



## h e r i t a g e w a l k i n g t o u r

### 11. College Mathieu - 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East at Magnan Street

The provincial legislature authorized a college for Gravelbourg in December 1917. It was to be a boarding school with its purpose to ensure the survival of the French Canadian inheritance in western Canada. The College promoted classical and technical training in French and by 1924; it had also become affiliated with Ottawa University and offered high school diplomas and Bachelor of Arts degrees.



College Mathieu

By 1918, 67 students were enrolled including a number of young boys from the ages of five to thirteen. Four Oblate Nuns of the Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate arrived to look after the upkeep of the college and to teach these younger boys. In 1920, when the main college building was erected over the old church basement, the young boys stayed in the original building (the Jardin Notre Dame).

College Mathieu is now the only French-language residential school operating in Western Canada and the Pavillion Piche is the oldest heritage building in Gravelbourg. The College's historic main building was tragically destroyed by fire in 1988; however, the new, modern campus was quickly constructed and ready for operation by 1989. The new facility also contains sports and recreation facilities that are available to the general public, including an indoor swimming pool, weight room, whirlpool, and children's pool. The College is still very much in use and French is the dominant language spoken. Sons and daughters of local families study along with many boarders from all parts of Canada and around the world. Further program diversification occurred in 2001 when a residential hockey school was launched.

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