

Museum Corner: A Page From History

June 2019— The Lady Minto Hospital

The Lady Minto Hospital

The Lady Minto Hospital was built by Robert Stoddart and opened its doors on August 7th, 1913. The building contained a public ward of 4 beds, 4 private wards, a nurse's dining room, an operating room, and a kitchen. The Hospital was built for \$7280, and the operating cost at the time was approximately \$600 per month, including all salaries and supplies.

The Lady Minto Hospital was staffed by one matron and one nurse from the Victorian Order of Nurses. They worked 12 hours per day, 7 days a week. Shortly thereafter, a third nurse was hired to relieve the pressure, and the nursing staff looked after all the clerical, laundry, and housekeeping tasks. There was also a full time cook, and a maintenance man was only hired periodically to start the fire, cut wood, etc.

How did the Lady Minto Hospital get it's name? The Lady Minto Hospital was one of 42 hospitals across Canada funded by Lady Minto and The Victorian Order of Nurses. The funds were given to build cottage hospitals in remote parts of Canada.

To help pay for some of the Hospital's expenses, the Ladies Auxiliary had many fundraisers over the years: dances, tag days, turkey raffles, thrift shop, money trees, etc. Without their help, the Hospital would have had a difficult time surviving for long. Even with the efforts of the Ladies Auxiliary, the Lady Minto had to close from November 1926 until July 1930 due to lack of money.

During the time between 1926 and 1930, Bertha Pocock was running a nursing home and several patients were treated there by doctors and Bertha.

The Lady Minto Hospital reopened in 1930 under a new system. Previously, the Hospital Board had done the administrating part of the Hospital, but in August of the same year, a matron was hired as administrator, looking after all of the purchasing, staffing, budgeting, etc. while still doing her nursing duties.

By 1938, more rooms were added and a nurse's quarter, and the Hospital saw expansions in the way of radiology, laboratory facilities, and a new ward for pediatrics.

A major addition was added in 1956, and the late 1950s embraced one of the busiest eras of the Hospital. Pediatrics had 10-12 children at all times, patients were kept in the corridors, and surgery went on all day.

Triplets Born Here Highlight Ashcroft News For Week

THE MORLEY BROWN TRIPLETS ^{Dec 7, 26} 1944



THE HOSPITAL CONCERT
Feb. 23, 1923
Event Given Under Direction of Mrs. Beech Draws Large House.
Perhaps a record gathering assembled in the town hall on Wednesday evening last to enjoy the vocal and instrumental concert given in aid of the Lady Minto Hospital under the direction of Mrs. (Dr.) Beech. The

HOSPITAL DANCE APR. 26/24 AND RAFFLE
Dance On Monday Night Draws Large Crowd. No. 119 Gets Ford
The dance in aid of the Lady Minto Hospital which took place on Monday night was well attended, a number coming from outside points. A feature of the dance was the drawing for the Ford car which has been raffled to aid an addition to the hospital. The drawing took

NEW HOSPITAL ^{Dec. 15/38}
WING OPENED.
Many Citizens Attend Official Opening of New Addition
The new wing of the Lady Minto Hospital, Ashcroft, was officially opened on Wednesday afternoon and many citizens availed themselves of the opportunity of inspecting the building and its new addition. A very

Nursery Attractive
The nursery is particularly attractive, done in white and green, with window drapes of "nursery rhyme" design, it is cosy and inviting.
The kitchen is spacious and amply supplied with pantry and cupboard room.
The nurse's new quarters on the upper floor is very inviting, large rooms, well lighted, with a view overlooking the Thompson river, it is the last word in comfort for the staff.
Worthy of mention is the large entry door leading to the receiving room, a great improvement on the old entrance to the hospital. The Indian ward also is very large and bright and well appointed. One tiny Indian lad, looking very happy, attracted much attention from the visitors.
Another feature is that the hot water heater is placed behind the linen cupboard, thus ensuring well aired linen at all times.

Great Accomplishment
Another outstanding piece of equipment is the Fowler bed considered to be the latest style in hospital needs. This bed can, by adjustment, be elevated at either the head or the feet, to give greater comfort to the patient.
One was impressed by the cheerful and warm atmosphere of the hospital and the attractiveness of the various appointments and Ashcroft has just reason to be proud and fortunate in having such a well appointed institution under the very able care of Miss Saunders, matron, and a graduate of the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria, and the Misses Gower, nurses, also of the Royal Jubilee Hospital.
It must be a source of great satisfaction to all those members of the past and present hospital board and the Auxiliary who have carried on for all these years, to see their aims and ambitions realized, and great credit must go to the Board on its wonderful accomplishment in bringing the local hospital building and equipment to par with any of those in the province.

Baby Bottle Sterilizer



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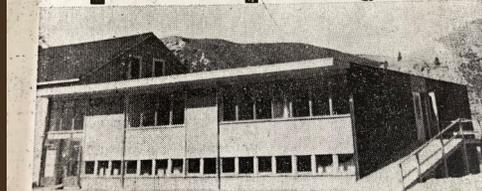
The Lady Minto Hospital continued...

Work Starts On Hospital New Wing 1954

Cloverdale Construction Co. Ltd. has commenced work on the addition to the Lady Minto Hospital under a contract for \$59,800.00.

KLONDYKE NIGHT OCT.

Public Invited To Hospital Opening 1956



Headlines about the new wing built at the Lady Minto Hospital



With the opening of Bethlehem Copper and Lornex Mine in the 1960s, Ashcroft's population began to grow. In 1972, a new modern Ashcroft and District Hospital opened on the opposite side of town. Once the new hospital opened, the Lady Minto Hospital sat empty. Then in 1981, the original part of the building burnt down. The 1956 addition was salvageable with only minimal damage, and today the wing is currently used by the Senior Citizen's group, and the Elizabeth Fry Society. Shortly after, office quarters were built in the empty space and the Village of Ashcroft moved in, in 1987. Today this space is still used by the Village of Ashcroft, and the Ashcroft and District Health Care Auxiliary Thrift Store is located in the basement.



Lady Minto Hospital now currently the Village of Ashcroft Office

In the 1950s and prior, nurses wore bibs, aprons, collars and cuffs, including veils or caps depending on where they trained. The hospital was frequently staffed with nurses from different countries: Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, Ireland, England, Netherlands, and the Philippines. They were well experienced and their training was 4 years long and included midwifery. The nurses stayed at the residents across from the Lady Minto Hospital or upstairs of the Hospital.

Nurses had a variety of jobs over the years: Laundry, and housekeeping tasks, administrative work, nursing duties, assisting in operations, radiology, emergency rooms, etc.



Mrs. Jackson circa 1916



Matron Miss. Whitmore 1937



3 nurses in uniform

The Ashcroft Museum is open from Monday to Sunday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Come on down and learn some fascinating history about the area.

Located at 151 and 4th Street.

250-453-9232

museum@ashcroftbc.ca



Check out the Ladies Auxiliary Thrift Store located at the back of the Village Office building. Open Wednesdays and Fridays, 12-4pm



Left: Hat belonged to Molly Richards. Donated by Dick & Jean Richards

Right: Nurse's uniform buttons. Donated by Sandy Fraser

