



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. Joseph's Hospital: 1938-1942
The Love of Christ Has Gathered Us Together
Estevan, Saskatchewan

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The Love of Christ
Has Gathered Us
Together



St. Joseph's Hospital, Estevan, Saskatchewan

1938 - 1942

This book, "A History of St. Joseph's Hospital", is a gift to the Sisters of St. Joseph, from the citizens of Estevan and the surrounding areas, through the Appreciation Event.

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THE HOSPITAL ...

St. Joseph's Hospital, at Estevan, was dedicated and opened officially on November 26, 1938.

However, before that ceremonial milestone was reached, something more than two years of exploratory efforts, preparatory work and discussions were experienced.

The community efforts to secure a suitable hospital facility for the town were directed almost solely by the Estevan Board of Trade. The efforts were enthusiastic, but sometimes frustrating and disappointing, although always bolstered by hopefulness and vision.

After some unproductive and false starts along other routes, the Board's three-man Committee of Mayor David Bannatyne, W.J. Perkins, K.C., and Walter H. Schlosser, directed their efforts along the road of full participation by a nursing order of the Roman Catholic Church.

By mid-1936, only a few months after the fire had destroyed the then-existing hospital facility in the town, the Board Committee's plans and supplications attracted the interest of Archbishop P. J. Monohan of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina. He, in turn, enlisted the offices of the Order of St. Joseph, of Peterborough, Ontario.

Within a year, discussions had reached the point of being on a dollar-and-cents basis, but these were not without setbacks from time to time.

For example, in June, 1937, the Town of Estevan, whose elected council was anxious to give financial support to the proposed hospital project, found it could not get permission from the Local Government Board of the Province of Saskatchewan to issue a debenture under a town bylaw to provide \$6,000 over a five-year period.

Similarly, the LGB would not permit the town to take money from an electric light fund to provide a grant to help build the proposed hospital.

The problem was that some previously-issued debentures of the town were outstanding and had not been paid on their due dates because, like every other urban centre in the province at that time, the money was not available. The LGB just would not permit Estevan or any other urban centre to increase its debenture debt for any reason whatever.

But, the knowledgeable and resourceful people of Estevan came up with another idea which worked. The town council prepared a bylaw to provide an annual grant of \$1,200 a year over a period of five years. The bylaw was approved in July, 1937, and the following spring, with the help of some intensive campaigning done by the Board of

Trade among provincial politicians, the provincial government passed a special act of the Legislature to ratify the town's bylaw.

At the same time, service club organizations including the Estevan Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Board of Trade, pledged themselves to raise an additional \$1,300 a year over the five-year period.

As well, other groups, such as the Estevan Chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, the German-Canadian Club, the Jewish community of Estevan and the Catholic Club, as well as several individual residents of the town, pledged support, some evidence of which is apparent in the plaques displayed on the doors of various wards in the hospital.

While there had been some hope in the minds of the planners and promoters of the hospital project that it could be built by late 1937, this was not to be.

Despite the fact that Estevan had continued, even through the difficult years of the 1930's to benefit materially from the busy lignite coal mining operations in the area, the agricultural economy still was in a shaky position because of the prolonged drought and depressed grain prices on world markets.

However, the Sisters of St. Joseph persisted in their efforts and plans and early in 1938 they awarded a construction contract to Poole Construction Limited, of Regina, in an amount of \$100,000 to cover costs of a 40-bed hospital.

One of the final steps in the financing for the project was a loan



Sister Priscilla

secured by the Sisters of Peterborough from the Royal Bank of Canada, in Regina, in the amount of \$80,000. The Sisters obtained the loan on their assurance it would be paid off in two years by funds to be raised by the Order, either by bond issue or by private loans.

Plans for the hospital which finally was built had been altered and upgraded from the original idea of a 37-bed hospital estimated to cost \$70,000.

When all the costs finally were totalled, the original St. Joseph's Hospital at Estevan had acquired expenditures of \$165,000.

The final site selected for the hospital, at the northwest corner of Fourteenth Street and First Avenue, was not the one originally proposed. That one had been in the park area on the west side of Twelfth Avenue just south of First Street, and had by a geodetic survey bench mark located in the park area which shows the city's location to be 49° 51' 30" North latitude and 102° 59' 50" West longitude at an altitude of 1862' 13".

It is a matter of record that it took only five and one-half months to build the original 40-bed, four-storey hospital structure, from the turning of the first sod until the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph took possession and put the facility into operation. That has never been duplicated in any sense.

A number of factors were regarded as contributing to this kind of time accomplishment. It was a "cash on the barrelhead contract", handled by a widely-based contracting firm, working with plans prepared by the architectural firm of Van Egmond and Storey, of Regina, aided by an uninterrupted flow of building materials and equipment, and utilizing a large amount of Estevan's own skilled and experienced construction workers and tradesmen. A name that figures prominently in the records of the project is that of the late John Phillips, a long-time Estevan builder and stonemason, who was employed by Poole Construction as local superintendent on the hospital project.

As construction progressed on the hospital, the Peterborough headquarters of the Order of St. Joseph made its initial move in the matter of staffing the facility.

The first little band of three Sisters of the Order arrived in Estevan in August, 1938, to carry out preparatory organization work for full-scale operation of the hospital.

The three were Sister Priscilla, who soon became the first Mother Superior of the Hospital, Sister Edna and Sister Rosanne.

Initially they lived with Mr. and Mrs. James Loughlin, who had lived in Peterborough before they came to Estevan as early residents.

Later, but before the hospital facility was completed, they lived in a convent which had been occupied by the Sisters of Forget who had taught school. The convent later was taken over by the Sisters of Loretto, a teaching order.

Sister Priscilla quickly became a part of the community. She paid daily visits to the building site to watch the progress being made, dealt with representatives of suppliers of equipment, talked to doctors and nurses who shortly were to form the hospital staff, and still found



Sister Priscilla

time to spend with the people and organizations of Estevan concerned with the hospital.

As one recorder of facts put it, "her public relations were excellent".

Sister Edna is described as a selfless pioneer at "home making", always cheery and with a contagious laugh, happy to be of service wherever it was needed.

Sister Rosanne was supervisor of food services, a job that required considerable advance planning. Her initial staff consisted of one cook, Mrs. Alex Ott, and four helpers who were trained on the job. At that time, and for some time into the following period, for example, dish and pot washing was done by hand.

The Sisters, and their initial staff took over the hospital operation in late September, 1938, and within two months had things moving smoothly enough that it was considered to be an "operational" unit, ready for an official opening ceremony.

Just prior to that ceremony, they had been joined by the first two Nursing Sisters who served in the hospital, Sister Eileen and Sister St. Ida.

RED LETTER DAY

Estevan always has had an on-going love affair with such milestones as official openings, official sod-turnings, official ribbon cuttings, official cheque presentations and the like, be they corner-store openings, or commissionings of 300,000 kilowatt electric generating stations, or anything in between.

There is no doubt this all stemmed from the feeling that the southeastern corner of the province was sort of "out in right field" in the larger area of provincial affairs and anything which demonstrated growth and progress merited full community support and recognition.

The official opening of St. Joseph's Hospital, thus, became a "red letter" event in the annals of the town, representing acquisition of a permanent and major facility which raised the stature and the permanency of the community several steps.

A story in the December 1, 1938, issue of The Estevan Mercury, the community's weekly newspaper, written by Donald M. Dunbar, then editor, told about the event. It said:

"Witnessed by interested spectators numbering in the hundreds and officiated by distinguished representatives of church and state, the beautiful, new hospital, erected under the auspices of the Nursing Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph was formally launched on its mission of mercy last Saturday afternoon (November 26, 1938).

"Sharing the honours in the opening ceremony were His Excellency Archbishop (P.J.) Monohan, Hon. J.M. Urich, Minister of



D. Bannatyne, Sr.

Public Health, His Worship Mayor David Bannatyne, and W.H. Schlosser, President of the Board of Trade.

"At the conclusion of the formalities, a reception took place with the ladies of St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary as hostesses.

"Saturday long will be remembered as a prominent day in the annals of the Town of Estevan, for it marked the opening of the \$100,000 nursing and medical institution which will provide this community and a wide surrounding territory with facilities unsurpassed in this province.

"Over 1,200 names appeared on the guests' register and the messages from the principal speakers were brought to the crowd throughout the building by means of a public address system.

"First speaker of the day, W.H. Schlosser, welcomed those in charge of the institution on behalf of the business houses of Estevan and district.

"The promise of the Sisters of St. Joseph to erect a modern hospital in Estevan had been more than fulfilled, he claimed, and far surpassed the expectations of almost every spectator.

"In St. Joseph's Hospital he saw an outstanding addition to the better health services of southern Saskatchewan.

"Welcome of St. Joseph's Hospital to the medical and hospital facilities of this province by Hon. J.M. Urich brought forth glowing praise for those religious organizations who have taken a leading role in this field down through the ages.

"The speaker noted with pleasure that the first hospitals and schools for the training of nurses to make their appearance on the North American continent were founded in the cities of Montreal and Quebec.

"While he was fully aware that, primarily, hospitals were for the purpose of treating and caring for the ill, providing a base for medical research and the training of physicians and surgeons, the speaker specifically asked his audience to bear in mind the thought that such could only be accomplished in a high degree through the co-operation of all concerned.

IN EARLIER DAYS

Nearly a score of years passed before Estevan successively as a frontier settlement, a village and then a town, knew the first elements of formal hospital facilities.

Estevan was established as a settlement, in advance of the arrival of a railroad, in the Northwest Territories district of Assiniboia, in the spring of 1892.

The lignite coal resources of the area were well-known by that time and the early settlers used the fuel for their heating needs, scooping the coal out of "gopher holes" in the banks of the Souris River and various tributary coulees. Scars of these operations still are visible at many locations around the city today.

Estevan attained the then enviable status of a village on September 1, 1899, by authority of the government of the Northwest Territories.

At that time the medical care side of life was provided professionally by Dr. E. H. Scott.

The flourishing village was established as a town in March, 1906, and one of the first official appointments made was that of Dr. R. H. Taylor to the position of medical health officer, a duty which had not been required under the village form of civic government.

And, one of the first official acts taken by the new town council in the area of health matters was to provide a new road across the Souris River valley south of the Townsite to avoid the questionable aroma from the town's nuisance ground.

It was not until about 1910 that Estevan, then a busy town, received its first formal hospital care facility.

Prior to that the people of the town and district simply followed the pattern of the early years in the opening and development of the Western region.

This was the era when the visionary pioneers spearheaded the railways, then the only practical means of communication and supply.

They were hardy, healthy and ambitious people who were young and physically strong with some elementary knowledge of how to deal effectively, for the most part, with health problems.

Only rarely was any professional medical aid available immediately. The pioneers relied on home remedies, occasionally some trained and practical nursing experience, grandmother's remedies and prayer. They won some; they lost some.

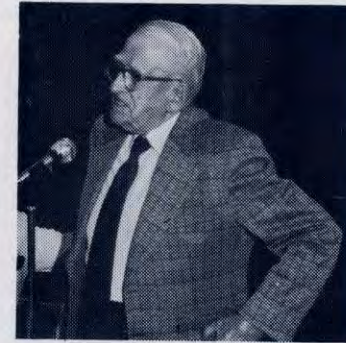
The down-to-earth basics of health care, which could have included Saskatoonberry and chokecherry extracts and poultices have been replaced by antibodies, blood banks, computerized diagnosis, anaesthesia, advanced medical knowledge and nursing care along with the lone remaining pioneer element of prayer.

In the early pioneer days, and even in later years, the hospitalization of the sick was the equivalent of the now fostered "home-care" program. It was done in the home by family members, sometimes helped by a neighbour or two who may have had some previously acquired amateur or professional experience.

Those were the days "house call" by doctors to homes, boarding places or hotels where diagnoses were made, treatment and prescriptions set out and even minor surgery done on the kitchen or dining room table, with gallons of boiling water made available.

What few serious cases arose among the Estevan residents were transported by train to Brandon, Manitoba, or Minot, North Dakota, where relatively extensive hospital care and treatment facilities were available.

On some occasions, trained nurses were brought into Estevan from Brandon or Minot for specific cases.



Mayor Nicholson Speaking at the Appreciation Event

Harry Nicholson, an Estevan resident since 1908, and mayor of the town and later, the city, for more than a quarter of a century, recalls a couple of occasions when nurses from Minot were brought to Estevan to care for victims of disease epidemics.

"There were a number of young fellows around town, like myself, who were called in to look after the patients during the night while the nurses got some rest," he recalls.

"Nurses in those days were not on an eight-hour day. The nurses who came from Minot were young and good-looking and it always was quite easy to get some of the local boys to volunteer for night duty," he adds.

A smallpox epidemic hit the village of Estevan in 1908-09 and to provide a location for patient treatment, the village purchased the Wm. Marten house for \$250. It was sold three years later for \$3, a price that reflected the reputation the premises had gained when serving as "a pest house".

At that same time, the village council provided what could be regarded as a forerunning step for government-provided medical care facilities which came half a century later.

Vaccination against the disease was compulsory but not always done until required by an outbreak of the disease.

Estevan village council decided to ensure a community-wide immunization, the village would pay for the vaccine for those who were unable or unwilling to pay for it themselves.

THE FIRST TASTES

Estevan had its introduction to hospital care services shortly after Dr. Jim Creighton came to the town to join in a medical practice with his brother, Dr. William Creighton, in 1910.

The Drs. Creighton had their offices in second-floor premises of business block on Fourth Street in downtown Estevan. They employed two receptionists who were registered nurses.

At nearly the same time a Nurse Morrison opened a privately-operated hospital in what was then known as the Evenden home on Fourth Street, again with two and sometimes three nurses on staff.

Another name mentioned occasionally in regard to initial hospital facilities in Estevan is that of Miss Ella Rondeau.

The world wide epidemic of what was then labelled Spanish influenza, late in 1918, had the side effect of causing the people of Estevan to recognize there was a need for larger and more modern hospital facilities than those offered by the private operations.

A considerable amount of discussion took place between the town of Estevan and three neighbouring rural municipalities on a plan to build a new hospital facility. This was decades before the idea became a province-wide operative and popular one, in the form of "Union" hospitals in Saskatchewan.

However, when the proposal was presented to the ratepayers of the civic organizations involved, in the form of money bylaw plans, to authorize the borrowing of necessary funds, they defeated the idea.



Creighton and Walsh Hospital, 1934

Hospital services, therefore, continued on the private operation basis until 1924 when Drs. J. F. Creighton and Walsh purchased the old Delight Theatre building on Fifth Street, from the town, enlarged it by adding a wing to provide a 15 to 18-bed hospital facility that was as up-to-date as almost any elsewhere at the time.

However, although it was considered to be a considerable improvement on previous facilities, it was still operated on a private basis, and was not regarded fully as a good arrangement for other doctors practising in the town.

A fire in February, 1936, always described as "disastrous" starting in the nearby Clarendon Hotel, spread to the hospital premises and destroyed all but the new wing.

The doctors moved into rooms on the second floor of the Creighton Building, on Twelfth Avenue, above the Princess Cafe and provided a "temporary" nursing facility.

Talk along "coffee row" over a succession of months following the fire and the move of the doctors, centered increasingly on the subject of hospital facilities. The topic often was judiciously planted in the informal discussions until community interest grew to a point where some planning seemed to be desirable.

Action on the widely-recognized community need began in 1936 when three of Estevan's many community-minded citizens took on the task of developing formal public support for the financing and building of a hospital for Estevan.

The three were Mayor David Bannatyne, an insurance agent, W. J. Perkins, K.C., a lawyer, and Walter H. Schlosser, general manager of the Dominion Electric Power Company, of Estevan.



Mr. Perkins

They, and others working with them, looked at a number of options, including again the possibility of establishing the "union" hospital concept involving several rural municipalities surrounding the town, or adjacent to it.

Again, the idea did not get on the tracks, because of a definite and apparent lack of enthusiasm about it outside of the town limits. It was the time of the "dirty thirties" and the lack of hard cash was an insurmountable difficulty.

At the same time some unofficial inquiries and probings had been made into the possibilities of getting some outside-the-town interests involved in providing a hospital facility for Estevan.

The results were sufficiently encouraging to prompt the "committee" of three to make a direct approach to Archbishop P. J. Monahan of the Roman Catholic Church Archdiocese of Regina, seeking the assistance of a Nursing Order of the Church.

A host of letters, telephone calls, and meetings followed and Archbishop Monahan, rather quickly, was able to advise the Estevan community that the Sisters of St. Joseph, of Peterborough, Ontario, were interested in the proposal.

In effect, at that point, the diagnosis had been made and the curative treatment prescribed.

A CAMEO

Estevan's town council of six councillors and a mayor, with the town clerk as the sole representative of the municipal government's supporting staff, was working its democratically slow way through a standard and relatively uninspiring agenda at a regular council meeting.

It was a quiet, soft, Estevan kind of Indian-summer night outside the council chamber, which, during daytime hours, served as the town hall main office. The routine deliberations of town council in their meeting reflected the outdoors climate.

On the south wall, flanked by framed photographs of former mayors of the town, was a school classroom type of eight-day, spring-operated, Seth Thomas clock. It ticked off the seconds of passing time in an hypnotic regularity with a solid sound that sometimes could be heard above the quiet discussions of the matters and questions of business going on around the council's meeting table.

In much the same kind of regularity, the routine business of the council proceeded according to an established plan, just as it had on many previous occasions, and would again on many more future occasions.

A new street light for an outlying street intersection was approved. A new water-draining culvert was carefully sited at a suitable spot underneath a new graded road. A report from the town clerk on

the current position of town tax collections was accepted with no more than a couple of murmured comments. An accumulation of correspondence, relating to town business matters which had not, or could not have been handled prior to the meeting, was presented. Some items were ordered filed, as being for "information only". Others were referred to specific committees of council for future action. A couple were turned over to the mayor's office for standard replies.

Mayor David Bannatyne, at the head of the council table, picked up his copy of the typed agenda for the meeting and said: "the next item of business is delegations and we have one and only one to deal with tonight."

He glanced to his left toward a row of hard, wooden chairs on the sidelines against the wall underneath the Seth Thomas clock where one person had been sitting throughout the entire proceedings. He nodded and commented quietly, with just a touch of an accent that conjured up images of heather-covered braes, "sorry to keep you waiting, but it is your turn now".

A conservatively and neatly dressed young woman, pleasant in appearance and obviously in total command of herself and the situation, rose gracefully and confidently, and approached the council table.

In other settings at other times she could have been a business executive, an advertising account manager, a lawyer, an accountant, a recognized economist, a university professor.

In effect, she was something of all of these, as well as a competently persuasive salesman and an accomplished public relations expert, who had a product she was convinced the town of Estevan needed and which she and her associates could supply. In fact, the process of supply was already under way.



Left to Right — S. Agnita, S. Ursula, S. Mary Fitzgerald, Sr., Loyola
S. Priscilla, S. Patricia Hogan

She was Sister Priscilla, a member of the Order of St. Joseph, a Roman Catholic Church Order of Nursing Sisters, bases at Peterborough, Ontario, and dedicated to the care of all and everyone needing the administrations of the Florence Nightingale professions.

After a minimum of formal greeting, she presented, clearly, logically, effectively and without a waste of words or one of Seth Thomas's precious seconds, an array of facts which, in the "jet" age, would bear the label "Progress Report".

Her presentation told of the advancement being made on a major community service project which had been a matter of much concern for many years on the part of the town council, the Estevan Board of Trade, and most, if not all, of the town's 1,500 residents.

Council heard the report, asked a few questions to which they already knew the answers, were assured no money was being sought, and that the St. Joseph's Hospital construction project was on track, on time and without any major problems.

A motion of thanks for the report was formulated quickly and just as quickly passed and put into the record. The meeting was adjourned.

A few council members left to go home. Some turned west along Fourth Street to a cafe for a cup of coffee.

Sister Priscilla walked a block and a half to the Loretto Convent and went into the small chapel. She noted it was nearly midnight. Tomorrow was another day and it would start in less than six hours.

But, there was always time for a little prayer.

THE ORDER OF ST. JOSEPH

The Sisters of St. Joseph and their general hospital operation in Estevan have been a significant part of the community for close to half a century.

It is a reality that when the first mention of the Nursing Order was made in Estevan back in the "dirty thirties", some, if not many of the 1,500 people of the coal mining town asked or thought "What" or "Who"?

However, that position changed quickly and today the Sisters of St. Joseph and their hospital are as much and as well-known a part of Estevan as is the corner of Fourth Street and Twelfth Avenue.

But, the Estevan experience of the Order, in comparison to its total scale of life, is relatively short, though vital.

The Order of St. Joseph was established in France, in the mid 17th century, or more than 300 years ago. Today it is world-wide in its service work operations and it has many tens of thousands of Sisters involved in the Order's teaching and nursing roles, in addition to providing care for orphans and the aged.

The first group of Sisters of the Order came to North America in 1836, arriving in St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A., but it was not until 1851 that the Order expanded its work into Canada, coming first to Toronto, Ontario.

It was from there the Order established itself in Peterborough, Ontario to open a hospital there and then to move later with hospitals at Parry Sound, North Bay and Port Arthur, all in Ontario.



Mother House of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Peterborough, Ontario

The Sisters of The Order of St. Joseph came to Estevan upon invitation, and opened their hospital in 1938. Many of the Order's Sisters have worked in Estevan during the succeeding years, and several have had two tours of duty.

Those who have held the position of Administrator have been Sister Priscilla, Sister Scholastica, Sister Marie Paul, Sister St. Maurice, Sister Mary Esther, Sister Loretto (Mary Fitzgerald), Sister Therese Roddy.

Sisters who have served with the Order at St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan, and their years of service are:

- Sister Priscilla, 1938-1944 and 1959-1965.
- Sister St. Ida, 1938-1944.
- Sister Alexandrine, 1938-1943.
- Sister Rosanne, 1938-1948 and 1974-
- Sister Edna, 1938-1948 (deceased 1966).
- Sister Edwina, 1939-1940 (deceased 1976).
- Sister Bernadette, 1942-1943

Sister Carmella, 1939-1940.
 Sister Marie Paul, 1940-1953.
 Sister Eileen, 1940-1946 (deceased 1946).
 Sister Mary Isaih, 1940-1944 (deceased 1944).
 Sister Scholastica, 1944-1954 (deceased 1958).
 Sister Thelma Sinclair (Maris Stella), 1944-1951.
 Sister Emmanuel, 1944-1957 and 1973-1976
 Sister Gonzago, 1944-1946 (deceased 1956).
 Sister Anacleta, 1946-1957.
 Sister Mary Lonergan (Monica), 1946-1956.
 Sister Elizabeth Marie, 1947-1956 & 1970-
 Sister Francesca, 1947-1952.
 Sister St. Oswald (Margaret Allen) 1948-1957.
 Sister St. Cajetan, 1948-1956.
 Sister St. David, 1948-1957, (deceased 1969).
 Sister Sheila, 1950-1962.
 Sister Claudia, 1952-1953 & 1957-1963.
 Sister St. Maurice, 1953-1956.
 Sister Mary Louise, 1953-1954.
 Sister Martina, 1954-1955, (deceased 1958).
 Sister Agnita, 1954-1965, (deceased 1976).
 Sister St. Thomas, 1951-1956 & 1974-1976.
 Sister Brigid Todd (Benita), 1955-1960
 Sister St. Dominic (Gabriel Kelly), 1955-1959.
 Sister Helen Bennett (Mary Florence), 1956-1957.
 Sister Imelda Blais (Mary Carmel), 1956-1957.
 Sister Mary Esther, 1956-1959 (deceased 1965).
 Sister St. Leonard (Jean Rooney), 1957-1968.
 Sister Ursuline, 1957-1958.
 Sister Noella, 1957-1973.
 Sister E. Ludwig, (Sr. St. Stephen), 1957-1968 & 1981-
 Sister Doloretta, 1957-1967, (deceased 1967).
 Sister Margaret Mary, 1958-1964.
 Sister Frances Marie, 1958-1959.
 Sister Mary Connelly (Constance), 1960-1963.
 Sister Ellamae Boyer (Cyrilla), 1960-1969.
 Sister Pauline Twerdoelib (Rose Marie), 1960-
 Sister Aloysius (Margaret Amyotte), 1960-1966.
 Sister Mary Fitzgerald (Loretto), 1963-1979
 Sister June Nash (Immaculata), 1965-1969 & 1970-1973
 Sister Patricia Hogan (St. Agnes), 1965-1970 & 1979-
 Sister Anne Rajotte, (Ann Louise), 1966-1968 & 1970-
 Sister Hope Corkery, Sr. Patricia, 1966-1971 & 1976-
 Sister Lucille Cavanagh (Mary Patrick), 1967-1970 & 1973-1981
 Sister Lois Pinkerton, 1969-1973.

Sister Loretta Kirwan (St. Martin), 1970-1976.
 Sister Therese Roddy, 1970-1971 & 1976-
 Sister Eileen McManus, 1971-1973.
 Sister Frances Baker, 1971-1974.
 Sister Ruth Gosselin, 1974-1975.
 Sister Anne Scully, 1974-1975.
 Sister Sandra Boyer, 1975-1976 & 1979-
 Sister Elizabeth Stephens, 1976-
 Sister Shirley McGovern, 1972-1976.
 Sister Mary Ellen, 1977-
 Sister Beatrice Andrews, 1977-
 Sister Josephine Werry, 1978-1981

THE ADDITIONS

Although the 40-bed hospital provided a facility previously unknown or even anticipated for Estevan and district, it soon became apparent it was not enough to meet the mushrooming demand for hospital patient care.



Left to Right — Sr. Lucille Garvey, Sr. St. Maurice, Sr. Patricia Hogan, S. Ellamae Boyer

Sisters who were part of the hospital staff in the first few years of the operation of St. Joseph's Hospital, recall that although they did what they could with what they had, it was soon realized that more facilities in every department were needed.

One of the Sisters, putting her thoughts on paper, wrote "when patients took ill they just landed at the hospital whether they had seen a doctor or not. Most of the time they needed hospital care badly and they were not turned away because there were no other hospitals near-by to go to as was the case in later years."

With the 40-bed capacity of the new hospital completely utilized, the additional patients were put in hallways often, while extra beds were squeezed in "here and there".

But, patient accommodation was not the only problem facing the Sisters of St. Joseph and the hospital in the first, difficult year.

There was the continuing Great Depression of the 1930's, continuing drought affecting agricultural production, many wartime restrictions and rationings resulting from Canada's all-out effort during the years of the Second World War, and, unfortunately, an active element of opposition to the hospital. This latter, however, has long ago disappeared.

Still, the hospital survived, aided by promises of financial help from many organizations and individuals, a more-than-active Hospital Auxiliary whose membership was an early recognizable cross-section of the community, and an Advisory Board, all volunteers.

There are many recollections to be made about the infant years of the hospital. One such is that lignite coal, indigenous to the area, was burned in the kitchen stoves and no matter how much was used the coal supply, like the legend of The Miraculous Pitcher, never was in a critical state.

"One didn't always look "just so" because of the black smudges that seemed to take over so easily," one of the Sisters recalls.

It is also remembered that the spirit of service on the part of the early staff members was "great". Extra jobs, like pickling and preserving fruits and vegetables, and cleaning bags of Prairie Chickens and domestic fowl, brought in by benefactors, had to be attended to after the regular day's work was done.

One of those benefactors especially remembered from the early years of the hospital's existence is the late Ruby Gleiser, now a legend in Estevan as a community and a human rights worker without parallel and recognized as a strong political force in the community as well.

By 1942 the pressures for additional accomodation could no longer be ignored or pushed aside as a problem that could be deferred.

In that year a small, new wing was added to the north end of the hospital to provide for an isolation ward, a children's ward, a larger laundry and sufficient beds to bring the total hospital capacity up to 60 beds, not including bassinets.

While this addition did, in effect, provide some room "proverbially to swing a proverbial cat," it, again, was not enough to satisfy patient demands.

A newly-vacated hospital facility at the Estevan Airport became available to St. Joseph's Hospital in 1946 and its 45-bed capacity was used for several years for the care of chronically ill people whose treatment did not demand the kind of full hospital treatment intended for patients who were in need of such care.



Sister Marie Paul — One Winters Day at the Airport Hospital

The hospital facility was part of the establishment built at the Estevan Airport when it was initially established during the Second World War as No. 38 Service Flying Training School under the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. The Plan, with hundreds of installations across Canada, had been set up to train members of the air force of the various members of the British Commonwealth of Nations and many of the allied nations engaged in Second World War operations.

When the Sisters of St. Joseph took over the use of the hospital building at the airport, soon after, much of the former Royal Air Force station had been turned over to the Town of Estevan by the federal government, the facility was given the name of Airport Extension to St. Joseph's Hospital. It was much more familiarly known around Estevan as The Airport Hospital.

But, the bare building had to be furnished and, again, there was a considerable amount of scurrying around and searching for beds, chairs, tables, lamps and all of the other "pins and needles" that go to make a hospital facility useful and effective.



Sister Monica, Sister Scholastica, Sister Rosanne, Sister S. Thomas, Sister Elizabeth Marie

While it was near-idyllic during the lazy, hazy days of summer and early fall, the location, away from the town, did present some problems, especially during the winters. It was not at all unknown for visitors from the hospital to town, or visitors from town to the hospital, to be stranded for a day or two in each location as a result of blizzard conditions, despite some heroic efforts to keep the road open, especially for ambulance and fire department uses.



The Airport Hospital which received a prize for the Landscaping in 1949, Richard Johner being the Gardner

Further expansion to the hospital plant came on August 10, 1954, when a new central stores facility was put into use after having been built adjacent to the main hospital building. While this did not provide any new beds, or other patient care facilities in the ordinary sense, it provided a central control and central supply of everything used in the hospital for patient and staff care and use.

MORE AND MORE

During any period of community growth and expansion, services, such as those provided by a hospital, come under increasingly heavy pressure as demands grow in what often seems to be a daily doubling.

It was this kind of pressure, pyramiding in the early 1950's, that led to construction of a new wing to St. Joseph's Hospital. The addition, in effect doubled the total working capacity of the original hospital.

The new wing, opened with traditional Estevan ceremony on May 12, 1956, increased the rated capacity of the hospital to 75 beds and provided space for hospital services which had become overtaxed and cramped.

On the dollar side, the new wing cost an estimated \$597,000 of which a small fraction of \$96,000 in grants was provided by the provincial government. The balance of \$501,000 was financed by the Sisters of St. Joseph. It was noted in the records that the government grant was the first financial help the hospital had ever received for construction purposes.

Besides the additional bed capacity, the new wing provided a new Maternity Ward, a new Nursery with advanced models of bassinets which were color-coded pink for girls and blue for boys, a new X-ray Department with newest equipment available, a considerably expanded Laboratory designed and equipped to meet medical care demands, and some open space which allowed the increased staff the luxury of some freedom of movement and arm-stretching.



Left to Right — Sr. Noella, Sr. Ellamae, Sr. Priscilla, Sr. Helen, Sr. Pauline, Sr. Agnita

Second Row Left to Right — Sr. Elizabeth Ludwig, Sr. Mary Fitzgerald, and Sr. Jean Rooney

The new wing presented a sort of spectacular departure from the traditional stark, white, cold patient rooms. The new rooms showed touches of color in draperies, furnishings and lighting to provide more "home-like" surroundings for patients. Experience in other hospitals had proven that the psychology involved had considerable therapeutic value.

Another facility provided, for the first time in the total hospital plant, was that of piped-in oxygen into each new room, a life-supporting and life-saving development which had been dreamed of for many years.

The addition, while relatively large and an important forward step in the chronic game of "catch up" did much to meet the demands for hospital services which had developed earlier as a result of the explosive growth of Estevan's "oil patch" and its electric power production facilities, including expansion of lignite coal mining facilities.

But, it soon became apparent the end to expansion was not in sight, if, indeed, it ever will be.

Again, increasing demands for hospital services, coming from an ever-widening community, put pressure on the hospital and a need for more beds and facilities became imperative.

Accordingly, in May 1964, another new wing was opened. It provided an additional 30 beds with expanded service areas for X-ray Department, Emergency Services, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Recovery Room, Operating Rooms, Central Supply, Medical Records and the vital power plant.

At the same time a new residence for the Sisters and a new Chapel were built and some face-lifting was done for the older parts of the hospital.

It was on this occasion, for the first time in the hospital's exciting history, that the citizens of Estevan became involved directly in the provision of funds for construction costs.

The new wing cost \$705,378, of which Estevan service clubs and individuals provided \$72,591. The federal and provincial governments came through with grants totalling \$379,757 and the Rural Municipality of Estevan granted \$2,800. The Sisters came up with \$222,820.

The City of Estevan presented the hospital with an outright grant of \$100,000 for "past services", but this was somehow transferred later by the provincial government, without the hospital's knowledge, and ended up in 1973 as a provincial grant.

The City also gave \$6,500 for new equipment and for the same purpose the Rural Municipality of Estevan added \$2,400. Estevan business firms contributed another \$9,505 for equipment and the Order of St. Joseph gave an additional \$26,876.

But, there was still more to come and again in May, this time in 1974, another 4,000 square feet of space was added to the hospital to provide for satisfaction of increased demands for hospital services.

A \$400,000 addition did not increase the bed capacity of the institution but did provide extra and needed space and facilities and equipment for the Dietary Department, the Hospital Cafeteria, the increasingly important Laboratory facility and the relatively new Alcoholism Treatment Centre, which had been opened in 1969.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Even before St. Joseph's Hospital at Estevan was given the original "green light", and before the first sod was turned at the construction site, segments of the Estevan community were involved in the affair.

In the pre-St. Joseph days, when the Estevan Board of Trade was casting around for some kind of facility, several service clubs gave firm offers of financial and moral support. Their efforts have continued

throughout the succeeding years, sometimes in full view of the public eye, often quietly and effectively in the form of auxiliary services.

For example, the on-going involvement of the Estevan Elks organization in their dedication to the interests of children, has been manifested in their assistance with equipping the Children's Ward.

Estevan Rotary Club, Estevan Kinsmen, Estevan Lions, Estevan Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, and others have played their parts in providing equipment and service facilities for the hospital.



*Back row Left to Right — Sr. Agnita, Sr. Noella, Sr. Ellamae Boyer
Sr. Ursula, Sr. Frances Woodhouse, Sr. Patricia, and Sr. Pauline
Front Row left to Right — Sr. June Nash, Sr. Mary Fitzgerald, and
Sr. Margaret Amyotte*

For a number of years, before the service was taken over provincially by the Canadian Red Cross Society, members of the Estevan Kinsmen Club and of the Canadian Legion Branch, provided a blood bank for the hospital's transfusion service. In addition, a number of individual donors, who remained anonymous, were involved.

The Ladies' Auxiliary to St. Joseph's Hospital, which has existed since the hospital's first day, is regarded as an important direct link between the hospital and the community.

It has a continuing, year-round program dedicated to adding to the comfort of the hospital patients through assistance to the staff.

The Auxiliary works closely with the Hospital Administration and over the years has helped provide such equipment items as laundry washing units, portable steam tables to keep patient meals warm from the time they leave the kitchen until they are served individually in the various wards, a blood bank refrigerator, resuscitators, inhalators, nursery ward bassinets, kitchen utensils and even mops and pails, and an automatic ice-maker.



"Sisters of St. Joseph Honored"

Front Row — Left to Right — S. Anne Rajotte, Sr. Noella, Sr. Elizabeth Marie, Sr. Betty, Sr. Lucille Cavanagh, Sr. Pauline, Sr. Mary Fitzgerald, Sr. Hope Corkery, Sr. Rosanne, Sr. Therese Roddy, S. Cecelia (Superior general of Order of St. Joseph's), S. Patricia Hogan

Second Row — Left to Right — Sr. Eileen McManus, Sr. Lois Pinkerton, Sr. Marie Paul, Sr. Margarie Mary, Sr. Sheila, Sr. Margaret Amyotte, Sr. Bregid Todd, Sr. Emmanuel, Sr. Loretta Kerwin, Sr. June Nash, Sr. Dorothy Ryan, Sr. Lucille Garvey, Sr. Francis Baker and Sr. Jean Rooney

Third Row — Left to Right — Sr. St. Ida, Sr. Mary Louise, Sr. St. Cajetan, Sr. Annacleita, Sr. Francesca, Sr. Elizabeth Ludwig, Sr. Mary Connelly, Sr. Catherine Leavair, Sr. Isabel McCloskey, Sr. Margaret Allen, Sr. Ruth Gosselin, Sr. Helen Bennett, Sr. Claudia and Sr. Ellamae Boyer

At Christmas time it is traditional for the Auxiliary to aid in providing "extras" for the patients' Christmas dinners.

The organization provides a library service for patients and one of the always-welcome daily sights for patients is the visit by several volunteers with their "confectionary" cart.

ESCAPE FROM LIFE IS NOT THE ANSWER

Taken from the Estevan Mercury

"It was more years ago," than Sister Mary "wished to recall," she says, "when I became very interested in the problems of the alcoholic."

"It all began at our Peterborough Hospital many years ago. We were not allowed to admit patients for alcoholism as we are today and we were consistently drying out members of that city."

"I especially remember one very sick alcoholic who also happened to be a prominent member of the community."

"He would park his car well at the rear of our hospital, wander about the premises, and when no one was looking he then climbed into the first bed available and received whatever withdrawal treatment we could offer."

It was only in 1962 that it became legal to admit alcoholic patients to hospitals in Saskatchewan. Till then doctors had to fabricate a disease so that the near dying could be treated.

"The most disheartening part," says Sister Mary, "is simply that the patient would return again and again, never seeming to lose the obsession for alcohol in spite of the suffering and knowledge that he or she would eventually die from excessive drinking."

How often the Sisters at Peterborough must have asked the question: How can we help?

The desire to help alcoholics is prevalent among many in the nursing and medical profession, but after the alcoholic has returned again and again, without seeming to try to do anything about this dilemma, even friends give up and call the case hopeless.

The desire to help alcoholics, however remained with Sister Mary, in spite of the many seemingly fruitless attempts to help. Then came the opportunity that the Order had been waiting for.



Right — Sr. Mary Fitzgerald — Left Sr. Emmanuel

It is only a little over a year ago that the Minister of Health, the Hon. Gordon Grant, gave permission to the Order of St. Joseph's to establish an Alcoholism Treatment Centre right in their own hospital in Estevan. It was a first in many respects but it was also an answer to many prayers over the years. The request was granted.

First recorded hospital treatment dates back to 1939 when Doctor Bob, the co-founder of AA struck an alliance with Sister Ignatia of the Order of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. Sister Ignatia's night supervisor wasn't very keen about alcoholics, and especially the D.T. variety and when Dr. Bob arrived at the Akron, Ohio hospital with a request for a private room for his first customer, Sister Ignatia said to him, "Doctor, we do not have any beds, much less private rooms, but I will do what I can." And into the hospital's flower room she slyly bootlegged A.A.'s first jittering candidate for admission. From this uncertain start of hospitalization members and friends of A.A. watched the growing procession of alcoholic sufferers as they passed through the doors of St. Thomas and out into the world again, most of them never to return to hospital again except as visitors. When Dr. Bob died in 1950 over 5,000 had been thus treated. Sister Ignatia, Dr. Bob and his wife had set an example for the practise of the philosophy of Alcoholics Anonymous that will remain for all time. At Akron, birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous, St. Thomas Hospital, became the first religious institution ever to open its door to alcoholics.

Thus, when the idea of St. Joseph's in Estevan was first conceived some years ago the proof that such a centre would be a success was already established.

"When we opened the doors of St. Joseph's Centre a year ago, it never crossed my mind that we would not be a success," says a member of A.A. who had a small hand in advising the Sisters on their course of action.

One thing was certain, a new approach to an old problem would get its Canadian trial run in Estevan and no one has ever looked back.

Members of the clergy, the law society, the welfare people, manpower and other agencies have all contributed to the success of recovery of alcoholics at St. Joseph's.

Today the Centre employs two full time Alcoholism Counsellors who along with the medical staff engage in a three to four week recovery program geared to relieve the alcoholic from the obsession to use alcohol to cope with the problem of living.

Medical director of the Centre is Dr. S. Ghatak, who holds a degree in psychiatry along with Dr. M. Stone who is treating the patients for their physical needs. Both doctors spend much time in the mental and physical evaluations needed to restore the patient to health.

A team of three members of the Estevan Ministerial Association have taken the task of spiritual counselling, Pastor Roy Holm, of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Father M. Hogan, of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and Rev. Mel Ryan, of the United Church. They spend many hour with patients, helping the patient to recognize his problem.

Ray McNab and Jos. Apps, alcoholism counsellors, both point out that the services of the Clergy are invaluable in the recovery of the program of the alcoholic.

The community as a whole is taking an active part in the success of the Centre. Ladies of the Hospital Auxiliary have provided a projector at a cost of over \$800 to aid in visual therapy. Members of the Sweet Adelines have contributed the cost of educational films and recreational equipment. Many are contributing in smaller but important ways in making the Centre run to potential.

Members of the Estevan Law Society have solved complex and frustrating legal areas which often come about as a result of alcoholism.

Manpower has helped cases where advice on employment or education are necessary. In the main, all agencies have now become involved in the areas of rehabilitation above and beyond the treatment given at St. Joseph's.

At Estevan, any patient admitted to the hospital and primarily diagnosed as alcoholic will be given the opportunity to undergo treatment for his alcohol problems in the centre. Patients from outside of the immediate area can be referred through various channels.



Left to Right — Sr. Helen McDonnell, Fr. K. Harty, Sr. Lucille Garvey, Sr. Patricia Hogan, Sr. Elizabeth Ludwig, Sr. Noilla, Sr. Pauline, and Sr. June Nash

In the rehabilitation of the alcoholic, there must be a period of transition in returning to his or her every day life. With understanding guidance, rest, quiet, a minimum amount of discipline, the patient gradually becomes associated with reality and with restored confidence accepts life as it really is.

In an atmosphere of mutual acceptance with people having this common problem, individual dignity is not impugned. Each patient is recognized as one who is honestly seeking an answer to the third biggest health problem.

Recovery is almost entirely dependent on the individual's desire to follow the outlined program. Each patient is encouraged to help himself -- since no recovery is possible unless the individual desires to be sober. The methods used have stood the test of time and are continuously being proved successful.

While St. Joseph's does not keep statistics which are costly and tedious ... it does however keep in touch with the patients through a monthly newsletter and follow-up questionnaires. The most important statistic is of course, "alcoholism has been arrested and the patient has not had a drink since leaving the Centre."

Sadly enough for some 38% of the patients, sobriety is not possible for any length of time, and treatment will have to be repeated. For the other 62% life has taken on new meaning and the recovering patient is taking his place in society.

"Happiness at St. Joseph's is a family re-united" ... "debts being paid" ... losing the obsession to drink." St. Joseph's believes that recovery from alcoholism is its prime function.

For the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Centre adds much in the way of service to the Order and relates to the traditional role of their order ... to serve humanity.

The challenge to have an alcoholism wing was broached by the Saskatchewan Board and SHSP. "This challenge opened new ways of service," said Sister Mary, "and we have need to be of service."

Editor George Derksen

THE SISTER RECALL

THE AIRPORT HOSPITAL 1946 - 1956

as told by Sister Elizabeth Marie

In 1946 at the request of Mayor H. Nicholson and City Council, the Sisters were asked to staff The Airport Hospital recently vacated by the Royal Air Force.

The first Sisters were Sister Scholastica, Sister Rosanne, Sister St. Thomas, Sister Monica and Sister Elizabeth Marie.



Side View of Airport Hospital

The Airport Hospital took care of the convalescent, post operative, medical and the overflow of patients from St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan. The Ward had 29 beds, a verandah at each end, four - 2 bed Semi Privates, two Private Rooms, and a four bed Ward. To accommodate the Town Hospital we put six extra beds in the Ward, making a total of 45 beds. Later on the Government requested reduction of beds at both Hospitals so we obeyed orders.

The rooms and beds were very comfortable and the patients received tender, loving care and were well satisfied.

The kitchen was large and well-equipped with a steam table, walk-in fridge, bake room, storerooms, large sinks, and the trays were served and carted to the patients.

Drs. Inglis, Barrie, Linton, Paisner and Marinker were on the Staff and were very attentive to their patients. At times we had some very sick patients - heart conditions, etc. and I recall one lady who took a real severe heart attack and Dr. Inglis who was looking after her, made the trip in record time. He never failed us!

The staff lived-in the first winter then went into apartments. There was a Store (Officers' Mess) right across from the kitchen door - we found it very handy. Later on the Store moved to the Gate Entrance.

The Sisters' Quarters were comfortable - a couple of private rooms, a dorm with four beds - nothing but what was really needed. Our Community Room was quite bare for some time, orange crates for books. But in time we used bedside tables, scraped the paint off and found good wood beneath and varnished it, the same in our bedrooms.

Our Chapel was really a fitting place for our Lord who was poor, but as in other places, we did improve it and it was a very warm, prayerful, peaceful place to pray and meditate. The Sisters shared it with the Staff and invited them to join in Mass or prayer.

Father Ernie, a young German Priest, was our first Resident Chaplain. He served us faithfully, but died in December 1947. Msgr. Hughes or his assistants were good to come and say Mass for us and visit the patients. Our next Resident Chaplain was Father L. Schlosser and when he was appointed to a new Parish, Father K. Harty came as Resident Chaplain. The Ministers of other faiths were also attentive and brought consolation and happiness to many of their flock.

Looking back on these years, I feel we filled a great need for the sick and even if we felt the pinch of not having the things we thought we needed, we accepted it and were happy with what we had. There was a strong bond between Sisters and Staff - we realized we needed them and they needed us. One person said to me not so long ago that he was happy working there and he appreciated the love of all Staff and Sisters. We were six miles from town so had to make it more on a family basis - share our time, our recreation, picture shows - and also our prayer life - all were welcome.

Our first winter was very severe with mountains of snow. The Staff formed a human chain to and from work and when roads were blocked, food, supplies and laundry came by plane or bombardier. To anticipate our needs we canned chicken and stored turkeys in a porch at the end of the Sisters Quarters - it was our only deep freeze.



Sister Elizabeth Marie ready for take-off

The power was off frequently so we kept a good supply a flashlights and candles. A Transformer blew out and we were without heat, light or water all night and till noon next day. We were happy to have the large coal stove in the kitchen and we made good use of it.

The Spring of 1948 brought floods and as you would expect more difficulties to Staff and Doctors, but one of our men would get in a boat and row across the river to bring the Doctor to visit his patients. An emergency Maternity case caused much anxiety as the plane was in Regina and the Stork would not wait, so Miss deBoth and Mrs. Kusmeier were our faithful nurses and came to our aid. "Yes, triplets were born"; the problem of getting them to St. Joseph's Hospital was solved when the plane returned, so mother and babes were transferred much to our relief - the babes in a dresser drawer.

Spring also brought many yellow planes to our view, and we Sisters used the runways for our evening walks. The trees were small and didn't give any shade, so we had our supper under the wing of a plane. As the summers passed, we had beautiful trees and flowers, thanks to Mr. deBoth and Richard Johner - they had green thumbs.

On Christmas Eve, 1948 a fire in an apartment took the lives of Mrs. O'Brien, her two children, and her sister. We sheltered the people from the apartments and served coffee and doughnuts. We will never forget that Christmas, and our hearts went out to the families in their bereavement.

As the years passed, we saw improvements in many places, the road was given a coat of black top, and with gifts from friends and relatives we were able to furnish the Chapel and Sisters Living Quarters with suitable furniture and necessities.

Now was it all worthwhile! I think I speak for Sisters and Staff when I say "yes". We served the needs of the sick and if it was under trying circumstances at times, no one complained. It was a labour of love, and we would do it again.

The first arrangement with the Town was that the Sisters would staff The Airport Hospital for one year but due to circumstances beyond our control, it stretched into ten years. When the 1956 Wing was completed at St. Joseph's Hospital, we said good bye to The Airport Hospital.

MEDICAL STAFF IN ESTEVAN

1892 till his death in 1900	Dr. Scott
1930's	Dr. William Creighton
1930's	Dr. James F. Creighton
1930's	Dr. Frank Walsh
1930's	Dr. Logan Miller Fairbairn (Born Carnduff, Sask. February 8, 1905 - Died Calgary, Alberta February 19, 1972
1930's (1938)	Dr. Gaylord Curry
1930's (1938)	Dr. Alexander
1940's (1941 - 42)	Dr. Francis McKenzie
1940's	Dr. John Creighton
1940 - 49	Dr. Simon Marinker
Feb. 1944 - 1958	Dr. Harold Linton
June 1946	Dr. A. Moore
July 1947 -	Dr. Alan B. McCarten
February 1948 - 1962	Dr. James G. Barrie
June 1951 - 1958	Dr. Hymar M. Paisner
June 1957 - 1969	Dr. Morrell M. Soroka
August 1957 - 1961	Dr. J. Leonard Eaton
June 1958 - 1962	Dr. Peter Sudermann
1959 - 1961	Dr. David B. Eaton
August 1959 - July 23, 1962	- deceased - Dr. Robert J. Nixon
1962 - 1965	Dr. Wayne G. Squires
1962 - June 1968	Dr. Colin Lowson
1962 - August 1966	Dr. John Edward Miller
August 1963 - June 1964	Dr. Michael J. Barnes
1963 - 1966	Dr. Norman Samuels
1963 - 1966	Dr. Patrick J. Murphy
March 1963 - June 1967	Dr. R. Herbert Wiebe
September 1964 -	Dr. Robert M. Drake
1965	Dr. John K. Phillips
1965	Dr. Eileen B. Phillips
February 1965 - June 1967	Dr. David L. Keegan

July 1966 - 1967	Dr. Frank O. Bastian
May 1967 - June 1971	Dr. Theodore L. Malfair
August 1968 - April 1969	Dr. G.F. Choo-foo
September 1969 - April 1976	Dr. Michael Stone
Nov. 1969 - Oct. 1971	Dr. Sasanka S. Ghatak
January - November 1971	Dr. Ezzat F. Abd-Elmessih
June 1970 - July 1978	Dr. Daniel Kirchgöesner
July 1971 - May 1979	Dr. George J. Garbe'
Sept. 1972 - April 1974	Dr. Patricia A. C. Hannon
October 1972 - May 1974	Dr. Stephen J. Jackson
March 1973 - Nov. 1975	Dr. Philip Zachariah
Nov. 1976 - March 1978	Dr. Derek H. Fox
June 1978 - Nov. 1978	Dr. F.H. El-Ebiary
August 1978 - March 1979	Dr. Peter G. Baker
Oct. 1978 - Feb. 1979	Dr. Eamon N. Gamble

PRESENTLY IN ESTEVAN AS OF DECEMBER 1980

1940	Dr. Robert Inglis
September 1967 -	Dr. Komaluru R. Visvanathan
October 1974 -	Dr. Ramesh K. Soni
November 1974 -	Dr. Donald T.K. Cheah
July 1976 -	Dr. Yosri S. Wahba
November 1976 -	Dr. Maria G. Van Der Eyden
July 1979 - April 1980	Dr. T.E. Gabriel Stewart
Nov. 1979 - April 1980	Dr. Maher S. Hanna
Feb. 1, 1980 -	Dr. Geoffrey M. Holdway
March 1980 -	Dr. Keith Bovell

SISTER MARY FITZGERALD

ADMINISTRATOR

1963 - 1976

When I arrived in Estevan as Director of Nursing in late August 1963, construction of a new wing was in progress. Thirty beds were being added along with new service areas. An addition of 30 beds meant an increase in staff. It was at this time that I had a frustrating experience of having to work out a suitable staffing pattern with the government nurse consultant only to have the plan "scrapped" by government budget people. This was just the first taste of government control as the hospital's daily census was reduced from 72 to 68 just when the beds were expanded from 75 to just over 100. If it is difficult for hospital administrators to understand and accept such actions, you can understand how difficult it is for the general public to fathom such actions.



Sr. Therese Roddy, S. Mary Fitzgerald, John Barabash, John Deadlock

In October 1965 the hospital received its full Accreditation following the provisional status of 1964 and this has been maintained ever since.

One of the greatest problems at this time was the complete lack of funds to buy capital equipment. I believe the amount available was between \$7,000 - \$10,000 annually. It was in 1966 that the Hospital Revenue Tax Act came into being. I would publicly like to thank Mr. George Bolen, then Executive Director of the Southeast Regional Hospital Council who assisted us in applying this Act whereby we could share directly in Municipal tax revenue. I would also like to thank the Municipalities and the City of Estevan who so graciously agreed to an "Agreement" with the hospital.

Hospital administration brings an array of problems - never a dull moment. While advance in technology has lessened the many onerous tasks of hand-cleaning and processing such things as needles, syringes, scissors, gloves, tubes of all kinds and dressing trays, the task of dealing with people has become more complicated and time consuming. A lengthy labour dispute which lasted approximately three months (October 1969 - January 1970) was a very difficult period for staff and management alike.

One of the greatest satisfactions as Administrator was the opening of the Alcoholic Treatment Centre on November 9, 1969. The Centre has gained national prominence, and I would like to publicly acknowledge sincere gratitude to the Advisory Board, Medical Staff, Clergy, A.A. groups, and my Community, the Sisters of St. Joseph for their support in this undertaking - the treatment of the alcoholic as a sick person with the same rights to hospital and medical care as any other sick person.

When I look back over my 16 years at St. Joseph's in Estevan, I feel very grateful that I have had the opportunity to work with so many dedicated people such as the Hospital Auxiliary, Advisory Board Members, Doctors and the many loyal employees who have helped me with the burden of Administration. My wish is that God will abundantly reward you and your families for your support and care. It is surprising to see what can be accomplished with such limited funds and with such dedicated people when you trust "Him" and others.



Sr. Doloretta, feeding the Cedar Wax Wings

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

LORD, make me an Instrument of Your Peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

AMEN

ACCREDITATION

The Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation conducted an accredited survey on July 25, 1977 and again on August 25, 1980. On both surveys the Hospital received an Accreditation status of 3 years. The reports contained many commendations and the hospital was awarded the maximum three year Accreditation. Prior to 1977 the practice of the Council was to grant a three year certificate to any



Long Term Employees and Mr. P. Melle and Jim Dyer (Board Members)

hospital passing the minimum standards. Higher standards were enforced for the year 1977, and as a result, only those hospitals surpassing the standards received a three year certificate. The survey involves an appraisal of the Governing Body, Medical Staff and Management of the hospital as well as a thorough inspection and analysis of all hospital departments and services.

St. Joseph's Hospital received additional credits for fulfilling the recommendations of the previous survey and for initiation of patient care appraisal programs required by the new standards. The Board, Administration, Medical and Hospital Staff were commended on both surveys for their devotion in providing the very best care for the citizens of Estevan and its surrounding communities.

HEALTH TEACHING

St. Joseph's Hospital personnel are convinced of the slogan "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" and are therefore increasingly involved in health-teaching both inside and outside the hospital.

REGIONAL SERVICES

St. Joseph's Hospital continues to have a heavy involvement in Regional Services. Many of the Department Heads act as consultants and/or resource people to other smaller hospitals. For instance, the Director of Laboratory and X-ray are consultants and resource people for 13 other hospitals; the Pharmacist for 5; the Director of Finance for 5; the Dietitian for 5 and receives referrals for counselling from even more areas; Laundry processes soiled linen for three outside hospitals; and the Director of Purchasing purchases medical-surgical supplies for 4 other hospitals.



Long Term Employees including Dr. R. Inglis

LONG-TERM EMPLOYEES

Each year an evening of appreciation has been held in recognition of long-term employees who have served the sick in the hospital for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 or more years. During the past four years, eighty-two individuals have been honoured.

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

An area on the Medical Unit which was renovated into a modern three-bed Intensive Care Unit was put into operation on May 12, 1978. The Unit provided the opportunity for the staff to give an increased level of quality care to those suffering from severe heart disease, patients who had or may have heart attacks and any other patients in critical condition, such as people who have overdosed and/or are unconscious.

Cost of the renovations was approximately \$80,000 with an additional \$35,000 for equipment.

The official opening was June 14, 1978 with the Minister of Health and other dignitaries in attendance.



Back Row Left to Right — Cecile Smith, Gail Biette, Jeane Perry,
Diane Johner, Helen Wock, Vi Eagles, Connie Elumir
Front Row Left to Right — Jeri Smith, Betty Greenhough, Dr. Robert
Inglis, Mary Jo Rohatyn, Phillis Shaw
June 3, 1980, Honored for 10 Years Plus •
Dr. Inglis for 40 Years

CLINICAL TRAINING

Clinical training has been provided for various groups of health professionals over the years - Registered Nurses in the early years of the hospital; Certified Nursing Students from August 1960 to Jun 15, 1979; Laboratory, X-ray, and Medical Records Students; Combined Clinical Laboratory - X-ray Students since 1966; JURSI Students (Junior Undergraduate Rotating Student Intern) and Student Residents of Family Medicine, 1975; Summer Extern Student Program started in May 1980; Dietetic Interns in 1977, 1979 and 1980; Food Service Supervisors, two in 1977; and Medical Dicta-Typists starting in 1978.

AVERAGE DAILY CENSUS

Effective October 1, 1980, the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan (S.H.S.P.) increased our approved occupancy level from 64.7 to 66.9 which will mean an increase in funding to meet the increased expenses.

FAREWELL TEA

On June 23, 1979, St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary sponsored a Farewell Tea for Sister Mary Fitzgerald who had served in the care of the sick in this region for 16 years. Sister Mary returned to Peterborough in August 1979.

EMERGENCY POWER PLANT

The new Emergency Power Plant was installed on Wednesday, September 29, 1976.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM

The first course in Emergency Medical Assistant Training Program which would upgrade and standardize training of 250 ambulance personnel in the Province, was launched at St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan March 13, 1978.

About 12 ambulance attendants from Estevan, Carlyle and Redvers participated in the first session of the programs, which was also held later in 12 other Saskatchewan centres.

The purpose of the course was to improve the quality of emergency care for victims of accident or illness. The program was physician supervised and oriented.

ST. JOSEPH'S TREATMENT CENTRE ALUMNI

On December 2, 1978, a meeting was held in the Auditorium of St. Joseph's Hospital to organize St. Joseph's Treatment Centre Alumni. Seventy-five persons attended. The first executive was formed. The Executive meets 3-4 times a year and has had an Annual Meeting and Social Evening every year since.

The Alumni has made donations to the Treatment Centre for the purchase of two films "Doing It Wrong" and "Soft Is the Heart of a Child".

MOCK DISASTER

A successful Emergency Measures Organization exercise was carried out in Estevan October 3rd, 1978, with local and provincial officials on hand as observers. The exercise involved a Saskatchewan Transportation Company bus and a Canadian Propane truck. There were 36 casualties. As soon as the alarm was received the emergency services at the hospital quickly sprang into action and were well in place when the first of the 36 seriously injured victims began to arrive.

A mock disaster tests the responses of community resources and the hospital to sudden demands on its capacity of providing good emergency care. St. Joseph's Hospital rose to that occasion and fully met the challenge.

ST. JOSEPH'S TREATMENT CENTRE FAMILY PROGRAM

The Treatment Centre started to get the Family Program initiated and off the ground in 1979. This necessitated getting a part-time Alanon person to assist with the program. In 1972 a research study recommended that a Family Program be part and parcel of our Treatment Centre. However, as yet the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan has not approved funding for this program. The Family Program is offered every third week and the number attending is anywhere from 2 - 12 persons.

The requests for Outpatient Family Counselling has been steadily increasing in the Treatment Centre. Requests in the line of public information and education is on the average almost once per week.

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION EVENT:

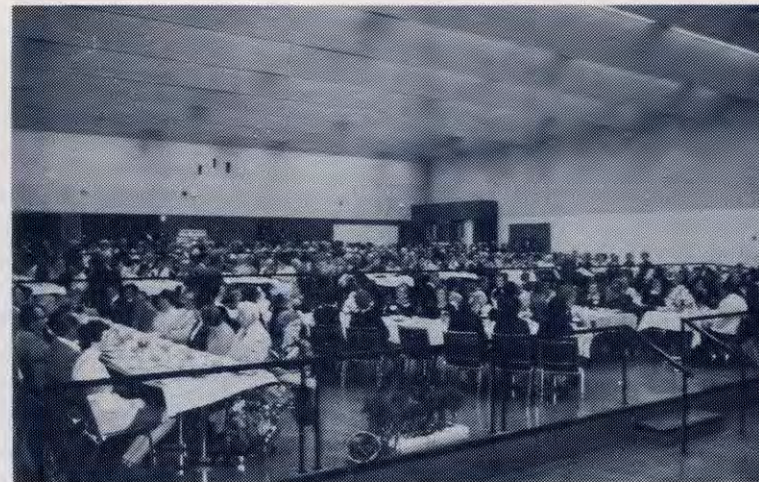
The Fall of 1976 is a time the Sisters will never forget. The weekend of October 2nd and 3rd, 1976, Estevan stood up and cheered the Sisters of St. Joseph in an Appreciation Event that had been in the planning since the previous April. It marked 40 years of service by the Sisters to Estevan, and southeastern Saskatchewan and some northern U.S. states through St. Joseph's Hospital.

Rev. R.K. Holm, pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Mr. Robert Kohaly were the early sparkplugs for the occasion. There was a committee of 20 or more members representing all facets of the city and surrounding district.

At the time of the event 81 Sisters had served the Community, 53 of whom were still living. Eight Sisters were on staff at the hospital and thirty-two Sisters returned for the occasion. Rev. Holm noted that approximately \$19,000 had been raised in cash donations and another \$1,300 in certificates, \$7,000 earmarked for travel expenses for the Sisters who returned and \$4,000 was spent on refurbishing the Sisters living quarters, the remainder to be used in other ways for the Sisters, including a History -- the Story of the Sisters of St. Joseph's Hospital.

The official functions took the form of a come-and-go tea Saturday, October 2nd from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Royal Canadian Legion Auditorium which was an overwhelming success with more than 700 persons coming to renew old acquaintances with the Sisters. This was most enjoyable for all.

On Sunday, October 3rd, 1976, Most Rev. Charles Halpin, Archbishop of Regina celebrated Mass at St. John the Baptist Church at 4 p.m. after which there was a banquet at the Estevan Comprehensive



Appreciation Event at the Comprehensive School Cafetorium

School with an overflowing crowd of approximately 425 persons who had come to pay tribute to the Sisters of St. Joseph for their 40 years of devoted and tireless work.

The banquet opened with the formal marching in of the 50 members of the head table by the Royal Canadian Legion Colour Party directed by Sergeant Major Fred Slater.

Master of Ceremonies for the four hour event was Mr. Robert Kohaly, Q.C. who was as always when master of ceremonies for an event, polished, and confident.

Following the meal, the program started with candystripers presenting a rose to each of the Sisters.

In making a toast to the Sisters, the general chairman of the appreciation committee, Rev. Roy Holm said the devotion and spirit of the Sisters has given Estevan a first class hospital. He said they believe in self-sacrifice and everyone could learn a lesson from them.

Sister Mary Fitzgerald paid tribute to everyone who put so much effort into staging the appreciation event.

Mayor Ida Petterson said "the Sisters have worked faithfully and well and have made our hospital one of the best in the province. They always do their work with cheer and confidence."

"Their competence and through them, that of the staff has also been a major attraction in Estevan for people from both sides of the international boundary. We are very proud of them all."

Mrs. Ida Petterson outlined where the new St. Joseph's Park is to be located and presented a city flag to Rev. Sister Cecilia, Superior-neral and to each of the Sisters.

Harry Nicholson who had been Mayor of Estevan for 28 years outlined how the hospital got started and praised the Sisters for having so much to do with Estevan receiving a flying school. He thanked them for their wonderful work, stating that the Sisters never, ever complained and always carried on with their work.

Dr. K.R. Visvanathan, speaking on behalf of the Medical Staff, said the Sisters have given the Doctors every opportunity to practice the art of healing. "It would be difficult without them." He said they have meager comforts in their possession, but yet "comfort us at a time of need." "This is a profession for the Sisters, not an eight hour job. Many times they have been called late at night and they are the first to come and help." He said, "we have expected the extraordinary from them. This is unfair. However, they have lived up to it on every occasion."

Former mayor and chairman of the Hospital Advisory Board, John Barabash said 1936 was a vintage year for wine but not a vintage year in Estevan. He said the town was without a hospital and in financial difficulties. Faith and devotion has given the Sisters the strength to work against heavy odds. Their work has done without remuneration because there was a need.



Entering St. John The Baptist Church on Appreciation Day

The Sisters have served well and deserve the response they've been given. Mr. Barabash told the overflowing crowd. "We should thank God for the vehicle that has come to serve us." Telegrams of congratulations were received from a number of dignitaries.

Speaking on behalf of the 40 Sisters who were able to attend the function, Sister Cecilia, said that words cannot express their feelings. "This weekend was most memorable. Sister Cecilia said the Sisters came to Estevan to share poverty and the little goods you had. During the years, grief struck but at all times people gave generously, as well as staff members. "Without you, the Sisters might never have been able to serve you. The years have not been without difficulty. It's you who have enriched us. Let's hope we can give you more in the next 40

The Appreciation Event sponsored by the people of Estevan was a great tribute to the Sisters of St. Joseph and a memorable event for each Sister who served in this hospital. The Sisters are greatly indebted to the Citizens of Estevan for their generosity, which seemed to have no limits, even to making their Residence more comfortable and attractive.

A thank-offering to God for all that these years have comprised—especially for the pioneers who have preceded us and have given so graciously and so generously of their faith, love, life, and talents "for God and His people."

Thank you Lord for giving Sister Bernardine and the Council of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough the courage and trust to say "yes" to that invitation to come WEST in 1937.

APPRECIATION

Appreciation must be expressed first to our hospital staff who strive constantly to provide quality care to the sick of this area. Also to the members of the Medical Staff for their fine co-operation and for the many selfless hours of committee work it takes to run a hospital this size with limited numbers in an effort to maintain high standards and an excellent quality of service.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to the Hospital Auxiliary who are always outstanding in terms of financial assistance provided the hospital, as well as the many services provided for our patients by these dedicated volunteers.

Many clubs, organizations and individuals provided a great deal of help to us over the years especially financially. It is sincerely appreciated.

Appreciation also goes out to St. Joseph's Hospital lay Board who have provided guidance and support over the years.

SUMMARY

When the Sisters first arrived 43 years ago, they faced many challenges especially of having much to accomplish with very little. Today there are also many challenges although different than those in years past. The types of challenges have changed as society and technology has changed. The challenges we face today are more in the forms of human relations: getting people to work with you, not just for you; getting the various groups involved with the patient either directly or indirectly to work as a team, to resolve stalemated conflicts; resolving conflicts between the needs of individuals and the hospital as an organization; and dealing with the bureaucracy in Government.

Although the challenges and stresses have changed the purpose and mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph has remained steadfast.

The special purpose of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph is the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. In keeping with the Congregation's corporate obligation and policies and its moral and religious beliefs, the Sisters through the staff at St. Joseph's Hospital strive to respond to the unique personal dignity of each individual and acknowledge his rights to a loving Christian service. Effective and harmonious relationships depend on the co-operation of all parties. A concerted joint effort and mutual trust make for the best possible care while it deepens the Christian concern of the health care personnel. The hospital is a part of the community and therefore must be attuned to the health needs of the community. To achieve this end, we strive for co-operation between ourselves and individuals or groups within the community and for a free exchange of relevant information.



The St. Joseph Hospital Chapel

The mission of the Sisters is to witness to the healing ministry and abiding presence of Jesus. Inspired by the Gospel, the Sisters through the hospital staff strive to have a universal concern for health as a condition for full human development.

In the powers of His Spirit and following the example of our healing Lord, our principle ministries are to:

1. Promote respect for the inherent dignity of each person and to reverence that unique experience of life, of sickness, and of death.

2. Promote and stimulate concern for health as a total process, including the maintenance, restoration and extension of health as a part of the full development of the human person of our society.
3. Foster respect and reverence for those who are sick, aged, disabled and dying.
4. Probe the ethical issues in the life sciences and provide guidelines for action.
5. Intensify the humanizing of health care.

Therefore in an effort to fulfill our purpose and mission the Sisters have continued to have the following as their set specific goals for St. Joseph's Hospital.

In a spirit of Christian charity, give care and treatment to the sick in an environment that recognizes the innate dignity and worth of each person which is not lessened because of age or any deficiency in his physical and mental state, social and economic status, race, colour, or creed, by making provision for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each patient:

Provide each patient with care of excellent quality and in conformity with the best facilities and treatment appropriate and available.

Meet the specific personalized needs of the patient which include physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual and social aspects.

Provide continuing education and maintain high educational standards for personnel engaged in or dedicated to the care of the sick.

Promote improvement in the care of the sick and injured.

Maintain high standards of medical and nursing care.

With God's help may we, the Sisters of St. Joseph, along with our medical and hospital staff continue in the years ahead to take initiative in providing the very best care for the sick among the citizens of Estevan and its surrounding communities.

The Appreciation Event



*The Sisters entering St. John the Baptist Church
for the celebration of Mass*



Assembling for the Banquet at the Comprehensive School

The Appreciation Tea at the Legion Hall



*Left to Right — Sister Sr. Cajetan, Sr. Jean Rooney, Sr. Lois Pinkerton,
Sr. Lucille Garvey*



Sisters of St. Joseph Hospital

*Back Row — Sr. Betty Stephens, Sr. Rosanne, Sr. Lucille Cavanagh,
Sr. Pauline, Sr. Mary Fitzgerald*
Front Row — Sr. Therese, Sr. Hope, Sr. Elizabeth Marie