction of hospital commenced. Mr. Dewar — Architect, Mr. Thompson — Contractor.

July 28, 1935

First baby born in cottage-hospital — a boy, Bernard Eurchuk.

September 15, 1935

Blessing of the cornerstone.

October 11, 1936

New hospital nearing completion was destroyed by fire.

July 28, 1937

Mr. Luke Koss of Mundare (agreed) to rebuild hospital (for an approximate cost of) \$20,000.00.

September 19, 1937

Blessing of cornerstone of rebuilt hospital.

October 29, 1937

Transfer made from cottage-hospital to new hospital.

February, 1938

First autoclave purchased.

May 7, 1938

Motion passed by Eagle Municipality to purchase X-ray machine for hospital — cost \$2,000.

July 4, 1938

Irene Skoreyko — first baby born in new hospital to Mr. & Mrs. Bill Skoreyko.

April 28, 1942

Sister Genevieve Zakaluzny died — all stores closed half day for her funeral.

April, 1942

Dr. Cutsungavich (Cuts) resigned (1938-42).

April, 1942

Dr. William G. Lazaruk began Medical practice.

August 14, 1959

Approval given for construction of new 25 bed hospital.

June, 1960

25th Anniversary of Sisters arrival.

January 25, 1962

Hospital incorporated — name changed from Willingdon General Hospital to Mary Immaculate Hospital.

October 3, 1962

Official opening of new hospital. Ladies Auxiliary donated cardiac monitor, defibrillator — first small hospital in Alberta to have one.

October 11, 1962

First baby born in new hospital to Mr. & Mrs. George N. Kucher — Brian Michael.

May, 1963

Hosted our first Northeast Regional Conference.

April 12, 1967

Dr. William Lazaruk died. He served Willingdon for 25 years.

April - October, 1967

Dr. F. M. Fairfield, Dr. E. N. Gamlick and Dr. N. C. Strilchuk replaced.

November 1, 1967

Dr. George Kwong arrived and set up medical practice.

May 28, 1969

First Disaster Plan exercised.

June, 1969

Complete new roof installed.

March 5, 1971

World Day of Prayer hosted by hospital.

March 30, 1971

Dr. G. Kwong died unexpectedly after four years service in Willingdon.

April 17, 1971

Dr. D. Chew arrived and set up medical practice.

April 17, 1972

Hospital was approved for medical students. First student was Dr. D. Chew's son, Paul.

July, 1972

Ladies Auxiliary made their first float for the Fair and won first prize.

October, 1972

10th Anniversary of new hospital, honored staff members Mary Makowichuk, Olga Ewanchuk, Anne Grykuliak, Pat Kowalchuk, Kay Babiuk, Josephine Proniuk and Anne Luchek.

October, 1972

First High School Work Experience student at hospital.

April, 1974

Flood in Vegreville — patients were transferred and cared for at our hospital.

September, 1974

Silver Jubilee of Women's Auxiliary of Willingdon Hospital.

March, 1975

First Well-Baby Clinic held in hospital by Public Health Nurse.

October, 1975

Dr. P. Chiu came to work with his father, Dr. D. Chew at the Medical Clinic.

July, 1977

Dr. Cuts died suddenly of heart attack. He visited Willingdon Hospital four days prior to death.

June, 1978

50th Anniversary of Willingdon Village.

August 15, 1980

50th Anniversary of religious life was celebrated by eight Sisters at Willingdon Hospital.

December 1, 1980

Unveiling ceremony of Century Tub by Mr. G. Topolnisky. Donation by the Willingdon Hospital Women's Auxiliary (cost — \$6,000).

December 1, 1980

First Assistant Administrator, Anton Powley, hired.

December, 1980

Main water pipe broke in town and no water in hospital for two weeks.

May 19, 1981

New automatic film processor purchased for X-ray Department.

January, 1981

Alberta Government Telephones installed new phone lines and system.



August 15, 1980, 8 Sisters celebrating 50th Jubilee — Sisters Alphonse, Melita, Sister Irene, Hlikeria, Cornelia, Naucratia, Juvenalia, Benigna.

February, 1981

Town water line broken — laundry taken to Mundare for 2 weeks.

March, 1981

Nurses take CPR workshop.

May, 1981

Dr. David Yip in for eight weeks.

June 18, 1981

Celebration for Dr. D. Chew, 10th Anniversary. Farewell to Dr. P. Chiu (1975 - 1981). First Family Staff Picnic.

November, 1981

Versa Food contracted for Dietary Department.

February, 1982

New files and color coding for medical records.

June 21, 1982

Staff gave a party for Sister Stanislaus — 25th Anniversary of religious life.

April, 1982

Renovations to accommodate office space for Doctor and Assistant Administrator.

July, 1982

First staff float depicted the

structure of the hospital in commemoration of its 20th Anniversary. Won first prize at Willingdon, Vegreville, Andrew and Two Hills Agricultural Fairs.

July 1, 1982

Dr. David Yip replaced Dr. D. Chew for 1 month's vacation.

October, 1982

20th Anniversary of new hospital celebrated by Staff and Auxiliary members.

December, 1983

First phase of renovation — sewer lines, water lines, pent-house addition and air-conditioning.

March 9, 1983

Regional Medical Staff organized — Willingdon, Mundare, Lamont

March, 1984

Two day CPR workshop. New stove installed in kitchen.

March 25, 1984

Retirement and farewell party for Dr. D. Chew after 13 years.

April 30, 1984

Dr. D. Chew's last day of work.

May 1, 1984

Dr. D. Kelly arrived to do an extended locum.

May 17, 1984

Hospital received a new electronic autoclave and water still in the Central Supply Room.

August, 1984

Dr. T. B. Letts begins short locum for Dr. Kelly.

September, 1984

Start of Phase II Construction renovations — new water softeners, reverse osmosis system for drinking water, new hot water heaters and lines, new gas fired incinerator, fire lines upgraded.

November 11, 1984

Appreciation Tea honoring Ladies Auxiliary 35th Anniversary.

January 14, 1985

Dr. D. Kelly completed his locum.

January 14, 1985

Dr. Donna Smith relieved for 2 weeks.

February 1, 1985

Dr. H. Katarey practices till April 15, 1985.

March, 1985

X-ray Room was renovated and new Toshiba X-ray equipment was installed.

April, 1985

Dr. Fraser Kennedy begins medical practice at hospital.

June 9, 1985

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION.





**We have reminisced about the past and the present,
but what does the future have in store?**

As we prepare for the 21st century we face the challenge of the unknown and we become the new pioneers. It is not a challenge of breaking new ground but the challenge of a new reality. Health Care will

change in the age of technologies, and as we accept this new age let us remember to value the things we had in the beginning as only they will sustain us in the future. Let us remember to minister not only to the physical needs

through technologies but also to the psychological and especially the spiritual which is so often neglected. Let us never forget the importance of the human touch and interaction.

As we enter the new era let us pass on the torch of providing 'tender loving care' with hope in Christ's healing power.



Hospital Staff 1985

Top Row: Anton Powley, John Kucheraway.

3rd Row: Heather Kraemer, Agnes Shukalek, Fran Mayko, Sue Chacko, Shelly Soprovich, Edna Pesaruk, Irene Basaraba, Lillian Sawcbuk, Lorna Gorgichuk, Shirley Trach, Effie Romaniuk, Gloria Basarabowich.

2nd Row: Sister Naucratia Hawryluk, Ruby Lopetinsky, Pauline Ewanowich, Gaylene Ostafichuk, Josephine Proniuk, Sophe Homeniuk, Anne Stetsko, Karon Racette, Gail Weleschuk, Beth Zabel, Darlene Chorney, Rachel Jackson.

1st Row: Bernice Mackoway, Pat Kowalchuk, Shirley Miller, Helen Kachuk, Wendy Skoropadyk, Sister Stanislaus Soluk, Anne Kozniuk, Sister Patricia Besko. **Missing:** Vicky Topolnisky.

Governing Board

Sister Ambrose Stachiw
 Sister Stanislaus Soluk
 Sister Donna Pidskalny
 Sister Rachel Tataryn
 Sister Eugenia Stefaniuk

Medical Staff

Active

Dr. V. B. Goretsky	1935-1937
Dr. E. W. Zvarich	1937-1938
Dr. W. Cutsungavich	1938-1942
Dr. William G. Lazaruk	1942-1967
Dr. George Kwong	1967-1971
Dr. David Chew	1971-1984
Dr. Paul Chiu	1975-1981
Dr. David Yip	1981-1982
Dr. Daniel Kelly	1984-1985
Dr. Thomas Letts	1984-1985
Dr. Donna Smith	1985
Dr. Hement Katarey	1985
Dr. Fraser Kennedy	1985

Associates

Dr. P. P. Kaye	Dr. O. W. Hankinson
Dr. Pulipuck	Dr. F. M. Fairfield
Dr. N. C. Strilchuk	Dr. E. N. Gramlick
Dr. N. J. Kuzyk	Dr. Archer
Dr. M. E. Chonko	Dr. B. Michalysen
Dr. H. L. Dobson	Dr. H. A. Arnold
Dr. R. Brown	Dr. S. F. Carr
Dr. J. G. Sunley	Dr. J. J. Scales
Dr. O. Maryniak,	

Consultants

Dr. O. Semchyshyn	Dr. S. Lee
Dr. S. Hanson & Associates	Dr. S. Weizs

Past Administrators

Sister Gertrude Lesiuk	1935
Sister Melita Krawczyk	1938
Sister Genevieve Zakaluzyny	1941
Sister Naucratria Hawryluk	1943
Sister Arsenia Smaha	1945
Sister Sylvia Nakoneshny	1949
Sister Timothy Dowhaniuk	1951
Sister Oreste Sereda	1954
Sister Apollonia Dzubinsky	1957
Sister Sylvia Nakoneshny	1960
Sister Magdalene Chereshnewska	1963
Sister Sylvia Nakoneshny	1965
Sister Stanislaus Soluk	1968
Sister Sylvia Nakoneshny	1973
Sister Jean Zemliak	1976
Sister Sylvia Nakoneshny	1978
Sister Eugenia Stefaniuk	1980
Sister Stanislaus Soluk	1980



Assistant Administrator
Anton Powley



Business Manager
Josephine Proniuk



Director of Nurses
Sister Patricia Besko



Medical Records
Pauline Ewanowich

Present Staff — 1985

Administrator
 Sister Stanislaus Soluk

Assistant Administrator
 Anton Powley

Nursing Administrator
 Sister Patricia Besko

Business Manager
 Josephine Proniuk

Registered Nurses
 Patricia Kowalchuk
 Victoria Topolnisky
 Sosamma Chacko
 Elizabeth Zabel
 Bernice Mackoway
 Gaylene Ostafichuk

Certified Nursing Assistants
 Irene (Ruby) Lopetinsky
 Shelly Soprovich

Nursing Assistants
 Edna Pesaruk
 Gloria Basarabowich
 Shirley Miller
 Sophie Homeniuk
 Helen Kachuk

Laboratory/X-ray
 Wendy Skoropadyk
 Rachel Jackson

Central Supply
 Sister Naucratria Hawryluk

Admitting Office/Medical Records
 Pauline Ewanowich

Dietary
 Gail Weleschuk, Supervisor
 Irene Basaraba
 Annie Stetsko
 Lorna Gorgichuk
 Effie Romaniuk
 Darlene Chorney
 Lillian Sawchuk
 Karon Racette

Housekeeping
 Agnes Shukalek
 Shirley Trach

Laundry
 Anne Kozniuk
 Frances Mayko

Maintenance
 John Kucheraway
 Heather Kreamer

Chaplains — 1985

Father Myron Chimy, OSBM
 Father Vincent Prychidko, OSBM
 Father Josaphat Konchak, OSBM
 Father Harry Borecky, OSBM

Visiting Clergy

Rev. O. Hudyma
 Rev. Wm. Ostashek
 Rev. Mircea Panciuk
 Pastor George Dochuk

Past Chaplains:

Bishop Jerome Chimy
 Bishop Myron Daciuk
 Father Bernard Dribnenky
 Father Vladimir Shewchuk
 Father Victor Soroka
 Father Cornelius Pasichny
 Father Nicon Swirsky
 Father Raphael Melnyk
 Father Patrick Byce
 Father Juvenalis Slota
 Father Borys Lysak
 Father Modest Gneszko

Father Orest Slobodian
 Father Basil Wawryk
 Father Soter Pidskalny
 Father Justin Ewaschyshyn
 Father Damien Weleschuk
 Father Stephen Chmilar
 Father Sylvester Kuzel
 Father Ignatius Holowaychuk
 Father Josaphat Tyrkalo
 Father Sebastian Shewchuk

+Father A. Murphy
 +Father George Strickland
 +Father J. W. Burke
 +Father Methodius Hannas
 +Father Ambrosie Wynnyk
 +Father Mark Romanchuk
 +Father Eugene Bilyk
 +Father Epiphany Paschuk
 +Father Ireneus Nazarko
 +Father Myron Krywucky
 +Father Josaphat Skwarok
 +Father Basil Kaminetsky





Willingdon Hospital Auxiliary

Present Members, 1985

Marie Babiuk
Lena Chebuk
Mary Dushenski
Pearl Elchuk
Nancy Fedorak
Anne Gorda
Kaye Gordey
Lorna Gorgichuk
Vera Harrasin
Nancy Hawrelak
Eva Hawreliak
Mary Hawreliak
Kate Huculak
Kathleen Hunchak
Marie Kachuk
Helen Katerenchuk
Kay Kelba
Annie Kuzyk
Sally Ifody
Anne J. Luchak
Anne (Mrs. Peter) Luchak
Anne (Mrs. Paul) Luchek
Mary Makowichuk
Mary Mynzak
Mary Skoreyko
Ann Strynadka
Irene Strynadka
Annie Uglanica
Barbara Ungeran
Olivia Walcheske
Margaret Wengreniuk
Kay Babiuk

Donations to the Fiftieth Jubilee

Zukiwsky's Store
Willingdon, Alberta

Willingdon Pool Room and Barber Shop
Willingdon, Alberta

Shelast Electric
Mundare, Alberta

The Vegreville News Advertiser
Vegreville, Alberta

Dr. Simon Lee
Professional Corporation
Edmonton, Alberta

L. & M. Poultry & Farm Supply
Willingdon, Alberta

Watson Tofield (1973) Ltd.
Tofield, Alberta

Village of Willingdon
Willingdon, Alberta

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Willingdon, Alberta

Tower Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
Vegreville, Alberta

Mathew & Co. Ltd.
Edmonton, Alberta

Diamond West Limousin
Willingdon, Alberta

Fedun's Funeral Chapel Ltd.
Vegreville, Alberta

Andrew Transport
Andrew, Alberta

Willingdon Plumbing & Heating
Willingdon, Alberta

"A Friend"
Edmonton, Alberta

Park Memorial Ltd.
Edmonton, Alberta

Midway Distributors (1980) Ltd.
Lloydminster, Alberta

Saskmont Engineering
Edmonton, Alberta

Vegreville Value Drug Mart
Vegreville, Alberta

B.B.S. Department Store
Willingdon, Alberta

Northland Equipment Sales and Service
Edmonton, Alberta

Alberta Homes Ltd.
Vegreville, Alberta

Professional Building Radiologists
Edmonton, Alberta

V.S. Services Ltd.
Edmonton, Alberta

Mikes Esso Service
Willingdon, Alberta

Toshiba Medical Systems
Edmonton, Alberta



