

Media Release**May 10, 2011****For Immediate Release****Grey Sisters Donate \$100,000 to New Algonquin College Campus
Capital Campaign at the Opening of a New Waterfront Pavilion**

PEMBROKE - Algonquin College has received a major boost in its efforts to raise funds to support the building of its new waterfront campus in Pembroke. The Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, who operated the Lorrain School of Nursing from

1926 to 1973 in Pembroke, have made a \$100,000 donation to the College's capital campaign.

Through this generous donation, one of the three nursing labs that will be built in the new waterfront campus, will pay tribute to the Lorrain School through a naming opportunity. Campus Dean, Karen Davies, thanked the Grey Sisters for their generosity by saying: "We recognize the significant contribution the Sisters have made to health care in our community and are pleased that the College's naming policy will allow for one of our nursing labs to be named after the Lorrain School. We thank the Grey Sisters for this leadership gift and acknowledge their continued support of the College, many years after they transferred nursing education to the College."

Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley began offering its nursing program in 1974 when the Government of Ontario mandated that Colleges and Universities would become the sole trainers of nurses in the province. That prompted the closing of the Lorrain School of Nursing, which was founded in 1916. The school was associated with the Pembroke General Hospital and graduated its first class of nurses in 1919. In 1926, the school and hospital were transferred to the administration of the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

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Grey Sisters General Superior, Sister Fay Edmonds, says the Catholic-based organization has always been supportive of education and is pleased that the College is building a new campus to serve the Upper Ottawa Valley. "We are very mindful of the significance of having a College campus in our community and are also very proud of what was accomplished at the Lorrain School of Nursing. Our gift to the College's capital campaign allows us to support a wonderful community project to build a new campus, and also provides us with an opportunity to ensure that the Lorrain School's heritage is respected through public recognition at the new campus," adds Sister Edmonds.

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In the photo above: The Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception announced a \$100,000 donation to Algonquin College's Capital Campaign. The donation was announced at a new pavilion along Pembroke's waterfront that includes plaques that depict the history of post-secondary education in Renfrew County. In the front row from the left: Dean Karen Davies; Dave Stewart, Renfrew County Community Futures; Sister Mary Buckley, General Superior Fay Edmonds and Sister Sheila Whalen of the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception; Lola Johnston, 1937 graduate of the last nursing class at the Pembroke Cottage Hospital; Dr. Joseph Foohey, Algonquin Board of Governors representative from 1974 to 1981; Mrs. Hazel Runge; and Kayla Cseh, Vice-President of Algonquin College's Students' Association (S.A.).

In the back row from the left are Corey Andrews, S.A. Director; Jennifer Allen, Pembroke S.A.; Alexandra Harness, S.A. Director, Kyrlo Kasyanenko, S.A. Director; David Foohey and Sheila (Foohey) Ryan; and Dennis Runge, son of Donald F. Runge who served on Algonquin's Board of Governors from 1966 to 1969.

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Page 3 - Grey Sisters Contribute to New Campus (Cont'd)

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In this photo: Dean Karen Davies receives a cheque from Dave Stewart of the Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation, which contributed \$10,000 towards the Algonquin Pavilion Project. Other contributors to the pavilion were the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, the Students' Association, Algonquin College, and the Pembroke Waterfront Volunteer Committee.

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The Grey Sisters announced their donation at a ceremony to christen a new pavilion along Pembroke's waterfront, adjacent to the future site of Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley. The pavilion includes plaques that depict the history of post-secondary education in Renfrew County, including a section on the history of nursing education.

The pavilion was made possible through the support of Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation and the Eastern Ontario Development Program which provided a grant of \$10,000. Additional funds to build the pavilion were provided by Algonquin College, the Algonquin College Students' Association, the Pembroke Volunteer Waterfront committee, and the Grey Sisters.

Construction on the new campus will begin in a few weeks. The four-storey building will feature sixteen classrooms and nine labs and will open to students in the fall of 2012. The project is valued at \$36 million dollars. The College is currently engaged in a community capital campaign to raise \$2.5 million towards the overall cost of the project.

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Page 4 - One of the special guests who participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony was Lola Johnston who graduated in 1937 from the last three-year nursing class trained at the Pembroke Cottage Hospital. She is pictured here on the day of the pavilion opening and, on her lapel, she wears her Class of 1937 nursing pin (see enlarged photo).



In the photo below, Lola holds the plaque from the pavilion that depicts the history of nursing education in Renfrew County.



The top illustration shows Lola's 1936-1937 classmates from the Pembroke Cottage Hospital. Lola is in the back row, third from the left. The plaque also depicts a graduating class from the Lorrain School of Nursing and students from the first four years of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Program in Pembroke.

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