

# Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

## Finding Aid - Medaille Retreat House series (F01-S094)

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Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

485 Windermere Road

P.O. Box 487

London

Ontario

Canada

N6A 4X3

Telephone: 519-432-3781 ext. 404

Fax: 519- 432-8557

[Email: csjarchives@csjcanada.org](mailto:csjarchives@csjcanada.org)

<https://www.csjcanada.org/>

<http://www.archeion.ca/index.php/medaille-retreat-house-2>

# Medaille Retreat House series

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## Summary information

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**Repository:** Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

**Title:** Medaille Retreat House series

**ID:** F01-S094

**Date:** 1969-2014 (date of creation)

**Language:** English

**Physical description:** 18.7 cm of textual records  
138 photographs : col.  
16 photographs : col. negatives  
2 digital video discs : (17 min., 16 sec.) ; aluminum, digital  
2 CD-ROMs  
4.5 cm photo albums  
4.2 cm scrapbooks

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Medaille Retreat House was founded in 1969 as a community retreat centre where members of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph could stay to spend time in prayer and contemplation. The house was named after Fr. Jean-Pierre Medaille, who established the Sisters of St. Joseph at Le Puy, France in 1650. The building which became Medaille House was located on Windermere Road. The grounds had originally belonged to Hellmuth College, and when the property was sold, some of the land was purchased by the Sisters of St. Joseph. In 1912, an eight-acre property adjoining Hellmuth College was also purchased, but later sold to the Nelles family who built a home and a gardener's house which they called Norwood Place, likely after the name of the original house built by Bishop Hellmuth which was named Norwood House. In 1943, the Sisters purchased the property back, and renamed the building St. Joseph's House of Studies. This building accommodated Sisters studying at the University of Western Ontario between 1949 and 1960. In 1960, the building was rented to Dr. J. J. McCredie. When the lease expired in 1969, it was decided to use the building as a community retreat centre, and it became Medaille Retreat House later that year. Sisters visited the retreat house for varying lengths of time ranging from a few hours of prayer to retreats lasting for several weeks.

Beginning in 1975 with their "Time Out" program, a 48-hour retreat for single mothers, Medaille House welcomed members of the public for courses and retreat experiences. Groups from churches, educational institutions, community organizations, and health care facilities attended programs at the retreat centre. In addition to the many programs designed to offer peace and spiritual connection, a beautiful labyrinth was added to the grounds in 1998 as a walking meditation tool. In response to a growing need, the Sisters created a new space for service and instruction in the Ignatia Hall auditorium at Mount St. Joseph. Located on the first floor, the newly refurbished space was called Medaille Program Centre. Programs began here in the fall of 1990, running until 2006.

During its years of greatest activity, Medaille House welcomed over 2,000 participants over an eight-month period from September 1992 to May 1993. After a closing ceremony on October 30, 2004, Medaille House moved to a new property, formerly known as Highview, at 545 Fanshawe Park Road West. The new Medaille House location opened on March 2, 2005. The original building on Windermere Road was demolished in July, 2005 in order to build the new Motherhouse. The demolition involved Habitat for Humanity volunteers participating in the dismantling so that materials could be re-cycled through the Re-Store. Programs at Medaille Program Centre were discontinued in 2006. In 2012, the Medaille Retreat House finally closed.

Today the CSJ Spirituality Centre carries on the work of Medaille House by providing spiritual direction, while retreats may still be arranged at the new Motherhouse on Windermere Road.

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## Scope and content

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Series contains scrapbooks and photo albums, notes, cards, DVDs created and used by staff, meeting minutes, financial records from the Time Out program (1975-1980), program brochures, administrative records, annals from 1975-1990, newspaper articles about Medaille Retreat House, colour photographs, colour photograph negatives, and historical information about the retreat centre.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title is based on the contents of the series

### Immediate source of acquisition

Records transferred from Medaille Retreat House to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives, London site.

### Location of originals

The records are stored off-site in London, Ontario.

### Restrictions on access

The Archives reserves the right to restrict access to the collection depending on the condition of the archival material, the amount of material requested, and the purpose of the research. The use of certain materials may also be restricted for reasons of privacy or sensitivity, or under a donor agreement. Access restrictions will be applied equally to all researchers and reviewed periodically. No researcher will be given access to any materials that contain a personal information bank such as donor agreements or personnel records, or to other proprietary information such as appraisals, insurance valuations, or condition reports.

## Conditions governing use

Permission to study archival records does not extend to publication or display rights. The researcher must request this permission in writing from the Archives.

## Finding aids

Series and file list available.

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Other notes

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

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## Access points

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- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada -- London
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Clippings (documentary form)
- Albums (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Minutes (documentary form)
- Education (subject)
- Women (subject)
- Religion (subject)
- London (place)

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## Collection holdings

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### Subseries: F01-S094--01 - Photographs and Scrapbooks

Title: Photographs and Scrapbooks

ID: F01-S094--01

Date: 1978-2009 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries contains photo albums, scrapbooks, newspaper articles about Medaille Retreat House, colour photographs, colour negatives, and historical information.

Physical description: 128 photographs : col.

16 photographs : col. negatives

4.5 cm photo albums : col.

4.2 cm scrapbooks

1 CD-ROM (photographs)

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- 

**File: F01-S094--01--02 - Medaille House Sr. Simone Batte Photographs 1978- [2013-50-4]**

Title: Medaille House Sr. Simone Batte Photographs 1978- [2013-50-4]

ID: F01-S094--01--02

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--01--03 - Medaille Retreat House 40th Anniversary [2013-50-5]**

Title: Medaille Retreat House 40th Anniversary [2013-50-5]

ID: F01-S094--01--03

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--01--04 - Medaille Retreat House Scrapbook [2013-50-6]**

Title: Medaille Retreat House Scrapbook [2013-50-6]

ID: F01-S094--01--04

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--01--05 - Medaille House Photographs [2013-50-1]**

Title: Medaille House Photographs [2013-50-1]

ID: F01-S094--01--05

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--01--06 - Medaille House [2013-50-10]**

Title: Medaille House [2013-50-10]

ID: F01-S094--01--06

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--01--01 - Labrynth Photographs 2007-2009 [2013-50-4]**

Title: Labrynth Photographs 2007-2009 [2013-50-4]

ID: F01-S094--01--01

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--01--07 - Medaille House 545 Fanshawe Park Rd. W. Photographs**

Title: Medaille House 545 Fanshawe Park Rd. W. Photographs

ID: F01-S094--01--07

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--01--08 - Pictures of Highview 2004 [2013-50-8]**



Title: Pictures of Highview 2004 [2013-50-8]

ID: F01-S094--01--08

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--01--09 - Memories of Medaille House 2006 [2012-50-2]**

Title: Memories of Medaille House 2006 [2012-50-2]

ID: F01-S094--01--09

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--01--10 - Photographs of Medaille House, Windermere Road [2014-81] and Staff 2000**

Title: Photographs of Medaille House, Windermere Road [2014-81] and Staff 2000

ID: F01-S094--01--10

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--01--10 - Photographs of Medaille House, Windermere Road [2014-81] and staff 2000**

Title: Photographs of Medaille House, Windermere Road [2014-81] and staff 2000

ID: F01-S094--01--10

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--01--11 - Photographs of Community House and Medaille House**

Title: Photographs of Community House and Medaille House

ID: F01-S094--01--11

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--01--12 - Medaille 545 Fanshawe Park Rd. [2016-54]**Title: Medaille 545 Fanshawe Park Rd. [2016-54]ID: F01-S094--01--12Publication status:

published

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**Subseries: F01-S094--02 - Special Programs and Events**Title: Special Programs and EventsID: F01-S094--02Date: 1975-2012 (date of creation)Scope and content:

This subseries contains Time Out program brochures, Crossing Over Program guides and booklets, Retrospective of Peace DVDs, colour photographs of Medaille Retreat House, a CDR of photographs from the Medaille Retreat House closing ceremony, and pamphlets and song sheets from the Medaille House closing ceremony. The subseries also contains retreat brochures which document the history of retreats at both Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse and Medaille Retreat House.

Physical description: 13 cm of textual records

10 photographs : col.

2 digital video discs (17 min., 16 sec.) : aluminum, digital

1 CD-ROM (photographs)

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- 

**File: F01-S094--02--01 - Medaille Retreat House Crossing Over Program Guide 2005**Title: Medaille Retreat House Crossing Over Program Guide 2005

ID: F01-S094--02--01

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--02--02 - Medaille House Crossing Over Program Booklets [2013-50-11]**

Title: Medaille House Crossing Over Program Booklets [2013-50-11]

ID: F01-S094--02--02

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--02--03 - Medaille House Retrospective of Peace Sept. 2004 DVD [2011-2]**

Title: Medaille House Retrospective of Peace Sept. 2004 DVD [2011-2]

ID: F01-S094--02--03

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--02--04 - Medaille House Retrospective of Peace DVD [2013-67]**

Title: Medaille House Retrospective of Peace DVD [2013-67]

ID: F01-S094--02--04

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--02--05 - Medaille House Retreat Centre Brochures [2012-120]**

Title: Medaille House Retreat Centre Brochures [2012-120]

ID: F01-S094--02--05

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--02--06 - London Medaille House Program "Time Out" 1975-80**Title: London Medaille House Program "Time Out" 1975-80ID: F01-S094--02--06Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--02--07 - Medaille Reteat House Closing Pamphlets and Song Sheet [2012-119]**Title: Medaille Reteat House Closing Pamphlets and Song Sheet [2012-119]ID: F01-S094--02--07Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--02--08 - Medaille Retreat House Photographs [2013-50-09]**Title: Medaille Retreat House Photographs [2013-50-09]ID: F01-S094--02--08Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--02--09 - Medaille Retreat House Closing CDR [2013-50-7]**Title: Medaille Retreat House Closing CDR [2013-50-7]ID: F01-S094--02--09Publication status:

published

**File: F01-S094--02--10 - Medaille House Farewell 2012**

Title: Medaille House Farewell 2012

ID: F01-S094--02--10

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--02--11 - Medaille House Schedule 1994 [2016-20]**

Title: Medaille House Schedule 1994 [2016-20]

ID: F01-S094--02--11

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--02--12 - Medaille House retreats 1981-2009**

Title: Medaille House retreats 1981-2009

ID: F01-S094--02--12

Publication status:

published

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**Subseries: F01-S094--03 - Administration**

Title: Administration

ID: F01-S094--03

Date: 1969-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This subseries consists of administrative records for Medaille House (485 Windermere), the Spiritual Ministries Network, the Medaille House Crossing Over newsletter, newspaper articles about Medaille House, and Medaille House programs.

Physical description: 3.7 cm textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: F01-S094--03--01 - Medaille House Crossing Over Administration [2013-50-11]**

Title: Medaille House Crossing Over Administration [2013-50-11]

ID: F01-S094--03--01

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--03--02 - Medaille Spiritual Ministries Network, 2005**

Title: Medaille Spiritual Ministries Network, 2005

ID: F01-S094--03--02

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--03--03 - Medaille House Administration 2005 - 545 Fanshawe Rd. W., London**

Title: Medaille House Administration 2005 - 545 Fanshawe Rd. W., London

ID: F01-S094--03--03

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--03--04 - London Medaille House 485 Windermere Rd. 1969-2005**

Title: London Medaille House 485 Windermere Rd. 1969-2005

ID: F01-S094--03--04

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--03--05 - Medaille House Administration 1988-2001**

Title: Medaille House Administration 1988-2001

ID: F01-S094--03--05

Publication status:

published

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**Subseries: F01-S094--04 - History**

Title: History

ID: F01-S094--04

Date: 1971-2014 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This subseries contains records pertaining to Medaille House history, Medaille House annals from 1975-1990, and the history of the Medaille House labyrinth.

Physical description: 3.7 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: F01-S094--04--01 - Medaille House History 1971-1982**

Title: Medaille House History 1971-1982

ID: F01-S094--04--01

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--04--02 - Medaille House Annals 1975-1990**

Title: Medaille House Annals 1975-1990

ID: F01-S094--04--02

Publication status:

published

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**File: F01-S094--04--03 - Medaille House - Labyrinth**

Title: Medaille House - Labyrinth

ID: F01-S094--04--03

Publication status:

published

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