



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.

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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.

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**St. Paul's Hospital  
100 Years of Hope and Healing  
1907-2007**

**Lifeline: St. Paul's Hospital Newsletter**

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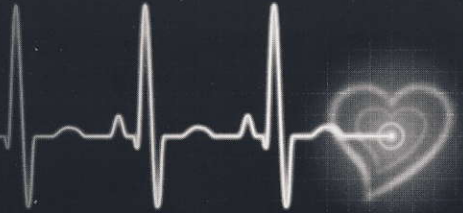
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# The LifeLine

St. Paul's Hospital Staff Newsletter



100 YEARS OF HOPE AND HEALING  
St. Paul's Hospital  
1907-2007



100 YEARS OF HOPE AND HEALING  
St. Paul's Hospital  
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This year St. Paul's Hospital celebrates 100 Years of Hope and Healing, a legacy of caring and compassion started one hundred years ago by two Grey Nuns during a typhoid epidemic in Saskatoon in 1907.

One important event happening during our anniversary year is Leadership Conference 2007. We are proud to partner with the University of Saskatchewan and share title sponsorship of this event, working together with the organizers and volunteers to bring Leadership Conference 2007 to the Saskatchewan community. Our desire is to offer participants an exciting leadership learning opportunity that explores all dimensions of leadership.

Please join us as we celebrate our legacy while making an investment in the leaders of our province.

**A Message from St. Paul's Hospital President and CEO  
Brenda FitzGerald**

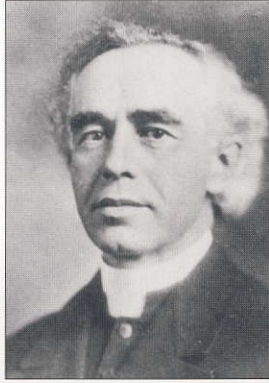
**[stpaulshospital.org/anniversary](http://stpaulshospital.org/anniversary)**

A Proud Interdependent Partner of the Saskatoon Health Region.

## St. Paul's Origins

It all began with a knock on a door.

In the fall of 1906, due to poor water and sanitation conditions in riverside work camps, there was a terrible typhoid outbreak in Saskatoon. Father H. Vachon and Father Joseph Paille had been taking care of very ill



Fr. Joseph Paille (left) and Fr. H. Vachon, priests from the religious order of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, pastors of St. Paul's Parish.

typhoid patients in the rectory of the new city's Catholic church, St. Paul's. Typhoid was a problem every year, but in 1906 the outbreak was taking a worse than usual toll.

Saskatoon was a quickly growing city – settlers were arriving, construction was beginning to boom, there was a great deal of optimism about the future but the infrastructure couldn't keep up with the pace of growth of the pioneer community.

Father Paille answered the knock on the rectory door on the afternoon of September 29th to find two Grey Nuns, Sister Phaneuf, and Sister Guay. The sisters had been traveling across the prairies collecting alms for their mission at St.

Boniface in Manitoba and stopped at St. Paul's

Sr. Phaneuf, right, and Sr. Guay



rectory on their way through Saskatoon as a courtesy. For the priests struggling to cope with the patients in

their care, the arrival of these sisters was providential. They implored the sisters to stay and nurse the patients.

With permission from their St. Boniface house, the sisters' course changed direction

### The LifeLine

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100 YEARS OF HOPE AND HEALING  
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and they stayed in Saskatoon to help in the crisis. Before the sisters' arrival, Father Vachon had sent word to the Mother House of the Grey Nuns in Montreal begging them to establish a hospital in the little prairie city.

With two members of the order caring for the sick, Father Vachon was part of a delegation that traveled to Montreal to plead Saskatoon's case. The request was granted and on January 21, 1907 Sister St. Dosithée (the first superior), Sister Mailoux and Sister Blakely left Montreal to establish the new hospital in Saskatoon.



Dr. J.H.C.  
Willoughby

The sisters had the blessing of their Mother House to establish a Grey Nuns hospital, but a building was needed. One of the first medical men in the area, Dr. J.H. Willoughby had homesteaded west of Saskatoon. He agreed to sell his two-story farmhouse on Pleasant Hill to the sisters. As Superior and administrator of the new hospital, Sister St. Dosithée oversaw the conversion of the house into a hospital. On March 10, 1907, the 17-bed hospital was ready for patients. In honor of the first Catholic parish in Saskatoon, it was named St. Paul's Hospital.



Dr. Willoughby's house was located near the present entrance to the visitors' parking lot at St. Paul's Hospital.



Saskatonians pose for a photo at the newly constructed CPR bridge. (Photo courtesy the City of Saskatoon)

## St. Paul's History At-A-Glance

**1907** On March 10th the 17-bed hospital was ready for patients. In honor of the first Catholic parish in Saskatoon, it was named St. Paul's Hospital.

On March 19th the first patients, two fracture cases, were admitted to SPH.

On June 22nd an extension increased capacity to 45 beds.



SPH Nursing School grads of 1915

**1909** St. Paul's Training School for Nurses opened Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. The first baby was born at St. Paul's on Oct. 5, 1909.

**1911** The first five student nurses graduated in November. Staff of the hospital included 11 sisters, 12 nurses, and 14 employees, to care for a total of 64 patients.

**1913** The new St. Paul's Hospital was ready for opening on November 1, 1913.

**1924** In the spring, construction began on a new North Wing at SPH. Renovations that year afforded an improved children's ward, x-ray and laboratory facilities, expanded maternity ward and, the heart of SPH, a new

chapel for patients, visitors, and staff.

That same year, the Statue of the Sacred Heart arrived.

**1931** Despite the downward turn in the economy, \$342,000 was budgeted to construct the new Nurses Residence that would both house and train the nursing students at St. Paul's.

**1932** St. Paul's Hospital received full accreditation. This is the highest official rating accorded hospitals in North America.

**1943** The first polio patients arrived.

**1947** On January 1st the government of Premier (and Minister of Health) Tommy Douglas enacted the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan. The plan assured that, for a \$5 annual fee (to a maximum of \$30 for a family), all Saskatchewan residents had the right to receive all hospital services, with the exception of very expensive services and products such as transfusions and plasma.



The iron lung was state-of-the-art equipment used to assist polio victims' breathing during recover.

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**1952 and 1953** These were extremely challenging years for health care in Saskatchewan as polio, a disease that had been battled for years, was affecting record numbers of people. With help from the Department of Health and the Saskatchewan Council for Crippled Children who provided money for additional nurses and equipment, St. Paul's polio clinic cared for dozens of polio patients. The epidemic subsided in the fall of 1953 and was brought under long-term control by widespread vaccination.

**1960** The first Renal Dialysis Treatment was performed.

**1963** The brand new St. Paul's Hospital was officially opened and blessed on September 21st. It was opened to the public in November and the old buildings were demolished. Physicians from SPH were an integral part of the first kidney transplant performed in Saskatchewan (only the second in Canada) in November.



The 1963 new hospital  
Is now known as "B-Wing".

**1969** The Spiritual Care Department was first established.

**1980** SPH marked many important firsts when the first intra-ocular lens implant surgery was performed there, and again with the first shoulder prosthesis to be inserted at SPH. That same year, SPH was designated the Provincial Home Care Dialysis Centre.

**1982** St. Paul's Hospital Foundation was created and registered as a charitable public foundation with the Government of Canada, with the immediate financial goal of raising \$12,500 for equipment.

**1985** The Palliative Care Consultation Team, the first such team in Saskatchewan, was established at St. Paul's.

**1989** Project IV, now called the A Wing, was completed and the official opening was celebrated across the community on September 14th.

**1990** As part of Project IV A Wing Expansion, a permanent 12-bed Regional Palliative Care Unit was opened at St. Paul's.

**1992** A Clinical Pastoral Education program was established, a first in Saskatoon

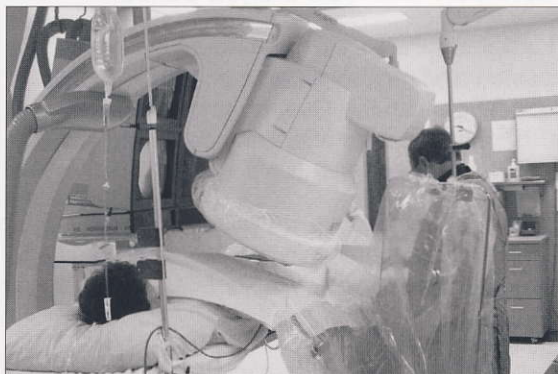
**1994** Transfer of pediatric patients from St. Paul's to Royal University Hospital.

**1995** Transfer of SPH obstetrical patients to Royal University Hospital and gynecology patients to Saskatoon City Hospital.

**1996** An agreement was negotiated with Saskatoon District Health, establishing St. Paul's as the first independent affiliated hospital in Canada to manage health services across the continuum of care in tandem with a regional authority.

**1999** The Grey Nuns of Montreal, heirs to the tradition that established St. Paul's,

decided to transfer the ownership of St. Paul's Hospital to the Bishops of Saskatchewan. The bishops work through the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation (SCHC) to oversee the sponsorship of several Catholic health care facilities in the province.



The diagnostic and treatment capacities of the angiography suite frequently eliminate the need for surgery and reduce hospital stays by several days. Recovery time at home is also significantly reduced.

**2000** Forty years after the first dialysis, a new larger Renal Unit was opened. St. Paul's is the home of all chronic dialysis treatments in Saskatchewan and is one of only two home dialysis training centers in the province.

**2002 and 2003** The commitment to excellence in kidney health was formalized when St. Paul's Hospital, the University of Saskatchewan (in particular the College of Medicine) and the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority worked together to create a Centre of Excellence for Nephrology (Kidney) Services at St. Paul's.

**2005** Thanks to its place of preeminence in the field of transplantation in the province, St. Paul's is the home of the Saskatchewan

Transplant Program. With the support of the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation, the program moved into new offices at St. Paul's in 2005.

The Les & Irene Dubé Special Care Unit was officially dedicated and furnished with cardiac monitoring equipment for post-operative patients.

The Integrated Partnership Agreement between St. Paul's Hospital and the Saskatoon Health Region was renewed.

**2007** On March 19<sup>th</sup> St. Paul's Hospital Foundation announced the *Embracing the Future* Campaign. Les and Irene Dubé contributed \$1M to the \$8M campaign to raise money for the Urology Centre of Health, an MRI and nuclear medicine technology at St. Paul's.

The opening of the Community Renal Health Centre in May will mark the completion of the Hope, Spirit, Excellence Campaign. The centre will be located across the street from St. Paul's Hospital and will offer additional hemodialysis services in a less clinical, more community environment.



The Community Renal Health Centre

## Embracing the Future: SPH 100th Anniversary Campaign

Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> approximately 300 guests celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Paul's Hospital. During the celebration, philanthropists Leslie and Irene Dubé donated \$1 million dollars to the *Embracing the Future / St. Paul's Hospital 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign*.

"This is excellent news for St. Paul's hospital and our community," said Alain Gaucher, St. Paul's Hospital Foundation Volunteer Campaign Chair and Partner with MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman. "The Dubé's generous lead gift represents a significant amount of our \$8 million dollar campaign goal. These funds will support building the Urology Centre of Health at St. Paul's as well as purchasing state-of-the-art equipment." Said Gaucher "This will ultimately help enhance patient care at St. Paul's while providing a better quality of life for an increasing number of people with prostate and other urological diseases in our province."

"It is our sincere pleasure to share the wealth that God has entrusted to Irene and me." Les Dubé said to the crowd. "We will always be there in the future to meet unmet needs in the health care field and other worthy causes." The Dubés have now donated more than \$2 million dollars to St. Paul's Hospital including funding Saskatchewan's only lithotripter and the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Leslie and Irene Dubé Special Care Unit.

The goal of the *Embracing the Future* campaign is to create a Urology Centre of Health at St. Paul's Hospital. This \$8 million capital campaign will improve urology and prostate services at St. Paul's by providing state-of-the-art equipment, facilities and treatment options to serve the increasing number of patients. The campaign will focus on three priority areas:

- a Urology Centre of Health, which will offer

advanced detection and treatment of urological diseases;

- advanced equipment such as a nuclear medicine gamma camera, which will allow for earlier detection in such diseases as prostate cancer, less invasive treatment, and support nephrology (kidney) services;
- and a third MRI for Saskatoon at St. Paul's Hospital.

The year marks the 100th anniversary of St. Paul's Hospital. Established by the Grey Nuns, St. Paul's staff, physicians, nurses and volunteers continue the tradition of compassionate caring, and will celebrate 100 years of faith-based heritage, innovation and community partnerships while embracing what the future holds.



Les and Irene Dubé. Photo courtesy of Shutterbug Photo - Lisa Landrie



## Spiritual Care at SPH

Spiritual Care has always been an integral part of “One Hundred Years of Hope and Healing” at St. Paul’s Hospital in Saskatoon.

**Spiritual Care**, as the name suggests, is care of the spiritual aspect of a person.

In a time of crisis, such as illness frequently is, an individual’s meaning system, sense of purpose, relationships, etc., are all affected. It is therefore a time of spiritual crisis for some patients.

Spiritual Care is the provision of empathic care and facilitative reflection which enables another to name, clarify, reflect upon and honor their relationship with themselves, others, the world and whatever they deem to be transcendent. Spiritual care is offered by professional spiritual caregivers who are employed by St. Paul’s Hospital.

It is the role of the spiritual care worker to assess the spiritual needs of a patient, and to seek to meet these needs.

**Religious Care** addresses the religious needs of patients. It is an expression of

sacred traditions that support an individual in developing their relationship with self, others, the world and what they deem to be transcendent. It is provided by members of the religious community to which the patient belongs.

Patients can access religious care from their community with the help of the spiritual care professional, or by directly

making a request of their religious group.

Founded by the Grey Nuns SPH has a holistic vision of health care.

In the process of actively caring for the sick and dying, the nursing sisters constantly worked to help people cope with all the difficulties presented by their illness, and experience the reality of God’s presence and love through their listening hearts as well as through the professional care offered at St. Paul’s.

Since 1969 this role was formalized with the creation of the Spiritual Care department. Staffed originally by sisters, the department began to rely on the work of laypeople in the 1980s as the religious order experienced a decline in the numbers of sisters.

Spiritual Care Manager Connie Lachapelle today heads up a staff that includes two full-time and five-part time spiritual caregivers – all of them lay men and women. They provide spiritual and pastoral care to patients, families and staff from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day. Spiritual Care staff also respond to night-time emergency calls, with additional support from



Francis Maza, Spiritual Care Associate, with Sr. Marie, a volunteer.



On-going professional development is important to the Spiritual Care department, shown here during a recent annual retreat.

empathic care provided by a specific faith group including whatever rites, rituals or

24-hour on-call chaplains in the community who respond to members of their religious community.

A group of dedicated volunteers work with the Spiritual Care department in a supportive role. Other volunteers, designated by different congregations, parishes and faith communities also regularly visit patients from their community at St. Paul's when this is requested.

"Providing a compassionate presence is a large part of the ministry of spiritual care", stresses Connie Lachapelle, who has worked in the St. Paul's Hospital department for more than 20 years.

"It's very much a ministry of listening. It's more a job of 'being' than 'doing' – just being there for people when they need us," she said. Times of illness, a health crisis or a death are moments when people often need spiritual support and a compassionate presence.

In every case, patients and their families take the lead, with staff and volunteers providing whatever level of support requested, Lachapelle said. That might include contacting a pastor or faith community on behalf of the patient, or finding someone who shares the patient's faith traditions. At the request of a patient or family member prayers or scripture might be provided, or arrangements made for a patient to receive sacraments or participate in services or rituals.

When there is a death, bereaved family member are also offered support. Every second month a memorial service is held at the hospital for patients who have died, with family members invited to participate.



**Sacred spaces are an important resource for spiritual support. This mural, painted by local artist Daniel O'Shea, is in the First Nations Prayer and Ceremonial Room. In addition, St. Paul's has a Multi-faith Stillness Room, a Catholic chapel, and numerous quiet rooms that are located throughout the building.**

Supporting staff is also part of the job, Lachapelle added. "In this building the staff is very much a family – you soon know who's hurting and who might have something tough going on in their life."

In addition to visiting each patient, the spiritual care department also responds to referrals from doctors, nurses and other hospital staff who notice when someone might need extra support or reassurance. On occasion, Lachapelle said she has simply been called in to be a "calming presence" at a moment of anxiety or crisis.

"We're here, we're present to the patients, to the family, to the staff," she explained. "We walk with the patients and their families in their spiritual journey."

*—Excerpts from contributions by Kiply Yaworski, Brian Walton, and Brian Zimmer*

## Anniversary Events

DATE	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	Location	Contact
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Doors Open Saskatoon	Thirty-six buildings of architectural, historical or cultural significance will open their doors to visitors for the day. St. Paul's will be offering guided tours and refreshments.	Buildings throughout Saskatoon including St. Paul's Hospital	Details at <a href="http://www.doorsopenasaskatoon.ca">www.doorsopenasaskatoon.ca</a>
June 15-17 <sup>th</sup>	Hope and Healing Homecoming	An exciting weekend of activities on the grounds of St. Paul's including a pancake breakfast, Birthday Party, tours, BBQ and Multi-Faith Service.	St. Paul's Hospital	Details at: <a href="http://www.stpaulshospital.org/anniversary">www.stpaulshospital.org/anniversary</a> or call Rosemary Nazar at <b>655-6128</b>
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Community Day	Students from surrounding schools are invited to a day of fun and friendship on the grounds of St. Paul's Hospital. Activities include face painting, a fish pond and entertainment.	St. Paul's Hospital	
Oct 15-19 <sup>th</sup>	Mission Week	Events are planned throughout the week to celebrate SPH's Mission and Core Values and to recognize staff for their efforts in living our Mission.	St. Paul's Hospital	Brian Zimmer at <b>655-5819</b> or Diane Boechler at <b>655-5808</b>

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

From the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25, verses 34-36

## St. Paul's Hospital Stats

	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006
<b>Service Capacity</b>		
Acute Care Beds (Available)	220	213
Acute Care Beds (Open & in Operation)	177	185
Palliative Care Beds (Included in Above)	12	12
<b>Service Activity</b>		
In Patient Admissions	9,149	9,150
Emergency Room Visits	43,500	43,148
Out Patient Visits (Estimate only)*	60,510	59,371
Surgical Cases (In patient) OR Only**	5,104	4,930
Surgical Cases (Day Surgery) OR Only**	5,548	6,007
Dialysis - Hemodialysis Treatments	26,441	26,102
Kidney Transplants	37	31
Occupancy Rate	91%	91%
Average Length of Stay	6.4	6.7
<b>Admissions - New Statistics</b>		
Average patients admitted per day	25	25
Busiest day of the week	Tuesday	Tuesday
Busiest month of the year	Jan. '05	Nov. '05
*Registered ambulatory patients -- does not reflect visits		
**Excludes long waiters		

## St. Paul's Hospital Core Values

The heart of our mission is exemplified by Saint Marguerite d'Youville, Foundress of the Grey Nuns of Montreal. Moved by respect and compassion, Marguerite responded in love, reaching out to care for the poor by tending to their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

### Compassionate Caring

All who are part of the work of St. Paul's Hospital are called to be in tune with the sufferings of those who come and to provide what is needed to bring them to healing and wholeness, with respect and generosity, as if they were members of one's own family.

### Holistic Care

St. Paul's Hospital recognizes that the physical healing of those who come is intimately connected with their emotional well-being, their spiritual care, the supportive presence of family and friends, and their confidence in, and cooperation with, their medical professionals and care-givers.

### Collaborative Partnerships

St. Paul's Hospital strives for multi-dimensional professional excellence in caring for the sick and, to this end, fosters a spirit of collaboration among individuals, groups and departments within the hospital, and engages in partnerships with other institutions and agencies in the larger community.

### Stewardship

St. Paul's Hospital's work is grounded in creative resourcefulness and practicality to make the best use of resources—personnel, buildings, supplies, energy and ideas—to provide fullness of care for those who come and to prepare with wisdom for the needs of the future.

### Respect for All

St. Paul's Hospital, rooted in the spirit of Marguerite d'Youville and the Grey Nuns, treat all with the same respect we hope to receive. St. Paul's staff and volunteers are committed to offering care with respect for the dignity of each person regardless of age, gender, culture, ethnicity, ability, religion or economic status.

From its founding in 1907, these core values have characterized St. Paul's Hospital and the spirit of its community. They are the values of Marguerite d'Youville, the Grey Nuns, and all who have been part of their work over the years; they form a foundational legacy for St. Paul's Hospital as it continues to be a place of hope and healing for all who come.

