

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOOK ON LAKEHEAD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL LAUNCHED

(Thunder Bay, ON, May 5, 2005) On Thursday, May 5, 2005 St. Joseph's Care Group launched "**From Institution to Community – A Transformation of Psychiatric Hospital Services**", written by well-known local author, Peter Raffo.

Two years in the making, this book is a significant milestone relating the history of the delivery of mental health services in our community. Author Peter Raffo stated, "The book, which began as a chronicle of historic events, became a rich story about people with a mental illness and the individuals who cared for them."

Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital (LPH) first opened on the Algoma Street site in April, 1944. Forty-five psychiatric patients were transferred from the Ontario Hospital Fort William, located on Highway 61, to this site. At that time, it was called the Ontario Hospital Port Arthur.

In order to preserve the past, St. Joseph's Care Group commissioned local author Peter Raffo to write a book to tell the history of the hospital and outline the development of care provided over the course of its existence from the perspective of clients, family members, and staff. A small working group, including Care Group staff and previous members of the Community Advisory Board was formed to oversee this project.

Carl White, President, St. Joseph's Care Group, stated "Peter Raffo has written an accurate and true history of LPH. He has done an excellent job depicting the many achievements in mental health care over the years. St. Joseph's Care Group is proud to preserve this piece of history."

This book will serve as an educational tool, not only for the preservation of the past, but also as a means of combating the stigma that continues to impact people who have mental illnesses. "**From Institution to Community – A Transformation of Psychiatric Hospital Services**", will be available to the public for purchase at the Northern Woman's Bookstore.

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