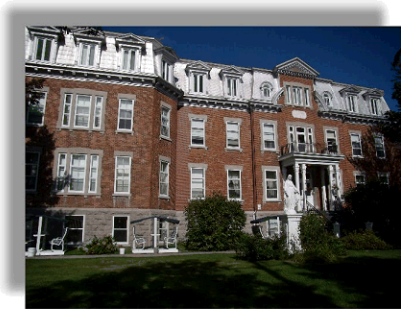


## History of Résidence Marie-Rose in L'Épiphanie



In that era, the main concern of the parish priest, Fr. François Prud'homme, was to oversee the education of the youth. In February of 1884, he received permission from His Excellency Msgr Fabre, for a religious congregation to fulfill this mission. In September of the same year, seven Sisters moved into the house. The first students came on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September: 12 boarders, 20 half-time boarders and 50 day students made up the enrolment. This was the beginning.

The first Mass was celebrated in the chapel on September 14, 1884. On this occasion, the music and the hymns resonated throughout this modest sanctuary. At the beginning, there were many difficulties: they were deprived of many necessities. Fortunately, certain generous benefactors, especially, Mr. J.E. Majeau, gave some land in 1889 in order to enlarge the grounds. Three years later, the number of boarders had risen to forty-three and within 20 years, the convent had become too small to accommodate the 200 students who went there daily to be educated. The General Council of the Congregation decided to build another wing onto the eastern part of the convent. This new wing was solemnly blessed by Msgr Forbes on November 4, 1913.

Since then, the convent has always continued its mission under the wise and capable guidance of the provincial and local superiors. Due to its good reputation, this boarding school attracted many generations of young girls until 1961.

At the request of the L'Épiphanie School Board, the Sisters regrettably had to close down the boarding school. The convent then became a public high school – Grades 7 to 11, under the control of the Department of public education.

In 1967, the high school students and their teachers transferred to St-Guillaume School under the direction of the “Clercs de St-Viateur”. From then on, 320 students attended our convent for Grades 5 and 6. In June 1972, the convent permanently closed its doors after the construction of St-Roch Comprehensive School. At that time, approximately 36 retired Sisters moved into the convent.

In January 1973, the library “Prêt de la Mauricie” was set up in the convent. The Sisters not only offered the space but also oversaw the borrowing of books. The people of L'Épiphanie benefited from this cultural work which continued in our walls for a long time.

And alas, the Community sold their cherished convent to a group of businessmen in L'Épiphanie. In June 1987, the vocation of the convent took on a new mission and it became Résidence Marie-Rose in honour of Mother Marie-Rose, foundress of the community.

After certain renovations, the present Résidence welcomed its first tenants in December 1987. For ten years, this house was managed by business specialists, and in 1997, other business people took over and added a wing to continue the work.

Following ten years of constant work and personal involvement with the residents, they in turn, gave up the residence in September 2007 to another group of business people, who also had, at heart, the good functioning of our residence along with its involvement in the community.

In March 2009, another page of history was written with the opening of a new pavilion, christened “Pavillon de l’Espoir” (Pavilion of Hope), by the current director, Mrs. Sonia Cadieux. This pavilion opened its doors to a clientele of older people who were losing their cognitive autonomy, and who actually benefit from a quality of life marked by the respect and dignity shown them.

This year, the Convent, as it is still called, celebrates its 125 years of foundation; but this anniversary also brings to mind that, in its walls, there is much history, culture and life.

*Prepared by: Monique Desrochers,  
Director of Activities, Résidence Marie-Rose*

*Inspired, in part, by the souvenir album of the hundredth anniversary of the Holy Names Convent*