



The *Great* Canadian
Catholic Hospital History Project

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



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

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

St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing Glace Bay, Nova Scotia

100th Anniversary
1905-2005

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100th Anniversary

of



St. Joseph's Hospital

School of Nursing

1905 - 2005

Planning Committee



L – R Front Row – Pat Bray (O'Neill 1960)
Caroline Paruch (Gromack 1956)
Colleen Shepherd (Boutilier 1970)
Betty Campbell (MacDonald 1963)

L-R Back Row - Shannon Parsons (Butler 1960)
Marie Campbell (Roach 1957)
Mary Chiasson (Wadden) 1959

St. Joseph's Hospital 1902



St. Joseph's Hospital 1939

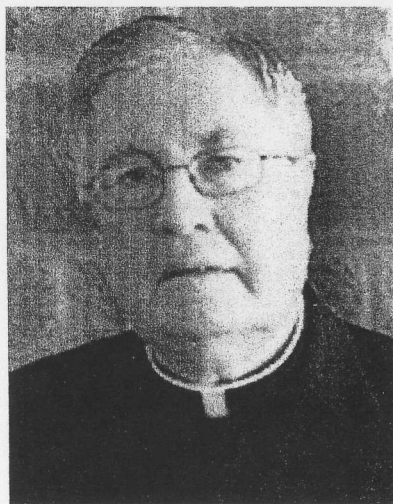


St. Joseph's Hospital 1964



Nurses' Residence 1905





My Dear Alumnae of St. Joseph's

It is a real delight to congratulate all the Alumnae of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing as you celebrate this year, the one hundredth anniversary of the School's first graduation in 1905.

I know that the Alumnae of St. Joseph's are a group of people, who, wherever they may be today, cherish their connection with their roots, and have maintained a real sense of pride in their place of training. It is a pride that I hope you will always maintain.

It will be both a pleasure and an honour to celebrate this significant anniversary with you.

With my warmest wishes to all,
Most Rev. Raymond J. Lahey
Bishop of Antigonish



*Message from the Honourable John F. Hamm, M.D., M.L.A.
Premier of the Province of Nova Scotia
100th Anniversary of the First Graduating Class of the
Nurses from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing
July 2005.*

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, sincere greetings to everyone attending the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the first graduating class of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing.

This is truly a momentous occasion. Not only for the those here as graduates, but for everyone across this country who has benefited from the care of the more than 1000 nurses who graduated from St. Joseph's.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Sisters of St. Martha's. From the beginning, the sisters were instrumental in the administration and education of St. Joseph's.

Once again, thank you for your dedication to the health care profession.



Sincerely,

John Hamm
John F. Hamm

Signed at Halifax, Nova Scotia



It is a privilege for me to congratulate you on behalf of all Marthas as you celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the first graduating class of the former St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing.

The Sisters of St. Martha recall with gratitude and pride the many graduates of St. Joseph's School of Nursing who have truly taken to heart and witnesses to their school's motto of "Science-Service-Sanctity".

Although this school of nursing no longer exists physically, we know it's spirit lives on in future generations who have been imbued with that same passion for continuing the healing and caring mission of Jesus.

As you delight in meeting former classmates and recall your glorious past may you be renewed in your commitment to be bearers of peace and joy to our world.

Sister Theresa Parker
General Superior
Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish



Congratulations to the Planning Committee for the 100th Anniversary celebrations for the first graduating class of St. Joseph's School of Nursing. You are to be commended for your commitment and loyalty to your Alma Mater in arranging this 3-day gala affair on this memorable occasion.

It is a singular pleasure for me to extend greetings to the numerous alumnae who have gathered for this centennial event. It was with pride that I was Director of Nursing Education for St. Joseph's from September 1964 until August 1970. During that time, I prepared more than 100 graduates for the Profession of Nursing. In addition, I made and kept many contacts with those of you who were graduates before my sojourn at St. Joseph's. My sole objective in leading the School was to foster within you a great love of nursing, a loyalty to your Alma Mater and a deep sense of commitment to Christianity. Your presence here this weekend is ample proof that I fulfilled my objective as well as that of former Directors.

In your hearts, your spirits, and your professional lives may there always be a ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF NURSING generously serving the Mystical Body of Christ... "as long as you did it to the least of my brethren, that you did onto me."...

Sister Clare Marie

Director of St. Joseph's School of Nursing
1964 - 1970



In 1948, the Lab at St. Joseph's Hospital consisted of two small rooms in the basement of what was known as the "Old Wing". It was staffed by one person, Sister M. Rosario.

At that time the Canadian Red Cross started supplying the hospitals with blood and blood components. Sr. Rosario, being the only technician in the area, was required to cross match the blood not only for St. Joseph's but also for the Glace Bay General and the New Waterford Hospital. As a result, Sr. Rosario was doing 24 hour duty quite frequently. Since another lab technician was not to be found, I was asked following graduation from the Nursing program to assist Sr. Rosario until such time as a technician was available.

In the mid 1950's Sister was transferred to a hospital in the West. Sister Joseph Ignatia who was the Pharmist helped until Mary McNeil of East Bay agreed to come from St. Martha's. At the same time the first Pathologist- Dr. A. Gyorfi was hired to serve both Glace Bay hospitals. Dr. O. Ikiyani was the last.

In 1960, a School for Medical Technologists was opened in Halifax and the following year the first of 14 students returned to St. Joseph's for practical training and graduation. Thirty-eight years later and having received registration with the CSLT I retired from a more modern, bright laboratory boasting a large staff.

Mary Currie RN, RT
Class of 1948



I, Sister Loretta McGrath (Roberta) was told to go to St. Joseph's Hospital, in 1940, to train to be an X-ray technician. I didn't have a clue what it was all about, but I landed there all excited. When I arrived, Dr. H.R. Corbett was Radiologist, and a wonderful man to work with. He taught me all that I know. We had two X-ray machines, very good for the times, and very busy – always a mine accident at the door. We had four doctors (interns) who were in and out looking at X-rays and teasing Dr. Corbett.

In 1944, I became an RT and later began to train students in the profession. These students trained for two years and graduated with the nurses. They wore green lined capes and green bands on their caps. Following graduation the X-ray graduates pursued careers in various hospitals throughout Canada and the United States.

Sister Loretta McGrath
Bethany, Antigonish



100th Anniversary Celebrations

Friday, July 29th, 2005 – Registration at 7pm.

*St. Anne's Parish Centre, Glace Bay
Meet and Greet with Wine and Cheese*

*Saturday, July 30th – Open House at St. Anne's Parish Centre
where classes can meet and mingle
Light refreshments will be provided
Various planned tours will be available
for those interested*

*6 PM – Banquet to be held at Bayplex
Main St., Glace Bay*

Sunday, July 31st -

*2 PM – Mass with Bishop Lahey at
St. Anne's Church*

*Following Mass our Annual Honors
Celebration for the Classes of 1935;
1945; 1955 and 1965 at St. Anne's
Parish Centre. All Alumnae are invited
A cold supper will be served.*

*7 PM – A Grand Ceilidh will be held
Savoy Theatre, Glace Bay*

Individual classes are encouraged to plan additional

Activities around these dates if they wish.

History of St. Joseph's Hospital

St. Joseph's was the pioneer hospital in eastern Nova Scotia. The first sod was turned by Lord Minto, the then Governor General of Canada on July 24th, 1901. This was the result of the work of two local priests, Father Ronald MacDonald and Father Charles W. MacDonald. The 75 bed hospital was formally opened on July 1st, 1902. The hospital was to be financed through the "Check-off" system, whereby in return for hospitalization, coal company employees made regular contributions from their wages. At a meeting of the hospital board on May 27th, 1902, the ways and means committee recommended that coal company employees be asked to pay .20 cents per month in return for free treatment in public wards, and that amount be deducted in the colliery office. St. Joseph's Hospital was the first hospital in North America to operate under such a system. This system was in place until the establishment of the Nova Scotia Hospital Insurance Commission in 1959.

The Sisters of St. Martha took over housekeeping operations of the hospital from 1902 until 1908. In 1908 the Sisters were recalled to Antigonish to help meet the needs of St. F.X. University. The Sisters returned in 1915 after persistent invitations to assume the management of the hospital. The hospital received its first accreditation in 1921, also the first in the province. In 1939 a new wing was built along the Wallace's Road side. Also in 1939 a TB Annex was built by the province of Nova Scotia. Following a survey by the American College of Physicians in 1942, St. Joseph's was considered the most modern and up to date hospital in Canada. In 1964, a new wing was opened along Main St. to replace the building built in 1902.

The Sisters of St. Martha withdrew from ownership and responsibility for the operation of the hospital August 15th 1977. At that time the name was changed to the Glace Bay Community Hospital. It was now the responsibility of the province of Nova Scotia.

The hospital closed its doors in 1996 and has since been demolished and a Veterans/ Long Term Care Facility has been erected on the site.

History of St. Joseph's School of Nursing

The first student nurses entered St Joseph's in 1902 – the same year the hospital was officially opened. It was the first school of nursing on Cape Breton Island. This class of six, including two nuns and four lay women graduated in 1905. They received their diplomas from Earl Gray, the Governor General of Canada. The nurses residence was erected in 1905 to house the student nurses. Janet Cameron was the first Superintendant of Nurses followed by Margaret Conway. In 1915 the administration of the hospital and the School of Nursing was taken over by the Sisters of St. Martha. Sister Maris Stella was the first Sister, to be Superintendant. Others were: Rev. Mother Ignatius, Sisters Mary Rita, Paul of The Cross, Marie Barbara, Mary Jovita, Mary Peter, Mary Beatrice, Mary of Calvary, Ann Marie, Hugh Teresina, and the last being Sister Clare Marie.

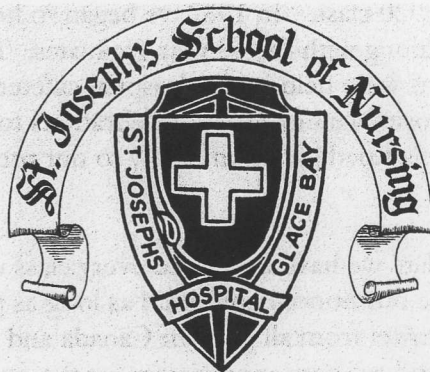
From its first graduating class in 1905 until its final graduating class in 1970, St. Joseph's continued to train and graduate nurses, including the years of the depression and through two World Wars. St. Joseph's graduates had an excellent reputation and were readily accepted by hospital throughout Canada and the United States. A quote from the book, "Nova Scotia's Part in The Great War", by M. Stuart Hunt (1915) is a testimony to St. Joseph's School of Nursing.

"The selection of the Medical and Nursing personnel and the recruiting of other ranks then commenced in earnest and the response was wonderful. For a Stationary Hospital only twelve medical officers and twenty-seven were required; but thirty medical men and eighty nurses applied. The material was also excellent that it was a delicate and difficult task to select. Preference was given, however, to Dalhousie graduates and those connected with the University; and among the nurses preference was given to graduates of the two outstanding Nova Scotia nurses training hospitals, Victoria General Hospital, and St. Joseph's Hospital, Glace Bay".

History of St. Joseph's School of Nursing (con't)

Many entered the nursing profession because nursing was considered a noble profession, the cost of training was considered cheap, actually it was exchange of labour for learning. Most of us remember no days off except for an annual vacation period. Change of shifts was considered a "day off". Manpower was supplied by the students, who received a well rounded education which included Pediatrics, Obstetrics, Surgery, Medicine, and Emergency (Remember those mine Accidents!). Students were even called upon to administer anaesthesia at times. It was an excellent training we received under the capable direction of the Sisters of St. Martha.

In the years between 1905 and 1970, St. Joseph's graduated a total of 1,073 including, 1,030 nurses from the Three year nursing program. Thirty-three x-ray technicians were part of a Two year program of theory and practice which began in the late 1940's and continued until 1968. Ten Lab technicians did their theory in Halifax and their practical work at St. Joseph's during the 1960's.



History of St. Joseph's Alumnae

St. Joseph's Alumnae has always been an active close knit group. There are minutes which date back to the late 1920's. Each new graduating class was welcomed by the Alumnae Association and encouraged to participate. A Silver Jubilee celebration was held June 27th, 28th, 29th, 1927 as per a write up in the 1927-1928 Annual Hospital Report. As well a large Golden Jubilee Celebration was held in 1955. Another highlight was held in 1970 to coincide with the closing of the School of Nursing. All former graduates were invited and a large number attended from near and far. This event was under the capable direction of Sister Clare Marie, who although not a St. Joseph's graduate had and still maintains a keen interest in all Alumnae activities.

During the 1970's we continued to meet but decided we needed to do more to encourage a feeling of belonging. It was decided to "Honour" our long term graduates. In June of 1980, we held our first "Honours" program for the then 50 year graduates - the class of 1930. There were six surviving members of the class and three were able to attend. The next year (1981) we honoured the graduates from the class of 1931 and any local graduates from classes up to 1930. That year we honoured six from the class of 1931, one from 1929, one from 1928, one from 1926, one from 1925, one from 1924 and one from the 1920 class. In 1982 we began to honour the 40 year graduates along with the 50 year graduates. These early celebrations were held in the hospital cafeteria. When the hospital closed we moved our celebrations to the KOC rooms on Wallace's Road and then finally to our present location at St. Anne's.

To date we have honoured every class up to 1965 and plan to continue our honours program as long as possible. Our Alumnae travel from all parts of Canada and the United States to attend and are very appreciative for the opportunity to greet old friends. All Alumnae are invited to attend along with the honorees. The regular date for these celebrations is the first Sunday in June each year.

History of St. Joseph's Alumnae (con't)

A bakeless bake sale is held each fall and this enables us to continue our activities. This is sent out in the form of a newsletter in which we update members of our activities throughout the year and also list the members deceased during the year. We have an annual Christmas party in December when Santa visits and we make a donation for the needy.

Our Alumnae are a great group and always ready to pitch in anytime and are a very closely knit community. Our intention is to stay active and I'm sure with all the encouragement and good wishes we will.

We are the Best!

First Graduating Class – 1905



The Nurse

The world grows better year by year,
Because some nurse in her little sphere,
Puts on her apron and grins and sings,
And keeps on doing the same old things.

Taking the temperatures, giving the pills
To remedy mankind's numberless ills;
Feeding the baby, answering the bells
Being polite with a heart that rebels.

Longing for home and all the while
Wearing the same old professional smile;
Blessing the new-born babe's first breath,
Closing the eyes that are still in death.

Taking the blame for someone else's mistakes,
Oh Dear, what a lot of patiences it takes;
Going off duty at seven o'clock
Tired, discouraged, and ready to drop.

But called back on special at seven fifteen
With woe in her heart, but it must not be seen,
Morning and evening, and noon and night,
Just doing it over and hoping it's right.

When we lay down our caps and cross the bar
Oh Lord, will you give us just one little star,
To wear in our crowns with our uniforms, new,
In that city above, where the Head Nurse is You.

St. Joseph's Hospital Chapel



Thank You for Sharing in

Our 100th Anniversary

Celebration