



The *Great* Canadian  
Catholic Hospital History Project

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

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Projet de la *Grande* Histoire  
des hôpitaux catholiques au Canada

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

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## Souvenir of the Opening of New Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary April 1st, 1929

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*Souvenir of the Opening*  
*of*  
**NEW HOLY CROSS  
HOSPITAL**



*Calgary*

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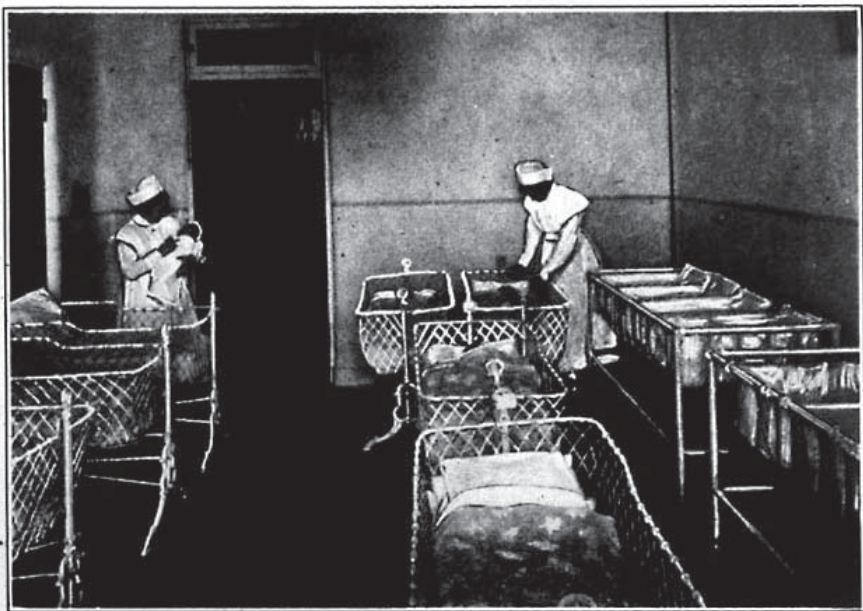
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THE NEW WING OPENED ON APRIL 1st.





WARD IN MATERNITY HOSPITAL



# A Mission of Mercy for Thirty-eight Years

(COURTESY OF CALGARY HERALD)



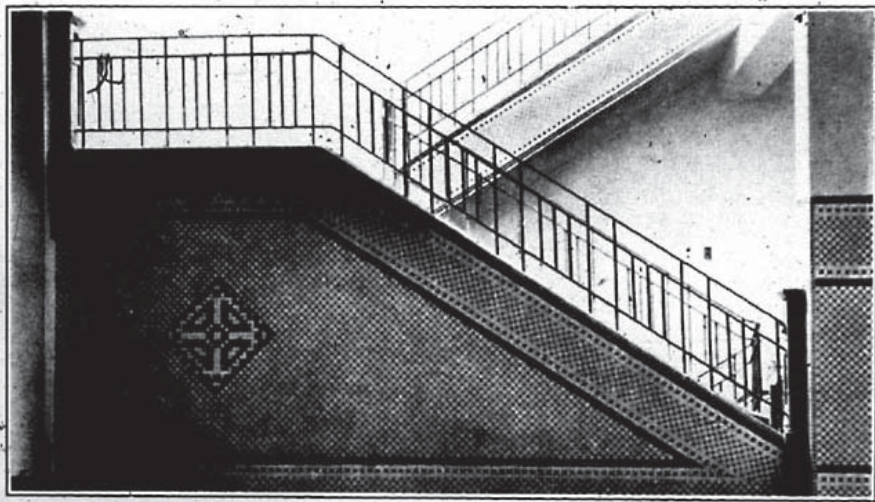
ON Easter Monday the new wing of the Holy Cross Hospital will open its doors to patients. For almost a year construction work has continued without intermission and we can now watch the building as it nears completion. The new structure, running north and south on Second Street West, has a frontage of 154 feet and width of 42 feet, with a wing 60x 40 feet fronting on the same street. The foundations are of concrete and steel, and the walls of a polychrome brick in very pleasing shades.

## Roof Garden will Alleviate Human Suffering

Four stories it stands and above that a roof garden where the fresh air and bright sun of Alberta may contribute their share in alleviating human suffering. The equipment "from turret to foundation stone" is of the most modern type and a credit

to Calgary, or to any city in Canada. The main building is fireproof throughout; frames, floors and stairs being of concrete and steel. This new wing adds 112 beds to the hospital accommodation of Calgary, as compared with a year ago, and should take care of about 3,500 patients per year—a very decided growth in the hospital capacity.

The visitor, to the new building after ascending a few steps, will find himself in a stately hall where at his right are the doctors' quarters, cloak room, a beautiful library and a consulting room where patients can be examined. Across the hall are the offices of the institution, the telephone exchange and information bureau. This part of the building is finished in quarter-cut oak with flush doors that are good to look upon. From here the visitor passes into the main building to gaze upon the square hall which serves as a waiting room.



MAGNIFICENT MOSAIC STAIRWAY—ENTRANCE HALL, NEW WING HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL.



## SOUVENIR OF THE OPENING OF THE NEW HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL :

### **Varicolored Mosaic Stairway is of Great Beauty**

In this hall is the elevator, and a noble stair, a thing of beauty in Tyndal stone and varicolored mosaic—this stair itself is worth a visit. Along the corridor leading north will be found, on your right, the filing room where case records are kept; the office of the Superior and four private rooms with baths, sitting room and telephone. On your right will be found the pharmacy, the superintendent's office, the office of the instructress of nurses, and across the north end the nurses' lecture hall and demonstration room—the modern hospital must also be an educational institution of specified standing.

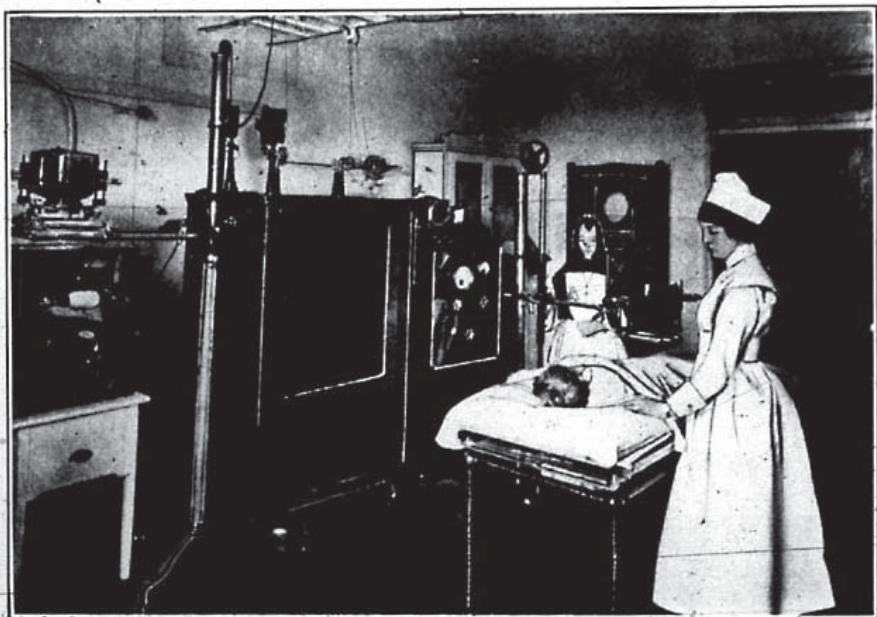
On the second story is the chapel running two stories in height and finished in Roman style with much beautiful plaster work. The altars will be of Carrara marble and are being imported from Italy. On this floor is accommodation for 35 adults in wards holding four patients each and in private rooms. The utility rooms are equipped with the latest in sterilizing machinery and the diet kitchens

with electric cooking appliances and iceless refrigeration in beautiful enamelware cabinets.

The third floor holds, besides a number of wards for adults, the children's ward, which was really designed and equipped for children; it is a place any child might well like to occupy. In the utility rooms, diet kitchens and lavatories, the flooring is Terazzo with brass expansion strips and the corridors are attractive in a heavy linoleum with the tile patterns.

### **"Silent Call" System of Signals Most Modern**

The private rooms and wards are complete to the most minute details: the "silent call" system of signals which depends on lights instead of jangling bells; the "friction hinges" that keep a door in any position and obviate the jars and slams so often heard in long corridors, and on the doors are "dead locks" which means locks without the protruding bar that so often tore the uniform or apron of hurrying nurse. One strange and consoling fact stares the visitor in the face; the hospital is Calgary.



X RAY ROOM.



## SOUVENIR OF THE OPENING OF THE NEW HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL

made from start to finish; our fellow-citizen, Mr. W. S. Bates, was the architect and the Sisters of Holy Cross knew all about such overlooked things as modern equipment which so often saves time and increases efficiency.

### THE WORKSHOP

Like the Tower Bridge every well planned institution must conceal the machinery by which it works. In the new wing of Holy Cross the ground floor contains the motor power of the place. There is the entry for the ambulance drivers, whose pass key admits the suffering patient to a warm well furnished room whence the driver can communicate with office. Here also is located the isolation hospital whose patients are thus completely separated from any contact with other sufferers. On one side of the long corridor is the diet kitchen, graduate nurses' dining room with cloak room and rest room. On the other side will be found the gauze room, the splint room where all dressing materials and appliances will be stored in readiness for work. Adjoining this last is the pupil nurses' cloak room

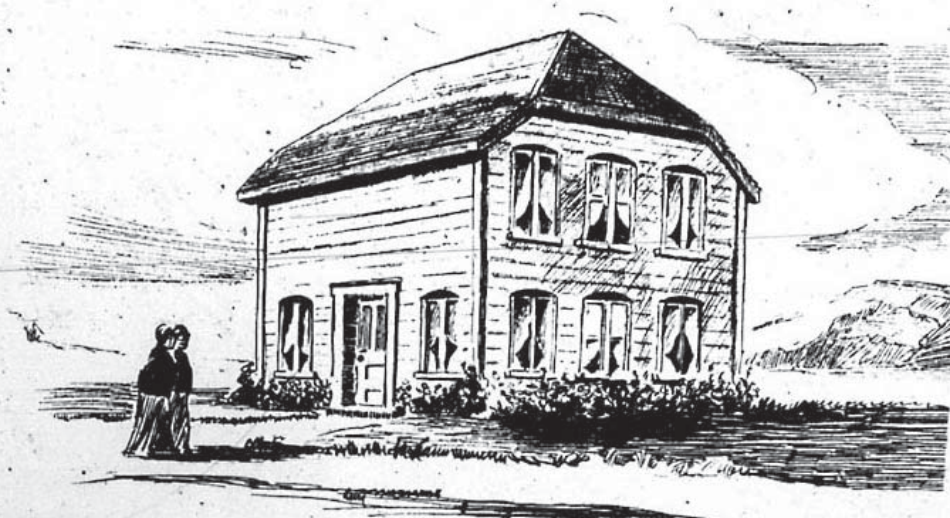
and across the north end of this floor their cafeteria, a bright inviting room capable of accommodating over 100 diners.

### Three-Fold Meaning of Modern Hospital

The modern hospital, besides being a hospital, must be a university and hotel; two activities that are usually expensive. Holy Cross Hospital has at present 18 Sisters, 95 pupil and graduate nurses and 48 other employes, a larger staff than that of many of the business institutions people consider vitally important to the city's welfare and prosperity.

### Growth is Amazing; Asset to Alberta

The Holy Cross Hospital has cared for the sick and afflicted of Central Alberta for 38 short years, and in my opinion, no town in Europe can show so rapid a development in so brief a period. The original hospital yet stands, a monument in brick and 24 feet square and with two stories. In 1891 it had four beds, 64 patients and 1,110 hospital days to its credit. In 1928, the Holy Cross Hospital had 200 beds, 4,328 patients and 49,033 hospital days.



RINGGOLD  
1891

TEMPORARY HOSPITAL OPENED APRIL, 1891.



## SOUVENIR OF THE OPENING OF THE NEW HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL

After the first of April this same institution will have over 300 beds at work and that makes possible the admission of about 7,000 patients per year and a grand total of over 90,000 hospital days—Alberta must be a Mecca to health seekers, or the most unhealthy centre in the world. My own opinion is that it is neither, even though some wish to make it both. We have a healthy climate, have our own share of sickness and have, besides, the means of caring for the sick and afflicted of the province.

### THE BEGINNINGS

At two o'clock on the morning of January 30, 1891, four Grey Nuns arrived in Calgary. They had been met in Winnipeg by the late Father Ledue, O.M.I., who had long awaited their coming. On their reaching the station not a conveyance could be found and into the bitterly cold night they walked on their way to Sacred Heart Convent. The Calgary of that day had no street lights, and which was worse, had no streets between the Canadian Pacific tracks and Nineteenth Avenue West: that walk, the darkness, the cold and the weight of the baggage carried made

their arrival memorable in the annals of the hospital. That same day they took possession of their new hospital: an unfinished building, 24 feet square and two stories in height, and heated by one small stove. They had at their disposal \$73.75 remaining from the sum procured from friends and from the congregation of St. Patrick's Parish in Montreal—their total capital on leaving home was \$209.74 in cash and goods valued at about \$150.00.

### Sister Carroll was Brave Hospital Pioneer

The Superior of the Holy Cross Hospital in these dark, hard days, was Sister Carroll well known to and well beloved by all old-timers. With the help of Mrs. Clark, of the Royal Hotel and Mrs. McKinnon, linen and other furnishing were collected and the little building equipped for work. On April 10, 1891, the first patient was admitted and as spring warmed into summer Sister Carroll collected funds in the construction camps along the Canadian Pacific lines whence she returned with \$300.00, to which the small congregation of St. Mary's added \$40.00. Between April 10 and December 31, 1891, 64 patients



FIRST HOSPITAL ON PRESENT SITE—OPENED NOVEMBER, 1892.



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had been admitted; the little hospital was already too small and a permanent home was being planned in the early months of 1892.

### THE NEW BUILDING

In April, 1892, Sister Hamel came and selected the site of the present Holy Cross Hospital. The land was donated by the Oblate Fathers who gave besides 25,000 bricks, and on May 3, 1892, a contract was signed for the construction of a building to cost the staggering sum of \$6,000.00. There was besides, a heating plant at a cost of \$2,500.00. To meet this latter expenditure the women of St. Mary's Parish held a bazaar and sent one of their members with Sister Carroll to collect funds in the neighborhood of Macleod and Pincher Creek; the bazaar and the collection brought in \$2,600.00.

The new building was opened on November 20, 1892, and has not closed its doors since. In the annals of 1892 special mention is made of our esteemed fellow-townsmen, Mr. Wendall MacLean, whose generosity had been princely. Following that

comes the receipt of \$247.00 from the Amateur Dramatic Society, of which the late P. J. Nolan was a member, and later on is mentioned the sum of \$60.00, part of the proceeds of a concert given by the congregation of Knox Church.

### Smallpox Epidemic Received Sisters' Services

On July 19, 1892, as Sister Carroll reached the platform of Calgary's small station, she was met by His Worship the Mayor, who requested her to staff the smallpox hospital which had been opened that day about three miles from the city. She wanted to go herself, but the new building demanded her attention. The annalist added, "to sacrifice a sacrifice, that is painful and meritorious." Sister Carroll sent that same evening Sisters Beauchemin and Valliquett and one of the doctors volunteered his services that the sufferers and the Sisters might have the benefit of medical direction. They remained at this temporary hospital for five weeks and on their return were given by the city authorities \$250.00 for their services, and received also the generous thanks of the mayor and citizens.

## SOUVENIR OF THE OPENING OF THE NEW HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL

### Met Diphtheria with Equal Fortitude

In August, 1893, the city was visited by an epidemic of diphtheria, a disease then much more dreaded than it is today. The Sisters gave up their own quarters and lived on the third floor of the hospital, which as yet was totally unfinished. The Holy Cross Hospital has met several epidemics since then and the Sisters have always been equal to every demand. They have besides been able to contribute, out of their poverty, to the care of the sick and the needy. During the month of March, 1924, it is recorded that 165 poor were fed, in December of that same year 440 meals were given the poor, and in January, 1925, 250 meals were served; relief of the poor is not usually associated with hospital activities.

### THE UNKNOWN BENEFACTOR

In the sacristy of the Holy Cross Hospital is a framed memorial card recalling a benefactor, Mr. R. J. Devins, of whom little, if anything, has ever been heard. In the annals of the hospital it is mentioned that a Sister Devins was specially interested in the

foundation of the hospital in Calgary. From time to time came very necessary contributions in money and then a legacy of household effects. The gifts in money came from her brother, Mr. R. J. Devins, and on his decease, his household goods were bestowed on the new hospital. When the estate was settled up to about \$8,000 came to Holy Cross Hospital, a sum that made their financial way brighter for many a year.

In the early nineties \$8,000.00 was a very large sum of money in Calgary, where it was well invested by the Sisters of Holy Cross Hospital. That investment has grown from the original building, on the present site, 50 feet square and three stories in height, to the present beautiful and well equipped institution. Hard work and rigid economy are the secrets of their success and the citizens of Calgary are deeply indebted to their generosity and initiative.

### This Year's Graduation Class will be Largest

In 1907 the Holy Cross Hospital opened their school of nursing. Their first graduates, five in number, received their diplomas on February 8, 1910,



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and each year since that date has seen its quota of well trained nurses go forth from the institution. This year's graduation class will have forty members and is the largest in the hospital's history. Well towards 300 nurses have trained in this school and have made that training effective for good in this and neighboring provinces.

Of the quality of this training no further proof is needed than the number of scholarships won by the hospital. In 1924 Miss M. Towers received the provincial reward, in 1925 Miss M. Kilgannon, and in 1927 Miss Alice Short. This is a record of which any hospital might well be proud.

### Contribution Made to Public Health Service

In 1922 the hospital authorities purchased the Waterloo apartments and the Forbes Home to provide adequate and fitting accommodation for the young ladies of the training school. Here they can take their rest and recreation far removed from the hospital and its work. Through this training school, the Holy Cross Hospital makes generous contribution to the public health service of Alberta and especially

of the city of Calgary. To realize that these services and these contributions have been appreciated, one has but to look on the present buildings and their up-to-date equipment: friends, loyal and true friends, have aided the Sisters in their labors and these same friends will watch closely the opening and operation of the new wing which completes the long-awaited Holy Cross Hospital. Did Sister Carroll on her first day in Calgary, even dream of the greatness of 1929?

### Comparative Cost

To the Calgary Herald's article very few paragraphs need to be added, and none can be more interesting than that on comparative costs. In 1892 what was thought a very complete hospital demanded an outlay of about \$400.00 per bed; in 1929 \$3,000.00 per bed is scarce sufficient to build and equip a hospital. In 1892 the members of the C.M.B.A. gave \$25.00 to furnish a room, and the late Mrs. J. W. Costello donated \$50.00 for the same purpose and was thought most generous. Furnishing a room in the new wing of the Holy Cross costs \$500.00; the modern hospital bedstead costs wholesale \$130.00 and at that



RECEPTION ROOM—NURSES' HOME.



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is neither nickel or silver. As a mechanical contrivance it is admirable and must be a very boon to suffering humanity. In the early 1890's the fees in the Holy Cross Hospital were \$1.00 per day for those who could pay, and exactly a dollar less for those who could not. Indigent patients from outside the city were paid for by the Dominion Government at 40c. per day—even Governments were once able to do things at a price far from exorbitant. All that, however, has been changed with the striving of the years to make the sick and suffering less uncomfortable and more at ease in body and mind.

### A Public Institution

Since the doors of Holy Cross Hospital were first opened it has been a public institution in every sense of the word. The small, temporary building in which they began work served them for about eighteen months, during which time the Sisters had cared for 126 patients. Of these 49 were Catholic, 30 members of the Church of England, 22 were Presbyterians, 14 Methodists, 5 Lutherans and 3 adherents of the Baptist Church. In 1893 161 patients received care

at the Holy Cross Hospital: of these 67 were Catholics, 49 Anglicans, 22 Presbyterians, 6 Methodists, 13 Lutherans, 3 Baptists and 1 Salvation Army. The figures for 1928 will show the different religious denominations represented by about the same proportion and 1929 will make an equal showing. On page 25 of the Annals (1893) it is recorded that: "Ministers of all religions are admitted at all hours" to bring their sick the full benefit of their spiritual resources.

### The Sisters' Chapel

Before bidding farewell to the new building one loves to look again on the new Chapel. The old one I have known long and well, and, somehow or other regret its passing. It was but a basement room; long and narrow and not too high, but it was devotional. The new Chapel is much more imposing in its architectural lines and through its stained glass windows a mellow light will filter down on oakens and marble altars for the years to come. Besides making every provision for the care and comfort of their patients the Sisters have built "A House where God may dwell," and they have lived up to the poet's

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specifications by making this Chapel "beautiful, entire and clean."

To them the Chapel means much indeed. Here much of their rest and recreation must be taken. Where the rest of us seek amusement and recreation in various ways, the Sisters betake themselves to the

cathedral quiet of their chapel, there to be refreshed, recreated and strengthened for their long hours of toil and sorrow. Under the name and the shadow of the Cross they began their labors in Calgary and they yet hear echoing and re-echoing the encouraging words: "In this sign shalt thou conquer."

