



The *Great* Canadian Catholic Hospital History Project

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



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

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

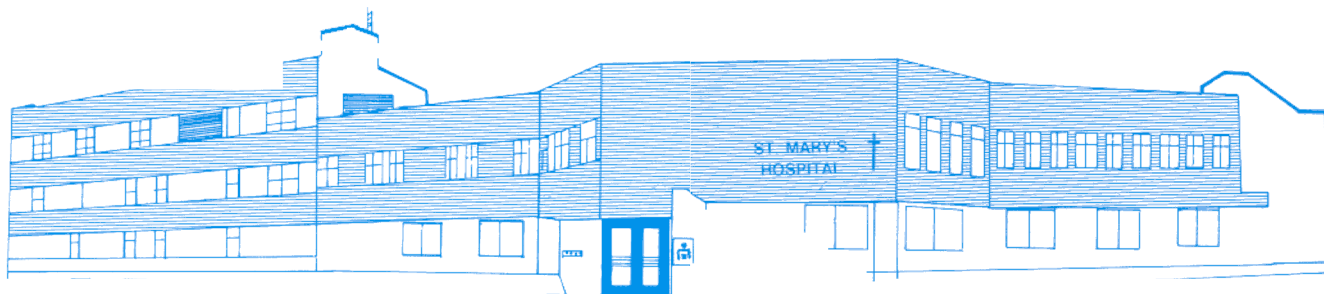
St. Mary's Hospital Trochu, Alberta 75 Years of Caring

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St. MARY'S



TROCHU, ALBERTA, CANADA

**75 Years
of
CARING**



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame d'Evron is simple: to continue Christ's work of caring for the people's spiritual, physical, and social needs.

The philosophy is based on Christ's love for all persons and the love of one's neighbor regardless of ethnicity, creed, religion or status.

The Sisters of Charity believe that God is the source and giver of life. All persons must be treated with respect and dignity enhancing the quality of life, promoting education and well-being of all.

The Sisters of Charity believe in living the spirit of Christ by providing a loving, caring presence and being attentive to those who are in need of their services.

Their goals are to maintain a Christian Community of Service with the co-operation of a competent Governing Board, Administrator and Director of Nursing, to promote its leadership and management process, enhancing Gospel values, in a climate of love, individual responsibility and reverence of life as outlined in the mission and philosophy of the Sisters of Charity.

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This history was researched from the source materials contained in "Chronicles of the Sisters of Charity, Trochu" with rough translations from the French original. Other sources were the Archives of St. Mary's Hospital, newspaper clippings, letters, documents and photographs. As well information was gathered from many persons in the Community of Trochu. The booklet was assembled by the 75th Anniversary Committee. Members are: Vi Haller, George Braham, Ken Haggarty, Peter Verhesen, Sister Dolores, David Smyth, Lorene Frere, Sister Gloria, Helene Dodd, Ralph Stuart, Frank Hoppins, Sister Annette, Helen Lemay, Tessa Frere, Elsie Elvin, Marguerite Frere, Luella de Beaudrap, Doreen Delaney.



His Holiness Pope John Paul II

“Celebrating our Faith” – the theme of the Papal visit to Canada (Sept. '84) finds application in the work of service to the Community of Trochu and District by the Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame d'Evron 1909-1984, through the mechanism of St. Mary's Hospital.

Dear Friends:

Anniversary celebrations are great occasions to remind us of our indebtedness to others. The Seventy-fifth anniversary of St. Mary's Hospital gives us such an opportunity.

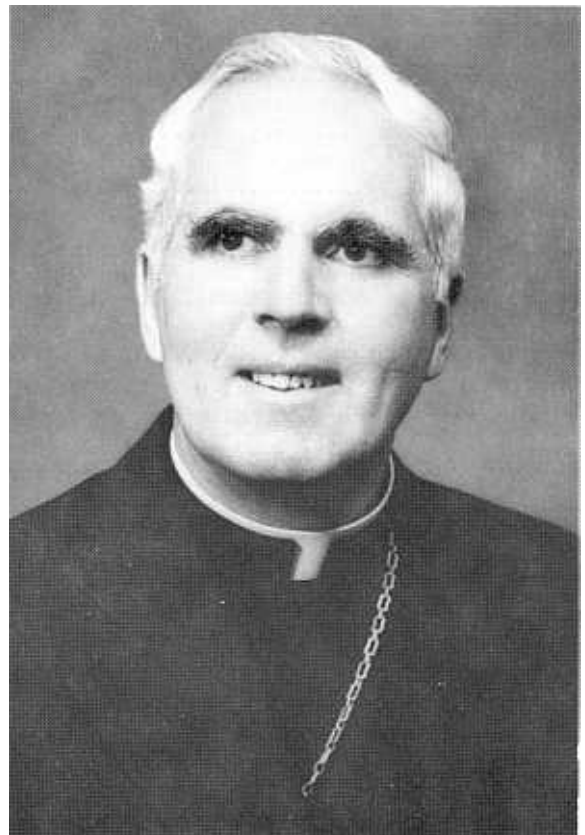
How difficult it is for us to appreciate what really was involved in the establishing of St. Mary's seventy-five years ago. What a different world that was! What a courageous decision that was for Les Soeurs de la Charité de Notre-Dame d'Evron!

Why did they decide to come to Trochu? Basically to help people, to bring the Gospel message of compassion, care for the sick and needy, to bring the Good News of salvation. The Sisters were not interested in money, in fame, in earthly rewards, but simply to be disciples of Jesus.

On behalf of the people of the Archdiocese, I express our deep sense of gratitude, of wonderment and awe for the courageous missionary spirit of the pioneer Sisters. I thank also all the Sisters who succeeded the founding Sisters, the Board members, the staff – all those who have faithfully accepted the challenge passed on to them by these missionary Sisters.

Under the guidance of our Blessed Lord and with the assistance of His Mother, may St. Mary's continue for many years to serve the people of this area with equal faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teaching of his Church.

J. N. MacNeil
Archbishop of Edmonton



His Excellence Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil



Soeur Andrée Levrault Superior General

Mes chers amis:

It is my pleasure to express feelings of gratitude and appreciation on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Sisters' arrival in Trochu and the foundation of the first hospital.

On August 16, 1909, warmly welcomed by religious and civil authorities as well as by the pioneers of the settlement of Trochu, in the Province of Alberta, the first eight Sisters set about offering their humble services in a very primitive setting.

I am happy to have the opportunity to voice the feelings of profound gratitude for all that has been accomplished during these 75 years on behalf of all the Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame d'Evron.

During these 75 years the hospital and its programs have seen many changes.

The improvements and the ongoing modernization have been made possible through the everpresent understanding and assistance of the people of Trochu and District. This has enabled St. Mary's to provide good health services to the sick and the injured.

Our thanks go to the Board members, the Medical Staff, the Management and all the staff.

May this memorable event inspire many people to continue working toward an evermore loving and caring Community so that everyone may enjoy health, happiness and prosperity.

Bien cordialement vôtre,
Soeur Andrée Levrault
Superior General SCE
Evron, France

To all our friends in Trochu:

Accept my sincere congratulations for your concern in St. Mary's Hospital.

The Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame d'Evron wish to express their gratitude for the honour shown them at the occasion of the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of their arrival in Trochu.

Although not being a member of the first eight foundresses, I arrived on September 29, 1911, shortly after they had left "the Coulee."

Again our warmest wishes and may the Good Lord bless the work of St. Mary's in Trochu.

Sister Eugenie Aucherie
Edmonton, Alberta



Sister Eugenie Aucherie



*Sister Mary Ellen O'Neill
Provincial Superior (Canada)*

Greetings:

In this 75th Anniversary Year of St. Mary's Hospital, it is a privilege for me, on behalf of all the Sisters of Charity, to greet you and to offer sincere and heartfelt congratulations and good wishes to everyone in any way involved with or in the hospital. For the Sisters it is a wonderful occasion to renew acquaintances and to reflect anew on many significant events which have left their imprint on this three quarters of a century.

We first turn our thoughts and our prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God who inspired and gave courage and strength to those first eight Sisters of Charity as well as to their successors, who founded and carried on this work of caring for the sick and educating children here in Trochu. These eight pioneers were following in the footsteps of our foundress, M^{ère} Thulard, who 300 years ago with Christ-like compassion reached out to minister to those in need. This faith-filled woman who believed in her mission of caring saw the necessity of perpetuating this work of charity, and so founded a society of pious women who would generously devote their lives to the service of the poor.

The many rich blessings that have come to us through these 75 years are difficult to enumerate. Not least among them has been the loyal, interested and concerned people of Trochu and area who have worked diligently in collaboration with the Sisters to constantly maintain and improve facilities and programs. They have always kept in mind that "caring" means competence surely but also it means touching with compassion and kindness all those who come to receive healing and wholeness of body, mind and soul.

To the Advisory and Governing Board members, past and present we say many thanks. You have been and are loyal, devoted, knowledgeable and steadfast in your duties and responsibilities. You have much to be proud of. And to the medical men and women who have and are serving the community we assure you of our appreciation and sincere gratitude for your competence and your support. The clergy of the town and area have been an ever present inspiration and help. We want you to know that we acknowledge and are grateful for your Mission among God's people. The members of the Hospital Auxiliary have been a continual blessing for the hospital and for the sick because they have always been a caring group of people. They are there with their programs and their feminine intuition, reaching out gently but surely to those who need them. Your contributions have been wonderful, ladies, and we thank you for all those who have benefitted from your ministry. Many church groups, service clubs, town and municipal personnel have also contributed of their time, energies and financial resources for the growth of the hospital facilities and programs. Their ongoing interest and generosity are very much appreciated and give testimony of the spirit of cooperation and fellowship that is possible when a common goal is recognized.

Government personnel and our many associates in the health care professions have been a great support through the years and we truly thank them all for their contributions to a successful health care system.

And of course to Administration and our many loyal employees past and present we reiterate our profound and prayerful gratitude because you have been there twenty-four hours a day to provide that welcome and that loving care to all the sick and injured who come to St. Mary's.

Lastly we would like to say to each of you, the sick and wounded, that it has been a privilege to know you and to be graced by your presence in our hospital. Really, you have taught us much by your patience and endurance, and your acceptance of life and death. You have allowed us to use our gifts and talents to touch you, to heal you and to serve you at a particular stage of your life. Humbly, we thank you and assure you of our prayers.

As we ponder over these last seventy-five years, we are in awe of all that has transpired and of the many wonderful people we have met and worked with. It is our fervent prayer, dear friends, that God in His infinite tenderness and goodness may bless all of you in the way He knows best and to give to each one what is necessary to live out the call to serve humanity.

As we move forward toward a new century and a new phase of health care may the words of our Foundress continue to inspire all of us who serve in St. Mary's.

"Full of the zeal and joy which a lively Faith inspires, they will visit and help the poor, with whatever illness or infirmity they may be afflicted; and ever ready to see Christ hidden in His members, they will render them every fitting service, with a diligent affection, great assiduity and a never-failing courage." Madame Perrine Thulard

Sister Mary Ellen O'Neill
Provincial Superior SCE
Edmonton, Alberta



Jeane Sauvé, Governor General of Canada

As Prime Minister of Canada, it is a pleasure for me to extend my best wishes to the board and to the staff, both past and present of St. Mary's Hospital on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

You may all reflect on your experiences and accomplishments of the past 75 years with a deep sense of pride. From the time three Sisters of Charity from Notre Dame d'Evron arrived from France in 1909 to found a two-bed hospital in a converted granary to its present 33-bed capacity, St. Mary's Hospital has consistently offered outstanding service to the citizens of the Trochu area.

With a new 25-bed wing soon to open, St. Mary's will continue to serve the community in the same fine tradition as in the past.

I wish you the very best on this anniversary.

John Turner,
Prime Minister of Canada



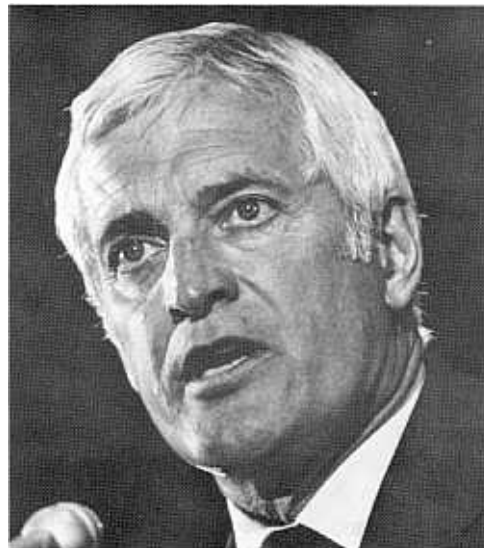
Monique Bégin

It is with great pleasure that I extend to the Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame d'Evron my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of St. Mary's Hospital.

The long service of the Sisters to the Community of Trochu through medical services and care they have provided is indeed worthy of our recognition and praise.

May the Congregation continue to reap the spiritual rewards of their service through many more years of community involvement.

Jeanne Sauvé,
Governor General of
Canada



Prime Minister John Turner

I would like to take the opportunity on the occasion of St. Mary's Hospital's seventy-fifth anniversary to congratulate the board of trustees, the physicians and the staff, both past and present, for their contribution to the operation of this very fine community hospital.

I would also like to extend a special message to the Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame d'Evron who founded St. Mary's Hospital in 1909 when they converted a nearby granary to a temporary hospital until a new facility could be constructed in 1911.

Religious orders have played an invaluable role in bringing health services to small and isolated communities in Canada. It is in this regard that the Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame d'Evron, a world-wide order based in Evron, France, should be commended not only for their tremendous contribution to the community of Trochu, but also for the development of two other hospitals in Alberta and also for their world-wide work.

In closing, may I wish St. Mary's Hospital as rich and successful a future as its past as inherited from the Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame d'Evron.

Monique Bégin, Minister
Health and Welfare Canada



***The Hon. Frank Lynch-Staunton
Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta***

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of St. Mary's Hospital in Trochu, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame d'Evron, as you are honored for your achievements and accomplishments for the Hospital.

As you celebrate reaching this milestone you will no doubt be remembering, with pride, the remarkable history of the Hospital. A great deal of hard-work and dedication was required to create and maintain this establishment, and it is most appropriate that the Hospital Governing Board is honoring you for this devotion to the community. I'm sure that your commitment is both recognized and appreciated by the residents of Trochu and area.

Best wishes, on behalf of the Government and Province of Alberta, for a most successful celebration, and continued success in all your worthwhile endeavours in the future.

**Peter Lougheed,
Premier of Alberta**



The Hon. Peter Lougheed, Premier



***The Hon. D.J. Russell
Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care***

It is now seventy-five years since the Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame d'Evron founded the first hospital in the district. My congratulations to the Sisters Congregation.

The Sisters did a great job starting and managing many hospitals in Alberta, and those were the day before medicare and private hospitals were the only ones. Also, not to be forgotten is the care the Sisters provided to all who entered these hospitals.

**Frank Lynch-Staunton,
Lieutenant-Governor of
Alberta**

Congratulations!

You have come a long way since the day in 1909 when the eight Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame D'Evron arrived in Trochu to establish a hospital.

Seventy-five years of service to a community is an enviable record. Over those years we have seen St. Mary's Hospital grow with Trochu, and indeed Alberta. To go from one bed in a renovated granary to today's structure and next year's nursing home wing speaks only one word – Service.

I'm sure every resident of the area is thankful to the original eight Sisters of Charity and all those who have followed in their footsteps.

**Yours very truly,
D.J. Russell
Minister of Hospitals
and Medical Care
Province of Alberta**



The Hon. Connie Osterman, M.L.A.

It is a pleasure to congratulate the staff and board of St. Mary's Hospital in Trochu on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary. The Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame d'Evron deserve special recognition for instituting a hospital in Trochu in 1909 and for maintaining a high level of service to the community in the intervening years. While the technology of health care has changed greatly since the first decade of the century, the tradition of caring combined with professionalism has always been and will always be an integral component in providing health care to the citizens of Trochu and area. As an association representing Alberta's hospitals, auxiliary hospitals and nursing homes, we look with pride on our members' achievements and commitment to service. On behalf of our members, and the health care community in Alberta, our sincere congratulations on your 75th anniversary celebrations.

Lois Radcliffe
President
Alberta Hospital
Association



*Lois Radcliffe
President, Alberta Hospital Association*



*Otto Hoff
Reeve, Municipal District of Kneehill*

It is a pleasure for me to acknowledge the 75th Anniversary of St. Mary's Hospital and the wonderful work by the Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame d'Evron in having founded the hospital in 1909. Seventy-five years, with the exception of four years, represents the entire history of Alberta as a Province.

Today Albertans take for granted a complete system of health care. One can only imagine what it was like for our pioneers in 1909 who were beginning farming, establishing communities and raising families without the benefit of our modern technology. For any family member to be ill would have presented a great burden especially with knowledge of medicine being very limited. The Sisters' care of people in the area would have been a great help to all.

While hospitals and medical technology have altered greatly since those early days, the basic need for that service to be given in a loving and caring environment has not changed. Trochu and District indeed owes the "Sisters" a great debt of gratitude.

Connie Osterman,
Minister of Consumer Affairs

As your Reeve of the M.D. of Kneehill, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to the St. Mary's Hospital on their 75th Anniversary.

A special thank you must go to the Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame D'Evron for giving us the opportunity of having such a fine medical facility in our Trochu area which we are proud of and appreciate.

Our Medical profession along with its administrators and workers are one of the most highly respected and valued service in our community, which each and every constituent needs at one time or other.

Our very best wishes from the Reeve of the M.D. of Kneehill.
Otto Hoff



Allan Gehring
Mayor of Trochu

I would like to thank the board and administration of St. Mary's Hospital in Trochu for allowing me, on behalf of the AHA, this opportunity to extend congratulations to them and the community on this day commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Hospital.

The Alberta Hospital Association has always supported the efforts of its member hospitals in providing the best quality of health care possible within well-managed institutions, and for 75 years the staff and management of St. Mary's have worked together to provide that service to the people of Trochu. All the members of the Alberta Hospital Association join me in offering our best wishes to St. Mary's today as it celebrates its 75th birthday, and we offer our continued support and assistance as St. Mary's moves into the future.

Don Macgregor
Executive Director
Alberta Hospital
Association



Don MacGregor
Executive Director, Alberta Hospital Association



Rev. Everett MacNeil
President

Congratulations to the Sisters of Charity on the event of their 75th year in the Community of Trochu. You have blessed our town with the best health care available for all these years and should be truly proud of your accomplishments.

Allan Gehring
Mayor of Trochu

The CHAC extends its congratulations and appreciation to the Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame d'Evron for its 75 years of service to the community of Trochu. Just as the modern St. Mary's Hospital developed from a small structure founded in the "Coulee" by the sisters, so too did the modern Canadian health care system develop from the work of Sisters across Canada who founded our first hospitals. Many communities like Trochu owe a debt of gratitude to these nuns. Today, on the occasion of your 75th anniversary, the CHAC offers prayers, best wishes for the future and the hope that your work among the people of Trochu will continue to prosper in the Lord.

Rev. Everett MacNeil
President CHAC
Ottawa



Norman F. Hoppins
Chairman, St. Mary's Hospital Governing Board

The celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Charity to Trochu Valley, gives us an opportunity to reflect on what they mean to us as individuals and as a Community. Since August 16, 1909, to this day, the Sisters have provided health care to four generations of people of the Trochu area. For this we are indeed grateful.

The entire 75 years have been years of challenge, requiring courage, discipline, devotion and fortitude, made possible by a deep desire to serve God through his people.

The early years were fraught with hardships of a new land, of poverty, of isolation and lack of facilities. Later years were no less challenging. Meeting the changing role of the rural hospital,

I rejoice with you in your celebration of the 75th Anniversary of St. Mary's Hospital and the arrival of the Sisters of Charity de Notre Dame d'Evron.

The people of Trochu and surrounding area have not only benefited by the excellent medical facilities provided by St. Mary's, but have had the added comfort of a caring and concerned religious and lay staff.

Gordon Towers, M.P.
Red Deer

to suit the needs of the community, coping with the onslaught of Hi-Technology, satisfying the exacting requirements of government are but a few of the problems faced.

I salute the Sisters of the modern era. While fewer in number they still possess the sterling qualities of their predecessors and continue to meet each new challenge of the times.

The elderly and infirm have always been near the hearts of the Sisters of Charity. The care of these people poses one of the greatest health needs in our community. This challenge is being met, as evidenced by the opening of the new Hospital and renovated wing in 1977, over half of which is dedicated to extended health care. The Trochu Health Care Centre will be further enhanced by the opening of a modern 25 bed Nursing Home in May 1985. St. Mary's also provides a wide range of health services with 15 acute care beds – Pastoral Care, Outpatient Service, Therapy, Laboratory and X-ray. I highly commend the Sisters of Charity for the development of the Health Care Facility. It is designed to meet a large portion of the everyday health needs of a rural community. It compliments, not competes with, our highly specialized Regional Health Centre.

As I mentioned the Sisters are fewer in numbers, and are becoming increasingly dependent on the lay community to maintain health care services. It is my earnest hope that we will benefit for their guidance, influence and expertise for many years to come.

I consider it a privilege to serve on the Governing Board of St. Mary's Hospital. On behalf of the Governing Board and District 56 Board I offer sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of their arrival in Trochu. I also offer our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the many years of service and devotion they have given to our community.

Norman F. Hoppins
Board Chairman



Gordon Towers, M.P.
Red Deer



***Dr. Leo Klug
President***

On behalf of the Board of the Catholic Health Care Conference of Alberta, as well as all of our institutional, associate and personal members, I extend to St. Mary's Hospital our congratulations and heartfelt gratitude on the occasion of this 75th anniversary. May the healing Lord continue to shower blessings on the owners, and the staff at all levels, of St. Mary's Hospital. May all of you continue, through good times and bad, to faithfully witness Christ's ministry of lovingly caring for his suffering, sick, elderly and dying members, without discrimination or favoritism. The reputation St. Mary's has developed over their seventy-five years is one of consistently giving a beautiful witness to what is special about a Catholic health care facility. We, who are your co-workers in this apostolate, are challenged and encouraged by the example you have given. We are honored and privileged to be able to work side by side with you in this section of the vineyard.

It is my personal privilege to have had contact with various members of the Sisters of Evron over the past twenty years. I have happy memories of such associations, and I am grateful for what I learned through their quiet modelling. I have found the Sisters to be firmly committed to essential Christian values, and at the same time open to new ways of witnessing to them.

I pray that they will long continue to be leaders in the apostolate of Catholic health care in Alberta.

**Dr. Leo Klug
President CHCA
Edmonton, Alberta**

HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION

In 1982 the Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame d'Evron celebrated three centuries of existence. It all began with a young girl named Perrine.

On November 6, 1654, near a tiny village in Western France, la Chapelle au Riboul, in a farm home called "La Bigottiere" was born Perrine Brunet.

During the years Perrine was growing up, social and economic conditions in France were at a low ebb and the country had been devastated by civil war. Illiteracy and poverty were a way of life.



Madame Thulard

Perrine, bright and industrious, was fortunate to receive some basic learning skills from a kind neighbor lady. Always a pious and earnest youngster, Perrine sensed at an early age a call to consecrate her life to God, but as was the custom at that time, she was promised in marriage to a young man, René Thulard. After six years of married life, René died suddenly and the young, childless widow returned to her family home.

Perrine's longing for a religious life was once again awakened and she sought counsel from her parish priest. Realizing that Madame Thulard was gifted with many virtues and an ardent charity for the poor of his parish, he encouraged her to help with the great task of educating the young and caring for the destitute and sick in the locality.

For two years, Madame Thulard studied for this double vocation of teaching and nursing.



La Chapelle au Riboul

In 1682, Madame Thulard returned to her home and together with a few other women, she founded her Society dedicated to the spiritual and material well being of the poor through teaching and nursing.

Like all new endeavors, the little Society experienced trials and misfortunes. It took faith and courage to overcome these many obstacles. Madame Thulard instilled in her Sisters a deep love for the poor and a courageous fidelity to their vocation in the Church. In a humble non-assuming manner they went about their tasks caring for those in need.

In spite of many setbacks, the Order continued to flourish and at her death in 1735, Madame Thulard had founded close to forty convents.

In the early 1790's the French Revolution caused great havoc among Religious Congregations. Institutions and property were confiscated and the Sisters were forbidden to carry on their charitable works. The Sisters returned to their families and friends. Some were imprisoned, and two of the Sisters met death by the guillotine in 1794 because they chose to nurse all wounded soldiers without bias.



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After the Revolution, the Sisters of Charity re-united in a former Benedictine Monastery offered to them by the French Government. Since then this edifice in Evron has been the Mother-House of the Congregation.

In the early 1900's new regulations in France forced the educational work of the Sisters to cease and many Sisters had to seek other positions. A new era was opened for the Sisters. Some went to Belgium, others to England, and in 1909, Mother Marie Cousin decided to investigate the possibility of a mission in Canada.



*Benedictine Monastery
Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame d'Evron*

The Mission Abroad

On February 24, 1909, Rev. Father Alphonse Lemanceau, Chaplain; Mother Marie Cousin, General Superior; Sister Claire Romier and Sister Marie-Louise Rector arrived in Alberta on an exploratory mission, with the purpose of finding a suitable place for the Sisters where they could continue to minister to the people in need.



*Rev. Father
Alphonse Lemanceau*



Mother Marie Cousin



Sister Claire Roimier

It did not take them long to make their decision. They chose Trochu as the location for their new mission where they would build their hospital and open a school. Within a few months after their return to France they selected those Sisters who would meet this challenge. Meanwhile Trochu residents were excited to learn that their settlement had been chosen by the Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame d'Evron as the site of their new mission in Canada.

Trochu had its beginnings in the valley to the south-east of the present hospital. Here was water, bubbling springs, shelter, and a valley of quiet beauty. Here Armand Trochu, the founder of this settlement, began a home stead on the S.W. ¼ Sec 16, T33, R 23, W 4th in October 1904.



Mr. Armand Trochu

Other Frenchmen arrived in the Valley and in 1905 the St. Anne Ranch and Trading Company was founded. Joseph Devilder and Leon Eckenfelder built houses. A Stopping Place was built which also contained a Post Office and a small store. Mr. Trochu became the first postmaster in 1905 and the location was known as Trochu Valley. In 1906 a creamery was started and the butter was hauled to Olds. A machine agency, a blacksmith shop, and other buildings were constructed.

Early in 1907 Joseph Devilder proposed the building of a new town. The site chosen was on the bank above the Coulee to the north of the ranch buildings. The C.P.R. had made a tentative survey for a proposed line which would bring the rail through Acme to Join the Calgary and Edmonton railway. The first building erected on the new site was the Police barracks, which was built by the St. Anne Ranch and Trading Company. The second building was a butcher's shop built by Paul de Beaudrap, and in 1907 a Roman Catholic Church was constructed. Also in 1907 a general store was built and operated by the Butruille family, who had purchased the store connected with the Stopping Place and moved the stock from there to the new building.

Trochu Valley General Store included a grocery department, dry goods and hardware. Louis de Chauny moved into the new town in 1907 and built a house and a livery barn. Mark de Cathelineau built a dance hall during the summer of 1907, and Sam Beneson, a tinsmith, settled in Trochu. The first telephone in the area connected the Ranch with the General Store.

In 1908 Dr. Sculier and J. Cripin built a hotel above the Coulee near where they anticipated that the railway would pass. Towards the end of 1908, Trochu acquired its first fully qualified resident doctor, Dr. J.D. Milne.

During the spring of 1909 Mrs. Butruille who had so well received the first three Sisters, obtained help from some other ladies and together they started preparing for the Sisters' arrival.

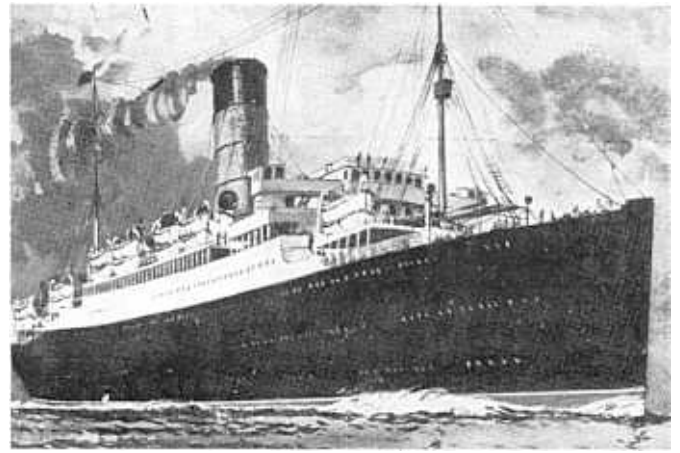


Eight Sisters

On the evening of July 28, 1909, the first eight Sisters left their beloved country for the little Canadian Mission. They travelled across the English Channel to Newhaven, England; then to London and then to Liverpool where they sailed by ocean liner to Canada.

On August 5, they arrived in Quebec and from there went to Montreal by train. After spending five days at the General Hospital in Montreal, the Sisters boarded the train for Calgary where they were met on August 15 by Mr. Armand Trochu and Father Leduc. Again, they boarded a train to Olds. From Olds, Mr. Trochu and Father Ciron drove them to Trochu by horse and democrat. They arrived in Trochu on August 16, 1909 at 8 p.m.

The Sisters were welcomed by different families – Butruille, Trochu, Eckenfelder, de Beaudrap, de Reinach Worth de Chauny. The ladies, being Catholic, knew that the Sisters would appreciate having a crucifix in their room. Since this was



Empress of Ireland

unavailable, they used their imagination by cutting out the picture of the cross from the cover of the Journal “La Croix”, glued it on a piece of wallpaper and cardboard and hung one in each room. It was a surprise to the Sisters, when they arrived to see such thoughtful attention to details. The Sisters never forgot the kind welcome and hospitality they received from the families.



Father Leduc



The Cross

MOTHER MARIE LOUISE RECTON

Who was she and where did she come from?

It would be out of line to write a history of St. Mary's without saying something about its founder. Sister Marie Louise was one of the Sisters who came with the exploration team in February of 1909. Because she knew some English she assisted as a translator to the group. Little did she know that in a few months she would become the leader of a new group to leave their country for a little Canadian mission in Alberta. She was born in Aron, France in 1876, December 9, from pious Christian parents. Her father died when she was very young, and not long afterwards, so did her young brother. Her mother died when Marie Louise was seventeen years of age. She was alone. Courageous, energetic and abandoned to God's will, she proved worthy of her mother's upbringing. Marie Louise completed her studies at Laval. After her graduation she took her degree in art and music. She entered the Novitiate in Evron on the 27th of April, 1895. During her Novitiate she possessed dignity and calmness, a gracious simplicity and deference to all. She was humble and affectionate to everyone.

After her religious training Sister Marie Louise spent five years in England. During these years and throughout her life, her faith was very deep. She had an extraordinary love for Jesus and Mary. Her chief aim was always to help others become true Christians. We read in the notes of one very close to her “When in July 1909, we left our home, families and native land, we were, it is true, going into exile; but already we felt, that after God, there was one upon whom we could lean in times of stress. The energetic and courageous attitude of our Mother, so solicitous for our welfare, was sufficient to inspire us with complete confidence.”

Nothing seemed to surprise or worry her. She sometimes spoke of her thoughts at this time. “How often did the thought come to me during this voyage, of all the qualities of mind and heart that would be required of the one to be chosen?” Young as she was to be given such heavy responsibilities, she was nevertheless wise, prudent and mature in judgement, and she desired to see in her Sisters, souls that were strong and solidly



*Marie-Louise
as child*



*Marie-Louise
at seventeen*



*Mother
Marie-Louise Rector*

virtuous. At times she was a little severe, but was loved much. "As Christians" she would say, "Let us not be small, mean, earthly in our sacrifices. Our vocation demands that we be above our own petty interests, our little personal schemes to help our self-love. Forget self by abnegation if we wish to be true. An apostle must have great zeal and love of Jesus, and there can be no true love without sacrifice. We must remain virtuous, self-forgetting and united to God."

In her conferences, Mother Marie Louise would return again and again to the necessity of profound humility. At the time of the establishment in Trochu in 1909 she wrote: "The eyes of the entire Congregation are turned upon this little corner of Alberta. Prayers and sacrifices mount unceasingly to the throne of God, who Himself guides us, the young mission which will always remain solidly grafted upon that ancient trunk, with beginnings now three centuries old."

The beginnings in Trochu were not easy. There was cold weather, snow, lack of water, the language barrier, and separation from relatives and friends. The sunshine of little surprises and family feasts came often to dissipate the clouds of loneliness and fatigue. Her charity was not restricted to her Sisters, but went to all who came to the house in search of help for body or soul. She daily made the rounds of the sick. A cheerful word and smile for each patient was sufficient to make everyone look upon her as an "Angel of Good." The heart of the Divine Master was the source of her profound piety and love.

Her first care, after the arrival in the "Coulee" was to prepare the little Chapel. In planning the future building, Mother Marie Louise, who was the architect, made the chapel her chief concern. As she said "Let us give the Lord the place of honor, the rest of the house consists only of dependencies of the Chapel." Being an artist, Mother Marie Louise did the paintings of the Chapel, assisted by Sister Angèle Bouhours. A musician herself, she looked upon the music as a means of leading souls to God. She was one of those rare persons of whom we say, "They can make the instrument speak." Someone said to her one day "Mother, if I were a great sinner, I believe your music would convert me."

Mother Marie Louise was wholeheartedly devoted to her Congregation and did everything to advance its interests, accepting cheerfully the cross of exile to Canada. Her sorrow, anxieties and fears were undoubtedly many, but she shared them with her Lord, remaining always amidst those in her care courageous, joyful and serene. Her genius for organization was remarkable. She foresaw and provided for every eventuality. Her complete abandonment to God's will was the font from which she drew her serenity and calm. She would often repeat to her Sisters, "I wish you all a renewal of fervour, courage and humble confidence in Him who loves us, and who we wish to love in return." This courage and humble confidence was practiced by herself until her death on August 22, 1930.

The Scripture passage used by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Nelligan for the sermon at her funeral, "The death of the just is precious in the eyes of the Lord," was fitting for Mother Marie Louise. Yes, she had passed twenty-one years of useful and devoted service in the midst of the people of Trochu. Many were very close to her, and found it hard to part. As Mother Marie Louise continued her work in St. Mary's, she prepared others to later take over, so that caring would continue. As she used to say, "We are the stones of this new foundation and we know that it is of extreme importance that to succeed in having a solid building one must dig very deep in placing the footings. The foundation stones do not appear because they are underground. In the same way, let us disappear and love to hide ourselves in our nothingness – thus shall we make our work durable. Good does not advertise itself. Labor then in humility, under the eyes of God, for Him alone. Let us remain "Little instruments in His hands."

THE COULEE AND CONSTRUCTION



The Coulee

Under the direction of sister Marie-Louise Recton, Superior, a hospital was immediately set up; it was simply a granary, cleaned and transformed into a hospital room with a single bed.

On August 23, the first patient, Mr. Lawrence, was admitted and the next day it was a young man, Mr. Montgomery, victim of a harvest accident. A second room was hastily prepared by Fathers Ciron and Bazin.

Mr. Bertrand de Cathelineau was the first orderly and carpenter. September 16 marked the completion of Sister Marie-Louise Recton's first goal – a small room was transformed into a chapel, where Sisters and patients could share their sufferings and joys with their Lord.

November 15, Mrs. Norman, an American was the first nurse to arrive to help Sisters Cecile and Josephine in the care of the sick. From August 23 to December 21, 1909 sixteen patients had been admitted. Dr. J.D. Milne was the first and only Doctor from 1908-1913.

The little hospital was always full. The mission, philosophy and goals were set up in accordance with the mission and philosophy of the Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame d'Evron.

August 16, 1910 on the anniversary of the Sisters' arrival, the site for the new hospital was chosen by the well known Father Leduc who was born in Evron, France and knew the congregation. Ten acres of land were given to the Sisters by St.



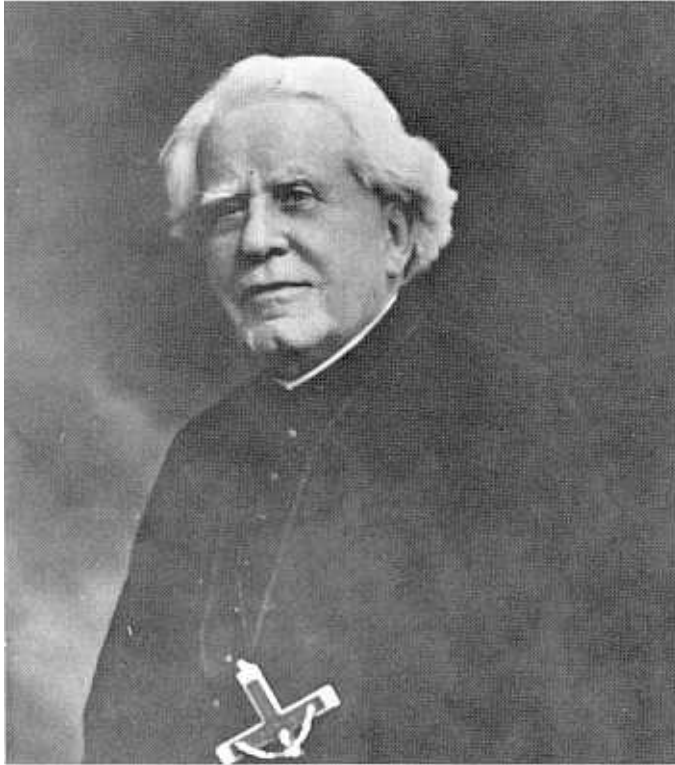
The Chapel



Dr. J.D. Milne

Anne's Ranch. It was a plateau dominating the Coulee, where the mission first began. Construction started immediately and on October 3, the cornerstone and the well were blessed by Father J.B. Lemius, a visiting Priest from France. During the ceremony he said, "You are placing the Sacred Heart in the foundation of the building as He will take care of sustaining and developing the spiritual edifice."

The construction plan prepared by Sister Marie-Louise Recton, was for a three storey building and the cost including water, steam heating, electricity and gas systems was \$40,000.00.



Father Lemius

From August to end of December the Sisters and nurses worked day and night, as a typhoid fever epidemic brought a great number of patients to the little hospital. Though equipment and facilities were at a minimum, and even water had to be used sparingly, the hospital staff saved many lives.

Despite the very severe winter of 1911, the construction on the hill progressed rapidly under the supervision of Father Pierre Bazin, who remained on the scene to encourage and help.



Father Pierre Bazin

The construction was not easy. The railroad had not yet come through the little town and building materials had to come by horse and wagon from the railroad crossing at either Didsbury or Olds. On September 1, in just over a year, the impossible had been accomplished.

It was time to leave the Coulee little by little. The wooden frame building was ready, leaving the sand stone siding blocks, produced locally, to be added in the fall. Moving to the new locale began in April.

The central part of the building was for the Sisters' quarters. The west wing was to be used for boarding students and the east wing was the Hospital.



St. Mary's 1911

During the summer, other small buildings were constructed around the main one. On the east were a morgue and a chicken coop, to the south were the ice bin and the vegetable cellar.

June 8th was the first Hospital inspection and on June 29 Mr. George Van Houtte, the first maintenance man was hired. It was not until August that patient admissions were allowed.

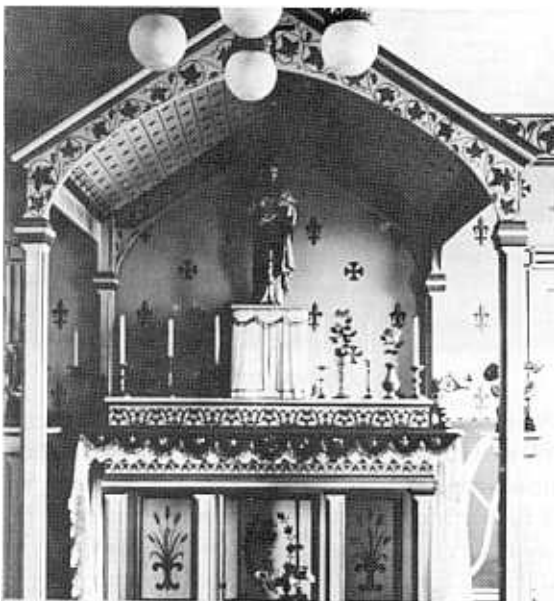
ON THE HILL

September 1, 1911 marked the OFFICIAL OPENING of the HOSPITAL but it was during the year 1912 that the St. Mary's Hospital was officially recognized by the Department of Health of the Government of Alberta. This would bring financial support in the amount of .50¢ per patient per day.



Mr. George Van Houtte

The chapel was officially opened on June 1, 1912. On July 21, the ceremony of the *Blessing of the Bell* took place; the bell was then placed in the tower and the Angelus would be heard three times a day. The Bell was a gift of Father Piere Bazin, Parish Priest.



The Chapel



The Blessing of the Bell

July 21st, The Sisters of Charity and residents of Trochu gathered to observe the ceremony of the Blessing of St. Mary's Bell which was a gift of Fr. Bazin, Parish Priest. Fr. Bazin was designated "Godfather," and Mother General d'Evron accepted to be "Godmother," represented for the occasion by Superior Marie-Louise Recton.

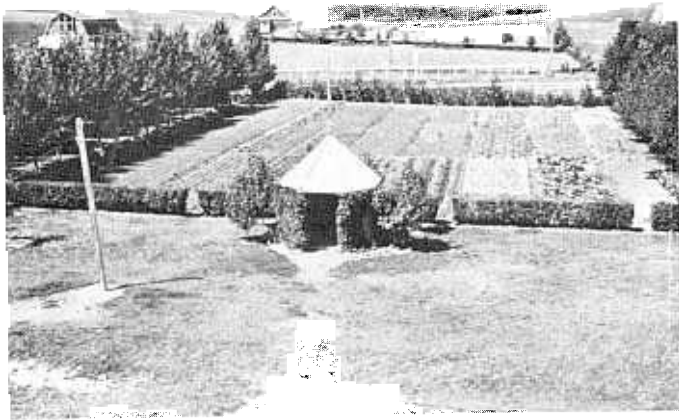


St. Mary's Hospital

July 29, 1912 marked the birth of the first baby in the new hospital on the hill, the proud parents being Mr. & Mrs. Dudley of Trochu.

On July 16, 1914, the ladies held a bazaar and raised \$124.00. It was the following year that the Hospital Aid Society was formed. These ladies worked hard since that time to help raise money for the hospital. Later in 1915 the Municipality started helping with donations, varying from \$50.00 to \$150.00 a year, depending upon the district revenue to the Municipal Council.

There was much to do. In 1919 trees and hedges were planted and a washing machine was purchased by the Hospital Aid Society – such a help to the laundry staff. A coal bin was also constructed and the following year a Delco Light Plant was installed greatly increasing the safety and comfort of Sisters,



The grounds

staff and patients – cost \$2,606.00. In 1922 a change of batteries was needed for the light plant, and a hail storm with strong wind damaged thirteen windows.

Through it all, the Hospital complex progressed lawns and gardens grew, more trees were planted, eavestroughs were repaired and a new sewage pump purchased. Again a need came and the Ladies Auxiliary met that need with another bazaar which raised \$1000.00 for the purchase of an X-ray machine and a quartz lamp. Electricity had to come from town to obtain greater voltage.

August 11, 1928 severe wind and hail reduced to fine pieces all the windows and glass doors on the north and west side of the building. The roof was covered with holes. Canvas was used to cover the windows until repairs could be completed.

The 32 volt electric system was changed to 110 volt throughout the building and a pressure water system with water softener was installed.

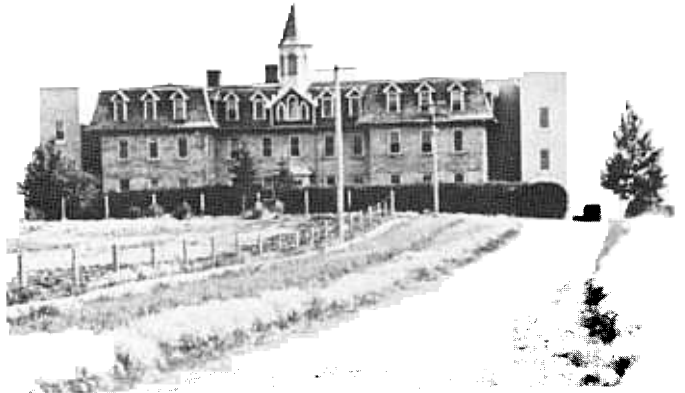


Mr. Willard Haggarty

Willard Haggarty who was the maintenance man and gardener between 1925-1928 was replaced by his brother Walter in 1929. That year drought replaced the hail of the previous years and crops were again a failure.

1930 was a busy year. After a government inspection in March, cement fire escape stairwells had to be built at each end of the building and a new furnace had to be installed.

1930 was also a sorrowful year. On August 22, Sister Marie-Louise Recton, who had planned and nurtured the little Mission in the Coulee to become St. Mary's Hospital, after



St. Mary's (fire escape stairwells)

long suffering, returned to the Father, but continues watching over it. She had been known and loved by many who miss her.

Sister Marie-Louise was replaced as Provincial by Sister Marie-Joseph Rondo who was one of her first companions in the Coulee on August 16, 1909. The laying out of the grounds and the cemetery are her work.



Sister Marie Joseph Rondo

It was a sad year for the general public also. In July, a severe hailstorm destroyed gardens and crops and what was left was ruined by heat. Money was scarce and therefore the boarders and patients decreased in number.



The Sisters' cemetery

In 1931 because of the depression things looked grim. Many families moved away. In 1932 approval was granted by Provincial and local authorities for a private cemetery. With the help of Father McNabb, the Sisters were transferred from the Town cemetery to their own situated west of the Convent wing. It was there, at the foot of the Cross, that the remains of Mother Marie-Louise Recton were placed. It was to her that many of the Sisters, nurses, patients and friends would go for help.



Father W.P. McNabb

1934 marked the 25th Anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters in Trochu and this day was very well remembered and celebrated. During the early 30's trees shrubs were planted in the grounds and because of the severe drought, many had to be replaced.

Next to the Hospital, on second floor, the Infirmary for the sick and disabled Sisters was opened in 1936. The first Sisters were admitted in July of the same year.

Work continued in 1937, the exterior of the building was covered with stucco and all radiator traps had to be changed that year. It was also in 1937 that the Ladies Auxiliary helped pay for the new hospital beds and mattresses, as well as an X-ray grid. The following year, the Ladies purchased the first three Fowler's beds and mattresses and other equipment for the Hospital.

April 26, 1938 Sister Marie-Therese Laigre, well known by all in Trochu, left Canada to return to France; because she was so well appreciated, she was named as a Member of the General Council of the Congregation. For 28 years she had worked with the people of Trochu and was faithful in visiting the patients daily.



Nursing Staff

The onset of the year 1939 was a very difficult one. For many days there was no water, the well could not pump enough and it wasn't until April that a new one could be dug, this one was two hundred and three (203) feet deep. Later that year the first Canadian Registered Nurse was hired to help at the Hospital.

Miss Barch had completed her training at the Vegreville School of Nursing.

It was a big Celebration in 1940 when the Ladies Auxiliary celebrated their 25th Anniversary. The work they were doing for the Hospital was tremendous and very much appreciated by all.

During the early 40's new equipment was purchased e.g. more Fowler's beds, operating room instruments, new refrigerators, new bedside lamps and the patient bell system was also installed on second floor. Patient rooms were replastered and painted.

The Ladies also purchased four more beds, two bassinets and a child's crib. They helped pay for the "Portable" Shock Proof X-Ray machine in 1942. This machine cost \$661.54.

In July of 1941, Ernie Auling maintenance man for the past 12 years, joined the Air Force.



Road gravelled

In December 1943 the Ladies purchased the electric incubator for the Laboratory Unit, a new typing machine, five overbed tables and some patient linen and a new freezing unit.

At the beginning of 1944 rooms were painted as well as hallways and utility rooms. The kitchen was remodeled with new stone and asphalt floor tiles.

In 1946 the first Hospital Advisory Board Committee was formed. It was composed of seven members. Sister Eugenie Aucherie was then Administrator of the Hospital. Mr. Ambroise Lemay served as the first Chairman. Mr. Bernard Mathieu was Chairman from 1955-1977 and is presently an Honorary life member.



Dr. Andrew James Stewart Hay

It was also at that time when mention was made of building an addition to the East wing. In August of 1946, Doctor A.J. Stewart Hay replaced Doctor Weart. He worked with the Sisters for twenty-seven years giving as selflessly as they did.

During the following two years more equipment was purchased by the Ladies Auxiliary e.g. one dozen bedside tables,

two overbed tables, venetian blinds, to the laboratory microscope a "mechanical stage" was added. The first X-ray machine was replaced by a new one in 1948. During the summer construction of the new wing was started and at the same time repairs to the old windows were done. In March the Sisters purchased a new truck for \$1,740.75.

THE NINETEEN-FIFTIES



St. Mary's 1950

Construction continued during the spring months of 1950. Details were finished and inspected, the elevator installation was verified, cleaning done and finally on July 19 the big day came – the Official Opening of a twenty-nine bed modern Hospital.

Archbishop McDonald, accompanied by Father Keenan, Parish Priest, gave the Blessing followed by speeches and the cutting of the ribbon. Opening speeches were given by Ambroise Lemay, President of the Municipal Hospital Board; Dr. Michie of Ponoka representing the Provincial Department of Health; Mr. Purvis, municipal secretary; Leroy Roach, Mayor



Hallway

of the Town of Trochu; Mr. D.H. Webb, contractor; and John Frere, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. After the ribbon cutting, it was open house for all with a delicious lunch provided by the Ladies' Auxiliary.



Operating room

Mrs. Schlender gave birth to Darlene Elsie on July 22, 1950 . . . the first patient to use the new Labor and Case room.

In the spring of 1952 official auditing of the Hospital's financial reports began.

During the 50's the Hospital was updated with new equipment, most of which they did not yet have, as well as repair and replacement of others. The first Electrocardiograph in Trochu was purchased in 1951 and in 1952 it was a deepfreeze and an automatic "Stoker" purchased with the help of the Ladies Auxiliary. It is because of these wonderful ladies that St. Mary's Hospital of Trochu, continues to be as modern as any hospital in Alberta.

Other Equipment which was bought during those years, with the help of the Hospital District Board, the Municipality and the Ladies Auxiliary were: food conveyors, fire extinguishers, a wheelchair, a sewing machine, stretchers, side rails, linen carts, toasters and much more . . . all this making work easier for the Nursing Staff as well as making the patients feel more comfortable and secure in the health care given.



Sister Louisa Theroux, Norma Painter

The water system from the Town of Trochu to the Hospital was installed in 1954. That year also had a special mark in the life of the Sisters. Having had the same habit for almost three centuries, changes were made. The bonnet was replaced by a more simple head dress which allowed greater visibility, especially in the operating room and while driving.

In 1956 a PEDIATRIC UNIT was organized in the first hospital wing, facing north.



Sister Catherine Bureau, Mrs. Suzy Young

During the year 1958 a complete change over was done in the Operating Room. A new surgical table with accessories was bought, surgical tools, instruments, basin stands, an anesthetic machine, an irrigation stand, two sterilizers, carts and an "Isolette Incubator for Obstetrics. "



Sister Marie Therese Laberge with "Little Louise".

The Laboratory and Radiology Departments also received new equipment e.g. microscope, centrifuge, photometer, filing cabinets and illuminators. 1959 and construction was again the rule of the day. This time it was the Saint Joseph Wing built to celebrate the fiftieth Anniversary of the Sister arrival. It was situated south of the present building and joined at the second floor level by a crosswalk to a large Chapel allowing patients to go back and forth as they wished for worship. On September 30, the new Chapel was blessed and at the same time the new Pontmain School was officially opened.



Chapel (St. Joseph's Wing)

The first dishwasher was installed in 1962 and a large autoclave, as well as other needed equipment was bought during the 60's. The third floor of the east wing was remodelled as a Residence for the Hospital staff.

On June 24, 1964 a much deserved special lunch was prepared by the Sisters to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Now that the patients could easily get to the new chapel, a special Christmas Service was presented in the afternoon and everyone attended, even those in wheelchairs. After the service, all went happily back to their rooms saying "What a wonderful party we had."



1954 Grounds



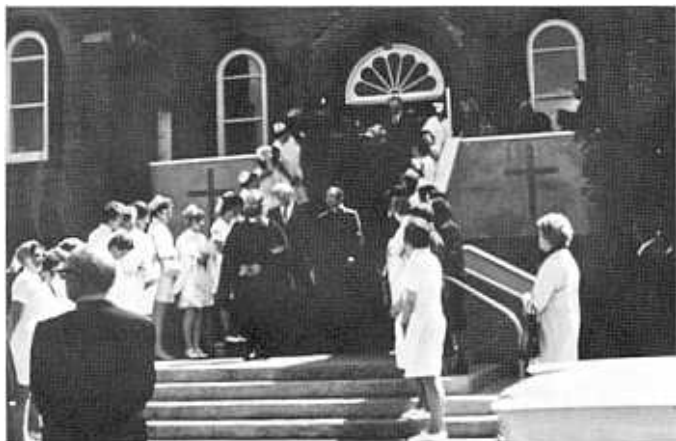
Camp grounds



St. Joseph's Wing



Road to Hospital



Dr. Hay's Funeral

In March 1970 sixty-eight members from the Central Alberta Region attended the Regional Conference for Administrators, Trustees and Directors of Nursing held in Trochu.

June became known as the month when hospital staff with their families got together at the Sisters' Camp Ground for their annual wiener roast. Because a sunny day is chosen the little ones have a great time with games.

During the summer of 1970 the Town oiled the road to the Hospital, thus avoiding dust and preventing people from getting stuck in the mud. Also during that year the hospital roof was completely redone, after twenty years of service. To the joy of everyone the name "St. Mary's Hospital" was installed over the outside entrance to the hospital.

May 30, 1973 was a day of sorrow for the Hospital and also for the Town and District as a whole. Doctor Andrew James Stewart Hay left this world to meet his Creator. One idea can express what Doctor Hay was to his people – "He Loved" – and because he loved, he gave of himself to the end. Doctor Hay's funeral was held in St. Anne's Church and although large, it was too small for the estimated seven hundred people in attendance. Doctor Patrick Myles became Trochu's physician in June of 1973, and he was soon replaced by Doctor S. Kanani.

1974 marked the end of a chapter in the history of St. Mary's.

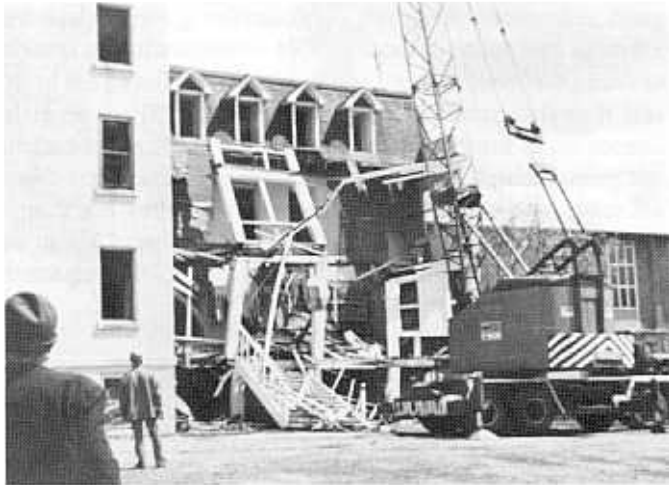


Dr. S. Kanani

THE PRESENT ERA

It was sad to realize that the 1911 construction had served its usefulness and must soon be demolished. In July the patients were moved to the 1949 wing, the long terms to other hospitals. Some Sisters moved temporarily to the St. Joseph wing, and some to the Provincial Building built in 1967, south of the present Hospital. It was time to let go, so each Sister picked up her belongings and moved! During the summer many friends came to visit St. Mary's for the last time.

August 15, 1974 was a memorable day because permission was granted by the city of Edmonton to build a Residence for the retired Sisters, thus giving them a permanent home when demolition began. Also the same day permission was granted by the Government of Alberta to expand the Trochu Health Care facilities. This announcement was made in Trochu by the M.L.A. Dr. Allan Warrack on behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Development, the Honourable Neil Crawford.



The crane



Sisters Anna Laforge, Yvonne Gobeil, Helen Levasseur, Mary Ellen O'Neill, Laura Chalut



Last sound of the bell

In January of 1975 an auction sale was held on the first floor of the Convent. Each person was able to purchase some item for a souvenir. In February an Open House was held giving a last chance to view the 1911 construction. Doughnuts and coffee were served by the Ladies Auxiliary.

In March the kitchen was relocated and construction began.

In April the Ladies planned a "Farewell Tea" for the Retired Sisters. It was a difficult time for them as some had devoted many years of caring for the sick and teaching the children in that building. Their work was truly well done, but the time had come to part and to leave for the new home in Edmonton.



Frank Hoppins and Sister Helen Levasseur

In May the "crane" was there on the thirtieth, the Bell rang for the last time and the bell tower was then removed intact. This tower is placed on a cement foundation at the entrance to the Sisters' grounds, west of the Hospital. Demolition completed, construction began and a new chapter was underway.

November 13, 1975 marked the beginning of the struggle for St. Mary's Hospital to reach the pinnacle of modern health care for the community. The official sod turning ceremony was held at 1400 hours with Frank Hoppins, Chairman of the Hospital Advisory Board recounting the events leading up to this ceremony. Rev. Pype, of St. Pauls United Church, gave the invocation and prayer of thanksgiving.

The finishing and final cleaning of the new hospital and the remodeled 1949 wing began in the spring of 1977. Volunteers came to assist with the moving of the patients.



Official Opening

On June 17 the big day arrived for the Official Opening of the new St. Mary's thirty-three bed Extended Care Facility. It was built in three levels with cafeteria, storage and maintenance on the lower level; out-patients and offices on the first level and patients on the second level.



Ribbon cutting

Dr. Allan Warrack, Frank Hoppins and Sister Helen Levasseur

With 1978 a new system of management was instituted at St. Mary's Hospital. The Advisory Board which had assisted the Administrator since 1946 ceased to exist. In its place a Governing Board was formed under the Chairmanship of Frank Hoppins and Administrator, Sister Helen Levasseur. During the month of May, 1978 pavement was laid around the Hospital and the staff parking lots. Application was made for the initial accreditation of St. Mary's and preparation began towards this big achievement.



*Father Rose and Rev. Joseph MacNeil,
Archbishop of Edmonton*

On August 29 and 30 the Survey was successfully completed and to the joy of all, St. Mary's received accreditation for a two year term.



*Mr. Peter Verhesen
Administrator*



70th Anniversary

1979, the 70th Anniversary of the Sisters' arrival in Trochu marked another turning point in the history of the hospital. The Sisters withdrew from administration and turned this responsibility over to a lay administrator, Peter Verhesen, formerly of Fort Smith.

Trochu was chosen in 1980 for the greatly needed Nursing Home in the district. In October Dupuis and Tardif, Architects, were given the contract to design the 25 bed nursing home addition. For the next three years many trips and meetings were held to prepare for this project.

The second Accreditation Survey was approved in May 1981 for a three-year term.



Walkathon
Peter Verhesen and Ron Hepburn

On the 30th a Walkathon was held for the purpose of purchasing a D.A.T.S. van for our long term patients. The walk was a success and the van arrived on November 16. This allowed the patients of St. Mary's to attend the Community Christmas Festival for the first time.

During the year inspection was made of the St. Joseph wing. More sad news. The safety codes were not approved and St. Joseph's was declared unsafe and demolition began in November 1981. The following year landscaping was done over the area giving a beautiful view for the patients as well as a wonderful site for walking. A sidewalk with cement blocks was laid from the pavement to the Camp Kitchen for picnics or sightseeing.



Eltrohills D.A.T.S. Van

During the year 1982 a new greatly needed Pastoral Care department was established in the Hospital. This gives tremendous help to the Medical and Nursing staff in the assessment of total patient care.

It is also during the year 1982 that the Sisters celebrated their 300 years of existence as a religious family. Had it not been for Madame Thulard, their Foundress, Mother Marie-Louise Rector would not have come to open the little mission in Trochu.



Sisters' Three-Hundredth Anniversary



Mrs. Helen Lemay
CWL President

On the twelfth of June 1983 an open house and display was held to review the beginnings of the Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame d'Evron as well as the beginning of St. Mary's in Trochu. The Staff presented the Sisters with a plaque depicting the development stages of St. Mary's.

THE FUTURE BECKONS



Omsac

St. Mary's is still progressing. With the arrival of an Omsac (Bird Construction) trailer in April 1984, construction began on the 25 bed Nursing Home addition enabling St. Mary's to increase health care services to the community.



Blessing of the site



Frank Hoppins turning sod

On April 12, 1984 at 1500 hours approximately one hundred and fifty people gathered at the east end of the hospital on the future nursing home site. The occasion was the official sod turning ceremony with Father Philippe Figarol officiating

at the blessing of the site and Mr. Frank Hoppins turning the first shovel of sod. Other dignitaries shared in the ceremony, even the Pontmain school children (Grades 1-3) took the opportunity to participate.



Pontmain school children

In the spring of 1985 St. Mary's Health Care Centre will be a 58 bed unit, consisting of 25 nursing home, 15 auxiliary care, 15 acute care and 3 day care beds. If Mother Marie-Louise Recton could witness the event today, she would be very proud to see the little mission in the Coulee of 1909 come to be a magnificent Centre, from where her work of health care to the people of Trochu and District is being continued.

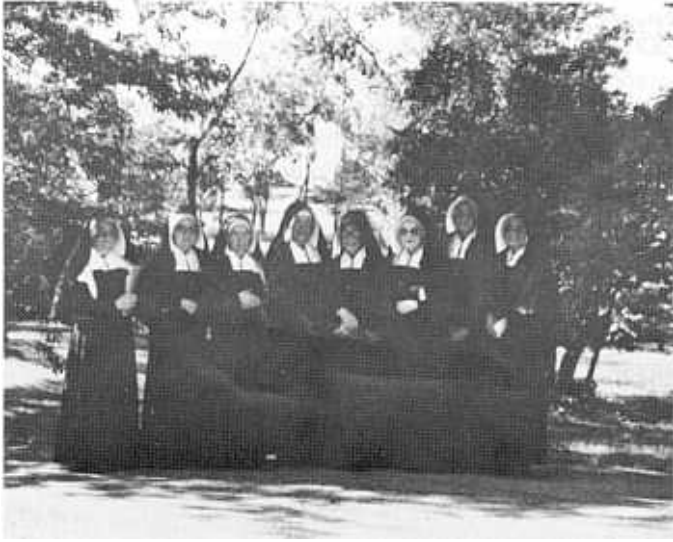
The evening of August 16, 1984 was a perfect setting for the reenactment of the arrival of the Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame d'Evron in the Coulee 75 years ago. Eight Sisters dressed in black habit accompanied by three priests, rode in on Ralph Loosemore's wagon pulled by a team of his Belgian horses.

Several members of the Kubinec family joined them on horseback. This was similar to the way it was August 16, 1909. It was a pretty sight as they drove the trail to the Stopping Place. Following their arrival a special thanksgiving Mass was held with Father Laisnez, Father Rozmahel and Trochu's new Parish Priest, Father Les Drewicki. Peter Verhesen was Master of Ceremony.

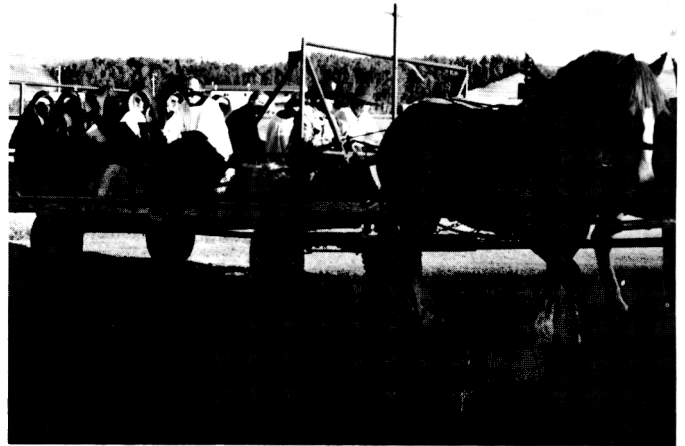
Art and Tony Knievel assisted in the service. Sister Delores accompanied the singing on the original pump organ from the Stopping Place. A large number of the Sisters of Charity who trained and worked at Trochu returned for the celebration.

Following Mass Sister Mary Ellen O'Neill thanked the people of the community for all that they had done for the Sisters down through the years and mentioned the support she had received during her nine years as Provincial Superior. She embraced her successor, Sister Cecile Goyer, who said "We look on the past with thankful hearts, we live from day to day in the present with faith, and we plan for the future with hope and trust in God."

CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
ASSOCIATION CATHOLIQUE CANADIENNE DE LA SANTÉ
312 DALY AVE. OTTAWA, ONTARIO. K1N 6G7



Re-enactment



Arrival at the scene of the celebration in the Coulee.



***Thanksgiving Mass
Arthur Knieval, Father Albert Laisnez, Father L. Drewicki,
Father Ted Rozmahel and Tony Knieval***

PROVINCIAL SUPERIORS-ADMINISTRATORS OVER THE YEARS



Sr. M. Louise Recton
Provincial Administrator 1909-1930



Sr. M. Joseph Rondo
Provincial 1930-1954



Sr. M. Therese Laigre
Administrator 1931-1938



Sr. Eugenie Aucherie
Administrator 1938-1953
Provincial 1954-1966



Sr. Anna Keohane
Administrator 1953-1954



Sr. M. Cecile Clermont
Provincial 1966-1975
Administrator 1960-1966



Sr. Albertine Landry
Administrator 1967-1970



Sr. Ruth Wirachowsky
Administrator 1970-1972



Sr. Mary Ellen O'Neill
Provincial 1975-1984
Administrator 1972-1975



Sr. Helen Levasseur
Administrator 1975-1979



Sr. Cecile Goyer
Provincial 1984-

BOARD MEMBERS AND GUESTS AT ANNUAL MEETING 1984



R. Hepburn



L. Roach



F. Hoppins



Sr. R. Wirachowsky
New Member



Mr. B. Mathieu
Honorary Life Member



L. to R. Back Row (Standing): F. Hoppins; R. Campbell; E. Heer; A. Gehring; L. Kahler; Dr. D. O'Neil; N. Hoppins; G. Lemay, Dr. E. Brodie and Sr. D. Beaudouin.
Front Row (Seated): V. Haller, Sr. A. Yuhas, L. Frere, Sr. M.E. O'Neill, H. Dodd and L. Wagstaff.

PASTORAL CARE (Ministerial Association)



*L. to R. Back Row: Rev. Allan Richards, U.C.; Rev. Michael Stonhouse, Anglican; Rev. Michael Colbeck, Lutheran; Father Les Drewicki, R.C.
Front Row: Marion Knudsen, U.C.; Vi Silver, U.C.; Elizabeth Cunningham, Anglican.*



Sr. Gloria Butler



Henry Greig

MEDICAL STAFF



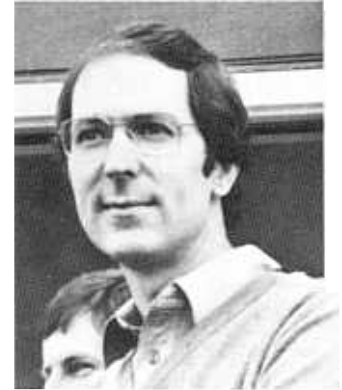
Dr. D. O'Neil



Dr. O. McAuley



Dr. L. Witham



Dr. E. Brodie



PHARMACIST
Jim Balkwill

STAFF AT ST. MARY'S AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR (AUGUST 1984)



*B. Ross, M. Frere, P. Verhesen, J Matus, K. Brausen,
J. Moran, C. Wagstaff*



*D. Smyth, C. Lynch, R. Hill, K. Haggarty, E.N. Smyth,
B. Hill, E. Fordyce, R. Stuart*



E. Knapp



A.M. Lemay



C. Ring



H. Cummings



D. Moran



*R. Sailer, A. Dyck, N. Ehrman,
M. O'Shea, E. Kubenic, M. Haggarty*



*B. Johnston, C. Oster,
Sr. G. Butler, B. Gelinas*



D. Abramenko



M.A. Weich



L. Wik



L. Hazel



S. Maxwell

STAFF (cont'd)



C. Simonsen



**S. Tetz, D. Schneider,
C. Campbell, D. Meding**



A. Koch



C. Reichel, Y. Hoppins



E. Roach



A. Haggarty, J. Haworth



J. Peterson



D. Sinclair



G. Swanson



J. Schneider



D. Semotiuk



A. Schrock



A. Schramm



N. Molnar



Sr. D. Beaudoin



D. Knievel

STAFF (cont'd)



R. Buchert, L. Dronyk



C. Roach



I. Schmaltz, C. Simonsen, H. Pauls



*M. Muenther
(Physiotherapist)*

STAFF AT ST. MARY'S AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR (AUGUST 1984)

Administration & Medical Records

P. Verhesen, Administrator
M. Frere, Sec. - Treas.
J. Moran, H.R.T.
B. Ross, H.R.T.
A. Schramm, Purchasing
C. Wagstaff, Receptionist

Nursing

Sr. D. Beaudoin, D.O.N.
E. Roach, R.N.
M. Haggarty, R.N.
M. O'Shea, R.N.
Y. Hoppins, R.N.
S. Maxwell, R.N.
L. Wik, R.N.
D. Knieval, R.N.
E. Knapp, R.N.
D. Moran, R.N.
E. Kubenic, R.N.
A. Koch, R.N.
I. Schmaltz, R.N.
C. Reichel, R.N.
R. Sailer, R.N.A.
C. Simonsen, R.N.A.

N. Molner, R.N.A.
D. Abrenko, R.N.A.
L. Hazel, R.N.A.
D. Semotiuk, R.N.A.
A. Lemay, R.N.A.
H. Pauls, R.N.A.
C. Rng, R.N.A.
C. Ring, R.N.A.
A. Dyck
B. Gelinas
M. Weich
C. Roach
G. Swanson
A. Schrock (special mention,
ret. June 1984)
B. Johnston
A. Haggarty
J. Haworth
N. Ehrman
J. Peterson

Pastoral Care

Sister G. Butler, R.N.

Recreational Therapy

C. Oster, R.N.A.
J. Schneider

Laboratory and Radiology

C. Brausen, C.C.T.
J. Matus, C.C.T.

Dietary

D. Meding, R.D.T.
H. Cumming
L. Dronyk
D. Sinclair
D. Schneider
R. Buchert
C. Campbell
S. Tetz

Housekeeping/Linen

R. Stuart
K. Haggarty
C. Lynch
E. Fordyce
R. Hill
B. Hill

Operation & Maintenance

E.N. Smyth
D. Smyth
C. Elvin (special mention,
ret. 1984)

OVER THE YEARS



68 968



The First Thirteen



94



Ladies Auxiliary



Sister M. Gabrielle Guerrier
Principal of Pontmain School 1912-1946 then Hospital Accountant



Preparing for the Liturgy



for Lab. Tes



returning from Celebration

OVER THE YEARS



We're All Here



***We used to be
Sr. M. Lucie and Sr. Ellen***



Coffee Time



60th Anniversary Ladies Auxiliary



Opening of Recreational Therapy 1981



Christmas Party



On the Deck



It's Been Many Years



Ice Cream!!

OVER THE YEARS (continued)



Easter Baskets 100



The Provincial and the Mayor



Thanks Peggy for Your Years of Service



A Beautiful Toy!



Fresh Air



The Lifesaver



*Harry Lloyd
Maintenance Man 1960-1976*



Dr. Lavender



*The linen was always spotless!
Sr. Rose*



The Night Nurse

OVER THE YEARS (continued)



Time for a Break



DATSmobile's Maiden Voyage



Well done thank you.



The grounds are still flourishing.



Teleconference



Thank You Clarence, We'll Miss You!



Going for a ride.

TABLE OF EVENTS 1909-1984

A few highlights

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1909 - Arrival of Sisters of charity of N.D. Evron - August 16th</p> <p>1910 - Site for new hospital chosen, construction begins</p> <p>1911 - Official opening of new hospital</p> <p>1912 - Hospital officially recognized by Department of Health - grant .50¢ per diem</p> <p>1913 - The Sound of the Bells is heard</p> <p>1914 - Ladies Auxiliary raise \$124.00 with Bazaar</p> <p>1915 - \$50.00 Grant from Municipality</p> <p>1916 - Extensive Landscaping</p> <p>1917 - New Sewage System - \$415.00</p> <p>1918 - Gas Washing Machine purchased by Ladies Auxiliary</p> <p>1919 - New Coal Bin and Delco Electric Light Plant Installed</p> <p>1923 - Extensive Damage by Hail</p> <p>1925 - Linoleum Installed</p> <p>1926 - Electricity Supplied by Town System</p> <p>1927 - First X-ray Machine Purchased \$1400.00</p> <p>1928 - Severe Wind & Hail Damage - Water Softener System - \$1430.00</p> <p>1929 - Drought</p> <p>1930 - Death of Foundress Sister Marie-Louise Recton</p> <p>1931 - Drought Continues</p> <p>1932 - Approval of Private Cemetery</p> <p>1933 - Road and Entrance Graveled by Town</p> <p>1934 - 25th Anniversary of Sister's Arrival</p> <p>1935 - More landscaping</p> <p>1936 - Infirmary for Elderly and Ailing Sisters Established</p> <p>1937 - Exterior of Hospital Stuccoed</p> <p>1938 - First Three Fowler Beds Donated by Ladies Auxiliary</p> <p>1939 - First Canadian Registered Nurse on Staff</p> <p>1940 - 25th Anniversary of Ladies Auxiliary - Patient Bell System Installed \$56.00</p> <p>1941 - Maintenance man, Ernie Auling Joins Air Force - replaced by Charles Dupont</p> <p>1942 - Portable Shockproof X-ray machine purchased -</p> <p>1943 - Large Quantity of Furniture & Equipment purchased by Ladies Auxiliary</p> | <p>1944 - New Tiles in Kitchen</p> <p>1945 - More New Equipment</p> <p>1946 - First Hospital Advisory Board Formed (7 Members)</p> <p>1947 - More New Equipment</p> <p>1948 - Construction of New Wing</p> <p>1949 - Purchase of First Truck - \$1,740.75</p> <p>1950 - Official Opening of New Wing - \$188,260.82 - 29 beds</p> <p>1951 - First Electrocardiogram Machine Purchased \$805.00</p> <p>1952 - First External Audit</p> <p>1953 - Still More New Equipment</p> <p>1954 - Water Supplied by Town</p> <p>1956 - Organization of Pediatric Unit</p> <p>1958 - Remodelling of Operating Room and Purchase of Anesthetic Machine</p> <p>1959 - Official Opening of New Chapel</p> <p>1960 - Official Opening of St. Joseph's Wing</p> <p>1962 - First Automatic Dishwasher Acquired - Second truck, (still in use)</p> <p>1963 - Staff Residence on Third Floor Set Up</p> <p>1964 - First Large Autoclave purchased</p> <p>1965 - 50th Anniversary of Ladies Auxiliary</p> <p>1969 - 60th Anniversary of Sisters Arrival</p> <p>1974 - Permission granted for Expansion of Nursing facilities in Trochu</p> <p>1975 - Demolition of 1911 Building - The Tower Bell rings for the last time</p> <p>1977 - Official Opening of Present St. Mary's Hospital</p> <p>1978 - Hospital Governing Board replaces Advisory Board</p> <p>1979 - First Lay Administrator - First Accreditation Survey (2 years)</p> <p>1980 - Planning Begins for Nursing Home Addition</p> <p>1981 - Second Accreditation Survey (3 years)</p> <p>1982 - Opening of Pastoral Care Department</p> <p>1983 - Preparation of Nursing Home Plans coming to an end</p> <p>1984 - 75th Anniversary of the Arrival of Sisters - Construction of Nursing Home started - sod turning - Third Accreditation Survey</p> |
|--|--|

Cross: Sign of unity in Christ (notice its central position)

S: The S of Saint Mary

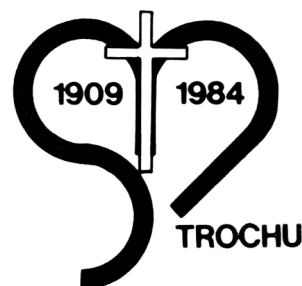
M: The M of Mary

h: The h of healthcare

C: The C of centre and the C of Cor which means heart (Latin)

The logo is in the shape of the heart which indicates love and compassion.

Notice the opening in the lines indicating the heart, suggesting an openness towards the care of those in need.



The blue colour is traditionally the colour dedicated to Our Lady.



St. Mary's Nursing Home (official opening May 3 1985