

1973
October



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the newly elected board; Dr Keith Dixon; Sister Juliette Larose, of Edmonton; Eli Framst, chairman of the regional district; Sister Ellen Brunt, Edmonton; and Mayor Peter Frankiw.

SPECIAL INVITATION

The Board of Directors of the Peace River-Liard
Regional Hospital District

The Board of Directors of Providence Hospital
invite the

people of Fort St. John & District
to a

transfer of ownership ceremony

in the

assembly hall of Providence Hospital

October 30, 1973

at three o'clock, p.m.

5 YRS AGO - OCT 30, 1973

IT WAS AN historic occasion yesterday afternoon, as the ownership of the Providence Hospital in Fort St John was turned over from the Sisters of Providence to the new Board of Management - pictured are George Broadhurst, Chairman of the newly elected board; Dr Keith Dixon; Sister Juliette Larose, of Edmonton; Eli Framst, Chairman of the Regional District; Sister Ellen Brunt of Edmonton and Mayor Peter Frankiw.

Oct 24, 1973

Alaska Highway News, Oct 31, 1973

e for a purpose. We try to publish something for everyone and some folks are always looking for mistakes

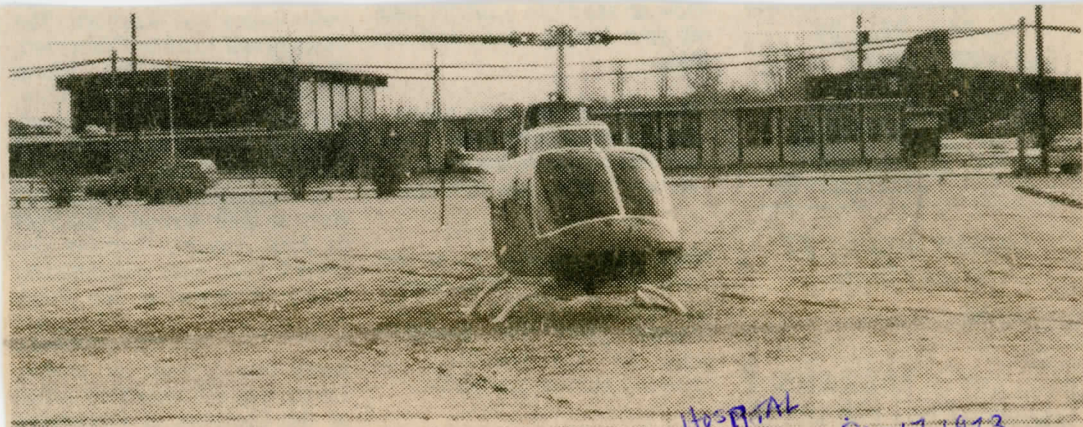


End of an era

The Sisters of Providence don't go out seeking any accolades, but this fine Providence Hospital building is the result of their coming here in the "hungry thirties" when so much was

needed and so little often provided. The change of ownership of the Providence Hospital, marking the end of an era, occurred on October 30.

OCTOBER 1973



HELICOPTER LANDS at the Providence Hospital to bring in a lost youngster who had been missing since Sunday. Thirteen-year old Albert Christie was found safe but suffering from exposure, when a search party of three RCMP personnel and a tracking dog were taken up stream by river boat driven by Allen Pratt of Taylor. The tracking dog lead the search party to Albert in bush not far from the banks of the East Pine River. He had managed to reach shore even

HOSPITAL *OCT 17, 1973*
though he does not swim, after the boat swamped that he and his father Donald Christie of Fort St John and a friend from Dawson Creek were using whilst on a hunting trip. The mishap took place 8 miles up from the Peace River Bridge on the East Pine River and the temperature reported by the weather office over the two nights was between 10 degrees and 20 degrees. It's a long time in those temperatures from Sunday to Tuesday morning.

Hospital change

Continued from page 1

1950 — The third floor is closed because of fire hazards.

1951 — Fire in chimney of chicken house is extinguished by Dr Kearney. Much discussion occurs in regard to building a new hospital, and a new power house. The Sisters plan on leaving Fort St John on December 31.

1952 — The Board of Hospital Improvement surpassed its objective of \$5,000 by \$2,800. Contract for power house is accepted, one-third of which will be paid by the Hospital Improvement District, one-third by the British Columbia Hospital Insurance Service and one-third by the Sisters of Providence.

1953 — A washing machine is given by the Women's Auxiliary. A tumbler and mangle are also purchased.

1954 — Hospital water system connected to Town System. Gas line installed.

1955 — Investigation of funds and need for new hospital assessed.

1956 — Authorization from Victoria to plan new hospital. Permission to form Hospital Improvement District.

1958 — Propane tank installed. Plebescite vote taken.

1959 — Second and third floors renovated. Sisters are moved to the third floor.

1961 — Plans approved for new hospital. Turning of the sod on May 31, by Dr Kearney.

1962 — Two fire outbreaks. Official opening of new hospital — December 12.

1963 — Installation in new hospital. Bugs in elevators, roof, and deep freeze refrigerator are some of the problems that cropped up.

1964 — Rainmobile purchased and underground pipes for watering lawn installed. Hospital Employees Union Local 180 certified. Eight beds are opened in the new East Wing of the 2nd floor.

1965 — P.A.S. (Professional Activity Study) is started. This is a Medical Record Activity which, if met, helps the staff keep up the standards in the hospital. Ecumenical Meetings are held monthly at one of the following churches: Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and United. The gatherings are christened, "Operation Understanding." Candy Strippers are started.

1966 — The Sisters of Providence don a more contemporary habit. The last nine beds are opened on the second floor of the new East Wing. The Catholic Church is completed.

1967 — A pageant is prepared by the parishioners of St John

Historic hospital change

It is an historic occasion, next Tuesday afternoon, October 30 at three pm. That is the time when the change of ownership of the Providence Hospital in Fort St John will be made, and the public is invited.

The Sisters of Providence came to this community 42 years ago to establish hospital services — the contribution the order has made in those intervening years is almost impossible to describe. During that period of well over a third of a century, Fort St John has

grown from a crossroads centre, to a village, to a town, and now almost to a city. You have to read between the lines to visualize the changes, but here is a short chronicle of those changing times.

1931 — Under the direction of Father L Beuglet O.M.I., a framework building 30 x 50' with a large attic is erected. Donation of \$1,940 for the installation of a heating system is received from Mr Sequin, representative of the Hudson

Bay Company. The Sisters arrive. The X-Ray is installed. The Hospital is blessed. Drs Brown MD and Buggin, Dentist are already practicing. A well is built. Government grant, \$1,500. is received.

1938 — Winters are rigorous. People work hard, the hospital is full. The Ladies Auxiliary and the people of Fort St John donate many things in support of the hospital and raise funds for bazaars, chicken dinners, etc for equipment and other needed items.

1939 — A new chimney is built following two chimney fires.

1941 — A kitchen extension costing \$800 is completed.

1942 — Work is started on new wing — two government grants are received. Chapel is completed, blessing of the new wing. Sufficient water is struck, electricity is installed. Fire in Auxiliary Residence estimated at \$700.

1943 — Sewage system connected to American Army Cistern ½ mile away. Stoker installed. Electric fridge given by WA.

1945 — Board of Management is formed. Water taken from American Army's pump at Charlie Lake.

1946 — New sewage system installed. RCAP men add necessary pipes to connect existing water pipes (from Charlie Lake to the airport) giving 45 lbs pressure. A filter and chlorinator are installed for \$1,000.

1947 — Sewage system with septic tank installed for \$21,000, \$12,000 of which is government grant. Fire breaks waste chutes. Two barracks are moved close to the hospital to be used for the doctor's clinic. Fort St John is incorporated into a Village.

1948 — Polio outbreak. Fort St John is quarantined from July 29 to September 27. The Elks Club raised money to build an Annex for these victims. An In Service demonstration is given by Dr George Noel Cormack, MD on the Polio Bath. Of about 50 Polio victims, one death occurred in the person of Mr W C Taylor.

1949 — Hospitalization Scheme is in the planning stage. (Continued on Page 11)

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

FORT ST JOHN, BC, WEDNESDAY, OCT 24, 1973

the Apostle Parish (name changed to the Church of the Resurrection) to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the coming of the Oblate Fathers in Fort St John. Lt Governor Georges Pearkes presents Canadian Pioneer Centennial Medallions to 40 North Peace Old Timers, six of which are Indians. Entertainment is provided by the adults and children of the Moberly Lake Indian Reserve who perform their dances exceedingly well. They present the governor and his lady each with a pair of beaded moccasins. Providence is surveyed for the first time and receives full accreditation. An externe is accepted for the summer months. The program worked very well. Some Intensive Care Emergency equipment is purchased.

1968 — The Peace River Regional and Hospital Districts are formed. Eleven beds are opened on the East Wing of the Main Floor. The Medical Records Department is moved to the basement to make room for X-Ray expansion. A new 500 MA X-Ray Unit is installed. A large room in basement is emptied to provide a Gym for physio patients.

SUMMARY

1931 — The building of Providence Hospital is started under the direction of Father L Beuglet and it is continued by the Sisters of Providence. It is 30 x 50', having a capacity of 10 beds, and with a large attic. The sisters visit the sick in their homes awaiting the finishing of the hospital for occupancy. On August 1st, the doors are opened to the first patient, Mr Alfred Kingsley, an accident patient

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FORT ST JOHN, BC, WEDNESDAY, OCT 24, 1973

with cut arteries and tendons. September 2nd marks the official opening. September 3rd — The first two major operations are performed by Dr O'Brien of Grande Prairie. During the pioneer years, the people of Fort St John, the Ladies' Auxiliary, and the Government were a great support by their gifts of service, donations, and financial assistance. Many problems of water supply and sewage system were encountered. The American Army who were stationed in Fort St John from 1942 to 1945 have given a great deal of assistance in helping the hospital to survive.

The following report is found at the end of June 1932 — Sisters 5, Nurse 1, Pts. Admitted 180, No of beds 18, No of deaths 9, No of Pts treated gratis 79, No of days gratis 1,041.

1963 — A new hospital is built having a capacity of 68 beds with facilities and a shell to expand to 100 beds.

1964 — Eight beds are added — making a total of 76 beds.

1966 — Another addition of 9 beds is made.

1968 — The last beds are opened up with three intensive care beds bringing the compliment to 100 beds. The X-ray department is expanded.

Personnel and Works December 1967 — Sisters 5, Doctors 7, Reg Nurses 29, Practical Nurses 24, Nurses Aide & Orderlies 8, Office Employees 9, Tradesmen 2, General Employees 34, Total 113.

Total beds 85, Patients Admitted 3,375, Hospitalization Days 24,685, Percentage Occupancy 80, Bassinets 19, Newborns 477, Home Visits 121, Free Meals 386, Free Prescriptions 12.

1973
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New board elected and hospital gets top status

1973
October

Approximately 80 people attended the first meeting of the Fort St John and District Hospital Society held on October 10, in the hospital assembly hall. The following board of directors was elected for the Fort St John Providence Hospital:

George Broadhurst, president; Garth Wortman, vice-president; Mrs Lorraine Bartell; Lorne Welsh; Ross H MacLean; Wayne Gretzinger and Robert Bruce.

Mr Ron Murphy, the Regional Hospital Board representative, and Hans Myhre, the provincial government representative, will continue to serve on the board. The new board will assume office as of November 1, 1973.

Hospital Administrator, Jack Howard, received official word October 10 that the Providence Hospital had again been awarded re-accreditation status.

To insure that hospitals are properly operated in the interest of the patient, the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation has established certain standards by which hospitals can be evaluated. The awarding of this accreditation

certificate is evidence and assurance to the community of successful efforts by the hospital to offer a high quality of service and an optimum quality of care. It demonstrates that the entire staff has voluntarily accepted outside appraisal and has substantially met or exceeded standards which have national and international approval.

Dr L O Bradley, Executive

Oct 17, 1973

Director of the Council, conducted the accreditation survey at Providence Hospital in August of this year.

The Board of Directors is happy to be able to advise the public of the high standards that Providence Hospital has achieved and would like to thank the medical staff and the hospital staff who, through their dedicated efforts, have made this certification possible.

"COMING EVENTS"

Oct 24, 1973

- THURS., OCT. 25 — C-Pax children's films at 3:30 p.m. No admission charge. Half hour of films.
- THURS., OCT. 25 — Hallowe'en Peanut Drive by FSJ Cubs and Scouts. \$1 per bag.
- FRI., OCT. 26 — FSJ Christian Women's Club Men's Night banquet in Immaculata Hall at 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets only from Ben's Butcher Shop or Lea Coiffure.
- SAT., OCT. 27 — Hospital WA Happy Face Bazaar & Tea from 2 to 5 pm. in Immaculata Hall.
- SAT., OCT. 27 — ACW Fall, Tea, Bazaar, Bake & Handicraft Sale in basement Shared Church 2 to 5 pm.
- SAT., OCT 27 — 49ers Square Dance Club dance in Baldonnel Hall at 8 pm. Last call for beginners.
- SAT. OCT. 27 — Sr. Citizen's Whist Drive at Hall at 8 pm. Please bring lunch. Everyone welcome.
- SAT. OCT. 27 — Cecil Lake Recreation Masquerade Harvest Ball. Music by Rhythm Knights. Tickets in advance only from 5-2158.
- THURS., NOV. 1 — NP Chapter RNABC meet at Assembly Hall Providence Hospital at 7:30 pm.
- FRI., NOV. 2 — NP Pioneers' Old Timers Dance at Elks Hall. Music by Rhythm Knights. Tickets by advance sale only from 5-3472 or 5-3518.
- SAT., NOV. 3 — CWL Winter Wonderland Tea from 2 to 4 pm. Organ music by Erving Foster.
- MON., NOV. 5 — North Peace Fall Fair Board Annual meeting at 8 p.m. at Montney Hall.
- TUES., NOV. 6 — Registration for Workshop on "Problems Families Face" from 7:30 to 8 pm at NPSS, Room 104. Four sessions on Nov. 6, 13, 20 and 27.
- FRI., NOV. 9 — Bazaar & Rummage Sale at 3 pm in ABC Used Furniture (upstairs) by Ladies of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Clubs or organizations may have notices of meetings or events published in this ad free of charge compliments of Ross H. MacLean. Items should be neatly printed and handed in at News office no later than noon Monday for inclusion in week's issue.

5 YRS AGO — OCT. 10, 1973
APPROXIMATELY 80 people attended the first meeting of the Fort St. John and District Hospital Society, held on October 10th, in the hospital assembly room. The following Board of Directors was elected for the Fort St. John Providence Hospital: George Broadhurst, President; Garth Wortman, vice-president; Directors: Mrs Lorraine Bartell, Lorne Welsh, Ross H MacLean, Wayne Gretzinger and Robert Bruce. Mr Ron Murphy the Regional Hospital Board representative, and Hans Myhre, the Provincial Government representative, will continue to serve on the Board. The new board will assume office as of November 1, 1973. Hospital Administrator, Jack Howard, received official word on October 10 that the Providence Hospital had again been awarded re-accreditation status.