Celebrating
175 years
of the Arrival of the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph and the founding of Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston
September 1845 – September 2020
The mission of Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston, rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is to make visible the compassionate healing presence of God to all persons. We share in this Mission by being a caring and just community. This is expressed through the pursuit of excellence in health service, education and research.
Celebrating 175 years of caring for body, mind and spirit
Hotel Dieu Hospital site of Kingston Health Sciences Centre marks a milestone in 2020

In September 1845, a notice started appearing in the Kingston Chronicle and Gazette stating that “The Hotel Dieu” on Brock Street was now open “for the reception of persons requiring Medical or Surgical assistance” with a single daily visiting hour from 9 to 10 a.m.

“And the mission always reached beyond physical walls, translating into programs that served Indigenous peoples, persons struggling with substance abuse and people seeking shelter, food and clothing.”

“It is widely recognized that Catholic hospitals bring something special to health care,” says Dr. David Pichora, KHSC President & CEO. “Their legacy of service to vulnerable and marginalized people is critical because those are the people coming to all hospitals for health care. That service has always been at the core of Hotel Dieu and it is why the Sisters built it from nothing to what we have today.

“It is a real privilege to celebrate this strong vision and mission. It is a rich legacy that lives on in Kingston Health Sciences Centre and that will help us to meet the challenges of the next 175 years.”

This September—175 years later—those doors remain open as the Hotel Dieu Hospital (HDH) site of Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC) marks a milestone anniversary of caring for our community with a unique and enduring blend of compassion, social justice and excellence in health care.

The mission of caring for body, mind and spirit was carried here by four Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph in 1845, called to tend the needs of the sick, homeless and orphaned. Their faith-based mission remained steadfast through epidemics, cramped quarters, tight budgets and more, sustaining the Sisters as they expanded HDH from five row houses on Brock Street to the academic centre for acute outpatient care that now occupies a full city block in downtown Kingston.
PROCLAMATION

Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph and the Founding of Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston
September 1845 – September 2020

Whereas in 1845, the Bishop of Kingston, Remi Gaulin, invited the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph in Montreal to send Sisters to Kingston to care for the sick, the poor and the most needy here; and

Whereas this was the first foundation beyond Montreal since the arrival of RHSJ Sisters there in 1659; and

Whereas Sister Amable Bourbonnière was chosen to be Foundress of Hotel Dieu Hospital with Sisters Huguette Claire Latour, Louise Davignon and Emilie Barbaresi as Assistants; and

Whereas the Mission of Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston, rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is to make visible the compassionate healing presence of God to all persons. We share in this Mission by being a caring and just community. This is expressed through the pursuit of excellence in health service, education and research; and

Whereas the Values aspired to every day and by everyone at Hotel Dieu Hospital are Dignity of the Human Person, Compassion, Justice, Integrity, Excellence; and

Whereas the Mission and Values of Hotel Dieu Hospital are expressed in the spiritual, physical and psychological care offered to the citizens of Kingston and surrounding area without any discrimination regarding religion, race, class or gender; and

Whereas years of renovations and new construction have expanded Hotel Dieu Hospital to offer services to more people and in different ways; and

Whereas Hotel Dieu Hospital, as part of Kingston Health Sciences Centre and supported by the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation, provides quality care, leading innovative research and training of health care professionals of tomorrow; and

Whereas Hotel Dieu Hospital is a member of Catholic Health International and the RHSJ Sisters continue their presence as members of the legacy Board of Directors and through Spiritual Health care services; and

Whereas the RHSJ Sisters, RHSJ Associates, Staff, Physicians and Volunteers actively live the Hotel Dieu Hospital Mission and Values as we work to transform care together for all those we serve;

Therefore, I, Mayor Bryan Paterson, on behalf of Kingston City Council, thank the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph, RHSJ Associates, legacy Board of Directors, staff, physicians, and volunteers for their ministry of compassion and excellent care at Hotel Dieu Hospital, and hereby recognize September 2020 to be the 175th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph and the Founding of Hotel Dieu Hospital Kingston.

Dated at Kingston this 1st day of September 2020

Bryan Paterson
Mayor
NOTICE.

THE HOTEL DIEU, opposit the Catholic Seminary, Brock Street, is now open for the reception of persons requiring Medical or Surgical assistance.

VISITING MEDICAL OFFICER, Dr. Hallowel.
CONSULTING do do Dr. Sampson.

N.B.—Visiting hour from 9 to 10 o’clock A.M.

Kingston, Sept. 16, 1845.

Kingston Chronicle and Gazette, 1 November 1845
CONGRATULATIONS
Message of Congratulations
on the 175th Anniversary
of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph
in Kingston

It is a special honour and privilege to extend the congratulations of the Archdiocese of Kingston to the Sisters of the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph, as they celebrate the one-hundred-and-seventy-fifth anniversary of their arrival in Kingston.

The Sisters have always played a vital role in the delivery of health care in this city and in the broader community. Shortly after their arrival here, they established the Hotel Dieu Hospital, which has offered much needed health care to all who have entered its doors ever since. That care continues to this day in the provision of Urgent Care and a wide range of out-patient services.

The Sisters have also trained generations of nursing graduates, who have proudly served in this community and throughout the entire country, and who have been a splendid tribute to the competence and commitment of the Religious Hospitallers.

The Sisters have always been fully involved in outreach in the broader community. In the past, that commitment has taken many forms, including establishing the Partners in Mission Food Bank in 1984, participation in the Youth Shelter and the H’art Centre; and it has continued more recently in the Partners in Mission Food Drive and in the Annual Coat Drive, sponsored jointly with Saint Mary’s Cathedral. That active participation in the Kingston community remains the essence and the heart of the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph.

May God continue to bless your ministry and mission as you seek to do His will in all things, great and small.

+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston
That is the mission received by the Congregation of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph over the centuries, following Jérôme Le Royer de la Dauversière and Marie de la Ferre and here, through the Hospitallers of St. Joseph coming to Kingston. Let us listen to the history of the birth of a work which has lasted for 175 years. (Jessie Deslauriers, ‘Hotel Dieu Hospital Kingston’)

1841: Bishop Remi Gaulin, Archbishop of Kingston invited Bishop Ignace Bourget, Bishop of Montreal to send him sisters to take care of the sick and most vulnerable. Bishop Gaulin wanted a Catholic hospital. Bishop Bourget then made a visit to Kingston and found “the poor sick almost totally abandoned”. “By the 1840s Kingston needed a hospital desperately.” Kingston was still under the military regime which took care of the soldiers. But a hospital was needed for the civilians including the Irish immigrants who had arrived in 1827 and were hired for the construction of the Rideau Canal.

On his return to Montreal, Bishop Bourget described to the Hospitallers what he had found, making them aware of the difficulties and the extreme poverty. “You must depend solely on Divine Providence” he said, but as a man of faith he assured them that God never fails those who place their entire trust in Him.

The Montreal community was determined to help. “If God wants us, He will, in His own good time, remove all obstacles”, said Sister Amable Bourbonnière. Further, an “angel” offered herself to help in the foundation, in the person of Miss Josephine Perras of La Patrie, south of Quebec. She vowed her person and her fortune to the establishment of a hospital in Kingston.

May 26, 1845: Sister Amable Bourbonnière left Montreal for Kingston by boat, accompanied by Miss Perras and Mr. Laframboise, a friend of the community.

May 27, 1845, 4 P.M. The travelers were welcomed by Archbishop Patrick Phelan who had succeeded Archbishop Gaulin and by Msgr. Angus MacDonnell VG. The Sisters of the Congregation who had arrived in 1841, welcomed them warmly. After 3 days of exploring, the three visitors returned to Montreal on May 31, 1845.

September 1, 1845: In the meantime, Sisters Amable Bourbonnière, superior, Huguette Claire Latour, Louise Davignon and Emilie Barbari had been named for the new foundation in Kingston. They left Montreal accompanied by Miss Perras and Mr. Laframboise. Once again, they benefitted from the hospitality of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, as in the time of Jeanne Mance and Marguerite Bourgeoys.
**September 4, 1845:** Their mission began in two small houses on Brock St., one for Hotel Dieu and the other as the monastery. The next day, the Archbishop and Vicar General celebrated mass in the chapel of the hospital, a room so small that it could only hold the altar and a credence table. The sisters were in an adjoining room. Mr. Laframboise chanted the Veni Creator with his good tenor voice to implore the help of the Holy Spirit. The author of the history of Hotel Dieu of Kingston added an anecdote which lightened the atmosphere in the assembly. The little altar server wanted to surprise everyone, sang a little hymn without a mistake and without music. Later he became the Jesuit, Father O’Shea.

They remained in that place until 1892, when they moved into the more spacious building that had been Regiopolis College, at 123 Sydenham St.

**September 12, 1845:** The Sisters welcomed their first patient. Mrs. Delaney.

**October to December 1845:** The Kingston Chronicle and Gazette published an announcement:

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NOTICE

THE HOTEL DIEU, opposite the Catholic Seminary, Brock Street, is now open or the reception of persons requiring Medical or Surgical assistance.

VISITING MEDICAL OFFICER: Dr. Hallowel.
CONSULTING DOCTOR: Dr. Sampson.
N.B. Visiting hour from 9 to 10 o’clock A.M.

Kingston, Sept. 16, 1845
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**March 14, 1846:** Admission of the first postulant, Angela Brouillette, from Quebec.

**June 1, 1846:** Admission of the postulant Lucy McDougall, the first originally from Kingston, daughter of a Kingston merchant.

This was the first foundation of the Montreal community, “the first daughter house” in North America since the Hospitallers of St. Joseph had come from France in 1659.

Then, from this humble foundation came a great tree. According to the archives of St. Joseph Region, 187 religious, who pronounced their final vows, have worked at the Hotel Dieu of Kingston.

**On this anniversary, let us remember:**

Those who, in this hospital, received the best competent care that science and technology could provide; the doctors, nurses, auxiliary care givers, and volunteers who were worked day, evening and night so that all might be comforted and healed.

**Happy Jubilee to Hotel Dieu Hospital!**

*Sr Marie-Thérèse Laliberté, RHSJ*

*Superior General*
Celebrating 175 years!

To you Dr. David Pichora, Members of the Board, Staff, Physicians and Volunteers,

On the 175th anniversary of the foundation of Hotel Dieu, I want to express my most sincere gratitude for your dedicated presence and compassionate ministry at the Kingston Health Science Centre, Hotel Dieu site.

Thank you for your commitment to our Mission, Vision and Values and for your dedication to the sick and most vulnerable in our society.

Congratulations on your 175th anniversary!

Anne-Marie Savoie RHSJ
Saint Joseph region coordinator

A Special Tribute to All at Hotel Dieu Hospital

You as today's Pioneers are an inspiration to others in your dedicated service. May you continue to inspire us for many years to come! Thanks for being a member of our Hotel Dieu Hospital family.

May you always remember how much you are needed, respected and valued. We appreciate your compassion, expertise and efforts as an individual and a team. Thanks to all our Board Members, Staff, Physicians and Volunteers for making a difference in our lives and the lives of those we serve and care for at Hotel Dieu Hospital site.

Congratulations and have a joyful 175th anniversary!

Sister Marilyn Larocque and Sisters, RHSJ, Kingston
To the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph of the Hotel Dieu of Kingston

175 years ago the first three Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph arrived in Kingston because they had been asked to come here by Bishop Remi Gaulin to assist in caring for the sick poor. They had next to nothing with which to do this important and needed work, much less live themselves. They prayed and worked - hard. Over the years the hospital and the care expanded and changed multiple times to where it is today.

We Associates are part of the Spiritual family of RHSJ. We identify with the particular way the Sisters aspire to embody the Spirit of God as they move through the world. We commit to the call we experience to infuse our daily lives, our regular, ordinary activities, with that same spirit. In attempting to do so, we have learned how indomitable the RHSJs are. What a legacy!

All of us who are to carry out the Hospital’s Mission on the HDH site have big shoes to fill: Members of the Corporation, Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, and those Associates who are involved in any way with life at the hospital. Let us hold one another up in good times and in not such good times as we move forward, taking inspiration and learning from the RHSJs who founded the Hospital, those who carried it forward, and, at one time filled all of the roles except that of physician.

This Mission is a Ministry - the Ministry of Healing embodied by Jesus, written about in the Gospels and experienced by countless people all over the world.

Congratulations on this important anniversary!

Patricia Brennan
Regional Coordinator, RHSJ Associates

Our dear Sisters in Christ;

The RHSJ Associates of Kingston offer congratulations to each of you as you celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the arrival of the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph to Kingston, Ontario.

As Associates we have had the pleasure of learning the rich history of the RHSJ. We continue to learn, through the example of Venerable Jerome Le Royer & Venerable Marie de la Ferre that God’s work brings many wonders and marvels to those who accept the challenge. We have been blessed to work, celebrate, and pray with the Sisters here in Kingston.

May the Lord bless each of the Sisters of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph around the world today. May God protect and lift up all those who work to keep the vision and mission of the RHSJ vibrant.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do, enhancing our community and our lives.

With warm regards on behalf of the RHSJ Associates of Kingston,

Donna Corea,
Director of the Kingston RHSJ Associates
July 29, 2020

Dear Dr. David Pichora, Sisters, Staff and Volunteers of Hotel Dieu Hospital,

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul wish to acknowledge with great pleasure the 175th Anniversary of Hotel Dieu Hospital.

Since the late 1800’s, the Sisters of Providence and the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph Sisters have been companions on the journey of life. We have benefited from the wonderful care given to our Sisters through their foundation of the Hotel Dieu Hospital.

Not only have we received competent, compassionate, loving care from members of the staff but the whole of Kingston is healthier due to the existence of the hospital and its many outreach programs.

The healing ministry of Jesus, instilled by the Sisters, in the staff and administration clearly continues.

Congratulations to Hotel Dieu Hospital – administration, staff and volunteers on this milestone anniversary.

In God’s Providence,

Sister Sandra Shannon
General Superior
Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul
July 30, 2020

Sister Marilyn Larocque RHSJ  
Local Superior  
Providence Motherhouse  
Box 427, 1200 Princess Street  
Kingston ON K7L 4W4

Dear Sister Marilyn and Sisters RHSJ,

On behalf of the CND Sisters of Kingston I wish to congratulate you on the 175th Anniversary of your arrival in Kingston. You have made an indelible mark on the history and growth of the health care system of this city and have had the vision and ability to make the changes necessary to answer the needs of the times.

It is my understanding that you arrived at the time of a pandemic and immediately headed down to the docks to address the needs of the sick and suffering. It is that spirit that has marked your ministry over the years.

In the Writings of Marguerite Bourgeoys we read that in 1695 our two communities signed a “spiritual alliance” in Ville Maria stating that, “we would bear with each other in the difficulties we may experience and in all the obstacles to persevering in this union that we may meet.” This alliance was not just for that time and place but has continued over the years especially here in Kingston. We have supported each other in times of trials and rejoiced with each other in times of celebration and now some of us are living under the same roof.

We thank God for the 175 years of service your community has given to Kingston and area and ask that the good works you began continue to thrive and be blessed.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rosemary Shannon CND for

Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame
Congratulations!

As a Sister of Charity of Halifax, NS, living in Kingston for 35 years, I congratulate Hotel Dieu Hospital on this memorable occasion of their 175th anniversary.

Hotel Dieu's long standing service has been a great benefit to all of us, including myself.

Special words of appreciation and thanks go to the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph who are the original founders of the hospital.

Thank you Hotel Dieu!

In gratitude,

Sister Margaret (Peggy) Malcolm S.C.
Dear board, staff, patients and community of Hotel Dieu Hospital,

It is my pleasure as your Member of Parliament to congratulate you on your 175th anniversary. 175 years of service is an extraordinary milestone, and you deserve to take a moment to accept thanks and celebration from our community of Kingston and the Islands.

On September 4, 1845, Hotel Dieu Hospital opened its doors for the first time at 229 Brock Street and has continued to meet community needs ever since.

While the hospital's primary role was caring for sick and vulnerable community members, Hotel Dieu soon became a place known not only for high-quality care, but also education and research. Acknowledging the integration of all aspects of life and health in Kingston, the foundation's Sisters established the Partners in Mission Food Bank, the Detoxification Centre on Brock, and the Kingston Youth Shelter. In addition, following Hotel Dieu's mandate of health education, St. Joseph's School of Nursing was established at the hospital in 1912. For 60 years, St. Joseph's educated 1695 nurses who devoted their lives to the health of the residents of Kingston and the Islands. These institutions, and the people within them, continue to promote our community's well-being and have supported innumerable families over the years.

This year has reminded many of us of the importance of healthcare workers, and how critical these often unsung heroes are to our society. The healthcare workers of Kingston have worked tirelessly to keep our community safe from COVID-19, asking nothing in return. However, pandemic care is not unfamiliar to Hotel Dieu. In 1847, Kingston faced a typhoid epidemic, and Hotel Dieu sprang into action. Along with caring for patients, the hospital also took in 100 orphaned children. Stories such as this remind us that while in many ways 2020 has been entirely unprecedented, the high
standard of care and community service Hotel Dieu has provided residents is not. We have been lucky to benefit from the work done at Hotel Dieu for 175 years.

Part of the mission statement of Hotel Dieu is to create "a caring and just community" for all people. I think we can safely say that they have succeeded in this mission for the past 175 years, and I am confident they will continue to do so for 175 more. I hope all those involved with Hotel Dieu can take this anniversary as a moment to reflect on the great work done for our community through the hospital, and take pride in this history. It is institutions such as Hotel Dieu that make me proud to be the representative for Kingston and the Islands. Please accept my sincerest congratulations on this exciting anniversary, and many thanks for your work both in the past and today.

Sincerely,

Mark Gerretsen, M.P.
Kingston and the Islands
September 15, 2020

Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph

c/o Hotel Dieu Hospital

166 Brock Street

Kingston, Ontario

K7L 5G2

Dear Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph (RHSJ),

I want to extend my congratulations to your organization for the 175th anniversary of your arrival in Kingston and the founding of Hotel Dieu Hospital.

While in Kingston, the RHSJ have helped and continue to help its inhabitants by caring for their well-being through the most difficult and trying of times. In addition to Hotel Dieu Hospital, RHSJ established in 1912 the St. Joseph’s nursing school in Kingston which graduated over 1,600 nurses during its duration.

For its steadfast focus on the health of Kingstonians and its truly historic legacy both in our community and in Ontario, I want to again congratulate the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph for this momentous occasion.

Sincerely,

Ian Arthur, MPP Kingston and the Islands
Congratulations

For 175 years, Hotel Dieu Hospital has been foundational in the Kingston community. It’s pretty incredible if you pause to think about what that means; all the lives saved, all the people treated, all the individuals who have walked those halls. 175 year is a long time and it’s fascinating to think about how medicine has changed in that time – the untreatable now treatable, intense procedures now simplified – and it gives us lots to hope for, which is particularly inspiring in the context of a global pandemic. On behalf of the City of Kingston, a big congratulations to Hotel Dieu Hospital on celebrating 175 years! Today we celebrate Hotel Dieu’s long history in Kingston and all that’s ahead.

Bryan Paterson
Mayor of Kingston
One hundred and seventy-five years ago, three Sisters of the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph in Montreal ventured up the St. Lawrence river to Kingston at the request of the Bishop of Kingston to care for the sick and to meet community needs. They first established a hospital to care for the sick and vulnerable and in subsequent years established a number of other health related entities – all with a mission which is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Little did those three sisters realize that they had begun a historic journey for the next 175 years. In recent years, Hotel Dieu Hospital integrated with the Kingston General Hospital to create the Kingston Health Sciences Centre. This integration will continue to ensure an even greater, stronger and more viable health care system in the Kingston area while still focused on its mission.

The sponsorship of Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston was transferred by the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph to Catholic Health International in 2001, to continue the healing mission of Jesus Christ in the Spirit of the founding Sisters. We at Catholic Health International are very proud of the work accomplished by the Sisters, Board, Management and Staff, and volunteers who throughout the years not only upheld the original mission of the Founders but enhanced it.

The impact on the city of Kingston and the surrounding areas has been overwhelming. This has been accomplished through the establishment of a whole continuum of care with the full support of the community.

As we celebrate this major achievement of 175 years of service to the community, we give thanks to our founding sisters for the vision, commitment and dedication all the while maintaining and promoting the true values of compassion, dignity of the human person, justice, integrity and excellence.

Catholic Health international, its Board of Directors, staff and all of its forty-one health related facilities throughout Canada and the United States send our heartiest congratulations and sincere best wishes for a very bright future in faith-based health care in these challenging times as you continue to serve the Kingston area.

Sincerely,

CATHOLIC HEALTH INTERNATIONAL

Robert B. Stewart,
President & Chief Executive Officer.
The month of September is a significant milestone in the history of the Religious Hospitallers of the Hotel Dieu, Kingston as it is the 175th anniversary of their arrival in this community.

In September 1845 Foundress Sister Amable Bourbonnière and Sisters Huguette Claire Latour, Louise Davignon and Emilie Barbari began delivering care from two small houses on Brock Street in Kingston. From the beginning and since that time they have administered compassion and care to the most vulnerable members of the Kingston community. Within two years of arriving in Kingston, in 1847, they were at the forefront of public health efforts in the midst of a typhus epidemic as hundreds of immigrant families were housed in sheds and tents along the Kingston waterfront.

The legacy of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph is one we are proud to celebrate, and to have inherited into the Kingston Health Science Centre. They have an abiding presence in Kingston, and their values of compassionate care and focus on the most vulnerable members of our community and region remain core values at the hospital. This anniversary is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate their legacy, and reflect that the original mission of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph remains as relevant and compelling to this day.

David O'Toole    David Pichora
Chair, Board of Directors   President and Chief Executive Officer
Congratulations and Best Wishes!

On behalf of the board of directors, it is a pleasure to congratulate Hotel Dieu Hospital on its 175th Anniversary. Even though we cannot celebrate in person, we are proud of the continuing health care delivered to the City and areas beyond.

The hospital existence can be attributed to four brave nuns who came to Kingston and set up the hospital. Hotel Dieu has rich history and has grown with the City of Kingston since opening its doors on September 7th, 1845. At that time HDH cared for a population of about 6,000 people.

Hotel Dieu has evolved with the City and has grown to approximately 150,000 people. It continues to deliver excellent health care to all who come through doors. They are an important partner with Queens University and Kingston General Hospital conducting research and training for health care professionals.

It is ironic today that HDH is once again Hotel Dieu finds itself facing a pandemic, COVID 19 similar to the epidemic of typhus in 1847. HDH will do its part to assist with care and cure.

Hotel Dieu could not of grown to be an essential part of Kingston without the excellent care of the doctors, nursing and staff. Their dedication to the service they provide to the city is and has always been outstanding.

In closing, I want to once again congratulate Hotel Dieu and all of the people that make it an excellent part of Kingston.

Laurie Newport
Board Chair
Hotel Dieu Hospital Kingston
Happy 175th Anniversary

Hotel Dieu Hospital has been at the core of downtown Kingston since 1845. The Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph arrived from Montreal with meager supplies but a clear vision and values for their "House of God", which began in very humble surroundings on Brock Street and, in the early 1890s, the move to the former Regiopolis College on Sydenham Street allowed Hotel Dieu to grow in response to the needs of the community.

Through epidemics, two world wars, political upheaval, technological advancements and now a pandemic Hotel Dieu has always stood strong like a beacon welcoming us home to a place of great healing and hope. The mission of Hotel Dieu Hospital is proudly displayed outside the chapel but it lives in our hearts, thoughts, deeds and prayers. Over the years people have said "there is something special about the Dieu". The Sisters believe there is inherent good in everyone and Hotel Dieu is simply the place that allows it to shine through. During my years at the Dieu, I have witnessed such extraordinary acts of compassion offered with dignity and respect by all who work there that I believe the Sisters were right!

I have served on the board of directors for many years and, from 2008 to 2015, was the Chair of the board. I will always consider this as one of the greatest privileges of my life and was delighted to cut the ribbon on the twenty million dollar expansion of the Jeanne Mance Tower after it had been delayed for nearly two decades and now provides much needed patient clinics.

In closing, I wish to congratulate the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph for entrusting us to build on their compassionate foundation. The Sisters remain an inspiring, encouraging presence and a moral compass to us all and hopefully the generations to come.

Sherri McCullough, RHSJ Associate
Chair board of directors (2008 2015)
Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston
Hotel Dieu Hospital Kingston
Happy 175th Anniversary

In 1845 the citizens of Kingston were blessed with the good fortune of having four Sisters of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph come to Kingston to serve our community health care needs. Hotel Dieu Hospital has a long and proud history of providing compassionate care to the families of this community.

After serving several years on the HDH Board of Directors, I had the honour and privilege of serving as Chair from 2015 to 2017. During my tenure on the Board I witnessed tremendous growth in the ambulatory clinics at HDH, transforming HDH into the leader of ambulatory care in Southeastern Ontario.

Throughout HDH’s growth and its integration with Kingston General Hospital to form the Kingston Health Sciences Centre in April, 2017 the dedicated staff of HDH have been constant in continuing the commitment to the Sisters’ mission of providing compassionate care and healing to the sick and vulnerable members of our community.

I wish to congratulate the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph on their 175th anniversary in Kingston and thank all of the staff at HDH for continuing the incredible legacy of the Sisters.

J. Michael Hickey
Past Chair of HDH Board (2015-2017)
It is with pride that I join KHSC and the Greater Kingston community in celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the arrival of the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph in Kingston, as they founded Hotel Dieu Hospital.

With early roots in stone cottages on Brock Street from which the Sisters opened their doors to the sick, the poor and the orphaned, the tradition of responding to community needs, has remained throughout our proud 175 years history. When epidemics struck new immigrants to Kingston in the 19th century, our Sisters cared for them in sick-sheds along the waterfront.

Over 30 years ago, our Sisters led the creation of the Partners of Mission Food Bank to respond to those going hungry in Kingston, and to this day staff from HDH and now KHSC respond annually to the call to collect non-perishable food for local families in need.

HDH opened a Detoxification Centre to care for those living with and working to withdraw from addictions, a tangible demonstration of caring for the vulnerable with compassion.

When it was clear that our community needed strong and focused ambulatory care, partnership with Providence Continuing Care Centre (as it was known) and Kingston General Hospital facilitated a division of services that provided clarity for patients and collaboration between health care partners.

Most recently, integration with Kingston General Hospital to create Kingston Health Sciences Centre has allowed us to bring the best of Hotel Dieu Hospital - including our proud legacy - to a new partnership and shared future.

We are grateful to our Sisters and to all those past and present who have carefully nurtured, honoured and celebrated the legacy of compassionate care on the Hotel Dieu site for 175 years.

Caroline Manley, RHSJ Associate
Immediate Past Chair
Hotel Dieu Hospital
On behalf of the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation (UHKF) Board of Directors, volunteers and staff, it is my pleasure to pass on hearty congratulations to Hotel Dieu Hospital on the occasion of the 175 anniversary of its founding.

In 1845, at the call of the Bishop of Kingston, the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph came to Kingston from Montreal to establish a hospital to serve the poor and the sick. This was possible, in part, because a laywoman, Miss Josephine Perras helped fund the cause. The work of the sisters, supported by financial and other in-kind donations from the community, ensured the continued growth of the hospital from two small buildings on Brock Street to a modern ambulatory care teaching hospital that is an integral part of Southeastern Ontario’s largest acute-care academic hospital. Hotel Dieu Hospital continues to provide quality care, lead innovative research and train the health care professionals of tomorrow.

The many achievements and medical advancements made at Hotel Dieu throughout its 175 year history would be far too many to list. It goes without saying that the community has benefitted immensely by having a hospital like Hotel Dieu close to home. In all of the chaos being experienced and changes being brought about by COVID-19, one thing remains true... none of the accomplishments in healthcare would be possible without the dedicated generosity of a community who cares. UHKF’s role is to inspire generosity for the health of our families, our region and beyond – and Hotel Dieu Hospital and its founders provide much of that inspiration!

Thank you to the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph and the many donors that made these 175 years of care possible. Congratulations as well to all the physicians, staff and volunteers at Hotel Dieu for continuing the tradition of care established by the sisters. Thank you all for your commitment to health care in Southeastern Ontario!

Tamás (Tom) M Zsolnay
President and CEO
University Hospitals Kingston Foundation
September 14, 2020

Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph

To the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph Sisters

In 1845 the Sisters arrived in Kingston, Ontario empowered by the vision of their Founders to care for persons struggling with ill health, poverty and overwhelming unmet needs. Throughout the decades the mission, values, ethics and spirituality foundational to the Sisters has become established and carried forward in the lives of the many people touched by the Sisters and the works fostered into existence by the Sisters.

As we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the arrival of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph there are many people who are grateful for the compassion and generosity of the Sisters. There are also many others who feel blessed to continue forward the legacy of the Sisters each day through compassionate and respectful care for persons who are suffering whether in body, mind, and/or spirit.

On behalf of the Mission & Values Coordinating committee at the Hotel Dieu site of Kingston Health Sciences Centre, please accept our heartfelt congratulations on the 175 years of dedicated visioning and service. We feel privileged to participate in living forward the legacy which the Sisters are entrusting to all who serve with hearts of compassion and respect, especially for persons most vulnerable and marginalized in our community.

Nicholas Axas & Rev. Dr. Neil Elford
Co-chairs
Recollections of Our Time with the Sisters of the Religious Hospitalliers of St Joseph (1988-2010)

For The 175th Anniversary of Hotel Dieu, Kingston, Ontario

Carolanne Vair, Marg Atkinson, & I had the privilege of working with several of our Sisters during our years as Associate Executive Directors, Chief Nursing Officers & members of the Senior Administration Team at Hotel Dieu Hospital. We have been asked to try & describe our experiences working alongside these incredible women & how they influenced our practices & the organization as a whole. It is a challenging ask because it is not easy to put in to words the impact the Sisters we worked with had on Hotel Dieu & us through our years at the Dieu.

We all agreed that one knew immediately that this hospital was “different” the moment one entered the building. There was nothing you could immediately see or reach out & touch…but you could certainly ‘feel’ that you had entered a special place. Perhaps the name itself provides the answer…the literal English translation of Hotel Dieu…Hotel of God. A sense of calm & peace permeated the building; a feeling created in no small part by the presence of the Sisters.

From the crucifix at the entrance, to the Chapel, to the subtle crosses in each room, the tradition of beginning each gathering/meeting with prayer and/or reflection…we were reminded of the Mission, Vision, & Values of the Sisters of Hotel Dieu. We were there to serve & care for, to the best of our ability, all who entered with compassion, respect, dignity, & quality professional care…with guidance & leadership from the Sisters.

During our time at Hotel Dieu the number of Sisters was decreasing but those who were there made their presence felt in the most positive ways. We worked with Sister Rosemarie Kugel, Sister Joan Kalchbrenner, Sister Marilyn Larocque, Sister Theresa Shannon, Sister Annette Valade, Sister Margaret Morrissey, Sister Elizabeth MacPherson and Sister Evelyn Leonard.

We were fortunate to interact with the Sisters in several roles & settings. We worked with the Sisters as part of the Administrative Team, as committee members, as knowledge resources, as Pastoral Care providers, & as friends.
The Sisters set examples for us as providers of support, encouragement, compassionate care through challenge & change...& sometimes downright unsettling times. They “walked the talk”; they were there for all...patients, families, staff...demonstrating faith, compassion, knowledge, leadership, business acumen, caring, confidence, resilience, determination, & perseverance. Whether leading a committee in prayer as it began the work on the agenda; contributing to discussions on business issues, providing guidance to staff & family on an ethical dilemma in pediatrics, or on a sensitive matter related to Church & Health; being present with a family member as a loved one went off to surgery or approached the end of life; or offering a kind word & gentle touch to a staff member in distress. Everyone of these actions...& more...gave us a guide for our practice every single day.

We witnessed the art of compassionate caring. Our Sisters had the ability to make all whom they encountered feel respected & valued. They began the work of the Partners in Mission Foodbank, spearheaded the Winter Coat Drive, celebrated with us for staff events such as the Tree Lighting and Christmas Tea, Mission Awards, Retirement and Staff Recognition Tea, hosted the St. Joseph Feast Day, and Founders Day (Jerome Le Royer) & arranged special Masses of Remembrance for staff who had lost loved ones.

On a personal note...each of us were, in turn, the recipient of the Sisters compassion & caring in our lives. Whether in times of loss, personal health challenges, or stressful job situations...the Sisters were there for us.

Our Sisters were a beacon & reminder each day that our role was to act & lead in a manner that honored the Mission, Vision, & Values of Hotel Dieu. Their guidance was invaluable; their impact...unforgettable; their presence...a blessing!

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our thoughts on this special occasion.
Congratulations and Best Wishes to All the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph!

When I was contacted that our Sisters, The Religious Hospitaller’s of St. Joseph were celebrating their 175th anniversary, notice I said “Our Sister’s”, that is because I was lucky enough to have been part of such a caring and compassionate organization that you created at Hotel Dieu Hospital.

It seemed just yesterday, that I was working in the Pastoral Care Department under the guidance of the Sisters, when they were celebrating their 150th Anniversary. At that time, the Chapel underwent a major renovation, of which the Sister’s were so proud.

Memories: During my time at Hotel Dieu, I have come to know and enjoy the many Sisters some of whom have now left us, including Sister Elizabeth MacPherson, Sister Rosemarie Kugel, Sister Mary Coderre, Sister Evelyn Leonard and Sister Rosalia Cobey, who were often on site in the 80’s and 90’s as well as Sister Joan Kalchbrenner, Sister Isabel MacLaughlin, Sister Marilyn Larocque, Sister Theresa Shannon and Sister Annette Valade who I always enjoyed having a coffee with in our morning visits to the coffee shop.

Going back to the early 90’s, Sister Mary Coderre, along with Mrs. Bernadette Cotman introduced me to the Motherhouse in Montreal, where I enjoyed the tour of their beautiful site, when Sister Mary Coderre, was around there was always a few chuckles. I was lucky enough to participate in a 2nd trip to the Motherhouse with members of the Mission and Values Committee- it was both an educational and enjoyable day amongst friends that I had worked with for many years.

If someone had told me, I would spend almost 40 years at one workplace, when I started at the age of 19, I would not have believed it and why I am proud to have been asked to send my best wishes to you today.

This is your day, to all of the Sister’s, enjoy what you have created, you should be proud!

Sincerely,

Mary Mulville
A Treasured Memory

One of my most treasured memories of working at Hotel Dieu Hospital and with the Sisters was during the 'Save the Dieu' campaign. It brought everyone together in such a special and unique way. Seeing Sr. Rosemarie Kugel's fierce energy and strength was something I have never forgotten. To see her in the auditorium delivering her inspirational speeches was truly inspiring and extraordinary. One evening my daughter who was only 3 at the time and I were watching Sr. Kugel's interview with CKWS. Her words of kindness, love and compassion came across to my daughter in a totally unexpected way. She looked at me and asked me if Sr. Kugel was a real angel. When saying her bedtime prayers she included Sr. Kugel and HDH in her prayers. I shared the story in passing with Sr. Kugel and the following day Sr. Kugel gave me a tiny angel for my daughter. It was so sweet and special. We have never forgotten this.

Kelly Lewis,
Former HDH Employee

RHSJ Health System President Sister Rosemarie Kugel giving a speech at Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston (2000)
What does Hotel Dieu mean to me?

One hundred and seventy-five years is a long period of time to be in existence. It leaves a heritage to be proud of, with many successes, struggles and challenges. Hotel Dieu for me stands as a bulwark and leaves a sense of security as something that has stood the test of time and remained staunch in spite of everything. It stands for the Christian value that is, love: love for the sick, the poor, the vulnerable, and for those we are in contact with. Love that shows itself in action. Yes it is a human institution so not perfect but has remained with the same purpose through all these years.

When I first came to Hotel Dieu 68 years ago, I was looking for a place in which I could dedicate my life and while I did not always remain in Kingston I was sent from there to other Hotel Dieu in Canada and the US, all with the same goal.

What attracted me was the aspect of nursing the sick and the people at Hotel Dieu who did that. It was the sisters I was introduced to and what they taught me, their thoughtfulness and care for the patients and staff and also their love for me. It was the family spirit which they demonstrated to all. And sometimes it was through ‘tough love’ that these women showed their dedication.

I am grateful to have been and to be part of this wonderful group to which the Lord led me through others. It is the story of this life: to try to love those we serve and those we work with.

It is not all doom and gloom, there is joy and even fun as well as the darker days which are inevitably part of this life.

In my prayers I ask the Lord to continue to bless Hotel Dieu those who are served there and those serving there.
You came from the Belleville area, how did you come to know about Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston and the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph?

As a young girl I always wanted to be a nurse; I had a cousin and a neighbor who both graduated as nurses from St. Joseph’s School of Nursing in Kingston. I greatly admired these women and hoped to follow in their shoes one day.

After graduating from high school I worked in a bank for a year then applied to St. Joseph’s School of Nursing and was accepted into the School in the fall of 1952. Sister Aileen Byrnes was the Director of Nurses with Sisters Mary Coderre, Audrey Mantle and Mrs. Hazel Ferguson serving as Instructors.

They imparted to us wonderful values: of respecting the dignity of each person, treating each person justly and providing excellent and compassionate care to those whom we served.

55 girls from Ontario began the three-year program preparing us to become Registered Nurses. We lived together in the Jeanne Mance Residence with the second and third-year students. Lasting and wonderful friendships developed over the years from our experiences of living together in residence as well as working together in the various hospital departments applying the knowledge and skills we had acquired in the classroom.

Our Program consisted of classroom lectures learning the art and science of nursing as well as experiencing many hours of clinical practice in the hospital. Every department in the hospital had a Sister in charge. We learned from the Sisters, the head nurses and the clinical instructors what was meant by giving compassionate care to our patients. We were to treat each patient as if they were a member of our families. We cared for the physical and psychological needs of our patients, as well as their spiritual needs. At the beginning of each shift in the hospital the staff and students began their day with a prayer.

Our spiritual lives were nourished by attending Mass in the hospital Chapel certain days of the week. A three day annual retreat was planned for us each year. On our graduation day we took the Jeanne Mance Pledge to model our lives after that of
Jeanne Mance, the first lay nurse of Canada whom, the Religious Hospitallers first worked with when they came to Montreal from France in 1659.

After graduating as a nurse, I worked at Hotel Dieu St. Catharines founded by the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph. Later, I was invited by Sister Elizabeth MacPherson who was the Administrator, to return to Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston. I was given the offer to go to the Toronto Western Hospital to follow a course in Blood Banking, and then I returned to Hotel Dieu Hospital to be the Department Head of the Blood Bank which entailed updating methods and procedures as well as training personnel to work in the Department.

During this time I felt the Lord was calling me to dedicate my life as a Religious Sister. I was deeply impressed by the spirit of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph who founded Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston whose mission was education and service to the poor and needy. It was their spirit and witness in revealing God’s compassionate love that drew me to enter this Congregation and to dedicate my life in service to others. I thank God for my vocation and for the people who made God present to me by the witness of their lives.
What Sustained the Ministry of the Hotel Dieu Hospital for 175 years to the People of Kingston?

Humble beginnings were the origin of the Hotel Dieu Kingston. The Sisters came to Kingston with 200+ years of experience. Hospital ministry was well established in France and Montreal based on the founder's vision of the nature and spirit of the congregation. The emphasis was/is on love /graciousness to one’s neighbor and dedication to Jesus Christ and service to the sick poor who are his members. In practical terms it is living a tender compassion to those in need physically, spiritually and emotionally. These realities are at the heart of service at the Hotel Dieu Hospital.

Yes, the late 70’s-80’s brought management terms like mission statements. Religious communities began articulating their lived heritage in charism statements.

What the sisters brought to Kingston, what can be identified at Hotel Dieu, is a lived reality of service and care embroidered with compassion to love people as they are. They are to be received with warmth and simplicity. The dignity of the person is to be honoured and respected with an understanding heart and mind.

In some ways these concepts articulated in our time have their origins 384 years ago in France and 175 years in Kingston. Mission is intrinsic to who the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph are from their origins and their provision of health care.

Education of nurses grew out of the need for others to work with the sisters. Yet, the areas of compassion and acceptance of the reality of the sick/poor were received by all nurses educated in the Hospitaller Schools of Nursing. I resonated with the Hotel Dieu atmosphere since it was similar to the awe-inspiring presence where I studied. The manner with which individuals were cared for and respected were familiar to me. Yes, the same tender compassion that animates the hospital and Sister’s is their gift and presence to Kingston.

The mission of the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston, rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is to make visible the compassionate healing presence of God to all persons. WE share in this mission by being a caring and just community. This is expressed through the pursuit of excellence in health service, education and research.
175th Anniversary of Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston
Sister Marilyn Larocque, RHSJ

How the Spirit inspired our early pioneers and continues to inspire our present day pioneers?

This Fall, we the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph, our Associates, Staff and Volunteers celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the founding of Hotel Dieu Hospital. It is a time to celebrate our joys of today, our memories of yesterday and our hopes for the future.

God’s call to Venerable Jerome Le Royer and his response of yes in union with Venerable Marie de la Ferre, Venerable Jeanne Mance and others were pioneers and all of us at Hotel Dieu Hospital today are pioneers. Faith and trust in God can truly move mountains and make a difference in the lives of others.

We began with a few courageous and dedicated Sisters who came from Montreal to Kingston and now over the years our Sisters, Associates and HDH family are many with excellent leadership, generosity, compassionate care, talents and creativity in responding to the sick, poor and most needy who come to our door and who we also go out to.

An example,

I was caring for a patient when I was in pastoral care and when he was improving he said to me, “You didn’t even know me, yet you treated me like family. I will never forget that. Thank you Sister”. His sharing touched my life in a very meaningful way.

Our journey together to inspire, to nurture, to be compassionate, to challenge and to accept a new challenge never ends. Our mission continues to unfold for us in new and meaningful ways and is embedded in the very fabric of our lives and shared with those we serve with and those we serve.

I thank God for calling me and my response to be a R.H.S.J. Sister in union with our Sisters, collaborators, spirit, charism and mission in caring for others.

As we mark our 175th anniversary, may we celebrate in joy and thankfulness. May God continue to bless us and our healthcare ministry especially during this time of our pandemic health crisis. A special thank you to all our front line workers.
In 1841, Kingston’s Bishop Remigius Gaulin wrote to Bishop Ignace Bourget of Montreal asking him to allow the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph to found a hospital in Kingston to care for the increasing number of poor Irish Catholics who settled in the city following the completion of the construction of the Rideau Canal.

After travelling to Kingston to see the scope of the problem, Bishop Bourget consents and approaches the Superior in Montreal about the foundation. The RHSJ agree and select the Sisters who would serve in this new mission. Their plans, however, are put on hold for four years as Kingston was named capital of the United Province of Canada in 1841 and housing becomes scarce.

In May 1845, the opportunity to establish the foundation finally presented itself and Sister Amable Bourbonnière, who was elected to be the first Superior of the new community, traveled to Kingston with two lay benefactors of the RHSJ. A suitable location is found on Brock St. and two limestone buildings are purchased for use as a hospital and orphanage and for the Sisters’ monastery.

Mother Bourbonnière, foundress and first Superior, with Sisters Huguette Claire Latour, Louise Davignon, and Emilie Barbari, travelled by steamer dressed in secular clothing from Montreal to Kingston on 1 September 1845 accompanied by their benefactor Mme Perras. They arrive on September 2nd, staying with the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame before moving into their Hospital building (now 229 Brock St) on September 4th. They see their first patient on September 7th. After completing preparations, the Sisters move into their monastery (now 233 Brock St.) by the end of October.
Opening two months before the Kingston General Hospital, the Hotel Dieu was the first permanent hospital in the city and despite the predominantly Anglo-Protestant population, the RHSJ and their Hotel Dieu was welcomed by the newspapers many in the wider community. Over the course of the next fifty years, the RHSJ expanded the Hotel Dieu to five buildings on Brock Street but the need of the poor sick in the community continued to grow. In December 1892 they moved the hospital into the former Regiopolis College building on Sydenham Street. Over the course of the next century, kept expanding until the Hotel Dieu Hospital occupied the entire city block, providing caring and compassionate care to all who require it.

**List of Images clockwise**
- Modern photograph of the original Hotel Dieu, Kingston – the Monastery at 233 Brock St. and the original Hospital at 229 Brock St.
- Detail of “Plan of the City and Liberties of Kingston” by Thomas Gibbs (1850) showing the Hotel Dieu Hospital on Brock St., consisting at that date of four connected building on three lots, along with St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Cathedral and Regiopolis College.
- Notice published in the *Kingston Chronicle & Gazette* announcing the Hotel Dieu Hospital was open and accepting patients (November 1845)
- Drawing of Sister Bourbonnière and other sisters visiting the Irish ill with typhus in 1847 (drawing dated to ca. 1940s)
- Re-enactment of the arrival of the RHSJs in Kingston: Sister Mary Coderre, Sister Margaret Morrissey, and Sister Loretta Gaffney with Father Brian Price (1986)
How has KHSC Volunteer Services to HDH Site contributed to the Mission and Values of the Religious Hospitallers of St Joseph (RHSJ) over the years

Any account of Hotel Dieu Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, one of the oldest in Ontario, would not be complete without the mention of the role of Jeanne Mance, a 17th century lay woman. In May 1845, Miss Josephine Perris from Montreal accompanied by Sr. Amable Bourbonnière traveled to Kingston. These two women and Jeanne Mance were an inspiration for the Ladies Auxiliary. As far back as 1862, ladies supporting the RHSJ's were holding bazaars to raise money for the developing hospital.

On June 28, 1905, the Ladies Auxiliary of Hotel Dieu Hospital was established with Mrs. Mary Ellen Fahey-Welsh as the first President. The Missions and Values of the Sisters were also adopted as ours to operate within. Sr. La Dauversière was the superior at the time.

Over the years most of the Presidents of the Ladies Auxiliary were prominent doctors’ wives. These ladies gave faithfully of their time and talents to support the Sisters in the building and management of HDH. In the late 1900’s and early 2000’s, many graduates of St Joseph School of Nursing, who also worked as nurses at HDH, joined the Ladies Auxiliary and served as Presidents, thus reaffirming their loyalties to Hotel Dieu Hospital and the Sisters. Many talented and dedicated women from the community, who became volunteers at HDH, joined the Board and Executive and served as President.

For many years the Superior worked as Administrator of the hospital and was appointed Honorary President of the Ladies Auxiliary. One of the Sisters was always appointed as Moderator acting as liaison between the Auxiliary and RHSJ’s. The first Moderator was Sr. La Dauversière and the current Moderator is Sr. Annette Valade, R.H.S.J.

St Joseph School of Nursing opened in 1912 with Sr. St. Charles as Director. The Ladies Auxiliary helped furnish some of the rooms in the school.

Between the founding of the Ladies Auxiliary in 1905 and 1950, over $75,000.00 was raised and donated to the hospital for patient comfort and medical equipment. By 1965 the funds raised totaled $645,000.00.

I felt very proud of our fundraising efforts in 2015-2019 when we raised $1,000.00 - $1,200.00 on our bake sales and $2,400.00 on Theater night, until in my research, I discovered that in 1922, a Ladies Auxiliary bazaar raised $12,000.00.

A large cheque was presented in 1945 to Sr. Breault by the Women’s Auxiliary for the construction of the proposed Centenary Wing which opened in 1950.

In 1956 the name "Ladies Auxiliary was changed to "Women’s Auxiliary".

In 1961, The Women’s Auxiliary pledged $12,500.00 over 5 years for the building fund. The sisters pledged $500,000.00 from their salaries and from donations they received for the building fund also.

The first gift shop was operated from a portable cart that was wheeled throughout the hospital. Then a room on the old DVA 5th floor was used.

In 1965, a combined gift shop/coffee shop opened in what is now the Henderson Board Room on Sydenham 2 beside the chapel. From there it was moved to the main lobby in what is now the Brockview Café.
The sister opened up a room in the convent for the storage and arrangement of flowers to be sold by the volunteers in the gift shop. In 2011 it moved across the lobby to its present location as a newly renovated gift shop renamed the Brock Boutique.

Mrs. Marilyn Braden, President in 1973 went on to be the first Auxiliary President to serve on the HDH Board of Directors.

In 1974 the nurses’ residence was demolished and the stone carving over the front door was salvaged and is now located in the main lobby of the Jeane Mance wing.

In 1974, the name "Women's Auxiliary" was again changed to "Volunteer Services of HDH " to encourage the membership of men as volunteers.

In 1975, Hotel Dieu Hospital was designated as the service site for penitentiary inmates. This was very controversial but following the philosophy of the Sisters which stated that ALL persons qualify for care, this was given a trial run and remained in place as long as the beds were open at HDH.

In 1975, $30,000.00 was donated for mammography equipment. In 1979, $32,000.00 was donated to HDH for medical equipment. The total donations in 2007 was $19,920.00.

By 1979 money raised by Volunteers Services had reached the grand total of $266,178.00.

In 2005, Sherri McCullough became President and served two terms. During her tenure Volunteer Services made a commitment to raise $1,000,000.00 over a five year period.

Between 2007 and 2019, there were many fundraisers - for example a farmers market, Tribute to Elvis, bake sales and theater nights as well as our two businesses, the Brock Boutique and the Brockview Café. These projects raised many thousands of dollars for HDH. Some very important pieces of equipment were purchased with these funds - a GI endoscope so patients did not have to travel out of town for specialized treatments, laryngoscopes and surgical equipment for the operating room to name a few.

In early 2020, $39,840.00 was donated to the OR at Hotel Dieu Site for gynecological surgical equipment.

Carol Hazell served as president for two terms during the amalgamation of the two hospitals under the name of Kingston Health Sciences Center. At this time the official name for volunteer services was changed to "Kingston Health Sciences Center Volunteer Services to Hotel Dieu Hospital Site (KHSC VS to HDH Site)".

Joanne Bombard as current president is working with Executive and Board through the COVID19 Pandemic. this year we are facing a very difficult set of circumstances necessitating the cancellation of many activities. meetings and fundraisers. Our ability to donate to HDH is on hold for now. But working diligently we will come out of this and continue our service to the hospital and the Sisters.

Respectfully submitted by

Joanne Bombard, President
KHSC Volunteer Services to HDH Site
Left: Mary Sullivan,
Honorary President of HDHK WA 1905

Right: 
Sr. Julia Larose

110th Anniversary Planning Committee

L-R: Pat Nekus, Sharon Suddergaard, Lynda Laird,
Barbara Savage, Sr Marilyn Larocque, Lynda McArthur

Volunteer Services Board of Directors 2014-2015

1st row L-R:
Anne Hutcheson, Sr Annette Valade, Sharon Suddergaard,
Carol Hazell

2nd row L-R:
Camille Eves, Madeleine Wotherspoon, Lynda Laird,
Sr Marilyn Larocque, Lynda McArthur, Terry Pennock

Missing from photo:
Mary Smith, Theresa Paloschi, Joanne Bombard, Eugene
Littlejohn
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES OF THE RELIGIOUS HOSPITALLERS OF ST. JOSEPH*

Here are some of the Outreach activities that the Sisters have spearheaded or worked with others.
- Attended to the care of cholera victims in Kingston (1845)
- Various clothing exchanges
- Shelters:
  - Following the Second World War, the Hospital housed a number of displaced persons from Yugoslavia and Poland and some found temporary work in Nutrition Services
  - December 19, 1956 former Nurses Residence was converted to a home for 27 Hungarian refugees
  - A Youth Shelter in the early 1970’s
  - Dawn House (Sister Loretta Gaffney, R.H.S.J. worked with the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul and the Congregation of Notre Dame)
  - Almost Home
  - During the Ice Storm HDH was opened to some who did not have a warm place to stay.
- Individual Sisters have helped students and adults with their education.
- Dr. B Wherrett, (now deceased), while he was the Head of Paediatrics at HDH and others in the Department conducted a research initiative to aboriginal Canadian children in the Tyendinago Indian Reserve to access their learning disabilities and developmental problems and supported the special education programs.
- The Family Medicine Centre, was involved with the development of the North Kingston Community Health Centre.
- With the Ambulance Act of 1968 the Ontario Hospital Services Commission received the authority to administer all ambulance services, public and private, and the Kingston Regional Emergency Services began operation at Hotel Dieu on September 11, 1968 and was the first ambulance service established in Ontario under the Ambulance Act. The Ambulance Services is now at 250 Palace Road.
- In 1969 Dr. William Ghent was named Kingston Citizen of the year for establishing Kingston’s first hospital-based ambulance service.
- 1970 Hotel Dieu, Kingston General and St. Mary’s of the Lake offered support to Moose Factory.
- The Hotel Dieu Detoxification Centre was finally able to receive its first client in May 23, 1983.
- June 17, 1984 a food collection began at four city parishes. Sister Evelyn Leonard was the first Director of the Partners in Mission Food Bank.
- In 1987 the Hotel Dieu was the pilot hospital in Canada to offer special care to refugees from Afghanistan. Many other outreach initiatives have been carried out by hospital staff.
- 1987 to 88 Hotel Dieu Hospital was named one of 10 training head-quarters in Ontario for the new Centre of Emergency Health Services Program.
- In 1990 the HDH Board approved the Air Ambulance Service.
- October 1990 the 911 service in the Kingston areas was instituted and Hotel Dieu was involved in this initiative.
- Currently there are still initiatives in place to carry out the mission of the RHSJ’s in Kingston such as the: Youth Shelter, Partners in Mission Food Bank, Coat Drive, Sock drive, H’art Studio of Smiles and Native Patient Services now Known as Ininew Patient Services.

- *Information was gleaned from the Hotel Dieu Kingston 1845-1995 - The House of Tender Mercy Continuing to Service, by Jessie V. Deslauriers.
Respectfully submitted, Donna Corea
In 1845, four sisters from the order of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph, arrived in Kingston from Montreal to establish the Hotel Dieu Hospital. From that point onward, the sisters tended to the many needs of the sick and dying and the stories of their heroic efforts are chronicled in the Sisters’ writings.

The hospital opened with 8 beds but it expanded and so did advancements in medicine and nursing. The Sisters realized that in order to provide the best care for their increasing number of patients with their diverse needs, standardized programmes needed to be developed for the training of lay nurses. Under the guidance of Sister St. Charles (Louise O’Connor) the St. Joseph’s School of Nursing was founded in 1912, with the first formal classes, comprised of three students, being held starting in June 1913. The first graduation was held in August 1914.

From that time forward, until the schools of nursing were closed in 1974, there were 61 classes graduating some 1694 student nurses.

In 1922, a group of 50 graduates, under the direction of Miss Mae Gibson, and all with less than 10 years experience, formed St. Joseph’s School of Nursing Alumnae with an official constitution and by-laws. Miss Gibson became the first president.

In the early years, the Alumnae were very active in fundraising and, over the years, raised thousands of dollars to benefit the hospital and the School of Nursing. In the late sixties, the decision was made to shift the focus to primarily providing a venue for our graduated nurses to meet and renew old friendships and share memories one weekend a year. Additionally, money raised through membership, etc. would continue to be provided to help the hospital and worthy causes in our community.

On a designated annual weekend, a special Mass and dinner was held for all the Alumnae. The weekend also offered a venue for the classes who would be celebrating milestones, i.e. 40, 45, 50 years, etc. to meet and celebrate. The Alumnae bulletin, “The Mance”, which began in 1938, was published and distributed to Alumnae to keep them abreast of current events with the hospital. Also included were updates from class reps on the lives of fellow classmates. Sadly, due to rising postal and publishing costs, “The Mance” had to be discontinued in 1986.

The year 2012 was a memorable one for St. Joseph’s School of Nursing – which celebrated its 100th anniversary - and the St. Joseph’s School of Nursing Alumnae – which celebrating its 90th. Many events were planned. One of the projects planned in the lead up to the centennial year was the opening of the Alumnae Gallery located on Sydenham 2 across from the chapel. It was spearheaded by Sister Loretta Gaffney who worked tirelessly to see it come to fruition. Under her guidance many, many hours of planning were poured into having it ready for the
2012 celebrations and it was officially opened on November 6, 2008. The Gallery tells the story of the School of Nursing and shows its rich history, displaying photos of all the graduating classes and - thanks to Rodney Carter, the archivist for the RHSJs - features ever-changing displays of artifacts from throughout the years. In 2014, the Gallery was re-named in honour of Sister Loretta Gaffney whose amazing memory made us so much richer for having her by our side throughout this endeavour.

Today our tradition continues by meeting annually on the first weekend in May for a Mass and luncheon. To date, we are still in touch with 715 of our graduates and, prior to our annual luncheon in May, we contact them through e-mail and regular mail to inform them of the upcoming annual Alumnae reunion weekend. Over 200 of our graduates still contribute to an annual membership and, for their support, we are eternally grateful. In addition, the Alumnae meets biannually to discuss Alumnae business requiring discussion, consensus and the voting in of the executive on a two year basis.

We continue to contribute to the community: we provide an annual bursary to a nursing student at St. Lawrence College/Laurentian University; we donate to Almost Home (a safe haven for abused women); and we continue our membership with the Museum of Health Care. We attend the Remembrance Day services laying a wreath in honour of our Veteran nurses. We also provide an honour guard at the funeral services for our local deceased Alumnae members, where, at the request of the family, a nurse’s cape, our school cap, and a single rose are carried in procession. We are proud to be one of the few schools of nursing left to continue our practices. In 2022, our Alumnae will celebrate its 100th anniversary and in 2024 our last class of graduates will celebrate their 50th year anniversary. Both impressive milestones!

Led by 32 presidents, our members have worked all over the world, several served in the armed forces and, even in retirement, many serve in volunteer positions supporting our hospital. We are proud to continue on the path that was ordained by our members in 1922 and are honoured to represent the vision that the R.H.S.J.’s had when they arrived in Kingston in 1845.

Mrs. Patricia Murray, President of the Nurses’ Alumnae
Hotel Dieu Hospital—A Timeline
1845—2020

1845
Sept. 2 — Four Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph (RHSJ) arrive in Kingston.
Sept. 4 — The RHSJ move into the Hospital Building (229 Brock St).
Sept. 7 — They see their first patient, Mrs. Delaney, “a very sick woman”.
Late October — The RHSJs move into their Monastery (233 Brock St).

1847
Summer — Construction begins on new hospital building (now 227 Brock St.
Sydenham St. Apts; not completed until 1848).
Typhus epidemic arrives in Kingston. Sisters treat Irish immigrants stricken by the
disease at the fever tents on the shore. Dec. 24th—100 Irish orphans are brought to the
Hotel Dieu Orphanage.

1848
Construction of building connecting hospital & monastery (231 Brock St.)
for Chapel and Novitiate.

1869 May-December
Enlarged monastery built (235 Brock St).

1892
26 February RHSJ sign the preliminary agreement to acquire the former Regiopolis
College building on Sydenham St.; lease formally signed in Sept.

1892—Late December
After extensive renovations, patients are moved
into the new hospital.

1894
Hospital Chapel built.

1897
Sisters’ Monastery building built.

1897
The RHSJs of Kingston found the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Cornwall, On. From Kingston,
they would also go on to found hospitals in Chicago, IL (1903), Polson, MO (1916),
Hartford, WI (1926), & St. Catharines, ON (1944).

1899
Modern surgical theatre built on corner of
Sydenham & Johnson Sts.
1902
Agreement signed with Queen’s University to formally allow medical school faculty to use wards and operating room for the clinical instruction of medical students.

1905
Women’s Auxiliary (now Volunteer Services) founded.

1909
Brock St. Wing expansion built on corner of Sydenham and Brock Sts.

1910
Orphanage is transferred to the Sisters of Providence and Obstetrics Dept. is opened.

1912
School of Nursing founded by Sister St. Charles (Louise O’Connor) with first formal classes held June 1913.

1920
Hotel Dieu becomes one of the first hospitals in Ontario to be accredited, earning recognition for excellence.

1922
Alumnae of the St. Joseph’s School of Nursing founded.

1923
Construction of the second nurses’ residence (now known as the Mary Alice) Wing began replacing he first nurses’ residence in 235 Brock St.

1929-1931
St. Joseph’s Wing on Brock St. built.

1935
School of Medical Record Librarians opened—along with St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto, the 1st school of its kind in Canada.

1948
Construction begins on the first two floors of the Jeanne Mance Nurses’ Residence; an additional 3 floors completed in 1955.

1949
School of Medical Technology opened.

1950
Centennial Wing on Johnson St. built, replacing the surgical theatre.

1951
Hospital Advisory Board created.
1952
The RHSJ English Generalate (later St. Joseph Province) and novitiate moves from the hospital to Mount St. Joseph on Perth Road. In 1957 they would move to the St. Joseph Provincial House in Amherstview.

1966
Johnson Wing built, replacing the Sisters’ Monastery. Eric Brown is appointed first lay CEO of the Hospital. Gastroenterology Unit established, one of the first integrated units in Canada. The Gastrointestinal Diseases Research Unit was established in 1982. Both would be renamed after their founder, Dr. Ivan Beck, in 1989.

1971
Pastoral Care Department established.

1972
Kingston Health Sciences Complex inaugurated linking local hospitals and Queen's University in order to increase cooperation and access to shared funds and to reduce duplication of services.

1973
Obstetrics Department transferred to Kingston General Hospital.

1974
Last class of the St. Joseph's School of Nursing graduates.

1974-1976
Construction of the Family Medicine Centre on Bagot & Johnson Sts.

1976-1981
Murray Building constructed in the former Public Library building on Bagot St.

1978-1984
Jeanne Mance Wing built on site of former nurses’ residence.

1983
Detoxification Centre opened.

1984
Child Development Centre and Child's Outpatient Centre, both begun at KGH in the 1970s, open at Hotel Dieu as pediatric services are consolidated at HDH.

1985
Native Patient Services established and Geaganano House opened.

1997
Emergency Department closed and Urgent Care Centre is opened.
1998
February 23 Health Services Restructuring Report for Frontenac and Lennox & Addington released ordering HDH closed; “Save the Dieu” campaign begun. RHSJs fight order to the Supreme Court of Canada but are ultimately unsuccessful. Order to close not rescinded until May 2006.

1999
Official opening of the Breast Assessment Centre.

2006
Board of Directors receives formal letter from Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services and Organizational Development and Assistant Deputy Minister, Acute Services Division regarding the Amended and Revoked HSRC directions.

2008
The Gallery of the St. Joseph’s School of Nursing of Hotel Dieu Hospital Kingston was formally dedicated. Later renamed the Sister Loretta Gaffney Memorial Gallery.

2009
Hotel Dieu celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Students’ Art Gallery.

2010
A new multi-faith centre at Hotel Dieu opens its doors to members of all faiths or none who are looking for a quiet place to pray, meditate or reflect. The Children’s Outpatient Centre celebrates 40 years of excellence in pediatric care.

2013
Redevelopment Project begun in 2010 is completed, transforming floors 4 & 5 of the Jeanne Mance Wing into clinical space - 80 clinics are transferred from KGH with an annual increase of 50,000 patient visits to the hospital.

2016
28 June— Announcement made that Hotel Dieu and Kingston General Hospitals would integrate.

2017
1 April— KGH and HDH merge, becoming Kingston Health Sciences Centre.

2020
Hotel Dieu Hospital celebrates 175 years of compassionate care in Kingston.
BOARDS & COMMITTEES
Kingston Health Sciences Centre
Board of Directors 2020-2021

Pictured left to right:
David O’Toole, Chair
Sherri McCullough, Vice Chair
Axel Thesberg, Vice Chair

Alan Cosford
Anne Desgagnes
Brenda Hunter

Michele Lawford
Emily Leslie
David Pattenden

Glenn Vollebregt
Sandy Wilson

Ex-officio voting members & Ex-officio non voting members

Dr. Joan Philpott
Dr. David Pichora
Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick
Mike McDonald
Dr. Sonal Varma (not pictured)
Hotel Dieu Hospital Legacy Board of Directors 2020-21

Laurie Newport, Chair of the Board
Margaret Shepherd, Vice Chair of the Board

Sandy Berg
Marnie Dahl

Michael Hickey
Sister Marilyn Larocque, RHSJ

Caroline Manley
Representative of the Archbishop of Kingston
The Honourable Peter Milliken
Kingston Health Science Centre Executive Team

Dr. David Pichora  
President & Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick  
Chief of Staff, Vice President of Medical Affairs

Troy Jones  
Chief Operating Officer

Brenda Carter  
Chief of Quality & Clinical Transformation/Regional Vice-President, South East Regional Cancer Program

Elizabeth Bardon  
Vice President Mission & Strategy Integration and Support Services

Sandra Carlton  
Joint Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer

Mike McDonald  
Chief Nursing Executive and EVP Patient Care and Community Partnerships

Renate Iisse  
Vice President, Patient Care

Amit Bansal  
Chief Financial Officer

Krysta Wills Pearce  
Vice-President, Planning

Tom Zsoliney  
President and CEO, University Hospital Kingston Foundation

Dr. Steve Smith  
Vice President, Health Sciences Research
Hotel Dieu Hospital site committees that continue the HDH Mission work

Benevolent Committee
Isaiah Dada
Neil Elford
Elizabeth Bardon
Sr. Marilyn Larocque, RHSJ
Anita Peter
Bill Gourdier
Carol Hazell
Jill Holland-Reilly
Lynda Laird
Lucy Curtis

Mission and Values Committee
Sr. Marilyn Larocque, RHSJ
Cindy Bolton
Paul Butler
Bev Carty
Donna Corea
Ashley Hendry
Lola Hulton
Caroline Manley
Don Mann
Brittany Marshall
Micki Mulima
Anna Neves
Anne Rutherford
Tracey D. Stevenson
Bev Weaver
Neil Elford
Nicholas Axas
Elizabeth Bardon
Lucy Curtis

175th Anniversary Planning Committee
Brittany Marshall
Neil Elford
Beverly Carty
Donna Corea
Lola Hulton
Anne Rutherford
Sr. Marilyn Larocque, RHSJ
Lucy Curtis

Photos: Warming station that provides warm beverage when a weather warning is issued. Welcome Back BBQ to encourage the staff to gather together and remember the arrival of the Sisters. HDH Mission Award recipients from 2018, an award given to those who live the Mission of HDH. 175 Anniversary banner.
Photos from the 2018 Annual General Meeting: Café and Boutique volunteers accept appreciation certificate for funds raised. David Bessant with 2018-2019 Board Members. Years of Service Award winners.
St. Joseph School of Nursing Alumnae Executive

Patricia Murray  67                               President
Jan Gilmour    74                                 Vice President
Carol Hazel    69                                 Past President
Joanne Bombard 70                                 Treasurer
Lorrie Woodcock 70                                Membership
Michele Skrzypinski  72 - 1                        Secretary
Sr. Marilyn Larocque, RHSJ  72 - 1                 Spiritual Advisor
THANK YOU
Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity.... It turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.”
- Melodie Beattie

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings”.
- William Arthur Ward

A special thank you to all who made this 175th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph and the Founding of Hotel Dieu Hospital a very meaningful and enriching experience of joy and celebration. We all have been truly blessed in many significant ways.

Photo credit: RHSJ Archives, KHSC Archives