



**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.

**The Mineral Springs Hospital
and the
Sisters of Saint Martha
Fifty Years of Service**

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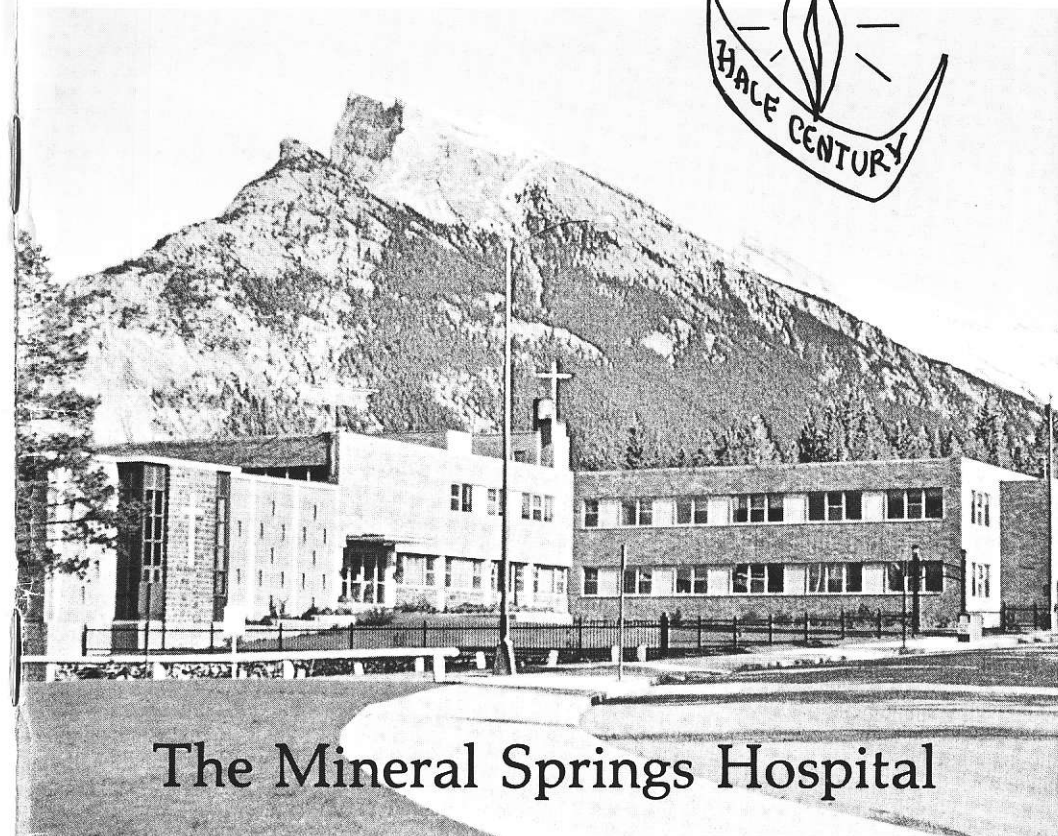
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The Mineral Springs Hospital and the Sisters of Saint Martha are pleased to acknowledge the assistance and the donations of individuals and companies that have aided the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Sisters at the hospital.

Thank you.



The Mineral Springs Hospital

and

The Sisters of Saint Martha

The Mineral Springs Hospital
and
The Sisters of Saint Martha
Fifty Years of Service

. . . and He sent them out to proclaim
the Kingdom of God and to heal.
Luke 9:2

Sister Mary MacIntosh



What does it mean to celebrate fifty years of life? For an individual, it means a gathering together of relatives and friends to share with them recollections of the joys and sorrows which made up those fifty years. In the case of an institution such as Mineral Springs Hospital, the celebration of a Jubilee, although similar, has many differences. For, how is it possible to reach, even in imagination, all those who made up the woof and the warp of the hospital from 1930 to 1980 and to encompass all of them in a jubilee celebration?

We think first of the pioneer sisters who courageously left their Motherhouse in Nova Scotia to begin a difficult undertaking in a strange part of the country; then, of all the sisters who followed them in succeeding years to form a continuous lifeline for the institution until the present day.

We think of the citizens of Banff who welcomed the sisters warmly into their midst in 1930 and who, during the years of financial uncertainty that followed,

gave whatever support they could. We think of the hospital board members and the members of the ladies' auxiliary, whose devoted and self-sacrificing service on behalf of Mineral Springs Hospital was the bright ray of hope which kept up the morale of the sisters in the struggle to maintain the institution. We think too of the devotion of the nurses and doctors and of all the staff, changing often perhaps because of the mobile character of the population of Banff, but manifesting always a constant dedication to the welfare of the patients. We think of the countless patients who benefited from the services the hospital had to offer and whose gratitude was a spur to even better service.

These and many more, whose lives touched and intermingled in the common cause of the sick, have made up the whole tapestry which is spread before us as we commemorate the past fifty years of Mineral Springs Hospital. Who is to say which figures stand out most clearly in the tapestry? The whole is blended into a harmony of colors and weaves which complement one another and contribute to the total effect.

The Sisters of St. Martha are proud to have been part of the fifty-year old tapestry of Mineral Springs Hospital and are deeply grateful to God and to the many people who gave so much along the way. On this memorable occasion they joyfully gather around them, at least in spirit, all who have been part of the hospital in good times and bad, and with Mrs. Lillian Mandryk and all those who presently are part of the health care ministry at the hospital look forward to the future with a deep hope and trust in God.

Sister Mary MacIntosh
Superior General
Sisters of St. Martha



At the Old Brett Sanitarium, circa 1895. Seated: Dr. R.G. Brett and his chief nurse, Annie McLaughlin. Standing: nurses Wendell and De Pue, Dr. George Ray Johnson, nurses Helen Fleming Brett and Fraser. Photo by Hospital Archives.

The text of this commemorative booklet was prepared by Jon Whyte of Banff; the assistance of Sisters of Saint Martha, particularly Sister Mary Albert, and Lillian Mandryk, the hospital's administrator, is acknowledged fully. The gracious assistance of the staff of the Archives of the Canadian Rockies also contributed to the story's fullness, though the oversights and errors are of course the author's sole responsibility.

Banff's Mineral Springs Hospital and the Sisters of Saint Martha

The doors of the Brett Hospital on Spray Avenue closed in 1926, shortly after the death of Dr. Reginald H. ("Harry") Brett in 1925. For four years it stood abandoned and Banff was without any medical facility except for doctors' clinics. In June, 1930, the Sisters of Saint Martha, a Congregation of nuns with its headquarters in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, purchased the dilapidated building for \$58,000.

The Brett family's involvement with medicine in the Canadian Rockies began shortly after Dr. Robert George Brett and his friend James (later to be "Senator") Lougheed commandeered a muscle-powered speeder or velocipede in Medicine Hat to get them from there to Calgary, there being no trains scheduled. Lougheed stopped off in the village of Calgary at the end-of-rail to found a dynasty. Dr. Brett made his way further west to become a CPR surgeon in the Mountain Division during the construction of the railroad, ministering to the ill and the injured and performing operations in a boxcar equipped to be an operating room. (Banff's first infants were born on a siding; only in their later years did they relish the romance of their births.) "In spite of the great drawbacks," Sam Steele recalls that Dr. Brett and his colleague Dr. Orton "were successful in keeping down disease, most of which was caused by bad sanitation. The most common complaint was typhoid, which they called mountain fever, and there were many cases."

The discovery of the hot springs at Banff in the early 1880s led to the swift endorsement of their "remarkable curative properties," and "immediate steps were taken to make of the reserve a creditable National Park." In 1885, about the time the park was being

created, the federal government granted Dr. Brett permission to establish a large hotel cum spa at the foot of Sulphur Mountain beside the Bow River, where the Park Administration Building stands today. One Banff old timer has described the facilities, such as they were, as "part hotel, part hospital, part poolroom, and part bar." The Sanitarium housed up to a hundred visitors and patients. Higher on the mountain and nearer the hot springs the Grand View Villa boasted what a travelling journalist, Douglas Sladen, described as "a particularly virtuous spring, as is attested by the number of crutches festooning the bath-house, like the miracle remnants at the shrine of the good St. Anne below Quebec."

By the first years of the new century the increase in demand for Banff's balneology had become so great that Howard Douglas, then superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park, wrote that the Upper Hot Springs pool "which is patronized almost entirely by invalids who come from all parts of the world, has become altogether too small for the number of those using it . . . The marvellous cures effected here have become known in distant lands, and the result is that invalids from every conceivable place come here for treatment which in almost every case results in a cure."

The Sanitarium piped the thermal waters some six hundred feet down Sulphur Mountain for its baths and for the treatment of arthritis and rheumatism, establishing a tradition for Banff and its hospitals which lasted until April, 1963, when the Mineral Springs Hospital notified the superintendent that it "no longer required mineral hot water."

The demand for hospital facilities (and, we contemplate, a desire to free up the Sanitarium for its use as a hotel and to separate the sick and the convalescent from the more leisurely treatment takers)

led Dr. Brett to construct the "New Brett Hospital" in 1908-9, the frame structure which stood on Spray Avenue until 1958. The hospital featured and advertised "bright, sunny, spacious, airy and cheerful rooms" and "four sun parlors, tastefully furnished, with a view to every comfort," in addition to its "healing medicinal waters" and the "constant restful presence of nature at her most beautiful."

With the death of the senior Dr. Brett in 1929 the family's forty-six year involvement in Banff's medical services came to an end, though the doctors' widows continued to take an interest in the hospital.

The Hospital's Second Life

At the invitation of His Excellency Bishop Kidd of Calgary the Brett estate sold the hospital property to the Sisters of Saint Martha in 1930 for \$58,000. The Sisters, a Congregation established in 1900 in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, owned and operated several other hospitals in Canada, including Saint Michael's in Lethbridge which they have managed since 1929.

On June 10, 1930 the hospital in Banff began its new life when Mother M. Stanislaus MacDonald and Mother M. Faustina MacArthur (who had been the first canonically elected Superior of the Congregation) arrived in Banff. Mr. Dick Daly met the two Mothers at the door and, bowing gracefully, handed them the keys to the institution and thanked them. They inspected the forty by ninety foot two storey building (with some dismay, we may imagine) and then retired to Mrs. R.G. Brett's where they spent their first evening in Banff.

In the four or so years the hospital had stood dormant packrats had moved into its nooks, crannies and mattresses, and a colony of bats had established itself in the garrets. The mineral waters had encrusted the pipes



Mother M. Faustina



Mother M. Stanislaus

and tubs in the baths so densely in twenty years of use that chisels and hammers were required to remove the scale. The Mounted Police were called in to evict the rats and bats. Making the hospital habitable required an additional \$23,000.

Within ten days linoleum was installed in the corridors, curtains were hung, the springs of the mattresses tied together so bedding could be placed upon them, carpenters and plasterers were hard at work in the building, and the jobs of cleaning and scrubbing were almost finished. With good fortune a young and energetic Scot, Henry Convie, then just six weeks in Banff, dropped by the hospital to ask if his services could be used. The Sisters invited him to drop back the following day, which he did, and he stayed in the hospital's employ until March, 1966. One of the Sisters



The Mineral Springs Hospital, circa 1930. Photo by Byron Harmon. Harmon Collection, Archives of the Canadian Rockies.

remarks that they ran the hospital for twenty-eight years without an elevator, and another is quick to add that "Henry was the elevator." (Those among our readers who do not remember the old building should take another look at the photograph which shows clearly the long staircase which leads to the front doors. Henry's yeoman service can then be better appreciated.)

A Mrs. Turnbull was the first patient, admitted on June 22, twelve days after the Sisters received the keys; five days later the first operation was performed. On July 14 Bishop Kidd, no doubt astonished by the Sisters' progress and industry (there were seven of them), presided over the opening ceremonies of the renovated and newly named "Mineral Springs Hospital."

The devotion and the sacrifice of the Sisters of Saint Martha we can better appreciate when we recall that when the Congregation purchased the hospital the maximum provincial grant or subsidy was fifty cents per patient per day. In late March of 1931 the records note their receiving a grant of \$811.00, or a little less than a hundred dollars a month for their first nine months of operations.

The Stock Market crash of 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression can only have made the Sisters' undertaking more onerous. Without the assistance of the townspeople they might have had to close the hospital's doors shortly after reopening them. The Wheatleys donated coal to keep the structure heated, and Charlie Harbidge hauled it for free; the town's merchants donated both food and other supplies. The CPR, grateful to have the hospital open in its prime tourist region, helped out too, with funds and with advertising the hospital and its baths in their brochures. One Sister recalls that "they were always grateful to see an American patient those days because he would probably be able to pay his bills."

In November of 1931 the medical staff of the Mineral Springs Hospital held its organizational meeting. Dr. J. Dean Robinson of Banff, Dr. W. Barr Murray of Exshaw, and Doctors A.E. Shore and Chester F. McGuffin of Calgary were present; Dr. G.M. Atkin of Banff was absent.

Shortly after, on the first of December, the first hospital advisory board met. F.O. "Pat" Brewster recalls his being asked to provide a list of names of people he thought suitable, "making sure there was an equal number of Catholics and Protestants represented." The records indicate he was a member of that first board too, but Pat indicates his involvement went no further than suggesting the roster. The board

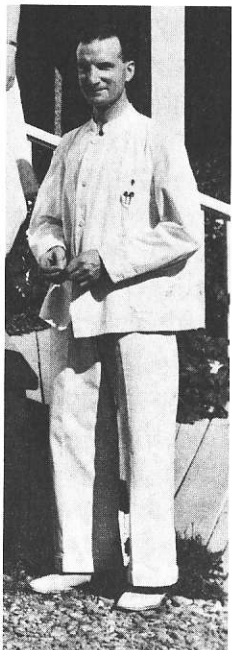
members' names recall for us, then as now, many of the "worthies of Banff": James Brewster, president; Louis Trono (a cousin of the town's eminent trombonist), vice-president; Edmund Roberge, secretary; and members Byron Harmon, Thomas Kelly, Edward Thompson, and Rev. J.B. Moriarty.

The Sisters' ecumenical spirit had earlier been expressed when they had invited Banff's Anglican rector, Canon Tully Montgomery, to bless the refurbished hydrotherapy room in 1930.

The Board's second motion, after approving the rules and regulations of the hospital, approved the applications for membership of the Medical Staff. In the early days of the hospital the Advisory Board's function was not similar to today's. Responsible principally for community liaison, the board was not involved in the administration or management of the hospital. Far later, when the province became more involved in health care, those responsibilities were to develop. The early boards did, however, concern themselves with fund raising, and at that first meeting they concurred in the Sister Superintendent's "action in fixing the price of the baths at 75 cents each or six baths for \$4.00 in the hope of securing greater patronage." The question looming before both the Sisters and the Board must have been, "How can we afford to keep the Mineral Springs Hospital open?"

"More than once it seemed that the hospital must close its doors," the history of the Congregation tells us. "Yet the Sisters faced the situation with courage and boundless trust in Providence. They carried on in the face of grim want and almost insurmountable obstacles."

We should not believe, however, that those years were without their reward or their humour. Henry Convie remembers an event in the 1930s which



Henry Convie, 1938



Father McGuinness, circa 1955.

could occur only in Banff. In the X-ray room there was some commotion or ruckus, and with some alarm the Sisters discovered a panic-stricken deer had somehow got in and was causing some mayhem. It was an event exceeded in its "Banffness" only by the break-in and entry of a bear in November, 1946. On that occasion Father McGuinness, the hospital's chaplain and the town's priest, "always a neat and fastidious man" in Sister Mary Albert's recollection, assisted the Sisters in evicting the culprit. Since the bear had been "checking the supplies in the basement," the small room was full of flying flour and the priest's black suit was soon dusted to grey and white with the fine sift. "After being turned out and the windows barred on [Mr. Bear], 4:00 a.m. found him making his way up the fire escape and

on to the roof next to the nursery and chapel. The Mounties were summoned but failed to catch the intruder. However, the next day shots were heard and three bears (!) met their fate."

The Sisters' Contribution

The Mineral Springs Hospital was the fifth hospital the Sisters of Saint Martha owned and administered. The Congregation, at its outset dedicated to domestic duty, became engaged in hospital work in 1915 when it assumed responsibility for Saint Joseph's Hospital in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. After the Great War it developed two more hospitals in Nova Scotia, Saint Rita in Sydney and Saint Mary's in Inverness. Saint Michael's in Lethbridge followed in the 1920s and, after purchasing the Mineral Springs in Banff, the Sisters established two hospitals in Saskatchewan, Saint Michaels' in Broadview (1936) and Saint Peter's in Melville (1940).

In 1977 the Mineral Springs' Trustees approved a formal statement of the hospital's *Philosophy*, but since its precepts must have governed the administration of the hospital long before, it is perhaps best quoted here.

Noting that the hospital "is evidence of the Church's historical concern for the spiritual and material needs of the sick" and is "the visible public continuation of Christ's healing function in the Church," the *Philosophy* goes on to state beliefs in the patient as a bearer of values, in "Total Health care" ministering to "the physical, social, psychological and spiritual needs of the patient," and in Christ's offering "every patient the light and strength to measure up to his supreme destiny."

The immediate objective of the Mineral Springs Hospital "is the care of the sick," but its ultimate objec-



The Chapel in the old Mineral Springs. Photo by Byron Harmon.

tive is "to serve as a community health centre by providing a harmonious, efficient and well-administered institution with a coordinated effort of approved medical practice, high ethical standards and a Christ-like care of the sick in the hospital and with other community health agencies." It is noted that "the hospital endeavours to provide the best possible care for the sick and injured, without regard to ethnic origin, beliefs, or age," and that "the human person must always be respected." (A reminder from the past of the hospital's accepting all patients and all beliefs is the

note in the annals from July, 1932, when a Japanese patient died in the hospital "and his friends came to spend the night with his remains. They prayed and offered incense to Buddha, as is their custom. No one was permitted to lay a hand on the body until the following day.")

The investment in cash and time and service from the Sisters has been great. Not until 1944 did they retire their debt of \$81,000 incurred in 1930 to purchase and refurbish the building. In addition, since the Federal Government had condemned all the out-buildings, the Sisters built a solid brick laundry, which to construct and equip cost \$7,500, a boiler house at an expense of \$23,000, and a nurses' residence which cost \$15,000 in 1942. (The opening of the nurses' residence freed up beds in the hospital to a capacity of eighty patients.) In addition they had purchased new bedroom furniture, equipped the operating room, provided new X-ray machinery and equipment, and created an emergency room, a physiotherapy department with its equipment, and a new maternity and case room, all at a cost near \$48,000.

In 1938 the greater part of the Male Bath Section had been converted to a clinic for patients who came under the Provincial Workmen's Compensation Board. It continued in operation for fifteen years, caring for as many as seventy patients during the peak periods in World War II. In slower periods there were still as many as forty to fifty patients. The compensation cases were an important source of revenue.

As early as 1949 the Sisters expressed their hope for a new building. The "Dollar-A-Day" hospitalization scheme the Alberta Government was instituting would contribute to cost sharing. Matters moved slowly. In the summer of 1952 the Sisters engaged in a "very successful experiment," one which harked back to the

earliest use of the New Brett Hospital: beds were rented to tourists. That same year a local plebiscite rejected the Dollar-A-Day Plan 427 to 310. A note in the *Annals* says that "many think the people were not well enough informed, and some grossly misinformed."

The Mineral Springs in Crisis

In 1953 a new Physiotherapy Clinic opened in Edmonton. The Sisters were informed the hospital would minister to compensation cases no more. After June of 1953 there were none. In addition to the crisis brought on by the loss of revenue from the compensation cases, the Province of Alberta informed the Sisters no provincial grants would be forthcoming unless Banff accepted the Dollar-A-Day Plan which had been accepted by 95% of the province. Despite the best efforts of the Sisters the hospital was in a state of disrepair amounting to the beginnings of collapse and the Sisters stated that "it is useless to attempt to do anything to save it." Their maintenance of the structure had been excellent enough to keep the building suitable to be a hospital. With the exception of one term it had always received an A-1 rating from the American College of Surgeons, but in June, 1953, Dr. Brunt, a hospital inspector, indicated there was little hope for accreditation, and none for full accreditation.

In May of 1954 the Congregation's Superior-General Reverend Mother M. Ignatius, visited Banff and held an emergency meeting of the Board of Trustees. "The Board was told that the Congregation [of the Sisters of Saint Martha] was willing to undertake the construction of a new hospital *only* if the people showed themselves willing to support it. A plebiscite was to be held and the ultimatum issued that



Private room, the old Mineral Springs, circa 1930. Photo by Byron Harmon.

unless this condition was concretely met, the hospital at Banff would be closed." The deadline was set for November 1, 1954.

Circumstances delayed the holding of the plebiscite, but on June 21, 1955, the people of Banff voted 90% in favour of the Dollar-A-Day Plan, Lake Louise voted unanimously in favour, and the way was "open for the erection of a new hospital to replace [the Brett structure] and the continuance of the Sisters' services in the operation of it."

The New Mineral Springs

Sister M. Immaculata Fraser began almost immediately to design and plan the new building with the Meech Company of Architects in Lethbridge. The new

structure would have to be built around the old one since it would still be in use until the new hospital was ready for patients. Early in 1956 the Federal Government donated a little extra land to the hospital to provide for the construction and the necessary setback for zoning purposes. In July, 1956, construction of the new concrete and steel building began. In places the new walls were only a foot away from the old ones.

The Corporation of the Sisters of Saint Martha borrowed \$650,000 to replace the building. Federal and provincial grants amounted to \$102,000 but no low-interest loan was forthcoming from the province because, as Don Becker, then president of the Hospital Advisory Board, noted in a public letter, the hospital was privately owned, and in Banff's anomolous status in the national park no municipality existed to back such a loan. (In 1957, as earlier, the Board advised the Sisters concerning operation and it ratified appointments, but it did not operate the hospital.)

On May 24, 1958, the hospital stood complete. Father McGuinness formally blessed the new building. Three days later the patients were transferred. On July 22 the new chapel which stands just to the left of the main doors of the hospital was dedicated by Bishop Carroll of Calgary, and four days later Dr. G.M. Atkin cut the ribbon for the official opening. Don Becker in his speech noted that the building and its equipment represented an investment of close to a million dollars, stating that the big increase in local hospital taxes was due to the Alberta Government's "equalization plan," not to the new hospital, and indicating that the increase would have been imposed even if there had been no new building.

The Sisters of Saint Martha have donated years of service to the community of Banff, assuring that the town had a hospital even when it seemed likely that cir-



The new Mineral Springs, opened July 26, 1958.

cumstances might force them to close the doors. They have had help, of course. It has come from individuals and service groups and the hospital auxiliary. Over the years much of the equipment and many of the facilities have been provided or augmented by the help of outsiders, and had to be. Even today the annual provincial grant to the hospital, though it is considerably larger than the five hundred dollars of 1931, doesn't go very far toward procuring equipment.

In 1975 the hospital's Advisory Board became a Board of Trustees whose purpose is "to administer and maintain the hospital in a manner consistent with the aims and objectives of the Sisters of Saint Martha." Its membership is made up of representatives of the Banff Advisory Council, the School Board, the Banff Health



The Sisters of Saint Martha at the Mineral Springs Hospital, 1980: Sister Mary Albert Gleeson, Sister Roselina McMahon, Sister Marian Knapik, Sister Josephine MacIntyre, Sister Margaret Mary Herve, Sister Michaela Brown, Sister Alice Marie Gazeley.

Unit, Banff National Park, the hospital District Board, the Sisters of Saint Martha, and three persons nominated by the Board of Trustees itself.

In 1974 another change had occurred. To that time the administrator of the hospital had always been a Sister. Decreasing numbers of members of the Congregation resulted in no Sister's being available for the position. So that year Mrs. Lillian Mandryk became the first lay administrator of the Mineral Springs. The Sisters are, however, still much engaged in the operation of the hospital, and the building is still owned by the Congregation.

Even now, as we look back with thanks for the services these good women have provided, it is well to recall what Don Becker stated when the new building was opened: "Please consider what your taxes would be if the hospital had been built by the town . . . Without doubt it will cost you less to help the Sisters keep the hospital than to allow them to lose it."



Lillian Mandryk
Administrator

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Mineral Springs Hospital is built on a foundation of dedication by many people.

The dedication of the Sisters of St. Martha, over the last fifty years. The Sisters faced changes in numbers, style of clothing, lifestyle, yet provided a continuity.

The Boards of Trustees have shown a dedication in planning for the future to provide excellent health care for the community.

The dedication of the physicians who not only provide a high standard of health care but spend countless hours setting and monitoring these standards to maintain continuous excellent care.

The Mineral Springs Hospital has depended upon the dedication of the staff, as without these people the hospital could not exist. Many of these people have been with us for many years.

Without the dedication of the various service organizations and the many individuals who believe in

the Mineral Springs Hospital, the present high standards could not have been maintained.

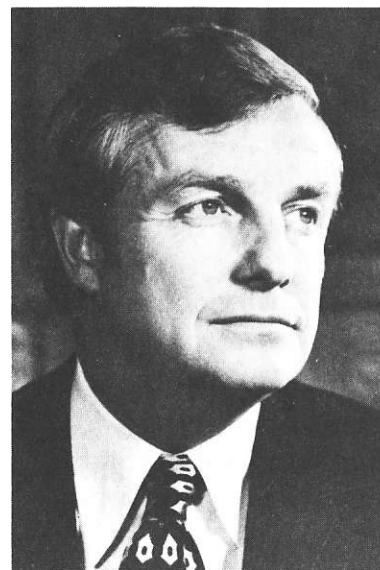
It takes more than money to maintain a good health facility. It is the dedication and hard work that has placed the Mineral Springs Hospital among those that have achieved a three year accreditation status.

It has been my pleasure to have been associated with the Mineral Springs Hospital for the past fifteen years, and it is my prayer that God would continue to bless the Sisters of St. Martha, Board of Trustees and Staff for their unfailing dedication.

The administrators of the Mineral Springs Hospital have seen the institution through many troubling times. Their good service and devotion to duty have provided the town and the region with excellence of health care.

We remember them all.

Sister M.Stanislaus MacDonald	1930-1931
Sister M.Augustine Kennedy	1931-1937
Sister M.Anthony MacPhee	1937-1941
Sister Marie Germaine Broussard	1941-1943
Sister M.Clarissa Chisholm	1943-1949
Sister M.Beatrice McMahon	1949-1952
Sister M.Consolata MacDonald	1952-1955
Sister M.Immaculate Fraser	1955-1958
Sister Mary Albert Gleeson	1958-1961
Sister Mary Albert Shayler	1961-1964
Sister Ann Cecilia MacNeil	1964-1967
Sister Beatrice McMahon	1967-1970
Sister M.Consolata MacDonald	1970-1975
Mrs. George Mandryk (Lillian)	1975-



Peter Lougheed,
Premier of Alberta

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I am pleased to extend greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish, Nova Scotia to Banff, Alberta.

The first Sisters arrived in Banff in May of 1930 to maintain and sustain the Mineral Springs Hospital and, I understand, throughout the years members of the Congregation have continued to provide medical and community health services. I am sure the people of our province sincerely appreciate your contributions and many years of unselfish service to the community.

This memorable and significant occasion will provide an excellent opportunity to renew old friendships and reminisce on the activities of the hospital during the early years of development.

Best wishes for a most enjoyable and memorable anniversary celebration.



Ian Wilson,
President Medical Staff
Mineral Springs Hospital

"The Order of the Sisters of Saint Martha" was formed in 1900 in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The Sisters came to Banff in 1930 and opened the Brett Hospital which had been closed for four years. Since that time the Sisters have been involved in the administration and staffing first of the old hospital and more recently of the new building which was opened in 1958. As President of the Medical Staff I wish to acknowledge the zeal and kindness which the Sisters have shown in the hospital, to congratulate them on their Jubilee and to wish them well in the future.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The story of the Sisters of St. Martha, in Banff, over the past fifty years is remarkable. Their dedication to health care, has been one of the greatest contributions to our community.

It is easy to take good hospital facilities for granted. It's something we can always count on whenever needed. Yet when the Sisters arrived in Banff in 1930, there was no hospital at all.

With their own funds and resources, the Sisters put the defunct Brett Sanatorium, into service as a hospital. In 1958, again with their own resources, the Sisters built a new modern hospital, which has served the Bow Valley since.

A recent announcement by the Alberta Minister of Hospitals, has approved a two million dollar renovation and upgrading of the Mineral Springs Hospital. This renovation will assure the community that health care will continue to be provided at the highest possible level.

During the upcoming period of change, the hospital needs the support of the people of Banff for upgrading the existing facilities, and solving major problems such as staff housing, parking, and medical offices.

The Board of Trustees of the Mineral Springs Hospital, joins me in extending our warmest thanks, and congratulations, to the Sisters of Saint Martha, for their truly outstanding efforts on behalf of this community. We trust that they will be part of Banff for a very long time.

John Gow, Chairman,
Board of Trustees

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

— 1980



John Gow



Judy Mills



Rob Crosby



Jim Walls



Sister Marian Knapik



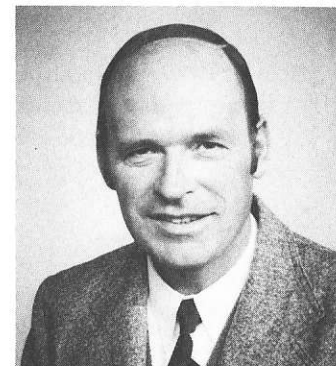
Sister Michaela Brown



Cliff White



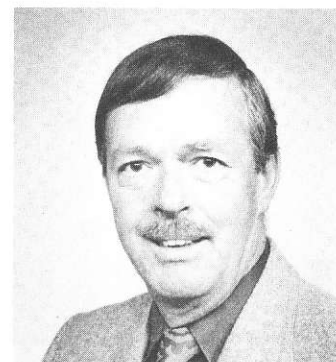
Kay Watt



Peter Fuhrmann



Sister Roselina McMahon



Wally Anderson

DEPARTMENTS AND STAFF

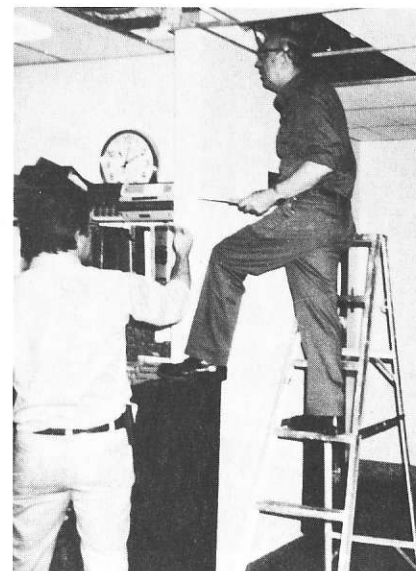
Not all of the staff are pictured, of course. We have chosen to show the departments and people at work in them. For each person pictured there are two or three more behind and with them.



Administration — Jim Walls, Rita Bright, Sister Michaela Browne, Mary DeCecco, Shirley Pearson, Marilyn Meyer.



Maternity — Sister Josephine.



Maintenance — Kelly Wilson and Jack Blok.



X-Ray — Sister Roselina McMahon with Gayle Tercier.



Lab — Carole Kirk, Jennifer Johnstone, Douglas Sawka.



Laundry — Maxine Lazzarotto, Hilde Beer.



Kitchen — Elsie Chakowski, Charlene Kamenka, Jane Schartner, Rita Smith.



Housekeeping — Helen Bluhm, Elza Granat, Maureen Sheridan.



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is a special department in hospital service. It is the art of communicating love and concern for the patient, a caring relationship which promotes healing and wholeness. Through this department all hospital staff become imbued with concern for the whole person, soul as well as body. Sister Marian Knapik is the coordinator of this department, she works with all clergy in the interests of the spiritual needs of persons of various religious beliefs.

It would be impossible to calculate the service given to the Mineral Springs over the years by the Hospital Auxiliary. The women of the auxiliary have provided equipment and morale, visits to patients and the extras that the hospital could never budget for. From outfitting wards to supplying flowers the Auxiliary has contributed to the institution's warmth. Mrs. Min Johnston's contribution extends back to almost the beginning of the Sisters' service and is longer than that of any other individual's.



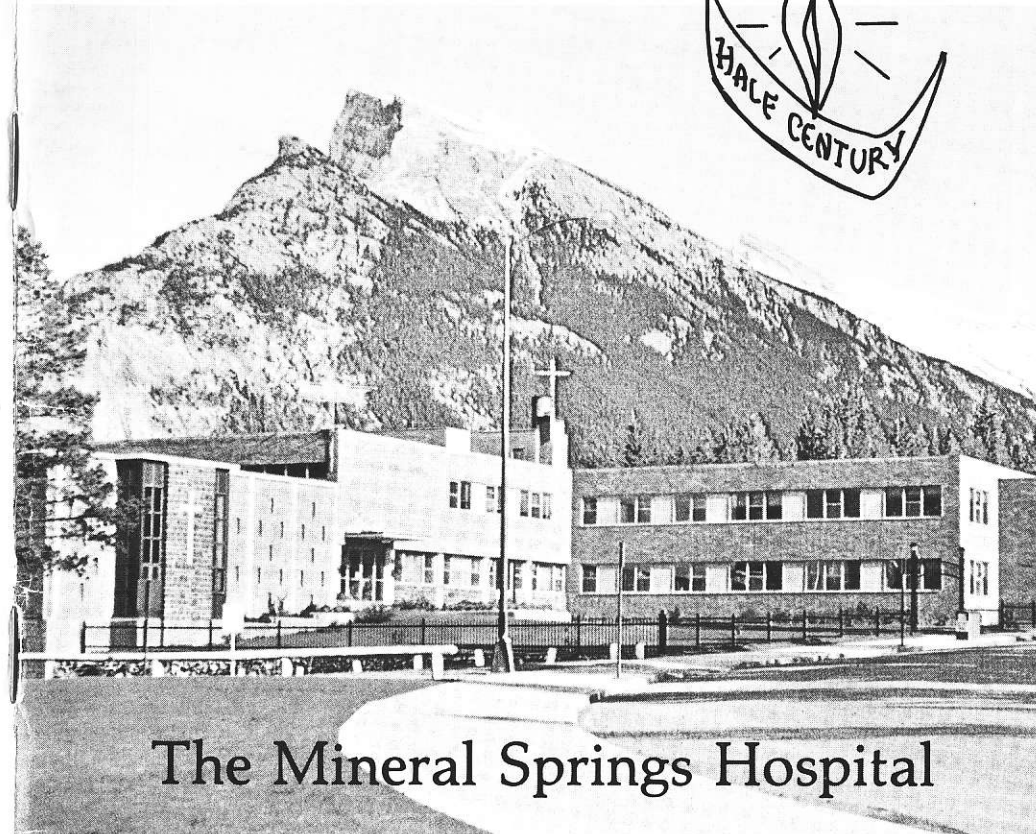
Mrs. Min Johnston

The equipping of a contemporary hospital is expensive. Without the assistance of Banff's many service clubs, and individuals too numerous to name, the Mineral Springs Hospital would be far less well equipped than it is. As a token of recognition for their good service it is our pleasure to name and thank the following organizations:

BANFF CHAPTER A.A.R.N.
WOMEN'S AUXILIARY ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
COL. MOORE BRANCH ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BANFF ELKS CLUB (BPOE)
BANFF KINETTES CLUB
KIWANIS CLUB OF BANFF
BANFF LIONS CLUB
JAYCEES (JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)
BANFF REBEKAH LODGE No. 34
ROTARY CLUB OF BANFF
SOROPTOMIST CLUB
BANFF SHRINE CLUB
SILHOUETTE CLUB
MT. TEMPLE I.O.D.E.
BANFF KINSMEN CLUB



The Mineral Springs Hospital and the Sisters of Saint Martha are pleased to acknowledge the assistance and the donations of individuals and companies that have aided the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Sisters at the hospital.
Thank you.



The Mineral Springs Hospital

and

The Sisters of Saint Martha