

# **Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada**

## **Finding Aid - 49 Charlton Avenue Eeast, Hamilton, Ont. Annals series (HF01-S024)**

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
<b>Title:</b>	49 Charlton Avenue Eeast, Hamilton, Ont. Annals series
<b>Reference code:</b>	HF01-S024
<b>Date:</b>	1976-2003 (creation)
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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of Hamilton was first incorporated on December 30, 1879 under chapter 167 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1877. The name was changed to The Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton in 1989. The city of Hamilton is on the traditional territory of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Mississauga Peoples.

On April 19, 1852, at the request of the Very Rev. E. Gordon, Vicar General of Hamilton and with the approval of Bishop de Charbonnel, the only Bishop in western Ontario at that time, three Sisters of St. Joseph came to Hamilton from Toronto. They opened their first convent on Cannon and McNab Streets. Here the Sisters ran a private elementary school and cared for orphans until 1857. In 1854, there was a cholera epidemic, followed by an outbreak of typhus. The Sisters were placed in charge of immigrants stricken with the disease and housed in railway sheds.

The Sisters founded St. Mary's Orphanage in Hamilton in 1852. Orphan care began with two orphan girls in the first convent. Beginning in 1856, residential care was provided for girls at the Motherhouse. In 1857, a girls' quarters opened in the convent at 204 Park Street. In 1864, a separate building was built for St. Mary's Orphanage with additions in 1874, 1881, 1884, and 1886. Then from 1933-1935, a building owned by the diocese was purchased at 354 King Street West and used for orphan girls. In 1936, a new Mount St. Joseph at the same location opened for girls with both boys and girls in residence from 1951 to 1960. The Sisters also provided residential care for orphan boys at the Motherhouse from 1856-1879, and then at the House of Providence, Dundas, Ontario from 1879-1900. In 1903, an annex was built for boys at St. Mary's, followed by a new building for boys at St. Mary's Orphanage in 1909. After this, from 1951-1960, boys were housed at Mount St. Joseph. The first Orphans' Festival was held in the town hall to raise money for orphans with annual collections in the district starting in the autumn of 1854. The Orphans' Festival lasted until 1956.

In 1856, the Sisters were placed in charge of separate schools in Hamilton following the passage of the Separate School Bill. Also in 1856, Hamilton became a diocese and St. Joseph's Convent opened on Park

Street North as a Motherhouse and Novitiate, as the congregation became independent of the Toronto congregation. At the first Motherhouse, the Sisters cared for orphan girls, taught music, taught in the separate schools, visited hospitals, prisons, the sick and the poor, and served as sacristans, homemakers, and catechetics teachers. In 1858, the first election was held in St. Joseph's Convent chapel with Sister Martha von Bunning elected as General Superior on December 8.

The Sisters founded their first mission outside Hamilton in Paris, Ontario in 1858, where they served as teachers, organists, sacristans, homemakers and catechetics teachers. This mission lasted until 1974. This was followed in 1859, by the first mission house in Brantford, Ontario on Crown Street, and then by other mission houses in Brantford until 1983. In Brantford, they also opened Bethany House, a ministry to abused women from 1989-1994. Over time, the Sisters opened many other mission houses including in Kenilworth (1924-1971), Mount Forest (1908-1932 and 1944-1978), Hespeler (1944-1961), Arthur (1873-1876 and 1986-1989), Kitchener (1977-), Milton (1954-1989), Stoney Creek (1957-), Oakville (1860-1863), Guelph (1977-1989), Owen Sound (1886-1909), Red Lake (1981-), Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation mission (Cape Croker) (1952-1986), and Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg (Pic Mobert) First Nation (2002-2020). In British Columbia, they opened missions at Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation (Fort St. James) (1950-1969), Fort St. John (1954-1988), Dawson Creek (1976-1982), Chetwynd (1977-1983), and Terrace (1988-1992).

The Sisters briefly ran a boarding school in for girls in Hamilton from 1860-1867. More notably, they founded St. Joseph's Hospital in Guelph, Ontario in 1861, followed by the House of Providence in Guelph which was open from 1861-1959. In 1897, the Sisters started St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Guelph, and in 1948, opened a new school of nursing which lasted until 1972.

In 1878, the Sisters took charge of St. Vincent De Paul Society home on Bay Street in Hamilton for the care of the poor. After one year, the residents were transferred to the House of Providence. In 1879, the Sisters opened the House of Providence in Dundas. After a fire in 1900, it re-opened in 1902 and remained active until 1970. The year 1879 also saw the beginning of the House of Providence annual picnic on August 2. In 1970, the Sisters opened the new St. Joseph's Villa in Dundas, which replaced the former House of Providence.

In 1890, the Sisters founded St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton which had additions in 1894, 1916, 1941, 1947, 1951, and a new wing in 1962. This was followed by the opening of St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Hamilton which had its first nine graduates in 1915. The Sisters also opened a nurses' residence for St. Joseph's Hospital, called Undermount, on John Street in Hamilton. Later, in 1963, the Sisters opened St. Joseph's School of Nursing, Fontbonne Hall. The nursing school closed in 1972.

In 1923, the Sisters founded Casa Maria maternity hospital in Hamilton which was replaced by the maternity wing at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1951. In 1924, The Sisters opened St. Mary's Hospital in Kitchener, Ontario. In 1931, St. Mary's School of Nursing began in Kitchener, and remained active until 1972.

In 1951, the second Motherhouse, St. Joseph's Convent was completed in Dundas. Here the Sisters served as teachers, music teachers, catechetics teachers, and established a spirituality centre for retreats, workshops, and spiritual direction in 1983.

In 1955, the Sisters founded St. Joseph's Hospital in Brantford. This was followed in 1957 by the opening of St. Joseph's Training Centre for Registered Nursing Assistants in Brantford, which closed in 1980.

In 1959, the Sisters unveiled St. Joseph's Home in Guelph, and elderly people were moved into the second floor of the new building which contained a wing for the chronically ill. The programs and services were delivered in conjunction with St. Joseph's Hospital.

In 1960, Mount St. Joseph in Hamilton became a home to treat emotionally disturbed children and the remaining orphans were moved to foster homes.

The Sisters also started overseas missions. In 1963, they opened a mission in Teculután, Guatemala, and worked at a health clinic, as teachers, and as catechetics teachers until 1979. Later, they opened a mission in Nicaragua which ran from 1985 to 1989.

In 1991, St. Joseph's Community Health Centre opened in Stoney Creek, Ontario. Beginning in 1983 until 1991, the Sisters staffed and supervised Martha House, Good Shepherd Women's Centre for abused women and homeless girls in Hamilton. The Neighbour to Neighbour Program, St. Joseph's Women's Immigrant Centre, and Hamilton Out of the Cold program are but three more recent local initiatives where the Sisters have been instrumental in the foundation of local social services.

On November 22, 2012, the congregation amalgamated with those in London, Peterborough, and Pembroke into one charitable corporation under the name Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Act, a Private Act of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which received Royal Assent on June 13, 2013.

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## Scope and content

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49 Charlton Avenue East, Hamilton was a community house of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton, Ontario. The Sisters moved in in 1976 and were primarily involved in health care, education, and pastoral ministry in Hamilton and the surrounding area. The Sisters left in 2001. This series contains the annals documenting the ministries and social activities of the Sisters of St. Joseph who lived here. There is also correspondence, house meeting minutes, records from a workshop about keeping annals, and photographs. There are also annals from the Brantford community of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** The title is based on the contents of the series.

### Immediate source of acquisition

These records were accumulated by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton, Ontario.

### Arrangement

Original order was maintained, arranged by record type and function.

### Location of originals

The records are located at the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives.

### Restrictions on access

The Archives reserves the right to restrict access to the collection depending on the condition of the archival material, the amount of material requested, and the purpose of the research. The use of certain materials may also be restricted for reasons of privacy or sensitivity, or under a donor agreement. Access restrictions will be applied equally to all researchers and reviewed periodically. No researcher will be given access to any materials that contain a personal information bank such as donor agreements or

personnel records, or to other proprietary information such as appraisals, insurance valuations, or condition reports.

## Conditions governing use

Permission to study archival records does not extend to publication or display rights. The researcher must request this permission in writing from the Archives.

## Finding aids

Series and file list available.

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Other notes

- Publication status: Draft
- Level of detail: Minimal
- Status description: Final

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## Access points

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- Multiple media (documentary form)

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## Collection holdings

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### File: HF01-S024-01 - Annals

Title: Annals

Reference code: HF01-S024-01

Date: 1976-2001 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This file contains the annals of the community house at 49 Charlton Ave. E., Hamilton. The annals document which Sisters lived here and their ministries in health care, education, and pastoral ministry, primarily in Hamilton and the surrounding area. Other frequent topics also include the Sisters social activities, travel, and health as well as religious services and events, activities in the local parish, holidays and celebrations, and world events. There are also photographs and obituaries.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records

4 photographs : col.

: 0092

Physical condition: File split into two folders.

Location of originals: Box 1 (0092)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: HF01-S024-02 - Annals**

Title: Annals

Reference code: HF01-S024-02

Date: 1998-2003 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This file contains the annals of the community house at 49 Charlton Ave. E., Hamilton in 1998 as well as for the Brantford community from 2002 to 2003. The annals document which Sisters lived here and their ministries in health care, education, and pastoral ministry, primarily in Hamilton and the surrounding area. Other frequent topics also include the Sisters social activities, travel, and health as well as religious services and events, activities in the local parish, holidays and celebrations, and world events.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

: 0092

Location of originals: Box 1 (0092)

Publication status:

Draft

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**File: HF01-S024-03 - Correspondence**

Title: Correspondence

Reference code: HF01-S024-03

Date: 1989, 1991, 2001 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This file contains correspondence about potentially keeping the community house at 49 Charlton Ave. E. open, about material being archival, and well wishes for the new year.

Physical description: 0.2 cm of textual records

: 0092

Location of originals: Box 1 (0092)

Publication status:

Draft

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**File: HF01-S024-04 - Correspondence re: finance**

Title: Correspondence re: finance

Reference code: HF01-S024-04

Date: 1981-1984 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This file contains correspondence about the finances of the community house at 49 Charlton Avenue East.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

: 0092

Location of originals: Box 1 (0092)

Publication status:

Draft

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### **File: HF01-S024-05 - House meeting minutes**

Title: House meeting minutes

Reference code: HF01-S024-05

Date: 1976-1977 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This file contains house meeting minutes for the community house at 49 Charlton Ave. E. Topics include, but are not limited to: community goals, ministries, attire, holidays, house rules, and social events.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

: 0092

Location of originals: Box 1 (0092)

Publication status:

Draft

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### **File: HF01-S024-06 - Local archivists' workshop re: annals**

Title: Local archivists' workshop re: annals

Reference code: HF01-S024-06

Date: June 1, 1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This file contains information sheets outlining what annals are, how to keep annals, the value of annals, and what is archival material.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

: 0092

Location of originals: Box 1 (0092)

Publication status:

Draft

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### **File: HF01-S024-07 - 49 Charlton Hamilton**

Title: 49 Charlton Hamilton

Reference code: HF01-S024-07

Date: 1981-1991 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This file consists of a photograph album from 49 Charlton Ave. E., Hamilton. The photographs depict the Sisters who lived at this community house celebrating Christmas, cutting down a Christmas tree at a farm and visiting the animals, social gatherings, the house, and the chapel.

Physical description: 1 album ; 25.5 x 30 x 2 cm

: 0045

Location of originals: Box 1 (0092)

Oversized, separated to Hamilton Annals Oversized Photo Albums box 2 (0045)

Publication status:

Draft

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