

# Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

## Finding Aid - Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke Annals fonds (7)

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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/sisters-of-st-joseph-of-pembroke-annals-fonds>

# Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke Annals fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
<b>Title:</b>	Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke Annals fonds
<b>Reference code:</b>	7
<b>Date:</b>	1920-2004 (creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	55.5 cm of textual records 340 photographs : col. 11 photographs : b&w
<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. Created by Lyllie Sue and Rhiannon Allen-Roberts, 2024.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

The Sisters of St. Joseph for the Diocese of Pembroke in Canada was first incorporated by letters patent dated January 21, 1922 under the Ontario Companies Act. The town of Pembroke, Ontario is located on the traditional lands of the Algonquin and Anishinaabe Peoples.

In 1910, Sisters from Peterborough began teaching at St. Michael's Parish school in Douglas, followed by Killaloe in 1915 and Mount St. Patrick in 1916, all three being small rural communities in Ontario. Eleven years later, on August 25, 1921, a new community was formed at Bishop Ryan's request by 27 Sisters from Peterborough. 14 of these Sisters were already serving in Douglas, Killaloe, and Mount St. Patrick. Mother Vincent Carroll was elected General Superior.

The new community needed a motherhouse, and the O'Kelly farm was purchased by Bishop Ryan, giving the Sisters 40 acres of farmland and 107 acres of woods on the Ottawa River, along with an old farmhouse. On September 19, 1921 St. Joseph's-on-the-Lake, the first Motherhouse, was officially opened and blessed by Father Dowdall. St. Joseph's Convent, the first mission of the newly formed congregation, was established in Chapeau on August 27, 1921. Here the Sisters taught in the local school for many years.

The Pembroke Sisters spread out throughout Ontario and Quebec, and even made their way westward to Saskatchewan and Alberta. Some other missions included Calabogie (1924), Campbell's Bay (1925), Barry's Bay (1928), Renfrew (1928), Sheenboro (1936), Madawaska (1936), Deep River (1948), Quyon (1951), Des Joachims (1958), Whitney (1958), Bancroft (1959), Ottawa (1962), and Petawawa (1962).

The General Superiors of the Congregation were elected from the ranks of the founding Sisters until 1945 when Mother Magdalen Donegan was elected. She had entered the Congregation in September 1923. At the peak of its membership growth, the Congregation numbered approximately 190.

After three decades, on September 15, 1952, Bishop Smith took part in the sod turning for a new Motherhouse. On April 26, 1953 he blessed the cornerstone. The new motherhouse officially opened on December 12, 1953 – providing a home for years to which Sisters could return from missions outside Pembroke. Many of the convents outside Pembroke housed teachers, as education was a significant

ministry. The first classes held at St. Joseph's Academy, a girls' high school in Renfrew, on September 10, 1928. A new building was completed in 1940 and the school stayed open for almost three more decades. In October 1940, the Normal School, later St. Mary's Teachers' College, opened in Chapeau, and saw its last graduates in 1969. This ministry was unique to the Pembroke Sisters, as no other of our communities provided teacher training.

Following the original thread of the Sisters in Le Puy, the Pembroke Sisters served others in corporal works of mercy through healthcare. On July 25, 1946 Sisters arrived in Radville, Saskatchewan to establish the first hospital, which they administered until 1998. Ten years after opening the hospital, they founded Marian Home to provide long term care, and senior care. Sisters also went to Regina, where they opened Santa Maria Senior Citizens' Home on October 12, 1968. On January 7, 1947 they assumed the administration and staffing of St. Joseph's Hospital in Barrhead, Alberta from the Religious Hospitallers of St Joseph. This ministry lasted until 1978.

Closer to home, St. Francis Memorial Hospital in Barry's Bay, Ontario was opened on October 25, 1960. This hospital was also staffed by the Sisters. Sr. Rosenda Brady, who administered this hospital, later took charge of Valley Manor, a senior's home in Barry's Bay, which opened on June 23, 1978. On August 24, 1968, Sisters arrived to administer and staff St. Joseph's Manor, a home for senior citizens, in Campbell's Bay, Québec, where they remained until 1982.

There was only a short-lived ministry of orphan care at Villa St. Joseph in Renfrew from 1940 to 1947. In a spirit of adventure, the Sisters set sail to South America on April 17, 1964, to found St. Joseph's Convent in Chinchá Alta, Peru. On the feast day of St. Martin de Porres, November 2, 1964, they opened Clínica San Martín. In the spring of the following year, on April 1, 1965, the parish school opened in Chinchá Alta. Classes began at Colegio San José in March 1970. On January 1, 1966 Clínica Tom Dooley opened in Chinchá Baja.

Still following the thread of the Sisters in Le Puy, the Pembroke Sisters served others in spiritual works of mercy through parish work and spiritual development ministry. On August 15, 1978, Sisters began parish ministry in Penticton (to 1984). In September 1969, St. Joseph Centre, a renewal centre in Chapeau, opened for a brief period, followed in July 1989 by Stillpoint House of Prayer in Springtown, which has seen decades of service.

On November 22, 2012, the congregation amalgamated with those in Hamilton, London, and Peterborough 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 fonds contains the annals of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario. There are annals recording the Sisters activities in Pembroke and at each mission. The annals cover the Sisters activities in Penticton, British Columbia; Barrhead, Alberta; Radville and Regina, Saskatchewan; Bancroft, Barry's Bay, Calabogie, Deep River, Des Joachims, Douglas, Madawaska, Mount St. Patrick, Ottawa, Pembroke, Petawawa, Renfrew, and Whitney, Ontario; Campbell's Bay, Chapeau, and Quyon, Quebec; and abroad in Peru. Some annals also contain information about contemporary events and the history of the mission locations. In addition to the annals there is relevant correspondence, meeting minutes, news clippings, histories, and photographs about the Sisters and the locations of the missions. There are also the written vows of Sister Mary Patricia, a report on poverty in Peru in 1997, a list of Bishops of the Pembroke Diocese from 1898 to 1993, and publications of \*The Parish Bulletin\* from 1976-1980.

## Notes

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### Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on content of fonds.

### Immediate source of acquisition

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

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### Note [General]

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

### Note [General]

This project has been made possible in part by Library and Archives Canada's Documentary Heritage Communities Program.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Draft

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## Access points

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- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (Pembroke, Ont.)
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- British Columbia (place)
- Alberta (place)
- Saskatchewan (place)
- Ontario (place)
- Quebec (place)

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## Collection holdings

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### Series: 7-0000 - Pembroke Annals

Title: Pembroke Annals

Reference code: 7-0000

Date: 1920-1996 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains historical summaries, accounts, and logs of the activities of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario. These are written by the Sisters and include copies of historically relevant correspondence. These annals primarily focus on the activities of the Sisters in Pembroke and at their motherhouse, St. Joseph's-on-the-Lake, but also include the broader activities of the Congregation as a whole. Events discussed in these annals include but are not limited to

the founding of the order, missions, ministries (particularly in healthcare and education), receptions and professions of Sisters, elections of congregational leaders, properties, holidays, celebrations, and funerals. There is also correspondence, news clippings, photographs, and the written vows of Sister Mary Patricia.

Physical description: 10.5 cm of textual records

36 photographs : col.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 7-0000-1 - Pembroke Annals**

Title: Pembroke Annals

Reference code: 7-0000-1

Date: 1920-1931, 1958, 1963 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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### **File: 7-0000-2 - Pembroke Annals**

Title: Pembroke Annals

Reference code: 7-0000-2

Date: Dec. 13, 1921-July 19, 1923 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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### **File: 7-0000-3 - Pembroke Annals**

Title: Pembroke Annals

Reference code: 7-0000-3

Date: 1973-1978 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: 7-0000-4 - Pembroke Annals**

Title: Pembroke Annals

Reference code: 7-0000-4

Date: 1978-1980 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: 7-0000-5 - Pembroke Annals**

Title: Pembroke Annals

Reference code: 7-0000-5

Date: 1981-1982 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: 7-0000-6 - Pembroke Annals**

Title: Pembroke Annals

Reference code: 7-0000-6

Date: 1983-1985 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: 7-0000-7 - Pembroke Annals**

Title: Pembroke Annals

Reference code: 7-0000-7

Date: 1986-1990 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: 7-0000-8 - Pembroke Annals**

Title: Pembroke Annals

Reference code: 7-0000-8

Date: 1991-1996 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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### **File: 7-0000-9 - Motherhouse Annals**

Title: Motherhouse Annals

Reference code: 7-0000-9

Date: 1996 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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### **Series: 7-0001 - Peru Annals**

Title: Peru Annals

Reference code: 7-0001

Date: 1964-1997 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The annals in this series log the history and activities of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario, during the Peru Mission. The Sisters did mission work primarily in Chinchá Alta, and but they also worked in Chinca Baja, Lima, Aucayacu, Comas, Pueblo Nuevo, Huananpoli, and El Carmen. These annals take the form of correspondence, summaries, and logs recording the activities of the Sisters in Peru. Subjects in the annals include information about the Sisters' who served on the mission (such as their education, receptions, professions, and travels) and the establishment and operation of the schools, medical clinics, and catechesis programs. There are also logs of celebrations, holidays, Assemblies and Chapter meetings (leadership meetings of the Sisters), baptisms, communions, funerals, construction projects, natural disasters, acts of violence in the area, and Peruvian politics. Some major historical events mentioned in the annals include the 1970 Ancash earthquake, the 1974 Lima earthquake, the general strikes of 1977 and 1978, the teachers' strike of 1979, the activities of the Shining Path (also known as the Communist Party of Peru), and the 1997 Japanese embassy hostage crisis.

Also included are news clippings, photographs, correspondence about the Sisters activities, and a report on poverty in Peru in 1997.

Physical description: 10 cm of textual records

6 photographs : b&w

62 photographs : col.

Note [generalNote]: The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario had a mission in Peru focused on providing access to education and healthcare. Though the mission formally closed

in 2005, the Sisters, now part of the amalgamated Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada, continue to support charitable efforts in the area.

In 1964, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate expressed a desire for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario to collaborate on apostolic endeavors in Chinchá Alta, Peru. Mother St. Thomas (Mary) McGaghran and Sister Mary Desmond (Clare) Gallagher traveled to Peru to get a sense of the project. On April 17, 1964, nursing Sisters Mary (Emma) Varney and Hedwig (Edna) Prince left Canada with Kevin Blacquiére, a lay volunteer and teacher, to provide education and healthcare in Peru. The Sisters arrived in Chinchá Alta on May 7, 1964, to a three-bedroom apartment above what would become their first clinic.

On November 2, 1964, the feast day of St. Martín de Porres, the Sisters opened the medical clinic, Clínica San Martín, in Chinchá Alta which they continued to operate until April 1970. A second medical clinic, Clínica Tom Dooley, was opened January 1, 1966, in Chinchá Baja and operated until 1969. After three years of living in the small apartment above the Clínica San Martín, the Sisters built St. Joseph's Convent on a vacant lot next door to the Parish.

On September 19, 1964 teaching Sisters Callista (Nora) Kelly, Edna (Teresa) Rice, and Christina (María) Mousseau left Canada for Peru with two Oblate priests. Once the teaching Sisters settled, they began an all-boys parish school, Colegio San José, in Chinchá Alta on April 1, 1965, though the official opening of the school was not until November 28th. Sister Edana later formed Club María Goretti, a recreational and athletics club for teenage girls. The club evolved to include religious, social, and educational activities. In 1966, due to the requests of the local community, the parish school welcomed girls to attend as well. The Sisters also taught English to adults and began offering home-making classes to women in Chinchá Alta in March of 1970.

While on mission in Peru, the Sisters participated in the parish catechetical program which operated out of the school and a mission chapel. Together with the priests and twelve young catechists, around 500 children received instruction. By 1966, the catechetical program expanded to five centers across the parish.

The Sisters also served as administrators of churches and attended to social needs within the parishes, hosted retreats, operated a family integration program (also referred to as Marriage Encounters), taught evening classes for adults to learn English, and sought to animate Christian communities. While in Peru the Sisters worked closely with the Damas, a committee of women who made the altar beads and looked after the vestments and altar linens for the Church of Our Lady of Fatima. The Sisters also assisted in the operation of a Caritas Centre where they distributed food and clothing to those in need under the "Food for Peace" program.

On May 31, 1970, the Ancash earthquake hit Peru. With no damage done to the area the Sisters worked and lived in, an Oblate priest drove all the remaining medical supplies from the recently closed Clínica San Martín, as well as food and clothing, to the areas effected by the quake. Unfortunately, the Lima earthquake on October 3, 1974, heavily damaged Chinchá Alta. The Sisters worked with lay leaders in the community to assess the needs of those within the parish and aided where they could.

The Sisters continued their work across Peru, though their focus was primarily on the Chinchá Valley. In 1976, Sister Constance Lacroix began working in Comas with the leadership program of Family Orientation of the Parish Lord of the Miracles. In 1977, Sisters assisted in the creation of Christian communities in Chinchá Baja where anyone could come to experience religious life or to go on a spiritual retreat. These communities were called the House of Mary Immaculate and the Servants of God. The Sisters were also involved with local movements and began working with *Fraternidad de los Enfermos*, a movement for people with physical handicaps, in 1978. In 1979, the Sisters began working in Pueblo Nuevo as well.

Renovations to expand St. Joseph's Convent in Chinchá Alta began in 1980 and a novitiate was opened in 1982. In January 1989, the Pembroke Sisters hosted an Assembly of all the Sisters of St. Joseph working in Peru at Colegio San José in Chinchá Alta.

In 1984, seven women became Associates (Co-Hermanas) of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke in Peru. This meant that they would serve the Lord without making any formal vows and had their own Statues. Five more women joined in 1985. Over the years the Associates collaborated on the administration and fundraising for a home for the aged, the scholarship program, liturgical tasks, social assistance, first aid, ministry to the sick and aged, and in the welcoming ministry of Bethany House in Pueblo Nuevo. In 1983, the Congregation gifted \$10,000 for the building of a home for the aged in Chinchá Alta which opened in 1997. The Associates opened a mission in La Calera, Peru, in 1990. Throughout their endeavors in Peru, the Sisters often collaborated with other religious communities besides the Oblates. In February 1973, Pembroke Sisters traveled to Aucayacu with two Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception of St. John, New Brunswick to provide healthcare and education to the Peruvians there. Pembroke Sister Rosario went off on a mission to Antabamba with the Sacred Heart Sisters in 1994.

The Peru Mission formally closed in 2005, but the Sisters continued their charitable efforts in the Chinchá valley, particularly with supporting educational scholarships and distributing food and clothing to those in need through the Caritas Centre. The Sisters also supported other charitable projects in the area, such as health and water projects and relief efforts after natural disasters, such as the 2017 mud slide. As of 2024, Sisters María Choquez and Gloria Muchypaña, continue the charism and work to assist the people of Chinchá Valley. Sister Pauline Coulterman, who lived and worked in Peru for 23 years, continues to raise funds for Peru in Canada. Sister Pauline invited Canadian volunteers to visit Peru for two weeks to assist with the many projects the Sisters are involved in.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
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**File: 7-0001-1 - Peru Annals**

Title: Peru Annals

Reference code: 7-0001-1

Date: 1964-1974 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: 7-0001-2 - Peru Annals**

Title: Peru Annals

Reference code: 7-0001-2

Date: 1975-1979 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: 7-0001-3 - Peru Annals**

Title: Peru Annals

Reference code: 7-0001-3

Date: 1979-1990 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: 7-0001-4 - Peru Annals**

Title: Peru Annals

Reference code: 7-0001-4

Date: 1983-1989 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: 7-0001-5 - Peru Annals**

Title: Peru Annals

Reference code: 7-0001-5

Date: 1989-1991 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: 7-0001-6 - Peru Annals**

Title: Peru Annals

Reference code: 7-0001-6

Date: 1993-1997 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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### **Series: 7-0002 - Annals Highlights**

Title: Annals Highlights

Reference code: 7-0002

Date: 1947-2000 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The bulk of this series contains a historical summary of the activities of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario from the annals of the various ministries and missions of the Sisters. From 1947 to 2000, the Sisters compiled entries of outstanding activities relating to their ministries that demonstrate the breadth and depth of their service. These records contain accounts of events and activities from convents, churches, healthcare facilities, and schools which the Sisters were involved with in Penticton (British Columbia); Barrhead (Alberta); Radville, Regina (Saskatchewan); Bancroft, Barry's Bay, Calabogie, Deep River, Des Joachims, Douglas, Madawaska, Ottawa, Pembroke, Petawawa, Whitney (Ontario); Campbell's Bay, Chapeau, Quyon (Quebec); and El Carmen, Chincha Alta, Comas (Peru). There are also highlights from St. Joseph's Motherhouse in Pembroke, from June 1998 to June 2000, authored by Sister Clare Gallagher and Sister Anne O'Shaughnessy.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
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### **File: 7-0002-1 - Annals Highlights**

Title: Annals Highlights

Reference code: 7-0002-1

Date: 1947-2000 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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### **Series: 7-0003 - Barry's Bay Annals**

Title: Barry's Bay Annals

Reference code: 7-0003

Date: 1978-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The bulk of this series contains the annals from 1978-2004 of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario at St. Joseph's Convent and St. Francis Convent in Barry's Bay, Ontario. Subjects in the annals include but are not limited to religious, educational, healthcare, births, funerals, fund-raising, social, and cultural events as well as day-to-day activities. There are also newspaper clippings, histories, and photographs of the National Evangelization Team for Youth, II Nocturn Cottage-Combermere, and General Treasurers of Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph communities. A printed historical summary from 1921 to 1972 covers the growth of the Pembroke Sisters since their foundation in 1921, the establishment of the convent in 1928, and printed black and white pictures of the Sisters and the convent. A second printed historical summary from 1960 to 1970 covers the founding of St. Francis Memorial Hospital in Barry's Bay in 1960 with printed black and white pictures of the Sisters and the hospital.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records  
4 photographs: col.

Note [generalNote]: Reverend Monsignor Peter B. Biernacki, pastor of St. Hedwig's Parish, Barry's Bay, Ontario, established St. Hedwig's Church and St. Joseph's Convent in 1928. This was to be a residence for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke in Barry's Bay. The village of Barry's Bay is west of Ottawa on the shores of Kamanisseg Lake in the township of Madawaska Valley, Ontario, on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg Nation. The area was originally named Kuaenash Ne-ishing, Algonquin for "beautiful bay."

The Sisters were asked to help develop religious and educational programs in the church and school. St. Joseph's School, an eight-room separate building close to the church, convent, and rectory, was completed in 1929. Grades 1 to 10 were initially taught and as the students progressed, Grades 11 to 12 were introduced in 1934 and Grade 13 in 1936. In the mid-1960s, four additional classrooms were constructed close to St. Joseph's School, and a new elementary school, St. John Bosco School, named after the patron saint of youth, was built in the eastern section of the village. The Sisters conducted a choir and taught music classes at the convent and trained altar boys for the church. In 1967, high school classes were transferred to the Madawaska Valley District High School, where the Sisters served as staff members.

In the early 1940s, Reverend Monsignor Biernacki initiated plans to build a hospital for the growing community in Barry's Bay and the Sisters were requested to help develop healthcare, well-being programs, and later take care of hospital patients and senior citizens. Reverend Monsignor Biernacki raised capital by canvassing neighbouring parishes, township councils, heads of corporate bodies, individuals and interested government departments. In 1946, the Ladies Auxiliary was formed to lead the parish in a campaign for funds, and in 1947, land was purchased for the hospital. Sadly, Reverend Monsignor Biernacki became ill and died in December 1958, cutting short his endeavors. In August 1959, construction began after the sod turning ceremony, and on October 25, 1960, St. Francis Memorial Hospital officially opened with a 34-bed capacity. The Sisters were requested to manage the administration of the hospital and did so until November 1975. Sister Rosenda Brady was the Hospital Administrator from 1964-1975, and later from 1977-1990, took charge of Valley Manor, a senior's home that opened in Barry's Bay on June 23, 1978.

The x-ray filing room, operation room, obstetrical dressing rooms, and recovery room served as sleeping quarters for the Sisters, as there was no residence for the Sisters for the first four years of operation. St. Francis Convent was built adjacent to the hospital and opened in 1964 to house the Sisters who worked at the hospital until 2002.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

**File: 7-0003-1 - Barry's Bay Annals**

Title: Barry's Bay Annals

Reference code: 7-0003-1

Date: 1978-1998 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

**File: 7-0003-2 - Barry's Bay Annals**

Title: Barry's Bay Annals

Reference code: 7-0003-2

Date: 1993-2004 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

**Series: 7-0004 - Calabogie Annals**

Title: Calabogie Annals

Reference code: 7-0004

Date: 1974-1981 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains the annals from 1974 to 1981 of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario's ministry in St. Joseph's Parish in Calabogie, Ontario. These records include accounts of day-to-day activities, religious events, healthcare, household maintenance, finances, seasonal outings in nature, musical events, and the Sisters involvement with education in Calabogie, Ontario. There is correspondence, a newspaper clipping, and one colour photograph of the Sisters' 50th Calabogie Mission Anniversary. There is also a historical summary of 1924 to 1974 on the growth of the Calabogie community and printed black and white pictures of the Sisters, convent, church, and school.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

1 photograph: col.

Note [generalNote]: Father Jones, a parish priest of the Most Precious Blood Church in Calabogie, Ontario, requested the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Pembroke, Ontario expand their

mission and open an elementary school in Calobogie. On September 8, 1924, Sister Beatrice O'Leary and Sister Carmela Garvey arrived to serve in the parish and establish a Catholic school. Calobogie is on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg people.

St. Joseph's Convent of Calobogie opened was a three-storey red brick building recently constructed with living quarters for the Sisters and boarders, with the novelty of running water, electricity, and a music department. During the Christmas holidays of 1930, St. Joseph's Elementary School burnt down, and classes were conducted in St. Joseph's Convent and the vestry of the Most Precious Blood Church, until a new school opened in September 1931. The Sisters taught elementary to high-school pupils, gave music classes to young altar boys, and managed student boarders.

After 57 years of service in Calobogie, on July 10, 1981, the Sisters withdrew from the Precious Blood Parish and the convent and school closed.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

**File: 7-0004-1 - Calabogie Annals**

Title: Calabogie Annals

Reference code: 7-0004-1

Date: 1974-1981 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

**Series: 7-0005 - Campbell's Bay Annals**

Title: Campbell's Bay Annals

Reference code: 7-0005

Date: 1969-1988 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains a historical summary of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario's mission work at St. Joseph's Manor in Campbell's Bay, Quebec as well as correspondences and newspaper clippings from 1967 to 1982. Topics include, but are not limited to, spirituality, convalescence, funerals, celebrations, children and youth events, building maintenance, housekeeping, internal human resources issues, and day-to-day activities. There is also a short history of St. Joseph's Manor from 1967 to 1970 with printed pictures of the manor, chapel, and Sisters.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Note [generalNote]: Campbell's Bay, Quebec is on the traditional, unceded territory of the Anishinaabeg Algonquin people. In 1967, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario were requested by Monsignor Barry to undertake administration and staffing of St. Joseph's Manor, a home

to be built for senior citizens, in Campbell's Bay. The government of Quebec had plans for two homes, one to serve the English and the other for French speaking boarders. St. Joseph's Manor was for English speaking boarders. On August 24, 1968, the Pembroke Sisters arrived to take up residence at the nearly completed convent in the manor. The official opening was on October 27, 1968, and all rooms were occupied with 37 guests. On October 30, 1969, a Ladies Auxiliary was formed with the Sisters as members, holding monthly meetings to organize religious, social and cultural activities. The Sisters administered and partially staffed the manor for 14 years. The convent in Campbell's Bay closed on April 12, 1982. The manor continues as the Friends of St. Joseph's Manor (Les amis du Manoir St-Joseph), a not-for-profit private retirement home for senior citizens.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
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**File: 7-0005-1 - Campbell's Bay Annals**

Title: Campbell's Bay Annals

Reference code: 7-0005-1

Date: 1969-1988 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: 7-0006 - Chapeau Annals**

Title: Chapeau Annals

Reference code: 7-0006

Date: 1976-1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains a historical summary and highlights of the activities of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario's mission in Chapeau, Quebec, from 1976 to 1994. Topics include, but are not limited to, ministry and educational programs, health issues, celebrations, visits, trips, building expansions, and day-to-day activities. There are also two short histories on the founding of St. Joseph's Convent and Chapeau Normal School (later St. Mary's Teachers College).

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Note [generalNote]: On August 25, 1921, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke was founded. Reverend D. H. Harrington, at the behest of his pastor, Father Renaud requested the Sisters open a mission in Chapeau, Quebec. Mother Vincent Carroll, first Superior General of the Pembroke Sisters, accompanied by Sister Dorothy Clancy, arrived at Chapeau on August 27, 1921, to establish St. Joseph's Convent. This was the first mission of the Pembroke Sisters. Chapeau is a small village on the Ottawa

River situated on L'Isle-aux-Allumettes (Allumette Island) in the Pontiac Regional County Municipality of Québec on the traditional, unceded territory of the Anishinàbeg Algonquin people.

The Congregation was deeply involved in the educational efforts and parish community of the local region until the closing of St. Joseph's Convent of Chapeau in 1999. Initially, the convent accommodated student boarders. The vestry of the church served as an educational and cultural centre for young girls. The Sisters developed an English high school course of studies in line with Ontario high school entrance examinations with help from Mr. Millette, Registrar of McGill University. Since 1924, at St. Joseph's High School, the Sisters taught first year to fourth year pupils and by the mid-1930s the area flourished with twelve schools in the parish. The Sisters also organized and hosted a teachers' convention at the convent in 1934. It was a three-day event for 35 teachers and the first of its kind in Pontiac County. In 1936, the Québec department of education took over St. Joseph's High School and instigated a Québec high school course program. Up to this time, the school had been completely bilingual, but Inspector Allard then instituted the division of French and English classes.

Chapeau Normal School, a women's teacher training centre, was established under the directorship of the Sisters of St. Joseph and opened on October 1, 1940. For 29 years it operated as a private educational institution under the jurisdiction of the Québec Department of Education. The Sisters taught English speaking students from Ontario and Québec. During the first 15 years, about 300 student teachers were prepared to enter the teaching profession. By 1955, important changes to the school were made: it became an English-speaking institution, male students were admitted, enrollment doubled, revised courses became a two-year diploma, the lay replaced the clerical administration, and the name was changed to St. Mary's Teachers' College.

The reform of education in the Province of Québec resulted in the publication of the Parent Report and brought a complete restructuring of teacher education to be affiliated with universities. In May 1968, after a series of meetings, the Congregation agreed to terminate operations in Chapeau once assurance was given that a shift to Hull, Québec would create a better future for English language teacher education. The graduation ceremony in June 1969 was the last held and saw the closing of a chapter of educational history. In the last 14 years, some 412 English speaking students graduated, of which the graduates of the institution were recognized for their superb preparation. This ministry was unique to the Pembroke Sisters, as no other mission of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada provided teacher training.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
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**File: 7-0006-1 - Chapeau Annals**

Title: Chapeau Annals

Reference code: 7-0006-1

Date: 1976-1994 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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## **Series: 7-0007 - Deep River Annals**

Title: Deep River Annals

Reference code: 7-0007

Date: 1971-1988 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains annals from 1971 to 1988 of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke's mission in Deep River, Ontario and their activities at St. Mary's Convent (later St. Mary's Renewal Centre) and St. Mary's School. The topics include, but are not limited to ministry and educational programs, celebrations, poustinia days, youth retreats, outdoor seasonal events, day-to-day activities, and correspondences. The records include Advisory Committee meeting minutes, Finance Committee meeting minutes, printed activity programs of St. Mary's Renewal Centre, news clippings, and one colour photograph of a study group in 1987. There is also a short history on the origins and founding of St. Mary's Convent at Deep River from 1944 to 1966, with printed pictures of St. Mary's church, chapel, Sisters, and students.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

1 photograph: col.

Note [generalNote]: After World War Two, near the end of 1945, the recently formed Canadian Crown Corporation, Defences Industries Limited, conducted nuclear research at a newly constructed plant and residential site in Deep River, Ontario. Deep River is on the banks of the Ottawa River in the Upper Ottawa Valley and is situated on the unceded traditional lands and territory of the Algonquins, Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, under the Robinson-Huron Treaty 61 of 1850, and the Williams Treaty of 1923.

The area underwent accelerated development and unprecedented expansion, and was soon inundated with government personnel, scientists, engineers, construction workers, and skilled operators from the USA, Great Britain, and Canada who settled with their families. In January 1947, facilities for a church and school were needed due to the sudden large influx of 850 newcomers who were primarily Catholic. During several meetings, Reverend J. R. McElligott requested the Canadian National Research Council help establish St. Mary's School, which they agreed to fund and build. Beginning in September 1948, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario commuted from Pembroke to provide spiritual care and to teach classes at the partially completed school. St. Mary's School officially opened on November 13, 1949.

Over the next 15 years the plant and residential site at Deep River continued to expand as a "company town" with no private ownership of housing. The Defence Industries Limited administered all the town housing and medical facilities. In 1952, a new Crown Corporation, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, was formed and took over responsibility for the town and plant until Deep River officially became incorporated as a self-governing town on January 1, 1959.

In 1951, the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught at St. Mary's School rented a house in Deep River. In December 1953, they obtained a second residence next door and retrofitted a chapel. In 1955 the Sisters rented a half-duplex next door on the other side for additional accommodation, and space for music classes. A new church, Our Lady of Good Counsel, opened on November 15, 1953, with a seating capacity of 430 to accommodate the rapidly growing parish community. Construction for St. Mary's

Convent adjacent to St. Mary's School began on October 28, 1965, and was ready for occupancy in June 1966.

After 50 years of service in Deep River, the Sisters founded St. Mary's Renewal Centre, on June 20, 1983. It was a spiritual retreat open to people of all faiths and ages in the former St. Mary's Convent. The centre held youth awareness meetings, pre-marital preparation programs, teacher study groups, continuing education classes, and days of prayer. On May 31, 1988, St. Mary's Renewal Centre closed due to the Sisters' declining personnel to carry on functions that the centre was originally established for.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

**File: 7-0007-1 - Deep River Annals**

Title: Deep River Annals

Reference code: 7-0007-1

Date: 1971-1988 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

**Series: 7-0008 - Mount St. Patrick Annals**

Title: Mount St. Patrick Annals

Reference code: 7-0008

Date: 1989-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains a historical summary of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke's ministry in Mount St. Patrick, Ontario from 1989 to 2004. The records were compiled by Sister Mary King who lived and worked in the rectory of Mount St. Patrick from 1989 to 2004. There is a list of Bishops of the Pembroke Diocese from 1898 to 1993. Topics include, but are not limited to, replacement of the old 1866 parish rectory and the building of a new 2-bedroom bungalow attached to the church in 1998, pilgrimage to and the blessing of St. Patrick's Holy well and shrine, St. Patrick's Day Feast and procession, celebrations, trips, and daily activities. Records also include news clippings, and colour photographs of the Mount St. Patrick's church, shrine, and holy well, as well as the Sisters, choir girls and altar boys.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records

48 photographs: col.

Note [generalNote]: The parish of Mount St. Patrick is named after the patron saint of Ireland and is the oldest parish in the Diocese of Pembroke, which officially began in January 1843. Father McCormac arrived in Mount St. Patrick from Ireland in January 1867 and oversaw the construction of a stone church

that was completed in 1869. It was built by pioneer settlers from Ireland in the and was nestled within the highland view of the Mount St. Patrick Mountains range. Mount St. Patrick church was later renovated in 1929 and was replaced in 1998. The village of Mount St. Patrick is part of the Diocese of Pembroke, Ontario, and is situated on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg people and covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

Father McCormac was also responsible for the founding and blessing of the Holy Well (Miraculous Spring) on the nearby shores of Constant Creek. Holy springs are venerated landmarks used for personal devotion, prayer and healing in Ireland's long held religious and cultural traditions. Sadly, Father McCormac drowned while fishing in Constant Creek on June 4, 1874. Over the years, pilgrims have visited the sacred waters at Mount St. Patrick Holy well, adjacent shrine, and cemetery, to partake in St. Patrick Day feasts, processions, and re-dedication ceremonies.

In September 1916, St. Joseph's Convent in Mount St. Patrick was erected as a residence for the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough. The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, initially a mission of Peterborough, were first incorporated as a separate Congregation by letters patent dated January 21, 1922, under the Ontario Companies. Fourteen of the initial twenty-two Sisters of Pembroke served in Peterborough missions in Douglas, Killaloe, and Mount St. Patrick. The Sisters served the Mount St. Patrick community for 47 years by teaching children from primary school to Grade 8 and conducting music classes until July 1963. In 1992, Sister Mary King became a pastoral assistant in Mount St. Patrick after assisting in pastoral care since 1989. She had been a high school student in Mount St. Patrick, and after the completion of Grade 12 Sister Mary King entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Pembroke. She then studied nursing at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and worked as a nurse in Alberta and Saskatchewan. After retirement from her nursing career, she worked with the local community and parish of Mount St. Patrick from 1989 until her death in 2004.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

**File: 7-0008-1 - Mount St. Patrick Annals**

Title: Mount St. Patrick Annals

Reference code: 7-0008-1

Date: 1989-2004 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

**Series: 7-0009 - Petawawa Annals**

Title: Petawawa Annals

Reference code: 7-0009

Date: 1971-2002 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains annals from 1971 to 2002 of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke's mission work in the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Petawawa, Ontario. The records document the work of pastoral care undertaken by the Sisters in the Our Lady of Sorrows Church, managing the altar boys and giving singing lessons, as well as teaching students at Our Lady of Sorrows School. Topics include, but are not limited to, household maintenance, celebrations, visits, health concerns, and day-to-day activities at St. Joseph's Convent in Petawawa. There is one colour photograph of the founding Sisters of the mission at Petawawa: Sister Evelyn Shirley, Sister Edna Gauthier, and Sister Florence Ritza. There is also a short history on St. Joseph's Convent in Petawawa from 1899 to 1972 with printed pictures of the convent, church, rectory, school, Sisters, and music pupils.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

1 photograph: col.

Note [generalNote]: The town of Petawawa is in Ottawa Valley, 16 kilometers north of Pembroke and situated on the unceded traditional territory of the Algonquins, Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, covered by the Robinson-Huron Treaty 61 of 1850, and the Williams Treaty of 1923. In 1942, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario, were requested by Reverend T. P. Holly to administer to the educational needs of the parish school, Our Lady of Sorrows School, in Petawawa, Ontario. The Sisters agreed and commuted from Pembroke to Our Lady of Sorrows School to teach until St. Joseph's Convent, a new residence with a chapel, was built in Petawawa in 1962. The Sisters initially taught 78 students from Grades 1 to 9, and several decades later, there were 392 students from kindergarten to Grade 8. By 1971, the school was administered by the Renfrew County Roman Catholic School Board and continues to function under their management.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

### **File: 7-0009-1 - Petawawa Annals**

Title: Petawawa Annals

Reference code: 7-0009-1

Date: 1971-2002 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

### **Series: 7-0010 - St. Mary's, Quyon Annals**

Title: St. Mary's, Quyon Annals

Reference code: 7-0010

Date: 1951-1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains a historical summary of activities at the convent, school, and church of the mission at St. Mary's Parish in Quyon. There are also related correspondences, magazine article, newspaper clippings, greeting cards, publications of The Parish Bulletin from 1976-1980, and photographs of ceremonies at St. Mary's Church. These records primarily relate to day-to-day activities, housekeeping, visits, celebrations, music events, youth choir, medical surgeries, teacher salaries, school trips at the Convent, School, and or Church.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records

2 photographs: b&w

25 photographs: col.

Note [generalNote]: In 1951, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario was requested by members of the Quyon School Board in Quebec to teach Grades 1 to 9 in both the French and English languages and to serve as religious teachers for the local families. The Quyon School Board purchased a large house, situated across the street from St. Mary's Church in the Village of Quyon, the Municipality of Pontiac, in the Outaouais Region of Western Quebec to become St. Mary's Convent. Quyon is part of Treaty 27 on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Algonquins Peoples. The house was near the Quyon River, a tributary on the north shore of the Ottawa River. It was a 3-storey brick building in the Queen Anne style, originally built by E.R. McColgan circa 1927 as a home for his wife and eleven children. It was converted into apartments with a spacious room as a chapel.

The Sisters taught and worked in the schools and sacristies on both sides of the Ottawa River. Many Sisters taught music and singing in the schools and in the community. In 1967, a 3-part choir of Grade 7 and 8 girls and boys to Southern Ontario to a meeting of music teachers. Kiwanis girls' choir of 40 high school students went to EXPO 1967 for a 1-week show. The Sisters were involved in the Kiwanis Music Festival competition in Pembroke.

After 29-years of education and ministry services, the Sisters withdrew from St. Mary's School and Parish in Quyon on June 30, 1980.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
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## **File: 7-0010-1 - St. Mary's Quyon Annals**

Title: St. Mary's Quyon Annals

Reference code: 7-0010-1

Date: 1951, 1970-1980 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: 7-0011 - Radville Annals**

Title: Radville Annals

Reference code: 7-0011

Date: 1972-1992 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains a historical summary of activities of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario's mission in Radville, Saskatchewan as well as related correspondences, newspaper clippings, greeting cards, and photographs of events at Radville Hospital and Marian Home. These records primarily relate to Radville Community Hospital and Marian Home, but also include information about day-to-day activities, housekeeping, celebrations, travel, weather, building renovations, training for youth and new parents, births, and funerals.

Physical description: 5 cm of textual records

3 photographs: b&w

161 photographs: col.

Note [generalNote]: In July 1946, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario was requested by Archbishop Peter Monahan of Regina, and Father E. A. Yandea of Radville to open a community hospital in Radville, Saskatchewan. Radville is on Treaty 4 territory, which is the traditional lands of the Nehiyaw/Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Lakota, Nakota and formerly Blackfoot. The formal opening of Radville Community Hospital was on October 6, 1948, with 27 beds and 6 bassinets. In 1951, a third floor was added to provide a chapel and living quarters for the Sisters. In 1954, a wing was added to the Hospital to house Marian Home which provided nursing care for the elderly and the bedridden. Though physically attached, Marian Home continued to operate separately from the Hospital. The official opening for the new Out-Patient Department, a new wing with a consolidated laboratory, x-ray department, emergency room, and waiting room, was on June 14, 1972. On March 27, 1975, the Hospital received full accreditation status, and Marian Home became one of the first five nursing homes in the province to be accredited. Early in 1976, negotiations began to construct an extension for Marian Home for Occupational Therapy, recreational activities, crafts, a chapel, and a lounge. The extension was completed by December 1976.

A new Governing Board was formed in 1979 with several Sisters serving as members, but due to the declining number of Sisters present to continue the administration of the Hospital, ownership of the Hospital and Marian Home was transferred from the Sisters to the Catholic Health Council of Saskatchewan on April 1, 1981. At this time, the Sisters initiated a "Meals on Wheels" delivery program to provide meals to elders. The Radville Community Hospital and Marian Home amalgamated to become the Radville Marian Health Centre in October 1993 and opened its doors to the new facility in July 2014. In addition to the Radville Community Hospital and Marian Home, some Sisters served at Bosco Homes, a home for at-risk children. Sister Leona Colterman did social work with the Indigenous Peoples at Camp Tekawitha Wickiup. In 1965, the Sisters were approached by Archbishop M. C. O'Neill and his committee to operate a care facility for retired priests and the aged. On July 22, 1968, the Sisters welcomed the first thirteen residents to the Santa Maria Senior Citizens Home and by September all 106 beds were occupied under their care until 1998. Since the launch of the Saskatchewan Health Authority on December 4, 2017, Santa Maria Senior Citizens Home has been under their operation.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
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**File: 7-0011-1 - Radville Annals**

Title: Radville Annals

Reference code: 7-0011-1

Date: 1972-1980 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**File: 7-0011-2 - Radville Annals**

Title: Radville Annals

Reference code: 7-0011-2

Date: 1981-1992 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

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**Series: 7-0012 - Santa Maria, Regina Annals**

Title: Santa Maria, Regina Annals

Reference code: 7-0012

Date: 1972-1997 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains a historical summary of activities at Santa Maria Senior Citizens Home in Regina, Saskatchewan, as well as correspondences, newspaper clippings, and photographs of ceremonies at Santa Maria. These records primarily relate to day-to-day activities, visits, celebrations, weather observations, facility maintenance, social justice reports, local community council meetings, and evaluations, goals, and objectives at the Santa Maria Senior Citizen's Home as well as its 1968 founding and opening.

Physical description: 2.5 cm of textual records

Note [generalNote]: In May 1965, Archbishop O'Neill of Regina, Saskatchewan, Monsignor Kinlin, Committee of the Knights of Columbus, and Mr. Al Poirier, representing the Archdiocese of Regina, Saskatchewan, approached the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario to request they assume the responsibility of operating a long-term care home with hospital facilities for retired Priests and senior

citizens. There was a sod-turning ceremony in April 1967, and the construction of the home proceeded to be planned with assistance from the Sisters. The Santa Maria Senior Citizens Home in Regina was officially opened on Columbus Day, October 12, 1968. The Sisters named the care facility after Santa Maria, the leading Spanish ship once captained by Christopher Columbus. Regina, Saskatchewan is on Treaty 4 territory, which is the traditional lands of the Nehiyaw/Cree, Saukteaux, Dakota, Lakota, Nakota and formerly Blackfoot.

The Sisters resided at Santa Maria, administered the home, directed the Pastoral Care Department, and served as pastoral workers. The last Sister working at the home returned to Pembroke in April 1998, concluding 30-years of health care ministry at Santa Maria.

As of now, May 22, 2024, Santa Maria provides a holistic family centered, spiritual, emotional, and physical care in the Catholic tradition, for up to 147 male and female residents.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

**File: 7-0012-1 - Santa Maria Regina Annals**

Title: Santa Maria Regina Annals

Reference code: 7-0012-1

Date: 1972-1997 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

**Series: 7-0013 - Renfrew Annals**

Title: Renfrew Annals

Reference code: 7-0013

Date: 1974-1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains a historical summary of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke's involvement in Renfrew, Ontario. It is primarily focused on the activities at St. Joseph's Academy, Renfrew. Within the annals there are also printed pictures of St. Joseph's High School, graduates, and the Sisters within the textual records and correspondence. These records primarily relate to the foundation of the school, day-to-day activities, housekeeping, visits, celebrations, music events, youth choir, school trips, and the moral, educational, and cultural programming at the school.

Physical description: 5 cm of textual records

Note [generalNote]: In the mid-1920s, Reverend P.S. Dowdall requested the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke establish a Catholic high school in Renfrew, Ontario to support the moral and cultural advancement of girls. Renfrew is situated on the traditional territory of the Algonquins of

Pikwàkanagàn First Nation. Michael John O'Brien, who was a founder of the town of Renfrew, donated two properties and five acres of land that was a boon to sports-minded students and teachers. The former home of Edward MacKay became the convent for the Sisters, and the adjoining Stewart residence served as St. Joseph's Academy. The first classes were held on September 10, 1928, with 12 registered female pupils. Enrollment increased annually until 1935, when student accommodation was no longer provided, and by 1939 further facilities were needed.

After the construction of a new building from 1939-1940, ownership of the old school was transferred to the Diocese of Pembroke. It became Villa St. Joseph, an orphanage where the Sisters provided a home for children until its closure in June 1947.

In 1947, Reverend T. J. Sloan, pastor of Renfrew, requested the Sisters open a high school for boys. From 1947-1957, the Villa St. Joseph building served as St. Joseph's High School for boys. In 1966, St. Joseph's Academy and St. Joseph's High School amalgamated as St. Joseph's Catholic High School. During the 38-years from 1928 to 1966, the Sisters ran music, choir, and drama programs in Renfrew that brought distinction to the Academy through the participation of their students in the area festivals. In 1955, Sister Theodosia, the Directress of Our Lady of Fatima Choir, won the Archbishop Lemieux Trophy at the Ottawa Music Festival. Scholastic progress was marked by the winning of awards, too, over the years, with many Ontario scholars among the school's graduates.

In September 1994, the General Superior and Counselor visited the Sisters in Renfrew to consider withdrawing from the area because there was a possible buyer for the building and property. A few days later, the Sisters found and rented a suitable house in Renfrew and moved one month later in October. Today, St. Joseph's High School is a Roman Catholic high school, that educates students from Grades 8 to 12 and is managed by the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

**File: 7-0013-1 - Renfrew Annals**

Title: Renfrew Annals

Reference code: 7-0013-1

Date: 1974-1985 (date of creation)

Publication status:

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**File: 7-0013-2 - Renfrew Annals**

Title: Renfrew Annals

Reference code: 7-0013-2

Date: 1982-1994 (date of creation)

Publication status:

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**File: 7-0013-3 - Renfrew Annals**Title: Renfrew AnnalsReference code: 7-0013-3Date: 1985-1995 (date of creation)Publication status:

Published

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**Series: 7-0014 - Stillpoint, Springtown Annals**Title: Stillpoint, Springtown AnnalsReference code: 7-0014Date: 1989-1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series contains a historical summary of activities at Stillpoint, correspondences, newspaper clippings, and a photograph of Stillpoint. These records relate to the 1989 founding and opening of Stillpoint House of Prayer.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

1 photograph: col.

Note [generalNote]: Stillpoint House of Prayer in Springtown, Ontario, is situated along the shores of the Madawaska River in Treaty 27 territory on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe and Algonquin Peoples. It is owned and operated by the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada in tradition with their charisma to enable persons of all faiths to grow in relationship with self, God, the “dear neighbour” and the universe.

The building served as a 10-room inn in the early 1800’s and was frequented by lumbermen portaging logs down the Madawaska River, where the waters were particularly still, and hence the name Stillpoint. It was the cultural centre of the pioneer community hosted Sunday services and wedding receptions before there were parishes in Burnstown and Calabogie. It was later a farm. The original farmhouse was vacant for 10-years before it was purchased by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Pembroke, Ontario in the Spring of 1988. Stillpoint House of Prayer was established by Sister Maria Mousseau, with fundraising and administrative support provided by Sister Marion Muldoon, Sister Ruth Wade, and Bishop J. R. Windle. Greer Galloway and Associates were the architects, and KM McLeod Construction oversaw the renovations that included a chapel, a quiet room, offices, a library, a modern kitchen, and a large dining room. Stillpoint opened on July 9th, 1989, with 500 people in attendance.

As an inter-faith and interdenominational operation, Stillpoint welcomed a maximum of 6-guests in five rooms, for a retreat of personal tranquility, and contemplation. It is operational as of May 21st, 2024.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
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**File: 7-0014-1 - Stillpoint Annals**

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