



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. Vincent de Paul Hospital
1887-1987
100th Anniversary

Source: Courtesy of the Archives of the
Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent
de Paul in Kingston

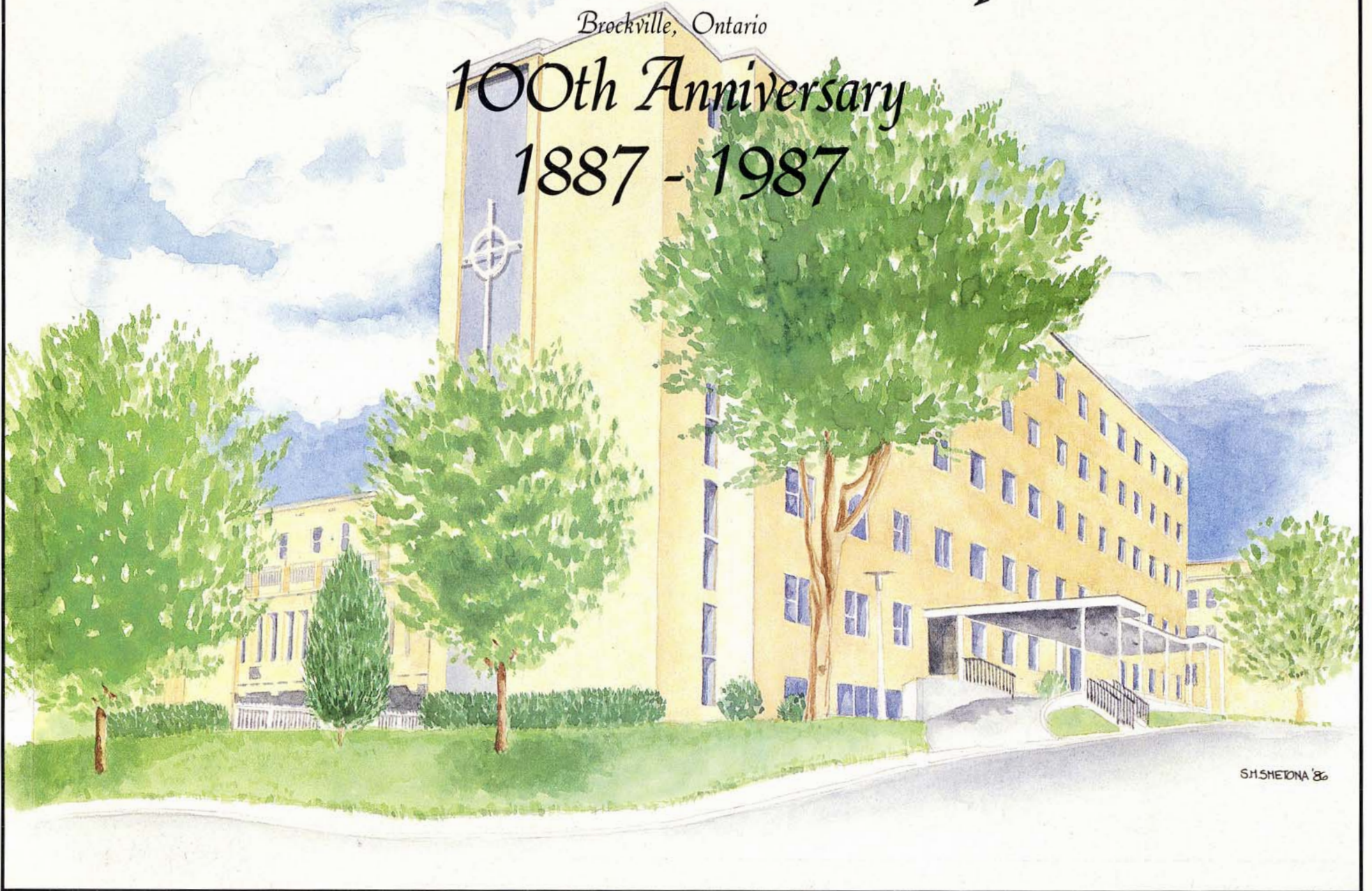
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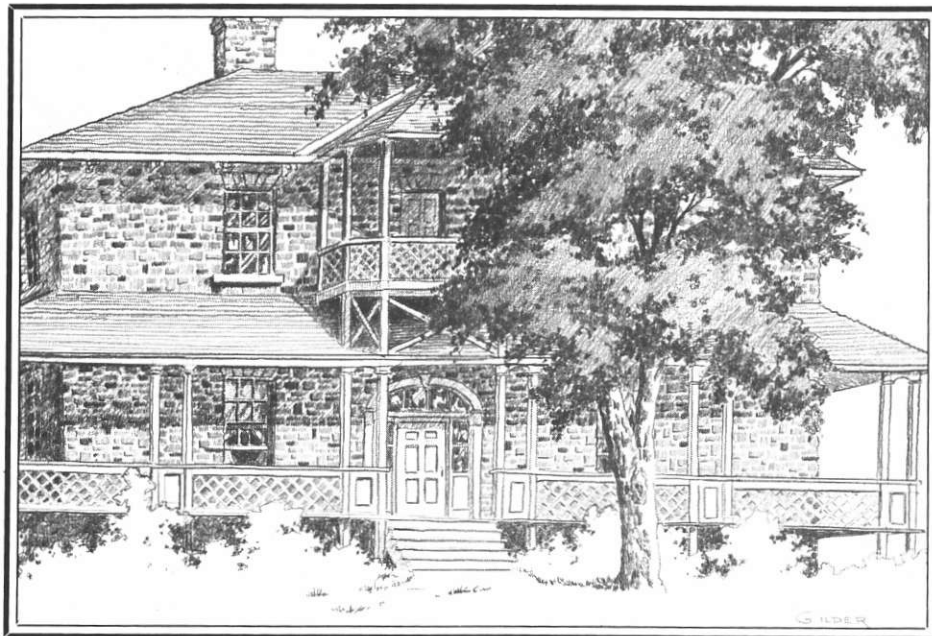
St. Vincent De Paul Hospital

Brockville, Ontario

100th Anniversary
1887 - 1987



S.H. SHERIDAN '86



**THE EARLIEST ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL 1887
SCHOFIELD HILL, BROCKVILLE.**

ST. VINCENT De PAUL HOSPITAL'S EARLY BEGINNINGS

A railway accident here in 1887 alerted local citizens to the need for a hospital. The closest medical centre at the time was in Kingston, a long distance to cover in a horse and buggy.

Archbishop Rev. James Vincent Cleary of Kingston encouraged the local Catholic congregation to set up a medical facility and appointed a committee to find a suitable location. He said the property must have good elevation, proper drainage, an abundance of fresh water and room for expansion.

Although the committee looked at a number of properties, none proved suitable for a hospital. Enthusiasm waned and, on Saturday, October 8, the Archbishop and his secretary came to Brockville to see what could be done.

While Cleary was here, he heard of a property on Schofield Hill that might be suitable. After early Mass the following day, the archbishop and three members of his committee inspected the property, owned by Mr. Fowler, owner of Fowler and Company, furniture dealers.

Reports in The Evening Recorder described the property as follows: "It is situated on an eminence over the town at the northwest angle. It consists of two acres of land, on which stands a good-sized stone building in sound condition, supplied with abundant and wholesome water and free drainage to an adjoining creek."

The archbishop returned to church and addressed the congregation after High Mass. He told them what he had seen, what he thought and how he felt about the property. Committee members met after Mass and voted unanimously to buy the Fowler land.

The archbishop and his committee met Fowler the next day and a deed of sale was drawn up and signed. The purchase price was a handsome \$4,250.



Front Page by Susan Smetona
History of Hospital by Vickie Megrath

December 1986

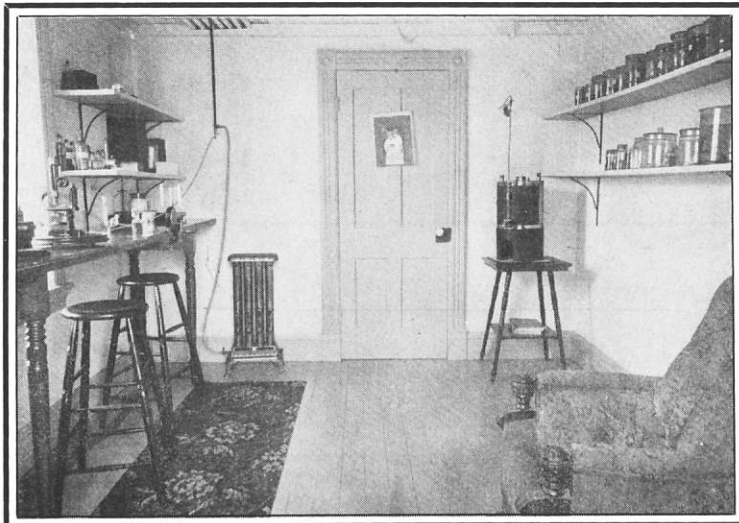
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**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL
PRIVATE ROOM — 1904**



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL
OPERATING ROOM — 1904**



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL
LABORATORY — 1904**

SISTERS ASKED TO RUN THE NEW HOSPITAL

When the plans were finalized for the Schofield Hill property, Archbishop Cleary contacted the Sisters of Charity in Kingston and asked them to run the facility.

Shortly after the sale was completed, the Rev. Mother arrived in Brockville to make some arrangements. Aided by the local superior of the hospital, the Mother Superior set about gathering supplies and readying the stone building for occupation.

The hospital opened a few weeks later with room for 12 patients. There were seven doctors and 17 nurses on staff with the Sisters helping in any way they could.

In officially dedicating the hospital November 20, 1887 Archbishop Cleary asked God to bless the "devoted and noble-hearted daughters of St. Vincent de Paul" so they could "take charge of the sick and surround them with tender care."

January 1987

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**THE PRESENT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL
AS IT LOOKED IN 1904**

HOSPITAL MOVED TO PRESENT LOCATION

The house on Schofield Hill soon proved to be too small to accommodate the hospital.

The number of patients often strained the facility and extra beds were regularly set up in the Sisters' community room. The Sisters themselves on many occasions gave up their beds for accident victims and ailing townsfolk.

The Sisters travelled to town homes and nearby farms to help the ill, pray with the dying and treat those afflicted with the many contagious and deadly diseases of the time. They acted as midwives and often visited homes to help new mothers. They dutifully travelled to comfort families who had lost a loved one.

About five years after the hospital opened, Archbishop Cleary and Very Rev. Vicar Gauthier decided the Schofield Hill property was no longer suitable. The land was sold to Mr. Gillerlain and stories

about the original hospital refer to it being located on the Gillerlain property.

The hospital officials scouted around and decided the old convent occupied by the Sisters of Notre Dame would be a suitable location for the hospital. The convent was at the corner of Pine and Garden Streets.

A new convent was built for the Sisters and the hospital opened its door November 1, 1892.

The hospital operated for several years in the old convent but officials decided in 1896 that the facility was again too small. Instead of moving, though, plans were drawn up for a new wing.

The wing, opened later that year, included a surgical unit and an obstetrics ward. It brought the total number of patient beds to 60.

Total construction costs were pegged at \$7,500.

February 1987

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**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL
GRADUATING CLASS 1926**

M. Fitzpatrick, M. Quinn, G. Cosgrove, G. Maloney, V. Forrester,
G. Foley, K. McGinn, M. Bertrand, E. MacDonald.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES ESTABLISHED

Rev. Dean Murray came to Brockville in 1901 to take over supervision at the hospital. He was diligent and hardworking, and insisted on perfection in every aspect.

In pursuit of thoroughness, Rev. Murray set up a Training School for Nurses in 1904. Later that year, he hired Miss Mary Cleary, a graduate of Chicago's Mercy Hospital, to run the facility. The first 12 students were Sisters.

In 1905, Miss Alida Frances Potter, a graduate of the Boston School of Household Arts, was hired to work with the training school. Her duty was to give the Sisters a special course in practical dietetics. She taught the Sisters how the diet relates to diseases and the healing process.

The first class graduated in 1907 with 12 Sisters earning their diplomas.

That same year, Sister Mary Eulalia took over as superintendent of the nursing school. During her 12 years with the training facility, Sister Mary earned a reputation as an excellent organizer and disciplinarian.

The training school ran for more than 40 years until government regulations in 1946 restricted nurses' training schools to larger hospitals. The nurses' residence was then converted for use by graduate nurses on staff.

In 1951 St. Vincent de Paul Hospital was approved as a school for Certified Nursing Assistants.

By 1973, all training classes had been moved to a regional centre, but St. Vincent de Paul Hospital is still involved in teaching.

Students of radiology from Kingston get some practical training at the hospital.

The hospital provides clinical experience for students in the diploma nursing and registered nursing assistant programs at St. Lawrence College in Brockville.

March 1987

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**THE FIRST SURVIVING SET OF TRIPLETS BORN AT
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL MAY 1935.**

Left to Right:

Baby Elma Slack
Nurse Kay Walsh

Baby Francis Slack
Nurse Cassie (Consitt)
McLennon

Baby Mary Catherine Slack
Nurse J. (Laton)
Lunman

The Triplets were delivered by Dr. J.R. McAvoy, and have grown up and stayed in the Brockville area.

OBSTETRICS WARD IMPORTANT PART OF THE HOSPITAL

Before the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital opened on Schofield Hill 100 years ago, women delivered their babies at home. The births were either unassisted or the babies were delivered with the help of a family member or midwife. Difficult cases were sent to Kingston long before the baby was ever born.

When the hospital opened and the Sisters of Charity came to work at the facility, the nuns were called to town residences and farmhouses to help deliver babies.

It wasn't until 1896 that an obstetrics ward opened at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital. That year, a new section called the East Wing was built onto the old convent and increased the number of patient beds to 60. Besides an up-to-date obstetrics ward, the new wing also contained a surgical unit.

In May, 1935, history was made when the first set of surviving triplets was born at the hospital. The babies, named Elma, Francis and Mary Catherine Slack, were delivered by Dr. J. McAvoy.

Further hospital expansion in the 1950s again increased the number of patient beds and provided a first-class obstetrics ward with 13 bassinets. By 1967, the ward had 20 bassinets and beds for 14 women.

In 1972, the Ministry of Health did a study in an attempt to rationalize services at Brockville's two hospitals. Officials decided some services were being duplicated and, in an attempt to save money and provide the best care possible, some areas were streamlined or cut.

In March, 1973, the maternity ward at St. Vincent de Paul closed its doors.

April 1987

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**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL
GRADUATING CLASS
BROCKVILLE 1945**

Left to right: Evelyn Coligan, Betty McAvoy, Anne Potvin, Frances Goodison, Margaret Loughlin, Fern Gregory, Marg O'Neill.

SISTERS VOLUNTEERED DESPITE RISKS OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

In addition to caring for sick patients, delivering babies and looking after the elderly, the Sisters of Providence were often called to work in the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital's isolation ward.

The year 1908 was particularly bad with diphtheria, typhoid and small pox claiming victims of all ages. On January 4 of that year, following a request from the Board of Health for help, a number of Sisters volunteered to care for people suffering from the dangerous, contagious diseases.

Sister Mary Dolorosa McGuigan and Sister Mary Irene Jordan were the first to enter the isolation ward. They stayed inside a month, caring for 40 patients.

Five days after the Sisters left the ward, new cases broke out. Two more volunteers, Sister Mary Bernard Foley and Sister Margaret Masterson, took their turns working in the unit.

Between 1902 and 1910, there were 124 cases of diphtheria and several minor outbreaks. In 1914 alone, typhoid claimed the lives of 13 people and afflicted another 180 people.

The fall of 1918 was a particularly bad time for Spanish influenza. By the time the epidemic reached its height in early October, at least 32 people were dead and another 300 were reported ill. On the 18th of that month, the staff at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital treated 150 flu victims.

Staff at Brockville's two hospitals were so overworked caring for flu victims, extra nurses and orderlies were sent from Kingston to lighten the load. It didn't take long before staff members contracted the disease and records show 30 nurses, doctors and orderlies were bedridden.

The disease continued to spread at such an alarming rate, the Town Council, Board of Health and local physicians agreed to ban all public gatherings. Classrooms were closed and the local clergy was urged to shorten all services and sermons until the disease abated.

It wasn't until November 30 the ban on public gatherings was lifted and classes resumed. In its six-week course, the flu claimed the lives of 42 people, most of them in their 20s.

May 1987

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HOSPITAL AUXILIARY 1960 OFFICERS —

Mrs. Stan O'Shea, (seated) president for her second term, was returned to office to head the Ladies' Auxiliary of St. Vincent de Paul hospital at their annual meeting in March 1960. Other members of her executive are pictured standing, left to right: Mrs. Charles J. Shorey, first vice-president; Mrs. J.H. Weir, second vice-president; Miss Justina O'Grady, recording secretary; Mrs. William Motte, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Clarke Glassford, treasurer. The third vice-president, Mrs. Tom Statham, was absent when the photo was taken.

LADIES AUXILIARY AS OLD AS THE HOSPITAL

The Ladies Auxiliary at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital has been in existence almost as long as the hospital itself.

The auxiliary was originally formed in 1893 but did not become incorporated until two years later. The first known president was Mrs. W.J. McHenry, who headed the 51-member group for seven years.

Mrs. S.J. Geash took over as president of the auxiliary in 1902 and remained two years until Mrs. J.J. Curran took over. The auxiliary board in 1906 consisted of Mrs. Curran, vice-president Miss Minnie McDonald, secretary Mrs. J. Lachapelle, treasurer Miss Mary Bradley, medical staff president Dr. Jackson and secretary Dr. Moles.

Since then, there have been 29 auxiliary presidents. Membership rose to more than 300 in the 1950s but there are now 216 members.

The auxiliary has been helping the hospital financially and materially since its inception. The early volunteers collected potatoes, vegetables and poultry from local residents to feed patients and staff. They also mended linens and helped with such things as cooking and laundry.

It was the auxiliary, with some help from Rev. Dean Murray, that purchased the hospital's first ambulance in 1903. The ambulance arrived at the train station from Toronto in mid-afternoon and was picked up by the pastor and a man named Mr. Higgins.

Higgins hooked the ambulance up to his horses, complete with brass harnesses, and took it to the hospital. After a brief display, he pulled the ambulance through the town's main streets so everyone could have a look.

In 1909, the auxiliary equipped a private room for patients, complete with private bath and a telephone to accommodate long distance calls. The auxiliary completely outfitted an up-to-date vapor bathroom, buying a continuous water bath, spray bath, hot and cold shower, steam bath and hot air bath. The group also equipped a private room for patients, paid for a hardwood floor in the corridor of the hospital's third floor, bought a steam-heating table to keep patients' meals hot, installed a coffee urn in the lobby and waiting room and bought numerous other pieces of much-needed equipment for the hospital.

June 1987

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JULY 87

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**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE "NEW" ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL
MAY 15, 1968**

Left to right: Hon. James Auld, MPP; Mr. O'Kelly, Chairman, Advisory Board; Archbishop J.L. Wilhelm; Dr. Dymand, Minister of Health; Mr. Matheson, MP.

NURSES' RESIDENCE, ADDITION BUILT OVER THE YEARS

Many additions have been made to the hospital since it moved to its present location in 1892. Besides a new wing constructed in 1896, the hospital saw a new nurses' residence.

In 1909, Dr. Bruce Smith inspected the hospital and found everything satisfactory except the accommodations for the Sisters of Providence. He insisted a new residence be built at once and, in 1911, the Sisters moved into a new three-storey convent.

The new convent included sleeping quarters, a dining room, common room and a chapel that could seat 50 people. The convent served the Sisters until 1973 when it was demolished.

The hospital was again expanded in 1950 and 1953, bringing the number of adult beds to 87 and adding 13 bassinets. The expansions also included fireproof surgical and obstetrical units, shock-proof x-ray installation and new mechanical laundry services.

In 1955, a Toronto architect was hired to draw up plans for a new wing to face Garden Street. Two years and \$900,000 later, the new four-storey addition was opened.

The addition, officially opened June 4, 1958, brought the number of patient beds to 109 and included 20 surgical beds. It also provided new laboratory and x-ray facilities, a new emergency operating room, improved maternity facilities, a new pediatric ward and new laundry facilities.

Local MPP James Auld was named head of the hospital's fundraising committee with honorary chairmen Judge Don Lewis, Mayor Jack Lansmuir, Senator A.C. Hardy, local lawyer J.R. Maclaren, city businessman J.C. Udd and Kingston Archbishop J.A. O'Sullivan. At the hospital's official opening, Auld thanked the close to 400 people who worked on the fundraising committee and thanked everyone who contributed to the campaign.

Auld also placed a cylinder containing local historical artifacts in a time capsule under the addition's cornerstone.

July 1987

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**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL
MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE — 1968**

Standing L to R: Dr. M.M. Boss, Chief of General Practice;
 Dr. J.C. Lanthier, Chief of X-Ray;
 Dr. J.A. Shanks, Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology;
 Dr. F.H. MacLeod;
 Dr. W.J. Wyatt, Chief of Pathology;
 Dr. R.E. Smart, Chief of Medicine;
 Dr. D.T. Smylie, Chief of Surgery.

Seated L to R: Dr. J.D.C. Wight, Vice-President;
 Dr. W.G. Peters, Chief of Staff;
 Dr. G.M. Gransden, President;
 Dr. J.A.H. Aitken, Secretary.

Absent: Dr. K. Kort, Chief of Pediatrics and Nursery.

LARGE ADDITION BUILT IN 1968

In 1965, the hospital again experienced some growing pains. Officials at the institution decided to demolish the only remaining part of the original hospital on Pine Street and replace it with a new building. A Toronto architect was hired to draw up plans for the addition and tenders were called in early 1966.

Amid much fanfare, the new section officially opened May 15, 1968.

The four-storey addition included 51 beds, bringing the total number of patient beds at the facility to slightly more than 100. It included three operating rooms on one floor with an acute intensive care unit down the hall. It also boasted two new obstetrical rooms, complete with beds for delivery and recovery.

The new section boasted a dietary department and a coffee shop for patients, visitors and staff. It also had a waiting room for expectant fathers.

An innovative idea incorporated into the addition was a nursery playroom where children could play with toys, watch television or listen to the radio.

The project price tag topped \$2 million. The Sisters of Providence contributed \$509,929 to the building fund and the hospital borrowed another \$460,000 from the bank. The federal government contributed \$151,314, the province kicked in \$355,106, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville provided \$75,000, the city of Brockville raised \$150,000 and the town of Prescott also contributed.

The institution borrowed another \$255,000 from the Hospital Service Commission and used some of its own securities and bank deposits to make up the total. Local citizens, businessmen and corporate officials also contributed to the fund.

August 1987

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**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL
REGISTERED NURSING ASSISTANT
GRADUATING CLASS 1971**

Back Row, L to R: Joan Jarvis, Brockville; Sharon Dempsey, Brockville; Jane Shepherd, Brockville; (Mrs.) Dianne Poole, Peterborough; Sheila Niblock, Athens; D. Taylor, Brockville; Anne Breen, Smiths Falls; Valerie Bryan, Frankville; Deanna McDougall, Jasper.

Centre Row L to R: Janice LeRiche, Pointe Claire; Wanita Cheetham, Rideau Ferry; Marie Shanaham, Prescott; Ingrid Nolting, Athens; (Mrs.) Sandra McKerracher, Brockville; Jackie Dunleavy, Brockville; Karen Leeder, Brockville; Bev Nowlan, Brockville; Susan Johnson, Peterborough.

Front Row L to R: Marianne Barnhoorn, Toledo; Cora Wager, Picton; Mrs. Heaton; Sister Margaret Rose Fardella; Mrs. Mylkes; Joan Chambers, Brockville; Mary Hallett, Lyn.

THE PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICE

In 1979, individuals at the hospital decided to start a palliative care service to help dying patients spend their last days in comfort and dignity.

The service is designed to help patients overcome the isolation and loneliness associated with a terminal illness. It keeps them as free from pain as possible by providing comfort and assistance.

Original plans submitted to the Ministry of Health called for seven designated palliative care beds run by a co-ordinator, a consulting physician and a Sister of Providence to provide pastoral care. Despite lack of Ministry approval, St. Vincent's established a Palliative Care Service in April of that year and the first patient referral was made in June.

Organizers soon realized that Palliative care provided a vital and much needed service to the community. The staff was overworked and volunteers were sought to help with patient care and counselling. The registered nurses and associate volunteers provide family counselling, home visiting and teach proper patient care to Brockville and area residents. Other volunteers perform clerical duties.

Extensive eight-week training programs, including classroom instruction, lectures and films, are offered to potential volunteers. The first training session started in January, 1980, and 23 people graduated. By the end of 1985, 128 volunteers had graduated from the training program.

The Brockville Pastoral Care Service works closely with patients and their families. Home visiting and bereavement follow-up are important parts of the service as well.

The unit provides care for more than 100 patients a year and costs over \$100,000 a year to run. Since the Ministry of Health doesn't financially support the unit, the hospital must rely on community charitable donations.

Volunteers are always trying to raise money for the unit through such things as telethons and ski marathons. Presently, palliative care is funded primarily by individual and corporate donations.

The first palliative care telethon was held in 1984 and raised \$26,800. The 1985 event raised \$30,000 and last year's telethon brought in \$28,800.

About 100 cross-country skiers collected pledges for a ski marathon in 1985 that raised \$12,000. Local college students have raised \$3,300 through two dance marathons.

September 1987

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**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOSPITAL
LADIES AUXILIARY
1972**

Seated: Jetty McQue, Rita Buccino, Yvette Godin,
Standing: Kay Walsh, Eleanor Fairfield, Marina Boss, Grace Sprigings,
Marg Heuer.

AUXILIARY PROVIDES USEFUL SERVICES

From collecting food to mending linen to visiting patients, the ladies' auxiliary has been an active and much-needed resource.

The auxiliary's main function in the early years was to collect food donations and mend linens. In the past several decades, the main purpose has been to raise money for hospital projects and new equipment.

For years, the group raised money by hosting supper parties in the garden on Pine Street before the newest wing was added. Other events included wine and cheese receptions and card parties.

Yearly events now include a spring rummage sale and fall bazaar. In 1985, the auxiliary hosted a hockey game between the Flying Fathers and the Brockville Sinners, a group of local hockey enthusiasts. The event raised \$12,500.

The auxiliary opened a coffee shop in 1958 offering drinks, quick foods and sandwiches to staff members and visitors. The cafe, too small to accommodate its many customers, closed in 1970.

The auxiliary's gift shop has long been a successful business. The store first opened in the hospital basement but moved to the lobby when the new wing opened in 1968.

The shop offers children's clothing and stuffed toys, handmade knitted baby sets, gift items, books and magazines, toiletries and candy. Volunteers take a travelling cart throughout the hospital to allow patients a chance to buy some of the items.

Auxiliary volunteers run a hairdressing service for patients two afternoons a week and operate a lending library. They are available on weekends to help elderly patients fill out menus.

The women offer free coffee to visitors and patients in the lobby weekday mornings and there is a tea service for patients, complete with china cups and a biscuit, every Thursday afternoon.

Former auxiliary member Leah Weir started the tradition of including small handmade trinkets for patients on special occasions. Christmas finds snowmen, wreathes or candy canes on patients' food trays while meals on Valentines Day are decorated with Cupids and hearts. The tradition is still carried on today for all special occasions.

The group is 216 members strong. An annual membership is \$2 and regular newsletters are distributed.

October 1987

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This 1977 photo shows Sister Irene Forrester (left) when she was appointed administrator at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital and Sister Susan Pye as the new Director of Nursing.

SISTERS OF CHARITY WORKING IN CANADA FOR CENTURIES

The Sisters of Charity began under the influence of a devout and courageous woman, Madame Emmelie Gamelin of Montreal. Under the direction of Madame Gamelin and Bishop Bourget, a home for the aged, called Providence Asile, was established. The sisters followed the rule of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in France. They took the name of Sisters of Charity, Servants of the Poor but the recipients of their generosity called them Sisters of Providence.

At the request of Bishop Horan of Kingston, four Montreal sisters travelled to Kingston in December 1861 and set up a house on Montreal Street. It wasn't long after their arrival in Kingston the Sisters were put to work. Five days after the Sisters opened their house, two orphans were left on their doorstep. Two more orphans arrived three days later and, by the end of December, the Sisters were caring for 10 children.

During the first week in their new home, the Sisters made 40 home visits to sick people and started visiting female prisoners. In 1866, the Sisters' house was placed under its own government and the young residents included Sister Mary Edward of Kingston, who became the Mother General, six professed sisters, one novice and one postulant.

In 1872, the Sisters opened Kingston's first home for the aged. Fifteen years later, a group of Sisters moved to Brockville to run the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital.

The sisters acquired the property known as St. Mary's on the Lake in Kingston in 1904 for use as an orphanage and novitiate. It operated in that capacity until 1946 when the community decided to care for the chronically ill. In 1930 the order bought property known as Heathfield, which is now the Motherhouse, administration offices for the community and infirmary for the sick and aging sisters.

In May 1952, the sisters were federally incorporated and officially changed their name to Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul.

In the 1950s, the order was carrying out health, educational and social work in Brockville, Smiths Falls, Perth, Belleville, Tweed, Trenton, Picton, Kingston, Brantford, Batawa, Newmarket, Gananoque, Chesterville, Prescott, Arnprior, Toronto, Montreal and many parts of western Canada.

Recently the work of the sisters has expanded to Latin and South America.

November 1987

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1986 NURSING STAFF

Left to right:

Muriel Bigford, Dorothy Taylor, Sheila Scott, Desanka Nicota, Sr. Irene Forrester, Linda Foster, Loretta Culhane, Terry McDougall, Willie Smithwick (Love), Elaine Gagnon, Jill McCracken, Louise Bolduc.

AS WE ARE TODAY

Since the hospital opened its doors 100 years ago, it has grown in leaps and bounds.

About 3,300 patients are admitted to the facility each year, including 670 children. The hospital has 76 surgical, medical, pediatrics and intensive care unit beds. About 15,000 people seek treatment in the hospital's emergency ward every year and 2,600 operations are performed annually.

The hospital's annual operating budget is about \$7.5 million with 69 per cent going towards salaries and the rest used up for operating supplies and expenses. There are 170 full-time staff equivalents providing everything from nursing to maintenance.

There are 40 general practitioners on staff with specialists in internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics, pediatrics, psychiatry, anesthesia, radiology, dental and laboratory medicine. The hospital also provides services in ophthalmology, otolaryngology, palliative care and stress testing. Patients are also offered such things as an educational day program for diabetics.

Smoking in patients' rooms and hallways was prohibited in 1985 after a sensitive fire alarm system was installed. Last year, smoking by staff and visitors was restricted to three lounges and a small coffee shop.

The sisters appointed the first lay administrator, Tom Harrington, in the history of the hospital in June 1986.

A hospital foundation was incorporated in late 1985 to raise money and solicit donations for hospital expenditures, education programs and research. Officials are also discussing the possibility of a new wing for ambulatory care and material management applications.

In mid-1986, the hospital received the maximum three-year accreditation from the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation. The process is an objective, third-party review by a team of health care experts of the hospital and its operations.

December 1987

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