Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul

Providence Hospital/St. Anthony's Home, Moose Jaw SK 1912-2005

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, an apostolic congregation of vowed women religious, were founded in Kingston, Ontario in 1861 to serve the poor, the aged and the orphans.

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul have a long history of serving in the Health Care field in Moose Jaw. They were invited to Moose Jaw in 1912 by a parish priest, Father Woodcutter. The first Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul arrived in Moose Jaw on November 14, 1912. That same day Fr. Woodcutter took the two Sisters to view a house for sale that had potential to be their new hospital. He bought it that same day and rented it to the Sisters. A week later, after much hard work, Providence Hospital opened on November 21, 1912 and the first patient arrived on November 28. The house served the hospital well, but was soon full to capacity. An addition was built in 1913, but soon plans for a new hospital were being made. On September 19, 1917 a brand new purpose built Providence Hospital was opened. That same year the Sisters founded the Providence Hospital School of Nursing, which was a fixture of the hospital until 1970. The hospital continued to develop over time, opening its X-ray department in 1920 and a School of Medical Technology in 1951. The Extended Care Unit was opened in 1974 and officially dedicated the 'Raphael Wing' in 1976 after Sister Mary Raphael who had given 42 years of service to Providence Hospital.

In 1939 Archbishop Monaghan of Regina asked the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul to found a home for the aged and the poor in Moose Jaw. The Sisters worked incredibly hard to get the building, an old Boys' College that had closed in 1931, ready for occupancy. St. Anthony's Home opened September 1,1939 with 20 patients. Two days later the Department of National Defence requisitioned the building and the patients were transferred to Providence Hospital. The building was returned to the Sisters in 1940 and reopened as St. Anthony's Home once again on April 11, 1940. The takeover by the Department of National Defence was a blessing in disguise as the rent paid by the Government helped to put the home on a solid financial standing. During its tenancy, the Government had made significant electrical and plumbing upgrades to the building at its own expense. By 1945 St. Anthony's home was running short of space to accommodate its many patients, yet in keeping with the Sisters' mission no one was refused admission. In May 1968 a new wing was opened which added 114 nursing beds, greatly increasing the home's capacity.

The 1980s and early 1990s was a period of great change for both institutions as the administrations of St. Anthony's Home and Providence Hospital were linked under one Executive Director. After years of planning it was decided to merge the services of St. Anthony's Home and Providence Hospital into one new facility that would offer services to long term residents and out-patients. On May 27, 1995 the merger took place with the closing of both Providence Hospital and St. Anthony's Home. The patients from both facilities moved to the newly built Providence Place for Holistic Health which officially opened on September 19, 1995. In June 2002, sponsorship of Providence Place for Holistic Health was transferred from the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul to the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation. Three Sisters remained in Moose Jaw carrying out pastoral care ministry until June 2005 when the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul bid farewell to Moose Jaw after 93 years of serving the community.

2011 Souvenir Booklet
Submissions by Founding Congregations

Sisters of St. Martha
St. Michael's Hospital, Broadview
Mercy Hospital, Regina
St. Peter's Hospital, Melville

The Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
St. Joseph's Hospital, Lestock
St. Anthony's Hospital, Esterhazy

Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough
St. Joseph's Hospital, Estevan

Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke
Radville Community Hospital and Marion Home, Radville
Santa Maria Senior Citizens' Home, Regina

Sisters of Providence of Montreal
Notre Dame Hospital, North Battleford

Daughters of Wisdom
Leoville Hospital, Leoville

Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception
Holy Family Hospital, Prince Albert

Sisters of Providence St. Vincent de Paul
Providence Hospital, Moose Jaw
St. Anthony's Home, Moose Jaw
Providence Place, Moose Jaw

THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST COMPELS US

Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan

Sisters of St. Martha

St. Michael's Hospital, Broadview SK
1935-1971

In 1935, the citizens of Broadview were interested in establishing a small hospital for the town. Archbishop P.J. Monahan, Regina, recommended that they contact the Sisters of St. Martha to operate the hospital. On September 29, 1936, three sisters (none of whom were nurses) arrived. The official opening took place on October 22, 1936. The hospital could accommodate six patients and the sisters occupied rooms in the attic.

By 1940, this facility was proving inadequate to the demand for health care. Construction for a new hospital was begun in 1940, financed by the Sisters of St. Martha who borrowed $30,000. The new building, with an operating room, case room, a lab and x-ray room, could accommodate 18 patients.

In 1963 the Saskatchewan Health Department designated St. Michael's as a district hospital. In early 1965, CSM notified the town and surrounding municipalities that they could no longer operate the hospital unless increased financial aide was forthcoming. Negotiations resulted in the purchase of St. Michael's by Broadview Union Hospital, and in July 1966, St. Michael's was renamed Broadview Union Hospital. The Sisters of St. Martha continued to administer the hospital until June 7, 1969, at which time they withdrew because of the shortage of personnel.

From the beginning in 1936, and until the withdrawal of the sisters in 1969, thirty-eight sisters had served at St. Michael's in different capacities. Besides their hospital work, the sisters taught catechism to the children, conducted choir practice in the parish, and taught catechism during the summer in the area around Broadview.

Mercy Hospital, Regina SK
1936-1984

The Sisters of St. Martha were invited to Regina in 1936 by Archbishop P.J. Monahan to open Mercy Hospital, a hospital which was to provide shelter and care to unwed mothers and their children. It was the intention of the Archbishop that the girls would also receive religious instruction. For this purpose, and from his own private resources, the Archbishop purchased a building which he deeded to the congregation of the Sisters of St. Martha. For most of its existence, Mercy Hospital was handicapped by the lack of financial resources, partly because of the confidential nature of the work, but also because at its very beginning, a recovery from the severe depression of previous years had just begun. The first girls arrived at Mercy Hospital on June 30, 1936, and the first baby was born July 31, 1936.

By 1951, Mercy Hospital needed an extension. While investigating the possibility of the expansion, it became known that the property on which Mercy Hospital was located had been included in the projected civic centre. Since the city was about to appropriate the land, a new location was necessary for Mercy Hospital. The transaction of the purchase of Mercy Hospital land was completed with the city on January 1, 1963. The date of the official opening was June 14, 1965. The function of the new institute was more social services oriented so that it would be eligible for a per diem grant from the Department of Health. In December, 1964, the name of the institute was changed from Mercy Hospital to Martha House. When the Sisters of St. Martha left Regina in 1984, they were replaced at Martha House by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough, Ontario.

Sisters of Charity
of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Family Hospital, Prince Albert SK
1910-1997

Holy Family Hospital was built and operated by the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception from 1910-1997. An apostolic religious community, the SCIC were founded in Saint John, New Brunswick in 1854 by Honoria Conway and her companions at the invitation of Bishop Thomas Louis Connolly, OFM Cap. The community was founded to care for orphans left behind because of a cholera epidemic in the city. In 1906 a second call to care for orphans came from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Two years later the people and physicians who had so admired the work and dedication of the Sisters, came to them with a petition to consider building a hospital.

The new hospital, Holy Family, was the Sisters' first venture in hospital ministry. As the construction progressed on the building, the Sisters prepared themselves professionally. The blessing of the 32-bed hospital took place on December 20, 1910 and on Christmas Day the first patient was admitted. Four Sisters of Charity arrived to open the new hospital. In the early days the patients were mostly people and lumbermen from the numerous lumber camps in the Prince Albert area who were usually victims of accidents in the woods, typhoid fever, chest cases and pneumonia. A School of Nursing was established in 1910 and closed in 1969 due to the phasing out of Hospital Schools of Nursing. At that time, accommodation costs were $1.50/day for a public ward, $2.50/day for semi-private and $4.00 for a private room.

Expansions to the hospital were made in 1915, 1927, 1935 and 1964. In 1915, a four-storey building with a capacity of 30 beds was added to the north of the original 1910 structure, making a total of 52 beds. In 1915, a Nurses' Residence was built. In 1927, two floors and a basement were added. The first floor housed the central dressing room and a more modern laboratory while the second floor, a major operating room. 1935, during Holy Family Hospital's 25th anniversary year, saw the addition of a new main building which would provide space for administration, a main entrance, an elevator and classroom space. The bed capacity was increased to 140 beds and 20 bassinets. In 1934, the hospital received accreditation status and continued to be accredited throughout its history. 1947 saw the establishment of an advisory board for the hospital. In 1964, the last addition increased the hospital's capacity to 150 beds and 24 bassinets. A four-bed intensive care unit was opened in 1968 and a 12-bed extended care unit was opened in 1980.

Volunteer groups were an integral part of Holy Family Hospital. The Patronesses of Holy Family Hospital were organized around 1945 and Candy Stripers in 1964. Holy Family Hospital celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1985.

With sadness, Holy Family Hospital closed its doors in 1997 due to the restructuring of the healthcare system in Saskatchewan. The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception will ever be grateful for all who ministered to the sick with respect, dignity and compassion throughout its history.

With Honoria Conway, our foundress, we proclaim her favorite saying "Laus Deo", "Praise God".

Daughters of Wisdom

Leoville Hospital, Leoville SK
1956-1979

Leoville is a small village in northern Saskatchewan, with a population of about 500 people. Most of the people are of French Canadian origin, with a Catholic background. The people are very proud of their village, and strive to keep it on the map. Their loyalty to their ancestors keeps one generation after the other continuing the businesses and trades of their forefathers. In the surrounding area there are two reserves serviced by Leoville.

The small Leoville Hospital was operating as a Red Cross outpost from 1946-1956. It was on September 15, 1956, that the Daughters of Wisdom (Sr. Joseph de l'Eucharistie, Sr. Claude de L'Enfant-Jésus, Sr. Stanilas du Sacré-Cœur, and Sr. Mary Dolores of the Cross) arrived in Leoville to take over the management of the Red Cross Hospital. The Sisters' hardships were many, but their devotion and determination saw the hospital progress. In 1957 an extension was built onto the hospital to house the patients (the use of the upstairs for patient rooms had been condemned by the fire department). In May, 1979, a second addition to the hospital to provide an operating room, delivery room, nursery, and x-ray and lab, was completed. In July of 1979, the Daughters of Wisdom left Leoville. Helen Baier remained on a few months to initiate a lay administrator.

Though it is over thirty years that the Sisters left the hospital of Leoville, it remains the focal point of the village, and the people are determined not to lose it. It no longer exists as a ten acute-bed hospital, but is now an extended care facility. There is no resident doctor, but the neighboring medical staff visit the patients two to three times a week, and the neighboring hospital offers lab and x-ray services.

The people of Leoville remain ever grateful to the Daughters of Wisdom for their many years of dedicated service.

Daughters of Wisdom who served in Leoville, Saskatchewan, Sept. 1956 – Aug. 1979

1956 * Yvonne Filion (Joseph Marie de l'Eucharistie) (Foundress)
1956   Hugette Veilette (Stanislas du Sacré-Cœur)
1956 * Helène Quenneville (Claude de l'Enfant Jésus)
1956 * Mary Dolores Shroeder (Marie Dolores of the Cross)
1959 * Irène Albert (Denise de l'Eucharistie)
1961 * Hélène Castonguay (Alberte de l'Assumption)
1961 * Dorothy Cire (Monica of the Precious Blood)
1963 * Joan Ellen Doherty (Ellen-Marie of the Visitation)
1963 *   Alice Deguire (Henri-Joseph de Jesus)
1964   Mary Adella Kohlman (Mary Agnes of Jesus)
1965 * Alice Guindon (Béatrice de l'Immaculée)
1965 * Marguerite Grandmaître (Gilberte du Rosaire)
1966 * Julienne Lescelleur (Marie Bernadette de l'Eucharistie)
1966   Helen Baier (Helen marie of the Eucharist)
1968 * Victoria Serré (Bernadette de Marie)
1969   Laurette Beaudry (Suzanne de Notre Dame)
1970   Mary Agnes Vogel (Mary Agnes of Jesus)
1972 * Marcelle Bernier (Marie-André)

* indicates deceased Sisters

Sisters of St. Martha

St. Peter's Hospital, Melville SK
1940-1980

When the Sisters of St. Martha went to Melville in 1940, Melville was a small town of 4000 people of a variety of nationalities. Melville's first hospital, erected in 1911, was a two-story building, owned by the town. In June 1940, Archbishop P.J. Monahan and the citizens of Melville requested the Sisters of St. Martha to take over the Melville Municipal Hospital. The hospital had fifteen beds, was poorly equipped and sorely neglected. Since the Sisters had arrived on the eve of the feasts of St. Peter & Paul (June 28), they officially named the hospital St. Peter's Hospital.

In February, 1941, discussions began with an architect to plan for a new building. The sisters received a cheque of $20,000 from the Motherhouse for the construction of a new building. At this time, government assistance did not exist for hospital construction. The financing was accomplished by issuing bonds, borrowing money, and trusting in Divine Providence. The final estimate on the cost of the building was $74,968. In spite of donations, the debt was not liquidated until 1958.

The new hospital had a fifty-five bed capacity. The old hospital was renovated and converted into a Nurses' Home. After renovations and cleaning, the small "engineer's" house became a residence for sisters. In 1944, St. Peter's received full accreditation, the first hospital in Saskatchewan to be recognized.

In February, 1979, because of the aging factor of the sisters and a decreasing membership, the decision was made to withdraw from St. Peter's Hospital. The Sisters of St. Martha withdrew on August 31, 1980, after 40 years of service in health care in Saskatchewan. From the opening in June 1940, until the first sisters left in 1980, fifty-eight different sisters of St. Martha had served at St. Peter's Hospital.

Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Pembroke

St. Joseph's Hospital, Lestock SK
1937-1981

The Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception was founded in Pembroke, Ontario in August, 1926, as the first and only Canadian English Community originating from the Grey Nuns of the Cross, Ottawa. All separate Communities stemmed from the Grey Nuns of Montreal, founded by St. Marguerite d'Youville, who was canonized in 1990, thereby becoming the "First Canadian-born Saint."

Following the charism of St. Marguerite, the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception embraced various services and ministries, wherever the need was established in Canada and beyond. So, it was in 1937, Archbishop Monahan of Regina approached our Superior General requesting Sisters to manage St. Joseph's Hospital in Lestock, a Health Centre of 20 beds opened in 1937 and managed under pioneer conditions. To answer this call, six founding Sisters were sent, arriving on June 4, 1937, to fulfill this important ministry to the people of Lestock and surrounding small settlements, including several Aboriginal reserves. The first hospital was a two-story home, originally the parish rectory, a gift of the pastor, Fr. J. A. Menard. The good people of Lestock were bereft of immediate professional health services, so, with the arrival of the Grey Sisters, their gratitude knew no bounds! The largest hospital was in Regina, ninety miles away, a difficult and almost impossible journey for the seriously sick and injured in those days.

The Sisters settled in on the upstairs floor of the hospital and immediately began their Ministry for the patients on the main floor. Water, for a time, was collected from a "well" in the town. As ten years went by, it became evident that more patient accommodation was needed. Thus a new wing was added in 1947 allowing for a total of forty patients. Diagnostic equipment was installed and x-ray and laboratory services as well. St. Joseph's provided a total range of health care, including surgical, medical, pediatrics, obstetrical and emergency services. The hospital was owned and operated by the Union Hospital District Board and managed by the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

Young girls and women from Lestock and the surrounding areas were hired and taught by the sisters, thus forging life-long friendships – extending even to this day! Their strong hands and kind hearts became indispensable to the patients and sisters. In those early days, the sisters worked twelve hours everyday, the RN's alternating on monthly night duty, always accompanied by one of our faithful nurses' aides. In winter women in labour who lived at a distance usually arrived in a vehicle called "Bombardier," which was an enclosed and heated sled. This was a blessing, considering the roads and the distance covered! No one complained – all was accepted with grace and gratitude!

In 1975, a new and updated St. Joseph's Hospital was built! Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception continued their ministry there until 1981. Due to the decreasing numbers and the aging process, they were recalled to Pembroke following forty-four years of faithful service. Tears were shed and sadness abounded as sisters bid a fond farewell, leaving the hospital in the capable hands of the Catholic Health Council. People of Lestock and area will always have a special place in the hearts of all Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception who ministered there over the years! The many sisters who served at St. Joseph's loved the people and were appreciated and loved in return!

Blessings and all good wishes for the future.

Sisters of Providence of Montreal

Notre Dame Hospital, North Battleford SK
1911-1966

The story of the Sisters of Providence in North Battleford goes back a hundred years, to 1911. The congregation of the Sisters of Providence was founded in Montréal in 1843. Their goal was to serve the poor and less fortunate, and they fulfilled this through their call to serve in hospitals, schools, and orphanages.

In 1910, the Sisters were invited to Saskatchewan by Father Paillé, parish priest of North Battleford, a town with a population of just over 2,000. The province was booming – the population had increased over 400% from 1901 to 1911 – and the region desperately needed a hospital, as the closest one was over 100 kilometers away in Saskatoon. The local newspaper boasted in December 1910 that North Battleford beat out fourteen other sites competing for a new hospital. Despite this, the local townspeople greeted the Sisters with indifference and even hostility, sentiments that would take years of work for the Sisters to overcome.

Two Sisters were recalled from Montana and arrived in North Battleford on June 19, 1911. The Sisters set up a temporary hospital with room for 20 patients in the Catholic rectory. The next day they received their first patient. Within a week, Notre Dame Hospital was over capacity, and during their first year, four more Sisters arrived and 200 patients were treated.

The city provided a parcel of land for a new hospital and the Sisters began to raise funds through begging for a new 65-bed hospital, which opened in September 1912. In 1922, the hospital was awarded standardization, though it lost its status in 1953, only to regain it in 1960. North Battleford, declared a city with a population of over 5,000 in 1913, quickly outgrew its new hospital, and by the 1930's and 1940's, overcrowding was so bad that the hallways and offices were lined with patients. The Sisters begged in Catholic and Protestant parishes and through the generous contributions of the townspeople, they raised $100,000. The rest of the funds, $800,000, were borrowed. The Ladies' Auxiliary and other individuals and organizations helped fundraise and furnished the hospital rooms and gather supplies. With the opening of two new wings in October 1948, the hospital's capacity grew to 130 beds.

By 1964 Notre Dame needed to expand again, but the Sisters were unable to provide the money or the staff for a larger hospital. The Sisters made the difficult decision to withdraw from North Battleford and hand over ownership to the Union Hospital District. After 55 years of service, the Sisters left in March 1966. The townspeople threw them a farewell banquet, and the Sisters left town with the gift of a new station wagon.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke

Santa Maria Senior Citizens' Home, Regina SK
1967-1986

In the early 1960's the Archdiocese of Regina recognized the need for facilities to provide care of senior citizens in southeastern Saskatchewan. The Knights of Columbus of Regina were approached to evaluate the need. The land on the southeast corner of Pasqua Street and Regina Avenue was selected as the location for the new Home to be named "Santa Maria Senior Citizens' Home".

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke agreed to operate the home. The title to the property was registered in the name of the Order. April 10, 1967 was the date of the sod-turning ceremony. The construction of the Home was completed in June 1968 at a cost of $1, 545,000.

Responsibility of the operation of Santa Maria was transferred to a fourteen member Board of Directors in 1981. The Sisters remained active within the Home with representation of the governing board. In January 1986 the Sisters transferred the title to the property back to the Archdiocese of Regina.

The Sisters were very much involved in ministry at Santa Maria in the areas of pastoral care, nursing, liturgical celebrations and recreation. Their presence was felt in all areas of care.

Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Pembroke

St. Anthony's Hospital, Esterhazy SK
1940-1989

In 1935, Archbishop Monahan of Regina, as well as the people of Esterhazy and surrounding areas, realized the need of a Sisters' Hospital in Esterhazy, SK. Since no hospital or medical centre existed within reasonable travelling distance, people with serious illnesses or accidents were required to travel by rail to Brandon or Winnipeg, a long and difficult journey, with no heat and many stops along the way.

Thus Archbishop Monahan began his endeavors to elicit interested religious orders, but found it to be a very difficult task to obtain a firm commitment. However, in January 1940, following much correspondence, he undertook a personal journey to the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Pembroke, and, returning to the west, was able to give the people great hope for success. After a few anxious weeks and many prayers word was received that the hospital would be built and managed by Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

The site for the hospital was donated by two pioneer families, so, in early July, through volunteer labor by the residents of Esterhazy and district, the basement was made ready for the contractor to begin.

On November 6, 1940 with much joy and enthusiasm, three Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception arrived at the hospital! Lunch was served on an improvised table made from a packing box and boards. The Sisters thoroughly enjoyed their first simple meal! Neighbors and townspeople, delighted and happy to at last have a hospital and sisters to manage it, brought many gifts of food. However, there was no water since the plumber forgot to return from Yorkton!! However, there was a good well and the people brought jars of water. Two more Sisters arrived on November 11 and the first patient was admitted November 25, although work on the building was still in progress.

Staff from the town and area were hired to assist the sisters, and a range of services were provided for the patients. The official opening took place on December 17, 1940 with 700 visitors attending. Soon, good news came in the form of a government grant to install much needed x-ray equipment. In addition to the hospital duties, the Sisters planted a garden and raised chickens and pigs to provide food for the patients and themselves.

January, 1947 brought the first real disaster in the form of a terrible snow storm! The result was no trains, no electricity, and a hospital full of patients to care for and keep from freezing. However, the Sisters and staff carried on in good faith and no harm came to anyone.

In 1962, the Community began to feel the impact of the local potash industry and it became apparent that a new and updated hospital was needed. Funds were raised and approval was obtained. The new 36 bed St. Joseph's Hospital opened on June 13, 1966. The old hospital became the Sisters' residence.

Years flew by – vocations decreased – and sisters aged, with no replacements available! Thus, in 1989 the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception transferred ownership to the Grey Nuns of Manitoba. Forty-nine sisters served at St. Anthony's Hospital over the period of fifty years. A farewell service was included in the celebration of June 18, 1989 marking the fifty years of service by the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Many tears were shed as friends came to say good-bye! Appreciation was evident in these words of the board chair: "The Sisters were more than owners – they were always someone to whom we could turn for help – someone who really cared."

Blessings on the people of Esterhazy, and the future of St. Anthony's Hospital!

Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough

St. Joseph's Hospital, Estevan SK
1938-1993

In 1938, Archbishop Monahan approached the General Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough with a double barrel request: he asked that the Congregation not only build but also staff 1-2 new hospitals in the Archdiocese of Regina. The response was immediate and in keeping with our charism of going where the need is greatest: this was the birth of St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan.

The promise of the Sisters coming to Estevan was an answer to the prayers of the people whose previous hospital had been destroyed by fire in 1936. The original St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan, a 40-bed, four-storey structure, was completed in only five and one-half months at a cost of $165,000, financed entirely by the Sisters. Things were much simpler and less expensive back then! Details of the opening ceremony on Saturday, November 26, 1938 were highlighted in the *'Estevan Mercury'* in these words:

> *This will be remembered as a prominent day in the annals of the town of Estevan. The promise of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough to erect a modern hospital in Estevan has been more than fulfilled, and far surpassed the expectations of almost everyone here today.*

During these years of depression, the Sisters soon realized that money was scarce. People often paid their bills in produce, meat and vegetables instead of cash. However, one does need some cash to operate a hospital. Sister Priscilla, the Mother Superior at the time, went to Regina to put her financial problem before Archbishop Monahan. He advised her to do what thousands in Saskatchewan were doing: go on relief! So, our Sisters went on relief and received $1 per day from the Provincial Government!

It soon became apparent that this 40-bed hospital was not enough to meet the mushrooming needs of Estevan and the surrounding area. By 1942, the pressures for additional accommodation could no longer be ignored. A small new wing was added to the north end of the hospital. In 1946, the Sisters assumed the responsibility of the Airport Hospital, named St. Joseph's Hospital Extension, and used this 45-bed facility for the care of the chronically ill whose treatment did not demand full hospital attention. This one year arrangement stretched into a ten year commitment! Additions continued to be added to St. Joseph's Hospital: in 1956, a new wing with 35 additional beds; in 1962, another 30 beds; in 1974, another expansion to improve medical services and increase the capacity of radiology and laboratory services.

In 1969, another historic step was initiated with the opening of a 12-bed Alcohol Treatment Centre on the 4th floor of the hospital. St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan was the first hospital in Saskatchewan to offer such treatment on an in-patient basis. 1988 marked the 50th anniversary of St. Joseph's Hospital. It also brought a commitment from the Sisters for the construction of a new 'state of the art' hospital. In 1991, a new 140-bed St. Joseph's Hospital held its grand opening. In 1993, after 55 years of service to the citizens of Estevan, the Sisters of St. Joseph left their beloved hospital in the capable hands of the Saskatchewan Catholic Health Corporation. Our treasured memories remain with us to this day!

Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke

Radville Community Hospital/Marion Home, Radville SK
1946-1981

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph was originally founded at Le Puy, France, on October 15, 1650. The Congregation grew rapidly and spread throughout France. During the Revolution of 1789 the convents were closed and many Sisters suffered imprisonment and death. In 1836 the first Sisters came to America, and in 1851 the first Canadian Foundation was made at Toronto. In 1890, a foundation was made at Peterborough, and from there in 1921 at the request of Bishop Ryan, a separate community to serve the diocese of Pembroke was established. The first mission in western Canada began in Radville Saskatchewan in 1946.

In 1942 the members of the Radville Board of Trade recognized the need of Hospital Facilities for the Town of Radville and the surrounding district. A Hospital Committee was formed in March of that year with. Mr. W. A. McIlrath as Chairman and Father E.A. Yandeau as a member of this Committee. In May 1946 at the request of Father E.A. Yandeau to Archbishop Monohan, Sister Magdalen, Superior General, and Sister Gertrude came to consult with the members of the Hospital Committee. As a result of this meeting on July 25, 1946, Rev. Mother Magdalen, accompanied by five Sisters, (Sister St. Anne, Sister Monica, Sister Bernadine and Sister Mary Joseph) arrived in Regina.

Fr. Yandeau gave his parish residence to the Sisters from where they set up their first hospital. Here was provided seven beds, a nursery, an office (which also contained a bed), bathroom facilities, an emergency O.R., or case room and a small kitchen. Living quarters for the Sisters were arranged in the parish hall. A water system had been installed and other facilities provided. On July 30, five days after their arrival the Sisters admitted their first patient. On July 31, Mrs. Paul Laliberty gave birth to a son, named Joseph.

Meanwhile plans were begun to build a modern hospital with residence for the Sisters. The Sisters staffed and operated the hospital.

This new hospital was formally opened on October 6, 1948. More than 1,200 people attended. Guest speaker was Archbishop M.C. O'Neill of Regina.

Father Yandeau, Parish Priest of Holy Family Parish, initiated steps, which led to the formation of Radville Community Hospital and Marian Home. In 1954, the Radville Housing Committee, realized the pressing need for adequate housing for senior citizens and nursing units for bedridden not requiring active hospital care, built Marian Home. The Sisters of St. Joseph came to their aid by volunteering to staff and operate a Home for the aged, volunteered to manage, staff and advance the major portion of financing necessary to construct an adequate Home to shelter and care for our aged and infirm. A great need of the people in this area was fulfilled. Dedicated nurses and doctors have used their skills in caring for the people in this town and the surrounding area. The first residents were admitted to Marian Home February 6, 1956. At the time of the official opening of the Home, April 18, 1956, there were thirty-five residents. One grateful former patient stated, "The Hospital is a Heaven on earth filled with angels."

Marian Home received Accreditation status in 1975. In 1976 negotiations began for an addition to Marian Home, in order to develop space for activities, recreation, chapel, and lounge. Early in 1977 work began and in December of the same year seniors moved into the new addition.