

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - Galahad Hospital, Alta. fonds (F02)

Generated by Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada on April 30, 2025

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/galahad-hospital-alta-fonds>

Galahad Hospital, Alta. fonds

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	4
Access points	5
Series descriptions	5
F02-S001, Histories of Galahad Hospital, 1926-1992	5
F02-S002, Commemorative Materials, 1927-1995	6
F02-S003, Administrative Materials, 1928-1981	6
F02-S004, Photographs, 1927-1976	7

Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	Galahad Hospital, Alta. fonds
Reference code:	F02
Date:	1926-1995 (creation)
Physical description:	6 cm of textual records 1 plaque 98 photographs
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	June 23, 2014October 30, 2018July 2, 2020

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

In 1927, following the Congregation of St. Joseph's exit from Stettler, Alberta, Archbishop Henry Joseph O'Leary decided that a hospital was greatly needed in Galahad, AB. His request for one was granted by the General Superior and her Council, and in 1927, the Sisters of St. Joseph arrived in Galahad, AB. At this time, the only building available to the Sisters was a small 2 story teacherage. The building, which had no plumbing, consisted of only 6 rooms and came with little to no equipment that could be used for medical purposes. The Sisters were thus frequently required to improvise and make-do with what was available. During these early years in Galahad, the government provided no financial aid to the Sisters; consequently, they depended on funding provided to them by the community and via bank loans.

Throughout 1927, increasing numbers of settlers arrived in Galahad, AB. At times, this led to crowding within the existing hospital and to a heavier workload for the Sisters. Sister Jane Frances O'Rourke and Mother Patricia Coughlin are said to have played crucial roles during this time. Due to the growing role of the hospital and because of space constraints, plans for a new hospital building were soon underway.

In 1927, Mr. Hugh Taylor, (the sole real estate agent in Galahad, AB), offered the Sisters four and a half acres of land on which to build their new hospital. Following this acquisition of land, bids were tendered and the C. Gordon Company of Vegreville won the construction job. The Wheatland Municipality contributed \$2,500 to construction costs. The new building, which consisted of two stories, a brick interior and large grounds, was officially opened by His Grace Archbishop O'Leary on September 3rd, 1928.

In 1932, the average number of patients was 20, and most were from the towns of Galahad, Forestburg, and Alliance. The first doctors to work in the hospital were Dr. Maynes and Dr. A.J. Cook. In 1947 Sister Loyola Donovan became Administrator and Sister Genevieve Casey became Superior of the Galahad Community.

In 1953, having conferred with the community, the Sisters advised that a new building was once again needed. They requested that a new structure be built - one that could house 45 beds and a 10 bed bassinet

nursery. In 1953, having won the contract, Burns and Dutton started work on the project with Mr. Alex Fellows in the role of Construction Superintendent. The cost of the new building was estimated at \$250,000.00, and was funded through a long term loan from the Bank of Montreal in Forestburg. In September 1954, the new building was officially opened and blessed by Monsignor Carleton. In 1955, renovations to the old hospital were undertaken. Upon completion of the renovations, the building became living accommodations for the Sisters. During this time, the Chapel was also relocated nearer to the new hospital and was later blessed by Archbishop MacDonald in May 1955. In 1962, an Advisory Board was established that included local business men and district farmers. This Board was meant to advise and assist the Sisters with matters regarding the hospital as well as Provincial and Municipal affairs. On August 4th, 1973, St. Joseph's Hospital in Galahad was granted full accreditation. Toward the end of the 1970s, many physicians were leaving rural practice and vacancies created by retirees were not being filled. In the meantime, the Sisters also faced staffing problems. Since Vatican II, more professions and apostolates had become available to Sisters, which resulted in a decline of Health Care apostolates. All of these changes led the Congregation of St. Joseph to re-evaluate their ownership of St. Joseph's Hospital, Galahad. On August 31st, 1978, the Sisters of St. Joseph gave up their ownership of St. Joseph's Hospital, Galahad. Thereafter, ownership was transferred by the Department of the Ministry of Health to Flagstaff-Hughenden Hospital District #55.

Scope and content

This fonds consists of records that pertain to St. Joseph's Hospital, Galahad, Alta. More specifically, it consists of written histories about the hospital, commemorative materials related to the hospital, and hospital administrative materials.

Notes

Title notes

- **Variations in title:** Officially known as St. Joseph's Hospital.
- **Source of title proper:** Title is based on the contents of the fonds.

Immediate source of acquisition

Records transferred from the Sisters in Alberta to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada - London site archives.

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]

M. Doyle (ed.) and C. Dignan (ed.), Contribution of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London to the Hospital and Health Care Services in Canada (1888-1992).

G. J. Humbert, A Compendium of the Catholic Health Association of Canada, 2011.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Final
- **Institution identifier:** CA ON00279

Access points

- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Physical objects (documentary form)
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
- Alberta (place)

Series descriptions

Series F02-S001: Histories of Galahad Hospital

Date: 1926-1992 (creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of historical accounts written about St. Joseph's Hospital, Galahad, AB. In addition to these histories, the series also includes a timeline that details key events and happenings related to the hospital, correspondence, a staff listing, and a brief history of Galahad's forerunner, St. Joseph's Hospital, Stettler, AB.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F02-S001-01	File - History Galahad	1927-1978	
F02-S001-02	File - Stettler--The forerunner to Galahad Hospital	1926-1978	
F02-S001-03	File - Galahad, Alta.--St. Joseph's Hospital	1965-1974	

Series F02-S002: Commemorative Materials

Date: 1927-1995 (creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of records that commemorate significant and special events related to St. Joseph's Hospital, Galahad, AB. It includes newspaper clippings of articles written about the hospital, photographs that depict staff parties, and programs and booklets that were created for special hospital occasions. Lastly, this series includes a plaque that was given to the Sisters of St. Joseph to show appreciation for their years of service.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

1 plaque

3 photographs

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F02-S002-01	File - Galahad Special Events	1927-1978	
F02-S002-02	File - Galahad Newspaper Clippings		

Series F02-S003: Administrative Materials

Date: 1928-1981 (creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of records that pertain to the administrative workings of St. Joseph's Hospital, Galahad, Alta. Included within this series are documents related to the running of the hospital, staff rules, staff listings, and samples of documentation that were once used by staff to keep hospital records (e.g. blank birth certificate).

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

9 photographs

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F02-S003-01	File - St. Joseph's Hospital Galahad	1928-1981	2 cm of textual records 9 photographs

Series F02-S004: Photographs

Date: 1927-1976 (creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of photographs that were originally part of a photograph album of Alberta hospitals.

Physical description: 25 photographs : b&w
61 photographs : col.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F02-S004-01	File - Photographs, Galahad Hospital, Alta.	1927-1976	25 photographs : b&w 61 photographs : col.