



The *Great* Canadian
Catholic Hospital History Project

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



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

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

**Mary Immaculate Hospital,
Mundare, Alberta
1929-1979, Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate
50th Jubilee**

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Український Шпиталь
Мондер, Алберта
1929 - 1979

Сестри Служebницi
Пренепорочноi Марiї

50-лiття

Mary Immaculate Hospital
Mundare, Alberta
1929 - 1979

Sisters Servants of
Mary Immaculate

50th Jubilee

50

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Today as we light the lamp of memory on this Golden Jubilee of Mary Immaculate Hospital in Mundare, we pray that its burning flame will not allow us to forget the past, the many blessings God has given us throughout the years, and the dedication and love of all those who have gone before us to make today's celebration a reality. To all these a special "Thank you".

A Jubilee is a time of rejoicing in having reached a special milestone, and a time for expressing gratitude. We are happy that our Sisters have been able to provide health care for the people of Mundare and surrounding area over the past fifty years. We are grateful to many individuals and groups for their continuing support in helping us serve.

First, to those most closely associated with the hospital, the staff, a special recognition for their spirit of loyalty and devotion. Many have been with us for a long time and we appreciate their steadfastness.

We are fortunate in having medical staff who are untiring in their efforts to provide the best possible care to their patients. Thank you for the service you provide.

The members of our Advisory Board give generously of their time and knowledge and without remuneration to assist the management of the Mary Immaculate Hospital. We are very grateful to these citizens who show such a keen interest in and support of our hospital.

A special word of thanks is due to our Ladies' Auxiliary who work untiringly in providing support through financial contributions for much needed equipment, and for their active participation in providing special personal services for the patients.

To the Basilian Fathers who have provided Chaplaincy Services over the past fifty years, it is difficult to find words to express our appreciation. Their visits provide a valuable contribution to the spiritual and psychological well-being and healing of our patients. To all the other

visiting clergy also our sincere appreciation. The citizens of the town and surrounding communities have been most willing to provide assistance and support whenever necessary throughout the years. The many and varied community groups, such as the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League, Royal Purple, Charity Club and others, continue to provide an unending service in visiting the patients and contributing in monetary ways. Thank you — we could never do without you.

We are also grateful to the Provincial Government which over the years has been providing financial assistance for hospital operation and also for approving the construction of the new facility which so fittingly will be opened during this Jubilee Year.

Also, to all who have in any way helped in the preparation of this Jubilee celebration and the official opening of the new hospital, a special word of thanks.

We thank God for His many blessings over the past fifty years and we pray for his continued blessings and guidance of our plans and hopes for the future. May we echo the spirit of our first Sisters, whose aim was to provide a visible continuation of Christ's healing ministry in the world.

Sister Stanislaus Soluk SSMI
Administrator

Congratulations



On behalf of the government of Alberta, I am pleased to extend congratulations to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Mary Immaculate Hospital in Mundare.

The contributions made by the Sisters to the health and welfare of the people of our province is, I know, much appreciated by many Albertans, and I want to add my personal congratulations to the many you will be receiving.

My warm best wishes for continued success to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, as well as to Mary Immaculate Hospital.

Peter Lougheed
Premier of Alberta

On behalf of the Town Council and the residents of Mundare I wish to extend sincere congratulations on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Mary Immaculate Hospital in Mundare.

We wish to extend our gratitude and sincere thanks to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate who have administered and operated this hospital for fifty years. From 1903 until the hospital was built in 1929, you cared for the sick and the needy. You have operated the hospital for fifty years, and in a very short while you will be moving into a new Mary Immaculate Hospital which you have consented to administer and operate in the future. We are forever grateful to every Sister and to the Order of Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate for providing these services to us.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr N. C. Strilchuk who was the first doctor and supervisor in 1929 and who still today occasionally visits patients at the hospital, even though he retired several years ago. We wish to thank you dearly from the community for the services you have rendered through the years.

We also wish to thank Dr Yaqub for deciding to set up his practice in Mundare. We are very grateful to you for the services you are providing.

I would be remiss in not mentioning the help, guidance, spiritual strength, masses and blessings provided by the Basilian Fathers over the years. The visiting and consoling of the sick, the offering of the last rites has relieved and cleansed the souls of many. For all this, dear Fathers, the community is very thankful.

In closing, may I express once again the gratitude of the community to all who have been associated with the operation of this hospital for the past fifty years. We are extremely pleased with the care our people have received in the past and will continue to receive in the future. May the Good Lord bless all who care for the sick and needy.

Respectfully yours,

Peter Polischuk, Mayor
Town of Mundare

It is indeed a pleasure and an honour to extend greetings on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Mary Immaculate Hospital in Mundare.

I would also like to extend congratulations to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate who have worked so diligently to provide such fine hospital service to Mundare and district.

Although you may have encountered some difficult times, your dedication to service never faltered, and I am sure that all the people in the district will join me in saying, thanks for your wonderful service over the past half-century, and may you bless us with many more years of service.

Ralph G. Steinhauer
Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta

Мрією Сестер Служебниць, при в'їзді до Канади, ще 1902-го року, був і український шпиталь.

Здійсненням запланованого українського шпиталю був Мондерський Шпиталь, що його посвячення відбулося 22-го вересня 1929-го року.

Мондерський Шпиталь був овочем великих жертв самих Сестер Служебниць, щирої співпраці Отців Василіян, збірок мондерських громадян, уфондуванням шпитальних кімнат поодиноких осіб і організацій з позамондерських парафій. Ціле своє активне життя, від найраншої молодости ген аж до спенсіонованих років, присвятив мондерському шпиталеві, від самих його початків, Др. Микола Стрільчук, щоденним доглядом 20 шпитальних кімнат, із 24 хворими, обслуговуючи річно десятки тисяч хворих.

Предобрий Бог поблагословив самопосвяту Сестер Служебниць своїми щедрими ласками, бо первісний Мондерський Шпиталь, розрісся зі своїм п'ятдесятиріччям існування, з 22 на 55 кімнат, з 24 на 30 хворих, з 34 разів 71 стіп на 236 разів 206 стіп, а початкових коштів \$38,000.00 теперішних \$2,500,000.00.

Радіючи надзвичайними здобутками Мондерського Шпиталю минулого п'ятдесятиріччя у благодаєтвенних молитвах до вселаскавого Бога, насилає одночасно на порозі другого, наступаючого п'ятдесятиріччя, нових, свіжих, харатативних овочів, із великим Архисрейським Благословенням.

+ Ніл, Еп.

✠ Ніл, Єпископ
Едмонтонської Єпархії

*On the foundations of the past
We have built tomorrow's future
We have built not with brick and mortar
But with hope and risk, labour and ideals.*

The heart of man is made to touch another. He is happy, not in hugging himself, but in reaching out to others. In giving self to others, the spark of inter-related life planted in his heart grows into a fire consuming the other's pain . . . giving off the warmth of comfort and the light of love.

Coming to Canada the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate carried in their hearts the spark of self-giving. In Mundare, their new locality where everyone was then struggling for daily existence, the Sisters felt the spark within dancing to be kindled. They were called forth, they responded . . . by joining that struggle, a struggle which became a hospital for the sick, the needy, the disabled.

Fifty years have come and gone. The spark has neither dimmed nor died. It has once again danced into flame. Today, 1979, we have a new building, a new hospital calling to those in pain. Its arms, like the hearts of those serving within, open wide to receive, alleviate, care for, soothe . . .

Today we have reason to celebrate; we celebrate the passing of the old into the new, of the spark into a fire, of an idea, a hope, a plan into a reality of comfort, healing and care. Today and every day, we thank Him who lights that spark of caring in our hearts, who tenders it with the mercies of His love, and who strengthens it with the breeze of His hope and courage.

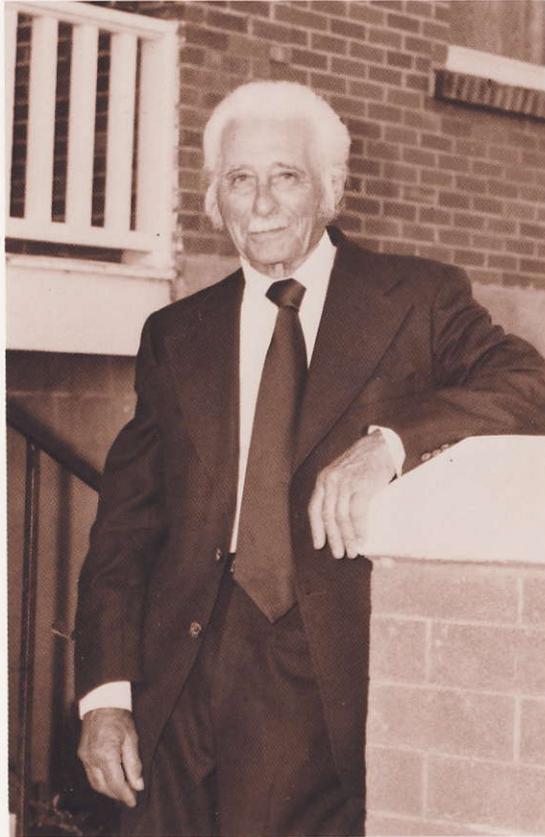
Christ goes before us always, calling into flame His spark of goodness within us, until one day we touch His outstretched hand and He grasps us into His caring joy forever.

May each person who passes through Mary Immaculate Hospital know God is his caring Father. He loves through the hands of His caring servants.

Sister Justine Kowal, S.M.I.

Sister Justine Kowal SSMI
Provincial Superior

Dedication to Dr Strilchuk



*When you give of your possessions
You give but little
It is when you give of yourself
That you truly give . . .
And giving of yourself, you become one with life —
You live eternally in the memory of men
In the foot-prints of time
In the heart of the Creator Himself.*

Dr N. C. Strilchuk arrived in Mundare in 1926 to set up a medical practice that would span over fifty years of dedicated, caring, life-healing service. This doctor newly graduated from the University of Alberta and Toledo, Ohio internship administered to the sick from his office or in their homes. The hospital at this time was in its planning stages only. The seriously ill were to be taken to Vegreville, Lamont, or Edmonton. However, because of the difficult rural road and weather conditions in the twenties, the doctor often faced formidable situations -- but always with courage, hope, and determination.

Dr Strilchuk became an even more intimate member of the Mundare community when in 1928 he took to himself a wife, the gracious and beautiful Anne, daughter of the Mundare Korchenskys. Together, they strengthened each other and became very actively involved in the civic, religious, and cultural life of their community. In athletics, hospital advisory board, religious organizations, and during several terms as mayor of the village, this man gave of himself to the full.

In 1927 the twenty-four bed hospital became a reality, and Dr Strilchuk was now able to provide medical, surgical, and obstetrical care in a modern approved hospital facility. Doctors from Lamont, Vegreville, and later Willingdon joined him in consultation and surgery. The Depression period saw the hospital struggling for existence, but emerging strong -- the conscientious and resourceful practice of the doctor, working hand-in-hand with the Sisters, performed this miracle.

Respecting life in all its forms, Dr Strilchuk spared neither time nor effort, knowledge nor skill to bring comfort and healing. His loyalty, stamina, and hope in a better tomorrow helped carry the Sisters and

patients into that better future, and his understanding of the hardships of life and destitution, especially at this time, caused many a bill to go unpaid, but many a body to be physically healed and many a person to be psychologically and spiritually alive. His goodness grew and became more widely known. His medical practice began to encompass rural districts and to share services with Willingdon, while he shared companionship with its doctor, W. G. Lazaruk.

Finally in 1972 Dr Strilchuk gave up full-time medical practice to become part-time practitioner and full-time comforter, healer, and life-giver to all he meets.

On this Golden Jubilee of Mundare Hospital we pay tribute, with great fondness, to one who gave of himself so completely and unselfishly. His fine attributes of kindness, humour, gentleness, and empathy remain an asset to his keen diagnostic ability. Mundare is the wealthier for having had a committed doctor -- a friend who did not spare himself in helping mankind to health and wholeness. Those of us who had the privilege of working with Dr Strilchuk are the richer and better for it. We thank our God for giving him to us, and we pray that he be rewarded a hundredfold for his unstinting response to God's call to him, ". . . come follow me and I will make you a healer of men."

У 1929 році стала радісна історична подія у Мондері для всіх українців, бо повстав перший український шпиталь. Від самого приїзду до Канади Сестри Службниці Пречистої Диви Марії бачили потребу збудувати шпиталь. Після довгих старань і трудів їхня мрія здійснилася.

Мондерський шпиталь збудували Сестри при щирі співпраці Отців Василіян під проводом Впр. о. Н. Крижановського ЧСВВ., Українського Комітету з Мондеру, і ширшого Комітету Українців поза Мондером. Сестри разом із збірщиками зайнялися збіркою по місійних станицях і по кольоніях. Зі збірок і базарів приходу було \$20,000. Відтак Сестри ще мусіли позичити \$18,000. Крім збірок були старання прикрасити і умеблювати шпитальні кімнати. Отці Василіяни, Комітет із Чипмену, Всеч. о. Пелех, Панна М. Поломарк, та інші одиниці зложили свої жертви і умеблювали поодинокі кімнати.

Врочисте благословення новозбудованого шпиталю відбулося 22 вересня, 1929 р. Високопреосвященіший Кир Василій Ладика, ЧСВВ., поблагословив шпиталь. На цю велику і радісну врочистість прибуло багато вірних. Також міністер здоровля з Едмонтону брав участь.

Урядове відкриття шпиталю відбулося аж 29 травня 1930 р.

Від відкриття шпиталю всеціло посвятився праці у ньому Др. Н. Стрільчук, спомагаючи як і пацієнтів так і Сестер при кожній нагоді.

Це кілька коротких гадок про перший український шпиталь. На кінець треба згадати, що цей шпиталь від самого початку не тільки дбав про фізичне лікування, але постійно були старання помощи в усіх потребах, а особливо у

духовних. Отці Василіяни, ще надалі відправляють Божественну Літургію. Хворим, які не можуть брати участі у відправах, уділюють св. Причастя у кімнатах. При допомозі Отців хворим дається всю потрібну духовну обслугу. Як від самого початку, так і на далі, Сестри з радістю і жертвеністю готові служити всім потребуючим. А певний знак цього, це новий шпиталь, який запевняє нам другу фазу, де Сестри проводитимуть самаританське діло — служити фізично хворим та нести полегшу для тіла і душі . . .



An Edmonton newspaper described the arrival of the first Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in November of 1902 from the Western Ukraine to Edmonton, their first mission in Canada, with these prophetic words:

“ . . . under the fostering influence and inspiring institutions of these good missionaries the Ruthenians [Ukrainians] of this diocese will have a grand future.” The four Sisters who arrived in 1902 lived in a two-room apartment over the sacristy of St Joachim’s Church. Right from the beginning the Sisters cared for the sick, ministering to them in their homes and also visiting them in the hospital.

In July, 1903, the Sisters founded a convent on a homestead in the Mundare district (Beaver Lake). Here began a fruitful and varied ministry: a school, an orphanage, catechetics, health care (at first by home visits, later in a hospital), a Novitiate. At present the Sisters continue to serve in the parish, catechetics and health care ministries. The Novitiate being constructed today for the training and spiritual formation of future SSMIs from all parts of Canada is a sign of a new era of faith and hope in the Mundare and district faithful.

From their very first days in Mundare the Sisters were involved in the health care apostolate. They made sick calls at a moment’s notice every day of the week. Sister Ambrose Lenkewich was one of these first sisters who cared for the sick either in the Sisters’ convent or in their own homes. The Sisters not only did all they could to alleviate pain, prepare the dying to meet their Lord, console the bereaved, but they also helped the patient’s family by cleaning the home, cooking meals and caring for the children.

The Sisters became involved in education as well. By 1914 they had erected St Joseph’s

School which boasted an enrollment of 126 children, eighty-six of whom, mostly orphans, lived in residence.

The nursing skills of the Sisters and their tireless dedication was heroically shown during the Spanish influenza epidemic after World War I. In fact, their school was converted into a temporary hospital. The classrooms became wards, crowded with the suffering of the district. The Sisters ministered to the sick, remaining on duty almost around the clock. Dr J. F. Belanger of Vegreville was the attending physician, bringing desperately needed medicines and greatly encouraging the Sisters with these words: "You Sisters have successfully completed a nursing examination. Here in Mundare you saved the lives of more than 300 people. But what I find most remarkable is that no one nursed by you in this improvised hospital has died."

The new St Joseph's Convent located in the village of Mundare was officially blessed on September 22, 1926. Already in 1924 Sister Ambrose, the Sisters' highest Canadian Superior, was harbouring another building project in Mundare: a hospital which would give the Mundare district medical care services so urgently needed.



History of the Mundare General Hospital

The Sisters, especially their highest Canadian Superior, Sister Ambrose (herself a nurse), came to realize that Mundare was one of the most neglected rural centres as far as medical services were concerned. The government left the responsibility for health care in the hands of private or charitable institutions. Dr Rush of Vegreville, who weekly treated the patients in the Sisters' Convent, enthusiastically promoted the idea that the Sisters build and operate a hospital. He encouraged nurses' training for the Sisters. In preparation for this new apostolate, Sisters were enrolled in nursing studies at St Boniface, Manitoba and Edmonton (Sister Gertrude Lesuik and Sister Macrina Schab). Sister Naucratria Mizun was sent for a commercial course so that she would be eligible for the position of secretary-treasurer of the hospital. Finally, the new Provincial Superior, Sister Athanasia, with her council, decided to undertake this charitable and desperately needed project.

Dr N. C. Strilchuk, with Mr C. Gordon (the architect and contractor) and Mr H. Koss (the local supervisor of the project), travelled to St Paul and Camrose searching for ideas in planning and organizing a hospital facility. Finally, in the spring of 1928, the blueprints for a small, twenty-four bed hospital were prepared by Mr Gordon of Vegreville. Mr John Baron and Mrs Daria Woytkiw were appointed by Father N. Kryzanowsky OSBM to form the first campaign committee in an effort to raise \$20,000. Four Sisters Servants were also sent throughout the province to solicit funds for the new hospital. People responded wholeheartedly, contributing either money or produce.

On July 6, 1928 the first step was taken toward the realization of the hospital. The Sisters were heartened by the enthusiastic response of twenty-seven local farmers who united in their efforts to level the knoll for the site of the hospital.

During the early period of construction the women of Mundare and Chipman raised money by organizing concerts, bazaars and picnics. The Sisters contributed by donating handmade articles for the bazaars. But only \$1,700 was raised; costs were higher than had been estimated, even in those early days, and so, due to lack of funds, construction had to be suspended during the winter of 1928.

The Sisters then took the initiative and responsibility for obtaining a loan of \$18,000 so that the hospital could be completed. Once again the campaign committee worked long hours to obtain monetary donations. The Sisters will be ever grateful for the support and concern of the residents of Mundare and surrounding district. A book could be written about all the beloved benefactors who contributed what they could – money, labour, produce. We list only a few of the outstanding benefactors: the Basilian Fathers, Father M. Pelech, Mr H. White, Chipman Women's Organization, Mundare Women's Organization, Mundare Town, and Father J. Tymochko OSBM (collected for an x-ray machine). Much support was also gratefully received from the neighbouring districts of Lamont, Skaro, Andrew and Myrnam.

Despite the discouraging financial situation, Sisters Gertrude, Macrina and Theodora worked hard to set and organize the hospital according to the specifications of the Alberta government and the American Hospital Association.

On September 22, 1929, the Mundare community gathered for a festive occasion – the blessing of the cornerstone of Canada's first Ukrainian hospital. His Excellency Bishop Ladyka OSBM officiated at the ceremonies. A dream had been realized, and today we can appreciate and be grateful to those first pioneers who brought an efficient and much needed health care institute to Mundare and the surrounding area. The dream has become a reality of fifty years of service and medical care.



The cost of the completed hospital was \$37,863, and with furnishings and equipment \$38,932. The official opening of the first Ukrainian Catholic hospital under the auspices of the Sisters Servants was held on May 29, 1930. The first Administrator was Sister Gertrude, and the Director of Nursing was Sister Macrina. The Sisters unreservedly implemented the philosophy of Catholic hospitals: to recognize man's unique composition of body, soul, spirit, and hence to embrace the concept of total care of the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of every patient. Reverend A. Luhovy observed that in this small country hospital the Sisters performed a multitude of compassionate deeds that must have delighted Christ the healer. The fruitful healing ministry and their effective management of the hospital was noted also by the American Hospital Association, for in ten years they obtained accreditation under the Hospital Standardization Program of the American Hospital Association.

The first patient to be admitted was Mr John Franchuk (December 20, 1929). In February, 1930 the first surgery was performed by Dr N. C. Strilchuk, assisted by Dr J. Yakimischak (appendectomy, patient Mr O. Filievich). The beds were seldom unoccupied as news of the new hospital spread. Many arrived by horse and buggy from as far away as fifty miles for surgery or treatment. The first baby delivered in the hospital was the daughter of Mr and Mrs William Fedoruk (now Mary Shelast) on January 31, 1930.

In May, 1930, Father B. Kamenecky OSBM celebrated the first Divine Liturgy in the hospital chapel. It was a very memorable day, as the patients were accustomed to attending various Church services. As a Catholic Health Care Institute, we believe and practise that one must minister to the spiritual as well as physical needs of our patients.



During the depression years the hospital, like the rest of the world, struggled for survival. Since money was scarce, hospital bills were often paid for in produce.

In spite of all the difficulties and setbacks, the health care ministry grew under the inspiration of the Sisters and the dedication of Dr N. C. Strilchuk.

The hospital was blessed with dedicated physicians. Dr M. Mallet worked with young Dr Strilchuk until the latter assumed full responsibility. In March, 1933 the first goiter operation was performed at the hospital. The doctors took pride in their efforts to maintain high standards in health care services for the people of Mundare and district.

October 13, 1933 Father O. Hannas OSBM celebrated Divine Liturgy in the chapel and dedicated it to the Mother of God.

In May, 1935, on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the reign of King George V, Mr White, mayor of Mundare, presented Sister Gertrude with an honorary distinction – a silver medal for excellent care given to patients and efficient management of the hospital.

In 1936 the Sisters from Mundare hospital laid the groundwork for another hospital to continue serving the needs of Albertans, this time at Willingdon. Their experience and ideas thus contributed to further the healing ministry.

In June, 1936 a handful of dedicated volunteers from Mundare began the work of landscaping the grounds. The hospital was now placed in a scenic and restful setting.

Not to be forgotten are the creative and hard-working hands of the maintenance man, Mr John Lapitcki. His skillful labour could be seen in all phases of hospital needs – from plumbing to gardening.

Prior to 1940, due to lack of professional personnel in the vicinity, the Sisters filled these positions, often working around the clock when duty called. In 1940 the first lay nurse, Miss Catherine McKele RN, was recruited. Her salary was \$45 a month. Volunteers in domestic areas generously aided the hospital in activities such as planting gardens, canning vegetables, painting and making pillows or in whatever way necessary.

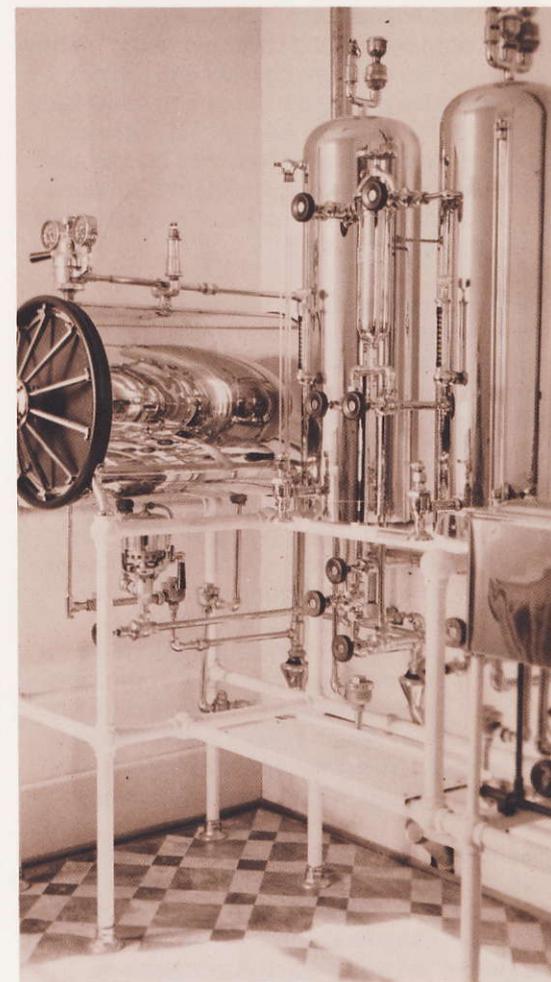
During the fifties Mr Nestor Chmilar hand carved a beautiful altar for the hospital chapel. It was consecrated according to Eastern-Rite tradition and is still in use today.

To celebrate the Hundreth Anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes, a statue of Our Lady was purchased to add to the beautiful landscape directly in front of the hospital.

In the fall of 1955 the hospital coal furnace was converted to oil; however, the kitchen stove remained on coal supply until the following year when the town of Mundare received a pipeline for gas.

In July of 1962, under the direction of Mr L. Maynard, the By-laws of Incorporation of Mundare General Hospital were enacted and the name was changed to Mary Immaculate Hospital of Mundare.

In 1960, to assist in the management of the hospital, an Advisory Board was formed under the chairmanship of Mr W. Ilkiw. This group has been and continues to be active in many facets of hospital operation.



The Inside Story

The local community came to play a more and more active and organized role in the operations of the hospital. The Mundare Hospital Auxiliary was formed in April, 1971 under the chairmanship of Mrs Vera Siracky. It continues to give much support and has funded new equipment.

In 1972 pioneer Dr N. C. Strilchuk retired after having dedicated a lifetime in the healing ministry in the Mundare district. Dr F. Brennan took up duties in 1972 and Dr S. M. Yaqub in 1974.

The conclusion of this sketchy history is the beginning of a new era in health care in the Mundare district. September 13, 1978 was a joyous day for all present: the sod-turning ceremonies for the new Mary Immaculate Hospital. A thirty bed complex will replace the time-worn and inadequate facilities. The project has the assistance and full support of the provincial government. The words of the Honourable Gordon Miniely, Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care for Alberta, are a tribute to the Sisters who have operated the hospital for fifty years and to the friends of the hospital and the residents of Mundare and district: "Sisters, you care; and it's obvious you care in the way you operate the hospital." Commenting on the beauty of the site for the new hospital, Minister Miniely congratulated the Community of Mundare on their new facility.

As gold is beautiful, precious and rare, such must be the spirit of service which has formed a bond between Sisters, clergy, the medical and nursing profession, patients, and the residents of Mundare and district.

Fifty years! From our humble beginnings we have come a long way. It is interesting to look back at a few of the statistics over the years and see the changing trends. Today "hospital" is big business and represents not only a facility for health care, but also a large economic input to the town and district.

The average person entering the hospital for the first time is often unaware of the many departments and "behind the scenes" activities which go on in order to provide service for his well-being. Each department has its own function, yet all work together in an inter-related fashion.

| Year | Admissions | Births | Surgery | Outpatient Visits | Operating Expenses |
|------|------------|--------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1930 | 332 | 43 | 84 | | \$ 6,530.78 |
| 1939 | 564 | 68 | 101 | | 11,394.56 |
| 1949 | 929 | 58 | 95 | 204 | 30,319.70 |
| 1959 | 726 | 35 | 99 | 386 | 55,098.63 |
| 1969 | 463 | 14 | 19 | 550 | 113,834.42 |
| 1978 | 399 | 0 | 0 | 5,956 | 382,650.00 |



The Heart Beat



Administrator

She is the number one supervisor in that she is responsible to the Alberta Department of Hospitals and Medical Care for good health care, efficient use of finances and seeing that all departments are running smoothly and co-operating with and complementing one another for the purpose of good dependable health care. She works to maintain an enthusiastic and effective staff and handles any problems that may come up in working relationships among staff and between staff and patients.

Admitting Office and Medical Records

These are the first people to meet the person who comes through the doors of the hospital. The courtesy and friendliness with which they seek to assist the patient in person or on the telephone helps to set the initial impression and tone of the hospital. Here such functions as directing out-patient traffic to the Emergency Room, Laboratory or X-ray are carried out, as well as directing visitors to patients' rooms. Admitting to the hospital goes through this office, where data and previous medical information is obtained for the doctor. Transcription of doctor's notes is done here and medical information kept up-to-date for easy reference, through participation in the PAS health care studies.

Advisory Board

This is a volunteer group of members from the surrounding community who through their professional knowledge in their different walks of life give assistance and advice in reaching decisions that affect hospital operation and patient care.

Business Office

This office is responsible for payment of employee salaries and the preparation of monthly and annual statistical and financial reports which are forwarded to the Alberta Department of Hospitals and Medical Care. It also keeps a close watch on expenditures as matched against budgeted funds allowed for a specified time period to see that monies are used efficiently while high standards of health care are maintained.

Chapel

A little Chapel is situated on the second floor where Divine Liturgy is held daily for Sisters, patients, staff and visitors. It is not enough to look after temporal needs; one has to remember the deep faith and participation in Church services the local people are accustomed to, and to minister to their spiritual needs through liturgy and the sacraments. The Chaplains take time to visit and minister specifically to the individual's emotional and spiritual needs. We owe much gratitude to the Basilian Fathers who for these fifty years have celebrated Liturgy and administered the sacraments here in our hospital.

CSR

Surgical equipment and sterilized bundles are routinely checked for compatibility by our supervisor in CSR. Outdated items are checked and resterilized. Providing sterile technique decreases the chance of contamination of utensils. This area is always considered a clean area, so that bundles may be prepared without the introduction of micro-organisms. The hospital operates two small sterilizers.

Dietary

To maintain bodily strength in the patient's struggle back to health is the responsibility of the kitchen staff. Using mainly the hospital's own fresh garden produce and local poultry and meat, the dietary staff in a creative and appetizing fashion prepare meals specific to the diet prescribed by the doctor. This department is in operation seven days a week.

Housekeeping

The housekeeper is part of the team that works to help patients get well. Her job is to make every effort to help prevent the spread of disease and infection control by sanitation and disinfection measures. She shows a patient that a hospital is a friendly place where everyone's major concern is for their well-being.

Laboratory and X-ray

Routine blood work is done at Mary Immaculate Hospital upon doctors' orders; however, more sophisticated tests are sent out daily to a consulting laboratory in Edmonton. The following day all blood results are forwarded directly by telex. Electrocardiograms are efficiently done by our laboratory technician. The attending physicians read the ECG and then they are sent out to be reread by a cardiologist in Edmonton. Routine and emergency x-rays are taken at the hospital, seen by the attending physician and sent out to Edmonton for consultation. The final report is received from Edmonton within a couple of days. This department operates from Monday to Friday, but has emergency service seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day.

Laundry and Linen

Here in a spotless room we have the indispensable and hidden work of washing bedding, patient apparel, and operating room linen, ironing and folding. Everything leaves here fresh, soft and clean to bring comfort to the patient.



Nursing Department

The primary purpose of the nursing service department at Mary Immaculate Hospital is to provide comfort and care to patients who come for service. The Director of Nurses heads the department and is responsible for the immediate care and supervision of all nursing service.

The nurses are professionally trained to exercise all aspects of nursing practice, demonstrating a sincere interest in the patient and the ability to assess his needs. All the nurses have a responsibility to respect and safeguard the worth, dignity and integrity of the patients. The registered nurse or head nurse supervises and gives bedside care, assists the physician during ward rounds, treatment and out-patient visits. The hospital nursing staff also includes certified nursing aides and ward aides. Attendance at conferences, workshops, conventions and in-service programs and staff meetings is provided regularly. These programs are designed to enable nursing staff to acquire new skills in providing efficient health care, and to invite them to be creative in caring for the sick. Utilizing all resources, the nurses and ward aides provide that quality of care which gives hope to the patient while he is on the road to recovery.

Medical Staff

In the summer of 1974 Dr S. M. Yaqub was introduced to the people of Mundare, where he practises simultaneously with Dr N. C. Strilchuk. Both doctors are qualified and experienced in the medical profession and do not hesitate to consult with specialists in Edmonton. We feel that communication between medical and nursing staff is vital within a hospital in order to provide effective patient care, and therefore daily conferences are held. The medical staff encourage staff members to treat patients as individuals, caring for their specific needs. Each patient seeks a sense of well-being, someone who understands and will listen. Our medical staff take pride in the holistic treatment of each person.

Pharmacy

The hospital employs a part-time pharmacist who does the drug purchasing and dispenses medication for patients within the hospital. In her absence the pharmacy is taken over by the Director of Nurses. Over the years the hospital pharmacy and the two drug stores in Mundare have co-operated very well in providing each other with assistance in the dispensing of medication.

Plant Operation and Maintenance

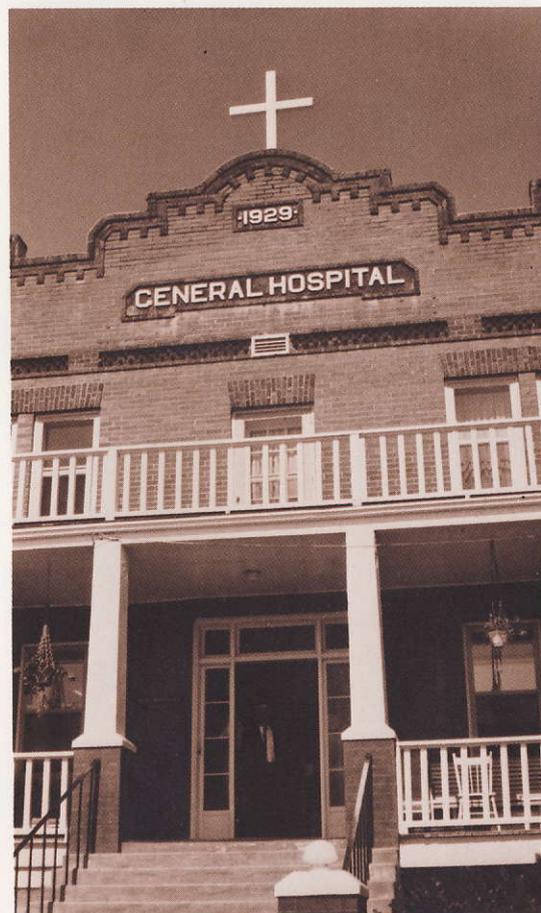
This person is very much like a doctor. He sees to the proper and efficient functioning of the hospital. His job is indispensable in that good health care depends also on the building and equipment that assist us, the hospital staff, in taking good care of the patient. Heating, plumbing, grounds landscaping and leaky faucets, broken fixtures -- all need to be serviced so that everything is maintained in optimum condition.

The Ladies' Auxiliary

These ladies are an indispensable part of our hospital. They visit patients, bringing cheer to their hearts, a listening ear, and a smile to their faces. On special occasions they never fail to bring the patients who cannot be at home with their families a remembrance of the day and reassurance they are not forgotten. By teas, selling raffle tickets and other functions, the Auxiliary has purchased much needed equipment for good patient care and comfort.

Volunteers of the Local Community

The hospital owes much gratitude to the women of the town and surrounding area for their generosity and untiring efforts to help out when the need arises: picking raspberries, peas, beans, and helping in numerous other ways whenever they can. We owe much gratitude to this quiet yet always ready group of volunteers.



A New Beginning



Since 1929 the hospital in Mundare has served the community with much needed health care. Today, that physical structure can no longer withstand the corrosion of time, nor the upgrading and renovations necessary to make it a healing facility. Late in 1973 the initial proposal for a new replacement facility was brought to the Alberta Hospital Services Commission for consideration. Much discussion and preliminary planning were necessary to develop an acceptable program detailing space and functions, and in May of 1976 approval was received to appoint an architect to design this new facility. Mr. N. W. Stroich, MRAIC of Edmonton was selected. Thus began a new phase in the growth and development of the project. After countless meetings, many setbacks due to cost and a government freeze on hospital construction, permission was granted in July, 1978 to call for public tenders. In September of 1978, His Excellency Bishop Neil Savaryn OSBM officiated at the blessing of the site, and the Honourable Gordon Miniely, Minister of Health, officially turned the sod. No time was lost in getting the project under way, as the next day Bergman Structures began moving in their equipment.

This new complex is a one level, thirty-bed unit which contains six private and twelve semi-private rooms. Both active and extended care facilities are services provided, as well as diagnostic, treatment, rehabilitative and emergency. The nursing unit is provided with a century and whirlpool tub, hi-low beds, pleasant lounges, and a hairdressing and barber shop. To make the complex less institutional, bright colours, textures, draperies, and furniture have been added, as well as a dining room service for patients able to walk, and a fireplace in the dining room to add a note of warmth and hospitality.

As we end the era of the first fifty years of the hospital in Mundare, the spirit of the ethnic mosaic of this province lives on. We turn the page and begin again, but this time with a rich heritage of service.

Governing Board

Sister Justine Kowal
Sister Valerie Krochinski
Sister Celestine Lozinsky
Sister Donna Pidskalny
Sister Stanislaus Soluk

Board of Directors

Sister Stanislaus Soluk
Sister Irene Gayowsky
Sister Bernitta Ozubko
Sister Oreste Sereda

Advisory Board

Peter Polischuk *Chairman*
John Batiuk *MLA*
Sister Irene Gayowsky
Wayne Saboe
Henry Siracky
Sister Stanislaus Soluk
Dr N. C. Strilchuk
Adam Swabb
Father Damien Weleschuk *OSBM*

Chaplains

Father Damien Weleschuk *OSBM*
Father Vincent Prychidko *OSBM*
Father Josaphat Tyrkalo *OSBM*
Father J. J. Emmett Crough

Past Administrators

Sister Suzanna Starko
Sister Macrina Schab
Sister Gertrude Lesiuk
Sister Natalia Klus
Sister Lubov Chawrona
Sister Lucy Prochiw
Sister Apollonia Dzubinska
Sister Gabriel Yusak
Sister Julia Nowicky
Sister Sophronia Sianchuk
Sister Melita Krawchuk
Sister Sylvia Nakoneshny
Sister Innocentia Baraniuk
Sister Oreste Sereda
Sister Celestine Lozinsky
Sister Elias Popyk
Sister Eugenia Stefaniuk
Sister Dorise Bilenduke
Sister Jacinta Shymko

Administrator

Sister Stanislaus Soluk

Business Manager

Sister Irene Gayowsky

Nursing Administration

Sister Bernitta Ozubko
Mrs Veronica Cossey

Medical Staff

Active

Dr S. M. T. Yaqub
Dr N. C. Strilchuk

Past

Dr F. Brennan
Dr J. Brown
Dr M. Mallett
Dr J. Miskew

Present Consultants

Dr S. Hanson & Associates
Dr O. Semchyshyn
Dr W. R. St. Clair

Past Consultants

Dr A. E. Archer
Dr W. Cuts
Dr Albert Dobson
Dr V. Goresky
Dr N. Kuzyk
Dr W. Lazaruk
Dr J. Yakimischuk
Dr M. Young

Nursing Services — Registered Nurses

Sister Oreste Sereda
Carol Bremner
Eunice Dorash
Louise Ewaskiw
Christine Pawluk
Linda Serna
Lois Vinnish

Certified Nursing Aides

Emily Babin

Nursing Aides

Maureen Franklin
Paulette Kokotailo
Dorinne Kucheraway
Florence Kucheraway
Sophie Laschuk
June Werbiski

Nursing Orderly

Kazmir Daskiewicz

Laboratory/X-ray

Sister Muriel Zemliak
Georgette Van Brabant
Karen Chmilar

Pharmacist

Valerie Sheptycki

Central Supply

June Werbiski

Admitting Office/Medical Records

Elizabeth Riou

Accounting Office

Sister Irene Gayowsky
Sister Bernadette Weleschuk

Dietary

Evan Osinchuk *Supervisor*
Stephania Hewko
Caroline Horne
Katherine Tichon
Jeannie Siracky

Housekeeping

Stephania Nowak
Pauline Chmilar

Laundry

Vera Siracky
Lorraine Widynowski

Maintenance

Joseph Rawlyk

Ladies' Auxiliary 1979

Angela Bogdanski
Anne Cherniawski
Alexandra Chmilar
Pauline Chmilar
Amy Dey
Sophie Diduck
Margaret Dubyk
Lil Fundytus
Micheline Gauthier
Kathy Hillebrand
Betty Hodgson
Nellie Kitt
Victoria Kokotailo
Ann Koren
Ann Kornicki
Mary Kotlarchuk
Violet Kully
Ann Kozak
Alexandra Liber
Josie Lucyk
Rose Martiniuk
Isabelle Murray
Stephania Nowak
Evan Osinchuk
Helen Polny
Kay Savich
Anne Semotiuk
Marcia Seniuk
Vera Siracky
Vivian Tanasichuk
Brenda Tucker
Jean Turchin
June Werbiski
Lorraine Widynowski
Sophia Yaqub
Emily Zuk

Donations to the Fiftieth Jubilee

Mr and Mrs John Chichak
Edmonton, Alberta

Mr and Mrs Rudy Chioveli
Edmonton, Alberta

Mr and Mrs William Holowach
Bruderheim, Alberta

Mr and Mrs Harry Kotylak
Star, Alberta

Mr and Mrs Paul Kully
Mundare, Alberta

Mr and Mrs Milton Ozubko
Edmonton, Alberta

Mr and Mrs Peter Ozubko
Edmonton, Alberta

Mr and Mrs Stanley Skubleny
St. Michael, Alberta

Mr and Mrs Michael Slepanski
Mundare, Alberta

Dr and Mrs N. C. Strilchuk
Mundare, Alberta

Dr and Mrs S. M. T. Yaqub
Mundare, Alberta

Loren and Elizabeth Yasinski
Andrew, Alberta

Mr and Mrs Alec Zacharko
Edmonton, Alberta

Mr and Mrs Paul Zacharko
Bruderheim, Alberta

Mr Walter Zacharko
Gibbons, Alberta

Alberta Power Ltd
Vegreville, Alberta

Antoniuk Real Estate Ltd
Mundare, Alberta

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Mundare, Alberta

Central Wholesale Ltd
Vegreville, Alberta

Crescent Insurance & Accounting
Vegreville, Alberta

Diachuk Construction Ltd
Vegreville, Alberta

Diduch Motors
Mundare, Alberta

Dustbane Products
Edmonton, Alberta

Fedun's Funeral Chapel Ltd
Vegreville, Alberta

Franklin Agencies
Mundare, Alberta

I & S Produce Ltd
Edmonton, Alberta

Jerry's Grocery Store
Mundare, Alberta

Keat's Drug Store
Mundare, Alberta

Kobsey's Beauty Parlor & Barber Shop
Mundare, Alberta

Mary Immaculate Hospital Staff
Mundare, Alberta

McAllister Drilling Ltd
Lloydminster, Alberta

Medigas (Alberta) Ltd
Edmonton, Alberta

Melric Motors Ltd
Lamont, Alberta

Mid-Way Distributors (1970) Ltd
Lloydminster, Alberta

Mundare Co-op
Mundare, Alberta

Mundare Hardware
Mundare, Alberta

Mundare Home Bakery
Mundare, Alberta

Mundare Hotel Co Ltd
Mundare, Alberta

Mundare Transport
Mundare, Alberta

Northwestern Utilities
Edmonton, Alberta

Pacific Textiles Ltd
Vancouver, BC

Park Memorial Funeral Directors
Edmonton, Alberta

Professional Building Association
of Radiologists
Edmonton, Alberta

Rapid Cleaners Ltd
Thompson, Manitoba

Ron Hodgson
Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd
St. Albert, Alberta

Shelast Electric
Mundare, Alberta

Stawnichy's Meat Processing
Mundare, Alberta

Universal Church Supplies Ltd
Edmonton, Alberta

Vegreville Plumbing & Heating
Vegreville, Alberta

Vinto Engineering
Edmonton, Alberta

Western Office Furnishings Ltd
Edmonton, Alberta

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