

Your Partner in Health

135

YEARS

McLaren Port Huron's 135th Anniversary Mirrors the Growth of our Community

This special edition of Your Partner in Health talks about the history of McLaren Port Huron's 135-year legacy of caring for the community. While we honor the past, we are also securing our future. McLaren Port Huron's 135th anniversary isn't just a milestone for the hospital; it is a benchmark for the Blue Water Area.



PORT HURON HOSPITAL AND HOME, 1882

November 7, 1882. Chester A. Arthur's presidency is in its 13th month, and there were 38 stars on the United States flag. The month prior, Thomas Edison started the country's first commercial electrical power plant, and the world gasped when he lighted a one square mile section of lower Manhattan. On that date, the smaller world of Port Huron and its surrounding communities was changed forever by a quieter, yet extremely significant event -- the opening of Port Huron Hospital.

Back in the late 19th century, health care was provided by families at home. Doctors, if available, would provide care by traveling by horse and buggy to individual homes. As Port Huron grew, the community vowed to provide a small hospital facility to maximize the talents of the short supply of caregivers. The community rallied with fundraising, and the Port Huron Hospital and Home opened on White Street. While communities were ravaged with outbreaks of cholera and yellow fever, this humble facility provided comfort and care, rather than cure.



RICHARDSON STREET, 1905

In the early 1900s, the country was on the move as Ford Motor Company opened in Detroit, travel was becoming easier, and, unfortunately, so was the spread of disease. The Spanish Flu ravaged the nation, and the medical staff of the larger hospital, now on Richardson Street, sustained the health of the area's survivors and the hope of the community. In the following decades, new diagnostic equipment was developed, and the hospital raised funds for a laboratory and x-ray equipment. A growing population and technical advancements fueled the need for greater expansion.



PORT HURON HOSPITAL, 1937

In 1937, life went on as Port Huron movie goers were enchanted at the opening of Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," the Tigers finished in second place in the American League, and the new hospital opened on neighboring Willow Street. Five years later, a ramp was built to connect the Willow and Richardson Street buildings. In 1940, Port Huron hosted the world premiere of "Young Tom Edison" and its star, Mickey Rooney. Within a decade, the mood and resolve of the country was drastically changed by World War II and the hospital survived war-related shortages of medical supplies and human resources.

Facing Disaster and Survival

In the early 1950s, polio was annually claiming over 20,000 victims, many of them children, in the United States. The hospital met the challenge by converting the Margaret Jenks Pediatric Unit into a treatment unit for polio victims. This unit used state-of-the-art respirators called "iron lungs" and recruited health providers from across the nation. Three years later the hospital met the medical needs of the community resulting from two category-4 tornados that touched down within three weeks of each other, leaving two dead and 68 badly injured.



MARGARET JENKS PEDIATRIC UNIT



PORT HURON HOSPITAL, 1965

The next 50 years brought advanced services in pediatrics and neonatal special care, critical/intensive care, mental health, orthopedics and groundbreaking advances in women's health and senior services. With the launch of Internet access, the hospital reached the community in ways that could not have been fathomed in those beginning years. This technology allowed the community to now partner with the hospital in health education and information sharing with services such as HealthAccess, Today's Health television show, and an expansive website.

The Legacy Continues

Today, McLaren Port Huron is consistently recognized for excellence. State designation and national trauma verification status were recently achieved. Accreditations in diabetes, stroke care, maternity care and bariatric surgery have been earned or renewed within the last year. New tools and equipment have been introduced, including 3D mammography and low dose lung cancer screening. More surgeons have been trained to use the da Vinci robot, which means more types of surgeries - including colon resections, gall bladder, hernia repair and lung surgeries - can be performed through three tiny incisions. This means less pain, less scarring, less blood loss, and quicker recovery times for the patient.

Since joining McLaren Health Care three years ago, the hospital facility has grown to serve the community by expanding the campus footprint and offering new services. The new Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute at McLaren Port Huron opened in July 2016, and construction for the next phase of the \$161 million campus expansion is well underway. The new four-story patient tower is planned to open in the fall of 2018.

All of these achievements add to the hospital's ability to provide the highest quality patient care experience for this community. The hospital has proudly served the Port Huron community for 135 years - and that is the greatest achievement of all. We will continue **doing what's best** for generations to come.

Jennifer Montgomery, MSA, RN, FACHE, President & CEO



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