

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Annals Mount St. Joseph Guest Wing, London, Ont. series (F01-S051)

Generated by Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada on January 12, 2026

Language of description: English

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

485 Windermere Road P.O. Box 487

London

Ontario

Canada

N6A 4X3

Telephone: 519-432-3781 ext. 404

Fax: 519-432-8557

[Email: csjarchives@csjcanada.org](mailto:csjarchives@csjcanada.org)

<https://atom.csjarchive.org/index.php/annals-mount-st-joseph-guest-wing-london-ont-series>

Annals Mount St. Joseph Guest Wing, London, Ont. series

Table of contents

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

Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Annals Mount St. Joseph Guest Wing, London, Ont. series
Reference code:	F01-S051
Date:	1985-2005 (creation)
Physical description:	1.3 cm of textual records
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	This project has been made possible in part by Library and Archives Canada's Documentary Heritage Communities Program. By Lyllie Sue, December 2024

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 the business history of the Mount St. Joseph Guest Wing operated by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario. There are financial records such as activity reports, statistical comparison reports, and payment reports. There are also bills no. 98, 99, and 182 from the City of London which are related to a smoke-free workplace, general prohibitions of public places, and sign requirements. There is also correspondence between the guest wing contact person, Sister Valerie Van Cauwenberghe, and the General Superior, Sister Mary Diesbourg, regarding the operation and administration of the Mount St. Joseph Guest Wing and correspondence between the Sisters regarding increasing the number of accommodations for the guest wing. There are also memorandums and faxes to the Sisters from Tonda Construction Limited and Southwest Doors & Hardware Limited regarding renovations. In addition, there is the April 1997 *Friends From the Mount Newsletter*, coordinated by Larry and Eve Babcock. This newsletter contains articles written by former guests and patients on their experiences at the Mount St. Joseph Guest Wing, a historical timeline of organ donation milestones in the medical field from 1682 to 1993, jokes, riddles, comics, and a recipe. There is also a sales bill from IBC Computer Distributors and two pamphlets for the guest wing outlining the rules, regulations, and accommodations.

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

File F01-S051-01 Financial reports is restricted until 2035 due to confidential business and financial information. 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]

In 1950, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario, established a private girl's school inside the Sacred Heart Convent (at Colborne and Dundas Streets), it moved to the Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse on Richmond Street and became the Mount St. Joseph Academy. The Sisters operated Mount St. Joseph Academy and officially opened a residence in 1959 to house 50 female students. In 1985, the Mount St. Joseph Academy student dormitories were officially closed.

At this time in 1985, there was an increase of bed closures at the nearby University Hospital. The University Hospital approached the Sisters to consider providing accommodation for their discharged patients and support persons from the hospital's organ transplant services program. The Sisters of St. Joseph agreed to assist by transforming the former student residences to accommodate up to 70 overnight visitors. The new housing facility was renamed the Mount St. Joseph Guest Wing. The clientele prioritized were those waiting to receive healthcare treatment, especially hospital patients scheduled for organ transplant surgery at the University Hospital, and for their out-of-town families and friends. The property of the Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse was sold in May 2005, but the Sisters continued to administer the Mount St. Joseph Guest Wing until it closed in September 2005.

The Sacred Heart Convent and the Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse in London, Ontario are 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
- **Level of detail:** Minimal
- **Status description:** Final

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

Collection holdings

File: F01-S051-01 - Financial reports

Title: Financial reports

Reference code: F01-S051-01

Date: 1985-2005 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Restrictions on access: This file is restricted until 2035 due to confidential business and financial information.

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S051-02 - Business operations, administration, and by-laws

Title: Business operations, administration, and by-laws

Reference code: F01-S051-02

Date: 1992-2003 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

Published
