

July 5, 2011

A call to the community: Share your photos, letters and memorabilia items related to Providence Care from the last 150 years

A lucky find

When Kim Hooper ventured to a flea market in Gananoque, she wasn't expecting to find a nearly 100-year-old Providence Care artifact.

Something curious fell out of the second-hand book she was about to purchase at the cash register. Hooper was immediately intrigued and placed it back inside the covers until she returned home to look at it through a magnifying glass. She was shocked by what she discovered. "It was then that I realized this must be something!" says Hooper.

It was an old postcard of St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital, detailing a message from a patient named Maggie. The front of the postcard contained a photo of the original hospital building, which is now the back entrance of today's site. Post-dated on November 5, 1914 and paid with a postage stamp featuring King George V, this formally marks the historical timeframe of this preciously rare artifact.

"It's all such a coincidence," said Kim. "I am a volunteer at Providence Care, and I happened to find this postcard during Providence Care's 150th anniversary year."

It's now your turn! Contribute to our collection

Inspired by Kim Hooper's discovery, Providence Care is calling for the Kingston community to share their photos, letters and memorabilia items related to Providence Care from the last 150 years – it can be as recent as yesterday or from decades ago.

Participants can choose to donate their items, which will have a great home in Providence Care's Archives Department. Or they may simply lend the item for scanning or photographing. Additionally, Providence Care will need to receive formal consent through the signing of a "Deed of Gift" or a "Consent to Publish" in order to share, use and publish the submissions on our official website (www.providencecare.ca), as well as our Facebook and Flickr accounts.

To submit an item, please e-mail Kristina Jellema at: jellemak@providencecare.ca or info@providencecare.ca.

Providence Care is southeastern Ontario's leading provider of specialized mental health care, physical medicine and rehabilitation, specialized geriatric services, complex continuing care, palliative care and long-term care. Affiliated with [Queen's University](http://www.queensu.ca) in Kingston, and as a member of the [Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario](http://www.councilofacademic hospitals.org), Providence Care is a major centre for health education and research. Providence Care is sponsored by the [Catholic Health Corporation of Ontario](http://www.catholichealth.ca). In 2011, Providence Care is celebrating its 150th anniversary – over 150 years of "enhancing the quality of life" of those we serve.

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