Catholic Hospital Digital History Book Collection

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the
Congregations of Religious Women and Men in Canada,
their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.

Livres numérisés sur l'histoire des hôpitaux catholiques

Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des congrégations religieuses au Canada,
leur mission en matière de soins de santé ainsi que la fondation
et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

The Spirit of St. Vincent's Hospital: A Celebration of 65 Years of Service

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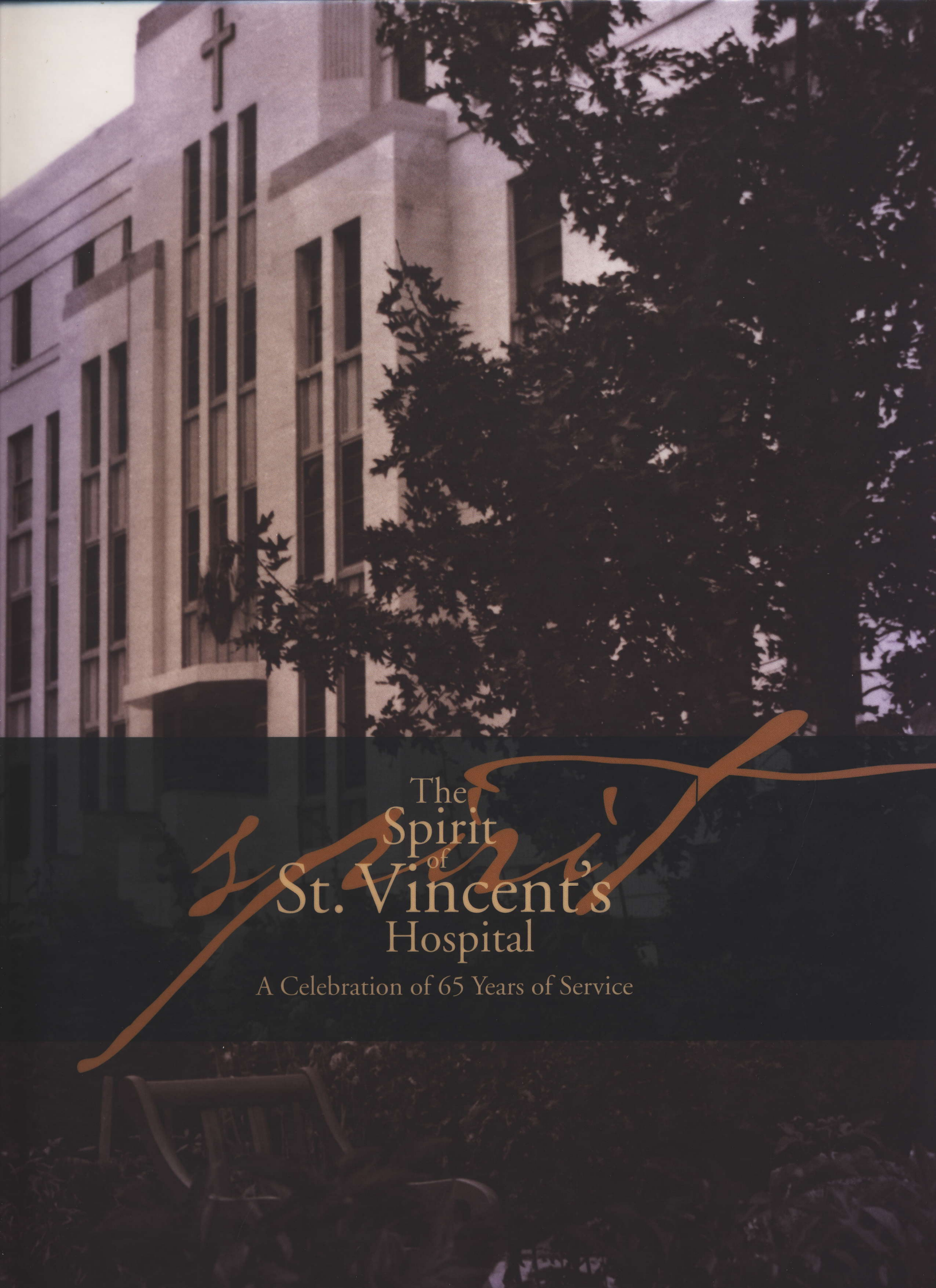

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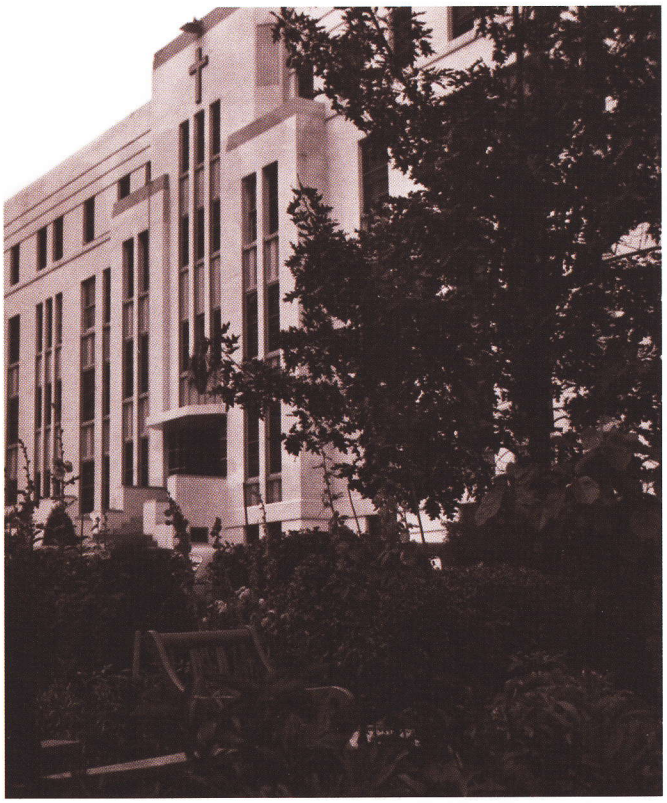

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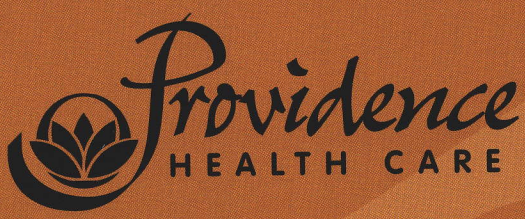
A Celebration of 65 Years of Service


Providence
HEALTH CARE

Dedication

I've always seen St. Vincent's as a beautiful little community hospital that served people well. As small as it was, it was well loved by so many Vancouverites. The staff at St. Vincent's truly felt that they were part of a family, and so many patients received wonderful care. Although it has gradually transformed, it has managed to retain its spirit. After 60 years of generous, compassionate service, the buildings may be coming down and the location may be transformed, but St. Vincent's Hospital lives on. [Monsignor B. Rossi, Providence Health Care Board Member]

Working at St. Vincent's for almost 11 years has helped me grow to be a better person. I appreciate the spirituality that the Sisters have brought to the hospital, and I work with honest, caring people. But things change, and the world doesn't stand still. Even good things change and there is no choice but to embrace it. I think the teachings of the Sisters and their influence has helped the staff realize that a new chapter is approaching. It is difficult not to feel emotional by the closing of St. Vincent's, yet the Sisters have created a culture in which we realize that we're here to serve the needs of the community and if the community no longer needs us, then we must adapt to meet the new requirements. The type of care that has been provided at St. Vincent's for the past 65 years will influence the care provided elsewhere in the city. The true legacy of the hospital is that the spirit will be carried on. I believe that the ground is blessed on this little site, and I have faith that its essence will carry on forever. [Ann Corrigan, Executive Director, St. Vincent's Hospital Foundation]

A Message from the CEO: St. Vincent's Hospital was founded in response to a simple request. In 1939, the Sisters of Charity were asked to help care for newborn babies, people from the downtown eastside, single mothers, and anyone else who didn't have access to health care. Of course they agreed. The Sisters have given us a legacy of integrity, and that's what I see as the real hallmark of St. Vincent's. We know how much change has occurred in this century, but the simple commitment to responding with love, compassion and charity to people in need has remained the key motivator for what we do. We're called upon to be of service, and to give, and to change, and to change people, and to be changed by the experience. And we do it. That's the staying power of it all. On behalf of Providence Health Care, I'd like to thank everyone involved with St. Vincent's for all they've done for patients and their families. Their deep pride in the hospital is evident, as is their commitment to seeing its legacy continue. [Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care]

1930

1940

1950

19

The Sisters purchase ground ample enough that additional hospital wings can be added as needed without overcrowding the site

The 1st Board of Management, 3 lay persons and 3 sisters, chaired by Sister Ruth

The birth of St. Vincent's Hospital Guild

Five new operating rooms, a brightly decorated children's ward and nursery, semi and private rooms, a chapel under which a cafeteria and auditorium are provided, as well as extra facilities for Laboratory and Radiology

The approval of the junior intern training program, includes rotating internships with Shaughnessy Hospital

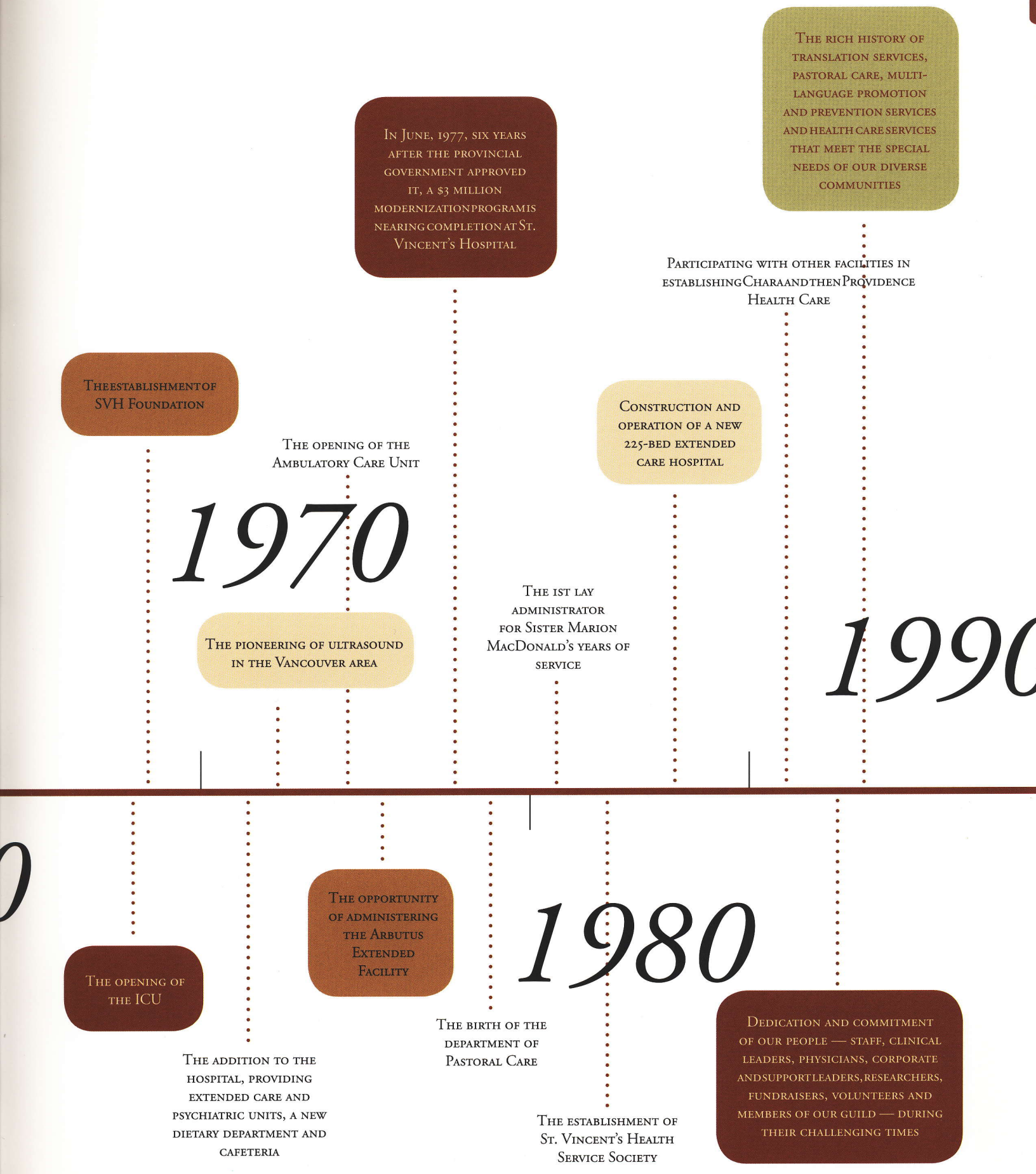
The Purchase of Land in 1938 at 33rd and Heather

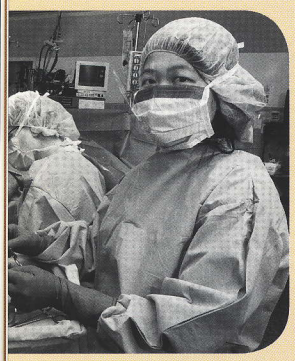
St. Vincent's Hospital opens on July 19, 1939

The first Medical Staff meeting, chaired by Dr. A. Dobrey.

The expansion of the hospital, increasing bed capacity from 115 to 237

The Joint Commission on Accreditation granting an A-1 full approval award


The rich history of translation services, pastoral care, multi-language promotion and prevention services and health care services that meet the special needs of our diverse communities
In June, 1977, six years after the provincial government approved it, a $3 million modernization program is nearing completion at St. Vincent's Hospital
Participating with other facilities in establishing Chara and then Providence Health Care
The establishment of SVH Foundation
The opening of the Ambulatory Care Unit
1970
Construction and operation of a new 225-bed extended care hospital
The pioneering of ultrasound in the Vancouver area
The 1st lay administrator for Sister Marion MacDonald's years of service
1990
0
The opening of the ICU
The addition to the hospital, providing extended care and psychiatric units, a new dietary department and cafeteria
The opportunity of administering the Arbutus Extended Facility
1980
The birth of the department of Pastoral Care
The establishment of St. Vincent's Health Service Society
Dedication and commitment of our people — staff, clinical leaders, physicians, corporate and support leaders, researchers, fundraisers, volunteers and members of our guild — during their challenging times



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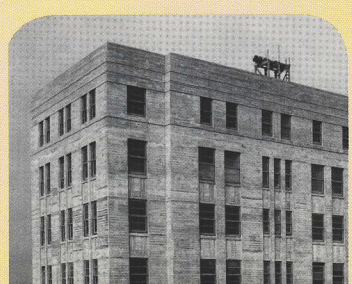


faith

spirit

passion

soul

Chapter One
The Sisters' Success

"Let your light
so shine before men,
that they may see
your good works."
(Matt. 5:16)

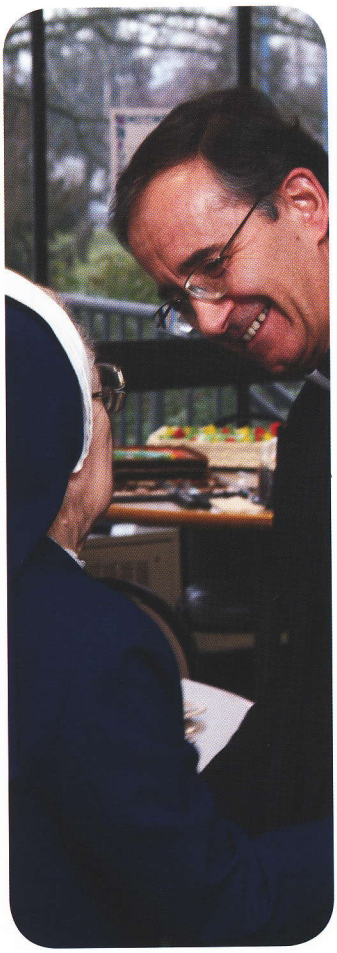
The presence of the Sisters sets St. Vincent's apart from other hospitals. They're very visible and committed, and always focused on staff. They ensure that the Mission is honoured and that all decisions that are made are carried forward. [Sandra Heath, Chair, PHC Board of Directors]

I have the greatest admiration for the Sisters, who have been totally supportive of the vision of Providence Health Care and the changes that have taken place. The Sisters agreed to bring all the hospitals together under one administration so that the spirit could live on. And when it became obvious that they would no longer be able to carry out their Mission, they gracefully withdrew. Their presence, however, remained. [Monsignor Rossi]

I don't think a Friday has passed when one of the Sisters hasn't stopped by my office to check in and see how I'm doing. [Ann Corrigan, Executive Director, Foundation]

I have always enjoyed working in Catholic Hospitals. They tend to have an essence that's missing in other places. Part of that feeling at St. Vincent's may have had something to do with the size of the hospital, in which you could recognize all the faces, know most of the names and share smiles on a daily basis. Undoubtedly, some of it was due to the extra kindness, care and involvement the Sisters instilled in the place, which we all strive to keep alive. [Dr. Enid Edwards, PHC Laboratory Head]

John Forrester, Sister Frances Rooney & Joyce Nasu at Sister Rooney's Retirement



[Top Left]Back (L-R): Sisters Keegan, Monahan, Schatz; Front (L-R): Rooney, Vickers, MacDonald [Top Right & Bottom] Sister Schatz's retirement

All work in a hospital, from the skilled hands of a surgeon to the trained hands of a nurse, to the capable hands of a gardener, has a nobility and importance of its own, and all members of staff should have a personal pride and satisfaction in their work through which a vital contribution is made to the spiritual, physical and mental well-being of the patient.
[*The BC Catholic,* Dec.2, 1979]

I remember St. Vincent's back in the late 1930s when the Sisters still wore white habits. I've always thought of the Sisters as "charmers." [Art Jones, Immediate Past Chair and Director]

As St. Vincent's changed over the years, there was one constant you could count on – the Sisters' willingness to care for marginalized populations such as geriatrics, and their insistence that the level of care be second to none. [Dr. Robert Halpenny, Provincial Executive Director, Cardiac Services]

Sister Frances really represents St. Vincent's to me. Her ability to focus on the Mission and the values essential to St. Vincent's Foundation were real strengths in being able to pull together diverse organizations. She's an amazing woman. [Sandra Heath, Chair, PHC Board of Directors]

The Sisters' spirit is imparted in the hospital along with the love they show to the patients and their family members. Patients say they feel very warm and cared for. [Hugh MacIsaac, Pastoral Care Associate]

It was a pleasure to be a part of St. Vincent's and to work with the Sisters. Being part of their Mission and vision, their strength and their faith, was a privilege. [Meldy Harris, Former Vice Chair, St. Vincent's Board of Directors]

The Sisters at St. Vincent's are fantastic. Sister MacDonald was in charge of the whole hospital and I had a great bond with her especially. I used to go to football and hockey games and I'd take some of the Sisters with me. My mother always wanted to have a girl, and when I told her about my time with the Sisters she said, "That's delightful." [Dr. Joseph Cohen, Honorary Director, Foundation]

At St. Vincent's, there was always comfort in the knowledge that if you were facing a challenge you would be remembered and supported by the Sisters' prayers. [Joan Borslein, Rehab Services]

I've worked at St. Vincent's for 20 years, the longest I've been at any institution, and have enjoyed working around the presence of the Sisters. [Dr. Gur Singh, Internal Medicine/Cardiology]

Cardinal McGuigan visits the hospital (1942)

St. Vincent's spirit is engendered by the Sisters, who led the whole focus.

[Allan Bennett, Former Director, St. Vincent's Board of Directors]

[Preceding Pages] Father Moore brings "Our Lady of Fatima" statue to St. Vincent's (1955); [this Page] Nuns attending the Annual Catholic Hospital Conference and Convention at St. Vincent's (1955)

THE REVEREND SISTER MARY RUTH, SUPERIOR-ADMINISTRATOR OF ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL, RUNS HER HOSPITAL WITH ALMOST A PLACID SMOOTHNESS OF A VERY EXPENSIVE MOTOR; THE PATIENTS (EXCEPT PERHAPS THE VERY SICK) HAVE AN AIR OF CONTENTMENT AND CONFIDENCE WHICH SOME ARE EAGER TO VOICE, AND THE TEAMWORK FOR THE WHOLE STAFF IS A JOY TO SEE. [*THE BCHIS BULLETIN*, SEPTEMBER, 1953]

St. Vincent's is the nicest of all
the hospitals I've worked at.
I think this has a lot to do with the
Sisters and their presence on the wards.
[Dr. Wilson Grahame, Urologist]

Sister Rita Lynch at Open House for new machines (1970s)

[LEFT] SISTER MARY RUTH (ROSS) - ST. VINCENT'S IST ADMINISTRATOR, WHO BUILT THE HOSPITAL; [TOP RIGHT] SISTER RUTH AT HER DESK; [BOTTOM RIGHT] (L-R) SISTER IMELDA (FLORENCE ROBINSON), SISTER EUGENIA (AGNES MCLAUGHLIN), SISTER JOSEPHINE (MARGARET SCHELL) (1947)

The patients' library was sponsored by the Guild in 1976. This service is and has been staffed for many years by Sister Murphy and her five assistants. Magazines and paperback books, mostly donated, are the most popular for short-term patients. [St. Vincent's Hospital Guild, Leonie Byron, Historian, 1989 (1979-1989)]

[Top Left] Mrs. Taylor in the hospital's library (1961); [Top Right] Nursing station (1964); [Bottom Left] Sister Imelda (Robinson) playing piano in the chapel (1939); [Bottom Right] Sister Rosa Agnes with ancient x-ray machine (1939)

heart

essence

compass

quintessence

Chapter Two
The Personal Touch

"Thou shalt open
thine hand wide unto thy brother,
to thy poor, and to thy needy,
in thy land."
(Deut. 15:11)

Mission Statement

St Vincent's Hospital (1992)

Rooted in the Judaeo-Christian values and tradition of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, we of St. Vincent's Health Care Society subscribe to a philosophy of reverence and respect for the inherent natural and spiritual dignity of all people.

We hold that the dignity of each individual must be recognized at every stage of life and that reverence for life be extended to every human being from conception, through death, to eternal life without regard to race, colour, religion, ancestry or place of origin, sex, age or social status.

In particular, St. Vincent's Health Care Society is committed to working in partnership with Family Practice Physicians, Specialists, and other Health Care Providers to deliver competent, compassionate continuity of care to adult patients.

This commitment shall see the Health Care Society enhance services to adults of advancing years by facilitating delivery of care in the most appropriate community environment. These services shall include acute inpatient, extended care and ambulatory programs as well as outreach programs to form bridges between hospital and homes.

The Health Care Society shall coordinate with and provide a resource for community health services to enable delivery of care in the home wherever possible. These services are to be complementary to those offered by the major tertiary teaching hospitals and other health agencies.

We hold that the work done by all staff members of our Health Care Society is praiseworthy and essential. All should take personal pride and satisfaction in their work as members of our health care team through which a vital contribution is made to the physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being of our patients, residents and their families.

Nurses preparing to serve lunch (1953)

The team of caregivers at St. Vincent's is the best you'll ever meet. They treat you with compassion, understanding and warmth. [John Forrester, Former Vice President, Chara; Former Chief Operating Officer, President and CEO, St. Vincent's]

At St. Vincent's, you never sit for hours wondering if anyone knows you're there. It's a personal hospital. The Sisters that run it have the gift of being able to help people. The entire staff has its priorities right. [Ronald Tysoe, Donor]

People feel very comfortable going to St. Vincent's. They know the staff and they feel that "extra something" that the nuns have added. [Rita Fletcher, Guild Member; Gift Shop Convenor]

The staff at St. Vincent's know they're making an impact. [Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care]

St. Vincent's set a model for compassionate care. Patients are looked after in a loving and kindhearted manner, rather than from a business standpoint. [Monsignor Rossi]

AGNES HODGSON, RN, TAKING THE TIME TO READ TO A PATIENT (1953)

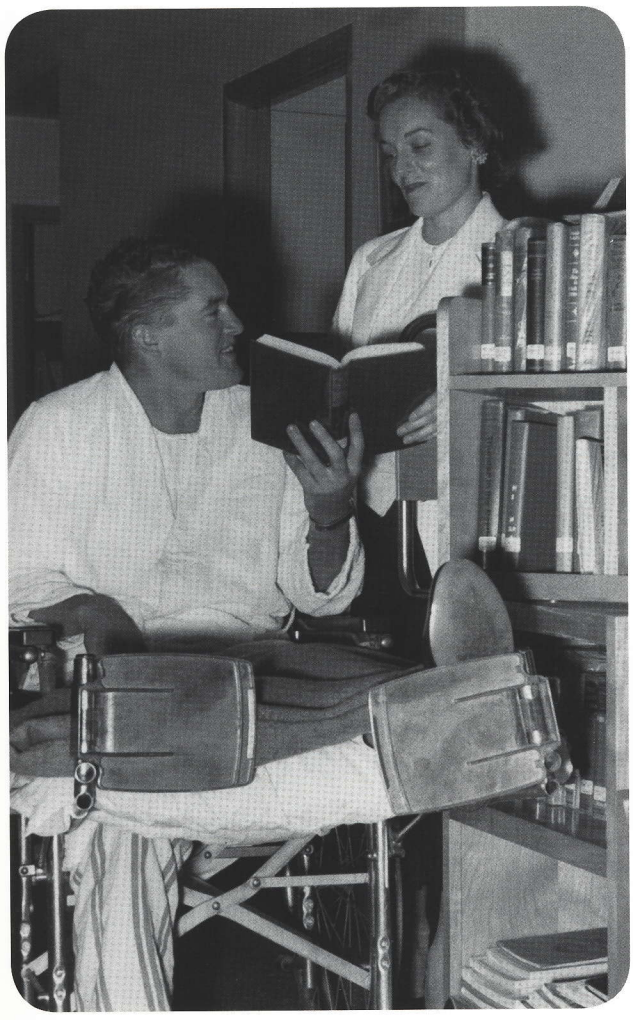
St. Vincent's Hospital Guild Prayer:
Direct, O Lord, we beseech You, all our actions by Your holy inspirations and carry them on Your gracious assistance that every prayer and work of ours may always begin by You, and by You, be happily ended. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

I've taken many of my own kids to St. Vincent's. It's very comforting to go somewhere where you feel that you are not getting caught up in the process. You just know that things will be better by the time you leave. [Barrie Smythe, Former Chairman, St. Vincent's Board of Directors]

St. Vincent's concern and caring is evident in all aspects of the hospital. Even staff who don't deal directly with the patients show concern for them. [Sister Marion MacDonald]

At St. Vincent's, there are some patients we cure, some we help heal, and others we help die with dignity and respect. [Charlene Masse, Pre-admission RN]

St. Vincent's has an excellent reputation. As soon as you mention its name, people have fond memories or good things to say about it. [Marie Draper, Adult Psychiatry]



[Left] Taking advantage of St. Vincent's Library; [Right] Patient and caregiver are dressed up for one of many theme days at St. Vincent's (1960s)

SISTER LORETTO SUGGESTED THAT THE HOSPITAL, WHEN IT OPENED, HAD A POLICY OF TAKING A "DEEP, PERSONAL INTEREST" IN EACH PATIENT. "EACH EMPLOYEE FEELS PART OF THE HOSPITAL, FROM THE CHIEF SURGEON TO THE DISHWASHER IN THE KITCHEN. WE'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO KEEP PACE, MEDICALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY, WITHOUT LOSING THE PERSONAL TOUCH, BECAUSE WHATSOEVER YOU DO TO THESE LITTLE ONES, YOU DO ALSO TO ME," SAID SISTER LORETTO.

At St. Vincent's, we still meet new patients at the front door and escort them right to the nurses' station on the appropriate floor. People just feel at home here. [Marnie Hughes, Guild Volunteer]

When I first visited St. Vincent's, people came to meet me from the breadth and depth of the hospital. That spoke to me about the organization's hospitality and confidence. I truly felt welcomed in a very unique and special way, and that reception initiated continued relationships. [Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care]

I've worked at St. Vincent's Hospital for 24 years and I always considered it one of the best-run hospitals in BC. As a small hospital, the communication and attention to patients is excellent. Its main themes have always been competence and compassion, a focus that I saw executed year after year in the OR with unwavering commitment. [Denis Moore, Department of Anaesthesia]

In my 23 years as administrator, I am proud to say that the original spirit of caring and the dignity of person were not lost. I hope that staff leaving St. Vincent's will carry its spirit wherever they go. [Sister Marion MacDonald]

At St. Vincent's, no one ever died alone. [Diane Sharp, Associate Guild Member]

St. Vincent's Hospital radiates caring, compassion, hospitality and a willingness to go the extra mile. This spirit has emerged largely due to the leaders of our organization who truly live the Mission. I have heard it said, "As you enter the doors of St. Vincent's, you feel a real sense of family that cares about its workers and the public it serves." [Sister Margaret Vickers]

I'm proud of the way St. Vincent's has retained its integrity and its love for people. [Allan Bennett, Former Director, St. Vincent's Board of Directors]

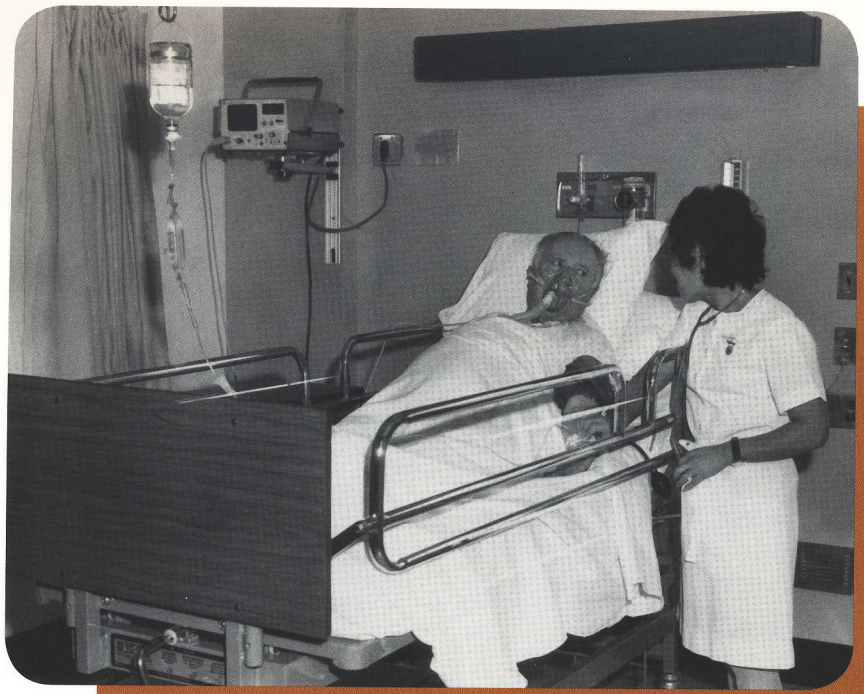
St. Vincent's is unique because of its sense of pride. People were pleased to work there and proud of their work. They knew that they did a good job. [Kit Schindell, Director of Patient Relations, PHC]

St. Vincent's epitomizes dedication. [Art Jones, Immediate Past Chair and Director, Foundation]

I am most proud of our respectful, patient-centred care, which is based on Jesus' gospel values. The Sisters care for the caregivers, the patients, and us, and teach by example how to look after one another. [Charlene Masse, Pre-admission RN]

The countless Medical Advisory Committee and Medical Staff Quarterly Meetings showed the amount of time the doctors were willing to contribute to the hospital to advocate for innovative patient care. Family doctors played a very strong role. [Dr. Enid Edwards, PHC Laboratory Head]

Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care (2004)



The first baby born at St. Vincent's Hospital was Frank Vincent White, who along with five other first year "babies" will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the hospital Sunday. [*The Vancouver Sun*, May, 1964]

At St. Vincent's, everyone seemed to really care about each other, regardless of what job they had. That caring for one another transferred into patient care. [Meldy Harris, Former Vice Chair, St. Vincent's Board of Directors]

Patients comment on how friendly St. Vincent's is from the moment they walk in the door. [Diane Dawson, RN, Surgical Nursing]

Patients are always glad to return to St. Vincent's after they've been in other hospitals. [Dr. Gur Singh, Internal Medicine/Cardiology]

St. Vincent's Hospital incorporates the Mission everyday with its friendly, caring atmosphere, and patients and their families continually provide positive feedback. [Bonnie Hoess, Health Records]

I hear stories about the care that people have received at St. Vincent's, and the gratitude can go back for generations. [Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care]

Nurse attending to an elderly patient (1977)

St. Vincent's Hospital
is
humble
with a
true servant's
heart.

[Brenda Wainwright, Chief Paramedical, Radiology, PHC]

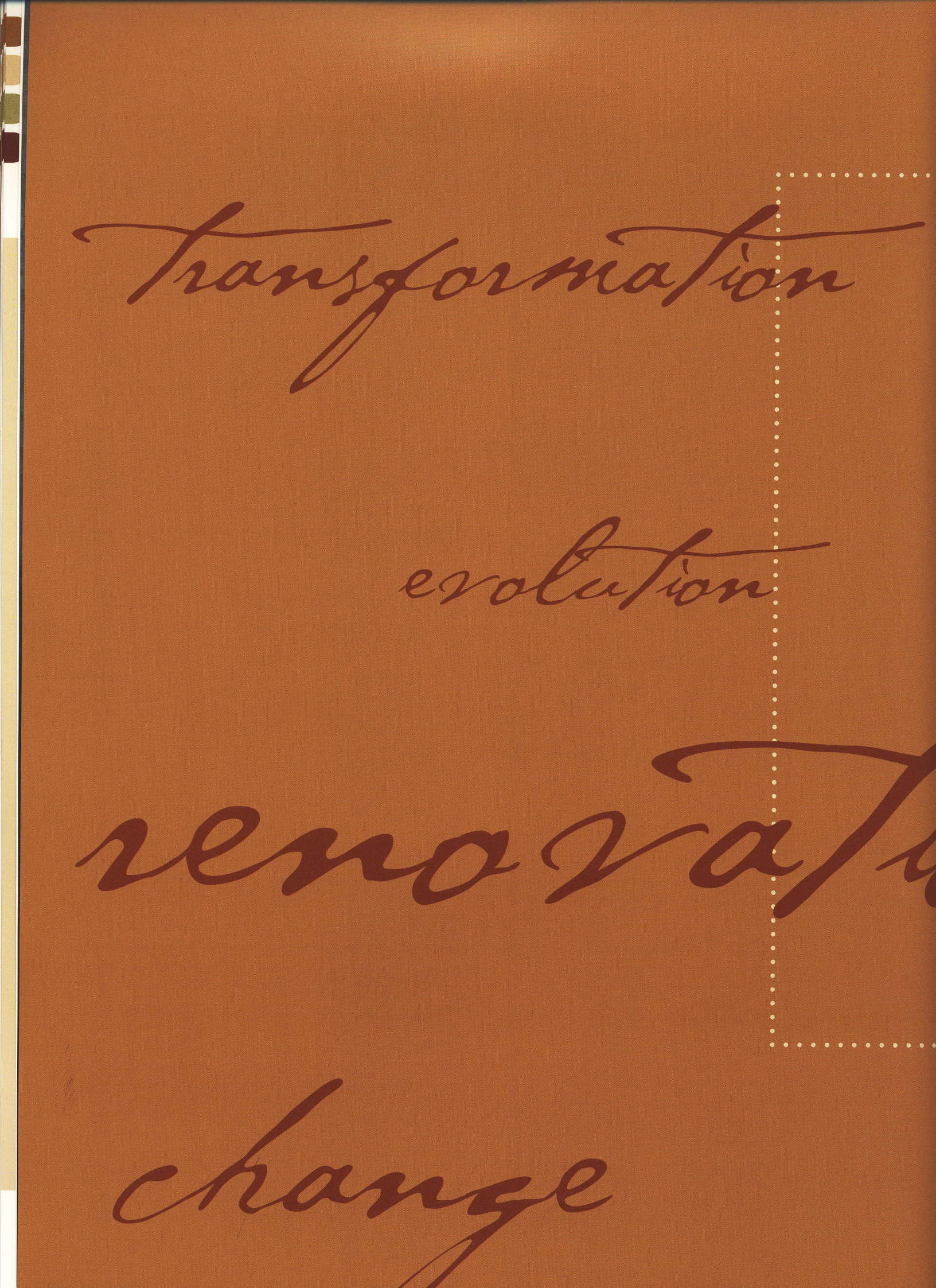
caring for the patient always comes first

I'm very proud of the reputation St. Vincent's has earned for itself. It's a place the community can turn to where people genuinely seem to care. [Caroline Leckie, RN]

When a patient arrives in stress, he quickly realizes he's the centre of attention. Period. Everything stops for him and his problem. [Barrie Smythe, Former Chairman, St. Vincent's Board of Directors]

The staff has done a wonderful job of keeping things going at St. Vincent's. Through the pain and disillusionment of switching or losing jobs, caring for the patient always comes first. [Sharon Shewella, Operations Leader, Surgery]

Linda Love, Surgical Daycare nurse, reassures a patient (2004)


transformation
evolution
change

Chapter Three

Nothing Ever Stays The Same

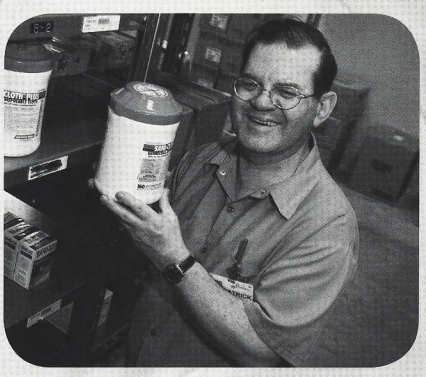
"Old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new."

(2 Cor. 5:17)

Over the years, St. Vincent's has adapted. It met the needs of the armed forces in WWII, relinquished its obstetrics department to Grace Hospital, surrendered paediatrics to Children's Hospital, accepted responsibility for additional facilities and changed its focus to meet community needs. Sister MacDonald herself was responsible for many changes, from leading the way towards a regional laundry to establishing the first ICU in Vancouver. This hospital has shown more courage in the face of change than any other establishment I have encountered. [John Forrester, Former Vice President, Chara; Former Chief Operating Officer, President and CEO, St. Vincent's]

I've seen many changes over the 33 years I've been at St. Vincent's. The creation of the Extended Care Unit was a big deal, so was the opening of Langara. I put all the furniture together at Langara, and placed it in the rooms. It took two and a half years. [Pat Wall, Shipper/ Receiver, Purchasing]

The personal contribution I am most proud of is setting up the pre-admission clinic under the guidance of my former head nurse, Sandy Leroux. [Charlene Masse, Pre-admission RN]



It's always difficult to relinquish a service to another hospital, but St. Vincent's has the ability to let go of something highly valued, and then nurture something new. When St. Vincent's lost its maternity program during restructuring over the past decade, it chose to embrace its new role and develop services to create new centres of excellence. [Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care]

I have genuinely enjoyed watching the Foundation develop and thrive over the years as it continues to increase its fundraising capabilities. [Art Jones, Immediate Past Chair and Director]

[Top Left] SVH original building under construction (now east wing) (1938); [Top Right] Sister Mary Ruth (1952); [Bottom] Pat Wall - Stores [Background] Ian Procter, Greg Hughes & Paul Guterres - SVH Physical Plant (2004)

At the request of Sister MacDonald, I started the Guild on April 9, 1959 and was its first president. [Tina McCleery, Guild Volunteer]

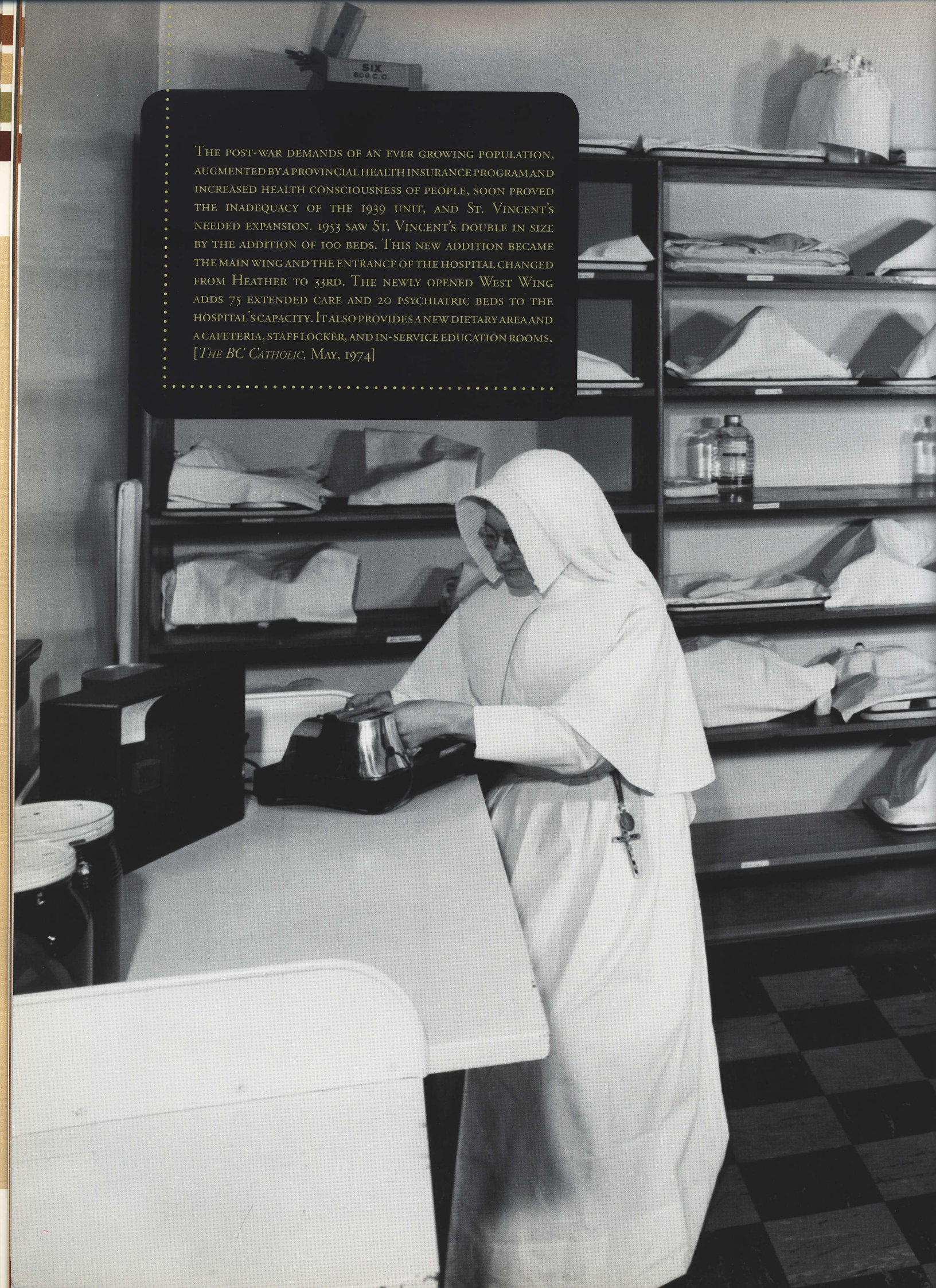
I'm exceptionally proud of St. Vincent's ability to respond to the changes in the times. The hospital never insisted on doing what it wanted; it always cared about doing what was needed. The approach has always been, "What is the opportunity in this change of direction?" With this attitude, everyone has been able to cope with the changes with grace. [Barrie Smythe, Former Chairman, St. Vincent's Board of Directors]

The landscape at St. Vincent's has undergone major changes over the years, and I believe I've been a supportive and vital leader in assisting the staff to accept what's been asked of them. Together with the Mission Team, I organized a number of meaningful liturgies and celebrations during which staff members were able to experience scripture, storytelling, music and in-depth sharing. [Sister Margaret Vickers]

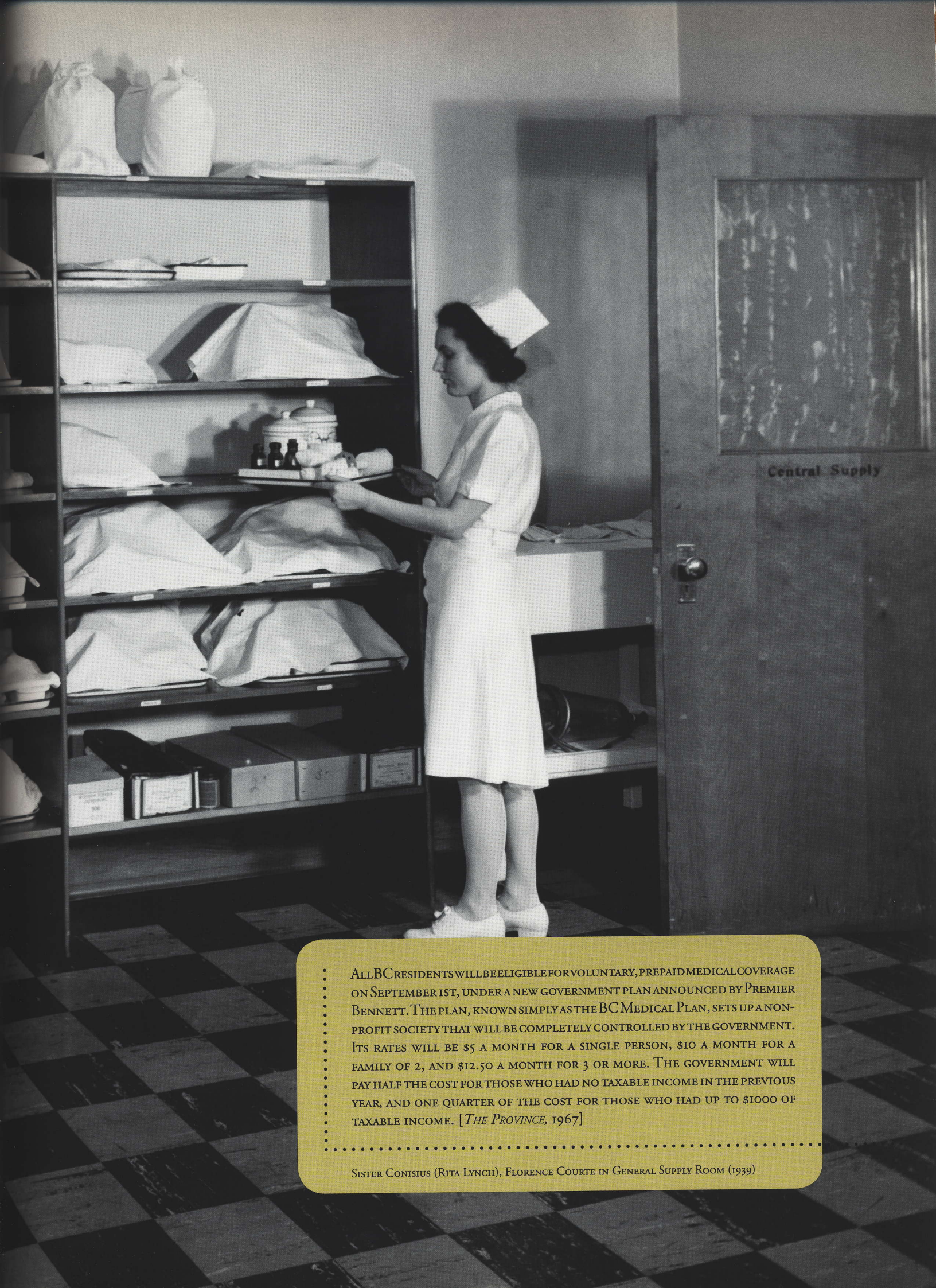
In the 1980s, I was asked to develop a formal Mission Committee to promote the values and philosophy of St. Vincent's. The committee has grown and blossomed since, and I feel good about that. [Sister Frances Rooney]

St. Vincent's is such an amazing place. It's evolved a lot over the years, from serving a great variety of needs to focusing more on the elderly, but it's been really well integrated into the community. St. Vincent's is a centre for excellence in terms of aging. Rather than simply adding on services, it set its focus on a population that can't be taken for granted or overlooked. [Sandra Heath, Chair, PHC Board of Directors]

[Top Left] St. Vincent's nursery; [Top Right] Sister Margaret Vickers (2004); [Bottom] Father Anthony Perrault



The post-war demands of an ever growing population, augmented by a provincial health insurance program and increased health consciousness of people, soon proved the inadequacy of the 1939 unit, and St. Vincent's needed expansion. 1953 saw St. Vincent's double in size by the addition of 100 beds. This new addition became the main wing and the entrance of the hospital changed from Heather to 33rd. The newly opened West Wing adds 75 extended care and 20 psychiatric beds to the hospital's capacity. It also provides a new dietary area and a cafeteria, staff locker, and in-service education rooms.
[*The BC Catholic*, May, 1974]



All BC residents will be eligible for voluntary, prepaid medical coverage on September 1st, under a new government plan announced by Premier Bennett. The plan, known simply as the BC Medical Plan, sets up a non-profit society that will be completely controlled by the government. Its rates will be $5 a month for a single person, $10 a month for a family of 2, and $12.50 a month for 3 or more. The government will pay half the cost for those who had no taxable income in the previous year, and one quarter of the cost for those who had up to $1000 of taxable income. [*The Province,* 1967]

Sister Conisius (Rita Lynch), Florence Courte in General Supply Room (1939)

I'm proud of St. Vincent's ability to respond to the needs of the time and its willingness to promote its 'Mission commitment.'

[SISTER FRANCES ROONEY]

SISTER THÉRÈSE KERGOAT, JEAN MITCHELL, SISTER RITA HAYDEN, AND SISTER GENE CHARLEBOIS WITH VINCENT WONG, THE LAST BABY BEFORE THE OBSTETRICS WARD CLOSED IN 1974

My involvement and participation in the world of St. Vincent's Hospital started in the early fifties and has continued up to the present. Initially, St. Vincent's functioned as a community hospital with a full spectrum of general services, including pediatrics and obstetrics, but there have been many significant changes over the years. With the development of vaccines and antibiotics, hospital stays for children became increasingly infrequent. Gradually, the pediatric wards emptied. At the same time, maternity care improved and the need for appropriate levels of regional obstetrical care became apparent. Accordingly, in 1974 it was agreed that the obstetrical services should be transferred to one of the referral hospitals – a necessary, albeit melancholy decision. During this era, St. Vincent's recognized the need to develop an adult medico-surgical intensive care unit. This unit was the first of its kind to open in the city. It also became apparent that there was a pressing need for additional intermediate and extended care facilities in Vancouver. Consequently, five subsidiary long-term care units joined St. Vincent's. St. Vincent's is noteworthy for obvious reasons, but its true distinguishing characteristics are the camaraderie and support of the medical, nursing and hospital personnel, and the caring atmosphere instilled by the Sisters of Charity. [Conrad Mackenzie, Former Medical Director]

More than 110,000 patients have been through the hospital since it opened July 19, 1939 on a square city block of bushland in the Cambie area. The original 100-bed unit was begun by the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception. The cost of the building was $250,000 and it had a staff of 28, eight of whom were nurses. The staff today numbers at 282, with 110 nurses. [*Mount Pleasant News*, April, 1964]

SISTER BARBARA PLAYS THE CHAPEL ORGAN (2004)

I've been struck by St. Vincent's ability to deal with change. I believe the capacity comes from the belief that we are here to reshape, reform and renew. We will provide care in a way that is consistent with our tradition and our values, regardless of transformations in the world around us. Our commitment and our hope remain constant. [Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care]

I was always amazed that such a small hospital could keep up with the changing times and be so innovative. The Intensive Care Unit was the first of its kind in Vancouver, as was the Ultrasound Suite in Radiology. In due course, maternity and pediatrics were relinquished and St. Vincent's became more focused on geriatric medicine and psychiatry. It also took on the management of several residential care facilities. All these changes demanded that the laboratory, the nurses and other staff adjust to the different patient populations, yet still maintain the great standard of care, which we did. Over the last several years, we've come to realize what it's like to be part of Providence Health Care, an affiliation that will allow the spirit of St. Vincent's to continue. Many of the employees have or will move on to Mount Saint Joseph and St. Paul's and I'm already encountering transplanted St. Vincent's people in their new jobs and careers. We always take the time to share a smile and some conversation, as a way of keeping our shared past alive. [Dr. Enid Edwards, PHC Laboratory Head]

devotion

perseverance

dedication

commitment

Chapter Four
Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

"With all thy heart and with all thy soul."
(Deut. 10:12)

One of the things I always loved about St. Vincent's was that when patients arrived they didn't seem to be afraid. It was as though they understood they were coming not to a hospital, but to a place to be healed. [Diane Sharp, Associate Guild Member]

St. Vincent's welcomes everyone, regardless of colour, creed or religion. It's a place that strives to provide compassionate care for all its patients. [Dr. Pierre Faber, Ophthalmologist]

I was in St. Vincent's for a month in 1993 for cardiac surgery and at one point I was given a 50/50 chance to survive. The outpouring of support my family received from the Sisters, the doctors and the staff was literally overwhelming. My brother, who was visiting from Regina, said he'd never seen anything like it. [John Forrester, Former Vice President, Chara; Former Chief Operating Officer, President and CEO, St. Vincent's]

At St. Vincent's they save lives and change lives. And they don't turn anybody away. The unglamorous medical stuff that happens in medical care – St. Vincent's does it. If there is a need, there is help. [Ann Corrigan, Executive Director, Foundation]

St. Vincent's is a compassionate, friendly, faith-based hospital where all patients are cared for, and the patient's family is always included in the process. Every person on the team is equally important in providing patient care. [Charlene Masse, Pre-admission RN]

I definitely enjoy the smallness of St. Vincent's; its size makes it very user-friendly. Patients are greeted as soon as they walk in the door, and can usually be personally escorted somewhere if they are lost. People feel comfortable here; everything is accessible. [Joyce Nasu, Administration]

JOYCE NASU - ADMINISTRATION (1994)

[Top Row, L-R] Lisa Yuen, Teresa Robitaille, Hedi Jones, Krishna Birdi and Rosana Manliclic [Front Row, L-R] Mary lovell, jessica Del Rossario, Fiona Herbert

AMBULANCE

So many people consider St. Vincent's to be "their hospital." It's the place where many of their children were born. [Sister Marion MacDonald]

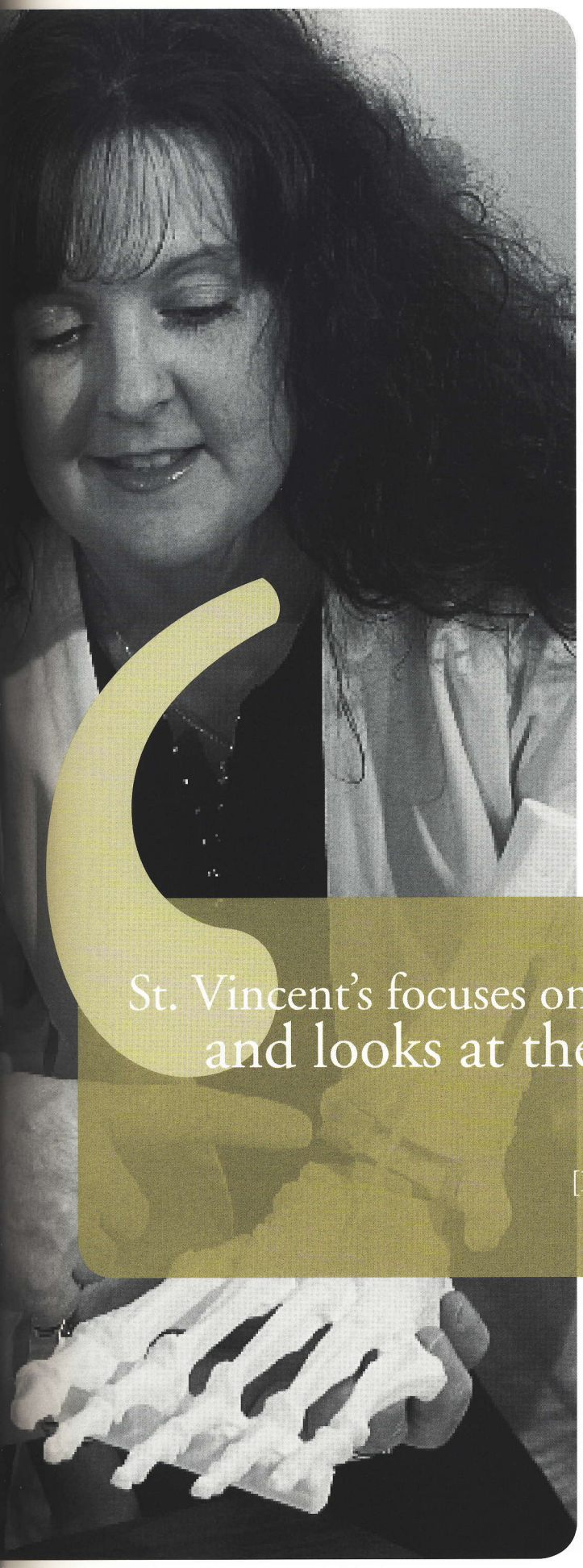
Not only does St. Vincent's offer compassionate care, it also remembers that the patient is part of a family, and the family belongs to a community. [Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care]

To this day, one only has to visit St. Vincent's to feel the peace and tranquility that abounds in the halls. It is not uncommon to encounter the Sisters on their daily rounds, and the spirit of love, compassion and understanding can be felt in every corner. [Joan MacLean, Honorary Director/Former Chair, Foundation]

[Previous Pages] Ambulance attendants load gurney into ambulance (1989); [Top] (L-R) Jim Humphries, Yoke Lum, Maria Villanueva, Dina Schultz, Pat Beja, Maria Esmejarda, Dr. Hetesh Ranchod - Rehabilitation Unit for falls & fractures (2004); [Bottom] (L-R) Maria Esmejarda, Connie Schlaak, rosana Manliclic - Rehab Unit Nursing Station (2004)

[Above] (L-R) Pauline Blackman, Rosana Manliclic, Krishna Birdi, Arora Seminiano, Lisa Acab, Tania Gosgnach (2004)

(L-R) Charlene Masse, Christine Kirkpatrick - Pre-Admission Clinic (2004)



"The dedication over the years has been strong," Sister Marion MacDonald said. "There lives in hospitals a spirit that is defined in our philosophy of treating the whole person, physically and spiritually." [*Catholic Register*, March, 1987]

St. Vincent's focuses on the spiritual side of patients and looks at the whole person, not just the part that's ailing.

[Diane Dawson, RN, Surgical Nursing]

I've had conversations with visitors who say that out of all the hospitals in Vancouver they enjoy coming to St. Vincent's the most. One gentleman told me St. Vincent's was the best because the staff were here for the care, not the paycheque. That's a memory I won't forget. [Ann Corrigan, Executive Director, Foundation]

At St. Vincent's, people take the time to touch on more than the physical condition. [Cathy Helliwell, Operations Leader]

St. Vincent's differs from other hospitals because of the Sisters' influence and the staff's devotion. To me, the distinction of Catholic health care is that the need of the patient overshadows everything, from expenses to rules to red tape. [Barrie Smythe, Former Chairman, St. Vincent's Board of Directors]

Cynthia Taylor works with patient - Geriatric Day Program (2004); [Following Pages] OR Team (Back, L-R) Josie Piperni, Jim Hendry, Ann Burton, Benson Yiu, Dorothy Rigby, Christie Carpenter, Marlie malone, Michael Arnison, Kate Moran, Dee Nap, Terri Pettenuzzo (Front, L-R) Ben Panlilio, Mary Lou Dizon, Laura Davis, Karla Hvamb (2004)

MARLIE

family

neighbourhood

community

kin

Chapter Five
No Man is an Island

"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."
(Lev. 19:18)

Poem/song written by Sister Anne McLaughlin - Aug 2000 (Tune of *McNamara's Band*)

When St. Vincent's Hospital
opened
On July 19th – '39,
It's location was a topic
On many a person's mind.

With saddened voices folks
would say,
"Now isn't it a pity
They won't get many patients
They're too far from the city."

The area was segregated
Not a home was there to see
Except that of the Mounties
The great R.C.M.P.

No pavement had been laid
On other streets like Heather
So in sunshine there was lots of
dust
And mud in rainy weather.

If you were going to St. Vincent's
Be you near or very far
Don't try to get there walking
You'd better go by car.

Sister Ruth was the Superior
She kept her trust alive
And promised us a party
When patients numbered 25.

She must have prayed quite hard
for this
For it did come to pass
And on January 21st, '41
Our dinner was high class.

I worked at St. Vincent's
I studied x-ray and lab
And was ready to replace each
technician
On the first holiday they had.

My early patient, an old man,
Suffering, I could tell
And he wasn't used to hospitals
But we managed very well.

I finally got him ready
And got him on the table
He couldn't help himself too
much
Because he wasn't able.

I took the necessary pictures
And told him that was all
He bounced quickly off the table
Just like a rubber ball.

He dressed himself quite quickly
And when he reached the door
He turned and said, "Thank
You,
I should have done this before."

I felt good about the Lab work
I practiced it a lot
But for x-ray I was perfect
I cured the patient on the spot.

Father Perrault was the Chaplain
As French as he could be
He found it hard to distinguish
Between celery and salary.

When patients were few
His salary was low
But as the numbers got higher
He expected it to grow.

He asked Sister Ruth for more
celery
He thought it was his due
She said, "That's no problem,
Father
Just mark it on your menu."

There is an interesting story
At St. Vincent's perhaps not
But it is a rather funny one
And seems to fit the spot.

A nurse's aide was hired
To work on busy days
And her report had noted
Her work was highly praised.

She did not know just what to do
And so she stood to wait
Until a nurse had told her
To clean each Senior's plate.

So she took a dishpan
And went from north to south
'Til she found that each plate
Was in a patient's mouth.

So she replaced the dishpan
And started with a tray
She went to every patient
Collecting along the way.

She brought them back and
cleaned them
And felt she was on track
She found the gathering easy
But hard to get them back.

Sister Crain was a nurse
The finest of the fine
Still living and quite well
At the age of 99.

We were on the 4th floor talking
When we heard a special sound
She said, "Is that a patient,
Landing on the ground?"

She rushed to the window
And there she quickly found
That a psychiatric patient
Had landed on the ground.

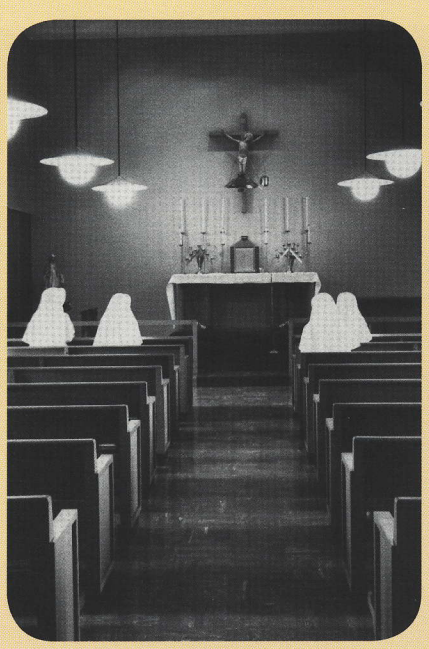
She wasted not a minute
Nor took the elevator
This case was very urgent
She knew her speed was greater.

Catching the patients on the
Avenue
It was a worthwhile sight
The nun was in her habit
The patient dressed for night.

The winds of change keep
blowing
Sometimes gently, sometimes
strong
CHARA to St. Vincent's was
added
Now, Providence Health Care
belongs.

So we pray to Divine Providence
May our love for God increase
As we care for sickly members
In joy and love and peace.

We pray also, to St. Vincent
To guide us on our way
We thank him for his goodness



Sisters praying in SVH Chapel (1954)

St. Vincent's is generous in its service and its care for one another as a community. [Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care]

St. Vincent's is unique because everyone works together. And they're always smiling. [Pat Wall, Shipper/Receiver, Purchasing]

At St. Vincent's it didn't matter what position you held; everyone was accepted. Even the patients commented on the friendly atmosphere. From the very first day I walked into that hospital, I felt like part of the family. [Barb Sweeney, Supervisor SVH/MSJ]

St. Vincent's is a community of compassionate people committed to providing knowledgeable and competent care to patients, family members and colleagues. The team encompasses everyone, from the ground floor to the top. [Joan Borslein, Rehab Services]

When I was involved with the Human Resources Committee, we'd travel around the hospital and visit different departments, different floors. We'd sit down with various groups of nurses and just talk to them and hear their thoughts. We'd get a feel for the hospital through their eyes while letting them know that the Board of Directors was listening. [Allan Bennett, Former Director, St. Vincent's Board of Directors]

(L-R) SHARON JAGPAL, KITTY NG - DIET OFFICE (2004); JOANNE VLAHOVIC, LAB (2004); MAUREEN MESSERLI, AZIMAN IBRAHIM - RADIOLOGY (2004); CONNIE ALBINO, COOK (2004)

On April 9, 1959, Reverend Sister Loretto, whom we now know as Sister Marion McDonald, gathered together a group of 15 ladies to form Saint Vincent's Hospital Guild. All these ladies were vitally concerned with furthering the spirit of warmth and compassion already engendered in the very beginning of St. Vincent's 20 years before. [St. Vincent's Hospital Guild, Terry White, Historian, 1981 (1959-1969)]

All six of my children were born at St. Vincent's. [Tina McCleery, Guild Volunteer]

I joined the Hospital Board at the request of Sister MacDonald. Since I had no background in health care, I imagined fulfilling my civic duty by staying involved for one or two terms. However, once I got caught up in the St. Vincent's family, I remained for 20 years. [David Dumaresq, Former Chairman, St. Vincent's Board of Directors; Former Chairman, Foundation; Donor]

St. Vincent's was where I started my medical and administrative career. When I walk through the halls, it feels as though I have come home, not only to a building but also to a family. When it closes, it will feel like losing the house I grew up in. [Dr. Robert Halpenny, Provincial Executive Director, Cardiac Services]

I felt wonderful at St. Vincent's right from the start. I received the warmest welcome when one of the Sisters pointed out some soup in the fridge and a stove to heat it up during my night shift. [Dr. Peter Chiu, Former Head of Family Practice]

PEACE
LISA

During my time in the Radiology department, we never missed an opportunity for a "cake day." Whether we had someone's birthday to celebrate or not, we'd find a few minutes to gather in the afternoon for cake, coffee and a chat. [Sister Alice Keegan]

At St. Vincent's you seem to know everyone. And everyone is caring, from the housekeeping staff and the people who deliver the meals right to the doctors. [Diane Dawson, RN, Surgical Nursing]

The environment at St. Vincent's is healthy and supportive. The staff are not only team players, but long-term. [Joyce Nasu, Administration]

St. Vincent's is a dear place; there's something very special about it. It clearly retained its Catholic identity, and there was always a sense of community and family. [Monsignor Rossi]

I am most proud of the sense of family that St. Vincent's projects. Staff comes to the aid of one another when times are bad, and is always ready to celebrate when times are good. [Bonnie Hoess, Health Records]

My husband Burtt was a general practitioner at St. Vincent's and really appreciated never having to ask the staff twice if he needed something for a patient. And he was a Protestant! [Catherine Dunham, Donor]

The volunteers are treated like part of the staff, and know that they're wanted, welcomed and valued. [Rita Fletcher, Guild Member; Gift Shop Convenor]

St. Vincent's is all about relationships. You share more than just happy times, the marriages and the grandchildren; you also share tragedy, the sadness when someone loses a spouse or a child. (Sharon Shewella, Operations Leader, Surgery)

[PREVIOUS PAGES (L-R)] RENITA PRASAD, NISHA MOHAMMED, MUTU KRISHNAN, RENATO ASPERIN, USHA NAND, JOE SCOTT, MAY YEE, LISA GIRLING, JOVITA URSUA - HOUSEKEEPING (2004)

[Clockwise from top left] Staff party (1970s); Staff western dance skit; Staff outdoor BBQ; Nursing sing-a-long (1980s); Staff gathering (1970s)

No Parking
in this Area

RITA

One of my favourite memories of St. Vincent's involves the Christmas seasons in the 1950s and early 1960s. The staff would organize their own choirs and parade through the hospital halls singing carols. The patients loved the personal touch of hearing those festive hymns sung by their very own doctors and nurses. [Sister Frances Rooney]

It's important to like where you work; doing so adds to your quality of life. I spend more time at St. Vincent's than I should, but the staff's values are very similar to my own. It's nice to know that you are associated with people who make a difference in other people's lives. [Ann Corrigan, Executive Director, Foundation]

Over the years, I connected with all of the laboratory technologists on a daily basis. We talked to each other on a day-to-day basis, sharing the excitement and problems of our daily work, but also acquainting each other with the details of our personal lives and our everyday ups and downs. Most of my memories with the lab staff revolve around food and celebrations, farewell parties, baby showers, bridal parties and the annual Christmas turkey dinner at my house. [Dr. Enid Edwards, PHC Laboratory Head]

For several years we had Christmas decorating contests, which Radiology won a few times. We'd transform our waiting room into a Victorian parlor, complete with rocking chair, fireplace and Santa, or a snowy village under a starry sky. We had some creative staff! [Sister Alice Keegan]

The staff was always very friendly; all the doctors and nurses would make an effort to mingle. There were never any fights. [Tina McCleery, Guild Volunteer]

St. Vincent's has a unique work ethic – from the doctors and the nurses to the orderlies and the people who clean the instruments. It has a very efficient system of providing surgical care. People do whatever is necessary to get the job done, even if it's someone else's work. [Dr. Pierre Faber, Ophthalmologist]

Although I trained at larger teaching hospitals, including VGH and St. Paul's, I always thought about working in a smaller, community hospital. I was happy to find St. Vincent's, where I was immediately welcomed with open arms. There's so much brightness about St. Vincent's. [Dr. Gur Singh, Internal Medicine/Cardiology]

[Previous Pages] (L-R) Joyce Nasu, Rita Fletcher, Cathy Helliwell (2004); [This Page] (L-R) Norma Garcia, Elvira Runes - Central Supply (2004)

[Above] (L-R) Lisa Acab, Nikki Miyazaki - 1 Central Nursing (2004); [Right] Lesley Taylor - Mission Team (2004); [Bottom] Claudette Savard, VP Mission Integration, speaks at Sister Barbara Schatz's retirement celebration. Sister Margaret Vickers at right. (2004)

St. Vincent's had the best team I've ever worked with. [Montse Helsen, Physiotherapist, Geriatric Day Hospital]

My experience at St. Vincent's was brief, but extremely rewarding. The environment is one of respect and warmth and I will truly miss the relationships that were developed. The sense of community one feels when working with a cohesive team is priceless. [Angela D'Avanti, Manager of Nutrition & Building Services]

When I first arrived from Shaughnessy, St. Vincent's was a much smaller hospital than I was used to. I soon realized there was a strong focus on education and teamwork, and a keen sense of camaraderie. [Diane Dawson, RN, Surgical Nursing]

I always valued staff input when organizing change or solving problems, and took their suggestions into account as much as possible. [Sister Alice Keegan]

The community at St. Vincent's is warm and participatory. Everyone is supportive of one another. [Cathy Helliwell, Operations Leader]

I loved forging friendships over the cafeteria lunch table with people from all areas of the hospital. Those lunchtime discussions allowed me to get to know and exchange information about nursing administration, social work, change management, pharmacy and many other areas. The lunchroom in the OR was always especially lively, whether the discussions were medical or not. [Dr. Enid Edwards, PHC Laboratory Head]

I'll miss the compassion at St. Vincent's, the camaraderie of working with people in a total team approach, and the great view from the OR – probably the best in the world. [Dr. Pierre Faber, Ophthalmologist]

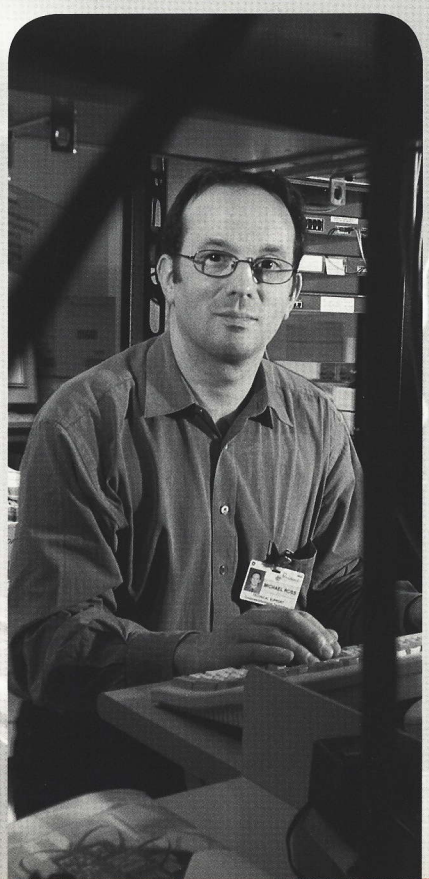
Many funny and fond memories come to mind when I think about St. Vincent's: Christmas parties with corny skits, the pumpkin growing contest with the prize gnome that traveled throughout the hospital, recognizing people by the sound of their walk or the squeak of their shoes. Mostly, the sound of laughter in the hallways. [Bonnie Hoess, Health Records]

St. Vincent's feels like coming home to a second family. It will be painful for me to lose that. When St. Vincent's closes, it will take part of my heart. (Sharon Shewella, Operations Leader, Surgery)

Working at St. Vincent's requires a different type of care, a different kind of devotion. It's a very special place, but it's not for everyone. As the acute centre evolved and specialized over the years, a specific dynamic emerged. Some of the doctors who became part of the team were early in their careers and made the conscious choice to devote themselves to seniors' issues. I always found that heart-warming. [Chris Stepien, Chair, Foundation]

The staff and management always looked for opportunities to foster enjoyment. On Halloween there were pumpkin-carving contests, on Valentine's Day the staff wore red — it was important for us to create a pleasurable working atmosphere. [Barb Sweeney, Supervisor, SVH/MSJ]

When I came to St. Vincent's with many others from Shaughnessy, we all received a letter welcoming us to the hospital. I felt well received and respected right away. [Montse Helsen, Physiotherapist, Geriatric Day Hospital]



[Top Left] Sandy McQueen, Kari Koski - Occupational Health & Safety (2004); [Top Right] Anton Do - Nutrition (2004); [Bottom Right] Michael Ross - Information Systems (2004) [Background] Wayne Young - Nutrition (2004)

Sister Alice Keegan and Claudette Savard (2004)

"St. Vincent's has always been like a family to me."

[Sister Alice Keegan]

I remember when "St. Vincent's Challenge" was created. Once a week there'd be a physical and a mental challenge. The competitions would try to be relevant to different departments – I recall firing a squirt gun at ping-pong balls in the spirit of performing "laser surgery." At St. Vincent's, camaraderie and participation extended past work. People wanted to work and play together. [Cathy Helliwell, Operations Leader]

St. Vincent's is a fun place to work; it feels like a family. [Caroline Leckie, RN]

St. Vincent's is unique because of its strong focus on being patient-, resident- and family-centred. Partnership and collaboration have been key to St. Vincent's work. [Lena Cuthbertson, Leader, Quality Management]

I've made a lot of friends amongst colleagues, nursing staff, hospital staff, and Sisters over the years. I've been treated like a member of the family. [Dr. Gur Singh, Internal Medicine/Cardiology]

I enjoyed working with the associates and the nurses. St. Vincent's was like one big happy family. [Dr. Wilson Grahame, Urologist]

The Sisters, fellow board members, doctors, nurses and staff at St. Vincent's have given me and many others wonderful memories. [Meldy Harris, Former Vice Chair, St. Vincent's Board of Directors]

When people greet each other in the halls at St. Vincent's, they look one another in the eye. And when they ask you how you are, they actually wait to hear the answer. [Lena Cuthbertson, Leader, Quality Management]

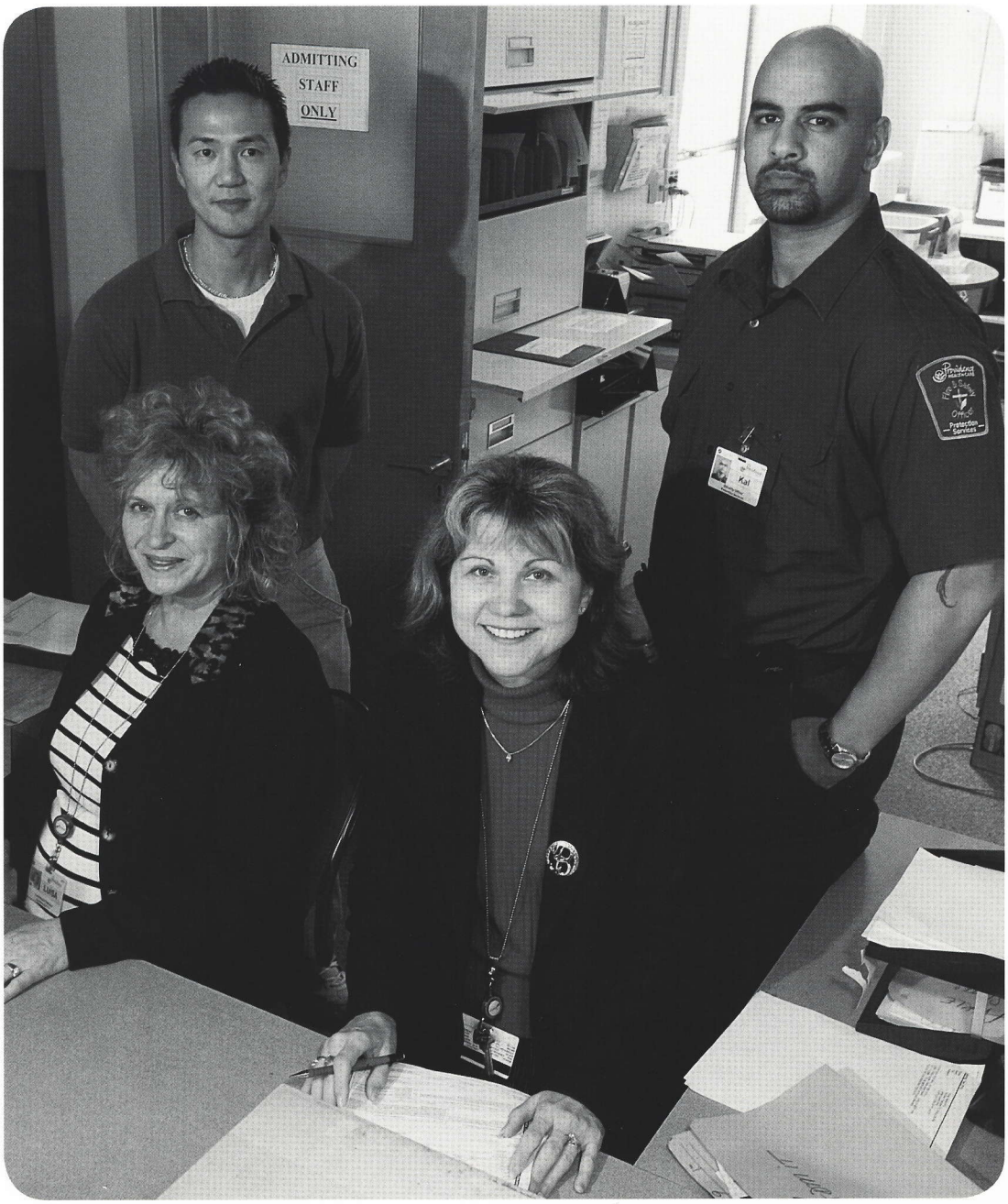
St. Vincent's is an organization of very talented yet diverse people with a lot of interest and a lot of personality. Everyone works together because they know that a community approach allows for greater strength. [Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care]

(L-R) Bonnie Hoess, Marisa Jiminez, Vicky Graziadei, Medical Records (2004)

Every year between daffodil season and tulip time, there is, at St. Vincent's Hospital, a Recognition Day. It is an occasion designed to call attention to the work done by a group of teenagers, the Vincenteens. [*The BC Catholic,* May 16, 1982]

There's a sense of community at St. Vincent's. Everyone knows everyone. [Marie Draper, Adult Psychiatry]

"The sisters who run Catholic hospitals and homes for seniors provide a care that could never be replaced," said Federal Liberal leader, John Turner during a recent visit to two Catholic institutions in his Vancouver Quadra riding. "You can sense the care here," he said following a brief tour of St. Vincent's Hospital. (Source & date unknown)



[L-R] Yau Leung, Cal Chohan; [Bottom, L-R] Louisa Ispanovic & Barb Sweeney - Admitting & Security (2004)

family

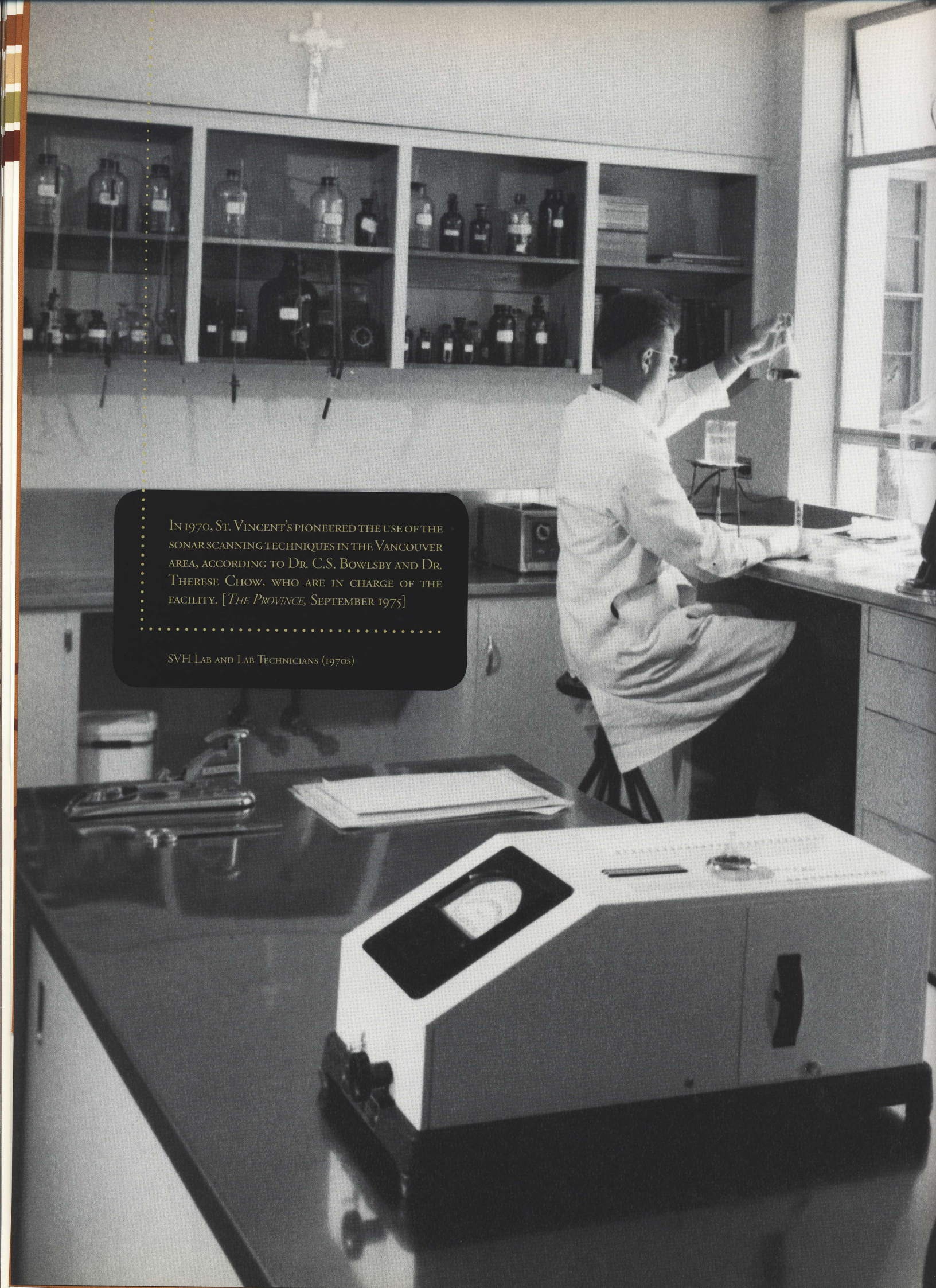
neighbourhood

community

kin

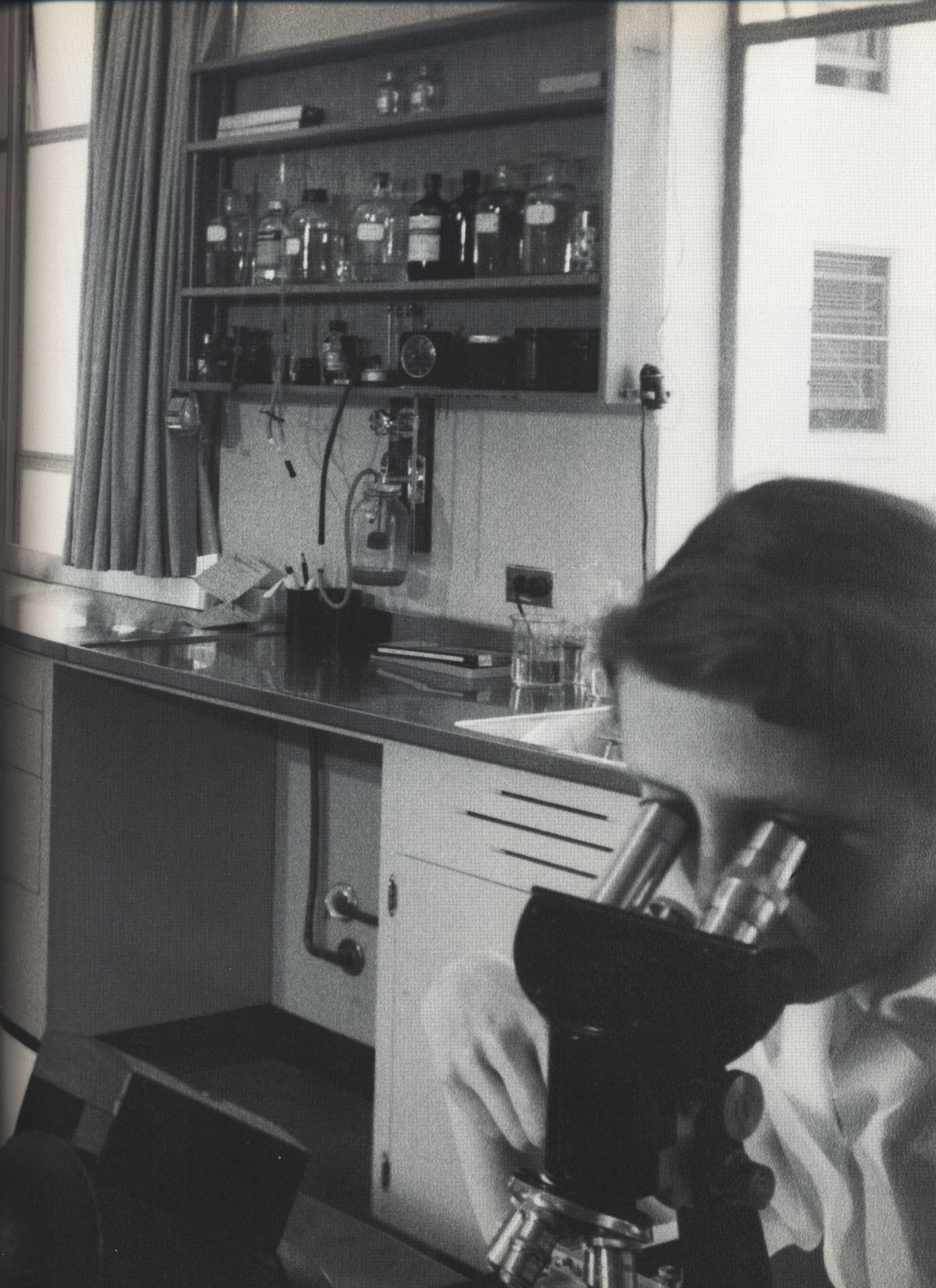
Chapter Six
A Job Well Done

"Nothing shall be impossible unto you."
(Matt. 17:20)



In 1970, St. Vincent's pioneered the use of the sonar scanning techniques in the Vancouver area, according to Dr. C.S. Bowlsby and Dr. Therese Chow, who are in charge of the facility. [*The Province,* September 1975]

SVH Lab and Lab Technicians (1970s)



ST. VINCENT'S GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY PROGRAM, LAUNCHED IN AUGUST 1992, WILL PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN DELIVERING PROGRAMS REQUIRED FOR THE MENTALLY IMPAIRED ELDERLY, NOW AND IN 2001. THE GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY PROGRAM WILL ESTABLISH ST. VINCENT'S HEALTH CARE SOCIETY AS THE PREEMINENT CENTRE FOR GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY WEST OF ONTARIO. [ST. VINCENT'S HEALTH CARE SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT, SEPTEMBER 1992]

St. Vincent's was first in many things in the city, such as ultrasound. We also began a Family Practioners' Department under the leadership of Dr. Howard Black. [Sister Marion MacDonald]

I am so proud of the orthopedic surgery performed at St. Vincent's over the years. In terms of mobilization and discharge, St. Vincent's boasted the best record for complex knee and hip surgery in the province. [Dr. Doug Bebb, Family Practitioner]

I'm especially pleased with how the Radiology team marketed its services to the surrounding community physicians, which resulted in a prosperous and successful final three years at St. Vincent's Hospital. [Brenda Wainwright, Chief Paramedical, Radiology, PHC]

St. Vincent's is known for working to provide quality care and keeping up to the modern trends. [Sister Frances Rooney]

When St. Vincent's operating room was reviewed by Johnson & Johnson, it was designated the Canadian benchmark for ophthalmologic surgery. [Dr. Pierre Faber, Ophthalmologist]

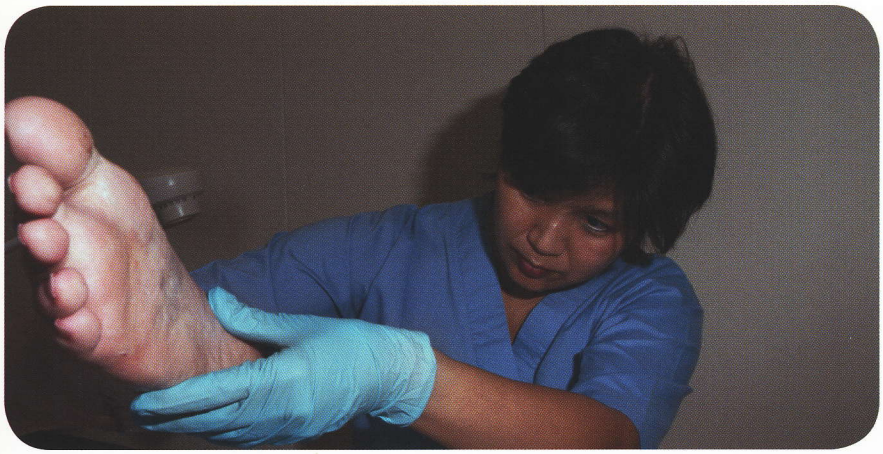
St. Vincent's patient satisfaction scores have been consistently high in comparison to the national benchmarks. [Lena Cuthbertson, Leader, Quality Management]

IN JUNE 1992, ST. VINCENT'S HEATHER HOSPITAL OPENED A 25-BED TRANSITIONAL CARE UNIT TO PROVIDE TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS WHO ARE NOT IN NEED OF INTENSIVE MEDICAL CARE OR WHO ARE DYING AND NEED SPECIAL CARE. THREE AREAS OF CARE ARE PROVIDED: LONG-TERM CARE, REHABILITATION, AND PALLIATIVE CARE. [ST. VINCENT'S HEALTH CARE SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT, SEPTEMBER 1992]

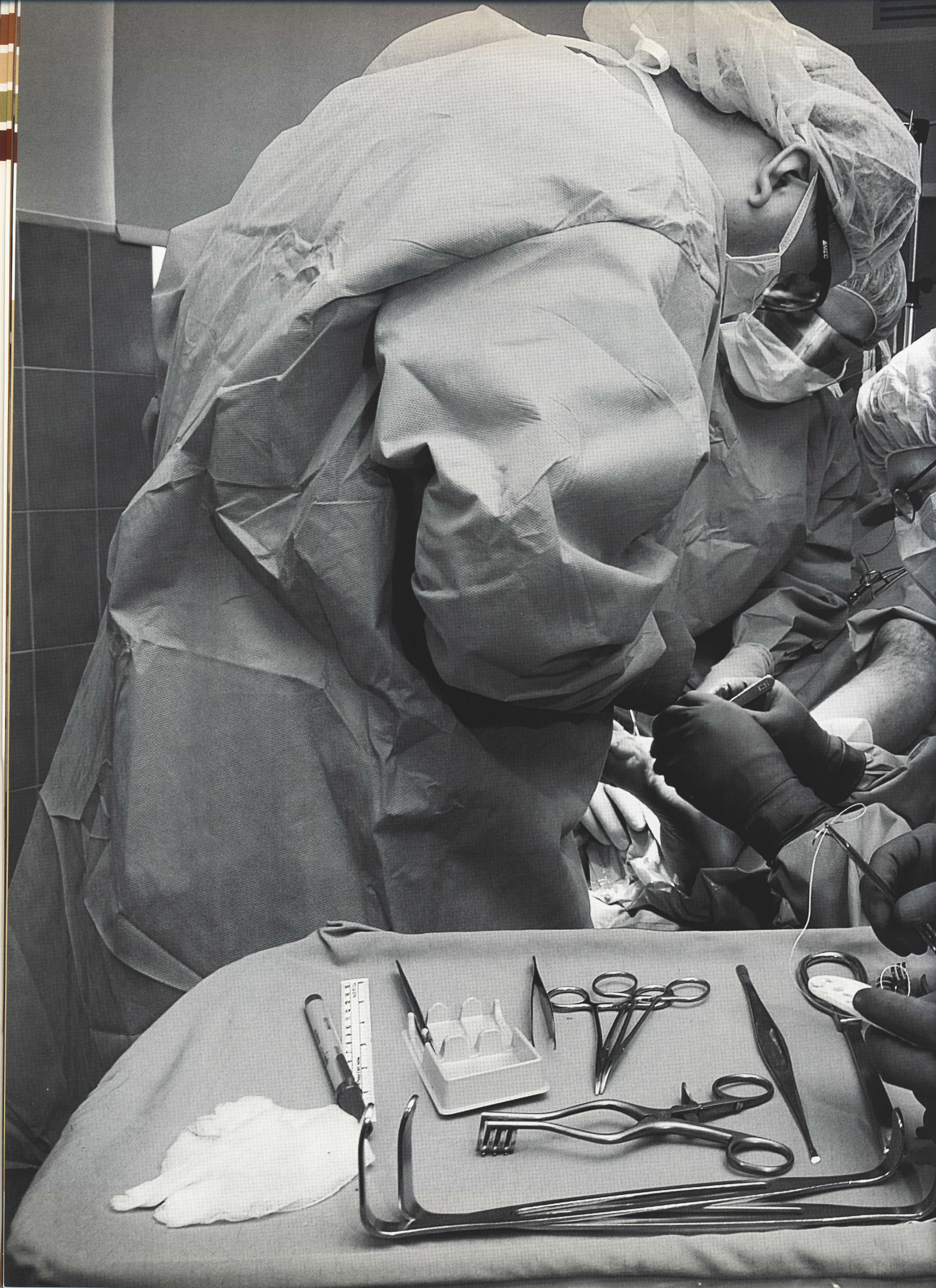
I was strongly influenced by Sister Kathleen Kelly, the head nurse who started the Psychiatry Department. Her wise leadership, warmth and intelligence resulted in a department with an excellent reputation throughout the city. [Kit Schindell, Director of Patient Relations, PHC]

The foot and ankle program at St. Vincent's has really grown into a provincial resource, a centre of excellence. [Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care]

When St. Vincent's began performing major urological surgery, I was involved with the first radical cystectomy. [Dr. Wilson Grahame, Urologist]

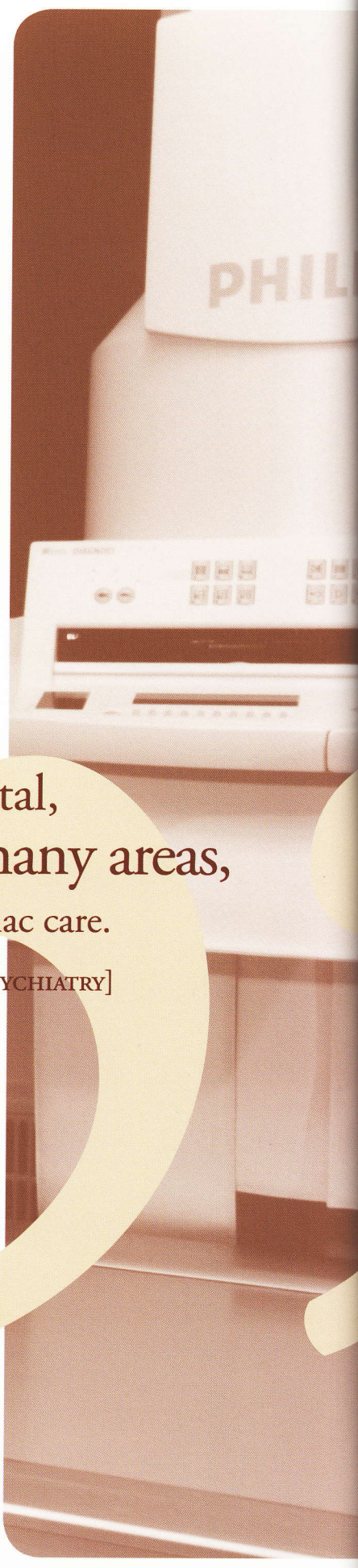


Ayesha Sit working on a patient's foot (2004)



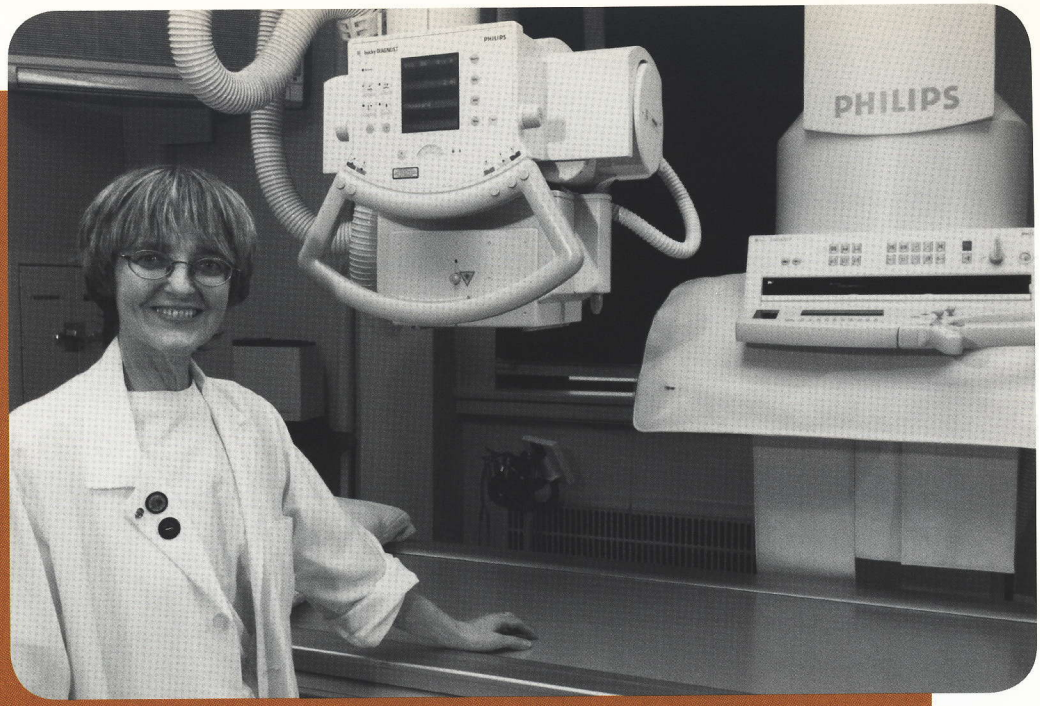
The finest and newest in surgical equipment in the five new operating rooms will facilitate and increase the efficiency of the hospital's surgery. The crucifix on the back wall serves as a constant reminder that this is an institution devoted to the care of the sick, a Corporal work of Mercy and guided by the spirit of charity. [*BC Catholic*, January 1954]

Dr. Son Hing, Dr. Ruby Grewal, Dr. Alistair Younger, Connie Wong, foot & ankle OR (2004)



Although it's unusual for a small hospital,
St. Vincent's has been the leader in many areas,
including ultrasound and cardiac care.

[MARIE DRAPER, ADULT PSYCHIATRY]



The cardio-verter will be used in a mock operating room. It checks the regularity of the heartbeat, can slow it or regulate it, and if the heart should stop during an operation, it can shoot an electrical stimulant to start it again. [Silver Jubilee, 1964]

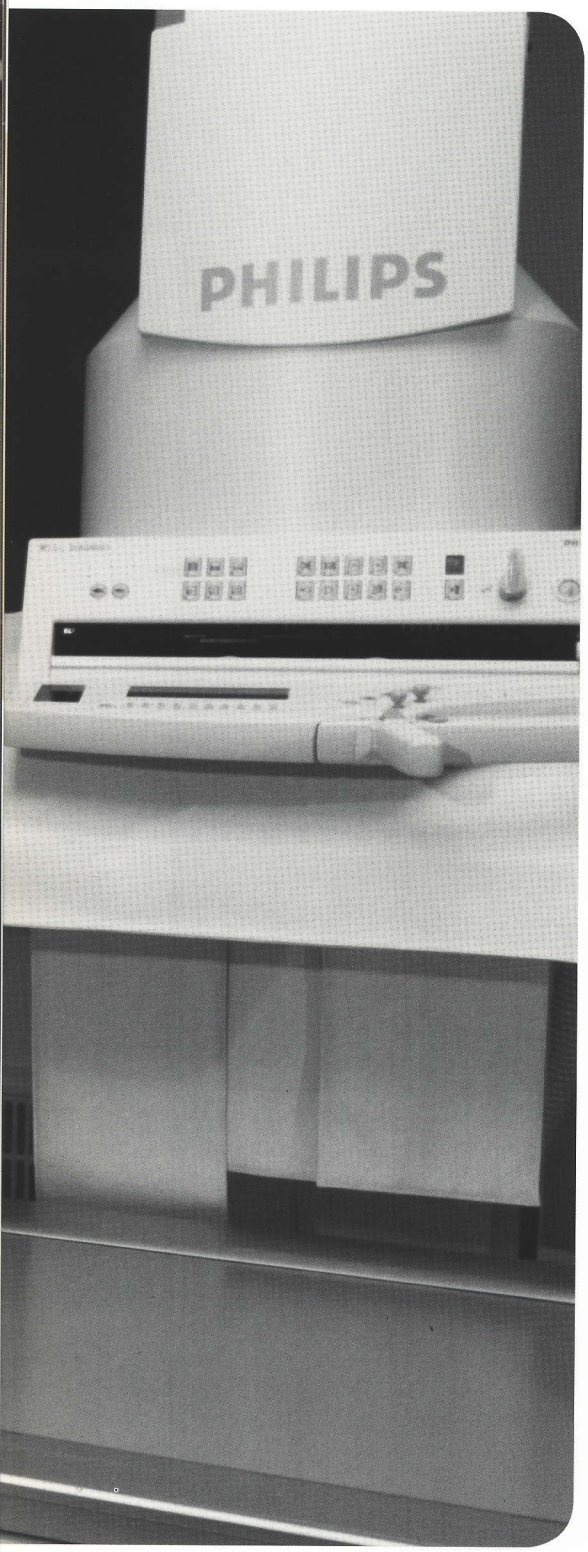
St. Vincent's Department of Ophthalmology became the most successful ambulatory-ophthalmologic unit in western Canada, and remained on the cutting edge of modern cataract surgery. The staff was very aggressive in its pursuit of the most modern surgical advances, and the success rates reflected that. [Dr. Herb Fitterman, Ophthalmologist]

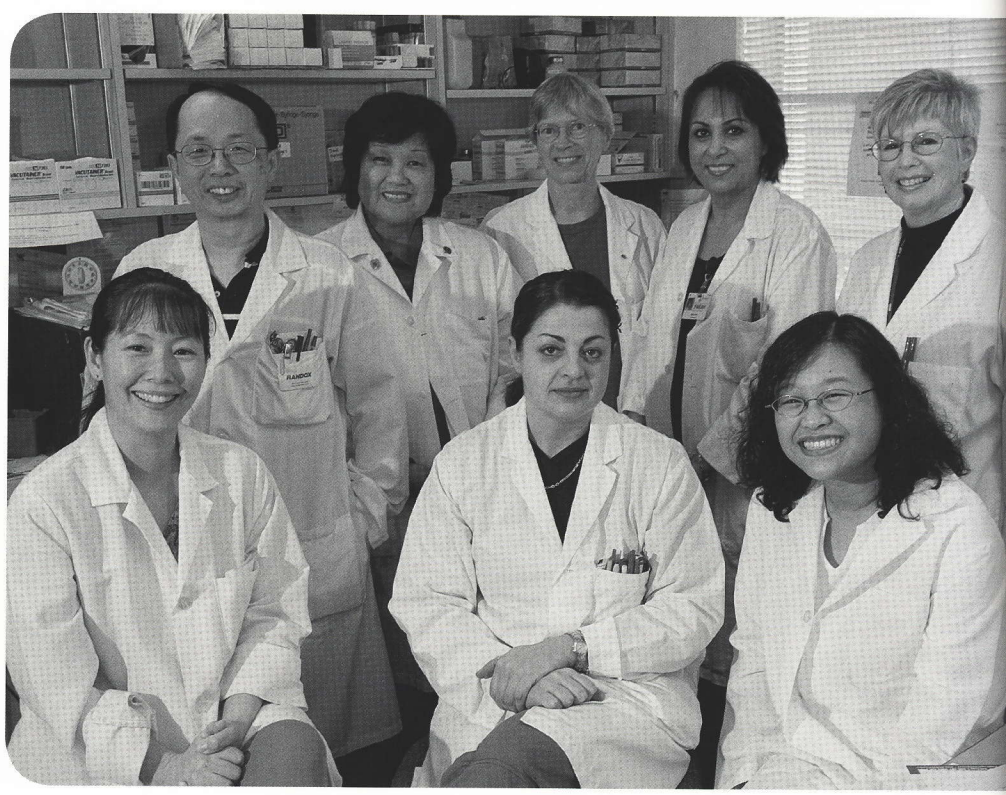
St. Vincent's Hospital was the first location in BC to have an ultrasound unit installed and operational. [Brenda Wainwright, Chief Paramedical, Radiology, PHC]

I got to help train the operating room nurses in ophthalmic-surgical nursing procedures. We had one of the best groups of surgical nurses in Canada, and it was a privilege to work with such professionals. [Dr. Herb Fitterman, Ophthalmologist]

St. Vincent's was the first to establish a Department of General Practice, ultrasound scanning techniques, an intensive care unit and the automated IBM Patient Care System. [*St. Jon Diocesan*, June 1989]

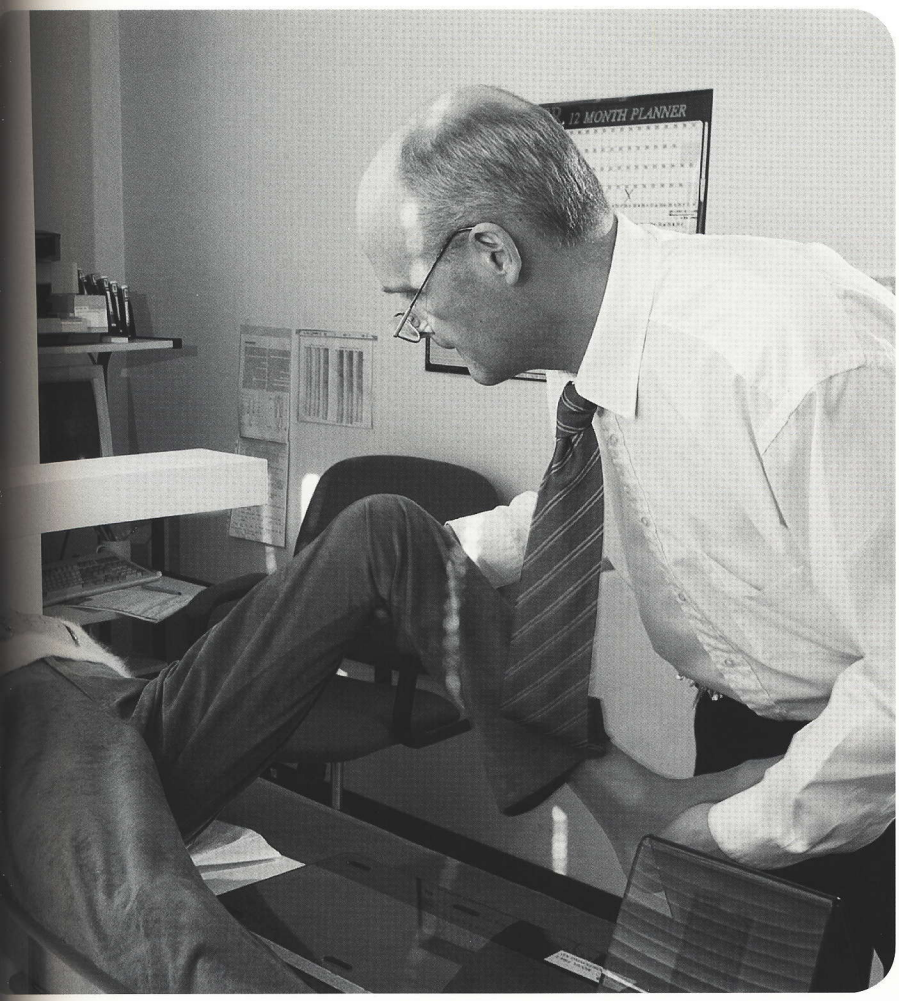
Maureen Messerli - Radiology (2004)

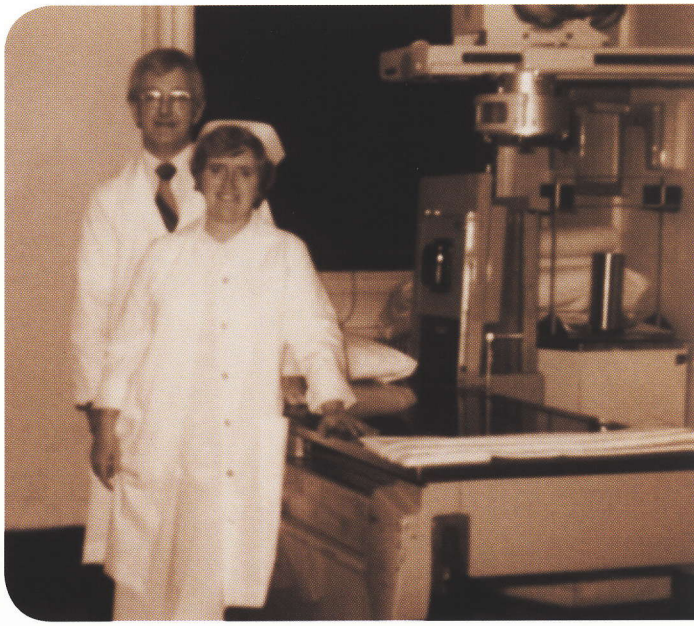




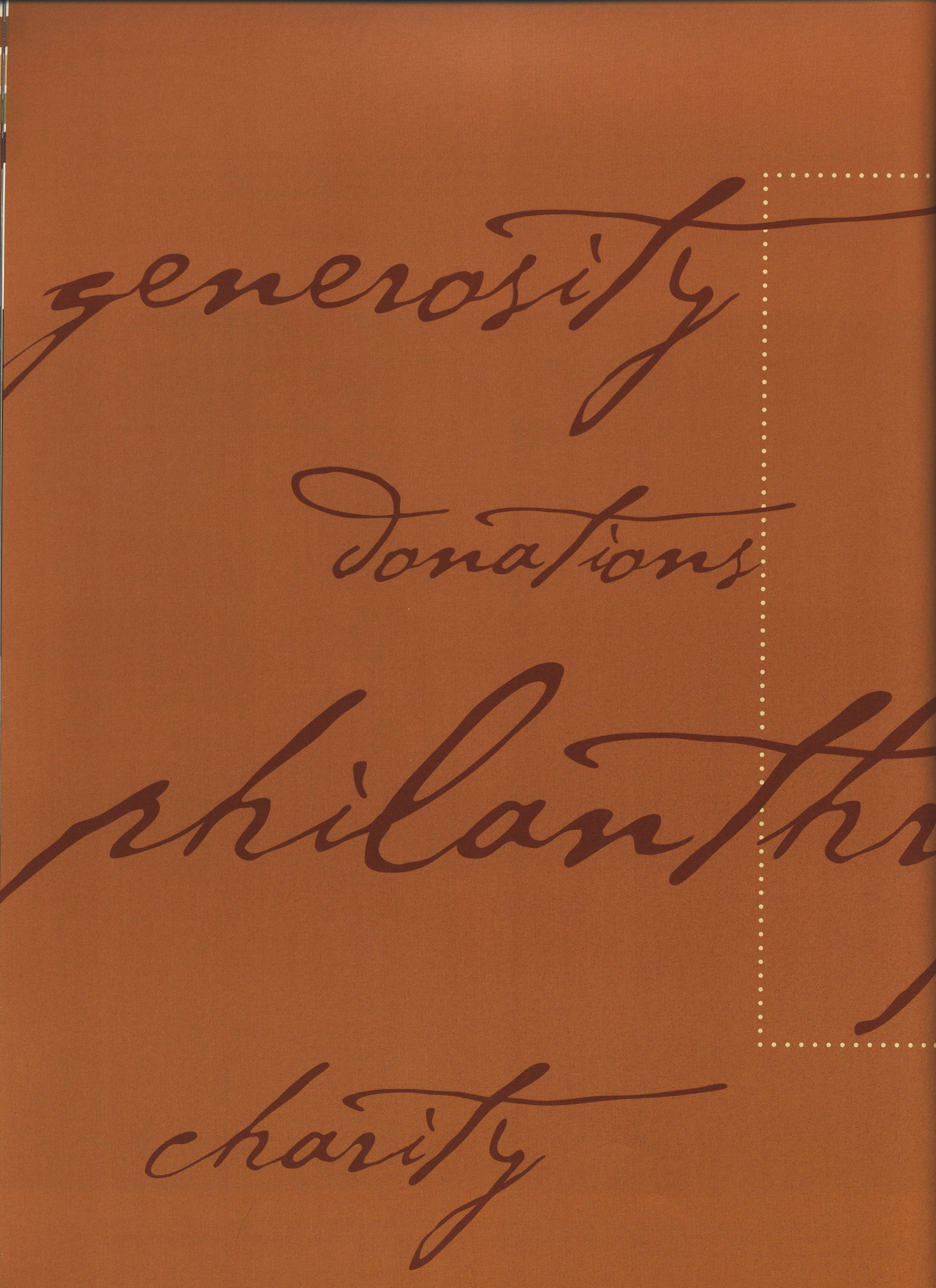
[LEFT] STATE-OF-THE-ART RADIOLOGY EQUIPMENT; OR TEAM WORKING ON A FOOT; [RIGHT] (L-R) KON PHAN, EDITH BANGAYAN, RUTH MENNIE, FARAH ALTAHA, DONNA MCGOWAN [BOTTOM RIGHT] (L-R) JOANNE VLAHOVIC, ANNA D'ASTOLI, TANYA BANGAYAN - GENERAL LAB (2004)

St. Vincent's second floor geriatric psychiatry department is becoming the nucleus for a service that provides in-patient and out-patient care, as well as consultation and community outreach services. Team members include psychiatrists, nurses, occupational therapists, and psychologists. [*The Vancouver Courier's Neighborhood News,* September 2, 1992]





[Top Left] Steve Robinson checking a patient's bone density - Bone Scan Clinic (2004); [Top Right] SVH Open House to display new equipment (1970s); [Bottom Right] (L-R) Valerie Krause, Bilal Hammoud, Kim Smith, Dr. Martin Illing - East 2 Geriatric Psych Team (2004); [Bottom Left] Joan Evans, Phil Belanger with patient - Urgent Care Ward (2004)


generosity
donations
philanthro
charity

Chapter Seven

With a Little Help from our Friends

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

(Acts 20:35)

When fundraising, it wasn't an easy task to try and convince the public of the needs of the elderly. There were so many other organizations with far more appealing causes, such as "Children's." However, through the hard work of a few dedicated Foundation Members, and the generosity of many friends and my family, we managed to be heard. Now our efforts are very visible. St. Vincent's has transitioned from a little hospital on the hill to a mega-institution. [Joan MacLean, Honorary Director/Former Chair, Foundation]

I've loved being a volunteer at St. Vincent's. The Sisters of Charity infused the hospital with integrity and compassion in 1939, and the feeling hasn't diminished. [Marnie Hughes, Guild Volunteer]

I started out volunteering in the Psychiatric Ward, helping one of the occupational therapists. I enjoyed being able to help people. [Rita Fletcher, Guild Member; Gift Shop Convenor]

My involvement with the development of the Pacific Spirit Run has been truly rewarding. The run remains one of St. Vincent's main fundraising events. [Art Jones, Immediate Past Chair and Director]

It was a pleasure to donate money to St. Vincent's when I knew it was going to be used properly. Dr. Chiu actually called me to say, "We used the equipment you helped purchase today." I'll really miss that personal touch. [Ronald Tysoe, Donor]

I'm proud of the types of things the Foundation has been able to fund over the last few years, including the ophthalmology department and the winterized solarium in the Extended Care Unit. The Foundation also reaches beyond the walls of St. Vincent's, to other areas of the province. It has a domino effect. [Ann Corrigan, Executive Director, Foundation]

[L-R] ROTARY CLUB OF MARPOLE PRESIDENT OSCAR LAZZAROTTO POSES WITH SISTER MARION MACDONALD AND ONE OF TWO HEART MACHINES THE CLUB DONATED TO SVH; MRS. ADELE MAGRI, DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEERS WITH VINCENTEENS

Outgoing president of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Mrs. Betty Yue, presented a cheque for $40,000 to Sister Marion McDonald, administrator of St. Vincent's Hospital - $1,000 for each year the hospital has been in operation. [July 1, 1979]

My whole family seems to have been involved with St. Vincent's in one way or another. My Dad was one of the originators who helped Sister MacDonald raise funds to get St. Vincent's started. Years later, I helped do the same to get Langara and the facility for palliative care up and running. We've also all been patients at St. Vincent's at one time or another … my wife, my Mom, my Dad and me. We have a lot of history there. [Giles Mackenzie, Honorary Director, Foundation]

St. Vincent's has done as much for its volunteers as they (volunteers) have for the hospital. [Rita Fletcher, Guild Member; Gift Shop Convenor]

One year, our gift to St. Vincent's was a much-needed x-ray machine with an immediate printer. Several weeks later, I rushed my husband to Emergency after he'd crushed all his fingers in the garage door … not a pretty sight. During the examination, the doctor said, "Mr. MacLean, you are really lucky. We have just installed a new x-ray machine – a donation from the Foundation." My husband tried to look away as he noticed a lovely plaque bearing his name. [Joan MacLean, Honorary Director/Former Chair, Foundation]

There are enough volunteers at St. Vincent's to alleviate patients' natural sense of fear and ensure that they are comfortable. [Marnie Hughes, Guild Volunteer]

[L-R] Marion Graber, Valerie Frankie, Louise Galetti pose with fundraising poster for new wing; opening of the new wing

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PURGE SYSTEM
YES ENTER
LOADING DOSE
REVIEW CHANGE
ON
OFF RECHG
SILENCE NO
Abbott
LIFECARE
BACK LIGHT
ALARM PUMPING ALERT
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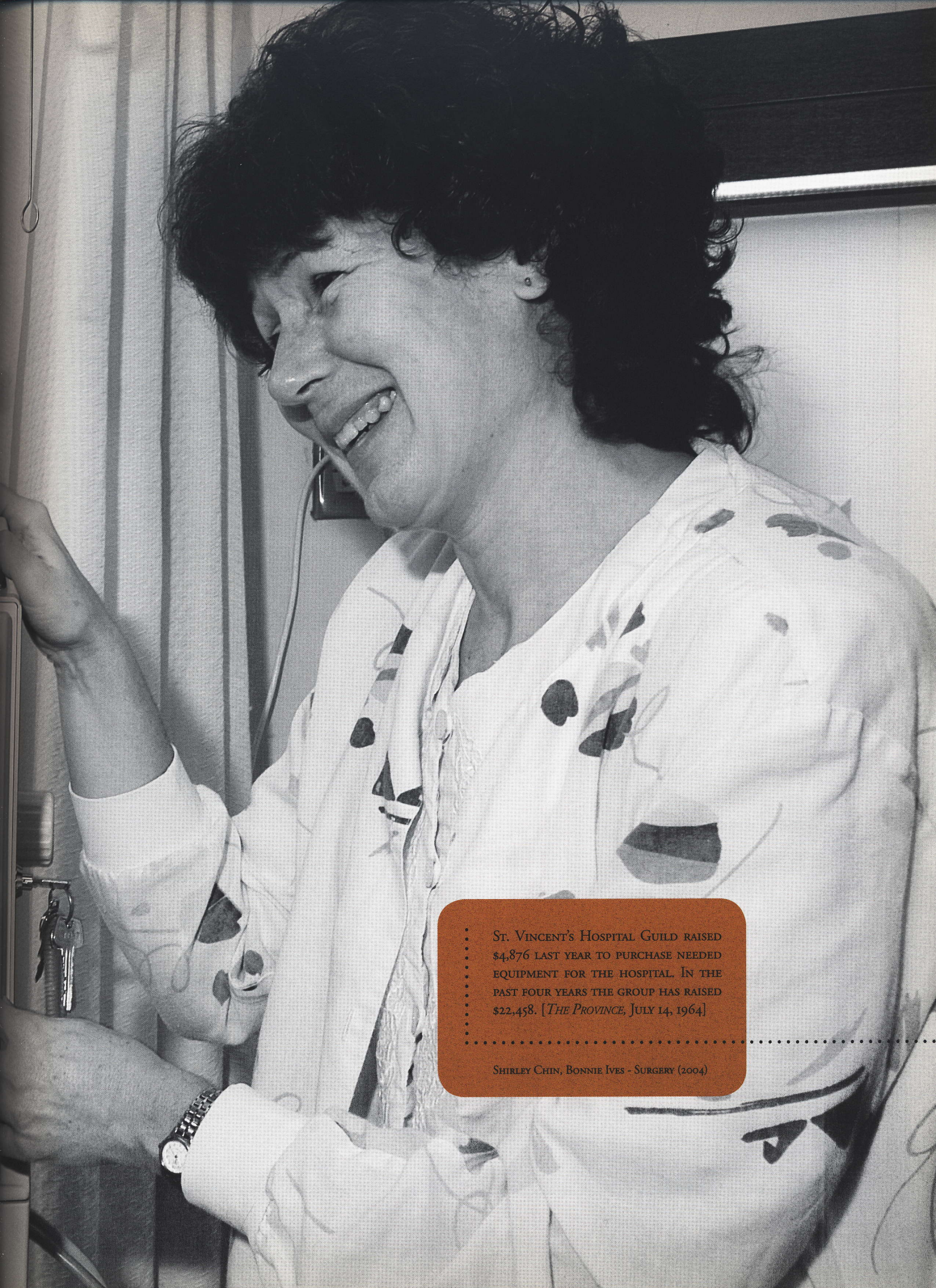


St. Vincent's Hospital Guild raised $4,876 last year to purchase needed equipment for the hospital. In the past four years the group has raised $22,458. [*The Province*, July 14, 1964]

Shirley Chin, Bonnie Ives - Surgery (2004)

OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS, THE GUILD HAS RAISED SUBSTANTIAL SUMS FOR CANCER AGENCIES. HOWEVER, THE MOST PRECIOUS CONTRIBUTION THE GUILD HAS MADE IS THE GIFT OF THEIR PERSONAL TIME TO OUR RESIDENTS AND PATIENTS. [JOHN MCKENNA, 1984]

One of my favourite St. Vincent's memories is when I was volunteering at the annual Pacific Spirit Run. As I was helping guide the runners along the path, I noticed that the volunteers behind me were misdirecting people. I had to chase after those runners on my bike, and even then they still didn't believe me when I told them they were going the wrong way! [Wynn Woodward, Donor]

The collaborative efforts of the staff, residents and family members resulted in a grant to establish the beautiful Extended Care garden and greenhouse, which have been enjoyed by many patients and visitors. The St. Vincent's Hospital Guild also worked diligently to raise $80,000 in order to enclose an open deck so that in-patients on the first floor could enjoy overlooking the ECU gardens and the mountains without enduring the brunt of our West Coast weather. [Joan Borslein, Rehab Services]

ECU greenhouse construction (Sunshine Corner Gardening Group) (1982)

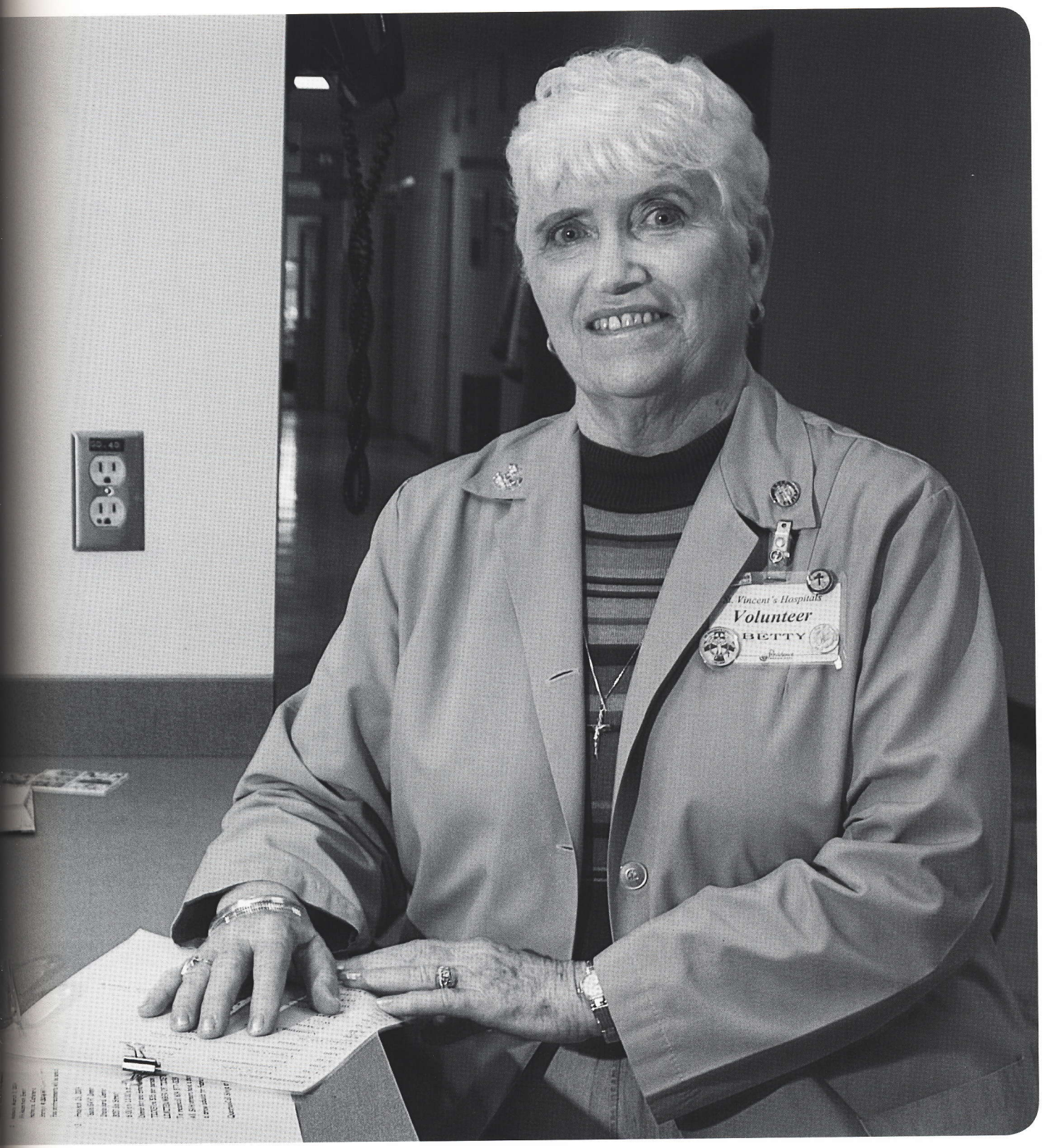
WE HAVE A NEW TROUPE OF VOLUNTEERS, "THE PINAFORES," COMPRISED OF 65-70 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO BELONG TO THE "FUTURE NURSES CLUB." [MARCH 25, 1965]

I have fond memories of our Volunteer Info Sessions at St. Vincent's when high school students would come to find out about volunteering. It was very enjoyable to meet different students and give them an idea of how they could be of service. [Silvija Goodyer, Coordinator, Volunteer Resources]

When I first volunteered on the Foundation, it consisted of Joan Williams (the Executive Director), one other volunteer, and one black cat. [Joan MacLean, Honorary Director/Former Chair, Foundation]

The opportunity to volunteer at St. Vincent's came at a time when I needed something to fill a void. I'll miss the camaraderie with the staff, the Sisters and the patients. I never finished a shift without someone saying "thank you." [Marnie Hughes, Guild Volunteer]

DURING 1986, VINCENTEENS GAVE A TOTAL OF 2,445 HOURS OF SERVICE TO THE HOSPITAL.



[Previous Pages] 50th anniversary photo of Board of Management (Back, L-R) Mrs. Meldie Harris, Mr. Allen Bennett, Mr. Bob Quart, Dr. Robert Halpenny (Front, L-R) Sister Thérèse Kergoat, Sister Rita Lynch, Sister Marion MacDonald, Mr. Barrie Smythe, Sister Frances Rooney, mr. Owen Dolan, Mrs. Irma Connighan, Mr. Tom Burns (1989); [Above] Betty Fletcher, Volunteer (2004)

memories

anecdotes

escapad

antics

Chapter Eight
Only at St. Vincent's

"A cheerful heart is good medicine."
(Proverbs 17:22)

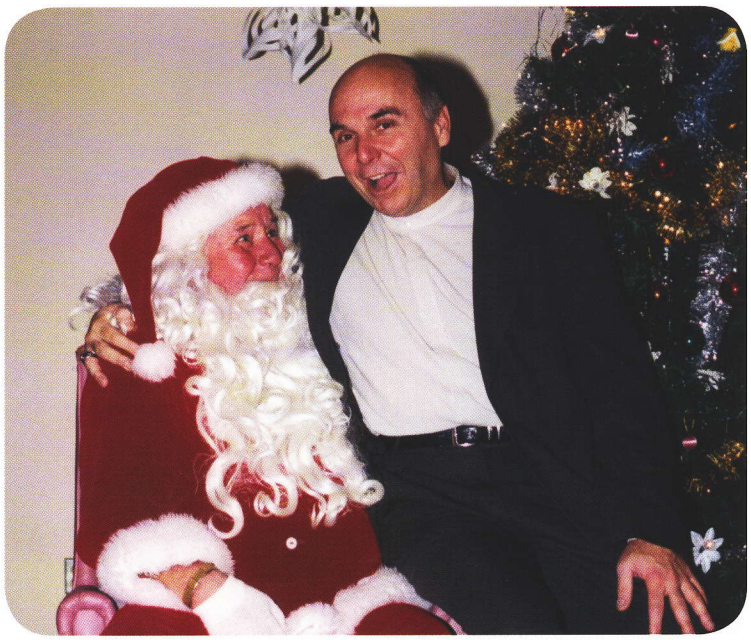
I remember the doctors taking their children to St. Vincent's on Sunday mornings and the Sisters looking after them. [Catherine Dunham, Donor]

In the earlier days at St. Vincent's, Christmas staff parties were well attended and included lots of food, camaraderie and hilarious skits. Dr. Calderisi was renowned for his nurse impersonations and rhyming narrations, but the "tap-dancing nuns" and the physician posing as a patient on a stretcher without any underwear are spoofs that will stay in my head forever! [Dr. Enid Edwards, PHC Laboratory Head]

My fondest memory of St. Vincent's is bringing out the Christmas tree during my first year. While we were decorating, I noticed Maureen, a thirty-year employee of the hospital, fondly reminiscing over each ornament. All of us listened as she told stories of past Christmases, and there was not a dry eye in the department. [Brenda Wainwright, Chief Paramedical, Radiology, PHC]

St. Vincent's always had such great variety of food. It was the best place to go for a meeting! [Sandra Heath, Chair, PHC Board of Directors]

St. Vincent's was an extended family to me and I was active in every way, including organizing doctor skits for Christmas shows and other special occasions. I was usually the guy on stage dressed like a nurse! [Dr. Ron Calderisi, Former Head of Surgery]



[Top Left] Dressing up for Halloween (1997); [Top Right] Santa with Phil Hassen (1997); [Bottom] Connie Lawson, Wendy Sarsby, Bonnie Hoess, Bonita Walden, Ivy Moy - 'Angels' of Mercy (1987)

SVH EMERGENCY ENTRANCE (*CIRCA* 1989)

Once, when I was on duty as night supervisor in Emergency, a woman came to the door with a cat she'd found lying in the road a few blocks away. The cat was obviously dead, but the woman desperately wanted us to resuscitate it. We started to explain that we would do what we could, but then decided it would be better to get the night duty physician to "examine" the animal and then break the news to the woman. When all was said and done, we were stuck with the predicament of what to do with this cat body. I phoned the S.P.C.A emergency line, but was told simply to put the cat in a cardboard box and place it outside where someone would pick it up "sometime" the next morning. I didn't think this would be very welcoming to patients entering the hospital, so I decided instead to put the animal in a green garbage bag, label it "CAT," and store it in the morgue. Another call to the S.P.C.A assured me that the cat would definitely be collected before my shift ended, which it was. However, as I was reporting to the Director of Nursing the following day, she pointedly asked, "What about the cat in the morgue?" You just can't hide anything. Someone always finds out. [Sharon Shewella, Operations Leader, Surgery]

I met John Forrester at a dinner party one Christmas, and the topic arose that I'd been doing public relations for one of the ministries in Victoria, which I found rather disheartening. John listened to my plight and decided to hire me as his Executive Assistant at St. Vincent's. I had to get directions to the hospital because I'd never really heard of it before. But, like most people, once you've been to St. Vincent's you never forget the experience. Professionally, it was like moving from one end of the spectrum to the other. For the first few weeks I walked around the hospital with a lump in my throat, renewing my faith in mankind. [Ann Corrigan, Executive Director, Foundation]

I remember working in the library with Sister Murphy and telling her that my mother had recently been hospitalized at St. Vincent's. Sister Murphy promised to go and visit her. The next day, when I stopped in to check on my mother, she was quite excited to tell me, "A woman dressed as a nun came to visit me!" I had to explain, "Mom, that was a nun!" [Diane Sharp, Associate Guild Member]

One night, in the days before hospital security, I remember having problems with an elderly patient. He'd escaped from the ward and I ended up following him around the parking lot at 3 am. I called the night supervisor for assistance but I couldn't reach her, which was highly unusual. As it turns out, at the same time I was trailing my patient, the night supervisor was in emergency: she'd been kicked accidentally by an 82-year-old woman. The two of us met up the next night at work — me with my cold and her with her stitches. What else could we do but laugh? [Kit Schindell, Director of Patient Relations, PHC]

Sister Jean Keenan gives Holy Communion to elderly patient

One of my fondest memories of St. Vincent's occurred one day in December. Sister Ann Fix called me over to help her sing "Silent Night" to fulfill a daycare patient's request.

He told us that if we sang this, he would go to the bank on the way home and bring back a $2000 donation to the hospital. We sang a pretty pathetic "Silent Night," but we did our best and the patient was discharged. As I was leaving the hospital a few hours later after my shift, I could see Sister Fix patiently waiting inside the front door for our patient to return. I smiled gently and told her that I didn't think he was coming back, but she had faith in him. Unfortunately, he never showed up. However, six months later, the same patient returned for cataract surgery. I called Sister Fix and said, "Guess who's back?" She was down to the daycare ward like a shot. In no uncertain terms, she told this patient that he should not make promises he didn't intend to keep. Although Sister Fix's faith in people had diminished a little, it didn't keep the two of us from smiling every Christmas after that whenever we heard "Silent Night." [Charlene Masse, Pre-admission RN]

[Previous Pages] Patients enjoy a beautiful day in the gardens; [Above] Diane Dawson, Surgical Daycare Nurse (2004)

It was decided one year that we should create a pumpkin patch at the side of St. Vincent's. Of course this inevitably led to a pumpkin growing contest and a carving competition. The participation was unbelievable – every department and every service was represented. We actually used quality measures to chart what was happening, and even created a newsletter, called "Gross Notes," to report the scandals. [Cathy Helliwell, Operations Leader]

When I first arrived at St. Vincent's, I met a lot of new people but didn't always remember their names. One morning, as I entered a stairwell, I took note of a "Wet Floor" sign with bold black letters saying, "Pat Wall." As a physiotherapist, I remember being impressed that instructions were issued to remind staff to descend the stairs close to the wall in order to avoid slipping on the wet floor. I obediently descended the two flights with my right hand pressed against the wall, only to round the bend and meet up with Mr. Pat Wall himself, busily mopping the floor. Years later, I still smile when I run into Pat and remember my erroneous initial assumptions about workplace safety! [Joan Borslein, Rehab Services]

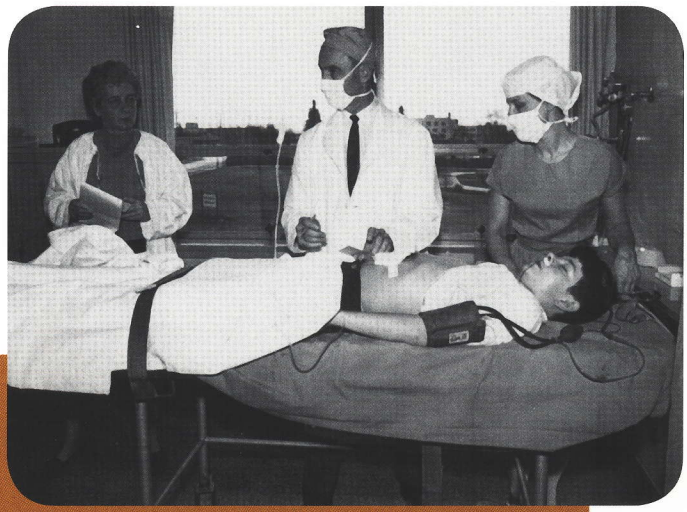
[L-R] PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST (1997); PERFECTING HAND-EYE CO-ORDINATION AT STAFF PARTY (1987); NEW YEAR'S STAFF RECOGNITION PARTY (2000)

When I joined the Board, the first event I attended was the annual Christmas Party. Sister Marion MacDonald welcomed me and we sat together for the infamous staff skits. Everyday life and funny incidents were portrayed by RNs, doctors, and specialists alike, and nothing was left to the imagination. The humor was wonderful! I was somewhat taken aback, but in total stitches of laughter. Suddenly, Sister MacDonald leaned over and whispered, "Never mind. This is their way of relaxing and you really needn't worry if you ever have to be operated on by one of them." [Meldy Harris, Former Vice Chair, St. Vincent's Board of Directors]

I remember going to a celebration at St. Vincent's the first year I was here. A skit was performed to capture the spirit of the hospital, and a well-known surgeon named Ron Calderisi appeared in a very tight nurse's outfit, complete with his own beard and hairy legs. That night, I realized that Ron was part of the Mission team and fully engaged in the spirit of the organization. For me to see a doctor participating with such great joie de vivre, and to see him so well received, initiated my connection with many others like him. To me, that embodies what St. Vincent's is all about: a community of service that takes the time to celebrate. [Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care]

[This Page] Nurses Caroline Leckie & Heather McAdie enjoy a moment with a patient (2004); [Next Page] Doctors & nurses attend to an Eric Hamber student as part of "Mock Disaster Day" (1966)

Thirty-five drama students at Eric Hamber school, moaned, groaned, hobbled around with apparent broken legs, and feigned serious lacerations with ketchup, in a mock disaster exercise at St. Vincent's Hospital. "Since we do not have an emergency ward, the mock disaster was very useful in helping us find out whether we could handle an emergency by using the cafeteria and other departments," said Sister Loretto. [Source unknown, April 4, 1966]



About two years ago, as I arrived home from a meeting around 10:30 pm one of the Sisters was sitting on her bed, gasping for air. The on-call doctor and other Sisters were already in the room with her, and the doctor told us she had to be admitted. On checking with the Nursing Unit, we were informed that there was a staffing problem and a number of the beds were closed. Within a matter of minutes, a nurse said she would contact the senior leader on-call and ask that a bed be opened. The nurse noted that the other option was to transfer the Sister to St. Paul's, where she would likely stay in the Emergency Department all night if not longer. I set out to contact a private duty nurse, but was immediately informed that one of the staff nurses would be more than happy to nurse the Sister for the night. On checking in on her in the morning, I was informed that the Sister needed constant care, which the attending nurse was delighted to provide. The entire experience exemplifies the compassion that permeates St. Vincent's. [Sister Margaret Vickers]

legacy

renewal

commemor

bequest

Chapter Nine
Campus of Care

tion

Let us give thanks to
the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ!
For He has blessed us.
(Eph. 1:3)

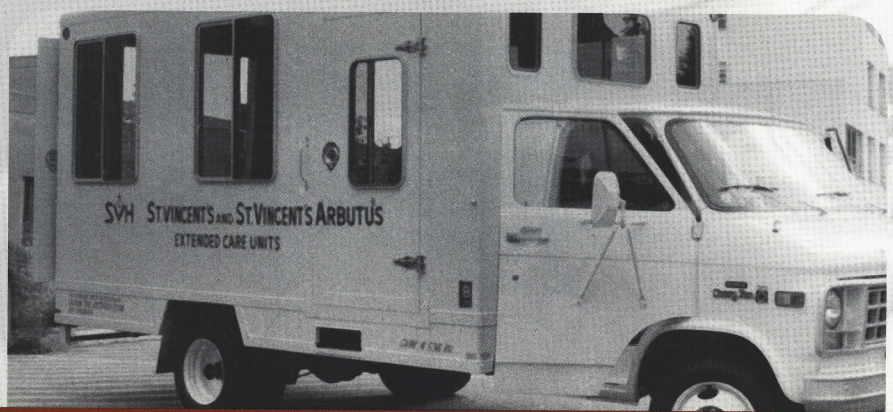
The Campus of Care will be a state-of-the-art facility with equipment to keep clients as healthy as possible during their golden years. There will be considerable education for the entire staff in relation to the Mission and its values, and the tradition started by the Sisters will have a prominent place in daily operations. St. Vincent's was the first to introduce modernizations such as ultrasound and an Intensive Care Unit, and I am confident that the Campus of Care will be the most up-to-date facility of its kind in British Columbia. [Sister Margaret Vickers]

To me, the legacy of St. Vincent's is carried in spirit in each individual that has been touched by the facility in some way. [Angela D'Avanti, Manager of Nutrition & Building Services]

When newspaper ads were placed to alert the public to the closure and planned renewal of St. Vincent's, many people wanted to be first in line to receive compassionate care at the Heather site's planned Campus of Care. They're looking forward to Providence innovatively meeting residents' and seniors' evolving needs of the future. To me, that demonstrates the lasting impact of the Sisters, the staff and the physicians. It's the true legacy of St. Vincent's Hospital. [Carl Roy, President and CEO, Providence Health Care]

I started working at St. Vincent's in 1978 and feel it is my second family. I have loved all of our patients, the quiet and spiritual environment, the Sisters, my St. Vincent's family and the breath-taking, million-dollar view of the city surrounded by water and mountains. [Charlene Masse, Pre-admission RN]

The elements we've contributed to the local population in terms of medicine and an "urgent care centre" are unparalleled. [Dr. Doug Bebb, Family Practitioner]



[Top Left] Hon. Thomas Dohm, Sister Marion MacDonald, Minister of Health Ralph Loffmark, Robert Bawlf & Mr. Clifford White officially break ground for the extended care wing (1972); [Top Right] SVH laundry and boiler room (1952); [Bottom Right] Patricia McAstocker in SVH laboratory (1954); [Bottom Left] SVH ECU bus

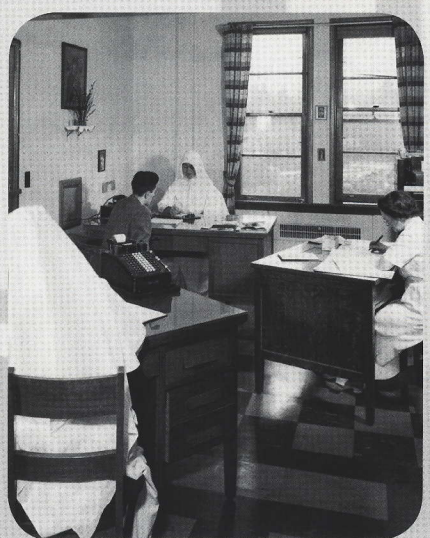
Though it was a lot of hard work, my experience at St. Vincent's was also a lot of fun. It's a well-managed hospital that gives terrific service. [Giles Mackenzie, Honorary Director, Foundation]

Every doctor in the city would like to work somewhere like St. Vincent's; it's the world's best place to work. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity. [Dr. Pierre Faber, Ophthalmologist]

St. Vincent's is a place where staff members have formed friendships that will continue throughout their lives. When the doors close for the last time, we are blessed with the knowledge that the spirit of St. Vincent's Hospital will follow us wherever life takes us. [Bonnie Hoess, Health Records]

I'm proud of having been a part of a group that enjoyed taking care of the elderly when they needed it the most. [Barb Sweeney, Supervisor SVH/MSJ]

My time on the board at St. Vincent's was the most important community service of my entire life. It's the best work I ever did and many of the relationships I built with the other board members, staff and volunteers evolved into wonderful friendships. [The Honourable Thomas A. Dohm, Honorary Director, Foundation]



I made great friends when I made my weekly volunteer visit with my dog Poco to the psychiatric wards. [John Forrester, Former Vice President, Chara; Former Chief Operating Officer, President and CEO, St. Vincent's]

St. Vincent's has always been willing and able to adjust with the changing needs of the community. The new Campus of Care will provide an opportunity to continue in this tradition by providing a resource to meet the current and emerging needs of elders, a growing segment of our community. [Laurie Smyth, Site Leader, SVH Heather/Change Leader, Change Initiatives]

[Top Left] Private room when SVH first opened (1939); [Top Right] Multiple-patient room (1939); [Bottom] Administrator, accountant & admitting clerk in general office (1939) [Background] SVH kitchen (1939)

Providence

AMLODIPINE
AMLODIPINE
AMITRIPTYLINE
AMITRIPTYLINE
CIPROFLOXACIN 250
METRONIDAZOLE
IBUPROFEN 200 MG

I've loved seeing so many familiar faces when I've walked through the building over the past 30 years. It's been a great place to work! [Sister Alice Keegan]

I am proud to be a part of St. Vincent's past. I take away with me the privilege of working with such a profound, dedicated and knowledgeable group. [Joan MacLean, Honorary Director/Former Chair, Foundation]

As a general physician, there is nowhere that I would rather have worked. [Dr. Doug Bebb, Family Practitioner]

Some of my favourite memories about St. Vincent's are the positive remarks from patients and their families about the special care they received; the reports that a patient had a peaceful death because of the way the team cared for him and his family; the courage shown by those who have lost their jobs; and, the way the Sisters show concern for everyone affected by St. Vincent's destiny. [Lorraine Lyons, Education Nurse, Psychiatry]

I'm proud that we've helped a lot of the acute care and ambulatory programs launch and obtain funding at St. Vincent's. [Chris Stepien, Chair, Foundation]

St. Vincent's built a community of diverse and skilled people who created a wonderful environment for a workplace and health facility. [Meldy Harris, Former Vice Chair, St. Vincent's Board of Directors]

[Previous Pages] Anna Ha, Chris Anderson, Emily Chan, Shirley Lam - Pharmacy (2004); [This Page] (Top, L-R) Marie Draper, Brandon Barr, Caroline Leckie, Barbara Meistrich, Lorraine Lyons, Heather McAdie - W2 Psychiatry (2004); Laurie Smyth (Site Leader), Lorraine Lyons (Clinic Educator) - Psychiatry (2004)

WALTRAUD

I am grateful to St. Vincent's for its dedication and commitment, as well as its ability to continually transform and still provide services to meet the needs of the community. [Sandra Heath, Chair, PHC Board of Directors]

The legacy of St. Vincent's Hospital will continue to be with us as we create an exciting new Campus of Care. This redevelopment has given us the opportunity to provide a truly exceptional care environment. The strong tradition, colourful history and undying spirit of St. Vincent's will live on to serve many future generations. [Neil MacConnell, Chief Architect]

The Psychiatry Unit always had a great sense of humour. People constantly joked around and got along. [Marie Draper, Adult Psychiatry]

I am proud of each and every staff member and how they have proudly held their heads high and continue to keep the spirit of St. Vincent's Hospital alive as it transforms into the Campus of Care. [Brenda Wainwright, Chief Paramedical, Radiology, PHC]

I've never experienced an environment as positive as St. Vincent's. I'm proud to have been associated with a team of such dedicated volunteers. The people who work here are so thoughtful and warm. [Silvija Goodyer, Coordinator, Volunteer Resources]

The Campus of Care will provide integrated health and housing services for seniors, allowing them to maximize their independence. There will be assisted living and complex residential care options, and services will be coordinated in a seamless manner so that the system is easy to navigate for the client. As the development takes form, our vision will turn to future goals of establishing Healthy Aging programs, hospice services, and community access to dining facilities. [Carla Gregor, VP Elder Care and Mental Health]

[Previous Pages] (Back Row, L-R) Joel Manio, Waltraud Custer, Montse helsen, Christine Schiller, Cara Birkeland, Claudette Chabot (Front Row, L-R) Cindy Taylor, Maria Razo, Toba (Dog) (2004); [Above] (Back Row, L-R) Barbara Meistrich, Jane Cherry, Teresa Robataille (Front Row, L-R) Linda MacLellan, Aurora Seminiano, Babs Lye, Sharon Carson - SVH Friendship and Memory Celebration (2004)

I've established lifelong friendships at St. Vincent's.

[ANN CORRIGAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FOUNDATION]

Our plan with the Campus of Care is to create a Centre of Excellence for seniors where clients can receive care in a safe and welcoming environment. The Sisters began the tradition of meeting the needs of the community, and we hope to continue that practice. [Ann Corrigan, Executive Director, St. Vincent's Hospital Foundation]

I'm thankful to have been given the opportunity to work at St. Vincent's. It has served the community well. [Hugh MacIsaac, Pastoral Care Associate]

As a solo pathologist, I have been affiliated with the lab at St. Vincent's Hospital for nearly seventeen years – almost one quarter of the hospital's existence. St. Vincent's Department of Pathology was a wonderful learning experience for me, affording me great contacts with medical personnel and other hospital staff. In both the personal and the professional sense, St. Vincent's has benefited me far more than any contribution I may have made to it. [Dr. Enid Edwards, PHC Laboratory Head]

the spirit of compassion and respect

The Campus of Care will provide a good quality of life for seniors during the last stages of their lives. With the values of St. Vincent's being part of the new operation, the spirit of compassion and respect will live on forever. [Sister Frances Rooney]

will live on forever

The Times They Are A-Changing

Come gather 'round people
Wherever you've served
And admit that the climate
Around here has swerved
And accept all the praise
Your hard work deserves
Your past mem'ries
Are worth savin'
But the future is now
As the pendulum curves
For the times they are a'changin'.

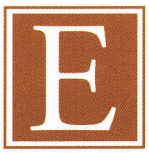
The patient comes first
We say with great pride
And it matters not
What age or what's tried
The Sisters' core values
Will continue to guide
It's your heart which
Makes all the difference
Just follow its lead
It will be quite a ride
For the times they are a'changin'.

Come Catholics and Protestants
Please heed the call
Join hands with our brothers
Of all faiths to recall
The reason we're here
Should not be forestalled
There is love and respect
And our Mission
They'll continue to flow
And inhabit our halls
Tho' the times they are a'changin'.

Now staff of St Vincent's
Please take a bow
Your loyalty and joy
Have excelled, we allow
Thanks for the love
And the sweat of your brow
There's no price
For the values you've given
And your past efforts
Are still needed now
Though the times they are a'changin'.

(Dr. Ron Calderisi, Former Head of Surgery)

Sustaining
The Light of
SVH Heather



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The
old order changeth
giving place to the new,
and
God fulfills Himself
in many ways.
[Lord Tennyson]

Providence
HEALTH CARE