

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - St. Joseph's Hospice series (F01-S109)

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St. Joseph's Hospice series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	St. Joseph's Hospice series
Reference code:	F01-S109
Date:	2012-2014 (creation)
Physical description:	4.5 cm of textual records 5 architectural drawings : computer printout., 63.5 cm x 86 cm ; rolled to 63 cm x 25.5 cm 1 zip disk (13.6 MB)
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	October 30, 2018July 2, 2020May 22, 2023

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London, in Ontario was first incorporated on February 15, 1891 under chapter 92 of the Statutes of Ontario, 1870-1.

On December 11, 1868, at the request of Bishop John Walsh, five Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto arrived in London, Ontario. Mother Teresa Brennan, Sister Ignatia Campbell, Sister Ursula McGuire, Sister Francis O'Malley and Sister Appolonia Nolan were accompanied by Reverend Mother Antoinette McDonald and were welcomed by Bishop Walsh, Rev. J.M. Bruyere, V.G., and Rev. P. Egan, pastor of St. Peter's Church. Awaiting the Sisters were sleighs that transported them from the train station to a temporary home at 170 Kent Street.

In accordance with their mission in London, three Sisters began teaching at St. Peter's School in January, 1869. After classes, they visited the sick, the poor and the imprisoned. They were also mandated to open an orphanage in the future. In order to accomplish these tasks, more Sisters and larger facilities were necessary.

On October 2, 1869, the Barker House at the corner of Richmond and College Street in North London was purchased and the Sisters moved there from Kent Street. The building was named Mount Hope, and it became the first Motherhouse of the Sisters, eventually housing the elderly, orphans, Sisters and novices.

On December 18, 1870, the Sisters of St. Joseph became an autonomous congregation in the London diocese, independent of the Toronto congregation. Sister Ignatia Campbell was appointed Superior General, an office she held until 1902. On February 15, 1871, the congregation became legally incorporated.

On October 7, 1877, an addition was made to Mount Hope. This building stood until it was demolished on August 3, 1980, surrounded by the growing healthcare institutions founded by the Sisters, beginning with St. Joseph's Hospital which opened at 268 Grosvenor Street on October 15, 1888, and followed by the

opening of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in 1895, and the construction of a new nursing school building in 1927, which saw its last graduation in 1977. On May 1, 1951, St. Mary's Hospital was opened, followed by Marian Villa on January 12, 1966. In 1985, the hospital complex was renamed St. Joseph's Health Centre, and ownership was transferred in 1993 to St. Joseph's Health Care Society.

But it was not only in London that Sisters saw the need for healthcare and nursing education. On October 15, 1890, they opened St. Joseph's Hospital on Centre Street in Chatham, Ontario, which remained under their control until 1993. In 1895, they opened St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, which saw its last graduation in 1970. On October 18, 1946, they opened St. Joseph's Hospital at 290 North Russell Street in Sarnia which remained under their control until 1993. In Alberta, they administered St. Joseph's Hospital in Stettler (1926), St. Joseph's Hospital in Galahad (1927), the General Hospital in Killam (1930), and St. Paul's Hospital in Rimbey (1932).

On April 10, 1899, the Sisters opened Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse, Novitiate and Orphanage at the former Hellmuth College at 1486 Richmond Street North in London. The orphans were moved to this new location from Mount Hope, which remained a home for the elderly and was renamed House of Providence on June 3, 1899. The orphanage remained at Mount St. Joseph until it was moved to Fontbonne Hall in 1953 (to 1967). The original Hellmuth College building was demolished in 1976.

Later, on September 14, 1914, the Motherhouse and Novitiate moved to Sacred Heart Convent at Colborne and Dundas Streets in London, with the orphans remaining at Mount St. Joseph. The Sisters lived at Sacred Heart Convent until 1953, when they moved back to the newly built Mount St. Joseph, on the original location of the former Hellmuth College. The new Motherhouse and Novitiate was officially opened on June 29, 1954. It was here that they continued a private girls' school which had begun in 1950 at Sacred Heart Convent, and was now known as Mount St. Joseph Academy (to 1985). It was here too that they continued a music school which had also begun at Sacred Heart Convent and was now called St. Joseph's School of Music (to 1982). The Médaille Retreat Centre began here in 1992, and the Sisters also administered a Guest Wing for relatives of hospitalized patients (to 2005). The Sisters departed Mount St. Joseph for their new residence, a green building at 485 Windermere Road in London, in 2007.

On September 4, 1873, St. Joseph's Convent opened at 131 North Street in Goderich, Ontario, followed by other convents in Ontario, including Ingersoll (1879), St. Thomas (1879), Belle River (1889), Windsor (1894), Sarnia (1906), Kingsbridge (1911), Seaforth (1913), St. Mary's (1913), Woodstock (1913), Kinkora (1916), Paincourt (1923), Maidstone (1930), Leamington (1932), Delhi (1938), Tillsonburg (1938), Simcoe (1938), Langton (1939), West Lorne (1957), and Zurich (1963).

The Sisters also opened missions in other parts of Canada, including in Alberta: Edmonton (1922), Wetaskiwin (1929), St. Bride's (1934); and in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories Yellowknife (1953), and in British Columbia in Haney, now Maple Ridge (1956), and Rutland (1970). Branching even further afield, Convento San Jose was opened in Chiclayo, Peru in 1962.

Over the years, as well as their service as teachers in the separate school system, as music teachers, as healthcare workers, as nursing educators, in providing care to orphans, and in providing parish ministry, pastoral care, and administering spiritual retreats, the Sisters were also involved in social service ministry. In Windsor, they opened the Roy J. Bondy Centre on September 13, 1970 which was a receiving home for the Children's Aid Society, withdrawing in 1982 but continuing to provide residential care for disabled children afterward. In London, they opened Internos, a residence for teenage girls attending school and later for troubled teens (to 1979). This was followed by the opening of St. Joseph's Detoxification Centre on September 13, 1973 (to 2005) and St. Stephen's House, an alcoholic recovery centre on February 1, 1982 (to 2000). Loughlin House in London opened as a residence for ex-psychiatric female patients in 1986 (to 1989), followed by the Home for Women in Need at 534 Queens Avenue in 1979 (to 2004).

Later, St. Joseph's House for Refugees was opened in 1987 (to 2005), followed by St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, a food security program, on February 2, 1983.

On November 22, 2012, the congregation amalgamated with those in Hamilton, Peterborough, and Pembroke into one charitable corporation under the name Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Act, a Private Act of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which received Royal Assent on June 13, 2013.

Scope and content

Series consists of records pertaining to the construction and opening of St. Joseph's Hospice. This includes meeting minutes, leasing agreements, newsletters, correspondence, architectural drawings and prayers and blessings. There is a zip disk containing digital copies of textual records originally arranged in five binder sections.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title is based on the contents of the series.

Immediate source of acquisition

Records transferred by Sr. Margo Ritchie to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada - London site archives.

Location of originals

The records are located at The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives.

Restrictions on access

This series is restricted to public access at present.

The Archives reserves the right to restrict access to the collection depending on the condition of the archival material, the amount of material requested, and the purpose of the research. The use of certain materials may also be restricted for reasons of privacy or sensitivity, or under a donor agreement. Access restrictions will be applied equally to all researchers and reviewed periodically. No researcher will be given access to any materials that contain a personal information bank such as donor agreements or personnel records, or to other proprietary information such as appraisals, insurance valuations, or condition reports.

Conditions governing use

Permission to study archival records does not extend to publication or display rights. The researcher must request this permission in writing from the Archives.

Finding aids

Series and file list available.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Note [General]

Prior to the move to the current location on Windermere Road in London, Ontario, St. Joseph's Hospice administration was located on Talbot Street. The building in which it was housed was known as the Great Talbot Street Estate, and had been purchased by the hospice in 2003. Therapeutic gardens and a memory walkway were part of the grounds. This location served as a resource centre, but did not provide residential care, while recognizing the need for it. St. Joseph's Hospice came under the direction of the St. Joseph's Health Care Society whose expertise in operating a ten bed hospice in Sarnia was integral to their involvement in the London hospice proposal.

On July 17, 2012, John Callaghan of the St. Joseph Health Care Society met with Sister Margo Ritchie, Congregational Leader and John Mockler, Business Administrator of the Sisters of St. Joseph. He was looking for property to purchase for the building of the first residential hospice in London. The Sisters did not have any property for sale. The meeting closed with the recognition that there were approximately 17 vacant suites at the Sisters' residence at 485 Windermere Road. A casual comment was made that maybe they should create a hospice at this location. Sister Mary Diesbourg, Local Leader of the Sisters' residence, was invited to join further conversation.

What began as a casual comment led to another meeting. This time, Peter Whatmore of CB Richard Ellis, the realtor searching for a site for the hospice, joined in the conversation. During this meeting, there were discussions about the pros and cons of housing the hospice in the Sisters' residence. Those in attendance recognized that both Mr. Callaghan and the Sisters would need to consult with their respective constituents.

By August 2012, with the approval of the Congregational Leadership Team, the Sisters began an intense discernment process. They held a meeting with John Callaghan on August 22, 2012 at which time he was to bring responses to the many questions which the Sisters had.

The Congregational Leadership Team and other committee members were pro-active in learning more about hospice services, their potential impact on the day to day life of the Sisters in residence and also the capacity of St. Joseph's Health Care Society to oversee St. Joseph's Hospice.

The question and answer format became a very important part of the continuing dialogue between the Sisters and St. Joseph's Hospice throughout the entire construction period. It was important at the beginning of the dialogue since it required the Sisters to consider and discuss the reality of sharing. This included use of gardens, recognition of the Sisters' Horarium, entry and exit points, and the use of chapel and food services.

At the same time, another process was in motion. The Suites Committee - which had been formed in early 2012 to look for a short to medium term solution to the Sisters' extra space issue - was first asked their opinion about a possible "partnering" with the hospice in two existing building wings, the East and North wings in the third floor of the residence. They had previously submitted a plan to the Leadership team in June 2012 that saw the Congregation housing guests, students and retreatants. The new idea of Hospice called the Sisters to rethink their plan regarding usage of space.

When the Leadership team agreed to look more seriously at the hospice idea, the first group with whom they consulted was the Suites Committee. Next, a small focus group of Sisters was involved in the discussion. Following these initial consultations to test the idea, the whole community at 485 Windermere Road met on several occasions to discuss the advantages and the disadvantages of partnering with the hospice in their home. The next step was to open the conversation to the whole Congregation. What they were really seeking was the movement of spirit in this communal decision. They looked at the long range

actuarial of the community, the implications of sharing space and other possible uses of the space. The short time frame for decision-making was at first seen as an obstacle to good processing. In the end, the timeframe for decision-making was adequate.

Some considered the disruption to the life of the Sisters as an obstacle to having the hospice share the space in the Sisters' residence. Often this comment came from Sisters living outside 485 Windermere out of concern for their friends. Some wondered if having people die on such a regular basis might further deplete the Sisters' own sense of energy. Another concern was that they had moved into this new residence only six years prior, and the thought of renovating an almost brand new building seemed unimaginable. In the end, after much discussion and the raising of all possible questions, the Sisters whole-heartedly endorsed inviting the hospice to share their space. Most compelling was the fact that they needed a long-term plan since they knew they could not administer another use of their empty space. Sisters felt that the hospice was in keeping with their charism. St. Joseph is the patron of the dying; and the Sisters have always wanted to be part of responding to an unmet need. In their history they saw a pattern of having people live with them from the earliest days at Mount Hope, when they shared their home with orphans and the elderly. The Sisters wanted to be part of creating something innovative in London. In short, the communal movement of spirit evoked a positive response to this venture.

On October 30, 2012, the Congregational Leadership Team wrote to John Callaghan expressing their whole-hearted support for this partnership. The hospice would become a tenant within their space. More significantly, both St. Joseph's Hospice and the Sisters of St. Joseph knew that a possibility that was mutually beneficial had opened up before them.

In November 2012, the first official meeting of the representatives of the Sisters of St. Joseph and St. Joseph's Hospice took place. In December 2012, there were three preliminary designs being considered for the new hospice, with the design by Alison Haney of Cornerstone Architects selected in early 2013. At the same time, Wendy Wilson was hired as the project manager for St. Joseph's Hospice, and McKay Cocker Construction Ltd. was selected as the construction firm with Anita Verberk as the firm's project manager. The two project managers worked closely together during construction. McKay Cocker Construction Ltd. also brought on board Pat Sullivan as the site superintendent. Initially, the proposed project completion date was set for October 2013 with an opening date for November 27th, 2013 and an open house on December 7th and 8th. It was anticipated that the hospice would receive their first resident by January 2014.

The construction firm did their site set-up in May 2013 to begin construction in June 2013, and kept to its schedule, but near the end of construction there were issues with parking and city zoning. There was an approximately 90 day wait for approval from the City which delayed the official opening.

As construction continued on the site, key personnel for the hospice were recruited. In May 2013, Dr. Joshua Shadd was hired as the hospice's Medical Director with responsibilities in overseeing all clinical aspects of the hospice. In October 2013, the hospice hired Shirley Nieman as their Director of Residential Services and Julie Johnston as Executive Director.

Construction concluded on the ten-bed hospice in November 2013, with John Callaghan officially announcing to the Sisters on November 15th that construction was complete. The hospice administration moved from the Talbot Street location to the new location on December 6th and 7th of 2013. The hospice staff arrived on December 9th to unpack their office equipment. The move was undertaken by Campbell Bros. Moving. An official tour for the Sisters took place on December 16th, followed by the official opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 13th, 2014. The first resident was received on the morning of Thursday, February 20th, 2014.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

- **Level of detail:** Partial
 - **Status description:** Revised
-

Access points

- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
 - Multiple media (documentary form)
 - Textual records (documentary form)
 - Architectural records (documentary form)
 - Health and social services (subject)
 - Religion and religious people (subject)
 - Architecture (subject)
 - Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
 - Events and celebrations (subject)
 - Health care (subject)
 - London (place)
-

Collection holdings

Subseries: F01-S109-01 - Partnership Process

Title: Partnership Process

Reference code: F01-S109-01

Date: July 2012 - February 2014 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Subseries consists of records providing an overview of the history of the partnership between the Sisters of St. Joseph and the St. Joseph's Hospice. This includes a timeline of events from the first meeting to receiving the first resident.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S109-01-01 - Process in creating the partnership from vision to reality - binder section 1 [2014-32]

Title: Process in creating the partnership from vision to reality - binder section 1 [2014-32]

Reference code: F01-S109-01-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S109-01-02 - Billboard March 4, 2013 [2014-102]

Title: Billboard March 4, 2013 [2014-102]

Reference code: F01-S109-01-02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S109-01-03 - Sisters' Residence Data [2014-102]

Title: Sisters' Residence Data [2014-102]

Reference code: F01-S109-01-03

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S109-02 - Minutes

Title: Minutes

Reference code: F01-S109-02

Date: August 2012 – January 2014 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Subseries consists of the meeting minutes of the St. Joseph's Hospice and the Sisters of St. Joseph. This subseries also consists of leasing agreements between the two parties.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S109-02-01 - Minutes and Leasing Arrangements - binder section 2 [2014-32]

Title: Minutes and Leasing Arrangements - binder section 2 [2014-32]

Reference code: F01-S109-02-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S109-02-02 - Hospice Process Minutes [2014-82]

Title: Hospice Process Minutes [2014-82]

Reference code: F01-S109-02-02

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S109-03 - Newsletters

Title: Newsletters

Reference code: F01-S109-03

Date: August 2012 – January 2014 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Subseries consists of newsletters that address questions and answers from the Sisters and staff about the construction of the Hospice. Also includes a preliminary digital drawing of the building before construction and comments regarding the Hospice. This subseries also consists of a notice of the official opening and newsletters regarding the Hospice.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S109-03-01 - Question and Answer Sessions Newsletters - binder section 3 [2014-32]

Title: Question and Answer Sessions Newsletters - binder section 3 [2014-32]

Reference code: F01-S109-03-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S109-03-02 - St. Joseph's Hospice Newsletters [2013-79]

Title: St. Joseph's Hospice Newsletters [2013-79]

Reference code: F01-S109-03-02

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S109-03-03 - St. Joseph's Hospice Newsletters (copies) [2013-70]

Title: St. Joseph's Hospice Newsletters (copies) [2013-70]

Reference code: F01-S109-03-03

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S109-03-04 - Sharing the Journey newsletter May 2013-Nov. 2013 [2014-102]

Title: Sharing the Journey newsletter May 2013-Nov. 2013 [2014-102]

Reference code: F01-S109-03-04

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S109-03-05 - Staff-Sister Questions Jan. 2013-Nov. 2013 [2014-102]

Title: Staff-Sister Questions Jan. 2013-Nov. 2013 [2014-102]

Reference code: F01-S109-03-05

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S109-04 - Garden and Correspondence

Title: Garden and Correspondence

Reference code: F01-S109-04

Date: October 2012 – January 2014 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Subseries consists of meeting minutes specific to the volunteers involved with the garden. Also consists of the correspondence between Sisters of St. Joseph and other organizations.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S109-04-01 - Garden and Letters - binder section 4 [2014-32]

Title: Garden and Letters - binder section 4 [2014-32]

Reference code: F01-S109-04-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S109-04-02 - Correspondence Oct. 2012-Dec. 2012 [2014-102]

Title: Correspondence Oct. 2012-Dec. 2012 [2014-102]

Reference code: F01-S109-04-02

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S109-05 - Religious

Title: Religious

Reference code: F01-S109-05

Date: July 2012 – December 2013 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Subseries consists of prayer cards and blessings related to the Hospice.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S109-05-01 - Ritual and Prayer – binder section 5 [2014-32]

Title: Ritual and Prayer – binder section 5 [2014-32]

Reference code: F01-S109-05-01

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S109-06 - Official Opening

Title: Official Opening

Reference code: F01-S109-06

Date: December 2012 - January 2013, December 22 2013 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Subseries consists of an announcement, a poster, a newspaper article and speeches relating to the official opening of the Hospice.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S109-06-01 - Official Opening [2014-102]

Title: Official Opening [2014-102]

Reference code: F01-S109-06-01

Publication status:

published

File: F01-S109-06-02 - VIP Tour Speech Jan. 9, 2014 [2014-102]

Title: VIP Tour Speech Jan. 9, 2014 [2014-102]

Reference code: F01-S109-06-02

Publication status:

published

Subseries: F01-S109-07 - Blueprints

Title: Blueprints

Reference code: F01-S109-07

Date: September 11, 2012 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Subseries consists of blueprints from the renovation of the original building to make room for the St. Joseph's Hospice.

Physical description: 5 architectural drawings : computer printout., 63.5 cm x 86 cm ; rolled to 63 cm x 25.5 cm

Material specific details [architectural]: 10 cm : 25 m

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Architectural drawing (documentary form)
-

File: F01-S109-07-01 - Blueprints of St. Joseph's Hospice [2014-43]

Title: Blueprints of St. Joseph's Hospice [2014-43]

Reference code: F01-S109-07-01

Publication status:

published
