

25 YEARS AGO — JANUARY 8, 1948

NEW EQUIPMENT for the Providence Hospital in the shape of a resuscitator and a sterilizer arrived this week — both had been on order for many months. There were 47 patients hospitalized during the first week of the New Year.

THE MOTHER GENERAL of the Providence Order of Sisters of Charity came to inspect the local hospital of Fort St John. This is her first visit to the area. The Mother General considers the small population and the large contributions made to the hospital as outstanding.

MAY 27, 1948

1948

30 YRS AGO — JUNE 15, 1948

TAG DAY on Saturday to Aid BC Flood Victims: The big hearts of the people of the North Peace River country have opened to the appeal for help for the impoverished victims of the Fraser Valley and other flood-stricken communities in BC "Doc" Howard Cawsey, chairman of the committee said, "Our people will be more generous after seeing the ravages of the high water on our good friends the Kruses and the Feenies.

30 YRS AGO — JUNE 20, 1948

POLIO OUTBREAK cancels Red Cross Blood Clinic: The Red Cross Blood Donors Clinic was cancelled late Thursday, June 17 following a consultation of the doctors interested in the clinic and the Chairman of the local committee. It was considered in

the public interest to cancel plans since the taking of blood of residents of a community suffering an epidemic such as poliomyelitis, could very well weaken the donors and make them more susceptible to the Poleo germ.

1948 - 13 CASES of polio in North Peace brings warning from medical health officer to keep children away from public gatherings.

STUNTS

30 YRS AGO — JUNE 26, 1948

WARNING: There have been 13 cases of poliomyelitis in the district north of the river. The various organizations have been cooperative very well in cancelling gatherings which would otherwise contribute to the spread of the disease. However, I wish to further point out that gatherings of any kind should be discouraged at this time and I would ask the co-operation of individuals in staying away from and keeping their children from any public gatherings. Among the points I would like to stress in particular are the avoidance of overheating and chilling, this refers in particular to the avoidance of swimming.

G N Cormack, MD
(Acting Medical Health Officer)

1948

TimeCapsule

1948



POLIO IS in its wail raised by Cst. Bill Lumsden with nurse at the official opening.

POLIO IS almost forgotten now but in 1948 an epidemic left dead and maimed in its wake. You had to have a birth certificate to prove you were 15 or older to get an ice cream cone in a restaurant and a special annex was opened off the nurses' residence through funds raised by the Elks for a therapy pool and other equipment. That's Elk Herb Friend and Cst. Bill Lumsden of the B.C. Police who spearheaded the drive to raise \$1800 for the project with nurse Mrs. Martell, patient Ray Alexander and two of the Sisters of Providence at the official opening of the annex in August 1948.

— Photo submitted by Jeanne Clelland

35 YRS AGO — JULY 25, 1948

THE SOCIAL calendar is pretty slim these days due to the polio epidemic. Berry picking parties are numerous and over a sidespread area. Picnics are about the only indulgence permitted. Profitable too, because the bushes are laden with fruit, and that goes for strawberries, saskatoons and raspberries. Even wild currants are luscious and plentiful this year. What a country to live in, eh! Oh yes, and fishing, which has as much to offer as the berry patches.

25 YEARS AGO — JULY 1, 1948

AFTER A MONTH or more of observation and preventive effort it is now admitted that a Polio epidemic exists in the Peace River district and that quarantines and cancellations of public gatherings are being made for protection of the public. It is over a month now since the first two cases entered hospital.

25 YEARS AGO — JULY 22, 1948

MEMBERS OF THE RCAF stationed at the airport, sent in \$105 to secretary Bill Lumsden, for the Polio pool fund. There are four definite cases of Polio now in the hospital which need treatment. It is more beneficial for the victims to remain in the area than to be sent out. Thus the need for a pool.

25 YEARS AGO — JULY 29, 1948

THE ACTING MEDICAL Health Officer, G N C Cormack, MD has pointed out that swimming is particularly dangerous during a polio epidemic. Extreme chilling produced by swimming in cold water lowers resistance and causes increased susceptibility to the disease.

THE ELK'S POLIO pool drive is meeting with unusual generosity. Through Jim Rose and the men at Whispering Pine saw mill, the Elks are now assured of the \$1,000 to build the pool and make necessary additions to the hospital for the therapy equipment. Whispering Pine saw mill donated \$100.

25 YEARS AGO — AUGUST 12, 1948

THE ELKS NEED more money to rush the Polio Pool to completion. For some reason the donations have suddenly dropped off and not more than \$50 has been donated over the week.

TEN CASES OF polio have been confirmed in the NP since the outbreak of infection some weeks ago. It has been deemed necessary to bring the situation to public attention and issue seven cardinal health rules to avert spread. JUN 24, 1948

15 years ago—June 24 1948.

HIGH SCHOOL graduation plans are knocked out by polio. Student councils elaborate plans for dinner and dance have been cancelled.

NOV 4, 1948

DR G N CORMACK, who is leaving our midst may go away with an old straw hat that he much enjoys wearing, but in his bill fold will be the means of buying a full set of hats. A group of ladies gave him a surprise party, one of those kind that only Fort St John can provide, and the ladies presented the doctor with his old straw hat, but peeking from it were fives and tens and even some ones.

25 YEARS AGO — AUGUST 5, 1948

THE PEOPLE OF Fort St John literally showered money on the taggers for the Elk's Polio Pool. Already, the taggers collected \$230. The total is now \$800. At first the goal was \$1,000, but now, more money is needed to install the equipment, the tank and remodel the building. The patients will be taken or go themselves in winter and summer.

25 YEARS AGO — JUNE 24, 1948

TEN CASES OF POLIOMYELITIS have been confirmed in the North Peace since the outbreak of infection some weeks ago. Until now it has been considered inadvisable to make public the fears of the health authorities. Several cases have been reported in Fort St John and the high school graduating class ceremonies and the Red Cross blood clinic have been cancelled. The Provincial Department of Health says it is essential to kill the common house fly that carries the disease — by DDT. Personal hygiene, wash all fruits, avoid crowds, do not visit active cases, avoid excessive physical exertion and see the local physician about any minor illnesses or discomfort. The department of health believes that by following these rules infection may possibly be avoided.

1948

30 YRS AGO - SEPT 27, 1948

SOCIALS: The polio ban was lifted on Monday of this week. everyone is looking forward to social activity for awhile. It has been on for four long months. The town is amove this week with preparations for the Pickell-Hotte wedding. four hundred invitations are out and this pioneer family are keeping their fingers crossed, hoping they got all their friends on the list; not like some of the rest of us who left off our next door neighbors.

30 YRS AGO — OCT 19, 1948

HOSPITAL INSTALLS new machines: Sister Superior took deliver this week and now has installed a new Model "D" Inductotherm. This very necessary piece of equipment cost the WA \$858 and was installed by Mr Enns of the Victor X-Ray Corporation who flew in here for the special job. In Sister Treicina, former Superior here, the Hospital received a splendid addition to the therapy department in a slightly used Electrocardiograph which has been shipped from Vancouver and is valued at \$600.

Sister Superior had it installed at the same time of Mr Enns visit and it has already been tested with excellent results.

This machine will be able to detect heart lesions and assist the doctors and nurses in dealing with heart cases in a very excellent manner. With both of these new machines, our hospital right now is up in the front rank of other hospitals in much larger cities.

15 YEARS AGO—JANUARY 8, 1948

NEW YEAR saw 47 patients in hospital with five new baby girls and five new baby boys. The new resuscitator which has been anticipated for the last 18 months arrived and will be on display at the Co-op store over the weekend.

DR CORMACK finally got away to Edmonton but will fly back for the tagging ends of his business next week for a brief stay. So far there has been no announcement as to who will take over his practice. Nov 11, 1948

SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED to the stork! Since the inception of the Providence Hospital here there has never been a fortnight without a visit from the stork, but two weeks have rolled by and the nursery remains empty.

The fire hall, which was moved from Camp 49, is now ready for use. It is located alongside the Blair building, and quarters are provided for a man to live in and look after all and sundry emergencies. Nov 25, 1948

AT A REGULAR meeting of the Hospital W.A. Mrs. Evelyn Powell was installed as president relieving Mrs. Omer Bougie after two year's service. Mrs. George Schoenberger was elected secretary replacing Mrs. Les Bazeley after seven faithful years. FEB 26 1948

WARNING HAS BEEN issued by G M Cormack M D to cancel gatherings especially of children as polio cases in the North Peace total thirteen. JULY 1, 1948

DR. G. M. CORMACK'S new offices in the block beyond the hospital are now open. JUN 22, 1948

NEEDED: \$1,000 TO be raised to provide physio therapy apparatus for polio victims. BPOE take the lead in the drive. Providence Hospital will provide space for a swim tank. JULY 8, 1948

WORK HAS STARTED on the new Ellis Polio swim pool as the fund swells quickly. JUL 27, 1948

15 years ago—August 5, 1948
POLIO WARNING BANS all children 18 years and under in church services, Sunday school, theatres, restaurants and cafes. All truckers are warned that provisions of the Motor Carriers Act in regard to carrying passengers in and on their trucks will be strictly enforced.

DOCTORS AND dentists are scarce here in the North Peace. Unless one comes to take over for our Dr. G. Cormack we will be without a doctor. Dr. Szilagyi, dentist, has turned his talents to bringing in immigrants from Europe and no airforce dentists have been here for several years. SEPT 16, 1948

15 years ago—October 14, 1948.
NOW THAT the polio ban has been lifted Dorothy Forster advises that dancing classes will be resumed in the Masonic Hall.

15 years ago—July 29, 1948

AN OFFICIAL WARNING is given by Dr Cormack to parents to not allow their children to swim while the threat of polio remains. Several loads of children have been noted going to the Beatton River. This is considered very, very dangerous. A ban has also been posted on the attendance at the moving picture theatre to children under 18.