



Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall

# This Week in History

February 12, 2015

## Hotel Dieu Hospital & Saint Paul's Home for the Aged

On February 9th, 1897, five sisters from the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph in Kingston arrived in Cornwall by the four o'clock train from Kingston, accompanied by Bishop Alexander Macdonell. They were here to begin the work of transforming Ivy Hall, which had been purchased from the widow of Ontario's first premier John Sandfield MacDonald, into the Hotel Dieu Hospital. The five sisters were: Sister Margaret Donnelly, Sister Ann Hopkins, Sister Margaret Powers, Sister Katherine McCarthy and Sister Janet Macdonell. Within five months, the sisters, with the help of St. Columban's Father George Corbet, renovated the building and the new Hospital opened its doors on June 17, 1897.

"Very soon after the opening of the Hospital, as the number of patients increased, among those seeking admission some were old, helpless and homeless;" the sisters realized that a different kind of institution was needed to house these folks. Ivy Hall's stable was renovated and fitted up for a home and on February 9, 1898, Rev. Paul De Saunhac blessed the Home, giving it the name of St. Paul's Home.

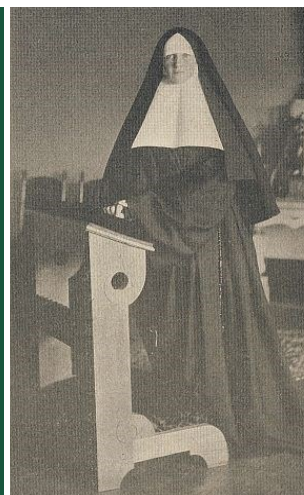
The above information was taken from *Jubilee Echoes 1897 - 1922*, the history that was published on the occasion of 25th anniversary of the Cornwall Hotel Dieu. To view the entire publication visit the diocesan website at [www.alexandria-cornwall.ca](http://www.alexandria-cornwall.ca)

Ivy Hall, located at the corner of York and Water, became the first building to house the Hotel Dieu Hospital



First St. Paul's Home

Sister Janet Macdonell



It is the striking significance of the very words—HOTEL DIEU OF CORNWALL—a loving, tender phrase in every Christian home in the community—that vitalizes, enervates and even sanctifies every fact, thought and idea expressed in the pages of this little pamphlet. Truly it has been a "House of God," a veritable home of His least brethren, for the past twenty-five years! And what greater example of His providence and His pleasure can be manifested than the efforts and progress of this Institution during such a comparatively short period of time.

An excerpt from *Jubilee Echoes 1897 - 1922*