

WHAT DO MISERICORDIA AND BEER HAVE IN COMMON?

On September 15, 1953, a special meeting of the Misericordia General Hospital Advisory Board was held to discuss an offer from Labatt's Limited. The hospital had been given 33,000 "B" stock shares from the Shea family. Labatt's was offering to pay \$17.50 for each of these shares and to donate one share of Labatt's stock for each of the Shea shares sold to them. This would provide \$577,500 to the hospital, as well as 33,000 shares in Labatt's stock. According to the minutes of this meeting, "This proposition was thoroughly discussed and unanimously approved."



The money obtained was used to add the Cornish Wing to the hospital in 1957. This meant they had to demolish all but a few metres of the original 1900 wing of the hospital. In the photo above you see the Cornish Wing on the left, and the small sliver of the original 1900 wing just to the right of it (in line with the parkade overpass). The demolition also included the removal of an observation dome seen at the top of the photo on the right. The demolition and the new Cornish Wing addition cost \$4,250,000.

The official opening of the Cornish Wing was held Sunday, December 8, 1957.



Several members of the government, including the Mayor of Winnipeg (Stephen Juba), the premier and the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba attended the ceremonies. The new wing was blessed by the Most Reverend Pocock, Archbishop of Winnipeg.

Immediately following the opening ceremonies, guests were invited to have tea and “dainties” prepared by the Ladies’ Auxiliary. In the following week, many people attended afternoon and evening tours of the new wing. Members of the Clergy and Religious Orders toured the wing on Monday afternoon. Physicians “and their wives” attended the tour that evening. Members of the public toured the wing on the following three days, with Friday reserved for hospital staff and their family and friends. Each tour culminated in a light meal of tea, sandwiches and dainties.

On Sunday, January 21, 1962, a memorial plaque was dedicated to the Shea family for their wonderful donation to the hospital. Opening remarks were made by Mr. W.J. Condo, Chair of the Advisory Board, and Mr. R.P. Schlingerman unveiled the plaque. The plaque was blessed by the Most Reverend George B. Flahiff. A tea was hosted by the Misericordia Sisters in the hospital auditorium.

The Misericordia Heritage Collection contains the minutes, letters, photographs, and programmes relevant to the Shea Family donation and the building of the Cornish Wing. We are happy to show the Collection to anyone who wishes to see it. If you are interested in viewing the Collection, please contact us at 204-381-6286 or Bapaterson@tru.ca.