



# *"Inspirations"*

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## *Emergency Preparedness*

In September, students from St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Bowmanville took part in a simulation exercise to practice what would happen should there be a radioactive emission from the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station. The school is within a 10 km radius of the nuclear facility. Two hundred "evacuees" along with about 100 emergency personnel were involved.



"It's the largest exercise we've done so far. We have two nuclear facilities in Durham Region - Darlington, which is in the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board jurisdictional area, and Pickering, which is under the Durham Region School Board," says Line Millette, Emergency Management Coordinator, Durham Emergency Management Office. "In the unlikely event of a nuclear emergency, we need to ensure that our plans are up-to-date, effective and efficient."

Twenty-four French Immersion students in Grades 6 and 7, along with a classroom teacher and the principal, travelled to the staging area at Maxwell Heights High School. There they were joined by other students who, when cued, travelled to the centre by school bus to carry out the exercise.

"They wanted to practice how to process children without their parents, and to practice on students who were speaking another language," says Steve Smith, principal at St. Joseph. "They wanted to track them and process them, so that when their parents were trying to find them later, they would know where they were."

CONTINUED ...



Peterborough Victoria  
Northumberland and Clarington  
Catholic District School Board

## *Emergency Preparedness* CONTINUED

The exercise involved representatives from many civic, educational, non-profit and social organizations, including Ontario Power Generation, Durham Regional Police Service, Canadian Red Cross, City of Oshawa, Durham Region EMS, the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board and Durham Catholic School Board, the Durham District School Board and more. It took place at the Legends Centre in Oshawa, a new nuclear reception centre location that hadn't been tested before.

In order to make the simulation as realistic as possible, participants were given role cards to play, for instance having diabetes or being a reporter from the local newspaper. Each student was also given a personality trait, such as being nervous, a complainer, or demanding, to try to create as real a situation as possible.

"I was contaminated on one arm, so they gave me a red bracelet and routed me in through a special de-contamination process," says Smith. "I was separated from the students, who weren't contaminated and had green bracelets. We had to figure out how I was to reunite with them."

"Overall, it went well, it gave us a good idea of what needed to be tweaked in case of a real emergency," continues Millette.

"The students were very excited to take part, to learn that in the real world you have to prepare and train for many different circumstances. They also discovered that mistakes will happen and that's how we learn," says Smith.

Many municipalities have brochures that detail how to prepare for a disaster such as a flood, tornado, ice storm or chemical



Line Millette, Steve Smith, Cathy Lynch, and Melissa Featherstone

spill and the importance of having a 72 hour emergency kit with food, medications, clothing and other supplies on hand.

"We know that many people have a fire plan in place, but they may not realize that they also need to have a plan for other emergencies," says Millette. "We recommend that everyone develop personal preparedness kits and plans so that they're ready in the event of any natural or man-made disaster."

"Presently the Emergency Preparedness Committee at the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board is reviewing all of our emergency plans to consolidate them into one overall plan to help in dealing with all emergencies," says Melissa Featherstone, Health and Safety Officer. "Making sure that students and staff are safe in all eventualities is our primary concern."

## *Director Announces Retirement*

After 37 years in Catholic education plus seven years as Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board's (PVNCCDSB) Education Director, John Mackle recently announced his retirement.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with an outstanding group of staff dedicated to the goals of Catholic education over the past seven years," said Mr. Mackle at a recent School Board meeting. "We have achieved some amazing accomplishments over this period of time and the Board is quickly being recognized as an exemplary school district."



**John Mackle**  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

"You have done an outstanding job as Director," said Dave Bernier, Board Chairperson following Mackle's announcement. "It's a different Board today than it was seven years ago when you took on the job, a huge transformation, extremely effective leadership. Finding a successor will not be an easy task. These are big shoes that have to be filled and we have to begin the process of transition soon since April 30 is not far away."

Mr. Mackle's last day on the job is April 30, 2011.

# Graduate Profile - Stephan Telka

Stephan Telka likens his current job to his time as a student trustee with the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board. He is a consultant at Ascentum, an Ottawa-based public engagement company that works with public sector clients across Canada and around the world to get people more involved in decision-making processes.

“My job is immensely rewarding, as I feel that I’m contributing to better public policy in Canada and abroad,” he says. “In a way, the work I’m doing now echoes my responsibilities as a student trustee.”

As a trustee from 2000 to 2001, Telka was responsible for bringing a student perspective to the Board. He also helped to establish the Ontario Student Trustees’ Association, a first in Canada, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

“At school, I was most inspired by the social sciences – History, English, World Religions, World Issues – as they helped me better understand the world. While I was inspired by my history teacher, Ray McGillen, I learned a lot outside the classroom – with librarian Dawn Michie, school chaplain Teresa Cosentino, and Nancy Sharpe at the Catholic Education Centre,” he says.

A member of the second graduation class at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in 2001, Telka went on to complete a Bachelor of Arts at Queen’s University, majoring in History and Political Studies, followed by a Master of Arts at Carleton University in European, Russian and Eurasian Studies.

“I studied both the historical and contemporary situations of various countries and regions around the world. I was able to spend the second year of my masters conducting field research and studying Russian, Ukrainian and German across Central and Eastern Europe.”



Telka has held a series of challenging positions – he was Recruitment Officer for Queen’s University and an Academic Advisor at the Fulbright Center in Helsinki, Finland and was Climate Change Programme Officer with the British High Commission and British Council in Ottawa, working to engage the Canadian business community and Canadian youth in the global struggle against climate change. He later worked at the Canadian Bureau for International Education, where he supported the signing of a multi-million dollar scholarship agreement with Libya to bring nearly 2,000 Libyans to study in Canada and the United States.



Stephan Telka

Telka remains passionate about social justice, which he attributes to his upbringing as well as his Catholic education.

“In 1998, I approached Principal Michael Nolan and Chaplain Teresa Cosentino with a group of friends to establish a social justice club at school, called “Holy Cross in Action.” We organized a Landmines Awareness Week, that included a talk by a landmine victim,” he says. “I have remained involved through the Ottawa chapter of Mines Action Canada, and was recently selected to represent Canadian youth at the first international cluster munitions conference in Laos.”

Telka’s advice to students is to pursue their passions.

*“Don’t necessarily focus on a job title. This is especially important for those whose passions lie in the social sciences, where the end job is often unclear,” he says. “My passion lies in history and politics, and while pursuing this, have also developed my research, writing, and analytical skills. And take advantage of the many opportunities available for students to study abroad.”*

Telka says that his education with the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board has provided him with a strong foundation for his adult life.

“Through the creation of school communities that foster innovation, social justice, and civic engagement, the Catholic School Board gave me countless opportunities to pursue my passions and the motivation to continue this pursuit in my adult life.”

# Community Based Construction Program

Engaging students in hands-on learning is the main goal of the Community Based Construction Program at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School in Lindsay. Now in its second year, the program continues to give students valuable, real-life experience that benefits the community.

“Last year we built two timber frame picnic or sun shelters, one south of Oakwood on the Trans Canada Trail, and the other behind Fleming College in Lindsay at the community garden,” says David Saunders, teacher.



The one-semester, double-credit course involves a combination of in-class, workshop and on-site experiences. Nine students in Grades 11 and 12 were involved last year, while eleven senior students will be taking the class this fall.

“The idea came originally from my mentor Bernie O’Brien, a teacher at St. Peter Catholic Secondary School, whose students work in the community on home building projects. I thought to myself, ‘Wouldn’t it be neat if we could do that in our school, to help out community-based organizations?’”

Saunders met with the community partners beforehand to discuss their needs and to draw up the designs together. After that, the students took over.

“The students looked at the patterns, contacted the suppliers, ordered the wood, and set everything up,” he continues.

Saunders says that the students were on a steep learning curve, as some of the tools were new to them, being specific to timber framing. The first structure took about nine weeks to build, while the second one just took six weeks, as they had learned a lot during the process.

“It was tight, but we finished the last one on exam day – fortunately, it was the day of our own exam, so the students didn’t miss anything!” he says.

Part of the learning involved understanding where careful measurements needed to be taken and where precision wasn’t as critical.

While gaining valuable carpentry skills and confidence in their abilities, students also gained certifications including Standard First Aid and Fall Prevention Training. They also practiced their resume writing and connected with potential employers in the area.

Saunders says that the course really engaged the students and cut down substantially on absenteeism and skipping classes.

“These are kids who probably wouldn’t have stayed in school. The number of students missing class really went down,” he says.

Saunders says that of the nine students in the course last year, at least two of them are going into carpentry, one is going into plumbing, one is planning to become an electrician, and one is studying nursing, while pursuing carpentry as a hobby.

For this year’s project, students are building an outdoor classroom for students at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre at Trent University, which Saunders says the students are really excited about.

“Keeping students in school and seeing them gain the confidence and the satisfaction in a job well done, that’s what is most rewarding about this program,” concludes Saunders.



# *Socially Responsible Student Uniforms*

Every secondary school student in the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board is responsible for wearing student dress clothing while at school. While uniform components are different in each of the Board's secondary schools, clothing is sourced from one supplier, chosen by the Board in a tendering process that takes place every three years.

One of the main factors for selecting a supplier is that the company demonstrates corporate social responsibility, says Stephen MacPhee, Manager of Purchasing, Planning and Facility Administration for the Board. R.J. McCarthy School Uniforms has met or exceeded those requirements for the last 12 years.

"We have found that R.J. McCarthy goes above and beyond the standards set by our Board. The company is a leader in the clothing industry in terms of their social responsibility," says MacPhee. "Third party audits are done in all of the factories where their clothing is cut and sewn to ensure that their products are sourced and manufactured in an ethical manner throughout the whole supply chain."

R.J. McCarthy is committed to a multi-year program to become an industry leader in corporate social responsibility and does business only with manufacturers who provide safe and fair work environments for their employees, which include having zero tolerance for child labour, harassment, discrimination and more. They monitor their suppliers through internal distance audits and they visit their overseas operations regularly to ensure compliance with their code of conduct. They use independent third parties, such as Intertek, a leading quality and safety partner for global businesses, to audit their suppliers' factories.

Decisions about the uniform supplier are based not only on social responsibility, but also on quality, price and service, says MacPhee. Typically, students require two or three tops, such as a polo shirt, dress shirt, blouse, and cardigans, three bottoms, such as a kilt or skirt, pants, and shorts and gym clothes. Spirit wear for team sports is optional.

From a recent survey, it was found that 96 percent of parents support school uniforms for their children, citing reasons of enhanced school safety, that there are cost savings when compared with the purchase of regular clothing, that there is reduced peer pressure, that they improve student's focus on their studies, improve school spirit and pride and provide meaningful time savings.

Three retail outlets are available within the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board where students and their parents can conveniently shop for uniforms – at 347 Pido Road in Peterborough, at Sommerville's Sporting Goods, 84 King Street West in Cobourg and at 700 Finley Avenue in Ajax. R.J. McCarthy has a special program where subsidies are provided to families in need.

The company is embarking on a green program whereby they will be creating more sustainable products made through environmentally friendly processes and from recycled and biodegradable materials, such as in some of their footwear products.

"It's important as a Board when we're purchasing products and services that we be socially responsible as well as consider the green aspects of those products," says MacPhee.



## Service to Seniors

*“Two delightful young ladies grace my home this morning – they are giggling while washing my kitchen walls. Imagine giggling while doing such a chore – I am grateful to your team of students!”*

*“It’s always a pleasure to have these willing, helpful students – these young men will go far in their chosen careers.”*

*“All three students did a great job – I had a variety of jobs and each one was well done.”*

*“Each student worked exceptionally well, with little supervision.”*

*“A lot of yard work was done that I couldn’t do – terrific job!”*

These are just some of the comments from local seniors who benefit from the Service to Seniors program by St. Peter Catholic Secondary School. Feedback about the program has been phenomenal, according to organizer Chaplain Patsy Young.

“I receive so many calls and thank you letters from seniors saying how great the program is and that because of it they are able to remain in their own homes,” says Patsy. “One elderly woman has been a regular from the beginning and looks forward to having the students come twice a year to help with odd jobs.”

## A Day of Remembrance



Every year on November 11, students and staff in our Catholic schools, and Catholic Education Centre staff, pause in a silent moment of remembrance for the men and women who have served, and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace. We honour those who fought for Canada in the First World War (1914-1918), the Second World War (1939-1945), and the Korean War (1950-1953), as well as those who have served since then. More than 1,500,000 Canadians have served our country in this way, and more than 100,000 have died. On November 5, 2010, World War II Veteran, Mr. Keith Alton visited the Catholic Education Centre and Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School to distribute poppies to students and staff. He brought a very

Service to Seniors was started by Sister June Nash at the old St. Peter’s high school in the late 1980s and was originally just offered to nearby neighbours. Now the program is available to seniors across Peterborough, twice a year – in the spring, after the May long weekend, and in the fall, usually the third week in October.

“We advertise the time slot when seniors can call in to book their students. We usually receive about 85 calls each time,” she continues. “Our Grade 12 students go out in pairs to the homes and work from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Sometimes, we have to ask Grade 11 students to help if we don’t have enough to cover the calls.”

Students do outside work such as raking and bagging leaves, washing ground floor windows or tidying up the garden. Indoors they might clean cupboards or vacuum floors, any jobs that the senior might have trouble doing. The homeowner supplies bags and any other equipment needed, but students are not allowed to use electric hedge clippers or motorized lawn mowers.

Patsy says it’s the personal connections made that are so important, as many of the seniors don’t have many young people in their lives.

“Both the students and seniors tell me about the good conversations they’ve had and the amazing stories they’ve shared,” says Patsy.

rare enlarged drawing/sketch of the Prisoner of War Camp his brother Floyd (who is now deceased) was held in after D-Day, and the Bible that his brother read every day while he was in the war camp. All prisoners were given a Bible by the Red Cross and Floyd claimed that it was his Bible that brought him the strength and comfort to endure his 9 months in captivity. After Mr. Alton’s visit at the Catholic Education, he went to Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School where Teacher Dan Durst and students Lauren Lumley and Nikki VanVugt helped him distribute poppies to the students. By remembering all who have served, we recognize their willingly-endured hardships and fears, taken upon themselves so that we could live in peace.



# *Keeping Schools Safe with Threat Assessment Protocol*

For the past 20 years, the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board has had a Crisis Response Team in place to handle any crisis that might occur in its schools. Should there be an accidental death, illness, fire or other danger, the School Board psychologist, social workers and a variety of central staff at the Education Centre will come to the school to help. Principals regularly call upon this team to support students, staff and parents.

Recently, it was decided that school safety could be further enhanced by developing a threat assessment protocol. On September 2, the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board and the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board in collaboration with community partners signed the Community Threat Assessment Protocol: A Collaborative Response to Assessing Violence Potential. This protocol was developed jointly among both school boards, a variety of police services, mental health, social service and child protection agencies, and others. The protocol is being implemented in the Board's secondary schools this school year and in elementary schools during the following school year.

The following definition of a threat is being used in the protocol: "High risk behaviours express intent to do harm, to act out violently against someone or something. High risk behaviours include but are not limited to: interest in violent content, unusual interest in fire-setting, escalation of physical aggression, significant change in anti-social behaviour, unusual interest in or possession of weapon/replica of a weapon, bomb threat, and Internet threat to kill or injure self or others."

"Threat assessment protocol provides a systematic multidimensional assessment of threatening statements or

behaviour," says Dr. George Dimitroff, Board Psychologist. "The goal of threat assessment is to bring together professionals from different disciplines to share information in a timely manner, to determine the level of risk, and to develop interventions to reduce and manage the risk to self and others."

Key staff members involved in School Threat Assessment Teams are participating in Level 1 training by the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response with J. Kevin Cameron, Executive Director of the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response. Key administrative and consultative staff members are participating in Level 2 training which provides opportunities to practice responses to threats.

Each secondary school will have a School Threat Assessment Team made up of the principal and vice principals, community police officer, school social worker, school chaplain, and guidance, student success and special education teachers. The Community Threat Assessment Team will also include a superintendent, central consultants, Safe Schools social worker and board psychologist in addition to other community partners.

"We used the protocol when a weapon was found in the possession of a student after the student uttered threats against staff at a school," continues Dr. Dimitroff. "It was an effective response to bring staff together to share important information in order to more accurately determine the level of risk in this situation and to develop responses so that students and staff members feel safe."

With the Community Threat Assessment Protocol, the Catholic School Board is continuing to take measures to increase the safety of all students.



# Role of the Trustee

Trustees govern the school boards in this province. Trustees for the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board are elected by separate school ratepayers every four years. The terms of the seven trustees and one student trustee who have served for the last four years ended on November 30, 2010. On December 1, the new and returning trustees elected in October will take up their responsibilities.

The role of the trustee is to be the link between the community and the school board, to ensure that schools meet the diverse needs of students. Together, trustees are responsible to their communities for the quality of education provided in local Catholic schools within an approved financial framework.

A school trustee is responsible, as a member of the Board:

- ❖ to govern and set policy for the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board
- ❖ to govern for the provision of curriculum, facilities, human and financial resources for the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board
- ❖ to advocate for the needs of their communities as a constituency representative and to explain the policies and decisions of the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board to residents

In addition, trustees evaluate the Board's achievement of its goals, objectives and strategic plan to ensure that it is responsibly meeting its legal and financial requirements and obligations. They monitor the implementation of Board directives and the activities of the Board, including the review of reports and positions taken at Board and committee meetings.

Trustees work in partnership with school councils and generally support and encourage Catholic education. They are available to help ratepayers, parents, and others address any issues they may have about the Catholic school system.

Anyone is welcome to run as a trustee, provided they are a Canadian citizen, eighteen years of age, are a resident within the area of the Board's jurisdiction and are a separate school elector.

The Student Trustee represents the interests of students in the Board. The Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board has one student trustee who is selected by the Board-wide Student Council Liaison Committee. The Student Trustee takes part in discussions and debates during public meetings, but does not vote on Board decisions.

To find out more about trustees, go to [www.pvnccdsb.on.ca](http://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca) and click on Trustees.

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## GRANVILLE ANDERSON



Granville Anderson has seven years of experience as a trustee and plans to continue to bring new vision to the Board in the next four years.

Granville was re-elected on October 25 to serve another term as one of the two trustees for the Municipality of Clarington.

"I got involved initially because I wanted to ensure that there was accountability and wanted to give

the community a voice at the Board table," he says.

Granville, a mediator with the Ministry of Labour, was a member of the Good Shepherd Catholic School Council for two years before becoming a trustee.

He served as vice-chair of the Board and was chair of the Human Resources committee.

During the past seven years, Granville has been involved with the closing of St. Stephen Catholic Elementary School and the addition to St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School.

He was also part of a team effort to ensure the necessary resources were available to effectively implement the curricular program and provide sound stewardship.

When he's not in meetings, Granville enjoys attending student performances.

"Graduations are always very joyful and pleasant experiences," he says. "School plays also highlight how talented our students are."

Granville has a diploma in Business Administration and a Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution, both of which help with his duties as trustee.

He is a strong believer in effective communication.

"I am committed to improving communication with our school system and with the community," he says. "A strong and lasting partnership between Catholic educators and the Catholic community must be achieved in order to provide our children with the knowledge and tools they need to become tomorrow's leaders."

Granville has two children, Samantha, 26 and Earl, 17.

## DAVE BERNIER



Dave Bernier feels the role of trustee is a “call to stewardship” and four years ago, he decided to answer that call when he joined the Board.

Dave says it was a “logical step” after serving 10 years on the Catholic School Council at St. Mary Catholic Elementary School in Port Hope.

In late September, Dave was acclaimed as the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School

Board trustee representing Northumberland County. This is his second time being acclaimed.

Dave made a natural progression from being the father of students (four girls now aged 13 to 19) to a school volunteer, chair of the Catholic School Council and then a trustee. Last year he was the board's chair after serving two years as vice-chair.

Dave works as a youth service officer at the Brookside Youth Facility, a secure custody/detention centre for youth in conflict with the law.

In both his profession and work as a trustee, Dave is always trying to make the lives of children better.

“As trustees it is easy to get caught up in the policies and monthly issues that drive our meetings,” he explains. “When we have opportunity to visit the schools, and see what students are doing in the classroom it is very rewarding.

“Joining in celebrations in the schools like open house barbecues or graduation ceremonies is when you see the fruits of your labour. Enjoying the successes of the staff and students is the ultimate highlight.”

During the past four years, Dave was part of the project to build an addition at St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School in Port Hope. He was also part of the Safe School Action Team when the new legislation was established in 2007 and had to implement new policy and procedures for the Board.

“There are seven trustees, each with their own perspective and passions,” he says. “I enjoy the opportunity to discuss the issues and hear the input of others and move toward doing what is right for the students of the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board.”

Dave chaired the Human Resources Committee for two years and sat on several committees during his term including Family Life and Religious Education.

Dave and his wife Marjorie have four daughters. One attends St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, two are at St. Mary Catholic Secondary in Cobourg and one is in university.

Dave has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 10 years and has served in executive positions in the local Council as well as the 4th degree assembly.

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## LORNE CORKERY



Lorne Corkery has served the longest of any trustee in the Catholic School Board.

At 81-years-old, he has been a trustee for 34 years and looks forward to another four years after being re-elected on October 25th.

“When I was elected in 1976, I didn't think I would go beyond six years,” he says. I thought everything would get to be the ‘same old’”.

Lorne quickly realized he was wrong. He says the job took him 30

years to master and now he hopes to serve as a trustee as long as he can.

“I'm not in a wheelchair yet and my kids haven't put me in a home,” he adds with a chuckle.

Lorne is quick to credit all the trustees for accomplishments during his time. Approximately 40 building programs have been completed (this includes building both new schools and new additions) and many schools have been equipped with the most modern technology.

He's made a few trips to Toronto to visit officials at the Ministry of Education to persuade them a new school or addition was needed.

For example, in the early 1980's, the ministry approved the installation of a demountable gym at St. Paul Catholic Elementary School in Norwood.

Lorne initially decided to run as a trustee because he had five children in the Catholic School Board. He was working as a draftsman at General Electric at the time.

He now has eight grandchildren, some of whom are in school and others whom have graduated.

Lorne was one of 16 trustees his first year and served a three year term. There are now seven trustees who serve a four year term.

“We sat on fewer committees back then but the meetings were awfully long,” he recalls.

The second term he was elected, from 1979-1981, Lorne served as chairman of the Board of trustees. He was chair again from 1994 to 1995.

He recalls during his second time as chair attending 184 events in a year including Board and committee meetings and various events to represent and promote the school Board.

During his time as trustee, Lorne says things have only gotten better. He says it was “exhilarating” to have been part of all the changes.

“I look at where we have come from, how we look after special needs students and how we work with the community colleges and everything has improved,” he explains.

## CHRISTINE DUNN



This is Christine Dunn's fourth term being elected to the board of trustees.

Christine joined the board in 2001 as one of two trustees for the City of Peterborough. She was re-elected October 25 with long-time trustee Lorne Corkery.

Christine served as vice-chairperson in 2005 and then chairperson from 2007 to 2009.

She believes communication is key to any successful organization and is passionate about special education.

Throughout the years, Christine has served on various committees including Communications, the Special Education Advisory Committee, Family Life, Religious Education and Transportation.

She has been involved in education for more than 20 years as a school volunteer and member of the Parent Teacher Association and Catholic School Council at the former St. Peter Catholic Elementary School where her daughter Teri was a student.

Christine worked for 10 years as a cook at St. Peter's Cathedral. She graduated from Sir Sandford Fleming College with a legal secretarial diploma and has worked as a secretary with the Peterborough Community Housing Development Corporation – the Mayor's Committee on Homelessness.

She was also the secretary for the St. Peter's Cathedral Perpetual Fund Committee.

Christine has volunteered her time throughout the years with various charitable organizations including St. Vincent de Paul and a Nigerian Samaritan Fund which raised money to dig wells in Nigeria.

Christine is a parishioner at Immaculate Conception.

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## MICHELLE GRIEPSMA



As Regional Director for the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE), Michelle Griepsma knows she will have a valuable perspective to offer the new Board of trustees.

Michelle was elected October 25 as trustee for the City of Kawartha Lakes. She is one of only two new faces on the Board and the only one to beat an incumbent.

Michelle brings 14 years of experience on Catholic School Council and various board committees. She has also been a member of the District School Council as the parent representative for the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Michelle has also served as either chair or co-chair of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Council since 2006.

"Being a trustee is almost just a natural transition for me," Michelle says. "OAPCE prepared me well and gave me an overview of what is going on in the province all the time. I also got to talk to trustees and other respected people in Catholic education."

Michelle believes the Board has done a very good job but says there is always room for improvement.

"I hope to increase communication and awareness within our local Catholic community and give a strong voice for Catholic education within the larger (Kawartha Lakes) community," she says. "I would also like to enhance our relationship with the "Me to We Foundation," especially now that they have recently opened their new Leadership Academy in Bethany."

Michelle says she has excellent listening skills and is an effective mediator.

Michelle has been married to her husband Jim for 24 years and they have four children, Rachel, Bronwyn, Nathan and Michael. Rachel and Bronwyn are both graduates of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School. Nathan currently attends St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School and Michael attends Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School.

They have lived in the City of Kawartha Lakes for 20 years in Lindsay, Omemee and Reboro.

## PEGGY O'TOOLE



Peggy O'Toole is confident her 25 years as an educator will give her great insight into discussions at Board meetings.

Peggy was elected October 25th as one of two trustees for the Municipality of Clarington.

"I think my experiences in the classroom as well as my knowledge and insight about being a classroom teacher and dealing with parents and their

concerns will be a great asset," Peggy says.

Peggy is married to Durham MPP John O'Toole who also served as a trustee with the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board at one time.

Peggy retired four years ago after a career as a primary teacher.

"Being a teacher was a very fulfilling time in my life, and quite frankly, I miss being involved in education," Peggy says. "I am excited to be giving back to my Catholic School Board and to begin this new journey in my life."

Peggy's five children attended schools in Clarington and three of her grandchildren are currently students in our system.

Peggy has three issues she is deeply concerned about - quality of education, special education and provincial funding for the classroom.

She believes there should be adequate funding for early identification of children with special needs and support for both the child and his/her parents.

She also feels strongly that provincial grants must fairly meet the needs of all students.

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## JOE WHIBBS



After serving 19 years as a trustee for Peterborough County, Joe Whibbs says his goal for the upcoming term will be continuing early intervention strategies for students who are falling behind.

"I like to see every child have a program in place to help him or her perform the best he or she possibly can," he says.

Joe would also like to see more of the Catholic faith visible around the schools.

"There should be a stark difference when someone walks into a Catholic school compared to a public one," he says. "The walls should speak to you that this is a Catholic school."

Joe served as chairman of the Board for six years and has chaired several committees throughout the years.

A retired human-resources manager with the Ministry of Correctional Services, Joe lives in Douro-Dummer Township and attended Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School and St. Peter Catholic Secondary as a student.

As a trustee, he's worked hard to support rural schools and fought for needed additions at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Douro, St. Martin Catholic Elementary in Ennismore and St. Paul Catholic Elementary in Lakefield.

Joe cites the provincial recognition of St. Paul Catholic Elementary School in Lakefield and St. Martin Catholic Elementary School in Ennismore as examples of excellence within the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board.

Throughout the years, Joe has served on several committees including Numeracy, Literacy, Human Resources, Family Life and Environmental Practices.

The biggest change he has seen since he was elected in 1991 has been how the School Board has been funded.

"We've gone from being funded through the local tax base to being funded through the local revenue of the province which allows for greater access to funding for our programs," he says.

For the past year, Joe has led a complete overhaul of the Board by-laws and hopes the final product will be approved by the board shortly.

Joe says that this undertaking is the most comprehensive review of the by-laws that the Board has ever attempted and will serve to clarify process and procedures allowing for a more efficient and effective use of Board and administration time.

Joe believes initiatives such as the Catholic Student Leadership Awards program, a system Faith Day for all staff, regular meetings with Peterborough Bishop Nicholas De Angelis, annual meetings with parish priests and the Faith Animator program have reinforced and enhanced the Catholic dimension and faith formation aspects of the board.

Joe and his wife Helen have two children, Michael, 36 and Mary Kate, 27.



**PETERBOROUGH VICTORIA NORTHUMBERLAND AND CLARINGTON  
CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

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