

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Annals Derrynane Lakehouse series (F01-S040)

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Annals Derrynane Lakehouse series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Annals Derrynane Lakehouse series
Reference code:	F01-S040
Date:	1965-2006 (creation)
Physical description:	2 cm of textual records 82 photographs: col. 1 photograph: b&w. 26 photographs: negatives: 35mm 1 album (128 photographs: col., and 12 negatives: 35mm)
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Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London, Ontario was first incorporated on February 15, 1891 under chapter 92 of the Statutes of Ontario, 1870-1. London, Ontario is on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, L'naapéewak, and Attawandaron Peoples.

On December 11, 1868, at the request of Bishop John Walsh, five Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto arrived in London, Ontario. Mother Teresa Brennan, Sister Ignatia Campbell, Sister Ursula McGuire, Sister Francis O'Malley and Sister Appolonia Nolan were accompanied by Reverend Mother Antoinette McDonald and were welcomed by Bishop Walsh, Rev. J.M. Bruyere, V.G., and Rev. P. Egan, pastor of St. Peter's Church. Awaiting the Sisters were sleighs that transported them from the train station to a temporary home at 170 Kent Street.

In accordance with their mission in London, three Sisters began teaching at St. Peter's School in January, 1869. After classes, they visited the sick, the poor and the imprisoned. They were also mandated to open an orphanage in the future. In order to accomplish these tasks, more Sisters and larger facilities were necessary.

On October 2, 1869, the Barker House at the corner of Richmond and College Street in North London was purchased and the Sisters moved there from Kent Street. The building was named Mount Hope, and it became the first Motherhouse of the Sisters, eventually housing the elderly, orphans, Sisters and novices.

On December 18, 1870, the Sisters of St. Joseph became an autonomous congregation in the London diocese, independent of the Toronto congregation. Sister Ignatia Campbell was appointed Superior General, an office she held until 1902. On February 15, 1871, the congregation became legally incorporated.

On October 7, 1877, an addition was made to Mount Hope. This building stood until it was demolished on August 3, 1980, surrounded by the growing healthcare institutions founded by the Sisters, beginning

with St. Joseph's Hospital which opened at 268 Grosvenor Street on October 15, 1888, and followed by the opening of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in 1895, and the construction of a new nursing school building in 1927, which saw its last graduation in 1977. On May 1, 1951, St. Mary's Hospital was opened, followed by Marian Villa on January 12, 1966. In 1985, the hospital complex was renamed St. Joseph's Health Centre, and ownership was transferred in 1993 to St. Joseph's Health Care Society.

But it was not only in London that Sisters saw the need for healthcare and nursing education. On October 15, 1890, they opened St. Joseph's Hospital on Centre Street in Chatham, Ontario, which remained under their control until 1993. In 1895, they opened St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, which saw its last graduation in 1970. On October 18, 1946, they opened St. Joseph's Hospital at 290 North Russell Street in Sarnia which remained under their control until 1993. In Alberta, they administered St. Joseph's Hospital in Stettler (1926), St. Joseph's Hospital in Galahad (1927), the General Hospital in Killam (1930), and St. Paul's Hospital in Rimbey (1932).

On April 10, 1899, the Sisters opened Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse, Novitiate and Orphanage at the former Hellmuth College at 1486 Richmond Street North in London. The orphans were moved to this new location from Mount Hope, which remained a home for the elderly and was renamed House of Providence on June 3, 1899. The orphanage remained at Mount St. Joseph until it was moved to Fontbonne Hall in 1953 (to 1967). The original Hellmuth College building was demolished in 1976.

Later, on September 14, 1914, the Motherhouse and Novitiate moved to Sacred Heart Convent at Colborne and Dundas Streets in London, with the orphans remaining at Mount St. Joseph. The Sisters lived at Sacred Heart Convent until 1953, when they moved back to the newly built Mount St. Joseph, on the original location of the former Hellmuth College. The new Motherhouse and Novitiate was officially opened on June 29, 1954. It was here that they continued a private girls' school which had begun in 1950 at Sacred Heart Convent, and was now known as Mount St. Joseph Academy (to 1985). It was here too that they continued a music school which had also begun at Sacred Heart Convent and was now called St. Joseph's School of Music (to 1982). The Médaille Retreat Centre began here in 1992, and the Sisters also administered a Guest Wing for relatives of hospitalized patients (to 2005). The Sisters departed Mount St. Joseph for their new residence, a green building at 485 Windermere Road in London, in 2007.

On September 4, 1873, St. Joseph's Convent opened at 131 North Street in Goderich, Ontario, followed by other convents in Ontario, including Ingersoll (1879), St. Thomas (1879), Belle River (1889), Windsor (1894), Sarnia (1906), Kingsbridge (1911), Seaforth (1913), St. Mary's (1913), Woodstock (1913), Kinkora (1916), Paincourt (1923), Maidstone (1930), Leamington (1932), Delhi (1938), Tillsonburg (1938), Simcoe (1938), Langton (1939), West Lorne (1957), and Zurich (1963).

The Sisters also opened missions in other parts of Canada, including in Alberta: Edmonton (1922), Wetaskiwin (1929), St. Bride's (1934); and in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories Yellowknife (1953), and in British Columbia in Haney, now Maple Ridge (1956), and Rutland (1970). Branching even further afield, Convento San Jose was opened in Chiclayo, Peru in 1962.

Over the years, as well as their service as teachers in the separate school system, as music teachers, as healthcare workers, as nursing educators, in providing care to orphans, and in providing parish ministry, pastoral care, and administering spiritual retreats, the Sisters were also involved in social service ministry. In Windsor, they opened the Roy J. Bondy Centre on September 13, 1970 which was a receiving home for the Children's Aid Society, withdrawing in 1982 but continuing to provide residential care for disabled children afterward. In London, they opened Internos, a residence for teenage girls attending school and later for troubled teens (to 1979). This was followed by the opening of St. Joseph's Detoxification Centre on September 13, 1973 (to 2005) and St. Stephen's House, an alcoholic recovery centre on February 1, 1982 (to 2000). Loughlin House in London opened as a residence for ex-psychiatric female patients in 1986 (to 1989), followed by the Home for Women in Need at 534 Queens Avenue in 1979 (to 2004).

Later, St. Josephs' House for Refugees was opened in 1987 (to 2005), followed by St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, a food security program, on February 2, 1983.

On November 22, 2012, the congregation amalgamated with those in Hamilton, 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.

Scope and content

This series contains records concerning the establishment of Derrynane Lakehouse in Camlachie, Ontario. Derrynane Lakehouse was a summer beach home and Vocation House for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario. The series includes historical summaries on the design and building construction of the lake house. There is a short history from 1825 to 1967 about Daniel O'Connell, an Irish Patriot, and his family's home named Derrynane House in Ireland, from which the name Derrynane Lakehouse is derived. There is a handwritten letter by Sister Mary Patricia (Columkille) Doyle on the founding history of the Derrynane Lakehouse in Canada and the Derrynane House estate in Ireland, a brief about a home for retired priests written by Reverend Father Cyril A. Doyle, and correspondence with General Superior, Sister Mary Diesbourg, regarding the renovations of Derrynane Lakehouse. There are also hand drawn layout plans for each floor, financial estimates, itemized list of costs quotations, construction timelines, and build agreements for the lake house cottage. In addition, there are photographs of the Sisters visiting Derrynane House in Ireland and Reverend Doyle with a car, as well as photographs and negatives that document Sisters' activities the renovations of Derrynane Lakehouse.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

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

Arrangement

Original order was maintained.

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.

Note [Sources]

County of Lambton, “Acknowledgement of Ancestral Lands,” <https://www.lambtononline.ca/en/county-government/acknowledgement-of-ancestral-lands.aspx>, accessed 2014/09/10.

Note [General]

Some content within this record group contains language that is offensive, derogatory, or harmful. This language does not reflect the values of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Note [General]

Derrynane Lakehouse was the name of a property in Camlachie, Ontario, owned by Reverend Father Cyril A. Doyle, Pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Zurich, Ontario.

Reverend Doyle purchased a building on a sandy beach on the southern tip of Lake Huron, in the rural hamlet of Camlachie, on Devonshire Road. He originally intended the building to be for retired priests, but he then changed his plan, and felt the residence would be more useful as a House of Vocation for the Sisters of St. Joseph of London. The building was later named Derrynane Lakehouse. The Village of Camlachie, in the Township of Plympton–Wyoming, in the Municipal County of Lambton, is 104km west of London, Ontario. Derrynane Lakehouse is situated on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe (Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi) and the Delaware (Lunaapeew) Nations, and was part of the Wampum treaties of 1790, Sombra Township Purchase of 1796 (Treaty 7), Long Woods Purchase of 1819 (Treaty 21), and the Huron Tract Purchase of 1827 (Treaty 29).

Reverend Doyle requested the transformation and renovation of the building and land to prepare the place as a vacationing facility for the Sisters. Construction on Devonshire Road began on November 19, 1965. On August 19, 1968, Reverend Doyle completed a three-chapter brief that was started in March 1966 and first suggested by Chief Shepard Gerald Emmett. The brief concerned the subject of a home for retired priests and was titled Project Retirement Centre.

Later extensive renovations began in late 1988, and by March 1, 1999, Derrynane Lakehouse was ready to receive vacationers with five bedrooms and seven beds in the main house, even though construction continued until May 1999. The lake house eventually expanded into a seven-bedroom summer cottage house for the Sisters. The building construction work was overseen by Sisters Rose Ellen Donnelly, Wilhemina Van Herk, and Anna Catherine Lavin with the General Superior, Sister Mary Diesbourg, and in collaboration with John P. Ferris & Associates Management Consulting Services, Jem-Dor Woodcraft Limited, and Pineridge Construction. The Sisters decided to renovate the building’s annex rather than purchase or build a new residence, and sought consultations on landscaping, cabinetry quotations, cost estimates, and aerial drawing plans.

The name Derrynane was in deference to Reverend Doyle who had fond memories of where he spent some time during the Irish war years (War of Independence and Irish Civil War) in the Town of Derrynane, County of Kerry, in Ireland. Derrynane House was the name given to the ancestral home of the Irish nationalist leader, politician and barrister, Daniel O'Connell, who lived in Caherdaniel, nearby Derrynane. O'Connell helped Catholics to gain new freedom by having the British Parliament pass the Catholic Emancipation Act in 1829, and in 1844 he built a chapel at his house and named it Derrynane. In 1967, Derrynane House in Ireland was officially opened to the public as a museum by the then president of Ireland, Éamon de Valera. In June 1973, Sister Mary Patricia Doyle paid homage to her Irish roots and, together with Mother Kieran of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary Loretto Sisters, visited Derrynane House in Caherdaniel, Ireland. Sister Mary Patricia wrote a short report on her experience touring the heritage home of Daniel O'Connell. Sister Mary Patricia (Columkille) Doyle was born in 1927 and passed away in 2012. She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario in 1956.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
 - **Level of detail:** Minimal
 - **Status description:** Final
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Access points

- Multiple media (documentary form)
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Collection holdings

File: F01-S040-01 - Devonshire Road, Ireland origins, and photographs

Title: Devonshire Road, Ireland origins, and photographs

Reference code: F01-S040-01

Date: 1965-2006 (date of creation)

: 0345

Location of originals: London Annals Box 6 (0345)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S040-02 - Devonshire Road, and Ireland origins

Title: Devonshire Road, and Ireland origins

Reference code: F01-S040-02

Date: Nov. 19, 1965 (date of creation)

: 0345

Location of originals: London Annals Box 6 (0345)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S040-03 - Project Retirement Centre, brief by Reverend Cyril Doyle

Title: Project Retirement Centre, brief by Reverend Cyril Doyle

Reference code: F01-S040-03

Date: Aug. 19, 1966 (date of creation)

: 0345

Location of originals: London Annals Box 6 (0345)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S040-04 - Build contract, plans, estimates, and photographs

Title: Build contract, plans, estimates, and photographs

Reference code: F01-S040-04

Date: Mar. 12-Aug. 10, 1999 (date of creation)

Physical description: London Annals Box 6 (0345)

: 0345

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S040-05 - Derrynane on Lake Huron L-D-1 [photo album]

Title: Derrynane on Lake Huron L-D-1 [photo album]

Reference code: F01-S040-05

Date: 1975-2002 (date of creation)

: 0376

Location of originals: Originally London Annals Box 6 (0345), separated to box 8 (0376).

Publication status:

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