



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. Vincent's Hospital, Vancouver 1939-1989 50 Years of Participating in the Healing Ministry

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the Immaculate Conception,
Saint John, New Brunswick

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St. Vincent's Hospital

Vancouver, British Columbia



1939 - 1989



50 Years of Participating in the Healing Ministry

St. Vincent's Hospital Vancouver, B.C.

A Catholic, community-oriented general hospital,
founded, owned and operated by the
Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception,
Saint John, New Brunswick



St. Vincent de Paul

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This history was researched from source materials contained in the daily diary of the Sisters of Charity and from the Hospital Records including newspaper clippings, letters, documents, minutes of meetings, photographs as well as information contributed by hospital personnel.

This 50th Anniversary Booklet was researched and compiled by Monica H. Plante, S.C.I.C. and edited by H. Lash.

St. Vincent's Hospital Mission Statement



Saint Vincent's Hospital 1939.

St. Vincent's Hospital is a Catholic, community oriented general hospital which is owned and operated by the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception. Founded in 1939 by the Sisters of Charity, St. Vincent's Hospital has developed, through several stages, from a 100-bed medical/surgical community treatment facility to a 250-bed health care complex providing emergency, acute medical/surgical, psychiatric and chronic services, as well as a range of outpatient and diagnostic support services.

In founding and operating St. Vincent's Hospital the Sisters of Charity realized a vision of service to the Church by responding in a particular spirit of faith, charity, simplicity and generosity to the needs of the times.

We at St. Vincent's Hospital subscribe to the Judaeo-Christian philosophy of reverence and respect for the inherent natural and spiritual dignity of all people. We hold that the dignity of each individual must be recognized at every stage of life and that reverence for life be extended to every human being from conception, through death, to eternal life. We hold that the work done by all members of the hospital community is both praise-worthy and essential and that all should have a personal pride and satisfaction in their work through which a vital contribution is made to the physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being of the patient.

In keeping with our philosophy, and in the spirit of the founders of St. Vincent's Hospital, we shall:

- operate as a voluntary Catholic health care organization;
- participate in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ by providing for the physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being of each individual in our care;
- provide high quality health services as compassionately, effectively and efficiently as possible to those in need of emergency, acute or chronic care without regard to race, colour, religion, ancestry or place of origin, sex, age or social status;
- exercise leadership in the development of innovative techniques in the delivery and management of health care services;
- anticipate and be responsive to health care needs when modifying existing programs and implementing programs;
- recognize that patients, as individuals, have both rights and responsibilities regarding their own well-being;
- provide patient education and work for the prevention of disease;
- maintain policies and procedures in accordance with Catholic standards of medical ethics as described in the Medico-Moral Guide published by the Catholic Health Association of Canada;
- provide working conditions and staff education programs which enhance the professional growth and satisfaction of our employees and medical staff and which is consistent with and supportive of our mission;
- contribute to the training of health care providers through collaboration with accredited educational institutions;
- cooperate with other health care, social service and religious organizations on matters that are consistent with our mission;
- participate in health related research activities which are consistent with our mission as opportunities arise; and
- seek spiritual and ethical direction from, and relate with the Roman Catholic Church, through the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

This statement of mission is a dynamic statement which defines the philosophy and direction which we at St. Vincent's Hospital will pursue for the foreseeable future. However, because of its dynamic nature and the continuous change in the environment in which we must operate, this statement will be subject to ongoing evaluation and, therefore, may be amplified or amended from time to time.

*December, 1981
Reaffirmed April, 1988*

Message from
Most Reverend
James F. Carney, DD
Archbishop of Vancouver



While fifty years is a memorable anniversary, I wonder how many people will be surprised that St. Vincent's Hospital is celebrating only a half-century of service. The hospital has been so much part of the lives of those it has served that some will think St. Vincent's a much older institution.

Certainly St. Vincent's is both old and new. On the one hand, it preserves the traditions and the values of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception who founded it, and who animate it still. It is a Catholic Hospital guided by the healing spirit of Christ.

On the other hand, St. Vincent's has developed during its 50 years, sharing fully in the advances in health care we have seen throughout that period. It shows the way for a facility to be of reasonable and human dimensions, while offering the sophisticated skills and facilities modern medicine demands. Patients of all creeds and none have shared these benefits.

This year we are celebrating the many accomplishments of a hospital; but these are possible only because of the individuals whose commitment and talent make these achievements possible. I congratulate the Sisters, doctors, nurses, staff and volunteers who deserve credit for making St. Vincent's what it is today, even as I encourage them to lay the foundation for another fifty years of truly Catholic health care.

Message from

Sister Marion Macdonald

Vicar-General of the Sisters of Charity,
Saint John, New Brunswick



This Fiftieth year is to be a jubilee year for you

Lv. 25:10

From the days of the Old Testament the 50th year is marked as one of jubilee—of celebration in God's goodness. Today as we look back—reflect and look ahead to the future of St. Vincent's we thank and praise God who brought us to this day. We remember with gratitude all those who were responsible for building the reputation of personal concern for patients and staff. Along with this quality of care is a concern for keeping abreast with current advances in medical science and treatment.

I join with the Sisters of Charity, the Board and staff of St. Vincent's as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary. I rejoice that I have been privileged to be part of the growth of St. Vincent's for many of these years. May the future lead us always to recognize the needs of those we are privileged to serve.

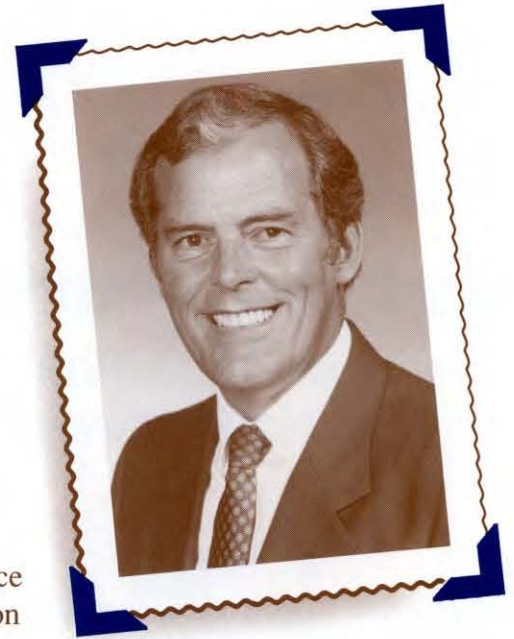
*Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ: For He has blessed us*

Eph. 1:3.

Message from

William N. Vander Zalm

Premier of British Columbia



The people of British Columbia and the Government of the Province extend to you sincere congratulations and warm wishes on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception St. Vincent's Hospital as a shining example of compassion and caring in reaching out to others through your devoted community service. It is our heartfelt wish that God's richest blessings of peace, love and joy will be yours always.



Message from

Peter A. Dueck

Minister of Health for B.C.

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, I wish to extend Anniversary congratulations to St. Vincent's Hospital and to its founding Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception.

In 1939, St. Vincent's joined the growing community of lower mainland hospitals providing a wide range of services.

Today, fifty years later, St. Vincent's 250 beds meet the needs for acute, extended and psychiatric care. St. Vincent's has a long tradition of providing quality care to the citizens of Vancouver.

I wish St. Vincent's continued success in the years ahead.

Message from

Gordon Campbell

Mayor , City of Vancouver

On behalf of the City of Vancouver it gives me great pleasure to congratulate St. Vincent's Hospital on its 50th Anniversary.

St. Vincent's, established by the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception in 1939, has made a significant contribution to the City in health care. St. Vincent's has given over half a century of service to the sick and to the troubled. This hospital has also established innovative projects that have made a difference to patients, their families and the spirit of outreach.

The City of Vancouver has been enriched by the presence of St. Vincent's Hospital and its many boards of management, staff and supporters.

May I wish you continuing success in your next fifty years.



Message from

Mayor G.J. Blair

Chairman of the Greater Vancouver Regional District

On behalf of the Greater Vancouver Regional Hospital District I would like to congratulate St. Vincent's Hospital on providing quality health care to the residents of this Region for the past fifty years.

St. Vincent's Hospital became a member of the Greater Vancouver Regional Hospital District in 1967. Since then the Regional District has assisted this excellent community hospital with funds for additional extended care and psychiatric beds, land for the parking lot and much needed medical equipment.

We wish the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception and Board of Management of St. Vincent's Hospital continued success in their role in the health care system.



Message from

Dr. Hazel Birchall

President of the Medical Staff

On behalf of the entire Medical Staff of St. Vincent's Hospital, I wish to acknowledge the achievement of this institution in devoting 50 years to the medical and pastoral care of patients.

This first half century will prove to be the foundation for further forward strides in the provision of high quality, technologically advanced and personally oriented patient care. Just as the world at large changes, so will all the various factions which constitute a good hospital adapt to change in the future. The Medical Staff offers its wholehearted support to St. Vincent's Hospital in all areas as a leader of high quality community oriented patient care.

Message from

Barrie Smythe

Chairman, Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors of St. Vincent's Hospital, I wish to extend congratulations to the hospital and the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

St. Vincent's Hospital can take pride in the past 50 years of "participating in the healing ministry" and can look forward with anticipation to the next 50 years of service to the community it serves.

I join with the Board in wishing St. Vincent's continued success and best wishes for the future.

Superiors of the Sisters of Charity

Sister M. Ruth (Ross)	1939 - 1945
Sister Constance Marie (Crain)	1945 - 1951
Sister M. Ruth (Ross)	1951 - 1957
Sister Agnes Marie (Stilwell)	1957 - 1961
Sister Marion MacDonald	1961 - 1967
Sister Margaret Carty	1967 - 1970
Sister Katherine Young	1970 - 1971
Sister Rita Lynch	1971 - 1974
Sister Jean Keenan	1974 - 1980
Sister Mabel Foster	1980 - 1983
Sister Frances Rooney	1983 - 1989

Administrators of Saint Vincent's

Sister Mary Ruth (Ross)	1939 - 1957
Assistants:	
Sister Mary James	1947 - 1955
Sister Margaret Marie	1955 - 1956
Sister Marion Macdonald	1957 - 1980
Assistants:	
Sister Rita Lynch	1963 - 1967
Mr. Clifford C. White	1967 - 1972
Mr. Charles Grierson	1976 - 1979
Mr. Michael Higgins	1980 - 1981
Mr. Michael Higgins	1981 -
Assistants:	
Mr. John McKenna	1981 - 1987
Mr. David Dines	1987 -

Sisters of Charity Hospital Beginnings 1939

The Foundress

Honoria Conway (1815-1892) a native of Galway, Ireland, was born in Dover Castle on June 18, 1815, where her father's regiment was garrisoned at the close of the Napoleonic Wars. Having immigrated to Saint John, New Brunswick, in 1837, she eventually settled near Meteghan, Nova Scotia.

In 1852, at the age of 37, she entered the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul at Mount St. Vincent, New York. This community was a branch of Mother Seton's Sisters of Charity of Emmitsburg.

In 1854, Honoria Conway, a novice known in religion as Mother Vincent, returned to Saint John, New Brunswick, as foundress of the Sisters of Charity of Saint John. Mother Vincent and her three companions continued their spiritual training under Bishop Thomas L. Connolly and on October 21, 1854, pronounced their religious vows as Sisters of Charity of Saint John. Later the community became known as The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception.

The Founding and Growth of the Sisters of Charity

It was in the late nineteenth century (October 1852) that Thomas Louis Connolly, O.F.M. Capuchin, was named Bishop of Saint John, New Brunswick. Bishop Connolly was immediately

concerned about the lack of facilities in his diocese for religious instruction. After a month in the city, he started looking for Sisters to provide educational establishments for "the poor children going to destruction." However, in the summer of 1852 and 1854 an epidemic of cholera ravaged Saint John, and soon Bishop Connolly had to put aside his educational priorities to care for seventy orphans. It was in desperation for his orphans that he set out in search of Sisters.

Unable to obtain Sisters from the existing orders, the Bishop brought in four novices from the Sisters of Charity at Mount St. Vincent on the Hudson River, New York, and with this nucleus established the Sisters of Charity. The little group arrived in Saint John in September 1854, and with their zealous Superior, Mother M. Vincent (Honoria Conway), began the task of establishing an orphanage and organizing a new religious community. Her companions were Sister M. Frances (Mary Routanne), Sister M. Joseph (Mary Madden), and Sister M. Stanislaus (Annie McCabe).

The work of these pioneer Sisters prospered and their numbers and institutions grew in the education, social services, and health-care fields. By 1880 a home for boys at Silver Falls opened, and over eighty boys were housed at St. Patrick's Industrial School. Only eight years later, a home for the aged was opened in Saint John: the Mater Misericordiae Home located on Sydney Street.



*Honoria Conway (Mother Vincent),
foundress of the Sisters of Charity.*

Several other missions were opened in New Brunswick but it was not until July 1906 that the first venture outside the founding province became a reality. An appeal to care for orphans took the Sisters to Saskatchewan. In 1906, St. Patrick's Orphanage in Prince Albert was staffed by the Sisters of Charity. The Bishop of Prince Albert, along with the medical doctors, admired the work and dedication of the Sisters and came to them with a plea to build and staff a Catholic hospital. In 1910, Mother M. Thomas and her Council responded by opening The Holy Family Hospital in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, the first hospital undertaken by the Order.

The people in Saint John, seeing that the Sisters had opened a hospital in the West, protested that their foundation city did not boast a Catholic hospital. Mother Thomas and Council found that they had a new project on their hands, and the Saint John infirmary opened in 1914. It became known later as St. Joseph's Hospital.

In 1924, the West again called on the Sisters as schools were opened in Edmonton, Alberta, and Holdfast, Saskatchewan. Two years later, the Sisters took charge of a small hospital outside of Edmonton at Radway and



Sister M. Ruth, Administrator 1939-1957.

expanded it to a twenty-bed hospital with improved facilities. In that same year, the Sisters also took charge of the Maliseet Hospital on the Tobique Indian Reserve in New Brunswick.

It was not until 1929 that the Sisters of Charity pushed their Western frontiers beyond the Rocky Mountains.

The request from the Pacific came from Archbishop W. Duke, D.D., of Vancouver. Knowing of the successful work of the Sisters in Saint John and throughout Canada, he called on them to play a part in bringing Catholic education to British Columbia. Schools staffed by the Sisters were opened: Sacred Heart, Guardian Angel, Saint Francis of Assisi, and St. Anthony's in Vancouver, and St. John's Home for Boys in Burnaby. At the same time, Our Lady of Mercy Home opened as a foundling home and refuge for unmarried mothers.

No one in Vancouver during the early thirties could deny that the hospital accommodation of the city was inadequate. There were scores of instances of patients requiring medical or surgical treatment having to wait their turn at the General Hospital owing to the lack of beds. Something had to be done to remedy the unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Archbishop Duke was aware of how well the sick and suffering were cared for by the efficient and sympathetic hands of the Sisters. In 1937 he appealed once more to Saint John, this time stating the need for another Catholic Hospital in Vancouver.

Foundress of St. Vincent's Hospital—Sister Ruth

Mother M. Clarice, Superior General of the Sisters of Charity, keenly aware of her personnel in Vancouver, called upon Sister Ruth to look into the possibilities of opening a Catholic health institution in Vancouver.

Sister Ruth (Helen Ross) of Digby, Nova Scotia, entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity in Saint John in 1917. She had an eighteen month course in the theory and practice of nursing education at St. Joseph's Hospital, Saint John, New Brunswick.

For the first twelve years after her profession of vows, Sister Ruth served at the Mater Misericordiae Home for the aged and at the St. Patrick's Orphanage for boys. Both institutions were located in Saint John. From there Sister Ruth had come to Vancouver on April 15, 1929, to become the superintendent of Saint John's School for Boys in Burnaby, B.C.

With this wealth of experience in both administration and dealing with the aged and youth, Sister Ruth was to become the force behind the founding of St. Vincent's Hospital.

In preparation for this new task, Sister Ruth received a Certificate in Hospital Administration and a course in personnel management from Providence Hospital and Seattle College, (Seattle, Washington) in 1938.

Sister Ruth was appointed Administrator of St. Vincent's Hospital in 1939.

Site for Hospital

The first task for Sister Ruth was to find an appropriate site for a 200 bed hospital. The first site considered was a location already owned by the Sisters of Charity, The Our Lady of Mercy Home at Fifty-Fourth Avenue and Oak Street.

The opposition of property owners in this vicinity caused the Sisters to abandon temporarily plans for a \$300,000 hospital on the corner. Application for re-zoning was refused twice. Opposition was also expressed by the C.P.R., a large holder of property in the neighbourhood. The Sisters did not want to create controversy and started looking elsewhere.

After much searching, Sister Ruth found a site on a high slope of land quite far out of the city at Thirty-Third Avenue and Heather Street, across from the R.C.M.P. barracks. This property also needed re-zoning to permit a hospital.

As we read from *The Daily Province* in April 1938, "Sisters' Granted Hospital Right"

"In order to allow the Sisters of Charity to proceed with erection of a new hospital to be built in units and ultimately to have a capacity of 200 beds, the Town Planning Commission today decided to rezone the block bounded by Thirty-Second and Thirty-Third Avenues at Heather Street."

"Until now, the block has been zoned as a one-family-dwelling district and in that classification building of the hospital is not permissible."

"In order to establish conformity the commission has rezoned the block about Grace Hospital, bounded by Twenty-Sixth and Twenty-Seventh, Ash and Heather; the three blocks between Twenty-Eighth and Thirty-First, on which stands Shaughnessy Military Hospital; also the block on which the Mounted Police Barracks is located."

The Sisters purchased the land, through Mr. C.W. Bain, the land agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, for the sum of \$11,500.

Aerial View of Saint Vincent's (right), Shaughnessy Hospital showing army barracks 1948.



In 1939 the site chosen at Thirty-Third Avenue and Heather Street was far out of the city in the primitive surroundings of the early days. The area had no paved roads and no sidewalks. The only buildings in the vicinity were the R.C.M.P. Barracks, Shaughnessy Hospital (at that time a military hospital for casualties of World War I), and Grace Hospital a Salvation Army hospital built in 1928. Public transportation was provided by the street car line on Oak Street, the nearest stop being Thirty-Third Avenue, but because of the wooded areas between the stop and the hospital, many employees preferred to use the King Edward Avenue run, get off at Heather Street, and walk the remaining distance. A few years later a shuttle-bus service was provided by the B.C. Electric Railway which brought the employees to the terminal located at the hospital. Bus service to St. Vincent's was dropped in January 1952 when the street cars started operating on Cambie south to Forty-Ninth. This brought the trolleys to within two blocks of the hospital grounds.

The site, situated on high ground overlooking the city, with freedom from traffic noises, fog and smoke, together with its nearness and accessibility to the city, is a location that would be hard to duplicate in Vancouver.

The news report went on to say that the Sisters had bought ample ground to enable them to add additional wings to the hospital as conditions warrant without the slightest possibility of overcrowding the site.

Construction of Hospital

Mr. Frank Gardiner, M.R.A.I.C., of the firm of Gardiner and Mercer of Vancouver, designed the hospital under the direction of Sister Ruth.

As Mr. Gardiner stated, "There were two problems that dominated the design and construction procedure for St. Vincent's Hospital in Vancouver. One: the Sisters' desire to include as many hospital beds as possible in the first unit to be erected. Two: the total cost of the first unit must not exceed \$160,000."

Since the entire hospital would be a 200-bed institution, it was decided that the East wing would be built first. The main wing included administration offices, which later could easily be converted into four-, two- or single-bed rooms without structural alterations.

After the architect's plans were completed, tenders were called in early August for the construction. The work was awarded to E.J. Ryan and Co. Ltd., General Contractors, Vancouver. The supervision of construction for the first wing was under the careful guidance of Sister Ruth.

Clearing the land for construction of the hospital began on August 12, 1938. Back in New Brunswick, Mother M. Clarice, who had been instrumental in sending Sister Ruth to Vancouver, celebrated her Feast Day on this same date. Was this a mere coincidence or a result of Sister Ruth's careful planning?

Mother Clarice and the Sisters put their complete trust in and charge of the hospital under the protection of The Divine Infant of Prague. A statue of the Infant has had a special place in the hospital: at first on the main floor, then in the chapel for many years, and now on the third floor.

As the months rolled by, the construction crews were kept busy and great care was taken by them, influenced by the need for economy. They were able to use a modern design in concrete without sacrificing either appearance or structural soundness. The side wall, 160 feet long and five stories high, was entirely of architectural concrete.

As Mr. Gardiner continues, "Forming for the walls was 1 by 6 surfaced boards with the ends splayed at an angle of 35 degrees. During construction, the forms were kept so tightly braced and so well aligned that the surfaces were relatively smooth under two coats of white Portland cement paint.

Concrete was placed by means of "elephant trunks," and external vibrators were used to insure thorough compaction. There was a noticeable absence of small air pockets in the finished walls.

"All floors are concrete, with mastic tile finish throughout except in operating rooms, case rooms, and bathrooms, which have a ceramic tile finish."

Staffing the New Hospital

Great care was taken by the Sisters to provide a staff in keeping with the modern and efficiently equipped institution.

On February 28, 1939, Sister M. Camillus (Duke), an experienced superintendent from St. Joseph's Hospital, left Saint John for Vancouver. She was accompanied by three Sisters: Sister M. Carmelina, who was slated for a mission in Powell River, and Sister M. Eugenia and Sister Agnes Marie, who were to be on the staff of the new hospital. These Sisters lived at the Sacred Heart Convent on Pender Street for a few months until the hospital was ready for occupancy.

On May 8, 1939, the Sisters moved into the new building to flesh it with a spirit. Many tasks had to be completed to make it a home, as well as make it a home for the suffering sick over the years.

Sister Ruth, with her great faith in Divine Providence, imparted that spirit to the Sisters and staff - a cheerful, confident belief in the possibility of accomplishing what might seem an impossible dream. Sister was one who loved people, who went out to meet the needs of people, and who breathed a spirit of love. She was a woman of courage and vision. That spirit was firmly implanted by Sister Ruth and remains the root at St. Vincent's, as remarked by many of the Sisters who knew and lived with her.

The Opening Ceremonies

On July 19, 1939, the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, patron of the Sisters and all charitable works, St. Vincent's Hospital was blessed and officially opened.

The first Mass was celebrated in the hospital chapel on June 19, 1939, by His Excellency William Duke, Archbishop of Vancouver. He also officially placed the Statue of the Infant of Prague on the main floor.

"Hundreds of Vancouver citizens gathered on the slopes of Little Mountain in front of the city's newest hospital, the 100-bed St. Vincent's, Thirty-third Avenue and Heather Street at 3 p.m. Wednesday, to see the picturesque ceremony of the blessing and opening of the hospital by His Excellency Archbishop William Duke, R.C. Archbishop of Vancouver," reported the *Daily Province*.

"Leaders of the Roman Catholic community, architects, builders, medical and educational notables took part in the brief formal program which added the new institution operated by the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception to those dedicated to the relief of human suffering in this city.

"The actual archiepiscopal blessing was preceded by the introduction of Dr. R. MacKechnie, chancellor of the University of British Columbia and several of the city's doctors by the chairman, Dr. Edward Gray. Another speaker was Dr. A.K. Haywood, superintendent of Vancouver General Hospital, who wished the new hospital every success in its task.

"His Excellency, then wearing the white and gold vestments of his office, performed the ceremony of blessing the hospital. He had previously blessed the equipment and wards and now blessed the golden cross on the building that was high above him.

"An interesting ceremony of the afternoon took place when Col. J.P. Keene, on behalf of the contractors, presented the keys of the hospital to F.G. Gardiner, the architect, referring to the hospital as a Class A Building, fully fire-proofed.

"The architect, in turn, passed a memento key over to Archbishop Duke, who then led the way through the wide doors followed by some 500 people."

Early Staff

Sister Ruth was appointed Administrator and Superior of the new hospital; Sister M. Camillus (Duke) became director of Nursing Service. They were assisted by a staff of fifteen Sisters, all expert in their special fields of work. Sisters supervised each branch of the hospital work and were in charge of graduate nurses.

Sister M. Carita (Hartley) was the R.N. in charge of Maternity, Sister Avila (Litwin) was the lab technologist with Sister Rose Agnes (O'Leary) in X-Ray and Pharmacy. Sister Constance Marie (Crain) was kept busy in the operating room and as surgical supervisor. Medical records were under the supervision of Sister M. Eugenia (McLaughlin). Sister Marie Therese (Harsch) was in Central Supply. Sister M. Canisius (Lynch) was in the general office along with Sister M. Benedict (Peters), the accountant, and Sister Agnes Marie (Stilwell),



Father A. Perrault Chaplain 1939-1954.
Power house and laundry in background.

bookkeeper. Sister M. Gregory (Viczo) was the laundry supervisor. Sister Josephine (Schell) was the dietary supervisor and was aided for a short time by Sister M. Assunta (Hurley) and Sister Helen Marie (Darrah). Sister M. Floracita (Riordan) joined the others in general duties in time for the opening of the hospital in July, 1939. Sister Agnes Veronica (McLaughlin) also assisted in X-Ray and general duties in the first year of the hospital.

The first chaplain, appointed to the hospital on July 7, 1939, was Father Anthony Perrault, who had previously been chaplain at St. John's Home for Boys and at Our Lady of Mercy Home, both institutions in charge of the Sisters of Charity.

Many dedicated lay people, along with the Sisters, were instrumental at the beginning of the new enterprise. The first nurses were May Harvey (Mrs. R.C. Talmey), Bernice MacKinnon, Agnes Shea (Mrs. P. Navin), and Margaret Shea (Mrs. T. Hammersmark). Miss Nora Dale was one of the first helpers in the kitchen; so was Mrs. Kay Less who later continued in the general office as accountant for many years. Her husband, Mr. Bill Less, was the hospital's first maintenance man, with Mr. Clapperton on his staff. Other early staff members were Mrs. Agnes Hodgson, R.N., Mrs. Laurine Gold, R.N., Miss Ivy Leary, business office, Mr. Adrian Menard, orderly, Mr. A. Erickson, engineer and Marie Clancey, X-Ray steno.



X-Ray Department, Sister Agnes Marie (Stilwell).

The New Hospital and Equipment

The main entrance to the hospital was on Heather Street, with two flights of steps leading up either side of an imposing stone balcony beneath tall windows surmounted by a cross of gold standing out in relief on the white stone.

Double plate glass doors revealed a wide entrance hall with corridors to the north and south. On the main floor were situated the nurses' station, elevator, medicine and clothes closets, flower rooms, a stretcher alcove, and business offices. Also on this floor was the office of the Director of Nursing, linen rooms and patients' rooms. A special feature of the entire building was the wide entrance doors to every room and ward with double hinges allowing easy moving of the beds and stretchers. Windows in the doors were in the shape of ship's portholes containing a circle of stained glass in golden tones which was repeated in the doors to the solariums on each floor. These solariums had special windows that could be let down so that the patients requiring sun treatment could receive the full extent of the sun's rays combined with fresh air.

The second floor, a duplication of the first, was made up of private, semi-private and four-bed wards with tiled bathrooms and offices. The Chapel was located on the second floor. It extended the full width of the building on the north end, and had easy access from the main and ground floors.

On the third floor was located the Surgical Department. It was a self-contained unit with two spacious operating rooms having special tiled walls and floors. Each operating room, containing recessed instrument cabinets, was connected to tiled instrument, sterilizing, and scrub rooms adjoining. In addition, there were rooms with lockers and showers for the doctors.

At the other end of the third floor was the Maternity Department which was also self contained.

The fourth floor was divided. At the south end was the Pediatric Department. The children's solarium was fitted with floors of inlaid rubber of light grey with pictures of ducks in deep blue. The north end of this floor was the living quarters for the Sisters on staff at the hospital.

The ground floor contained the main kitchen which was a marvel of up-to-date appliances with Hobart equipment, elevators for food, and centralized services. In addition to the kitchen, the Pharmacy, Medical Records, and X-Ray departments were located on this floor. Also located on this floor was an ambulance entrance.

In the X-Ray Department was a new General Electric Model KX-11-33 Shockproof Diagnostic X-Ray unit. The hospital was the only one in Canada at that time to have such a high-powered, modern x-ray machine. It happened that the hospital was completed when the General Electric Corporation, after years of research, was making its initial offer of this machine to the medical profession.

Early War Year Struggles

The early years of the hospital were times of struggles in many ways. It was time of many shortages - nursing staff, linens, sugar rationing and other essentials.

Many times when a relief nurse was called in to duty, she would, if necessary, bring her baby; the baby would sleep in a crib at the hospital while the mother filled in her role of nurse.

On opening day, July 19, 1939, the first patient was admitted, a man who was placed in bed four in Room 110. A few days later Mrs. White was admitted and on July 23, John Francis Vincent White the first baby was born. The first resident doctor, Dr. F. Jordon, joined the hospital staff as resident physician on July 3, 1939. Soon blood was spilled on the operating room floor as Dr. Ivan Martianoff performed the first surgery. The first month of operation (July 19 - August 19) realized 36 admissions, 6 outdoor patients, and 33 minor and major operations. In August a cheque of \$10,000 was received from the Provincial Government for the installation of the Elevator. By the end of six months of operations, 166 patients had been admitted.

Board of Management

In these early years, Sister Ruth saw the need of laymen to help support the hospital. For this reason the first Board of Management consisted of six persons, three laymen and three Sisters. The first



Sister M. James and General Office Staff: (L to R) Ivy Leary, Cecilia Anderson, Joan Gordon, Lay Less, Sister Mary James, Molly Duggan and Pauline Prache April, 1952.



Medical Staff, June 1952. Dr. G. Large, Dr. A. Dobrey, Dr. R.P. McCaffrey, Dr. H.H. Caple, Dr. R.G. Yoerger, R.D. Millar, N. Stewart and J.H. Black.

meeting of the Board of Management of St. Vincent's was held on December 12, 1941. Sister Ruth was the chairman, representing Administration and Superior of the Sisters, and Sister M. Benedict was the Secretary. Other members on the board were: Sister Agnes Marie, Mr. Justice A.H.J. Swencisky, Mr. R. Underhill and Mr. F. Shanahan. Judge Swencisky was forced to leave the Board of Management after the first meeting due to business reasons. The other two dedicated laymen continued on the Board for many years and were a great help and asset during St. Vincent's struggling years.

Two important items discussed at this first meeting were an application of the C.P.R. Employees' Medical Association for a tender on hospitalization of their members and the proposal by the Metropolitan Health Centre to include St. Vincent's in their plan to take care of casualties in the case of air raids.

In March, 25 beds provided by the Shaughnessy Military Hospital, for casualties in case of air raids, were set up. Blackout, emergency, and fire protection arrangements were also made by the hospital.

January 23, 1941, was the first medical staff meeting. Mr. P. Ward, Provincial inspector of hospitals, was present along with Dr. I. Martianoff, Dr. C.T. McCallum, and Dr. A. Dobrey (Chairman). Sister Ruth and Sister Camillus represented the Board of Management.

Other medical staff in these first years were: Dr. Langley, Dr. Grimson, Dr. Du Vernet, Dr. R. Yoerger, Dr. N.A. Stewart, Dr. H.H. Caple, Dr. E.J. Gray, Dr. Hershey, Dr. Skinner, Dr. R.D. Miller, Dr. R.P. McCaffrey, Dr. H.H. Pitts, Sr., Dr. G. Large, Dr. A.P. Brown, Dr. E. Kfiffer, Dr. J.R. Farish, Dr. J.H. Black, Dr. J. Warne, Dr. V. Drache, Dr. M. MacPherson, Dr. Ireland.

In December of 1941, the contract with the C.P.R. Employees' Medical Association for 40 beds was signed, and the first patients came in January 1942.

The Association's chief medical officer was Dr. Arthur Lynch, F.R.C.S. His staff consisted of Dr. George Petrie, Dr. Saul Bonnell, and Dr. Dick Weldon. Prices quoted to C.P.R. hospital insurance were as follows: Ward beds, \$3 a day including stock drugs only; operating room, \$5 per operation (does not include the anesthetist); electrocardiograph, \$5; basal metabolism, \$3; urinalysis first five free; after that 25 cents a test; complete blood count \$3; partial blood count \$1.

Life around the hospital during these early years can be visualized by entries collected from the Sister's diary, and from minutes of the Board meetings.

"June 1942 - The first floor is filled to capacity. Our little garden by the laundry is springing up - corn, squash, peas, lettuce, tomato plants and scarlet runners.

"Dr. Dobrey back from vacation while Dr. Du Vernet took his place. Dr. Petrie back from Convention at Jasper."

July of the same year caused a little excitement as a "dope addict" was caught in Pharmacy. "Great to have the R.C.M.P. across the street!"

"August showed 1,055 admissions to date, averaging about 48 patients daily.

"Ten teaching Sisters from Sacred Heart on Keefer Street and Our Lady of Mercy Home took part in a "sewing party" for the hospital. Sisters Carmelina and Andre Marie stayed two days to help out in the mending difficulties.

"Nurse situation becoming serious in all hospitals.

"A window in the laundry room now allows welcome draughts of Western breezes to enter, as it had been very hot.

"Fr. P.M. Butler, Chaplain from "Little Mountain Barracks," and Msgr. McKinnon have been coming each day for Mass while Fr. Perrault on holidays.

"October found the doctors all jubilating over the gravelled parking spaces at the Main and Ambulance Entrance.

"Fourth floor almost ready so Ward Maids move to ground floor.

"November more difficult to obtain food and hospital supplies every day. His Worship Mayor Cornett was a patient during the month.

"Fruit trees - apple, pear, peach and cherry were planted on the hospital grounds.

"December saw the first move to fourth floor to increase the bed capacity

to ninety-five. This month, St. Vincent's also became a member of the Catholic Association of the U.S. and Canada.

"This year of 1942 ended with a total of 1880 patients, a rise from 873 in 1941.

"January 1943 started with a New Year's baby born at St. Vincent's. Snow storm tied up the traffic and schools closed due to shortage of fuel and transportation. Fourth floor has 13 patients. We had a peak of 101 patients including 16 babies.

"February - we had a peak of 107 patients. The month ended with 247 admissions, 35 births, 67 operations and 52 X-rays.

"March - still no potatoes except a few here and there at a high of 3 lbs. for 25 cents.

"April - Twenty admissions yesterday, now a total of 106. Totals for the month were: admissions 265, births 50, Deaths 10, X-rays 39, operations 90 (highest since opening).

"July 19, 1943 - Our Fourth Birthday - a picnic supper on the roof for the Sisters.

"August Mr. R. Underhill tells us about Health Insurance at our meeting this evening.

"November 1943 meeting was held with C.P.R. Medical Officers, who said they were satisfied with the employees' medical contract and renewed it for another 2 years."

News of 1944

"August - two hundred gallons of apple sauce already canned this season.

"October - screens for all windows were purchased. "The number of patients for the year was 214 more than 1943."

During these early years there were some changes among the Sisters. In the fall of 1941, Sister Carita, R.N. was replaced by Sister M. Cajetan (Shea) R.N.; Sister Rose Agnes was replaced in X-ray by Sister Agnes Marie; Sister Celia Marie (Bonokoski) came as assistant in the dietary, and Sister Mary James (Mulvaney) became the office manager,



Nursery — Sister M. Cajetan (Shea) and staff.

including admitting, as Sr. Canisius took over central supply from Sister Marie Therese, and Sr. Imelda came for general duty.

The number of Sisters remained constant at fourteen until September of 1942 when two new nursing Sisters came: Sister M. Jane Frances (Rooney) and Sister Mary Richard, who were joined later by Sister M. Brenda for a short time. Sister M. Camillus was transferred to Prince Albert, so Sister Ruth continued as Director of Nursing as well as Administrator.

Perhaps the best summary on these early years could be found in a letter written to Sister Ruth on the fifth anniversary of St. Vincent's (July 19, 1944) by the late Dr. Ivan Martiano, Sr.

In his letter Dr. Martiano congratulated Sister Ruth and all associated with St. Vincent's for the splendid work that was being done five years after it was opened. Dr. Martiano notes that during this time there were undoubtedly many ups and downs, and in fact the first two and one-half years of the hospital were mostly downs. "However, with your energy and efficiency, you have overcome the difficulties and it would appear now, at the end of five years, that you are on top with your 'ups.'"

Dr. Martiano recalls many human touches with which he was associated during these five years, and in particular the splendid spirit of charity that was demonstrated.

He recalled that at times there would be only 10 to 15 patients in the hospital. The hospital was losing financially every day, and yet during these times when hospital insurance was not known, if a patient required admission, the response to his state of need was always, "Bring him in, send her in". "You, being poor yourself, did not refuse to help the poor. This is real Christianity."

Dr. Martiano recalled his first operation and the many tough cases that were helped to recover. Quoting from this letter, "They all recovered not only because of the drugs administered to them but because of the splendid co-operation among Sisters, nurses, and doctors, because of the splendid care given to them by the staff, because of one more factor which nobody dare deny, the factor of prayer and that Almighty God is always with you. God sees all your good deeds and He will never leave you."

God did prove to be with the struggles, and in this fifth year of operation the contract with the C.P.R. to provide care for C.P.R. employees, continued to help give St. Vincent's the necessary financial assistance and enabled it to keep growing.

The Financial Picture

In order to purchase the land, construct the hospital, maintain the building, and pay the employees, the Sisters had taken a loan from Guaranty Trust. The Sisters were put on the payroll in early May, and their salaries went into payment on the loan. After the first eight months of operation, the financial statement was as follows:

Receipts December, 1939

Received from Patients	\$4,256.81
	(July-Dec.)
Grants per Capita	1,603.03
	(July-Dec.)
Special Donations	11,077.50
Miscellaneous	151.74
Loans	
(Mother House of Sisters)	35,000.00
Bond Issue	150,000.00
Total	\$202,089.08

Disbursements May-December 1939

Salaries	\$6,922.55
(Lay help only)	
Housekeeping	362.23
Linen	429.03
Laundry	54.89
Medical/Surgical Supplies	511.98
X-Ray	—
Dietary	2,175.74
Fuel & Heating	444.87
Postage & Office Supplies	99.02
General Administration	209.01
Water & Ice	194.40
Light/Room/Gas	1,058.38
Telephone/Telegraph	304.25
Freight/Express	18.65
Insurance	376.33
Equipment/Repairs	10,181.05
Buildings & Grounds	167,103.31
(Finishing Construction)	
Taxes	431.33
Bond Issue (Interest)	6,014.55
Chapel	135.47
	197,024.04
Cash on Hand	5,062.04
	\$202,089.08



Medical Records — Sister M. Eugenia (McLaughlin).

From 1939 to December 1944, these were some of the monthly salaries: Administration, \$180; Registered nurses, \$90; other department heads, \$80; general duty and assistants, \$60. Sisters in residence paid the hospital for their board and lodging.

Changes and improvements continued. In the early months of 1945, a new auxiliary extractor for the laundry was purchased, as well as a portable X-ray and a Frigidaire for the blood bank.

Penicillin, its cost and advantages, was also being discussed at this time.

The rationing of sugar and meat was still a concern, as was the scarcity of other food items.

By the end of December there was a need to increase the size of the laundry-boiler room by installing an additional boiler.

From January of 1945 to December 1946 there was a slight increase in both salaries and the fees for room and board so that administrative staff received \$225, R.N.'s \$120, and others \$100 or \$80.

By September 1946 Mr. Tom Byrnes, Sister M. James, Sr. Constance Marie and Sr. Alexina had become new board members, joining Sister Ruth, Mr. R. Underhill, and Mr. F. Shanahan.

September of 1948 saw another increase in monthly salaries, so that administration cleared \$295 and R.N.'s cleared \$140. The lowest staff salary was \$110.

Early in November 1946, Drs. R. Yoerger and N.A. Stewart, writing on behalf of the medical staff, pled with

Mother Clarice, head of the Order in New Brunswick, to increase the hospital's number of beds to 200. Such an increase would permit the hospital to have qualified interns and more full-time staff.

By October 1947, Mr. Jim Hughes was appointed to the Board of Management. During this month as well, Loomis Armoured Car Service was engaged, insuring funds being transported to Bank.

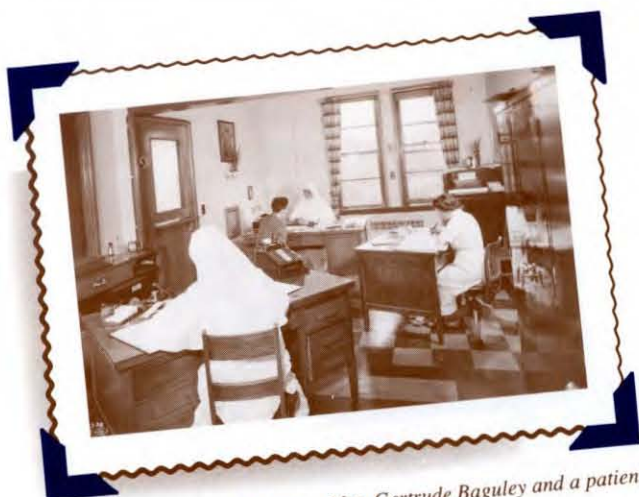
Some statistics for these years are:

Year	1946	1947	1948
Admissions	3026	3396	3762
Newborns	452	544	586
	(16 Caesarians)		
Total	3478	3940	4348
Outpatients	406	656	865
Deaths	68	80	86
	(8 NB)	(5NB)	(8 NB)

(NB - Newborns)

On May 17, 1948, the Pediatric Department was officially opened in the former orderly's room and two guest rooms.

On the ninth birthday of the hospital, a recreation hall or little cottage was opened by the Sisters in the woods west of the hospital. It was called "The Grove" or "Our Lady's Bower," and proved to be a great spot for the Sisters' days off and for holidays as it could accommodate up to seven. It was later named "Fatima" and continued to be a favorite spot for the Sisters, as well as for medical and staff picnics.



*Sister M. Ruth, Sister M. James, Mrs. Gertrude Baguley and a patient
— General Administration Office.*

By 1948 the hospital was still struggling to stand on its own. Receipts (income) amounted to \$313,539.93. Patients' fees brought in \$260,275.40, and the provincial grant was increased to \$47,769.25.

Disbursements (expenses) for the year amounted to \$315,308.55. Salaries for staff were approximately \$170,000 while Sisters' salaries totalled \$30,000 for the fourteen Sisters in key positions. Other major expenses were medical and surgical supplies, \$37,039.17; dietary, \$32,837.69; equipment, \$12,768.91; fuel, \$7,173.16; and power, electricity and gas, \$3,977.03. The bond issue for that year was \$3,800.

Health Insurance Introduced to British Columbia

British Columbia Hospital Insurance Service

The problem of provincial health insurance first came under scrutiny in British Columbia in 1919 with the appointment of a Royal Commission of enquiry. B.C. residents first voted in favor of a health insurance plan in 1937. By 1948 the financial situation of many hospitals had deteriorated to where they could not meet operational costs without government assistance. The Hospital Insurance Act was passed authorizing a Hospital Insurance Service to be

established and providing almost complete coverage for the cost of acute care in hospitals; administration of the Act began January 1, 1949. Ten years later the welfare branch was made a separate department and the Department of Health Services and Hospital Insurance comprising three branches Health, Mental Health Services, and the British Columbia Hospital Insurance Service (B.C.H.I.S.) - was established; one of the major responsibilities of the Hospital Insurance Service was the administration of the Hospital Act which controls the organization and operation of hospitals in B.C. Each province was charged with the development of its own hospital insurance plan and was responsible for its administration and operation; funds being voted annually by the provincial Legislature. The part taken by the federal government was that of sharing certain stipulated costs with each province on a formula basis, provided the provincial plan met certain minimum requirements set forth in the federal Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act and regulations.

Residents of B.C. started to pay premiums towards the government's compulsory hospital insurance plan on January 1, 1949, (Blue Cross no longer existed after 1948.)

The Health Insurance Service covered all necessary hospital service, maternity service, operating room, approved drugs, X-ray, and laboratory services. The cost was \$15 a year for single persons, \$24 for one-dependent families and \$30 for

families with more than one dependent. It covered every person who had resided in B.C. for the last six months except those who belonged to a private insurance plan with equal benefits.

The new plan, as worked out by the Department of Health, seemed likely to fulfil its two-fold objective of safeguarding public health and placing hospitals on a sounder financial basis.

The fear of a crippling hospital bill, which had hung over every family, was removed for a cost varying from \$1 to \$2.50 a month. On the other hand, hospitals, which had been accumulating annual deficits largely because of their high percentage of unpaid bills, would be sure of collecting the standard rate for every patient who entered their doors.

For the first six months after the health plan became operative, a small change was seen in the finances for a very short time. B.C.H.I.S. paid a rate of \$8.25 a day, but St. Vincent's needed \$9.75. A budget of \$10 a day was set for 1949.

By the end of 1949, there was a deficit, and there was concern about how the hospital would take care of the losses if patients refused or were unable to make up the difference themselves.

In February of 1949, a new X-ray unit was installed by B.C.H.I.S. to permit taking a chest X-ray of each patient admitted to the hospital. Space was provided for this machine by utilizing part of the children's ward on the ground floor.

In 1949 hospitals in the lower mainland who were proposing construction were surveyed by the Hamilton Hospital Survey. Mr. George S. Pearson, minister of health stated that this survey would influence plans for future expansions.

The Hamilton Survey report classed St. Vincent's as a "Church-non-profit general hospital." It was noted that \$336,000 was allotted by this particular survey for 48 beds at St. Vincent's. It was recommended that 48 beds be added in 1951 and between 1951-1955 an additional 150 beds be constructed.

The Board of Management felt they should approach the Board of Trustees of



Chapel 1939-1953.

the Sisters of Charity for authority to negotiate for the construction of an additional of 100 beds, or, as an alternate, a 48-bed addition as recommended by the Hamilton report. This addition was to include a chapel and cafeteria.

In 1950, Mother M. Joan, Superior General of the Sisters, visited the hospital. She said, "If members could prove the definite need for an additional 100 beds in a report to the Motherhouse the addition would surely be approved."

There were several other noteworthy events in 1950. The hospital became a member of the Association of Western Hospitals. The first dictaphone was installed in medical records on May 25. A doctors' registry was set up. In November, a patient was treated with a new drug, Cortisone.

The following year, on March 29, 1951, due to a recent donation, a public address system was installed. In August, a grant to help cover past construction was received from the provincial government.

Mr. Thomas Dohm and Mr. Robert Bawlf became new Board members to replace Mr. Shanahan and Sister Constance Marie, who were both transferred. In April, blueprints of a proposed new wing were examined.

Sister Ruth's Achievements and Honors

Sister Ruth continued as Administrator during all these years and became not only superintendent of nurses but personnel manager as well. During the years 1946-52, Sister had also attended various institutes and advanced courses for hospital administrators. She became a member of the Accounting and Statistics Committee of the Canadian Hospital Council; received a Certificate of Attendance, Western Canada Institute for Hospital Administrators and Trustees in 1948; was President of the Catholic Hospital Conference of British Columbia 1948, '49, and '50; was a member of the Council of Practical Nurses as representative of the British Columbia Hospitals Association. This period culminated in her becoming a member of the American College of Hospital Administrators in 1952.

On July 1, Honours List for 1946, Sister Ruth was made a Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire "...for sympathetic and capable service in the cause of Public Health."

The year 1951 saw the Florence E. Smith Memorial prize instituted by Mr. Harry Smith. Fifty dollars was to be awarded annually to a nurse on the women's floor voted "most efficient - most kind." It was received in 1951 by Miss Selina Lee, by Hannah Macaskill in 1952, and by Miss Cecilia Bear in 1953.

Other changes in staffing came about during the late '40s. Sister M. Edwardina (Gillen) became Lab Technician, Sister M. Gregory transferred from laundry to assistant in dietary, and Sister M. Floracita became the laundry supervisor. More nursing Sisters came to St. Vincent's: Sister M. Christine, (Mulhern), Sister M. Joseph (O'Neill), and Sister Charlotte (Murphy).

Due to the growing population and the introduction of the provincial health insurance, the 1939 wing became inadequate, and further construction began in 1952. Architects were Gardiner and Thornton; contractors, Smith Bros. & Wilson, Ltd.

From 1939 to 1953, the hospital, with its limited capacity of 100 beds and 15 bassinets, admitted and treated approximately 46,159 patients, newborns and outpatients.

Sister Ruth and her efficient staff were ready to expand. A main wing of 100 beds was to be added to the first wing.

First Expansion and Growth 1952



Wing in Construction 1953.

As one looked back to the year 1952 a new hope arose for the Sisters, the doctors, and the patients. Concrete steps were taken for the construction of the main hospital wing.

In early January, Mother M. Joan, Superior General of the Sisters of Charity, visited St. Vincent's and gave the authority to proceed with the building as permission to borrow money had been received.

Health Minister Turnbull announced from Victoria on May 12, 1952, that the B.C. government had agreed to pay one-third of the cost of a 100-bed addition to St. Vincent's Hospital.

The federal government contributions to the total cost would be approximately \$153,000.

The City of Vancouver in March pronounced a tax exemption for the new hospital building.

The Sisters of Charity would finance the rest of the construction with donations and a bond of \$57,000. On August 15, 1952, the last \$50,000 owing was paid to the Bank, leaving the 1939 wing free of debt.

Architects E.D. Gardiner and P. Thornton said, "plans for the addition were ready to go into the working drawing stage." They said, "The addition will front on Thirty-Third Avenue and be five storeys, 46 feet wide and 200 feet long. It will be a reinforced concrete, fireproof construction." Sister Ruth, who had supervised the first wing thirteen

years ago, said, "The addition has been in the planning stages for the past seven months."

The Minister of Health, Hon. A.D. Turnbull, said, "The Provincial Government has approved awarding the contract to Smith Brothers and Wilson."

The first steps in construction began on the 27th of May as the big caterpillar "Lorain" arrived, and by 5:30 p.m. that same day the land was cleared of all the trees. On September 5, 1952, the first cement was poured for the new wing.

As the construction continued, many fund-raising events helped fill the coffers to purchase equipment and supplies to furnish the new wing.

Nurses sponsored dances such as Summer Frolic, teas and home cooking and white elephant sales. Raffles of a panda bear, queen dolls, and sales of candy and goodies were initiated by the departments within the hospital. Bingos sponsored by nursing staff and wives of the doctors were held in individual homes. An "unorganized" auxiliary was really organized and could not be surpassed in teamwork, enthusiasm and results.

Letters were sent to recently discharged patients, saying "Help Us to Help You." "Evening of Plays" were also presented by the Velvetens Dramatic Club (under the direction of Mrs. Dorothy Golderick, a nurse at St. Vincent's) and by the North Vancouver Players. Many staff members were involved in the plays in aid of St.

Vincent's Building and Equipment Funds. Concerts were also held under the direction of Mrs. Hazel Donaldson and her daughters Gail and Judy; the proceeds went to the hospital.

The Little Flower Library was a project initiated by Sister M. Alexina to augment the fund for purchase of chapel furnishings and other equipment for the new wing. Staff members paid 10 cents to borrow books.

Sister Ruth won a chesterfield in the Taxicub Draw and donated it to the hospital.

Construction continued on in spite of strikes, and completion began to seem close.

Just as important as the construction was the great joy as official approval was received from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. Based on a report submitted by Dr. Brunet, following his survey in January of 1953, the Commission gave St. Vincent's an "A-1 Full-Approved Award, dated May 8, 1953, fourteen years after the hospital's opening in 1939.

By June the cross was erected over the entrance. As well, the partition between the "A" and "B" sections on the fourth floor was removed while, outside, the construction tower came down.

It was August 5, 1953. Mrs. Zombar was delighted to be the first staff member to work in the new wing. Her sewing room was located in the recovery room of the surgery suite. How she wished it

Sisters — 1954: Back row: Sisters Monica Marie (H. Duncan), Cajetan (Shea), Jane Frances (Rooney), Canisius (Lynch), Mary James (Mulvaney), Delphina (Noonan), Alexina (Martz), Eugenia (McLaughlin), Agnes Marie (Stilwell), Natalie (R. Monahan). Front row: Sisters Josephine (M. Schell), Ruth (Ross), Mother M. Joan Superior General, Katherine (Mutter), Florina (Gallant).



would be a permanent arrangement! By September the switchboard operator, Bertha Abbott, was relocated to the main building. A few days later Mr. C.P. Walker was the first patient admitted to the new building in Room 120; his special nurse was Mrs. Frances Foreman, R.N.

The Board of Management continued their support, and the October 29, 1953, meeting was held in the newly furnished Board room. Members present at the meeting were: Mr. R. Underhill, Chairman, Mr. T. Dohm, Mr. J. Hughes, Mr. R. Bawlf, Mr. T. Byrnes, Sister Ruth (Administrator and Superior) and Sister M. James (Secretary). Members of the Board also viewed Sister Ruth's new office, whose furnishings were donated by Smith Bros. and Wilson.

Gradually, as rooms were finished, furnishings and equipment moved in on the construction workers. In the later months of the year, the intercom and paging system was in operation.

Three incubators were placed in the premature nursery; they were made possible by a contribution from the Federal Government valued at \$1,000. Three new telephone telecarts were ready to be used in the wards and semi-private rooms.

Father Perrault moved into his new Chaplain's suite on the first floor and used the spiral steps connecting to the chapel on the second floor. Midnight Mass was celebrated in the new chapel on Christmas Eve.

The Sisters on staff at that time were: Sister Ruth, Superior, Administrator and superintendent of Nurses; nursing supervisors Sister Jane Frances (first and fourth floors), Sister M. Joseph (second), Sister M. Charlotte (surgery), Sister M. Cajetan (maternity), and Sister Florina (pediatrics). The registered technicians were Sister Agnes Marie, X-ray; Sister M. Dorothy, Laboratory; Sister M. Eugenia, medical records; and Sister M. Canisius, central supply. Sister M. James and Sister M. Alexina were located in the main administration office, while Sister Josephine and Sister M. Gregory continued in dietary. Sister M. Floracita supervised the laundry and linen facility.

When the new wing opened more Sisters came: Sister M. Katherine, R.N., Sister Monica Marie (dietitian), Sister M. Delphina, R.N. (second floor), Sister Natalie, (housekeeping). This brought the total number of Sisters to seventeen.

Medical Staff

In 1953, the medical staff at St. Vincent's became officially organized into specialty departments. Planning and research were carried out to seek the best personnel as heads of departments. Amendments to the constitutions and by-laws were established to make this arrangement complete. The following physicians were then approved as department heads by the Board of Management:

Dr. Murray Baird, Department of Medicine; Dr. Roy Huggard, Chief of Surgery; Dr. Harold Caple, Obstetrics & Gynecology; Dr. H.H. Pitts, Sr., Pathology; Dr. Ted Curtis, Paediatrics; Dr. Neil A. Stewart, Anaesthesia; Dr. Al Ireland, Radiology.

St. Vincent's established the first official Department of general practice in B.C.—probably one of the first such departments in Canada. Dr. J.H. Black was appointed Chief of the Department of General Practice. Dr. A.N. Dobrey, Dr. J.P. Doyle, and Dr. E. Kliffer were also in this department. Dr. R.G. Yoerger, Dr. R.P. McCaffrey, Dr. Large, and Dr. E.J. Badre were in the Surgery Department, and Dr. R.D. Miller was in Anesthesiology. Dr. R.G. Yoerger was the Chief of the Medical Staff. Other doctors on staff were Dr. H. VanNorden, Dr. B. Goodman, and Dr. C. Mackenzie.

Besides the active attending medical staff, other doctors were accredited to the hospital as associates, courtesy, consulting, or honorary doctors.

Hospital Wing Completed—January 6, 1954 Chosen for Opening

(excerpts from the B.C. Catholic)

"His Excellency, Archbishop Wm. M. Duke, D.D., began the new year with his first official function,



Main Wing 1954.

Wednesday, January 6, Feast of the Epiphany, with the blessing of the new \$1,000,000 wing at St. Vincent's Hospital.

The million dollar structure was completed some months ago, but hospital directors decided to hold the opening until the detailed furnishing was completed. Construction cost surpassed the \$800,000 mark. Another \$200,000 was necessary to complete the requirements for furniture and equipment. As well, the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, who own and operate the hospital, would be celebrating their Centenary in 1954 and wanted the opening of the new wing to be part of their celebration.

Archbishop Duke blessed every room of the first floor of the new building and then celebrated Mass in the Chapel at 9:30. He was assisted by Father J.E. Brown, Chancellor, and Fr. James Masse from Holy Name Parish.

Fr. A. Perrault followed the Mass with Benediction to the Sisters, hospital staff and visitors that crowded into the beautiful chapel.

Reception in the afternoon at two saw the attendance of civil dignitaries from both federal and provincial government, in the persons of Hon. Ralph Campney, Associate Minister of Defence and

Hon. Eric Martin, Provincial Minister of Health and Welfare. Other distinguished guests included the architects, Frank Gardiner and Peter Thornton; H.H. Johnson, president of the general contracting firm, Smith Bros. and Wilson Ltd.; Lloyd Detwiller, B.C.H.I.S. Commissioner and Dr. N.A. Stewart, Secretary of the St. Vincent's Medical Board.

Some 600 visitors toured the entire building and the unanimous comment indicated their great pleasure with the delightful color scheme and layout of the children's ward and playroom, as well as the beautiful chapel.

Among the many new features in hospital construction were the inclusion of oxygen and suction systems, now rapidly becoming a 'must' in all new hospital buildings.

A small auditorium—complete with chairs, stage, and piano—was set up for the use of staff and any social functions the hospital might sponsor. The hall was located on the ground floor in the section that included the cafeteria and chapel.

The finest and newest surgical equipment in the five new operating rooms would facilitate and increase the efficiency of the hospital's surgery.

The new six-floor wing accommodated all the administration office

(near the main entrance), a brightly decorated children's ward and nursery, two full floors of 4 bed, semi-private and private wards, a maternity ward, and five new operating rooms on the top floor.

The short wing jutting from the centre of the new unit contained the chapel, under which a cafeteria and small auditorium were provided.

Extra facilities for laboratory and X-ray were also part of the new building. The kitchen, central sterilizing, and supply facilities will be renovated."

Sister Ruth, thought that the opening was an outstanding success, and that the joyful spirit of the day radiated appreciation for the work done by the Sisters and the staff.

Appreciation was expressed to both federal and provincial governments for their financial assistance in making the construction work possible.

The capacity of the hospital before and after construction is shown in the following table.

	Bed Capacity	
	1953	1954
Adult	92	163
Bassinets	15	44
Children's Cribs	8	30
Total	115	237

A comparative statistics report proved that there was indeed need for the expansion.

	1953	1954
Admissions	3,502	5,378
Newborns	715	1,086
Operations	1,508	2,207
X-Rays	11,771	19,449
Lab Procedures	12,566	24,688
Blood Transfusions	739	1,150
Autopsies	31	56
Average Day Stay	8.7	9.6

Financially the hospital ended 1954 with the highest deficit in the hospital's history, some \$11,000.

The Board of Management felt that the deficit was within reason, considering the fact that the hospital capacity was almost double that of 1953. Increases in wages were granted, and various staff additions were approved: a janitor, another engineer, an accountant, and another lab technician, Sister Lucie Maria. Nurses registered in B.C. received \$235. These increases and addition were felt to be justified in view of the increased capacity and service. Staff at the end of 1955 was 265 employees.

The 1954 per diem rate was fixed at \$12.30; newborns, \$4. Many letters and pleas were sent to the B.C.H.I.S. to help pick up the deficit by adjustment of the per diem rate since the hospital had experienced an occupancy increase of 72 beds not provided for in any way. The government fixed the revenue but then disclaimed any responsibility for adjustment of the deficit! St. Vincent's had the lowest per diem rate in the province in 1955.

The hospital was then chronically short of working capital. If it had not been for the Sisters' meeting bonded indebtedness, the hospital would have been in pretty bad shape.

This financial dip, however, did not affect the efficient running of the hospital nor prevent the staff from keeping abreast of new changes and additions.

For the purpose of raising St. Vincent's Hospital's status to that of a teaching hospital, 18 medical and surgical beds on the first and second floors were designated for teaching purposes, with Dr. Selwood, the first senior intern in surgery, and Dr. Carmichael, house surgeon, in charge.

To obtain full accreditation as a teaching hospital, autopsies would need to be performed. On February 20, 1956 the first autopsy was performed at St. Vincent's by Dr. H.H. Pitts, Sr. Before February 1956, the few autopsies required at St. Vincent's were performed at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

The results of the second accreditation survey of the hospital (for

three years) was received on September 16, 1956. This was a result of the evaluation of the hospital conducted by Karl E. Hollis, M.D.

In March 1956 the first heart operation, a mitral valvulotomy was performed at St. Vincent's on a young woman of twenty-three. It was conducted by Dr. Peter Allen and Dr. John Moore, surgeons, and Dr. K. Telford, Internist.

The renovated rooms on the south end of the east wing's fourth floor provided more space for the eighteen Sisters. Sister M. Vincentia, R.N., Sister Margaret Marie, Sister Maurita, Sister Fleurette, and Sister M. Veronica were new appointments to the hospital during 1954-1958.

Father A. Perrault, the faithful chaplain since the beginning in 1939, died May 18, 1957, at the age of ninety. He was a faithful friend of the Sisters; his loss was felt by the patients among whom he had lived all those years.

The Medical Advisory Board in 1957 consisted of: Chief of Staff - Dr. R. Yoerger, Deputy Chief of Staff - Dr. R. Huggard, Secretary - Dr. N. Stewart. Dr. G. Johnson, Dr. G. Walsh, Dr. C. Robinson, Dr. E.J. Badre, Dr. G.L.C. MacKinnon, Dr. R.A. Jones, Dr. Sturdy, Dr. L.W. Card, Dr. S.G. Baldwin, Dr. T.K. MacLean, Dr. H.E. St. Louis, Dr. K.A. Campbell, Dr. A. MacDonald, Dr. G.Y. Yates, Dr. N.H. Clark. Dr. P.S. Moore and Dr. P. Doyle were among the medical staff.



Chapel 1954.

St. Vincent's was also approved for intern training in obstetrics and gynecology as well as for advanced graduate training in anaesthesia.

New equipment now included an orthopedic table, a needle washer, and new X-ray equipment.

Perhaps one of the major changes in 1957 was the resignation of Sister Ruth as Administrator and Superior, Director of Nursing, and Board Member, when she was appointed Superior and Administrator of St. Joseph's Hospital in Saint John, New Brunswick.

Sister Ruth was honored at the August 29 meeting of the Board of Management by Mr. Russell Underhill, Board chairman, who had worked with Sister since the early beginnings of the hospital. In his farewell remarks to her Mr. Underhill said, "Saint Vincent's is one of the leading hospitals in British Columbia due to fact that we have been blessed with an administrator who has been endowed by Divine Providence and with those qualities which are so necessary including happiness, hope and courage."

*Sister M. Loretto now
Sister Marion MacDonald
Administrator, 1957 - 1980.*



New Administration—1957

The appointment of Sister M. Loretto as Administrator took effect August 15, 1957. Sister M. Loretto, the former Marion MacDonald, graduated with her R.N. from Holy Family Hospital, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, a short distance from her home in Saskatoon. As a young graduate, Marion nursed at St. Vincent's Hospital from 1942 to 1944 before her entrance into religious life.

After her religious training in Saint John, New Brunswick, Sister continued nursing and studying. She received her B.Sc. degree from Saint Francis Xavier in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and graduated in Hospital Administration from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Sister came to St. Vincent's with a vision - and the courage to put it into action - as she promoted the progress of St. Vincent's from 1957 to 1980.

Sister Ruth's functions of both Superior and Administrator were split necessitating two new appointments. Sister Agnes Marie was appointed Superior in 1957 and continued to supervise the hospital's X-ray department. Sister Jane Frances became the director of nursing. Sister Alma Marie, Sister M. Alexander, and Sister Mary Arthur were new staff members.

Some Medical Staff appointments from 1958-1963 included: Dr. R.T. Irving, Dr. L.M. Ewasew, Dr. H.J. Ruebsaat, Dr. K.W. Yue, Dr. J.L. Gilmour, Dr. A. Moyes, Dr. G.D.

Robertson, Dr. J.B. Costello, Dr. B.T. Dunham, Dr. L.W. Card, Dr. J.B. Fenwick, Dr. G.E. Howe, Dr. G.G. Kerster, Dr. M.W. MacCrostie, Dr. C.A. Maclean, Dr. P.J. Doyle, Dr. J.H. Murdoch, Dr. H.L. Patrick, Dr. F.E. Saunders, Dr. A.T. Weins, Dr. J.W. Warne, Dr. F. Wilson, Dr. D.N. Bell, Dr. R.D. MacKay, Dr. J.C. Varley, Dr. N.H. Clark, Dr. A.P. Brown, Dr. L.M. Cathcart.

The Board of Management consisted of Sister M. Loretto, Sister Agnes Marie, Sister Jane Frances, Mr. R. Underhill, Mr. T. Dohm, Mr. J. Hughes, Mr. H. Provost, Mr. J. Brown, Government representative and Sister Mary James, Secretary.

The number of admissions for 1957 was 6,468; newborns, 1,665; outpatients, 764; major operations, 1,169; minor operations, 1,970; lab procedures, 54,447; X-rays, 14,796; and fluoroscopic examination, 560.

In spite of the many struggles from 1958 to 1960, Sister M. Loretto and the Board of Management never lost heart. They continually pleaded, by letter, by phone calls, and by many visits to the government at Victoria to be attentive to the needs of St. Vincent's. Sometimes their pleas fell on deaf ears; at other times, help was given in the form of government grants or a raise in the per diem. (It rose from \$14.60 (\$4 for newborns) in 1959 to \$28.00 in 1966 (\$7 for newborns.))

At this time Sister M. Loretto decided to organize officially the women who had helped at teas and various other functions, and a women's auxiliary was born on April 9, 1959. There were fifteen women present at this date who named the auxiliary "St. Vincent's Hospital Guild."

The guild came to the rescue when two pieces of equipment were needed for the beginning of physiotherapy. On June 8, 1961, the guild donated \$11,000.00 towards this project.

By February 27, 1964, the newly opened physiotherapy department was located on second floor. By April 15, 1967, a full time physiotherapist (Lily Eng) was hired, followed by Dorothy Glover and Pat Blunden.

A report on the cost of operating the cafeteria had resulted in an offer from Mr. Joe Schretlen to operate the cafeteria on a concession basis. The contract of April 8, 1959 included a minimal rental charge; arrangements were to be reviewed at the end of one year's operations. This would also relieve the dietary staff of these responsibilities. It wasn't until July 1 of 1967 that the hospital reassumed the operation of the cafeteria.

A new McBee payroll system was put into effect in July, 1959. This system was an intermediary step between the previous method and machine processing and had promised to be a time saver.

New purchasing policies were also put into effect in these years as Sister M. Canisius (Lynch) became the Purchasing Agent and Supervisor of Stores. A more centralized control of purchasing of supplies was needed in the housekeeping, medical and surgical departments.

The accreditation survey carried out by Dr. Taylor on July 20th, 1959 resulted in continued accreditation for another three years. It was noted that the Doctor did include in his remarks: "... to continue the critical and harmonious relationships which exist among the excellent administrative, medical, nursing staffs and other personnel and thereby assure continued improvement in the already high quality of patient care."

In September 1959, Mr. Detwiller from B.C.H.I.S. on his survey of the hospitals in the lower mainland inquired about future plans for St. Vincent's. BCHIS were hoping that St. Vincent's would have a wing for chronic patients - according to statistics, 64% of the chronic patients were from Greater Vancouver.

There were staff changes during the early '60s: Mrs. Diamond became night supervisor, a new position. Sister M. Germaine, R.N. was supervisor for second floor, and Sister M. Ellen, R.N., general nursing duties. A carpenter, a gardener, a painter and Mr. Cook, the stores keeper were also employed.

Sprinkler systems were installed in the hospital in conformity with fire regulations and the X-ray department renovations were completed.

New lighting for surgery, the replacement of windows in the east wing, and installation of a gas-operated incinerator (November 24, 1960) - these were as necessary and important as the isolette for the nursery.

A long-awaited standby generator unit was installed by Finning Tractor and Equipment Company in the boiler room. It was a 175 kilowatt Diesel unit which started automatically on a power failure, maintained 225 kilowatts for the first ten minutes, and then levelled off. On September 29, 1961, the standby unit was given a trial test and was used during a hurricane a few years later.

A sidewalk on Thirty-Third Avenue in front of the hospital was constructed by the city at a cost of approximately \$1,500, to be charged back to the hospital over 15 years. St. Vincent's was no longer considered to be in "bush land."

In all the upgrading, the employees were not forgotten. A resolution passed by the governing Board on May 26, 1960, stated that, "Provisions of the Municipal Superannuation Act are to apply to St. Vincent's Hospital and its eligible employees."



Laboratory 1954.

Some Major Events of 1961-63:

The death of one of the founding Sisters, Sister Agnes Marie, occurred on October 3, 1961. Sister had come to the hospital in 1939 to do office work. After finishing an X-ray course, Sister was in charge of X-rays from 1941 until her death in 1961. At the time of her death, Sister was Superior as well as a member of the Board of Management. A plaque and portrait was placed in the radiologist's office, and another plaque was placed on the podium in the Chapel.

Sister M. Loretto, the present Administrator, became Superior of the Sisters, 1961-1967 as well as president of the C.H.C. of B.C. from 1960-62. Sister M. Charlotte became Nursing Director with Sister Ann Elizabeth, R.N., on staff. Sister Marie Therese, a well qualified technician, became the X-ray supervisor in 1963. Sister Canisius served as assistant administrator, and Mr. Tansey became the purchasing agent in 1963. Sister M. Thomasina (Sieber) came for general duty and housekeeping in 1963. Sister Loretto, Sister Charlotte, Sister Canisius, and Sister M. James continued on the Board of Management with Mr. Underhill, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Dohm, Mr. Bawlf, Mr. MacArthur, and Mr. Provost.

In November 1962 Dr. Don H. Williams from U.B.C. stated that St. Vincent's was approved for the junior intern training program, which would include rotating internships with Shaughnessy Hospital.

As the needs of the patients increased, they necessitated changes within the hospital structure: a relocation of the medical staff office, the medical library, the patient's library, the purchasing office, and the office of Nursing Supervisor, and the making of a new room for physiotherapy services, a cast room in outpatients, and a small solarium for patients. The carpenter and paint shop were also moved to a separate unit next to boiler room.

Some interior changes were also realized:

September 1963 saw a reduction of beds from 193 to 190. The lab consisted now of 8 technicians including one Sister, 2 cleaners, and a secretary.

In October 1962 a request came from the U.B.C. School of Nursing to use the obstetric department for clinical teaching of students in the degree program - six weeks for both junior and senior which began in January 1963.

Another request came from the Vancouver Vocational School to provide facilities for students in their practical nursing program.

The years from 1939 to 1964 climaxed in a gala event, described in the next section. St. Vincent's was now 25 years old. Plans for the future looked bright.

Twenty-Five Years of Service 1964



Sister M. Loretto (MacDonald) on left, Frank Vincent White (First Baby — 25th Birthday) and Sister Mary Ruth (Ross).

Hospital Marks Birthday

Saint Vincent's Hospital, Vancouver's first "community type" general hospital, celebrated its 25th Anniversary May 3 to 6, 1964.

More than 111,000 patients had been through the hospital since it opened July 19, 1939, on a square city block of bushland in the Cambie Street area.

The original 100 bed unit was begun at a cost of \$250,000 and had a staff of 28, eight of whom were nurses. The staff in 1964 numbered 282 with 110 nurses. There were 16 Sisters of Charity on staff.

An addition costing one million dollars was built in 1953, bringing the bed capacity to 193. Sister Mary Loretto, then the administrator for St. Vincent's, had announced that a third wing costing approximately two million dollars was now being planned. It should be opened about 1970.

Elaborate birthday celebrations took place. Twenty-five "babies" born in the hospital in 1939 were invited to attend the ceremonies, as were all the former staff who had served at St. Vincent's.

Birthday celebrations began with a Mass of Thanksgiving offered by Archbishop Duke (recently retired Archbishop of Vancouver). Another highlight of the opening ceremonies was the attendance of Sister Ruth of Saint John, New Brunswick, who had been administrator of St. Vincent's from 1939 until 1957.

There was an open house for the public and a guided tour of the hospital facilities from 3 to 5 p.m. on May 3. Of prime interest was the cardioverter and

anesthetic machine with respiratory attachment which were part of a mock operating room.

Many housewives were envious when they saw the patching machine (Patchomatic) used in the laundry room. Using steam pressure, the machine could patch a sheet in a few seconds.

An isolette was also on display at the open house. The isolette first made headlines when the Fisher quintts were placed in it. The isolette gives warmth and humidity control to a newborn baby. The machine is not opened for either changing or feeding the baby, as nurses reach in through "portholes" to look after the infant.

On May 4th the hospital staff attended a tea and bazaar from 2 - 5 p.m., sponsored by the hospital Guild. It was convened by Mrs. Neil Stewart with Mrs. A. Dumaresq presiding in the tea room.

On May 5th a birthday party for the 1939 "babies" and former nurses was held from 7 9 p.m. The "babies" received souvenir spoons.

A formal dinner, May 6th at 7 p.m., for government and civic officials, hospital administrators, doctors and Guild members climaxed the celebrations. Dr. J.F. McCreary, Dean of Medicine, University of British Columbia, was the guest speaker.

The celebration of 25 years of dedicated service to the community was a great boost for all connected with St. Vincent's. The years following helped the hospital grow to its maturity in the seventies.

Guild Joins in Celebration

The St. Vincent's Ladies Guild also helped to celebrate the twenty-five years. Their project in 1963 (which concluded in 1964) was to completely furnish an operating room. This included a surgical table for \$2,800, a surgical light for \$2,200, and sundry equipment necessary for operating. The operating theatre itself was a handsome gift, but the lifegiving machine that completed it was St. Vincent's pride and joy. With this contribution, the cardioverter mentioned above, the total value of the Guild's gift was \$8,000.

In its first year, the Guild, with its 80 active members (doctors' wives, nurses and former patients) provided maternity equipment for the hospital. The operating theatre was their 1963 contribution, and in 1964 they concentrated their efforts on the lab.

In September of 1964 there were a few more staff changes as Sister M. Germaine left for studies and Sister M. Charlotte was transferred to Saint John. Mrs. R. Diamond became the acting director of nursing, and Mrs. Bragg from pediatrics replaced her as night supervisor; Sister Florina replaced Mrs. Bragg. Sister M. Shawn, R.N., came for general duty, while Sister Esther helped in operating room and central supply rooms.

St. Vincent's Hospital Foundation Established— 1964

For the past few years there had been about fifteen thousand dollars a year, including Government grants, to spend on equipment, but this was not sufficient. Some of the medical staff (Doctors G. Walsh, E.J. Badre, P.S. Moore and R.G. Hepworth) had joined forces and wanted the Board's approval for establishing a "St. Vincent's Hospital Foundation." They also requested the assistance of Mr. Thomas Dohm in setting up its constitution. The doctors' idea was to build up a fund from large donations over the years, which could be used for equipment and related expenditures. The Board of Management would have control over the foundation; its finances would be controlled by a trust company. Any money spent on equipment should be approved by the Board.

Charter members of this foundation included members of the Board of Management and doctors who were agreeable to having their names appear.

The foundation became a legal entity and officially recognized as a charitable organization on June 25, 1964, with donations tax exempt. A brochure about the foundation was then published and distributed.

An initial gift in the amount of \$500.00 had been received. By October 1965 there was a total of \$3,128.98 in the Foundation's trust fund, and by October of 1967, a total of \$7,108.19. By February 1977, donations to the foundation had hit the \$100,000 mark. The foundation still functions in 1989 with Mr. David Dumaresq as chairman.

1965

In January 1965, Mr. Grant McConachie was appointed as a Board member. He was responsible for providing transportation for Sister Ruth for the twenty fifth anniversary celebrations. His contribution to the Board was very valuable even though his tenure was short. On June 30, Mr.

McConachie suffered a fatal heart attack while on vacation.

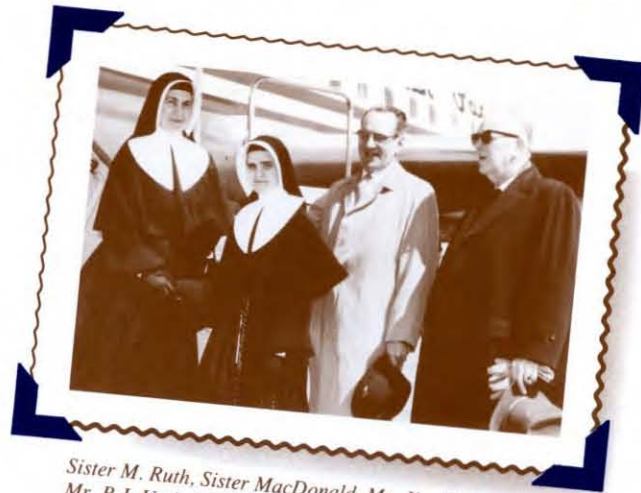
Plans were initiated for renovations to and new equipment for the X-ray department. The Woodward Foundation contributed to this project by undertaking to pay one-half of the interest on money borrowed from the bank for the project. In the early spring of 1965 a tour was conducted through the newly renovated X-ray department by Sister Marle Therese (Harsch), supervisor of the department. St. Vincent's could surely boast of the finest X-ray department in the city of Vancouver.

A new group of volunteers, high school students called "Pinafores", who belonged to the "Future Nurses' Club", were making their appearance among the patients. They were under the supervision of Sister Vincentia.

1966

With the resignation of Dr. H.H. Pitts Sr., pathologist, there was a problem in pathologist coverage. A regional pathology lab was set up at St. Paul's through B.C.H.I.S.; Sister M. Loretto was chairman of the regional lab. By January of 1966 an agreement was reached with Dr. Wignall, pathologist, who would spend four hours each morning at St. Vincent's.

Another recent venture into the field of medical education was the approval



Sister M. Ruth, Sister MacDonald, Mr. Jim Hughes and Mr. R.J. Underhill — Board of Management.

for a fourth year medical student to perform certain basic duties at St. Vincent's under the direct supervision of the Department of General Practice. Three other phases of medical education were to be added later in 1966: medical ward rounds, educational lectures on Intensive Care Unit, and lectures for internes. The program would be set up with a rotation to Shaughnessy Hospital.

Late March brought another first to St. Vincent's as an intensive care unit for critically ill, especially heart patients, was set up in the former central dressing room on the second floor. It had four beds which were supplied with cardiac monitoring devices. Dr. C.W. (Neil) Fast was the medical administrator of the I.C.U., assisted by Miss Merio Watanabe, R.N. In one month 29 patients were cared for in the unit.

The Rotary Club of Marpole presented two new heart-monitoring machines valued at a total of \$4,200 to be used in the intensive care unit. The gift was suggested to the club by a member who was a former patient at the hospital. The machines were handed over to the hospital Board chairman, J.V. Hughes, and administrator, Sister Marion MacDonald, in January of 1968.

A mock disaster was held on April 4, 1966, as 35 drama students from Eric Hamber School feigned serious injuries. Since there was no emergency ward at the hospital, the mock disaster was very useful in demonstrating whether an emergency could be handled by using the

*Rotary Club of Marpole donate Heart Monitors.
Dr. C.W. Fast, Sister M. MacDonald, Oscar — Rotary,
Sister T. Kergoat, Rotary Member, Sister R. Casey,
Nurse M. Watanabe and Tommy Flynn — Rotary.*



cafeteria and other departments. It proved successful, as 35 casualties were cleared through in 45 minutes.

As St. Vincent's was maturing, it was no surprise that some of the earlier personnel were passing on to their rewards.

Monsignor Hobson, chaplain since 1959, and Dr. Roy Huggard, surgeon, teacher, consultant and one-time chief of staff, both died in early March of 1966. A former patient who had been hospitalized at that time had a room dedicated to the memory of these two great men. A new Baldwin organ in memory of Monsigneur Hobson was placed in the chapel.

1967

Mr. Russell Underhill, Board of Management chairman since its beginning in 1941, resigned, and on May 31, 1967, he died at St. Vincent's at the age of seventy-seven.

Some of the other events of 1967 were the appointment of Mr. Clifford White as assistant administrator to Sister MacDonald, and the reorganization of the maintenance department under Mr. White's supervision. Due to the new contract for purchasing steam from Shaughnessy Hospital, the engineers were no longer necessary. Mr. Robert Pattie became the plant supervisor; he had an electrician and plumber on staff during the week and a utility man on for other shifts.

Land for parking was also purchased from Shaughnessy Hospital. The city permitted closing off Thirty-Third Avenue from Willow Street to Heather Street as this land was then used for parking.

A new personnel office, with Sister Rita Lynch as personnel director, was fully established this year. New Sisters during these years included: Sister K. Kelly, R.N., Sister Rita Hayden, R.N., Sister Rose Katherine, R.N., Sister Margaret Vickers (administration), Sister Loretta Blanchard, Sister R. O'Keefe, and Sister Margaret Carty, Superior.

The 1967 per diem rate was \$28.60.

1968

The Board of Management of 1968 consisted of Mr. J.v. Hughes (chairman), Mr. G.M. McArthur, Alderman E. Sweeney, Mr. R. Bawlf, Mr. J. Gilmer, Mr. J. Brown, Mr. J. Cohen, Mr. H. Provost, Mr. Justice Tom Dohm, Sister M. MacDonald, Sister M. Carty, Sister R. Casey, Sister J. Mulvaney (recording secretary). Many new challenges were faced during the year by the Board.

The year started on a sad tone as word was received that Sister Ruth (Ross) had died March 8 at the age of sixty-eight in Saint John, New Brunswick.

The Board members immediately paid tribute to Sister Ruth in a donation towards a foundation fund. The Sister

Mary Ruth Memorial Fund Committee was set up in June with Dr. J.H. Black, chairman. The amount of \$5,000 was established as the goal, the sum to be used for a properly equipped medical library for the hospital.

An accreditation survey followed in April, conducted by Dr. Arnold Swanson and Dr. E.G.Q. van Tilburg.

1969

The growth seen during this year of 1969 included the following changes:

A part-time pharmacist had been brought on staff and Mr. Ted Szabo was being trained to handle the oxygen therapy in the hospital.

The remodelled cafeteria resulted in improved service.

The operating room was renovated and named in honor of Dr. Neil A. Stewart, a former chief of medical staff and early medical staff member. Dr. Stewart died on January 17, 1969.

The hospital Guild celebrated its tenth anniversary by presenting two ten-year pins to their charter members.

The "Vinceteens" (formerly known as "Pinafores"), high school volunteers, were re-organized under the direction of Sister P. Gallant and had begun functioning in April 1969.

A "Day at the Races" was held June 4, 1969; the winner, "Nickonaches", represented St. Vincent's Hospital. The proceeds were presented to the Hospital Foundation Fund.

The first executive housekeeper position was filled by Sister Patricia Kennedy in May: she was assisted by Mrs. Riki Kossegg.

A request was received from B.C.I.T. for their nursing students to receive some clinical experience at St. Vincent's. Eight students came from June 3 to August 9.

The regional laundry was working out well, although standards were not as high as when the hospital's laundry was under the supervision of Sister M. Riordan. It was difficult to give up the laundry but by July, when all uniforms and linens were included in the regional laundry service, the hospital laundry came to an end.

Day-care surgery (minor surgery patients admitted and discharged the same day) started on December 1, 1968; by the end of the month 38 patients had been treated through this service.

The per diem rate for 1968 was \$33.45.

The payroll was computerized on July 1, 1969.

The last payment of principal and interest on the debt created in 1954 was made July 2, 1969. The 1954 Wing was debt free.

The first social worker, Mrs. Pamela Maclean, started on October 1, 1969.

Meals on wheels were also offered from the hospital starting in October, but were later discontinued.

In November a part-time health nurse, Mrs. Caroline Johnson, was employed.

The per diem rate rose to \$37.65.

New appointments to the Board of Management were Sister R. Lynch, Mr. A.J. Livingstone, Mr. R.T. Rose, and Dr. J.H. Black (chief of medical staff). In 1970 Dr. G. Walsh replaced Dr. Black.

St. Vincent's in the Seventies

St. Vincent's Hospital in 1970 pioneered the use of the sonar scanning techniques or ultrasound method in the Vancouver area. Dr. Cleve Bowlsby, (radiologist), Dr. Therese Chow, and Sister Diana Harsch (chief technician and specialist in the ultrasound procedure) formed the team.

St. Vincent's was the only hospital using the scan techniques at that time and received many referrals from doctors and from other hospitals in the province.

In the early spring of 1970 the building committee engaged Smith Brothers and Wilson to complete the roofed area at the west end of the main building for enlarged administration offices (today the clinical information centre). An installation of a third elevator was completed as well.

Approval was granted in March 1970 for the development of sketch plans for a

building project to include a 75 bed extended-care unit and 20 inpatient and 10 day-care bed unit for psychiatric patients.

May gave birth to a newsletter "Around St. Vincent's" edited by Miss Patricia Humes. This newsletter continued until 1976. The method of staff communication today has been modified to the "Around St. Vincent's and Arbutus" leaflet placed in plastic holders on the cafeteria tables.

Improvements to some existing facilities were also in the planning stages. A recommendation stated that St. Vincent's provide a limited emergency service.

In May of 1970 there were 261 full-time employees including 24 part-time, 47 casual and 13 Sisters. The nursing department had 140 full-time people, including 86 R.N.'s. Dietary had 32 and Administration had 24. The gross salary expense for 1969 was \$1,790,688.59.

Outpatients treated from 1966-1970 numbered 22,755.

1971

The accreditation survey was conducted early in 1971 by Dr. L.O. Bradley.

On January 15, 1971, security guard service at the hospital began to be provided by Pinkerton's of Canada Ltd.

An announcement to include St. Vincent's Hospital in their charity appeal



Construction starts for 1974 Wing. Mr. R. Loffmark, Minister of Health, "Fatima" in background.

was made in early January was by the SIWASH (Society Incorporated for the Welfare of the Arts, Science and Health). Their annual charity auction was held in September and raised \$50,679; one fifth was awarded to St. Vincent's Hospital.

There were some other noteworthy events in 1971: food service consultants were retained to devise a modified air-line system for distribution of food to patients. A maximum care unit was established to provide special patient care during their first 24 hours after surgery. The Board Room was refurnished in memory of Sister Ruth, the hospital's founder.

In November a new surgical table (coronary angiography equipment) was donated to St. Vincent's. Canada Safeway employees donated 75% of the cost. The table was unique; not only could it be used in various positions but also it had its own built-in X-ray unit. It was the first such table to be used at St. Vincent's.

Personal hospital television service began December 28, 1971; it was known as Sterivision.

By 1972, many long-time employees had been associated with the hospital for over thirty years. On Hospital Day, May 15, a special dinner party was hosted by the Sisters of Charity for five of the lay hospital staff who had worked 25 years or more and for two long-term staff members who retired that year. Special engraved trays were presented to each of them in appreciation for their generous service. The staff members honored were

Mrs. Kay Less (accountant), Miss Ivy Leary (general office), Miss Cecilia Anderson (pre-admitting), Mrs. Alice Redmann (Dietary), Miss Frances Heidgerken, R.N., and Mrs. Marie Matthews, R.N., (both from the delivery room), and Miss Joan Burton, R.N. (second floor). Most of these employees began their association with St. Vincent's in the early or middle 1940s.

This special dinner also turned into a surprise party for four of the Sisters who had also been at the hospital since the beginning: Sister Rita Lynch, (personnel), Sister Jean Mulvaney (who resigned after 30 years as administration secretary), Sister Mary Riordan, (linen supply), and Sister Margaret Schell, (dietary).

Mr. C.C. White resigned as assistant administrator in December of 1972.

Sister Eva Bonokoski became the director of dietary. An improved meals-on-wheels service had been initiated and proved to be a more efficient way than the former system to provide meals for patients.

Mr. Gerald Sterk, R.I.A., assumed the post of accountant on Mrs. Kay Less's retirement. Mrs. Donna Scroggs, R.N., joined the nursing administration staff as inservice co-ordinator, a position held by Sister Frances Rooney in 1971.

The greatest news in 1972 was the official sod-turning for the new addition which took place on Monday, August 28, to provide 75 extended-care beds, 20 psychiatric beds and new dietary and cafeteria facilities.

At the end of the year, clearing of the land was well underway and contract negotiations were completed with the contracting firm of Smith Bros. and Wilson. The project was to be completed within two years.

With the good news came a farewell to "Fatima" the Sisters' recreational cottage in the wooded area of the grounds that had also been used for staff gatherings. It was cleared to make way for the new addition. The Sisters, however, in their vision, had purchased property on Bowen Island for summer vacations and days off.



Sister R. Hayden and Mrs. Jean Mitchell bid farewell to last baby born at St. Vincent's.

1973

The highlights of 1973 included the opening of an ambulatory care unit in June. A total of 83 patients were treated by the unit in the first month.

Sister Alice Keegan, an X-ray technician who studied in Scotland the techniques and use of Ultrasound joined the staff shortly after completion of her course.

1974

Perhaps the hardest news to accept during all the changes, updating, and renovations was the fact that the obstetrical department was to be discontinued by the end of the year. It closed completely as of March 7, 1974. St. Vincent's last baby was born on the first of March 1974. He was named **Vincent Wong**. The first baby born July 19, 1939 had been named **Francis Vincent White**.

The peak year for obstetrics at St. Vincent's was 1959 when there were 1,830 newborns. By 1973 the figure had dropped to 593 newborns. This decline in the number of babies born at St. Vincent's was partly attributable to Vancouver's zero population growth, and partly to changes in the hospital's neighbourhood. The young families who were having children had moved to the outlying areas of Vancouver, far from St. Vincent's.

Both staff and patients were saddened at the closure of the unit. The department had a high reputation and mothers were glad of the special atmosphere.

Sister Rita Hayden had spent most of her life caring for mothers and their babies. After 25 years in the obstetric department at Holy Family Hospital, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Sister had just completed nine years at St. Vincent's in the same department (1965-1974). Mrs. Jean Mitchell, R.N., who had been in charge of the nursery since 1948, also found it difficult to say good-bye to the last baby.

Obstetrical patients continued to be looked after at Grace Hospital and St. Paul's in Vancouver.

The hospital donated all its baby equipment and supplies to the Lower Mainland Branch of Birthright.

Medical Staff in 1964-74:

Drs. B.M. Carruthers	Drs. R.B. Barnbrook
S. Baldwin	W.A. Rivers
D.N. Bell	R.T. Irving
P.J. Doyle	A.A. Macdonald
B.T. Dunham	L.S. Deane
R.A. English	D. Deane
R.G. Hepworth	J.L. Gilmour
M.W. MacCrostie	J.R. Wilson
J. Newell	D.E. Bebb
C.E.G. Robinson	A.O. Cserepes
M. Rubin	W.D. Forbes
F.E. Saunders	W.R. Govan
W. Sutherland	J.H. Hendry
L.M. Cathcart	K.T. Yue
W. Crawford	B.D. Prosterman
W.L. Manning	A.L. Molaro
Y.D. Tam	G.P. Murdoch

Building Struggles 1965



Saint Vincent's 1954.

To Build or Not to Build (1965-1977)

As far back as October of 1965, Mr. Eric Martin, Minister of Health, approved in principle a total of 118 beds and necessary renovations to various departments. The provincial grant was for an estimated \$3.5 million expansion which would include a psychiatric and a nursing home unit. A planning committee was struck, and plans and drawings were started by Architects Peter Thornton and Evan.

A grant from the city council's health and welfare committee was approved in December in the amount of \$75,000 to aid in construction and renovation. It was the first time in the city's history that a grant had been made to any hospital other than the Vancouver General.

A building fund committee, consisting of Sister M. MacDonald, Administrator, and two business office experts, Sister Ruth Casey and Mrs. Kay Less, was formed in October of 1966. By November Mr. Pitkethley of B.C.H.I.S. had come to review progress to date on the two 50-bed units.

A year later, in December 1967, at a meeting with the administrative and medical departments of St. Vincent's and Mrs. Doris McKay, consultant for B.C.H.I.S. on extended care, a conclusion was reached: it would be better to provide 70 to 75 extended care beds rather than two 50-bed units as previously suggested at the B.C.H.I.S.

meeting in Victoria. Dietary and C.S.R. services would have priority in upgrading because of their inadequacy to handle additional work required by the extended care unit.

About two acres of land was purchased from Shaughnessy Hospital in January of 1967. Re-zoning of the land for a parking lot and closing of Thirty Third Avenue from Willow to Heather was granted by the city.

An austerity program on the part of the government led to a compromise on proposed plans for construction; it was suggested to upgrade the existing facilities rather than build a new facility.

Architects plans were dropped, fees were cut, and no more moneys were paid out in this respect.

During this time the Greater Vancouver Regional Hospital District was formed. In a few years they cleared the way for a \$3 million expansion program.

Greater Vancouver Regional Hospital District

The Regional Hospital District Act was passed by the Provincial Government in 1967 and amended in 1970. The Act provided for the formation of Hospital Districts throughout the Province. Each District was administered by a Board made up of the Mayors or their alternates of the member municipalities. The

Greater Vancouver Regional Hospital District (formerly the Fraser Burrard Regional Hospital District) comprised Vancouver City, North and West Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, Surrey, Richmond, Port Moody, Coquitlam, and Burquitlam; it extended as far south as White Rock and west to Bowen Island. The District coordinates and evaluates the hospital requirements of its participating members.

The Regional Hospital District has the following purposes:

- to establish and grant aid in the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, enlarging, operating and maintaining of hospitals and hospital facilities;
- to the extent approved by the Provincial Minister of Health to assume obligations of any member municipality or district with respect to the repayment of money borrowed for the financing of hospital projects, or to provide reimbursement to such a municipality or district in respect to moneys provided for financing hospital projects which were raised or obtained otherwise than by borrowing;
- to act as an agent of the Province in receiving and disbursing moneys granted out of the Hospital Insurance Fund;
- to act as the agent of a hospital for receiving and applying all moneys paid to or for the hospital by the Government of Canada;

- to exercise and perform the other powers and duties prescribed by or under the Act or Letters Patent of the District as and when required.

The Regional Hospital District is financed by the levying of taxes in member municipalities or districts and is granted a Capital Grant from the Hospital Insurance Fund of the British Columbia Government annually. The Board of each District must submit an annual budget and capital expenditures cannot be made by the Board without prior approval of the Minister of Provincial Health Services and Hospital Insurance or a person authorized by him to act on his behalf.

Mr. J.V. Hughes, Saint Vincent's Board chairman, stated that the Sisters of Charity would not be responsible for any financing of the building this time as the Regional Hospital District that had been formed would be responsible for the finances. The budget for the new construction was approved in January 1968 with work to start in 1971.

In May of 1970 the news was published: St. Vincent's long-range program was estimated to cost \$5 million. The first stage of \$3 million had been approved and included a 75-bed extended-care unit, a 20-bed psychiatric unit with supporting psychiatric services such as day and outpatient care, a new dietary department, and additional space for storage and staff locker facilities.

The second stage of expansion, which had been deferred, proposed to provide for an emergency department, day care areas, a new laboratory, an eight-bed intensive care unit, and renovations and improvements to the 1939 and 1953 wings.

There was still opposition to be met. One hurdle was a request to the city for a tax exemption on the land purchased three years ago for a development project. After much discussion the city moved that amounts of tax arrears accrued during these three years be struck off.

The next opposition came from the homeowners around St. Vincent's Hospital. They said, "The original extension plans were for a six-storey



Sod turning, August 28, 1972. Mr. T. Dohm, Sister MacDonald, Hon. Mr. Ralph Loffmark, Mr. R. Bawlf and Mr. C. White.

building and a two-storey building." The homeowners added, "The new plans are radically different from those originally approved."

These obstacles were overcome. Mr. F.S. Brodie, of Thompson, Berwick, Pratt & Partners, was then chosen as the architect for the new wing. As early as January 1971, subsoil testing results for the new wing were submitted to Victoria. Although the site sloped some 60 feet from south-east to north-west and the western portion was thickly wooded, the ground appeared to be naturally well-drained. The working drawings were completed by April 5, 1972.

In a telegram dated June 1, 1972, Mr. Ralph Loffmark, Minister of Health Services and Hospital Insurance gave approval. It read, "Approval hereby granted to your hospital to call for tenders for approved expansion project subject to the concurrence of the Regional Hospital District stop letter follows."

On August 28, 1972, a brief sod-turning ceremony took place with Mr. R. Loffmark, Minister of Health, Hon. T.A. Dohm, Chairman of Board of Management, Mr. R. Bawlf, Board member, and Sister M. MacDonald, Administrator all present.

A construction contract was granted to Smith Bros. and Wilson, who started construction shortly after the land was cleared. By May 31, 1973, at least 50 percent of the building was completed.

The new year started with 96 percent completion of the new addition. The tax

exemption on the new part commenced on January 31, 1974.

By May first, 1974, the building was ready for occupancy. Prior to the official opening, a special Mass and blessing was held for staff, guests, and visiting Sisters. This took place on Friday May 24, 1974, with Reverend Father F.A. Zsigmond officiating. A tour of the new wing followed, and refreshments were served by the Ladies' Guild.

Four of the original Sisters on staff - Sister Margaret Schell, Sister Mary Riordan, Sister Diana Harsch and Sister Rita Lynch - who had all come in May 1939, were present at the Celebration of the Liturgy in the new wing.

New Main Wing Opened

A large crowd turned out for the official opening of St. Vincent's new west wing on Sunday, May 26, 1974.

The opening was very colourful. Those who attended wore lively spring clothes and the White Spot Band of Scottish pipers, dressed in kilts, marched and performed.

The west wing was officially opened by Mr. W.J. Lyle, Deputy Minister of Hospital Insurance. Invocation was prayed by Reverend G.A. Baxter, Trinity Baptist Church. The Honourable T.A. Dohm, Q.C., Chairman of the Board of Management, introduced Mr. W.J. Lyle and the other guests who brought



Opening of 1974 Wing.

greetings: a representative of the City of Vancouver; the Regional Hospital District, Mr. Allan Kelly; the President of the B.C. Hospital Association, Mr. Collin Elliot; and the President of the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada, Dr. E.G.Q. Van Tilburg.

As the Chairman presented Mr. Lyle with a gold key to the new wing, he mentioned that although there had been four Ministers of Health since the building negotiations began in 1966, Mr. Lyle had been with St. Vincent's all the way.

The Most Rev. James F. Carney, D.D., Archbishop of Vancouver, gave the dedication before the official opening.

The Archbishop prayed that those in the medical field might always respect human life, especially the life of the handicapped, and the unborn.

After the official opening, guides showed parties of guests through the new wing. The wing houses a new inpatient and day care psychiatric unit, the first under Catholic auspices in the Archdiocese. The Archbishop also stated that the mental health field is very important in modern society and it is essential that Catholic hospitals undertake work in a field so closely allied to the spiritual sicknesses of our time.

The extended care unit serves people who can no longer stay in hospital because they are not actually ill, but who cannot go into nursing or private homes because they need more care than was available there. This was an area of

growing need in our society, and St. Vincent's continued to pursue its ideal of serving and honouring the dignity and true worth of each individual, in taking care of these extended-care patients, many of them old people.

The west wing also provided a new dietary area, a cafeteria, staff locker, and an inservice education room. The active medical staff of the hospital now numbered 75 and consisted of both family practitioners and specialists.

The medical staff in 1974, in addition to doctors already mentioned, included Dr. G.N. Bermann, Dr. C.M. Beckett, Dr. T. Cartmill, Dr. H.A. Chisholm, Dr. R.M. D'Amico, Dr. D.M. Donald, Dr. E.D. Herberts, Dr. G.F. Hicks, Dr. D.W. Jones, Dr. G. Kovacs, Dr. F.E. Lambert, Dr. R. Lampert, Dr. H.K. Lok, Dr. T. Lepard, Dr. M. Myers, Dr. E. Rotem, Dr. M. Rubin, Dr. M. Tecson, Dr. J. Tsang, Dr. B.C. Wyatt, and Dr. W. Yeung.

Now that the west wing was open, construction didn't cease. The east and main wings were being extensively renovated:

- Electrical and mechanical services in the east and main wings were being brought into line with fire regulations and the new building code.
- The Heather St. entrance would be on the ground floor level, necessitating the removal of concrete steps leading to first floor; the old ground floor entrance became the emergency entrance.

- Laboratory, radiology, and ambulatory care facilities were being expanded into the vacated dietary space.
- A new morgue was located at the north end of old kitchen area.
- A new intensive care unit was located in the vacated delivery room area.
- The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine (Physio, etc.) was moved to the vacated paediatric department as paediatrics moved to the third floor.
- Housekeeping rooms were provided for each nursing unit along with improved work areas for nursing staff.
- Adequate conference rooms and day rooms were provided for each nursing unit.
- A new fire escape was constructed on the south end of the East Wing.

Six years after the provincial government approved it, the \$3 million modernization program came to an end.

"They weren't an easy six years, as bureaucratic delays repeatedly stalled the project after the Minister of Health gave it the go-ahead in 1971," stated Sister Marion MacDonald, hospital administrator.

But the frustrating wait was over as St. Vincent's opened the new intensive and ambulatory care facilities and a much-expanded diagnostic department.

Thus St. Vincent's expanded and adapted itself once again, in its ongoing effort to provide Catholic service in the health care field in Vancouver.

True to the charism of Honoria Conway, their foundress, the Sisters of Charity continued to serve the needs of the people under the changing circumstances of the time.

Years of Maturity 1975



Mr. Reg Rose, Chairman of Board, presenting plaque to Sister M. MacDonald dedicating wing in honor of her — Sister Marion MacDonald Wing.

Post-Construction Era

St. Vincent's Hospital was now ready to begin its thirty-five years of service to the community of Vancouver. The West wing's opening in 1974 expanded the role of the hospital from surgical and medical treatment to also include psychiatric and extended care as well as a limited emergency service.

The opening and growth of the psychiatric unit and the extended care unit will be explained in text to follow.

The maturing years also saw the inclusion of St. Vincent's Arbutus, a pastoral care department and the continuation and growth of faithful volunteers.

Extended Care Unit

The objective of the extended care unit was to promote and maintain optimal physical, emotional and spiritual health in the long-term or handicapped patient.

The head nurse was Sister Elizabeth Hurley, assisted by Mrs. J. Flynn, Mrs. E. Mountain, Mrs. J. Mitchell, and Mrs. F. Gyurfina.

The unit opened on May 29, 1974, admitting ten patients the first week. All 75 beds were filled by the end of December.

Miss Shirra Kenworthy, senior physiotherapist, arranged the patient's activities, which included sewing,

baking, weaving, games, exercises, and outings. A barber and hairdresser were also available.

By April 30, 1975, the meditation prayer room or chapel was dedicated in a special ceremony by Father Don Campbell.

The first anniversary of the unit was celebrated on May 26, 1975. Coffee and doughnuts were served in the unit's lounge to patients, visitors, and staff.

Mrs. Shelagh Westberg cared for the social service needs of the patients. She was assisted by Mrs. Marilyn Fialkow (part-time) and Mrs. Suzanne Malcolm, a social worker aide who co-ordinated a group of extended care volunteers. Sister Mabel Foster became very active in the unit and continued co-ordinating volunteers from 1979 to 1983.

An event remembered by many residents and staff was the filming of a movie on March 11-13, 1976, "The Shadow of a Hawk," starring Chief Dan George.

In November of 1981 the patio enclosure was erected through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Davidson. At the same time, the Ladies' Guild provided the funds to erect the greenhouse. In April of 1983 "New Horizon" gave a grant for a landscaping project around the greenhouse and patio area. Plans to extend the garden area by making individual outdoor visiting areas, was postponed until funds should become available.

On June 15, 1982, a bus was purchased for extended care patients at the hospital and the Arbutus extended care hospital. It was purchased with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Vancouver and the Ladies' Guild. Faithful volunteer bus drivers Bob Battle and John Busch have been the drivers for the past six years, 1982-1988.

The head nurse in 1989 is Jacqueline Senning; Margaret Fraser is the long-term care instructor.

Bette Thompson became the senior physiotherapist in 1980 and is assisted by Jerry Panek, Carmen Skalbaniuk, Sue Coburn, and Josie Piperni, the rehabilitation aides.

Volunteers are a great support in this unit. Jerry Sutherland, Bertha Wanner, and Anne Edgar are familiar faces. Tippy the cat is also a faithful friend.

In 1989 the Extended Care Unit will have been in service for 15 years.

Psychiatric Unit

The psychiatric unit was headed by Sister Kathleen Kelly, R.N. Other staff members who transferred from other hospital positions included Mrs. P. Maclean (social services), Miss K. Kroeker, R.N., Mrs. M. Plum, R.N. and Mrs. Tony Loo, R.N., and Sister Gene Charlebois (secretary).

An orientation program was held for new staff in psychiatry from May 27 to



Green House with Bette Thompson, also showing enclosed patio.

31. The staff in the unit did not and still do not wear uniforms, which is in keeping with the therapeutic program and with their participation in family therapy sessions.

The first patients were admitted on June 3, and most were discharged with a greater feeling of strength and unity.

Psychiatric day care began functioning on February 3, 1975. It had a structured program consisting of group activities which emphasized social work and interpersonal skills with the aim of preventing and/or reducing hospitalization. The day-care staff included Mrs. B. Yee, R.N., Miss June Trussler, R.N., Mrs. Sheila Austin, social worker and Miss Jan Pryde, occupational therapist.

Dr. A.R. Yarrow was appointed officer-in-charge of the psychiatric unit until 1977; Dr. Leech-Porter took over until 1982; he was followed by Dr. H. Duffy. In 1988 Dr. D. Copas is clinical department head. The head nurse today is Rosalind Baltzer-Turje; Pam Maclean, the social worker; and Rob Kushner, director of the day care team.

Hospital Staff—1975

The hospital in 1975 was now complete with the 1974 west wing added to the main and east wing. The total bed capacity was 275 with a staff of 388. Some of the staff were as follows: Sister

T. Kergoat was Director of Nursing, and Sister A. O'Connor, Sister E. Hurley, Sister K. Kelly, were three nursing Sisters on staff. Sister R. Lynch continued as Director of Personnel, Sister D. Harsch, Supervisor of X-ray, with Sister Alice Keegan in Ultrasound. Sister A. Fix, Supervisor of Medical Records, Sister E. Bonokoski, Supervisor of Dietary, with Mrs. M. Telford, Dietitian, assisted by Alice Redmann. Sr. P. Wallace was in the General Office, and Sister A. Richard, a volunteer in Pediatrics and with the Vinceteens. Sister M. Murphy, was Librarian and Sister Visitor. Sister J. Keenan was Superior and Sister visitor to the patients. Mrs. M. Saluk was head nurse in the Operating Room, assisted by Miss A. Legere, Mrs. B. Tansey, head nurse on 3rd, Mrs. M. Hillman on 2nd, Mrs. H. Milne on 1st floor assisted by Mrs. M. MacInnes, Miss M. Lamontagne, Paediatrics Mrs. M. MacDonald, Supervisor of C.S.R. Mrs. M. Beattie, Day Supervisor, Miss D. Leighton, Mrs. F. MacKinnon, evening Supervisor. Mrs. Caroline Johnson was the Employee Health Nurse.

Mrs. Molly Duggan was supervisor of General Office when Miss Ivy Leary retired in 1975 after 33 years of service.

Mr. Ian Peddie was the administrative assistant in purchasing, replacing Mr. Tansey who retired in 1974. Mr. A. Philips continued as supervisor in maintenance; Mr. Bud O'Connor and Mr. Doug Fairhurst were in Pharmacy. Mr.

Mike O'Grady was supervisor of housekeeping, assisted by Mrs. Dorothy Tracy. The lab supervisor was Mrs. Helen Jelic. Mr. Gerald Sterk continued as Director of Finance.

The Board of Management: The Hon. T.A. Dohm, chairman, Mr. J.H. Cohen, Mr. J.H. Provost, Mr. G.F. MacArthur, Mr. R.T. Rose, Mr. J.V. Hughes, Mr. R. Bawlf, Mr. J.C. Gilmer, and Mr. D.F. Mulroney (the provincial government appointee replacing Mr. A. Livingstone), Sister M. MacDonald, Sister T. Kergoat, Sister R. Lynch, Dr. J.H. Black, and Dr. E. Kliffer (chief of staff, later replaced by Dr. R.A. Jones).

Dr. Conrad Mackenzie, chairman of the St. Vincent's Accreditation committee, later became chief of staff in 1977.

Father Oliver, chaplain, was replaced in September 1976 by Fr. Basil Glavin; the latter served until Fr. Gordon Kennedy came in 1979.

In January, 1976, Mr. C.W. Grierson was appointed assistant administrator to Sister Marion MacDonald.

During 1976 The Vancouver Rotary Club donated \$10,000 for a gilford chemistry analyzer for the laboratory.

Saint Vincent's Arbutus

"Saint Vincent's Hospital was expanded by the addition of another 77 extended care beds on April 1st, 1976," announced Sister Marion MacDonald. "The patients were formerly patients in the Arbutus Private Hospital."

The Arbutus Private Hospital was opened by Herman Nemetz in 1956. In April of 1976 Mr. Nemetz retired and died the same year. Arbutus was purchased by the provincial government who asked St. Vincent's Hospital to operate it.

The Arbutus unit of St. Vincent's was under the direction of Sister Shirley Crozier, G.S.I.C., Administrative Assistant, along with Sister Patricia Wallace, Mrs. Jean Flynn, R.N., and Mrs. Anne Vidulovich, R.N. Department heads at St. Vincent's provided

consultation for the personnel until Arbutus became fully integrated. Sister Katherine Young, R.N., of the Sisters of Charity, was appointed administrative co-ordinator in July of 1976 and was responsible for the day-to-day operation of St. Vincent's Arbutus. Mr. John McKenna, assistant administrator of St. Vincent's Hospital from 1981 to 1987, worked closely with Sister K. Young. Sister was transferred to Saint John in 1987.

On October 20, 1977, Arbutus was incorporated as a separate society, St. Vincent's Arbutus Hospital Society.

In 1981 St. Vincent's Arbutus was awarded top accreditation for the preceding three years. The unit has continued since to receive top rating each three years.

For spiritual needs at Arbutus, a small "quiet room" serves as a chapel where services can be celebrated by Catholics, Anglicans, United Church members, etc. Two pastoral care workers, Sister Jean Keenan and Sister Ruth Monahan, continue to visit Arbutus weekly.

In 1982 a project to form a ladies' guild and to organize and train volunteers was carried out.

The hospital also acted as a training site for nurses' aides from the Vancouver Vocational Institute and in 1985 was involved in research projects with the University of British Columbia.

Mr. David Dines, assistant administrator, became responsible for the overall coordination of St. Vincent's Arbutus in 1987 with Mrs. Dasa Sperling the administrative co-ordinator at St. Vincent's Arbutus Hospital.

Chaplains and Pastoral Care Department

From the early beginnings of St. Vincent's, the spiritual welfare of the patients was considered an important part of their health care.

Father A. Perrault was the first chaplain from 1939 until 1954, when ill health forced him to retire. Father Leo Curtin, S.F.M., and Father James Gillis,

S.F.M., continued as chaplains until they were posted to foreign missions. Father H.I. Bader was chaplain from 1956 until 1959; he was followed by Msgr. L. Hobson until 1966. Many remembered the voice of Msgr. Hobson as he said daily prayers over the intercom and produced prayer records and booklets of prayer. Fr. McWade, O.M.I., and Fr. McIsaac were acting chaplains until Fr. M. Oliver, C.S.B., was appointed; he held office from 1966 until 1976. From 1966 to the present, the Basilian Order continued providing hospital chaplaincy with Fr. Basil Glavin (1976-79), Fr. Gordon Kennedy (1979-1982), Roger de Billy (1982-86), Fr. John Janisse (1986-87), Father Paul O'Connor (1987-88), and Fr. Pat Gorman (January 1989 to date). The Sisters of Charity are concerned with the wholistic care of the patient and always provide spiritual guidance.

Sister Mary Murphy has continued to provide library services to the patients since she arrived in 1969. In 1973, Sister Murphy took the first course for pastoral care workers, offered by the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada, pastoral care services for a sister visitor program in hospitals. Sister Jean Keenan started visiting the patients in 1974 and was the first to visit at St. Vincent's Arbutus in 1976.

In 1977 when pastoral services was recognized as a department by the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation, Sister Anne Fix had retired



Sister M. Murphy comforts a family in the Pastoral Care Family Room.

from Medical Records. Sister had completed a course in pastoral care and organized the new department of pastoral care. Sister Jean Keenan and Sister Mary Murphy were part of the team. They were joined later by Sister Mabel Foster, Sister Patricia Riley, Sister Ruth Monahan, and Sister Frances Rooney (who became acting director of pastoral care). During Sister Rooney's directorship, rooms 104 and 305 became pastoral care family rooms to provide space for use by grieving friends or relatives visiting critically ill patients. One of the rooms was furnished by the Ladies' Guild in 1986.

Sister Rita Duncan became director of the pastoral care department in September of 1988. On the team with her are Sister Mary Murphy, Sister Jean Keenan, Sister Anne Fix, Sister Frances Rooney, Sister Ruth Monahan, and Sister Phebe Hurley; they provide spiritual guidance and comfort for patients and staff.

While St. Vincent's is a Catholic hospital, its services are offered to the whole community and members of all faiths and their pastors and ministers are welcome to visit and use the hospital chapel for prayers or quiet time with the Lord.



*Mrs. Betty Fletcher, Radiology and Ultrasound Technician,
June 19, 1978.*

40th Anniversary—1979

Forty years..... time to look back, give thanks, and reflect on the past, take time to celebrate the present, and prepare for the future.

The successful homecoming included a Mass of Thanksgiving, September 23, followed by a dinner for those members of Sisters of Charity living in Vancouver.

An annual dinner for the Board, medical staff and Sisters was held November 9, at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club.

One of the guest speakers at the banquet was Sister Frances Rooney. In her interesting talk, she recalled the roots of St. Vincent's: Sister Ruth and the philosophy that formed the basis for St. Vincent's. She went on to tell the story of progress, the addition of the main wing and the 1974 wing.

In her closing words, Sister remarked, "The spirit of St. Vincent's has been maintained because its people have kept alive the values that brought it initially into a viable Christian institution. St. Vincent's has always stood for compassion, respect for life and recognized the Christian meaning of suffering and death, and the unique and unrepeatable gift of God that is each person. These values are not communicated automatically; they are caught, not taught, and have been handed on to us by Sister Ruth and the founding Sisters of Charity. The soul of an institution, not the bricks, mortar, computers and other equipment, is what gives it value."

Volunteers

The history of any hospital would never be complete without mentioning the services rendered by its many volunteers. Throughout the years many have filled this role.

- Librarians known as Christophers;
- Ladies belonging to the Hospital Guild;
- Teenagers known as Pinafores and now Vincenteens;

Events—1976-1979

Mr. R. Bawlf became chairman of the Board of Management in 1976; Mr. T. Dohm, chairman of the Building Committee; and Mr. R. Rose, vice-chairman of the Board.

The Department of Physiotherapy became known as the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and included physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and oxygen therapy. Shirra Kenworthy has been the director since 1971.

In June, 1977, the ambulatory care unit opened on the main floor of the East Wing, and in February 1978 this unit became known as the Emergency Department. A casualty officer became part of the medical staff on March 22, 1978.

In January of 1977 the new eight-bed Intensive Care Unit opened on the third floor of the East Wing.

The accreditation survey was carried out on April 25 and 26 of 1977. Dr. A. Swanson, surveyor, recommended a three year accreditation and stated that St. Vincent's Hospital had the best medical records department in Canada. Sister A. Fix, department head, was recognized for her work over the past seven years. When Sister A. Fix retired, Miss Jill Kirkenberg became the director until 1981.

The medical records department is now known as the Clinical Information Centre with Mrs. Fern Beairsto, director. The department continues to maintain the high standards set in 1977.

Other events in 1977 included air-conditioning installation in stages; the operating room and intensive care unit received it first.

A new Phillip X-ray machine was purchased, and the ultrasound service received its accreditation on November 24, 1977.

In September, Sister M. MacDonald, administrator since 1957 and associated with B.C.H.A. for over twenty years, received a sabbatical year to study in Rome. Mr. C. Grierson was then acting administrator, assisted by Sister T. Kergoat and Dr. H. Black.

1977 per diem rates were set: acute care, \$108.20; extended care, \$37.10 (which increased to \$44 in 1978); newborns (now no longer applicable) \$24.

A quality assurance program was set up and carried out in the nursing department. Sister Diana Harsch retired as chief technician of X-ray in January 1979 and was replaced by Sister Alice Keegan who continues as department head of X-ray and ultrasound today. Sister Helen McCue also worked in the X-ray department (1979-1981). Sisters Barbara Bohan and Sr. Frances Wirth, two nurses, came on staff in 1977 and 1978. Sister F. Wirth is presently working in day-care surgery. Sister Celine Hurley was manager of the general office from 1980 to 1981.



Voluntary library services.

- Retired men and women who help in the extended care unit;
- The Knights of Malta who volunteered in the Hospice (Palliative Care);
- Sisters of Charity performing many volunteer function.

A brief story of each group is included in this part of the booklet.

Little Flower Library

In 1952, when funds were being raised for the new wing's opening in 1954, the Little Flower Library was started by Sister M. Alexina (Martz). A rental fee of ten cents a book was requested from staff. This money would be used toward chapel furnishings and hospital equipment. The library was officially opened and was blessed on September 25, 1952.

The library continued on a small scale as Sister M. Alexina and Mrs. Joy San Severino and other volunteers took books to the patients. Mrs. Monica Haynes, when visiting Mrs. San Severino on the birth of her son Vincent on February 8, 1956, thought a library on wheels would be a good idea. Thus a bookmobile called "Christopher" was born. This Christopher cart first toured the hospital wards on June 30, 1956, escorted by Mrs. M. Haynes and Mrs. M. Giltz.

The first meeting of the volunteer library workers (now renamed "Christophers") was held on Monday,

October 22, 1956. As Director of the Christophers, Mrs. Haynes conducted the meeting. Teams were formed and schedules drawn up for library services to the patients for Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday. Those present at this first meeting were Mrs. M. Haynes, Mrs. J. San Severino, Mrs. M. Williams, Mrs. L. Wogan, Misses Gloria, Joyce, and Madeline Allison, Mrs. M.F. Giltz, and Sister M. Alexina. The circulation of books from June 30 to December 31, 1956 was 788, and the total volunteer time donated was 176 hours. Approximately 29 books a week were in circulation.

Sister Mary James continued to work in the library and with the Christophers even after she was appointed as administrative assistant to the Medical Staff. During this time a "Sub-Deb" Christopher Library volunteer group, consisting of high school students, was formed in October, 1962. A year later there were thirteen students representing eight schools.

In 1969, Sister Mary Murphy, a retired high school teacher, came to be the librarian of both the medical staff library under Dr. J.B. Fenwick and the patient's library. After a few years the Medical Library Committee decided to make the medical library a part of medical records department.

Because of the popularity of Sterivision (personal T.V. sets started on December 28 of 1971), few books were being read by patients. However,



Mrs. Adele Magri, Director of Volunteers, with Vincenteens.

magazines are always in demand by the patients as well for the reading tables throughout the hospital.

The Ladies' Guild has sponsorship of the patient's library, with Sister M. Murphy continuing as Librarian. The book cart escorted by the ladies continues to leave the library located on the third floor (Chapel gallery) three times a week.

Vincenteens (Junior Volunteers)

In 1962, two girl guides, Terry Redpath and Patricia Downey, who were working toward their Gold Cord, approached Sister Vincentia (Ehman) about fulfilling the required volunteer hours at St. Vincent's Hospital. They were accepted and worked for two hours a week assisting patients with the evening meal, delivering flowers, running errands and doing other related duties. Having completed their required hours, the girls wished to continue volunteering. Soon they were joined by others.

By March 25, 1965, we read from the Administrator's report, "We have a new troupe of volunteers, the 'Pinafores,' comprised of 65 to 70 high school students who belong to the 'Future Nurses' Club."

Sister Florina (P. Gallant), after completing a course in volunteer directing, became the first official volunteer director in 1969. The junior



25th Anniversary of the Guild. Founding President Tina McCleery (facing).

volunteers, renamed "Vincenteens" and under Sister's direction, were re-organized and began functioning in April. Boys, too, were taken into the program at this time. The girls still wear blue and white striped pinafore and the boys a plain blue jacket.

The first tea and presentation of thirteen 100-hour pins and thirty-seven 50-hour pins were awarded to the Vincenteens on February 6, 1970, by Administrator Sister Marion MacDonald and Mrs. Irene Brown, president of the Ladies Guild.

In 1975-76 the thirty Vincenteens were under the direction of Sister Audette Richard. Mrs. Adele Magri, past president of the Ladies' Guild, became director of the Vincenteens in the fall of 1976 and continued in this role until 1986.

During 1986, the Vincenteens gave a total of 2,445 hours of service to the hospital. Part-time volunteer coordinator Mrs. Shelagh Greville gave credit to the group for its dedication and achievement.

Mrs. Joy Wedepohl, part-time volunteer coordinator, continues to coordinate the Vincenteens, the Hospital volunteers, and ensures liaison between the Guild Volunteers and the hospital.

There are 50 Vincenteens who continue to offer their services to the patients at St. Vincent's. Presently there are 28 other volunteers, mainly men: a hairdresser, a gardener, and bus drivers, who offer their services to the Extended Care unit. Volunteers also visit patients on the second and third floors.

St. Vincent's Hospital Guild

On April 9, 1959, Sister M. Loretto gathered together a group of fifteen ladies to form the St. Vincent's Hospital Guild. Many of these ladies were nurses who usually planned the Annual Tea. Mrs. Raymond McCleery (Tina) was chosen as President, Honorary President was Sister Loretto, Administrator. Others on the slate were Mrs. Percy White, first vice-president; Mrs. W.G. Mackenzie, second vice-president; Mrs. S.F. Cretney, recording secretary; Mrs. A. Reilly, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. R.G. Nichols, treasurer.

The aim of the guild was to have an official body of members of the community who would give time and effort to all phases of service to the institution. This would consist of raising money for hospital equipment, visiting the patients, and helping the Sisters in their work.

Several working groups were formed: sewing and crafts, rolled dressings for surgical cases, library cart, decorations on special days for patients' trays, delivery of mail and flowers, a commodity cart, an admitting information committee, "Cradle Pictures," a thrift shop, and teas and bazaars.

In 1969, a ten-year pin was designed and presented to charter members of the Guild. Since 1979 a plaque listing the names of members who have provided twenty years of service, has been hanging

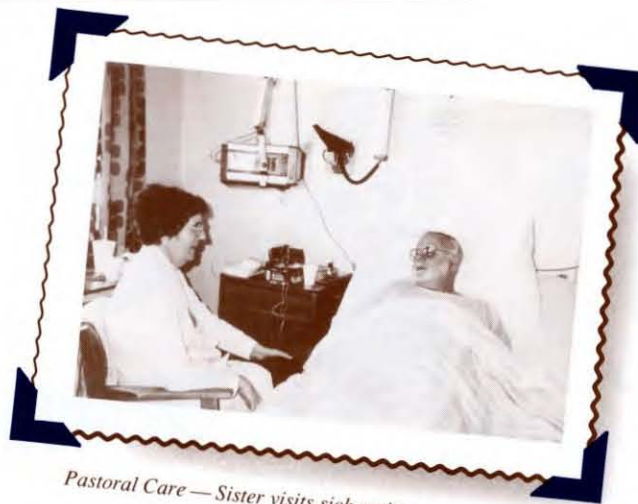
in the Inservice Room along with the pictures of the past presidents. In 1969 the Guild sponsored the first annual Vincenteen tea and presented 50-and 100-hour pins to the junior volunteers. In 1973, three Vincenteens received sterling silver spoons for 500 hours of service.

The Guild then joined the Association of B.C. Hospital Auxiliaries. In 1973 the Guild members were hostesses to the B.C. Hospital Association Conference at the Hotel Vancouver. The decorating group won first prize for their tray favors at the B.C. Hospital Auxiliaries convention in Penticton.

A gift shop was opened in October of 1974 and still functions today at the main entrance of the hospital. Mrs. Yvonne Leahy, Muriel Frew, and Dorothy Young were and are some of the members mainly responsible for keeping the shop flourishing.

The guild also has a Blue Room for executive meetings, crafts, decorating, and sewing.

During the first four years of operations (1959-1964) the group raised \$22,458 for medical equipment. By the end of 20 years of operation, President Betty Yue presented a cheque on behalf of the 110 members for \$40,000, a thousand dollars for each year the hospital had been in operation. Well over \$110,000 has been provided to St. Vincent's during their 25 years. A donation of \$25,000 was presented to the hospital as the Guild celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1984.



Pastoral Care — Sister visits sick patient.

Since 1980 the Ladies' Hospital Guild has offered the "Sister Marion MacDonald Bursary" annually to a qualified Vincenteen enrolled in studies for a health-related profession.

November of 1981 was the official opening of the greenhouse in the extended care unit. It remains a constant visual reminder of one of the Guild's many contributions to patient care.

In 1986, the Guild furnished one of the pastoral care rooms for the use of families visiting ill or dying patients.

From April 1987 to March 1988 the ladies in blue had donated 3,002 hours of generous service.

In 1988 there are still one hundred members, active and associate. Conveners of the various services act as chairpersons at the quarterly meetings.

In 1989, in recognition of the hospital's 50th anniversary, the Guild is donating \$25,000 to purchase much needed items for patient care.

However, the most precious contribution the Guild has made and is making to St. Vincent's Hospital is the gift of their personal time to the residents and patients. These are the activities they perform on a day-to-day basis: maintaining the Gift Shop and the Courtesy Cart, delivering flowers and mail to patients, assisting patients to the lab or to their rooms at admission time, providing the patient library service, giving special support to the extended care and psychiatry departments and to the Vincenteen youth service program.

The Malta Guild

The Hospice concept at St. Vincent's was initiated in April 1980 by Sister Marion MacDonald, Administrator of the hospital, and Mr. Frank McCullough of the Knights of Malta. For some time the hospital had been studying the idea of palliative care, and Mrs. Shelagh Westberg had already written a paper on how such a project could be implemented.

The main stumbling block appeared to be a lack of organized volunteers. The Knights of Malta offered to provide these through an auxiliary, the Malta Guild. The Malta Guild volunteers were men and women of the Knights of Malta who would, with other members of the team, provide understanding hospice services for the terminally ill patients.

Mr. and Mrs. Enrico Dobrzensky were the first two volunteers to befriend dying patients, and Mr. Dobrzensky undertook to become the director of hospice for the Knights. Some six months later, Mrs. Olga Riedemann became the co-ordinator of volunteers for the Malta Guild.

The volunteers visited dying patients on a one-to-one basis in the hospital and at home. In befriending the dying patient, the volunteer complemented the staff's care for the patient. The volunteer's help continued while the patient was at home and could carry on to help the grieving family after the patient's death.

The formal program of the hospice was terminated on October 8, 1983. The pastoral care team continues to provide care for the dying patient and their families through their daily visits.

A memorial service was initiated by the pastoral care team in January of 1989. This service provides an opportunity for the grieving family, after the patient's death, to return to the hospital to pray as they remember their loved ones. They can also share common experiences and find comfort and strength in these encounters.

Saint Vincent's in the Eighties 1980

As the events of the past forty years faded away, St. Vincent's reaffirmed its position in the lower mainland as an acute care, community family practice hospital with teaching responsibilities.

The Board of Management consisted of fifteen members, one representing the provincial government, ten representing the Vancouver community (appointed by the Sisters of Charity), the Chief of the medical staff, and three Sisters of Charity. New members during the 80's included Dr. Anne Adams, Mr. Owen Dolan, Mr. Derrick Ward, Mr. Barrie Smythe, Mr. Charles Connaghan, and Sister Frances Rooney. Chairmen were Mr. J.C. Gilmer, Mr. R. Rose, Mr. David Dumaresq and Mr. T.E. Burns.

The Hon. T.A. Dohm, Board member since 1949, and Mr. J.H. Provost, member since 1957, both resigned after years of faithful service. A stain-glassed window in honor of a former Board chairman, Mr. Robert Bawlf, was installed in the hospital chapel on October 26, 1981. At their retirement dinner in 1982, Mr. T. Dohm, Mr. J.H. Provost, Mr. G.M. McArthur, and Mr. J. Cohen were recognized for their faithful service to the Board.

In June of 1988, Mr. R. Rose, Mr. J.C. Gilmer, and Mr. D. Dumaresq also resigned and were gratefully thanked for their dedication to Saint Vincent's.

Representing the medical staff on the Board during these years were Dr. H.F. Kerrin, Dr. Peter Moore, Dr. M.C. Beckett, Dr. A. Molaro, and Dr. S. Junaid.



Retiring Board Members. Back L-R: H. Provost, J. Cohen, G. McArthur. Front L-R: Archbishop Carney, Sister MacDonald and J. Gilmer, Chairman, 1982.

Other staff changes or appointments to expanding services took place during these years as well.

The Department of General Practice was renamed in May of 1980 as the Department of Family Practice. Dr. Bowlsby of the Department of Radiology was replaced by Dr. Switzer, who introduced ultrasound cardiology to the hospital. A new radiography fluoroscopy unit was put in place July 6, 1982. Dr. C. Siu became clinical head of the department of Radiology in 1985.

The Director of nursing position was held by Mrs. Myrtle Tregunna; the staffing co-ordinator was Mrs. Margaret Beattie; clinical co-ordinator, Mrs. Helen Glavin; and staff education, Miss Susan Lane.

A new method of doing hospital laundry was introduced when as the Tilbury Regional Hospital Laundry Society, located in Richmond, was opened in April of 1980. Each customer hospital was charged per pound of laundry. Two delivery trucks shuttle the soiled laundry out and the clean laundry in to the hospital seven days a week.

New Administration

One of the major changes in 1980 was the resignation of Administrator Sister Marion MacDonald. Sister M. MacDonald had been elected Vicar General of the Sisters of Charity and this necessitated a transfer to Saint John, New Brunswick, where the Motherhouse of the order is located.

At a farewell recognition evening, a plaque was placed in the West wing naming it in her honour—"The Sister Marion MacDonald Wing,"—in recognition of her guidance over 23 years.

The first lay administrator, Mr. Michael Higgins, who had been Sister MacDonald's assistant since January 1980, was officially named Administrator in 1981. Mr. Higgins, a native of Saint John, New Brunswick, had had experience as an assistant administrator in Ontario before coming to St. Vincent's.

Mr. Higgins carried on the tradition of the previous administrators, and signs of progress continued.

A mission statement which defined the philosophy and direction of the hospital became a dynamic, living guide. In keeping with the philosophy and spirit of the founders, this statement was formally established in December, 1981, and has become the guiding light for the hospital.

Some difficult decisions had to be made, such as the closure of 35 acute care beds and the related staff reduction of June 1982.

There were, however, encouraging events. The Quality Control Program had ranked the hospital lab 12th out of 300 participating Canadian laboratories and 69th out of 1400 internationally; this indicates a high standard of work.

Other signs of growth included the appointment of a co-ordinator of resident education, Dr. R. Halpenny, who was provided with appropriate physical facilities and a clerical assistant. In 1989 Dr. J. Ross is the co-ordinator and Jean Warner is the secretary.

A Delta-21 system of computerizing energy management, security, preventive maintenance, and inventory control was put into effect May 24, 1984 after being tested as a pilot project.

Purchase of noninvasive equipment to remove kidney stones using ultrasound was functioning in the operating room by September 1984. The Canadian Legion, Shalom Branch 178, contributed to the purchase of the machine.

When Sister Rita Lynch retired in January 1985, the personnel department was expanded.

Sister Rita Lynch, formerly known as Sister M. Canisius, was one of the founding Sisters of Saint Vincent's Hospital. When the hospital opened in July 1939, she spent her first months in the general office. In 1940 she became supervisor of central supply and the central dressing room until 1958. At this time the various departments were becoming more defined and there was a need to coordinate the purchasing of supplies. Sister R. Lynch then established the purchasing and stores department. After hiring a purchasing agent, she directed her talents toward creating a personnel office in 1964. Her time and



Sister Rita Lynch 1939-1989.

energy were spent with the employees in this department until January 28, 1985.

During the years 1963-67, she also served as assistant administrator to Sister Marion MacDonald.

Sister R. Lynch, in her spare moments, was also hospital historian. She has kept written and photographic records of events; these records have been a tremendous aid in compiling this history.

Today Sister Rita Lynch remains active around the hospital, on the Board of Management, and on other committees. Saint Vincent's is richer because of her dedication to quality care of patients and employees.

The personnel office is now known as Human Resources. The director is responsible for labour relations, personnel, and employee assistance programs; he is also responsible for the volunteer program. Mr. Stewart Arnold was appointed this position in February 1985 and continues to the present. Mrs. Margaret Beauchamp continues as secretary.

Another administrative change took place in January 1987 when Mr. John McKenna, assistant administrator since 1981, left for a position in Saint Boniface. Mr. David Dines became assistant administrator in 1987.

St. Vincent's continued its tradition of initiating new projects as Administrator M. Higgins and Mr. Herman A. Crewson, president of the B.C.H.A., signed an agreement to pilot an automated patient

care system for the British Columbia Health Association (B.C.H.A.) in 1985. This shared computer system for keeping track of patients and their treatments, known as the I B M Patient Care System, was developed at Duke University Medical Centre in North Carolina. It was then used in over 200 medical institutions world-wide, 14 in Canada. St. Vincent's started with the first component - patient management. This provided data on admissions, transfers, discharges, a central registry, and accounts-receivable systems. Other modules which have become available include nursing, pharmacy, laboratory, radiology, and dietary care plans.

St. Vincent's administration was also approached on the 17th of April, 1984, by the Greater Vancouver Regional Hospital District (G.V.R.H.D.) to plan, construct and operate a new 225-bed extended care hospital. However, a two-year freeze was put on capital funding, so the project was put on hold until 1986. It is now in the final planning stages. A new society, The Saint Vincent's Health Service Society, is being established to operate St. Vincent's Hospital, St. Vincent's Arbutus Hospital, and the new St. Vincent's Langara hospital, which will be located on the 200 block West 62nd Avenue in Vancouver.



Mr. John McKenna's Farewell — January 1987. Board Members 1987.

Employee Service Recognition

On June 27, 1985, the hospital again held a staff recognition of the kind started by the Sisters in 1971. It was hosted jointly by the Sisters of Charity and the Board of Management and held in the Inservice Room.

Gold pins with the hospital logo were to be awarded annually for 25 or more years of service; silver pins for 20 years of service, and bronze pins for 10 years of service.

Sister Rita Lynch, Nicholina Amersfoort, Amelia Antonelli, Margaret Beattie, Gisela Lebek, Stephanie Makuch, Irene Meszaros, Margaret Tate, Faye Weiss, Jenny Popovich, Pauline Wilkinson, John Varsek and Ann McCaffrey, received a gold pin. Seventeen employees received a silver pin for 20 continuous years of service and 93 received a bronze pin for ten years of service.

In 1987 Mary Braun received her gold pin, two employees received a silver pin, and nineteen received bronze pins.

May Wong was awarded her gold pin in 1988, four employees were awarded 20-year pins, and sixteen were given 10-year pins.

Medical Staff—Service Recognition

The following doctors received gold pins for active service of 20 years or more:

Dr. C. Mackenzie
Dr. N.H. Clark
Dr. H. Van Norden
Dr. P.S. Moore
Dr. H.E. St. Louis
Dr. R.T. Irving
Dr. A. Macdonald
Dr. L.M. Ewasew
Dr. G.R. Yates
Dr. H.J. Ruebsaat
Dr. A. Moyes
Dr. K.W. Yue
Dr. G.D. Robertson
Dr. J.L. Gilmour
Dr. D.H. Deane

Honorary and Retired Members Honored

Dr. E.J. Badre Dr. J.B. Costello
Dr. J.H. Black Dr. E. Kliffer
Dr. G. Walsh Dr. J.R. Farish
Dr. K.A. Campbell Dr. I. Tischler
Dr. B. Goodman Dr. N. Wignall

Active Doctors on Staff Today in 1989 with Years of Continuous Service

Dr. J. Adrian
Dr. E.D. Herberts
Dr. G. Agnew
Dr. P. Horiensky
Dr. D.E. Bebb
Dr. S. Junaid
Dr. M.C. Beckett
Dr. I. Kaleal
Dr. G.N. Bermann
Dr. H.F. Kerrin
Dr. J.H. Birchall
Dr. H.K. Lok
Dr. M. Burgess
Dr. C. Leech-Porter
Dr. T. Cartmill
Dr. M. Molaro
Dr. P. Cham
Dr. P.M. Rebbeck
Dr. P. Chiu
Dr. W. Rivers
Dr. R. D'Amico
Dr. C. Robinson
Dr. D. Deane
Dr. C.L.N. Robinson
Dr. L.S. Deane
Dr. P. Switzer
Dr. C.W. Fast
Dr. Y.D. Tam
Dr. R. Giesbrecht
Dr. M. Tecson
Dr. J.W. Grahame
Dr. B.C. Wyatt
Dr. J.H. Hendry
Dr. A.R. Yarrow

Sister Marion MacDonald with her four assistants through the years. Back L-R: Clifford White 1967-1972, Charles Grierson 1976-1979, Michael Higgins 1980-1981. Front L-R: Sister Marion MacDonald and Sister Rita Lynch 1963-1967.



Events in 1988

Purchase of a \$15,000 piece of laser equipment for the use of the physiotherapists, was donated on May 11 by the members of the Telephone Pioneers Ladies of America, B.C. Chapter.

In early December the Stortz Instrument Company donated \$15,000 worth of video equipment, which is used primarily by the ophthalmologists doing lens implants.

The Red Cross Human Leucocyte Antigen (HLA) Laboratory became operational on December 15, 1988, in Room 234 on the second floor of the main wing. This lab was transferred from the Red Cross Building; it continues to type the tissue of bone marrow donors for the B.C. Registry. The Red Cross also uses the former laundry facilities space for the administrative offices of the HLA Laboratory.

Thus St. Vincent's participates in the bone marrow transplant unit program by supplying much needed space for it.

On December 23, another important and necessary piece of equipment was purchased and set up in the operating room. This mobile fluoroscopy unit (C-arm) will receive much use, especially in orthopedic surgery.

Sisters of Charity—1988

Fifteen Sisters are still active on staff, in pastoral care, on the Board of Management, and in different types of volunteer work. Eleven of these Sisters still live in the Sisters' Residence on the fourth floor: Sister Frances Rooney, Sister Rita Lynch, Sister Therese Kergoat, Sister Frances Wirth, R.N., Sister Alice Keegan, R.T., Sister Rita Duncan, Sister Mary Murphy, Sister Jean Keenan, Sister Anne Fix, Sister Ruth Monahan, Sister Phebe Hurley, Sister Gene Charlebois, Sister Loretta Ehman, Sister Mary Riordan and Sister Diana Harsch and Sister Monica Plante. Three of the founding Sisters of 1939 are in residence: Sister D. Harsch (retired X-ray technician now Diocesan Archivist), Sister Mary Riordan (retired), and Sister Rita Lynch.

Board of Management 1988

Mr. Barrie Smythe (Chairman), Mr. Thomas Burns (Vice-chairman), Sister Frances Rooney (Secretary-Treasurer), Mr. Owen Dolan, Mr. Gerald Gales, Mrs. Meldy Harris, Mrs. Erma Connaghan, Mr. Allan Bennett, Mrs. Julie Cullen, Mr. Robert Quart, Dr. Robert Halpenny, Sister Therese Kergoat, Sister Rita Lynch are on the board of management. Also attending meetings are Dr. C. Mackenzie, Dr. H. Birchall, and Mary Nolletti (recording secretary).

Mr. Andrew Livingstone, the government appointee, resigned in December 1988 after several years of dedicated service. The new government representative, Mr. Allan Bennett, was appointed in 1989.

Mr. David Dumaresq, retired Board member, became the chairman of the St. Vincent's Hospital Foundation.

Clinical Department Heads as of July 1988

Anesthesia	Dr. J.H. Hendry
Family Practice	Dr. S. Henderson
Internal Medicine	Dr. H. Kerrin
Laboratory Medicine	Dr. E. Edwards
Psychiatry	Dr. D. Copas
Radiology	Dr. C. Siu
Surgery	Dr. R. Calderisi
Intensive Care Unit	Dr. G. Singh
Coordinator of Resident Education	Dr. J. Ross
Emergency Room	Dr. W. Johnston
President of the Medical Staff	Dr. J.H. Birchall
Chief of Staff	Dr. R. Halpenny
Medical Co-ordinator	Dr. C. Mackenzie

The Future 1989

Michael Higgins President & C.E.O.

In 1989, St. Vincent's Hospital's golden anniversary, a number of fundamental and progressive changes are being initiated in an effort to ensure the hospital continues to meet effectively its mandate as a community hospital serving the health care needs of the people of Vancouver.

Economic and political conditions in the '80s and '90s are creating an environment in which health care institutions, to be successful, must be organized and positioned to respond quickly and in innovative ways to the many challenges and the changing patterns of health care delivery. Following a period of intensive self assessment a number of structural and program changes are being planned and initiated to meet this requirement. These changes and plans are described briefly under the following subject headings:

1. Organizational Structure
 - a) The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception
 - b) The Board
 - c) The Foundation
2. Communications
3. Fundraising
4. Strategic Direction
 - a) General Acute Care
 - b) Acute Geriatric Medicine
 - c) Extended Care



Michael Higgins, President and C.E.O.

1. Organizational Structure

a) The Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception

Historically, the role of the Sisters of Charity related to St. Vincent's Hospital could be described best and most simply as owner/operator with additional responsibility to establish, articulate and ensure implementation of a philosophy of care consistent with the charism of the Order.

A rapidly changing and more challenging environment, the increasing complexity of institutional health care delivery, the declining numbers, and physical presence of the Sisters, and the appointment of lay administrators, are some of the key factors which have contributed to the need for refinement of the traditional role of the Sisters of Charity. Effective in February 1989, the Sisters became owner/sponsors as opposed to owner/operators and effectively delegated complete operational responsibility to the local hospital Board.

As owners, the Sisters of Charity still retain ultimate authority over the shape and direction of the hospital, but as sponsors their primary area of activity and responsibility will shift from directing the hospital to ensuring Mission effectiveness by developing structures to allow their philosophy of care to live and flourish at St. Vincent's Hospital.

b) The Board

Until February 1989, the local hospital Board functioned as a Board of Management with a mandate to assist the Administrator in ensuring the hospital was managed effectively and efficiently. This was compatible with the Sisters' role as owner/operator. With the change in the role of the Sisters of Charity to owner/sponsor the Board's role changed from an internal management focus to a focus on the external environment and future direction of the hospital. To accomplish this new mandate the former Board of Management is being restructured as a Board of Directors. The Sisters of Charity will continue to appoint all but one of the Directors who is appointed by the Provincial Government.

c) The Administration

As a direct result of the change in role of the owners from operators to sponsors, and of the Board from managers to directors, the administrative structure will also require change. On February 1, 1989, the Administrator was appointed to the position of President and C.E.O. As President and C.E.O. he will have total and final responsibility for the day to day management of the hospital constrained only by legislation, the philosophical guidance of the Sisters of Charity, and the policy direction of the Board. In addition, over the next several months the President and C.E.O. will be appointing a

new senior management team to be comprised of the following positions:

Vice President, Administration
 Vice President, Nursing
 Vice President, Information Services
 Vice President, Medicine
 Associate Vice President, Human Resources

All of these changes to the organizational structure will improve the planning and decision making capability in the hospital.



Open House coffee break.

2. Communication

A formal communications program is being implemented to address all the hospitals publics, both internal and external, in an effort to improve the hospital's image, increase the level of community awareness of the hospital and its capabilities, support its mission and strategic plan, and improve its fundraising capability.

This communications program will take many forms but will include specific initiatives in media relations, public relations, government relations, community relations, and internal relations. These initiatives will include but not be limited to: redevelopment of all existing published materials, a regular newsletter, use of press releases, a speakers bureau, community events, and development of relationships with community organizations.

3. Fundraising

In order to maintain current service capabilities and respond quickly and in a creative fashion to changing health care needs, St. Vincent's requires more financial flexibility than is allowed under government funding for both operating and capital requirements. To achieve this ability the St. Vincent's Hospital of Vancouver Foundation is undergoing a complete reorganization. A part time Executive Assistant has been retained to provide needed administrative support for the Foundation. The Foundation Board is being reorganized to ensure that the Foundation Directors have a clear focus on Foundation business.

These organizational changes together with an enhanced public image for the hospital will enable the Foundation to increase dramatically its ability to gain its share of available charitable dollars.

4. Strategic Direction

After careful analysis of St. Vincent's strengths and weaknesses, our long term goals are being set. The road ahead will be more focused and progressive than the one we leave behind.

It is extremely important that St. Vincent's remain a viable institution. This is vital, both in the eyes of the government and the public. Therefore, part of our main objective is to build on the strengths of St. Vincent's so that we become an integral part of the health care community. Our biggest weaknesses will be overcome by capitalizing on our strengths.

In establishing the Hospital's long term objectives, the focus actually became three-fold.

The first major thrust will be in the revitalization of St. Vincent's position as a Community Medical Surgical Facility. Our commitment to the wholistic approach to medical care sets us apart from other health care institutions. Working together we will determine a series of clinical program initiatives designed to achieve this objective. These will include ambulatory care and community Outreach Programs. The focus will be on health promotion to

position the Hospital as a community resource centre.

The second major thrust entails the development of Acute Geriatric Medicine as an important element of St. Vincent's clinical profile. As our aging population continues to grow, there is increasing demand for specialized care of the elderly.

St. Vincent's already has the expertise and the resources to establish itself as a leader in this field. We can take advantage of an invaluable opportunity without sacrificing our broad-based acute family care service.

Third, our current expertise and involvement in Extended Care has given us a respected name in the industry. With the addition of the proposed Langara facility, a new 225-bed Extended Care Hospital, it will not be difficult to establish the Hospital as THE Extended/Geriatric Care facility in the Lower Mainland.

In addition, St. Vincent's will re-emphasize its roots with the Sisters of Charity. The Hospital will confirm this position by taking steps to establish firmly our identity in this regard.

Conclusion

After the next 50 years have passed the next version of the History of St. Vincent's Hospital should make exciting reading indeed.



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