



**REUNION DAY 2021**

**CLASS OF 1946**

**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS**



left to right

GRADUATION May 22, 1946

Donna Devine Rosemary Walsh Jean Stringer Florence Schill Winnifred Ayres Agnes McCawill Helen Madej Edith Massacre Edith Franklin  
 Jean Mitchell Marie Clayton Mary Mercer Vera Rawson Olive Mummery Helen Kubilis Rosemary Ruffing Jean Laing Frances Ruffing  
 Mary Gannon Dorothy Gleed Margaret Haines Rita Karnes

*Graduation Exercise was held in the Auditorium of Cathedral of Christ the King. There were 22 graduates in the class of 1946. Dr Downes presided over the celebration. A profusion of flowers decorated the platform where the nurses were seated and music for the occasion was played by 3 undergraduate nurses.*

*Members of the 1947 graduating class preceded the graduates in the impressive march into the auditorium and were seated at the sides. Bishop Ryan presented the diplomas to each of the graduates and Sister Ursula, superintendent of nurses, pinned the graduation pin on each nurse.*

*Dr Downes announced that arrangements have now been made by the School of Nursing to participate in the academic and special courses at McMaster University. He said this would enable nurses to study for their master's degree at the same time as carrying on their nursing training. Hon. Russell T. Kelley, Ontario Minister of Public Health addressed the 1946 graduating class.*

*Dr J. H. Holbrook, former head of the Mountain Sanatorium spoke on behalf of the doctors of the city.*

*"This year", he said, "is perhaps the most noteworthy one in the history of nursing for it marks a turning point following the war and the steps now being taken to provide social security. He pointed out that the latter's administration would present a big field for nurses and that the medical advances of the war had necessitated the nursing profession becoming a highly specialized one.*

*St Joseph Hospital Alumnae held the dance in honour of the 1946 graduating class in the Crystal Ballroom at the Royal Connaught Hotel.*

**FRANCES RUFFING '46**

*Frances was a graduate of the class of 1946 along with her identical twin sister Rosemary. As students they were always placed on different shifts. Upon graduation, she worked at St. Joseph's in Emergency where every shift was staffed with one RN and one student.*

*In 1947, she entered St. Joseph's Convent for a brief time.*

*She decided to return to St. Joseph's as Head Nurse of the nursery at Casa Maria.*

*In 1951 she moved back to Emergency.*

*Father Thomas Brennan, Director of Catholic Charities for the Hamilton Diocese,*

*Asked her to work for them, as their Social Worker had left.*

*The Catholic Welfare Bureau in Canada and the US were opening up homes for WWII orphans from Europe and Ontario was the only place in Canada doing this.*

*The children were picked up from boats in Montreal and Quebec City and taken to a historic home in Ancaster where nuns from the West had opened a boarding school and they had rooms available. The need for adoptive parents was publicized in church bulletins and Frances' job was to travel by train and then by car to interview the applicants to determine their suitability. She insisted that brothers and sisters remain together. She travelled all over Ontario with many trips to Northern Ontario and to the Ottawa Valley. She took the children to their new homes as well.*

*Frances did this for about 5 years.*

*Frances then returned to St. Joseph's and was in charge in the two nurseries. Later she went on to be in charge of St. Martin's Manor, a home for unwed mothers on Mohawk Road West; took a little time off and then on to work at a home for the aged. After a rewarding career where she did so much for so many, she retired at age 65.*

*Frances served as the treasurer for the Nurses Alumnae from 1998 – 2004*

*She then worked as Archive Coordinator from 2004 – 2005.*

**1946 FIRST TWINS TO GRADUATE  
FRANCES AND ROSEMARY RUFFING**



*Frances and Rosemary Ruffing*



*Frances and Rosemary Ruffing*



*Dorothy Gleed Marshall '46 researched each graduate personally with husbands, relatives and nursing homes. She identified class graduation photos from St. Joseph's School of Nursing for lamination and preservation.*

*Dorothy Gleed '46*



*Casa Maria Nursery  
Picture donated by Frances Ruffing '46*

*Dorothy Gleed was a graduate in the class of 1946.*

*Dorothy served in the Nurses Alumnae as Recording Secretary from 1992 – 1995  
She became the Vice-President from 1995 – 1997*

*Dorothy was the 31<sup>st</sup> president of S.J.S.N.A.A.  
She was president of the alumnae from 1997 – 2001*

*In 1998 a motion was passed by the executive committee to spend up to \$3,300.00 to preserve graduation photos. The project involved identifying each person in the pictures. Dorothy Gleed Marshall class of 1946, researched each graduate personally, with husbands relatives and nursing homes. She identified class graduation photos from St Joseph's School of Nursing for lamination and preservation.*

## Student Nurses Aid St. Joseph's Hospital

The students of St. Joseph's School of Nursing are receiving congratulations from the staff and from all their friends who are interested in the hospital for the success of the penny sale which was held on Friday, Nov. 15. For many weeks the students had worked assiduously to make the event a financial success, each one taking an active part in obtaining articles and in selling chances for their articles. The young ladies, who are studying to develop personality for the purpose of alleviating the sufferings of the sick, possessed a charm in winning the smiling acquiescence of all whom they approached.

The results are most gratifying to all who gave their time and effort to attain the remarkable success of the undertaking. The many beautiful gifts were artistically arranged. The large number present crowded the rooms and enjoyed the presentation of the various gifts. The following articles were among the outstanding draws: A hand-carved coffee table, presented by Mrs. G. E. Wilson, Dalewood Crescent, Hamilton, and won by Mrs. Wallace, Westworth St.; Irish lace tablecloth, won by Mrs. George Graham, Burlington; a breakfast set of dishes, donated by St. Joseph's Hospital and won by Dr. Bates, Dundas; table lamp won by J. Gillilan, Charlton avenue, Hamilton; Cory coffee maker, donated by St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary, and won by Mrs. Spearman, Hamilton.

The penny sale of 1945 realized \$1100. This year the result was \$1500. Five hundred dollars was given to the Hospital last year for the purpose of partly equipping a semi-private room for the

nurses, in the new hospital.

**ENJOYABLE CONCERT**  
The social committee of the Nursing School arranged a concert which took place on Monday, Nov. 25. An enjoyable program of music, song and clever stunts was presented by the second year students. The purpose of the concert was the presentation of the \$2100 which the nurses had raised for the equipment of the new hospital. Miss Betty Holmes, president of the undergraduate alumnae, presented the cheque. Sister St. Edward, superior of the Hospital, in accepting the generous gift, thanked the young ladies for their splendid work and the complete success their efforts had attained, congratulating them on their fine spirit of co-operation and upon the unique success, the result of their many sacrifices and their excellent work.



**Rosemary Ruffing '46**  
**Helen Kubilis '46**

**Penny sale was held and raised \$1,500.**  
**Social Committee of the Nursing School put on a concert, raising \$2,100.**  
**The funds were donated for the purchase of new equipment for the new hospital opening in 1947.**



**Standing Left to right:**

**Class of 1945 and 1946**

**Jean Laing '46, Rosemary Ruffing '46 Agnes McCawill '46 Jean Mitchell '46 Dorothy Glead '46**  
**Shirley Kitchen '45 Nita Morrow '45 Jean Hayes '45, Edith Franklin '46 Vivian Biggar '45**  
**Ruth Chadwick '45 Marion Ionson '45 Lorraine Stewart '45**

**Kneeling Left to Right: Rosemary Walsh '46 Grace Leitch '45**



**"Probies" class of 1946**  
**Sister Eileen referred to them as the "Dumb Dozen"**



**Night shift 1946**

GRADUATION MAY 22, 1946

# Graduating Exercises

St. Joseph's Hospital  
School of Nursing

Auditorium  
Cathedral of Christ the King  
King St. West

3 p.m. D.S.T.

Wednesday, May 22nd

1946

## Programme

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

DR. J. H. HOLBROOK

Former Medical Superintendent Hamilton Sanatorium

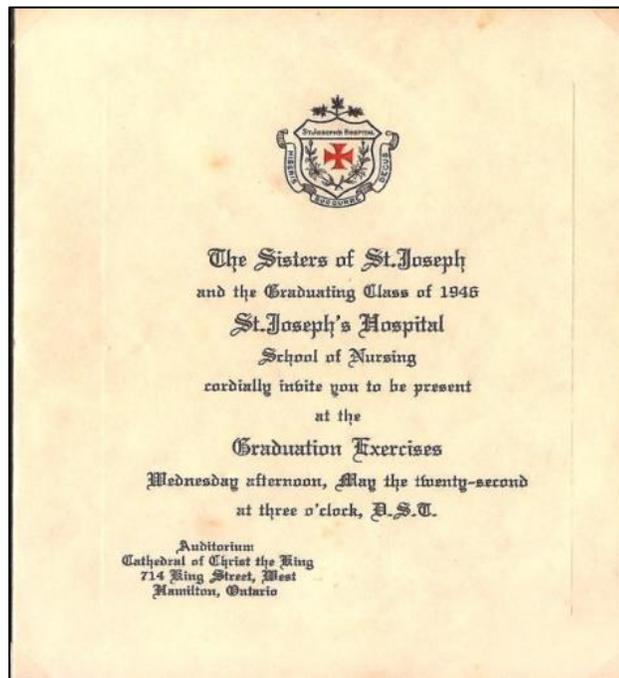
HONOURABLE RUSSELL T. KELLEY

Minister of Health

HIS EXCELLENCY

MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F. RYAN, D.D.

Presentation of Prizes



St. Joseph's Hospital Alumnae  
is holding its annual dance in honour of the 1946 graduating class to-night, in the Crystal Ballroom at the Royal Connaught Hotel.

1946

St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing held the annual graduation exercises Wednesday afternoon, May 22, in the auditorium of the Basilica of Christ the King. Members of the graduating class this year: Miss Florence Regina Schill; Tramping Lake; Miss Elizabeth Jean Mitchell, Moorefield; Miss Mary Ellen Mercer, Dunnville; Miss Agnes Genevieve McCawill, Simcoe; Miss Edith Marie Masecar, Delhi; Miss Rosemary Elizabeth Walsh, Niagara Falls; Miss Vera Frances Rawson, Freeman; Miss Marie Elizabeth Clayton, Acton; Miss Donna Irene Devine, Jarvis; Miss Edythe Franklin, Port Dover; Miss Jean Inglis Laing, Dundas; Miss Jean Eileen Stringer, Burlington; Misses Winifred Maude Ayres, Mary Evelyn Ganann, Dorothy Ewendolyn Glead, Margaret Louise Haines, Rita Elizabeth Karnes, Helen Rachel Kubilis, Olive Aileen Mummery, Helen Therese Madej, Frances Beatrice Ruffing, Rosemary Ann Ruffing.

### NAMES OF GRADUATES

## Programme

Scholarship for Post-Graduate Work in Nursing Education  
Given by St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary.  
Presented by Mrs. S. H. O'Brien.

MISS HELEN MADEJ

Prize for General Proficiency  
Given by L. L. Playfair, M.D., F.R.C.S. (E)  
Presented by Mrs. Playfair.

MISS MARIE CLAYTON

Prize for Efficiency in Bedside Nursing  
Given by F. Woodhall, M.B.  
Presented by Mrs. Woodhall.

MISS EDITH MASECAR

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 WINIFRED AYRES

Prize for Medical Nursing and Examination  
Given by William Downes, B.A., M.D.C.M.  
Presented by Mrs. Downes.

MISS MARGARET HAINES

Prize for Public Health Nursing  
Given in memory of the late Dr. James Roberts.  
Presented by Mrs. Roberts.

MISS RITA KARNES

Prize for Obstetrical Nursing and Examination  
Given by H. J. Sullivan, M.D.C.M.  
Presented by Mrs. Sullivan.

MISS ROSEMARY RUFFING

Prize for Nursing and Examination in Preventive Medicine  
Given by A. C. Martin, M.B.  
Presented by Mrs. Martin.

MISS VERA RAWSON

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. Nicholson, M.B.  
Presented by Mrs. Nicholson.

MISS DONNA DEVINE

Prize for Anatomy and Physiology  
Given by W. A. Weaver, M.D.C.M., and  
R. J. Fraser, M.D.  
Presented by Mrs. Fraser.

MISS DOROTHY GLEED

Prize for Clinical Pathology  
Given by John Tilden, M.D., in memory of his mother,  
Mrs. Isabel Tilden.  
Presented by Miss Mary Murray.

MISS HELEN KUBILIS

GOD SAVE THE KING

## PRIZE WINNERS 1946

### TOP LEFT TO RIGHT

*Helen Madaj*

*Scholarship for Post graduate work in nursing education*

*Edith Maseca*

*efficiency in bedside nursing*

*Marie Clayton*

*general proficiency*

*Winnifred Ayre*

*surgical nursing and examination*

*Margaret Haines*

*medical nursing and examination*

### BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT

*Rita Karnes*

*public Health nursing*

*Rosemary Ruffing*

*obstetrical nursing and examination*

*Vera Rawson*

*nursing and examination in preventative medicine*

*Donna Devine*

*nursing and examination in eye, ear, nose and throat.*

*Dorothy Gleed*

*anatomy and physiology*

*Helen Kubilis*

*clinical pathology*



**ST. JOSEPH'S PRIZE WINNERS.**—Eleven members of the graduating class of St. Joseph's School of Nursing have been awarded prizes for outstanding work in various nursing skill. These prizes will be presented Wednesday afternoon at the graduation exercises at the auditorium of the Cathedral of Christ the King. The winners shown are (left to right, top row): Miss Helen Madej—Scholarship for post-graduate work in nursing education, given by St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary; presented by Mrs. S. H. O'Brien. Miss Edith Masecar—Prize for efficiency in bedside nursing, given by F. Woodhall, M.B., presented by Mrs. Woodhall. Miss Marie Clayton—Prize for general proficiency, given by L. L. Playfair, M.D., F.R.C.S. (E); presented by Mrs. Playfair. Miss Winnifred Ayres—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 Margaret Haines—Prize for medical nursing and examination, given by William Downes, B.A.,

M.D.C.M.; presented by Master Billy Downes. Bottom row (left to right): Miss Rita Karnes—Prize for public health nursing, given in memory of the late Dr. James Roberts; presented by Mrs. Roberts. Miss Rosemary Ruffing—Prize for obstetrical nursing and examination, given by H. J. Sullivan, M.D.C.M.; presented by Mrs. Sullivan. Miss Vera Rawson—Prize for nursing and examination in preventative medicine, given by A. C. Martin, M.B.; presented by Mrs. Martin. Miss Donna Devine—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. Nicholson, M.B.; presented by Mrs. Nicholson. Miss Dorothy Gleed—Prize for anatomy and physiology, given by W. A. Weaver, M.D.C.M., and R. J. Fraser, M.D.; presented by Mrs. Fraser. Miss Helen Kubilis—Prize for clinical pathology, given by John Tilden, M.D., in memory of his mother, Mrs. Isabel Tilden; presented by Mrs. Reid Murray.

## Bishop Urges Graduates To Uphold Moral Values

Bright Program Features Occasion as St. Joseph's Nurses Receive Diplomas

A spirit of faith throughout their daily life in the future, was urged as one of the greatest essentials, by Hon. Russell T. Kelley, Ontario Minister of Public Health, in addressing the 1946 graduating class of the St. Joseph's School of Nursing, at the annual graduation exercises in the auditorium of Christ the King, yesterday afternoon. Dr. W. P. Downes, chairman of the hospital staff, presided over the much-anticipated and delightfully arranged event, at which Most Rev. J. F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton, and other clergy were present.

### Minister of Health

Commenting that the shortage of nurses is tremendous at the present time, the Hon. Mr. Kelley outlined how "faith in yourself, faith in your fellowmen and faith in your chosen profession," would deeply influence the services which the graduates could give, as a result of their excellent training. He said that faith in themselves should make them specialists in their field by both desire and determination. The picture of the nurse who did only what she was required to do—even though she did it very efficiently, was contrasted with the superior service of the one who took the trouble to find out and do the extra little things that convinced her patient that she had a real interest in that patient's welfare.

His Excellency Bishop Ryan, in his stirring address to the graduating class, challenged the young women to be "valiant women—virtuous women, upright women. We need valiant women to-day in order to safeguard the sanctity of our homes and the unity of our nation." His Excellency declared, "You nurses can do much towards safeguarding these things that mean so much to us to-day, and are being jeopardized."

### Divorce Evil

"Among the greatest evils which menace our land to-day is the evil of divorce," warned Bishop Ryan. "It leaves children without a home, without a mother and a dad, and ushers in untold tragedies, if only our nurses would rise to-day to uphold those high moral principles" he urged, in wishing members of the class every success in their future. "Be valiant and strong champions for all that makes for virtuousness," he added.

His Excellency extended greetings also to the parents, referring to their sacrifices in enabling their children to train. In his vocation, given by H. J. Sullivan, M.D.C.M., and to the Sisters of St. Joseph, paying tribute to their fine devotion to duty, and especially the service of the Mother Superior and her assistants. He also spoke of the contribution made by the doctors in the training of the nurses. An appeal was made by Bishop Ryan for continued support to the Sisters of St. Joseph in their new project which is a great extension of the work they began here 65 years ago.

Bishop Ryan presented the diplomas to each of the graduates, and Sister Ursula, superintendent of nurses, pinned the nurses' badge on each nurse. Dr. Downes called out the names of those receiving the prizes for outstanding proficiency which, with those of the whole class, were printed previously. They were presented by representatives of the donors.

Dr. Downes welcomed the guests and in his message to the class announced that arrangements have now been made by the School of Nursing to participate in the academic and special courses at McMaster University. He said that would enable nurses to study for their master's degree at the same time as carrying on their nursing training. He congratulated the Sisters of St. Joseph on the new extension to the hospital which will add 160 beds, making 362 beds in all, at the hospital, and "I am sure it will help solve the hospital accommodation shortage in Hamilton," he added.

### Civic Greetings

Controller Nora-Frances Henderson spoke briefly, bringing greetings on behalf of Mayor Samuel Lawrence and urged the nurses to the exercise of "compassion, loyalty and honour" in their profession. Dr. J. H. Holbrook, former head of the Mountain Sanatorium, spoke on behalf of the doctors of the city, extending good wishes. "This year," he said, "is perhaps the most noteworthy one in the history of nursing, for it marks a turning point following the war, and the steps now being undertaken to provide social security. Dr. Holbrook pointed out that the latter's administration would present a big field for nurses, and that the medical advances of the war demanded highly specialized ones. Dr. J. E. Day introduced the speaker, Mr. Kelley.

A profusion of flowers decorated the platform where the nurses were seated, and music for the occasion was played by three undergraduate nurses. Members of the 1947 graduating class presided. The graduation class proceeded in impressive march into the auditorium and were seated at the sides.



*Dorothy Gleed '46 Donna Devine '46*



1949 left to right  
*Ethel Winnie Bernadette Angie Cheris Winnie Pauline  
 Smith '48 Ayres '46 Hynes '48 Amadio '45 Matthews '47 Walker '47 Schweitzer '47*

*Back row:  
 Frances O'Brien '41 Helen Kubilis '46 Dixie (Watts) Fletcher '47 Winnie Walker '47  
 Front row:  
 Barbara O'Brien '47 Donna (Devine) Gravis '46 Winnie Ayres Rankin '46  
 1949 -----O. R. staff in the John St building*



*Back row:  
 Winnie Winnie Angio  
 Walker '47 Ayres '46 Amadio '45  
 Front row:  
 Cheris Matthews '47 Bernadette Hynes '48*



*Dorothy Gleed '46 Marguerite Montague '45  
 Marjorie Almas '43*



*Donna Devine '46*

*Cheryl Gravelin McQueen '66  
 President*



*Winnie Helen Winnie Angie Bernadette  
 Walker '47 Miller '47 Ayres '46 Amadio '45 Hynes '48  
 1948 on roof of the John St building*

REUNION DAY 2016



St. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL GRADUATING CLASS  
MAY 1946

LEFT TO RIGHT: CONNA DEVINE, ROSEMARY WALSH, JEAN STRIDER, FLORENCE SCHILL, WINNIE AYRES, ANNES McEWILL, HELEN MADOLE,  
EDITH MERRACHE, EDITH FRANKLIN, JEAN MITCHELL, MARIE CLAYTON, MARY MERCER, VERA RAMSON, OLIVE MUMFERY, HELEN KURLEIS,  
ROSEMARY RUFFINO, JEAN LAING, FRANCES RUFFINO, MARY GANNON, DOROTHY BLEED, MARGARET BAINEY, EITA FARREN



To the Grads of '46 and '41

For those who were able to attend the Reunion Day Events but were unable to stay for the photos; and to those who were unable to attend the Reunion Day Events:

*Happy 70th and 75th Anniversaries.*



St. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL & NURSES GRADUATING CLASS  
MAY 21, 1941

LEFT TO RIGHT: ANNE SPORDER, LEONA JOHNSON, HELEN BARKY, HELENE BECK, MONICA WALSH, MARJORIE LOWE, MARY AIDSEY,  
JENNIE LOSTRACCO, JACKIE THOMPSON, STHEL GILMORE, ELLEN GARDNER, MARGUERITE SWALES, ELLA JACZINSKI, MARY FINNEY, MARGARET LAPO,  
MARY ALICE LINSAY, ANNE BIRD, MARION TOWNSEND, JUNE BOSE, FRANCES STOKESMAN, NICEY PULLANO, ELISE HILBERT, MADGE SMITH,  
VERA MCGORRALL, MARGARET LOTTRIDGE, IRMA KELLAR, GRACE SCROGIE, ELISABETH QUARRY, FRANCES O'BRIEN, ANNE McHEILLY, DORA MACLIN,  
KATHLEEN SHEPPARD