

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

## **Finding Aid - Annals Loughlin House, London, Ont. series (F01-S052)**

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# Annals Loughlin House, London, Ont. series

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## Table of contents

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Summary information .....	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch .....	3
Scope and content .....	5
Notes .....	5
Access points .....	7
Collection holdings .....	7

## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
<b>Title:</b>	Annals Loughlin House, London, Ont. series
<b>Title [Annals 446 Queens Ave., London, Ont. series] :</b>	Annals 446 Queens Ave., London, Ont. series
<b>Reference code:</b>	F01-S052
<b>Date:</b>	1975-1994 (creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	1.75 cm of textual records 7 photographs : col 1 guest book : 20.5 x 14 x 2 cm 1 drawing : coloured pencils ; 28 x 21.5 cm
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	This project has been made possible in part by Library and Archives Canada's Documentary Heritage Communities Program. By Lyllie Sue, December 2024.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### 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.

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## Scope and content

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This series contains annals documenting the history of the mission at Loughlin House in London by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario. This series documents the work positions that were assigned to individual Sisters such as leadership positions within the Community, teaching at Catholic Central High-School in London, working with the Marriage Tribunal in Toronto, conducting a Beatitudes Retreat at Mount St. Joseph, and working in health care. There is a list of Sisters who were stationed at Loughlin House from 1976 to 1985. This series has a guestbook given by Sister Margaret Ann Jacobson to the Loughlin House Community that has hand-written signatures of people who visited the residence from January 5 to April 11, 1976. There are photographs that depict the exterior of the Loughlin House, the house chapel in 1981, and an event that marks the transformation and renaming of the Loughlin House into LIFT House, a social housing project. There is a program brochure related to the official opening of the LIFT House on June 19, 1992. In addition, there is a laminated hand-drawn sketch produced with coloured pencils that illustrate the Loughlin building titled "LIFT House 446 Queens Ave."

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## Notes

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### 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]

City of London, Ontario, “City of London Land Acknowledgement,” <https://london.ca/city-london-land-acknowledgement>, accessed 2024/10/10.

Government of Ontario, “Map of Ontario treaties and reserves,” <https://www.ontario.ca/page/map-ontario-treaties-and-reserves#>, accessed 2024/10/10.

## 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]

In the Fall of 1975, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario purchased a 5-bedroom house on Queens Avenue in London. It was named Loughlin House in reverence of the previous owner Dr. E. I. Loughlin. He was a healthcare professional who worked closely with the Sisters and built the house in 1938. The mission at the Loughlin Community House opened on January 2, 1976, when Sister Ann McDonald, Sister Elizabeth Sexton, Sister Jacqueline Janisse, Sister Janet Anne Menard, and Sister Simone Batte moved in. Sister Theresa Carmel Slavik was appointed the Acting Superior of the house. Sister Theresa also taught at St. Joseph’s Academy in London and later became the Secretary General of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London. On April 19, 1976, an open house was held at Loughlin House for the Community and 125 Sisters attended.

Here the Sisters were involved in health care and educational ministries. The Sisters also assisted with home visits and instructions in baptism at St. Peter’s Cathedral Basilica and attended the National Formation Workshop in St. Jérôme, Québec, the 25th Anniversary of the Canadian Religious Conference in Chatham, an Associates gathering in Kingsville, the Galilee Vocation Discernment weekend in Guelph, various Community workshops at Mount St. Joseph in London, and spiritual retreats at the Derrynane Lakehouse in Camlachie, Invermara House in Orillia, and at the Medaille House in London. In August 1982, Loughlin House became a Formation House when some members of the Associates program joined the community residence. Associates were lay people who work to continue the Sisters’ charism and ministry. Sister Mary Diesbourg was appointed the Vocation Director of the Associates.

From April 16, 1986, to June 1989, Loughlin House underwent renovations to house teens and young adults who were psychiatric patients. The ministry was directed by Kate Groom with assistance from Sister Mary James Finucan. Loughlin House reopened in August 1989 as the first of two London Inner City Faith Team (LIFT) project housing ventures. Sister Elizabeth Sexton was a social worker that lived on-site and served as the supervisor and as a LIFT board member. Sister Mary Leo Kirwin was a member of the LIFT

Non-Profit Housing of London Incorporated Board of Directors and helped to administer the house project at Queens Avenue. On March 31, 1994, there was a sod-turning ceremony for Elaine Lucas Place, the second LIFT house project at Little Simcoe Street, London, Ontario.

London, Ontario is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, L#naapéewak and Attawandaron Nations, and land specific to Treaty 2 (McKee Purchase of 1790), Treaty 6 (London Township Purchase of 1796), Treaty 21 (Long Woods Purchase of 1819), Treaty 29 (Huron Tract Purchase of 1827), Nanfan Treaty of 1701, Two Row Wampum Belt Treaty of 1613, and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum of 1701.

## Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

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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: F01-S052-01 - History of Loughlin House, guestbook, and photographs

Title: History of Loughlin House, guestbook, and photographs

Reference code: F01-S052-01

Date: 1975-1994 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

Published

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### File: F01-S052-02 - History of Loughlin House, excerpts

Title: History of Loughlin House, excerpts

Reference code: F01-S052-02

Date: 1975-1986 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

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**File: F01-S052-03 - History of Loughin House, drafts**

Title: History of Loughin House, drafts

Reference code: F01-S052-03

Date: 1975-1983 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

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**File: F01-S052-04 - Artwork, architectural drawing of LIFT House**

Title: Artwork, architectural drawing of LIFT House

Reference code: F01-S052-04

Date: 1986-1989 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

Published

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