



The History of The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board

150 Years of 'Believing, Achieving and Serving'

Table of Contents



Bishop's Letter	P. 3
Chairperson of the Board's Letter	P. 4
Director of Education's Letter	P. 5
Anniversary Prayer	P. 6
150 th Anniversary Logo	P. 7
Preface/ Acknowledgements	P. 8
Chapter 1: The Origin of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board	P. 9
Chapter 2: Governance of the Catholic School System	P. 20
Chapter 3: Mission and Vision	P. 28
Chapter 4: Our Schools/ School Histories	P. 29
Chapter 5: Closed Schools of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board	P. 93
Chapter 6: Board Services	P. 96
Chapter 7: Catholic Youth Organization	P. 98
Picture Gallery	P. 100

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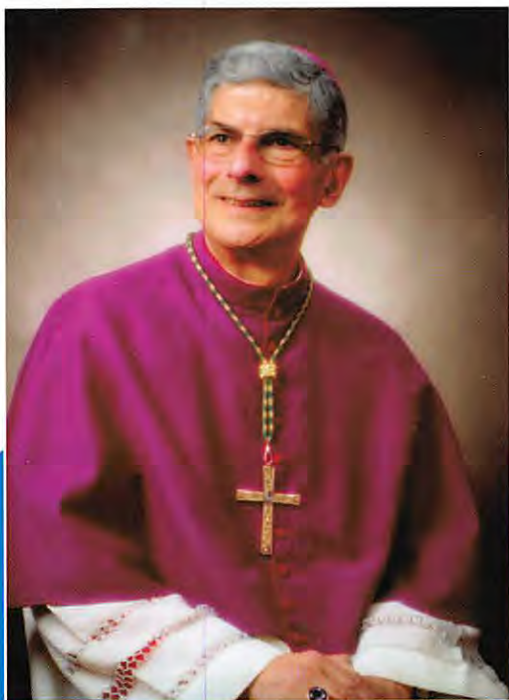
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Anthony F. Tonnos
BISHOP OF HAMILTON

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF HAMILTON DIOCESE

Dear Friends in Catholic Education,

It is a great pleasure to join you in celebrating 150 years of Catholic education in the Hamilton area. Education has always been an important aspect of the life of the Catholic Church throughout its history. Originally the only schools were Church schools. Education is an effort to improve the lives of individuals, enabling them to fuller participation in the community. Our Lord Jesus Christ, instructed his Apostles, "Go and teach all peoples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Catholic education strives to make us not only better citizens of our country and community, but also fuller members of the Kingdom of God.

Catholic education has served this mission in our area for 150 years. I offer the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board my congratulations and my prayers that this important work will continue for many decades into the future.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Anthony F. Tonnos
BISHOP OF HAMILTON



Patrick J. Daly
Chairperson of the Board

Dear Friends in Catholic Education,

I am pleased, on behalf of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, to express warm words of appreciation and congratulations to our community – past and present - as we celebrate 150 years of Catholic education in Hamilton-Wentworth. We celebrate the significant contribution Catholic schools have made to families, our Church and to the fabric of our society.

We thank God for the gift of Catholic education and for sustaining and strengthening it in times of challenge and opportunity. We remember, recognize and thank the Bishops, clergy, religious, sisters, lay teachers, principals, administration, support staff, parents, students, Board of Governors, Trustees and Catholic ratepayers who nurtured Catholic schools throughout the past 150 years. Their sacrifice, vision, commitment and gift of service are the foundation upon which our school system stands today.

This 150th Anniversary is, as well, a wonderful opportunity to look forward as a faith community and to commit anew our Mission to provide a Christ-centred education for the next 150 years and beyond.

I would like to express our appreciation to the members of the Anniversary Committee for their efforts in developing this wonderful commemorative anniversary book.

Yours very truly,

Patrick J. Daly
Chairperson of the Board



Marcel Castura
Director of Education



Dear Friends,

The 150th anniversary of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board is a fitting occasion to celebrate a history of service to the Hamilton-Wentworth region. It is an ideal opportunity for us to reflect on our story of Catholic education – the richness of its experiences, and the many trials and successes that have brought us to this moment in time.

It is important to remember and to pay tribute to the founders and the builders of Catholic education – the clergy, the religious sisters, teachers, principals, administrators, support staff, parents, students and trustees. These 150 years have been shaped by their hard work and their many sacrifices. Today, we flourish as a system because of their collective efforts, their dedication to the academic learning, and the faith and character development of our young people.

We celebrate also the story of each of our schools for it is in the school that our faith is nurtured and our distinctiveness as a system is made real. This anniversary book chronicles not only times past but the growth of our system through the account of each of our schools and the communities they serve.

Thank you and congratulations to the members of the anniversary book committee and to all those involved in making this a truly memorable and special year of celebration.

Yours truly,

Marcel Castura
Director of Education



Anniversary Prayer

O gracious God, as we celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of Catholic schools in Hamilton-Wentworth, we raise our hearts to you in praise and thanksgiving. We remember with affection and gratitude, and ask you to bless abundantly, the valiant women and men who founded our Catholic Education system, and those who, following in their footsteps, worked so hard to extend it and keep it strong, vibrant and true.

Inspired by the example of those who have paved the way for us in Catholic Education, may we strive to be true to their vision, to keep their dream alive. May our schools continue to be authentic Catholic communities where children are cherished and feel at home, where their minds are nurtured by the truth and beauty of Christ's message, where their lives are shaped by Gospel values, where their faith, hope and love are sustained by prayer and worship, and where their resolve to put Catholic faith into action is encouraged by the witness of all around them.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord, through your Holy Spirit, and Mary our Mother.

Amen.





Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic Schools

150 years of 'Believing, Achieving, Serving'

Rich in symbolism, this anniversary logo reflects the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board's enduring commitment to "Believing, Achieving, Serving". The two principal elements of the design – students and the cross – together create a beautiful image that suggests a flower in bloom. The students, like the seeds of a flower, are carefully nurtured so that they may blossom and bloom to their full potential. The upward thrust of the logo signifies a culture of growth, of reaching upwards and striving for excellence.

The image of students arranged in tiers suggests the continuum of learning: elementary, secondary, and adult/continuing education. The different colours depict the complementary nature of male and female: they are equal but different. Each side of the logo is a triad, stressing the importance of the partnership of home, parish and school as well as the communion of persons within the Holy Trinity, and hinting at 50-year time blocks in the history of Catholic education in Hamilton-Wentworth. At the core of the logo is the Cross, the Tree of Life, to symbolize the centrality of Jesus Christ in Catholic Education, and to remind us of the bond with Christ, with one another, and with the earth: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself." (John 12:32)



Preface

The early history of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board is intimately entwined with its parish churches. The parish churches donated or charged a nominal fee for the land on which the majority of the schools were built. The religious were leaders in raising funds to build and maintain schools. This book is a testament to the sacrifices, often heroic, that were made by bishops, priests, religious sisters and brothers and laity. Through their self-less service and dedication, they have made enormous contributions to the lives of thousands of students who have benefited from a Catholic education.

This work is intended to be easily read, a book for people, young and old, a “coffee table book” which can be perused, time and again.

Every effort has been made to obtain and provide accurate information and dates. Searches were made of Board documents and records and conversations were held with individuals. Variances may be found due to differences in school construction dates, official opening dates and the recollections of individuals. Some records list construction dates, some list official opening dates and some make no distinction. For a few schools records were incomplete. Stories and anecdotes were obtained from individuals who, “remembered when.”...and human memory is not always accurate.

Acknowledgements

To the principals, vice- principals, teachers, secretaries, staff associations, and school board employees who have assisted in the research and compilation of the individual histories that comprise this book, a warm and sincere thank you is expressed. Particular recognition is given to Teresa Conry of the Board's Records Department.

Thanks and praise are extended to the many members of the religious communities associated with the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board for their archival expertise and illumination of our School Board's story, with special gratitude to Father Ron Coté.

To the 150th Anniversary Steering Committee Members- Lou Agro, Bishop Gerard Bergie, Mary Cipolla, Jerry Creedon, Mario Cupido, Tom Hornby, Marnie Jadon, Vince Lepore, Anne Paquette and Tony Tigani, sincere appreciation for the direction and support that you have lent to the process is given.

To Pat Brennan, for his book, *Resilient Roots*, and to Jim Hansen, for his book, *Each Belongs*- thank you both for these invaluable resources which outline our School Board's story.

To Nancy DiGregorio, Chairperson of the 150th Anniversary Steering Committee, warmest thanks are expressed for lending vision and leadership to this project, and for affording the opportunity to make this book part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations.

To the 150th Anniversary Book Committee Members- Ivana Fortino, Sandie Pizzuti, Cristina Presta, Judy Sartor and Anne Marie Tartaglia, the deepest thanks are extended for many long hours of organizing, editing, wordsmithing and meetings. Your support, enthusiasm and passion for this project have propelled it and sustained it.

To Allan Calvert, member of the 150th Anniversary Steering Committee and the 150th Anniversary Book Committee, a particularly special thank you is given for research material, direction, and encouragement at every step. Your love of our Catholic school system is so very obvious.

Finally, to Gerda Morrow, Editor-in-Chief, a most heartfelt gratitude is extended for so many things you have done and provided with precision, proficiency and flair: researching, editing, wordsmithing, enthusiasm and diligence. You have provided so much of the “glue” that binds this wonderful book together.

Jim Sartor, Chairperson and Editor
150th Anniversary Book Committee

The Origin Of The Hamilton - Wentworth Catholic District School Board



The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board traces its roots to 1852, when the Sisters of St. Joseph were asked by the vicar of St. Mary's Parish to establish education programs for Catholic children in the city. This was, in part, a response to a large influx of Catholic families from Ireland in the mid 1840's.

In 1855, the Separate School Bill was passed in the House of Commons by Sir Allan MacNab. With approximately 4000 Catholics in Hamilton, the Hamilton Separate School Board was formally established that same year. Immediately money was raised for two schools to be built. St. Patrick School was erected at Hunter Street and Ferguson Avenue and St. Mary School at Mulberry and Park Streets. These first two schools were placed in the charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The initiative to open schools was often taken by parish priests, responding to the wishes and needs of their parish communities. In many cases, the land for new schools was either transferred without cost to the School Board or sold at a nominal cost. In some cases the school preceded the church and was used for Mass, the sacraments and parish activities. Thus the relationship and interdependence of the School Board and the parishes became a source of strength to the community.

At the turn of the century, there were ten Catholic schools operating in Hamilton, with approximately 40 teachers, each earning about \$125.00 per annum. The pupil teacher ratio was 43 to 1. During this time, the Board relied heavily on local tax assessment, since less than seven per cent of its revenue came from the provincial government. It became clear that the frugality of the trustees, the generosity of the people, the dedication of the clergy, particularly the Bishop and the tremendous commitment of the teachers had assured a good foundation for what would become a renowned school system.

The School Board grew steadily during the early decades of the twentieth century. By 1929 the Hamilton Spectator rated the Hamilton Separate School Board, with 16 elementary schools, 2 high schools and a commercial school, as the finest school board in the province. Rapid growth occurred in the 1940's, 50's and 60's with the influx of immigrants and the post war baby boom. In 1969, six county school boards and the city board amalgamated to form the Hamilton-Wentworth Roman Catholic Separate School Board. Seven boards became one, with a total of forty schools. St. Augustine School, built in 1847 and rebuilt in 1869, became the oldest school community in the newly formed board. Schools continued to flourish.

On June 12th 1984, Premier William Davis made his historic announcement, concerning the completion of funding for Catholic secondary schools. Following this decision, land and schools were transferred from the Hamilton Public School Board.

In 1998, with the passing of Bill 160, the Hamilton-Wentworth Roman Catholic Separate School Board became known as the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. As of September 2005, there were approximately 20,000 elementary students in 53 schools and 10,000 secondary students in 7 secondary schools. St. Charles Adult Learning Centres provide courses for approximately 20,000 adults annually. The Board has about 4400 full and part time employees. Our community has benefited and will continue to do so, from the contributions and dedicated service of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board graduates who have and continue to serve as leaders to all strata of society and to all professions.

Bishops of Hamilton Diocese

The Bishops of the Hamilton Diocese have always been instrumental in the safeguarding and continuance of the Catholic school system. They have, at all times, viewed Catholic education as a perpetual sacred trust. Whether it was securing land for school sites, raising funds to finance expenditures or participating in school system governance, the Bishops have been on the front line, securing, maintaining and at times defending the right of Catholic education to exist. It is because of their vision, perseverance, and undaunted determination in the face of great adversity and overwhelming odds that our Catholic school system survives and thrives.

Bishop John Farrell, 1856-1873

Bishop Peter F. Crinnon, 1873-1882

Bishop James J. Carbery, 1884-1887

Bishop Thomas J. Dowling, 1889-1924

Bishop John T. McNally, 1924-1937

Bishop Joseph F. Ryan, 1937-1973

Bishop Paul F. Reding, 1973-1982

Bishop Anthony F. Tonnos, 1984-

Auxiliary Bishops

Bishop James H. MacDonald, 1978-

Bishop Matthew F. Ustrzycki, 1985-

Bishop Gerard P. Bergie, 2005-



Religious Communities

Sisters Of The Institute Of The Blessed Virgin Mary Also Known As The Sisters Of Loretto

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary- the Sisters of Loretto- have a long, illustrious history within the Hamilton area. Also referred to as the IBVM, the order was instituted by Mary Ward (1585- 1645) in 17th century England. The Loretto Sisters were initially a small group of voluntary exiles from post- Reformation England who dedicated their lives to work in education in St. Omers, Belgium, and throughout the European continent. The IBVM declared themselves Catholic educators via architectural religious symbolism, and spoke as Catholics in a predominantly Protestant society.

In 1847 five pioneer Loretto Sisters from Loretto Abbey, Rathfarmham, Ireland, came to Toronto with Reverend Mother Teresa Dease. In 1865, Bishop Farrell of Hamilton asked Reverend Mother Dease to come to Hamilton to establish a school. Upon accepting the invitation, she herself accompanied four teaching sisters to Hamilton, where in June 1865 they took up temporary quarters in a house on Catherine Street. Classes at the first Loretto Academy commenced on September 16, 1865.

Hamilton's Loretto School and Convent was a former officers' residence of the 16th Canadian Regiment, located on King Street between Pearl and Ray Streets. The land had been sold to the Church in 1865, and was in turn sold

to the Sisters of Loretto in 1866 for \$8000. The original Loretto community of four, in Hamilton, taught at the academy and also filled the necessary positions in the convent. The school was a private girls' school. In 1892 the great five-storey auditorium wing was erected with dormitory areas for boarders, dining rooms, kitchen, sleeping rooms for the sisters, and a large, multi-use attic.

The Loretto Sisters did not restrict their mission to Loretto Academy. They worked in the Hamilton Catholic school system, in both elementary and secondary schools. As a result, many more young women and men were able to receive the benefit of a "Loretto education."

The Sisters of Loretto realized at a certain point that private school education for young women was no longer the best way to provide Catholic education, for it was not inclusive for all students. In 1971 Loretto Academy in Hamilton closed. Even in places where Loretto schools still exist in Ontario, they are governed by the local Catholic district school board. The Loretto Sisters, although not as visible as they once were, still are involved in education, as well as retreat centres for youth and adults. In a way, the "Loretto education", designed to challenge all students to learn and to equip themselves with the knowledge, skills and values needed to take an active role as Christian leaders in Canadian society, is still alive and well.



The Sisters Of St. Joseph Of Hamilton

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton served the people of Wentworth County as Catholic Educators for 150 years. The story began in 1852 when, at the request of Vicar General Gordon, three Sisters arrived in Hamilton from Toronto. They were Sister Martha Von Bunning, Sister Joseph McDonell and Sister Aloysia Walker.

The first St. Joseph's Convent was a little house on the corner of Cannon and McNab Streets. The very day they moved in, the Sisters opened their home to two orphan children and very soon after, they opened a private school for girls which operated for four years.

In 1856, the newly formed Hamilton Roman Catholic Separate School Board built two schools: St. Patrick at Ferguson and Hunter Streets, and St. Mary at Mulberry and Park Streets. Both these schools were placed in the charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and from this beginning grew a strong and vibrant Catholic School Community.

Sister Jane Francis, Sister M. Philip Lenaton, Sister M. Ambrose Collins, Sister M. Joseph McDonnell, Sister M. Xavier O'Sullivan and Sister M. Herman Ryan became the first teachers of separate schools in Hamilton.

St. Patrick on Hunter Street was replaced by the school on East Avenue in 1912. But St. Mary's has a more complex history. As the number of students increased, so did the number of buildings used to house them. To complicate the story further, the names and functions of individual buildings changed. At various times, St. Mary Elementary School community functioned in all or some of; the original St. Mary School on Park Street, (later to become St. Mary's Chapel), Sacred Heart Model School (later St. Mary Girls' School), St. Mary Lyceum, St. Mary Boys' on Mulberry Street, St. Augustine (senior boys classes) and Holy Angels (the Bishop's residence converted to a school, which in 1945

became the first French language school in the system). In 1959 all of St. Mary Elementary School students were brought together in one building erected on the site of the old St. Joseph's Convent and St. Mary's Orphanage.

Many wonderful Sisters of St. Joseph were part of this development. To take just one example: Sister Sylvia, who started to teach at St. Mary Boys' School in 1903 and retired as principal in 1950, influenced many of the outstanding Catholic men of Hamilton. After her death in 1963, reporter Bob Hanley wrote of her in the Hamilton Spectator, "She was a nun of commanding bearing, at once respected, feared and loved, a Christian dictator who drilled her cadets as a private army, who shaped boys into men, and who lived to whip that one cardinal sin – that anybody should let St. Mary's sink to second best on the playing field, on the parade ground or in the classroom This was a saint with a coach's whistle, a stub of chalk and a battered old bugle."

Former students will remember other Sisters teachers, but to mention them all would fill a small notebook.

Other schools were opened as the needs increased. Among the schools the Sisters of St. Joseph staffed in these early days were; St. Lawrence on the corner of John and Ferrie Streets (1864), St. Vincent (1860), later turned into Cathedral Commercial where the Sisters prepared students, both girls and boys, for employment in the business world, St. Ann School at Barton and Sherman (1908), St. Thomas, later named St. Brigid (1889), and Sacred Heart School on the Mountain Brow (1915).

The Sisters of St. Joseph made significant contributions to the further expansion of Catholic elementary education, helping to open and/or staff; Holy Family School, Holy Rosary on Gage Avenue, St. John, Canadian Martyrs, St. Emeric, St. Thomas Aquinas, later replaced by Christ the



King School, Sts. Peter and Paul, Our Lady of Lourdes, Regina Mundi, Corpus Christi, Holy Name of Jesus, St. Charles, St. Christopher, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Jerome, St. Michael, Blessed Kateri and St. Catherine of Siena. Sisters of St. Joseph also served in St. Luke, St. Martin of Tours and St. Clare Schools.

St. Augustine School in Dundas has the distinction of being the first Catholic School in the Diocese. It opened in 1847 with 105 students. Sisters of St. Joseph assumed responsibility for St. Augustine School at a later date. Through the years many outstanding Sisters served as principals and teachers at St. Augustine School.

Perhaps members of the "mature" generations will remember Sister Marcella who served as principal and teacher from 1944 to 1963. She was an outstanding teacher, loved and respected by students and parents alike, and particularly remembered as a wise and kindly counsellor to children in difficulties. In 1962, on the completion of 50 years of service in Ontario Schools, the Right Honourable John Roberts, the Minister of Education, sent her a citation which read in part: "Congratulations on reaching a milestone in your teaching career. It must be a source of great satisfaction to you to realize the Christian initiative and knowledge you have imparted to so many pupils over so many years. You have made a significant and lasting contribution to the development of elementary education in Ontario".

Even a brief summary, such as this, must make mention of Sister Maria Cordis, who after teaching at several elementary schools, became Music Supervisor for the Hamilton Separate School System. She served in this capacity from 1951 to 1973. As she travelled by public transportation, all the bus drivers knew her and the children, appropriately called her "the singing Nun".

Although some secondary school classes were taught by the Sisters in the late 1850's it was in 1882 that a specific building, Sacred Heart Model School, was erected between St. Mary's Church and the old St. Joseph's Convent to accommodate students, both boys and girls, who were to continue with advanced studies. As numbers increased, classes were frequently on the move, but since they had their beginning at St. Mary's, which in 1856 was named the first Cathedral of the diocese, these classes carried with them the name "Cathedral High School".

When Cathedral Boys' moved into their new building in 1928, the Girls' School took over the space on the top floor of St. Patrick School and in the Club House across the street. Both students and Sister teachers could be seen crossing busy Main Street loaded down with books and even science equipment. Cathedral Girls' eventually moved into its own building in 1954.

As additional Catholic high schools were built, Sisters of St. Joseph served as teachers and/or chaplains in Bishop Ryan High School, Cardinal Newman and St. John de Brebeuf, but they were most closely associated with the development of the Cathedral High Schools, which Bishop J.F. Ryan called "the Flagship" of the Catholic high school system in Hamilton.

Dedicated and competent lay people have assumed responsibility for most aspects of Catholic education. Sister Gabriella Hince was the last Sister of St. Joseph to retire from teaching in 2001. However, the Sisters continue to serve as volunteers in classrooms, correctional institutions and in adult literacy programs. Some Sisters who work in parishes use their teaching skills conducting programs such as R.C.I.A. Sisters are fewer in numbers, and perhaps less visible, but they are very much alive and dedicated to serving wherever they can meet the needs of the people of God.



The Felician Sisters Of St. Francis Of Canada

The Felician Sisters of St. Francis of Canada, more commonly known as “the Felician Sisters”, have had roots in Catholic education in Hamilton- Wentworth since 1952. The Congregation of the Felician Sisters is a branch of the Franciscan tree and rests upon the Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis. It came into being in Warsaw, Poland, in 1855. The foundress of this order was Sophia Truszkowska. Her religious name was Mother Mary Angela, and she became Blessed Mary Angela in 1993. Twenty years later the congregation received its approbation from Rome, and a group of Felicians began work in America. Education at all levels, elementary through to college and university, became the major field for the sisters. They also operated orphanages, nurseries, community centres, homes for the mentally and emotionally challenged, guidance clinics, maternity centres, nursing homes, homes for working girls and the aged, and hospitals.

In 1937 the sisters arrived in Toronto. They opened

nurseries for pre-school children, lunch services, and after-school centres to supervise children. Soon they had opened two nurseries in Hamilton. By 1950 the sisters were serving in Catholic schools, and Hamilton was blessed with their arrival in area schools in 1952. That year the Felicians took charge of Immaculate Heart Catholic Elementary School in Winona. Before long they established a convent in Winona. Over the next decade their service and influence grew and expanded to other school communities, among them Our Lady of the Assumption in Elfrida, St. Emeric's in Hamilton, Hamilton Catholic secondary schools and Continuing Education as teachers and chaplains.

The Felicians, having taught or been principals in 50 Ontario Catholic schools, were a presence in Catholic schools province wide. In the Hamilton Catholic school system, their contributions have been extensive. The lives of individuals, families, parishes and school communities have been touched and enriched by the Felician Sisters.

Sisters Servants Of Mary Immaculate (SSMI)

The Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate are an international congregation of Sisters of the Ukrainian Catholic Church (in union with Rome). Founded over a hundred years ago in Western Ukraine, the sisters strive to follow the example of their patroness Mary, the Immaculate Mother of God. They are committed to a communal life of prayer and service to God's people, primarily but not exclusively, those of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Four Sisters came to Canada from Ukraine in 1902 and began mission work in Alberta. Within a short time, the pioneer Sisters opened schools, began parish work and ministry to the sick and needy. They helped the Ukrainian immigrants, both urban and rural, to adjust to their new homeland and to educate their children, teaching them to appreciate and love their rich spiritual and cultural heritage.

Young women entered the congregation and over the years, homes were opened in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and British Columbia. At present their homes are in provinces from Quebec to British Columbia, with the central headquarters, referred to as the Provincial Home, located in Toronto. The Novitiate, that

is the school of initial formation, is in Winnipeg.

In Canada, the Sisters have been extensively involved in the educational apostolate from nursery school to the university levels. They have conducted residential and day high schools for young women. In 1946 they arrived at Mount Mary in Ancaster. In 1952 they established Mount Mary Immaculate Academy on their property. It was a private girls' residence school that ran until 1975. They taught at Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School, St. Ann Catholic Elementary School, and at St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School in Hamilton. The Academy is now used as a retreat centre. For two years it was also used for classes when St. Joachim Catholic Elementary School was overfilled and awaiting the completion of a new elementary school in Ancaster. Striving to respond to contemporary needs, the Sisters Servants' apostolic vision is to bring Gospel values to society, whether in the field of education, health care, the arts or the media. Presently there are no SSMI Sisters teaching in the Catholic system, but the Sisters enjoy every opportunity to visit the schools ministering to children, youth and adults.

Sisters Of St. Joseph Of Cluny

In 1957, Bishop J. F. Ryan sent two priests to Ireland to invite sisters to come to Hamilton to teach in the schools. As a result of this invitation, four Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny arrived in Hamilton and began teaching in the fall of 1958. Three Sisters were assigned to St. Joseph School – one as a Principal and two as teachers- and one Sister was assigned to Cathedral Girls' High School. These young Sisters, with an average age of 25, were the first Sisters to live in a parish where they became a vital part of parish life. With their rosy faces and welcoming Irish and Scottish accents, the Sisters made a definite impact on the neighbourhood. During their first winter, school children flooded their back yard to make a skating rink. The rink was enjoyed by staff and students. With their collaborative effort, they taught the Sisters to skate. Unfortunately, when the spring thaw came, the rink poured into the basement of the Sisters' home.

Teaching was always a challenge. Inspectors dropped in unannounced, especially in those first few years. New immigrants, struggling with English, needed support. Teachers were paid a regular salary but the religious had agreed to accept a stipend of \$125.00 monthly. The remainder of their salaries went to the upkeep of the schools. Since the diocese provided only a house in which to live, all other expenses; upkeep, improvements, heating systems, utilities and so forth, were the responsibilities of the Sisters. Balancing the budget did indeed call for an economical life style.

Schools were run very economically as well. The principal

taught and had no secretary. While the Board did have a few substitute teachers, an outbreak of flu, with many teacher absences, often saw the sisters supervising three classrooms at one time.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny were the first Sisters to enroll at and graduate from McMaster University. They had a presence in the schools for forty years as teachers and principals. One became a superintendent. During those years the Sisters served in St. Joseph's, Christ the King, Cathedral Girls', St. Thomas More, St. John de Brebeuf, and Bishop Ryan. One Sister served as Superintendent of Schools.

In the mid seventies when there was a large influx of Portuguese in Christ the King area, the Sisters were gifted at that time with the arrival of one of their Portuguese Sisters. She immediately began to help the students and families and became the liaison between the School Board and the Portuguese families in the schools. She and another Sister who arrived later were both involved in the Portuguese Heritage Language Program

The "Clunies" have always felt privileged to have been part of the Hamilton Separate School System especially in its growing years. It was a joy for them to work with so many brilliant, creative and compassionate teachers. Together they strove for academic excellence, but they also emphasized the arts, reached out to those who had difficulties, and most of all enjoyed their work. For many of the teaching Clunies, those years are remembered as Golden Years.

School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) in Hamilton-Wentworth

The international congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame was founded by Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger in Bavaria, Germany in 1833. The purpose of the congregation was to educate girls from poor families. Blessed Theresa believed that the transformation of society depended on the family unit and that women had a significant role in developing Christian values within the family.

Five School Sisters of Notre Dame came to North America in 1847 to educate the children of German immigrants. An invitation by Reverend Eugene Funcken CR to administer the orphanage in St. Agatha, Ontario brought the SSNDs to Canada in 1871. Within twenty years Sisters staffed 15 schools in the Waterloo, Bruce and Grey counties.

In 1918 the School Sisters of Notre Dame started teaching in Hamilton at St. Thomas Aquinas School, a small temporary building with two classrooms. By April 1921 the new four room school was near completion and three classes were opened. In 1934 this school was named Basilica and, later, Christ the King.

With the opening of their Motherhouse in Waterdown in 1927, the School Sisters extended their teaching to other schools in Hamilton. Each day they travelled by bus from Waterdown to their various schools. It was a welcome day when in 1945 a building was purchased in Hamilton to accommodate the 24 teachers in the five schools- Holy Family, St. John, Canadian Martyrs, St. Emeric and St. Helen.

During the past 87 years, one hundred and ninety-four SSNDs have been involved in education in twenty-two schools within the Hamilton-Wentworth area at both the elementary and secondary levels; as teachers, guidance counsellors, principals, chaplains and consultants. Classes in art and instrumental music were provided by the Sisters. In some schools they conducted children's choirs. The School Sisters presented Ministry of Education courses in art and "new" math and professional development workshops in religious education and language arts. In 1995 the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board honoured the School Sisters of Notre Dame with an Award for Distinguished Service to Catholic Education acknowledging "the dedicated service, self-sacrificing efforts, devotion and exemplary work as educators."



Through education the School Sisters of Notre Dame have tried to enable persons to reach their full potential as individuals created in God's image and to assist them to direct their gifts toward building the earth. They educate with the conviction that the world can be changed through the transformation of persons.



Soeurs De La Charite D'Ottawa Sisters of Charity of Ottawa

Heirs of the spirit of Elisabeth Bruyère and spiritual daughters of Marguerite d'Youville, the Sisters of Charity have always sought to radiate the compassion of God to those who suffer, to the unfortunate, the abandoned, the poor, the sick, youth and women, according to the needs of the time. Elisabeth Bruyère (1818-1876), a member of the Sisters of Charity, known as Grey Nuns of Montreal, a religious congregation founded by Marguerite d'Youville, was sent on February 20, 1845 on mission to Bytown, (today known as Ottawa), to assist the unfortunate and to educate young girls. She was 26 years old.

No sooner had she arrived than Elisabeth Bruyère and her companions set to work and opened a school, a hospital, an orphanage and a home for elderly persons. Without delay, they organized home visits, evening classes for mothers, and responded to the many needs of this suffering population. Eventually the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa became autonomous in 1854.

For the next 150 years, the educational and health care services of the Sisters spread throughout the provinces of

Ontario and Québec. In 1951, Bishop J. F. Ryan created St. Charles Garnier, the first Parish to serve the French language community in Hamilton. The sisters of Charity (Soeurs de la Charite) arrived in 1952 and further strengthened the French community for the next 42 years. By 1963, the 360 students attending Holy Angels were transferred to their new school, Ecole Notre Dame on Cumberland Avenue. Ecole Monseigneur de Laval was established in the same year on Hamilton Mountain at St. Vincent de Paul School with 165 students. In 1984, Monseigneur de Laval moved to Norwood Park as part of a lease agreement with the Hamilton Public Board.

Today, the presence of the Sisters of Charity in these schools has diminished. However, faithful to their foundation project, they continue to live their mission in education and evangelization through teaching and other forms of education. In the way in which they approach others, help others to become self-reliant, and proclaim the Gospel, they are educators. The Sisters of Charity today are particularly attentive to the youth by promoting their development and by helping them find meaning in their life.

The Teaching Diocesan Priests

“Though none asked for the task, all those asked were happy to perform it.”

The contribution of the teaching priests of the Hamilton Diocese began in 1912. That year, Reverend A.C. Walter began instruction of Latin and German at the fledgling St. Mary's High School. Because St. Mary's Cathedral was the Bishop's residence, people commonly referred to the high school as the “Cathedral High School.”

In 1915, Mr. P.L. O'Brien joined the staff of St. Mary's. He later became Reverend Dr. P.L. O'Brien, PhD. Father James McNeil came to teach Latin in 1920. By this time, St. Mary's was extremely overcrowded. June 1921 signalled the end of the St. Mary High School era when the boys' school moved to St. Patrick's Church auditorium. For the next three years the Christian Brothers came to teach. At the commencement of 1924, it was announced that the Diocesan Priests would take over the teaching duties when classes reconvened in the fall. Six priests came to teach in September 1924. Reverend P. L. O'Brien, the principal, led Reverends V.A. Dermody, A.J. O'Brien (later Monsignor), T. Traynor, and F.W. McReavy. Fathers J.B. Ryan and J.A. Ford came on staff a bit later.

Over the next four years, although the quality of education was first class, the facilities were far too crowded. It has often been remarked about the earlier school buildings that “You could teach in a barn if you had the right people.” However, the situation at St. Patrick's was getting desperate.

While teachers and students made do with cramped quarters and old equipment, Bishop McNally and the Board of Governors led the fundraising drive for a new school building. This goal was realized in 1928 when the new school opened at the corner of Emerald and Main Streets. Cardinal Sincero of Rome came to bless and dedicate the new school, and the Venerable Neil McNeil, Archbishop of Toronto gave the address.

With a brand new school and 250 students registered, the priests of the diocese were called upon in increased numbers to teach at the new Cathedral High School. There was a reasonable expectation among priests in the Hamilton Diocese that, if one had a university degree, one would be called upon to teach in high school. By the 1950's there had been an almost steady succession of five diocesan priests as principal. Diocesan priests still made up as much as half of the teaching staff. When the Separate School Board expanded eastward with its secondary school system, in the form of the original Bishop Ryan High School, diocesan priests continued to answer the call to teach.

The teaching priests of the diocese of Hamilton performed invaluable service in the establishment, maintenance and growth of the Hamilton Catholic secondary school system. Though none asked for the task, all those asked were happy to perform it.

Congregation Of The Resurrection

The Congregation of the Resurrection began in France on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 1836. Bogdan Janski, Peter Semenenko, and Jerome Kajsiewicz, regarded as founders of the Congregation, were the first three members.

The founding province of the Congregation of the Resurrection in North America began August 14, 1857. At the invitation of the local bishop, Father Eugene Funcken C.R. came from Europe to St. Agatha Parish in St. Agatha, Ontario. He was followed to North America by his brother Father Louis Funcken C.R. In 1864 they co-founded St. Jerome's College also in St. Agatha. The Resurrectionists in Ontario were soon asked to open St. Mary's College in St. Mary, Kentucky. In September 1871 St. Mary's College opened its doors. From its two bases in Ontario and Kentucky the Congregation expanded its pastoral and educational ministry.

In 1947 the Congregation of the Resurrection was divided into three separate administrative areas called provinces. One of these was the Ontario-Kentucky Province, which had begun with the arrival Father Eugene Funcken, C.R. In 1953 the Ontario-Kentucky Province accepted the administration of the island of Bermuda which became a diocese in 1968.

Two Resurrectionist priests taught in the Hamilton Catholic school system, both at Cathedral High School: Father John Finn, from 1949-54 and Father Edward Dentinger, from 1951-1961.

Today, the 76 men who constitute the Ontario-Kentucky Province serve in a wide variety of apostolates. Some of their religious work remains in education at the secondary, university and adult education levels.

Christian Brothers Of The Order Of St. John The Baptist De La Salle

The de La Salle Christian Brothers was founded by St. John Baptist de La Salle in 1681 in Rheims, France to meet the needs of the poor youth of the city who were not able to receive an education. He first of all started a 'Christian School' then invited men to join him in the operation of the school. De La Salle prepared these men to become teachers and then slowly formed them into a community. De La Salle called them Brothers, because he wanted them to be like older brothers to the students, thus they became the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

The work begun by St. John Baptist de La Salle in Rheims, France has spread throughout the entire world and Brothers and their Lasallian associates teach in elementary and secondary schools, colleges/universities, special education schools, child care institutions, adult education programs, and parish religious education programs. The Brothers form one of the largest orders of missionaries in the Church as they meet the educational needs of young people in the developing nations.

Canada received the Brothers in Canada in 1837. They served first in Montreal and then in 1851 they arrived in

Toronto. When Brother Facile was appointed visitor of North America in 1848, he found in Canada 5 houses, 56 Brothers and 3200 pupils in their schools. In 1908, there were 48 houses, and nearly 20,000 pupils.

The Christian Brothers came to teach in Hamilton in 1921. This was at the end of the "St. Mary High School" era. Hamilton's first Catholic high school, referred to as the "Cathedral School", had just been moved to St. Patrick's Church auditorium. Four Christian Brothers- Dennis, Francis, Michael and Austin- made the trip from the provincial seat in Toronto. As well as imparting a Catholic education to their students, the Brothers also launched the school into its football tradition. In 1924, the Christian Brothers were recalled to Toronto.

In 1950 St. John Baptist de La Salle was declared the "Patron of Teachers" by the Church. The De La Salle Christian Brothers remain an international institute of religious. The Brothers' mission is to provide a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to them.

Order Of Friars Minor Conventuals "The Franciscan Fathers"

The official title of this branch of the Franciscan Order is Friars Minor Conventuals. They are known as Greyfriars in Britain, the Commonwealth and Ireland, Cordeliers ("cord bearers") in French-speaking countries, Minoriten ("minors") in countries where German is spoken, or simply as Franciscans in most other parts of the world.

The Conventual followers of Francis chose to minister in the heart of the city rather than in more remote hermitages; they banded together in concentrated communities rather than wander as itinerant preachers. Hence the suffix, Conventual, as derived from the Latin, *convenire*, "to come together." These friars were missionaries and martyrs; they were royal administrators of charity, translators of the Bible, writers of multi-lingual catechetics, preachers, educators, and advocates of social justice. They spread the faith far and wide as missionaries.

The Franciscans came to Canada in 1927. When the parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary was formed in August 1952, the founding order of the parish and school were the Friars Minor Conventuals. They made the former E.D. Smith home the first rectory. Six friars lived there, under the leadership of the pastor, Father Godfrey Wolf: two did parish work, two taught in area high schools, and two did mission work. In 1953, when ground was broken for the new Immaculate Heart of Mary School, the Franciscans acquired the teaching services of the Felician Order of Nuns for the forty- three students who were registered.

The Friars Minor Conventuals, although gone from the Hamilton Catholic School System, still reside in the area, at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Hamilton.





Governance of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic School System

The earliest origins of the Hamilton Catholic school system governance can be traced to the fall of 1855. This first meeting for the establishment of the separate schools in Hamilton followed the passage of the Separate School Bill by Sir Allan MacNab in the House of Commons. During the 1850's, however, tensions developed over the existence of Catholic schools, and various authorities applied stringent, narrow and unfair interpretations to the legislation governing the Catholic schools. At the same time, a great influx of Catholic immigration caused a significant increase to the proportion of Catholics to the total population.

Despite calls for the abolition of separate schools, strong voices in the Catholic hierarchy, laity, and in the newspapers came to the forefront to defend and ensure the existence of the separate school system. As a result, the Scott Act of 1863 became the basis of the rights of Roman Catholics to have a separate school system. These rights are enshrined

in the British North America Act and the Constitution of Canada. Through these, Roman Catholics attained the right to establish and support their own schools and boards of trustees.

In the beginning, the direct management and governance of the growing Catholic school system was carried out by the religious communities. While the initiative to open schools was often taken by parish priests, it was evident that by doing so they were responding to the wishes of their parish communities. Proof of this was in the willingness of parishioners to carry the cost of building new churches as well as new schools. It was clear by the end of the 19th century that the economy of the trustees, the generosity and sacrifice of the laity, the dedication of the clergy, and tremendous commitment of the teachers had assured a solid foundation for what would become a great school system.

Hamilton-Wentworth Roman Catholic Separate School Board *Chairpersons of the Board*

Dr. N.A. Mancini	1968-1970	Mr. J. M. Pett	1979-1980
Rev. J. B. Cox	1971-1972	Mr. A.B. Samson	1980-1982
Most Rev. J. M. Sherlock	1973	Dr. J. P. Morreale	1982-1984
Mr. P.J. Wilson	1974-1976	Rev. K. Sherlock	1984-1985
Rev. K. D. Kennedy	1977-1978	Mr. P. J. Daly	1991
	1985-1991		



The Board of Trustees

The first board of trustees for the Hamilton Separate School Board was established in 1855 for the purpose of building St. Patrick and St. Mary schools. Today the Hamilton- Wentworth Catholic District School Board is governed by a board of trustees duly elected for three years by Catholic school electors. Until 1968, however, each local municipality had its own county Catholic board of education. On January 1, 1969 the county boards of Ancaster, Dundas, Elfrida, Stoney Creek, Waterdown and Winona amalgamated with Hamilton to become the Wentworth County Roman Catholic Separate School Board. For the sake of brevity and ease of identification the board was informally referred to as the Hamilton- Wentworth Separate School Board. In 1973, with the advent of regional government, the board was the first in the province to "go regional," taking over jurisdiction and stewardship of the entire Hamilton-Wentworth region. This included Flamborough and Glanbrook.

Meetings of the full board of trustees, plus committees, are held Tuesday evenings at the Catholic Education Centre. Most meetings are open to the public. There are six standing committees: Religion/ Family Life; Instructional Services; Operations Management; Human Resources; By-Laws/ Regulations; and Committee of the Whole. Standing committees make recommendations to the full board of trustees, and the full board makes final decisions on most matters.

The prime goal of the trustees has always been to set School Board policies on a wide range of issues. They are responsible to the Catholic ratepayers and to the Ministry of Education. Trustees consult with parents, administrative and academic staff, and employee group representatives. They are sensitive to the spiritual needs and expectations of the communities and families served by the schools.

The Board of Governors

The board of governors existed to help alleviate the financial burdens carried by the Catholic secondary schools. From the beginning of the Hamilton Catholic secondary schools in 1912 until the achievement of full funding in 1984, financial backing had been an issue. In 1915, just three years after the first high school opened, the provincial government informed all school boards that funding ended at grade ten. The Hamilton Catholic School Board fought this policy until 1928, when the Privy Council Judicial Committee determined that the Ontario government could in fact regulate separate school boards.

The tax assessment structure was unfair to Catholics in three main ways: school enrolment was increasing rapidly; Catholic secondary schools were only being funded by the government up to grade ten; the government only funded grades nine and ten in Catholic high schools according to the lesser elementary school per pupil grant. These conditions left the school board and the diocese in the untenable position of completely funding the three senior years of secondary education.

Bishop Ryan began appointing boards of governors throughout the Hamilton diocese. Bishops Reding and Tonnos retained

these boards until the late eighties, when it became apparent that Bill 30 would ensure full funding for the Catholic secondary school system.

Parishes contributed to the financing of Catholic secondary schools through the Sunday collections. The Bishop assessed each parish a contribution amount, and the parishes in turn deposited these amounts into an account at the Chancery. However, more fundraising was necessary. The board of governors ran lotteries, bingos, walk-a-thons, the Bishop's Fund, whatever it took to keep the high schools open. For many years these teachers did not have salary parity with their public board counterparts, but made this sacrifice in order to keep the system operating.

The board of governors financed the construction, maintenance and operation of three Catholic secondary schools in Hamilton; Cathedral Boys', Cathedral Girls', and Bishop Ryan. Though disbanded in the late 1980's, it is accurate to state that because of the efforts of this group of selfless, dedicated individuals the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic secondary system has not only survived, but thrived.

The Directors of Education

The Director of Education is the most senior position in the school board's administration. In effect, this office is that of the Chief Executive Officer for the board. This individual also holds the position of Secretary of the Board. The duties of the Director are many and varied, ranging from official spokesperson for the board to head of the Senior Administration. This person is ultimately responsible for the smooth operation of all board facilities, policy formation and review, negotiations with staff associations, and setting direction for growth and improvement of the board.

Until the 1960's there were no superintendents or directors of education in the Hamilton Catholic school system. By 1957 the board was educating one quarter of the students in Hamilton, and the time had come to expand and reorganize the administration of the board. Mr. Tom Meyer, a trustee, was asked to take the position of Secretary to the Board. He resigned as trustee and accepted the position, in reality assuming three positions; Secretary Treasurer, Business Administrator and Chief Executive Officer for the Hamilton Separate School Board.

In June, 1966, the Ontario legislature passed Bill 151 which permitted separate school boards to appoint their own supervisory officers, or inspectors, one of whom would be designated as a superintendent. The

superintendent would necessarily have to have both academic and administrative acumen. This was borne out after a one year conflict between the board and the government. The board members felt that it was unwise to simply hire an executive administrator who, on the one hand might be an able bureaucrat, but who on the other was totally unfamiliar with members, practices and procedures of the board.

The situation was resolved in 1968 with the appointment of Mr. Pat Brennan as Superintendent (director) of Education for the board. Tom Meyer became Superintendent of Business Administration. As the director of education, Mr. Brennan assumed several key duties, including the setting of board-wide goals, defining the purpose of Catholic education, providing the resources necessary for learning, supervising and evaluating teachers, initiating change, coordinating staff development, and creating an air of collegiality, trust and camaraderie among board members, religious communities, students, families and the community. Pat Brennan served as the first Director of Education from 1968 until 1990. During his tenure the number of schools doubled, the arts and special education flourished, and full funding for secondary schools was achieved. At the heart of it all was his belief that the promotion of God's kingdom and the purposes of Catholic education are intertwined.

Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic Separate School Board Directors of Education

Mr. Pat Brennan	1968-1990
Mr. Jerry Ponikvar	1990-1995
Mr. Jim Daly	1995-1998
Mr. Len Varrasso	1998-1999
Mr. Marcel Castura	1999-



The Catholic Education Centre

The Catholic Education Centre, colloquially known as “the Board Office” or “the School Board”, had its origin in 1856. On February 17 of that year, Hamilton became a diocese, with Reverend John Farrell as its first Bishop. St. Mary’s Church became known as St. Mary’s Cathedral, and developed into the nucleus from which the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic school system would radiate. In 1890 a new St. Mary Lyceum on Mulberry Street was completed. It is on this site that the current Catholic Education Centre sits.

Initially regular monthly meetings of the Hamilton Separate School Board were held in St. Mary’s Hall on Park Street. At that time the Secretary of the Board could also be the Superintendent of Schools. Usually this was a member of the clergy, sometimes the Bishop himself, as was the case with Bishop McNally (circa 1927). Interestingly, however, the Reverend Dr. O’Reilly was the board’s Secretary when the Bishop stood as Superintendent.

With funds needed almost exclusively for the construction, maintenance and operation of schools, the housing of the board’s administration was not a major consideration. Office space in commercial buildings around downtown Hamilton sufficed. During the sixties, the administrative employees were located in offices in an old commercial

building at 346 Main Street, directly across from St. Patrick School’s yard. They had been there for over twenty years. However, growth and expansion of the board and its administrative functions made those facilities very inadequate. In October, 1964 the staff relocated to offices at 260 Burlington Street East for approximately two years, while construction was completed on a new three floor administration centre on Mulberry Street.

In 1965, with construction completed, administrative staff moved into the new office complex. On February 24, 1966 the new School Board headquarters was officially opened and blessed by Bishop Ryan. It was the first building in the province of Ontario designed and constructed exclusively for the administration of a Catholic school system, at a cost of \$650 000.

The Catholic Education Centre is home to many of the School Board’s major functions and departments. These include Accounting, Assessment and Statistics, Finance, Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy, Information and Computer Technology, Human Resources, Printing, Religion and Family Life, Senior Administration and Transportation. Board of Trustee meetings are held in the Board Room on the first floor.

It is truly the nerve centre of the School Board.

Conseil Des Ecoles Separees Catholiques French Language Education

In 1945, Holy Angels School, located on Sheaffe Street (the present site of the Catholic Education Centre), became a school for French speaking children. Enrollment was 27 students. The following year this figure doubled; a tribute to the French families, who initiated French language education.

In 1951, Bishop J. F. Ryan created St. Charles Garnier, the first Parish to serve the French language community. The sisters of Charity (Soeurs de la Charite) arrived in 1952 and further strengthened the French community for the next 42 years. By 1963, the 360 students attending Holy Angels were transferred to their new school, Ecole Notre Dame on Cumberland Avenue. Ecole Monseigneur de Laval was established in the same year on Hamilton mountain at St. Vincent de Paul School with 165 students. In 1984

Monseigneur de Laval moved to Norwood Park as part of a lease agreement with the Hamilton Public Board. In 1987, there was yet another move for these students to Sherwood Heights School, on the east mountain. During the same year, Bill 75 allowed for the first election of three French language trustees to the Board. This Bill gave French language trustees exclusive rights in the establishment and administration of French language schools.

The passing of Bill 160, in 1998, put all French language schools in the province into one provincial board. Therefore, the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board no longer had jurisdiction over Notre Dame and Monseigneur de Laval. French language education was clearly established within the Board and continues to flourish and grow provincially.



Secondary Principals' / Vice Principals' Association

The Secondary Principals' / Vice Principals' Association has its roots in the early to mid-1960's when Reverend Ron Côté, Reverend Fergus Duffy and Sister Marina began to meet to prepare and present reports to the Board of Governors responsible for the three Catholic high schools in Hamilton: Cathedral Boys', Cathedral Girls', and Bishop Ryan. Their main purposes were to report on the status of enrollment and the collection of fees for students in Grades 11 to 13.

With the opening of St. Mary's in 1970 and St. Thomas More in 1972, and with the increased involvement of the new Separate School Board, the role of the organization began to shift more towards curriculum accountability, and the Intermediate Programme Co-Ordinator began to join the principals. Together, they began to respond to curriculum needs, fundraising, discipline, athletics, transfer and eligibility rules, teacher transfer, etc., resulting in a more formal association.

At the same time, a Provincial Catholic Secondary Schools' Principals' Association (OCSPA) emerged, with Len Varrasso serving first as Vice President and then President. A political high point in the '80's for the group was the presentation at Queen's Park regarding Bill 30 and the extension of funding to Catholic high schools. This was extremely well received, and the Hamilton group gained admiration and respect throughout the province. After Premier Bill Davis' surprise announcement in 1984 giving full funding to Catholic schools in the province, OCSPA became C.P.C.O. - Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario, and our association has had regular representation on the provincial organization ever since.

The group has been very active and continues to have regular monthly meetings to discuss all aspects of Catholic secondary education.

Elementary Principals' / Vice- Principals' Association

What began over thirty years ago with a group of principals meeting somewhat informally to discuss their role as leaders in Catholic education has evolved into what is presently known as the Hamilton Catholic Principals' / Vice-Principals' Association.

While the main focus still remains leadership in Catholic education and all this implies, the principals and vice-principals have, over the years, involved themselves in personal and professional development activities as well as works of charity. The group remains committed to supporting and contributing to the policies of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. Professional activities sponsored by the Board, in partnership with the Catholic Principals Council of Ontario, have traditionally been well attended and well received.

The Hamilton Catholic Principal/ Vice- Principal Association is proud of its support of local causes. Its members have been at the vanguard in lending assistance and support to Catholic women's shelters such as Martha House. They also contribute to the MS Society by participating in the society's annual walk, and support the Good Shepherd at the annual Harvest Dinner.

The principals and vice-principals are privileged to actively support the mission of Catholic Education, which is to enable learners to realize their fullness of humanity, for which our Lord Jesus Christ is the model. Commitment to this mission is professed in our motto: Our vocation-service; our strength- Christ.

Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association Hamilton- Wentworth Unit

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association, Hamilton-Wentworth Unit, represents approximately 1200 men and women who teach in elementary schools (Junior Kindergarten to Grade Eight) in the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. The provincial body of OECTA can trace its roots back to September 8, 1944 when it was officially incorporated. Locally, the Hamilton-Wentworth Unit was formed in 1969. Initially located on Stinson Street, the office is now on Bigwin Road, near Stonechurch and Pritchard Roads.

The Hamilton-Wentworth Unit of OECTA was the first unit in the province to have a full time release officer in 1975. Prior to this, the work of OECTA was done by teachers who juggled full-time teaching schedules with OECTA obligations. Currently, the unit has two full-time release officers. A local executive, consisting of 14 members who advocate on behalf of teachers, supports their work. In turn, the local office falls under the provincial body of OECTA which represents 34 000 teachers in the province of Ontario. OECTA is affiliated with the Ontario Teachers' Federation, Canadian Teachers' Federation and Education International.

OECTA is committed to the advancement of Catholic education. As teacher advocates, OECTA provides professional services, support, protection and leadership to each of its members. OECTA strives to foster the growth of confident, competent professionals while building solidarity through actions that foster trust and collegiality. Members are encouraged to grow professionally by accessing information and resources.

OECTA, Hamilton-Wentworth has numerous committees, which are run by its members. These committees range from Christian Action, to Political Action, to Retirement Tea. Members are supported in every way, in every aspect of their lives and of their teaching. Student-based OECTA sponsored events are just as wide-ranging, including Intermediate Scripture Reading, Prose and Poetry Writing Competition, and CYO camperships.

OECTA is a teacher advocate, a champion of Catholic education, and vital partner in the education of our children.

The Professional Administrative Support Staff

The Professional Administrative Support Staff (P.A.S.S.) originated in the early 1990's. It was originally referred to as the Professional Support Staff Association (P.S.S.A.). This group is comprised of Supervisors, Managerial Staff (excluding Senior Administration) and Clerical Support Staff that by reason of the nature of their work were exempt from participating in a union. Under the original Terms of Reference for the group, a staff communication committee

formed. It is comprised of a maximum of 8 members representing the Trustees, Senior Administration and Administration Staff. This staff continues to play a vital role in providing essential administration support services in the areas of Finance, Instructional Services, Human Resources, Purchasing, Payroll, Continuing Education, Plant Operations and Information and Communications Technology.



Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association Hamilton Secondary Unit

In 1943 there were four provincial teachers' organizations: the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, organized in 1919; the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario, organized in 1918; the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation, organized in 1921, and L'Association des enseignants franco-ontariens, organized in 1939. The Ontario Teachers' Council, established by the first three groups had been studying the possibilities of a teaching profession act which would require that all teachers in tax-supported schools belong to a provincial professional organization to be known as the Ontario Teachers' Federation. A draft of the proposed act was drawn up and circulated among the teachers of the province. The Ottawa Catholic teachers' executive found that the draft gave the province's Catholic teachers the choice of becoming members of OTF through one of the three groups in the Ontario Teachers' Council or of forming a new group. The Department of Education sent out ballots to all Catholic teachers asking them to vote on the two alternatives. Ottawa consulted the executive of AEFO, and the two decided it would be advisable for both to join the Ontario Teachers' Federation, representing all Catholic teachers in the province.

The Ottawa organization sent explanatory letters to principals and teachers, urging them to vote for a Catholic

teachers' group. The result of this vote was conclusive and convinced the Department of Education that in addition to OSSTF, FWTAO and OPSMTF, the proposed act would have to make provisions for all teachers in Ontario's separate schools.

A meeting of diocesan delegates took place on February 18, 1944, in Ottawa, attended by teachers from Windsor, London, Belleville, Kingston, Toronto, Peterborough, Pembroke, Cornwall, Alexandria and Ottawa. Delegates decided unanimously that an English Catholic teachers' association should be formed with membership open to all English speaking Catholic teachers, those without Ontario certificates to be classed as associate members.

Today the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association represents approximately 36,000 women and men who teach in all grades in the publicly funded English Roman Catholic Schools within Ontario.

OECTA Hamilton Secondary unit represents over 600 teachers in the Catholic secondary schools, the St. Charles Continuing Education sites and the Alternative Education schools. The unit advocates on behalf of its teachers, and provides professional services, security and direction for its members. It is firmly committed to the maintenance and advancement of Catholic education.

Liuna Local 837

The Labourers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 837 consists of Board employees who are custodial and maintenance workers: past and present members have contributed to the building and smooth operation of the schools within the Board.

LIUNA Local 837 is proud to have formed an integral part of the Greater Hamilton community since it was chartered in June of 1950. The local union's main office is located in downtown Hamilton at 44 Hughson Street South, in the historic Bell Canada building. The local union has prided itself on its multi-faceted profile; not only its mandate to serve its members and provide them with the best services and benefits possible, but its extensive community involvement in a multitude of areas.

At present the local union represents over 3,000 members throughout Greater Hamilton and the Niagara Peninsula in various sectors including, but not limited to, construction, health care, industrial, public employees, maintenance and food processing.

The Board's custodial and maintenance workers joined LIUNA in February 1995.

Canadian Union Of Public Employees C.U.P.E. Local 3396

CUPE was formed in 1963 by merging the National Union of Public Employees and the National Union of Public Service Employees. It has grown to become Canada's largest union, providing a strong voice in support of workers' rights, equality and top quality public services. The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) is Canada's largest union. With more than half a million members across Canada, CUPE represents workers in health care, education, municipalities, libraries, universities, social services, public utilities, transportation, emergency services and airlines. A strong and democratic union, CUPE is committed to improving the quality of life for workers in Canada. Women and men working together to form local unions built CUPE. They did so to have a stronger voice – a collective voice – in their workplace and in society as a whole.

CUPE Local 3396 was established in 1989. Prior to joining CUPE, the 300 members were known as the Professional Support Staff Association of the Catholic School Board. The first contract under CUPE was negotiated in 1990, with the contract being signed on September 10 1990.

There have been gains and milestones during the past 16 years: a Health and Safety Committee has been established; there is also a Labour Management Committee, Joint Job Evaluation Committee, Grievance Committee and Social Committee. CUPE Local 3396 has grown steadily in size over the past 15 years. It now comprises over 700 members including clerical, technical office services, educational assistants, and professional support staff including speech pathologists and social workers.





Mission

The mission of Catholic Education in Hamilton-Wentworth, in union with our Bishop, is to enable all learners to realize the fullness of humanity of which our Lord Jesus Christ is the model.

The Catholic Community of Hamilton-Wentworth believes the learner will realize this fullness of humanity

- o if the learning process
 - begins at home and is part of family life
 - is nurtured within the Parish
 - is anchored in the Catholic Faith
 - takes place within the context of worship, sacraments, and the life of the Church
 - is enhanced by the school community
 - is embraced by the learner as a personal responsibility for life
- o if learning takes place in an appropriate and challenging environment
 - in which members of the school community exemplify the teachings of Jesus Christ
 - which reflects Gospel values and responsible use of human, financial and natural resources
 - which promotes academic excellence and clear indicators of achievement

Vision

Learners from Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic Schools will demonstrate

- knowledge and practice of their Catholic faith
- the capability of nurturing a strong family unit
- esteem, respect and responsibility for self and others
- academic competence
- the ability to listen accurately and express knowledge clearly
- independence, critical thinking and effective problem solving
- proficiency with technology in order to adapt to a changing world
- the values, attitudes and skills for effective partnerships
- the ability to transform our society

To enable learners to achieve this vision, the faith community of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board will reflect

- the centrality of Jesus Christ in our lives
- the teachings of the Catholic Church
- exemplary role models
- social justice, respect and fairness for all
- a dedicated staff
- a curriculum that is dynamic, practical and relevant
- high standards
- an environment conducive to learning
- effective partnerships
- accountability at all levels

School Histories



This next section of our 150th Year Anniversary Book, entitled “School Histories”, portrays all of our Catholic schools - past and present. It goes without saying that our schools have been, and certainly are, the heart and soul of our Catholic system.

The purpose of our Catholic schools has always been to educate the child wholly; this means academically, socially, physically, and especially **spiritually**. Our schools exist to support parents in nurturing their children on their journey of faith and as they grow in the image of Christ. The schools are where essential learning, in the name of Jesus Christ, occurs. We are very proud of all the good works and the excellent Catholic education provided by our schools throughout our history.

In this, our 150th year of existence as the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, we celebrate all of the Catholic schools that you will encounter in this section. We mention also schools which have closed but which have contributed to the strong Catholic identity of our board over the years.

We do indeed hope that you enjoy the portraits of our schools whether you are a reader, a student of the past or present, or simply a visitor.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Elementary School

“Nurturing student growth through love, learning and respect”



Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Elementary School was officially opened and blessed by his Excellency Bishop Reding on November 5th, 1978. It opened with 250 students from the East Central Hamilton Mountain.

The school is designed on a one floor open area plan with a large central mall. Since its inception there have been no major structural changes, but eight- foot walls have been added to the open area for privacy within individual grade areas.

In June 1982, the name was changed from Venerable Kateri to Blessed Kateri after her cause was beatified by Pope John Paul II. In June 2003, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Elementary School celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the school opening.

In the mid 90's the school increased enrolment to 680 students. This required an additional 10 portables to be added in the back of the property. Presently, there are 310 students with no portables.

The school hosts several evening community groups including Board Heritage Language classes, Girl Guides, Brownies, Sparks, Scouts and Adult Volleyball. Blessed Kateri fosters Catholicity as the center of the school community's actions and attitudes (school liturgies, food drives); the integration of special needs students, safety and responsibility (code of behaviour); community spirit (family B.B.Q. and Pasta night) and the development of school-wide academic expectations. The staff and community offer and support a variety of co-curricular activities.

This diverse supportive school community will continue to be a meeting place for students and adults. The church has launched this year, April 17th, 2006, as a Jubilee year to honour Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, the first indigenous North American to be beatified. Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha is a sign that God is at home in all people. The school community's future mission is to witness, with Kateri, that Jesus Christ is in each of us.



Blessed Sacrament Catholic Elementary School

"Each belongs"

In 1953, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Elementary School was built and still stands to this day. The school is located on the corner of East 37th Street and Fennell Avenue East. It has undergone three different additions from 1953 until 1957. The original structure was expanded to include a much larger gym and more classrooms to house the growing number of students. During this time of growth, the community held Mass in the school gymnasium. This continued until Blessed Sacrament church was built in 1957.

In 1958 the first church bazaar was held in the school gym to promote the community and to enhance the partnership between the church and the school. The success of the church bazaar has spanned over the years and is still a strong facet of the church and school connection.

The Blessed Sacrament School Community has been blessed with strong representation by school trustees at the school board level. Father Kyran Kennedy has been a diligent and hardworking trustee for many years to ensure that the

interest of Catholic Education thrives in this community. His voice speaks for each and every Catholic family in the school community.

Although the basic structure of the school building has not changed in recent years the many students, teachers and principals who have graced the halls have all contributed to the strength, pride and Catholicity that people associate with Blessed Sacrament School. As a result, Blessed Sacrament has seen generations of the same family attend. The neighbourhood and surrounding community have evolved from the early days of Blessed Sacrament School with dirt roads and a large expanse of farmland to the present day busy roadways and strip malls. The student body has also grown over the years to the present enrolment of 410 students with 40 dedicated and hard working staff members.

Blessed Sacrament School exemplifies the mission and vision statement of the Hamilton- Wentworth Catholic District School Board. It is truly a place where "each belongs". As we celebrate the 150th Anniversary, we commemorate the past, celebrate the present and look forward to a bright future filled with continued years of strong Catholic education.



Canadian Martyrs Catholic Elementary School

Canadian Martyrs Catholic Elementary School is located in West Hamilton. It is a powerful sign of the Catholic faith on Main Street across from McMaster University and Hospital. The school was built in 1931 with additions in 1965, 1972, and most recently in 2003.

The school community is fortunate to have Canadian Martyrs Church adjacent to the school. It enjoys a positive relationship with the Pastor of Canadian Martyrs Church, and, since the amalgamation of Christ the King and Canadian Martyrs schools in 2003, the Rector of the Cathedral of Christ the King.

The Canadian Martyrs have traditionally held an important place in the life of the school community: it has celebrated the feast day of the Canadian Martyrs on October 19 in various ways over the years. Individual feast days of each of the eight Martyrs are acknowledged throughout the school year. The school's motto, "Courage to do the right thing", certainly echoes the actions of the Martyrs.

The school offers a full academic program to 285 students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. With a dedicated staff and many volunteers and mentors from St. Mary Catholic Secondary School, McMaster University, and

"Courage to do
the right thing"

Mohawk College, the students enjoy a stimulating program to help them grow spiritually, socially, physically and academically.

There is a tradition of great support for the students and staff in the parent community, with parent volunteers serving on the Catholic School Council and participating in the daily life of the school. This Council continues to be very active in assisting the principal to plan meaningful activities for students, staff, and parents.

As we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, we are proud of the philosophy that "Each Belongs". The families of the Canadian Martyrs school community who represent diverse cultural backgrounds are proud of our heritage and each day in our Pledge and Mission Statements we pray that we will continue to work towards building God's Kingdom.



Corpus Christi Catholic Elementary School



“Committed to
Catholic
Education”

Corpus Christi Catholic Elementary School is located on Hamilton's west mountain at 25 Alderson Drive. The school was first opened in 1965. It began as a country school, since many who originally attended the school lived on farms. Over the years, the student population increased and it became necessary to renovate the building to accommodate the larger student body.

In 1997, plans were made for an addition to the school. During that time the students were temporarily housed at St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School. In September 1999 the addition was completed and students returned to a larger renovated building. The addition included a new library, gymnasium, computer lab and 10 classrooms. Presently there are 470 students at Corpus Christi and a staff of over 30. The school serves students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade Eight.

Corpus Christi is a Christ-centred educational learning community. The staff members have always made it a priority to instil the Gospel values into the students entrusted to their care. They believe that each student is unique, created in the image and likeness of God, and they work diligently to ensure that students treat each other with dignity and respect. This is a very special year for the school, as it celebrates forty years of Catholic Education in the community of Corpus Christi.

Corpus Christi endeavours to be an effective school as students strive for academic excellence. A focus is on providing a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of our students. Corpus Christi prides itself in the spirit of community it fosters among its families and neighbours. It is truly a testament to the vision, dedication, and commitment to Catholic education. Those who have given of themselves unselfishly to continue this legacy into the present are treasured.



Guardian Angels Catholic Elementary School

“Children,
community
and faith”



On Sunday, December 9, 2001 hundreds of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and members of the clergy gathered to witness the formal blessing and dedication of Guardian Angels Catholic School by the Most Reverend Anthony F. Tonnos, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton. Guardian Angels Catholic Elementary School is named after those invisible protectors assigned by God to each of us at birth to protect us and to guide us towards the Light of God's presence. The school is appropriately named because, scripturally, angels are major figures in the protection of children. "See that you despise not one of these little ones: for I say to you, that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10). Guardian Angels prides itself on its distinct academic success as evidenced by the scores the students attain on the grade 3 and grade 6 EQAO testing. Quality sports programs have been designed to enhance the development of the students. The Guardian Angel Hawks have dazzled the community of intramural sports in the first four years of their existence. The accomplished teams have taken home many sports awards including awards in basketball, track and field, and cross country. The staff and community support a large number of extra-curricular activities including the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), environmental clubs, Student Council, Science Fair, Junior Math

Challenge and multiple community outreach projects. There is a phenomenal drama club that has produced talent shows and theatrical productions, such as Annie. Further, Guardian Angels has a well-developed before and after school child care program. The Guardian Angels community believes in "Each Belonging" and respect for the uniqueness and diversity of each student. A social skills and an anti-bullying campaign have been introduced. Through uncompromised Catholic instruction, students learn to appreciate the innate value of every person as a child of God. An overnight diversity education conference at Tim Horton's Camp for students in grade 7 reinforces these teachings. Guardian Angels has been blessed with an active network of parent and community volunteers who volunteer throughout the school, in the classrooms and library, in order to help educate the children. Parents assist in lunch programs, Graduation, First Communion and Confirmation. The Parent Council organizes many school activities such as weekly lunch days and the annual Meet The Teacher Night, in addition to raising thousands of dollars in support of school programs. Guardian Angels School is a collaborative celebration of Catholic parents and staff who are focused on the well being of the children. As we invite God's presence into our school, may His heavenly helpers assist us always as we guide and direct his children.

Holy Family Catholic Elementary School

"In Christ,
we are family"

For the convenience of his congregation who were living in the eastern limit of his parish, Right Reverend Monsignor Englert, selected the property at the corner of Kenilworth Avenue and Cannon Street as a suitable site for a chapel and school. The little stucco chapel was blessed and dedicated on October 21, 1917. On November 3, 1917, class was opened in the chapel with an enrolment of 15 children. The chapel served as the school until 1920, acting as an educational centre and a spiritual anchor during and after the First World War. At that time three of the Scott Military Barracks were moved to the school site and transformed into a five-room school. In September 1927, the School Sisters of Notre Dame came to Holy Family at the request of his Excellency the Right Reverend J.T. McNally.

The barracks remained the base of Holy Family School for the next twenty-five years. In May 1945, at the end of World War Two, the old barracks were torn down and construction for a new school began. Sunday, April 28, 1946, was the formal opening of the twelve- room school. Two special features of the school were the 'Domestic Science Room' and the 'Manual Training Room'. As the immigrant population of Hamilton grew, it was necessary to add additions to the school in 1958 and 1965. At its peak, there were over 900 students attending Holy Family School. The current enrolment is 240 students.

Holy Family continues to thrive today, although the community is considerably smaller than it once was. Students have participated in many events and activities throughout the history of Holy Family, growing in mind, body and soul: children participate in academic challenges like the Math Challenges and the Prose and Poetry Writing Contest; sports teams have always competed admirably with other schools; and, the school community remains close to the Parish. Holy Family School has touched the lives of many Hamiltonians - either as students, parents, or staff members. All have wonderful memories of the "Special Family" and this special community.



Holy Name Of Jesus Catholic Elementary School

Our Catholic schools are Christ-centred and therefore it is only fitting to have a school called Holy Name of Jesus, in other words, named after Jesus himself. After all, being true to the memory of Jesus, living and teaching his message, creating a community of faith, worship and service inspired by his example, is what Catholic Education is all about. At Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Elementary School the motto today is "To be the attitude of Jesus through Example, Enthusiasm and Excellence." The students try hard to live up to following Christ's example, to be enthusiastic about learning and to strive for excellence in everything they do.

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Elementary School's original date of construction was in 1964 with a population of 761 students. During the early 70's Holy Name of Jesus housed three different school communities. In 1971-72 St. Columba students attended until their new school was constructed. In 1972-73 St. Patrick students attended while their school was being renovated. In 1973-74 St. Anthony of Padua students attended until their new school was completed. During these years many classes were held in the hallways.

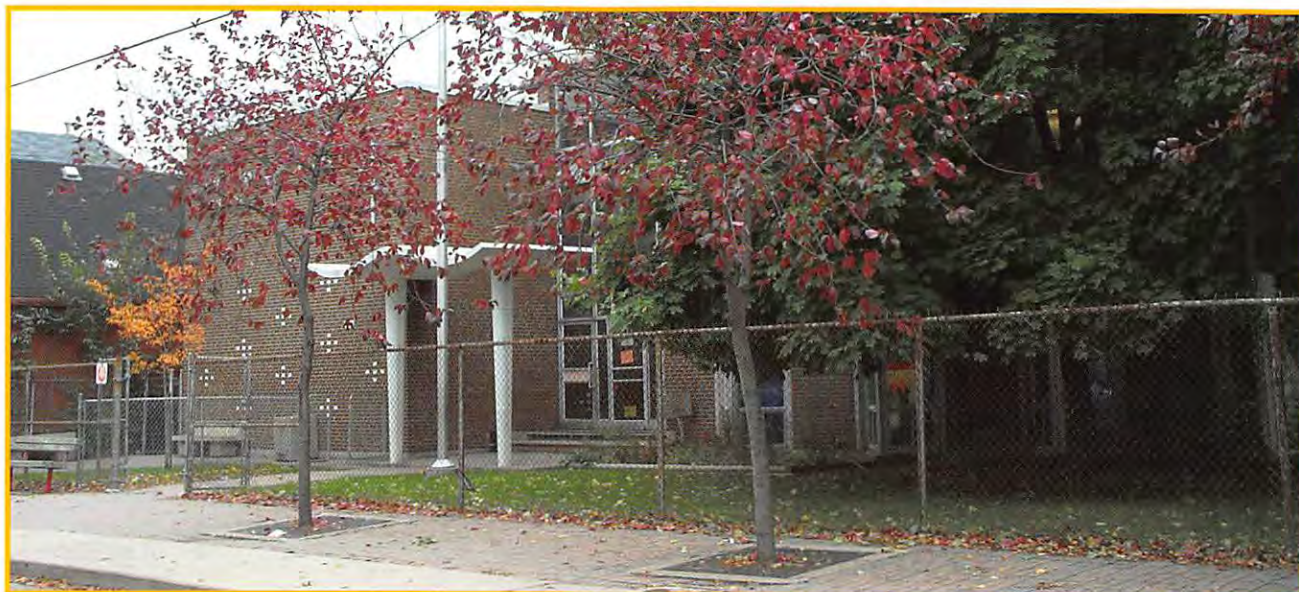
Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Elementary School also acted as a Mission Church for the community. Sunday masses were held in the school and the community was

"To be the attitude of Jesus
through example, enthusiasm
and excellence"

able to break bread together. During the 70's Holy Name of Jesus School library was open during the summer for students in the school. Students borrowed books throughout the summer to help them maintain and improve their literacy skills.

Students in 1980 planted the two big trees in the front yard, one to commemorate the death of Terry Fox, and the other to promote world peace. Students past and present continue to work hard at reaching out to others in the community.

Many former students now as adults have moved back into the neighbourhood to send their children to their alma mater. Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Elementary School continues to be a hub for people to come together to learn through example, enthusiasm and excellence.



Holy Name Of Mary Catholic Elementary School

“Believing,
achieving,
serving”



Holy Name of Mary Catholic Elementary School was founded in September 1999 as a result of the growth in population in the Meadowlands area of Ancaster. The need for another Catholic elementary school in Ancaster was highly evident within the boundaries of St. Joachim Catholic Elementary School whose population had reached over 900 students.

His Excellency Bishop Anthony F. Tonnos presided over the official Opening and Blessing of Holy Name of Mary Catholic Elementary School in November 1999. Within St. Ann Parish the three Catholic elementary schools, St. Ann, Ancaster, St. Joachim and Holy Name of Mary have embraced the life of Mary and her parents as the schools' namesakes.

Upon entering the school one immediately recognizes the painting on marble of Mary, a young girl who said "Yes" to God's call to be Jesus' mother. In the main foyer a painted mural, designed and created by a former graduate,

depicts the life of the school with Jesus' outstretched arms welcoming all those who enter. Children joyfully play, interact and engage with each other in an environment that nurtures, supports and promotes excellence for all.

Since its opening Holy Name of Mary Catholic Elementary School has steadily grown in population from 500 students to 800 students in 2005. The school community prides itself on the philosophy of "*Each Belongs*" where all children are provided with opportunities to reach their potential.

During its brief history the school community has grown in an ambiance where home, school and parish are woven together to guide the children and families on their faith journey based on Gospel values. The motto of the Hamilton- Wentworth Catholic District School Board, "Believing, Achieving, Serving", is embraced with vigour within the school through the dedication and commitment of staff, parents, and students.



Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School

“ Knowledge,
Faith,
Heritage”



Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School was officially opened in 1965. It is located on Barnesdale Avenue North in Hamilton. Holy Spirit School is unique to the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board in that religious instruction is taught according to the Eastern Rite. All students of the Eastern Rite have been welcomed. Uniforms have always been worn since the school began. Children of Ukrainian background have come to Holy Spirit School from all over the Hamilton area and have been driven in from Burlington, Grimsby, Cayuga, Brantford and Welland. In 1984 an addition was built to the school to accommodate more students as enrolment rose to 200.

This year Holy Spirit School celebrated forty years of existence. A great credit must go to the parishioners of Holy Spirit Church who had the foresight to build and support a day school in hopes that children educated in their rite would some day come back to fulfill a role in the Ukrainian Parish community. Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate have been an integral part of staff throughout the years. Their wonderful work and religious guidance have stayed with the school to this day.

The school's motto "Knowledge, Faith, Heritage" epitomizes the partnership between school and community. The students all join the parish community for the celebration of Mass on special occasions and Feast Days according to the Julian calendar. The students are known for their colourful and lively performances throughout the year. They perform at community educational events and church banquets. St. Nicholas concerts held every year in December are usually the highlight of the year, full of festive school spirit, music, song and dance. All students at the school participate in this concert.

The students, through their many and varied activities, are always brought together the community of Holy Spirit. With this unique interweaving among Church, school and community, Holy Spirit has flourished and remained strong in its teaching of the Catholic values and Eastern Rite traditions.

This year especially we pay tribute to the parents, teachers and priests who, for the past forty years have wholeheartedly devoted themselves to the cause of Eastern Rite Catholic Education and the preservation of Ukrainian identity in the Hamilton area.



Immaculate Heart Of Mary Catholic Elementary School

"Pride in faith, serving
and learning"

In August of 1952, residents of Winona met to establish a Roman Catholic parish and school in what was then a rural area. The newly elected trustees proceeded toward construction of a new school located on Highway No. 8 near Fruitland Road, Winona, on land originally owned by the famous Senator E.D. Smith. The land purchased by His Excellency, Bishop Joseph F. Ryan was surrounded by fruit trees backing onto the Niagara Escarpment and remains a spectacular setting to this day.

The founding order of the parish and school were the Friars Minor Conventuals who made the former E.D. Smith home the first rectory. On July 13, 1953 ground was broken for the new Immaculate Heart of Mary School and the services of the Felecian Order of Nuns were acquired to teach the forty- three students who were registered in the fall

of 1953. The two-classroom school opened on December 7, 1953, and was blessed by a host of dignitaries including Bishop J.F. Ryan. As the community grew and student population increased, an additional two rooms came into being in 1956. In February of 1959, a Kindergarten program was established as the community continued to welcome Catholic education. In 1960, a further extension of two rooms and gymnasium were added with subsequent additions in 1963 and 1968. The population of Immaculate Heart of Mary School has ranged from 150 to 275 students during the period of 1960 to the 1990's. However, recent growth in the Winona area has made for drastic increases in enrolment. From a population of 150 students in 1992, Immaculate Heart of Mary has grown to include eleven portables with 565 students, and is one of the fastest growing schools. To facilitate this growth, the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board approved construction of a new \$8.5 million facility to open in September of 2006. A new church to be completed in 2007 will also grace the property, as Immaculate Heart of Mary proves to be a vibrant gateway to the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board and the Diocese of Hamilton.



Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School

With the ever increasing population in the south-east mountain area of Hamilton, Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School became the School Board's 53rd elementary school in 1998. Originally, it was designed for 500 students, but by the school's fifth year the student population increased to 675, which necessitated seven portables. Over the past seven years, the student numbers have fluctuated as a result of the changing demographics and boundaries, due primarily to the opening of Pope John Paul II School and the closing of St. Cecilia School.

The school community has evolved to a vibrant, welcoming and caring place to be. This is a tribute to all the families and to the professional staff members who are committed to doing what is best for all children.

Mother Teresa herself believed in the strength of the human spirit. She taught us to look beyond the outward appearances and focus on the true qualities of the person "inside". This school combines these aspects of community and learning.

The spirit of Mother Teresa herself continuously grows and blossoms in this community's young people. Their wonderful accomplishments as learners, athletes, musicians,

"A community of faith...
a centre for learning"

artists, and caring human beings are celebrated.

"Blessed" Mother Teresa is honoured every year at the anniversary of her Beatification (October 19, 2003). Members of the school community strive to follow her example of service and caring through many charitable projects. They proudly work towards the goals of mastery, teamwork, caring and service- goals that are modeled after Mother Teresa herself. Together, the students, staff and parents, achieve these goals and maintain the school motto:

"A community of faith....a center for learning".



Our Lady Of Lourdes Catholic Elementary School

“Working
together,
we succeed”



Construction began on Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Elementary School in 1957. The school opened in 1958, commemorating the anniversary of one hundred years earlier when, in 1858, our Blessed Mother appeared to Marie Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France. In the same year of 1958 the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes was established. Since then, the school community has been blessed to enjoy a very close relationship with its Church community.

The first students at Lourdes could walk out from the school's back doors and into a farmer's orchard or a farmer's field. Often in the early years cows would come right up to the edge of the property, much to the delight of the students. The orchard is now home to several houses and a Ukrainian church, while the cow pasture has given way to the Lime Ridge Mall.

Students have endeavoured throughout the history of Our Lady of Lourdes School to develop academically, physically and spiritually: they have always competed in a wide variety of sporting and academic events. The sense of

community which has permeated the history of the school is most evident in the "Move-a-thon" and the "Kernels-For-Cancer" fundraising events. The Catholic School Council has been a consistent support to both students and staff at Our Lady of Lourdes throughout its history, as its members continually volunteer at the school and help run successful fundraising.

To accommodate the steady growth of the student population over the years, several additions have been added to the original school building. These additions were put on in 1959, 1962, 1965, and in 2001 when a new and long-awaited gymnasium was added. Our Lady of Lourdes School has been attended by thousands of students over the past forty-seven years. In the 1980's the school was filled to overflow with over 800 students. However, the numbers scaled down at the beginning of the 2000's as a result of the opening of three new schools in the nearby areas. There are 435 students presently attending Our Lady of Lourdes School. As "Lourdes" looks to the future, it does so with faith, pride and confidence.



Our Lady Of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School

“Live, love and learn
together as one
family sharing
our talents to
help others”



Mount Carmel was the first place in Israel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Saint Simon Stock, a member of the Carmelite Order, went to live in Mount Carmel in the Holy Land, where he led a life of prayer and penance until he and other members of his order were persecuted and forced to leave. His group sailed to Aylesford, England in 1245 where he was later named Prior General of the Carmelite Order. St. Simon Stock was very devoted to the Blessed Mother of God and prayed regularly to her for guidance and protection for his oppressed Order. In response to his appeal, on July 16, 1251, Mary appeared to him and presented him with the well-known brown scapular. It was given as an assurance of her heavenly protection from eternal death. This was truly a great gift and a great promise from the Mother of God.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School is located in the rural community of Carlisle, Ontario. Although the current school was opened in 1993, life began for this school community a few years earlier, in the old Waterdown District High School. It was located on the third floor of this building with 225 students. On November 1, 1993, the brand new school on Centre Road was ready for the students. It was complete except

for the gymnasium. It wasn't long, however, before the school became overcrowded and two portables were added. Mount Carmel had to accommodate about 150 students from St. Thomas School in Waterdown while the new Guardian Angels School was being built.

Today Mount Carmel has grown to a school of 384 students and 31 staff members. The school community is comprised of supportive parents, caring and capable staff, and respectful students.

All of the students travel to and from school by bus, coming from the area surrounding the school in Carlisle, as well as Freelon, Puslinch, Campbellville, Morriston, and Cambridge.

Catholic values, beliefs and the teaching of Jesus provide the basis for all learning. Because the home, parish and school work co-operatively to establish values which are coordinated with the teaching of our Catholic Faith, the students will gain in all aspects of learning. The school community participates annually in many charitable fundraisers including the MS Read-a-thon, Jump Rope for Heart, and The Terry Fox Walk-a-thon.



Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Elementary School

“Fostering Catholic learning
and leadership”

In the mid 1980's, due to rapid and increasing development in the lower Stoney Creek area, a new Catholic elementary school was built on DeWitt Road, between Highway No. 8 and Barton Street. The school was to be named Our Lady of Peace, honouring our Blessed Mother Mary. In September 1986, Our Lady of Peace Catholic Elementary School established two sites, one at St. Clare and the other at Immaculate Heart of Mary. Although the students of Our Lady of Peace were temporarily divided at the start of the 1986 school year, their anticipation of a new and unified school grew. All staff members and students waited patiently for four months before the doors to their new school opened. The school first opened its doors to 349 students on January 12th, 1987. A fun-filled celebration was planned for the families. Many visitors marvelled at the one floor plan school. They admired the beautiful and innovative architecture, which boasted spacious rooms, and a comfortable cushion-filled centre library. At the Official School Opening held in May, Bishop Tonnos and Monsignor Roach visited and blessed the new school. Since

the official opening, Our Lady of Peace has always had close ties with St. Francis Xavier Church, its parish.

The first graduating class was composed of less than ten students. However, the population of Our Lady of Peace, also known as the Home of the Eagles grew at a steady rate. At the start of the 1990's, the school population was over 500 and the late 90's brought the student population to over 600. As of the 2005-2006 school year, the school population has begun to decrease and the population is approximately 430 students.

There are many important and memorable dates in the history of Our Lady of Peace. In 2001, the Before and After School Program was established. In order to promote safer walking and playing, in the 2004-2005 school year, new grass was planted and pathways were created around the front of the school. Since the school's opening, the energetic school community has worked together and hosted many exciting and successful events including; the Annual September Family Barbecue, the Run/Move-a-thon Fundraiser, Pasta Celebrations and many Spirit Days. The school community continues to work in partnership in the name of Catholic Education, to foster a love of learning and to encourage Catholic leadership among our students, who are our future.



Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Elementary School

The history of Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Elementary School began with the building of an eight-room school which was blessed and officially opened on Sunday, December 9, 1962 by the Right Reverend J.A. O'Brien. The new school was built directly behind Our Lady of the Assumption Church located a quarter of a mile east of the intersection of Highways No. 20 and No. 53.

The building of a new school marked the culmination of many months of planning under the guidance of Reverend J.W. Flaherty, Pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish who also served as Chairperson of the Combined Roman Catholic Separate School, Binbrook, Glanford and Saltfleet Boards. It was given the title of "An Area First" because it was the first Catholic school to be built in the area and by a newly-formed school board.

Designed by Mr. Michael Tornsey, a Hamilton architect, and constructed by Ford Construction Company of Hamilton, the new school was a two-storey flat rock design, with brown brick and blue porcelain enamel panels on the exterior. Inside, there were eight classrooms and a principal's office. Five classrooms were located on the upper floor and three on the lower. Floors in the corridors and washrooms were of terrazzo while vinyl tiles were installed in other areas. This modern school was built at a cost of \$146,000. It had an area of 12,412 square feet. The first day of school was September 4, 1962 with 205 pupils occupying five classrooms. Four

"Living and Growing
with Jesus"

years later, in 1966, it was necessary to build an additional four classrooms and a staff room on the top level, making a total of twelve classrooms.

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Elementary School is still a rural school to this day. The current enrolment is 360 students. The parish works closely with the school providing spiritual leadership through scheduled Masses and regular class visits. The motto for the school is "Living and Growing with Jesus", with a particular challenge to students to be the best that they can be. It is through daily self-reflection and prayer that they strive to accomplish these goals, rejoicing in successes and reflecting upon needs. The dedicated staff and parent community volunteer their time and skills to provide many learning opportunities for the students. In partnership with parents, parish and school, the academic, spiritual, emotional and affective needs of the children are met. In these simple, humble and sometimes challenging ways, we become the Body of Christ.



Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School

"We are the salt
of the earth; we
are the light of the
world"



Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School was built in the spring and summer of 2003 on a large field on 600 Acadia Drive immediately behind St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School. The large student population at Mother Teresa necessitated another elementary school in the East Mountain area to meet the needs of the Catholic elementary students. This new school community was to be under the pastoral guidance of Corpus Christi Parish. Graff Architect Incorporated designed the school under the leadership of Mr. Maurice Graff and Mr. John Grguric. Demik Construction Limited took on the task of building this beautiful and state of the art facility. Although many parts of the building were not complete, 300 students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade Eight entered the building on September 2, 2003. Once the school was finally completed, the official blessing and opening took place on January 18, 2004.

The school was named after Pope John Paul II who had

won the hearts and minds of many young people around the world. He believed in their ability to change the world for the better and challenged them to a deep and profound love for Christ through his church. The students, staff and parents are very committed to responding to his challenge and very proud of the new school with its red, gold and blue colours. The sport teams are the "Patriots", loyal to our faith, school and country.

As of September 2005 there was a student population of 446 students with 23 teaching staff and 4 educational assistants. We are a very diverse school community that continues to eagerly embrace the opportunity to respond to Jesus' call to be the "Light of the World" and the "Salt of the Earth". In partnership with a strong pastoral team, a dedicated staff and a supportive parent community, we will continue to provide many opportunities for our students to grow spiritually, academically, socially and physically for many years to come.



Regina Mundi Catholic Elementary School

“The Queen
of the
world”



Regina Mundi Catholic Elementary School was built in 1959. The school has always strived to meet high academic expectations for the children who attended the school throughout its forty-six year history.

In the beginning, Regina Mundi educated students in seven classrooms. During the early years, the school backed onto farmland. This provided teachers and students with many opportunities for creative science lessons and inspired creative writing. That field of farmland has since been developed into a housing community and the residential and day school Lynwood Hall. The school gymnasium also served as the Church. Holy Mass was celebrated in the gym weekly until 1966, when the Regina Mundi Parish Church was built.

Over the years, an influx of students provided an expansion of the school community, which now accommodates over 300 students from many diverse cultures. International Languages and English as a Second Language classes are hosted in the school community. In the early 1960's,

Regina Mundi had enough surplus space to take in overflow students from Our Lady of Lourdes while that school built an upper floor. Today, Regina Mundi itself is overflowing, with four portables.

The students of Regina Mundi School have a long record of participating in CYO Crusader sports, Diversity Camp, and Outdoor Education. In recent years, the Grade Eights have travelled to Quebec for a year-end trip further expanding their base of knowledge and life experience.

Regina Mundi Catholic School advocates and lives the Board's Mission and Vision statements, and all students are included in celebrating the Catholic traditions and values that Jesus taught. Regina Mundi is a very welcoming community, and is often the school used to integrate children from Lynwood Hall into regular school. To celebrate our distinctiveness, the school is creating a chapel, where the school community will have the opportunity to reflect and pray to Mary, "Queen of the World".



Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School

“Learn Together, Play
Together, Pray Together”

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Elementary School traces its early beginnings back to a large, square house on Viewpoint Avenue. This house is currently located beside the Sacred Heart Church rectory building. In the early 1900's, the homes in this area of Hamilton mountain were mainly summer homes. The Sisters of St. Joseph used this particular house as an orphanage. Around 1915 they started using the building to conduct classes. The house was known as Mount Carmel. Thus, Sacred Heart School has the distinction of being the first recognized Catholic school established on the mountain.

The first recorded school enrolment at Mount Carmel was twenty-seven students. By 1923 there was an enrolment of 41 students. In 1923-24 a two room, brick building was built and was called Sacred Heart School. As the decades passed, and the population continued to grow, several

additions were built onto the old 1924 section to accommodate more students. The Hamilton Mountain, once the “last frontier” of the municipality, gave way to steady growth and development. By the end of the 1950's an entire wing and a gymnasium had been added to Sacred Heart. In 2002, much of the original building and addition were demolished and replaced with a brand new building. Hence there is an attractive school with 9 bright classrooms, library, gymnasium and conference room. The current enrolment of Sacred Heart School is 201 students. This number has remained relatively unchanged for the past 15 years. At its peak in the 1950's and 1960's, the school enrolment topped 500 students.

Sacred Heart students have always participated in a wide variety of activities and events; CYO Crusader sports, and School Board and Teacher Association activities and events, System Science Fair, Math Challenges, Public Speaking, Scripture Reading and the Prose and Poetry Writing Contest. The school community has enjoyed a special bond with the parish community throughout its existence. Students, staff and parents can be proud of past accomplishments while looking to the next one hundred and fifty years with much hope, confidence and enthusiasm.



St. Agnes Catholic Elementary School

St. Agnes Catholic Elementary School opened in September 1978 with classes from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. The building itself consisted of three closed classrooms and seven open area classrooms, with six portables on site to accommodate an enrolment of 503 students. In 2005, an expansion and renovation of the original school building was completed. This added seventeen closed classrooms, a modern library- resource centre with computer lab, and a new gymnasium. Today, St. Agnes has an enrolment of 410 students and thirty staff members.

St. Agnes has constantly emphasized academic achievement, love of God, and charity towards others. The school community cultivates the potential of the whole child through academic study, religious instruction, physical education, and training in the arts. The growth of each child is encouraged and supported through the efforts of the close-knit, caring community of students, parents, parish leaders and teachers. It is through the partnership of school, home and Church that what is best for the child remains in focus.

Over the years, St. Agnes has been known for its welcoming atmosphere. In September 2005 St. Agnes welcomed the

“ Instill in each child a love of
God and neighbour”

students and parents from St. Joan of Arc School. Through one shared goal, to demonstrate true Catholic values by following the path of Jesus, two school communities became one family.

St. Agnes provides students with a strong background in the Ontario Curriculum. Students are taught in an environment where Christian ethics are cherished and maintained as part of everyday life. They assist the disadvantaged and are prepared for the sacraments. The goal is to instill in each child a love of God and neighbour.



St. Ann Catholic Elementary School, Ancaster

“ Lord Jesus
at the centre”



In order to fully appreciate the history of St. Ann Catholic Elementary School in Ancaster, it is important to recognize the history of the school's parish church, St. Ann's Parish. St. Ann's Parish originally became a mission church in 1949, under the guidance of Reverend J.A. Noonan. Father Noonan constructed a little wooden church on a two-acre lot on the north-west corner of Wilson Street West and Fiddlers Green Road in Ancaster.

The first resident priest of St. Ann's Parish was the Reverend William J. Loftus, who came to the parish in 1952 and constructed the present edifice. Father Loftus completed building the first section of St. Ann's and it was officially opened on October 11, 1953. A second section was added to the school as well as a gymnasium in 1956. A major addition was later completed to the existing building in 1995. With much hard work and cooperation from parishioners, Father Loftus set to work building the Senior School on Jerseyville Road West in Ancaster.

By 1963, with the parish growing, the Senior School required

a four room addition. All this hard work as well as Father Loftus' increasingly ill health had taken its toll, and the beloved pastor passed away on December 11, 1964. Two months after his death, the addition to the Senior School was completed and it was renamed "Father Loftus School".

St. Ann (our patron Saint), and St. Joachim were the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the grandparents of Jesus. As a school community, we ask St. Ann, through our prayers, to bring us closer to Jesus and Mary. At St. Ann's School, we strive to help every child to be the best that he or she can be. This is done in an environment which has our Lord Jesus at its centre. Our families and the St. Ann's Parish community work in a spirit of cooperation, with the school, to help our students grow in faith.

As we celebrate 150 years of Catholic education in Hamilton-Wentworth, we are happy to celebrate the rich history of our school and to share it with others. We also look forward to creating more lasting memories as we strengthen our school's mission through prayer.



St. Ann Catholic Elementary School, Hamilton

“Caring,
loving,
spiritual”



The cornerstone of St. Ann Catholic Elementary School was laid on the Feast of St. Ann, July 26, 1908. St. Ann Church had preceded it by two years, and as with the practice of the day, a school would be built after the pastor, Father Leahard, made a request to the Bishop. Bishop Dowling offered the building site, and \$10 000 at 4.4% per annum. The Catholic School Board passed the motion that the Bishop's offer be accepted and a school be built not to exceed this amount.

The school opened on January 4, 1909, with two rooms and fifty-six students. There were eight schools at this time, and St. Ann School would be the most easterly. As the city of Hamilton continued to expand east, the school grew. In 1914 and 1927, new classrooms were added and by 1955, there were eight sisters, twelve lay teachers and 745 students. By Canada's Centennial, the school had grown to 35 classrooms, 40 teachers and 1400 students. The Junior School opened in 1968, and the twelve original classrooms were demolished soon after.

St. Ann School has always been a reflection of the population

patterns of the city, and as Hamilton grew outwards from its core, the school population became smaller. In 1985, the school moved from the Board's first open concept school, back to the building it continues to occupy, and the Junior School became the Nicholas Mancini Centre.

Today there are 250 students and 35 staff at St. Ann School, and the Nicholas Mancini Centre has relocated. There have been many changes since 1908, but St. Ann School continues to be as culturally diverse as the neighbourhood, with five Catholic Churches within two blocks of the school. It is a happy school community with staff, parents, and parish working as a team, to create a wonderful Catholic community.

The children of St. Ann School try daily to emulate St. Ann, and like her, they are caring, loving, and spiritual. St. Ann School has had many successful graduates, with Bishop Reding having been a student. The strong Catholic community of St. Ann, will continue to prepare children to become leaders in society, and in our Church.



St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School

“ Here we do not speak
evil of anyone-
St. Augustine”

St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School has an incredible past dating all the way back to the 1800's. It was, in fact, the first school in the Hamilton Diocese. It opened with 105 children, in the town of Dundas, in 1847. The original building, now the church rectory, was located on Sydenham Road. Later, in 1869, a frame school was built which became its present day location on Alma Street. Unfortunately, in 1902 the frame school was partially destroyed by fire and was soon replaced by a new brick structure.

In order to meet the demands of a growing population, the present day red-brick building was erected in 1931. The construction continued, adding two rooms in 1950 and four more in 1952. By 1960, St. Augustine had six classrooms, a gymnasium, offices and a staffroom. In the end there were 12 classrooms with an enrollment of 438 pupils.

St. Augustine is once again receiving a new facelift. One long deserved, based on its past. With new construction almost complete, there is a new and updated gymnasium including change-rooms, storage and a server, a beautiful library/computer/resource centre (newly renovated in place of the old gymnasium), new administrative and front offices as well as a newly renovated staffroom where the old library used to be. The students, and staff are all excited to begin using the new facilities which will continue to serve the wider community, readily available for basketball leagues, cubs, scouts, brownies and girl guides.

As we head forward and create our own history, we currently house approximately 350 students and some 30 staff members. St. Augustine, in the past five years has built a reputation as a school excelling in the area of science; we have been well represented at our System Science Fair, Bay Area Science and Engineering Fairs, as well as Canada Wide Science Fairs in other provinces. We work in cooperation with our School Council to achieve our goals which concentrate on continuing to build strong community relations, striving to integrate literacy and numeracy initiatives into the classroom, and in keeping with board standards.



St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School

St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School was founded in 1958 to serve the more rural areas of Dundas. In fact the original address of the school had a rural route number.

Because of its location, the school served families as far away as Copetown. In the early days the school was under the able leadership of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The school had four classrooms, student washrooms and a small office. The operating capacity was 91 students.

By the late 1960's the population of the school had grown steadily, which prompted the School Board to realign boundaries. As a result, many of the children were transferred to St. Augustine School. Former students who attended the school in the early days recall boarding a bus to go to the local community centre for physical education classes because the school had no gymnasium and St. Augustine had no spaces in its gym schedule.

By the late 1980's St. Bernadette School was experiencing rapid and continued growth due to housing development along Governor's Road. In 1989 the parents began an awareness campaign and petitioned the Board for a new school building. After much work and numerous visits by Board and Ministry of Education personnel, a new building

"Where ...
each belongs"

was erected. The new St. Bernadette opened its doors in 1991. For many years the school flourished and grew and it is only now that it is experiencing a drop in enrolment. Currently the school has 476 students.

In addition to providing sound learning opportunities for students in a Catholic environment, St. Bernadette has proudly lived the School Board's motto "Each Belongs". For many years St. Bernadette school has been a showcase for visitors from all over the world as a school that has truly realized its commitment to inclusion. The students, staff and parent community are proud to carry on this great tradition.



St. Brigid Catholic Elementary School

"An active,
vibrant school
community"



St. Brigid (born 453-523 A.D.) is one of the three "great" saints of Ireland (with St. Patrick and St. Columba). She was known as 'Mary of the Gael' the Patroness of Ireland.

St. Brigid Catholic Elementary School has existed since 1889 as part of St. Patrick's Parish. The north east end of St. Patrick's parish began to grow very rapidly in the early 1880's and soon school accommodation was demanded of the Separate School Board to meet the needs of the children who had to travel long distances to either St. Patrick or St. Mary Schools.

As a result of this need, St. Thomas School was built on Smith Avenue near Cannon Street. The cornerstone for this school was laid in 1889. By the early 1900's the population in Hamilton continued to expand necessitating the construction of more Catholic schools, one of which was St. Thomas Aquinas. In order to prevent confusion with this "new" school, St. Thomas on Smith Avenue was renamed after St. Brigid. The original St. Brigid School was a "very smart looking two story school." It had four classrooms with

two grades to a classroom. The entire interior was made of wood.

In 1959 the current St. Brigid School was constructed. It had three floors that contained 5 classrooms, a library and office space. In 1962 an addition was made to the south side of the school that increased the available classroom space. Another addition was made to the north side of the school in 1965 and finally, in 1967, a gymnasium was added to the back of the school. And thus you have the St. Brigid that we see today.

St. Brigid is an active and vibrant school community, with much to be proud. There has been such great improvement in overall academic performance that, in 2004, the school was one of only three schools in Ontario recognized for special commendation for the gains that had been made academically.

The students, staff, and families of St. Brigid School are proud of past accomplishments and look forward, with excitement, to the challenges of the future.



St. Catherine Of Siena Catholic Elementary School

“Look for the
good in
everyone”



This school was named after a truly remarkable individual: Catherine of Siena was the twenty-fourth child and youngest daughter of Jacopo and Lapa Benincassa of Siena, Italy. She became a member of the Dominican Order, where she served the sick and imprisoned, taking care of the most abandoned and difficult patients. In 1970, the Church gave her the special title, “Doctor of the Church.”

St. Catherine of Siena School was opened in 1973, as an open-concept school, located on the West Mountain in the Gilkson Park Community. In 1997 the school community celebrated its silver anniversary. In 2004, the school served 360 students, from Junior Kindergarten to Grade Eight, before relocating many of these to the new St. Thérèse of Lisieux School on Garth Street South. Today the school population hovers around a very manageable 240 students, and comes from no less than nine different language groups.

The Annunciation of Our Lord parish team offers a strong support to the school’s religion and sacramental programs. St. Catherine of Siena School enjoys a healthy relationship with its Catholic School Council: parents are supportive

and assist at many school functions. Although the school has always been small to medium sized, students are offered and participate in a wide range of sports, clubs, events and activities, demonstrating that size has little to do with quality.

Several things have endured throughout the history of St. Catherine of Siena School: parents, staff and parish remain committed to fostering the Catholic values of Faith Formation, Christian Witness, and Service; together we strive to help students achieve their potential in academics, social relationships, athletics and faith; together we encourage a love of learning, excellence of effort, and a sense of responsibility to become caring, compassionate members of society.

St. Catherine of Siena was reputed to have looked for the good in everyone, usually finding it. Members of this Catholic school community have always taken their lead from her.



St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School

“We are the carriers of Christ”

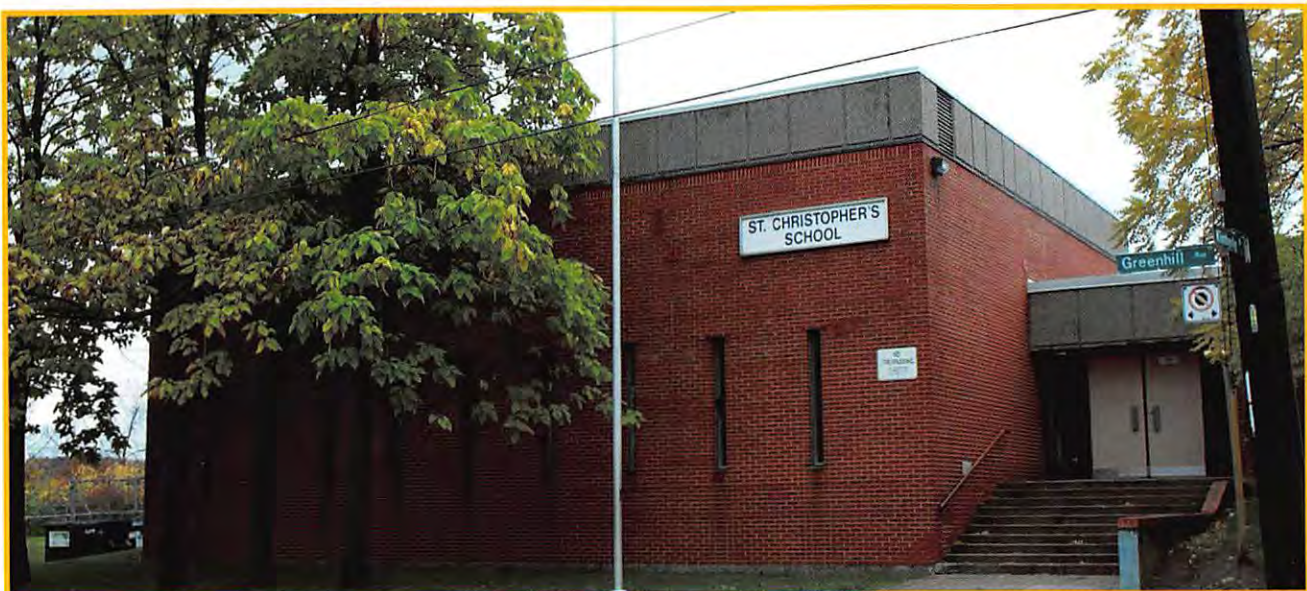
St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School located in southeast Hamilton has often been referred to as the “doll house” school because of its idyllic, cloistered and secluded location. It is bordered by the escarpment on one side, King’s Forest golf course on the other and fronted by a well-maintained private residential area known as Rosedale. This area has always been a desirable neighbourhood in which to raise a family, as there are no main arteries within the school boundaries, thus making it very safe for children to walk to school. Twenty percent of students presently attending St. Christopher School have a parent who also attended as a student and five percent have grandparents who still reside in Rosedale.

St. Christopher School was built in 1966 at a time when the school system was grappling to cope with the enormous influx of immigrants and the post war baby boom. The

Kindergarten to Grade 8 school accommodated students who previously attended either St. John or St. Eugene Schools. For the first two years several classes of students were housed in portable classrooms on site. By 1968 the 19,025 square foot brick school with a capacity for 291 students was officially completed. It was designed as part closed classroom and part open area with a large paved playground

The student population of St. Christopher’s has never reached its capacity. The statistics available from 1980 to the present show a range from an enrolment low of 142 to a peak high of 253 in 1982. The small student population has contributed to the close-knit community spirit that is very evident when one walks through the doors of St. Christopher School. Staff and parents have worked together to beautify the grounds by the addition of the peaceful Meditation Garden and the planting of trees, flowers and shrubs.

The school community has always been known to be co-operative and generous in working together with staff and parish to provide a quality Catholic education for their children. Next year staff, parents and students are looking forward to celebrating the fortieth anniversary of St. Christopher School.



St. Clare Of Assisi Catholic Elementary School

Named after a Saint who exchanged her wealth for a life of poverty and service to the poor, St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Elementary School first welcomed students on December 12, 1982. Nestled under the Stoney Creek escarpment, the school began as an open concept school of 400 students. The school was officially blessed by Bishop Reding and Father Roach.

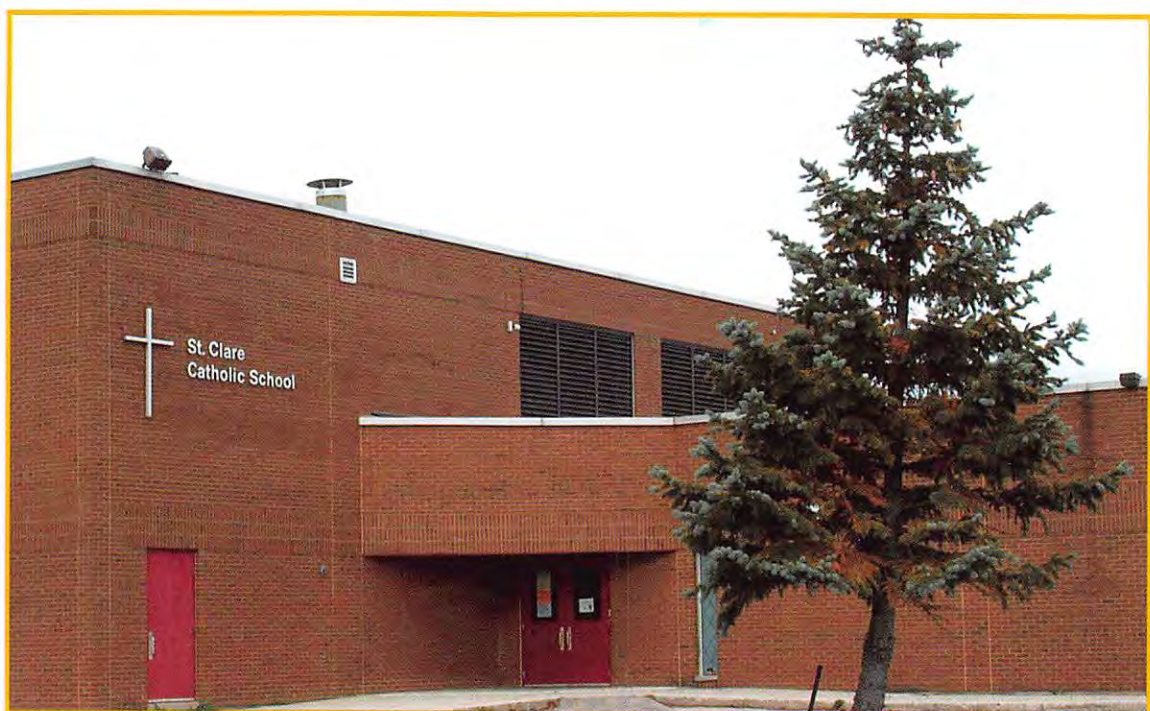
The population rose rapidly, as did the residential area surrounding the school. As a result, with the help of six portables, St. Clare once housed over 800 students. The construction of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Elementary School enabled St. Clare to once again enjoy a smaller community of about 500 students.

At the heart of this community lies a group of enthusiastic staff and parents, who have worked together to generate many outstanding athletes, scholars and well-rounded members of society. Students have, throughout the school's relatively brief history, participated wholeheartedly in as many activities and events as possible; athletic, academic, and faith-based. One year, St. Clare athletes brought home five city championships! Several students have won in the Prose and Poetry Writing Contest, becoming "young

"Firmly rooted
in Catholic
Gospel values"

authors" in the process. At the heart of it all, however, is the Catholic faith, guiding the community through the teachings of Jesus.

Most recently, St. Clare has greatly benefitted from the dedicated Catholic School Council, who undertook a three year plan of "*Operation Naturalization*". As a result, as one walks around the school, one sees greener play spaces, an outdoor classroom, outdoor pathways, and quiet sitting areas surrounded with indigenous trees. In all, St. Clare is a "School You Can Believe In"!



St. Columba Catholic Elementary School

"A strong
partnership
among home,
school and parish"



St. Columba Catholic Elementary School had its official community opening and blessing in 1971, with the school staff and student population, various community dignitaries and representative clergy participating in the opening ceremonies of the school. Of particular importance was the presence of His Excellency Joseph Francis Ryan, Bishop of the Hamilton Roman Catholic Diocese, who presided over the ceremony of the Blessing of the newly opened school.

The school takes its name from an Irish missionary named St. Columba, also known as Colum or Columcille (521 – 597). St. Columba, as a humble servant of God and a lover of Christ, became a great missionary saint - a founder of numerous church and monastery communities and is recognized for his spiritual accomplishment of converting a whole kingdom to Christ. He is particularly venerated in Scotland and Ireland where his feast day on June 9th is kept.

In the tradition of St. Columba, the school community has nurtured and maintained the building of a caring school community of Christ as an ongoing essential spiritual focus. The school community has historically embraced activities and events that are inviting, supportive and celebrative of Christ's loving presence among us - some of which include; the regular celebration of mass and the

sacraments with the school community, student respect and responsibility program, food and clothing drives for those less fortunate, fundraising for natural disaster victims such as the Tsunami campaign, and in 1999 extending an invitation for the Kosovar refugee children to participate in St. Columba's annual play day activities. Other ongoing events and activities have included musical productions, variety shows, intramural and CYO sports programs, science fairs, various clubs, nutrition days, the annual turkey dinner for the school, diversity awareness initiatives, French Cafes and many spirit days.

St. Columba School, with the integral support of the Catholic School Council, St. Patrick's Parish, and the community, has continued to nurture the growth of all the students towards realizing their individual, unique potential academically, socially and spiritually in the fullness of humanity of which our Lord Jesus Christ is the model. St. Columba School is proud to continue in the spiritual tradition of St. Columba's Community of Christ's Love in all of our school activities, initiatives, and endeavours.

St. Daniel Catholic Elementary School

“ Let us grow in
hope, faith, love,
compassion
and integrity”



St. Daniel Catholic Elementary School was opened on September 8, 1970 as a Kindergarten to Grade 8 school. As the housing development grew on Hamilton's east mountain between Mohawk and Limeridge Roads, a new school site was necessary to accommodate the growing needs of the community. The school opened in the fall of 1970 with a growing population of over 300 students. St. Daniel Catholic Elementary School was originally built as an open-concept pilot project and quickly became popular for basketball events utilizing the regulation size basketball court in the gymnasium.

During the late 1970's, the original building built for 350 students, required four portables to alleviate the need for more classroom space. The population quickly grew to well over 400 students. During the 1980's boundary changes resulted in students moving to St. Margaret Mary, and hence, a decrease in student enrollment. With a change in demographics, the 1990's accompanied the lowest population of 185 students. Since that time, the enrollment has been increasing and presently there are 315 students.

During the past five years, St. Daniel School has been renovated with walls constructed in all of the open area classrooms. A new computer lab was created and air conditioning was installed in all of the teaching areas.

St. Daniel Catholic Elementary School is one of three schools that belong to the St. Margaret Mary Parish and is a feeder school to Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School.

Both the Catholic Youth Organization and the Blessed Sacrament Basketball League have continued to use the facilities over the years. Volleyball has been an integral part of the CYO Crusader sports program at St. Daniel's. With many city championships to its credit, St. Daniel's remains a volleyball powerhouse. Students also participate in many other activities, such as Public Speaking, Scripture Reading and the annual Prose and Poetry Writing Contest.

With a new look to the building, and traditions on which to draw, St. Daniel School is poised for greatness in the next one hundred and fifty years!



St. David Catholic Elementary School

"Supportive partnership"

Over the past 34 years, St. David Catholic Elementary School has grown into a school of many communities. At present the school is located in the heart of the east end of Hamilton at 33 Cromwell Crescent, the site of the original Cardinal Newman Secondary School. The original site of the school was at 117 Owen Place and was a small school serving the community that was on the edge of the Stoney Creek/ Hamilton border. The original school was an open concept design that was later modified with walls being added as the school grew. St. David School has always had a very diverse population, with a number of cultures including Croatian, Italian and Polish. The parish community of St. Eugene actively supported the Sacramental preparation programs and celebrations of the liturgical calendar at St. David's.

Three years ago St. David and St. Bernard schools merged into the larger, newly renovated building where it is presently

located. The new St. David boundaries include the parish communities of St. Eugene and Incarnation of Our Lord. The new school also greatly extended its borders to include students from the bottom of the Hamilton escarpment to the Beach Strip. Bringing two distinct communities together was handled superbly by the school board administration, the staff and the families in the newly formed St. David community.

Today, St. David Catholic School enjoys a supportive partnership with its Catholic School Council, staff and broader school community, working together to achieve common goals. Parents serve on committees and assist with such activities as liturgies, fundraising and curriculum partnerships. An Ontario Early Years Centre is attached to the school and works well in cooperation with the school to serve the community.

St. David staff prides itself in its promotion of team building and building community among the students. On a daily basis students are presented with opportunities to grow spiritually, academically and physically. The students of St. David regularly reflect on the question, "What would Jesus do?" as they strive to do their best each day.



St. Eugene Catholic Elementary School

On September 5th, 1951, workers were still busy completing floors and installing electrical equipment as St. Eugene School opened its doors at 9:00 a.m. to 169 students who lived south of Dunsmure Road. It was the second school in the newly formed St. Eugene Parish. St. Helen School, in the same parish, had been opened during the First World War and was filled to capacity.

As no survey of the school population in the area had been made, no tentative class lists were available, and registration, therefore, took place in the main corridor opposite the front entrance. Four classes developed. Room one was a grade one and two class with 43 students. Room two was a grade two and three class with 43 students. Room three was a grade four and five class with 43 students. Room four held grades six, seven and eight with 40 students.

Monsignor J. A. O'Brien, Chairman of the School Board, declared that this new school was the latest in design and the most practical yet erected by the board. At that time the teaching personnel of the Separate School Board numbered 149 teachers, 79 religious teachers and 70 lay teachers. St. Eugene School was the 20th elementary school of the Separate School Board in the city.

“Treasured landmark in
the east city”

On September 25, 1951, His Excellency Most Reverend J. F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton, officially opened St. Eugene School with a blessing and a dedication. Along the way, St. Eugene School, has become a French Immersion school, has almost tripled in student population and grown in size. Today 476 students sit in 19 classrooms. It continues to be a treasured landmark in the east part of the city. St. Eugene School is rich with history and vibrancy as staff, students and parents continue the tradition of the community and it continues to celebrate its close relationship with St. Eugene Parish.



St. Francis Xavier Catholic Elementary School

“ Together
Toward God”



A census taken in May, 1946 revealed that many Catholic students were attending local public schools where they received no formal religious instruction. A Separate School Board was formed and plans were approved for the construction of a new Catholic elementary school. Pending completion of the school, fifty Catholic children were bussed to St. Ann School in Hamilton. St. Francis Xavier School was officially opened June 15th, 1947. When the school opened its doors in September, 1947, it was the last word in beauty and appointment at that time. It was a solid concrete structure, the first of its kind. There were provisions for four classrooms. One of the finest features was the heating plan, which had heat radiating from the floors and the ceilings. The School Sisters of Loretto took charge of running the school.

Father Bodendistel demonstrated his deep commitment to Catholic Education by serving as the first pastor and also by driving the school bus, ensuring that all Catholic children in the area had access to Catholic education. The school originally consisted of two classrooms on the top floor; the first floor was a chapel for the parish Mass.

As the population of Stoney Creek grew, the demand for Catholic education increased, and extensions were built onto the existing structure. However, when the school population began to approach 1000, more Catholic schools began to be built in the area. Today, more than 20 classrooms are used to teach the 430 students attending St. Francis Xavier.

St. Francis Xavier continues to be a school devoted to faith, education and partnership. It remains a standing reminder of the importance the Catholic people of Stoney Creek attached to Catholic Education; they realize the fullness of humanity, reflected in their commitment to and support of events beyond the school, such as participation in the “Out of the Cold” program and contributions to local food banks throughout the year. Each year creative approaches to assist the needs of local charities are developed. Staff, students and parents at St. Francis Xavier share a commitment to work together for the good of all in our school and beyond by following our motto *Together Toward God*



St. Helen Catholic Elementary School

“Fostering and
developing the
dignity, safety and
worth of every
person”



St. Helen Catholic Elementary School is located in north-eastern Hamilton, south of Barton Street between Parkdale and Woodward Avenues in the Roxborough Park neighbourhood. The school's first classrooms were housed in surplus air force barracks near an old landing strip. The present structure, originally built in 1953, received further additions in 1964 and 1968, in order to accommodate a rapidly growing population. Sunday Mass was celebrated in the school gymnasium. The School Sisters of Notre Dame that were on staff at the time would attend Sunday Mass with their students.

The enrolment of St. Helen's has settled at a population of around 200 students, down from the boom years of over 600 students. Over the years, St. Helen's has had a number of graduates who went on to prominence and fame.

St. Helen's is truly a community school. It continues to welcome and support new immigrants to Canada, and is a host to a wide variety of community support groups. These include the S.W.I.S.H. settlement service, Martha's Movers, F.A.S.T. Works, Scouts and Beavers, CYO Crusader Sports and School Council. Also located in the building is the St. Charles Centre for Continuing Education.

The school community of St. Helen's continues to be blessed with a committed, hard-working and caring staff, supported by an energetic and engaged parent community. The children are very involved with Incarnation of Our Blessed Lord Parish for their sacramental preparation and spiritual guidance. Together, with its partners, St. Helen's will continue to carry on its strong tradition of faith, service and Catholic education.



St. James the Apostle Catholic Elementary School

“ Let the love of
knowledge flourish”

St. James the Apostle Catholic Elementary School was officially blessed and opened by the Most Reverend Paul F. Reding, Bishop of Hamilton, on Sunday, June 13, 1976. The school originally opened its doors to a vibrant community of eager students, dedicated teachers and a support staff.

From the outset, St. James established high standards and goals. This is clearly reflected in the school's inspiring motto: Amor Doctrinae Floreat: Let the Love of Knowledge Flourish. Using this motto as a guiding force, the students have excelled in many Board and community sponsored activities ranging from Junior Math Challenges to System Science Fairs to Chess Tournaments. There were no boundaries or limits to students' achievements in the past and this high level of student success continues to permeate everything done today.

In St. James' twenty-nine year history, the school has experienced extreme population numbers at both ends of the spectrum – beginning with less than one hundred students and then mushrooming in the late 1990's to an excess of 600 students. Within this timeframe, the St. James School Community, together with the pastors of Our Lady of Assumption Parish, have journeyed with different gifts, but on the same path, faithfully professing their faith in a variety of ventures – making a difference in the school and outside community. Students and staff participate in several charitable works, and continue to be involved in assisting the downtrodden and championing the cause of underdogs. This has, over the years, provided this school community with the honourable distinction of the label “School With A Heart.”

The students of St. James have, from the outset, participated in a wide range of activities that have nourished and enriched them physically, academically, and spiritually; from sporting events to academic challenge activities, from Literacy and Numeracy initiatives and events to preparation for and reception of the Sacraments, from Kindergarten graduation to Grade Eight graduation. Our proactive Catholic School Council and community will certainly confirm that our students, staff, parents and parish, by working together in partnership, really do succeed.



St. Jerome Catholic Elementary School

St. Jerome Catholic Elementary School opened in the fall of 1970, as the Hamilton west mountain continued to expand rapidly. The school community has always enjoyed a panoramic schoolyard view of the escarpment region, as the school is huddled up against the ridge of the Hamilton Mountain. For thirty-five years, the St. Jerome School student population has remained consistent. Presently, the school population stands at 381 students, from Junior Kindergarten to Grade Eight.

The nurturing of a vibrant Catholic environment is clearly evident at St. Jerome Catholic School. The school is located next door to Annunciation of Our Lord Parish, and the staff, parents and parish team work in partnership to provide a safe and welcoming environment in which all strive to meet the needs of students. The school enjoys a supportive partnership with the Catholic School Council, working to achieve common goals. Teachers modify their programs to meet the individual needs of the students. This is often done in collaboration with special community services and a school based support team.

As well as meeting the academic needs of students, the school encourages active participation in a variety of



activities, designed to meet the diversified interests and abilities of the student population. Students have involved themselves in many activities and events throughout the history of St. Jerome School, such as Scripture Reading, Public Speaking, and the Prose and Poetry Writing Contest, to name a few. Students at St. Jerome have, from the school's beginning, participated fully in the CYO Crusader program. Our Eagles sports teams have represented our school admirably throughout the thirty-five year history with numerous championships in a variety of sports. The emphasis at St. Jerome's has been to develop spiritually, academically and athletically.



St. Joachim Catholic Elementary School

“Heart to hand...
through Christ...
we belong”



St. Joachim Catholic Elementary School opened for the school year 1990-1991. During the first half of that year, while awaiting the construction of the new building, the students were housed in three schools, Canadian Martyrs', St. Ann, and Father Loftus Senior. Father Loftus, a member of the Oblates, was responsible for building St. Ann's Church and St. Ann's School and began building St. Ann Senior School in 1961. This school was named Father Loftus School in 1964. The original student body of St. Joachim came from the Father Loftus and St. Ann catchment areas. The construction of St. Joachim School was completed in February of 1991. At that time there were 535 students.

Between 1993 and 1998 St. Joachim School saw a large growth in student population. The number reached over 860 students. At its peak, the school's 10 portable classrooms were not sufficient to hold that number of students. For two years, three Grade 6 classes were housed at Mount Mary Immaculate Retreat Centre. This was a beautiful setting and the students had a wonderful experience. With the building of Holy Name of Mary School in 1998, St. Joachim's school population dropped to about 500 students. Currently, there are 535 students.

The 1990-1991 inaugural year book shows a school community dedicated to the goal of "Working Together" by having a strong home, school, and parish partnership. There was a day care called the St. Joachim Children's Centre. The school had a strong extracurricular program and an active staff, parent and student body. There was a "Blessing of the Quilt Ceremony", for a quilt depicting Mary leaving her parents, St. Joachim and St. Ann to enter a temple where she would receive her education.

Today, the school continues to thrive, maintaining positive partnerships with the parish and parent community. The St. Joachim Children's Centre continues to flourish. Active Catholic School Council and staff members work together to maintain high standards and numerous extracurricular activities. The quilt of St. Joachim, St. Ann and Mary still proudly greets all who enter the front doors of the school. The newly created Mission, Vision and Value statements continue to maintain the Father Loftus foresight of constantly striving toward excellence in the Catholic education of our students.



St. John the Baptist Catholic Elementary School

“Pride
and
Excellence”



Due to the foresight of Bishop J. T. Mc Nally, what was once a fruit orchard at King and London Streets, became the site of St. John the Baptist Catholic Elementary School. Built by the Hamilton Separate School Board, under the leadership of Reverend J. Englert, it is situated in the southeastern section of Hamilton, commonly known as the Delta.

At that time, the school's territory stretched from Gage Avenue on the west to Winona on the east. The fifty-five Catholic families in the district had formerly been part of St. Patrick's Parish, but because of the growth of this area of the city, a new school was built in 1929. It opened in November and was dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

From the humble beginning as a two room school, St. John the Baptist has grown to a modern, fully-equipped learning centre with eighteen classrooms. Memories are good and enduring ones for the students and their families: a school building that was carved out of the middle of farmland; a

small Catholic community that came together in faith to outlast The Great Depression and World War Two; a truly “neighbourhood school” that was always a hub for growth of the individual in mind, body and soul. The students take advantage, gratefully, of every opportunity afforded them, whether it is enthusiastic participation on sports teams, in public speaking, science fairs, scripture reading or prose and poetry writing contests. The enthusiasm and gratitude are hallmarks of the students throughout the school's history.

In May of 2001, the St. John the Baptist school community dedicated the new gymnasium and two classrooms. The students placed a time capsule in the cornerstone. A little later, in 2004, the school community celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary. As the school community contemplates the future, many thanks are given to the students, staff, priests and parents for the imprint of footprints throughout the halls of St. John the Baptist Catholic School.



St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School

"Growing Together"

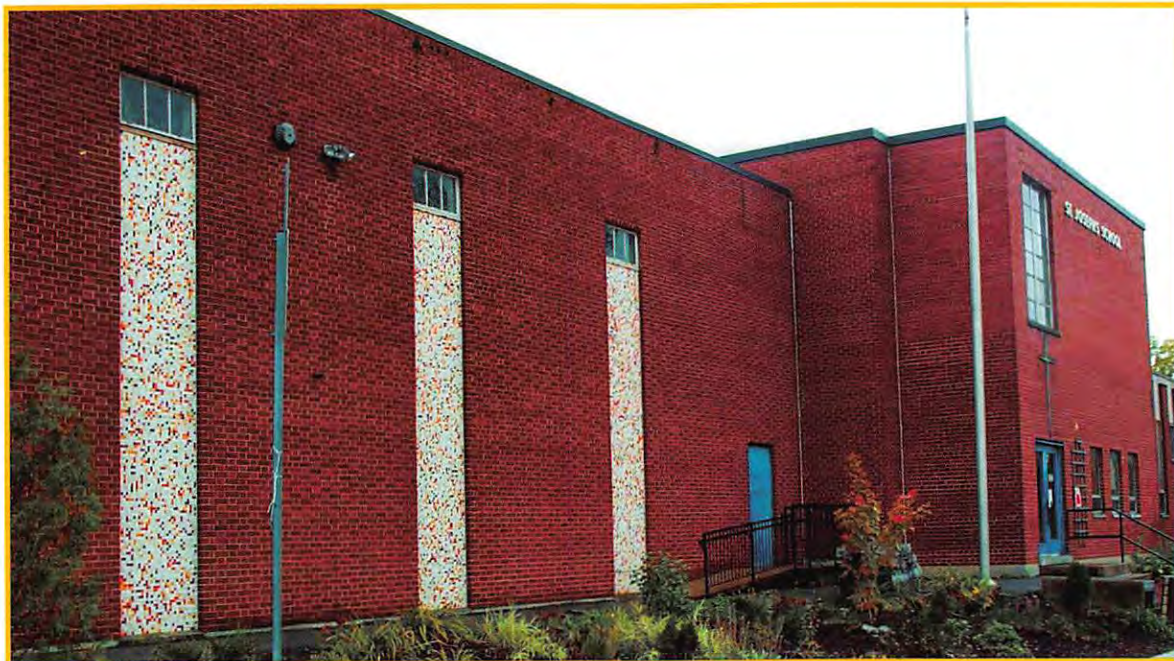
it beginning in 1953, 1958, 1963, 1965 and 1969 leading to its present day structure. The school is comprised of numerous classes that cascade within its three floors. It has a large gymnasium with a balcony and an abundance of space for its Resource Area, Library, Conference Area and Junior and Senior Kindergarten rooms located on the first floor. The school has also shared a tremendous relationship with St. Joseph's Church which was built in 1894 and is located on the opposite side of Herkimer and Locke Streets.

Presently, St. Joseph is a French Immersion School which draws its student population from the surrounding local area as well as from the central and west city below the mountain, Dundas, Ancaster and Flamborough. Since 1980, the population of the school has steadily increased from 323 students to approximately 510 students in 2006. The staff successfully delivers the curriculum in both the French and English languages with the Gospel values transcending and permeating throughout.

The staff, parents and Church work very cooperatively to ensure that the academic, social and religious needs of the students are nourished and fostered assuring that St. Joseph Ecole-School continues to live up to its motto of "growing together."

St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School has graced the corner of Locke and Herkimer Streets in the Kirkendall North neighbourhood since 1921. The school opened some eight decades ago in the former St. James Presbyterian Church. At the time, the school's enrolment came from areas of Hamilton's westerly boundary, the streets bordering the school and near the base of the mountain such as Aberdeen.

The school was opened and run by the Sisters of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin or the Loretto Sisters until 1958. In that year the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny replaced the Loretto Sisters and became the administrators of the school. The school has had several additions built to



St. Lawrence Catholic Elementary School

The opening of St. Lawrence Catholic Elementary School took place in 1869. The north end is one of the oldest sections of the city, but its development was hindered by the condition of the terrain. Houses were built, but they were divided into different groups located on the higher levels of the land, which were separated by inlets from the bay or low marshy land which was unsuitable for buildings. Narrow pathways were the only means of moving between these houses, as there were no roads or sidewalks. The opening of a school in this section became imperative. A two storey stone building on what is now the corner of Ferrie and John Streets was purchased for this purpose. Formerly occupied by the grandfather of Edward Crofton of Ferrie Street East, the upstairs was transformed into a room for the girls, and the downstairs into a room for the boys.

The first teachers were members of the Sisters of St. Joseph. A brick addition was built in the 1870's to accommodate the growing number of children. This soon proved inadequate, and in 1885 the building was torn down and replaced by a more up to date brick school. In 1922 a third building was erected on the site and the school grounds were enlarged. This school had 10 rooms and an enrolment of 365 pupils, six Sisters of St. Joseph and three lay teachers in 1940.

“Working together,
we all succeed”

In 1957 four more rooms were added, two portable classrooms were placed on the grounds in 1963 as a temporary measure. The school population in 1965 was 656 pupils. With the advent of urban renewal, a new school was built on the land bounded by Picton, John, and Macauley Streets, the grounds extending to the west side of the church. The school opened in 1967 in a new building made up of twenty four classrooms, one library and a gym.

Since then, enrolment has fluctuated up and down and now sits at about 286 students. The year 2004 was very special for the school. St. Lawrence earned the Garfield Weston Award for Excellence and was celebrated at a ceremony in Toronto. Despite its ‘inner city’ status, incredibly, the school placed in the top 1% of all Ontario schools (2 887 schools) in provincial testing.



St. Luke Catholic Elementary School

“Success is not
something
to look for,
it’s something
to work for”



St. Luke Catholic Elementary School was built in 1974 and received students in 1975. It was the era of open concept schools and St. Luke's was a state of the art facility in all aspects. Since the school's inception the relationship between St. Luke School and Parish has been strong. The first Mass of the parish took place on September 21, 1975, in the gym of St. Luke School. Each week volunteers would set up and take down the seating in the gym. The make-shift altar, lectern, and offertory table were all stored in the equipment room. Baptisms, weddings, First Holy Communion and Confirmations were held in St. Luke's gym. This partnership between the school and the parish continues to develop and flourish.

St. Luke School underwent extensive renovations during the past six months as it prepared to welcome the students of St. Anthony School into its fold. St. Anthony's was an open concept school built in 1973 and closed in 2005. During the renovation process the students and staff of St.

Luke could not remain in the school, the students were resettled into two different schools. The junior and intermediate students were relocated to St. David School, and the primary students were placed in St. Anthony School. From March to June St. Luke's students and staff were made very welcome at both sites. The months of renovation gave the students and staff at St. Anthony's a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other. It was a very successful experience.

Six new classrooms have been added to the original St. Luke building to accommodate the new, larger student body. The gymnasium, computer lab, library and existing classrooms were also updated. The transition has been very successful due to the spirit and co-operation of all the stakeholders. Together future memories, spirit and co-operation will continue to ensure that St. Luke School is a "great place to learn."



St. Margaret Mary Catholic Elementary School

“ Rich in
tradition,
cooperation
and care”



St. Margaret Mary Catholic Elementary School was opened in 1957. It was designed as a four room school. There were two classrooms upstairs, and one large room downstairs was used as two classrooms. Sunday Masses were celebrated in the school.

Additions were added to the building in 1958, 1962 and 1965. By that time the school housed 900 students and had three portables. At the same time, construction of the church began. The school sisters of Loretto were the administrators of the school in the early days.

St. Margaret Mary has a very rich athletic history. The school is most noted for spawning the Seekers, an Ontario Volleyball League all-star team, in the 1970's. Many of the players from this time went on to play with varsity and national teams. As well, the school has always been considered a powerhouse in track and field. Father Kennedy was instrumental in establishing the CYO in the Hamilton area in the 1950's. He brought his love of athletics with him to the parish and school community. The CYO continues to be a huge part of the tradition of this school and students are involved in every aspect of the sports and camp programs.

St. Margaret Mary also has a rich tradition of academic excellence. The staff and the students continue to strive towards achieving the highest standards possible. Students have also won other community awards over the years. As well, several students have had their stories and poetry published in *Tapestries of Life*, an annual anthology produced by the Teachers' Association and the Board.

The school community also believes that it very important to give to those in need by supporting many charities and disaster relief funds. The students and staff are very aware of social justice, of the importance of caring for and supporting our less fortunate brothers and sisters throughout the world.

The school currently houses 460 students. The large building has plenty of room to meet the needs of all. St. Margaret Mary staff and students work in cooperation with parish, parents and the Catholic School Council to ensure that the school community is the very best that it can be!



St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic Elementary School

“Respecting the dignity
of others”

St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic Elementary School is named after St. Marguerite who was the foundress of the Grey Nuns. The order was located in New France, now called Quebec. She was born on October 15th, 1701, in Varennes, Quebec, and dedicated her life to helping the poor. The school community, through the school mission and vision tries to emulate St. Marguerite and her service to the poor. Throughout each year the school community actively supports the needy. The school community mission is to motivate students, increase self-esteem, create high expectations, and maintain a positive attitude. Catholic values are modelled through the daily interactions recognizing the uniqueness, potential, and dignity of others. The vision is that the students will be confident, courteous, self-motivated, life-long learners who emulate Catholic values.

The school was built in 1994 and serves over 520 students. The staff members of St. Marguerite d'Youville inspire students academically and spiritually as they work together as a professional learning community. They give of themselves not only in the classroom but also in the many extracurricular activities in which they are involved. The school is also unique in that a childcare centre is part of the school and offers a before-and-after school program along with full daycare services. The childcare centre has received many accolades for its high standards.

The most notable events recently included major fundraisers for the Tsunami Disaster, and the Hurricane Katrina victims. We are all proud of our first major musical production of OZ, and especially the visit from the Prime Minister of Canada, Paul Martin.

St. Marguerite d'Youville enjoys a supportive partnership with the Catholic School Council, working together to achieve our common goals. Parents have assisted with such activities as the Spelling Bee, fund raising, and concerts. We are all very proud of the staff, students, and parents in our community.



St. Mark Catholic Elementary School

St. Mark Catholic Elementary School enters its fifth year as the Board celebrates its 150th Anniversary. It is located on the East Stoney Creek Mountain, and the school stands presently as the second largest Catholic elementary school in the Board, approaching 700 students. The School Blessing and Official Opening were celebrated on May 26, 2002.

St. Mark's was carved out of the farming community that is still prevalent in the area. As the community continues to expand, the farmlands have receded. However, at St. Mark's, there is a respect for the land, and a responsibility to be good stewards of it. It continues to grow academically, athletically, and spiritually, participating in many events and activities like CYO Crusader Sports, regular school Masses, and the Prose and Poetry Writing Contest, to mention a few. Members of the school work together with Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Church and the area high school, Bishop Ryan, in providing a strong faith-based education for the school community.

St. Mark's motto, PRIDE in FAITH, SELF and LEARNING, focuses the efforts to educate the whole

"Pride in Faith,
Self and Learning"

person. This is the basis for instilling faith in God, through the acts and teachings of Jesus Christ, which is central to all that is done in the school community. The motto has been written in calligraphy in the hallways of the building. The challenge taken up by the entire school community is to work to have these words truly become the foundation of all that is done. Parish, parents, staff and students come together to support excellence in all the school activities. Learning is shared, successes are celebrated. Visitors and guests comment often on the school's spirit, enthusiasm and welcoming nature.



St. Martin Of Tours Catholic Elementary School

“Spirit
of
Christ”



One cannot discuss the history of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Elementary School without first alluding to St. Francis Xavier School. In 1947, St. Francis Xavier School, below Stoney Creek and near the junction of Highway No. 8, became ready for occupancy. The Loretto Sisters were placed in charge of this school. Further development in this area of Stoney Creek brought about a need for an additional school, and thus St. Martin of Tours was built in 1966 on a charming two acre site on Gray's Road near the corner of King Street. Interestingly enough, the design of the school can be attributed to Father Gerald Warren who had seen a photograph of a hospital in Memphis, Tennessee called the "St. Jude Children's Research Hospital." Father Warren enlisted architect, George Schneider, to design a school with a similar plan. Hence, we have the attractive school of St. Martin of Tours, with its ten bright classrooms, a semi-circular library, large gym with stage, and quaint offices. The school's architectural structure was built initially to

allow for further expansion at the time, which the board thought would be necessary in its future.

During its first year in 1967, St. Martin of Tours held classes from Kindergarten to Grade 8. In its second year, however, it became a Junior School with the Grade 7 and 8 students attending St. Francis Xavier School. At this point in 1969, there were 900 students attending St. Francis Xavier School and St. Martin of Tours School.

In the next decades, St. Martin of Tours student population hovered around the 300 mark, sometimes dipping into the 270's, sometimes hitting as high as 350 pupils. The school community has always been known to be a vibrant one, with staff, parents and parish working together in partnership in the name of Catholic education, and for the best interests of the students.



St. Mary Catholic Elementary School

“A place of
learning, a place
of friendship, a
place for all”



St. Mary Catholic Elementary School is located in the heart of the city of Hamilton. In 1855 St. Mary's, along with St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School, were the first Catholic schools established in Hamilton. Vicar General Gordon invited the Sisters of St. Joseph to come to this pioneer, harbour city to provide a faith aspect to the established secular educational system. They arrived in 1852, and the buildings for both schools officially opened in 1856. Originally, St. Mary's was built on the site at Mulberry and Park Streets. However, the school often had more than one site and function: Sacred Heart Model School; St. Mary Lyceum; St. Mary Boys School; St. Augustine Senior Boys; and Holy Angels, the Board's first French Language school. In 1950, the current building was constructed, but it wasn't until 1959 that all of St. Mary's elementary students were together under one roof.

The school facility accommodates a wide variety of International programs as well as citizenship classes. International language programs include Polish, Portuguese and Vietnamese. St. Mary School is fortunate to be one of three schools that provide a full day Kindergarten program. The Staff provides an extensive co-curricular program that

includes house league programs, CYO Crusader sports programs as well as a homework club.

The families in the school community have access to three Catholic Churches in close proximity to the school. The churches include St. Mary's, St. Cyril's and All Souls. Religious celebrations such as the Living Rosary and Living Stations, as well as a Christmas Pageant, have been an important tradition in the school. The Catholic School Council is small in number but the group is dedicated and has established good relationships with both staff and parents.

St. Mary's has a proud history and the local community has served as the first settlement area for a wide variety of ethnic groups when they first arrive in Canada. Currently, the school population includes a large number of Portuguese, Vietnamese, Spanish and Hungarian families. When one talks of St. Mary School one is really talking about a school that continues to welcome and serve the multicultural families in the community.



St. Michael Catholic Elementary School

"Believing in the unique
strengths and qualities of
every child "

St. Michael Catholic Elementary School was the tenth Catholic elementary school built on the Hamilton Mountain. It was originally opened to ease the large enrolment pressures at Our Lady of Lourdes School. Constructed on what was then swampland, piles of steel were brought in to support the land on which the school would be built.

On Labour Day of 1966, the first registrations were taken on the front lawn of the school. During the first few years, a revolutionary idea emerged to include "disabled" children in the school. St. Michael's soon housed the first classrooms for special needs students in the Hamilton Catholic school system. This was a monumental step, not only for the special needs children who were welcomed into regular school, but also for the School Board. A new philosophy of "Each Belongs" began to materialize, and its grass roots began at St. Michael School. This philosophy extended and opened boundaries for exceptional learners even further. It also prompted the School Board to embrace the concept of full inclusion, as the initial special needs classrooms began integrating their children into regular classrooms. What had started out as an experiment in education garnered national and international fame for St. Michael's and the School Board.

St. Michael's is a site for International Language classes, which serve the neighbouring Italian communities. Within the last few years, the school has become a Heart Healthy School. In conjunction with the Public Health Department, the school has organized events focusing on healthy eating

and being active. Fruit and healthy snacks are provided free of charge to all children every day. The school has organized a move-a-thon in the middle of winter in order to provide children with extra opportunities to exercise. The staff and community support a variety of co-curricular activities including CYO sports, Green Thumb and Homework Club, just to name a few. Over the past few years, the school has planted trees, shrubs and flowers to improve the overall appearance of the school grounds.

Most recently, the additions of a much needed gymnasium and library were completed in September 2005. The construction included a new gymnasium, complete with change-rooms, storage and a server, a beautiful library/computer/resource centre (newly renovated in place of the old gymnasium), new administrative and front offices, a special needs washroom, as well as two newly created classrooms in place of the old library.

The St. Michael faith community is unique because it is split between Sts. Peter and Paul and Our Lady of Lourdes Parishes. In this regard, the community feels twice blessed.



St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School

St. Patrick School, along with St. Mary Elementary, was the first Catholic school in Hamilton. It was erected in 1855 on Hunter Street at Ferguson Avenue, and was placed in the charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The school initially served as the founding chapel of St. Patrick's Parish for many years. St. Patrick School moved to its present location in 1912. The building was then renovated in the 1970s. It has been a vibrant school community, no matter where the location, for the past one and a half centuries.

St. Patrick School is an energetic, vital community in which the spirit of diversity is alive and well. Children from all over the globe - Columbia, the Czech Republic, Mexico, Chile, Hungary, and Korea - mingle with others who are third generation and longer St. Patrick graduates. These differences, however, only serve to enhance the one thing that unites: a desire to learn in a Christ-centred environment. The school community works together to bring Christ into everything that is done and learned. It is interesting to note that St. Patrick School's first students were largely immigrants themselves, from Ireland. Given the current cultural mosaic of the school, it is true that the more things change, the more they remain the same.

The parish has always played a significant role in the

"An energetic, vital
community in which the
spirit of diversity is
alive and well"

children's education. The priests throughout one hundred and fifty years have been regular visitors to the school, and continue to be readily available to the students, as well, the Catholic Women's League has continued to be actively involved in many of the school events, including the annual Christmas lunch, Pancake Day, and celebration of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

It seems that, wherever one travels throughout the region, the mere mention of St. Patrick School evokes fond memories. Truly, St. Patrick School serves as part of the foundation for the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.



St. Paul Catholic Elementary School

“ Respect +
Responsibility =
Success ”



Respect, plus Responsibility equals Success. That's what the community of learners at St. Paul Catholic Elementary School have put into practice since its official opening on April 20, 1986. Built on an area of 3.5 acres, this Upper Stoney Creek Mountain school opened with an energetic student population of 336 students. Serving students from grades JK-8, St. Paul's was bustling with activity that always served to meet the educational, social and spiritual needs of its young patrons. As a state of the art facility, St. Paul's initially served as a hub for many of the Board's extra-curricular activities, hosting for many years such events as the Junior Math Challenge and Public Speaking Forums. With the housing boom continuing in the Stoney Creek mountain area (then known as Satellite City), St. Paul's enrolment climbed to its peak enrolment in 1997 with close to 600 students attending. Five portables were placed on site to help house the large numbers. Eventually, the school population would lessen dramatically, with the building of St. Mark School in 2001. Today, St. Paul has a population of just over 280 students. New surveys which are presently being built in the area close to the Lincoln Alexander Parkway will be serviced by St. Paul.

The parish of Our Lady of Assumption has for the last twenty years worked closely with the school to provide meaningful religious experiences. Partnered with the parish, the school has always had an active Catholic School Council made up of parents who have worked with a dedicated school staff to help fulfil the mandate of improving pupil achievement within the context of promoting the Catholic

mission and vision. This community has many things to be proud of in its 20 year history. In 1999 the school choir sang in the The Nutcracker Ballet at Hamilton Place and in that same year they ranked second at the Kiwanis Music Festival at McMaster University. In addition to the numerous academic and athletic accomplishments of school teams and individuals, the school community has involved itself in many projects. A visit to the school will unveil one of its prize works, a spectacular millennium garden that was planned and built, with the help of community sponsors and many dedicated St. Paul parents, students and staff. In the year 2000, the school was recognized by the Industry-Education Council of Hamilton-Wentworth and it was awarded the City of Stoney Creek Beautification Award in honour of this creation. To this day, there is an active garden club made up of students and a supervising parent who volunteer their time tending to the garden as stewards of the earth.

It was St. Paul himself who reminds us in his letters to clothe ourselves in what is essential - "compassion, humanity, gentleness, and patience". The past years at St. Paul have witnessed these at work in our own community as students, staff and parents consistently come together to help those in need, whether close to home or afar. The front alcove which contains the statue of St. Paul serves as a challenge to each person, whether student, parent or visitor, to put his words into action and to continue to make St. Paul Catholic Elementary School "A Great Place to Grow!"

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Elementary School

“Supported in
tradition and
strengthened
through the bonds
of faith”



Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Elementary School officially opened in 1948. Construction started in 1947. The school's first stage consisted of four classrooms and an auditorium. Most Reverend J.F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton on June 28, 1948 established Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. Initially the one hundred families celebrated the sacraments in the chapel of Mount Cenacle Retreat House. Once the school was completed in September and a chapel established in the basement, the parish community found a home there until April 10, 1950. It was on this date when Reverend J.F. Hinchey, V.G. officiated at the laying of the cornerstone of the new church.

The parish and school community grew rapidly for the next six years. Four more classrooms were added in 1951. This addition provided the school with home economics and industrial arts rooms. Additions continued to be a normal part of school life through the 1960's as the post-war "baby boom" sent enrolments soaring. Today, more than twenty classrooms are used to teach over 550 students attending Sts. Peter and Paul School. During the past fifteen years, the school has been home to one of the Kindergarten to Grade Eight French Immersion sites in the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.

The parish church and school grew in tandem with the

mountain itself. The parishioners and students have been an important part of the community. Many have worked diligently in building Sts. Peter and Paul School's rich history. The community owes a debt of gratitude to all the parents, teachers, principals, pastors, superintendents and trustees who have been a part of Sts. Peter and Paul School.

The 50th Anniversary Mass and Open House were held on Sunday, October 4th, 1998. Many former students, staff, and parents attended the event. The highlight of the day was the digging up of the time capsule buried in May 1989. Another container holding the treasures of the day replaced it in the original burial spot.

Today, over 55 years later, Sts. Peter and Paul continues to be a model for the working relationship among parish, school and home. Together as a faith community students, parents and staff actively support social justice events, demonstrate commitment to humanity and devotion to our faith. The Sts. Peter and Paul School community continues to be dedicated to Catholic education, and values the work of all those individuals who give unselfishly in this pursuit. Staff, students and parents are committed to working together for the good of each member in the community and those who need help . . . together we are Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School.

St. Teresa Of Avila Catholic Elementary School

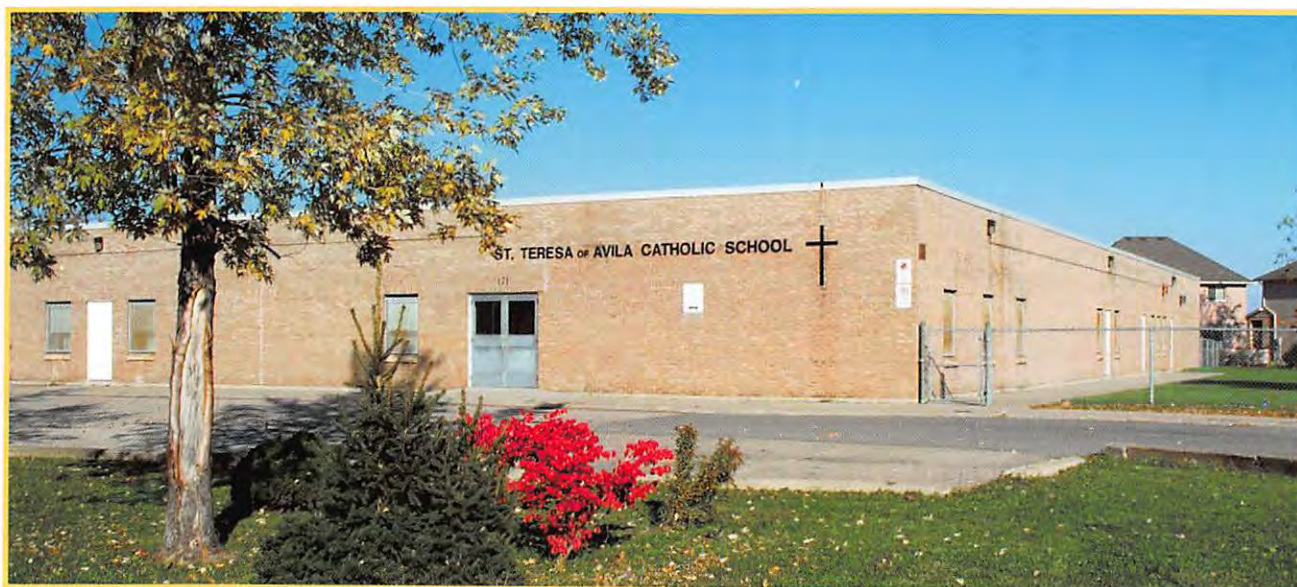
"Knowledge with caring
and sharing"

St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Elementary School received its official blessing on November 7, 1976 by the Most Reverend Paul F. Reding, Bishop of Hamilton. For this closely-knit school community it was truly a memorable day when the ribbon was cut. The dream for a neighbourhood school became a reality.

From the very beginning, the school was blessed with a vibrant community of eager young students, a dedicated staff committed to quality education, a supportive parent community, and a caring and gracious pastor. The high standards established from the outset and maintained throughout the years are clearly reflected in the school's motto: "Knowledge with Caring and Sharing."

Although in the past the student population of St. Teresa's has passed the 300 mark, it now hovers around 225 students. The community of St. Teresa of Avila School is one of life-long learners who work together to respect the different economic, cultural and physical needs. Like Teresa of Avila, the staff and students strive to live holy lives, make sacrifices for Jesus and pray with great love. It has at all times been a community that has strived for academic excellence, fair play, and spiritual fulfillment.

The students of St. Teresa of Avila have been encouraged, throughout the school's history, to be all that they can be. Whether it is on a field or in a gym, participating in any number of the numerous academic initiatives offered to them, or pursuing spiritual growth through faith formation, the students are continually challenged to work to their full potential. Like St. Teresa of Avila, the community members strive to live holy lives, make sacrifices for Jesus Christ, and pray with great love.



St. Thérèse Of Lisieux Catholic Elementary School

On September 7, 2004, the community near Garth Street and Rymal Road was blessed with the opening of St. Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic Elementary School.

Surrounded by a beautiful area of land, the school boasts a large foyer and is built in the formation of a square. Spacious hallways surround the resource centre, computer lab and gymnasium, while all the classrooms enjoy a view of the beautiful outdoor surroundings. The school staff worked hard to have the school ready for opening day. In fact, many staff members were there on Labour Day to ensure that the school was ready to meet the students with open arms.

The community is mainly comprised of families from Corpus Christi, Regina Mundi and St. Catherine of Siena schools. Other families are new to this growing community. The school began with 468 students and by the first day of school in its second year, 538 students were enrolled.

St. Thérèse dedicated herself to a simple life of love and service to God. The students continue to live by her example and are constantly reminded and rewarded for their little acts of kindness. The school received an authentic, extremely rare, first class relic which is on display in the

“Service, Teamwork and
Learning”

foyer of the school. Everyone is welcome to visit the school, feel the warmth of the community, and see the relic. The school’s motto is Service, Teamwork, and Learning (STL).

The school hosts a before and after school program and also has an active Catholic School Council who work together to enhance student learning. Many great things have happened in one year, and we look forward to the many wonderful things that this growing community can and will do to promote our Catholic school mission.



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Elementary School

“Respect,
care and
compassion”



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Elementary School is located on Barton Street in Waterdown, Ontario. The school celebrated its 50th anniversary of service to the Catholic families of Waterdown and the Flamborough area in 2001.

At the turn of the century, Waterdown had no Catholic school. In 1927, Catholic students attended class at the Convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame. As enrolment at Notre Dame increased, a new Catholic school was proposed for Waterdown. Father J.P. Cremmen, Pastor of St. Thomas Catholic Church, was instrumental in the drive to build the new school.

In September 1951, a brand new three room Catholic school was opened on a parcel of land next to St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. It was blessed as St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School by the Most Reverend J.F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton. It had an enrolment of 68 students, a principal and staff of three teachers. As the

population of Waterdown grew, additions were added to St. Thomas in 1963, 1968, and 1984. By the 1990's, St. Thomas housed in excess of 700 students. This necessitated the building of two other Catholic elementary schools: Our Lady of Mount Carmel (1993) and Guardian Angels (2001).

Today, St. Thomas has an enrolment of 300 students and offers a full range of educational programming for students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8. The experienced teaching staff works hard to provide a challenging and stimulating environment for students. A spacious library and computer lab serve to broaden the experiences of the children through the curriculum. The staff and students enjoy a close relationship with the parish team, who in 2005 opened a new, beautiful, and spacious St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. As a community, St. Thomas the Apostle School strives to live according to the teachings of Jesus by embracing respect, care and compassion for each other.



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School

“We are God’s
Family: Church,
school, home”



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School was officially opened on November 5, 1989. A replacement for the original St. Vincent de Paul School on Columbia Drive, it retained its name mainly because of the strong feelings of the parent council.

St. Vincent de Paul School was “designed to educate elementary pupils in the 1990’s and right through the 21st century” with air conditioning, a childcare centre where parents left their children before and after school and a spacious, computerized library with high ceilings and windows. When first built, it had the biggest gym ever built in a Hamilton separate school. It also has a large stage that previously was used for music classes but now is used by the child care centre and by the special needs students for stretching and quiet time.

Currently 432 children from Junior Kindergarten to Grade Eight attend St. Vincent de Paul School. It was built to accommodate 440 children. At its peak, more than 500 students attended the school. St. Vincent de Paul School has a number of special needs students who are active,

integrated participants in every aspect of the school. The entire school is on one floor to make it easier for students in wheelchairs. An elevator allows such students to gain access to the stage.

The school hosts many community groups, including; Scouts Canada, the CYO Crusader Athletics Program, the Blessed Sacrament Basketball Program and Heritage Language. The Regina Mundi parish team visits regularly, supporting religious and sacramental programs. St. Vincent de Paul is a vibrant school community, offering numerous co-curricular activities such as CYO sports, student council, choir, and a variety of clubs. There is an active Catholic School Council that assists in fund-raising, faith development, school safety, communication, and volunteering whenever they are needed. St. Vincent de Paul School fully integrates school, home, parish and community to provide the students with an outstanding faith based, academic education filled with many co-curricular activities. Providing the best education possible for all students is the school’s focus.



Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School

It is not possible to speak about Bishop Ryan Secondary School without first acknowledging the man for whom it was named. Bishop Joseph Francis Ryan was born in Dundas on March 1, 1897. As Hamilton celebrates 150 years of Catholic education, much of it can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of Bishop Ryan.

Bishop Ryan was an advocate for Catholic education. He devoted a considerable amount of his time and much of the Diocese's resources to its promotion. A great concern for the Bishop was the education of the young. Bishop Ryan's mission was to see that Catholic education would continue in Ontario. Particularly, the Bishop helped to create and expand schools in the Hamilton area. Due to an influx of Catholic immigrants to Hamilton after World War Two, the Diocese began to grow at a rapid rate. This rapid expansion required Bishop Ryan to open more than 50 new parishes and dozens of new schools. Because of his commitment to Catholic education, it was only fitting that a school would be named in his honour as a lasting tribute to his many years of dedication and promotion of Catholic education.

The construction of an east end high school was becoming a reality. The construction cost of the building was \$1,100,000 and was entirely raised by the parishioners of the numerous Hamilton dioceses. The new location of the school would be at the junction of Queenston Road and Parkdale Avenue behind St. Eugene Roman Catholic Church.

"Bishop Ryan High School" officially opened in September 1958. "BR" as it has been commonly referred to over the years, was the third Catholic high school to open in Hamilton. In its first year of operation the school only consisted of one grade level- grade nine. The enrolment that first year was a total of 177 students (90 boys and 87 girls). A year after its opening, students were to wear uniforms, the colours chosen were green and white.

During the sod turning ceremony on April 21, 1958 the Bishop went on to give his comments about Catholic education. His Excellency said that the new school would teach the young men and women of tomorrow how "to face the adversities of our times..." and added that Bishop Ryan High School would endure to instil "courage, health and strength" so that students would become the "first class

citizens of the future". The construction of "Bishop Ryan High School" in 1958-1959 signalled a beginning for the expansion of the Hamilton Catholic High School System. As a testament to the commitment of Catholic education in Hamilton, four more Catholic high schools were erected. On a daily basis these schools continue to foster the Bishop's dream. In February of 1991, the school relocated to Quigley Road. A larger site was needed to house the growing population of the area.

Currently, the high school has a student population of over 1250 students, 72 teachers and numerous support staff. Bishop Ryan will celebrate a momentous occasion in 2008: the school will celebrate its 50th anniversary. During its 50 years, thousands of students have been educated by dedicated teachers of the Catholic faith. Catholic education in Hamilton today is a testament of one man's conviction: a vision started long ago which was made possible by the drive of the human spirit. The Bishop Ryan school motto proudly expresses the roots of 150 years of Catholic education in Hamilton. It simply, yet eloquently reads: "Where faith, pride and effort promote excellence". The motto is a true reflection and representation of Bishop Joseph Francis Ryan and the Catholic secondary school that respectfully and proudly bears his name.



"Where faith, pride and
effort promote excellence"



Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School

“Ground breaking”, this phrase best summarizes the events of the past three years as the community of Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School was born. On May 22, 2003, students and parents from the feeder schools as well as St. Mary and St. Thomas More Secondary School joined His Excellency Bishop Tonnos, Board officials and several dignitaries and proudly took part in the ground breaking ceremony that initiated the building of this secondary school, the first new high school in the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board in twenty-six years. In the following months, excitement spread as visits were made to the Grade 8 students of the feeder schools and students at St. Mary and St. Thomas More who were interested in being a part of history. These students would make up the first graduating class.

September 2004 saw the new Bishop Tonnos school community of Grade 9 and 10 students take up temporary residence in the former Christ the King Elementary School. Proximity to the Cathedral of Christ the King and the Bishop’s residence provided special opportunities for the staff and students to become better acquainted with their namesake.

Boxes were packed again, and on January 31 2005, staff and students settled at 100 Panabaker Drive, the permanent home of the Bishop Tonnos Titans. The school year 2004-2005 saw many new beginnings.

The first Student Council was established and allowed the

“ One school, one goal,
one Lord”

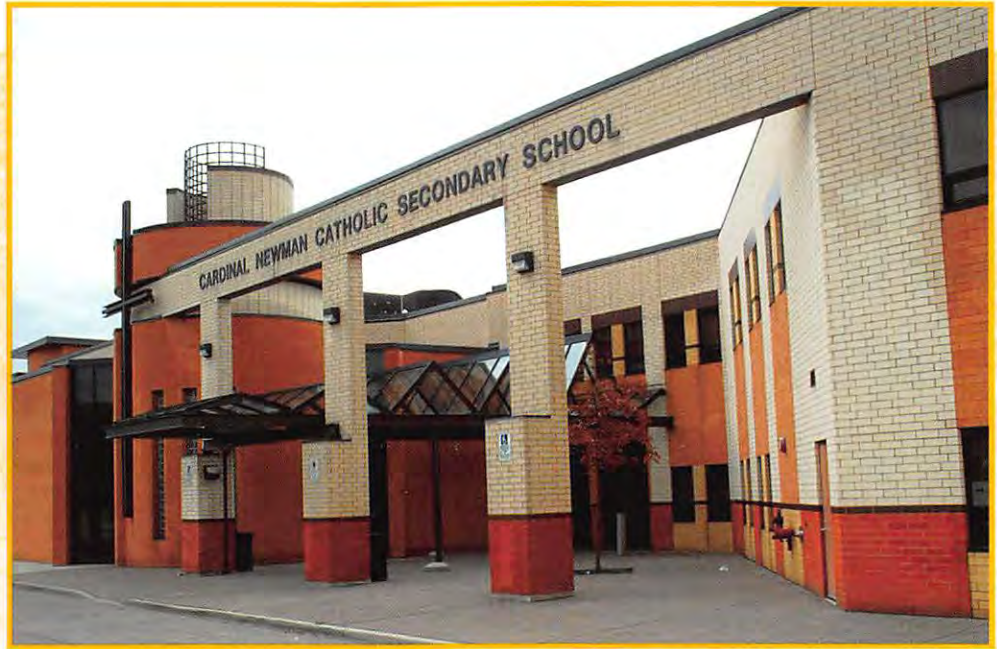
students to actively participate in the growth of the community. The Eucharist was celebrated with Bishop Tonnos for the first time as a community. The new school band and choir presented a wonderful Christmas concert. The sports teams made great strides with the Junior Boys’, Midget Girls’ Basketball teams and the Junior Girls’ Volleyball team being named champions in various tournaments. Even as the community defined itself, awareness of the needs and suffering of those affected by Hurricane Ivan and the tsunami in Asia were met with great generosity.

The highlight of the year, of course, was the Blessing and Official Opening of the school which took place on April 17, 2005 as Bishop Tonnos, many dignitaries, students, parents, staff and the community celebrated together what had finally been accomplished. We truly were “One School, One Goal, One Lord” living our faith under the guidance and grace of our Lord, Jesus.



Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School

“To grow
is to
change”



Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School began because of an awkward 200 student satellite campus at St. Francis Xavier Elementary School. Since this was not a feasible situation, the Board opted to open a new Catholic high school in the East Hamilton/Stoney Creek area. Cardinal Newman opened in September of 1975 with 275 students at 30 Cromwell Crescent. As the geographical area around Cardinal Newman developed from rural to urban, its student population began to grow, and by 1989 the school had expanded to an amazing 1500 students. A great number of these students were “housed” in portables, to accommodate the growing population. At this time it was decided that Newman would become a split campus and Cardinal Newman East Campus took over the building previously owned by Winona High while the school on Cromwell Crescent became the Cardinal Newman West Campus. Although it was a school that was physically divided, it was united by school Masses, assemblies, staff, and students. For 10 long years staff and students struggled

to commute between campuses on their lunch hours and after school. Finally in 1998 it was announced that the old Saltfleet High School on Gray’s Road would be demolished and a new Cardinal Newman would be built.

On January 10, 2000, Newman staff and students celebrated 25 years of crowding, commuting and separation and prepared for a future of unification. Both schools and 1500 students were together in a new, beautiful building housing three gyms, a state-of-the-art information centre linked to the Hamilton Public Library, a weight room, a video studio, three auto bays, and a cafetorium.

Since moving in to the new building on Gray’s Road, Newman has experienced further growth in its student enrolment. It has an active student community that is rooted in its Catholic faith and this, partnered with the dedication of its staff, parents, and school community, makes Cardinal Newman a haven for education.



Cathedral High School

“Probitas et
scientia:
goodness and
knowledge”



The history of Cathedral High School dates back to 1912 when high school classes leading to matriculation were offered to boys and girls by the Hamilton Separate School Board. Classes were held in two rooms at St. Mary School, located on Mulberry Street. Since St. Mary's parish held the "Cathedra" or chair of the Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton, St. Mary's was known as a Cathedral School. From this modest beginning a strong Cathedral school community began to grow.

By 1921, student enrolment had significantly increased and students could no longer be accommodated at St. Mary's. The boys' classes were moved to the upper floor of St. Patrick School on East Avenue and Main Street. The girl's classes remained at St. Mary School.

In 1925, the Separate School Board authorized the building of a new and larger building to meet the needs of the fast growing male student population at St. Patrick School. Catholic households were canvassed for donations by the Holy Name Men of the various parishes to help fund the building of the new school. In 1928, Cathedral Boys' High School, the impressive Gothic building erected at the corner of Emerald and Main Streets, was officially opened.

In the same year, the Girls' School took over the space on the top floor of St. Patrick School and in the Club House across the street. The boys and girls shared the gym and science labs at Cathedral Boys'. Both students and Sister

teachers crossed busy Main Street on a daily basis loaded down with books and even science equipment.

In September 1951, the Memorial Wing was added on to Cathedral Boys'. It was dedicated to the brave young men from Cathedral who had served and fallen in the two World Wars.

In 1955, the girls moved into their new building on Main Street two blocks east of Cathedral Boys'. In 1964, the music room, biology lab and a staff room were added onto Cathedral Girls' High School. Cathedral Boys' and Cathedral Girls' as two separate sites, met the educational needs of the Catholic community in the central part of the city until 1992. In that year, the two schools were amalgamated into one school - Cathedral High School.

The most recent chapter in the evolution of Cathedral High School was written in 1995 with the opening of the state of the art facility on Wentworth Street North, designed to meet the academic and physical needs of students and staff in the new millennium.

The new school brings new opportunities, a new spirit and new traditions. Hopefully, the Cathedral tradition of caring, compassion, service and striving for excellence will serve as a source of inspiration and pride for the future generations of students who will walk the halls and feel the beneficence of Cathedral High School.



St. Jean de Brébeuf Catholic Secondary School

"Anima, mens, corpus:
soul, mind, body"

St. Jean de Brébeuf was a giant among men, an outstanding academician, and extremely spiritual in his dedication and courage. This French Jesuit priest was martyred in 1649 after introducing Christian values to the Huron Indians in the Midland area for 16 years. So it only seemed fitting that his name would grace the new Catholic Secondary School on the Hamilton mountain that would open its doors to 450 grade 9 and 10 students in 1974.

"Anima, mens, corpus - soul, mind, body" soon followed as the school's motto in 1975. It embodied the heart and soul of the school's mission, as did the naming of the school's first yearbook publication, "Echon", Huron for "the Brave One". Each student was now learning under the guidance of his or her own heroic pioneer and spiritual mentor.

In 1978, the first Graduation Class from start to finish at Brébeuf, donated a painting of St. Jean de Brébeuf to the school to be hung as a reminder to students, staff, and visitors that the school's namesake was a person to be emulated on a daily basis. The Stations of the Cross were also presented in this same year. A mere four years after opening its doors, the Brébeuf family was growing in numbers, academic success, athletic prowess, and dedication to community causes. St. Jean de Brébeuf, the Jesuit Saint, was indeed implanting his faith in the hearts, minds, and souls of the school's community.

By 1984, St. Jean de Brébeuf's 10th Anniversary marked the lives of 1,066 students. Indeed, the greatest challenge was keeping pace with the skyrocketing enrollment. By 1992, 1648 students graced the halls of the building on Acadia Drive. Newly renovated spaces included a new library, "The Founding Fathers of Brébeuf", and a chapel in 2000. An outstanding gym facility with a fitness centre was completed in 2003.

Currently, St. Jean de Brébeuf's enrolment is 1830 students strong. It is with great pride that the staff and the parish community work together to provide Brébeuf's students with dedicated support, solid curricula, and a spiritually-charged learning environment.



St. Mary Catholic Secondary School

In the history of St. Mary Catholic Secondary School one thing is certain: St. Mary's has always adapted to the changes of the times. It opened its doors for the first time in 1970 after Loretto Academy closed. St. Mary's first home was in Christ the King Catholic Elementary School. It was not long, however, before the secondary school outgrew the former elementary school, and in 1980, it relocated to the site of the former Hamilton Teachers' College near McMaster University.

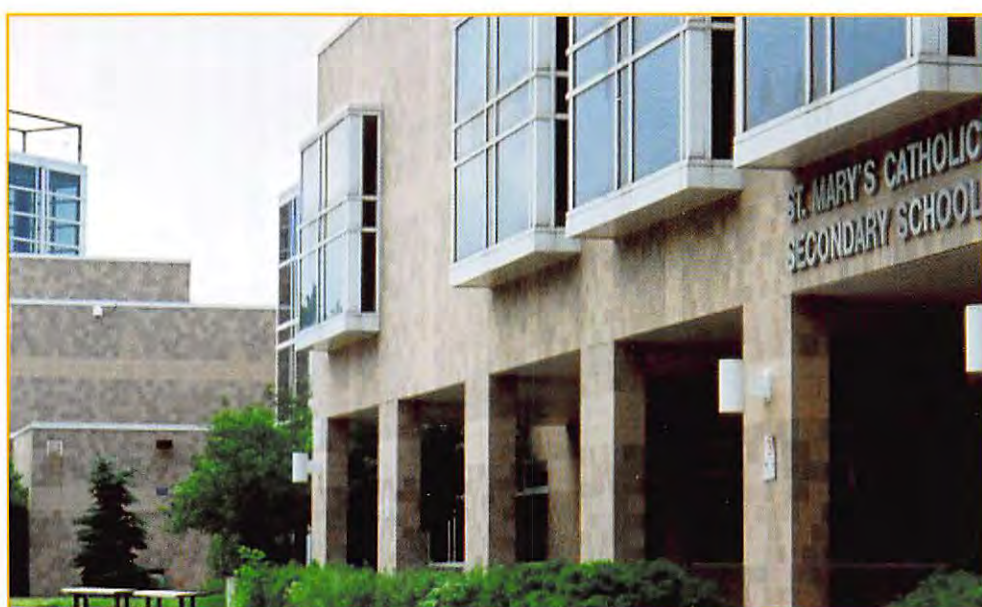
Once again, this newer facility, that originally housed 500 students, was not adequate after the school population doubled. St. Mary's became so overcrowded in the 1980s, that a village of portables was added to the facility. With increased funding, the School Board was able to plan for a new school. In 1994, a magnificent building with a panoramic view of the escarpment as its backdrop opened on Whitney Avenue and Rifle Range Road. St. Mary's found its permanent home.

In September, 2004, St. Mary's underwent another major change when Bishop Tonnos, Hamilton's newest Catholic



Secondary School, opened to serve the developing communities of Ancaster and Hamilton's west mountain.

Today, St. Mary's remains a vibrant community of over 1200 staff and students. St. Mary's has earned a reputation for excellence in both its educational and athletic programs. It offers a variety of extra-curricular activities for students that ranges from creative dance to outreach into the third world. St. Mary's 35-year history is not only a reflection of the rich expansion of Catholic education in Hamilton-Wentworth, but also a testament to the commitment of the school's staff, students, and parents.



St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School

“Rooted in faith,
committed to
students, proud of
tradition”



The St. Thomas More school community first planted its seeds of excellence in September 1972 when it welcomed some 750 Grades 9 and 10 students to its East 5th Street campus. This facility marked the first ever construction of a high school site by the Hamilton Separate School Board: a significant statement in a time of much educational funding uncertainty. Semestered classes, PACT Periods, House Colour Structures and the Joe Densmore Memorial Trophy marked some of the many highlights.

Staff members continued to lead and nurture the community as its unique identity began to take shape. Annual Community Days at Mount Cenacle, Crusade Days (Fund-raising for the Board of Governors), Arena Scheduling and the first annual Graduations were visible signs of the growth, maturity, confidence and excellence. When full funding was finally recognized, the challenge was presented to relocate to a new campus on Upper Paradise. The East 5th campus, although overgrown, did not stifle the enthusiasm of a spirited community that had made significant strides in both instructional and co-instructional programs.

During its 25th Anniversary Year the community rededicated its energies to renew the call to excellence. This landmark event was highlighted with Eucharistic liturgies, Alumni Career Days, and other events welcoming 1500 alumni on campus.

Today St. Thomas More is seen as a welcoming community, rich in instructional program development and community outreach programs. Staffed by dedicated teachers recognized for their compassion and professionalism, there have been many significant events: Hallowe'en for Hunger, Christmas Miracles, 2 OFSAA Pete Awards, as well as Awards in Guidance/Coop, Special Education, Teaching Awards and Educational Leadership.

As St. Thomas More looks to the future, it does so rooted in its faith, committed to its students, and proud of its traditions!



St. Charles Adult Education Centres

In 1985, the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board opened its first Adult Education Centre at the former St. Charles Catholic Elementary School in downtown Hamilton. “St. Charles Centre” became a place where adults could go to improve their reading, writing and math skills, learn English, and finish their high school education. Twenty years later, the Board’s commitment to lifelong learning has manifested itself in seven St. Charles centres throughout Hamilton, serving more than 20,000 citizens every year.

The educators are a passionate group, serving the diverse and dynamic needs of the Hamilton Community, above and beyond the traditional elementary and secondary delivery models already provided by the Board. The students follow a non-traditional path of education, in most cases obtaining a precious ‘second-chance’ at St. Charles. From the adolescent immigrant student trying to master the English language, to the high school dropout who has since recognized the value of a diploma, to the adult immigrant who has fled his or her country to start anew, to the unemployed labourer needing to retrain, St. Charles offers a refuge of learning and growth, nourishing the seeds of renewed hope. Notwithstanding the diversity of cultures, religious backgrounds, age, gender, special needs and potential, all students are welcomed and treated with dignity and respect.

St. Charles’ success lies in its ability to identify and respond to the changing educational, employment and training needs of the learners in our community. With the growing immigrant base in Hamilton, as well as the rising numbers of secondary students needing alternative paths to a high school diploma, comes an even greater need for dynamic leadership and unique program delivery at St. Charles.

Recent emphasis on accurately assessing skills on program intake, renewed focus on the pronunciation component of learning English, and the offering of high school credit English, all bode well for the immigrant student who is keen on enthusiasm, but short on time. Support of English learning for immigrant secondary students aids in their assimilation, and the offering of adult day school provides an alternative path to troubled secondary students.

As the educational and employment needs of the Hamilton community continue to diversify, St. Charles will remain a beacon of hope for those in need of a ‘second chance’, while celebrating our Catholic distinctiveness and providing a learning environment that reflects the Christian ideals of social justice, respect and fairness for all.



Wilma's Place

Wilma's Place, Cathedral High School's Alternative Programme, is designed to meet the needs of Hamilton's at-risk students.

When established in 1988, the primary focus of the programme was to meet the needs of at-risk female students who were struggling with emotional, psychological, social and economic barriers that threatened the completion of their education.

In January of 1993 the programme identified the need for similar programming for male students who were at risk of dropping out of school for similar reasons.

The success of Wilma's Place has come, not only because of the full support of the Board, but also because of the many community and social service agencies, which assist in helping the students continue with their education and dismantle the barriers they face in their lives. The staff is proud of all the successes the students achieve, but especially proud of the students who graduate each year and enrol in post-secondary education.

Today, and for the past ten years, Wilma's Place has called the "Old Cathedral Boys' High School" home. A nurturing, safe and welcoming learning environment for youth, Wilma's Place looks forward to its continued commitment to the at-risk students in our community.

Notre Dame House School

The Good Shepherd opened Notre Dame House School in 2001. It was established to fulfill a need that was evident: a 21-bed youth shelter, to meet the educational needs of many of the street youth living in the downtown core. Programs grew to the point that 2 fulltime teachers were required. The school has continued to grow and now employees two full time teachers and a full time Child and Youth Worker. Currently 30 students attend the school with many more on the waiting list.

While the prime purpose of the school is to promote academic excellence among the students, the center also encourages spiritual development among those attending. Students are offered a choice of most of the required courses and use ILC materials. Students are required to participate in a physical education program every morning with facilities provided by the James Street YMCA. The philosophy of the program revolves around the concept of body, mind and spirit. Students are presented with many paths to

follow where they can achieve success; co-op education, OYAP, obtaining a high school diploma while applying to College or University, etc. The program has many success stories. Last June the first graduation ceremony was held where two of the students graduated. They have both continued to grow; one in the workforce and the other continuing her educational pursuits at Mohawk College. It is expected that the graduation class this year will be equally successful.

Our community partners play a large role in the success of the program. Many social services are provided to assist our students who must overcome huge obstacles in order to be successful. We are fortunate that we are able to maintain a low pupil teacher ratio in order to meet the needs of our students. The support that the staff and students receive from the partnership of the Good Shepherd and our School Board has a tremendous impact on the success of the program.



St. Martin's Manor

A Section 20 School

St. Martin's Manor was founded in 1954, with the encouragement of Bishop Ryan and the support of the Catholic Women's League and the Holy Name Society, as a haven for young pregnant women. In 1975, the Sisters of Notre Dame became part of the supervisory team at St. Martin's.

An education program for the young women of St. Martin's was established. Teachers from St. Mary's were contracted to supply the Home Study for the young women. Initially, 24 to 28 teachers were needed, and this number grew as an increased variety of classes was requested.

When St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School opened, it was given the responsibility of finding teachers, registering the students at St. Thomas More and maintaining the paperwork for the Ontario Student Records. In 1982, a need was seen for an in-house school to meet the growing needs of the clientele. A Section 20 school was established at St. Martin's Manor as part of Adult Education with the help of the school board (A 'section' school is named for that section of the Education Act that defines how funding is provided for ministry schools in care and treatment facilities.)

The school opened January 31, 1986 with a principal and one and a half teachers. In September, another teacher joined the staff half-time. In its 20-year history, the one constant has been two teacher timetables and 20 students at a time. The requirement is that the students be pregnant or parenting, but the reality has been that for most, the

pregnancy was the least of the 'problems' the students faced.

At inception, the mandate was to work towards credits with each student until such time as she delivered her baby and left the Manor. Many of the students chose adoption. As more students opted for parenting and were leaving with partial credits and nowhere to go to school until the next semester began, the decision was made to allow students to return to finish partial credits. After that, changes were swift: the Manor began to encourage young parents to stay in residence for up to 3 months in order to receive assistance with parenting skills; a childminding service was provided for infants of both residents and day students; the Learning Earning and Parenting program was introduced in Ontario requiring young parents on Ontario Works to attend school until they were 18; the Manor became more active in community involvement. Today, we have a student who has never been pregnant but who is in need of support.

The goal at St. Martin's Manor is to bridge the gap between the uncertainties of impending parenthood and the confidence needed to tackle the world as a young parent requiring skills to not only cope but thrive.

We are very proud of the fact that we have 30 students who celebrated graduation ceremonies with us and a much larger number of former students who have gone on to graduate elsewhere and establish themselves in circumstances that would have seemed impossible the day they arrived at the Manor.



Our Closed Schools

The ties that still bind us together



Throughout the past 150 years, some schools in The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board have changed building sites, but only a few schools have been closed permanently- most of these due to declining enrolment. In honour of the dedicated individuals who pride themselves in having been a part of a school community that no longer exists, the schools that have been closed are celebrated here.

Cathedral Boys' High School 1929-1995 on the corner of Emerald and Main Streets, opened its doors initially to 250 young men. The impressive Gothic building, which still stands today, was blessed and dedicated by Cardinal Sincero of Rome. The Venerable Neil McNeil, Archbishop of Toronto, gave the address. Prior to the opening of this new school the young men had received their Catholic education on the second floor at St. Patrick's. Cathedral Boys' was staffed by Christian Brothers, lay persons and a number of diocesan priests. In 1951, with increased enrollment, an addition was built. Part of the construction included a memorial wing, dedicated to the brave young men from the Cathedral community, who had served in the two world wars. The school became famous for academic excellence, championship sports teams, debate clubs and drama productions. It grew and flourished through the dedication and generosity of the "Cathedral Old Boys' Association" and "Cathedral Fathers' Club," who ensured financial and moral support to individual students and to Catholic education in general. Cathedral Boys' is the alma mater of many successful citizens. In 1992, Cathedral Boys' and Cathedral Girls' amalgamated. The new facility, on Wentworth Street North, was erected in 1995 as Cathedral High School.

Cathedral Girls' High School 1954-1995 on Main Street East, opened its doors to young women who had previously attended classes at St. Patrick's. Overcrowding had necessitated the opening of satellite classes in the Club House across from St. Patrick's and at St. Ann Elementary. The new school was a state of the art, modern facility. The legacy of Cathedral Girls' had begun. The school became famous for its band, which was nationally and internationally acclaimed, sports teams, cheerleaders, debating teams and drama productions including Shakespearean plays that

were held in the auditorium. In 1964 a music room, biology lab and staff room were added to Cathedral Girls' High School. The Cathedral girls will be long remembered for their participation in the Living Rosary which was prayed each Marian Day with the entire Catholic Community at Civic Stadium. The graduates of Cathedral Girls' have contributed to all facets of society but especially to the fields of education and health care. Although the building still stands, it has been renovated and is now a home for senior citizens.

Christ the King Catholic Elementary School 1970-2002 opened its doors in September 1970 as a state of the art facility. Students had previously attended the building on Hunt Street, which was referred to as the Basilica School. The new building located at 714 King Street had the honour of being adjacent to the Cathedral of Christ the King. The school was round and built in the then popular open concept style. It consisted of three floors each having three pods or open areas. In the center of each pod was an area where the teachers planned, often on Saturdays. The school's philosophy was one of "continuous progress" and "ability grouping" according to subject area. Students of Christ the King were always involved in many extracurricular activities. They actively participated in board-wide events and continued to have CYO sports teams, even as their numbers dwindled. The students of Christ the King were welcomed into the Canadian Martyrs school community in September 2002. The building has since been renovated and is now the new location for the Nicholas Mancini Center.

Father Loftus Catholic Elementary School 1963-1989 was located on Jerseyville Road, in Ancaster. It was built by Father Loftus to alleviate over crowding at St. Ann's and to meet the needs of students in Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8. Serving a very industrious community, it promoted the arts, science fairs, and CYO sports. It offered plays, such as The Mikado, and annual Christmas concerts. Students were well motivated, excelling athletically as well as academically. At one time, half of a particular Grade Eight class had completed the Grade Nine Mathematics course prior to entering high school. Parents were supportive and involved in all aspects of school life.

Holy Angels Catholic Elementary School 1920-1945 was located on Sheaffe Street, which is now the site of the Catholic Education Centre. The school provided elementary courses for girls. Classes were full, often having more than 40 students. The school housed eight classrooms on two floors. The predominantly Italian community strongly supported the school. Discipline was strict but fair. In 1945 Holy Angels became the School Board's first French language school. In 1963 it was replaced by Notre Dame, on Cumberland Avenue.

Holy Rosary Catholic Elementary School 1922-1984, at the corner of Gage and Whitfield Streets, served a growing and diverse population of many cultures from Europe and other parts of Canada. Holy Rosary was the focal point of the largely blue-collar neighbourhood tucked between the two Canadian steel-making giants. Here teachers taught, children learned and families prayed. The staff of Holy Rosary welcomed young children through the doors to prepare them for the future. The school's basement was a chapel, in which holy Mass was celebrated on Sundays, feast days, and First Fridays. The annual May crowning was described as exquisite, an event of great importance, given the school's name. As well, each month, all the school children would "walk to Confession." The entire school would walk up to Barton Street. Once there, they would branch off to their respective churches in order to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Although a small school, Holy Rosary enjoyed the role of "giant-killer", as its senior boys' football team won several city championships over rivals of greater size.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Elementary School 1973-2005 was nestled at the base of the escarpment, on Ambrose Avenue. From 1973 to 2005 many collaborated to educate the thousands of students who sat in classrooms and walked the halls of this school. Academic excellence, spiritual growth and athletic achievement were attained, through the hard work of students and staff. Numerous opportunities were created, that challenged and shaped three generations of Christ-Centred students. At St. Anthony School distinctiveness was engrained, diversity was appreciated and the human soul was guided to take flight. "The Little School with a Big Heart," won a Dutch Tulip Garden in celebration of the fifty-year anniversary of the liberation of Holland by Canadian soldiers. The tulips continue to bloom each year. St. Anthony students were welcomed into the St. Luke School community in September 2005.

St. Augustine Boys' School 1930-1959 on Mulberry Street provided elementary classes for boys, up to the sixth grade. The predominantly Italian community valued strict

discipline. Students who were chronically absent were visited by the truant officer. Yet, students were able to quit school at age 14, if they had a job. The school was demolished in 1959 and students were transferred to St. Mary's.

St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School 1965-2002 located on Nash Road North opened in September 1965 with an enrollment of 165 pupils from grade one to grade eight. There was a staff of four educators. It reached a maximum of 544 pupils in September of 1973 and then began a steady decline. The structure was a combination of traditional closed classrooms, for the intermediate and junior divisions, and a large open teaching area for the primary grades. Its halls were lined with beautiful plants, cared for by the custodian. Although small, it was a very active school with students involved in CYO sports, science fairs, prose and poetry contests, annual Thanksgiving dinners and spring barbecues. Later, the second floor housed St. Charles Centre, which was one of the sites for continuing education.

St. Charles Garnier Catholic Elementary School 1965-1984 located on Young Street, in the Corktown District of Hamilton, opened its doors on September 3rd, 1965, to 155 students. Staff members made social skills and extracurricular activities a priority. The school was known for piloting new Board and Ministry initiatives, such as the British Primary Method. The program was unique in that children began Kindergarten on their fifth birthday. Because it was a small school, many students were accepted from beyond the school boundaries. The school offered some of the Board's first programs for students with severe disabilities. Volunteers were actively involved in all aspects of school life. As a true community school, it hosted Sunday Masses in the gym until a new church was constructed.

St. Cecilia Catholic Elementary School 1974-2004, located on Lawson Street, has a very rich history that embraced the philosophy of "Each Belongs." Each member of the school community truly felt welcomed and appreciated. The strength of the school was its special education department. These innovative professionals provided many unique programs, such as, "Snoezelen," for exceptional students. The parent community, always supportive, organized annual Christmas craft nights and silent auctions. St. Cecilia School was blessed with many special and talented students. It was a "family" where members cared for and nurtured one another, in good times as well as in challenging times. Even though the doors are closed, its legacy, of belonging will be long remembered.

St. Emeric Catholic Elementary School 1930-1985 huddled in Hamilton's industrial core at the corner of Brant and Niagara Streets, across from what was then known as Essex Packers. The school was small, with one class for every grade. The initial Italian community later became predominantly Portuguese. With Essex Packers located across from St. Emeric's, the school children had a full appreciation of the cycle of life, as they so often would wave to the animals on the trucks going into the processing plant. As a small school, it was very much a family school. Students in need were readily supplied with food and clothing. Hot dog lunches and special events were regular occurrences. The school enjoyed a very good relationship with Robert Land Public Elementary School, and both schools worked together towards common community goals. Out of classroom trips included taking the entire school to see *The Nutcracker*, regular visits to Camp Marydale and piling all the kindergarten students into a car to visit the Royal Botanical Gardens. The staff of the school supported and nurtured the students and often their parents. Although the principals of St. Emeric's often helped find housing for new Canadian families in the area, the school population was quite stable.

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Elementary School 1974-2005, located on Barlake Avenue, was set in east end Hamilton, amidst numerous high rise buildings. It served the needs of students from many diverse cultures. Although it was a small school its students participated in many activities. CYO sports, concerts, science fairs, math challenges, prose and poetry contests were promoted as well as academic excellence. Pitch In Week was an annual event, where students were involved in cleaning up the environment well beyond the school boundaries. Holy Mass and the sacraments were celebrated regularly. A small but busy school, it accommodated students who moved frequently and welcomed a steady stream of volunteers, who assisted in all areas of the school life.

St. Mary Boys' School 1890-1921 on Mulberry Street was completed to accommodate the increased number of boys attending St. Mary Model School. For many years

this school was the only source of cultural and scholastic training under Catholic authority, beyond entrance classes, for young men.

St. Mary Lyceum 1912-1921 was located on Sheaffe Street, behind St. Mary's Rectory. Since this was the chair of the Bishop, the school became known as the Cathedral. It provided high school courses in both commercial and matriculation for girls. Increased enrollment had the girls move to St. Patrick's. The school was then designated for elementary use.

St. Mary Model School 1879-1912 was erected on Sheaffe and MacNab Streets, to provide post-elementary education to boys and girls. Boys entered the school from MacNab Street and had classes on the first floor while the girls entered from Sheaffe Street and occupied the second floor. The Model Certificate obtained by successful students permitted them to enter teacher training. In 1890, when the boys left, both floors were used to educate young women.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Elementary School 1963-1987 located on the corner of Pearl and Nelson Streets, had as its motto, "Live, Love and Learn," and proved to be "Small but Mighty". The students came largely from hard-working Portuguese families with traditional values and expectations. The building had one classroom for each grade but no gymnasium. Students traveled across the street to the former Loretto Academy for their gym classes. The pupil teacher ratio was low and therefore supported close relationships. Students were encouraged to co-operate, empathize and problem solve. Debate and conflict resolution were promoted. The School for The Arts was housed in this building, when closure occurred in 1987.

St. Vincent School 1860-1912 on Pearl and Nelson Streets, became known as Cathedral Commercial. Girls attended the program after elementary school. In 1912, the girls were transferred to St. Mary's Lyceum. St Vincent School was later replaced by St Thomas Aquinas School.



CHAPTER 6

Thomas J. Mahony Building

The Plant Operations (custodial, building and maintenance services) has always been an integral part of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board's operations. Since 1984, all of these services have been housed in one building, the Thomas J. Mahony Building.

Prior to 1984, Plant Operations was located in the basement of the Board office. During the sixties and seventies, the Board's period of greatest growth, many new schools were built, and there was an increased demand for the services of this department. Consequently, as time went by and the school system grew, this facility became far too small to

accommodate this department. In 1984 Plant Operations was moved to a new building on Stewart Street. All the functions and services of the Board's physical plant could be effectively run from this new site. These included custodial services, technical support, trades, construction, maintenance, and health and safety.

In 1985, the building was dedicated to Thomas J. Mahony. Mr. Mahony served the school board for 20 years, and was directly responsible for the planning, construction and renovation of many schools. He was responsible for a renewal of caretaking services, and personally ensured the quality of maintenance procedures. It was a fitting tribute to a man whose life revolved around his family, his faith and his community.



Nicholas Mancini Centre

In 1966, in order to meet growing demands for learning resources, the School Board appointed a library consultant, with the idea to establish a resource centre in every elementary school. Library, audio-visual, learning and curriculum materials were consolidated under one department, Learning Materials. At the same time, another idea was taking form in the school system: full inclusion of all children in regular classrooms. This philosophy held that each child belongs in the community school, regardless of any disability or exceptionality. These children were welcomed and integrated. Resources and resource personnel for exceptional learners were combined into one department, Special Education. By 1971, both Learning Materials and Special Education were housed in the former Loretto Academy building. The facility became known as the Learning Materials Centre, or the LMC.

Special Education was eventually renamed Student Services. For a time it was also known as Instructional Services, but has recently reverted back to the Student Services moniker. The functions for exceptional learners under this umbrella addressed the physical, communication, behavioural/social/emotional and intellectual exceptionalities of students. Learning Materials, on the other hand, fused curriculum, library services, audio-visual and learning resources with the added challenge to integrate all pertinent technological advances along the way.

When the new St. Ann School was vacated in the early eighties, Learning Materials moved into this building. Special Education, however, was relocated at St. Mary elementary school. It was not until 1992 that Special Education, then referred to as Student Services, rejoined

Learning Materials under the same roof. The facility was renamed the Nicholas Mancini Centre, in honour of Dr. Nicholas Mancini, a long-time Catholic School Board trustee, supporter and builder. It is affectionately referred to by all as the "NMC."

In 2005, the NMC moved to a new home. Christ the King Catholic Elementary School had been closed in 1992. It was then refurbished, and used in 2004 to house the students from Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School until their new school was ready. When they left in January 2005, Christ the King underwent more renovation. In September 2005 it became the new NMC. This state of the art facility features Library Services on the first and second floors, Curriculum Services on the second floor, and Student Services on the third floor. For almost 40 years both ideas-Learning Materials and Student Services- have been part of this school system's distinct personality.



Pastoral Services Centre

In the late 1970's, the Board had a vision to provide a counselling service for board employees. A steering committee was comprised of board administrative personnel and representatives from the teaching body. From the original steering committee (Core Committee), another committee was formed (Master Committee). The Master Committee was made up of the Core Committee plus representatives from all other employee groups. In October 1987 one committee evolved – the Pastoral Services Advisory Committee.

During this time, Sister Ruth Cornwell (Superintendent) and Harry Somerville (Principal) were providing "renewal style" courses and informal counselling to teaching personnel who were in need of assistance. This format was used as a support, but a more formalized structure was needed. Thus, Bethany House, on Barton Street, was the initial pastoral care site. The dedication of Sister Ruth and Harry Somerville were integral to the success of this endeavour. The service grew into a valuable and important resource for Board employees – today's Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

In 1983, a more formal Employee Assistance Program (EAP) was submitted as an agenda item by the Hamilton-

Wentworth Unit of OECTA to the Teacher-Trustee Liaison Committee (TTLC). The TTLC made a recommendation that the board approve, in principle, the formulation of an EAP for the system.

In March 1986, Sister Ruth and Harry Somerville informed the board that they would both be leaving to pursue other ministries. It was then recommended that two counsellors staff Pastoral Services – a Spiritual Counsellor, to provide ongoing spiritual formation to staff and an Employee Assistance Counsellor to provide personal counselling and referral service to staff.

In September 1987 the Pastoral Services Centre, Employee Assistance Program relocated to 103 John Street South. This was a central location, separate from board buildings, with offices and meeting rooms.

The Pastoral Services Centre EAP moved to its current location at 42 Pearl Street North in June of 1994. The building was dedicated as Somerville House on October 13, 1995 to honour the memory of one of the founders of Pastoral Services, the late Harry Somerville. The EAP continues to provide confidential counselling to board employees and their families.



Catholic Youth Organization

Over the years the CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) and the Board have operated numerous programs as partners including the Board's residential outdoor education program and its Crusader program involving many teachers, parents and students.

In the 1930's Bishops J. T. McNally and J. F. Ryan appointed a succession of priests to work part time as Diocesan Youth Directors. Their responsibilities centred on the establishment of Regis Clubs (for young adults) and the co-ordination of an inter-school athletic league.

During the war years the Regis Clubs were very inactive, and after the war in 1946 Catholic Youth Organizations and Drama Clubs were formed on a parish level throughout the Diocese. In the fall of 1950, Bishop J.F. Ryan appointed Father Frank Hawkins as the director of Catholic youth, to work part time to renew the Regis Clubs, and also to co-ordinate the different parish CYO's into a separate Diocesan organization fully independent from the existing Regis Clubs.

In the spring of 1951 Father Frank Hawkins required an

assistant to work on a volunteer part time basis and appointed his friend, John C. Bruno, to assist him in the co-ordination of the CYO's. The first CYO office was the back seat of Father Frank Hawkins' Hudson automobile, and in the summer of 1951 a small office was established in a room at the rear of St. Patrick's Parish Hall. In September 1951, the first Diocesan Youth Assembly was held in the Walper House Hotel in Kitchener, Ontario. In September 1952 the first actual CYO convention was held at the Royal Connaught Hotel in which youths from 90% of all the parishes in the Diocese were represented.

In 1957, Father Kyran Kennedy was appointed as full-time director of the CYO. In 1958, the CYO was admitted as a member agency of the United Way, and hired its first staff members.

Parish based youth programs continued to grow throughout the 1960's and were highlighted by Diocesan Youth Conventions, Drama Festivals and the development of a strong high school aged athletic program (Chi-Rho).

In 1963, the CYO expanded its services with the opening





the inclusion of special campers into Ontario Camping Association member camps.

Over the next two decades, the CYO continued to expand services in response to the changing needs of the community. Camp programs for the marginalized - for the poor, for children-at-risk and for mothers and their children who are survivors of spousal assault have been the focus of recent developments. In addition, there has been a renewed emphasis on the development of parish-based youth programs.

In 2004, the CYO decided to close the Puslinch site for Camp Marydale and to build a new facility south of Hamilton. In order to keep the day camp program alive during this transition, the agency leased Coronation Park from the City of Hamilton for the summers of 2004 and 2005.



of operation at a temporary site, the agency purchased a site in Puslinch and operated Camp Marydale at this location from 1965 through 2003. In 1964, Tom Gallagher became the first lay director of the CYO, and under his leadership the day camp program grew to become a significant part of the agency's move to provide services for inner-city children. In 1972, Camp Marydale became one of the first camps in the province to integrate disabled campers into its program.

In 1977, at the request of Bishop P. F. Reding, the CYO became the administrator of the Diocesan residential camp, Camp Brébeuf. Like the day camp before it, Camp Brébeuf integrated disabled campers into its program, and pioneered

The CYO's commitment to Christian Leadership Development for teens has never been stronger. Camp staff training, the Leadership Camp Program, Parish Youth Group Retreats, and various clinics and workshops have provided the agency with over three hundred teen leaders who are connected to their community and who see their volunteer commitment as an opportunity to give back what they themselves have received. With the help of these teen leaders, plus the assistance of hundreds of adult volunteers, the CYO through Youth Ministry, Camps Brébeuf and Marydale and the Crusader Athletic Program and in partnership with the Board touch the lives of over 30,000 children and teens each year.



The Picture Gallery



Cathedral High School 1938



Graduates 1930's



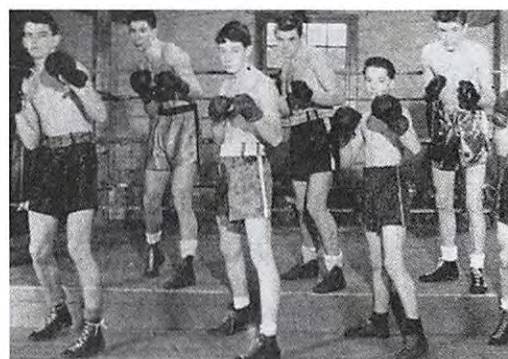
Home Economics 1950's



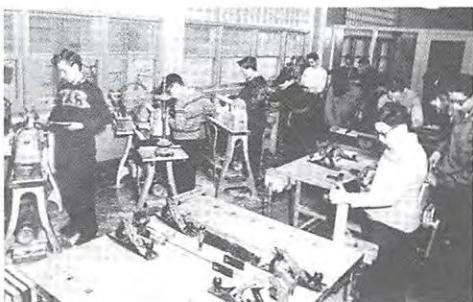
Teaching Sisters



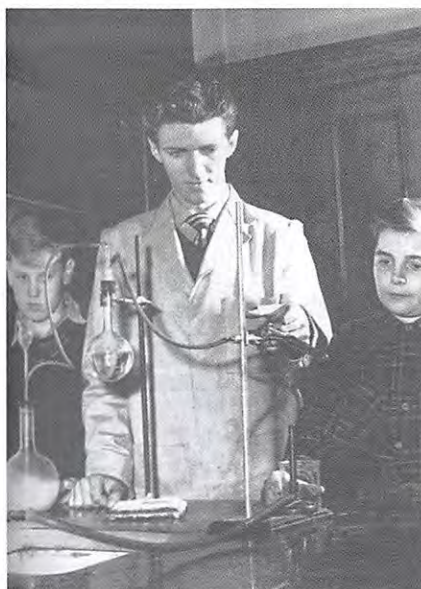
1940's



Extra-curricular sports 1940's



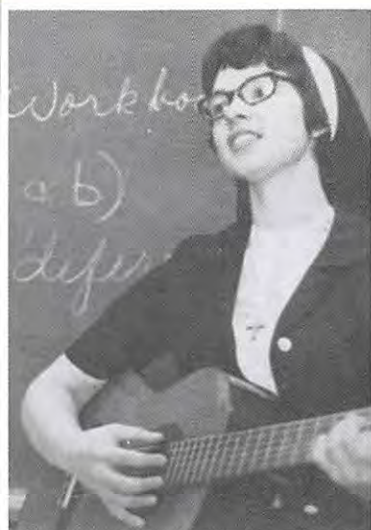
Shop Class 1950's



Science Lab 1950's



Typing Class 1950's



Our own singing Nun



Graduation Cermonies at the Cathedral



Cathedral Champions 1940's



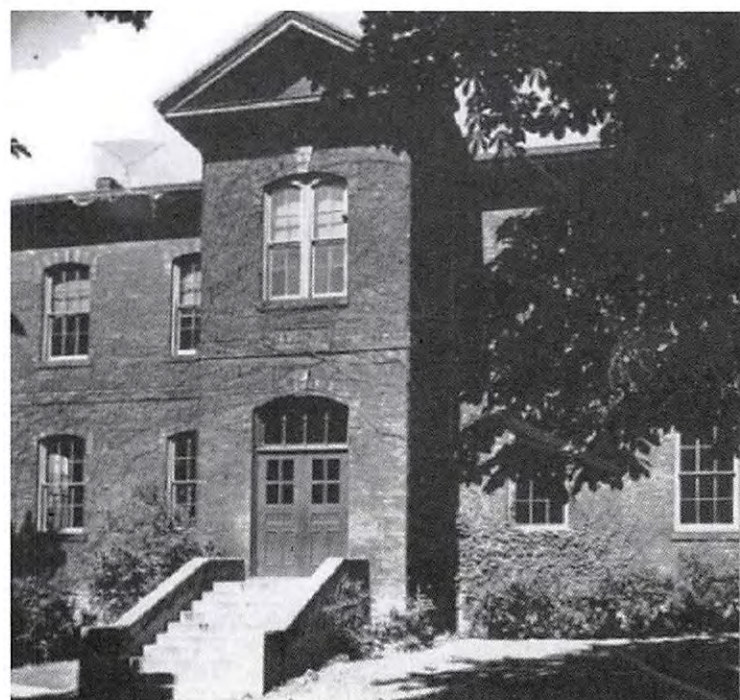
Marian Day Festivites at Civic Stadium 1950's



Graduates 1940's, Christ the King Cathedral

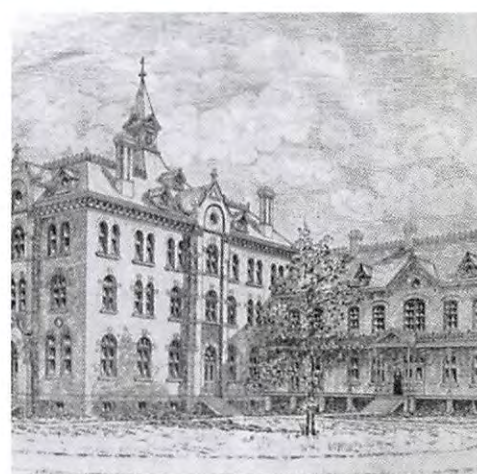


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