

The Corporation of the town of

MIDLAND



1975-1976 Midland Town Council

Moreland Lynn, Reeve; Mrs. C. Dion, Deputy-Reeve; Sam J. Ancio, Councillor; William R. Orr, Councillor; Miles Blackhurst, Councillor; Fred Jeffery, Councillor. Seated: Wm. A. Hack, Clerk-Treasurer; Harold Boyd, Mayor

is pleased to support the

HURONIA DISTRICT HOSPITAL



As Mayor of Midland, it has been my pleasure to be of service to the community during the period of development of the new Huronia District Hospital. The hospital will provide facilities for the quality and scope of medical service that this area has needed. For many, the opening of the Huronia District Hospital is the culmination of a decade long dream. That dream is now a beautiful, physical reality. It is a tribute to those who had the vision to bring the dream to a reality. As Mayor, I extend my personal wishes, and those of Council, to the new hospital, and express the confidence that the staff will make this new facility an asset to the area in which we will all be proud to share.

Yours sincerely,
Mayor Harold Boyd.

Farewell to St. Andrew's — salute to H.D.H.

Honourable Sirs: Mr. Cooper: Guests of the Head Table and Friends: I deem this a particular honour to have been asked to present the toast in farewell to the old - St. Andrew's and salute the new - Huronia District Hospital. In order to do justice to such a toast, it is necessary for me to take a few moments in review of the past to signify this occasion. I was fearful of getting carried away with all the events of the past 70 years, of which over 40 have been an integral part of my life. So I tabulated all the highlights of each successive year and laid them all out in front of me - surprisingly enough it revealed to me a series of repetitions and trends that are present even today. Back in 1903, when Penetanguishene had a combined population of approximately 1500, a board was formed representative of both communities to plan the construction of a hospital to serve them. There were thriving industries, numerous accidents, epidemics of Typhoid Fever; acute illnesses and a need for aseptic conditions and equipment to perform surgery beyond the use of the kitchen table. Sunnyside Hill was the area chosen, accessible to both communities, and in Feb. 1905 a 12 bed - 3 storey building was opened at a cost of \$6700 - called the Midland Penetanguishene General and Marine Hospital. The first baby born was one year later - Chris Foster still very active in this area. Almost from the beginning bed shortages occurred and constant changes were made to accommodate more patients. In 1910 Penetang opened its own hospital and the Midland General and Marine Hospital carried on with the constant cry for more beds and better facilities. On May 2, 1914, Mr. James Playfair offered as a gift the beautiful Manley Chew home on Bay Street to be used as a hospital with one stipulation - that it be called St. Andrew's in memory of his birthplace, St. Andrews-By-The-Sea, Scotland. A hospital inspector outlined the necessary changes and on Nov. 23, 1918 the first patient admitted was Mrs. McGill who under the guidance of Dr. Johnston gave birth to a baby girl called Andrena. The first boy born was about one month later - Andrew Lavigne. The 1918 Flu was raging at the time the hospital was ready for use and only the 'clean cases' were admitted to St. Andrew's. Two nurses, Mrs. Clarkson and Mrs. Magee stayed at the old hospital and carried on till it closed its doors Christmas Eve 1918. Plans were laid immediately to construct a new wing - opened in 1922 - now 42 beds. The verandah along the south end was glassed in to accommodate the increased demand for beds during the summer. The Nurses Residence was presented as a gift, completely furnished by Mrs. James Playfair and his wife here tonight brings back a tremendous thrust of nostalgia. The war years brought many changes and after the war medicine went ahead in leaps and bounds; those miracle drugs; more modern equipment resulted in continuous rise in costs in spite of the fact that we still made all our own supplies and disposables - were unheard of. With the close of the school and adoption of 8 hr duty for nurses in 1946, an acute shortage of nurses was experienced - further increased costs of operation - till in 1948 a dedicated woman who had served as volunteer nursing aides became employees of the hospital - a position which was all encompassing in every aspect of hospital administration including the School of Nursing. It was only because of the dedication of this frugal woman that St. Andrew's continued to function throughout those depression years completely deficit free. To relate the story of this remarkable woman, titled "The Florence Nightingale of Midland", would be much too time consuming for not only her constant devotion and compassion in the care of the sick but her teaching, guidance, moral example, ingenuity and energy demanded and gained the respect of all who had the privilege of working with her. She resigned July 1, 1942 after 30 years of continuous service and in Feb. 1945 St. Andrew's experienced its first financial deficit. The School of Nursing closed in 1946 - 115 nurses in all had graduated from St. Andrew's. Dedicated nurses like Mrs. Jean (Tamahill) Rice; Miss Jean Holt; Miss L. Thomas; Miss M. Hilditch; Mrs. Bundy; and Miss Mary Ingham as Superintendents, all contributed a portion of their lives and talents to the operation of St. Andrew's. The Medical Staff have always been a vital part of the hospital and given of their time to teach the nurses all through the Nursing School years and even today. To see Dr. Morley Harvie and his wife here tonight brings back a tremendous thrust of nostalgia. The war years brought many changes and after the war medicine went ahead in leaps and bounds; those miracle drugs; more modern equipment resulted in continuous rise in costs in spite of the fact that we still made all our own supplies and disposables - were unheard of. With the close of the school and adoption of 8 hr duty for nurses in 1946, an acute shortage of nurses was experienced - further increased costs of operation - till in 1948 a dedicated woman who had served as volunteer nursing aides became employees of the hospital - a position which was all encompassing in every aspect of hospital administration including the School of Nursing. It was only because of the dedication of this frugal woman that St. Andrew's continued to function throughout those depression years completely deficit free. To relate the story of this remarkable woman, titled "The Florence Nightingale of Midland", would be much too time consuming for not only her constant devotion and going when you saw the ambulance. Then the hospital purchased its own ambulance - operated by the Gardener Del Parsons and the Orderley Lackie Calder who in 1937 were reprimanded by the Board for driving too fast - probably all of 35 miles an hour - I know because I have been in that ambulance with patients. The first dietitian employed was Miss Inlath (1944). Bed shortages and financial restraints created unsurmountable problems for the Board and Administrative staff - Gordon McLean who was engaged as office manager and Accountant in 1948 took over the business administrative duties in 1953-54 to lighten the tremendous load from Miss Ingham. Plans for expansion had been in the wind since 1944 and were finally made in 1951. The Town agreed to sell debentures for \$250,000 which the hospital repaid in full by 1967 - the people of this town and surrounding area formed a citizen's committee which gave full support and contract was let to R. Timms Construction and Engineering, Kitchener, Nov. 1954 for \$604,414. It was an uphill struggle with change orders and cut backs to stay within the budget, the results of which have been a source of concern ever since. Men like the late Dr. Ross Parrott, a member of the Board since 1927 and Chairman from 1948 to 1955, along with the members of the Board devoted untold hours of their time to this project. The hospital opened with over 50 beds Nov. 30, 1955. Mr. R.J. Pinchin, Chairman of the Board and Mr. Andrew Davidson, Administrator, Miss Ingham, Director of Nursing. The Lab was established in 1953 and Red Cross Blood Transfusion service started in 1960. The Physiotherapy Department opened in 1955. The Playfair and Emma Baker wings were renovated and opened Oct. 1956 - now 105 beds. The Hospital Insurance and during this time you never knew whether the patient was coming or Moss met with them to determine what help they could give to St. Andrew's but by 1957 St. Andrew's suffered a financial crisis. The Playfair Wing was closed - staff laid off - an appeal was made to the remaining staff for support - the deficit was \$80,000 and at least \$40,000 was required to keep the doors of the hospital open. Private donations: Service clubs; the Medical Staff; and Councils all rallied to the need and by Jan. 20, 1958 a public meeting was held in the Civic Auditorium with 350 interested citizens present - an all new Board was formed with Mr. Gordon Moss as Chairman. On Jan. 1, 1959 Hospitalization became effective and it seemed the answer to the financial nightmares hospitals were experiencing - now they must operate by strict budget. The demand for beds increased under the plan until in 1960 the average patient days went as high as 100 - waiting lists and priorities were established and once again the Administrative headaches were unreal. Mr. Alex Craig was appointed Administrator in 1957 and Mrs. Jean Sutton appointed Director of Nursing in 1960 - it is rather ironic in that since her marriage to Wellington (Bud) Baker just a week ago that Miss Emma Baker opened St. Andrew's and Mrs. Jean Baker will more than likely close it. By 1967 OHSC were consulted re a new addition. Architects were engaged (Somerville; McMurrich and Oxley) - plans to demolish the original St. Andrew's and add to the new part were drawn up. However the Ministry scrapped the plans in consideration of a Regional or District Hospital and advised us to seek land and prepare to build a new hospital. Land was purchased in Tiny Township - 24.25 acres in all and the cost of constructing the hospital was estimated at 6 million dollars. Mr. Craig resigned and on May 1, 1971 Mr. E.T. Pritchard



A scenic view from the window

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Best Wishes to Huronia District Hospital From **The Village of Port McNicoll**

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