

## **HISTORY OF St. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF NURSING**

The Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph was founded in LePuy France in 1650. The French Revolution began in 1789. Convents were closed, properties were confiscated, and the Sisters took refuge with relatives. The Community was re-established after the fall of Robespierre.

In 1836, the first American foundation was made in Carondelet Missouri. In 1851, the Sisters came to Canada and Established the first Canadian mission in Toronto. In 1852 the Sisters came to Hamilton.

### **Arrival of the Sisters of St Joseph to Hamilton**

On a cool Monday morning in Toronto on April 19, 1852, four women in identical dress - long black wool skirts, white linen wool skirts, white linen head-dress and black veils, - bundled themselves to board a ferry to cross Lake Ontario from Toronto to Hamilton.

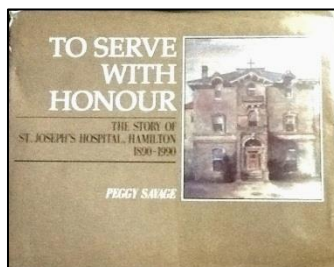
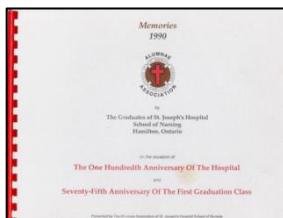
Father Edward Gordon, Vicar General of Hamilton had made an urgent plea to the Sisters of St. Joseph in Toronto, to establish another branch of their order in Hamilton. They were given housing in a family home at the Corner of Cannon and MacNab Streets. Orphan children were the first beneficiaries of their charity.

The Sisters had no way of knowing they were about to change forever the course of education, health care, and social services in the community which so desperately needed them.

They were relentless in their efforts to care for the city's poor, to organize fund raising, to canvas for food, clothing, fuel, and to establish schools and homes for the orphaned children and the elderly

In 1854, the Sisters closed their schools, and volunteered to care for the afflicted. They were soon treating victims of a cholera epidemic in "Hospital sheds" behind the Great Western Railway. The following year, in 1855, Typhus struck. Undeterred the Sisters cared for the sick and dying.

**Information published in the Hamilton Spectator September 8, 1945 and  
in The Canadian Register May 3, 1947**



**Information published in the following books  
1950 "Sixty Years by Sister Ursula  
1990 "Memories 1990"  
1990 "to Serve With Honour" by Peggy Savage**

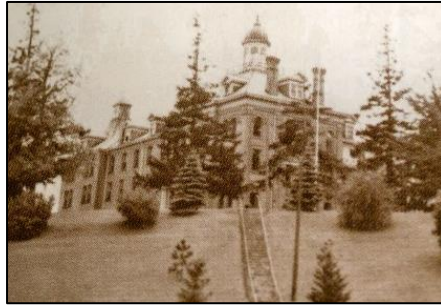
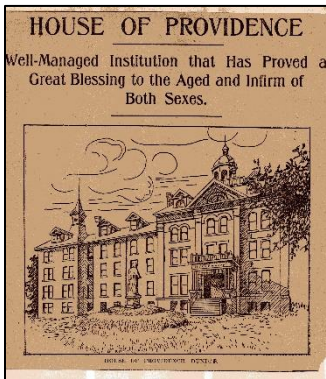
## **1879 THE HOUSE OF PROVIDENCE**

With the approbation of Bishop Peter F. Crinnon of Hamilton, Reverend John McNulty purchased property in Dundas and presented it to the Sisters. He asked that the Sisters of St. Joseph care for the poor and the aged.

he original building was destroyed by fire October 4, 1900 and was reconstructed within 1 year. It reopened May 1, 1902. An annual festival was held on the grounds on Dominion day.

This building was replaced in 1970 with a new modern building and renamed St. Joseph Villa.

Two new additions were competed in 2002. Donations from Margaret and Charles Juravinski, and the Neil and Anne McArthur family in 2005, ensured the completion of the new building.

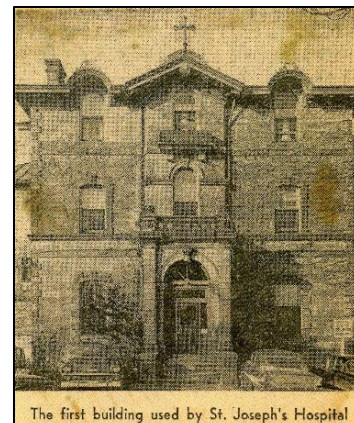
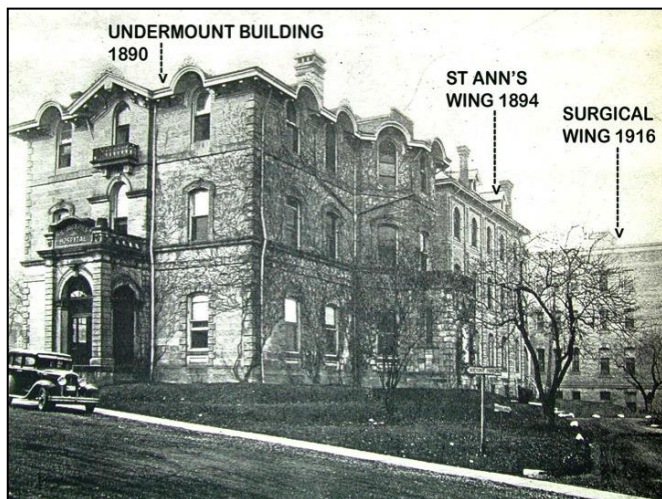


## **URGENT PLEA FROM HAMILTON COMMUNITY**

In 1890, after urgent request and appeal of medical men and citizens of the City of Hamilton, realizing the long – felt need of a hospital in the southwest end of the city, the Sisters of St Joseph’s Community decided to establish a hospital.

Bishop Dowling sold his residence, called Undermount, on John Street South for \$10,000 to the Sisters. It was a large, solid, 3 storey building. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor had wide halls, high ceilings, spacious reception rooms & a chapel. The 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> floors were divided into wards & private rooms which were well lit, well ventilated and well heated.

Information published in the “Hamilton Evening Times” Thursday June 12, 1890



**Published in The Hamilton Spectator  
February 1961**

On June 11, 1890 St. Joseph Hospital with a capacity of 25 beds was formally opened and operated under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton, Ontario. Mother Philip Lenaten was the hospital administrator. Sister Antoinette Flahaven was the assistant administrator.

The 1<sup>st</sup> floor had wide halls, high ceilings, and spacious reception rooms. The spacious drawing room of Bishop Dowling's former residence became the chapel of the institute. The altar was the gift of Michael J. Pigott, brother of Sister M. Ignatius, a member of the community. The first chaplain for the hospital was Rev. P. Haley.. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stories were divided into wards and private rooms

The Sisters provided the manual labor after a day of caring for their patients

- In order to keep the laundry bright, it was boiled in homemade soap in a large copper pot on the stove. Other items were individually done in a tub and scrubbed over a board.
- Recorded hospital charts, accounts and business transactions
- Food was manually prepared and served
- Sisters did their own baking, preserving and canning to stock their larder

George Tuckett a friend of Bishop Dowling, was greatly pleased with the care he had received as a patient. He asked the Bishop if the hospital would accept a gift from him. He donated the 1<sup>st</sup> electric elevator and paid expenses for 1 year.

**Information published in the Hamilton Evening News Dec 1912  
and the Canadian Register May 3, 1947**

### **St. Ann's Addition 1894**



In 1894, St. Ann's wing was erected increasing the accommodation to 55 beds.

In 1902, electric lights were installed in the operating rooms

By 1911, the hospital had grown to twice its original 25 bed capacity. The Sisters recognized a pressing need for additional trained nurses, if they were to provide for the community's health care needs.

1912 saw the opening of the first laboratory and the first X-ray department. The department of obstetrics also opened in 1912. George Tuckett Jr. installed a new elevator large enough to carry stretchers

Published in the Hamilton Evening News 1894

### **NEW SCHOOL OF NURSING 1911**

The hospital was now staffed with Sisters who had received their training under Sisters Martina Long and Leo Cass who had gone to Mercy Hospital, Kalamazoo, Michigan. They returned to open a School of Nursing in Guelph. So numerous were the applications to that course that some were referred to St. Joseph's in Hamilton.

As the hospital increased in bed capacity the Sisters made the decision to open a school for lay nurses. On September 8, 1911 the first students were enrolled. They were Sister M. Gerard Moran and Miss Ada Eagan. Seven more candidates followed at intervals.

The Sisters bought Adam Brown's residence at the corner of St. Joseph's Drive and Mountwood Avenue.

St. Joseph's approached the city for \$50,000 financial assistance. With the Hamilton General also requesting monies for a nurses residence, a divided loyalty arose among the tax payers.

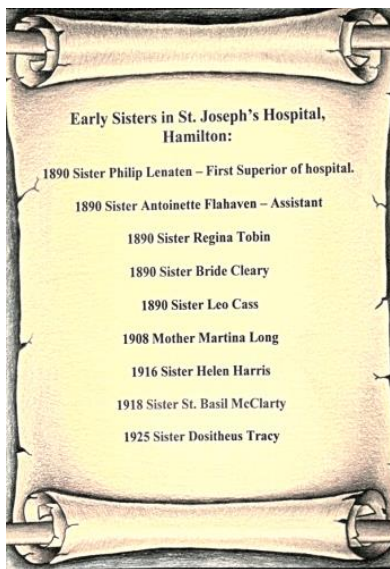
The building was later demolished to build a new nurses' residence called "Undermount" under the direction of Mother Mary Thecla and Sister St. Basil. Undermount opened November 28, 1922 .

Information published in the Hamilton Spectator May 3, 1947



**Mother Martina Long 1860 – 1948**  
**Superintendent of Hospital 1908**

**Sister Martina Long**  
**Hospital Administrator 1928 - 1934**



**Sister St. Basil McClarty**  
**Superintendent – Nurses Residence 1918**

#### GRADUATES 1915

The first two students entered the school of nursing on  
September 8, 1911

The remainder of graduates entered at various times until  
a sufficient number was reached in order to have a graduation.

Graduation took place on January 22, 1915.

The ground was covered with a great white blanket. The  
impressive and elaborate ceremony took place at 8 pm  
in the lecture hall amidst prominent members of the Hamilton  
clergy, laity and medical professions who together with  
friends and relatives, enjoyed the musical programme  
prepared by the 9 young graduates.

A handsomely engraved medal, given for outstanding work,  
and huge bouquets of pink roses were presented to the nurses.

Following Graduation exercises the nurses returned to duty  
with their patients.

Entered 1911 Ada Egan  
Sister M. Gerard Moran

Entered 1914 Helen Carroll  
Lillian Furrey  
Clara Grant  
Mabel Grant  
Angela Halloran  
Ella Kelly  
Anne Maloney  
Annie McGinnity  
Jean Morin

Sister M. Vincent Bergin  
Sister M. Loretto Gainer



**First Graduating Class 1915**



St. Joseph's pin was designed by Sister St. Basil of the Sisters of St. Joseph while she was the Superintendent of Nurses in 1915.

The pin is gold with a white enamel beveled edge which bears the words St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton, Ont. In the center is a red cross.

The students name and graduation year is engraved on the back of the pin. The pin is worn on the left side above the heart and has served as a bond for all St. Joseph's nursing graduates.

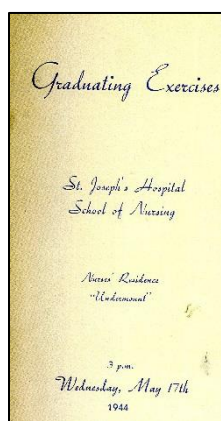


The graduation pin was redesigned in 1971. It was changed from St. Joseph Hospital Hamilton to St. Joseph School of Nursing Hamilton.

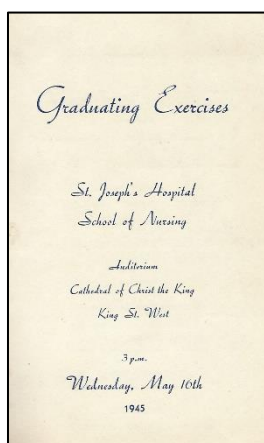
Graduation Day began with attendance at Mass celebrated in the Hospital Chapel, followed by graduation breakfast. Graduation exercises were held in the Undermount Nurses Residence from 1915 until 1944. Nurses carried bouquets of red roses. A reception and garden tea followed the graduation ceremonies. In the evening the graduation dance was held in Undermount Nurses Residence.

In 1945, graduation exercises were held at the auditorium of the Cathedral of Christ the King. In the evening a dance was held for the graduates in the auditorium of the School of Nursing. A dinner for the graduates, organized by the Alumnae was held at the Royal Connaught Hotel the following day on May 17, 1945. The event was attended by representative of all graduating classes since the first class of 1915.

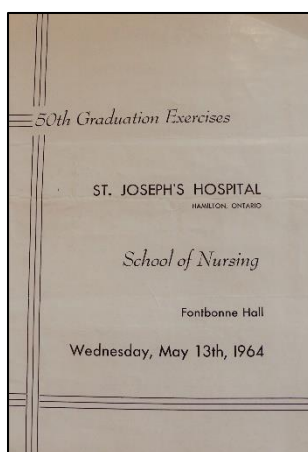
Graduation exercise were held at the auditorium of the Cathedral of Christ the King, until 1963. Fontbonne Hall Nurses Residence opened in 1963. Graduation exercises for the class of 1964 were held in the auditorium of Fontbonne Hall. Graduation exercises continued to be held in Fontbonne Hall until 1972. From 1973 until 1978, graduation exercises were held at Mohawk College.



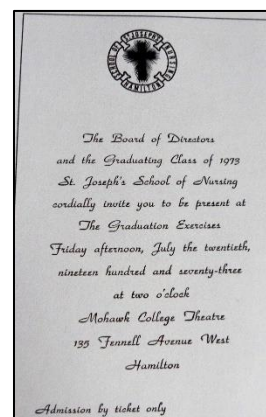
1944



1945

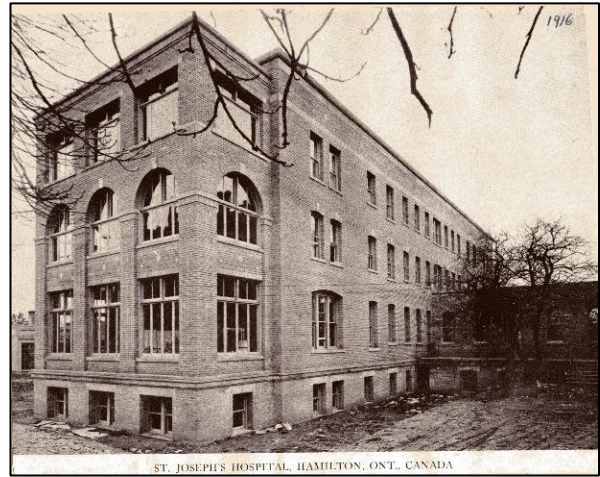
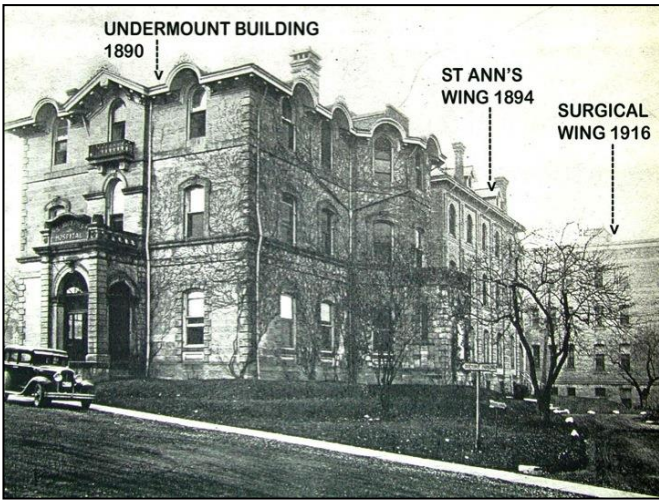


1964



1973

## NEW SURGICAL WING 1916

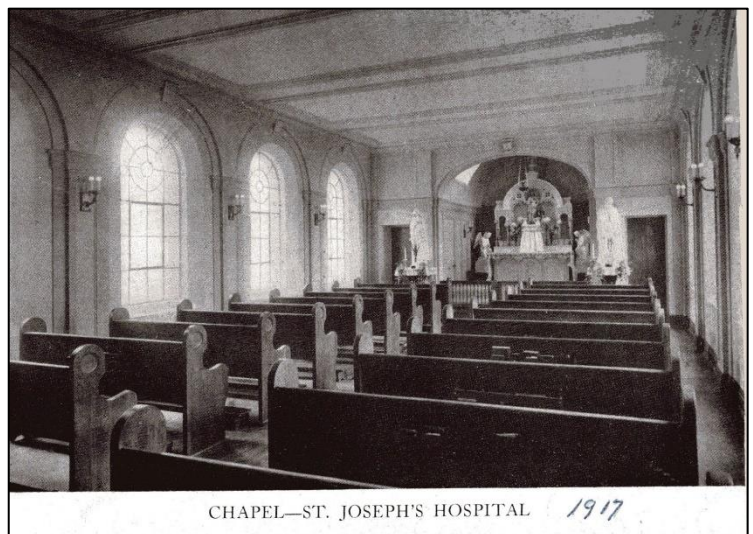
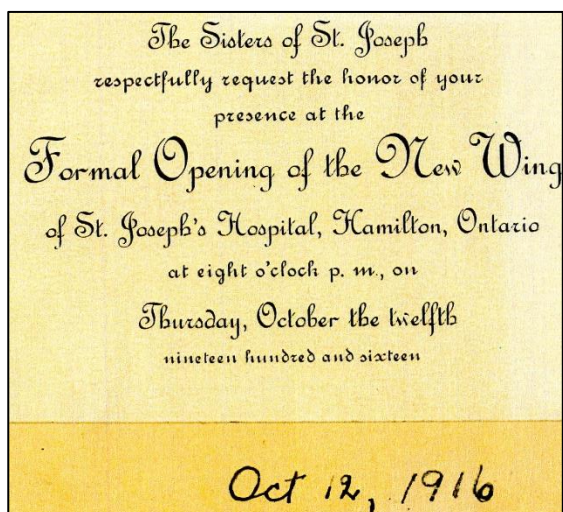


Addition of a new surgical wing increased patient accommodation to 155 beds, as the need for greater patient accommodation steadily increased. This wing was later known as the “Centre building”. Sister Helen Harris was the administrator of this surgical wing.

Addition of a new surgical wing increased patient accommodation to 155 beds.

The new wing consisted of an X-ray department, laboratory space, a new chapel, and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor operating room with the latest in sterilizing equipment. 1<sup>st</sup> floor had 8 bed wards and a sun porch on either side of the main hall to increase patient accommodation. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors had private rooms, semi-private rooms, and 4 bed wards.

In 1923, the medical staff reorganized and the hospital was accredited by the American College of Surgeons for the first time, and awarded Grade A status.



### **CASA MARIA 1923**



The Sisters purchased Casa Maria on Charlton Ave. for \$30,000 and had it renovated for the Maternity and Obstetrics patients. Sister Dositheus Tracy was the hospital administrator.

**1924** saw the opening of Sister Monica's Ward for children, increasing the bed complement to 200 patients. This unit was located in the Centre building and accommodated 15 children (toddlers and older children).

**Published in The Hamilton Spectator**

### **DIOCESE OF HAMILTON**

The Diocese of Hamilton was established in 1851. It now includes the Mother House, Novitiate and St. Mary's Orphan Asylum for Girls (85 in number), with Superior Rev. Mother Antoinette

85 Sisters, including 20 novices and 15 postulants reside at the Mother House from whence 7 of the city schools are attended. The scholastic work embraces every branch of knowledge from kindergarten to high school inclusive.

Subject to the Mother House are the following missions:

St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton - Superior is Mother Celestine and 16 Sisters

St Joseph's Hospital and House of Providence in Guelph – Superior is Mother M. Vincent and 18 Sisters

House of Providence and Orphan Asylum for Boys, Dundas (90 in number) – Superior is Mother M. Irene and 21 Sisters. Three of the Sisters teach in St Augustine's Separate School and two in St Joseph's School for Orphan Boys

Convent and School in Brantford, - Superior is Mother Emerentia and 5 Sisters

Convent and School in Arthur – Superior is Mother M Xavier and 5 Sisters

Convent and School in Paris – Superior is Mother M. Ignatius and 3 Sisters

Convent and School in Owen Sound – Superior is Mother M. Alphonsus and 3 Sisters

**Information published in the Hamilton Spectator 1925**

### **UNDERMOUNT NURSES RESIDENCE 1922**



The building is laid out in the form of an L, 206 feet long, located on John Street South just south of the main buildings of St. Joseph's Hospital. Communication for the nurses and Sisters between the training school and the main hospital is afforded through a tunnel, 175 feet long, well-lighted and heated which runs under the site of the proposed Mountain Roadway. It is a 3 storey structure with basement. Two entrances have been made at the front, one facing north for the Sisters and one facing east for the nurses.

A large lecture room capable of accommodating 300 people, a demonstrating room, a cloak room for doctors and lecturers, a lunch room for nurses, and many other are found on the main floor.

In the large lecture room a large crucifix hangs in the main corridor at each entrance. From here one may go to the sewing room, the kitchenette and to the demonstration room. This contains very complete modern equipment for demonstrating to the nurses in training methods of procedures in various cases. Further on is the large lecture room which is equipped with a desk for chemistry, blackboards, necessary anatomical charts, and skeleton. room. The doctors cloak room is just at the entrance to the lecture room. A little lunch room is also provided where nurses can enjoy a lunch when coming off duty at night.

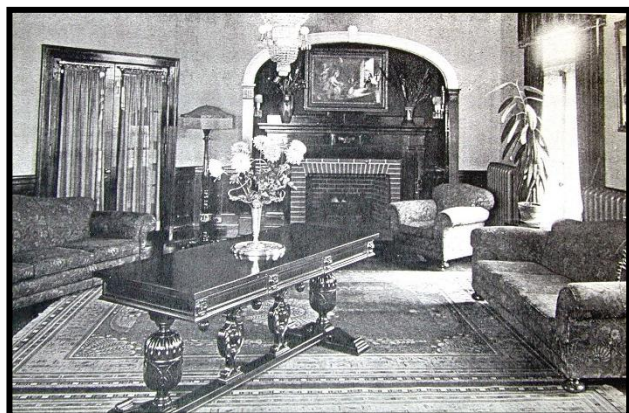
There are 88 single rooms and 5 double rooms and all have hardwood floors. The furniture is solid walnut, and includes a large 5 drawer dresser, writing desk and chair, a rocker of walnut upholstered in tapestry, a night table and a steel, walnut finished Simmons bed.

Student enrollment was 50 and the building could accommodate 100 students. The school had an up-to-date teaching unit, libraries and reception room.

Information published in Hamilton Spectator 1922



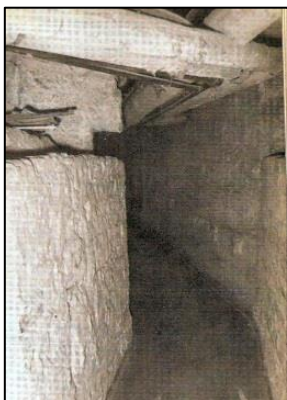
Each student bedroom had solid black walnut furniture



Main Reception Room & living room with walnut furniture, and a cozy fireplace



Classroom



**"The Tunnel"**  
175 feet long connected the training school  
and the main hospital

## SCHOOL UNIFORMS



Dr. Balfe and a few of the earlier Students—1917

1917



1918



1927



"Probies" Class of 1938



Class of 1941



"Probies" Class of 1942



"Probies" - Class of 1946

**1911 – 1968**

Each student wore a crisp starched blue and white cotton uniform, made at home according to strict specifications. On laundry day the garments were starched to perfection.

The same uniform was worn until 1968 with only some minor changes. Generations of students remember them as uncomfortable to wrestle into, with stiff collars and long sleeves held together with shoe laces. Later the uniform had shorter sleeves with stiff cuffs. Students wore white shoes with Cuban heels and white stockings.



1939 STUDENT UNIFORM



CLASS OF 1965



White summer uniforms were worn  
in special clinical areas  
CLASS OF 1961

**1966**

Students entering the School of Nursing in the graduating class of **1969** wore a “blue and white” one piece uniform



CLASS OF 1969



CLASS OF 1970



CLASS OF 1973

Wore the blue and white one piece uniform on nursing units  
They also had a pink “community uniform” which had pants

Each student was required to purchase a blue and red cape. In 1934 they cost \$9.00 and they were described as “High quality navy blue Cheviot lined with military scarlet flannel”. They were worn when the weather turned colder.



**NURSES ATTEND SERVICE**—Sunday evening 300 members of the Nurses' Association of Ontario, District No. 4, attended services at Christ's Church Cathedral to join in a Dominion-wide commemoration of the 127th birthday of the mother-foundress of the training of nurses, Florence Nightingale. Nurses are seen entering the Cathedral in the above photograph.

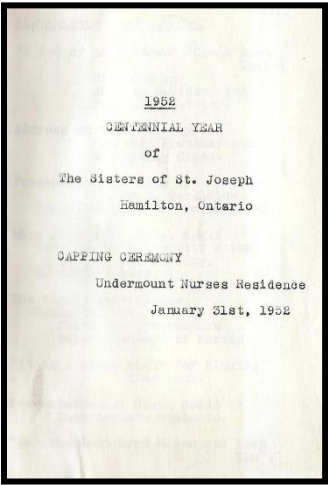
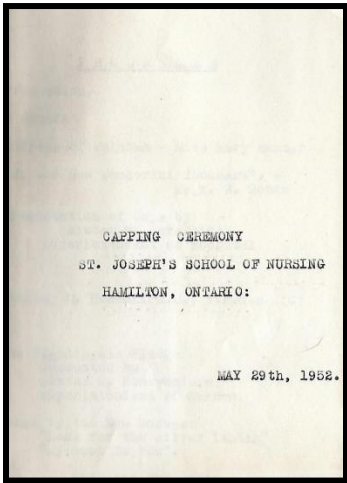
**1948 NURSES NATIONAL MEMORIAL SERVICE**



**CLASS OF 1964**

**CAPS**

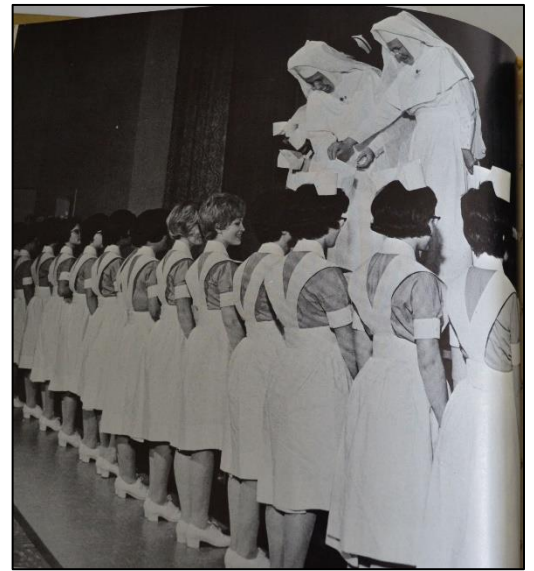
White school caps were given to each student after they had been probationers for 3 months. This was a type of formal acceptance into the school. Applicants were not formally admitted until they could demonstrate their fitness during their four month term of probation.



**“Capping Ceremonies”      Class of 1954**



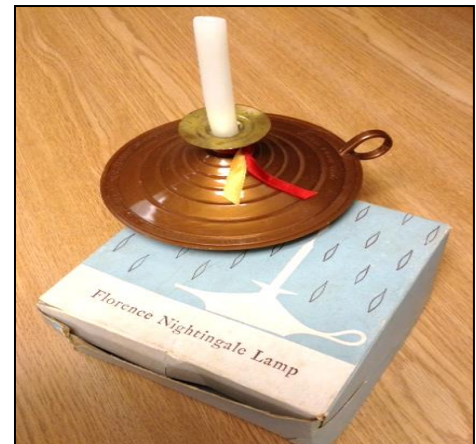
**Class of 1966**



**Capping Ceremony Class of 1964  
Sister Virginia and Sister Mary Grace**



**"Capping" Class of 1963**



During the 1940's to the early 1960's the lamp was given to students when they received their cap.

It was modeled after the lamp which Florence Nightingale used during the Crimean War, as she made her night rounds in the army hospital.

This was later seen as a symbol of the devotion of nurses as they practiced their profession in caring for the sick and injured.

By presenting it to the student nurses it congratulated them for choosing a profession with high standards in service to humanity. It was meant to be an inspiration to the young nurse.

### **YEAR PINS AND BLACK BANDS**

“Year pins” were received at Christmas in 2<sup>nd</sup> year. They were worn on the student uniform above our name band.



In 3<sup>rd</sup> year, they were worn on the black band on the cap

Black bands were given traditionally to mark the beginning of the senior year.



**Caps for the Class of 1953 & Black Bands for the Class of 1954**



**Class of 1960**

### **SCHOOL RINGS**

“School rings” were given to students at Christmas in 3<sup>rd</sup> year.



**School Ring 1915-1930**



**Sister Virginia giving school rings to Class of 1961**



**The design was changed in 1930**

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS IN 1932

### REQUIREMENT FOR ADMISSION

The general rules of the School are such as any earnest, self-respecting woman will recognize as essential to the requirements of a professional education.

Candidates for admission into the School must be between the ages of Nineteen and Thirty. Exceptions are sometimes made if other requirements are met by desirable candidates.

Classes are formed in February and September of each year.

Complete application forms comprise the following:

Application Blank.

Preliminaries showing educational equipment.

Physician's certificate as to health, which should include vaccination certificate. Dentist's certificate as to the condition of teeth.

A letter from a clergyman testifying as to moral character. Candidates residing in Hamilton or vicinity will be required to make a personal application.

Two years of High School or its equivalent is required. Young women who have had special training in scientific branches, as Chemistry, Physiology, Domestic Science, Commercial Course, may receive allowances as equivalents.

When candidate's application and credentials are approved, the candidate will be notified by the Superintendent of Nurses. Time for preparation for entering into the School is given and detailed instructions furnished.

The course of training is three years, and in the formation of its schedule of study the School fulfils the requirements of the Ontario Board of Registration of Nurses. The curriculum is arranged so as to give the students a well-balanced course in theory and practice. Examinations are held at the end of the Preliminary Course; lecture courses are also followed by examination.

At the end of the Probationary Period, acceptance of the pupil by the Superintendent of the School is based on general ability, physical health, conduct on and off duty, and credits received in Preliminary Practical, and Theoretical Work.

Pupils will not be allowed during training to absent themselves to nurse sick relatives at home, or for personal reasons. Only in extreme cases will leave of absence be given.

A pupil may be dismissed at any time during the three years for misconduct or inefficiency in either Practical or Theoretical Work.

The Hospital Authorities reserve the right to recall the medal from any graduate who shall in any way bring discredit on the school.

When accepted they make an agreement to conform and subject themselves to the rules and discipline of the Hospital and School.

Pupils will receive gratuitous medical care from their entrance. Time lost must be made up at the end of term.

The following expense allowance will be paid to Pupil Nurses:

- (a) Six Dollars monthly for the last eight months of first year.
- (b) Seven Dollars monthly for the second year.
- (c) Eight Dollars monthly for third year.

Pupils are to make good any damage or breakage caused by themselves.

The hours of duty are:—For Day Nurses, from 7.00 a.m. till 7.00 p.m.; for Night Nurses, from 7.00 p.m. till 7.00 a.m.

Two hours daily are allowed for rest and recreation. On Sundays three hours are allowed. These, however, are subject to the requirements of the work. One afternoon each week from 1.00 p.m.

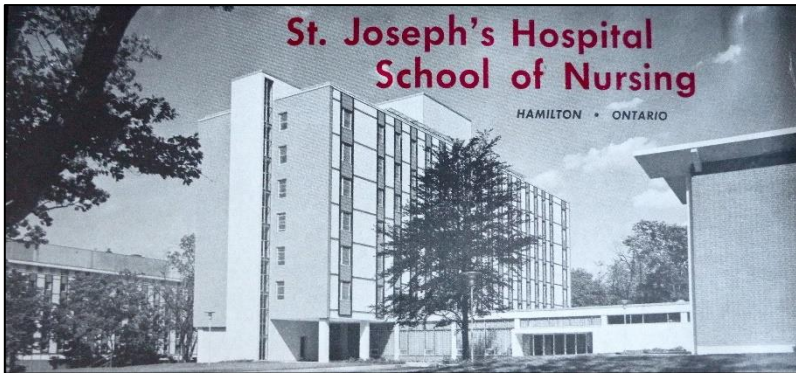
A vacation of two weeks is allowed each year at the time most convenient to the Institution.

Those who complete the course satisfactorily and pass the final examinations, shall be entitled to a Medal and Diploma, under the seal of the hospital.

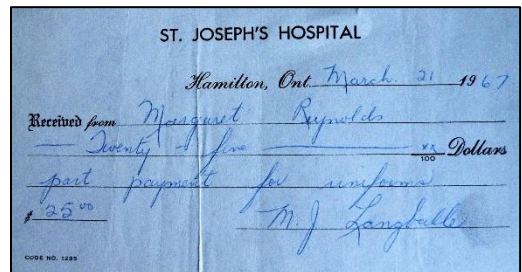
SIGNED.....

RETURN THIS PAPER SIGNED.

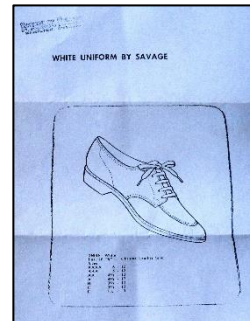
**Found in the Scrapbook at the Mother House**  
**Scrapbook kept by Sister Mary Grace, class of 1934**



**1967 St Joseph's School of Nursing Admission Requirements**



**1967 \$25 payment for uniforms**



**1967 white shoes**

## RESIDENCE LIFE



### Typical Day (Circa 1940-1960)

- 06:00 am** a bell rung by hand and could be heard ringing up and down the halls.  
**06:30 am** uniform inspection and attendance was taken. Everyone went to Mass.  
**07:30 am** breakfast before going on 12-hour ward duty.

- 13:00-15:00pm** students were relieved for 1 ½ hr-2hr break.  
**1500-19:00** classes began.

Service to the hospital was the student's first priority.. Formal education came second. Nurses training was mostly "hands on". Classes took place in the evening, after their 12 hour shift, when the doctors and nurses were free for lectures.

Each week students had a half-day off starting at 3:00 pm if their work was completed. In second year the ½ day off started at 1:00 pm. Residence curfew was 10 pm. meaning all students had to be in their bedrooms. One night a month there was a late leave of 11:30 pm. It was compulsory for nurses to sign in at the hospital office and return to residence via an underground tunnel ...a dreaded walk at that hour because they passed the morgue en route.

### Stipend

Stipends began in the 40's and were gradually increased over the years. In the first year the student received \$6 per month with a one dollar increase each year. By the 60's a student received \$15 per month. Anything broken or damaged was deducted from this stipend.

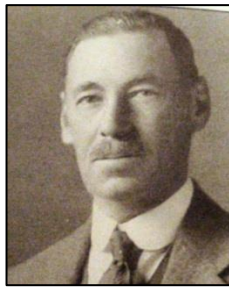
### Protocol

There was a strong sense of seniority among students – doors had to be opened for senior students in the cafeteria, elevators etc. Seniors went ahead of juniors and intermediates. Lipstick nail polish and rouge were not permitted. Hair was kept off the collars.

**These men are credited with laying the foundation for the School of Nursing**



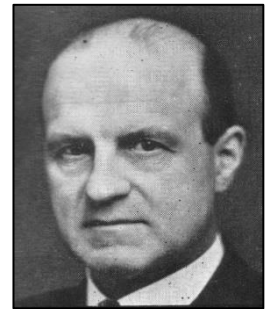
**Dr. J. Olmstead**



**Dr. J. Edgar**



**Dr. H. Balfe**

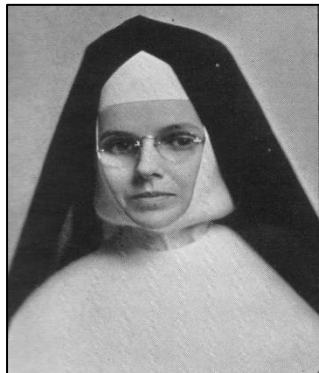


**Dr. H. Sullivan**

**1920** The Ontario Government began plans to enact a Registration Law which required all nursing students to write departmental exams on the completion of their course. This would provide extensive improvements in all schools of nursing seeking provincial approval



**Dr. W. Downes**



**Sister M. Monica Smythe**  
Graduate of the class of 1927  
1<sup>st</sup> Sister to write Provincial Exams  
Superintendent of Nurses 1934  
Director School of Nursing 1933 - 1940



**Florence Roach**  
1<sup>st</sup> "Lay" Instructress of Nurses

Dr. Downes gave intensive review courses to the class of 1926., the first class to write the R. N. exams. All the students passed and for years St. Joseph's nurses did not fail their exams. Special efforts were made to prepare the students for advanced work and in choosing candidates with superior qualifications.

**Published in the Hamilton Spectator**

**1929** A domestic residence was completed to complete accommodation for employees and staff of the hospital.

Information published in the Hamilton Spectator

**1935** Sister Alfonsa Meagan, graduate of the class of 1920, was the Administrator for the Emergency Wing

### **Our Lady of Victory Wing 1941**

The name was given to this wing of the hospital “because they hoped to win the war”. As you exited the chapel this wing was located to the left facing St. Joseph’s Drive. There were private and semi-private rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. This wing also had 5 operating rooms and a central supply room.

Information published in the Hamilton Spectator

**1945** saw the formation of St Joseph’s Hospital Auxiliary

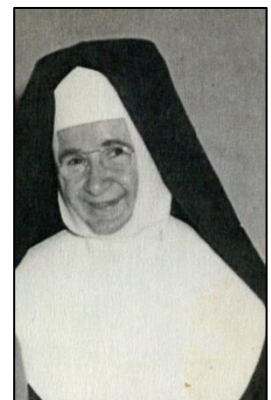
Information published in the Hamilton Spectator



**1947 Nurses Reunion**  
**Graduates of the class of 1915**  
**Anne Maloney, Sister St Basil, Jean Morin,**  
**Sister St. Gerard, Ella Kelly**



**Sister St. Basil McClarty**  
**Director**  
**School of Nursing**  
**1911-1917**

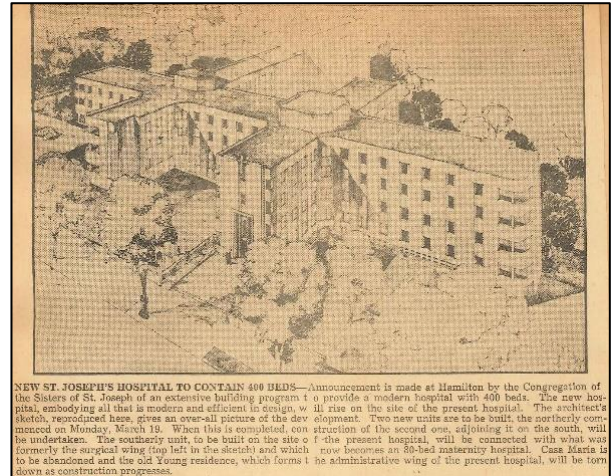


**Sister M. Gerard Moran**  
**Director School of Nursing 1917**

## John Street Building 1947



**Reverend Mother Antoinette,  
Mother Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph  
Hamilton Diocese turned the first sod to  
start construction of the John St Building  
March 19, 1945**



**John St Building to increase St Joseph's Hospital beds**

This addition to St Joseph's Hospital opened May 3, 1947 increasing the bed complement to 394.

Patient rooms were in the 4 wings with a central rotunda housing elevators, nursing stations, kitchen, utility and storage spaces. There were 7 air conditioned operating rooms, a 6 bed recovery room and an x-ray suite with portable units



**The John St entrance  
has a statue of St Joseph above the doorway.**



**Opening of the John St. Building 1947  
Mary Fitzgerald Marrin '47  
Dr W. Downes , Bishop J. Ryan**

**1947** St. Joseph's built an air conditioned laundry building linked by a tunnel to the hospital. It was located on St. Joseph's Drive.



Published in the Hamilton Spectator



Sister St. Edward Duffy,  
graduate of the class of 1932  
Administrator of the laundry

**1947 OAKBANK NURSES RESIDENCE**



With increasing enrollment in the School of Nursing the Sisters purchased Oakbank, as a nurses residence. It was located at 301 James Street South (corner of James St. and St. Joseph's Drive),

Oakbank was used as a nurses residence until it was demolished in 1960, for construction of Parking Ramp 1

Published in the Hamilton Spectator 1961

### **1947 MARYGROVE NURSES RESIDENCE**

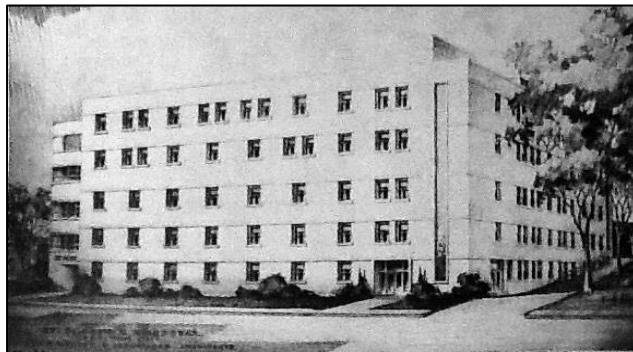


The Sisters also purchased Marygrove as a nurses residence. It was located at the corner of James St. and St. Joseph's Drive.

Marygrove was used as a nurses residence until it was demolished in 1960, for construction of the new Sister Mary Grace surgical wing.

Published in the Hamilton Spectator 1961

### **1950 NEW MATERNITY WING**



The new maternity wing was a 5 storey addition to be completed in May 1951. It was built in an L-shape around the Casa Maria.

Sister Geraldine Campbell, graduate of the class of 1930, was the Administrator of the Maternity Wing. Sister Geraldine stated that the ground floor would be devoted to interns quarters, formula room and an emergency room. She said the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> floors would be for maternity patients. Fifth floor would contain 3 operating rooms and facilities for 34 female surgical cases.

Patient accommodation was now 457 and 102 bassinets. The new maternity and gynecological wing was officially opened May 24, 1951.

The Casa Maria building was demolished.

Published in the Hamilton Spectator

## THE CHAPEL

**1922** Chapel was built. Holy Mass is celebrated daily and fervent prayers are offered for all who are housed and treated in the hospital. Those who receive medical care may receive Holy Communion each morning they desire to do so.

**May 3, 1947** His Excellency the Most Reverend Bishop J. F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton celebrated the Mass before a temporary altar in the main foyer of the new St. Joseph Hospital. The first wing of the hospital was originally planned to have a new chapel. The demand for increased bed space made it advisable to have the new chapel in the second wing.



Hospital Chapel 1922



Rev. Anthony J. O'Brien  
Hospital Chaplain 1922



Altar set up in rotunda of the John Street  
building for the opening ceremony in 1947

**1955** New Chapel built in the hospital in the "Centre" Building



**1987** New Chapel opens in the Charlton Lobby



*Dear Sisters of St. Joseph:*

*On Wednesday, November 26, 1986,  
Most Reverend Anthony F. Tonnos,  
D.D., Bishop of Hamilton will  
celebrate Mass in honour of the  
Sisters' anniversary year.*

*This will be the Last Official Mass  
celebrated in the St. Joseph's Hospital  
Chapel, 2nd Floor Centre Building.*

*The Mass will begin at 7:00 p.m. and  
a reception will be held in the  
Fontbonne lobby after the Mass.*

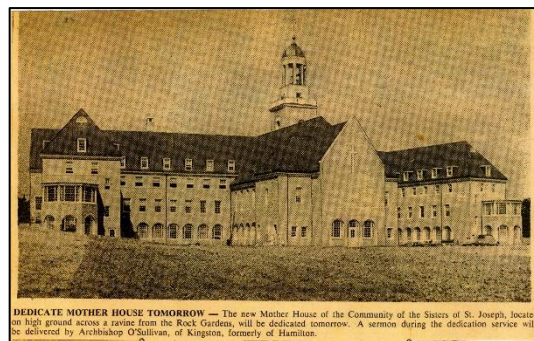
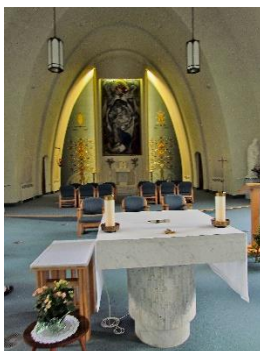
Last Official Mass in the Chapel in Centre Building

## 1950 MOTHER HOUSE



**1857** Convent was built at 204 Park St N. The Sisters lived there for 95 years.

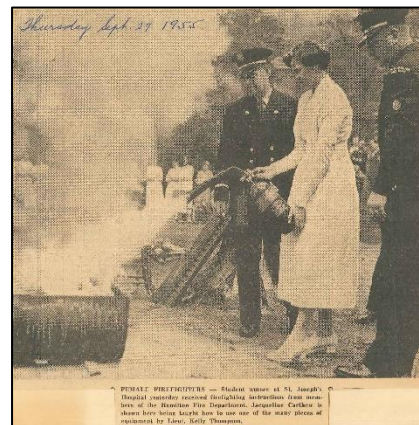
**1952** The new Mother House was built off Hwy 6. The building is Georgian in style. In width across the front it is about 250 feet but there are wings on both the east and west that are almost as long as the width. In the centre extending to the south towards the brow of the escarpment is the Chapel large enough to accommodate 250 people. A tower rises to a height of 125 feet in the angle formed between the Chapel and the Main building. Accommodation will be provided for the Sisters, novices and students to about 200.



Published in the Hamilton Spectator April 1952



RETREAT was held at the Motherhouse for the student nurses, once a year



1955 Fire Drill with the Student Nurses



Sister Mary Grace Stevens  
Graduate class of 1934  
Hospital Administrator 1954 – 1960  
And 1963 – 1971

Director School of Nursing 1940 - 1944



### 1947 Annual Orphans Festival

110 children from Mount St. Joseph and St Mary's Orphanages presented morning, matinee and evening performances at the **94<sup>th</sup> Annual Orphans Festival** in the Palace Theatre. His Excellency Bishop J. F. Ryan congratulated the Sisters of St. Joseph who care for the children and complimented the orphan artists. He believed they had adequate of material comforts and that they could rejoice in the environment they found themselves in.

Mayor Sam Lawrence traced back long association with the festival and said recently on his visit to the orphanages, he found the children were happy and that they had a deep regard and affection for the nuns. He congratulated the Sisters of St. Joseph for a "noble and charitable work."



## 1962 MARY GRACE WING



The hospital address was now **"50 Charlton Avenue East"**. Sister St. Paul Lardie was Hospital Administrator from 1960 – 1963. This wing is an 8 storey building with 800 patient beds. The Sisters lived on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor. This wing had diesel auxiliary power in event of power failure.

1<sup>st</sup> floor housed facilities and departments with related functions grouped together. Outpatients department, 33 beds for Intensive Care Unit and Recovery Room. Sister Mary Daniel was in charge of the Operating Room since 1950. She approached Sister Virginia to have specialty charge nurses. There were 12 operating rooms with their own delivery service for clean and contaminated items. Combustible gases were used in OR. Thus a machine was installed at doorway to detect static electricity. 2 Operating rooms had built in overhead x-ray equipment.

Patient bedside had push button controls for radio, TV, and music. Patient rooms on 2 outer corridors with a Nurse Server at entrance to each patient room. Inner corridor demonstrated the Friesen concept with nurses station, pneumatic tube system, and retrieval system for exchange of clean and soiled products. Auto communication with 2 way intercom was located at the patient bedside was connected to the nurses station.

Sterile Processing Department was located in the basement. Pharmacy was in the basement and unit dosage was introduced.



Student honour guard at opening of Mary Grace Wing



2- way intercom at nurses station

## 1963 FONTBONNE HALL



Classroom in Fontbonne

1<sup>st</sup> floor had classrooms, offices for administrative staff, a fully equipped laboratory for scientific experiments, and a large library covering all fields of medicine and nursing. The front entrance was on James St. South with a waiting room for friends and visitors.

The switchboard was located near the front entrance. There was a large gymnasium on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. On each floor there was a lounge and a fully equipped kitchen. The roof was divided into games and T.V. areas. A television and stereo had been donated by the Alumnae.

Floors 2, 3, and 4 had private rooms and were occupied by the senior students.  
Floors 5, 6 and 7 had double rooms and were occupied by the second year students.



Lounge at the front entrance



Student Room



Published in the Ancaster News 1981

**1965** Hamilton – Wentworth District was formed. The objective was “hospitals should work closely together to organize specialties” Dr J. D. Galloway was the 1<sup>st</sup> chairman.

Dr Galloway was appointed the Medical Director of St Joseph’s Hospital

**1966** The original 1890 hospital building located on John Street was demolished

The hospital executive created a Separation of Duties. There was now a Director of Nursing Service and a Director of Nursing Education.

**1968** The Lay Advisory Board (1952) was replaced by the Board of Trustees with representatives from the Sisters and the Community.

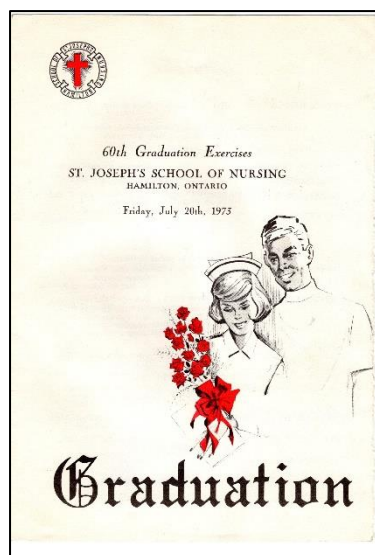
The Board set the rules, regulations and by-laws by which the hospital operates, answerable to the Sisters.  
As owners, the Sisters determine policy and a mission statement that governs how the hospital should be run.



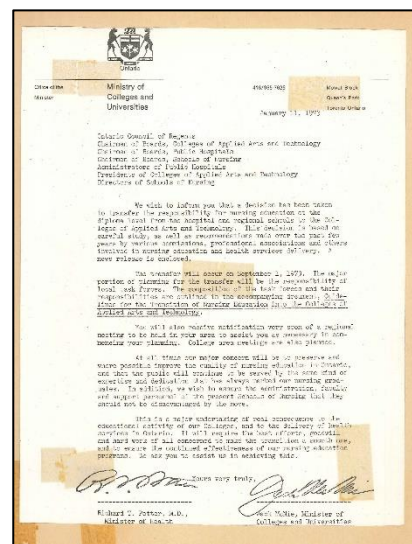
Demolition of the 1890 Building

**1970** Sister Mary Grace retired. Dr Galloway was appointed C.E.O. (1970 – 1979)

**1973** Graduation of the 60<sup>th</sup> class of student nurses was the final class to graduate from St. Joseph’s School of Nursing.



Graduation exercise took place at Mohawk College



Studying the graduation program for the Class of 1973

## Decision to move diploma programs from hospitals to community colleges.

**1973** The Ministry of Colleges and Universities issued a decision to move diploma nursing programs from hospitals to the community colleges. The statement made was "to transfer the responsibility for nursing education at the diploma level from the hospital and regional schools to College of Applied Arts and Technology." The transfer will occur on September 1, 1973.

**1974** A new program was developed for all of the students who entered the Mohawk Nursing Program (Brantford General Campus, Hamilton Civic Campus, Hamilton District School of Nursing (Chedoke) Campus and St. Joseph's Campus.)



Mohawk College  
Department of Nursing  
St Joseph's Campus



Published in the Hamilton Spectator 1974

## Sister Joan says fond farewell to St. Joe's

By SUZANNE MORRISON

**The Spectator**  
SISTER JOAN O'Sullivan finishes a nine-year career as executive director of St. Joseph's Hospital today — as 1988 is rung out and a New Year starts.

The timing of her New Year's Eve departure also represents a new beginning in her life.

Even though she was under no pressure to retire as the head of one of Hamilton's major teaching hospitals, she said she feels "it's time to go."

Her only immediate plan is to attend a residential school in Israel next spring run by the international religious order known as the Sisters of Zion.

Their school is associated with the University of Toronto and it's there that Sister Joan will audit religious courses on the Old and New Testaments.

"It will be refreshing for me to take something else in, except the business world and health," she said.

"All I'm thinking about (right now) is getting two months in Jerusalem and Israel."

## Fresh start for nun who says it's time to 'move on'

However, her busy life isn't likely to end with her departure from St. Joseph's.

At the moment, she is chairman of the Good Shepherd Centre and she said she hopes to remain involved in community activities "if I'm asked."

She will also maintain her association with the hospital's project in the Caribbean island of Dominica.

In November 1987, St. Joseph's in Hamilton and Cuelph's St. Joseph's Hospital and Home for the Aged sent \$250,000 worth of donated medical equipment and supplies to Dominica.

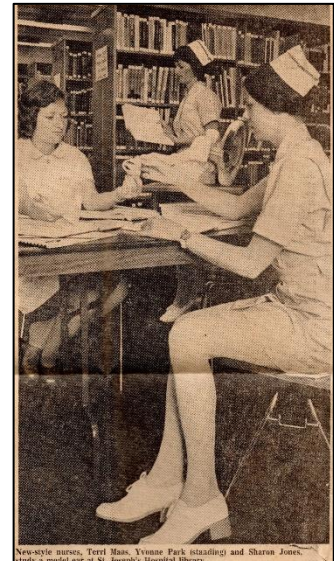
"I hope to get down there again."

Continued on A2

## Sister Joan O'Sullivan Hospital Administrator 1979 - 1988



Independent Study Class of 1973



Class of 1974



Sister Rita, employing the modern method of allowing students to teach each other, listens as Calleen Walsh (standing) asks Joseph Kool, Shirley Ferguson and Suzanne Pritchard questions from the blackboard.

1975 Sister Rita instructor at Mohawk College  
St Joseph's Campus

•• The Spectator, Friday, October 14, 1977 7

## Nurses upset over loss of classrooms

FIRST YEAR nursing students at Mohawk College are upset because they will lose their classrooms at St. Joseph's hospital.

"It hit us like a bomb," said one first year student, a spokeswoman for several student nurses.

"We don't know where we're going, or whether we'll have any choice."

The 78 students have been told they will not complete their nursing diploma at St. Joseph's but will be transferred to other hospitals in Hamilton and Brantford.

Mohawk College runs nursing school campuses at Hamilton General, Chedoke and Brantford General hospitals, as well as St. Joseph's.

The students' present classrooms in Fortknox Hall, on James Street South behind St. Joseph's Hospital, are slated to become hospital offices next September.

College officials say the students will continue to do their clinical work in St. Joseph's Hospital, but will have classroom and laboratory work at another campus.

"It's not fair. We'd only been in classes for a few weeks when the nursing director came in Sept. 19 and said we wouldn't finish our nursing at St. Joseph's," said the student nurse.

"All of us feel something personal for St. Joseph's. We think it's the best school for nursing in Hamilton."

She wanted in Hamilton, that's why we chose it."

She said the first year students are bewildered because many of their questions have been unanswered.

Dr. John Frit, Mohawk's dean of health, disagreed with the student, saying the first year students were told about the situation at a general meeting and it was discussed at several small meetings.

Emotional  
We've spoken many times to the students and are willing to talk to them about the situation many more times. I know our staff is in regular communication with the students.

He said the college's board of governors and the hospital are still in negotiation regarding the nursing school space at Fortknox Hall, which used to be a residence for nurses.

Mohawk College has agreed in principle to give up the 20,000 square feet of space in the hall it has leased from the hospital since 1973, when the college took over responsibility for the nursing school.

Sister Louise Demers, director of hospital services at St. Joseph's, said the hospital's role in nursing education will remain the same.

"We've had a crying need for room to shift people who are now in obsolete and overcrowded facilities, in order to provide good health care. The decision to move the school rooms was not taken lightly by either institution," she said.

Class of 1977

## **EVOLUTION OF NURSE'S EDUCATION 1911 – 1978**

With the renaissance of medicine, the whole conception of care changed

Sister Virginia Hanlon was a graduate of the class of 1945.

She was a teacher at St Joseph's School of Nursing Hamilton from 1951 to 1956. She was then the Director of Nursing at St Joseph's School of Nursing Hamilton from 1956 - 1964

She was then a teacher at St Mary's School of Nursing in Kitchener from 1964 – 1967, then Director of Nursing St Mary's School of Nursing in Kitchener from 1967 – 1972

She then became the president and CEO at St Mary's Hospital Kitchener from 1972 – 1976.

Her career then took her to President and CEO at St Joseph's Home in Guelph from 1976 – 1984. She then became a member of the Administrative Staff at St Joseph's Villa in Dundas from 1984 - 2005.

Sister Virginia was instrumental in obtaining better education for nursing students as well as for nursing instructors. She pioneered and advanced the education of the student nurse from Hospital Nursing Service to Nursing Theory in Nursing. She advanced the St Joseph's School of Nursing in Canadian Healthcare Education and Administration.

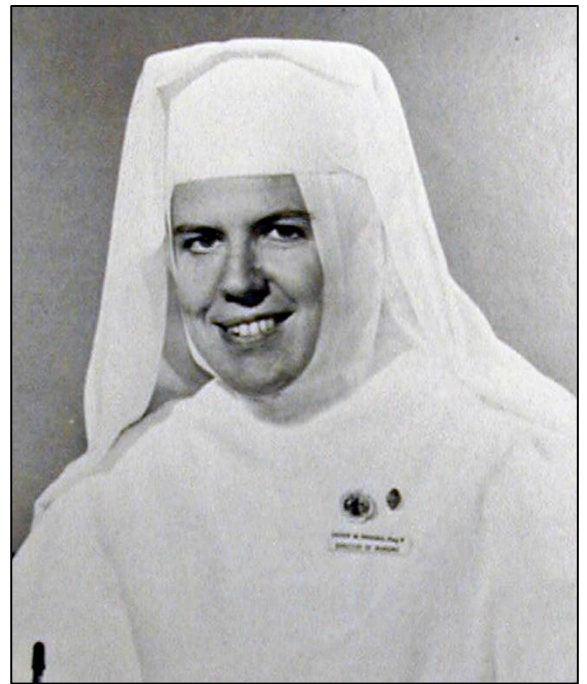
She was the Sister Liaison to the St Joseph School of Nursing Alumnae from 1986 – 2006.

At a speech given to her Alma Mater in 1969, Sister Virginia stated that "Each new definition of nurse reflects advances in the medical and social sciences. The result has been nursing functions that are increasingly exacting and diversified."

And so, the St. Joseph's School of Nursing began, attracting generations of young women, and eventually some men, who felt called to a demanding and rewarding career in the care of the sick. They were disciplined, hard - working and self - sacrificing individuals who brought honour to their school and to St Joseph's Hospital.

**The torch of tradition has now been handed over to them, because from 1915 – 1978:**

**"We are forever ..... A St Joe's Grad"**



**Sister Virginia Hanlon**

## **EVOLUTION OF ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF NURSING AND NURSING PROGRAMS IN HAMILTON**

### **1890      A NURSES TRAINING SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE CITY HOSPITAL BY DR INGERSOL OLMSTED (Hamilton General Hospital)**

- 1891    two nurses graduated from the City Hospital School
- 1898    two year Nurses Training Program increased to three year program
- 1942    Affiliation with McMaster University for five years Arts and Nursing Courses.
- 1940's    Block rotations introduced into curriculum, including three months at Psychiatric Hospital
- 1950's    School of Nursing was one of the first places to isolate for "staph" infection during epidemic.
- 1958    "Two plus one" program with third year of paid internship replaces three year program.
- 1964    **"THE HAMILTON CIVIC HOSPITALS"** are officially incorporated. The School of Nursing becomes the Hamilton Civic Hospitals Schools of Nursing.
- 1966    First School of Nursing in Canada to institute **"Team Nursing"**
- Total Number of graduates from Hamilton Civic Hospitals School of Nursing was 4590
- 1963    Formation of the College of Nurses followed by ONA IN 1965

### **1911      ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF NURSING OPENED**

- On January 22, 1915, after a three year study course, the first class of students graduated.

### **1920's      Prior to and during the 1920s Students were admitted to the School and immediately were assigned 12 hour shifts on the wards as workers. Teaching was incidental.**

- After a 3 month probation period, the student nurse could be assigned to night duty and was responsible for the housekeeping in each clinical area.
- The student replaced the maid on her ½ day time off. She transported, served meals and cleaned the patients food trays.
- The senior nurse in her third year, was responsible for incidental teaching on the wards. 90% of the graduate nurses at that time did private duty.
- During the night, the hospital was staffed by students with one Sister Supervisor.
- 1920 the Ontario government required all nursing students to write departmental exams.
- Dr Downes gave intensive review course to the class of 1926 for the first class to write the R.N. exams.

**1930 – 1940s'** In the 30's and 40's lectures increased and classes were no longer given in the off – duty time

- Sisters taught 90% of the nursing content and there were more lectures given by doctors.
- Dr. I. Olmstead, Dr. J. Edgar, Dr. H. Balfe and Dr. H. Sullivan are credited with laying the foundation for the School of Nursing.
- In 1944 Miss Sylvia Hallman the first clinical instructor at St. Joseph's, was assigned to assist the students in their clinical areas.
- Clinical Instructors were on the wards and case studies were introduced.
- During WW2 the numbers in the classes increased as did residence accommodation.
- The hospital started to employ graduate nurses removing service responsibilities from the students.

**1950s'** In the early 1950s the block system of teaching was initiated. This new philosophy of education was met with resistance by the hospital but was finally accepted.

- The preclinical period was extended with less service and more education.
- **Block System was as follows:**  
7:00am to 10:00am students were on the wards  
10:00am to 4pm was set aside for classroom instruction  
4:00pm to 7pm students back on the wards.
- **1956** Ward assignments were reduced from 12 hours to 8 hour shifts, initiated with the class of 1958.
- Second year students were off the wards for longer periods with no commitment to service. All formal classes were completed in the first two years.
- The third year was dedicated to service.
- Sister Virginia was instrumental in obtaining more educational class time for the nurses and the hiring of more clinical instructors.
- Instructors were sent to University for Diplomas in Nursing Education.
- As more qualified teachers became available for clinical teaching. a great deal of the teaching took place in the hospital setting.
- With increased concentration on education rather than service, new facilities were provided for the students, an expanded library, emphasis on research and more audio/visual equipment.
- As the service and education responsibilities increased, there was a separation between service and education with a director for each area.

## 1960s'

- Nurse's education reflected and responded to the many new specialties that had developed in medicine. The emphasis shifted to acquiring theory before undertaking practical theory.
- Sophisticated curriculum was developed into neurological, cardiovascular, respiratory, gastro-intestinal and genito-urinary training as well as sociology, psychology, language and communication skills.
- The school was held in high regard and it was a demonstration school for self – directed learning. National and international visitors came to the school to see how it was done.
- ***Classes of '69, '70 and '71A*** were 2 + 1 programs.  
The first 2 years of classroom with related clinical experience was supervised by the faculty.  
The third year was a practicum year with a class held once a week.
- Class of '71B entered the School of Nursing in September 1969 and were the first graduates of the 2 year program.
- The class of '69 lived in residence throughout their third year, except for 1 or 2 students.
- They received \$15 a month from the January of their first year until they graduated. In their third year the students could work in the hospital as an unlicensed practical nurse on their days off for \$15 per shift.
- **Sister Ann Marshall** School of Nursing Director in 1971 said "We found that most of the students by working at their own speed learned faster than ever before".

## 1973-1978

- The two year program began at St. Joseph School of Nursing in 1971.
- A new self-directed two year program began at St. Joseph School of Nursing in the fall of 1971 for the graduating class of 1973
- Students were given modules with objectives requiring knowledge, comprehension and application of information required by nurses.
- They identified what they needed to learn in biology, nursing and clinical nursing.
- They were evaluated by pre- and post-tests based on these objectives. The pass was 100% demonstrated in discussion with their nursing teacher as well as written exams.
- Students acquired the required information through large group sessions (usually at the beginning of the semester/course) and smaller group sessions throughout the semester/course, as determined by the group members.
- Learning Resource Centre provided two components for learning. Audio-visual resources such as slide-tapes and videos provided information to assist students to answer the objectives.
- Skills Laboratory were opened to 10:30 pm to provide an area to learn and practice skills.

## 1973-1978 (Cont'd)

- Cognitive mapping of the students helped students identify their learning styles, as a listener, and as a reader Learning was best done with peers or authority figures.
- Nurse Technologists were available Monday to Friday from 0800 to 22:30 pm and weekends from 12:00 to 16:00 to assist students to practice skills, as well as test them prior to their performance of the skill in the clinical area. Positive re-enforcement given by the nurse technologist was well received by the students.
- Clinical experience was an essential component of the programs where students demonstrated the use of knowledge and skills learned within their small group.
- This program continued until the graduation of the class of 1975
- **Fall of 1973**, The diploma nursing programs moved from hospitals to the community colleges.
- **1974** for the graduating class of 1976, a new program was developed for all of the students who entered the Mohawk Nursing Program (Brantford General Campus, Hamilton Civic Campus, Hamilton District School of Nursing (Chedoke) Campus and St. Joseph's Campus.)
- **Class of 1978** was the last class to graduate at St. Joseph's Campus.
- The last Mother-Daughter tea was held in July 1974
- Total number of graduates from St. Joseph's School of Nursing was **3450**.
- This program would continue at Mohawk College until 1981. A new program was developed that had many similarities to the St. Joseph's program.
- Diploma Registered Nursing program was discontinued in 2004. Mohawk College started the Baccalaureate program in conjunction with McMaster University.

## **1964-1974 Hamilton and District School of Nursing (Hadson)**

- Officially opened in October 6, 1964.

## **1973-1978 Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology Nursing**

- Brantford General Campus 1973-1998
- Chedoke Campus 1973-1978
- St. Joseph's Campus 1973-1978
- Hamilton Civic Campus 1973-1978:

## **1978-2000: Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology Nursing**

- Health Science Education Centre
- Consolidation of all diploma Nursing sites at one location

**2000-present: Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology Nursing**

- Mohawk-McMaster Institute of Applied Health Sciences (I.A.H.S.)
- 2001 – Inauguration of McMaster-Mohawk-Conestoga Collaborative Bachelor in Science in Nursing Degree Program (B.Sc.N)
- 2002 – Inauguration of Diploma Registered Practical Nursing Program.

Brantford General Campus



St. Joseph Campus

Chedoke Campus

Hamilton Civic Campus



**DIRECTORS OF ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**Sister Mary Grace, Sister Ann Marshall, Sister Ursula, Virginia Frere, Sister Bonaventure, Sister Virginia, Sister Joan O'Sullivan**

**DIRECTORS OF ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF NURSING**

1911-1917	Sister St. Basil McClarty
1917-1919	Sister M. Gerard Moran Sister M. Evaresta Baine Sister M. Bernardine Madden Sister M. Aloysia Dearling Sister M. Xavier Reding
1919-1921	Genevieve Boyes
1921-1922	Sister Dositheus Tracy
1922-1927	Sister Assumption Kehoe
1927-1933	Miss Mae Gibson
1933-1940	Sister Monica Smythe
1940-1944	Sister Mary Grace Stevens
1944-1950	Sister Ursula Barry
1950-1957	Sister Bonaventure Fagan
1956-1964	Sister Virginia Hanlon
1964-1969	Sister Joan O'Sullivan (Celestine)
1969-1972	Sister Ann Marshall (Maris Stella)
1972-1973	Sister Joan O'Sullivan
1973-1978	Mrs Virginia Frere



**Sister M. Ursula Barry**



**Sister Bonaventure Fagan**



**Sister Virginia Hanlon**



**Sister Joan O'Sullivan**



**Sister Ann Marshall**



**Virginia Frere**

## ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

The St. Joseph Hospital Alumnae was organized in 1915 under the convenorship of Misses Ada Egan and Jean Morin, assisted by Mother Helen Superior of the Hospital and Sister St. Basil Superintendent of Nurses.

After much planning and formulating of the constitutions and by-laws the nucleus of the present association was formed, with Miss Ella Kelly as president.

The Alumnae grew and progressed over the years always working hand in hand with the School of Nursing. The graduates of the School form the body of the alumnae today.



Ella Kelly

### REUNION DAY CELEBRATIONS

Records of the Minutes of the Alumnae Executive Meetings from the early 1930's until present day indicate the following items.

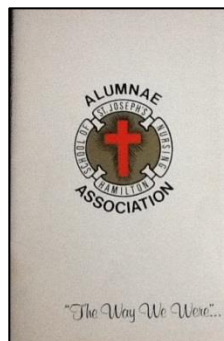
- 1933** There were two Masses conducted each fall. One in October for our living members and a 2<sup>nd</sup> in November for the repose of souls of our deceased members. Sister Ursula Barry '32 was the Sister Liaison to the Alumnae
- 1986** Sister Virginia Hanlon '45 became the Sister Liaison to the Alumnae. The Mass was changed to be held on the Annual Reunion Day. She retired from the position in 2006.

A "Reunion Day Liturgy of Thanksgiving" booklet was published every year. Mass of Remembrance over the years was celebrated in various sites, including the Hospital Chapel, Fontbonne Hall Gymnasium, and St Charles Garnier Church.

Alumnae sponsored the Graduation Dinner. For many years graduation was held on Wednesday, graduation dinner was held on Thursday and the graduation dance was held on Friday.

- 1949** the Alumnae voted to combine the graduation dinner with the reunion day dinner.
- 1964** combining the graduation dinner with reunion day was discontinued. Graduation dinner was replaced with the Mother Daughter Tea.
- 1964 –2013** Reunion Day Dinner was held at the Holiday Inn, and then at the Hamilton Convention Centre
- 2014** Reunion Mass was amalgamated with the Reunion Day Dinner. Dinner was changed to a Luncheon. Reunion Day celebrations were held at Carmen's Banquet Centre. The following year the celebrations moved to Michaelangelo's

Reunion Day celebrations continue to this day with "Roll – Call" of the graduating classes being the highlight of the day



**"The Way We Were"**

**Written in 1976 / a collection of minutes**