



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.

St. Paul Hospital: 1907-2007
100 Years of Hope and Healing

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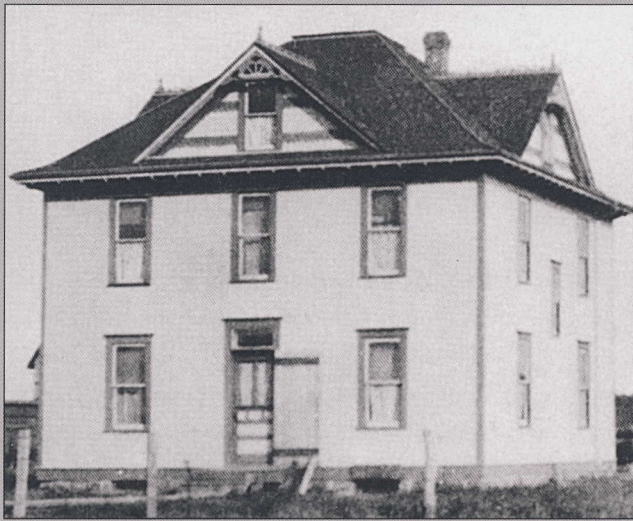


St. Paul's Hospital
1907-2007

100 Years
of
Hope
and
Healing

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1906

It began with a knock on a door. In the fall of 1906, thanks 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 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.



SEPTEMBER 29



Sister Guay



Sister Phaneuf

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 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.



1907

1907

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

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.C. Willoughby had homesteaded west of Saskatoon. He agreed to sell his two-storey farmhouse on Pleasant Hill to the sisters. As Superior and administrator of the new hospital, Sister St. Dosithee oversaw the conversion of the house into a hospital. On March 10, 1907, the 17-bed hospital was ready for patients. In honour of the first Catholic parish in Saskatoon, it was named St. Paul's Hospital.





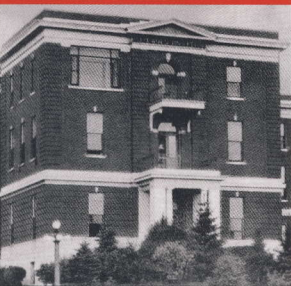
FIRSTS

Firsts

St. Paul's first year was a busy one. After the first patients, fracture cases transferred from the rectory, there was a steady flow of patients and more firsts were realized – the first surgeries, a gastroenterostomy for a perforated ulcer and an appendectomy, were performed by Dr. Andrew Croll; a telephone was installed, connecting the hospital to the community. The renovated farmhouse was quickly bursting at the seams and an addition was built in the summer of 1907. In November 1909, the St. Paul's Training School for Nurses opened and accepted its first students. The probationary nurses learned from the sisters and the doctors. In 1910, another milestone was reached when, thanks to lobbying efforts of the Sister Superior and others, City Council agreed to extend sewer and water lines to the hospital.



1912



Saskatoon, and in turn, St. Paul's, was growing at such a rate that it seemed that no sooner had additions and outbuildings been built, there was a need for more space. With the guidance of the Grey Nuns Mother House in Montreal and the Provincial House in St. Boniface, the sisters of St. Paul's began to make plans for a modern hospital. The cornerstone of the new hospital was laid on June 30, 1912, blessed by Reverend Father Lacoste. The project budget was \$100,000 and the hospital was ready for opening on November 1, 1913. The Grey Nuns, and the entire community, rejoiced that day when Bishop Matthieu of Regina blessed the modern building. The sisters had stewarded the construction of a truly modern hospital: light and airy patient rooms, well-equipped operating theatre

and dressing rooms, x-ray equipment, an electric elevator and roof-top gardens. The new facility could accommodate 150 beds and, most importantly, continued in the spirit of the Grey Nuns, giving care and comfort to those in need, regardless of religion, race, or financial status.

Providing care to the citizens of Saskatoon and to the outlying communities, St. Paul's was an example of health care innovation at the time and contributed greatly to the improved public health of the community.



1917

1917

During the First World War, St. Paul's, like all hospitals, was asked to care for convalescing soldiers. The sisters found room and a special ward was created in 1917 for the returned soldiers. As the soldiers returned, they brought with them the worst epidemic of the 20th century, influenza. Adding to the strain on the caregivers, one sister and two nurses died of the disease.



1924



The 1920s saw renewed optimism and growth in Saskatoon. Once again, St. Paul's was in need of expansion. In the spring of 1924, construction began on a North Wing. Renovations that year afforded an improved children's ward, x-ray and laboratory facilities, expanded maternity ward and, the heart of St. Paul's, a new chapel for patients, visitors, and staff.



1924

An important symbol for the sisters arrived in 1924: the Statue of the Sacred Heart depicts Jesus Christ with his arms outstretched. A replica of the statue in front of Cathedral de Montmartre in Paris, France, the eight-foot bronze statue was created by a French artist for St. Paul's. The statue was placed on the roof of the hospital, over the main entrance, where it stayed until that building was demolished. Today, that symbol of the spirit of St. Paul's, the Grey Nuns' commitment to Christ's love, stands in the foreground of the hospital, atop the cornerstone of the 1912 hospital.



TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis

In 1922, in response to the prevalence of tuberculosis at the time, a frame building was added to the grounds at St. Paul's for isolation cases. The number of tuberculosis patients was certainly a burden for St. Paul's, but great effort was made to implement the latest in treatment methods. At one point the leading cause of death in Saskatchewan, TB was the focus of provincial government efforts to improve public health. In 1925, the Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League opened the sanatorium on Avenue K in Saskatoon. The transfer of TB patients relieved a great deal of pressure on St. Paul's.



TEACHING HOSPITAL



The School of Nursing had been accredited by the University of Saskatchewan in 1917. In 1926, St. Paul's received a Hospital Standardization Certificate of the American College of Surgeons and became a teaching hospital for doctors as well as nurses. By the beginning of the Great Depression, the St. Paul's School of Nursing was a well-respected teaching facility and enrollment increased steadily each year. Student nurses were a vital part of the care of patients at St. Paul's, gaining practical experience assisting on all wards in addition to their time in the classroom with doctors and sisters.



1931



Nothing shows how important the School of Nursing was to St. Paul's more than the construction of the nurses' residence in 1931, when, despite the downward turn in the economy, \$342,000 was budgeted for a building that would both house and train the students. Eighty students moved into their fully modern residence, complete with student rooms, classrooms, an auditorium, bathrooms, a parlour, a chapel, study rooms, offices, and kitchenettes. Room and board and a small monthly stipend were provided for the students who lived by strict rules during their three-year training program.



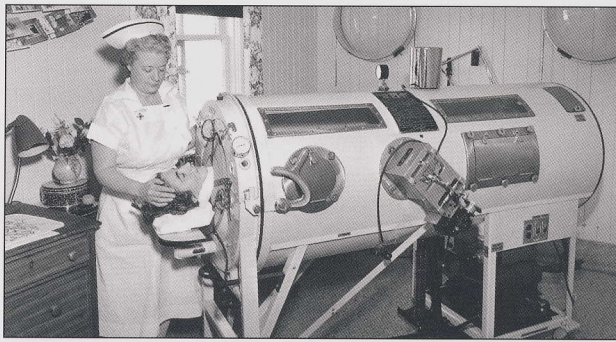
1937

1937

From the first days of St. Paul's, the Grey Nuns provided care for those who could not afford to pay for hospital services, and had negotiated a grant from City Council to defray these costs. This charitable care was perhaps never needed more than during the Depression, but City Council was not spared during these trying times and after several years of diminishing contributions, in 1937, Council told the hospital it would not be able to provide that year's grant. Some people worked in the hospital to pay their bills, others traded produce from their farms. The sisters maintained their own garden and received donations from those who could spare it. Student nurses' monthly stipend was reduced and the salaries for graduate nurses were cut from \$50 per month to \$35 per month.



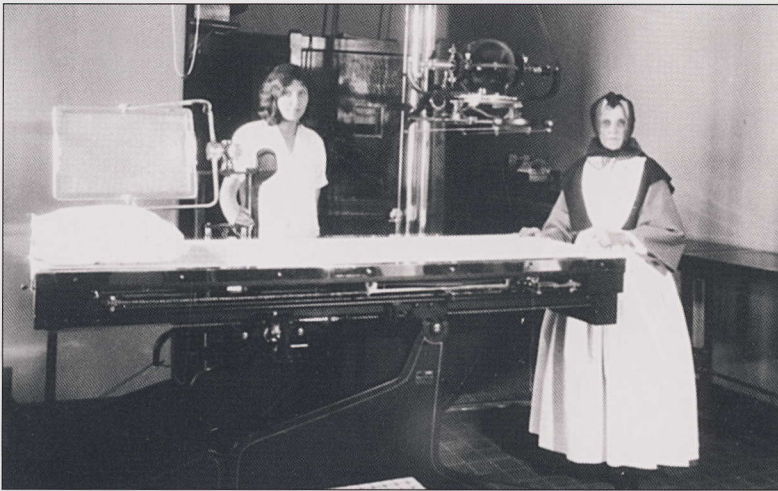
POLIO



September 1939 brought war to the world once again. The next five-and-a-half years were fraught with staffing shortages as both nurses and doctors answered the call to serve at home and overseas and wartime rationing affected dietary services. The hospital called on many Red Cross volunteers and retired nurses to help make up for the shortages. Then, there was another war to fight. Like typhoid, influenza, and tuberculosis before it, poliomyelitis was a public health crisis of epidemic proportions. Resources were already limited as Saskatoon supported the war effort when the first polio patients arrived in 1943. The polio clinic at St. Paul's used the latest treatment techniques pioneered by a Nursing Sister in Australia, Sister Kenny: hot, moist compresses, massage, and special physiotherapy helped patients regain the strength in the muscles weakened by the disease. In extreme cases, patients needed to spend time in "iron lung" machines to assist their breathing when their own muscles weren't strong enough to compress their chests. At the height of the crisis, as many as nine patients were in iron lungs at one time. Staff at St. Paul's cared for young and old polio patients for more than 10 years until, thanks to the development of the Salk vaccine, the epidemic was brought under control.



SISTERS OF CHARITY



For more than two decades, in addition to fostering the spiritual well being of their patients, the sisters at St. Paul's were responsible for the administration, clinical operations, and training. The Superior Sister was effectively the CEO of the hospital. She oversaw all operations and negotiated the financing of expansions. Other sisters operated the x-ray machines, assisted the doctors, oversaw the education of student nurses, supervised the gardens, and the livestock. Operations, facilities management, professional development, fundraising, human resources – it was all in the capable hands of these women. Their status as members of the Sisters of Charity allowed them to make professional achievements quite out of the ordinary for women of their time.



COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS

Community Partnerships

Over time, the operations of the hospital grew to the point where they looked to members of the community to lend their expertise to the facility. Ad hoc advisors had been assisting since 1934, but 1941 saw the formal establishment of the Lay Advisory Board. Members of the Lay Advisory Board included business and professional men who were committed supporters of St. Paul's and the Grey Nuns.

The Ladies' Auxiliary (sometimes called Women's Auxiliary) was formed to "create a spirit of goodwill with the patients and the general public." Their many contributions over the years including establishing and maintaining the Hospital Library Service, coordinating visiting programs and pediatric play therapy, sponsoring the Candy Striper program, leading monthly school tours of the hospital, operating the gift shop, and raising money for programs and hospital equipment. The Ladies' Auxiliary served St. Paul's until 1986, when it was decided that their work could be continued by the St. Paul's Hospital Foundation and Volunteer Services Department, and was officially disbanded.



1940s

1940s

Outside the walls of St. Paul's, there were changes to health care in the 1940s. In 1944, the Canadian Commonwealth Federation (CCF) was elected the governing party in Saskatchewan. They had promised a prepaid hospitalization program. On January 1, 1947, 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.

St. Paul's undertook several improvements during the 1940s. The hospital and its many annexes were in need of repair and advancements in diagnostic and monitoring methods made new equipment essential, including new x-ray and electrocardiography machines. In 1949, the chapel, known as "the heart of St. Paul's", was refurbished, and construction began on a new laboratory and a west wing to accommodate an additional 36 patient beds. These additions were blessed by Bishop Pocock on March 25, 1950.



1952-1953

1952-1953

By 1950, St. Paul's Hospital was over 43 years old. Additions and renovations in the 1940s improved conditions considerably, but in 1950 a review by the Medical and Lay Advisory Boards concluded that a new hospital was needed to serve the growing community and outlying areas, and began to lobby government. In May 1951, Premier (and Minister of Health) Douglas visited St. Paul's to assess the situation.

There were further investments in hospital equipment and infrastructure in the 1950s to keep pace with modern practices. In the early 1950s, the provincial Department of Health reviewed nursing education. Across the province, record numbers of students were enrolling in nursing programs. As one of the earliest training programs in the province, St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing contributed greatly to the reviews and planning. The increase in student enrollment meant the residence was at capacity. Thanks to the forethought in planning the 1931 residence, the fourth floor had been left unfinished but ready for renovation as needed. In 1957, students moved into the newly completed fourth floor and the resident sisters moved from the Willoughby house into the first floor.

At the Golden Jubilee banquet, Dr. J. Francis Leddy, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and member of the hospital board, summed up his feelings on St. Paul's in Saskatoon:

"Who could imagine, or who could want, Saskatoon without St. Paul's? It is not merely another community asset, nor a factory, nor a utility, but an institution woven into the lives of countless individuals. There are few Saskatoon families with whom it has not been associated with deep feelings – joys, sorrows, great anxieties. The hospital will continue to grow. But whatever changes the rest of the century may bring, St. Paul's will remain in all essentials as it is today – alight with the gracious spirit of the sisters. It will be of good repute for the conscientious skill of its doctors and the care of its nurses, and it will still receive and deserve the trust and goodwill of this grateful community."



St. Paul's golden anniversary was celebrated in May 1957 in conjunction with both the celebration of the month of Mary, the School of Nursing graduation, and the observance of National Hospital Day. St. Paul's anniversary was highlighted in a prize-winning float in that year's Pion-Era, and in models on display in the Hudson's Bay store downtown. The celebration was symbolic of the hospital's many roles, encompassing celebration of the faith that guided care at St. Paul's, showcasing its importance to the fabric of Saskatoon, and acknowledging its place in progressive health care and education.



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



CRISIS

Crisis

Despite the joyous celebrations and thanksgiving during the golden anniversary of St. Paul's, the hospital faced a crisis. Talks with the provincial government during the 1950s regarding funding for renovations to the aging 1912 structure had led the administrators at St. Paul's to think that an improved facility was on the horizon. An architect's assessment of the facilities in 1957 stated that nothing short of demolition and rebuilding was reasonable for St. Paul's. Instead of a \$300,000 addition, the Grey Nuns and administration were told they needed a \$5.8 million reconstruction.

This startling report weighed heavily on the findings of the federal government's "Report on the Physical Plant of St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon" the following year. Support for the hospital came from the public and the media as Sister Superior Prevost and the advisory boards worked over the next five years to convince the federal and provincial governments of the need to rebuild St. Paul's. Strongly worded calls for support came from Mayor Buckwold, Bishop Klein, and others. Sister Superior Prevost welcomed Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, along with Mrs. Diefenbaker and his brother, Elmer, to tour the hospital in February 1959.



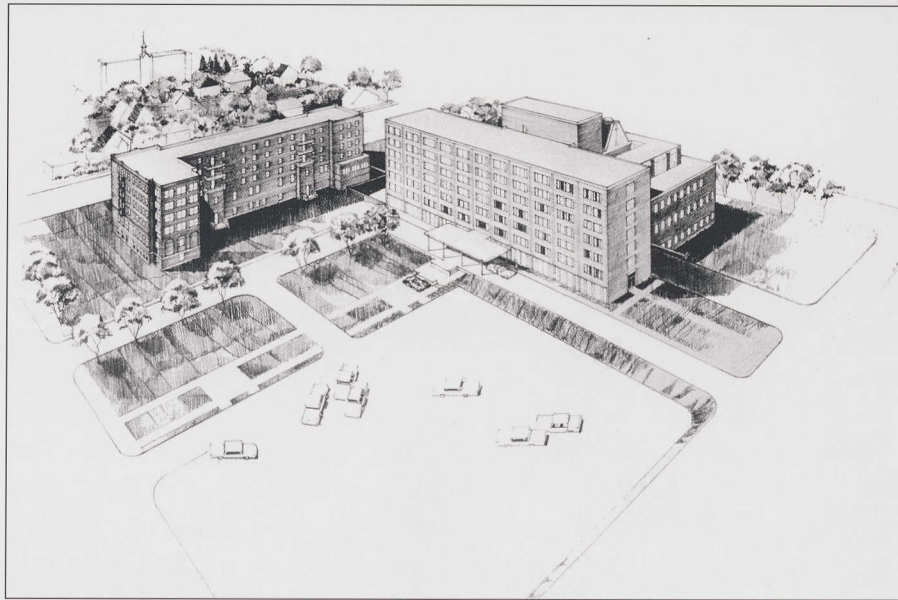
SPRING 1963

Beds Closing

In the spring of 1960, St. Paul's Hospital announced it would be closing beds. Premier Douglas and the provincial cabinet agreed to meet with the delegation from Saskatoon. Representatives of St. Paul's administration, joined by Saskatoon Mayor Sid Buckwold, members of the Board of Trade executive, Saskatoon City Hospital board, Saskatoon Labour Council, representatives of the three unions of St. Paul's Hospital employees, and three government MLAs from Saskatoon argued the hospital's case. By the end of this meeting, there was hope. Premier Douglas assured the delegation that, "We will find some way to keep St. Paul's Hospital open and to begin construction of a new hospital building as quickly as we can."



D-DAY DIG DAY



Finally, after a great deal of work by the Grey Nuns and their advisors, and by the provincial and federal governments, a funding formula was conceived. July 7, 1961 was declared "D-Day-Dig Day", as ground was broken for the new St. Paul's Hospital. The brand new hospital was officially opened and blessed on September 21, 1963.



1950s - 1960s

The buildings that made up St. Paul's were not the only structures that were changed in the 1950s and 1960s; the administration of the hospital saw dramatic changes as well. On April 14, 1959, the provincial government formally established the autonomy of St. Paul's with "An Act to Incorporate St. Paul's Hospital (Grey Nuns)" which established the hospital as a corporate entity. Tax exemption was secured with the City of Saskatoon. In 1967, the Grey Nuns decided, in the words of Mother Prevost, that, "It has become apparent that the former policy of combining the role of superior and administrator is not in keeping with the best interests of serving our patients." It was clear that the functioning of a modern hospital required modern hospital administration. To this end, Dr. Morley H. Smith-Windsor was named Administrator of St. Paul's.



A TRADITION OF CARING
A FUTURE OF HOPE

A Tradition of Caring A Future of Hope

Though faced with the possibility of closure, St. Paul's remained committed to advancements in patient care. In 1960, using a machine donated the previous year by two St. Paul's physicians, Saskatchewan's first renal dialysis treatment was performed at St. Paul's. Using hemodialysis to extend the lives of kidney disease patients was revolutionary and the hope created by the new procedure inspired visionary support for the technology. In the words of Dr. Marc Baltzan in the *A Tradition of Caring, A Future of Hope*, "The Grey Nuns endorsed and supported the idea without any regard to cost, impact or operating budget."



DIALYSIS MACHINE



Hemodialysis Department 1963

Faced with an increasing need and increasing costs for the dialysis machines, specialists at St. Paul's worked with biomedical engineers at the University of Saskatchewan to develop a "made in Saskatoon" dialysis machine. The machine was commercially marketed worldwide and its engineering principles are the basis of modern dialysis units. Today, more than 26,000 life-saving dialysis treatments are performed every year at St. Paul's.



TRANSPLANT

Transplant

The early 1960s saw developments in a remarkable field of medical science – transplantation. Urologists from St. Paul's were an integral part of the first kidney transplant performed in Saskatchewan (only the second in Canada) in November 1963. St. Paul's physicians contributed greatly to the understanding of transplants from both live and deceased donors.

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. Today, more than 40 years after that pioneering surgery, all kidney transplants in Saskatchewan are performed at St. Paul's.



SCHOOL OF NURSING
CLOSES

Perfection

Even in the Smallest Things

In 1968, the provincial government changed the authority for educating nurses from the Department of Health to the Department of Education. This change meant that the two-year diploma nursing program was facilitated by the new Saskatchewan Institute of Arts and Applied Sciences (the forerunner to today's SIAST), and hospital-based programs were to close. The last class to graduate from St. Paul's School of Nursing was in 1969. Over 60 years, 2,057 nurses graduated from St. Paul's, pledged to the school's motto, "In Minimis Perfectio – Perfection, Even in the Smallest Things". The closure of the St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing marked a huge change to the hospital.



1970s & 1980s

1970s & 1980s

As early as the 1970s, hospital administration began to consider the need for expansion. In 1979, planning for Project IV (so-called because it would be the fourth major expansion in the history of St. Paul's), was approved by the provincial minister of health. The hospital marked more important firsts in 1980 when the first intra-ocular lens implant surgery was performed there, as was the first shoulder prosthesis insertion. That same year, St. Paul's Hospital was designated the Provincial Home Care Dialysis Centre.



FUNDRAISING

Fundraising

Raising funds to support the work of the nursing sisters was a fact of life since the very beginning of St. Paul's. For more than 40 years, the Ladies' Auxiliary raised money to support patient care. In 1963, a major public fundraising drive, led by volunteers from the business community, was launched to raise \$410,000 for furnishings and equipment for the new hospital.

In 1982, given the scope of fundraising goals for the hospital, 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. The foundation's overall goal is to provide support for the hospital, in the spirit of charity and compassion demonstrated by St. Marguerite d'Youville. Funds raised support the purchase of equipment and furnishings essential to patient care, employee education, and special programming in the hospital. A professional staff and volunteer Board of Directors oversees the stewardship of funds raised through annual campaigns, endowments and legacy gifts and special events. Since 1982, the foundation has increased funds raised from \$132,384 to approximately \$3 million annually.



1980s



The 1980s and 1990s saw a continuation of the commitment to innovation in health care, especially in nephrology and diagnostic imaging. Project IV, now called the A Wing, was completed in 1989 and the official opening was celebrated across the community. The new St. Paul's, like its previous incarnations, was dedicated to caring for the body, mind and spirit of patients. Project IV included improvements to all clinical support departments, the Emergency Room, state-of-the-art Operating Rooms and Intensive Care Unit, a new Palliative Care Unit, renovations to the laboratory and an expanded Spiritual Care Program.



Spiritual Care

Pastoral ministry, the attention to the spiritual health of the patient, has been the cornerstone of care at St. Paul's since the day it opened its doors. As the number of sisters decreased over the years, the management of the wards was left to the lay nurses, and the sisters attended to spiritual care. There has always been a chaplain priest at the hospital and, just as patients were admitted without regard for religion or creed, clergy from other faiths have been welcomed to tend to their parishioners.

The Pastoral Care Department was first established in 1969 and over the next several years was headed by chaplains and sisters. In a modern extension of the Grey Nuns' legacy, St. Paul's employs both a Director of Mission and an ethicist as part of its continued commitment to spiritual care.

Today, the mission of the Grey Nuns is continued through example, teaching, and socializing people to the mission of the hospital. St. Paul's is the only acute care facility to be an accredited teaching site for the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program in Saskatoon.



PALLIATIVE CARE

In the words of the unit's first Clinical Coordinator, Denise Budz, R.N., "It [the Palliative Care Unit] facilitates the 'letting go' process by allowing family members to reaffirm their caring, to reconcile their differences, and enter into a deep spiritual experience. This process seems fully in the tradition of the caring that has characterized St. Paul's Hospital over the years."

Palliative Care

In 1985, the Palliative Care Consultation Team, the first such team in Saskatchewan, was established at St. Paul's. This interdisciplinary team, consisting of doctors, nurses, a dietician, a social worker, therapists and volunteers, acted as consultants and resources for those staff members caring for the terminally ill. The Grey Nuns had demonstrated a commitment to the notion of palliative care at their hospitals in Winnipeg and Edmonton, and in 1990 as part of Project IV A Wing Expansion, a permanent 12-bed Regional Palliative Care Unit was opened at St. Paul's. Since 1995, St. Paul's has been responsible for palliative care for the Saskatoon area.



1990s

1990s

There were major changes to all three of Saskatoon's hospitals in the 1990s as service delivery was streamlined and the hospitals moved towards specializing in different areas.

Perhaps the greatest fundamental changes at St. Paul's since the closure of the School of Nursing occurred with the closure of the children's and maternity wards, and the department of gynecology. In 1994, all pediatric patients were transferred to Royal University Hospital and then, in 1995, maternity patients were transferred to RUH and gynecology patients to Saskatoon City Hospital. Between 1909 and 1995, 83,727 babies were born at St. Paul's Hospital. The closure of these departments heralded the end of an era at St. Paul's.



INTEGRATED
PARTNERSHIP

Integrated Partnership

In addition to its reputation for excellence and innovation, St. Paul's was the primary health care service provider not just for the west side of Saskatoon, but tens of thousands of patients from rural and northern communities. In 1996, a new 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. This integrated partnership agreement was renewed in the fall of 2005.

Speaking on the day of the transfer (October 12, 1999), Superior General of the Grey Nuns, Sister Aurore Larkin, summed up the feelings of her sisters as they marked the end of an era: "As difficult and emotional as this moment can be, it is with a deep sense of courage and assurance that I know this moment to be right. It is right for us, the Grey Nuns of Montreal, right for you, the beloved people of St. Paul's Hospital, and right for you, the bold people of the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation. I know it to be right because what led to this moment has been laid on solid foundations, and the Master Builder of it all is the same yesterday, today and forever. So a Legacy of Hope lives on."

The Grey Nuns still have a presence at St. Paul's and, thanks to the Grey Nuns Legacy Fund, an endowment fund entrusted to St. Paul's Hospital Foundation, which contributes substantially to the Spiritual Care Program, their spirit will continue to shape St. Paul's in the years to come.



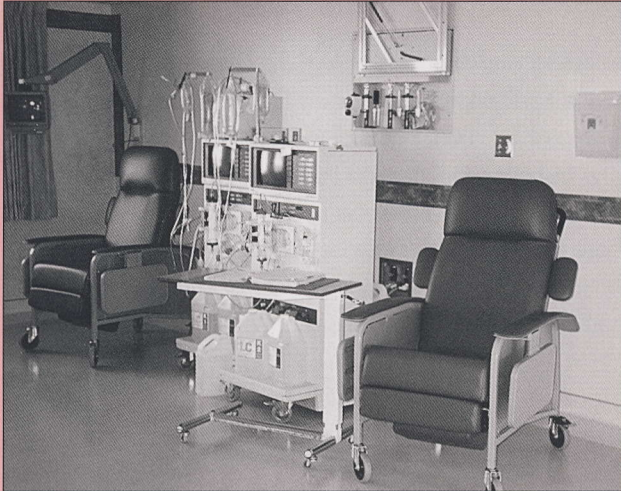
OWNERSHIP TRANSFER

Ownership Transfer

Their numbers dwindling and members aging, 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. Because it was a transfer from one Catholic organization to another, no money changed hands and the operational model of the hospital did not change.



Renal Program



Since the first dialysis in 1960, St. Paul's has been committed to innovation in the treatment of kidney disease. Over the years, investments have been made in more and more sophisticated equipment and members of St. Paul's staff have participated in national and international research studies to advance the understanding of renal function and care. Given the prevalence of kidney disease in Saskatchewan, linked to ever-increasing rates of diabetes in our population, St. Paul's is once again responding to what is amounting to another public health crisis.

Extending care beyond its walls, St. Paul's established a Home Dialysis Program in 1980 and in 1989 created a renal dialysis satellite in Prince Albert to serve northern patients closer to home. In keeping with St. Paul's commitment to holistic care, a Kidney Peer Support Program was established in 1993 to help patients cope with living with kidney disease. In 1997, a lithotripter machine, capable of using sound waves to break up kidney stones in a non-invasive way, was purchased for the hospital. In 2000, 40 years after the first dialysis, a new larger Renal Unit was opened at St. Paul's. St. Paul's is the home of all chronic dialysis treatments in Saskatchewan and is one of only two home dialysis training centres in the province.

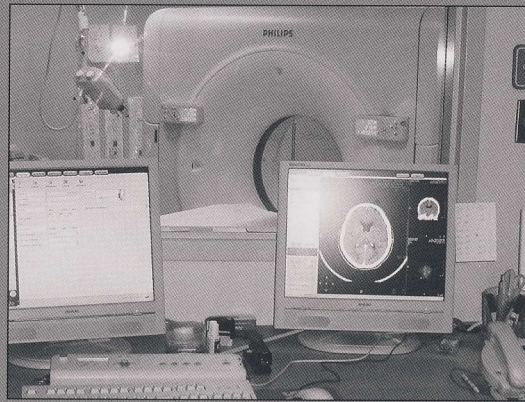
The commitment to excellence in kidney health was formalized in 2002 and 2003 when St. Paul's Hospital, the University of Saskatchewan (in particular the College of Medicine) and the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority worked together to create a Centre of Excellence for Nephrology (Kidney) Services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

St. Paul's. To this end, all kidney transplants are performed at St. Paul's, a Medical Observation Unit was completed in 2002, and later phases will ensure that treatment, research, and education about renal care will be based here.

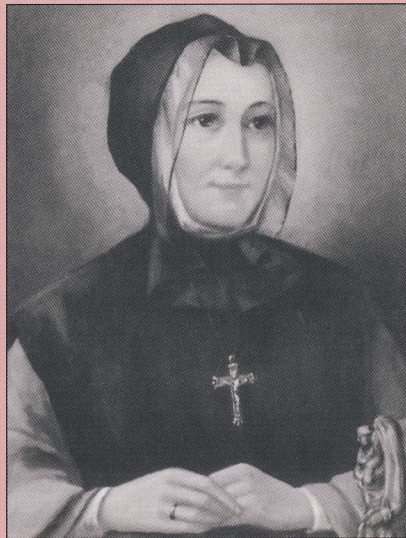
In another example of St. Paul's pioneering spirit, construction began on a Community Dialysis Centre located across the street from St. Paul's Hospital in 2006. This centre will offer chronic dialysis patients the opportunity to receive their treatment in a less clinical and more comfortable environment, as well as offer patient and family education.



INNOVATION



While St. Paul's commitment to holistic health care broadens the definition of modern health care innovation, it is still considered synonymous with state-of-the-art equipment. In 2002, the Digital Interventional Angiography Suite was completed. Doctors use this equipment to locate blocked arteries. In 2005, investments were made in new CT scanning technology and digital radiography, enhancing the diagnostic abilities of doctors at St. Paul's. That same year, the Les & Irene Dubé Special Care Unit was officially dedicated, furnished with cardiac monitoring equipment for post-operative patients. Serving most of the west side of Saskatoon and outlying communities, St. Paul's has one of the busiest emergency wards in the province.



ST. MARGUERITE
D'YOUVILLE

From a fateful knock on the rectory door to a sophisticated acute care training facility for the 21st century, St. Paul's remains committed to a holistic approach to health care inspired by the example of St. Marguerite d'Youville. St. Paul's Hospital has gone through remarkable changes and development in 100 years. Adapting to the needs of a growing city, answering the call in times of crisis, St. Paul's is an integral part of Saskatoon. Medical and public health innovation have always been paired with pastoral care and a fundamental commitment to the spiritual, as well as the physical, well-being of those who pass through these doors.

Charity is love and
love conquers all.

– Grey Nuns

"St. Paul's Hospital 1907-1957" produced in 1957 for the 50th anniversary of St. Paul's Hospital.

"Our Story: 75 Years of Caring" by Sally Clubb, produced in 1982 for the 75th anniversary of St. Paul's Hospital.

"A Tradition of Caring, A Future of Hope" produced in 1997 for the 90th anniversary of St. Paul's Hospital.

"A Journey of Love: The Life Story of Marguerite d'Youville" by Maria Cecilia Lefevre, S.G.M. and Rose Alma Lemire, S.G.M.

SOURCES

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Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room Clippings, articles from 1907 to 2006.

Brenda FitzGerald, Sharon Sullivan and Brian Zimmer.

"Stewardship Report to the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation 2005-2006".

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