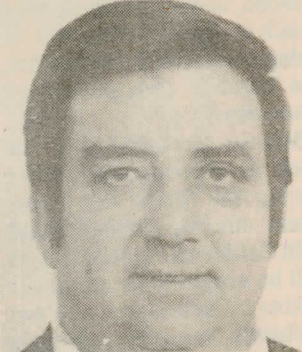


# Know your Know your Trustees



George Broadhurst



Joe Schaefer



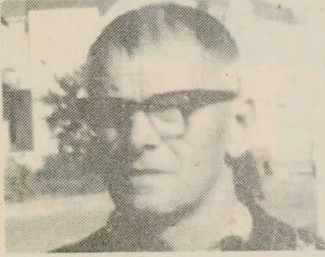
Wayne Gretzinger



Brian Palmer



Regina Schaerer



Holger Pedersen



Bob Bruce



Jo-Anne Mucci



Bob Churchill

## Our Best Wishes...

To the  
Board of Trustees

of the Fort St. John  
and District Hospital Society  
on the

### Official Opening

of the Diagnostic Expansion  
Services in the

Fort St. John General Hospital

.....  
Fill and Processed  
Gravel

for this new expansion  
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**FORT ST. JOHN  
SAND & GRAVEL**

LTD.  
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## Hospital Opening

5 YRS AGO SEPT 10, 1976  
THE FORT ST JOHN  
General Hospital has just  
won accreditation for the  
next two years. This is  
unusual for a hospital in the  
construction stage ac-  
cording to board chairman  
George Broadhurst. Ac-  
creditation involves in-  
spection by a team of  
doctors from out of the  
province who check to see  
if the hospital is operating  
properly.... THE FORT ST  
JOHN Rotary Club is  
confident that the  
Department of Health is  
going ahead with the  
audiological booth to be  
installed in the Public  
Health Clinic. The club  
received a letter from the  
dept requesting the \$13,000  
they pledged for the  
project.

*IN PAPER SEPT 11, 1981*



# Serving the patient and the hospital is WA aim

One element of the hospital which has survived many changes ever since the first Providence Hospital, is the Women's Auxiliary Vi Woodward, president of the WA, was a nurse in the 10 bed hospital ever since it opened on the present site in 1932.

This women's organization is dedicated to providing services to patients. A booth in the lobby, the operation of a "goodie cart", operation of a tv rental service, the offer of a hairdressing service and even the taking of pictures of new babies are the important much appreciated extra services that the local WA provide to bed ridden patients.

The booth, says manager Fay Boyd, "specializes in high quality goods produced by local craftsmen (and women)." They have a selection of jewelry, doilies, babywear, toys and other gift items and are always looking for more to add to their stock. "We want to buy the best goods that local women can produce. If they'd like to donate, though, we'll be glad to take them."

Money earned by the WA is always completely reinvested in the hospital. In the past, machines for the heart patients, incubators and other things that the government did not deem important enough to spend money on, have been purchased with

money they raised. All WA workers are volunteer, with the exception of the ladies who operate the booth. For \$3 any woman can join the league.

"The booth is a big improvement over the last one we had, although it could still be better. We can sell other

In conjunction with the grand opening the ladies are

raffling a beautiful afghan. Tickets are available at the booth for 25 cents. Health Minister McClelland will "hopefully make the draw on opening day." Proceeds go toward the sound proof Audiological room.

The next big event for the WA is the Happy Face tea and bazaar on October 30 in the Immaculata Hall.

Mrs Boyd would like to say "an open thank you to all the different clubs and persons who have helped the WA in so many ways during the past years, pushing the carts, helping run the booth and so on, which has given us the extra manpower we need to meet our goal and expand our services."



THE HOSPITAL GIFT shop is just one of the many non medical functions that the Women's Auxiliary performs at the hospital. They also run a goodie cart, a TV rental

service and a hairdressing service. The Women's Auxiliary has been active since the original hospital was built.

things besides candy and people can come in and browse. The booth is open till 7:30 pm, opening weekdays at 10 and weekends at 2.

## BEST WISHES

to Fort St. John & District General Hospital on its expanded services.

### AURORA STUDIO

9916-101 Ave

785-3544



## BEST WISHES

### FORT ST. JOHN & DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL

ON THE

## OPENING

of Your New

### Diagnostic Expansion

### Service

We are pleased to have supplied concrete and drywall service.

# REVELSTOKE





SEPT 10, 1970  
**THE  
FORT ST. JOHN  
CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**

extend their

*Congratulations*

to the Board of Trustees  
of the

**Fort St. John & District Hospital Society**

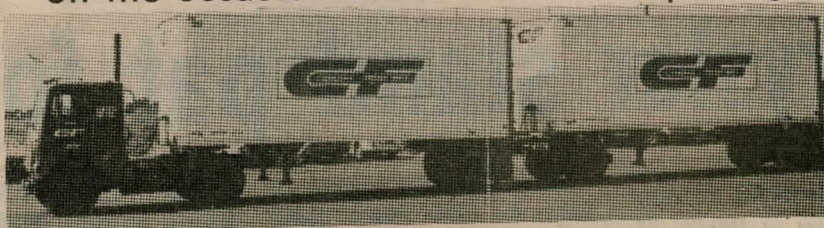
on the official opening of the expanded services in the Fort St. John General Hospital.

The Fort St. John Co-op is happy to have been chosen as a supplier of building materials during the construction of this modern facility



extends their  
congratulations to

**FORT ST. JOHN GENERAL HOSPITAL**  
on the occasion of their Official Opening



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Fort St. John



# *Congratulations*

to the Fort St. John  
and District Hospital Society  
on the

## *Official Opening*

of the

### **Fort St. John General Hospital Expansion**

We are proud to be serving  
a growing community.



***Loiselle Transport Limited***

10703-100th Ave. Fort St. John

Phone 785-6764

# *Best Wishes*

to the Fort St. John and District Hospital Society  
on the occasion of the

## **Official Opening**

of the expansion services at the  
Fort St. John General Hospital

New Water Service lines and related work to this  
magnificent new structure by —



**PLUMBING & HEATING PH.**  
785-5570



# Log cabins to nuclear medicine

SEPT 10, 1976.

By Chase Conell

If you were here in the thirties you'll remember its very beginnings. If in the forties, fifties, or early sixties, you may remember seeing the familiar old structure. But if you're a comparative newcomer, you probably only saw it being pulled away from the proud trees planted some thirty years ago to serve as a henhouse for a local farmer.

The Fort St John General (until a few years ago called Providence Hospital) wasn't the first hospital here. The Red Cross Outpost Hospital in Grandhaven had that honor. Though well built and professionally well staffed, it was too small for a growing populace. An idea in the mind of Father Beuglet, OMI was the beginning of the Providence Hospital. Once launched, the idea became a frame building in a reasonably short time, built on C M Finch's land by sturdy settlers such as John Lohman, RL Pickell, Red Powell, and others. It measured 30' x 50' and there was room for 10 beds on the ground floor and room on the second for more, if they had beds to put in there!

At Father Beuglet's request the Sisters of Providence came from Midnapore, Alta. In 1931 came Sister Agatha, to cook, aided by Sister Marie Gilbert. In Edmonton they were joined by Sister Catherine de Bologne. They picked up supplies in Edmonton for the new little hospital.

The first few months of operation were not without their troubles. For instance the heating system in part donated by the Hudson's Bay provided patchy comfort, but was improved on. Water came by the barrel, until the 180 foot well was dug in the summer of '31. An X-Ray machine was installed just before the official opening, September, 1931, when Monsignor J Guy from Grouard officially blessed the hospital. The following day saw the first operations in it, the patients being Mrs R L Pickell and Mrs Carl Donis.

The depression was hard on the Sisters. A considerable sum of money, \$1,500 was given in an initial government grant, with \$500 coming regularly, but more

community help was needed. Gifts from the local people included a cow, complete with moos and milk, wood fruit, meat, chickens (dead or alive,) 5 gallons of strawberries, vegetables and other supplies for their larder. The Hospital Women's Auxiliary was formed in March of '32 to help take some of the pressure off the Sisters. They proved to be the mainstay of the hospital, raising \$400 in a time when money was scarcer than happiness. There were ways and means of keeping the hospital running during the depression and the Sisters employed them all.

In 1935, Dr Garnet Kearney arrived from Deroche in the south of the province. He replaced Dr Brown and worked for some 25 years in this capacity.

About this time, the problem of a well running dry and sewage not disposing weighed on the Board of Management. The water problem was temporarily solved with the construction of a cistern to catch run off and tank water.

Blocks of ice from Charlie Lake, put in the attic sawdust in the winter, kept wooden ice boxes cold. In 1944, a mechanical stoker reduced the manual work required by the furnace. Later, propane was used.

They "raised the roof" of the hospital in the mid-forties, turning the attic into a full story. It soon became apparent that the basement would not safely support the added weight through more worries for the Board of Management.

In 1945 Dr George Cormack arrived to assist Dr Kearney. He stayed for 12 years. On his departure in 1957 came Drs Westover, Dixon and later Stefanik.

The hospital went on town water in 1944, the army putting in the line from Charlie Lake. By '46, full water and sewer was installed. Sometimes, during the war, the Armed Forces filled the hospital. Tents would be set up in the garden or on the lawn for the healthier patients, or cots were erected in the laundry room or basement.

When a polio epidemic hit in 1948, only one patient out of 50 treated was lost, the brother of Sr Marcellina. A Clover Tank was improved for hydrotherapy for polio patients, thanks to the skill of the doctors and army doctors and the Elks club. A hydraulic jack was improvised to raise and lower the patient into and out of the water. Quarantine lasted 4 months.

SEPT 10  
1976 - MORE THAN 100, including members of the original hospital association and representatives of the Sisters of Providence, were on hand to see Health Minister Bob McLelland open the new Diagnostic Wing of the FSJ Hospital.



The assistance of the US Airforce during the polio bout and on many other emergency cases was greatly appreciated. Dr Cormack used to go out to the airport and ask for help in flying somebody out, a call would go out, and any USAF plane in BC or the Yukon would fly back here, pick up the patient, and fly him free of charge to Edmonton. This was much superior to letting the patient wait until midnight for the CPA plane, for which he had to pay or money had to be raised.

The old wood structure caught fire a couple of times. Once, a bucket brigade was formed from the cistern to the staff house. Another time Dr Kearney, man of the hour, extinguished a blaze which broke out in the dumbwaiter due to an electrical spark and

was perilously close to the kitchen and some of the patients.

The fire marshal tried to condemn the building several times because it was so unsafe. Everytime he made a move to do so, one of the volunteer firemen would go over and put more tin around the chimney and the stove directly under the hospital. There was a gentlemen's agreement with the DOT, which arranged that if there ever was a fire in the building, they would help put it out. The top floor was finally closed and the Sisters, who lived on the second floor, moved up; apparently, it was all right if the Sisters fried, so long as the patients didn't.

After a few false smoke warnings, where firemen would sit up all night looking for the source of smoke (which would usually prove to be an iron or a dry kettle) action was taken to build coal boilers outside in another room and connect the pipes to carry the heat over. \$19,000 was raised in 1949 through the work of volunteers groups and the Sisters, who wrote every company they could to ask for donations. The boiler built was later incorporated into the new Providence Hospital and the same machinery was in use as recently as a few years ago.

The old hospital was becoming quite crowded by decade's end so a referendum was held. Meeting after meeting held to convince the people of Fort St John of the need of the hospital and on the second such poll the ratepayers accepted it.

Many people have no idea how much time and effort the Board, composed entirely of volunteers, puts into the hospital. When the referendum was being held, the members did a terrific amount of driving all over the country and there was no mileage remuneration in those days. Most members were called on at least once and often quite a few times to donate blood. There were enough members that most varieties could be furnished quickly when the need arose. When the boiler went haywire or the power unit needed to be pulled apart during the night the members burned midnight oil doing their own repairs. They couldn't afford the expense of flying specialists in. Their bits and pieces of mechanical ability didn't cost a penny.

The new building was erected in 1961, but needed much change right from the start. The building had been a carbon copy of the ideal hospital for the south, but was unsuited to the north. Spaces were too small, things were not in the most convenient locations and departments were not properly placed. Great input was received from the department personel, making for a much more community oriented hospital.

The official opening had Helath Minister Martin up for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Hospital Board was so darn happy to see the hospital finally in, they didn't have much in the way of gala affairs. A tour was the biggest thing that went that day but the hospital itself was easily one of the biggest things as far as the community was concerned. One wing was unfinished at the time, so only 75 beds were available, 25 more coming five years later. The building was built to last with an eye to the future, and at a later date a third story can be added for additional bed room.

Although there were now three times as many beds, it soon became apparent that a new addition would have to be added. The Board room was taken over by an expanding department, and meetings had to be held wherever there was room. The same thing happened to the doctors consultation room, which was too small to start with anyway, being only 4 feet wide by 8 feet long. After five years ago, in 1971 they looking at another addition.

Unlike last time, the department heads were consulted right from square one, as were the professionals who operate the equipment. Consultants were hired for everything. Building started two years ago after approval of the plans came from BCHIS.

The Fastrack system of construction, where the Board hires the management who then manage subtrade companies who won the various jobs through competition was used. The accent was on local labor, because the Board is community minded and has always seeked to help the local economy. The Board toiled hard during the last two years, because the Fastrack system puts most of the work on their shoulders.

Two years were needed for construction, not because there were any difficulties in building it, but because of codes which have changed. To bring the hospital up to fire marshalls standards took an awfully long time — firewalls had to be torn out and replaced with thicker, longer-lasting ones and sprinklers had to be installed in the basement.

The future? Next is nuclear

medicine. A room is built for it in the new wing, since it has to be of very unique design and is very hard to drop into a room which was not built expressly for it. There is no equipment yet, but according to Board Chairman George

Broadhurst it's the next project in mind. Which goes to show how the hospital is still looking toward the future of Fort St John.



# Hospital Opening Tours and speeches will

On Saturday, September 11, at 3:15 on the lawn in front of the main entrance, the ultra modern Diagnostic Expansion Services wing of Fort St John General Hospital officially swings into operation. The prestigious event will draw two VIP's up from the south of our big province to look on as the symbolic key is presented.

The Golden key will pass from the hand of Hugh de Kraker of Pooygon Construction to the chairman of the hospital board, George Broadhurst.

A special treat for local people in conjunction with the grand opening has been arranged. Guided tours, led by members of the hospital board, will wind around the

entire hospital, visiting all departments and allowing interesting insights into the complexity of a hospital and the features of the new wing. Tours end in the cafeteria, where free coffee and donuts will be served by the WA.

Candystrippers stationed in the cafeteria can lead you back to any department you

wish, to allow you to ask questions of the department heads. One other attraction of the afternoon is the public display of the ambulance in the hospital parking lot. In case an emergency arises, no cars will be allowed on the lot during Sturday.

Te ceremony starts near the front doors, unless inclement

## open hospital extension

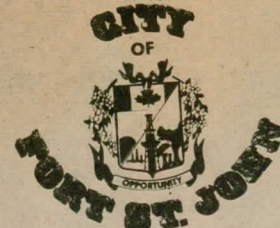
weather strikes, in which case the proceedings will move indoors to the Assembly Hall. The afternoon kicks off with speeches from the Master of Ceremonies, Doug Allen, the Chairman of the Board, George Broadhurst, the provincial Minister of Health, the Honourable Robert J McClelland and Mrs

McClelland, MLA Ed Smith, Eli Framst, the cahirman of the Regional Distirct, and Mayor Peter Frankiw. Following the oratory, greetings from Phyllis Whitcome of the BC Hospital Association will be read. Next, the key is to be presented to Broadhurst. Reverend Harold E Rowledge is to perform the dedication of the building and finanilly architect Karl Schmidt will unveil the brass plaque, officially opening the new services to the hospital.

The tours follow. The 40 minute excursions start in the foyer - lobby area, (which was furnished through a donation by the Lions Club.) During the first tour to leave, involving the VIP's Board Chairman Broadhurst will make a key presentation in front of the spanking new WA Shoppe to president Vi Wooward. Health Minister McClelland will accept a gift of a picture of the hospital from the WA and in turn gracefully draw the winning ticket on their afghan raffle, held in conjunction with this historic event.

A reception by invitation follows at the Mackenzie Inn between 5:30 and 7:00 pm in the evening. McClelland will speak as the guest of honor at

a meeting of the Social Credit Party that night.



*The Mayor*  
and

*The Members of Council*

join with the

*Citizens of Fort St. John*

in congratulating the

*Board of Trustees*

of the

*Fort St. John and District*

*Hospital Board*

on the occasion of

*Official Opening*

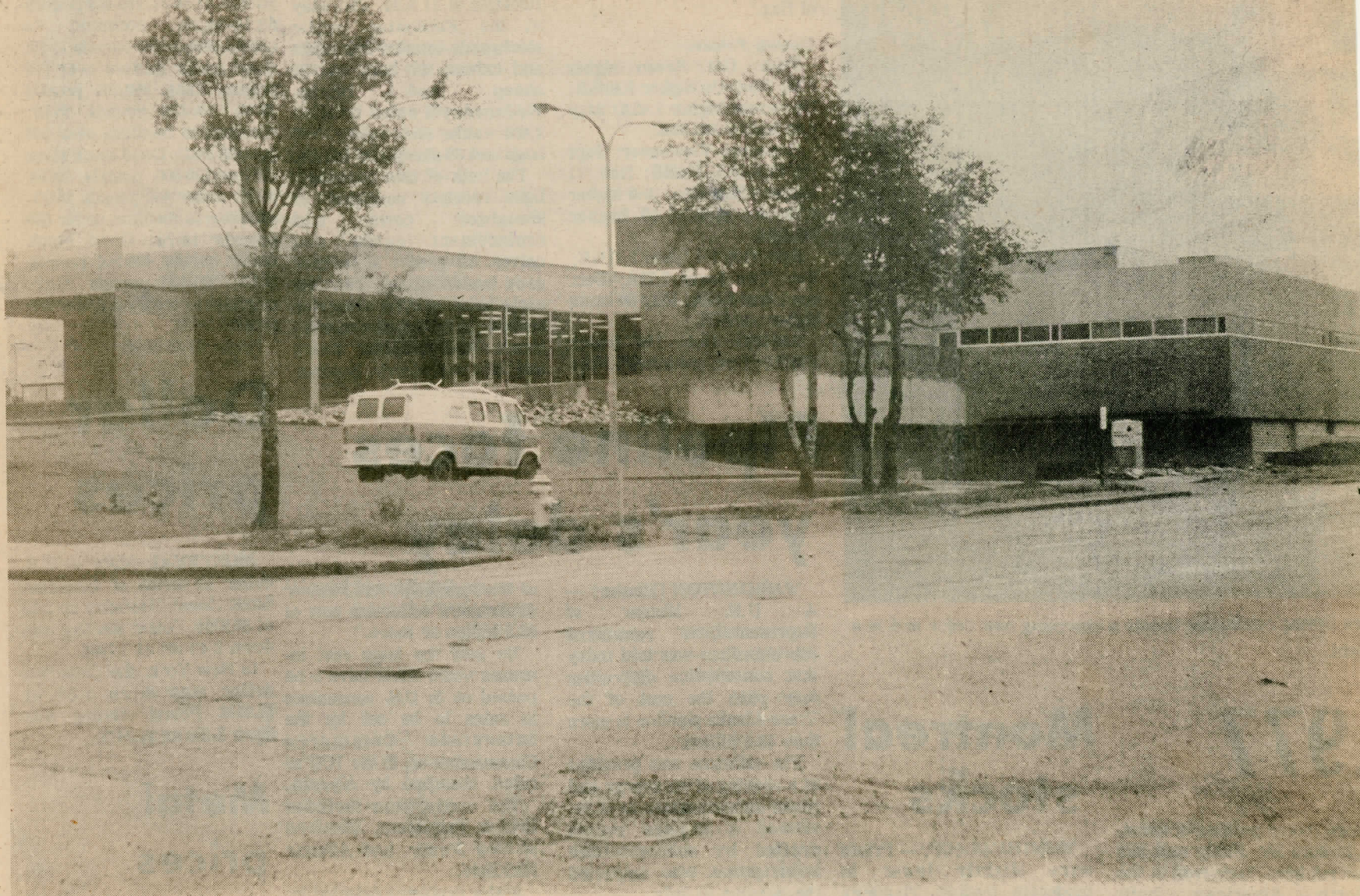
of the

*Diagnostic Expansion Services*

of the

*Fort St. John Hospital*





**THE NEW EXTENSION** to the Fort St John General Hospital was completed substantially on June 15. Since then it has been landscaped and the interior

finishing has been done. It is to be opened tomorrow by Minister of Health the Honorable Robert Howard McClelland.

SEPT 10, 1976