



# 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 Auxiliary Hospital, Edmonton 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2002: A Commemorative History

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

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It was providential that Father Emmett Crough saw the Cross from the old site positioned for removal. Fr. Crough alerted us to its fate and, with the agreement of the developer, we made arrangements to relocate the Cross to the new site. It remains a beautiful reminder of our many years on Whyte Avenue and a constant source of hope.

Photo courtesy of the Edmonton Sun



St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital

*75th Anniversary 2002*

A Commemorative History













## *Acknowledgements*

This 75th Anniversary Commemorative book would not be possible without the support and encouragement of:

St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital Board of Directors and Mary Pat Skene, the Chair of the 75th Anniversary Planning Committee.

St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital Administration.

The dozens of individuals - staff, residents, volunteers, physicians and Sisters - who provided interviews or written summaries, sharing their memories so that the editorial team could write factually and with the spirit reflective of St. Joseph's community.

The editorial group for their perseverance and contagious enthusiasm for this project:

Sister Mary Benilda, Holly Crowell, Debra Frederick, Sister Mary George, Sister Rita Gleason, Sister Mary Moderwell, Ray Pinkoski and Marilyn Snow.

Bob Robertson (design), Peter Drake McHugh (writing) and Imperial Printing Ltd. for keeping us on track, on time and on budget.

We have endeavored to accurately present dates, names and events gleaned from a variety of archival sources and oral histories. We apologize for any errors or oversights.

Sincerely,  
Debra Frederick, Project Coordinator

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St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital

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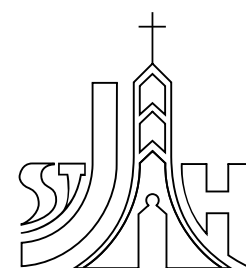
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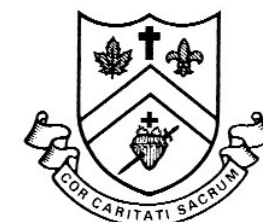
## *Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital 1927-2002 Edmonton, Alberta*

### *Dedication*

This book is dedicated to the hundreds of men and women who, through their generosity, compassion and dedication, formed the organization that today is St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. To the individuals who lived, worked or volunteered at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital, we gratefully acknowledge the contributions you have made to this caring, vibrant organization. We also dedicate this book to the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston) for their vision, sacrifice and ongoing commitment to the healing and compassionate mission of Jesus Christ.



St. Joseph's  
Auxiliary  
Hospital



Sisters of Providence  
of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston)



ALBERTA CATHOLIC HEALTH CORPORATION



## St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital 75th Anniversary 2002 A Commemorative History

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## Introduction

When St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital began preparations for its 75th Anniversary Year, the planning committee was keen to continue a tradition of recording our history for future generations. The hospital had produced a 25th Anniversary book in 1952 and shorter versions for the 50th Anniversary in 1977 and the 60th Anniversary in 1987. The 1990s were years of significant milestones for St. Joseph's as the hospital moved from the original Whyte Avenue location to a six-acre site in the Ermineskin/Heritage community of south Edmonton.

The new building allowed the hospital to introduce innovative programs. Space, light and design contributed to a vibrant atmosphere ready to meet the needs of people into the new millennium. In the tradition of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston), we knew a promising future lay ahead. We also knew that future success would be built on our strong foundation. The vision for St. Joseph's Hospital is rooted in its past, a history of service to the poor and guided by a deep spirituality and passion for social justice. John Amatt, team leader of the first successful Canadian assault on Mount Everest expressed it well:

*Look to the past and learn from it;  
Look to the present and be attuned to it;  
Look to the future and be prepared for it.*

This commemorative book is intended to celebrate the vision, achievements and sacrifice of the Sisters, Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and physicians in creating the organization that is St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital.

We present our story with affection and the hope that it brings the reader a greater understanding of our commitment. We ***Trust in Providence*** that our health ministry continues in the tradition of our foundresses, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul.

Sincerely,

The Editorial Team (L to R)

Front Row:

Sr. Rita Gleason, Sr. Mary George, Sr. Mary Benilda

Standing:

Ray Pinkoski, Debra Frederick (Project Coordinator),  
Sr. Mary Moderwell, Marilyn Snow, Holly Crowell





## Our Mission

As a faith-based organization, our Mission is the foundation of our health care ministry. Throughout the years the Mission language has changed but the emphasis placed on its importance has never waived.

The charism or gift of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston) is:

*Compassionate caring for God's people, especially the most destitute, manifested by service given in a spirit of humility, simplicity and charity, and relying on the Providence of God which we are called to proclaim.*

From these words, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital is inspired to continue the tradition of the Sisters as reflected in our own Mission statement:

### We believe...

In living the Gospel values which inspire the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul and in continuing their ministry of compassionate care to people of all cultures and beliefs.

### We serve...

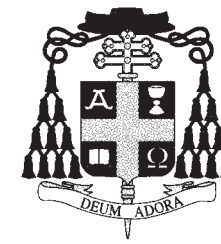
People who require community support, continuing care or palliative care.

### We provide...

A broad spectrum of programs and services focusing on health and wellness and incorporating the unique qualities and capabilities of each individual.

### We commit...

To provide quality care with compassion in the Christian tradition.



Dear Friends:

I am glad to send greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital.

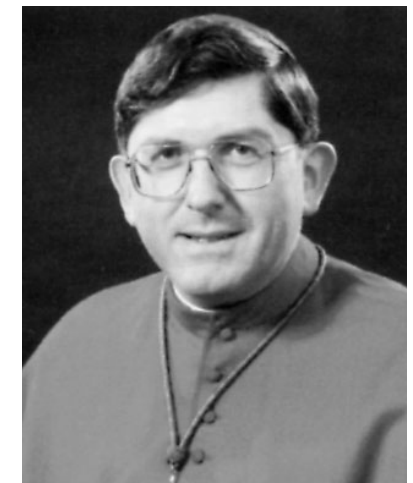
This is a beautiful opportunity to give thanks to God for the faithful and dedicated service offered at St. Joseph's Hospital, over the last 75 years. Caring for the sick is at the heart of the Gospel message. All of those involved in this ministry of compassion are witnesses to the words of Jesus, "Go and do the same", exhorting us to follow the example of the Good Samaritan.

May God's grace continue to be with all of you who generously serve the mission of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital.

*Thomas Collins*

Thomas Collins  
Archbishop of Edmonton

April 30, 2002





## The Bishops and Sisters of Providence - Seeing and Meeting Community Needs

The history of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul is rooted in the option for the poor. It is a legacy of our spiritual origins which reach into the past to seventeenth century France and the inspiration of St. Vincent de Paul. St. Vincent knew how to meet the challenge of the Gospel in a time of conflict. He ensured that the poor, the sick, the afflicted in soul or body would be ministered to. In his endeavours he was encouraged and supported by a woman of similar courage and vision, Louise de Marillac. The heritage of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston) is rooted in the creativity and spirituality of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, in the willingness of Emilie Gamelin to risk and trust in Providence, in the responsiveness of the Montreal Sisters of Providence to the call of Bishop E.J. Horan, as well as in the courage and pioneer spirit of Mother Mary Edward McKinley and the original members of the Kingston community. (source: Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, History of the Congregation)

On December 13, 1861, four Sisters from Montreal arrived in Kingston to found what is now known as the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. Under the guidance of Sister Mary of the Blessed Sacrament, the French Sisters began the task of building a new congregation. It was the end of one journey and the beginning of another.

In 1862 a Kingston milliner, Catherine McKinley, and another Kingstonian, Ann O'Reilly, joined the community. Five years later, when the founding Sisters returned to Montreal, Catherine became Superior as Mother Mary Edward, a wise and compassionate leader. Armed with the congregation's virtues of humility, simplicity, charity and relying on the Providence of God, the pioneer Sisters embarked upon exhaustive begging tours to support their works of compassionate service. As their works became known, many lay co-workers collaborated with them in health care, social work, pastoral and education ministries. Often the work was difficult and could never have flourished without the generosity of the laity and clergy of the various dioceses. Today the Sisters of Providence serve in Canada, Guatemala and Peru.

As we look at the weaving of this fabric which is the story of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital and the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, we see that the fabric has been designed by Divine Providence and woven by the vision and support of the Bishops of Montreal, Kingston and Edmonton. It was because of the Bishops of Montreal and Kingston that the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul responded to the needs of the people in Ontario.

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**We wish to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to all the Sisters, Priests, administration, staff and the hundreds of dedicated caregivers and volunteers for their compassion and caring. Those who reside at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital are very fortunate.**

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**Mary Agnes Radostits**  
(family member)

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And it was because of the vision of the Alberta Bishops that the Sisters traveled from Kingston to meet the needs of the people in this province.

### The Alberta Journey

In 1927, Archbishop H.J. O'Leary, whose heart was in the West and in the people who pioneered Alberta, was troubled by the lack of services for an aging population. The West was booming in many ways but health care was not keeping pace with industry. The needs of the poor, infirm and aged were not being met. Knowing of the work of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston), Archbishop O'Leary wrote to the Motherhouse asking for the Sisters' help in establishing Edmonton's first 'Old People's Home'.

The Sisters had established a hospital in Daysland, Alberta; were managing Rosary Hall in Edmonton and opened their second Alberta hospital in Camrose. Times were difficult, as reported by Sister Rose Bekar in the History of the Sisters, 1995:

*Water was purchased at 25 cents a barrel-and the barrel leaked. The wind blew the chimney off and then the roof. Coal was donated, but bad roads often prevented its delivery. Alberta winters at that time were severe. The snow was so deep that the doctors were forced to make visits on foot; trains were storm-bound with temperatures dropping to minus 54°F (-48°C).*

In Edmonton, the Sisters provided care to orphans at St. Mary's Boys' Home. Recognizing a need to care for the elderly as well as youth, at Archbishop O'Leary's request, Sisters M. Angel Guardian and M. Alacoque arrived in Edmonton to determine how they could offer assistance to the aging pioneers.

In short order, the Archbishop and the Sisters inspected the original Whyte Block. They deemed it suitable for their work and the story of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital began.

Over the years ninety-five Sisters have worked or volunteered at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. Today, with an aging congregation, four Sisters work or volunteer at St. Joseph's on a daily basis. Although the numbers are small, the influence of the Sisters remains visible throughout the organization. In 2001, recognizing that the congregation's dwindling numbers could no longer sustain sponsorship of St. Joseph's, the Sisters of Providence transferred sponsorship of the hospital to the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation. The Alberta Bishops' role had come full circle - from the call for the Sisters' to establish St. Joseph's in 1927 to assuming sponsorship in 2001. In the tradition of the Sisters of Providence, the lay community, together with the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation, continue to Serve with Compassion and Trust in Providence.





## Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul

Providence Motherhouse  
1200 Princess Street, Box 427, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4W4  
Telephone (613) 544-4525 Fax (613) 531-9805

June 12, 2002

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul arrived in Edmonton in the early part of the twentieth century with our charism of compassionate caring and a tradition of responding to the needs of the times. With hard work and prayer, the pioneer Sisters, supported by local clergy and the Edmonton community, established St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. Thus began a journey of serving the frail elderly with compassionate care.

Throughout that 75-year journey, Sisters, staff, and partners in mission have worked together to honour the spirit of those early health-care pioneers. In doing so they set a benchmark for quality care and for responding innovatively to the challenges of the past three-quarters of a century.

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul are proud to have established this caring tradition, which we are certain will thrive under your new sponsors, the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation. For the next 75 years and beyond St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital will continue to be a centre of excellence as its people live the mission of quality care with compassion in the Christian tradition. As we continue life's journey, may our Provident God walk with each of us whose lives have been touched by the healing ministry so ably carried out at St. Joseph's. Congratulations on this anniversary of 75 years of compassionate service to the people of Alberta.

Sincerely,

*Sister Sandra Shannon S.P.*

Sister Sandra Shannon  
General Assistant  
Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul



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## Message for St. Joseph's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I extend greetings and offer congratulations to St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital on 75 years of "*quality care with compassion in the Christian tradition*". The Members, Directors, staff and affiliated organizations of the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation are proud to be associated with the fine hospital that is St. Joseph's.

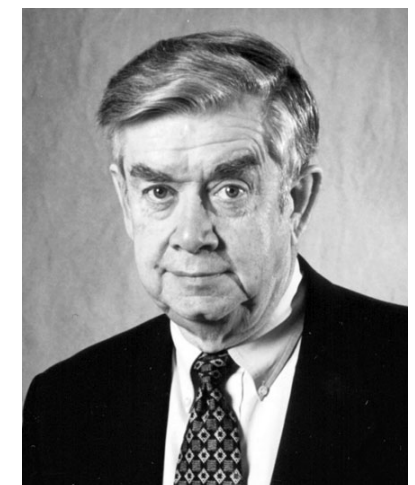
The founding congregation, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, the Board of Directors, the Administration and the staff should be proud of the heritage of service to the residents of St. Joseph's and the people of Edmonton. The Alberta Catholic Health Corporation is very pleased to now Sponsor this wonderful organization and pledges to be mindful of this rich heritage and vigilant in the upholding of its mission in Catholic health care.

St. Joseph's 75 year history dates back to when the City of Edmonton was a young community. However, its heritage goes back much further to the early days of the Sisters' work in Kingston, Ontario. Of even greater significance is that St. Joseph's is part of the Catholic health community continuing the healing ministry of Christ for over 2000 years.

Congratulations!

*Ralph Coombs*

Ralph Coombs, Chair  
Alberta Catholic Health Corporation  
Board of Directors



*Sponsors of Catholic Health ~ a spirit of cooperation, compassion, excellence and justice.*



## Sponsorship

In Edmonton, on March 31, 2001, the sponsorship of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital was officially transferred from the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul to the Alberta Catholic Bishops through the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation. The sponsorship transfer reflected a very hope-filled spirit, as the Sisters knew that the ground work had been done, and that their spirit would ring on in the years to come.

Years before, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul had recognized that the day would come when they no longer would be able to sponsor their existing hospitals in Canada. In 1987, in preparation for this day, the General Superior and Council appointed Sister Muriel Gallagher and Sheila Brady, members of the Providence Health Team, to act in an advisory capacity in matters relating to the eight health care institutions across Canada, with particular support for the separately incorporated institutions in the West. Their tasks were to prepare and implement mission education programs, evaluate by-laws, serve as members on search committees for Chief Executive Officers, and research a systems-concept for the health institutions.

Change came in 1989. Lay members of administration teams in both the West and East contributed to the design of Providence Health System and promoted it to the Governing Boards. Once again, with these changes, adjustments had to be made. In March 1991 the Providence Health System was approved and has functioned effectively with the involvement of several Sisters and East and West representatives of the Chief Executive Officers. Together, they achieved the defined purpose 'to strengthen and promote the Catholic-Christian identity of our health institutions, and to provide to the Boards and Administration a sense of continuity on an organized basis relating to sponsorship, irrespective of changes in congregational leadership.' Importantly, it allowed the Sisters to continue sponsorship for ten more years during the tumultuous time of health care reform.

In 1998, in a move that coincided with a restructuring of the Providence Health System executive, Sister Muriel Gallagher retired from her role as president and Sister Grace Maguire from the vice-president West position. Tributes were paid to the women who gave tirelessly of their gifts during the eight years since the founding of the Providence Health System.

Sister Joan Whittingham, General Superior of the Sisters of Providence, extolled the wisdom and insight Sister Muriel brought to the healing ministry as she sought the best answers for the challenging ethical and legal questions facing the world today.

*We thank Sister Muriel for getting us off to such a good start, said Sister Joan. We thank her for making such a difference. We are grateful for her goodness, her gentle strength, her deep faith, which have touched the lives of so many people.*

Sister Joan also noted that Sister Muriel's hard work made possible a smooth transition to the revised executive system. Sister Sheila Langton, who had been appointed president of the newly formed Providence Health System, would work in collaboration with the governing boards and five chief executive officers across Canada.

*Said Sister Joan: Sister Muriel has given evidence of fine qualities of leadership for she has passed on the torch by empowering lay leaders in our health facilities. These people possess fine qualities of leadership which they will use to continue the charism and mission of the Sisters of Providence.*

Sister Grace Maguire was praised for her contribution to the Providence Health System. Her warm presence and Irish spirit endeared her to all who have shared this part of her journey, said Sister Joan. Board members and staff will miss her guiding hand as well as her support, insight and friendship.

Once again, during their Chapter meetings of 1999, the issue of continued sponsorship of healthcare facilities was tabled. Many meetings, consultation and prayer helped to determine what direction was the best way forward. At one meeting, the Sisters read a sentence in the Constitutions of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. 'In the footsteps of the Daughters of Charity of France and the Sisters of Providence of Montreal, our history has been one of initiating a work and, when circumstances necessitated our withdrawal, moving on to meet new challenges in response to the changing needs of the Church and society.'

It became clear to the Sisters that they had made preparations over a long period by:

- **empowering one another and others**
- **collaborating**
- **networking**
- **continuing their advocacy role for social justice**

Not without considerable reflection, it was determined that the process begin for the transfer of their healthcare facilities to other provincial Catholic health corporations, including the transfer of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital to the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation.





Sr. Joan passing the mission candle to Mike Shea of the ACHC.

The official sponsorship transfer of St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital took place on March 31, 2001. In keeping with the magnitude of the event, three separate ceremonies were held. The first was the Ceremonial Document Signing held in the hospital chapel on April 3, 2001. At this ceremony, the words *Serving with Compassion, Trusting in Providence, Hope Rings On* became the central theme of the transfer. It was a time of coming together. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the Sisters of Providence, St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital, and the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation.

Speakers included:

- Sister Joan Whittingham, General Superior of the Sisters of the Providence
- Mr. Tim O’Brien, Chair of St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital Board of Directors
- Mr. Ralph Coombs, Chair of the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation

Then, on May 9, 2001 a Liturgy of Praise and Thanksgiving was celebrated in the hospital chapel. Archbishop Joseph MacNeil presided assisted by Reverend Don Stein.

It was proclaimed that:  
*In the pioneering spirit that founded St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital in 1927, all gathered here this day, in the presence of God, affirm and celebrate the continuation of the rich heritage of Catholic Health Care provided in the City of Edmonton by St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital. In transferring sponsorship responsibilities effective March 31, 2001, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston) confidently entrust this legacy of healing to the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation. The provision of Quality Care with Compassion in the Christian Tradition will continue under the sponsorship of the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation.*

The Sisters of Providence gathered in the chapel courtyard by the cross that was reclaimed from the old hospital. After the opening proclamation, the Sisters proceeded into the chapel through the main door while the Steinhauer School Handbell Ringers played ‘Exaltation’.

Archbishop MacNeil spoke of the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation established many years before. The corporation was formed, in part, to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ in healthcare when the Sisters were no longer able to do so.

St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital Sponsorship Transfer Ceremony			
Serving with Compassion, Trusting in Providence, Hope Rings On			
Musical Interlude	Exaltation Steinhauer Handbell Ringers	Reflections on God’s Word	Most Reverend Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Edmonton
Welcome	Marilyn Snow, Chief Executive Officer, St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital	Sponsorship Transfer and Exchange of Gifts	Sister Joan Whittingham, General Superior, Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston)
Sisters’ Procession	Ode To Joy Steinhauer Handbell Ringers		Mr. Ralph Coombs, Board Chair Alberta Catholic Health Corporation
Opening Song	A Great Joy Marilyn Enns and Marlene Wiebe	Document Signing	Archbishop Thomas Collins Sister Joan Whittingham Mr. Ralph Coombs Mr. Tim O’Brien, SJAH Board Chair Sister Sandra Shannon, Councillor
Gospel Reading	Father Ken West Luke Chapter 4:16-21	Special Remarks	Honourable Gary Mar, Minister of Health and Wellness Province of Alberta
Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:  <i>The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for He has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favor.</i>			Mayor Bill Smith, City of Edmonton
He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him.		Expression of Appreciation	Ms. Karen Polowick, Vice-Chair Capital Health Authority
		Closing Song	Sister Sheila Langton, President Providence Health System
			Lord I Believe Marilyn Enns and Marlene Wiebe
		Reception to Follow in Providence Court	

In her message, an emotional Sister Joan Whittingham, General Superior, spoke nostalgically: *Giving up the 204-bed hospital that was founded in 1927 is a bitter-sweet moment for the Sisters. It’s painful to let go of what we really believed in and gave our hearts to.* Then with her beautiful smile she continued, *but I think we recognize that now it’s the moment to hand responsibility on to our wonderful lay people.* Sister Joan expressed great hope for the future and wonder about the change that would result. She explained the symbol of the bell which would be given as a gift from the Sisters of Providence to the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation. *As a bell echoes a beautiful chime, our ministry will resonate into the future under the sponsorship of the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation.* A lapel pin in the form of a bell with the logo of St Joseph’s Hospital was presented to participants.

The final formal transfer ceremony, which was both a farewell and a welcoming, was held on May 10, 2001 in a large tent erected on the south side of the hospital. The Sisters of Providence proceeded into the event tent where the assembly welcomed them with a standing ovation. Again, the Steinhauer School Handbell Ringers, under the direction of Raegina Diceman, accompanied the procession.



There were presentations by representatives of the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the City of Edmonton, the Capital Health Authority, the Archdiocese and Sisters of Providence. Sister Joan, on behalf of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, presented Mr. Ralph Coombs, Chair of the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation, with a handcrafted silver bell on a wooden stand. Mr. Coombs, on behalf of the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation, announced that a Providence Leadership Development Fund would be established to provide bursaries for leadership courses in Catholic healthcare.

A plaque bearing the names of the Sisters of Providence who served at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital between the years 1927 through 2001 was presented to Sister Joan Whittingham. A copy of this plaque remains on display in the chapel at St. Joseph's.

Sister Sheila Langton, who is now a member of the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation Board, said: *The ministry that the Sisters began is God's work. His work has been in the hands of many people where one generation builds upon another. The Sisters are confident that God's work will continue into the future in the capable hands of present and future generations.*

Through the years, the Sisters' ministry remained focused on those in greatest need, the poor, the frail and the disadvantaged. Faithful to the heritage of St. Vincent de Paul, the Sister's history has been one of initiating a work and, when no longer needed, of moving on to meet new challenges in response to changing needs. And so it is today that the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation will continue our healing ministry in the spirit and example of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul. As before, one chapter closes, another begins.



The Sisters of Providence attending the Sponsorship Transfer Ceremonies.

## 1927-1952: The Early Years

*In the Roaring Twenties youth seemed to go mad on music, motion pictures, dance and good times. By the 1930s there was depression, drought and doubt. It was a time of pain and despair. Many times the Sisters of Providence were paid with poultry, vegetables, eggs and livestock. Fourteen thousand Edmontonians were on relief. In 1939 the Second World War began and thousands of men went overseas. After the war, in 1947, there was a harvest of oil beginning with the find in Leduc. It was said there was oil under every stook and gas under every grain field; and surely, sustainable prosperity at last.*

In 1952, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital wisely decided to commission a commemorative book. Author John Patrick Gillese began to tell the story of a dedicated group of 'women religious' - the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston) - and the caring people who helped them establish their health care ministry in Edmonton. John Patrick Gillese told the story well. We cannot improve on his message so our 75th Anniversary commemorative book starts with his story...

The year was 1927, and Alberta was literally changing hands. The pioneers who had broken the flat prairie sod and carved the first small farms from the encircling bushland could toil no more. Their work must be taken over by their sons and daughters and the stream of new immigrants arriving from Europe. But what of those who had blazed the trail? Many had no place to rest in their old age, none left to care for them.

Archbishop H. J. O'Leary, whose heart was in the west and in the people who had built it, was moved by compassion for all the aged and infirm of his diocese. He was determined to do something about their plight.

His first move was to contact the Sisters of Providence of Kingston, Ontario. This Institute of Sisters was founded in Canada in 1861, with St. Vincent de Paul as its chief Patron. From its inception, members were noted for the Corporal Works of Mercy they performed in the manner of their illustrious patron. Even in Alberta, the Sisters had made outstanding contributions to community and social welfare. Arriving in 1908 (three years after Alberta became a province) they had founded a hospital at Daysland. In 1915, they were invited to come to Edmonton and take charge of Rosary Hall, a 'home away from home' for business girls and young women. In 1924, they had opened their second hospital this time at Camrose. In 1926, they had founded a boys' orphanage, St. Mary's Home, now in North Edmonton. In the east, they had been especially noted for their care of the sick and infirm...and now

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**There was a reunion between a father and his son. The father had disappeared and became a street person, and eventually ended up at St. Joseph's Hospital as a resident. The son never gave up the search for his father, and eventually discovered where he was. The union brought much joy to both parties, and the father was able to die in peace. And no doubt, the son was able to carry out on his life in greater peace because of that reunion.**

---

Sister Mary George

---



Archbishop O'Leary was hopeful that they would undertake this great outstanding work of mercy.

In the autumn of 1927, the Mother House in Kingston sent Sister M. Angel Guardian and M. Alacoque to Edmonton to meet the Archbishop. The old 'Whyte Block', a landmark on the South Side, was for sale. The Sisters looked it over thoroughly and considered it suitable. Archbishop O'Leary authorized purchase of the building and the first Old People's Home in Edmonton became the reality.

That was, as it turned out, only the beginning.

By 1931, it was apparent that more than a 'home for the aged' was needed - a hospital was necessary to take care of the chronically ill. The Alberta Government was approached and through Hon. Dr. Hoadley, Minister of Health, St. Joseph's Hospital obtained the title of 'Hospital For the Chronically Ill' and to the present time remains the only such institution in Edmonton. To it come those who will never be well again - children as young as two years, patients as old as 96. The first patient admitted to the hospital under its new name was Mr. Jonas Wilen.

But Alberta was no longer an infant province. As Dr. Bow, of the Provincial Department of Public Health, was to declare some years later, 'The Province is not as young as it is considered to be'; and in the care of the aged lay 'a duty we owe to those who laid the foundation in this great new province.' Very soon, the Sisters were in desperate need of increased facilities to care for the chronically ill. They went to the present Archbishop, Most Reverend J. H. MacDonald, with their plans for an elaborate building program.

No less zealous than his predecessor, Archbishop MacDonald not only favored the project, but he felt keenly the increasing need of example that would shine forth as a beacon in a world where the torches of mercy were being blotted out. In too many countries, the Christian regard for human life was being ruthlessly or conveniently ignored; the gas chamber and the concentration camp were the final tributes paid to those who, through no fault of their own, were no longer of use to cold-hearted peoples and omnipotent states. Elsewhere, even Christian charity 'had deteriorated into mere philanthropy,' in the Archbishop's words.

'It is no small charge to look after incurables,' the Archbishop once said. 'But it is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy enunciated by the Saviour of Mankind...and its observance or non-observance will, in the words of Christ, determine our fate for eternity.'

He gave every encouragement and support to the Sisters. Their confidence in Divine Providence he termed 'a marvelous lesson to us all in this age of selfishness and indifference.' And of their labors of sacrifice, he said: 'What a great charity they perform, looking after those who cannot do anything for themselves.'

Preliminary studies for the new St. Joseph's Hospital were made in January, 1945. In November of the same year, the plans were approved by the Controller of Construction at Ottawa. The 150-bed, ultra-modern extension was officially opened on January 24, 1948.

The hospital, unsurpassed in western Canada, is monumental in craftsmanship and design. The walls, floors, and ceiling follow an artistically devised scheme. A unique feature is the introduction of native Alberta travertine - a type of marble closely resembling the Italian product. There are two columns of this in the lobby.

A new chapel was built, with two galleries overlooking the chapel proper and easily accessible from each floor.

The entire hospital shows thoughtful planning indeed luxurious planning, for the needs of the patients. Each floor has a spacious solarium where patients can enjoy the sunshine, listen to the radio, play cards, or relax in comfort. The whole interior is cheerful - bright pastel walls, colorful draperies. Separate locker facilities are provided for each patient. And every room - private, semi-private or ward - has separate plumbing.

Patients arrive from all over the province, and there are many applications for admission from British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Many are transferred from the four city hospitals, when attending physicians find they no longer require active hospital care. The majorities are relief patients - and there is a long waiting list even yet.

For the most part, medical care is rendered by the physician of the patient's choice, otherwise by the physicians appointed by the Department of Public Welfare. A registered nurse is in charge of each shift and on each division, ensuring that proper nursing care is available at all times. She is greatly helped in her work by trainees, nurse's aides, ward aides and orderlies. The present secular staff - that is, exclusive of the Sisters - numbers about eighty.

The hospital is motivated by a spirit of friendliness, true sympathy and a Christ-like understanding of the needs of old age and the long-suffering. As Archbishop MacDonald said, in tribute: 'Every comfort is provided here for the sick and the poor, for Christ's sake. How well these Sisters know that no one can truly be given the name of Christian without doing to the poor what we would do to Christ Himself!'

At the time of Mr. Gillese's writing, seventeen Sisters of Providence worked at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. Thirteen physicians provided twenty-four hour care: Dr. H. Orr, Dr. H. Begg, Dr. J.W. Scott, Dr. F.D. Conroy, Dr. V.K. O'Gorman, Dr. H.C. Jamieson, Dr. H.A. Schwartz, Dr. J.C. Justik, Dr. C.A. Berner, Dr. J.G. Kato, Dr. J.A. MacKay, Dr. L.E. Beauchamp and Dr. J.A. O'Brien.



In 2002, we have four Sisters of Providence working or volunteering at St. Joseph's and one hundred physicians with privileges. Times do change.



Hospital Auxiliary, 1946.

The first Ladies Auxiliary was formed in 1946 with Mrs. A.R. Robbins as president. She served for three years and was succeeded by Mrs. Dolly Biollo in 1949, a position she held until 1972. Mrs. Biollo, a much loved lady, was deeply committed to the hospital and through her leadership, the Ladies Auxiliary provided residents with comforts they otherwise would not have. In those days money was very scarce. To raise funds, Mrs. Biollo would canvass the merchants on Whyte Avenue for items to sell at Teas and Bazaars.

In a recent interview with two retired members of the early Ladies Auxiliary, Mrs. Lucy Justik and Mrs. Sarah Whitely shared the following:



White Elephant Sale, 1980's.

*Mrs. Biollo would parade up and down Whyte Avenue soliciting gifts and it was not unusual to see her with cheeses or bologna under her arm. Her life was completely devoted to the welfare of the patients.*

And to be sure, the Ladies Auxiliary, in hosting formal fundraising teas, contributed significantly to the welfare of patients. Small comforts such as new socks, aftershave, a box of chocolates or a birthday gift brought great happiness to those who had so little.



Hospital Auxiliary, 1998.

In 1927 the Sisters of Providence recognized and responded to a need. Over the next 75 years, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital would continue to build on the strong foundation they established.

### St. Joseph's Hospital

An edifice: complete, foursquare you stand,  
Substantial to endure, from ground to dome;  
An answered prayer to those who long had planned;  
To many the embodiment of home.  
However dark and dismal be the night  
Your hearth and candlelight will ever shine;  
The ailing traveler kindles at your sight,  
Though friendless stranger from a foreign clime.  
Within these portals hope and peace abide,  
Here every act, performed with loving care,  
Feels amply paid by one responsive nod.  
‘Twas here that I, like other sorely tried -  
Who come to you with pain too great to bear -  
Have heard the voice and felt the hand of God.”

**Lachlan MacMillan, M.D., C.M., F.A.C.S.**  
(reprinted from the 25th  
Anniversary Commemorative Book, 1952)



Entrance to New Wing  
Inscription over Entrance:

*“East nam certa quies fessis venientibus illuc.”* (For there is certain rest for the weary who come here.) Was suggested by Mr. George Heath Macdonald, Architect for St. Joseph's Hospital. The quotation is taken from a letter written by the great emperor Charlemagne to Paul, the deacon, at the priory at Monte Cassino in Italy.





THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA



### Message from Honourable Ralph Klein Premier of Alberta

*On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I extend my congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.*

*Much has changed since the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston) established the St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital on Whyte Avenue in Edmonton in 1927.*

*The number of services and programs provided by the hospital has expanded over the years. A new and larger hospital was built in south Edmonton in 1993. In 2001, the Sisters of Providence transferred sponsorship of the hospital to the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation.*

*What has not changed in 75 years is the commitment to caring at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. Every day, staff, volunteers, and board members demonstrate their pride and devotion to the hospital's mission of providing care to people of all cultures and beliefs.*

*Your efforts are what has built St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital and helped it to prosper over the years. I commend the wonderful work that you do to make your community a caring and compassionate place to live. Best wishes on a successful 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.*

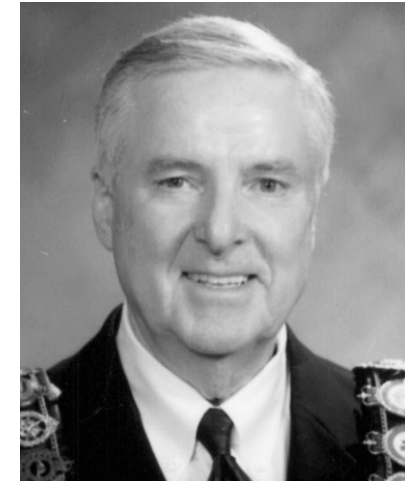
Ralph Klein

May 2002

Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 Telephone (780) 427-2251 Fax (780) 427-1349



### Message from the Mayor



On behalf of City Council and the citizens of Edmonton, I extend warm congratulations to everyone at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital as you celebrate your 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

This occasion not only counts the years you celebrate today, it also counts the many contributions you have made to our community since 1927. In that time, the staff and volunteers of St. Joseph's have touched many lives, especially those in the Strathcona area up until 1993. Your goal to provide quality hospital care in a warm, home-like environment has been met and exceeded through a variety of quality services and programs.

Again, congratulations on 75 years of remarkable service, and best wishes for continued success.

Yours truly,

Bill Smith  
Mayor



## 1952-1977: Building on a Strong Foundation

*By 1954 Edmonton had been an incorporated city for 50 years and covered 43 square miles. Once widespread and empty, it was now bursting with new housing and industrial growth. The city went from draining mud holes to having sixty-two proud miles of paved streets and another 285 miles of graded, graveled or oiled streets. You waited a year for telephone service. Despite gas rationing during the war automobile ownership had gone from 114,000 in 1939 to 130,000 by 1945 and 380,000 by 1956. By 1956 Edmonton closed a dynamic decade with twice as many residents as ten years before and the Edmonton Eskimos Football Club won the Grey Cup for the third successive year. The future seemed bright.*

**While I cannot recall with any degree of accuracy the start up time in 1927, my memories of the 1930 era are very clear. My home was across the alley from the old Whyte Block. Sr. Mary Patrick was in charge of food services. Her kitchen door opened onto the alley. It was through this door that she kept my friends and myself well supplied with delicious cookies.**

**Dr. Joe O'Brien**  
(retired medical staff)

Through the 1950s, '60s and '70s, the Sisters of Providence continued to provide hospital leadership – a lay administrator would not assume this role until the 1980s. Administrators from 1952-1977 included Mother Anselm, Sister Angelica, Sister K. Maguire, Sister Joanna, Sister Mitchell and Sister Doran. In 1972 the Lay Advisory Board was replaced with the Governing Board. By-laws, regularly reviewed and revised, ensured that St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital was always prepared to meet the needs of the day. In 1971 the hospital chose to participate in the national accreditation process and since that date, has retained continuous accreditation status, meeting and exceeding national standards of care and service delivery.

During this period, the medical staff and medical advisory committee remained important contributors to St. Joseph's Hospital providing education, leadership and medical services. Many physicians remained actively involved at the hospital for more than fifty years. Starting their careers as new graduates, they quickly discovered the value St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital placed on human life and dignity. Resources were often scarce but care and compassion were never compromised. Often without remuneration, these professionals worked alongside the Sisters and staff to ensure residents received the best possible care. Doctors were also known to use all their resources to secure necessary supplies. Because money was in short supply, it was not unusual to receive donations from physicians, including cribs during the polio epidemic. Friends in the community would provide chickens from their farms or vegetables from their gardens to augment the hospital's food supplies. This generosity was a continuation of the thinking a decade earlier when the Sisters provided meals to destitute men during the depression. Those who lined up at the cafeteria door to receive a bowl of soup knew they would never be turned away. This spirit of community was created by the Sisters who knew that their

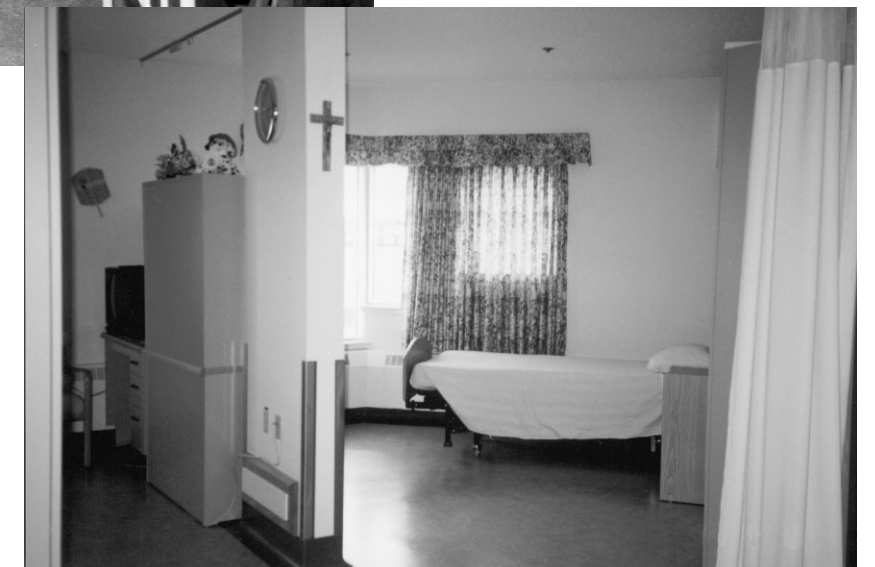
example would inspire others just as it continues to influence staff and volunteers today.

Between its Silver (1952) and Golden (1977) Anniversaries, St. Joseph's Hospital for the Chronically Ill was renamed St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital to reflect the emphasis on rehabilitation. The expectation of an enhanced quality of life was the norm. It was realized that holistic well-being could be achieved through therapy and self-directed care. The philosophy of long days convalescing was changing and along with it, the belief that developing and maintaining a lifestyle of involvement - even in a

continuing care environment – was desirable. This shift in thinking was the beginning of contemporary models of care. The emphasis was now on the individual determining his or her quality of life. Together with physicians, nurses, therapists, pastoral care staff and volunteers, residents and their families became the nucleus of their own care.



An eight-bed ward at the old site - little privacy, but care and respect was in generous supply.



A bedroom in the new hospital - privacy and beauty.

Individual treatment plans emphasized a commitment by residents to achieve a lifestyle that in earlier years, was not considered possible. Through education and adaptation of the equipment and environment, residents were now fully involved in physical, occupational and recreation therapy. A typical day included leisure activities, skill development, physical activity, and the opportunity for social and spiritual pursuits. For the many residents with poliomyelitis, these activities contributed to their rehabilitation and return to their families, schooling, employment and lifestyles.



*As I look back on my life, which is nearly as long as the 75th Anniversary of St. Joseph's Hospital, I can truly say that some of my happiest days were spent in the shaded garden of the 'old' St. Joseph's on Whyte Avenue. There, on Sunday afternoons, my wife Eva would feed our daughter Mickey while I read - to them both - articles from the Sunday New York Times. I used to joke that Mickey was the best informed person in the hospital.*

*Mickey was severely mentally retarded and needed complete care. For the first 14 years of her life, she lived at home with her brothers and sisters. Then came the day when it was clear she would be better off at St. Joseph's Hospital, and that was where she lived for the next 22 years. The sixth floor of St. Joseph's became Mickey's home. The loving care she received from the Sisters, nurses and doctors was a constant source of consolation to Eva and me. So often, we laughed and cried with the staff who were all like a big family.*

*Now those days are gone. Mickey died in 1994, Eva in 1995. But I carry the memories of them both in my heart, with a special place of love and gratitude to everyone at St. Joseph's. May God grant this wonderful hospital many more years of service.*

**Senator Douglas Roche O.C. (family member)**

Along with the hospital's name change came the demolition of the original Whyte Block and addition of the east and west wings. The space provided for new occupational, physical and recreation therapy departments as well as a central stores area and residence for the Sisters. An auditorium provided the space to host events and thereby develop strong relationships with our community. In the 1970s, the Rotary Club of Edmonton South and the Royal Canadian Legion hosted regular events that provided residents with fellowship and entertainment from which, friendships grew. The intent was to maintain interests developed before chronic illness required admission to a continuing care facility. Recreation now included day trips to local lakes and leisure facilities, strolls down Whyte Avenue and special events that involved the Hospital Auxiliary and volunteers. Klondike Days and Christmas saw residents, staff and volunteers spend hours preparing decorations, food and activities to create a sense of excitement and anticipation. The Edmonton Police Association started the annual tradition of hosting elaborate Christmas concerts. No one was left out and no one was alone. Even people with no family support would feel the warmth of St. Joseph's community.

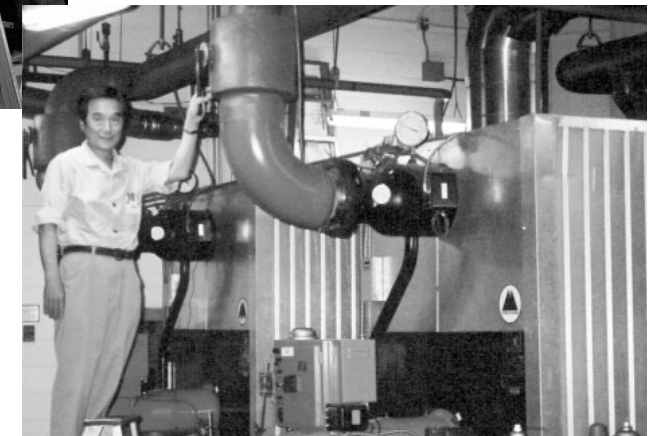
*My mother was a resident at the Whyte Avenue location. One day the entertainment did not show up for the tea, so after a bit of prompting by my mother, I made arrangements to play piano for the residents. For thirty years, I have been playing the piano for the residents' enjoyment.*

**Winnie Styler (volunteer)**



Jack Jung working the boilers at the old site.

to maximize space, minimize costs and maintain high quality service delivery would become the norm in years to come.



After 24 years - still tending to the boilers in 2002...the technology changed but the need remained.



Staff Christmas Party, 1959.



## 1977-1993: *Tradition in a Changing World*

*By 1979 Edmonton had a population reaching 500,000. In 1970 the Chateau Lacombe was built 35 stories high with 341 suites and Southgate Shopping center was completed conveying goods of all sorts from conventional groceries to exotic wares from around the world. The 1970s were a time of an exploding economy with developers, residents and landowners powering an economic boom right up to the recession of the '80s. Many could hardly wait to get out of that decade and into the promise of the '90s.*

By the 1970s St. Joseph's had completed its major additions to the hospital but the hammers couldn't be put away quite yet. In 1981 the hospital completed major renovations to its kitchen to prepare for a centralized food services program. Operated by the University of Alberta, the food processing plant would provide most of the food, in bulk form, to St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. By 1986 the hospital required even more upgrading. Safety and environmental upgrades were completed to comply with new standards. They cost about one million dollars. It was apparent that the building would need continuous upgrading to ensure a safe environment. Unfortunately, nothing could be done to address the shortage of space. The hospital design included eight-bed wards, bathrooms that were not wheelchair accessible and no dining rooms. Recognizing that action needed to be taken now to prepare for the future, the Governing Board investigated options to prepare St. Joseph's for continuing care into the next decade and beyond.

This period also saw the appointment of the first lay administrator. Having joined the organization in 1973 as the Finance Director, Ray Pinkoski served as the administrator from 1980 to 1994. Hospital administration had the opportunity to work with an industrious Governing Board that spearheaded the replacement of the aging Whyte Avenue facility. Board Chair, Dr. Lloyd Grisdale, was a man with a vision to create a replacement facility that would meet the needs of people well into the future. His enthusiasm and leadership would be the tools needed to plot the course for the new St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital.

By 1987, St. Joseph's received government approval for a 200 bed replacement facility. Although it was hoped that a new structure could be built on the Whyte Avenue site, building standards had changed significantly over the years and the existing property did not have adequate land area to develop a new facility.

The exhaustive search for suitable property was not without its challenges. A property large enough to accommodate the hospital's needs and on bus routes – an important service for visitors and staff

– proved difficult to find. Fortunately, over the next few years, a suitable location in the Ermineskin/Heritage community was found. Six acres, previously earmarked as a school site, became available. Finding the property was providential. The site, recently released by the Catholic School Board as surplus, was identified by the hospital administration as a good option for the new hospital.

Once the Ermineskin site was located, the Sisters wisely decided to leave nothing to chance. As Sister Mary Moderwell wrote:

*In 1988 when plans for the new hospital were progressing to the point of seeking a site and several had been identified as possibilities by the City Planning Department, it became apparent that the Ermineskin site at 107 Street and 29 Avenue was ideal.*

*One afternoon Luc Hong, the consulting architect, drove several of us to see it and in our enthusiasm, we decided to follow a long time Community tradition of 'planting' a medal of St. Joseph on the site. Consequently, a few days later, Sister Benilda, Sister Perpetua and I accompanied Luc to the area with a trowel in hand and a small bottle of holy water. Measuring our location on line with the Church of the Nazarene across the street, we paced off several steps so our 'sacred spot' would not be under a road or sidewalk. Kneeling in a cross-like (cruciform) position, we dug a hole and reverently placed the personally treasured sterling silver medal from St. Joseph's Oratory of Montreal into it. Then we blessed it and said a prayer that if it was the desire of Providence and St. Joseph's Hospital that we should continue our mission of Compassionate Caring then this would become the site of our new facility. Filling in the hole we departed in hope.*

*Shortly after, public information sessions were held for residents in the Ermineskin area. They expressed their ideas, pro and con, regarding the location of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital at this site. A lively audience attended among whom was a City Councillor who spoke favorably to the issue, however, one very vociferous gentleman would spring up immediately to refute the point. Hours later our hopes were diminishing, but undaunted we Sisters increased our silent prayers. Finally the facilitator said there were to be only two more presentations. To our dismay the last was identified as our 'devil's advocate'. Stunned, we listened as he said he had changed his mind completely and would ask his supporters to agree as well by voting in favour of the hospital as it would be a better neighbor than if the area was designated as a strip-mall with 24-hour convenience stores and a liquor outlet. It was almost impossible to contain our joy and our renewed hope. A few short weeks later, we were informed that the property was ours. **Trust in Providence**, our Community motto sustained us once more.*

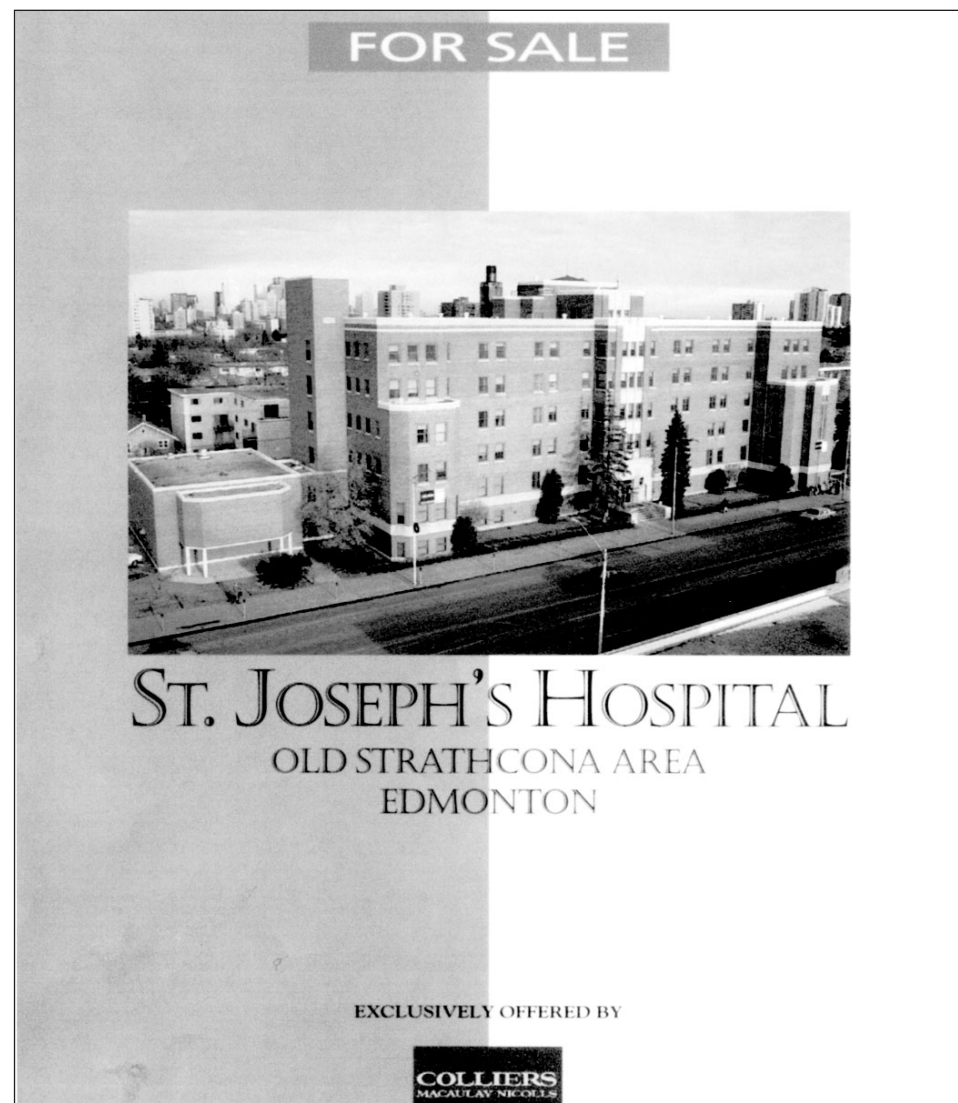


And so, on October 18, 1991, the sod-turning ceremony culminated many long years of research, feasibility studies, government and community consultation and prayer. This date also marked the beginning of a strong friendship with the Southside Church of the Nazarene. Our new neighbours opened their church to us for our sod-turning ceremony and have left the door open since.



Sod Turning, 1991 Oct. 18, St. Joseph's Hospital. Governing Board: A.S. Knowler, Dr. L. Grisdale, Sr. Mary Benilda, R.J. Pinkoski, Sr. Rose Bekar, Sr. Irene Forrester - General Superior, F. Totino, G. Amerongen, Sr. E. Jacob, J. Bara, Sr. W. Whalen, Dr. J. Young

The process of designing and building the new St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital began. Dr. Jack Young, a member of the Governing Board, was highly involved during the construction of the new hospital. With his avid interest in building and design, he worked alongside hospital administration and the general contractor, to ensure every aspect of the project received the required attention. Meanwhile, back at the Whyte Avenue site, residents, families and staff were fully involved in designing spaces, choosing colours, equipment and furniture and otherwise contributing to the creation of this beautiful new building. It was an exciting time.



## 1993-2002

*Edmonton is now a thoroughly modern, urban city with the advantages of natural resources and wealth. In the new millennium the problem is not the lack of health care but the introduction of appropriate care. The province introduced health care regionalization. New drugs and therapies are improving quality of life and longevity. Information technology has influenced all aspects of society and business. Communication is instantaneous and information access is unprecedented. Faith-based health care providers work in collaboration with private, voluntary and public agencies to provide necessary care and services.*

The 1990s were a time of major change for St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. The new building was ready for our arrival and after more than six decades, we would leave the familiar surroundings of Old Strathcona.

***It was remarkable how well the movement of patients from the facilities on Whyte Avenue to the new facilities was carried out, as they organized family and friends to be part of the move, decorating their new rooms with familiar pictures and things so that the patient would feel immediately at home. I was impressed with this sensitivity as well as the continued compassion and care service which is a hallmark of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital.***

Father Donald Stein

Although the original Whyte Avenue location was dark and cramped, it still held great memories for staff, residents and families. To acknowledge the good work accomplished in the old building, a transfer ceremony was held prior to our relocation. Our departure ceremony started in the ornate chapel in the original hospital. Using the symbol of eternal light, Sister Mary Benilda carried a lit candle from the old to the new building with amazing results - the candle maintained its flame! Residents, staff, volunteers and families joined a motorcade procession from Whyte Avenue, south on 106 Street, to our new building on 29 Avenue at 107 Street. Upon arrival at the new site, as each person walked through the new hospital entrance, they lit their taper candle from Sister Benilda's 'eternal flame' and proceeded into the new hospital chapel. With no furniture, paintings or even an altar, the chapel, aglow with candlelight, was a picture of hope and renewal. Archbishop Joseph MacNeil blessed the hospital and the people it would serve. Our simple ceremony brought us comfort as well as anticipation of the future. As we said farewell to a grand old building and decades of fond memories, we knew that



Sister Mary Benilda and Ray Pinkoski outside the Whyte Avenue landmark, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital, 1993.

the next chapter in the story of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital was going to be exciting.

November 15, 1993 was moving day and typical of our planning, every detail was orchestrated with precision. One hundred and eighty-six residents were



**Moving to the Heritage site was a luxury, with lots of new and additional equipment. The "family spirit" was felt at first after the move to the present site.**

**Barb Beebe (staff)**

transported to the new hospital in a seven hour period. A small convoy of vans, buses and ambulances were assembled to provide residents with individual attention. Care centres throughout the city donated their buses and drivers for the day, indicative of the support that was as common then as it is today.



Mary Schmitz (resident) and volunteer Anton Turner enjoy a sneak preview of the new hospital, Sept. '93.



Move Day – A small convoy of vans, buses and ambulances were assembled to provide residents with individual attention.



Carrying our eternal flame from Whyte Avenue to the new chapel.

Families, staff and volunteers were paired with residents to ensure a smooth transfer. Although residents' physical well-being was a priority, we also wanted to provide an enjoyable experience. After all, this was an adventure! Many residents had already visited the hospital to view their bedrooms and had a good idea of the facility layout and location. The atmosphere was festive; residents were greeted with refreshments and the opportunity to wander about before heading toward their living areas. We wanted moving day to be memorable for the right reasons!

The move completed, administration and staff proceeded to work on fine tuning processes and systems. During the first few weeks, staff and volunteers occasionally lost their way but the colour-coded nursing units did help with way-finding for both residents and staff. The spacious design, although greatly appreciated, meant greater distance between residents' bedrooms and common areas. It seemed that a great deal of time was spent traveling to and fro.

Once we determined the shortest distance between two points, life became much easier.

Naturally, community interest in the new St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital was high and during our official opening ceremony on November 26, 1993, hundreds of guests had the opportunity to tour the building. The new building included a number of meeting rooms and an auditorium suitable for use by community groups. During off-peak hours, the space was made available to groups who otherwise would have met in basements. Since those early days, numerous support groups, service clubs and health related agencies have used space at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital on a regular basis. The active promotion of the new hospital as a community resource has resulted in the development of many strong relationships. It did not take long to establish ourselves in our new community; we count amongst our good friends, local agencies and businesses, churches and schools.

In 1994, Ray Pinkoski, the hospital's first lay administrator, retired. Two individuals filled the executive director's position between 1994 and 2002. Mike Ripko served the hospital for four years and Marilyn Snow was hired in 1998 and is the current Executive Director.



Steinhauer School children touring the modern St. Joseph's kitchen – the hats were a big hit.

**What was impressive was the team work among the staff members, and their willingness to help one another, working many hours overtime. The day of the actual move was very memorable. The residents and staff traveled in procession escorted by the city police, keeping everyone united as one family. This family spirit between the staff, residents and their family members that was very evident in the old building was carried on to the new facility.**

**Sister Mary George**

Over the course of the past nine years, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital, in the tradition of the Sisters of Providence, recognized that new programs were required. St. Joseph's proceeded with a community consultation process and collaboration with the Capital Health Authority to identify programs that would promote independence while providing enhanced care. The new hospital provided us with great opportunity to expand our care and service delivery. On July 1, 1995, the Hong Lok Meadows program received its first residents. Initiated by the Hong Lok Board of Management and supported by the Chinese Lions Club as well as the Chinese community, the program would serve Asian elders with the emphasis on creating an environment that was familiar. Minimal additional resources would be required. The desire to provide a



## From a Dream to a Reality

St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital envisioned, planned and built a replacement facility for which they assumed stewardship on November 15, 1993

The anticipation, planning and long days are over and residents are now comfortably relocated into the 204 bed building that serves as the new St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. The construction of the brick and stucco structure is complete and by any standards a huge accomplishment in an uncertain economic climate. Residents now enjoy the pleasure of natural light, corridors and bedrooms that allow wheelchair access and common areas that encourage social interaction, as well as private spaces. The Sisters of Providence, Governing Board, medical staff and senior administration along with hundreds of dedicated staff, residents, families and volunteers had worked for six years to ensure that the dream of a new hospital would materialize. It was now time to showcase Alberta's newest long-term care facility to the community. So that as many people as possible would be included in the official opening events, the celebration spanned three consecutive days. The opening ceremony was on Friday, November 26, followed by two days of open house.

Using the newest technology, the opening ceremony was televised, live, throughout the hospital, enabling residents, staff and families to view the program from the nursing units. The speakers and invited guests gathered in the main floor atrium where, led by the children's choir from Steinhauer School, the ceremony was opened with the singing of "O' Canada".

Speakers included the Archbishop of Edmonton, the project architect and the general contractor, as well as representatives from local and provincial governments, the Governing Board, the Sisters' Council, and the Residents' Council. Regrettably, Dr. Lloyd Grisdale, Chairman of the Governing Board and a driving force behind the planning and building of the new hospital, was unable to participate as he was recovering from unexpected surgery. Frank Totino assumed the honour of Master of Ceremonies. With characteristic good humour and graciousness he introduced each speaker who, in turn, extended best wishes to all who participated in the project, all who live there, and those who work in the new facility.

Sister Irene Forrester, General Superior of the Sisters of Providence, from Kingston, emphasized the role the hospital will play in rehabilitation, family support, wholistic care, and in development of innovative programs for enhanced care delivery. Noting that "God's providence was always present throughout the project", Sister Irene said, "the life and spirit of St. Joseph's depends on the relationships within its walls". She gave special recognition to Ray Pinkoski for his dedication and commitment to the mission of the Sisters of Providence at St. Joseph's Hospital. In 1980, he became the first lay person to be appointed an administrator in any of the eight Providence Health System facilities across Canada.

His leadership enabled St. Joseph's not only to survive but to thrive in a decade of both financial challenges and health-care restructuring. Each speaker emphasized the importance of the collaboration among the hospital, the community and the governments in the building of the new facility for the purpose of continuing to provide *Quality Care with Compassion in the Christian Tradition*.

The official greetings were followed by presentations from Alberta Health, Alberta Public Works, the City of Edmonton and the Catholic Health Association. Sister Irene Forrester presented a commemorative plaque to Mary Schmitz, Chairperson of the Residents' Council symbolizing the transfer of the new St. Joseph's Hospital to those it serves.

For the celebrations, the atrium columns were wrapped with huge bows with clusters of helium-filled balloons, and dozens of floral arrangements from well-wishers, were placed throughout the hospital. Staff and volunteers, acting as tour guides, welcomed more than 1000 guests in the three days. Bernie Wood, the project architect, said that while the building most certainly is new, it is still known by a familiar and comforting name *St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital*.

THE STEINHAEUER SCHOOL CHOIR



FRONT ENTRANCE PILLARS WRAPPED IN BOWS AND BALLOONS



SISTER IRENE FORRESTER ACCEPTING A PLAQUE FROM THE CATHOLIC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION PRESENTED BY BUD PALS



SISTER IRENE FORRESTER, STAN WOLOSZYK, MLA AND VI GRISDALE CUTTING THE RIBBON



FRANK TOTINO AND MARY SCHMITZ (JUST A FEW WORDS PLEASE!)

more comfortable atmosphere that encouraged residents' involvement was not costly, but it did require thoughtful planning. The menus included more rice and fish, staff could speak the language and interpret for others, Chinese cable television was provided and familiar leisure activities were facilitated by Asian volunteers.

In the summer of 1995, fourteen beds were dedicated to the care of palliative patients – adults with terminal illnesses. In collaboration with the Edmonton Regional Palliative Care Program, St. Joseph's became one of four continuing care facilities to open a Palliative Hospice program. The youngest patient in this program was twenty years old. The program fills a need for homelike surroundings, strong social and spiritual support and staff trained in palliative hospice care. We count the families of patients as friends and welcome them back during our weekly open house teas.

1995 was a busy year. We opened our Day Program which operates five days a week. Our program is based on a medical model meaning that individuals must have medical needs to qualify for admission (as compared to social day programs). Serving twenty people each day, a typical day includes personal care, rehabilitation, recreation therapy and hot meals - made fresh daily in our own kitchen. When this program was first introduced it also included a Night Care Program. Responding to changing needs, as other options for overnight care became available in the region, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital's Night Care Program was discontinued in 1998.



Community Day Support clients & staff preparing gifts for volunteers.

In November, 1996, the Capital Health Authority consolidated regional peritoneal dialysis and in response to our proposal, designated St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital to provide Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis. This reflected a progressive shift in thinking, individuals who previously needed to reside at an acute care hospital could now live at St. Joseph's with access to all necessary supports. With emphasis on quality of life, individuals receive essential dialysis treatment in this setting but are also able to pursue a more independent lifestyle made possible through the programs and services available at St. Joseph's.

During this decade significant resources were devoted to staff training and education. This included skill development to help staff perform their duties better as well as education related to Mission. Mission education truly contributes to the unique nature of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. Understanding the Christian values that guide our work, ethical decision-making that influences our

Reprinted from Providence Pages, Winter 1994.



actions, and fundamental respect for life, are the cornerstones of our foundation. Our Mission is integrated into all of our processes and programs. From performance appraisals to allocation of funds, decisions that effect St. Joseph's are reached by an adherence to the principles of good stewardship and the privilege of providing care and services to those in need.



Board of Director Annual Missioning Ceremony.

The growth of this organization has been one of collaboration and consultation. Our public partners include Alberta Health and Wellness and the Capital Health Authority. Our faith-based partners include the Christian Health Association of Alberta and the Catholic Health Association of Canada. Our sponsors, the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation, as well as the numerous allied health providers, colleges and universities, all contribute to the success of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital.

Our partnerships with the Rotary Club of Edmonton South, Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, Al Shamal Shriners, Steinhauer School, Louis St. Laurent School, all of our local churches, the Ermineskin Community League,



Our partnership with Louis St. Laurent School – three generations of extra hands help plant spring flowers.



Knights of Columbus and Al Shamal Shriners presenting our new coach.

Heritage Safeway, the Hospital Auxiliary and the hundreds of people who volunteer or provide financial assistance to St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital speak eloquently of the support provided to the hospital. It is our honour to continue the tradition of compassionate service to the community and with the encouragement of our friends and partners, we expect to do so well into this century.



Volunteer Recognition - a truly appreciated group of people.



ALBERTA  
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Office of the Minister

### MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Congratulations to St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital residents, staff and community supporters. Your 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a time to celebrate both a proud legacy and a bright future.

Alberta Health and Wellness shares your commitment to meeting the needs of our elderly and vulnerable citizens, and ensuring their lives are happy, healthy and secure.

Since its founding by the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston) in 1927, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital has maintained a high standard of service in continuing care, palliative care and community support programs.

As health care providers, volunteers and board members, you have worked diligently to serve the St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital mission of providing compassionate care to all. Your efforts have built the strong family and community ties that are important to all Albertans. I truly appreciate the skills, talents and personal commitment you have exhibited over the years.

Best wishes on a successful 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a future of renewed commitment and caring.

Sincerely,

*Gary G. Mar*

Gary G. Mar, Q.C.  
Minister of Health and Wellness



Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 Telephone 780/427-3665 Fax 780/415-0961

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Healthier people in healthier communities

#### Board Office

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May 30, 2002

Neil Wilkinson  
Chair

Brian Bechtel

Dean Bell

Leonard Blumenthal

Bill Burch

Olivia Butti

Ian Crawford

Joan Duiker

Wendy Kinsella

Sheila McKay

Margaret Plain

Karen Polowick

John Ramsey

Barbara Thompson

Molly Warring

Sharon Downs, Chair  
St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital Board of Directors  
10707 29 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T6J 6W1

Dear Sharon;

On behalf of the Capital Health Board, it is my privilege to congratulate St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital on 75 years of service to our community. This is a significant milestone.

Much has changed in health care since the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul founded St. Joseph's in 1927. Throughout the years, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital has consistently provided quality, innovative continuing care programs and services in an atmosphere of caring and compassion.

Your staff, programs and services have enhanced health care in this region. Your past contributions have helped Capital Health earn recognition as a health system that other parts of Canada hold up as a model, and your continued dedication will help us meet our community's growing continuing care needs. We value the relationship with St. Joseph's and look forward to our continued work together to improve the health and well being of our community.

Congratulations, and best wishes for many more years of service to the community.

Sincerely,

Neil Wilkinson  
Chair, Capital Health Board

Canada's largest integrated academic health region



## Continuing the Journey

For 75 years, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital has opened its doors and its heart to many of the aged, sick and infirm in the City of Edmonton. The Sisters and staff have worked compassionately to bring relief and comfort in both living and in dying. It is both a wonderful heritage and a wonderful beginning!

The key to setting a future course for St. Joseph's is the recognition that our Vision must have a panoramic perspective – looking to the future while embracing the present and cherishing the roots of the past.



The Whittingham Bell (2002).



Look up, way up, the Whittingham Bell is introduced to the St. Joseph's Chapel.

In future years, St. Joseph's will continue to serve those who come in need – physically, mentally and spiritually. The hospital will also be a vehicle for those who are called to serve in the helping

professions. Together the matching of need and service will form a unity of Mission - *the provision of quality care with compassion in the Christian tradition.*

St. Joseph's will form expanded partnership networks in fulfilling its Mission. The positive links with the Province of Alberta and with the regional health authority-the Capital Health Authority – will provide opportunity for program and service expansion to meet the changing needs of the population around us. This adaptability and acceptance of change has been a hallmark of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital in the past and will be in the future.

The tenets of Sponsorship will also be carried into the future of St. Joseph's. Sponsorship helps safeguard the spiritual values and ethical foundations of St. Joseph's and will continue to be the bedrock of its existence. Through the Foundresses of St. Joseph's, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, the Sponsorship of a



faith-based hospital fostered an enhanced dimension in health care delivery – that of ministering in compassion. The Sponsorship is a trust passed to the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation whose responsibility is to ensure the Mission lives into the future. Thanks to our many friends, the Sponsorship is in safe hands and it will endure.

The future is both bright and challenging. The players in the arena of health care delivery will change. New names, new faces will serve on the Board of Directors, in administration, on staff, through medical staff association and through our volunteers. The torch of compassionate care passes from one hand to another – this is how the Mission lives and endures.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Snow  
Executive Director



## Milestones and Facts

### Fact Sheet

**1927** Sister M. Angel Guardian and Sister M. Alacoque, representing the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston), responded to Archbishop O'Leary's request to open Edmonton's first "Old People's Home".

The Whyte Block, a 120-bed apartment block built in 1913 with retail stores on the ground level - located at 107 Street and 82 Avenue, was purchased for \$24,000. Over the next few years, the seven adjoining lots were purchased for \$2,000. Ultimately a total of eighteen lots were acquired allowing for the development of a large park area to the north of the hospital, parking lot and rental housing.

**1929** Extensive renovations to the four-storey Whyte Block were completed to meet the needs of the elderly. Formal opening of the renamed House of Providence of Edmonton occurred on September 24, 1929.

**1930** The House of Providence was renamed St. Joseph's Hospital for the Chronically Ill to reflect care provided to chronically ill people of all ages (infants to the elderly). An operating room and tubular fire escapes were added to the structure.

**1948** Renovations to expand the hospital to a 150-bed facility were completed. Architect George Heath MacDonald designed the new building; four storeys were developed with the intent to add an additional two storeys at a later date. A chapel and galleries were added. Official opening occurred on January 24.

In response to the ravages of the poliomyelitis epidemic, St. Joseph's Hospital was the first hospital to provide continuing care for this growing number of individuals.

First Hospital Auxiliary organized with Mrs. A.R. Robbins as president.

**1952** Silver (25th) Anniversary celebrated.



- 1955** Two additional storeys were added to the six-year old structure, increasing bed capacity to 300 (included the beds in the old Whyte Block). Emphasis on therapy for polio victims, primarily young people, was achieved with new rehabilitation areas. Official opening occurred on October 20.

The hospital was renamed St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital to distinguish it from a nursing home (providing less nursing care) and a general or acute hospital (providing greater nursing care). St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital was one of seven such designated hospitals in the province.

- 1961** First Lay Advisory Board was formed with Mr. J.A. MacDonald serving as Chair.
- 1963** The original Whyte Block located at the east side of the hospital was demolished to build a central stores area and the Sisters' residence on the second level. An auditorium was constructed on the west side of the hospital. Enhanced rehabilitation facilities were developed. The number of beds was now 198 (with the closure of the beds located in the Whyte Block).
- 1965** Formal Opening of the East and West Wings occurred on September 16.
- 1971** First year St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital sought national accreditation. The hospital has maintained continuous accreditation with the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation since that date.
- 1972** First Governing Board formed to replace the Lay Advisory Board with Mr. J.B. Dea serving as Chair.
- 1977** Golden (50th ) Anniversary celebrated.
- 1980** Mr. Ray Pinkoski appointed first lay administrator.
- 1981** Extensive renovations and additions to the Food Services area and cafeteria were completed.
- 1986** Safety and environmental upgrading of the aging structure completed at a cost of approximately one million dollars.
- 1987** On October 23, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a Mass at St. Anthony's Catholic Church followed by a dinner at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club.

- 1987** Provincial government approval received to commence planning for a 204-bed replacement facility.

- 1990** Having determined that the existing hospital site was too small for a replacement facility, a six acre site in the Ermineskin community (107 Street and 29 Avenue) was purchased.

Wood Gardener O'Neill O'Neill Architects Ltd. selected to develop the design for the new 204-bed St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. Ellis Don Construction was selected as the general contractor.

- 1991** Sod-turning ceremony for the new hospital was conducted on October 18.

- 1993** Dr. Robert Bradstock became the first Board-appointed Chief of Medical Staff.

- 1993** On November 15, 186 residents were transferred within a seven-hour period from the old site to the new hospital.

The new three-storey, 15,000 square meter building was constructed, furnished and equipped at a cost of 28.5 million dollars. The new hospital includes 204 beds (102 beds on each the second and third floors) with main floor common and support areas.

November 26, the official opening of the new St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital.

- 1994** Listed for sale at 2.3 million dollars, Denford Developments purchased the original St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital and converted it into the Garneau Lofts (residential condominiums with retail shops on the lower level). This development is reminiscent of the original function of the Whyte Block before it was purchased by the Sisters and converted into a hospital.

- 1995** As a gift to St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital, the Sisters of Providence commissioned James Marshall to create a brick mural in Angel Guardian Square depicting the works of the Sisters in Alberta from turn of the century.

- 1997** On September 10, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital celebrated its 70th Anniversary with the dedication and unveiling of the Donor Wall and dedication of the Cross that was relocated from the old site to the Chapel park.



- 2000** On February 8, the City of Edmonton Planning and Development passed our application to amend the land use bylaw to allow for future expansion on this site. The redistricting allows for a total of 272 beds (currently, SJAH operates 204 beds).
- 2001** On March 31, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston) transferred sponsorship of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital to the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation.
- 2002** On September 20, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a Mass and reception at St. Thomas More Catholic Church followed by an Open House at the hospital on September 21.



*St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital  
Lay Advisory and Governing Board  
Members From 1961 to August 2002*

Rev. Sr. Angelica	1961	Justice J.C. Cavanagh	1978
Rt. Rev. O.J. Foran	1961	Mr. R. McGillivray	1978
Dr. Rupert Clare	1961	<b>Mr. Terry Cavanagh</b>	1978
Mr. Tony Quaglia	1961	Dr. E. Papp	1978
Mr. Gerard Amerongen	1961	<b>Mrs. Mary Bell</b>	1979
<b>Mr. Tony Hawkins</b>	1961	<b>Mr. Phil H. Walker</b>	1979
Mr. René Krisanc	1961	Dr. M. Lussier	1980
<b>Mr. J.A. MacDonald</b>	1961	Dr. R. Bradstock	1982
Mr. Ken Wilson	1961	Sr. M. Angeline	1983
Mr. A. Bradley	1961	Dr. C. Lee	1983
Sr. M. Joanna Voytechek	1961	Sr. M. Joseph O'Brien	1983
Mr. H. McKim Ross	1961	Sr. M. George	1985
<b>Mr. J.B. Dea</b>	1962	<b>Miss Jean Bara</b>	1985
Mr. A. Deschamps	1962	<b>Justice Joseph J. Stratton</b>	1985
Sr. M. Enda Kathleen Maguire	1962	<b>Mr. Frank C. Totino</b>	1985
Mr. Tony Hutton	1963	Dr. M. Snihurowych	1986
<b>Mr. Don Wheaton, Sr.</b>	1964	<b>Dr. L.C. Grisdale</b>	1986
Alderman F. Edwards	1964	Mr. A.S. Knowler	1986
Mr. C. Purves	1967	Sr. Muriel Gallagher	1987
Sr. M. Desmond	1972	Sr. Sheila Brady	1988
Dr. M.J. Miller	1972	Dr. D. Melnyk	1989
<b>Dr. Joe O'Brien</b>	1972	Dr. Jack Young	1990
Dr. A.A. Gorman	1972	Mrs. Eileen Filthaut	1994
Sr. Eileen Mitchell	1972	<b>Mr. Tim O'Brien</b>	1994
Sr. Winnifred Whalen	1972	Sr. Rose Bekar	1994
Dr. R. Peters	1973	Sr. Elaine Jacob	1994
Fr. D. MacDonald	1973	Sr. Grace Maguire	1994
Mr. G. Tidswell	1974	Mr. Tony Holloway	1995
Sr. M. Benilda	1974	Mrs. Doris Moonie	1995
<b>Mr. Bev Brooker</b>	1974	Mr. Tom Kofin	1997
Sr. M. Clare	1974	Sr. Mary Moderwell	1998
Dr. G. Sollbach	1975	Mr. Terry McCoy	1998
Mr. W.C. Bateman	1976	<b>Ms. Sharon Downs</b>	1998
<b>Mr. Charles Sheehan</b>	1976	Mr. Lyle Lavender	2000
Mr. Don Wheaton, Jr.	1976	Mr. Jack Kane	2000
Mr. G. McRae	1977	Mr. David Edey	2001
Mrs. H. Paull	1977	Mrs. Mary Pat Skene	2001

\*Dates next to names are indicative of the first year of Board service.  
\*Bolded names indicate service as Board Chair.



St. Joseph’s  
Auxiliary Hospital Administrators  
1927-2002

1927-1929:	Sister M.A. Guardian, Foundress of St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital
1929-1930:	Sister M. Monica
1930-1936:	Sister M. Alacoque
1936-1942:	Sister M. Clotilda
1942-1946:	Sister M. Martin
1946-1948:	Sister M. Alacoque
1948-1950:	Mother M. Alban
1950- 1956:	Mother M. Anselm
1956-1962:	Sister M. Angelica
1962-1965:	Sister Kathleen Maguire
1965-1972:	Sister Mary Joanna
1972-1975:	Sister Eileen Mitchell
1975-1980:	Sister Mary Clare Doran
1980-1994:	Ray Pinkoski
1994-1998:	Mike Ripko
1998-(present):	Marilyn Snow

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston)

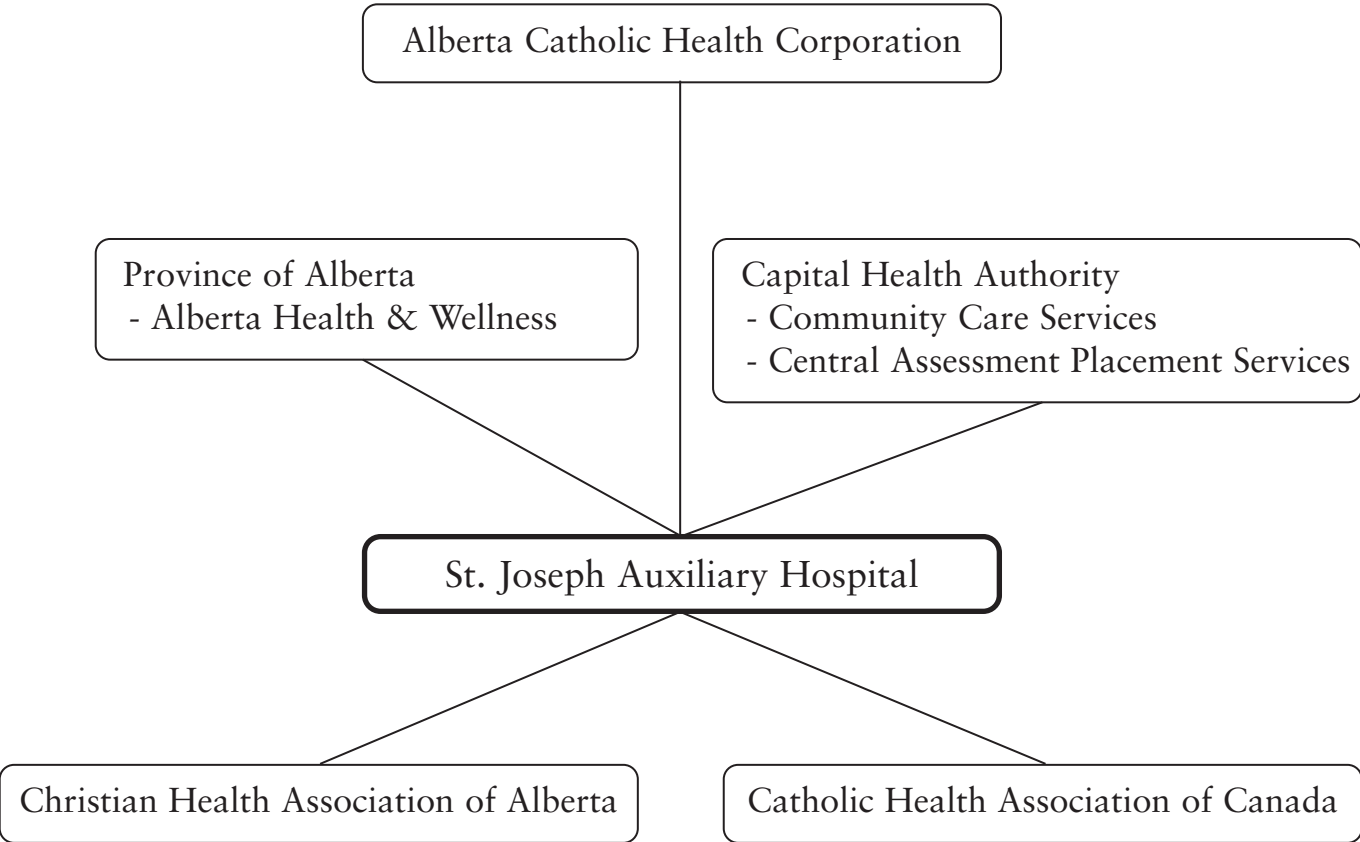
We honour the following Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston) who served St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta between the years of 1927 through 2002. The Sisters entrust their legacy of compassionate caring to those who continue their ministry.

Names in brackets indicate the family name.

Sister M. Adrian (O’Rourke) 1941	Sister M. Agatha (Tatiyana-Maria Zuzak) 1959-62	Sister M. Agnita (Monica Shea) 1950-52	Sister M. Alacoque (Scott) 1929, 1931-33, 1946-47	Sister M. Alban (Hawkins) 1948-50
Sister M. Alice (Eileen Mitchell) 1971-73	Sister M. Amable (Rose-Marie Bokenfohr) 1961-62	Sister M. Joseph Andre (Lynch) 1968-69	Sister M. Angelica (Shirley Dunn) 1936, 1943-45, 1955-62	Sister M. Angeline (Garvin) 1980-91
Sister M. Anicetus (Kathleen Ryan) 1967-71	Sister M. Catherine Ann (Catherine Greene) 1972-73	Sister M. Margaret Ann (Maney) 1971-72	Sister M. Anselm (Egan) 1933, 1950-56	Sister M. Joseph Anthony (Trager) 1969
Sister M. Augustine (Charlotte Kramps) 1961-63, 1969-72	Sister M. Austin (Leona Deitner) 1964-66	Sister M. Benedicta (Christine Breeze) 1941, 1954	Sister M. Benignus (Nora Kyle) 1945-47	Sister M. Benilda (Federovich) 1963-2002
Sister Karen Bennett 1985	Sister M. Bernice (McGuiggan) 1951	Sister M. Boniface (Lansing) 1929	Sister Catherine Casey 1988	Sister M. Clare (Doran) 1974-80
Sister M. Clotilda (Brady) 1936-37, 1942-43	Sister M. Coletta (Quinn) 1953-68	Sister M. Cosmas (Verna Plue) 1951-57	Sister M. Demetria (Stewart) 1948-49	Sister M. Denise (Closs) 1971
Sister M. Desmond (Coté) 1966-83	Sister M. Dolores (King) 1948, 1951-57	Sister M. Dolorosa (Rose Bekar) 1956-61, 1991-95	Sister M. Edgar (McCulloch) 1935	Sister M. Emerita (Dorothy O’Neill) 1983
Sister M. Enda (Kathleen Maguire) 1943-45, 1952, 1962-67	Sister M. Fanchea (Grace Maguire) 1952-53, 1992-97	Sister M. Felix (Murphy) 1944-45	Sister M. Frederick (Bernadine Bokenfohr) 1971, 1981-82	Sister Muriel Gallagher 1987-89
Sister M. George (Costley) 1975-2002	Sister M. Geraldine (Egan) 1957-61	Sister M. Gerard (Avita Kilar) 1985-91, 1996	Sister Rita Gleason 2001-02	Sister M. Marcia Goodwin 1940-43
Sister M. Gregory (Kennedy) 1929	Sister M. Ildefonsa (McCoy) 1961-63	Sister M. Iona (Doyle) 1944-47	Sister Elaine Jacob 1991-2001	Sister M. Joanna (Voytechek) 1948-70
Sister M. Anna Kelly 1949-51, 1957-64, 1976-87	Sister M. Kenneth (Mary Moderwell) 1951-57, 1986-2002	Sister M. Kevin (McNulty) 1940-54	Sister M. Kieran (Jean Edey) 1952-55	Sister M. Laurentia (Murphy) 1947
Sister M. Leona (Vincent) 1929	Sister M. Madeleine (Nora Forestell) 1947	Sister M. Margaret (Masterson) 1942, 1944-49	Sister M. Margaret (Hunter) 1970	Sister Stella Maris (Black) 1984
Sister M. Martin (Coyne) 1928-48	Sister M. Maurice (Maloney) 1929	Sister M. Kathleen McCaffrey 1990-92	Sister M. Lucy McGrath 1947-50, 1990	Sister M. Michaelleen (Ellen Murray) 1972-75
Sister M. Monica (McCoy) 1927, 1929, 1950-52	Sister M. Evelyn Noonan 1981-82	Sister M. Joseph O’Brien 1972-1986	Sister M. Patrice (Patricia Rashotte) 1965-66	Sister M. Patricia (Bradden) 1949-51, 1953
Sister M. Patrick (Collins) 1936-67	Sister M. Perpetua (McCarthy) 1951-52, 1987-89	Sister M. Peter (Gavin) 1929	Sister M. Raymond (Moore) 1946-51	Sister M. Richard (Anne Sullivan) 1948-51
Sister M. Robert (Mary Hamilton) 1963-68, 1976	Sister M. Rosaire (Hebert) 1954-55	Sister M. Rosaria (Andries) 1948-49	Sister M. Rose of Lima (Vos) 1944, 1949-51, 1955-60	Sister Rose Anne Ryan 1982-84
Sister M. Eugenia Schulte 1946, 1964-65	Sister M. Marlene Schuster 1976-77	Sister M. Stephane (Bauman) 1950, 1952-59	Sister M. Sylvia (Sheila Way) 1991-96	Sister M. Agnes Tapper 1953-54
Sister M. Theophane (Florence Goulah) 1948-51	Sister M. Thomas (Dolan) 1946, 1951	Sister M. Verda (Helen Collins) 1958-60, 1979-82	Sister M. Vianney (Winnifred Whalen) 1971-91	Sister M. Victoria (McLaughlin) 1968-70
Sister M. Vincent (Kramps) 1950	Sister M. Viola (Cobey) 1936-41, 1967-70	Sister M. Felicitas Wekel 1939-40	Sister M. Gracia Whalen 1947-50, 1952-53	Sister M. Francis Xavier (Rita Dimberline) 1955-56



St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital and External Partners



St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital works collaboratively with other health care providers and regional and provincial agencies. The following relationship chart reflects our association with external partners, including:

- ACHC Alberta Catholic Health Corporation (ACHC) - sponsors of St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital. St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital has a direct reporting relationship with the ACHC.
- Capital Health Authority (CHA) - St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital has a Cooperation Agreement with the CHA to provide continuing care services. St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital has a direct reporting relationship with the CHA in relation to Regional Continuing and Community Care Services and Central Assessment and Placement Services. The ACHC has a voluntary association relationship with the CHA.
- Christian Health Association of Alberta (CHAA) formerly known as the Catholic Health Association of Alberta and Affiliates - Provincial Association for faith-based providers. CHAA has a voluntary association relationship with SJAH and the ACHC.
- Catholic Health Association of Canada (CHAC) - National Association for Catholic Health Providers. St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital and the ACHC have a voluntary association relationship with CHAC.
- Province of Alberta - Alberta Health and Wellness - Provincial Government - Funder of Programs. The provincial government and St. Joseph’s have a direct and voluntary relationship.
- Province of Alberta - Alberta Infrastructure - Lease holders of SJAH building (provincially owned). Alberta Infrastructure and St. Joseph’s have a direct and voluntary relationship.

Stories and Recollections

To tell the story of St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital, the editorial team approached many people who, over the years, were actively involved in our organization. We asked these people to share their stories with us. They provided oral histories and written stories which assisted us to understand the importance of this organization to the people touched by our health care ministry. From their interviews and submissions, we have woven select quotes and recollections throughout the text of this book. Unfortunately space did not allow us to include all of the information we received. We thank the following people for sharing their stories:

Anne Wotypka	Dr. R. Bradstock	Mary Ann Irvine
Archbishop Joseph MacNeil	Dr. S. Kavanagh	Ray Pinkoski
Beatrice Harke	Dr. Z. Chrzanowski	Rose Chapple
Barb Beebe	Ed and Delores Pintkowski	Sarah Whitley
Betty Inman	Fr. Don Stein	Senator Douglas Roche
Carol Garbaria	Frank Ignacio	Sr. Mary Benilda
Clara Gladue	Hildegard Mertel	Sr. Mary George
Dr. Brian Ritchie	Lucy Justik	Walter Maday
Dr. E. Papp	Margaret Gorman	Winnie Styler
Dr. J. O’Brien	Marlene Gray	
Dr. M. Friedman	Mary Agnes Radostits	

Although we cannot print all the pages of stories we gathered through interviews, the following letters are representative of the recollections of those who lived, worked or volunteered at St. Joseph’s.

Reflections from 1961 onward by Rose Chapple, Staff Nurse (Retired)

*My first recollection and impression of St. Joseph’s Auxiliary Hospital, was of a striking, stately, red brick building visually dominating the vicinity of Whyte Avenue. Once inside, the immediate sense of cleanliness provided a comforting backdrop as I encountered the variety of individuals of all ages and varying physical capabilities. They were obviously well cared for and I was soon to realize that love and dedication were spoken here.*

*At this time, the Sisters resided in the East Wing of the hospital and were integral in the administration and management of the hospital. They were part of the work force and involved in many duties, but their devotion to the spiritual and physical care of the patient was very evident. They were complemented by a dedicated and caring staff and all worked together as a team.*



**Sundays would be incomplete for us if we did not go to St. Joseph's to volunteer. We feel privileged to be part of the volunteer team. The rewarding part is the appreciation the residents show us when we take them to their 'place of worship' each Sunday. We have made new friends and share many happy times.**

**Ed and Dolores  
Pintkowski (volunteers)**

*The work was demanding but filled with many rewards as our lives as caregivers were enriched with the life stories of our patients. Many patients were pioneers, with their roots in many different parts of the world. Their hard work as builders of our society was well documented in many cases. We were doubly rewarded with hearing their stories first hand, sharing in their life experiences filled with intrigue, adventure and passion. Events they shared with us brought laughter as well as tears, as we were engaged in their past during these precious moments. We in turn provided them with comfort, caring, and a sense of loving security while maintaining their dignity. This was, after all, their home. As our relationships developed, we got to know their family members and their friends, and ultimately became a part of their extended family.*

*Specifically, I recall the familiar sound of a tinkling bell rung by a Sister to alert us to the approaching Resident Priest with the weekly morning communion for those of the Catholic faith. All of the staff would cooperate and assist with reverence and dignity during the Holy Sacrament.*

*Every year, the Sisters hosted the staff Christmas Dinner and graciously welcomed us individually at the entrance to the decorated auditorium with gifts and smiles. The tables were decorated with festive cloths, candles and Christmas candies. The delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings was enjoyed by all and of course, Christmas Carols were sung. The Nativity was performed by the staff and the celebration ended with the singing of Silent Night with a beautiful blend of accents and voices.*

*Prior to 1977, there wasn't a structured volunteer program or director, but that did not hamper the enthusiastic celebration of special holidays, events, and birthdays. Birthdays were celebrated with cake, candles and wishes sung on the patient's ward. I remember on two occasions, where a birth date was not known or available. In one case, for a pretty young mentally challenged girl, with no known family, we chose Valentines Day for her birthday celebration. Another time, with the approval of a European widow and her devoted family, we chose Armistice Day. For a number of years, her family hosted the grandest birthday celebrations for her on this date.*

*With the cooperation of the Sisters, staff, families and volunteers, a variety of entertainment and recreation was provided for the patients. Outings and picnics were common place in the serene and well maintained hospital park adjoining the property. The park provided a peaceful shaded area with majestic spreading trees and tall hedges surrounding the perimeter for privacy.*

*The auditorium was our entertainment centre, and the events were well received by the patients including singing groups, small bands, accordion and piano recitals, group monthly birthday celebrations,*

*and skits by the 'talented' staff. For example, members of our staff performed the dying swan scene from Swan Lake!! Also I remember our adaptation of the RCMP's famous Musical Ride in full uniform with toy horses much to the delight of our audience.*



Klondike Brunch, 2002.

*for the best entries in categories such as attire, wheelchair decoration, and parade floats. Many hours were happily volunteered by staff, families, and friends. Groups were formed for the building,*

*decorating and coordinating of all the float and wheelchair entries in this event. Scrounging for suitable Klondike hats and costumes, as well as sewing and alterations occupied other workers. Decorations and flowers were made from coloured tissues, ribbons and plastic. The big day finally arrived, and the unique and colourful parade wound its way slowly around the hospital, circling the entire block. The police were very accommodating with road blocks and traffic direction. The participants were enthralled to be the center of such a gala event and certainly appreciated the enthusiastic response by surprised and delighted street side spectators.*

*Many of the events I remember at St. Joseph's were simply magical, engaging brief engagements with patients willing to bless us with a glimpse into their varied lives and personal histories.*

*St. Joseph's Hospital silently captured these defining moments within its scrubbed and friendly halls, and provided a vibrant yet tranquil haven for enriching the lives of patients, staff, families and volunteers alike.*



Klondike Brunch, 1980s.



### Life at St. Joseph's by Anne Wotypka (resident)

*St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital has been my home for more than three years. I was admitted on October 16, 1998, a very ill person. Dr. Chrzanowski has just been marvelous and I think it's between God and Dr. Chrzanowski that I have my second life. I think that I am probably in better health now than I've ever been. I want to thank the hospital staff, the Sisters, and my doctor and the volunteers who have made me what I am today. I got involved in volunteer work. I distribute napkins in our units. I distribute mail in the hospital on all three floors, and I help out in the gift shop occasionally, and I also help out in recreation. I am also pleased to have made friends here who support me and affirm me in what I am doing. I am very happy to be here and I hope that I'm going to be able to stay here for a while longer. So - once again, I thank all of you for giving me the life that I have now.*

### Our Home by Beatrice Harke (family member)

*We look to St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital as 'our home'. We are blessed to be able to invite friends to visit, to eat meals brought in or provided by the hospital and to make arrangements for special family events. Most recently was our 50th Wedding Anniversary when over 40 close relatives and friends gathered to wish us well. A catered event, the family felt relaxed and comfortable in familiar, cheery surroundings knowing that we are "at home" where equipment and housekeeping was provided as well as loving care for our loved one. God bless us all as QUALITY CARE WITH COMPASSION IN THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION is given and received.*



Our Chapel Park – working together to build a place of quiet reflection under the sky.

### Message from the Chair, Board of Directors, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital

Dear Friends,

Anniversaries invite us to recall the past with gratitude, to celebrate the present with joy, and to walk with enthusiasm and optimism into the future.

Many people have contributed to bringing St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital to this seventy-fifth anniversary. This anniversary invites us to admire the creative inspiration, the faith-filled courage, and the selfless commitment of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston). It calls us to recognize the committed, personal dedication of the many men and women who have worked with the Sisters over the past seventy-five years. It recalls for us fond, loving memory of all the former residents of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital.

May the legacy of caring and compassion handed on by the Sisters of Providence and staff over the past seventy-five years be an inspiration during our next twenty-five years.

May this truly be a time of joyful celebration for our residents, for their families and significant others, as well as for our staff and Board Directors, both past and present, and for all those who count themselves among St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital's 'family of friends'.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Downs

Chair, Board of Directors



Our Chapel Garden







