



REUNION DAY 2025

CLASS OF 1955

CELEBRATING 70 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

GRADUATION MAY 25, 1955

The Sisters of St. Joseph
and the Graduating Class of
nineteen hundred and fifty-five
St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing
cordially invite you to be present at the
Graduation Exercises
Wednesday afternoon, May twenty-fifth
at three o'clock,
Auditorium, Westdale Collegiate
Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

RECEPTION
UNDERMOUNT RESIDENCE

ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY



GRADUATING CLASS 1955
ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF NURSING
HAMILTON ONTARIO

Graduated 1955

Dedication

As your daughter, Mother and Dad, I have so much to be thankful for and so few ways of expressing that gratitude. The two of you, wonderful and steadfast as you are, have always been beside me to encourage and to guide me over stormy days. You have always been there when most I needed you.

Without you, without your love and your prayers, I know I would not be what I am, or where I am to-day.

I am so very proud of you!

So, from a heart full of love, humility and truly undying devotion, I, your daughter, wish to dedicate very sincerely this, the first annual "Year Book" of Saint Joseph's School of Nursing to the two most wonderful and important people in the world — My Mother and My Father.

Vox Omnium

1955

1st Hardcover Yearbook



STUDENT COUNCIL 1955

Judy Laurie '56 (President), Norma Jerome '56 (Vice President), Carol Hoffman '57 (Secretary-Treasurer), Lola Bott (September '55), Bette Bewley (February '56), Doreen Vrbican (September '56), Valerie Tate (September '57), Miss Dorothy Saunders (Advisor)



Stationary - Christmas 1955

In the Infant's Name I greet you
Who this joyous day was born
May His Love and Peace surround you
And make glad your Christmas Morn!

St. Joseph's School of Nursing
Hamilton, Ontario

1955



To the Sisters, Doctors and Members of the Staff

On behalf of the student body of St. Joseph's School of Nursing, I would like to extend a sincere thank-you to all those who have so ably advised and directed us, taught and counselled us throughout our training. your invaluable assistance has made us the nurses that we are and for that, we are deeply grateful. It is hoped that classes of future years will benefit as we have been benefited.

Written by Mary Ann O'Flanagan



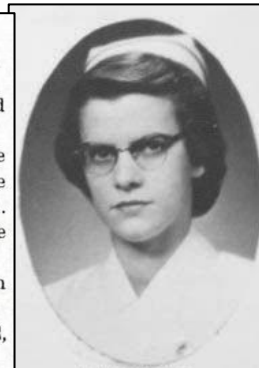
President's Message

At this time the Student Council would like to thank the School of Nursing and the Student Alumnae for the success of the many activities during the past year.

Without your interest and co-operation the "Rivera Rompe" would not have been such an enjoyable event. The newly formed swimming and bridge clubs were just a beginning, we feel sure, of other activities that will begin in the fall season. The Year Book, Vox Omnium, would not have been possible without the devoted time and effort of the Committee, for which we are deeply thankful.

The Student Council are looking forward to your ideas and assistance for an interesting program for 1955—1956.

JUDY LAURIE,
President.



Judith Laurie '56

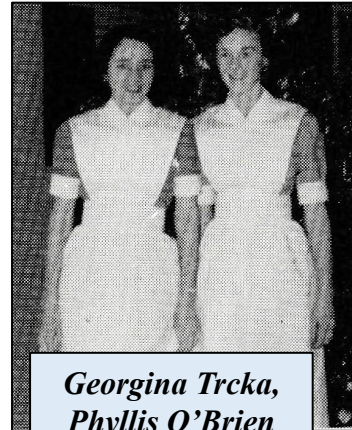


YEARBOOK STAFF

Mary Ann O'Flanagan '55 (Editor), Mary Rajda '56 (Assistant Editor), Lola Bott '55 (Business Manager), Gail Chapman '56 (Photography), Patricia D'Aoust '55, Janet Hayes '57, Kay Close '55, Ruth Morrison '55 (Literary), Miss Dorothy Saunders '53 (Advisor)



Mary Lukawski



Georgina Trcka, Phyllis O'Brien



INSTRUCTORS

Standing: Donna Harrod Rowe '45, Kathleen Cheeseman '50, Marie MacDonald, Bernadine Barry '50, Dorothy Saunders '53, D. Calzonetti
Sitting: Lois Stewart '54, Mary Sullivan '49, Elizabeth Herod '54, Doreen Richardson '52, Verna Emery '51, Violet Jennings '38
Insert: Aileen McPhail '51

Editor's Message

Another year in your life as a student nurse has gradually come to an end. With it came many gala festivities and important innovations for our school.

Some of you will be beginning the second and third chapters in your book of memories, while others of us will be writing "The End" and sadly closing the cover on a never to be forgotten period in our lives. To those of you who are left behind us, and, to those who will follow in years to come, we hand the Standard of Saint Joseph's School of Nursing. Hold it high! Be proud of it! Fight valiantly, work diligently, so that when you also write "Finished" to your story, you will know in your hearts that you have gained knowledge, goodness, and strength of character.

During the past few months, renewed effort has been put into many school activities. We have found that many stand behind us more than ready and willing to help. Our Student's Council has done much for us; the Riviera Rompe which was so successful and this Year Book which we hope you will all enjoy, are fine examples. Don't let them fall by the wayside. Continue to work and make them grow bigger and better than ever before.

At this point, I would like to extend a sincere vote of thanks to all those whose combined effort made the publication of the Book possible. Our efforts now lie between these covers, I hope you will find them acceptable.

May God bless your life as a student nurse, and may your future as a Graduate of Saint Joseph's, be bright and glowing as your fondest dreams become realities.

MARY ANNE O'FLANAGAN.



Written by Mary Ann O'Flanagan '55

Riviera Rompe

The night of May 11, saw our new auditorium transformed into a bit of Moulin Rouge for the Riviera Rompe. With Bob Daniels and his Blue Tones providing the very danceable music, some 300 doctors, internes, nurses and their friends spent a few enjoyable hours in the atmosphere of gay Paree. During intermission, two fugitives from the old west rendered ballads and beauty tips to the lovelorn and forlorn. Les cokes and Les do-nuts were served amid the atmosphere of candlelight and checkered tablecloths. All in all, our first dance was a great success and we hope that more of the same will follow.



Written by Patricia Hardie

1955 GRADUATES

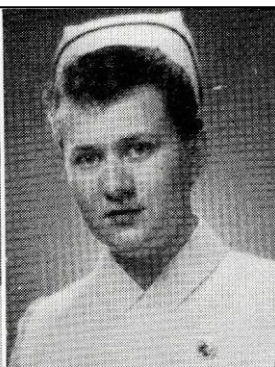
FEBRUARY CLASS



Carmella Alberico



Adele Cummins



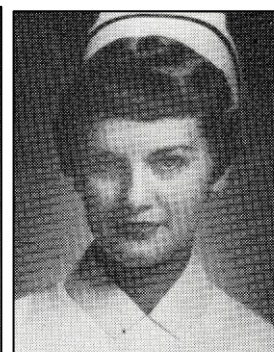
Mae Cyr



Marie Davey



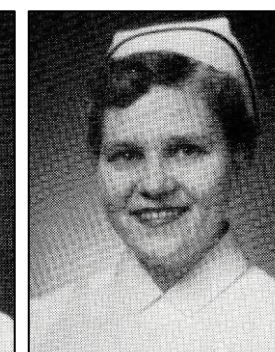
Dorothy Doyle



Bernice Plascik



Barbara Pitkeathly



Anita Saari



Agnes Stipsits



Mary Biros



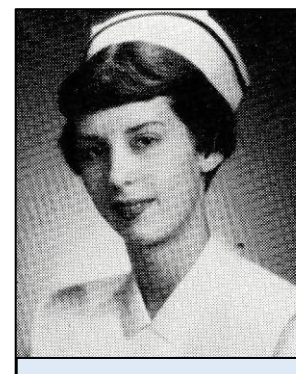
Shirley Craig



Doreen Duncan



Joan Hayes



Dorothy Martin



Ruth McGillivray



Irene Watterson



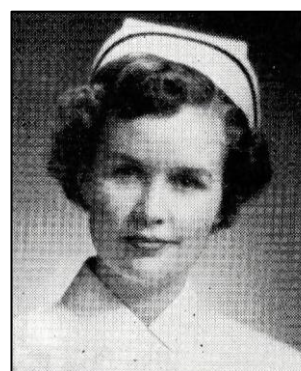
Tillie Waszut



Ann Charkaway



Connie Brough



Joan Keenan



Maureen Kennedy



Noreen Mousseau



Glenda Paige



Barbara Quinn



Betty Reynolds

FEBRUARY CLASS 1955

FEBRUARY CLASS

*Carmella Alberico
Mary Elizabeth Biros
Constance Brough
Ann Charkaway
Shirley Craig
Adele Cummins
Marie Cyr
Marie Davey
Dorothy Doyle
Doreen Duncan
Joan Hayes
Joan Keenan
Maureen Kennedy
Dorothy Martin
Ruth McGillivray
Noreen Mousseau
Glenda Paige
Bernice Piascik
Barbara Pitkeathly
Barbara Quinn
Betty Reynolds
Anita Saari
Agnes Stipsits
Tillie Waszut
Irene Watterson*



Christmas preparations in St. Joseph's Hospital are busy, indeed, the sisters and the nurses of the staff working with a will. Here, early in the afternoon on Tuesday, the crib was being got ready for the great day. From left are: Sister M. St. James, Miss Marie Sciascia, Miss Barbara Quinn and Sister M. Bonaventure. As always, this picturesque spectacle is a deeply moving part of Christmas in St. Joseph's. (Hourigan Photo)

*Sister M. St. James, Marie Sciascia '57,
Barbara Quinn '55, Sister M. Bonaventure*



SEPTEMBER CLASS

Irene Agnew	Marion Bagley
Gloria Barnes	Mercedes Bell
Lola Bott	Kathleen Byrne
Maureen Carson	Mary Cheeks
Kathleen Close	Lillian Corsini
Louise Cronkwright	Joyce Croskery
Donna Crossman	Patricia D'Aoust
Isabella Donnelly	Mary Ann Dubois
Barbara Dunnigan	Eleanor Farrow
Doreen Hailewyn	Doris Hanes
Patricia Hardie	Joan Harkin
Jeanne Husul	Elaine Jones
Norma Kennedy	Caroline Kolmer
Nancy Leitch	Michelle Lockhart
Mary Lukawski	Freida Little
Margaret Moss	Mary Ann Mastroianni
Mary McDonald	Sally McMahon
Barbara Mehlenbacher	Gloria Mingle
Doreen Morrison	Ruth Morrison
Ruth Mulligan	Lois O'Brien
Mary Ann O'Flannigan	Patricia O'Keefe
Kathleen O'Sullivan	Kathleen Progar
Nancy Pyle	Betty Raycroft
Myrna Reid	Pauline Rumball
Marilynn Salton	Colette Sutherland
Theresa Sams	Constance Siganski
Phyllis Simone	Vera Summers
Patricia Taggart	Georgina Trcka
Doris Thomson	Shirley Anne Wray

Registered Nurses'

Association of Ontario

The Royal York Hotel in Toronto was the scene of the Annual Meeting of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, on April 28th, 29th, and 30th. Our delegates from the Student Nurses of St. Joseph's Hospital were Misses Ruth Morrison, Betty Bewley, Beverley Morton, Norma Jerome, and Mildred Witmer. The convention was officially opened by Miss Bianca M. Beyer, President of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, at which time she heartily welcomed all the nurses and exhibitors.

During the next three days sessions included reports from the 12 Districts of the Association; Guest speakers spoke on various phases of nursing careers—University courses; the role of the nurse during the patient rehabilitation; getting along with people; and the recent research advances made against poliomyelitis and other virus diseases.

The Annual Banquet was held on Friday evening. The guest speaker, was Miss Byrne Hope Sanders, C.B.E., one-time editor of Chataleine magazine and Co-owner and Director of Canadian Institute of Public Opinion. Through Miss Sander's Gallop Pole — 40 % of the Canadian Population thought that the best career for women was Nursing.

Saturday's sessions concluded the annual meeting for another year. All of us who had attended returned to our respective hospitals stimulated by new interests and knowledge; eager to pass these on. Let us hope that in the future years, with the generosity of the Directors of St. Joseph's School of Nursing, other students may find the satisfaction we found attending the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario convention.



Among the members of the 1956 graduating class of the School of Nursing, St. Joseph's Hospital, who received their black bands recently were (from left) Miss Nancy Leitch, Port District, Miss Margaret Moss, St. Mary's, Miss Marilynn Salton, St. Mary's, and Miss Patricia Taggart, St. Mary's.

class of 1956 receiving black bands
Nancy Patricia Marilynn Margaret
Leitch Taggart Salton Moss



Annual Meeting of the R.N.A.O. April 28 – 30th

Delegates were Ruth Morrison '55, Betty Bewley '56, Beverly Morton '56, Norma Jerome '56 and Mildred Witmer '57.

Hospital Plans To Test Change In Visiting Hours

Beginning October 31, a radical change in hospital visiting hours is being tried out at St. Joseph's Hospital. New to this city, the system permits visitors to patients all day and evening from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., as opposed to the long established visiting hours, a 1½-hour period in the afternoon and another in the evening, which is customary in most hospitals.

To be given a 30-day trial period, the new system is designed to meet the needs of an industrial community. It enables persons on shift work to visit hospitalized family members on their way home at noon or at night. It also helps in cases where there are small children who cannot be left alone in the home. The broader period makes it easier to find a baby sitter.

Advantages Seen

Hospital authorities also hope for advantages to patients and hospital staff, notably the elimination of over-crowding in rooms and corridors during restricted visiting periods, and elimination of long visits.

The latter exhaust the patient, while patients whose rooms are overcrowded with visitors may contract colds, suffer exhaustion and thus have recovery delayed. Too much noise is another problem connected with crowds in rooms and corridors, and the work of the doctors and nurses is hindered.

In United States hospitals where the so-called "uncontrolled" visiting hours have been tried, crowds have vanished, since visitors spread through the day, and the visitors, themselves, knowing they can drop in at any time, feel no obligation to stay the entire visiting period.

Another advantage may be less need of the patient for noise-reducing radio or television. Also there may be some relief to the crowding of parking space.

Two Restrictions

The new hours apply to all patients except persons seriously ill to whom visitors are banned for medical reasons. In the maternity section, the mothers may have visitors according to the new schedule, but visiting is governed by the babies' feeding schedule.

Two other restrictions under the new system are that children are not allowed to visit the hospital and that visitors are expected to leave when a patient needs attention, such as a change of dressing. Banning children, said hospital

authorities, protected the patient from the noise of lively or restless youngsters and protected the child from hospital infections.

18 1954 NOV. 18

LESS CROWDING

Long Hours For Visiting Work Well

With half the experimental period over, present indications are that the new visiting hours at St. Joseph's Hospital are working well. A radical departure from customary hospital visiting hours in this city, a visiting period extending from mid-morning until mid-evening was started October 31, for a 30-day trial period.

Hospital authorities report that the new hours have met with a favourable reception from both staff and visitors who feel it is a move in the right direction. Persons working on plant shifts now find it simpler to visit hospitalized members of their families. The staff appreciates the diminished crowding which in the past made it difficult at times to carry out their duties.

Under the new hours, children are barred from visiting the hospital, and St. Joseph's authorities stress the importance of this point. It protects the child from exposure to the infections necessarily present in a hospital, and to which a child is more susceptible than an adult. It also protects patients from the noise innocently made by lively youngsters.

November 18, 1954

With half the experimental period over, present indications are that the new visiting hours at St Joseph's Hospital are working well. Hospital authorities report that the new hours have met with a favourable reception from the staff and visitors who feel it is a move in the right direction. Persons working on plant shifts now find it simpler to visit hospitalized members of their families. The staff appreciates the diminished crowding which in the past made it difficult at times to carry out their duties.



February Class



Ruth Morrison, Mary Lukawski



Reunion Day 2019

Lola Bott Timms, Gloria Mingle Brown, Louise Cronkwright Bennett, Doreen Hailewyn Hadnett, Kathleen Close Varga

October 27, 1954

A radical change in visiting hours at St Joseph's Hospital will begin October 31st. The system permits visitors to patients all day and evening from 10:30 am to 8:30 pm. The current system allows 1 ½ hour period in the afternoon and 1 ½ hour in the evening, which is customary in most hospitals. The new system is designed to meet the needs of an industrial community. It enables persons on shift work to visit hospitalized family members on their way home at noon or at night. It also helps in cases where there are small children who cannot be left alone In the home. It makes it easier to find a babysitter.

Hospital authorities also hope for advantages to patients and hospital staff, notably the elimination of over-crowding in rooms and corridors during restricted visiting periods and elimination of long visits. Long visits exhaust the patient while patients whose rooms are overcrowded with visitors may contract colds, suffer exhaustion and thus have recovery delayed. Too much noise is another problem connected with crowds in rooms and corridors, and the work of the doctors and nurses is hindered.

New hours apply to all patients except persons seriously ill to whom visitors are banned for medical reasons.

In the maternity section the mothers may have visitors according to the new schedule but visiting is governed by the babies feeding schedule.

Children are not allowed to visit the hospital . Visitors are expected to leave when a patient needs attention such as a change of dressing. Banning children protect the patient from the noise of lively or restless youngsters and protect the child from hospital infections.

Noisy Trucks Disrupting Hospital, Aldermen Told

Committee Discusses, Then Refers Numerous Anti-noise Suggestions

Ran on the use of the Jolley Cut at night by heavy transports, bigger fines for causing unnecessary noise, an "anti-noise week" sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, special night police cruiser patrols to nab noisy back-firing offenders — these were all suggested at a meeting of the Traffic Committee yesterday.

Little Action Taken
But no definite action was taken by the committee, except to refer the mounting complaints to a special sub-committee which is wrestling with recommendations for special truck routes to lead the transports away from residential areas.

Thunder at heavy trucks up and down the Jolley Cut past St. Joseph's Hospital was "beyond description and becoming intolerable" in the words of J. M. Pigott, chairman of the hospital's advisory committee.

Some patients were crying because sedatives were ineffective on account of the noise. Ban on use of the Jolley Cut was suggested by Ald. Joseph Lanza. Ald. Brian Morrison suggested trucks should use James Street at night.

Urges Patrols
Like Ald. Morrison, Ald. Ada Pritchard is not a member of the Traffic Committee but on appearance to urge special police patrols at night to enforce reduced speeds that would eliminate much of the noise plus heavy fines.

Ald. Lanza said he had been informed by Chief of Police Lawrence that it was hard to distinguish between necessary and unnecessary noise in the operation of transports, and he (the alderman) did not think speed was a factor.

Ald. Dr. Charles McCabe said there were not enough tests in the health by-laws so that noise could be proved detrimental to health, but he said the by-laws were in the course of revision.

Complaints Aired
Noise complaints from Arkledun Avenue in the west to the Parkdale area in the east were being defied "in the most flagrant manner" by some transport company employees.

He said a woman claimed that a transport noise was permitted to "idle" for 15 or 20 minutes in front of her premises, probably because she was one of the complainants, and that the driver "heard" it her.

"You can't judge all drivers by that," said Ald. Lanza. "There might be some honest ones."

"There we must get rid of the wrongs," declared Ald. William Harris, chairman of the committee.

Warn Police
Sgt. John Robinson, of the police traffic squad, said that Chief Lawrence had drawn to the attention of all officers the need to check on mufflers and other noise features of transports.

In the last three months, some 250 convictions had been registered, but those included some

Bad On Patients

Suggests Vehicles Be Rerouted SEP 18/54

St. Joseph's Hospital's new Sister Superior, Sister Mary Grace, told the hospital's advisory board last night that traffic noise on John Street South was having serious effects on patients.

There were two main problems, she said. One was the sound of heavy trucks backfiring in the middle of the night. The other was the habit of truck drivers who parked temporarily on Mountain Boulevard and started up after patients had fallen asleep.

Both these things, she declared, were having disastrous effects on the sicker inmates of the hospital, and she recounted several current examples where noise had affected the health of patients.

Inspector Howard Moreau, a member of the board, told her the latter condition could be remedied by complaining to the police.

The board suggested that trucks be rerouted along James Street South during the night hours, and felt that the completion of a road down to Victoria Avenue—part of the planned Mountain Access scheme—would greatly reduce the problem of noisy traffic.

Chairman J. M. Pigott reported his appearance before the city traffic committee had borne fruit, and members had promised to do everything possible to alleviate the trouble.

Sister Mary Grace, who was introduced to the board by Mr. Pigott, suggested a disaster plan be adopted by the hospital and, in case of emergency, the whole civil defence problem be surveyed by the board.

The financial statement for the first seven months of 1954 showed a gross surplus, but a slight deficit after depreciation. The board was told of work on the new chapel, which will seat over 300 and release space within the hospital for other purposes.



Marion Bagley



Christmas on Paediatrics with Vera Summers '55 and Marie Andreychuk Yakimoff '54



February Class

September 18, 1954

St Joseph's Hospital's new Sister Superior, Sister Mary Grace told the hospital's advisory board last night that traffic noise on John Street South was having serious effects on patients. There were 2 main problems, she said. One was the sound of heavy trucks backfiring in the middle of the night. The other was the habit of truck drivers who parked temporarily on Mountain Boulevard and started up after patients had fallen asleep. Both these things are having disastrous effects on the sicker inmates of the hospital and she recounted several current examples where noise had affected the health of patients. The board suggested that trucks be rerouted along James Street South during the night hours. The completion of a road down to Victoria Avenue part of the planned Mountain Access scheme would greatly reduce the problem of noise traffic. Sister Mary Grace suggested a disaster plan be adopted by the hospital. and in case of emergency the whole civil defence problem be surveyed by the board.

September 8, 1954

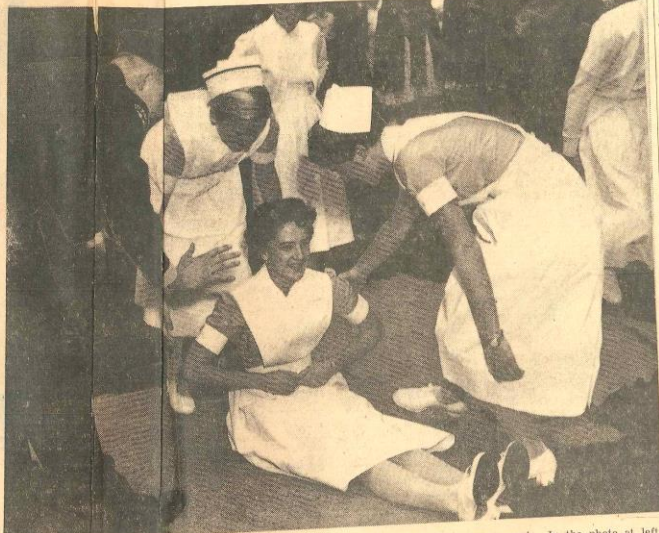
Thunder of heavy trucks, up and down the Jolley Cut past St. Joseph's Hospital was "beyond description and becoming intolerable" said J. M. Pigott, chairman of the hospital's advisory committee. Some patients were crying because sedatives were ineffective on account of the noise. Ban on use of the Jolley Cut was suggested by Alderman Joseph Lanza. Alderman Brian Morrison suggested trucks should use James Street at night. Alderman Ada Pritchard urged special police patrols at night to enforce reduced speeds that would eliminate much of the noise plus heavy fines. Noise complaints from Arkledun Avenue in the west to the Parkdale area in the east were heard. Alderman Harris charged that the anti-noise provisions of the Highway Traffic act were being defied in the most flagrant manner by some transport company employees. Sgt John Robinson of the police traffic squad said that Chief Lawrence had drawn to the attention of all officers the need to check on mufflers and other noise features of transports. In the last 3 months some 250 convictions had been registered but those included some horn-blowing offences at wedding processions. Ald. Harris suggested that the \$10 fine usually imposed was not enough

Teaching Fire Prevention Halts Pleasant Side



HAMILTON
Fireman
purpose

Anna Dove, Vera Delay '58



the nurses the not modern
era Delay. Margaret Chandler
near, and Deanaonelli, right

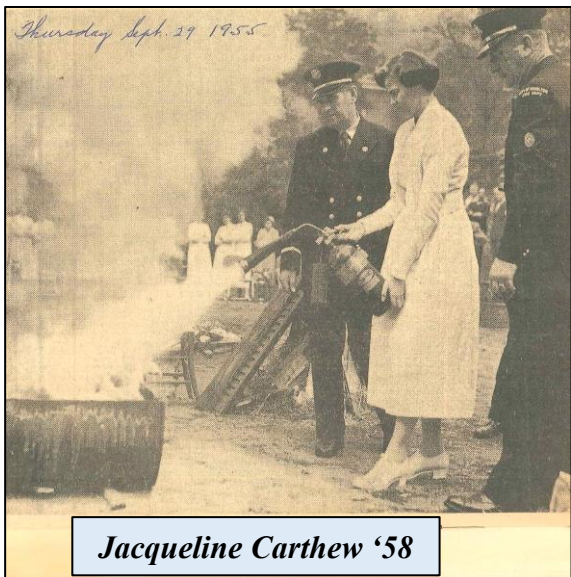
Margaret Chandler '56

ork. In the photo at left,
ere she, a "victim" for the
uman George Fitzgerald.
-Daily News Photo



Doreen Duncan '55

TEACHING FIRE DRILLS IN 1955



Jacqueline Carthew '58

MAY 18, 1955

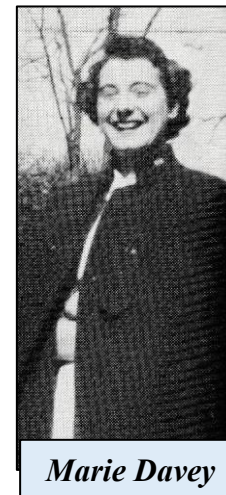
ALUMNAE DINNER

On May 18, 1955, the St. Joseph's Nurses' Alumnae held a dinner in honour of the graduating class of 1955 in the Burgandy Room of Fischer's Hotel. Mrs. Stanley Hudecki welcomed the eighty-three guests of honour and approximately two hundred and fifty members of the alumnae association. Miss Dorothy Battersby was mistress of ceremony and introduced the graduating class. Miss Aileen McPhail, president of the association addressed the class and congratulated them on the completion of their course.

At this time the members of the graduating class were presented with school rings and a gift from the alumnae. A toast to the graduating class was proposed by Miss Kathleen Cheeseman and Miss Lola Bott, president of the class of '55, replied.

After a sumptuous turkey dinner the gathering was entertained by Mrs. Edwin Kendall with a puppet show.

Written by Barbara Dunnigan '55



Marie Davey

A tribute

How many would trade places with her? Not very many, I assure you. Some think that in times such as these two is a large family. What would they do if they had a family of two hundred and fifteen . . . go to Egypt no doubt.

Twenty-four hours round the clock, day after day, she is here when we need her, giving able advice and assistance to those who seek. In the wee small hours of the morning she is awakened by thoughtless girls pounding past her door screaming, "Hurry, Sister is taking roll call this morning." In the middle of the night someone comes tapping at her door, "Please my room-mate is ill." Nary a word does she say but comes in a flash. As if all this wasn't enough she must sit up 'til 12 o'clock each night waiting patiently for a few stragglers. Then, wearily, climbs the stairs and cheerfully wishes us all good night and sweet dreams.

No, few would take her job and certainly no one could ever take her place for she's one in a million. Yes, you guessed it . . . "Our Second Mother," . . . Mrs. Brine.



**A Tribute to Mrs. Brine
Written by Kay Close**



Mrs Brine, Sister Bonaventure, Sister Virginia

1955 GRADUATES

SEPTEMBER CLASS



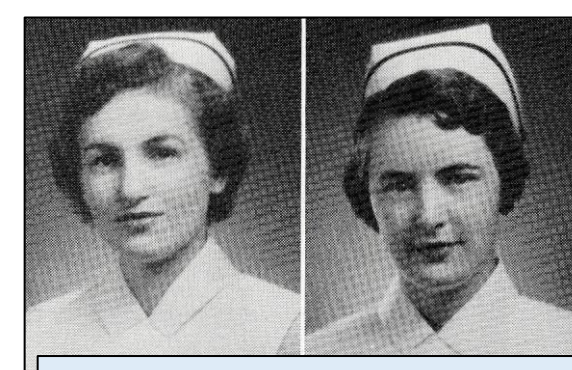
Irene Agnew *Marion Bagley*



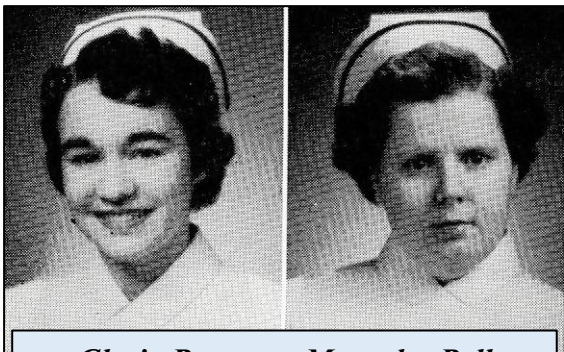
Louise Cronkwright *Joyce Croskery*



Patricia Hardie *Joan Harkin*



Jeanne Husul *Elaine Jones*



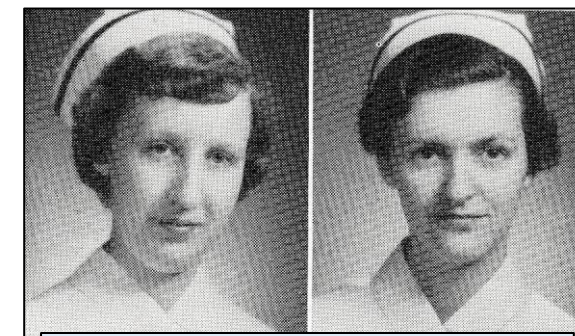
Gloria Barnes *Mercedes Bell*



Kay Close *Lillian Corsini*



Barbara Dunnigan *Eleanor Farrow*



Doreen Hailewyn *Doris Hanes*



Lola Bott *Kay Byrne*



Maureen Carson *Mary Ellen Cheeks*



Donna Crossman *Patricia D'Aoust*



Isabella Donnelly *Mary Ann Dubois*

1955 GRADUATES

SEPTEMBER CLASS



Norma Kennedy

Caroline Kolmer



Nancy Leitch

Freida Little



Doreen Morrison

Margaret Moss



Ruth Mulligan

Lois O'Brien



Michelle Lockhart

Mary Lukawski



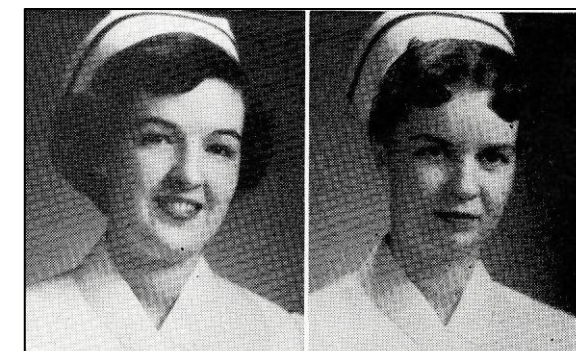
Sally McMahon

Barbara Mehlenbacher



Kay O'Sullivan

Kathleen Progar



Mary Ann O'Flanagan

Patricia O'Keefe



Mary McDonald

Mary Ann Mastroianni



Gloria Mingle

Ruth Morrison



Nancy Pyle

Betty Raycroft



Myrna Reid

Pauline Rumball

A Father's Prayer for a Very New Graduate

*God, make her heart pure;
Pure as the white she wears,
Pure, as when long ago she cuddled in my arms,
Her soft baby curls,
A haven for my good-night kisses.*

*Lord, make her hand gentle;
Gentle as the breeze to-day,
Gentle as the young hands she gave to sister,
Wiping away a baby tear
Though salty drops covered her own cheeks.*

*Father, make her voice soft;
Soft as the grass beneath her feet,
Soft as when in deep childish intimacy
We shared our Christmas secrets,
And she grew with trust in one and fear of no man.*

*God, make her a woman,
Worthy of all she stands for,
Capable of so much good and help,
Dispenser of so much comfort
Let her be as I see her — somehow I feel You have.*



**Written by
Phyllis Simone '55**



Marilynn Salton Theresa Sams



Patricia Taggart Georgina Trcka



Constance Siganski Phyllis Simone



Doris Thomson Shirley Wray



Vera Summers Colette Sutherland



**St. Joseph's Hospital
Hamilton, Ont.**

**Jeanne Husul, Elaine Jones
Doreen Morrison, Maureen Carson,
Pat O'Keefe, Vera Summers**

— Graduation —

*The smell of roses drifts down the aisle,
And they follow,
Soft footed,
Heads lowered,
Afraid to catch another eye.*

*The roses predominate the scene,
And they sit there,
Side by side,
Yesterday's children
Aware of God's meaning of life.*

*The scent hangs heavily in the air,
And they remember so much,
And on a mother's heart
This deep perfume
Imprints itself, never to be forgotten.*

*And long, long days and years later,
The scent is still there
Where the white clad figure goes,
Reminding of that day
And the meanings once more grasped
In capable hands as were the roses
— fearfully yet somehow unafraid.*

Written by Phyllis Simone

The charge of the Night Brigade

Half an hour, half an hour,
Half an hour onward,
Into the lonely night
Worked the staff on "2 hundred".
Forward the night brigade —
"Charge for the lights," she said: —
Into the lonely night
Worked they on "2 hundred".

Lights to the right of them,
Lights to the left of them,
Lights on in front of them,
Stormed back with emergencies,
From broken bones to appendectomies
And no one can find the orderlies
No — not they, the staff of "2 hundred".

Their's not to reason why
Their's but to do and die
For wandering patients and I.V.'s dry
And when night's over, a hearty sigh
By they, the staff of "2 hundred".

Written by Anne LoSchiavo '56



Sally McMann '55



Reunion Day 2019
Patricia O'Keefe Horvatis, Phyllis Simone Brown,
Patricia Hardie Lovering



Vera Summers '55



Lola Bott, Gloria Mingle, Donna Crossman,
Norma Kennedy, Irene Frost (did not graduate)



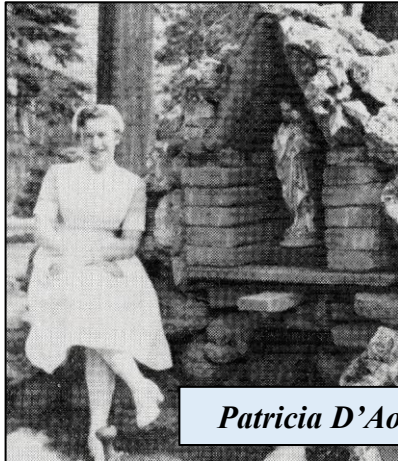
Lola Bott, Louise Cronkwright,
Vera Summers



Kay Close, Ruth Morrison, Doris Thomson,
Colette Sutherland, Barbara Mehlenbacher



Norma Kennedy



Patricia D'Aoust



Ruth Morrison, Pat O'Keefe



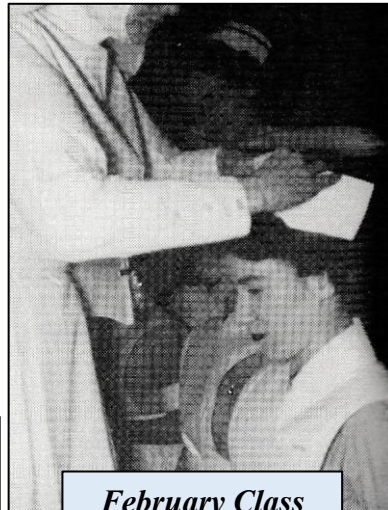
Mary McDonald, Jeanne Husul



Vera Summers Braithwaite



*Eva Neal '51, Jeanne Husel '55,
Kathleen Progar '55*



February Class



February Class



February Class



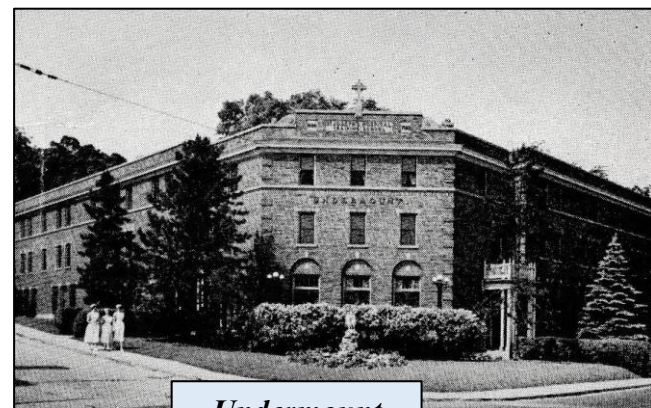
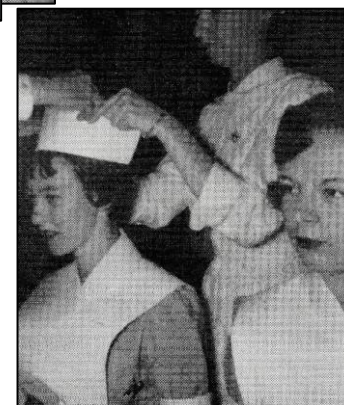
MAY 17, 1955

Graduation Activities

REGISTERED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO ANNUAL TEA

On May 17, 1955, the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario for Halton Wentworth District gave a reception for the graduating classes of McMaster University School of Nursing, Hamilton General Hospital School of Nursing and St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing. This was our first social event prior to graduation. The highlight of the evening was an informal and humorous talk given by Dr. Peart on the Eskimo problems in Canada. Following this, everyone enjoyed a lovely lunch and tea.

Written by Doris Hanes '55



Undermount



February Class



February Class



*Michelle Lockhart, Mary McDonald, Joan Harkin,
Ruth Morrison, Barbara Dunnigan*

A Nurse's Day

*A nurse's day is never done,
From morning rise, to set of sun.
She strives so hard to do things right —
Yet still remains both cheerful and bright.*

*A nurse's heart must always be
Filled with courage and sympathy.
Her face should ever wear a smile —
Though faced with sorrow, pain and trial.*

*Her hand so gentle, soothes the pain
Tormenting the weak, the ill, the maimed.
Her footsteps softly up the hall
Scurry to answer the needy's call.*

*Dear Jesus ever at our side,
We pray the day and night to guide
Each step we take, each word we say
Let them be light, happy and gay.*

*Please guard the patients in our care
From sudden death on dark despair.
Let no harm come through carelessness,
Help us treat all with gentleness.*

*But if Thy Hand in death should come,
When life's short span completes its run,
When flickering flames of life doth cease
We pray Thee Lord, grant them peace in Thee.*

Written by Anne LoSchiavo '56



Reunion Day 2005
Katy Progar Piva '55, Lillian Corsini,
Vera Summers



Patricia O'Keefe, Eleanor Farrow

ON DOCTORS AND JUNIOR NURSES

Strange how the sight of only a Doctor coming nonchalantly down the hall toward the desk can cause a cold sweat to break out on the brow of a recently promoted junior nurse and make her unconsciously tighten her grasp on the chair until her knuckles show white as she stands nervously behind the desk.

A seemingly thousand thoughts race through her mind as the looming figure draws nearer and she frantically wonders what he is going to ask her, which patients are his, and even what his name is.

She glanced around, her eyes darting from hall to desk and back again, looking for someone to help her out in this severest of tests in her newly found career.

Her mind becomes a muddled mass of thoughts as she tries to answer within herself his unasked questions, as she tries to straighten out the jumbled thoughts and piece them into sensible ones. She had never known such fright, and wondered what it was about this superhuman awesome individual that made her quake so.

She faltered for a brief second as the Doctor reached the desk, then suddenly smiled confidently and said "Good morning, Doctor" as the distinguished figure passed by the desk and moved quickly down the hall, after quickly glancing at the new student.

She sank down with such a sigh of relief that she did not notice the knowing glance in the kind face of the man as he moved toward an oncoming graduate nurse — the supervisor of the floor.



Written by Carol Hoffman '57



ON AFFILIATION (4 students in St. Joseph's Uniform)
Left: Mary Ellen Cheeks, Vera Summers

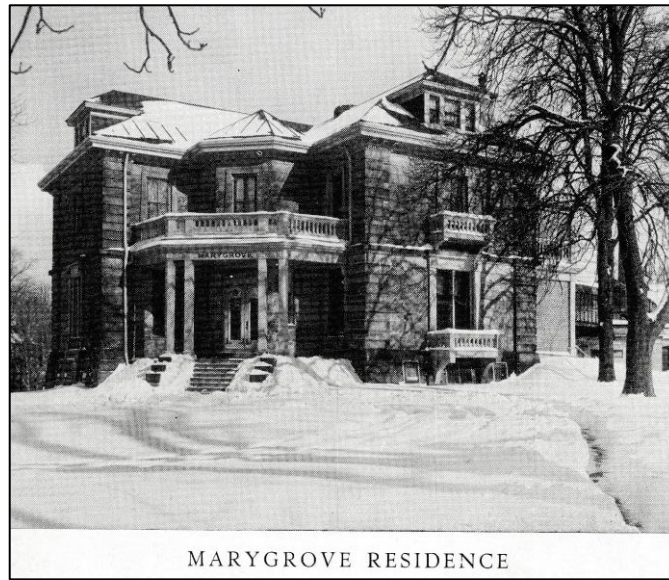


Myrna Reid, Ruth Morrison



INTERMEDIATE CLASS - 1956 -

Class of 1956



MARYGROVE RESIDENCE

Marygrove Residence



JUNIOR CLASS -1957 -

Class of 1957

The Class of 1956

It is with regret we say good-bye to the Graduating Class and yet for us it means the end is that much nearer.

We wish them all the very best of luck and we are sure they will have very fond memories of their days in training.

In the past year much has been accomplished in the line of school activities which included the dance held in the new school auditorium, many Sport's events, and the publishing of this our new school book.

This year we attended the Graduation Dance held at the Brant Inn where a good time was had by everyone.

In August, we will have our own Black Band Dance to be held at the Brant Inn with the music of Stan Kenton.

This event will bring us one step nearer to Graduation Day, and we hope that our last year will be as happy and successful as the past two have been.



Oakbank Residence

The Class of 1957

As we near the end of our first year of training, our thoughts stray back to the moments of anxiety experienced during our "probie days". The reprimands—the helpful advice—the tears and joys—have each contributed to our maturity.

Now as one-third of our course has been completed, our only wish is that each of us has, in some small way, eased the suffering of our patients and helped them along Recovery's Road. Let us here pay tribute to the Sisters, our teachers, and seniors, whose guiding hands and patience have assisted us in completing our first year of training.

Written by Janet Hayes '57



GRADUATION BREAKFAST



Mary Leitch



Lillian Corsini, Caroline Kolmer, Freida Little



Betty Raycroft'55 Patricia Hardie'55



Joan Hayes '55 Patricia Hardie '55 Michelle Lockhart '55



GRADUATION DAY

All nurses fondly recall one particular day of their careers—Graduation Day. So too with we the Graduating Class of St. Joseph's Hospital of 1955.

Mass in the new and beautiful chapel began our day. Breakfast followed in the cafeteria.

By 1.00 P.M. we were ready in our new and white Graduation uniforms, to go to Westdale Collegiate Auditorium. Anticipation sparked by eagerness, and anxiety in some cases, speeded the next short while away, till the hour itself arrived.

Majestically the chords of "Land of Hope and Glory", accompanied us to the stage. The setting was the flame of carnations and the gold of chrysanthemums. The foreground was white, as only the snow on the capped mountain can be; with red, that only the rose dare assume. Black bands mourning the first nurse, haloed shining faces and sparkling eyes.

Dr. Downes, master of ceremonies, introduced the valedictory, admirably delivered by Miss Joan Hayes expressing our hopes, our aim; our standards and our ethics.

"Diplomas and pins will now be given to the Graduates". The glorious moment had at last arrived. A thrill of accomplishment filled us with awe! Our marathon had been run. Now we hoped our parents would be happy. They had been the vertebrae which stabled us so well, drying our tears; sharing our joys, the silent and constant partners. Some could not be there, but in our hearts we knew they were standing by.

Prizes for outstanding academic studies were then awarded. The recipients befittingly humble, graciously accepted their due, while basked in their reflected glory.

The reception held at Undermount and in the new auditorium was an ovation to the success of the day. The sisters, doctors, teachers, supervisors and guests, who honoured us by their presence at the exercises met our families and friends. They in turn responded to the warm welcome extended on their behalf. A conducted tour of the hospital departments, shined and polished for weeks beforehand kept our visitors exclaiming with wonder.

Each of us then went our separate ways to climax Graduation Day. Some of us headed for home; while others buzzed off to still more receptions. At the end of this memorable day each of us shall bear in mind this simple verse, constructed from the lines of an old favourite tune:

"So through the future years.
Save your smiles and tears.
For they alone remain true souvenirs."

Written by Kathleen Byrne



GRADUATION MAY 25, 1955

Graduation Exercises

1955



St. Joseph's Hospital
School of Nursing

WESTDALE SECONDARY SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM
Main Street West

Wednesday, May 25th, at 3:00 p.m.



Joan Hayes Valedictorian



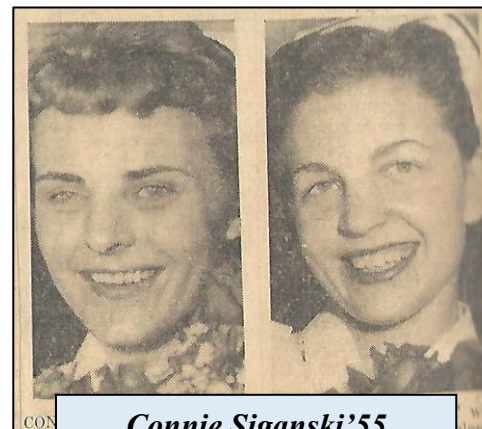
*Patricia Hardie, Mary Lukawski,
Jeanne Husul, Mary McDonald*



*Doreen Morrison, Caroline Komer,
Lola Bott*



Doreen Duncan '55 Maureen Kennedy '55



*Connie Siganski '55
Louise Cronkwright '55*

The influence of a Nurse

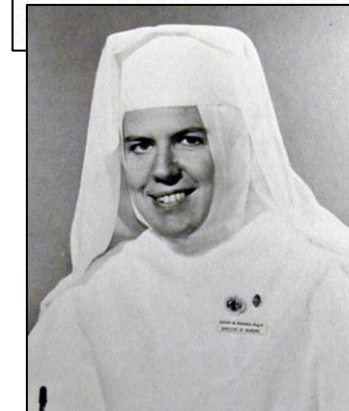
The scope of the nursing field is wide, but the influence of a nurse is wider as her womanly qualities, matured by training, bring their influence into every aspect of her private, civil and natural life (as well as in her professional one).

By her understanding a nurse can change the whole outlook of a patient in the hospital from one of embarrassment and anxiety to confidence and peace. She can alter the outlook of a family where previously there was chaos and apprehension, thus enabling illness and distress to be met with fortitude and calm. Nursing recognizes no geographical boundaries. There is no part of the world where nurses are not needed and there is probably no country where qualified nurses are not to be found in their unique service to mankind, irrespective of race, colour or creed.

It is through her professional organization that a nurse takes her place beside other professional groups contributing her share of knowledge and interest. She should be an active member of her alumnae association, nurses association of the province in which she resides, and through these, to the Canadian Nurses Association and International Council of Nurses, binding her to other member countries throughout the world. Many of you, our graduates of 1955, must assume individual responsibility for leadership. You must carry an advisory and educative role in many areas, to your associates, to the other professional groups within medicine, to those large groups of individuals who want and must make use of their services,—the public. In view of the growing demand for well qualified nurses to fill these positions, we hope that you will consider the possibilities for post-graduate work. Post-graduate study offers exceptional opportunities for the nurse who wishes to continue her education. There are numerous courses available in Medicine, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Surgery, Public Health, and Teaching and Supervision. You may attend University or an approved hospital, to specialize in any particular branch of nursing.

Finally, there is great need to raise individual sights to encompass a greater horizon and obtain a clearer recognition of the need and the responsibility that each nurse carries. This cannot be carried out alone by our leaders. The nursing profession is judged by the friends and patients who contact each individual nurse. Therefore, are you individually prepared to represent the best in nursing to interpret the needs and the opportunities, and to provide the guidance and the vision for those who follow? We shall leave the answer to you.

*Sister M. Virginia
Director of Education*



Programme



Opening Prayer

THE REVEREND J. P. LARDIE, P.P.

Organ - - - - - O Canada

Organist—MRS. G. L. BURJAW, A.T.C.M.

Chairman

W. P. Downes, B.A., M.D.C.M. - - Chief of Staff

Valedictory - - - - - Joan Hayes

Presentation of Diplomas and Pins by

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F. RYAN, J.C.D., D.D.
Bishop of Hamilton

Greetings to Graduating Class

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR JACKSON

R. H. BALINSON, M.D.
President of The Hamilton Academy of Medicine

J. M. PIGOTT, K.C.S.G., C.B.E.
Chairman of the Hospital Advisory Board

THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN G. FULLERTON
Director of Charities, Archdiocese of Toronto

Presentation of Awards

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Win Awards In Nursing

May 25/55
Four scholarships are being given for post-graduate study, and three prizes for highest standing in theory, one for each year of the course, when St. Joseph's School of Nursing holds its annual graduation ceremonies next Wednesday.

Winning the scholarship awards are: In nursing education, Miss Marie Andreychuk, Reg. N. 1954, Grimsby; given by the hospital's auxiliary and Miss Elizabeth Herod, Reg. N. 1954, Hagersville, given by St. Joseph's Alumnae; Miss Constance Brough, Niagara Falls, Ont; Miss Michelle Lockhart, Hamilton, given by the Hospital's medical staff.

The prizes for highest standing go to: Michelle Lockhart, Hamilton, Senior Year, given in memory of Dr. Orton James Newell; Miss Gail Chapman, San Mateo, Calif., Intermediate Year, given in memory of Dr. James Roberts; Miss Donna Gahagan, Hamilton, Junior Year, given by the Margaret Gage Burkholder Chapter IODE.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Elizabeth	Marie	Constance	Michelle
Herod '54	Andreychuk '54	Brough '55	Lockhart '55

Three scholarships are being given for post-graduate study, and three prizes of highest standing in theory, one for each year of the course, when St. Joseph's School of Nursing holds its annual graduation ceremonies next Wednesday.

Winning the scholarship awards are: In nursing education Miss Marie Andreychuk, Reg. N. 1954, Grimsby; given by the hospital's auxiliary and Miss Elizabeth Herod, Reg. N. 1954, Hagersville, given by St. Joseph's alumnae; Miss Constance Brough, Niagara Falls, Ont; Miss Michelle Lockhart, Hamilton given by the Hospital's medical staff.

The prizes for highest standing go to : Michelle Lockhart, Hamilton, senior Year, given in memory of Dr. Orton James Newell; Miss Gail Chapman, San Mateo Calif., Intermediate Year, given in memory of Dr. James Roberts; Miss Donna Gahagan, Hamilton, Junior Year given by the Margaret Gage Burkholder Chapter IODE.



Gail Chapman '56



Donna Gahagan '57

Awards



Scholarship for Post-Graduate Study in Nursing Education
Given by St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary.
Presented by Mrs. W. A. Weaver.

MARIE ANDREYCHUK, Reg. N., 1954

Scholarship for Post-Graduate Study in Nursing Education
Given by St. Joseph's Hospital Alumnae.
Presented by Miss Aileen McPhail.

ELIZABETH HEROD, Reg. N., 1954

Two Scholarships for Post-Graduate Study
Given by St. Joseph's Hospital Medical Staff.
Presented by Mrs. W. P. Downes.

CONSTANCE BROUGH

Presented by Mrs. H. J. Sullivan.

MICHELLE LOCKHART

Prize for Highest Standing in Theory—Senior Year
Given in Memory of the late Dr. Orton James Newell.
Presented by Mrs. Newell.

MICHELLE LOCKHART

Prize for Highest Standing in Theory—Intermediate Year
Given in Memory of the late Dr. James Roberts.
Presented by Llewellyn N. Roberts, M.D., D.P.H.

GAIL CHAPMAN

Prize for Highest Standing in Theory—Junior Year
Given by Margaret Gage Burkholder Chapter, I.O.D.E.
Presented by Mrs. C. T. Lowe.

DONNA GAHAGAN



Valedictory 1955

Mr. Chairman, your Excellency, Mr. Mayor, Rt. Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Sisters, Parents and friends of the Graduating Class.

This is our graduation day . . . a happy day, filled with bright thoughts of a goal achieved, a difficult task accomplished, the future glowing before us.

We are happy to welcome you here to-day to join with us in marking the completion of our course of studies and to see us receive our coveted pins and diplomas — in the presence of all who share our happiness and make our day complete.

This has been a day of reminiscence too, over the three years which suddenly seem to have passed too quickly. For a cycle of our life has irrevocably ended, and whether we will it or not, with it must go the things that have been a part of us — the dear familiar faces, the unforgettable friendships, and the intimacy that pervades and permeates only residence life, the familiar and well trod halls of our Alma Mater.

Ours is indeed a most rewarding profession . . . the sense of accomplishment, the proud feeling of proprietorship, when one of *our* patients, of whose life we have despaired, turns the corner that means life and health again. We have been trained to give skilled treatment, to bring a friendly smile, courtesy and a gentle touch to the care of the sick. However, this is not enough. Unless we are humble, unless we so merge ourselves in the patients' service that he knows his welfare is the first consideration in our mind: that it is in fact, a matter of spiritual concern to us, our patient will be the first to recognize the lack of that divine spark within us, and we shall have failed our vocation.

With deep gratitude we offer our joy in this graduation day to our parents, who were the silent and steadfast partners during these years, who listened patiently to our petty complaints, smiled secretly at the impatience of our youth, and who understood, perhaps better than anyone, the difficulties that confronted us.

To the Sisters, Doctors and Teachers who gave freely of their knowledge, their guidance, and themselves, to create and enkindle in each of us the true spirit of nursing, we "Thank you".

Privileges such as we enjoy, entail responsibilities. In a world that knows little but self-seeking, we must remember that we are pledged to serve others. The words of Cardinal Newman may be applied to the vocation of a nurse "God has created me to do Him some definite service: . . . I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. We shall do good, we shall do His work. If we but fulfil His Commandment, and Serve Him in our calling."



Vera Summers '55



*Barbara Quinn '55 Connie Siganski '55
Maureen Kennedy '55*



Colette Sutherland '55 Freida Little '55



Kathleen O'Sullivan '55



*Michelle
Lockhart '55*



Joan Hayes '55



Lillian Corsini, Caroline Kolmer, Freida Little

Dear Undergraduates :

This letter is to wish you well and bid you goodbye!

As the time when we must leave draws rapidly near we become increasingly more aware of things that we have for three years taken for granted, and although we look to the future with pleasant expectancy, we look also to the past with mixed nostalgia and regret.

So as we depart from you, may we leave these wishes behind:

That you treat and treasure your training as an unprecedented and unforgettable experience.

That you seek to derive every possible pleasure and experience from your training.

And lastly that each of you know the deep and abiding satisfaction of graduations.

From the Graduating Class '55

1955

GRADUATES

GLORIA BARNES, MERCEDES BELL, KATHLEEN BYRNE, MAUREEN CARSON, ANN CHARKAWY, LILLIAN CORSINI, JOYCE CROSKERY, DONNA CROSSMAN, ADELE CUMMINS, DOREEN DUNCAN, ISABELLA DONNELLY, PATRICIA HARDIE, MAUREEN KENNEDY, CAROLINE KOLMER, MICHELLE LOCKHART, MARY LUKAWSKI, PATRICIA McMAHON, BARBARA MEHLENBACHER, RUTH MULLIGAN, BERNICE PIASCICK, BARBARA PITKEATHLY, NANCY PYLE, BARBARA QUINN, MYRNA REID, ELIZABETH REYNOLDS, PAULINE RUMBALL, MARILYN SALTON, CONSTANCE SIGANSKI, AGNES STIPSITS, COLETTE SUTHERLAND, DORIS THOMSON, SHIRLEY WRAY	HAMILTON, ONT.
IRENE AGNEW, LOLA BOTT, NORMA KENNEDY, DOROTHY MARTIN, GLORIA MINGLE, LOIS O'BRIEN	BRANTFORD, ONT.
MILLICENT ALBERICO	PORT COLBORNE, ONT.
MARION BAGLEY	NANTICOKE, ONT.
MARY BIROS, MARIE DAVEY, MARY MASTROIANNI, PATRICIA O'KEEFE, PHYLLIS SIMONE, IRENE WATTERSON	WELLAND, ONT.
CONSTANCE BROUGH, DOROTHY DOYLE, FREIDA LITTLE, NOREEN MOUSSEAU	NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.
MARY ELLEN CHEEKS	DUNNVILLE, ONT.
KATHLEEN CLOSE	HAGERSVILLE, ONT.
SHIRLEY CRAIG	WEBSTER'S FALLS, ONT.
LOUISE CRONKWRIGHT, JEANNE HUSUL, MARY McDONALD, PATRICIA TAGGART	SIMCOE, ONT.
PATRICIA D'Aoust, MARY JONES	GRIMSBY, ONT.
MARY ANN DUBOIS	CAMPBELLVILLE, ONT.
BARBARA DUNNIGAN	CAYUGA, ONT.
ELEANOR FARROW	CALEDONIA, ONT.
DOREEN HALLEWYN	WATERFORD, ONT.
DORIS HANES, BETTY RAYCROFT	BURLINGTON, ONT.
JOAN HARKIN	WATERDOWN, ONT.
JOAN HAYES, MARY O'FLANAGAN	ANCASTER, ONT.
TILLIE WASZUT	WAINFLEET, ONT.
JOAN KEENAN	DUNDAS, ONT.
NANCY LEITCH, RUTH MORRISON	PORT DOVER, ONT.
RUTH MCGILLIVRAY	GUELPH, ONT.
DOREEN MORRISON, GEORGINA TRCKA	FREEMAN, ONT.
MARGARET MOSS	WOODSTOCK, ONT.
KATHLEEN O'SULLIVAN	MILLGROVE, ONT.
GLENDA PAIGE	PICTOU, N.S.
KAY PROGAR	BEAMSVILLE, ONT.
ANITA SAARI	SARNIA, ONT.
THRESA SAMS	DELHI, ONT.
VERA SUMMERS	COPETOWN, ONT.
MAE CYR	EDMUNDSTON, N.B.

80 Nurses Graduate

More than 80 nurses, members of the 1955 graduating class of St. Joseph's School of Nursing, yesterday, walked across the platform at Westdale Secondary School to receive their diplomas & pins from His Excellency Joseph F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton. The smiling nurses wearing their neat, white nursing uniforms & each holding a huge bouquet of red roses, yesterday climaxed three years of rigid studious training at the school.

The following are the 1955 graduates of the St Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing.

Gloria Barnes, Mercedes Bell, Kathleen Byrne, Maureen Carson, Ann Charkaway, Lillian Corsini, Joyce Croskery, Donna Crossman, Adele Cummins, Doreen Duncan, Isabella Donnelly, Patricia Hardie, Maureen Kennedy, Caroline Kolmer, Michelle Lockhart, Mary Lukawski, Patricia McMahon, Barbara Mehlenbacher, Ruth Mulligan, Bernice Piascick, Barbara Pitkeathly, Nancy Pyle, Barbara Quinn, Myrna Reid, Elizabeth Reynolds, Pauline Rumball, Marilyn Salton, Constance Siganski, Agnes Stipsits, Colette Sutherland, Doris Thomson, Shirley Wray, all of Hamilton. Ont Irene Agnew, Lola Bott, Norma Kennedy, Dorothy Martin, Gloria Mingle, Lois O'Brien, all of Brantford. Millicent Alberico of Port Colborne, Ont,

Marion Bagley of Nanticoke, Ont

Mary Biros, Mary Mastroianni, Marie Davey, Patricia O'Keefe, Phyllis Simone, Irene Waterson, of Welland, Constance Brough, Dorothy Doyle, Freida Little, Noreen Mousseau, all of Niagara Falls. Ont

Mary Ellen Cheeks of Dunnville, Ont

Kathleen Close of Webster's Falls, Ont

Louise Cronkwright, Jeanne Husul, Mary McDonald, Patricia Taggart, all of Simcoe, Ont

Patricia D'Aoust, Mary Jones, both of Grimsby, Ont

Mary Ann Dubois of Campbell Ont,

Barbara Dunnigan of Cayuga, Ont

Eleanor Farrow of Caledonia, Ont

Doreen Hallewyn of Waterford,

Doris Hanes, Betty Raycroft, both of Burlington,

Joan Harkin of Waterdown,

Joan Hayes, Mary O'Flannigan both of Ancaster,

Tillie Waszut of Wainfleet,

Joan Keenan of Dundas,

Nancy Leitch, Ruth Morrison, both of Port Dover,

Ruth McGillivray of Guelph,

Doreen Morrison, Georgina Trcka, both of Freeman Ont,

Margaret Moss of Woodstock,

Kathleen O'Sullivan of Millgrove,

Glenda Paige of Picton N.S.

Kay Progar of Beamsville,

Anita Saari of Sarnia, Theresa Sams of Delhi,

Vera Summers of Copetown,

Mae Cyr of Edmunston N.B.

80 Nurses Graduate

More than 80 nurses, members of the 1955 graduating class of the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, yesterday, walked across the platform at Westdale Secondary Schools to receive their diplomas and pins from His Excellency, The Most Reverend Joseph F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton. The smiling nurses wearing their neat, white nursing uniforms and each holding a huge bouquet of red roses, yesterday climaxed three years of rigid, studious training at the school.

The following are the 1955 graduates of the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing: Gloria Barnes, Mercedes Bell, Kathleen Byrne, Maureen Carson, Ann Charkaway, Lillian Corsini, Joyce Croskery, Donna Crossman, Adele Cummins, Doreen Duncan, Isabella Donnelly, Patricia Hardie, Maureen Kennedy, Caroline Kolmer, Michelle Lockhart, Mary Lukawski, Patricia McMahon, Barbara Mehlenbacher, Ruth Mulligan, Bernice Piascick, Barbara Pitkeathly, Nancy Pyle, Barbara Quinn, Myrna Reid, Elizabeth Reynolds, Pauline Rumball, Marilyn Salton, Constance Siganski, Agnes Stipsits, Colette Sutherland, Doris Thomson, Shirley Wray, all of Hamilton. Irene Agnew, Lola Bott, Norma Kennedy, Dorothy Martin, Gloria Mingle, Lois O'Brien, all of Brantford; Millicent Alberico, of Port Colborne, Ont.; Marion Bagley, of Nanticoke, Ont.; Mary Biros, Mary Mastroianni, Marie Davey, Patricia O'Keefe, Phyllis Simone, Irene Waterson, of Welland; Constance Brough, Dorothy Doyle, Freida Little, Noreen Mousseau, all of Niagara Falls; Mary Ellen Cheeks, of Dunnville; Kathleen Close, Webster's Falls; Louise Cronkwright, Jeanne Husul, Mary McDonald, Patricia Taggart, all of Simcoe; Patricia D'Aoust, Mary Jones, both of Grimsby; Mary Ann Dubois, of Campbell, Ont.; Barbara Dunnigan, of Cayuga; Eleanor Farrow, of Caledonia; Doreen Hallewyn, of Waterford, Ont.; Doris Hanes, Betty Raycroft, both of Burlington; Joan Harkin, of Waterdown; Joan Hayes, Mary O'Flannigan, both of Ancaster; Tillie Waszut, of Wainfleet, Ont.; Joan Keenan, of Dundas; Nancy Leitch, Ruth Morrison, both of Port Dover; Ruth McGillivray, of Guelph; Doreen Morrison, Georgina Trcka, both of Freeman, Ont.; Margaret Moss, of Woodstock; Kathleen O'Sullivan, of Millgrove; Glenda Paige, of Picton N.S.; Kay Progar, of Beamsville; Anita Saari, of Sarnia; Theresa Sams, of Delhi, Ont.; Vera Summers, of Copetown, Ont.; Mae Cyr, of Edmunston, N.B.

TO OUR 1955 GRADUATES

Record Crowds Attend Graduation Exercises

Members of the largest graduating class of St Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing received diplomas & pins at Westdale Secondary School today (May 25, 1955). Hundreds of parents, relatives & friends crowded the auditorium for the ceremony.

Joan Hayes of Ancaster, valedictorian, sounded the theme of the graduating ceremonies. She said "This is our graduation day – a happy day filled with bright thoughts of a goal achieved, a difficult task accomplished, the future glowing before us".

Mayor Jackson told the graduates one of the most rewarding things in life was service to others. "And I don't think one really enjoys happiness unless he is willing to give service beyond the call of duty." "I know of no profession, no training, no leadership that provides a greater opportunity to fellowmen than the nursing profession" he said. Rt. Rev John G. Fullerton director of charities of the archdiocese of Toronto delivered the graduation address. Other speakers included Dr. R. H. Balinon, president of the Hamilton academy of medicine & J. M. Pigott, chairman of the hospital advisory board.

Michelle Lockhart of Hamilton was awarded the prize for highest standing in theory, senior year & one of two scholarships for post-graduate study.

Other prize winners scholarship for post graduate study in nursing education to Marie Andreychuk '54; scholarship for post-graduate study in nursing education to Elizabeth Herod '54; scholarship for post-graduate study to Constance Brough '55; prize for highest standing in theory (intermediate year) to Gail Chapman '56 & prize for highest standing in theory junior year to Donna Gahagan '57.

Record Crowds Attend Graduation Exercises

Hamilton, May 25 (Staff). — Members of the largest graduating class of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing received diplomas and pins at Westdale Secondary School today.

Hundreds of parents, relatives and friends crowded the auditorium for the ceremony.

Joan Hayes, of Ancaster, valedictorian, sounded the theme of the graduating ceremonies. She said: "This is our graduation day — a happy day filled with bright thoughts of a goal achieved, a difficult task accomplished, the future glowing before us."

Mayor Jackson told the graduates one of the most rewarding things in life was service to others. "And I don't think one really enjoys happiness unless he is willing to give service beyond the call of duty."

"I know of no profession, no training, no leadership that provides a greater opportunity to fellowmen than the nursing profession," he said.

Rt. Rev. John G. Fullerton, director of charities of the archdiocese of Toronto, delivered the graduation address. Other speakers included Dr. R. H. Balinon, president of the Hamilton academy of medicine and J. M. Pigott, chairman of the hospital advisory board.

Michelle Lockhart of Hamilton was awarded the prize for highest standing in theory, senior year and one of two scholarships for post-graduate study.

Other prize winners' scholarship for post-graduate study in nursing education, to Marie Andreychuk; scholarship for post-graduate study in nursing education to Elizabeth Herod; scholarship for post-graduate study to Constance Brough; prize for highest standing in theory (intermediate year) to Gail Chapman and prize for highest standing in theory junior year, to Donna Gahagan.

Graduates: Gloria Barnes, Mercedes Bell, Kathleen Byrne, Maureen Carson, Ann Charkaw, Lillian Corsini, Joyce Crokery, Donna Crossman, Adele Cumming, Doreen Duncan, Isabelle...

Shirley Craig, Webster's Falls; Louise Cronkwright, Jeanne Husul, Mary McDonald, Patricia Taggart, Simcoe; Patricia D'Aoust, Mary Jones, Grimsby; Mary Ann Dubois, Campbellville; Barbara Dunigan, Cayuga; Eleanor Farrow, Caledonia; Doreen Halley, Waterford; Doris Hanes, Betty Rayercroft, Burlington; Joan Harkin, Waterdown; Joan Hayes, Mary O'Flanagan, Ancaster; Tillie Waszut, Wainfleet; Joan Keenan, Dundas; Nancy Leitch, Ruth Morrison, Port Dover; Ruth McGillivray, Guelph; Doreen Morrison, Georgina; Tricia, Freeman; Margaret Moss, Woodstock; Kathleen O'Sullivan, Millgrove; Glenda Paige, Picton, N.S.; Kay Proga, Beamsville; Anita Saari, Sarnia; Theresa Sams, Delhi; Vera Summers, Copetown, and Mae Cyn, Edmundston, N.B.

Shirley Anne Wray, 2003-2011 served as Mass Coordinator on the Nurses Alumnae Executive

Barbara Dunnigan, 1957-1958 served as Representative to the R.N.A.O. on the Nurses Alumnae executive

Barbara Dunnigan

Barbara Dunnigan

Barbara Dunnigan

Schools of nursing cherish one special dream: that every graduate leaving the school will carry on the traditions and ideals of those who have gone before her, so that all may be proud to say: "She is one of ours".

The nurse of today accepts this challenge. She is younger, perhaps, than was her sister of yesteryear, and less accustomed to responsibility, but she has courage and high ideals of her own tucked under her crisp white cap. She will not disappoint those who trust in her.

One of the distinguishing traits of the nurse of today is her boundless enthusiasm which impels her to hurry ahead in the practice of her calling. She has keenness and vision, which make her eager to undertake the alleviation of suffering wherever she sees it. Heretofore this zeal has had to be guided into proper channels. First things must come first, and she has had to be instructed and directed in the performance of her tasks. Now, after three years of surrender to experience and mature judgment, the moment has come for her to relinquish the support of guiding hands and step forward to meet the tasks which the future has in store.

The world must be 83 times better for the fact that you are now bringing to it your contribution of service to your fellowmen. The world is tired, we are told, tired and anxious. It has need of your youthful enthusiasm, your faith and trust, your skilful hands to ease its pain. The responsibility you assume towards the care of the suffering is a part payment for the privileges and traditions purchased for you in turn by the sacrifice and toil of those who went before you. You seek happiness, but it will escape you if you seek to evade these responsibilities; it will stay close to you as you reach out to serve others with generosity and in the true spirit of your calling.

St. Francis long ago told the world how to be happy. His prescription will be as efficacious today as when the Poor Man of Assisi first composed it in the Umbrian hills:

"Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

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

Written by
Sister Mary Grace
Administrator



Shirley Anne Wray

Shirley Anne Wray '55

2003 – 2011 served as Mass Coordinator on the Nurses Alumnae Executive

Barbara Dunnigan '55

1957 – 1958 served as Representative to the R.N.A.O. on the Nurses Alumnae executive

Barbara Dunnigan



Michael is a child with a rare blood haemophilia. In this picture he looks well & happy, clutching his doll and sharing the seat of a motorcycle with Hamilton PC Vic Zwicwich. He is surrounded by the staff of St. Joseph's children's ward. He received transfusions of 3 pints of blood from policemen, PC Zwicwishbe being the third. His story started by an article in the Daily News in the Saturday edition.

The articles were posted in The Toronto star



Michael with PC Vic Zwicwish. Over the past few years Vic has given Michael several pints of blood.



Mark (age 3) & his brother Michael have been afflicted by Heemophilia since birth. They have had 1,000 blood transfusions.



Vera Summers



Vera Summers holding Michael.



**Allan & Vera Braithwaite
New Years Eve 1996 / 1997**



Ruth Morrison '55 became a missionary in India.

OUR GRADUATES

In their blue and white school uniforms, eighty-three young ladies entered the chapel early on the morning of May 25th to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, to thank God for the blessings received throughout the three years they had spent as student nurses, and to ask for the years ahead true love in the service of the sick.

Those who witnessed this scene rejoiced with you in the achievement of your goal. They knew that deep in your hearts a natural mercy and compassion motivated you in helping the suffering, and that this needed but to be strengthened by God's grace to make it efficacious in healing broken bodies and wounded souls. God is love, and all true love must be spiritual, strong, pure and uplifting. Without it, nursing of the sick, however efficiently performed, is cold and lifeless.

The steps in your path of progress since entering the school of nursing are clearly marked. There was the capping ceremony, and how proud it made you. Your first patients, there was something particularly important and personal about them. You served them, worried about them, even prayed for them, and were so pleased at their recovery. One year, two years sped by, and then the black band was placed on your cap, giving you the responsibilities of a senior nurse and advanced studies.

There is a good deal of time in three years. Much of it was charted, planned and filled with duties, but there was time, too, for leisure, for recreation, for hobbies, for friends; time to develop the well-integrated personalities which will fit you to meet life and make the most of your opportunities for doing good in the world. God made us to serve Him to the full extent of our capabilities; half service, then, is failure in our duty to Him and to others.

The world demands a great deal of you: high ideals, character, leadership, but it is the future you must choose if you are to be an inspiration to others and an instrument of compassion to those in need.



Vera Simmers



Vera Summers

To those
who although absent from us,
are not forgotten.

Dr. Beacock, Dr. Bartlett, and Dr. Worrall:—

The sincerest wish of St. Joseph's Hospital and of the whole student body is that we may soon see you back in our hospital corridors, and that we may once more have the pleasure of assisting you with your patients.

Miss Almond:—Your return to the School of Nursing is being eagerly anticipated by all who know you.

Miss Trutwin:—We hope you are not philosophizing too deeply on the folly of high heels — because after all where would a short girl be without them.

We'll see you all soon.

Written by Patricia D'Aoust

GRADUATION DANCE June 2, 1955

*Three-thirty! At last we're off duty.
The night of nights has arrived.
The day? Why June 2nd; the event?
Of course, Our Own Graduation Dance.*

What a turmoil the second floor of Old Undermount was, ringing with our shouts and laughter: "What time is your appointment?" ... May I have the iron next?" ... "Who has an extra pair of earrings?" ... can be heard echoing over and over again. The demented wail of the over tired mingled with laughter as we try to capture a "cat-nap" before the final hour.

Now it is eight o'clock and all of us are dressed. It is as if a beautiful rainbow has suddenly drifted into our midst, as one by one we float down the stairs to meet our escorts.

As the last one of us depart, silence again reigns over old Undermount.

Only a new graduate can describe the dance itself, and artist's palette of colour, laughter, gaiety, and happiness accompanied by the sweet strains of John Costigan and his orchestra.

We certainly must remember to extend a vote of thanks to our wonderful alumnae. Now they are announcing a special dance, dedicated to us, the grads of '55. How extremely proud and happy we are. Doesn't it show?

One A.M.! Not already! Much too early. Such tired but happy souls we are limping to our waiting carriages. It is a happy group that arrives at the welcoming doors of residence this morning, and we leave behind us one of the most memorable evenings of our lives. This is a night never to be forgotten, through the future years.



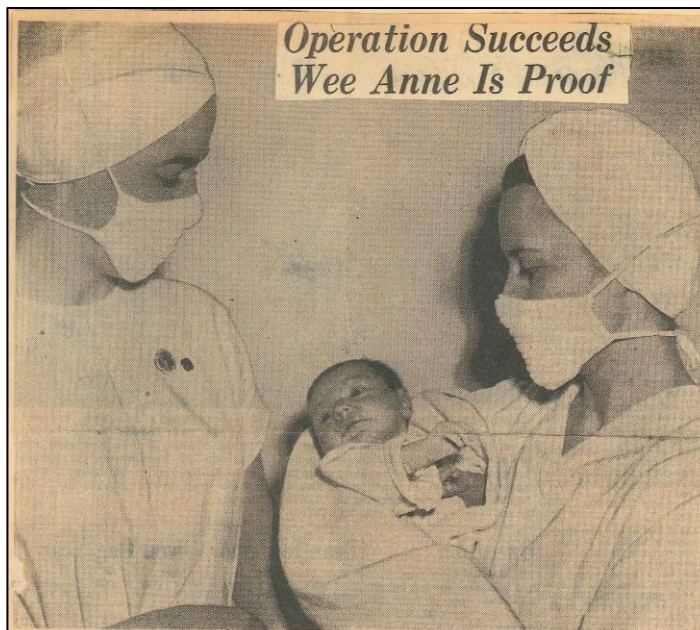
Written by Gloria Mingle and Lola Bott



*Sister M. Bonaventure
Director of Nurses*

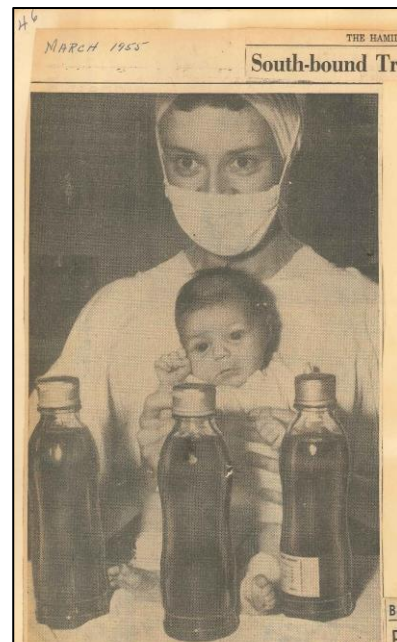


March 1955



LIVING PROOF — Little Mary Anne Bisson of Dunnville, is alive today through the combined efforts of the Red Cross, Hamilton and Dunnville doctors and others who fought to save her life after she was born with RH positive blood. She is seen being held by Mae Howe, Reg. N. with Verna Emery, Reg. N. and supervisor of nurses standing to the left. (Hourigan Photo)

Verna Emery '51



Mary Margaret George '53

Woman, 102, Breaks Hip, Walks Again

Modern surgical skill, backed by her own sound constitution, have put a venerable little lady, aged 102, back on her feet after a fracture of the hip joint which, not long ago, would have destroyed all chance of ever walking again. Hospital authorities believe her age may be a record for walking again after such a mishap.

Mrs. Julia Waite Fletcher, formerly of 128 Jackson Street West, is today pacing the corridors of St. Joseph's Hospital with the aid of a walking stick, after the fall on a slippery sidewalk last March 13, which fractured the joint.

On admission to the hospital, a metal screw was inserted in the joint, thus holding the fractured bone together, in the manner of a splint. Two weeks later she was up in a wheelchair, and was walking on June 1. Medically, she is now ready for release from the hospital.

The screw, known as the vitallium lag screw, is one used for this type of fracture. During its insertion, fluoroscopic pictures guide the surgeon in placing the screw while he works.

One of the newer developments in bone surgery, the screw can either be left in place permanently or removed, depending on the needs of the individual case, hospital authorities said. In Mrs. Fletcher's case, it is expected to remain permanently. The operation was performed by a surgeon of St. Joseph's Hospital staff.

Born in Berkshire, England, in 1850, Mrs. Fletcher came to Canada when a girl. Her father, she said, at

one time operated a livery business. She was a children's nurse here for many years. She came here when her husband, then an Imperial soldier, was dispatched to Canada with his regiment during the Fenian raids. A story about her appeared in the Spectator on her ninety-ninth birthday in 1949 when the choir of her parish church, 'All Saints', honoured her longtime parish services by feting her with a carol program.



Marie Davey '55

MRS. JULIA FLETCHER WITH NURSE MARIE DAVEY

Child was born Rh positive

-Transfusion was started when she was 12 hours old.

-10 donors were needed

-3 bottles of Red Cross Blood were given to her

- this operation was unheard of in the medical profession.

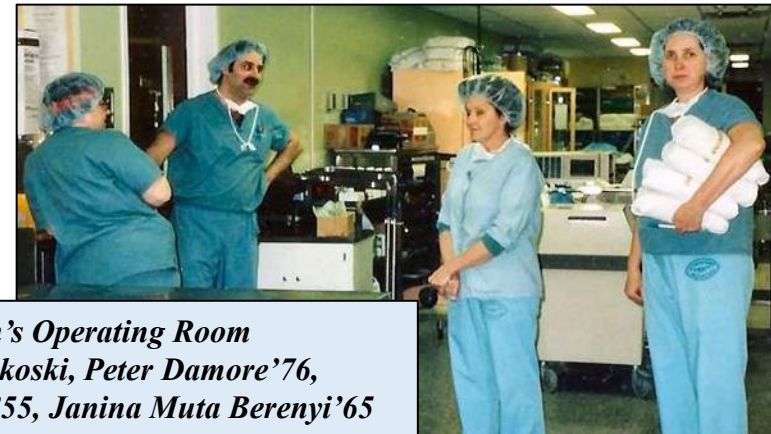
Woman, age 102, had a vitallium lag screw inserted in her hip joint after suffering a broken hip.

This is one of the newer developments in bone surgery.

Two weeks later she was up in a wheelchair and

walking by June 1.

St Joseph's Operating Room 1955



St Joseph's Operating Room
Dr Joan Mosakoski, Peter Damore '76,
Katie Progar Piva '55, Janina Muta Berenyi '65

ST JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL CHAPEL

St. Joseph's Hospital Chapel has been the latest addition to the collection of buildings which now make up Hamilton's St. Joseph's Hospital. This latest structure of eye-catching interior beauty was blessed by His Excellency Most Rev. J. F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton, with a dedicatory Mass on April 28th, 1955.

The chapel is the "heart" of any Catholic hospital. From this heart flows the ineffable grace flowing from the fact of Christ's true presence. His very nearness is a constant aid and consolation both to the sick and the personnel. From this heart flow the untold graces arising from the daily Sacrifice of the Mass. From this heart stem the manifold graces of Confession, Holy Communion, Viaticum and Extreme Unction.

The chapel is a quiet haven for the Sisters of St. Joseph who staff the hospital. Here the Sisters and other members of the staff as well as the ambulatory patients may find comfort and solace. Here they find the help needed to carry on their work or learn to accept their sufferings in a Christ-like manner. The Sisters have dedicated their lives to the service of Christ. It is to the chapel that they come, to visit and talk to Him, to place themselves under His loving care, to pray, to meditate, to renew constantly their purity of intention when the many cares of hospital life would tax their patient zeal. It is to the chapel that they come to receive the spiritual nourishment necessary in order to carry on their work of Christian mercy.

In secular life, it is often asked where the Sisters find the secret of success in hospital administration and care of the sick. Their secret is found in the "heart" of the hospital — the chapel.

Hospital life for the Sisters is very busy. It is very full. Many do not receive their required rest — their patients come first. Their patience is taxed. Their charity is tested. Complaints of patients try their piety. Staff problems burden their souls. Were it not for the chapel, the Sisters could not carry on as they do.

Is it any wonder that the Sisters desire a chapel that will suitably house the Blessed Redeemer Who is their well-spring of help. To Him sufficient cannot be good enough. The best is for Him.

In fashioning and planning this new chapel, it is evident that the Sisters and architects, constructors and craftsmen were keenly aware of what the chapel means in a Catholic hospital. The beautiful House of God was fashioned by the God-given talents of man so that creatures could worship their Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier; so that God's creatures could receive the divine graces in order to carry on the work of the Lord; so that the brides of Christ could visit their Christ despite the hustlebustle of a busy city hospital.

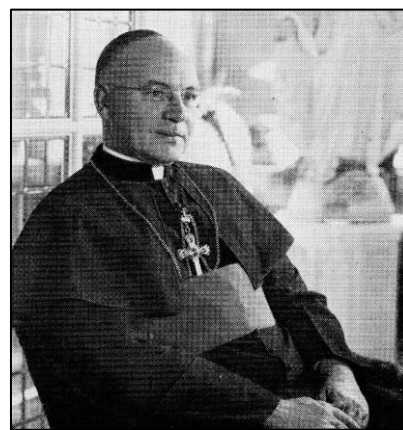
The simple beauty of this structure is almost breath-taking. The central focal point is the life-size Crucifix hovering over the main altar. The crucifix is almost life-like against the stone background. The moment one enters the chapel, the eye immediately gazes upon this replica of the death of the Redeemer. The carved crucifix is the work of the internationally famous sculptor, J. A. Gausse.

One of the outstanding highlights of the building are the Stations of the Cross. Fine mosaic work by skilled Italian craftsmen have resulted in colorful and significant representations of the journey to Calvary.

Built along 20th century lines, sufficient of the mediaeval has been retained to good taste is evidenced throughout. Ceiling beams of laminated wood add to the overall effect.

The three altars are of mahogany and blonde birch. Relief carving are set in the front of each altar. The Communion railing is of similar wood with hand-carved blocks forming the gate. The altars are of the simple liturgical table variety.

Contractor was the Pigott Construction Co. Architect was Frank H. Burcher. H. K. Walter and C. C. Parker were Consultant Engineers.



It affords me real pleasure to send a word of cordial greeting and congratulations to the 1955 Graduates of St. Joseph's School of Nursing. Your three years of intensive training and study have passed very quickly. You have been thoroughly prepared to meet the demands of your profession. You have been deeply trained and instructed in spiritual values. You have learned to put first things first. The world today needs valiant, disciplined and courageous women.

Your personal happiness and success in life will be measured by your fidelity to the virtuous life which has ennobled and dignified your three years at St. Joseph's Training School.

JOSEPH F. RYAN,
Bishop of Hamilton.



The new chapel is a building of striking contrasts. Pastel green walls and buff acoustic plaster ceiling; dark, exposed laminated arches and the white birch pews and furniture trim; richly colored mosaic glass Stations and the soft bronze cone-shaped, pin-holed hanging lanterns; elliptical shape of the sanctuary and the sharper triangular shape of the nave; the satin-finished woodwork and the rough stone rear sanctuary wall.

There is a balcony at the rear of the chapel for choir and organ use. Conveniently situated, the chapel leads directly to the refectory and is within easy access of the elevators. It accommodates 300.

An unusual but pleasant effect is given by the rough stone rear wall of the sanctuary which appears recessed from the rest of the sanctuary. This indenture allows added natural lighting since slotted windows have been inserted in these positions.

Two birch side altars, one of the Blessed Virgin, the other of St. Joseph, have hand-carved statues of these saints on pedestals above the altars.

A basement has been added to be used as an auditorium and assembly hall for the student nurses. This has a floor stage and will accommodate about 350. This assembly hall has terrazzo flooring, green walls, buff ceiling and is adequately lighted.



*Vera Summers Braithwaite
with her niece 2025*



Reverend Anthony J. O'Brien

Dedication to the Chaplain of St Joseph's Hospital

Every nurse who was privileged to train or work in St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton, during the years of Father O'Brien's chaplaincy will regard him as a first among the truly greats of the institution.

Whether we were preliminary students, juniors, seniors, or graduates, Father O'Brien always had time for us and our troubles. When there seemed to be no hope we found security and help in his wise counsel. When we were overjoyed with success, great or small, he was among the first with whom we shared it.

Father O'Brien is himself an institution, properly named, "our all weather friend." But his friendship was warmest when the skies were gray. In the compiling of the great events of 1955, one of the most outstanding is the Silver Jubilee of our beloved chaplain. To keep him ever fresh in our memories, we salute him in this, our first annual year book, trusting that our tribute to him will remind him of us and of our grateful appreciation.

Father O'Brien honoured at JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The new auditorium was filled to capacity on the evening of June 8th, when the student nurses entertained the Sisters and members of the staff who had gathered to honour Reverend Anthony J. O'Brien on the occasion of his 25th Anniversary in the priesthood.

Guests present were Reverend James B. Ryan, Reverend Philip Campbell, Reverend J. Sherlock, Dr. and Mrs. S. H. Hudecki, and Mrs. Charles Dean, sister of the jubilarian.

Chairman of the evening was Anne LoSchiavo. Guest speaker, Father Ryan, spoke on the vast amount of parish work accomplished by the hospital chaplain and cited the appreciation of the diocesan clergy. Dr. Hudecki made the presentation on behalf of the medical staff and emphasized the need of spiritual guidance in the care of the sick.

The student's programme followed. Miss Gail Chapman recited, "The Beautiful Hands of a Priest," as an expression of the sentiments of the Student Nurses of St. Joseph's Hospital. Miss Mary Anne O'Flanagan followed with a presentation to Father O'Brien on behalf of the student nurses.

Father O'Brien in thanking all concerned reminded the group that they were welcome to visit the "room without a number."



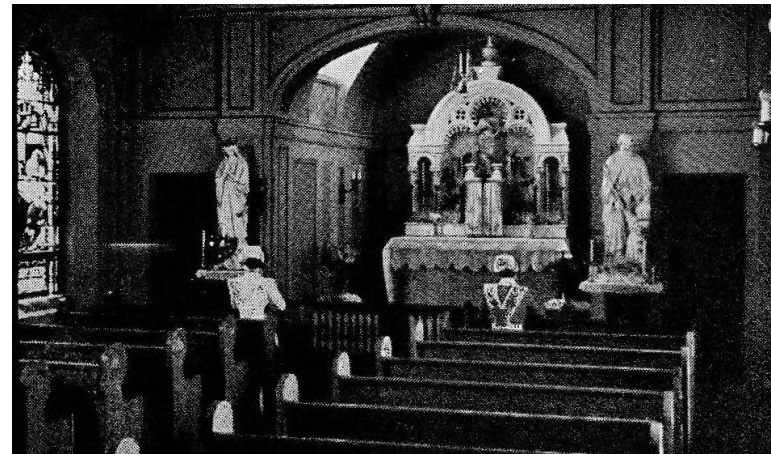
Written by Anne LoSchiavo '56



***Reunion Day 2026 Celebrating 71 Years
Lola Bott Timms'55, Phyllis Simone Brown '55***



New Chapel 1955



Johanna Caroline Kolmer was born in Regina Saskatchewan. Her family then moved to Welland Ontario and then to Hamilton. Her father worked for National Steel Car and her mother was employed as a cook, and later worked at St Joseph's Infirmary. Carolne graduated from St Joseph's School of Nursing. She then moved on to Sarnia. She worked in the Emergency Department of Sarnia General. She became Evening Supervisor there until 1964.

She met her husband to be in 1956 in Emergency. He was an O.P.P. Officer.

They had 2 sons & moved to Timmins Ontario. She then took 4 years off to stay home & look after her 2 boys. She then returned to work with the Porcupine Health Unit, as a Registered Nurse working in schools. In 1969 she was asked to take on a "small" program at the Health Unit. This was the "Home Care Program". Caroline agreed and went on to be a part of the beginning of the program in the Province of Ontario.

She was made the Director of the Home Care Program in Timmins, which included Matheson, Iroquois Falls, Cochrane,

Smith Rock Falls, Kapaskasing, Hearst, Hornepayne and later Moosonee (at the base of St James Bay) .

Caroline retired in 1989. She and her husband Alex spent 14 winters in Florida until health issues grounded them in Ontario.

They now live in Hanover Ontario and have been married for 58 years.

Written by her husband Alex Cameron.



Caroline Kolmer



Caroline Kolmer



ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
HAMILTON

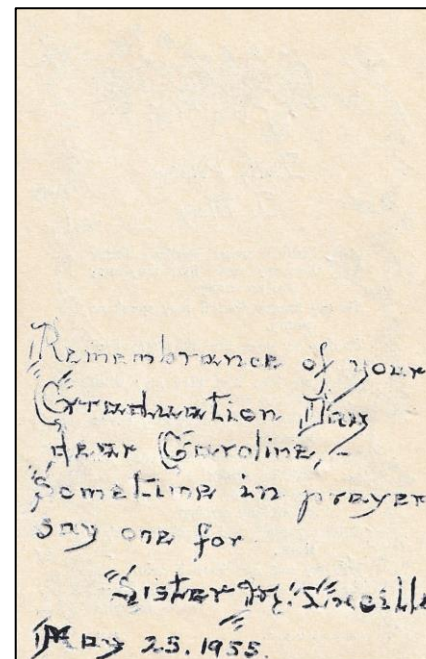
Caroline Kolmer

The Sisters of St. Joseph
and the Graduating Class of
nineteen hundred and fifty-five
St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing
cordially invite you to be present at the
Graduation Exercises
Wednesday afternoon, May twenty-fifth
at three o'clock,
Auditorium, Westdale Collegiate
Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

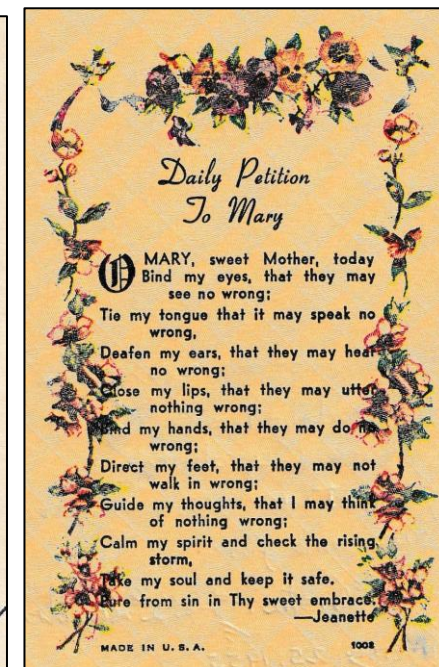
RECEPTION
UNDERMOUNT RESIDENCE
ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY



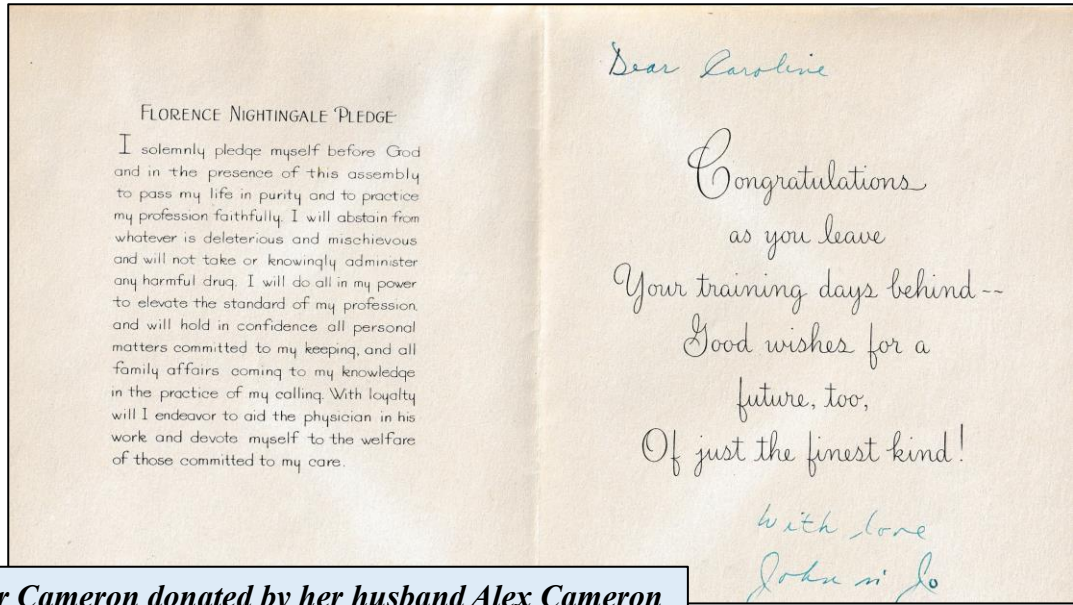
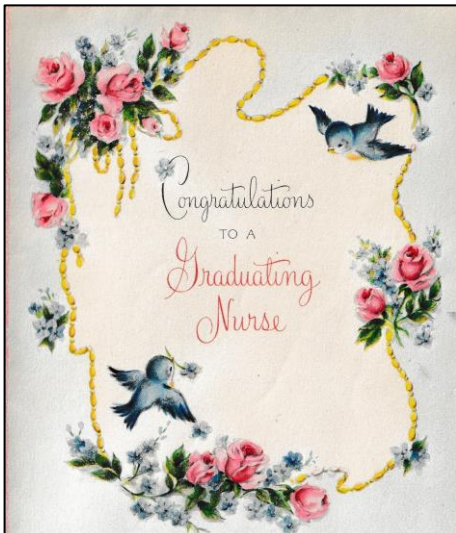
Caroline Kolmer



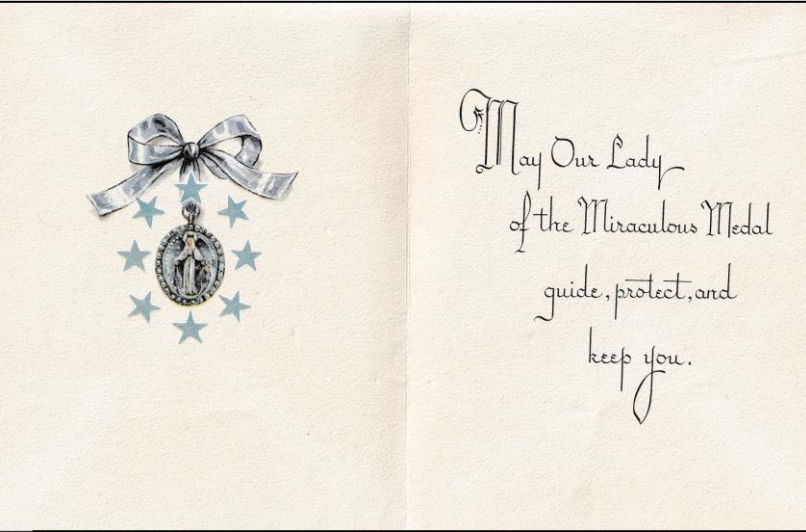
Memorabilia of Caroline Kolmer Cameron donated by her husband Alex Cameron



Memorabilia of Caroline Kolmer Cameron donated by her husband Alex Cameron



Memorabilia of Carolyn Kolmer Cameron donated by her husband Alex Cameron



Memorabilia of Carolyn Kolmer Cameron donated by her husband Alex Cameron



Vera Summers Braithwaite 2026



Vera and Allan Braithwaite 2026



Reunion Day
Pauline Rumball, Mary Lukawski, Shirley Wray, Louise Cronkwright, Kay O'Sullivan, Norma Kennedy, Barbara Dunnigan, Lola Bott, ? , Vera Summers, Phyllis Simone
SEATED: Kay Close, Gloria Mingle

The members of the Alumnae would like to congratulate the student nurses on the successful completion of the first publication of their year book.

We can appreciate the effort that all put forth to make such a success of this project. No matter where you travel or what you do the tasks to be completed are accomplished with more ease and satisfaction if everyone works together. Teamwork is the key-word as you progress on the road of life. Without teamwork life's work is quite tedious and perhaps monotonous. It is to be sure that the members of the student body know what it is like to work together both in their professional and social life.

We, the graduates of the school of nursing, are pleased to be able to work side by side with such enthusiastic student nurses.

AILEEN McPHAIL, President.

Alumnae News

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES WHO ATTENDED UNIVERSITIES DURING 1954—1955

Sister Mary Austin, Reg. N., 1943	Ottawa University	Nursing Education
Sister Marie Vianney, Reg. N., 1950	Ottawa University	Nursing Education
Miss Marie Doherty, Reg. N., 1950	Western University	Public Health
Miss Clare Mazza, Reg. N., 1950	Western University	Public Health
Miss Nancy Giancola, Reg. N., 1950	Western University	Public Health
Miss Pauline Cramp, Reg. N., 1953	Western University	Nursing Education
Miss Betty McInnis, Reg. N., 1953	Toronto University	Clinical Supervision
Miss Genevieve Pawlus, Reg. N., 1953	Toronto University	Public Health
Miss Vyvyan Dermody, Reg. N., 1953	Toronto University	Public Health
Miss Joan Langford, Reg. N., 1953	Toronto University	Public Health

OTHERS WHO ATTENDED POST-GRADUATE COURSES 1954—1955

Miss Beverley Warrick, Reg. N., 1953	Poly Clinic	Ward Administration
Miss Theresa Damore, Reg. N., 1953	Poly Clinic	Operating Room Technique
Miss Marion Stevenson, Reg. N., 1953	Poly Clinic	Operating Room Technique
Miss Loretto Mann, Reg. N., 1954	Margaret Hague	Obstetrical Nursing

GRADUATES WHO ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY DURING 1955—1956

Miss Edna Freeman, Reg. N., 1945	Wayne University	Awarded a Fellowship to Secure Master's Degree in Nursing
Miss Jean Laing, Reg. N., 1946	Toronto University	Public Health
Miss Bernice Gerhart, Reg. N., 1950	Toronto University	Public Health
Miss Joy Gelder, Reg. N., 1952	Toronto University	Nursing Education
Miss Dorothy Gibson, Reg. N., 1953	Toronto University	Clinical Supervision
Miss Margaret Scanlon, Reg. N., 1953	Toronto University	Ward Administration
Miss Beverley Barnes, Reg. N., 1953	Toronto University	Public Health
Miss Twila Sensabough, Reg. N., 1953	Toronto University	Nursing Education
Miss Frances Hewlett, Reg. N., 1954	Western University	Public Health
Miss Jennie Vacola, Reg. N., 1954	Ottawa University	Nursing Education
Miss Lois Stewart, Reg. N., 1954	Western University	Nursing Education
Miss Elizabeth Herod, Reg. N., 1954	Western University	Nursing Education
Miss Marion Brough, Reg. N., 1954	Western University	Nursing Education
Miss Marie Andreychuk, Reg. N., 1954	Ottawa University	Nursing Education
Miss Dale Bond, Reg. N., 1954	Western University	Public Health
Miss Dorothy Cornwall, Reg. N., 1954	Winnipeg General	Operating Room Technique
Miss Shirley Davidson, Reg. N., 1954	Winnipeg General	Operating Room Technique
Miss Diane Sullivan, Reg. N., 1954	Margaret Hague	Obstetrical Nursing
Miss Mary Lou Comerford, Reg. N., '54	Margaret Hague	Obstetrical Nursing
Miss Constance Brough, Reg. N., 1955	Ottawa University	Nursing Education
Miss Bernice Piascik, Reg. N., 1955	Ottawa University	Public Health
Miss Michelle Lockhart, 1955	Western University	Nursing Education

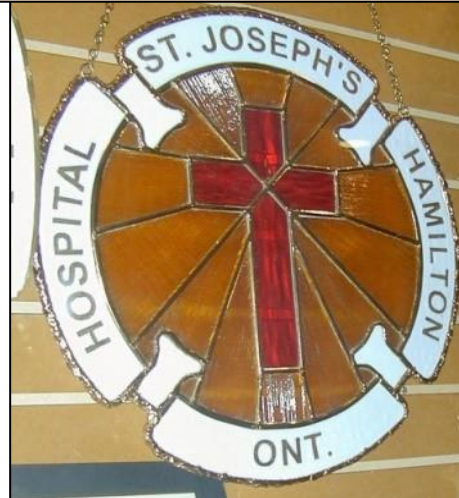


Information taken from the Vox Omnium 1955
Written by Aileen McPhail '51
President of S.J.S.N.A.A.



Reunion Day 2018
Phyllis Simone, Kay Close, Lola Batt, Gloria Mingle,
Louise Cronkwright, Doreen Hailewyn

The class of 1955, for their 50 year anniversary,
donated a stained glass replica of the school graduation pin to be placed in the display cabinet.
It was made by the husband of one of the deceased members of their class, Agnes Stipsits '55.



Kathleen Progar Piva '55, Dr J.E.M. Young
Irene Field Monas '57

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF NURSING PIN IN STAINED GLASS

At the annual dinner, Dorothy Doyle, February '55, presented the Alumnae with a stained glass medallion, a replica of the St. Joseph's School of Nursing Pin. It was designed and created by Mr. Ed Pokar, in honour of his wife Agnes Stipsits, who graduated February '55. This beautiful and exquisite piece of artwork is proudly displayed in our showcase at St. Joseph's Healthcare Centre.

2005 Newsletter

*Vera Summers Braithwaite & her husband Allan
in Santa Domingo*



*Vera Summers Braithwaite & her husband Allan
At Prince Ranier's Castle in Monaco 1994*



*1981
Vera's note says she gave
away 100 of these pamphlets
in South America*



WHAT EVERYBODY NEEDS IS LOVE!

No matter what country you're from, what religion you believe in or what color your skin is, your heart is the same as other people's hearts all around the world!—There is no difference! Our desire and need for love and peace and happiness is made by God, and the same in everyone the world over!

Whoever we are and wherever we are from, the simple answer to all of our problems is the same, as it has always been for every age and every generation: **Love!—True love, real love, God's Love!**

What everybody needs is love! This is God's answer to all the problems of today as well as to all the problems of the past—An answer which has always been so simple and childlike that many people find it hard to believe! But this is still God's solution, even in such a confused and complicated world as we live in today!

It's just that simple: if we love God, if we have His Love in our hearts, we will love and care for each other. We will then follow His rules of life, liberty and happiness, and all will be well and happy as we follow Him!

For it is man's **rejection** of God's love and his loving laws that causes most of the evils and troubles in the world today! If people would **love** God and each other, they would not be mean and selfish! The rich wouldn't rob the poor, those with plenty wouldn't let their neighbours suffer hunger, disease or overwork without helping them, and they certainly wouldn't fight cruel wars in which they kill and wound each other!

which they kill and wound each other!

This is why Jesus said that the **greatest** commandment is to **love**—To **love** all love God, and **God** to love your neighbour as yourself! In fact, He said that these two simple laws fulfil all the laws of God! (Matthew 22:37-39) In other words, Love fulfils all the Law!—God's only Law is Love!

Of course, a lot of people say, "Oh, I don't believe in God!" But if you were to ask them if they believe in love, they'd probably reply, "Of course! I believe in love, then they can believe in God!—Because the Bible says, 'God is Love!' (1 John 4:8) So **real** love, God's Love, is all the religion you need, because God is Love, and Love is God!

God is not only love, but Jesus also said that "God is a spirit!" (John 4:24)—He is the Great Spirit of Love that created you and me and this beautiful world and the entire Universe! He is so big and so great that He is far beyond our human understanding! But God loved us so much that He wanted us to somehow know and love Him, so to show us His Love, and to help us to understand Himself, He sent His Own Son to Earth in the form of a man, Jesus Christ.

Jesus was like a picture of God, to show us what God Himself is like,—And that picture is a picture of Love, because all Jesus did was talk about love and show love and live love. Then finally, in love, He gave His life for you and me, so that we could have God's Love, forgiveness and free Gift of Eternal Life if we would just receive Him into our hearts.

So if you feel that you don't have enough love, maybe it's because you haven't yet found God's love by receiving his son Jesus!—There is a holiness, an empty spot that He has placed in each of our hearts that only He can fill, and that nothing else will ever truly satisfy. So if you'd like Him to fill that spot in your life, all you have to do is open your heart to Him.

To receive God's love is so simple that Jesus said you must become as a little child to enter His spiritual Kingdom of love and joy! He said, "Unless you humble yourself and become as a little child, you shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven!" (Matthew 18:3)

All you need to do is confess that you're not perfect, that you have made mistakes and that you need God's forgiveness. The Bible says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) In other words, we've all done wrong, so we all need to be forgiven, because without forgiveness of sin, we'd be separated from God's perfect Love.

But you **cannot** save yourself! The Bible tells us, "Try **grace** (God's Love and mercy) we are saved through **faith**, and not of ourselves or our own good deeds. It is the free Gift of God!" (Ephesians 2:8,9) No matter what good things you do or how religious you try to be, it's impossible to save yourself!—It's a Gift of God! And the Gift God gave is Jesus!

For God so loved the world (you and me), that He gave His Own Son (Jesus), that whoever believes in Him should never die (be separated from God's Love), but have **Eternal Life**! (John 3:16) God loved you so much that

He gave Jesus to die in your place, to take the punishment that you deserve for your sins.—And all you have to do is believe and receive Him!

Jesus promised that if you open up your heart, if you ask Him to come in, He will come in. He says, "Behold, I stand at the door of your heart, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him." (Rev. 3:20)

You can receive Jesus **right now** by praying this simple prayer: "Dear Jesus, please forgive me for all my sins. I believe You are the Son of God and that You died for me, and I now invite You into my heart. Jesus, please come in and help me to love others and tell them about You so they may find You too. In Jesus' name I ask, Amen."

If you prayed and meant this prayer, Jesus is now in your heart! And you have Love that you will never lose, that will never let you go, for you are His child forever!—For He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life!" (John 3:36)

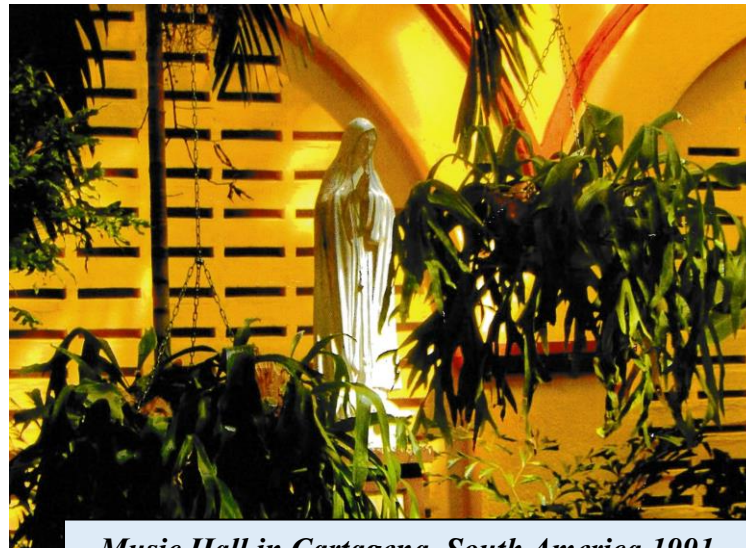
We hope these words of love have helped you to find the love you need to make you happy!—And that others will find happiness through your love too! God bless you & make you a blessing with His Love!—If you'd like to find out more about how His Love can change hearts, read the beautiful story of Jesus in the Gospels of the Bible, and write us today for more information and beautiful color posters at the address below! We love you!

P.O. Box 768
Cusco, Peru.

For more of the beautiful color posters on other themes write today! © 1987-1996 by World Services P.O. Box 3624, 6021, Zurich, Switzerland. Or visit our web site at: <http://www.thefamily.org/love>

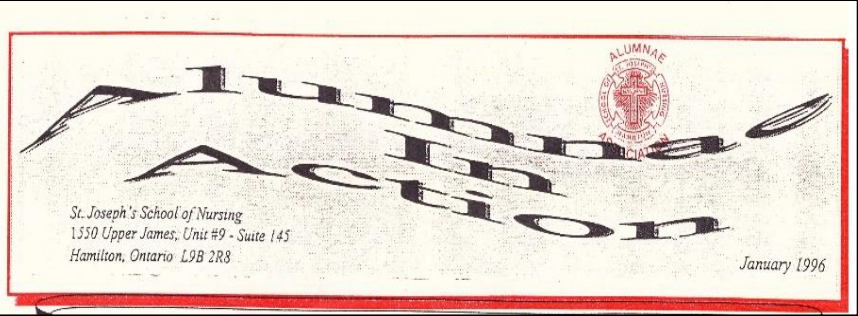
I've given 100 away 1981 - Cruised around South America As true

*Vera Summers Braithwaite & her husband Allan
in Argentina 2018*



Music Hall in Cartagena, South America 1991

Patricia Hardie '55 won the contest in 1966 to create the new title for the Newsletter

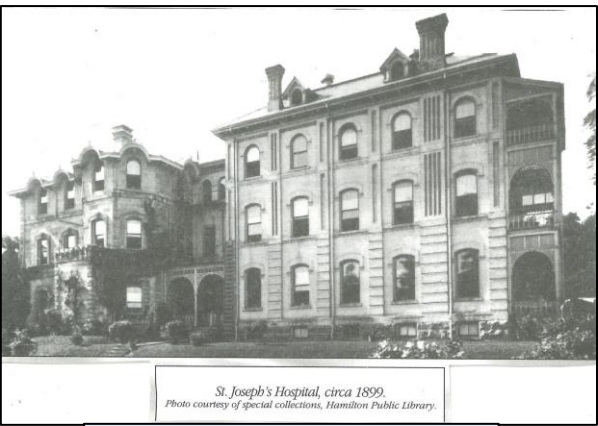


We Asked & You Responded
Thanks for your overwhelming response to the Newsletter Title Contest! The winning suggestions, as chosen by the Alumnae Executive, was created by Pat Lovering (Hardie - Sept'55). Her title is *Alumnae in Action*. Congratulations! It's members like you, who really do make a difference and a contribution! You are part of Alumnae history now! The evidence is on page one!



Alumnae In Action

1996 Newsletter



*St. Joseph's Hospital, circa 1899.
Photo courtesy of special collections, Hamilton Public Library.*

**St. Joseph's Hospital 1894
donated by Vera Summers**



**Reunion Day 2004
Ann Charkaway Lubenietsky , Eva ,
Diane Huffman Lintak,
Vera Summers Braithwaite**



**Kay O'Sullivan McPhee, Connie Siganski Owens
selling 50 / 50 tickets**



**Shirley Anne Wray '55 and Marie Andreychuk Yakimoff '54
retiring from the Alumnae executive after 11 years of service**

The Class of 1955 sixth annual Memorial Mass for deceased classmates and their families will take place at St. Joseph's Hospital Chapel on October 24th at 11:45 am.

1998 Newsletter

Recipient of Bursary from the Class of Sept.'55

As announced in the Fall Newsletter, the Class of Sept. '55 donated \$2017.00 to provide a bursary for a Practical Nursing Graduate who is entering the BScN (RN) Program. It was awarded to Brittany T. from the Mohawk McMaster Institute who wrote: "My heart is filled with warmth and I am very happy, excited and appreciative. I'm honoured to be selected for this life changing award. It has been a dream of mine to be a nurse and this award gives me the opportunity to pursue my dream!"

2021 Newsletter

Where did the time go? 50 years! Remember Undermount Residence? We all started out there. Then as we progressed in our training, we were moved: some to Marygrove, Staff Residence or Oakbank. Remember the tunnel that led to the hospital from Undermount? It was very scary going through it at night alone.

In those days it wasn't unusual for patients to remain in hospital for long periods of time, some for months and even years! Remember Mr. St. Louis on One Medical. He used to call us his "Blue-birds". He said he could hear us coming because of our starched uniforms.

Another was Father Brennan who loved a good joke. He had many pranks pulled on him, French-folded bedsheets etc. He would stand by his door and pretend he was angry and then he would chuckle. Remember Father Campbell? He would ring his bell and hope that a "probie" would answer and complain that they forgot to put salt on his tray. He was on a salt free diet!

Then there was little curly haired Charlene Dodge on "Peds", whom we had to tube feed. We became very fond of her. How could we forget Sister Lioba on Two Surgical who made sure we had all the window shades level, castors turned, bed spreads fan-folded and all the linen counted and in neat piles.

Sister Gabriel on nights! I remember her when three of us working on "Peds" forgot to go down to the office to sign for our time off one night and Sister told us we could forget it and take our time off the next night. Wouldn't you know we were not busy the next night and I paged Sister and asked if we could please take our time off. Sister asked if I thought we deserved it and I, very politely answered "No Sister" and she said "Then don't take it" and hung up! We were so afraid to take it in case Sister made her usual rounds. She never showed all night!

We will never forget dear Sister Bonaventure, our Director of Nurses, may she rest in peace, and Associate Director of Nurses, Sister Virginia, whose class is celebrating 60 years tonight. Congratulations Sister!

So many tales to tell, but all good memories. We formed life-long friendships with our class-mates. Kay Close Varga has been our anchor for 50 years. Kay has maintained our class mailing list and sent it to each of us annually. It's been up to us to notify her of any changes i.e. address, name changes etc. We have kept in touch with each other.

We have many reunions on our own, some just with local classmates, like our Memorial Mass which is held in the Hospital Chapel every October for our deceased classmates. We will always be grateful to the late Kay Byre for starting this tradition. We also have enjoyed mini reunions at Lou Cronkwright Bennett's cottage in September.

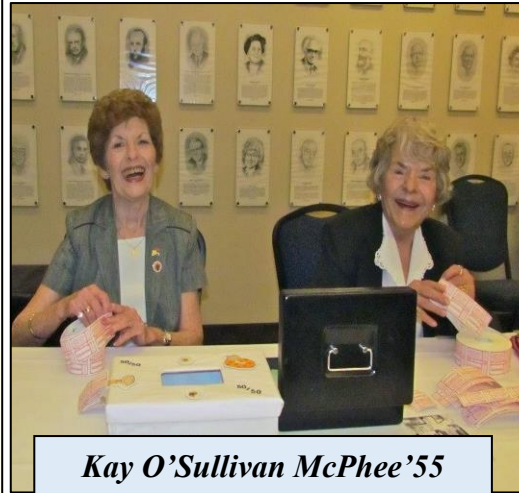
The student nurses today, while they have more technical skills to learn, new diseases such as HIV and SARS etc. to contend with, will never have the same closeness that we had in living in residence for three years. They will never have the thrill of receiving their cap, enjoying their "black band" dance and finally, receiving their graduation pin from St. Joseph's School of Nursing. In fact, they will probably never wear a cap at all!

Three years of living together, working together has created a bond that has become stronger as we grow older. We will always be grateful to the Sisters of St. Joseph for our three years of training. We learned self-discipline, compassion and understanding of the frailties of human life. We are grateful for a career that we are proud to have been in for many years.

Congratulations to all the classes celebrating a special year, especially my classmates of '55!

Please stand and join with me in the Toast to our Alma Mater

Kay McPhee '55 presented \$1000.00 to Sr. Joan O'Sullivan to purchase a bench for the Spiritual Garden at St. Joseph's Healthcare Centre in honour of the Class '55.



*Kay O'Sullivan McPhee '55
Connie Siganski Owens '55*



Shirley Anne Wray '55



*Kathleen O'Sullivan '55
Patricia Michna '64*

Shirley Ann Wray '55 was the recipient of the Diocesan Medal of Honor presented by Bishop Anthony Tonnos last November. Congratulations, Shirley.



Reunion Day 2017

Lola Bott Timms, Louise Cronkwright Bennett, Kay Close Varga, Doreen Hailewyn Hodnott

Remembering Mary Kathleen "Kay" O'Sullivan McPhee '55

by Cheryl Gravelin McQueen '66 - President

After Kay's graduation in 1955, she worked at St. Joe's in many areas including 20 years as Head Nurse in the Emergency Department. She loved her staff, and turn, her staff loved her.

"When I graduated in 1968 and went to work in ER at St. Joe's, Kay McPhee was my first Head Nurse. I was one of many who Kay kindly put under her wing and freely taught us all the finer points of how to become and how to behave as a caring ER nurse. I became Kay's protégé and it all happened as easy as breathing. I believe that through Kay's constant guidance and encouragement many professional opportunities opened up for me in distant and exotic countries, ones that I could never have achieved on my own. I will miss her, her warmth and her smile. Kay may you rest in peace and tranquility." Rose Dzugan'68

Kay was among the founding members of the Emergency Nurses Association of Ontario where she served as the first president. She was awarded the Queen Elizabeth's medal, the Silver Jubilee, in honour of outstanding service to others. She was known as a knowledgeable and compassionate nurse and later finished her career as the Director of Nurses at Idlewyld Manor. Kay was Vice President, President and Past President of St. Joseph's School of Nursing Alumnae Association from 2000-2006 inclusive.

As President of the Alumnae Association she was instrumental in updating our Alumnae Constitution. After her presidency, Kay remained active lending her talents to our Reunion Day Events. She would help with the 50/50 draw along with her dear friend Connie Siganski Owen '55 who recently died in October 2015.

On behalf of the Executive and the entire Alumnae Association, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to Kay's family, friends and her classmates. A great light has been extinguished from our midst.



*"Death leaves a heartache
no one can heal."*

*Love leaves a memory
no one can steal."*

Famous Irish quote

2016 Newsletter

Katherine O'Sullivan '55

1999 – 2000 served as the Newsletter Editor on the Nurses Alumnae Executive

2000 – 2001 served as the Vice President

2001 – 2003 served as President of the Nurses Alumnae
was the 32nd President of the Nurses Alumnae

2003 – 2005 served as Past President



Reunion Day 2011
Shirley Wray '55, Marie Andreychuk Yakimoff '54
with Commemorative Calendar



Marie Andreychuk Yakimoff '54
Doreen Duncan Valente '44

RETIREMENT DINNER

Retirement Dinner for **Doreen Duncan Valente**, Class of '55, is being held on Wednesday, December 20, 1995, at the Hamilton Golf & Country Club. 1800-1900 hrs -Cash Bar.

1900 -"Gourmet" Chicken Dinner. All alumnae and friends of Doreen are invited. If interested, mail a cheque for \$40.00 (you can include extra for a gift) made out to Marie Yakimoff. Her address is the Health Sciences Education Centre, Mohawk College, P.O. Box 2034, Hamilton, ON L8N 3T2. Organizers would like to hear from you by November 15th, if possible.

1995 Newsletter



Reunion Day 2023
Lola Bott Timms, Doreen Hailewyn Hodnett, Louise Cronkwright Bennett, Phyllis Simone Brown

Vera Summers Braithwaite '55

October Newsletter 2025

On May 30, 2025, Kristine and I visited our cherished alumnae member Vera Summers Braithwaite at her niece Laurie's home in Copetown. Vera had travelled from her home in Boca Raton Florida, where she lives with her husband Allen, to attend our ill fated 2025 Reunion Day. No time was wasted however as Vera was kept constantly busy during her two week visit getting together with her many friends and relatives.

Vera was born on December 22, 1933, to Leroy and Irene Summers in a wartime house on Wallace Street near the Hamilton Steel Company. It was a lively household. Vera's father, Leroy, was originally from Norway. He had an ear for music and played the harmonica and violin and the house was full of music and children. Vera would be the eldest of 12!

Sometimes it would be a struggle, for by the time Vera was 10 years old, there were five more mouths to feed and the family was struggling financially. Eventually, unable to pay the rent, they were evicted from their home. Worse yet, Mr. Flatt from the Children's Aid paid a visit. Although Vera hid under the bed, Mr. Flatt pulled her out by her feet and all six children became wards of the Crown. From that time on, Vera and her siblings were placed in a series of foster homes.

The first placement was with a family in Caledonia who seemed more interested in budgies and canaries they raised than the children they fostered. The good thing was her beloved sister Beverly was with her. The next placement lasted 6 months. It was a very lonely time for Vera, as the family left her at home alone all day while they went off to work. This time she was separated from Beverly. But the two sisters always managed to keep in touch with each other. Beverly was lucky this time. She had found herself in a caring home. That Christmas, Vera was one of several foster children inexplicably brought to Hamilton City Hall to wrap presents for the children of staff members, feeling envious by what they saw. However they themselves were not given any gifts.

It was about this time that Vera became very ill and was admitted to hospital with a strangulated hernia requiring a bowel resection. She recalls that it was Mary Lepinskie who started her IV. Vera then lived in a foster home in Winona on Lake Ontario and the last foster home was a large 21 room stone farm house in Troy where all six of the older children lived. The family was wealthy and had children of their own, but the foster children were essentially treated like "slaves". They were required to do farm chores such as milking cows, messing out stalls and help with haying. One of the more onerous jobs was to dig up rocks for a laneway. If they had any spare time, they were tasked by the Felician Nuns to help with chores such as shovelling snow. School was an over 10km walk or bike ride to a one room school house in Sheffield. It was hard strenuous living with little joy. So at 13 years of age, Vera ran away, only to be returned. There was after all little choice!

Vera was with this family for over 5 years. When she was 18, perhaps the most wonderful decision was made that she would go to nursing school. In September, the family drove Vera first to the General Hospital but their classes were full. St Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing was still accepting students.



Vera Summers



Mary Ann Dubois

So began a wonderful new chapter in Vera's life. She loved it! The Sisters thought highly of her and she excelled. After graduation in 1955, Sister Bonaventure wanted Vera to work on Pediatrics. Vera became a dedicated proficient and compassionate children's nurse. She received special training at the Mountain Sanatorium (Chedoke Hospital) where many Inuit children were receiving treatment for Tuberculosis. In 1961, she was sent to Washington DC Children's Hospital (now Children's National) for post graduate studies for childhood leukemia. Vera loved working on Pediatrics. One of her best skills was starting IV's and taking blood on even the tiniest patient...much valued on a Paediatric ward. Vera embraced life fully. Though busy with work and continuing education, she became an avid downhill skier, becoming known to all as the "Blue Bomber". She and her roommate, Ann Donovan, would take the train to Jay Peak in Vermont on their days off and had a wonderful trip to Austria to ski the Alps.

Then there was Allen. Vera had known Allen since 1951 and had remained friends with him. One day in 1969, Allen marched up to Vera's door on Bay Street and asked everyone to leave. He proposed to her then and there and on August 22 they married in the small stone church at 271 Wilson Street in Ancaster. When in Hamilton Allen worked at International Harvester. But soon after their wedding, the couple moved to Fort Lauderdale in Florida, where Allen had been living off and on. In Fort Lauderdale, Vera became manager of several florist shops, tasked with hiring, doing timesheets, payroll etc. As if that was not enough, she became a jack of all trades, trimming hedges, gardening and became an unofficial health care consultant, advisor and care giver for her neighbours in need. One of her neighbours, Aileen Ruby, lived to be 107 and a 1/2 under Vera's watchful eye.

In 1981, Vera and Allen moved from Fort Lauderdale to Boca Raton. Three years ago, while shopping in downtown Boca Raton, she was severely injured when she was struck and run over by an SUV. Doctors did not hold out much hope for her recovery as the injuries to both her legs were significant. They did not know Vera! The injury to her right leg has never fully healed and continues to require treatment. It is a hindrance but it does not stop Vera.

Vera not only overcame an extremely difficult and challenging childhood, she excelled in all her endeavours and is able to say that all of her family thrived and prospered in their chosen careers and

family life. She is also proud to point out that eight of her family members also chose nursing as their profession.

Vera has maintained her Canadian Citizenship and she regularly visits family and friends in Canada. Arriving in Canada for Reunion Day 2025, she was disappointed when it was suddenly cancelled. But she was still able to visit with family and more importantly, her beloved brother Daniel, who tragically and unexpectedly passed away two days later.

Kristine and I were delighted that we had the opportunity to visit with lovely, spirited Vera during her visit here and we thank her for telling her story.



Vera Summers Braithwaite '55 (L) visiting with Maryanne Dubois Graham '55



Vera with Maryanne, Colleen (Maryanne's daughter) and Laurie (Vera's niece)

Vera Summers Braithwaite travelled from Boca Raton Florida for the Reunion Day Celebrations, May 22, 2025. The Reunion was cancelled. She spent time visiting with her classmate, Mary Ann Dubois Graham.

Lola Bott Timms Class of 1955

written by Janny Bruyn '69

On March 8th, I spoke with Lola from her home in Fonthill. I was immediately struck by her youthful voice belying her soon to be 92 years of age. She was and is a force to be reckoned with!

Born on March 22, 1932 to Thomas Wesley and Addie Bott, she was the eldest of 2 daughters. Her childhood years were "Idyllic", growing up along the banks of the Pottawatami River. Her father was described as a "soft touch" and her mother the "tough one" In 1940, the family moved to Allendale, near Barrie, where Thomas ran the farmer's Co-op, selling farm equipment, milking machines, grain and such. But as World War II raged, there was a pressing need for armament production and Thomas became a tool and die maker for Massey Harris, producing tractors, tanks and self propelled artillery vehicles for the military. The family relocated to Echo Place, a small community near the Massey Harris plant in Brantford and directly across from the army camp. Lola loved living here. Indeed she described 'loving' virtually every phase of her life.

At 20 years of age, Lola left home to enrol at St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Hamilton. She loved it, although she said she was always getting into some kind of hijinks or trouble...like the time she was caught smoking in her room. Sister Virginia marched "Miss Bott" down to Sister Bonaventure's office, but after speaking sharply to Lola, the conversation somehow turned into a discussion of how best to redecorate the aging and tired Undermount building. That was followed by a note to see Father O'Brien for a tongue lashing. Father shook his head and declared that Lola must be converting to Catholicism judging by the things she managed to get away with. Despite her sometimes troublesome nature and maybe because of it, Lola was voted Class President!



In October of 1957, after a meeting at the Brantford Y to recruit general interest speakers, a handsome young man walked in and caught Lola's eye. Sidney George Timms was a Brit, in Canada for a short stay. Needless to say, Lola and Canada captured his heart and he stayed! They began dating and by February were engaged and married on September 6, 1958. Because of the turmoil in Britain during the war, Sid had missed high school almost entirely, but Lola cherished Sid's broad scope of knowledge. The YMCA talked Sid into going to university as he needed a degree to continue on working for the Y and Lola agreed. He was accepted at Sir George William College (later called Concordia University) and the couple moved to Montreal. Lola was able to get a position nursing with the VON. At the end of the school semester in May, they bought one way tickets to England and from May to October, they hiked and hitchhiked throughout England and Europe. In the Netherlands they found themselves welcomed with open arms and treated to free lunches and haircuts! The Dutch had not forgotten their liberation by the Canadian Armed Forces.

Sid received confirmation that he had been accepted at McMaster University in the Honors Geography Program. So in October they came home to Hamilton and Lola began working at the Hamilton VON. After graduation, Sid's first teaching position was at Caledonia High School, where co-incidentally he taught Andre Scholten, my twin brother. Andre fondly remembered Mr. Timms as "an amazing Geography teacher, nice guy and a lot of fun!"

Settling into family life, they raised two daughters and in 1968, bought a stone house in Walkerton, which had been part of a larger estate. The severed farm land was owned by four delightful bachelor farmers who grew vegetables and raised Hereford cattle on 160 acres. Lola loved it there

and the children thrived and had a blast roaming the property and playing in the barn. Lola and Sid landscaped the yard, building flower beds and rock gardens.

In the late 80's, Sid took early retirement and now Lola and Sid could travel in earnest. And travel they did! First on their own, far and wide, including South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. But perhaps the most memorable was an around the world plane trip with a group of 120 teachers. They managed to charter a plane and an amazing, wonderful pilot and crew. The journey began in Aruba, then went on to Chile, Easter Island and Hong Kong. They touched down on some "sketchy" airports but it was fantastic!

After Sid's passing in 2007, Lola moved to Fonthill, to be closer to family. She remains active, engaged and delightfully opinionated. She still drives herself to her weekly hair appointments and enjoys rug hooking, which she calls "painting with wool". She also proudly (and unapologetically) refuses to set foot in the U.S. since "that man" was elected - her sense of humour and convictions as sharp as ever!

Through every chapter, Lola has embraced life with wit, resilience and a touch of rebellion. As her yearbook once said, "Whatever Lola wants, Lola gets".

Thank you for sharing a delightful glimpse into a fascinating life and sharing it with our Alumnae as the Class of 1955 celebrates their 70th Anniversary on Reunion Day 2025!



2025 Newsletter

Lola shared some additional memories with us.

The class of 1955 lived in Undermount for the entire 3 years. Her roommate was Isabella Donnelly. When going out they were required to wear gloves. They were not allowed to wear slacks. However, she told us they would wear a kilt with slacks underneath, pulled up. Each graduate was given a number of "Calling Cards". Their name was engraved on each card.

Material in this presentation was gathered from several sources:

-Vox Omnium Yearbook 1955

-newspaper articles in the Hamilton Spectator

-Alumnae Minutes & articles from the archives at the Motherhouse

-photos from reunion day celebrations and Alumnae Newsletters.

Special thanks to

*Lola Bott Timms, Maryanne Dubois Graham & Vera Summers Braithwaite
for sharing their stories, providing their photos & for identifying their classmates.*

My apologies for any errors or omissions.

Connie Beamer Prowse '69 Archive Coordinator S.J.S.N.A.A.