

# Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada

## Finding Aid - St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia, Ont. fonds (F07)

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# St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia, Ont. fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada
<b>Title:</b>	St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia, Ont. fonds
<b>Reference code:</b>	F07
<b>Date:</b>	1944-2004 (creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	25 cm of textual records 3 bound volumes 14 scrapbooks ; 17 cm newspaper clippings ; 8.5 cm 375 photographs : b&w 188 photographs : col. 1 audio cassette (2 hrs.)
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	July 2, 2020

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London had been invited by the Sarnia City Council in 1942 to open a hospital in Sarnia. Initially, the Sisters faced opposition on the part of the Ministerial Association, the Derry Orange Lodge, and some medical personnel. Construction of the hospital began in 1944, and after numerous delays due to shortage of materials and labour during WW II, one floor was finally opened in 1945 to meet the acute need for hospital beds. St. Joseph's Hospital was fully operational with 150 beds on March 1, 1946. The formal opening ceremony for St. Joseph's Hospital was held on October 18, 1946. The Honourable George A. Drew, Premier of Ontario cut the ribbon. Bishops J.T. Kidd and J.C. Cody (Coadjutor, Bishop), and priests from London and Detroit were present. Officials from other hospitals were also present.

The entire million-dollar project was funded by the Sisters of St. Joseph. They received no financial assistance from the government and only a \$10,000 grant from the City of Sarnia. The units were filled with both Canadian and American patients from Port Huron and the state of Michigan.

The Sisters carried out active nursing roles and administrative duties, notably Sister Pascal Kenny who served as the first Administrator of the hospital. She had previous experience working in operating rooms and administration, and was a member of the American College of Hospital Administrators and of the Board of Governors of the Ontario Hospital Association.

In the early days, nursing, technical, and domestic staff were difficult to find. Many of the staff were mothers of families who could only work occasionally. Students from St. Joseph's Training School of Nursing in London helped fill the nursing rota, and were hired permanently after graduation. Because

of the nursing shortage, innovations were made such as the central distribution of medicines and central surgical supply rooms.

By September 1948, St. Joseph's Hospital was better able to provide for patients. A detoxification centre was opened and many alcoholics were treated at the hospital. A clinic for cancer patients was also held regularly at the hospital, overseen by a team from the London Cancer Clinic, who did follow-up checks and therapy. The Auxiliary Radiotherapy and Follow-up Cancer Clinic, the first of its kind in Ontario, was opened in conjunction with the Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation.

The late 1950's saw increased demand for hospital services, which led in 1959, with the advent of government sponsored coverage, a seven-storey, two million dollar addition and an increase of 150 active treatment beds. In 1960, a 45-bed paediatric wing was added. An Intensive Care Unit was opened in 1967, and an Employee Health program was established. The late 1960's saw the addition of a Social Service Department, and in 1969, a diagnostic radioisotope service. This time period also saw the establishment of District Health Councils.

In the 1970s, the hospital needed to update its facilities to meet accreditation standards, as well as to comply with the Sisters' own standards of care. Because government funding was decreased, Sisters needed to do more independent fundraising. This decade also saw the Ministry of Health deciding to amalgamate hospitals and rationalize services in Lambton County. This became a political issue which meant many hours were spent on discussions with the District Health Council, the Mustard Report, and other tasks. St. Joseph's Hospital also became embroiled in a confrontation with the Ministry of Health on contentious issues regarding health services, which conflicted with the Catholic faith. The end of this tumultuous period saw the closure of the paediatrics unit and the doubling of obstetrical unit beds.

From 1979 onwards, diminishing numbers of Sisters able to take on the responsibilities of hospital management led to the hiring of qualified laypersons, beginning with Frank Bagatto as the Executive Director in June, 1979.

In the 1980s, quality assurance became a major focus, and new services such as the chiropody and palliative care were added. The new Chronic Care Facility was financed and completed. In November of 1983, A Memorandum of Understanding between St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia and Sarnia General Hospital was drafted to form the basis for the future planning of each hospital.

St. Joseph's Hospital was officially re-opened as St. Joseph's Health Centre on October 12, 1990. This was the amalgamation of St. Joseph's Hospital, the Continuing Care Centre (formerly the Chronic Care Facility), Sarnia-Lambton Workers' Treatment Centre, and a Day Hospital. The name change reflects a concomitant change in service provision and governance. St. Joseph's Health Centre no longer served as exclusively as an in-patient treatment centre for the critically ill. It also provided long-term care beds and outpatient treatment. Assets were transferred from the Sisters of St. Joseph to the newly incorporated body of St. Joseph's Health Services Association of Sarnia. The board of directors of the corporation was now the hospital board, and six Sisters formed the General Administration as members of the corporation which was an un-shared capital corporation. Ownership lay with the corporation while the Sisters maintained final authority over decisions.

In January 1995, the Sisters donated their residence at 430 London Road to St. Joseph Health Centre to be used as a hospice. On January 29, 1998, the St. Joseph's Health Centre joined in partnership with the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital and the Sarnia General Hospital by signing the Strategic Alliance Agreement. In April 2003, ownership of St. Joseph's Health Centre was given to the Lambton County Hospital Group.

## Scope and content

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This fonds contains records pertaining to the activities of the hospital and its associated administrators, staff, and organizations, including histories, annals, financial documents, governance records, photographs of people, the buildings and events, and news clippings.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

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

### Immediate source of acquisition

The records were transferred from St. Joseph's Hospital to the Congregation of the Sister of St. Joseph in Canada - London site archives.

### 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

File and series list available.

### Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

### Note [Sources]

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives. St. Joseph's Hospital – Sarnia, Ontario. Sister Mary Loyola Drouillard. Memories of St. Joseph's Hospital – Sarnia. April, 1988. Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives.

G. J. Humbert, A Compendium of the Catholic Health Association of Canada, Ottawa: Catholic Health Alliance of Canada.

Unknown. St. Joseph's Hospital now St. Joseph's Health Centre. Sarnia Gazette, June 29, 1991.

### 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, Ont.)
  - Multiple media (documentary form)
  - Photographs (documentary form)
  - Clippings (documentary form)
  - Women and girls (subject)
  - Health care (subject)
  - Religion and religious people (subject)
  - Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada (London, Ont.) (subject)
  - Sarnia (place)
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### Collection holdings

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#### **Series: F07--S001 - Histories and Annals**

Title: Histories and Annals

Reference code: F07--S001

Date: 1949-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series contains materials related to the history of St. Joseph's Hospital including written histories, chronicles and annals. It contains newsletters, correspondence, textual records, and photographs.

Physical description: 10 cm of textual records

2 bound volumes

2 photographs: b&w

Restrictions on access: Restricted access to F07-S001-01 – Gift List

Publication status:

published

Access points:

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

**File: F07--S001--01 - Histories 1949-2004**

Title: Histories 1949-2004

Reference code: F07--S001--01

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S001--02 - Chronicles of St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia 1972-1978**

Title: Chronicles of St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia 1972-1978

Reference code: F07--S001--02

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S001--03 - History - St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia 1943-1984**

Title: History - St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia 1943-1984

Reference code: F07--S001--03

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S001--04 - Annals 1979-1991**

Title: Annals 1979-1991

Reference code: F07--S001--04

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S001--05 - Chronicles & Events 1946-1988**

Title: Chronicles & Events 1946-1988

Reference code: F07--S001--05

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S001--06 - 430 London Rd. - Sisters' Residence and Continuing Care Centre 1981-2004**Title: 430 London Rd. - Sisters' Residence and Continuing Care Centre 1981-2004Reference code: F07--S001--06Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S001--07 - History 1943-1983**Title: History 1943-1983Reference code: F07--S001--07Publication status:

published

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**Series: F07--S002 - Administration**Title: AdministrationReference code: F07--S002Date: 1946-1996 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series contains materials related to the administration of St. Joseph's Hospital including lists of staff and board members, policy, bylaws, annual reports, and financial reports. It also includes a regional role study of Lambton County Hospital and information about ceremonies and events organized by the administration. There are textual records, correspondence, reports, news, published newsletters, programs and pamphlets, a bound book, photographs and a cassette tape.

Physical description: 15 cm of textual records

1 bound volume

1 photograph : b&amp;w

1 audio cassette (2 hrs.)

Publication status:

published

Access points:



- Multiple media (documentary form)
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**File: F07--S002--01 - Board of Governors 1965-1991**

Title: Board of Governors 1965-1991

Reference code: F07--S002--01

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S002--02 - Annual Reports 1965-1996**

Title: Annual Reports 1965-1996

Reference code: F07--S002--02

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S002--03 - Administration 1957-1981**

Title: Administration 1957-1981

Reference code: F07--S002--03

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S002--04 - Administration re: Amalgamation 1973-1976**

Title: Administration re: Amalgamation 1973-1976

Reference code: F07--S002--04

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S002--05 - Medical Staff and Policy 1947-1973**

Title: Medical Staff and Policy 1947-1973

Reference code: F07--S002--05

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S002--06 - "The Dynamo" Newsletters 1958**

Title: "The Dynamo" Newsletters 1958

Reference code: F07--S002--06

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S002--07 - "Pulse" Newsletters 1967-1992**

Title: "Pulse" Newsletters 1967-1992

Reference code: F07--S002--07

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S002--08 - Regional Role Study of the Lambton County Hospitals 1970**

Title: Regional Role Study of the Lambton County Hospitals 1970

Reference code: F07--S002--08

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S002--09 - St. Clair Regional School of Nursing Correspondence, Reports and News 1964-1973**

Title: St. Clair Regional School of Nursing Correspondence, Reports and News 1964-1973

Reference code: F07--S002--09

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S002--10 - Ceremonies and Events 1946-1995**

Title: Ceremonies and Events 1946-1995

Reference code: F07--S002--10

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S002--11 - Chapel Building 1953-1967**

Title: Chapel Building 1953-1967

Reference code: F07--S002--11

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S002--12 - Re.: Amalgamation - cassette tape**

Title: Re.: Amalgamation - cassette tape

Reference code: F07--S002--12

Publication status:

published

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**Series: F07--S003 - Photographs**

Title: Photographs

Reference code: F07--S003

Date: 1945-1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series contains photographs of events, Sisters, nurses, staff, doctors, patients, buildings, rooms in the hospital, and people who were in attendance at various events held by St. Joseph's Hospital.

Physical description: 372 photographs : b&w  
186 photographs : col.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- 

**File: F07--S003--01 - Photographs 1946-1966 HS1**

Title: Photographs 1946-1966 HS1

Reference code: F07--S003--01

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S003--02 - Hospital Building 1946-1981 HS2**

Title: Hospital Building 1946-1981 HS2

Reference code: F07--S003--02

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S003--03 - Christmas Tea 1971 HS3**

Title: Christmas Tea 1971 HS3

Reference code: F07--S003--03

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S003--04 - Building Construction 1945-1985 HS4**

Title: Building Construction 1945-1985 HS4

Reference code: F07--S003--04

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S003--05 - Photographs 1945-1976 HS5**

Title: Photographs 1945-1976 HS5

Reference code: F07--S003--05

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S003--06 - Photographs 1970-1972 HS6**

Title: Photographs 1970-1972 HS6

Reference code: F07--S003--06

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S003--07 - Photographs 1945-1976 HS7**

Title: Photographs 1945-1976 HS7

Reference code: F07--S003--07

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S003--08 - Closing of Sisters' Quarters HS8**

Title: Closing of Sisters' Quarters HS8

Reference code: F07--S003--08

Publication status:

published

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**Series: F07--S004 - Memorabilia**

Title: Memorabilia

Reference code: F07--S004

Date: 1944-2000 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The series is made up of two sub-series which contain memorabilia of St. Joseph's Hospital in the form of news clippings and scrapbooks.

Physical description: 14 scrapbooks ; 17 cm  
newspaper clippings ; 8.5 cm

Physical condition: Three scrapbooks and the newspaper clippings were acidic and deteriorating. These were reformatted.

Arrangement: The order of newspaper clippings was imposed by archivist.

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**Subseries: F07--S004--01 - Scrapbooks**

Title: Scrapbooks

Reference code: F07--S004--01

Date: 1945-1998 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The sub-series contains scrapbooks that relate to St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia. The scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings pertaining to St. Joseph's Hospital, some also contain: internal communications, invitations to hospital events, programmes for hospital events, newsletters, and copies of annual reports.

Physical description: 14 scrapbooks ; 17 cm

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- 

**File: F07--S004--01--01 - Scrapbook 1945-1946**

Title: Scrapbook 1945-1946

Reference code: F07--S004--01--01

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--01--02 - Scrapbook 1951-1956**

Title: Scrapbook 1951-1956

Reference code: F07--S004--01--02

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--01--03 - Scrapbook 1960-1974**

Title: Scrapbook 1960-1974

Reference code: F07--S004--01--03

Publication status:

published

---

**File: F07--S004--01--04 - Scrapbook 1972-1973**

Title: Scrapbook 1972-1973

Reference code: F07--S004--01--04

Publication status:

published

---

**File: F07--S004--01--05 - Scrapbook 1974**

Title: Scrapbook 1974

Reference code: F07--S004--01--05

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--01--06 - Scrapbook 1975-1976**

Title: Scrapbook 1975-1976

Reference code: F07--S004--01--06

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--01--07 - Scrapbook 1977-1979**

Title: Scrapbook 1977-1979

Reference code: F07--S004--01--07

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--01--08 - Scrapbook 1979-1980**

Title: Scrapbook 1979-1980

Reference code: F07--S004--01--08

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--01--09 - Scrapbook 1980-1982**

Title: Scrapbook 1980-1982

Reference code: F07--S004--01--09

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--01--10 - Scrapbook 1982-1984**

Title: Scrapbook 1982-1984

Reference code: F07--S004--01--10

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--01--11 - Scrapbook 1984-1985**

Title: Scrapbook 1984-1985

Reference code: F07--S004--01--11

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--01--12 - Scrapbook 1985-1986**

Title: Scrapbook 1985-1986

Reference code: F07--S004--01--12

Publication status:



published

---

**File: F07--S004--01--13 - Scrapbook 1986-1987**

Title: Scrapbook 1986-1987

Reference code: F07--S004--01--13

Publication status:

published

---

**File: F07--S004--01--14 - Scrapbook 1987-1988**

Title: Scrapbook 1987-1988

Reference code: F07--S004--01--14

Publication status:

published

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**Subseries: F07--S004--02 - Newspaper Clippings**

Title: Newspaper Clippings

Reference code: F07--S004--02

Date: 1944-2000 (date of creation)

Scope and content: The sub-series contains newspaper clippings that relate to St. Joseph's Hospital, Sarnia.

Physical description: newspaper clippings ; 8.5 cm

Publication status:

published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: F07--S004--02--01 - Newspaper Clippings 1944-1967**

Title: Newspaper Clippings 1944-1967

Reference code: F07--S004--02--01

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--02--02 - Newspaper Clippings 1958-1991**

Title: Newspaper Clippings 1958-1991

Reference code: F07--S004--02--02

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--02--03 - Newspaper Clippings 1981-1989**

Title: Newspaper Clippings 1981-1989

Reference code: F07--S004--02--03

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--02--04 - Newspaper Clippings 1989-1990**

Title: Newspaper Clippings 1989-1990

Reference code: F07--S004--02--04

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--02--05 - Newspaper Clippings 1990-1992**

Title: Newspaper Clippings 1990-1992

Reference code: F07--S004--02--05

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--02--06 - Newspaper Clippings 1991-1992**

Title: Newspaper Clippings 1991-1992

Reference code: F07--S004--02--06

Publication status:

published

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**File: F07--S004--02--07 - News Clippings 1994-2000**

Title: News Clippings 1994-2000

Reference code: F07--S004--02--07

Publication status:

published

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