

Ingersoll's Hospitals

Several Homes Were Once Hospitals in Years Gone By

By BYRON G. JENVEY

From the files of Mr. Jenvey's local history



This house is located half way on Oxford Avenue west towards North Town Line .



This house is located on the corner of McKeand Street and Victoria Street .



This house is located second house west from the corner of Earl Street on Francis Street .



This is the site of Alexandra Hospital with expansion presently going on at the rear .

(Editor's Note - With the latest edition to Alexandra Hospital almost completed, it is interesting to look back at the hospital's of the past. The Tribune is privileged to print this story on Ingersoll's hospitals, from the files of Ingersoll respected historian - Byron G. Jenvey .

"Bud" Hayter, administrator of Alexandra Hospital told The Tribune he hopes the official opening will take place in early May .)

In June 1889 a movement was started to establish a general hospital in Ingersoll . A petition was circulated but only a few signatures were secured . Times were hard, money was scarce and the project was dropped .

In 1898 Dr. J. M. Rogers opened a private hospital for his patients, in the front rooms of the O'Neill house on the north side of Francis St. .

this house being the second house west of Earl St; A family occupied the other portion of the house. A nurse was in service in this hospital. Dr. Angus McKay had a hospital in the same year in a house at the corner of Victoria St. and McKeand St. A nurse was in charge here.

In 1900, the doctors of the town joined in establishing a public hospital in the William Waterworth house on the west side of Oxford Ave. This was a two storey white brick house about midway between Jura Lane and the North-Town Line. This hospital provided sufficient accommodation at the time. Modern equipment was installed. Babies were born here instead of in the homes which was a new venture. Several serious operations were performed here.

In 1909, the residence of Dr. Angus McKay, on Noxon St. , was purchased for a hos-

pital for \$8520.00, including a large area of surrounding land. It was named "Alexandra Hospital." A Hospital Trust was appointed the same year, to manage the affairs of the Hospital. George Sutherland was its first President. This beautiful building was built by James Noxon, President of the Noxon Bros. farm implement manufacturing Co. It was said to be the most beautiful residence between Hamilton and Windsor at the time. It was noted for its wide winding cherry staircase. It was built in 1874 at a cost of \$10,000. As a hospital in 1909 it had 16 beds and during the year 121 patients. This building was sold to wreckers in 1951 for \$1500 and demolished to make room for parking space for a new hospital.

It was in 1945 that the Hospital Trust decided that the hospital was too small to accommodate patients and modern

equipment. The Trust received much encouragement from Service club in the town and many private individuals within and without the town to build a new hospital. The town council passed a bylaw to grant the Trust \$150,000 on approval of voters in the town. The vote was taken on Dec. 9th, 1946. Results in favor 1038, against 386. The advisory committee to the Council was L. A. Wescott representing service clubs; President, Robert Carr, merchants, R. Henley, C of C; A. E. Izzard, Industry; Byron Jenvey, Board of Health; Herbert Fuller, labor, Allan Horton and James Spavin, the council. A new hospital was constructed by the Schwenger Construction Co. The cost was \$565,000. The laying of the corner stone took place on March 16th, 1949, R. W. Green secretary of the Trust performed this honorable duty. The official opening took place June 14th, 1950. The Honorable Ray Lawson, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario declared the hospital open. The building contains 317,000 bricks, 60 tons of structural steel and 9 1/2 miles of wire. In 1959 an air conditioning system was installed at a cost of \$15,000. In 1960 a third storey was completed and a new portion added at the north end. The rooms in the third storey are for chronic patients and the north part for storage and administration offices. Cost of these improvements was \$116,750. T. N. Dunn a former president of the Hospital Trust placed a container in the corner stone, which contained newspapers of the day, coins, stamps and other articles of interest. In 1967 a proposed addition was being considered.