

## The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario

The focus for the front cover of *CJHP* in 2003 will be important Canadian medical institutions and discoveries. In future issues we will cover topics ranging from the discovery of insulin to the history of medicare.

It all began in the spring of 1875, when a group of Toronto women led by Elizabeth McMaster rented an 11-room house in downtown Toronto for \$320 a year, set up 6 iron cots, and opened a hospital “for the admission and treatment of all sick children”. The hospital moved to a larger building in 1876, but even the new building with its 16 beds was too small. In 1891, The Hospital for Sick Children built and moved into an impressive new 4-storey, 320-bed facility at the corner of Elizabeth and College Streets.

In 1951, the hospital moved to its current location at 555 University Avenue, occupying the grounds where the childhood home of actress Mary Pickford once stood. In 1954 the Research Institute was formally established as a division within the hospital.

In January of 1993, “Sick Kids” (as it is known to staff and patients alike) opened its current patient-care wing, the Atrium. In the belief that light is important to healing, the building has a 9-storey, glass-roofed atrium designed to let in as much natural light as possible.



In 1891, John Ross Robertson, publisher of Toronto's *Evening Telegram* and a trustee for The Hospital for Sick Children, moved the hospital out of a small house and into a new building, the biggest and best children's hospital of its time. This impressive 4-storey, 320-bed facility was located at the corner of Elizabeth and College Streets in Toronto. Photo courtesy of The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario.

Throughout its history, the Hospital for Sick Children has pioneered advances in pediatric care. From milk pasteurization in 1908, the development of Pablum and content standards for Canadian bread, flour, and agricultural products in 1930, and renowned surgical advances such as the development of the Salter operation to repair hip dislocation in the 1960s to the more recent identification and cloning of genes responsible for hereditary diseases such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis, staff of the Hospital of Sick Children have worked to improve the quality of life of children the world over.

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This article is based on information published by the Hospital for Sick Children (<http://www.sickkids.ca/>).