



REUNION DAY 2024

CLASS of 1944

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

GRADUATION May 17, 1944



GRADUATION May 17, 1944

Left to right: Velva Metcalfe Gertrude Hazelton Alice Hyslop Anne Lewkoski Isobel Laing Margaret Smylski Betty Ball Joyce Ball Gerarda Clarke
Regetta Fisher Catherine McDonald Marian Wheeler Elsie Born Aileen McNamara Catherine Boyle Beverly Birrell Margaret Peart Joyce Thornton
Helen McCombs Edith Lynch Margaret Cook Jean Hodgins Mary Rampado Anna Quincey Betty Brown Edith Brown Evelyn Holterman
Barbara Poulin Mary Eileen Grace Gwen Smidbauer

Absent from photo: Sister Rita Paul Fischer

Gertrude Hazelton (Sister Margaret Ann Hazelton)



Class of 1944

"Probies" Class of 1944 with Sister Eileen



GRADUATION Wednesday May 17, 1944

GRADUATES 1944

*Elizabeth Ball
Joyce Ball
Beverly Birrell
Elsie Born
Catherine Boyle
Edith Brown
Margaret Betty Brown
Gerarda Clark
Margaret Cook
Regetta Fisher
Mary Eileen Grace
Gertrude Hazelton
Jean Hodgins
Evelyn Holterman
Alice Hyslop
Isobel Laing
Ann Lewhoski
Edith Lynch '52
Helen McCombs
Catherine McDonald
Aileen McNamara
Velva Metcalfe
Barbara Poulin
Margaret Peart
Anna Quinsey
Mary Rampado
Guinevere Schmidbauer
Margaret Smylski
Joyce Thorton
Marion Wheeler
Sister Rita Paul Fischer*



Joyce Thornton '44



Dorothy Duncan '45 Angela Amadio '45

*Note on back of picture
"This is Sister Cordula's operating room staff.
Your sister has her glasses on"*



*Left to right
#1. Elsie Alice Marion Helen Aileen Carmel
Born '44 Hyslop '44 Wheeler '44 McCombs '44 McNamara '44 Steffler '43*



Ann Lewhoski'44 Mary Eileen Grace'44 Paulin'44



*M. Thomas Margaret Leonard '45 Doris Halverson '45
Gerarda Clark '44 Muriel Black '43 Loreen Leatherdale'43
Jean Hodgins'44
Working in the O.R.*



Dorothy Duncan'45 Mary Haley'42



*Beverly Birrell'44
In front of "C" building*



Agnes Morrow'43 Helen Montague'43 Betty Martin'43 Ilene Faulkner'43 Jean Hodgins'44 Carmel Steffler'43



*1942 Staff in Casa Maria
Alice Lindsay'41 Betty Brown'44*



*Front: Ruth deMontmorency'45 Marion Ionson'45 Frances O'Brien'41 Katherine Dashner'45
Back: Helen King Marcellus'42 Loreen Leatherdale '43 Catherine Boyle'44*

Graduating Exercises

St. Joseph's Hospital
School of Nursing

Nurses' Residence
"Undermount"

3 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17th

1944

Garden Tea

A delightful reception and garden tea followed the graduation exercises of the St. Joseph's School of Nursing yesterday afternoon, when parents and friends were greeted personally by His Excellency, Most Rev. J. F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton; Mgr. G. L. Cassidy, Dean of Hamilton; Dr. W. P. Downes, chairman of hospital medical staff, and Rev. Sister Mary Grace, superintendent of nurses. In the evening, the students' dance was an enjoyable event held in the nurses' residence.

New Graduates Face Significant Changes

Impressive Ceremonies at Graduation of St. Joseph's Nurses—Dr. H. J. Porter Foresees More Nursing in Homes—Tribute Paid Rev. Sister Mary Grace

NURSES graduating in these days are graduating into an era of unique significance to the nursing profession in view of the fact that an immense amount of consideration is being given to plans for the future health of the nation, declared Rev. F. J. Brennan, S.L.T., chaplain of the Ontario Conference of the Catholic Hospital Association for the United States and Canada and vice-president of St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ont., during his address to the graduating class of St. Joseph's School of Nursing yesterday afternoon at Undermount.

Canada's Position

While Rev. Father Brennan pointed out that Canada at present is vastly in arrears in the health field, he believed that she would be, in post-war years, in a particularly advantageous position among the nations of the world to remedy this situation. "We shall be better able to venture out into these social schemes than the nations which are suffering the great destruction of war," he said. The fact that schemes for social security are being given much study at the present time, he felt, gave assurance that whatever is embarked upon in the future will have been thoroughly tested as to its soundness.

The speaker emphasized the importance of education, not as an end in itself, but as enabling the individual to achieve a development of his mental and spiritual powers which will increase his own happiness in this life, contribute more to human happiness in general, and lead men to Almighty God. He reminded those graduating of the value and thoroughness of the nurse's education. He urged them both to a determination to fit themselves further for more skilled fields of health service, and to widen their vision beyond the personal to being vitally interested in the progress of the organization with which they may work.

Civic Greetings

His Worship, Mayor Samuel Lawrence, congratulated the class and told of the great need of graduate nurses, not only in this city but throughout the province and Dominion, as well as in the military services. He expressed the hope that many of those graduating might choose to serve in this city, or, at least, in this province.

Extending congratulations on behalf of the Hamilton Academy of Medicine, Dr. H. J. Porter, its president, also expressed appreciation for the understanding and skilled leadership given to the training of nurses by Rev. Sister Mary Grace, superintendent of the Nursing School. He described the arduous term of training and felt gratified that in spite of the severe shortage of nurses, the standard of training had not been lowered.

Dr. Porter foresaw in the near future a reversal of the present tendency towards hospitalized medical treatment, when, with possible changes in medical services, the nursing of the future would be done more in the home.

Bishop Speaks

The presentation of diplomas was made by His Excellency Most Rev. Joseph F. Ryan, D.D., Bishop of Hamilton, while Rev. Sister Mary Grace pinned on each graduate's pin. In speaking briefly, His Excellency congratulated the young women graduating, their parents and the nurses of St. Joseph's. He urged each graduating nurse to adhere to the teachings of the school and the medical knowledge gained, and impressed them with the honour and high privilege that is theirs to minister to humanity and engage in Christ-like activity. He wished them God's blessing in all their endeavours.

Dr. W. P. Downes, chairman of the hospital staff, presided, and welcomed the guests of honour, relatives and friends who filled the auditorium. A number of the clergy were among those present. Prize winners were presented with their awards, as previously reported in these columns, as were also the names of the graduating class.

Graduation ceremonies were held in Undermount Nurses Residence.

There were 31 graduates in the class of 1944.

Dr Downes chairman of staff presided.

Rev. F. J. Brennan chaplain of the Ontario Conference of the Catholic Hospital association for the United States and Canada and vice-president of St Peter's Seminary in London Ont. Gave an address to the graduating class.

He emphasized the importance of education

Mayor Samuel Lawrence congratulated the graduates.

Dr H. J. Porter president of the Hamilton Academy of Medicine expressed appreciation for the understanding and skilled leadership given to the training of nurses by Rev. Sister Mary Grace superintendent of the nursing school.

His Excellency Most Rev. Joseph Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton presented diplomas to the graduates and Sister Mary Grace pinned on each graduates pin.

A reception and garden tea followed the graduation ceremonies.

In the evening the graduation dance was held in Undermount Nurses Residence.



Helen Grighmire '45 Frances O'Brien '41 Gerarda Clark '44
Working in the O.R.



Catherine Dashner '45 Catherine Boyle '44 Grace Gilbert '45
Working in the O.R.



Regetta Fisher '44



Regetta Fisher '44

*Regetta Fisher entered St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in 1941.
She won the Maternity and Obstetrics Award and graduated May 17, 1944.*

*Following graduation, Regetta returned to Niagara Falls and began working with her brother in January 1945.
Dr. Samuel Fisher was a prominent physician and surgeon.
They worked together at the Fisher Clinic for thirty years until their retirement in 1975.*



*Graduation Pin
Donated by Regetta Fisher '44*



Regetta Fisher '44



Edith Brown '44



Edith Brown Wright '44



Edith Brown Wright '44

*Edith passed away peacefully, on February 26, 2021 in her 99th year.
Born in St. George's, Bermuda in 1922, Edith eventually made her way to Hamilton, Ontario via Ellis Island, New York.
Edith trained as a Registered Nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton.*

*Edith met the love of her life and she and Howard married shortly thereafter. Together with Howard, Edith raised four wonderful children.
Edith and Howard enjoyed family camping, road trips and gardening. Edith was an avid reader and scrabble player.
In retirement, Edith and Howard travelled the world and amassed a lifetime of memories, including many return trips to her dear island home.
Edith was the last surviving member of her 1944 graduating class.*



Class of 1944

*Note on back of picture
 "could you forget Boyle & Farrell having the flu—I can't"
 Picture taken the morning after*



*Joyce Jean Velva
 Thornton '44 Hodgins '44 Metcalfe '44
 "Twas a hard night"
 Picture taken in 1942*

<i>Programme</i>		
Orchestra	- - - - -	O Canada
Chairman		
W. P. Downes, B.A., M.D.C.M.	-	Chairman of Staff
Presentation of Diplomas and Pins by		
HIS EXCELLENCY		
MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F. RYAN, D.D.		
Addresses to Graduating Class		
HIS WORSHIP		
MAYOR LAWRENCE		
H. J. PORTER, M.D.		
President of Hamilton Academy of Medicine		
REV. F. J. BRENNAN, S.T.L.		
Chaplain of the Ontario Conference		
of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States		
and Canada		
HIS EXCELLENCY		
MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F. RYAN, D.D.		
Presentation of Prizes		



*Sister St Albin
 Joyce Ball '44*



Catherine Boyle '44 Dr Martin Bishop Ryan

AN ODE TO ST. JOS'

Best wishes from the class of '44
But new grads, there are no more
So many changes, not all of them good
But our days at St. Jos time hath withstood

How frightened we were in those first days
So many new faces and learning their ways
Up with the birds for roll call at 6:20
When think of those days, I'm glad to be seventy!

The life of a probie sure wasn't a bore
We ran everyday and our feet were so sore!
"Yes Sister", "No Sister", on went the refrain
Then back to the classroom - we daren't complain

And then the excitement of getting our caps
And off to the wards where we needed maps
Remember the terror if somebody died?
To the morgue with Billy - we usually cried.

B Floor, C Floor and back to 100
Days, nights or relief; our days were all numbered.
But Saturday night, when we were free at last
That clock in the residence always was fast!

And then came the time when we got our black bands
But keeping the thing seemed out of our hands
If you don't get that lipstick off your face
You're bound to run into Sister Mary Grace!

When things were so bad we were ready to scream
Out of the wood work popped Sister Eileen
Then feed up with bookwork and especially the broom
Down we would trundle to the Rumpus Room

Our spell in the OR was a real education
Sister Cordulla and Polano were in keen competition!
The walk over to CASA was fraught with showers
Determined it seem, to increase patient's flowers.

How we looked forward to our stint in Detroit
With eight hour shifts there was nothing to it
And then Public Health which signaled the way
Our efforts would earn us \$3.00 a day!

Then came the day we had looked forward to

But facing the world now seemed taboo
No Willy P. Downes, no Fink, no Ford
The days were finished when we slugged for our board.

So many people affected our lives
We still remember, even as wives
And fifty years later we fondly remain
Bound together in a common refrain

Despite all the bitching we did through the years
The lessons we learned far outweighed all our fears
With those we have lost we say through our tears
To our Alma Mater - We extend three cheers!

*Betty Ball McLeod '44 recited a poem that she had written
to commemorate that same anniversary*



Aileen McNamara '44



AILEEN MORRISON (MCNAMARA '44)



Aileen McNamara Morrison '44 Jean Morrow Martin '42

SEPTEMBER 15, 1945

Nurses Celebrate First Anniversary In Unique Way

The September 1944 class of St. Joseph's School of Nursing, Hamilton, celebrated its anniversary in a way unique and exciting. While many young people are worried in their pursuit of pleasure in ultra-modern amusements these students devise ways, out of the ordinary and singularly refreshing and delightful. To make the event gay and joyous a ride on a load of hay was decided upon. Promptly at seven o'clock, a wagon drew up at "Undermount," filled with sweet smelling hay and drawn by stalwart, prancing horses. A gay group, with all the exuberance of youth, was quickly and comfortably seated and they started off for an excitingly gay ride to a lovely spot near Limeridge road. Here, weiners, doughnuts and soft drinks were fully enjoyed. Youthful voices sang old-time favorites and those who knew but little of hay, horses, ploughed fields, wide open spaces, were enthusiastic in expressing their enjoyment. Late leave gave ample time for the full enjoyment of the beautiful surroundings, the star-lit sky and fresh fragrant air.

Summer amusements are now over and the Training School is active in arranging a project to raise funds for the furnishing of a semi-private room in the new hospital.

A penny sale will be held in October. There will be a draw for some five useful articles. Amusements are expected to add to the interest of the occasion and the nurses are looking forward to an exciting evening.

*Class of 1944
Celebrated their 1st Anniversary
by going on a hayride.*

1949 - 1950 Aileen McNamara '44 served on the Alumnae Executive as a member of the Executive Committee

Programme

- Prize for General Proficiency
Given by L. L. Playfair, M.D., F.R.C.S. (E.)
Presented by Mrs. Playfair. MISS MARGARET SMYLSKI
- Prize for Efficiency in Bedside Nursing
Given by F. Woodhall, M.B.
Presented by Mrs. Woodhall. MISS MARGARET B. BROWN
- Prize for Surgical Nursing and Examination
Given by John R. Parry, B.A., M.B., F.R.C.S. (C.)
Presented by Miss Rosa Parry. MISS ALICE HYSLOP
- Prize for Medical Nursing and Examination
Given by William Downes, B.A., M.D.C.M.
Presented by Mrs. Downes. MISS JOYCE THORNTON
- Prize for Public Health Nursing
Given in memory of the late Dr. James Roberts.
Presented by Mrs. Roberts. MISS ELIZABETH BALL
- Prize for Professional Ethics
Given by H. J. Sullivan, M.D.C.M.
Presented by Mrs. Sullivan. MISS JOYCE THORNTON
- Prize for Nursing and Examination in Preventive Medicine
Given by A. C. Martin, M.B.
Presented by Miss Margaret M. Martin. MISS ELIZABETH BALL
- Prize for Obstetrical Nursing and Examination
Given by A. A. Cauley, M.D.C.M.
Presented by Mrs. Cauley. MISS REGATTA FISHER
- Prize for Gynecological Nursing and Examination
Given by William Jamieson, M.D.C.M.
Presented by Mrs. Jamieson. MISS MARY RAMPADO
- Prize for Examination and Nursing in Diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat
Given by W. L. Crewson, M.D.C.M., and H. W. Whytock, M.B., F.R.C.S. (E.)
Presented by Mrs. Whytock. MISS MARGARET SMYLSKI
- Prize for Anatomy and Physiology
Given by W. A. Weaver, M.D.C.M., and R. J. Fraser, M.D.
Presented by Mrs. Weaver. MISS MARGARET PEART
- Prize for Clinical Pathology
Given by John Tilden, M.D.
Presented by Mrs. John Balfe. MISS MARY RAMPADO

GOD SAVE THE KING



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*Class of 1944
Celebrated their 1st Anniversary
by going on a hayride.*

PRIZE WINNERS

TOP ROW left to right

Regetta Fisher
Joyce Thornton
Joyce Thornton
Mary Rampado
Mary Rampado
Betty Ball
Betty Ball

obstetrical nursing and examination
medical nursing and examination
professional ethics
gynecological nursing and examination
clinical pathology
nursing and examination in preventive medicine
public health nursing

BOTTOM ROW left to right

Margaret Peart
Margaret Symlski
Margaret Symlski
Alice Hyslop
Betty Brown

anatomy and physiology
general proficiency
examination and nursing in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat
surgical nursing and examination
efficiency in bedside nursing

Miss Margaret Peart graduated from St. Joseph's School of Nursing in 1944. After she completed post graduate studies in nursing education at the University of Toronto in 1946, Miss Peart returned to her alma mater to teach for two years.

Between 1948 and 1970, she held a series of administrative positions with the Canadian Red Cross Society, the school of nursing in Belleville, the Doctor's Hospital in Toronto and the Registered Nursing Association of Ontario.

In 1970, she again returned to St. Joseph's and served as Assistant Director of Nursing, Associate Director of Nursing and Director of Nursing. Miss Peart has been an eyewitness to the evolution of the nursing profession throughout her distinguished career. Nursing has evolved, she says, into a credible profession.

"Since my time as a student in Undermount, I have seen St. Joseph's Hospital expand and grow into the marvellous facility we have today. Changes in nursing service and education have kept pace with the changes in the health care delivery system and technology," she said. "Today we have a greater emphasis on the psycho-social aspect of care. The patient and the patient's family are much more involved in the patient's care now."

In September, 1989, Miss Peart retired from St. Joseph's as Assistant Executive Director, Nursing, a position she held for three years. †



Miss Margaret L. Peart

Margaret Peart '44

Director of Nursing 1970



Sister M. Celestine (left), who has been director of nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital since 1969, has been appointed director of St. Joseph's School of Nursing. Miss Margaret Louise Peart of Burlington (right) will succeed Sister Celestine as director of nursing at the hospital. Both appointments are effective tomorrow.

Sister Joan O'Sullivan '43

Margaret Peart '44



1994 Thank you card sent by Margaret Peart '44 following their 50th Reunion

Dear Karen
 We thank the Alumnae Executive and yourself for making our 50th Class Reunion so lovely.
 Your assistance was appreciated very much. The Dinner was delicious and the flowers beautiful.
 You are to be congratulated for such a happy event.
 Sincerely
 Margaret Peart - Class '44
 Jan 19/94

1947 - 1948 Margaret Peart '44 served on the Alumnae Executive as Vice President



Mary Haley '42, Marg Peart '44



Elspeth Hill '49, Nancy Kozakewich '49, Mary Sullivan '49, Margaret Peart '44



*Sister Rita Fischer
was a graduate in the class of 1944*



*Sister Margaret Ann Hazelton
was a graduate in the class of 1944*

*She entered Eternal Life October 16, 2021
in the 77th year of her religious life.*



SISTERS *of* ST. JOSEPH *of* TORONTO

We ask you to pray with us
in thanksgiving for the life and love of



Sister Margaret Ann Hazelton, CSJ

who in the 77th year of her religious life,
entered eternal life on
Saturday, October 16, 2021

There will be a private Mass of Christian Burial on
Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 10 A.M.
followed by a private Interment at
Holy Cross Cemetery, Thornhill.