

About the Motherhouse

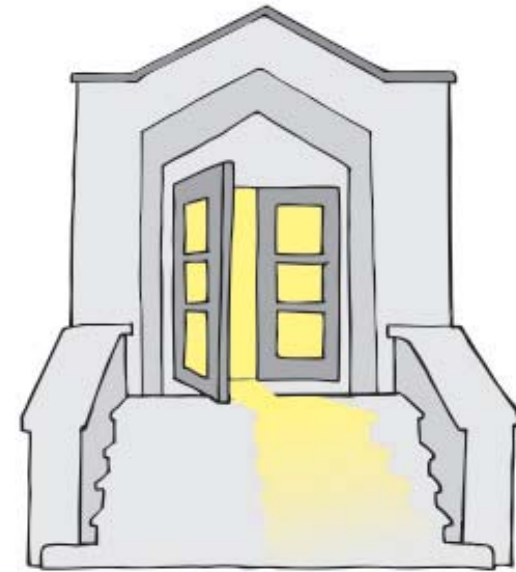
Once the home of Canada's first prime minister and now the administrative centre of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul as well as the home of sisters of three congregations, the property known as Heathfield has a long and proud history.

The original house was built in the 1830s but the property acquired the name "Heathfield" when Charles Heath owned the estate from 1852 to 1865. Kingstonians continue to call the property Heathfield 150 years later.

Professor James Williamson, married to Sir John A. MacDon-ald's sister Margaret, purchased Heathfield from Charles Hearth in 1865. Sir John A. rented the house from his brother-in-law for his unmarried sister Louisa and made it his home on his frequent visits from Ottawa as Prime Minister. Professor Williamson sold the house after his wife died in 1876.

Heathfield changed hands numerous times until 1930 when the 30-acre property was purchased by the Sisters of Providence. Construction on the limestone Providence Motherhouse building began in 1931. It opened in 1932 and housed the novitiate and general administration of the congregation. The term "motherhouse" refers to the official home base of a religious congregation. Since 1932 the Motherhouse has served as a residence for Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul as well as housing a variety of ministries over the years.

The Motherhouse has undergone many additions and renovations, including the addition of the infirmary wing in 1954, the administration wing in 1964, and a new Chapel in 1969. In 2012 the Motherhouse opened its doors to two other religious congregations, welcoming sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, and the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph as residents. The Motherhouse continues to be a vibrant place as we hope you will discover today!



COME & SEE
There's so much to show you.

www.providence.ca

The Catholic Religious Congregations of
Kingston welcome your visit. Enjoy your day!

October 17, 2015
Providence Motherhouse
Kingston

What's to see?

Today we offer you seven tour stations on this floor and tea with the Sisters in the dining room downstairs. From the orientation in the Auditorium, you are welcome to begin at any station you wish. You'll find volunteers and signs along the way to direct you.

1. Orientation in the Auditorium

2. Providence Village – what lies ahead: In April, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul announced that they were partnering with Providence Care to move Providence Manor to the site of their Motherhouse, 1200 Princess St. A feasibility study is underway. Join Sister Sandra Shannon and Providence Care's Director of Communications Jenn Goodwin for an update.

3. Providence Spirituality Centre: Come and visit our centre. Here we offer a variety of spirituality programs, for example, days/evenings of reflection, ongoing spiritual direction and retreats. There is a core team and we also welcome guest facilitators/directors on a regular basis. As well, we invite you to gift yourself with a quiet day at our Centre when you are in need of personal, silent reflection time.

4. Heritage Room: There's a museum in the building! Archivists Veronica Stienburg and Sister Gayle Desarmia invite you to explore the history of the Sisters of Providence. See how the Sisters' religious habits changed over time! Learn about the construction of the Motherhouse! Discover the history of the Sisters through photographs, needlework, relics, statues, the first organ used here, and many other treasures!

5. Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC): Ever since their founding in 1861, the Sisters of Providence have cared for the vulnerable. That work continues today through the work of the JPIC team and their networks and partnerships. From living wages to energy poverty, peace to climate change, learn more from Tara Kainer, Bridget Doherty and Sisters Sheila Brady and Joey Doiron.



The Year of Consecrated Life

Pope Francis has proclaimed a Year for Consecrated Life from November 30, 2014 – February 2, 2016, to recognize, recall and celebrate the gift of religious life for the Church and for the World.

Those in consecrated life have responded to a call and consecrated their life to Christ through formal vows and joining religious congregations. Lifestyles of communities vary from contemplative prayer to works of apostolic activity.

Paul-André Durocher, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, reiterated to Canadian religious the Holy Father's invitations:

1. To be living witnesses to the joy of the Gospel
2. To be prophetic
3. To create communion
4. To go to the periphery
5. To seek God's will

Long before this current initiative, women such as Marguerite Bourgeoys, Marie Morin and Catherine McKinley were giving birth to renewed forms of consecrated life in Canada, adapting to the ever-evolving social and ecclesial realities. They created places of inclusion and acceptance within which the most vulnerable could find harbour from societal storms and hope for the future. These places and the spirit of these communities remain with us still.

The Religious Congregations who welcome you today

The Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, founded in Kingston in 1861, are called to be channels of God's Providence in the world, through compassionate service, in response to the needs of the times. We seek to empower others, especially the poor and oppressed, to achieve a quality of life in keeping with their human dignity. We also strive to be prophetic leaders in our Church and in society.



The Congregation of Notre Dame was founded in the 17th century by St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, first educator of Montreal and a pioneer of New France. We come from countries in North America, Central America, Asia, Africa and Europe where we live and work among the people. We give our lives to work toward achieving God's desire for a just and peaceful world for all people.



CONGRÉGATION DE
NOTRE-DAME
Éducation libératrice - Liberating Education
真の自由への教育 - Educación liberadora

We are **Franciscan Friars** and belong to a world-wide movement started by St. Francis of Assisi. We follow in his footsteps by living the Gospel, have concern for the poor and care for creation. The Spirit of Francis, the Spirit of Assisi is one of peace and joy and reaches out to everyone.



FRIARS MINOR CONVENTUAL

Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph are called to be a presence and a witness of a loving God in our mission to the sick, poor and most needy through our life of prayer, community and a variety of apostolic ministries in the Church, our local area and our world.



6. PeaceQuest: It's been 100 years since the horrors of World War I made "never again," the refrain of the day. This Kingston-founded group looks to inspire Canadians to reclaim our identity as peacemakers as we mark the war's anniversaries, and especially as we move towards Canada's 150th birthday in 2017. Join Sister Pauline Lally and Broniek Korczynski to learn more.

7. Heirloom Seed Sanctuary: At least 300 varieties of vegetables, flowers and herbs are grown out organically by the Heirloom Seed Sanctuary. Their purpose is to maintain the seeds of a collection of diverse tested-and-true heirloom varieties to keep them locally adapted to a changing climate. Think about how and why we all can save heirloom seeds with Sister Shirley Morris and gardener Cate Henderson.

8. Chapel: Prayer, both individual and communal, are at the heart of life at Providence Motherhouse. Come and hear about our sacred space. The Chapel of Mary, Mother of Compassion was beautifully renovated in 1993. Sister Diane Brennen and Pastoral Liturgy Coordinator Albert Dunn will be your guides.

9. Join us for tea

The congregations who welcome you today are in the Sisters' dining room on the lower floor and invite you to have tea with them this afternoon. You will also find displays about our religious communities and who we are.



MAP and legend

- What's to see
- Washrooms (co-ed)
- Stairs / elevators

- Auditorium / Orientation
- Future plans: Providence Village
- Providence Spirituality Centre
- Heritage Room
- Work for social justice
(Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation)
- PeaceQuest
- Heirloom Seed Sanctuary
- Chapel
- Dining Room to enjoy tea with the Sisters (lower level)
- Volunteer Room

Along the way, look for plaques, signboards and photos on the walls. Every hallway is a treasure trove.

