

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.



Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des congrégations de religieuses au Canada, leur miss<mark>ion en</mark> matière de soins de santéainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

The Spirit, the Lamp and the Key: Being a brief chronicle of St. Joseph's Hospital, Thunder Bay during its first 100 years

by George Campbell

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The Spirit, the Lamp, and the Key

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Being a brief chronicle of St. Joseph's Hospital, Thunder Bay, during its first 100 years.

Nobody can adequately tell the full history of a hospital, because it can't be told by one individual. As there are patients, nurses, doctors, and staff, so there are individual experiences good and bad -- that are legitimately involved in the final chronology.

About the best you can hope to do is list the highlights, and hope that personal memories will fill the gaps for those who were involved.

The fact that I was able to do even that much, was due to the efforts of Mr. Omer Deslauriers, the archivist at St. Joseph's.

The author.



Statue of St. Joseph erected in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the Hospital on July 3, 1934.



From the Roman Catholic Bishop of Thunder Bay

Having read with interest the brief history of St. Joseph's Hospital, written by George Campbell, I am reminded of the Motto of the Sisters of St. Joseph which is, "the love of Christ has gathered us together".

It was this love of Christ that encouraged the Sisters to accept the invitation of Bishop Jamot to come to the Lakehead in 1882; that inspired them to respond to the needs of the sick and injured here by establishing the first Hospital in Northern Ontario; and that continues to motivate health care at St. Joseph's Hospital one hundred years later.

As St. Joseph's Hospital begins its second Century of service, it is my hope and prayer that it will ever give this dynamic witness to the love

of Christ in our Community.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) John A. O'Mara, Bishop of Thunder Bay.

January 20, 1984



From the Chairman of the Board

George Campbell has vividly portrayed the faith and courage of those first five Sisters of St. Joseph who made the long journey into a little known part of the country. This historical booklet clearly depicts the limited medical resources which the Sisters had to care for the sick and wounded. They simply placed their trust in God and did their best with what was available.

Today, one hundred years later, medical knowledge, techniques and technology have advanced beyond anything dreamed possible then. But there are still some things which remain unchanged. The Sisters continue to meet the needs of the community with the same philosophy of care, compassion and concern which was very much present in the beginning.

We thank those first five sisters and all those who followed in their footsteps and hope and pray that St. Joseph's Hospital will

always remain a vital presence in Thunder Bay.

Mrs. Ruth Callon Chairman of the Board St. Joseph's General Hospital

Superiors and Administrators 1884 - 1984



Mother Monica 1884-1923



Sister M. Dympna Superior 1935-1940



Sister M. Aldegonde Superior 1923-1929



Sister M. St. Camillus Superior 1940-1946



Sister M. Priscilla

Sister M. Felicitas Superior 1946-1952



Sister Mary Alice Superior 1952-1955



Sister Anna Theresa Superior 1955-1957



Sister Beatrice Administrator 1964-1965



Sister M. Jovita Superior 1957-1958



Sister M. Patricia (Margaret Smith) Administrator 1959-1963 and 1965-1968



Sister Marie McGirr **Executive Director** 1983-



Sister Winnifred McLoughlin Executive Director 1978-1982



Sister Leila Greco Administrator 1968-1978

From the Executive Director

Sitting at my desk at St. Joseph's General Hospital in the year 1984, I am reminded that very little about the Hospital and the City in which it stands today would be recognizable to those Sisters who arrived at Prince Arthur's Landing one hundred years ago. Outmoded facilities have had to be replaced and new programmes adopted as ongoing efforts are made to provide health care for the citizens of Thunder Bay and the surrounding region. The years have brought many changes to the physical structure of the Hospital as well as to the technology within, but the spirit that built St. Joseph's Hospital one hundred years ago is still very much alive today.

These are not easy times, just as they were not easy times for the group of Sisters arriving here in 1884. Let us take time to remember those who accomplished so much with little more than determination and

faith.

In this centenary year we are thankful to the many staff over 100 years who have contributed so faithfully as workers at this Hospital, to the various Boards who have volunteered their time and assistance throughout the years, and to the continuing support of the community of Thunder Bay.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Marie McGirr Executive Director

From the General Superior, Sisters of St. Joseph

An anniversary is a time when we pause to remember, to actualize, to treasure within time and space the memory of a past journey.

To "remember" is to start . . . living. For to find our way through

our future, we must retrace the way through our past.

This historical account booklet will no doubt stimulate your own memories surrounding one hundred years of dedicated service to health

care at St. Joseph's General Hospital.

We remember the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph who, through the years, were privileged to be part of this great venture. The first step of the journey was initiated on February 2, 1884 by the Sister from Toronto. It was nurtured during its developing years by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough and then entrusted to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie who guided its growth to the present.

Grateful memories recall the innumerable people of Thunder Bay who, from their first donations of time, talent, possessions, or finances; of civic, ecclesial or provincial influence, built and sustained this Hospital through its many phases. These are memories of the past which will inspire and give hope to the future journey of St. Joseph's Hospital.

We, the Sisters of St. Joseph, entrusted with a blessed heritage, pay tribute to all those persons whose lives touched and became part of the fabric of the life of this institution. Indeed it is not the "Sisters" Hospital - it belongs to the citizens of Thunder Bay.

We therefore joyfully celebrate the Centenary of "our" Hospital.

With gratitude to God, whose love and healing we bring to each other, our prayer is that He continue to bless the people who journey into the next century.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Nora Mullen General Superior

Hospital Board Members 1938-1984

Sister Anna Theresa Dr. E.V. Anten	1955-1957 (Administrator 1955-1957) 1957
Sister Beatrice	1953-1957
Sister Deutilico	1963-1965 (Administrator 1964-1965)
Mr. A.C. Bentz	1958-1972
Dr. P.E. Bentz	1973-1974
Mr. L.J. B. Bolduc	1938-1940 (Chairman 1938-1939)
Dr. A.P. Bolt	1975
Alderman R. Boshcoff	1983-
Mr. D.A.R. Bradshaw	1970-1973
Mr. Frank C. Brown	1951-1964
Mr. R.E. Brownridge	1958-1961
Mr. W.E. Bryan	1971-1984 (Chairman 1978-1980)
Sister Shirley Caicco	1973-1976
Mrs. Ruth Callon	1977- (Chairman 1982-1984)
Mr. T.P. Callon	1951-1976 (Chairman 1960-1961
The Canon	1964-1965)
Sister Camillus	1940-1946 (Administrator 1940-1946)
Mr. M. Campbell	1974-1975
Sister Frances Carter	1970-1984
Dr. C.D. Clark	1969-1972
Mr. Don. A. Clark	1955-1964
Mr. D.C. Clark	1965-1984
Mr. D.H. Coghlan	1947-1967 (Chairman 1955-1957)
Dr. J. Colquhoun	1967-1971
Mr. J. Comuzzi	1958-1977 (Chairman 1962-1963)
Mr. P.R. Cook	1968-1984 (Chairman 1974-1975)
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Mr. Hugh Craig	1957-1970 (Chairman 1966-1967)
Mr. J.A. Crooks	1960-1969
Mr. T.S. Cunningham	1938-1956
Mr. J.A. Cyr	1981-
Mr. G.P. Dalzell	1965-1980 (Chairman 1972-1973)
Dr. D.G. Davis	1981-
Mr. C.J. Doyle	1951-1964
Sister Dympna	1938-1940 (Administrator 1938-1940)
Sister Eleanor	1955-1957
Sister Ernestine	1964-1968
Dr. C.R. Eyjolfson	1976-1977
Mr. T.B. Fallows	1961-1964 (Chairman 1964)
Mr. B.O. Farmer	1945-1954 (Chairman 1948-1954)
Sister Felicitas	1946-1952 (Administrator 1946-1952 1956)
Sister Florence	1966
Cpl. G.E. Foster	1973
Mr. L. Franchi	1974-
Dr. D.G. Frood	1975-
Mr. P. Gamble	1983-
Mil. I . Gamore	1705

Mr. Howard Gratton

Mr. E.J. Gravelle	1971-1972
Sister Leila Greco	1968-1981 (Administrator 1968-1978)
Mr. L.A. Greene	1948-1956
Mr. Wilfred Groulx	1951-1964
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Mr. John Hanley	1945-1946
Dr. T. Heringer	1968-1970
Mr. G.F. Hourigan	1938-1944
Mr. Basil Howard	1941-1951
Sister Jane Frances	1946-1952
Sister Joan	1938-1944
	1958-1960
Sister Joan of Arc	1961-1963
Dr. C.M. Johnston	1970-1974
Sister Jovita	1958 (Administrator 1958)
Alderman Florence Koss	1975-1976
Mr. S. Kuros	1981-1984
Dr. V.N. Kyle	1968
Mr. S. Laskin	1955-1974
Alderman W. Laakso	1966-1967
Dr. B. Lechow	1975
Sister Mary Alice	1953-1956 (Administrator 1953-1956)
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Alderman Thos, J. McAulliffe	
Mr. J. McCormack	1965-1984 (Chairman 1970-1971)
Dr. G.R. McComb	1958-1967
Mrs. Jean McComb	1973-1976
Wirs. Jean McComb	
Judge A.J. McComber	1938-1946 (Chairman 1942-1944) 1945-1953
Mr. Jarvis L. McComber	
Mr. M.J. McDonald	1943-1953 (Chairman 1944-1947)
Mr. A. McGillis	1938-1948 (Chairman 1939-1942)
Sister Marie McGirr	1969-1972
	1983- (Administrator 1983-)
Sister Barbara McKinnon	1968-1982
Alderman W.P. McLean	1977
Sister Winnifred McLoughlin	1978-1982 (Administrator 1978-1982)
Mrs. M. Meader	1982-
Sister Michaela	1958
Sister Elizabeth Mitchell	1972
Sister Monica	1949-1952
Mr. D. Morgan	1965-1970 (Chairman 1968-1969)
Alderman E. Morin	1978
Dr. J.A. Nickerson	1977-1983
Mr. D.D. O'Brien	1974- (Chairman 1980-1981)
Mr. F.E. O'Brien	1951-1973 (Chairman 1958-1959)
Mr. F.E. O Brien	1931-1973 (Chairman 1936-1939)
Mr. G. O'Brien	1978-
Mr. Cyril O'Connor	1951
	Sect. 1837
Sister Philomena	1957-1958
Dr. E. Pietilainen	1965-1966
Dr. Chas. Powell	1945-1950

Sister St. Alban	1949-1951
Alderman G. St. James	1962-1965
Dr. O. Salonen	1977-1980
21, 01 011	1983-
Sister Mary Scanlon	1968-1969
Sister Margaret Smith	1959-1968 (Administrator 1959-1963 1966-1968)
Dr. J. Stapelton	1982-1983
Dr. G.E. Steinhoff	1964
	1957-1960
Mr. J. Stitt	1757-1700
Mr. R.B. Thurston	1970-1973
	1983-1984
Dr. T. Tomascik	1703-1704
Mr. E. Valley	1965-1967
Mr. J. Vanderwees	1978-
Mrs. H. Vigliarolo	1977-1981
Wits. II. Vignatoro	
Sister Ann Marie Walsh	1961-1963
Sister Aim Marie Wash	1976-
Dr. R.W. Welbourne	1972-1973
	1976-1977
Dr. J.D. Wyant	**********

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Judge A.J. McComber Chairman 1942-1943



Mr. M.J. McDonald Chairman 1944-1947



Mr. B.O. Farmer Chairman 1948-1954



Mr. D.H. Coghlan Chairman 1955-1957



Mr. F.E. O'Brien Chairman 1958-1959



Mr. T.P. Callon President 1960-1961 and 1964-1965



Mr. J.R. Comuzzi President 1962-1963



Mr. H.P. Fallow President 1964



Mr. H.J. Craig President 1966-1967



Mr. D. Morgan President 1968-1969



Mr. J.L. McCormack President 1970-1971



Mr. G.P. Dalzell President 1972-1973



Mr. P.R. Cook President 1974-1975



Dr. D.B. Coulson President 1977-1978



Mr. W.E. Bryan President 1978-1980



Mr. D.D. O'Brien President 1980-1982



Mrs. R. Callon Chairman 1982-1984

Board of Directors 1983 - 1984



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Mr. A. Kuros Mrs. M. Meader

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Mr. P. Gamble Dr. O. Salonen

Dr. T. Tomascik

The Settlement

Prince Arthur's Landing was a tough little town in 1881. Besides the silver mining and lumbering being done at several locations around the area, its activity as a lake port was already rapidly growing. The Canadian Pacific's line from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg was in its final year of construction, and men and materials were constantly passing through the port during navigation season.

As a result, Prince Arthur's Landing was also a very busy and highly prosperous frontier town. It was the largest settlement, by far, in all of northern Ontario, and had a population of something under 1,500. By 1881, it was enthusiastically caught up in a railway and real estate boom that would quickly intensify when construction began on the C.P.R.'s Lake Superior section in the summer of 1883. Even then it was a highly volatile place whose streets were often disorderly.

Into this rather ribald environment, came five religious women of the Order of St. Joseph, aboard the Frances P. Smith, on Friday, August 26th. The five — Mother De Pazzi, and Sisters Gertrude, Monica, Vincent and Beatrice — had come voluntarily at the request of Bishop John Francis Jamot, "to open a mission and work at whatever was felt to be necessary in religious, educational and hospital work." But although they had volunteered to come 'away up north', it should be noted that they arrived with few illusions about the kind of town they were coming into, or the sort of tasks that would await them when they got here. Moreover, they hadn't asked to come. Rather, they had willingly offered themselves in response to a bishop's request for help.

By 1881, there was a considerable Catholic community in Prince Arthur's Landing as there has been an ever-growing Catholic presence here since white men ventured into Superior country over three centuries ago. Thus, by the time the Gladman Hind Expedition established the first settlement at 'The Landing' in 1857, Jesuit Fathers had already been passing this way for about 200 years. Father Jean-Pierre Chone had established the Indian Mission of the Immaculate Conception three miles up the Kaministikwia River in 1848, and had been assisted by the Daughters of Mary since 1860.

As the settlement at 'The Landing' had grown, after construction began on the Dawson Road in 1868, it had thus fallen upon the two Jesuit Fathers at the Mission to serve the spiritual needs of all who came that way, too. There were already some 300 people living at the settlement when Colonel Garnet Wolseley arrived on Wednesday, May 25th, 1870 — and officially named the place Prince Arthur's Landing. Within the year, there were enough Catholics to warrant sending Jesuit Father Baxter to serve as the

first priest of St. Andrew's Parish. He arrived on Tuesday, June 4th, 1872, and when Sandford Fleming's Expedition arrived in July of that year, it reported that more than 100 buildings already existed in the community.

By the end of that summer, Simon J. Dawson and Dr. A. J. McDonnell began the negotiations which led to the purchase of three and three-quarters acres of land at what is now the corner of Red River Road and Algoma Street. This was for the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Hamilton, the See in which the growing settlement lay. The sale took place on Wednesday, September 17th, 1873, and Father Baxter began organizing the drive for funds immediately which, by the summer of 1874, saw the first St. Andrew's Church opened. One year later Father Baxter had also built a small presbytery on the grounds as well.

Thus, by 1874, the existence of St. Andrew's Church on its large tract of land, had more or less established the site for the future St. Joseph's Hospital, although the actual land had yet to be purchased.

The next important step on the road to the hospital, was the settlement's need for a permanent Separate School. The first had been operated briefly by a Mr. Goulais for the six Catholic families of the settlement in 1872. There was none between the years 1875 and 1878, and then another was operated by a Mrs. Bolduc, but the first Separate School recognized as such in Prince Arthur's Landing, opened in the sacristy of St. Andrew's Church on Monday, May 31st, 1880. It had 28 pupils, and the teacher was Miss Gorman.



Above: St. Joseph's General Hospital (circa 1895), St. Joseph's Convent, and St. Andrew's Church (looking east and south). Below: St. Joseph's General Hospital, Port Arthur, in July 1905.



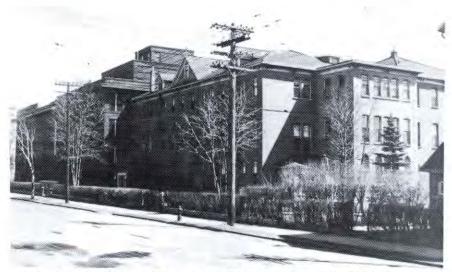


Above: Operating Room, St. Joseph's General Hospital, 1906. Sister Lagourie, Elizabeth Regan, nurse in charge of Nursing School; Dr. McGrady, Dr. Brown, Dr. Pratt, Miss N. York, student nurse. Below: Roof Garden 1928 Wing as it appeared in 1931.





Tribute at the half-century mark.



St. Joseph's General Hospital in 1948, showing 1928, 1918, 1884, 1900 and 1905 wings, looking north and east.



Private Room in the 1928 wing, circa 1946, with Mary Anne Black (Charbonneau).



Paediatrics Ward, 1928 wing, 5th floor, circa 1952.



Paediatrics playroom, 1928 wing, 5th floor; student nurses, circa 1955.



Above: Convent located south of 1884 hospital, circa 1955. Below: 3rd floor Sun Room, 1918 wing, circa 1955.





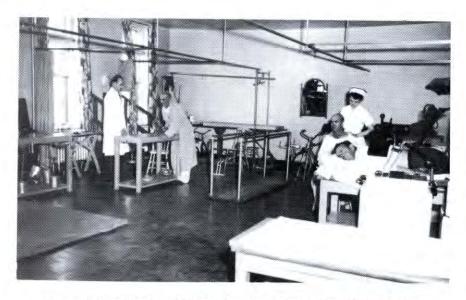
Kitchen of 1918 wing, circa 1957. Below: Laundry in steam plant building, built in 1928.



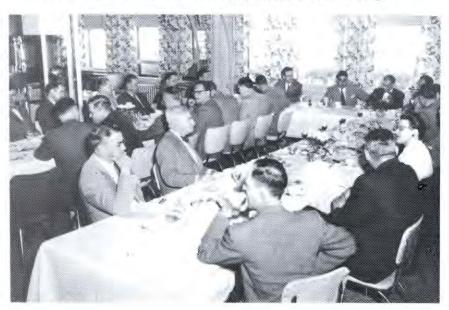


Above: Labour Day Parade, 1957. Replica of original hospital. Below: Maternity Sun Room, 1918 wing, 4th floor, circa 1958. Ladies Auxiliary members with cart.





Above: Rehabilitation Unit in the 1928 wing, circa 1958. Below: Medical Staff Meeting held in 1958 in the Cafeteria, 1928 wing.



The Sisters

The new school opened during the week in which Bishop Jamot made an official visit to the settlement. This resulted in his being petitioned by the families to send a community of Sisters to take charge of the school and thus guarantee its continuance. The bishop decided that the Sisters of St. Joseph would be the Order to whom he would address his appeal, but he also knew it would take time for the Toronto Community to find the necessary Sisters to send north. Meanwhile, they would certainly need a convent when they got there, and so he donated the first \$100 towards its construction, and forwarded the official request to Superioress Mother Antoinette in Toronto. The two-storey frame convent was completed in October, 1880 at a cost of \$2,000, and stood empty until the Sisters arrived the following August.

As expected by Bishop Jamot, his official request arrived at the Mother House too late for the Sisters of St. Joseph to help the settlement that year. All their assignments for the new school year had already been made, and so it wasn't until the end of the following summer that it was possible to send the five Sisters to the Lakehead. Their journey, in company with Archbishop Lynch, Bishop Jamot, Mother Antoinette and her travelling companion Sister Stanislaus, lasted five days. They boarded ship at Collingwood on Sunday, August 21st, and arrived here the following Friday.

Because of the strong Catholic community already living here, they were given a gracious welcome at the dock, and conveyed up what is now Red River Road to their new convent. There, they held their first mass, and settled in to the work they had come to do. The two bishops, together with Mother Antoinette and Sister Stanislaus, returned east, and the other five remained.

Heading the list of major projects facing the new arrivals was the Separate School. This had been the prime reason for their coming, and they opened classes in their new convent on Friday, September 2nd, 1881, with Sister Gertrude in charge of the boys, and Sister Vincent the girls. The other Sisters became more directly involved in the work of the parish, with Sister Monica also serving as the convent's housekeeper.

The school had an enrolment of 62 in 1881, and included children of all faiths. When it officially closed for the year on Thursday, July 13th, 1882, the 200 visitors in attendance enjoyed a performance by a boys' choir of 25 voices, trained and directed by Sister Vincent. And so the school rapidly grew with the steady influx of new settlers, doubling its enrolment the first year, and reaching 165 in 1883.

Meanwhile, the Sisters had been quickly introduced to yet another urgency. Disease and injury, always major concerns in frontier boom towns were causing problems at Prince Arthur's Landing. Pneumonia and typhoid fever were well known here, along with the numerous though less serious common illnesses. Accidents regularly injured or killed, and with the construction at its peak on the C.P.R.'s line to Winnipeg, the more serious industrial accidents arrived in a fairly steady stream.

These latter, resulting from railway navvies being caught in dynamite explosions or maimed by falling rocks or passing trains, were by far the most pathetic. The unfortunate men were simply brought to Prince Arthur's Landing by train or even handcar, and in effect, dumped. Here, they found hotel rooms or were taken to private homes. The several local doctors did their best, but there were neither the facilities nor the nurses to give them the care they needed. Often, they were just put in the corner of an empty building until some other arrangements could be made. Thus, from the very outset, the five Sisters of St. Joseph were aware of the new community's urgent need for a hospital.

The problem was well known to the people of the settlement, and was a major concern. As early as 1882, the residents themselves recognized that the number of sick and injured that were accumulating in town, was becoming critical. Thus, in September, 1882, a meeting was held at Simon Dawson's home, which stood at the corner of Cumberland and Pearl Streets, to consider the prospects of opening a hospital. In attendance was Father Hamel, who had replaced Father Baxter at St. Andrew's in May. He offered two acres of the church's land for the hospital, and was able to announce that the Sisters were willing to take charge of the hospital. The committee, feeling perhaps that

the matter was one that should be instigated quickly, requested that Mother De Pazzi allow three Sisters to take charge of an empty house in town, to use as a temporary hospital. However, there weren't enough Sisters in the Community to allow three of them to be thus detached, and so the request had to be denied.

Further developments in the project took place over a somewhat longer period. The need for the hospital was still considerable, but the urgency declined somewhat following the completion of the C.P.R.'s Winnipeg line at Eagle River on Monday, June 19th, 1882, and the fact that construction on the line to Red Rock didn't begin until after the arrival of the first 1,000 rails aboard the S.S. Rhynland on Saturday, May 26th, 1883. Therefore, for a short time, there would have been a pause in the number of railway accidents being brought into Prince Arthur's Landing.

Meanwhile, because of the growth of the settlement and the increasing enrolment at the school, plans had been drawn up during the summer of 1882 for additional space in the convent to house more classes. The addition was built in the spring of 1883 for a few hundred dollars, but hadn't been placed fully into service by the following winter. When a man, who had been very badly mangled on the railway, was brought to Port Arthur and no bed could be found for him. the Sisters acquired their first patient. In fact, they went out and got him. He had been placed in a shed down near the track, and when the Sisters heard about him, they went by lantern light to see him, had him brought back to their convent, made him comfortable in one of their as yet unfinished new rooms, and eventually nursed him back to health. Other people, hearing what had taken place, quickly began seeking the help of the Sisters.

This caused Mother De Pazzi to place the new wing of the Convent at the disposal of the hospital rent-free for five months, and so, on Saturday, February 2nd, 1884, the new facility officially admitted its first patient.

It was called The Port Arthur General and Marine Hospital for most of that year.

* * * *



The Foundress

The organization of the new hospital fell very largely to Sister Monica, since she was convent house-keeper. Besides, Mother De Pazzi had full responsibility of the Community, and Sisters Gertrude and Vincent were committed in the school. Undoubtedly all five found much to do for the patients placed in their care, but right from the beginning, as the new hospital began to function within the convent, it was Sister Monica who led the way.

It is doubtful that any of the Sisters had ever taken formal nurses' training, because at this time, very few trained nurses existed anywhere. As recently as 1972. Linda Richards, the first American nurse, entered training at Roxbury, Massachussets. Despite the existence of the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Quebec City since 1639, the first Canadian nurses' training school in the St. Catharines' General and Marine Hospital did not open until 1874. In 1884, and for many decades thereafter, untrained women did all the nursing, as they had always done. Wives and mothers just assumed such duties and young girls acquired the skills as they grew up. Thus, Sister Monica and her colleagues nursed their patients according to doctors' orders, augmented where necessary by the good common sense they'd been given at home.

There was never a shortage of patients. On staff were Doctors Beck, McDonald, Bryson, Campbell and Smellie. Very quickly, the citizens of Port Arthur (officially re-named in late 1883), began sending their sick and injured to the convent, or asking that the Sisters visit them in their emergencies. They soon learned that the door on Algoma Street freely opened to anyone who needed help, without regard to beliefs or the ability to pay.

This latter principle, as sincere as it was magnanimous, created some very predictable problems. Patients had to be fed and comforted, besides needing medicines, bandages and special equipment, and most of it had to be bought. Whenever possible, Sister Monica and the others went collecting whatever they could get in order to carry on their work. Much of this was done in Port Arthur and Fort William, but just as much extended both ways along the railway line. Sometimes they brought back much, and sometimes only a little, but it was all welcome and very necessary.

An idea of the type of donations made can be taken from a report in the Thunder Bay Sentinel of Friday, April 11th, 1884. Father Hamel donated a coal stove worth \$86.50 and a Mr. Ole Brand gave a box stove. G.W. Brown and Company donated fresh beef. The Hospital Furnishing Committee gave bedding for six beds, six wash stands, a small table and two stoves. Miss Buchanan gave them six pillows and some old linen, and various individuals contributed \$103 in cash.

At that time, the Sisters had not asked the people of Port Arthur for financial help, but the report warned that this would soon have to begin. In the meantime, they had managed to collect \$43.50 on the C.P.R. east of Port Arthur, and \$30 at Fort William.

During the first two months of operation, the Sisters had admitted 16 patients, discharged seven, and had nine in their care when the report was made. Of the 16 involved, 11 were Protestant, and five were Catholic. Six had come from Port Arthur, three from Fort William, six from the C.P.R.'s east line, and one from the west. They were comprised of five English, four Irish, three Scottish, three Canadians and an Italian, and of the 16, only three could pay anything for their keep.

As the report indicates, Sister Monica had already begun her canvasses of the construction camps on the railway. It was worth noting that, through these regular trips often made on railway handcars, she gradually evolved a rudimentary health care plan whereby workers paid small, regular amounts to her hospital, for which they received a card which prepaid any care they might eventually need. Moreover, so dedicated was Sister Monica in finding the means to pay the bills, that she has been credited with personally collecting a large part of the funds that financed the later expansions of the hospital she founded.

By the spring of 1884, it was quite obvious that the hospital would have to be housed elsewhere. As the number of patients had steadily increased, more and more of the new wing had been utilized in the convent, until even the Sisters' Chapel had to be given over to the sick. The use of the convent had only been intended as a temporary measure anyway, so plans were finalized for a proper building. An acre and a half had been obtained from the Ontario Government through the efforts of James Conmee, M.P.P., the previous spring, and this became the land on which St. Joseph's Hospital was built, and on which it has continued to grow for a full century.

Obviously, the Sisters would need financial help if they were to erect a building, so Mother De Pazzi approached the Town Council in early June and asked for \$250. Councillor Vigars declared the hospital a God-send, and Mayor Thomas Marks insisted that \$250 was too small a sum, and that the Sisters should be supported for their good work. On motion by Councillor Ruttan, seconded by Councillor Russell. Town Clerk Kennedy applied to the Ontario Government for a \$300 grant for hospital purposes, and prepared a by-law for the next meeting, at which time, Council approved a \$50 monthly grant to the hospital, and asked the Sisters to report at threemonth intervals. Nothing was paid by Council. however, until December, at which time they paid their first installment of \$350.

The new hospital, which would be a two-storey brick veneer structure with a full basement, was designed by Architect E. Gillan, and Buchanan and Company got the contract to build it. The corner stone was laid by Father Hamel in drizzling rain after a morning Mass on Monday, September 8th, 1884. Attending the ceremony were parishioners of St. Andrew's Church, together with a large number of Port Arthur citizens.

Those who visited the existing facilities in the convent that morning, could easily see why a new hospital was necessary. There were 19 patients housed in the building, of whom 10 had typhoid fever. Of the total, 15 were being cared for in a large dormitory on the ground floor, and the others in the room upstairs which had originally been the Chapel. The only female patient, a young girl, had been given a room on the third storey. Mother De Pazzi reported that the hospital had served 105 patients since it opened on February 2nd, of which 21 had died. She

acknowledged Council's grant of \$50 per month, and asked for donations of books, paper and flowers for the good of the patients.

The building, which was completed that fall at a cost of \$6,000, measured 40 feet by 46 feet. In the basement were contained the kitchen, laundry and sleeping quarters. The ground floor held a large dormitory, a private dormitory and a sitting room plus surgery and other facilities. On the second floor were two large dormitories and three private rooms. There was a verandah extending across the rear windows, with a main entrance on Algoma and another opening southward onto the convent grounds. Rooms had ceilings 12 feet 6 inches high, and there was accommodation for 25 patients.

At the Council meeting prior to Christmas that year, Mother De Pazzi reported on the care that had been given at the convent since June. At the end of May, there had been 13 patients in hospital. Since then, 117 had been admitted, 77 discharged, and 27 had died. The total aggregate stay of patients during that time, amounted to 3,089 patient days. Of those admitted, 61 came with fever; there were 75 protestants and 42 Catholics. By way of meeting expenses, \$850 had been received from patients and \$110 in voluntary subscriptions. This was the report that induced Council to pay its first installment of \$350, and in publishing the story in the Sentinel, the reporter made the first printed use of the name St. Joseph's Hospital.

By February 1885, 187 patients had been admitted during the year, of which 33 had died, and 15 remained, and the new hospital was expected to be ready by Easter. In fact, it had been finished in the fall, structurally, and was used as a temporary

Separate School during the winter, probably because it would take time to purchase necessary equipment and have it shipped here. Such delivery could only have been accomplished by water, since the C.P.R.'s eastern line wasn't completed until Monday, May 18th, 1885, and so it couldn't have arrived here until the opening of the navigation season. Besides, it would likely have been deemed rather dangerous to move fever patients outside during the severely cold winter weather. Thus it wasn't until May, 1885, that the Sisters were able to begin tranferring their 17 patients into the new St. Joseph's Hospital.

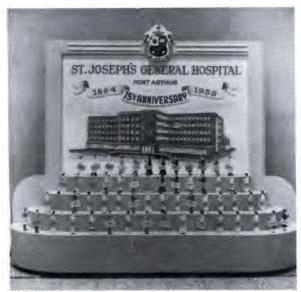
* * * *



Demolition of 1884, 1900 and 1905 wings, March 1958.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth visits in July 1959. Dias is located at Algoma and Cameron Streets.



75th Anniversary display, July 1959. Statuettes represent job classifications in the Hospital.



Emergency Room, 1959 wing, 1st floor, circa 1963.



Mayor Laskin, Mr. D. Clark and Sister Patricia (M.Smith) tour construction in 1966.



Official Opening Ceremony June 21, 1967 at entrance to Rehabilitation Centre. From left: (at microphone) Mr. Hugh Craig, Mayor Laskin, Sister Joan (Rochon) and Sister Florence (Tremblay).

Finishing touches to new wing, 1967.

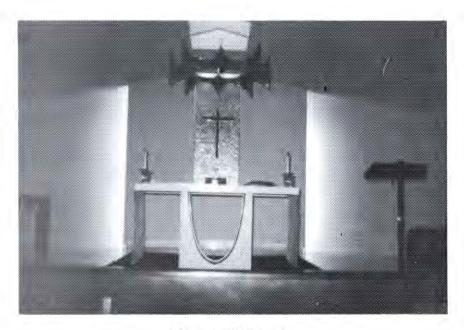




Medical Advisory Board, 1967. Left to right: Dr. G. Gwozdecky, Dr. F. Dennis, Dr. R. McComb, Dr. D. Coulson, Dr. T. Heringer (Chairman), Dr. P. Schmidt, Dr. W. Hargan, Dr. Arnott, Dr. F. Lone, Dr. C. Wilson.



Women's Auxiliary receive name plaque of Past Presidents of the Auxiliary, 1971. From left: Mrs. J. Comuzzi, Mrs. E. Powell, Mrs. C. McComb, Mrs. T. Montemuro.



Chapel, 1967 wing.





Intensive Care Unit.





Disaster Exercise, 1980.



The Hospital

The newly-opened facility wasn't the first hospital that had existed at the Lakehead, of course, because there had been one in Old Fort William. St. Joseph's was, however, the only one that existed in all of what is now Northwestern Ontario and thus received everybody who needed care, from about Kenora through to White River until McKellar General Hospital opened in Fort William in 1903.

In 1895, the Ladies' Auxiliary was organized with Mrs. Wetmore as its first president. This organization. through what has been an ongoing progression of teas, bake sales, bazaars, bridge tournaments and other such projects, has raised several million dollars in the more than three generations it has existed. Much of that money has contributed to capital costs and outpatient services. Just as much has been used to purchase actual equipment such as X-ray units and the like, and a tremendous amount of simpler but equally vital supplies like bedding and linen. Members of the Ladies' Auxiliary have frequently and willingly scrubbed hospital floors and mended linen, and have accompanied Sister Monica on her numberless fund raising safaris. Even though governments now pay most hospital costs in Canada, this group continues to function as it always has, quietly, voluntarily, and very, very effectively.

By 1900, the hospital's need to expand was critical, and so, at a cost of \$14,000, a third storey was added to the original building, and an entire new three-storey wing built to the south side. A contractor named Robert Hamer did the work. This new addition extended the original building from slightly north of what is now the main entrance, southward to the northern edge of the present parking lot.

In 1904-05, another three-storey wing, costing \$60,000, was added to the east side of the one built in 1900, and stood on the site of what is now the cafeteria. This new addition gave the hospital an 'L' shape.

In 1904, the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing was established with Miss Elizabeth Regan serving as its first Director until 1915. Its first class graduated in 1907 and numbered six. They were: Misses York and Perrault, and Reverend Sisters M. Veronica, Rita, Mary Agnes and Lagourie. In its 66 years of service, this school graduated a total of 845 nurses and was long recognized for its high standard. In 1967 joint planning began among the three hospital Schools of Nursing, which culminated in the opening of the Lakehead Regional School of Nursing in September 1968 at Avila Centre. Classes were temporarily housed at the Centre until the newly constructed Regional School of Nursing opened on the University's campus in September, 1971. The diploma Nursing Program continues to be given in the original building on the University campus, but has been under the auspices of Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology since September, 1973. St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing closed with its last graduating class in September 1970.

On Tuesday, November 23rd, 1909, St. Joseph's Hospital celebrated its Silver Jubilee. The day was

marked by a mass of Thanksgiving and celebrations that were well attended by citizens of both cities. On Thursday, December 16th, the ladies presented Mother Monica with an illuminated address praising her devotion to the institution which she had founded and which by then, had gained a highly respected reputation in Canada.

By the onset of World War I, additional space was again needed, and another wing was added. This time, it was built onto the north side of the original structure, and cost \$150,000. It opened in 1918 and consisted of five floors. The first four held private and public wards, and the fifth contained the operating room, doctor's lecture room and the emergency ward. There was also an X-ray Department, clinic, laboratory, Pediatric Department, sun parlours and additional wards. The hospital, which had now acquired a 'U' shape, could accommodate 150 patients and a nursing staff of over 50.

On Saturday, July 22, 1922 Dr. McEachern, Director of Hospital Standardization for the American College of Surgeons, inspected St. Joseph's and rated it as a Standardized Hospital in category A-One. The hospital has, for the past 62 years, consistently maintained this high standard set by the Council of Hospital Accreditation.

In May, 1925, the Lakehead cities joined in the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Mother Monica's entrance into religious life, and in 1928, the hospital she founded underwent yet another expansion.

The new addition, which opened on Wednesday, November 21st, 1928, cost \$225,000. It joined onto the 1918 wing and north to Cameron Street, thus completing the occupation of the original land. It contained a roof garden as well as additional wards and a special diet kitchen. Also at this time, the central power house was built to the east of the 1905 wing, and contained three steam boilers and a steam laundry. In 1948 an addition was made to the plant to house two new boilers to replace those in use in order to be able to accommodate the present and future needs of steam for the hospital.

During the same construction, the Neelin home, which had stood immediately east of the original 1884 hospital, was purchased for \$11,000 and converted into the nurses' residence.

On Friday, January 23rd, 1931 Mother Monica died at the age of 80. She had, more than any of the original five, been the driving force behind the founding of St. Joseph's Hospital. Thousands of Lakehead citizens paid their respects to this noble lady, and joined His Excellency Bishop Scollard in celebrating High Mass in her honour. Mother Monica had retired as Mother Superior of the hospital in 1923 and her responsibilities had been assumed by Rev. Mother Aldegonde.

The 50th Anniversary of the opening of the first hospital ward at Prince Arthur's Landing, took place on the weekend of July 1st to 4th, 1934; coinciding with the semi-centennial of the City of Port Arthur. For the occasion, the Ladies' Auxiliary donated a new Kenotrom X-Ray unit and gave the newly-opened Massage Department its multiple-wave generator. They also erected a bronzed statue of St. Joseph and a Memorial Tablet to Mother Monica.

In 1937, the hospital's Physiotherapy Department was established, and has undergone many expansions

since. In keeping with current trends in Canadian hospitals, the first Board of Directors was appointed in late 1937, and held its first meeting on the evening of Thursday, January 20th, 1938. Those present were Messrs. A. McGillis, T.S. Cunningham and L.J.B. Bolduc. Other members of the first Board were Messrs. A.J. McComber and G.F. Hourigan who were unable to attend.

Mother Dympna, who had assumed responsibility for the hospital in 1935, presented the financial report which showed a loss of \$4,000.00 for the year 1937. Mr. McGillis noted that this loss would actually have been \$34,000.00 had it not been for the donation of \$30,000.00 in services by the Sisters. Indeed such donations had been continuously made by the Order of St. Joseph since the institution opened, and have tended to continue to the present day.

By 1946, an extensive system of patient billing had been developed, which was offsetting the losses; by 1953, the work load involved in preparing these accounts had reached such proportions that the hospital had to purchase an accounting machine. The one they chose was a Burroughs. It cost \$5,000.00 and the salesman was Mr. Bill Morgan, who later served this community as one of its Aldermen.

In 1954, the corner stone of the new Nurses' Residence was laid. This building consisted of four floors, a library, three classrooms, lounges, laundry and auditorium. It housed 108 students in single and double rooms and was opened in 1955. It was built on the site of the old Neelin Home and since 1970, has functioned as an ancillary building housing clinics and other associated services.

By the late 1950's hospital care and its financing had begun to change in Canada. The Provincial Government announced in 1958 that the Ontario Hospital Services Commission would begin operations on January 1st, 1959 and advised all hospitals to begin preparing budgets, since these would be mandatory yearly undertakings when the OHSC came into force. Until then, St. Joseph's, like most other hospitals, had never had one.

At about the same time, plans for a total reconstruction of the institution had been finalized and the first phase got underway in 1958 (the year in which Sister Patricia became Administrator). It began with a major demolition in which the 1884, 1900 and 1905 structures — the three which had carried this city from its frontier days into modern times were completely demolished. The convent built in 1881 and rebuilt in March 1901 was also completely demolished to make way for the new south wing.

This addition, whose 176 beds and facilities formed the nucleus of the new St. Joseph's Hospital, was officially opened in 1960 at a cost of \$3,500,000.00. It joined onto the 1918 addition, stretched south to the parking lot and housed the emergency ward, administrative offices and the cafeteria all on the ground floor, with wards and additional services located in the upper floors.

During this construction, a Rehabilitation Centre was built onto the northeast side of the 1918 wing, and east of the 1928 wing. It opened in January, 1959, and now contains hydrotherapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy facilities.

In May, 1959, the hospital celebrated its 75th anniversary with special masses and other celebrations.

The highlight of that year, of course, was the visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, on July 9, 1959.

As the 1960s dawned and greater proportions of hospital funding were assumed by governments across the country, local hospital services could expand accordingly. In March, 1961, St. Joseph's opened its Self Care Unit and became a Rehabilitation unit. In May of the same year, the Intensive Care and Social Services Departments were formed, and in June, the Department of Nuclear Medicine was established.

In June, 1962, the Rehabilitation Department opened its heavy workshop. In the same year Psychological services were begun. In October, 1963, the Board decided to replace the 1918 and 1928 wings and complete the reconstruction project begun in 1958. In November, they applied to the City of Port Arthur for a grant of \$720,000 to help fund the new wing. In the December elections, Port Arthur citizens voted 80 percent in favour of paying the grant and so the plans were finalized and the tenders let.

Due to the pending construction and to make the most effective use of beds, the Obstetrical services were transferred to the Port Arthur General Hospital on March 1st, 1965 never to return to the hospital.

In May 1965, the 1918 and 1928 wings were demolished and the second phase of construction got under way. The work, costing \$3 million, was finished in 1967 and the official opening ceremonies were held from June 19th to the 21st.

The new addition joined the 1960 portion at what is now the main entrance and ran north to Cameron (Camelot) Street. It completed the project that began in 1958, resulting in the hospital as it now stands.

In June 1967, the Special Medical Unit (later to become the Smith Clinic) was opened, as well as the new Intensive Care Unit in the north wing, thus bringing to a close construction begun in 1958.

By 1968, Speech Therapy had also become a part of Rehabilitation services.

With the exception of the time of the Foundress, Rev. Mother Monica, the most thrilling chapter in the history of the hospital was during the administration of Sister M. Patricia (Margaret Smith), 1958 to 1968, when this complete reconstruction of the hospital took place.

In September 1968 Sister Patricia was transferred to North Bay to be Assistant General of the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph; her duties were assumed by Sister St. Julia (Leila Greco). It was during Sister Leila's administration that many new services were added in keeping with the needs of the community and trends of the times.

In July 1969, Ambulance Services became the responsibility of St. Joseph's. These had slowly evolved as needs had developed and had become one of the duties of city's Fire Department. Thereafter, until completely taken over by the Ministry of Health in February 1978, the hospital dispatched its own ambulances.

In May 1971, the Day Surgery Unit opened. In November 1972, the Special Medical Unit which had opened in 1967, was moved into the Nurses' Residence Building and re-named the Smith Alcoholic and Drug Abuse Clinic after Sister Margaret Smith. It still functions in that location.

In November 1972, the Ambulatory Care Unit was opened. This unit now includes Surgical Day Care, Diabetic Day Care, Psychiatric Day Care and Medical Day Care. In December of that same year, Pastoral Care Services began.

The Enterostomal Therapy Unit opened in June 1973 and in December the Rheumatic Diseases Unit was added to the growing list of patient services. In February, 1974, the Lewkin Detoxification Centre opened in a Camelot Street residence. In February 1976, the counselling of people with impaired hearing began with the inauguration of the Audiology Unit.

At about the same time, the Board and its Administrator, Sister Leila Greco turned their attention to the provision of special care for the elderly. It was noted that the Sisters of St. Joseph's owned a large tract of land adjacent to St. Joseph's Manor on Red River Road and were very anxious that it be put to some suitable public use. The need for nursing home extended care was certainly apparent in Thunder Bay and it was decided to build St. Joseph's Heritage as a Senior Citizens' residence and to include a 108 bed nursing home . . .

With the help of government grants and private donations the project was begun. Sod was turned in December 1976, the first tenants moved into the new residence in June 1979 and it officially opened in September. The Community Centre portion opened in January 1980.

In September 1978 Sister Winnifred McLoughlin was appointed Executive Director; a full time coordinator was hired to reorganize the volunteer programs. The volunteers visit, write letters, transport the patients and assist in their recreation.

In September 1982, the hospital's Palliative Care Unit was organized to deal with the specialized care needed by persons suffering from life threatening diseases and terminal illnesses.

* * * *

The Key

Today, though far removed in time and space from the simple convent in which it began a century ago, St. Joseph's Hospital nevertheless still strives, as it always has, to serve the needs of all who seek its help, regardless of their opinions or circumstances. As an institution, it has grown from one that relied totally upon charity, to a fully modern hospital with a staff of over 600 and a yearly operating budget of over \$17 million.

As the hospital has grown and evolved, however, it has witnessed many changes in the community it serves and in the health care practised within its wards and operating rooms, and has, indeed, contributed to both.

When St. Joseph's opened in newly re-named Port Arthur, the practice of blood letting hadn't entirely vanished; and was still espoused by no less than Sir William Osler as late as 1909 for the treatment of pneumonia. In 1885, Louis Pasteur treated his first human case of rabies. Five years later, Emil von Behring developed the antitoxin for Diptheria.

When the founding Sisters transferred their 17 patients from their overcrowded convent into the newly built hospital, there was no running water or electricity in the entire community. Doctors operated by the light of kerosene lamps, and didn't begin to wear gloves or masks until well into this century. Largely for reasons of economy, bandages were washed, re-rolled and re-used well into the 1930s.

As late as 1920, diabetes was fatal, as was ruptured appendix and pernicious anemia. Because sulfa drugs and antibiotics hadn't been discovered yet, post-operative infections were dreaded, tuberculosis was known as the Great White Plague and pneumonia was a ruthless killer.

Along with everyone else in medicine, St. Joseph's rejoiced at the discovery of Insulin in 1922. It has had many occasions to bless the discovery of penicillin in 1928 and its first therapeutic use in 1941; the isolation of influenza virus in 1935, the development of sulfanilamide in 1937 and the long parade of equally wonderful medicines that have followed since World War II. And thanks to the research of Dr. Salk in 1956, this hospital hasn't had to treat a case of poliomyelitis for a very long time.

In the century since its founding, more than medicine has been sculpted by time. Prince Arthur's Landing itself has changed from a tough, hard drinking, silver mining town into the world's foremost grain handling port, one of the country's largest pulp, paper and forestry producers, and a centre for manufacturing, recreation, tourism and transportation.

Indeed, during that same century, our society has witnessed the complete birth and metamorphosis of the aeroplane; the transformation of communication

from morse code on wires to world-wide image and data transmission. We have watched the steam locomotive sputter towards us from the twilight of the voyageur, pass through its tumultuous time of maturity, and fade away in the false dawn of the guided missile and the space probe.

It is impossible to predict what St. Joseph's Hospital will face in this, its second century, any more than could have been foreseen one hundred years ago. Today, there are computers to analyse data and predict probabilities. A century ago, there was little more than faith. Tomorrow, technology will diagnose, repair, adjust, replace and revive far beyond what we now comprehend. Back in 1884, there was little more than hope. In 1984, there is government funding, medicare, compensation and old-age security, whereas Mother Monica relied on the charity that her own warmth and kindness inspired.

In fact, she and her colleagues simply began each new day with faith, hope and charity, and ended it by giving thanks at having been chosen to help someone whom the Good Lord had sent to them in an hour of need.

Maybe that symbolizes the innocence and simplicity of the Nineteenth Century, but it could still turn out to be the only key we'll have to the 21st . . .

Sources

Although every fact used herein is supported by appropriate material, footnotes have been omitted to facilitate ease in reading. Nevertheless, a complete and detailed list of supporting data has been placed in the archives of St. Joseph's General Hospital, and is based on these major sources:

1.) All references to construction on the Canadian Pacific have come from Van Horne's Road, by Omar Lavallee, and published in Montreal in 1974 by Railfare Books.

- 2.) Information about the early days of Prince Arthur's Landing has come from Thunder Bay District 1821 - 1892 by Elizabeth Arthur, published by the Champlain Society for the Government of Ontario at University of Toronto Press in 1973, and from the Paper and Proceedings of the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society.
- 3.) Material about the Catholic Community, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and the early history of the hospital has been taken from several booklets and papers in the St. Joseph's General Hospital archives. These include: The Sisters of St. Joseph Centennial Booklet (1981); Rev. Mother Monica Golden Jubilee (1925); The St. Andrew's Church Centennial Booklet (1975); St. Joseph's General Hospital Golden Jubilee Booklet (1934) and The Ladies' Aide Society Kirmess (1906).

4.) The evolution of services at St. Joseph's Hospital, and the various additions can be confirmed through the St. Joseph's Hospital archives.

5.) Information regarding trained nurses in Canada and the U.S. came from Encyclopedia Canadian and The World Book Encyclopedia respectively.

6.) Events occurring in world medicine can be confirmed in any good

encyclopedia, or in The Science Book of Modern Medicine, by Donald G. Cooley, published by Pocket Books Inc. of New York in 1963 as a Giant Cardinal Paperback.

7.) Days of the week were taken from the Universal Calendar published in The Thunder Bay Telephone Directory (1982).

> Layout & Graphics by Esther Henning



On the occasion of St. Joseph's General Hospital's 99th Birthday - September 8th, 1983 - the new logo which was commissioned for the Centenary was presented publicly for the first time.

Designed by Thunder Bay's Aki Peltonen, the individual motifs are representative of hands; hands that are reaching, touching, caring; hands that are set in a circle to represent the many hands of the unit which is St. Joseph's General Hospital; hands which together form the petals of a flower, symbol of enduring love and care.

During 1984, as we celebrate 100 years of service to this community, our new logo will become increasingly visible, and will be representative of our Hospital's ongoing spirit of care and concern.

NOTES



The Spirit, the Lamp, and the Key

By George Campbell

