

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

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Annals St. Stephen's Residence, London, Ont. series

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Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Annals St. Stephen's Residence, London, Ont. series
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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 summaries, administrative records, correspondence, and news clippings related to the history of St. Stephen's House at English Street and St. Stephen's House at Gower Street in London, Ontario and highlights the nursing ministry of Sister St. Patrick (Monica Mary) Joyce, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, Ontario. Sister St. Patrick dedicated 56 years of her service to people recovering from alcohol and chemical addiction. St. Stephen's House at English Street and at Gower Street were long-term residential treatment facilities established and managed by Sister St. Patrick that provided rehabilitative programs for people in addiction recovery. There is a short biography documenting the work of Sister St. Patrick. There is a news clipping from the 1976 *London Free Press* titled, "Most men on Skid Road are war veterans," by Wendy Koenig. There is correspondence on donations made to St. Stephen's House from The London Foundation, in 1985; and correspondence on a print of Westover in Thamesville, Ontario, that was gifted to Sister Patrick Joyce from the Sisters of St. Joseph of London, in 2006. In addition, there is a scrapbook that contains short histories on St. Stephen's Houses, correspondence from the Addiction Research Foundation of Canada in appreciation of Sister St. Patrick's long nursing career and her innovative treatment methods. In the scrapbook, there is a printed picture of Sister St. Patrick Joyce, various news clippings related to her ministry, and the first Annual Report of St. Stephen's House at English Street, London, Ontario, from 1982 to 1983.

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]

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.

St. Stephen's House of London, "Our Story," <http://ststephenshouselondon.ca/our-story/>, accessed 2024/12/24.

Atkinson, Joan, pers. comm., December 27, 2024.

Note [General]

Sister St. Patrick (Monica Mary) Joyce was born in Michigan, Ontario, in 1921, and passed away in London, Ontario, in 2001. In 1942, Sister St. Patrick Joyce was a student nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, in Chatham, Ontario. Sister St. Patrick's nursing assignment included looking after people who were suffering from alcoholism. The treatment at that time was to place patients in a small, dark, locked room with bars on the window, a mattress on the floor for a bed, and to medicalize them with heavy tranquilizers. In 1944, Sister St. Patrick graduated as a registered nurse and years later in 1968, she updated her skills and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Lakehead University. On August 25, 1945, Sister St. Patrick was received as a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London. In August 1947, she made her First Profession, and on August 25, 1950, she made her Final Profession. From 1952 to 1957, she served as a nursing supervisor and psychiatric supervisor at St. Joseph's Hospital in London. From 1957 to 1967, she was appointed to the Emergency Department at St. Joseph's Hospital in Sarnia. During this period, she encountered people experiencing seizures, hallucinations, and delirium brought on by alcohol addiction and withdrawal.

Sister St. Patrick worked alongside Sister St. Stephen (Anastasia) Dentinger, who was born in 1889, and passed away in 1967. Impressed by the courage and forthrightness of Sister St. Stephen Dentinger, who removed locks off the doors, furnished the rooms and treated patients alike with respect and dignity, Sister St. Patrick soon followed in Sister St. Stephen's non-judgmental and compassionate treatment methods

including limiting the use of medicaments that rendered patients unconscious. In 1971, Sister St. Patrick worked at the St. Joseph's Hospital Detoxification Centre in London, Ontario. On September 13, 1973, under her initiative and guidance, the St. Joseph's Detoxification Centre on Dufferin Avenue and Waterloo Street, opened in partnership with St. Joseph's Hospital in London. It was a residential treatment clinic designed to be a home-like environment that supported sobriety, as opposed to the standard approach of medically institutionalizing people who were in withdrawal. St. Joseph's Detoxification Centre was also referred to as the Withdrawal Management Service, Detox Centre, or Detox Clinic.

In March 1976, Sister St. Patrick opened a non-profit social club named Dry Dock Club at 585 York Street in London, as a no-drugs and no-alcohol entertainment place for people in recovery. The Club was equipped with a pool table, card game table, shuffleboard, television, and a piano. It provided three meals a day at minimal charge, with membership open to anyone eighteen years and over. In 1979, St. Joseph's Detoxification Centre moved to a 30-bed treatment facility at Williams Street and Queens Avenue in London. In 1987, 3,312 men and 255 women were admitted and treated at St. Joseph's Detoxification Centre.

Extending on this program, Sister St. Patrick Joyce started a new ministry, a long-term transitional home for post-withdrawal men in a rehabilitative program with the goal toward living an addiction free and independent life. Sister St. Patrick Joyce founded St. Stephen's House, named in honour of Reverend Sister St. Stephen (Anastasia) Dentinger. The first St. Stephen's house was on English Street and official opened February 1, 1982. The house was a triplex transformed to accommodate up to eight patients and a live-in house manager. On October 2, 1989, the Withdrawal Management Service at English Street was closed due to changes within the neighbourhood that were no longer conducive as a healing environment for in-house patients. On May 2, 1988, a second house on Gower Street in London was purchased to accommodate eight more patients into the same residential recovery program. This was also named St. Stephen's House. As of 2024, St. Stephen's House remains in operation as a half-way house for men. In 1988, Sister St. Patrick Joyce retired as Director of St. Joseph's Detoxification Centre but continued to administer both St. Stephen's Houses. She remained active in the ministry of addiction services by serving on the Board of Directors at Turning Point, a London agency that operated recovery homes for people experiencing substance addiction. She was also a founding board member at Westover Treatment Centre in Thamesville, Ontario, an in-patient facility for people struggling with alcoholism. Sister St. Patrick Joyce also oversaw the substance abuse treatment program for the Ministry of Health. An addition to the Westover Treatment Centre building was dedicated and named St. Patrick's Building in recognition of her work. Sister St. Patrick Joyce was honoured with other awards such as being given a Community Service plaque from the Addiction Research Foundation of Canada (now part of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health of Canada). She also received the first Presidents Shield award for outstanding work in the field of addictions from the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Association of Ontario (now Ontario Addiction Treatment Centres). She was granted Honorary Memberships in the Fellowship of Alcoholic Anonymous Groups in Chatham and Sarnia, in Ontario. She also achieved recognition for her service in healthcare from the London City Police Department, and in social work for the Training and Employee Assistance Program from the Canadian Auto Workers.

In January 2000, Sister St. Patrick Joyce officially retired due to personal health concerns. On October 25, 2000, Beverly Thompson, retired Director at Westover Treatment Centre volunteered to manage and operate St. Stephen's House on Gower Street, with assistance by Sister Patricia Hogan as a liaison person for the Sisters of St. Joseph of London. Ownership of St. Stephens's House on Gower Street was relinquished in 2005. 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
 - **Level of detail:** Minimal
 - **Status description:** Final
-

Access points

- Joyce, St. Patrick (subject)
 - Dentinger, St. Stephen (subject)
 - Textual record (documentary form)
-

Collection holdings

File: F01-S056-01 - Scrapbook, 525 English Street, and 36 Gower Street

Title: Scrapbook, 525 English Street, and 36 Gower Street

Reference code: F01-S056-01

Date: 1982-2000 (date of creation)

: 0380

Location of originals: London Annals Box 12 (0380)

Publication status:

Published

File: F01-S056-02 - History, correspondence, and a news clipping

Title: History, correspondence, and a news clipping

Reference code: F01-S056-02

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