



# 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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## St. Joseph's Hospital Elliot Lake, Ontario

### Financial Campaign 1959

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St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie

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1959

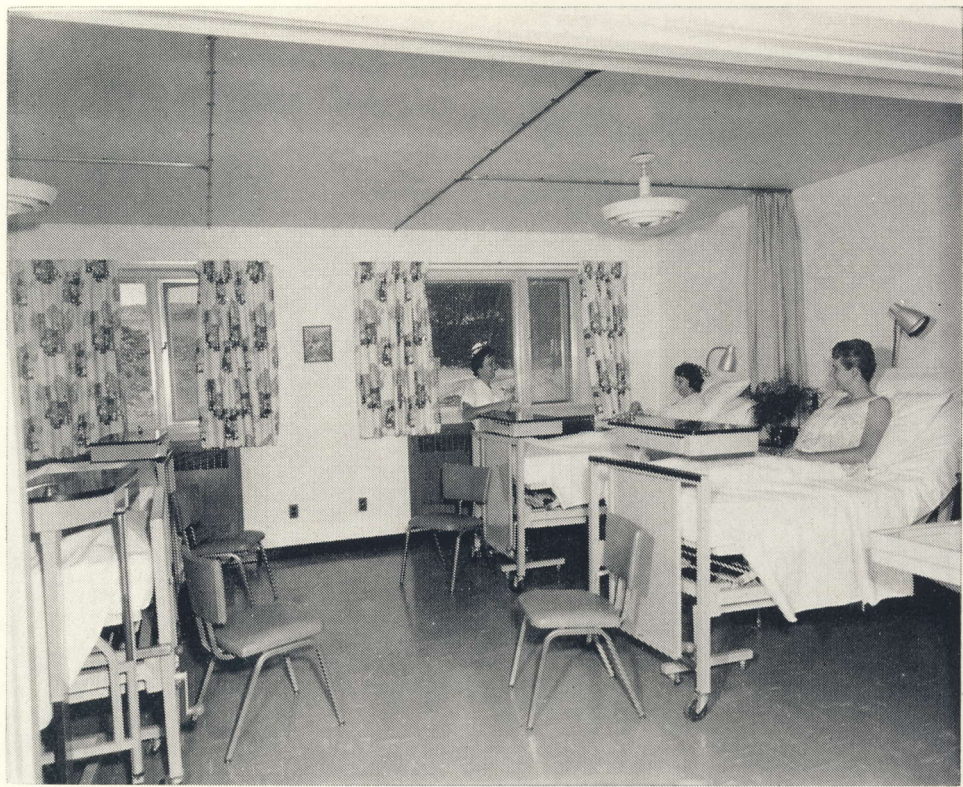
SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH  
ARCHIVES



ST. JOSEPH'S GENERAL HOSPITAL

Elliot Lake, Ontario





The Sisters of St. Joseph join the citizens of Elliot Lake in heralding the opening of the city's new hospital.

And it is with the enthusiasm of the amateur that the Order here ventures into the more active phases of this rapidly maturing community.

The Sisters of St. Joseph, with the Mother House in North Bay, have been serving the communities in Northern Ontario for 75 years. The first hospital was erected in Port Arthur in 1884. Since then others have been built in North Bay, Blind River, Little Current and Sudbury. Other works carried on by the Sisters are teaching in elementary and high schools, conducting homes for the aged and boarding schools. Music is also taught in several centres, and it is planned to make instruction available from the nurses' residence in Elliot Lake this fall.

St. Joseph's General Hospital here has all modern facilities, and is well equipped to function in the fields of medicine and surgery. The building itself is designed in the following departments: operating room, x-ray, laboratories, physiotherapy, medical, surgical, obstetrical, paediatrics and the auxilliary de-

partments such as engineering laundry, housekeeping, accounting, medical records, etc.

To benefactors and contributors who have made erection of this hospital possible, the Sisters and the community owe a great debt of gratitude. It is the aim of the Sisters of St. Joseph here, as administrators, to continue in the ideals of caring for the sick and to help prepare others to meet the health needs of the community.

### **History of Hospital Project**

A hospital to serve the needs of Elliot Lake residents was uppermost in the minds of officials of the mining companies from the days when it first became obvious that large ore bodies were to be developed. However, it was found impossible to include this item when finances were being negotiated for mine construction.

In 1956 the municipality undertook to assist in financing a hospital but it also was unable to proceed due to a lack of market for debentures of this type.

In early 1957 the mining companies, led by the Rio Tinto Group and several leading citizens, headed by Dr. Jas. Ruse and Ed Blahey, joined forces. It was indicated from discussions and studies instigated by the group that administrators such as the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph were best equipped to construct and operate a hospital.

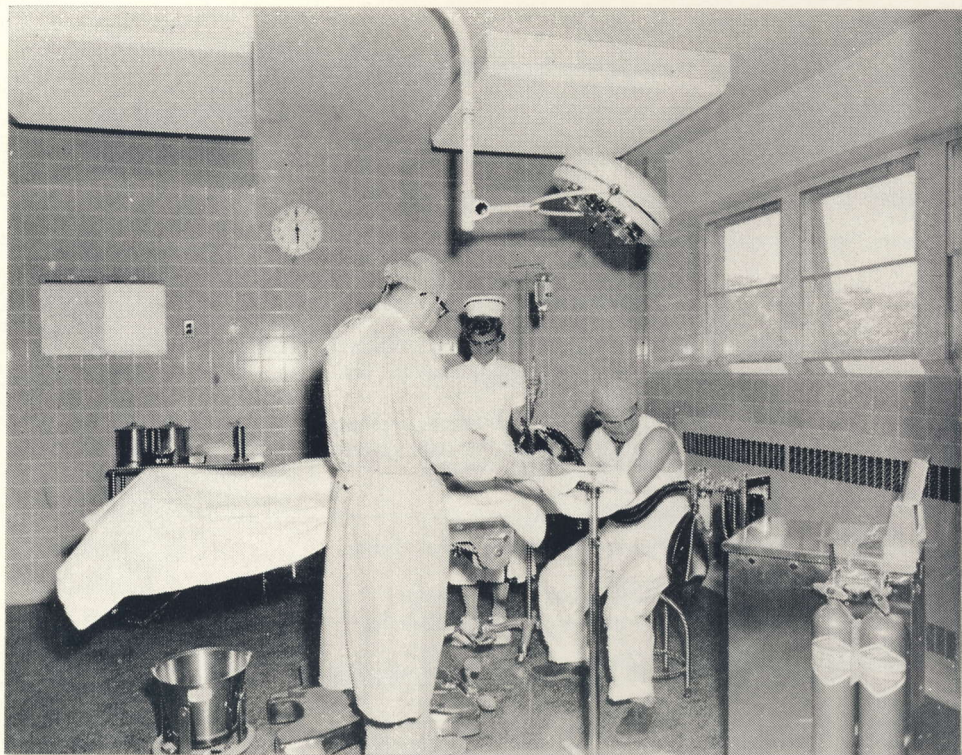
Accordingly, Reverend Mother St. Bride of the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph was approached with a pledge by the mining companies to contribute \$1,000,000 interest-free towards construction costs.

The Order courageously agreed at once to accept the challenge to construct and operate a hospital in Elliot Lake, to be known as St. Joseph's General Hospital, and designed to serve a population of 20,000 to 25,000 people, no matter what race, colour, or creed.

### **Sod Turning Ceremony, October, 1957**

The Architectural firm of Gowan, Ferguson, Lindsay, Kaminker, Langley & Keenleyside was appointed to design and supervise construction. This pleasant 12 acre site was offered by the municipality and accepted by the Order. Following appointment of Fassel Construction Co. Ltd. as General Contractors, test work commenced and a sod turning ceremony was held on October 27th, 1957. Twelve





months later on October 26th, 1958 the corner stone was laid in a simple but impressive ceremony.

By May, 1959 work had proceeded to the point where the official opening date could be set for September 12.

In the meantime the city was expanding rapidly with accompanying pressures for local service to avoid the long drives to hospitals in neighbouring communities. Construction of the nurses residence was accelerated and alterations were made to use this unit as a temporary maternity hospital. This service commenced in December, 1958. In early 1959 construction routine was again altered to provide an emergency ward service prior to opening the entire hospital. Operation of this important service started in May, 1959.

In April, 1958 the Order appointed an advisory board of local residents to advise on matters pertaining to property, finances, public relations, legal affairs and in general promoting the best interests of the hospital. This board has been consistently active, chiefly in raising funds locally for construction purposes.

In June, 1959, the initial medical staff was appointed. It is composed en-



tirely of local doctors best qualified for the respective departments of obstetrics, medicine, and surgery.

On behalf of the advisory board, tribute is extended to the interest and assistance of the mining companies; to the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie for undertaking this vital project which puts a heavy strain on the Order's physical and financial resources; and to the residents, industry and commerce of Elliot Lake for their unfailing support.

**Cost Breakdown and Repayment**

St. Joseph's General Hospital of Elliot Lake is a 116-bed hospital with 40 bassinets.

The total estimated cost of construction and equipment is \$3,150,000.

This money has been raised as follows:

Pledges of Mining Companies .....	\$1,000,000
Construction Grants of Provincial and Federal Govts. ....	\$ 700,000
Local Fund Raising Campaign .....	\$ 125,000
Municipal Grant (\$100,000 per year interest free for 5 years) .....	\$ 500,000
Money borrowed by the Order .....	\$ 825,000
	<hr/>
	\$3,150,000



## ADVISORY BOARD

The advisory board is aware  
of the serious duty and responsibility  
the community has to repay this \$825,000  
borrowed by the Order.

At the same time, the board  
is grateful for local support indicated  
following the decision to conduct  
an annual fund raising campaign.

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This year the campaign will  
start on September 12,  
with a minimum objective  
of \$100,000.



