

## CARING OVER THREE CENTURIES

# Taking a stroll down Memory Lane

*Launch of exhibit coincides with 50th anniversary of facility's current location*

For a moment, you might think you're in a small museum as you stroll down the "new" Memory Lane hallway at Providence Healthcare. Black-and-white photo murals, artifacts and flat-screen TVs chronicle the facility's early days, along with the life-size mannequin garbed in a replica of the attire worn by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Catholic order who founded the original House of Providence in 1857.

Thanks to a donation from BMO Financial Group, what used to be a modest collection of photos and newspaper clippings has become a compelling showcase of Providence's rich 155-year history of helping and healing. The revitalized Memory Lane corridor was unveiled in November, in time for the celebration this month of the health-care organization's 50 years at St. Clair and Warden Avenues.

It was on January 28, 1962 when the Sisters of St. Joseph moved residents from the original House of Providence downtown, on Power Street, to the new location in East Toronto—all within a single day. The impressive initiative, called the "Caravan of Kindness," was a necessary one, as the previous site was going to be demolished to accommodate the Richmond Street ramp of the Don Valley Parkway. At its peak the House of Providence accommodated 700 people and was known for helping the critically ill and homeless widows and orphans, as well as unskilled immigrants.

Besides depicting this and other chapters in Providence Healthcare's story, Memory Lane also serves as a therapeutic



Kas and June Mentzen take in the sights at Providence.

and restorative spot. Patients recovering from surgery due to a hip fracture, for instance, can use handrails or relax on benches as they take in the exhibits, which are apt to stimulate memories in those who are cognitively impaired.

Says BMO's Alexandra Dousmanis-Curtis, who sits on Providence Healthcare Foundation's board of directors: "All of us are excited by this project, especially because we know it will make a real difference to patients and residents alike."



Sister Mary Magdalen in the kitchen of the original House of Providence on Power St. (far left); the farm on the site of the new location (left); The "Caravan of Kindness" moving patients to the new facility at St. Clair Ave. E. in 1962.

## Will you?

*Providence can be part of your legacy*

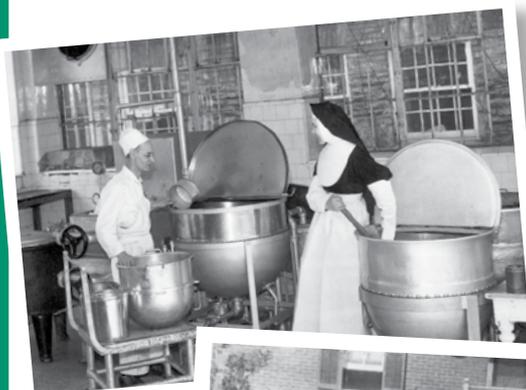


Tom Thomas

For retired Oakville school teacher Tom Thomas, including Providence Healthcare in his will came naturally. Supporting the health-care organization runs "in the family."

Thomas's roots with the facility deepened when he became a board member of Providence Healthcare Foundation and even more so in 2010, when he spent two weeks in rehabilitation at the hospital. "The nurses couldn't have been better," recalls Thomas. "Every time I needed something, I was taken care of."

Considering a bequest? To find out about how to make a planned gift, current priority projects and how you or a loved one can be recognized, please contact Gloria Vidovich, Manager, Planned Giving, at (416) 285-3669 or email [gvidovic@providence.on.ca](mailto:gvidovic@providence.on.ca).



A HISTORY OF GIVING

# Uniting for a common purpose

Women in Philanthropy for Providence one of many fundraising groups



Providence Healthcare Foundation reaches out to potential donors through golf tournaments, food-and-wine tastings and direct-mail campaigns. But in the past, Providence employed other ways to support itself.

A century ago, for instance, the House of Providence, as the organization was known, held annual picnics that drew revellers from Catholic parishes in Toronto. And in the 1800s, Providence's founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph, visited neighbouring towns to ask for money and other essentials.

"They started the path that we're continuing," says Jennifer Stewart, president and CEO of Providence Healthcare Foundation. "Every dollar we raise is just as meaningful as every bag of flour that they brought in over 100 years ago."

Today, that path includes *Women in Philanthropy for Providence* (WIPP), a group of enthusiastic, dedicated women who want to have a say in where their hard-earned charity dollars go. Each WIPP donor contributes \$1,000 annually to Providence to attend quarterly social and educational events and connect with like-minded women. In April every year, they hear presentations by staff from different areas within Providence and vote to determine



Women have always played a key supporting role at Providence. Top: members of The Women's Guild, circa 1962, and the recent group *Women in Philanthropy for Providence*.

where the group's funds will be directed.

Since WIPP started in 2009, its number of donors has jumped from 30 to 110. And it now includes a new group for women under age 40—*Young Women in Philanthropy for Providence* (Y-WIPP)—wherein each donor makes an annual contribution of \$500 and has access to mentors within the larger group.

**For more information or to join WIPP or PCP, contact Emily Dawson at 416-285-3666, ext. 4232, or email [edawson@providence.on.ca](mailto:edawson@providence.on.ca).**

## Providence Community Partners making a mark

*Local businesses help to fill a gap*

In a city as large as Toronto, it's all too easy to not know your neighbours. It's an issue that has been addressed by a program at Providence Healthcare.

Providence Community Partners (PCP) links socially responsible local businesses with others that want to make a difference in their community. By donating \$1,000 annually to Providence, participants are given the chance to network with other businesspeople, as well as local politicians, and build awareness of their brand through sponsorship and other promotional opportunities. PCP also hosts quarterly meetings and other events that feature speakers on diverse topics, such as health care and the economy.

"Providence Community Partners is filling a gap," says C. Peter Kilty, chair of Providence Healthcare Foundation's Board of Directors. Since its launch in 2010, PCP has grown to include more than 35 partners—and is steadily growing!

### PROVIDENCE BY THE NUMBERS

## Quantum leaps

1962 Providence Villa and Hospital	2012 Providence Healthcare
<b>425,000</b> square feet	<b>600,000</b> square feet
<b>1,260</b> Number of loaves of bread consumed weekly	<b>14,620</b> Number of loaves of bread consumed weekly
<b>100</b> Number of staff telephone extensions	<b>800</b> Number of staff telephone extensions
<b>28,000</b> Number of people who received food, shelter or care from 1857-1962	<b>1,500</b> email addresses
	<b>34,074</b> Number of inpatients, appointments and sessions a year at Providence Healthcare clinics, Adult Day Program and the Scotiabank Learning Centre.