

Reaching Out



St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital

10707-29 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

Community Newsletter June, 2002

Message From the Board Chair

All around us we welcome signs of spring, signs of new life, that remind us that "now the winter is past ... the flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come" and we must arise and greet the newness. (Song of Solomon, 2 NRSV) Nature invites us to cherish and receive new beginnings with our whole beings. Our eyes are treated to a vibrant array of fresh greens that pop out and pierce through the cold and the barren. The early morning serenade of courting and nesting birds invites us to find and sing the songs in our own hearts. The waft of lilacs arouses our sense of smell (and our allergies!) to a new sensitivity, and response, to that which immediately surrounds us. The warmth of the sun reminds us of the power for growth that can be found in quiet, constant presence to the seemingly cold and hard, as well as to the fragile and small. The crisp freshness of asparagus and rhubarb knifing through winter's remnants become strong symbols for the many good things hovering just below the surface preparing to burst forth for our nourishment and pleasure. Nature is inviting us to listen to her.

Signs of newness greet us at Saint Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. Recently an electronic bell, named in honour of Sister Joan Whittingham, was hung in the hospital chapel. Sister Joan Whittingham was the Congregational leader of the Sisters of Providence at the time of the transition of the Hospital from the auspices of the Sisters to a lay board. The bell serves as a permanent reminder of the legacy of caring and compassion left by all the Sisters of Providence. This fall we will celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Hospital. These celebrations will afford us many opportunities to remember the past and to honour the many dedicated sisters and lay staff who have so generously cared for the residents of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital. But even more so, these festivities, remind us that a new spring is here. They call us to welcome newness.

The time of the Sisters "is almost past" and we, as lay people, must arise and greet the newness. The "mission of the Sisters" will always be securely buried roots that the "winter", in its own mysterious way, will ever protect. But it is now up to us to provide the environment in which these roots can continue to be ever new, and hope-filled, signs of spring. The "mission of the Sisters" has now sprouted forth into new life, into the "mission of committed lay people". This new "mission", while solidly rooted in the legacy of compassion and caring of the Sisters of Providence, must find its own new beginnings. The Board of Directors is welcoming this newness and taking steps to cultivate it. In a recent strategic planning session, for example, the Board recognized that a concerted effort at integrating mission and ethics is foundational to protecting and nurturing both this heritage and its new expression. Currently plans are underway to ensure that ethical reflection grounds all decision making at the Board and administrative level as well as the clinical level of the facility.

It is the sincere desire of the Board of Directors that walking into, and/or living in, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital is an ongoing experience of spring for everyone.



Sharon Downs, Board Chair

2002 Voluntary Board of Directors

Sharon Downs (*Chair*)
Jean Bara (*Vice Chair*)
Sister Mary Benilda
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David Edey
Eileen Filthaut
Tony Holloway
Jack Kane
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Executive Director
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Director of Care
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Director of Communications

Message From the Executive Director

In 75 years of providing continuing care service to the people of Edmonton, St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital has expanded and changed over the years. Change is a necessary part of life and from that process we mature, grow and learn.

From the beginning in 1927, our Founders, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul of Kingston, Ontario quickly learned and willingly embraced the sacrifice and commitment required in establishing a new hospital for the aged and vulnerable of Edmonton. In turn they taught others working with them, by word, deed and example, the meaning of our Mission, "Providing Quality Care with Compassion in the Christian Tradition".

In the intervening years other opportunities to learn and improve have been seized as St. Joseph's recognized community needs and responded with new programs and expanded capacity. Working relationships with the provincial government and health authorities have enabled St. Joseph's to evolve into an organization that is recognized as providing quality care to those we serve. The care, provided through the hands of dedicated staff, volunteers and physicians has always been strengthened through the vision of our Founders and through the

ongoing Sponsorship of the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation.

Learning continues today, as we enhance the skills of the staff to meet the best practices of health care delivery within a continuing care setting. We are forever mindful, however, of our need to blend our technical proficiencies with the truth and richness of our Mission. Compassionate caring yesterday, today and tomorrow is the hallmark of St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital.



Marilyn Snow, Executive Director

1927- 2002

Providing Quality Care with Compassion for 75 Years!

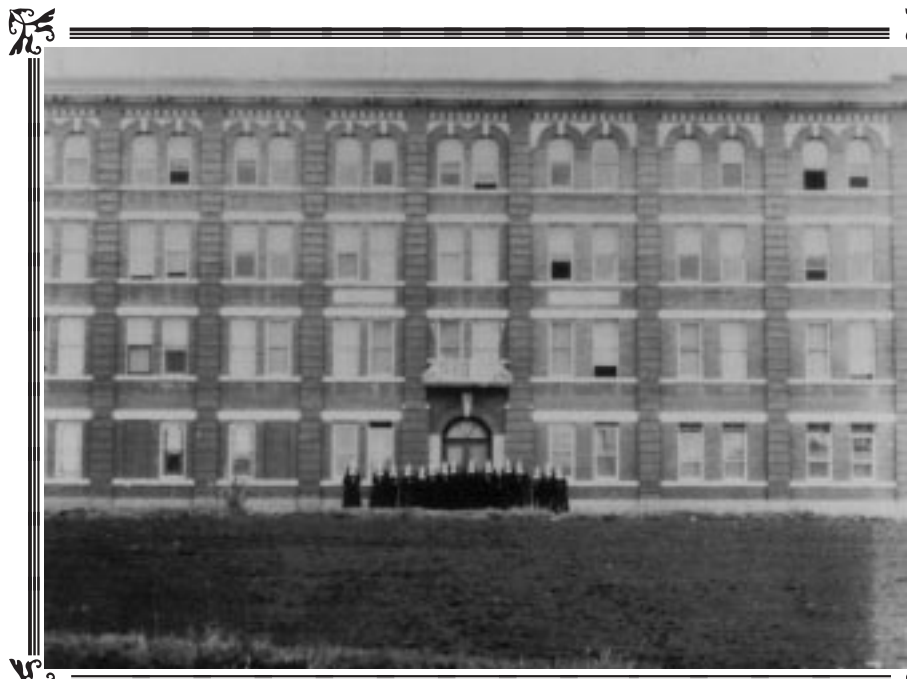
*The year was 1927, and Alberta was literally changing hands. The pioneers who had broken the flat prairie sod and carved the first small farms from the encircling bushland could toil no more. Their work must be taken over by their sons and daughters and the stream of new immigrants arriving from Europe. But what of those who had blazed the trail? Many had no place to rest in their old age, none left to care for them. Archbishop H. J. O'Leary, whose heart was in the west and in the people who had built it, was moved by compassion for all the aged and infirm of his diocese. He was determined to do something about their plight. His first move was to contact the Sisters of Providence of Kingston, Ontario. (Reprinted from *The Story of St. Joseph's Hospital*, written by John Patrick Gillese, 1952.)*

As Mr. Gillese wrote in 1952, Alberta was an infant Province in 1927. The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul responded to the Bishop's request to establish Edmonton's first home for aging, weary pioneers. Having already established hospitals in Daysland and Camrose as well as St. Mary's Home for Boys and Rosary Hall (a residence for young working women living away from their families), the Sisters purchased the old Whyte Block on Whyte Avenue in 1927 at a cost of \$24,000. They proceeded to renovate the building over the years, expanding and improving the hospital to meet the needs of those who had no one else to turn to.

The renovations and additions continued through the 1960's when the original Whyte Block was demolished and wings were added to the west and east sides of the six-storey hospital. By the 1980's it was obvious that the aging structure could no longer meet the needs of individuals requiring care. In 1987, government approval to build a replacement facility was received. In 1993 we moved to the new St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital in the Ermineskin/Heritage area of south Edmonton.

Over the years St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital has served people ranging in age from two to 105 years old. Programs were introduced as needed - during the polio epidemic of the 1950's, an entire floor was devoted to the care of those afflicted - and once the need was addressed, the Sisters responded to the next urgent need. In 2002 response to urgent needs includes a Palliative Hospice Program, Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis Program, Huntington Disease Program and Community Adult Day Support. It is with this rich legacy of compassionate caring and selfless dedication that we celebrate our 75th Anniversary.

We hope you enjoy our visual retrospective of our first 75 years.



*The original Whyte Block purchased in 1927
(107 Street and 82 Avenue).*



1948 Hospital with major renovations completed.



*1963 Hospital with the addition of two floors, auditorium,
Sister's residence and Rehabilitation areas.*



*St. Joseph's today
(107 Street and 29 Avenue).*

Mission Statement

We believe . . .

In living the Gospel values which inspire the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul and in continuing their ministry of compassionate care to people of all cultures and beliefs.

We serve . . .

People who require community support, continuing care or palliative care.

We provide . . .

A broad spectrum of programs and services focusing on health and wellness and incorporating the unique qualities and capabilities of each individual.

We commit . . .

To provide quality care with compassion in the Christian tradition.



Practicing Nursing Skills 1948.



Safety Training Today.



An 8-bed ward 1948.



A semi-private room today.



Staff at work 1948.



Staff at the new St. Joseph's.



Recreation therapy 1948.



Still keeping busy 2002.

You Are Cordially Invited!

Mark your calendar with the following dates...

Wednesday, July 24th from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. **Our Annual Klondike Brunch** (great food and authentic honky tonk entertainment). Wear your Klondike finery and don't forget your lawn chair.

Admission is only \$2. It's happening on our parking lot (weather permitting)-just look for the huge tent!

Saturday, September 21st from 1:30 -3:30 p.m. **75th Anniversary Open House** (including tours, an old-fashioned high tea and entertainment). All our neighbours and friends are most welcome!

For further information, please contact Deb at 430-3443

An Anniversary Gift A Bell Now Adorns our Chapel Tower

In a building as beautiful as St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital, it is easy to overlook the absence of a bell in our chapel tower. We thought of it periodically and hoped that one day a bell would adorn the beautiful chapel. Last year as we prepared to transfer sponsorship of SJAH from the Sisters of Providence to the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation, Sister Joan Whittingham observed that the addition of a bell would be a beautiful tribute to the sponsorship transfer. Bells were the central theme during our sponsorship transfer year. Our slogan - *Serving with Compassion, Trusting in Providence, Hope Rings On* - was carried through the design of commemorative pins, in our music and in all

events. The Sisters, both here in Edmonton as well as in Kingston, were instrumental in helping us plan our sponsorship transfer. To recognize the tremendous legacy left to us by the Sisters of Providence, we installed an electronic bell in our chapel. On April 26th, 2002, we dedicated the bell to the inspiration of Sister Joan Whittingham, past General Superior, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, and the 95 sisters who served at St. Joseph's Hospital during the past 75 years. Along with our new sponsors, the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation, we commit ourselves to continue the Sisters' ministry and each time the bells ring out, we will be reminded of our rich heritage of compassionate caring.



Look way up....



Our new chapel bell.

Educational Partnership Strengthens St. Joseph's Training Opportunities

The Care Attendant Program developed by St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital in 2000 has evolved as a result of our educational partnership with NorQuest College. St. Joseph's strives to continually provide opportunities for nursing staff to learn new skills that enable them to maintain a high standard of care and to keep abreast of emerging care techniques and processes. NorQuest College was eager to find a community care centre that provides a "real world" work experience for their students. Our goals were complimentary and as a result, NorQuest College built on an already well-developed relationship with St. Joseph's to offer a more formalized program of study combined with work experience opportunities. NorQuest College has worked closely with St. Joseph's to design education modules that enhance skills of our staff such as Medication Administration and Charting. Our own education coordinator works with our staff to customize individual learning plans to fit the educational needs of individuals. To date, 74 St. Joseph's Nursing Attendants have participated in the program and an

additional 25 more people will participate in the program in the next few months. Future educational opportunities will include skills upgrading for Licensed Practical Nurses and a bridging program that could allow Nursing Attendants to obtain the necessary courses to qualify for the Licensed Practical Nurse designation. Life-long learning-in any field-is successful when learners and educators work together to design practical programs. Our partnership with NorQuest College provides us with high quality instruction, consistent standards of education from a recognized post-secondary educational institution, and allows us to customize the program to meet the unique needs of our organization. At St. Joseph's, training and educational opportunities are not limited to nursing staff. Professional and support staff from all disciplines and departments have opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills on an ongoing basis. Investing in our greatest resource-our staff-is one way that we continue to provide *Quality Care with Compassion in the Christian Tradition*.



If You Would Like More Information About St. Joseph's

You can reach St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital by phone, fax, mail or access our website:

St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital
10707-29 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6J 6W1

Phone: (780) 430-3443

Fax: (780) 430-9777

website: www.stjosephs.ab.ca

Donation Form

St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital is a registered charitable organization. Receipts, for tax purposes, are issued for all donations. Charitable registration # 119183614RR0001

I am enclosing my gift in the amount of \$ _____ (Please do not send cash through the mail).

Please use this donation for the most urgent need

I prefer to direct my donation to the following (please identify):

Your Name (please print): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Please detach and mail to:

St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital
10707-29 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6J 6W1

DONATION FORM