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Sisters of Charity - Halifax

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Charity Alive Summer 2018



# SETON R I D G E

Motion carried at Council (July 17, 2018) to allow the next steps to proceed regarding development of a mixed-use community on the Motherhouse lands in Halifax.

Our Congregational Leader, Sister Joan O'Keefe, outside City Hall with Gordon Laing, Eric Burchill, Jim Spatz and Ben Young of Southwest Properties.



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# TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

"We can't change the past, but we can listen deeply, with our hearts, to those who feel they can speak ... we can work toward a future of hope, healing and right relationships." Sister Donna Geernaert Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Atlantic National Event (2011)

On June 20, 2018, the Truth and Reconciliation panel was unveiled in the Heritage Garden on the grounds of Caritas Residence in Halifax, NS.

Sisters, Associates, Mount Saint Vincent University community members and friends gathered for the simple unveiling ceremony. Dorene Bernard, a Shubenacadie Residential School survivor and whose work is featured on the "Truth" panel, offered a prayer. Sister Pat Kelly, a former teacher at Shubenacadie, was also in attendance.

"It's really special and important that [Dorene] and Sister Pat would come be with us because I think that's symbolic of how much we want to reconcile," said Sister Joan O'Keefe. The Indian Residential School system was established in 1867 with the goal of assimilating Indigenous children into Euro-Canadian society through its church-run, government-funded institutions. From its establishment until the closure of the last federally-run school in 1996, more than 150,000 Indigenous children were placed in residential schools across Canada. The students were punished for speaking their language, denied access to their culture and families, and, in many cases, suffered physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

The Sisters of Charity-Halifax were teachers, cooks and in charge of domestic tasks at Shubenacadie (Shubenacadie, NS) and Kootenay, also known as St. Eugene's (Cranbrook, BC).





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Flashback Anchiv

# OCTOBER 1 9 5 7

Excerpts from the "Motherhouse Chronicle" "By this time, word has probably reached each of our Houses that a mid-autumn day the College and Academy Sisters had supper at the new Mother House ...

The truth of the matter is that a picnic supper was served not in the building but on a floor – the refectory one at that! – open to the four winds and the sky... Outdoor tables and benches were set up as soon as the workmen had departed at four-thirty. From then until six-thirty the Sisters came and went as duties allowed. They all enjoyed the delicious picnic supper and then inspected various parts of the building. The more daring Sisters even climbed up to the fourth floor of the south wing. After sunset a chilly breeze blew in from the sea and the downhill departure began."

# MA

### JOIN US ERADICATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Our current fundraising appeal calls donors and friends to join us in our work to eradicate human trafficking, and support survivors as they strive to build new lives.

To learn more about this and other ministries, follow us on social media. To make a donation or to join our mailing list, visit <u>www.schalifax.</u> <u>ca/donate</u>, or call Carrie Flemming, Donor Relations Coordinator at 1-844-406-8114.

# POEM BY

**Sister Phyllis Giroux** 

This morning I looked up from dusty words to find diamonds in the grass. Born of water and light, they dance in the arms of the breeze, rejoicing, rejoicing while they can before being taken up by the fiery chariot and transformed, seeming to disappear. Not so. There are diamonds all around.

Do you not see them?



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How Jesus' Experience and Our Stories Reveal a New Vision of Compassionate Care

NUALA KENN sc. oc: Md. frcr(c) Foreword by Archbishop Paul-André Dur



Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada 2018 Award

Judge's remarks:

"This is a superb exploration on a very critical topic in the lives of believers today: the experience of dying. The author confronts the modern attempts to camouflague the reality of death with political and medical interventions and challenges the current ideology with her compassion as a physician and the Church's theology of the Paschal Mystery. Her insights are rooted in real life experiences that any reader can relate to and learn from."

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Please submit articles and photos to: Melissa Falle Communications Specialist communications@schalifax.ca

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