

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

Finding Aid - St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham, Ont. fonds (F06)

Generated by Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada on January 23, 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/st-josephs-hospital-chatham-ont-fonds>

St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham, Ont. fonds

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	4
Access points	5
Collection holdings	5
F06-S001, Histories (1930-1992)	5
F06-S002, Correspondence (1970-1976)	7
F06-S003, Administrative (1946-2005)	8
F06-S004, Newspapers and clippings (1939-2009)	11
F06-S005, Minutes (1936-1979)	12
F06-S006, Events (1891-2009, predominantly 1965-2009)	14
F06-S007, Photographs (1890-1996)	17

Summary information

Repository:	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
Title:	St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham, Ont. fonds
Reference code:	F06
Date:	1890-2009 (creation)
Physical description:	<p>52.5 cm of textual records</p> <p>177 photographs : b&w</p> <p>122 photographs : col.</p> <p>1 scrapbook (5 photographs : b&w ; 4 photographs : col.) ; 28 x 21.7 cm</p> <p>1 scrapbook (22 photographs : b&w ; 24 photographs : col.) ; 28 x 21.7 cm</p> <p>1 scrapbook (15 photographs : col.) ; 28 x 21.7 cm</p> <p>1 scrapbook (1 photograph : b&w ; 32 photographs : col.) ; 28 x 21.7 cm</p> <p>1 scrapbook (30 photographs : col.) ; 28 x 21.7 cm</p> <p>1 scrapbook ; 31 x 33 cm</p> <p>1 photograph album ; 29 x 25.5 cm</p> <p>1 drawing: pen and coloured pencil on paper; 24 cm x 38 cm</p> <p>1 drawing: black ink on paper ; 12 x 16 cm</p> <p>1 postcard : b&w</p> <p>1 postcard: col.</p> <p>1 poster : 33 x 29 cm</p> <p>1 certificate : 1 seal, ribbon ; 43 x 36 cm</p> <p>1 photograph (drymounted) : b&w; 19 x 27 cm</p>
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	June 25, 2014Oct 30, 2018June 13, 2019July 2, 2020April 12, 2024July 9, 2024

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

In 1890 a meeting was held between Reverend Paul O.F.M of St. Joseph's Parish Chatham, Reverend Mother Ignatia Campbell, and Mother Aloysia Nigh, along with some of the prominent doctors of Chatham. They decided that the community was in need of a hospital and the sisters agreed to run it. A boarding house, formerly the Salvation Army Barracks, was leased until funds could be secured for a new hospital to be built. The hospital was officially opened in its temporary quarters on October 15, 1890 with Mother Aloysia as its head, assisted by Sisters Francis and Martha. Construction began at the hospital's long-time site of 519 King Street West on the Thames River with the laying of the cornerstone in 1891.

Construction was completed in 1892. Over the years, wings were added onto the hospital to accommodate the growing community of Chatham and, therefore, the growing demand for hospital services.

In 1972, the amalgamation of services occurred between St. Joseph's Hospital and Public General Hospital as ordered by the Ministry of Health for financial reasons. Legislative changes, increasing government control, and the decline of Sisters in the health care field led to the gradual withdrawal of the Sisters from the hospital. The last year that a sister was a hospital administrator was in 1984. In 1992, the Sisters withdrew from residence at the hospital, and in 1993 the ownership of the hospital was changed over to the St. Joseph's Health Care Society. The hospital is now Riverview Gardens, a long-term care facility.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of essays, annals, a memoir, correspondence, memos, minutes, reports, financial papers, newspapers, newspaper clippings, photographs, drawings, floor plans, fact sheets, orientation booklets, bylaws, yearbooks, speeches, programmes, invitations, cards, newsletters, posters, flyers, press releases, membership roll, scrapbooks, and certificates.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were transferred from the Sisters in Chatham to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada - London site archives. Some of the records were donated by former nurses.

Location of originals

The records are located at the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives.

Restrictions on access

Series F06-S007 Photographs 1890-1996 is restricted for 120 years, following PHIPA, as some photographs depict patients. Restrictions are lifted in 2116.

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

There is a series and file list.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Note [Sources]

A. Doyle (ed.) and J. Williams (ed.), St. Joseph's Hospital 1890-1990: Share the Journey, Chatham, Ontario, 1989.

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

Other notes

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

Access points

- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.)
 - Multiple media (documentary form)
 - Textual records (documentary form)
 - Art (documentary form)
 - Photographs (documentary form)
 - Postcards (documentary form)
 - Annals and chronicles (documentary form)
 - Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
 - Chatham (place)
-

Collection holdings

Series: F06-S001 - Histories

Title: Histories

Reference code: F06-S001

Date: 1930-1992 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of annals of the hospital called chronicles; a house history consisting of an essay on the sisters; community history, newspaper clippings, correspondence, an invitation, flyers, and a press release; a memoir of a patient; and an essay on significant events at the hospital.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F06-S001-01 - Book No. 2 Chronicles St. Joseph Hospital Chatham

Title: Book No. 2 Chronicles St. Joseph Hospital Chatham

Reference code: F06-S001-01

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S001-02 - Chronicles St. Joseph Hospital Chatham

Title: Chronicles St. Joseph Hospital Chatham

Reference code: F06-S001-02

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S001-03 - House History 1952-1992

Title: House History 1952-1992

Reference code: F06-S001-03

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S001-04 - Memories of St. Jos. Hosp. Chatham by I. S. E. Lafferty: Patient/Resident 1914-1930

Title: Memories of St. Jos. Hosp. Chatham by I. S. E. Lafferty: Patient/Resident 1914-1930

Reference code: F06-S001-04

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S001-05 - Significant events 1965-1971 and 1975-1983

Title: Significant events 1965-1971 and 1975-1983

Reference code: F06-S001-05

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S001-06 - St. Joseph's Hospital Chatham History as sent in to Archives yearly

Title: St. Joseph's Hospital Chatham History as sent in to Archives yearly

Reference code: F06-S001-06

Publication status:

Published

Series: F06-S002 - Correspondence

Title: Correspondence

Reference code: F06-S002

Date: 1970-1976 (date of creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of annals of the hospital called chronicles; a house history consisting of an essay on the sisters; community history, newspaper clippings, correspondence, an invitation, flyers, and a press release; a memoir of a patient; and an essay on significant events at the hospital.

Physical description: 13 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F06-S002-01 - [Confidential]: Building - Sr. Lourdes

Title: [Confidential]: Building - Sr. Lourdes

Reference code: F06-S002-01

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S002-02 - Sister Mary Lourdes - Chatham, Ont.

Title: Sister Mary Lourdes - Chatham, Ont.

Reference code: F06-S002-02

Publication status:

Published

Series: F06-S003 - Administrative

Title: Administrative

Reference code: F06-S003

Date: 1946-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of records that pertain to the governance and running of St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham. It includes information about staff rules, graduate, committee and staff lists, financial information (e.g. building costs, etc.), speeches and correspondence, an artistic rendering of the hospital's chapel, annual reports, floor plans and a fact sheet, press releases and memos, and important hospital certificates. The hospital published a newsletter, St. Joe's Alive, and various volumes are present. There is also a scrapbook with newspaper clippings and promotional material related to the St. Joseph's Hospital fundraising and construction projects. Finally, the series contains histories, a list of administrators, an orientation manual, and the school mandate.

Physical description: 16 cm of textual records

1 drawing: pen and coloured pencil on paper; 24 cm x 38cm

1 scrapbook ; 31 x 33 cm

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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

File: F06-S003-01 - Building 1971-1975 [scrapbook]

Title: Building 1971-1975 [scrapbook]

Reference code: F06-S003-01

Date: 1971-1975 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S003-02 - Sketch of Chapel by J. B. 1974

Title: Sketch of Chapel by J. B. 1974

Reference code: F06-S003-02

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S003-03 - Annual reports and administration reports

Title: Annual reports and administration reports

Reference code: F06-S003-03

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S003-04 - Constitution, by-laws and other information

Title: Constitution, by-laws and other information

Reference code: F06-S003-04

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S003-05 - Essay and administrative material

Title: Essay and administrative material

Reference code: F06-S003-05

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S003-06 - Certificates

Title: Certificates

Reference code: F06-S003-06

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S003-07 - Newsletters and programmesTitle: Newsletters and programmesReference code: F06-S003-07Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S003-08 - Correspondence & Speeches [and other information]Title: Correspondence & Speeches [and other information]Reference code: F06-S003-08Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S003-09 - Chatham Graduates Listed and Board of DirectorsTitle: Chatham Graduates Listed and Board of DirectorsReference code: F06-S003-09Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S003-10 - Annual Report 1986-87 [2016-51]Title: Annual Report 1986-87 [2016-51]Reference code: F06-S003-10Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S003-11 - Fact sheet and floor plans [2016-51]Title: Fact sheet and floor plans [2016-51]

Reference code: F06-S003-11

Publication status:

Published

Series: F06-S004 - Newspapers and clippings

Title: Newspapers and clippings

Reference code: F06-S004

Date: 1939-2009 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of newspapers and newspaper clippings. Most articles cover significant events and news stories related to St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham. Examples include articles that focus on the hospital's grand opening, its centenary, and other important hospital milestones.

Physical description: 3.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F06-S004-01 - Newspaper clippings - New building and other articles

Title: Newspaper clippings - New building and other articles

Reference code: F06-S004-01

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S004-02 - Newspaper clippings 1990-1991

Title: Newspaper clippings 1990-1991

Reference code: F06-S004-02

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S004-03 - Newspaper - Chatham Daily News - Grand Opening, 1975

Title: Newspaper - Chatham Daily News - Grand Opening, 1975

Reference code: F06-S004-03

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S004-04 - Newsclippings [2016-51]

Title: Newsclippings [2016-51]

Reference code: F06-S004-04

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S004-05 - Chatham Kent Health Alliance [2018-1]

Title: Chatham Kent Health Alliance [2018-1]

Reference code: F06-S004-05

Publication status:

Published

Series: F06-S005 - Minutes

Title: Minutes

Reference code: F06-S005

Date: 1936-1979 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of meeting minutes belonging to the local council of St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham.

Physical description: 6 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F06-S005-01 - House Meetings 1936-Jun 6/52

Title: House Meetings 1936-Jun 6/52

Reference code: F06-S005-01

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S005-02 - House Meetings Aug 1952-Jul 1960

Title: House Meetings Aug 1952-Jul 1960

Reference code: F06-S005-02

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S005-03 - House Meetings Sep 1960-Jun 1966

Title: House Meetings Sep 1960-Jun 1966

Reference code: F06-S005-03

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S005-04 - House Meetings for the Sisters - St. Joseph's Hospital Chatham, Ontario

Title: House Meetings for the Sisters - St. Joseph's Hospital Chatham, Ontario

Reference code: F06-S005-04

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S005-05 - Minutes of Local Council of St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham, Ont. July 1966 - Hospital executive committee

Title: Minutes of Local Council of St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham, Ont. July 1966 - Hospital executive committee

Reference code: F06-S005-05

Publication status:

Published

Series: F06-S006 - Events

Title: Events

Reference code: F06-S006

Date: 1891-2009, predominantly 1965-2009 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of programmes, speeches, histories, meeting minutes, reports, photocopies of newspaper clippings, a presentation packet, award recipient list, correspondence, a booklet, guest list and seating plan, a notice, a brief, schedule "E" Report of Todgham and Case Limited, fact sheets (not complete and completed versions), an invitation, event flyers, newspaper clipping, bulletin, St. Joe's Alive newsletter, a memo and a poster. Two other materials that are contained in this series are eight newspapers from June 1891 and the Catholic mutual benefit association roll of officers 1891 certificate from when the hospital first opened. The newspapers include Chatham Market Guide (1891), The Chatham Journal (1891), The Detroit Free Press (1891), The Catholic Record (1891), The Chatham Weekly Banner (1891), C. M. B. A. Journal and Catholic Society New (1891), Chatham Tri-Weekly Planet (1891), and The Globe (1891).

Physical description: 13 cm of textual records

17 photographs: col.

1 postcard : b&w

1 poster : 33 x 29 cm

1 certificate : 1 seal, ribbon ; 43 x 36 cm

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
-

File: F06-S006-01 - Sisters of St. Joseph Monument Chatham, ON

Title: Sisters of St. Joseph Monument Chatham, ON

Reference code: F06-S006-01

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S006-02 - Chapel decommissioning and opening, King Street Bldg. New Bldg. March 25, 2004

Title: Chapel decommissioning and opening, King Street Bldg. New Bldg. March 25, 2004

Reference code: F06-S006-02

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S006-03 - Crisis Fund Campaign 1972

Title: Crisis Fund Campaign 1972

Reference code: F06-S006-03

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S006-04 - River Bank Collapse - St. Joseph's Hospital - Chatham, Ontario 1964

Title: River Bank Collapse - St. Joseph's Hospital - Chatham, Ontario 1964

Reference code: F06-S006-04

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S006-05 - Opening of new addition - July 4, 1975 Laying of cornerstone - March 19, 1974

Title: Opening of new addition - July 4, 1975 Laying of cornerstone - March 19, 1974

Reference code: F06-S006-05

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S006-06 - Newspapers 1891 and Catholic mutual benefit association roll of officers 1891

Title: Newspapers 1891 and Catholic mutual benefit association roll of officers 1891

Reference code: F06-S006-06

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S006-07 - Centenary 1890-1990

Title: Centenary 1890-1990

Reference code: F06-S006-07

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S006-08 - Centennial Event 1990

Title: Centennial Event 1990

Reference code: F06-S006-08

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S006-09 - Centennial year 1990 Events poster

Title: Centennial year 1990 Events poster

Reference code: F06-S006-09

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S006-10 - Centennial Events 1990 [2016-51]

Title: Centennial Events 1990 [2016-51]

Reference code: F06-S006-10

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S006-11 - Sisters of St. Joseph Monument Unveiling [2016-51]

Title: Sisters of St. Joseph Monument Unveiling [2016-51]

Reference code: F06-S006-11

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S006-12 - St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation - Dam de Nogales Sculpture, March 11, 2009 [2016-59]

Title: St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation - Dam de Nogales Sculpture, March 11, 2009 [2016-59]

Reference code: F06-S006-12

Publication status:

Published

Series: F06-S007 - Photographs

Title: Photographs

Reference code: F06-S007

Date: 1890-1996 (date of creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of photographs of St. Joseph's Hospital in Chatham, many of which were originally housed in separate photo albums. The first file contains photos of the first hospital in the old Salvation Army barracks; the hospital at its King Street location; the first Sisters in the hospital; the nurses' classrooms and study hall; the wards; the first addition in 1914 to the hospital which was an operating room and nursery; graduates of the School of Nursing including Sister Jane Francis O'Rourke; the nurses' residence; and Sisters on staff. The second file contains the demolition of the old wings; the boiler room building prior to 1975; and the new wing front entrance in 1975. The third file contains the turning of the sod for the new addition in 1971; and board members. The fourth file contains a photo album belonging to Sister Mary Lourdes Therens with photos of the new addition, board members, the opening attended by Lt. Gov. Pauline McGibbon, as well as Sisters and staff. The fifth file contains photos of the new addition in 1975, the front entrance and areas of the hospital, the operating rooms, intensive care, coronary care, and the parking lot in 1988. The sixth file contains a card with a black and white photo of the original hospital building, and a black and white drawing of the modern hospital building. The seventh file contains photos of nursing sisters and clergy, one drymounted photograph and a photocopy of a newspaper clipping. The eighth file contains photos of hospital scenes and activities. The ninth file contains photos of hospital administrators, two lists of administrators and one newspaper clipping. The tenth file contains photos of the first and last babies born at the hospital with captions and newspaper clippings. The eleventh file contains photos of activities of staff and friends with captions and newspaper clippings. The twelfth file contains photos of the Terry Fox Run with captions. The thirteenth file contains photos of activities at St. Joseph's Hospital with captions. The fourteenth file contains photos of St. Joseph's Hospital staff activities at the "Festival of Nations" at Tecumseh Park, Chatham, ON with captions and note page.

Physical description: 177 photographs: b&w

105 photographs: col.

1 postcard: col.

1 photograph (drymounted) : b&w; 19 x 27 cm

- 1 drawing: black ink on paper ; 12 x 16 cm
- 1 scrapbook (5 photographs : b&w ; 4 photographs : col.) ; 28 x 21.7 cm
- 1 scrapbook (22 photographs : b&w ; 24 photographs : col.) ; 28 x 21.7 cm
- 1 scrapbook (15 photographs : col.) ; 28 x 21.7 cm
- 1 scrapbook (1 photograph : b&w ; 32 photographs : col.) ; 28 x 21.7 cm
- 1 scrapbook (30 photographs : col.) ; 28 x 21.7 cm
- 1 photograph album ; 29 x 25.5 cm

Restrictions on access: This series is restricted for 120 years, following PHIPA, as some photographs depict patients. Restrictions are lifted in 2116.

Publication status:

Published

Conservation:

The material was originally pasted into a scrapbook, however most of the material had fallen out. Of the 17 pages with paste residue, only 6 photographs and 5 postcards were present. The order of the postcards is unknown, but the order of the photographs is noted in the top right corner of the photo sleeves.

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
-

File: F06-S007-01 - St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham 1890-1962

Title: St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham 1890-1962

Reference code: F06-S007-01

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-02 - St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham

Title: St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham

Reference code: F06-S007-02

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-03 - St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham - 1892-1975

Title: St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham - 1892-1975

Reference code: F06-S007-03

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-04 - St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham 1974-1975

Title: St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham 1974-1975

Reference code: F06-S007-04

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-05 - St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham - 1975-1988

Title: St. Joseph's Hospital, Chatham - 1975-1988

Reference code: F06-S007-05

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-06 - St. Joseph's Hospital Chatham [2014-81]

Title: St. Joseph's Hospital Chatham [2014-81]

Reference code: F06-S007-06

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-07 - Nursing Sisters

Title: Nursing Sisters

Reference code: F06-S007-07

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-08 - Hospital Scenes 1950-1969

Title: Hospital Scenes 1950-1969

Reference code: F06-S007-08

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-09 - Administrators 1890-1990

Title: Administrators 1890-1990

Reference code: F06-S007-09

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-10 - First and Last Babies Born at St. Joseph's Hospital Dec. 2, 1896-April 1 1973 [scrapbook]

Title: First and Last Babies Born at St. Joseph's Hospital Dec. 2, 1896-April 1 1973 [scrapbook]

Reference code: F06-S007-10

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-11 - Activities at St. Joseph's Hospital, Staff Members and Friends [scrapbook]

Title: Activities at St. Joseph's Hospital, Staff Members and Friends [scrapbook]

Reference code: F06-S007-11

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-12 - Terry Fox Run Sept. 18 1988, Thames Lea Plaza, Chatham [scrapbook]

Title: Terry Fox Run Sept. 18 1988, Thames Lea Plaza, Chatham [scrapbook]

Reference code: F06-S007-12

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-13 - Activities at St. Joseph's Hospital [scrapbook]

Title: Activities at St. Joseph's Hospital [scrapbook]

Reference code: F06-S007-13

Publication status:

Published

File: F06-S007-14 - St. Joseph's Hospital Staff at Festival of Nations, July 2 1989, Tecumseh Park, Chatham [scrapbook]

Title: St. Joseph's Hospital Staff at Festival of Nations, July 2 1989, Tecumseh Park, Chatham [scrapbook]

Reference code: F06-S007-14

Publication status:

Published
