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HOTEL DIEU HOSPITAL

In 1926, His Excellency (F.X. Ross) the late Bishop of Gaspé asked the Mother Superior of the Hotel Dieu Hospital, Quebec City to lend him a hand to establish a place to care for the sick at Gaspé. With the assistance of the Mother Superior, in July 1926 they purchased the historical Fort Ramsay and its grounds at Gaspé Harbour that dates back to 1766.

Reverend Sister Mary of the Incarnation and Reverend Sister St. Albert arrived from the Hotel Dieu Hospital, Quebec, on September the 25th 1926 and began the work to change the Fort Ramsay home into a Hospital. On January 9th 1927 the twenty-bed Hotel Dieu, the first Hospital in Gaspé opened its doors.

The Hospital's first work was medical aid given to Philip Joseph of Gaspé Basin, who required five stitches to close a cut on his forehead, which he received while sliding when he accidentally hit a Post. He was sent home after treatment. The first patient was Chester Clark of Wakeham; the nature of his illness was coxigie. The first operation was performed on the Reverend Sister St. Marie, The Order of the Sacred Heart, of the Ursuline Convent, Gaspé Basin. (January 10th).

The Hospital from the beginning was inadequate. In 1930 with the help of the Provincial Government, a new and more modern 150 bed Hospital was opened, and the memorable little Hospital, a paradise for the sick was changed back to a home for the Sisters. Today, in its 93rd year it is still in the same use.

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In 1940, the Federal Government built a wing on the new Hospital for the Armed Forces, and in 1945 at the end of the War, the wing was given to the Hospital. The Fourth and Fifth Floors were used for Tubercular Patients; the other floors for various uses. Then, in 1950 the Ross Sanatorium opened and the whole wing was put into General use.

Through the years the Hospital has done excellent work and still is today. But it is working under poor conditions. The building and its equipment are out of date and the space is inadequate to meet the demands of the fast growing population of Gaspé.

In 1927, the Hospital's first medical Director was Dr. Simard of Rimouski. The first Mother Superior was the Reverend Sister Mary of the Incarnation. The first year activities saw 514 go through its doors and 260 operations performed.

In 1957, the Hospital gave treatment to 4,387 patients and performed 1,653 operations.

The Hospital is owned and operated by the Religious Order St. Augustines Hospitals, Sisters of St. Augustine. (There are 40 Sisters of this order stationed at the Hospital today).

MEDICAL STAFF - 1958

Dr. Léon Pelletier - Medical Director and Surgeon, born 26th June 1898 at Cyrille de L'Islet, ^{Que} Graduated at Laval University, Quebec, in 1928, and joined staff in 1929.

Medical Staff 1958 Cont'd.

Dr. Sirice Belles-Iles - Chief of the Medical Services, Born March 29th. 1903 at St. Fabien Quebec, Graduated at Laval University, Quebec, in 1932. Joined staff in 1932.

Dr. Guy Fortier - Surgeon Born November 9th. 1913, at Quebec City, Graduated at Laval University, Quebec in 1937. Joined staff in 1937.

Dr. Odilon Cotton - Surgeon Born May 26th. 1920 at Fox River, Gaspé County, Quebec, Graduated at Laval University, Quebec in 1949. Joined staff in 1955.

Dr. Paul Desautels - Anaesthetist Born August 26 th. 1922 at Adams, Massachusetts, U.S.A., Graduated at Laval University, Quebec, in 1951. Joined staff in 1952.

Dr. Marc -Andre Pouliot - Medical Assistant Born June 2nd. 1922 at Cape Cove Gaspe County, Quebec, Graduated at Laval University, Quebec, in 1956. Joined staff in 1956.

Dr. Carlos Aparicio - Assistant Surgeon Born February 15 th. 1929 at Alceiriras, Spain, Graduated at Grenade, Spain in 1956. Joined staff in 1958.

Dr. Lucie Panneton - Assistant in medicine Born March 8th. 1928 at Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Graduated at Montreal University, Montreal in 1957. Joined staff in June 1958.

Anthime Fortin - X-ray Technician Born March 18th. 1919 at Fontenelle, Gaspé County, Quebec. Joined staff in 1940.

Mother Superior - Reverend Sister Marie of the Sacred Heart. The first Gaspé born Sister to hold the Post Clergy.

Reverend Father Lionel Ringuette - R. C. Priest in Charge of the Chapel. Born 13th February 1902 at St. Aleix-des-Monts, Que. Ordained priest 1st July 1934 by F.X. Ross, Bishop of Gaspé at St. Peters Church Shawinigan Falls, Quebec. Joined staff in 1955.

Theodore Thibault - Engineer

Other Help: Females - 65 Males - 30