

# Catholic Community Newsletter



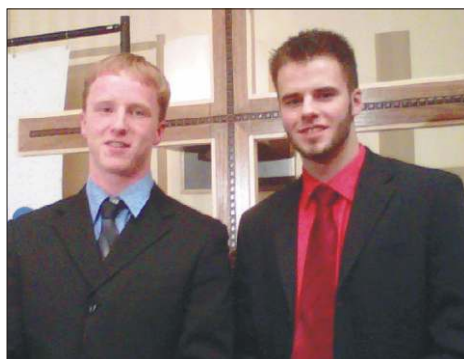
COMPLIMENTS OF THE BRUCE-GREY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

FALL 2011

## Bruce-Grey Catholic students receive Fogarty Awards

**E**RIC Van Tright of St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound and Matthew McLean of Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton are recipients of Father Patrick Fogarty Awards. Sponsored by the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario, the awards are presented annually in the fall at an awards dinner in Toronto.

Now in its 28th year, the awards recognize young people who best exemplify the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (*See sidebar*).



Fogarty Award winners Eric Van Tright, left and Matthew McLean.

In addition, the awards dinner celebrates the achievements and contributions of Catholic educators.

"Eric is an excellent Catholic role model," says SMHS Chaplain Lydia Foch. "He's been a retreat leader, attended youth conferences, is compassionate and is always willing to help."

"Matthew is a highly involved student," says Murry Kuntz, Principal of SHHS. "He was a student trustee, is involved in student council and drama productions and has participated in two mission trips to the Dominican Republic."

Father Patrick Fogarty, who died in 1985, founded two Catholic high schools and chaired many organizations dedicated to promoting full funding to the Catholic School system in Ontario.

Each Catholic School is invited to send one recipient and the Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB generously supports the event.

## Schools host Early Years Centres

**S**T. PETER and St. Paul's School in Durham is the latest Bruce-Grey Catholic school to host an Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC).

A number of BGCSDB schools are home to Ontario Early Years Centres. Mary Immaculate in Chepstow, Immaculate Conception in Formosa, Sacred Heart in Teeswater, St. Anthony's in Kincardine, Sacred Heart in Mildmay and now St. Peter and St. Paul's in Durham, all offer Ontario Early Year's services to their communities.

Ontario Early Years Centres were established by the province in 2002 and provide parents and caregivers of children up to six years of age a place to take part, with their children, in a range of activities; to get answers to questions; learn about programs and services that are available for young children and their families; and to talk to early years professionals and other parents and caregivers.

"Our partnership with the Ontario Early Years Centres program has been a great success," said Bruce MacPherson, Director of Education for the Bruce-Grey Catholic Board. "It not only provides permanent locations for much-needed resources for our



communities, but it also familiarizes parents and children with the schools many of them will attend."

"Our relationship with the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board is fabulous," said Cheryl Rothenburg, Children's Services Advisor, County of Bruce. "The schools have been so welcoming," she said. "It is great to have

*Continued on back page*

### Special Advent Mass

The Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB invites you to attend a special Mass on Sunday, December 11, the Third Sunday of Advent, at 2 pm, at Holy Family Church in Hanover.

*See back page for more details*



The graduate is expected to be:

*Let Your Light Shine*

**A discerning believer** formed in the Catholic Faith community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living.

**An effective communicator** who speaks, writes and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values.

**A reflective, creative and holistic thinker** who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.

**A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner** who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential.

**A collaborative contributor** who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.

**A caring family member** who attends to family, school, parish, and the wider community.

**A responsible citizen** who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.

### St. Mary's students raise \$270 for Coffee Break

The student council at St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound raised more than \$270 with their Alzheimer Coffee Break. From left, Mary Cassidy, Katie Walsh and Jake See present their proceeds to Sandra Hong, Public Education Coordinator.



## Catholic Community Newsletter



Return Canadian undeliverable addresses to:  
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# Director's Message:

## Our energies are fueled by faith

It is with pleasure that I invite you to read our Fall Newsletter and view our Catholic faith in action. Our Catholic school communities remain very active in Bruce Grey and the synergy between our schools, homes, and parishes is something the Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board takes great pride in.

Our Faith Formation Day this September provided an excellent example of our school communities celebrating our Catholic Faith. Bishop Crosby and several of our parish priests provided a very positive and reflective message to begin our school year. "Putting on the Mind and Heart of Christ: Disciples Worshiping, Welcoming, Working for Justice" can be witnessed throughout our Catholic schools.

We continue to work with our community partners in order to provide our students with the best Catholic educational experience possible. St.

Peter and St. Paul's School in Durham is excited to be sharing their recent renovations with the Ontario Early Years. This partnership is an excellent example of the school being a community hub where parents take an active role in a range of activities. Many community user groups make use of our facilities on a daily basis for a wide variety of purposes.

Our secondary schools also play a key role in their communities. One exciting example is our involvement with Georgian College and the Dual Credit Program. Students have the opportunity to study at Georgian College in courses including Environmental Concerns, Health Care in Canada, and Contemporary Issues in Ethics. Students and staff also continue to remain actively involved in the area of social justice as demonstrated by the many successful campaigns organized in each school community.



**Bruce MacPherson**  
*Director of Education*

Whether by the efforts of our staff who work directly with our students; our parish priests; Catholic School Councils; or those behind the scene at the Catholic Education Centre; it becomes very obvious that our energies are fueled by our Catholic faith.

## Three Simple Words: Walkerton's Sacred Heart students stage presentation in Ottawa

By Robert Legace

YEARS ago when I first began my career in teaching, I was approached by a local Royal Canadian Legion to bring my class to a presentation. Little did I know then that this simple presentation would shape much of my career in the years to come.

Having studied history in university I would have to admit that I have an affinity for the subject. This interest was cultivated within me by my parents who regularly took our family to historic sites and discussed Canada's past accomplishments. This was the fertile ground in which a local veteran would plant a seed.

Herb Miller, a local businessman and veteran, greeted me at the door of the Durham Legion thirteen years ago. He welcomed my class, a group of grade eight students from St. Peter and St. Paul's School, to come in and be seated. What unfolded over the next two hours still amazes me to this day.

Herb Miller had organized a veteran's talk with friends of his, Orville Lee – a tail gunner in the RCAF and Newman Pratt – a Sniper in the infantry. As the men talked I noticed the faces of the students come alive as they absorbed all that was said. Herb, who began the talk, moved about the room showing students artifacts and answering questions. At the end of the presentation he came over to me and explained that he wasn't getting any younger and that he was unsure how much longer he could do these

presentations. He looked at me intently and asked, "Could you help?" Three simple words. Little did I realize at the time that these words would propel me on a journey of discovery with my students over the next twelve years.

Thus, an idea within me was borne on a gloomy day in November to preserve the memories of Canada's military past in the hope of promoting a more peaceful world. Initially, the goal was to stage a simple 'Remembrance Day' service and highlight local veterans' stories. After an interview with Herb regarding his wartime experiences, the idea of a multimedia, theatrical presentation took hold.

The first years involved me doing much of the research and assisting students in acting and set construction. Slowly, I began to realize the incredible appetite that was present within my students to become more involved. This led to students being engaged in every aspect of the production, from research to writing, from acting to publicizing. What became very apparent to me was that Herb's goal that young people would seize the torch of Remembrance and hold it high for all to see was being realized.

Sadly, Herb passed away a couple of years after the initial shows. To honour his contribution, we named the group The Herb Miller Peace and Remembrance Project. It was Herb's dream that, "young people fully realize that our quality of life, and that our



freedom came with an awful price". Herb's story is like many men and women of his era; he served his country in a time of need. He was very different however, in one way because when Herb returned home, he spent countless hours sharing a message of peace and remembrance to young and old alike.

This year marks the twelfth year that the Herb Miller Peace and Remembrance Project has been staged. Now affiliated with Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton, Ontario, the project has entered a new realm of possibilities. Students began

researching and storyboarding the show last February. Music was selected and practised over the summer months. Since September, students have met weekly: rehearsing lines, organizing uniforms, collecting images and completing all of the hundreds of tasks required.

This year's show was featured at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa during the week of Remembrance on November 9 and 10th. This opportunity was a chance for the students to articulate clearly that our country's past accomplishments, trials, and lessons learned, will not be forgotten. This opportunity was a chance for this group of students to answer Herb's question, "Can you help?" with a steadfast response: we can help and we will remember.

*Robert is a teacher at Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton.*

## Director makes backpack delivery to Goderich

IN late August, BGCDSB Director of Education Bruce MacPherson took the wheel of the Board's courier truck to deliver a load of more than 500 backpacks to Goderich to help the United Way to distribute them to tornado victims.

"Providing students with a backpack was one less thing parents had to do during this time of rebuilding in the Goderich community," said Bruce, who is a member of the Board of the United Way of Bruce Grey.



*Director of Education, Bruce MacPherson, left, delivers backpacks to Goderich tornado victims*

## Board builds student awareness of privacy issues

**M**ANY years ago, futurists forecast an "information explosion" in the 21st century.

In reality, that explosion took place in the late 20th century, fostered by the ability to store large amounts of information electronically, rather than on pages of paper. Today's "smart phones" can store hundreds of times more data than the Commodore 64 home computer. Laptop computers today are "lacking" if they don't have at least 250 gigabytes of storage, and super

"These (new digital) technologies are truly a gift to humanity and we must endeavour to ensure that the benefits they offer are put at the service of all human individuals and communities, especially those who are most disadvantaged and vulnerable."

– Pope Benedict XVI, from *Vatican*, January, 2008, Feast of Saint Francis de Sales.

computers now store so much information it is measured in tetrabytes.

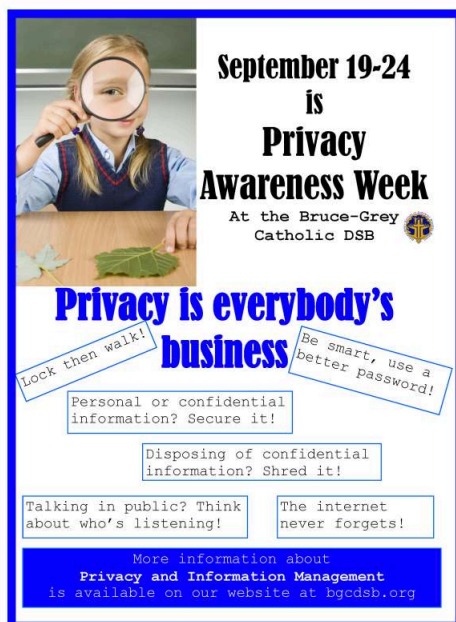
Smart phones, tablets, laptop and desktop computers, digital cameras, bank machines, electronic kiosks can send, receive and store information instantaneously around the world. A photo sent to a family member could have passed through numerous computers anywhere in the world. Personal and financial information is stored worldwide. Everything that happens on the World Wide Web is stored somewhere.

While people want companies, organizations and their governments to be "open" and "transparent", they also want their private information to remain just that, private.

Ontario's district school boards are not immune from these issues. Boards gather and store information about their students and staff, and that information must be handled in an appropriate manner, respecting privacy and at the same time, making it accessible.

In addition, school boards have the tremendously important obligation to teach their students about the importance of privacy and safety in their day-to-day activities and in particular, their on-line activities. Students of all ages regularly use smart phones to talk or text with one another, to share photos and, along with computers and tablets, to share information through social media such as Facebook.

Just as important, many of these



technologies are employed by teachers, in the classroom, technologies such as search engines like Google and Yahoo, blogs, wikis, podcasts, and chatrooms, all using computers, and now tablets, with their associated storage devices such as hard drives and flash drives.

These and many other privacy concerns are shared by all district school boards in Ontario. Consequently, several years ago, a group of records management and privacy officials from school boards across the Province, got together to establish a group that would work together to develop new policies and practices to help boards manage their data and data gathering and storage devices.

The result was a provincial "privacy and information management" (PIM) task force which would help to coordinate school boards' information management and privacy efforts.

One result of the group's work was the development of a toolkit of information, sample policies, checklists and other documents that local school board officials could use in their own situations.

"That toolkit has been a huge benefit to our Board," says Doreen Schultz, Community Relations and Outreach Coordinator, who is responsible for the Board's information management and privacy function. "It has saved us countless hours by providing examples of best practices from other boards and has saved us from re-inventing the wheel many times over."

The Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB established a PIM Committee last year (see sidebar), with representation from all work groups and from a number of departments in the Board.

"Our committee's goal," says Doreen, "is to implement the resources

## Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board Privacy and Information Management Committee

**PIM Champions:** Doreen Schultz, *Community Relations and Outreach Coordinator*; Alicia Lantz, *Financial Analyst*

### Members:

Cathy Colton, *Superintendent of Business*  
Jerry Casey, *Superintendent of Education*  
Derrick Farwell, *Research and Systems Analyst*  
Sarah Borth, *Administrative Assistant*  
Michelle Walker, *Educational Assistant*  
Paul Couture, *Custodian*  
William King, *OECTA Secondary/Occasional*  
Anna Morrison, *OECTA Elementary*  
Terri Junker, *Purchasing*  
Steve Lustig, *Purchasing/Transportation*  
Laurie Fischer, *Vice-Principal*  
Theresa Harrietha, *Computer Resource Consultant*  
Betty Benedict, *Tri-Tech*

### Committee holds first 2011-2012 meeting

The Board's PIM Committee held its first meeting of the 2011-2012 school year in November and formulated three goals for the year.

1. To develop a privacy breach protocol - the process to follow if someone becomes aware of a breach of privacy in the organization.
2. To develop and initiate a privacy audit checklist for schools.
3. To develop a process for sharing data with third party organizations - for example, a request from a photographer for class lists for official class photos.

in the PIM toolkit and improve and build awareness of privacy and information management issues at the Board."

A new initiative of the committee this year was to launch a Privacy Awareness Week in all of the Board's schools.

Each school received a poster (shown) to announce the event, and staff were invited to participate in a question and answer contest using the Board's "First Class" electronic mail system. Classroom resources were also provided to teachers, and privacy

announcements were communicated by First Class during the week.

A number of schools took advantage of presentations by local police personnel regarding online safety and privacy.

"In addition to Privacy Awareness Week," said Doreen, "we have launched a poster campaign to build awareness."

Each month, a new poster will be sent to the schools, along with information related to the poster, to be discussed at staff meetings. That information will also be shared with all staff.

## Mother Teresa Catholic School receives achievement award

**W**ALKERTON'S Mother Teresa Catholic School has received the Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Recognition of Achievement award from the Province's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). The school is one of 22 elementary and secondary schools that received the honour at a special presentation in Mississauga in November.

The recognition program was established by the EQAO in 2009 as a tribute to Dr. Stephenson's lifelong



Back row: Erin Ottewell, Marguerite Jackson (CEO, EQAO), Norman Bethune, Catherine Montreuil, Heather Keip, Bruce MacPherson, Cheryl Kuntz, Dr. Brian L. Desbiens (Chair, EQAO)  
Front Row: Sharon Kramer Dales, Dr. Bette M. Stephenson, Nola Collins

Kristof Borkowski/Pinpoint National photo

commitment and contribution to education and public service. Dr. Stephenson was a member of cabinet, including Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities, in the Progressive Conservative governments of Premiers Bill Davis and Frank Miller. She also practised medicine for more than 40 years.

Mother Teresa Catholic School was recently profiled in one of EQAO's Provincial Reports for using provincial assessment results as evidence for improvement planning. Those schools that have been profiled are being acknowledged for their leadership, data-driven strategies and whole-school approaches to helping every child succeed. Each of these schools, including Mother Teresa "has considered its provincial assessment results and its unique circumstances to develop an action plan to work toward improved student outcomes," according to the EQAO.

A case study featuring Mother Teresa Catholic School can be found on the EQAO website, [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com). Follow the quick link to "School Stories".



### St. Mary's raises \$1,000 for Owen Sound Centre

The Owen Sound Regional Recreation Centre's fundraising campaign got a boost recently with a \$1,000 donation from the St. Mary's High School Student Advisory Council (SAC).

The students held a number of fundraising events throughout the year to support the project. "We are proud to support local projects that will be enjoyed by our student body," said SAC Co-President Jake See. "Our sports teams and swim club will definitely be using the new centre."

On hand to receive the donation at a ceremony at the school was the Centre's campaign Co-Chair, Sonya Mount. "It is impressive to see the SAC donating to a community resource that will benefit the students of today and tomorrow," she said. "This is an example of forward, community-minded thinking."

The Regional Recreation Centre is a 125,000 square foot facility that will house a double ice pad arena operated by the City of Owen Sound, and the Family Y Health, Fitness, Recreation and Aquatic Centre operated by the Owen Sound and area Family YMCA.

In the photo above, SAC Co-Presidents Jake See and Mary Cassidy, along with Student Trustee Katie Walsh present a cheque to Sonya Mount.

### Special Advent Mass

The Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB invites you to attend a special Mass on Sunday, December 11, the Third Sunday of Advent, at 2 pm, at Holy Family Church in Hanover. All are welcome. Celebrants will be Father Mervin Perera and Priests of the Deanery.

Those attending this special Mass are invited to bring a donation of a non-perishable food item for local food banks, or a toy for the CAS Toy Drive. Proceeds of the offertory collection will be divided between the St. Mary's High

School Mission Trip to El Salvador and the Sacred Heart High School Mission Trip to Nicaragua.

A social gathering and refreshments will follow the Mass.

### Students celebrate academic excellence

St. Mary's High School held its first annual Academic Excellence Awards Night this fall to celebrate the many accomplishments of its students.

The Hillyer Awards were presented to Kaitlin Marck, Laura Sawka and Vivian Campbell, while the Doctor Endowment Awards went to Laura Sawka and Marcus Ott.

Other awards presented during the evening were Honour Roll certificates, science fair certificates, Ontario Skills Competition certificates, Avogadro Chemistry Contest certificates, University of Waterloo Math Awards, Outstanding Contribution to Yearbook Award, Excellence in Music Awards, and Excellence in Visual Arts Awards.

### Sacred Heart High donates to Food Bank

Walkerton's Sacred Heart High School donated some 375 pounds of food during the Farm Credit Canada (FCC) fall food drive for the Walkerton Food Bank. "Your school's generosity was overwhelming," said Candy Swindell-Ribey of FCC. "In total, this helped to contribute to the collection of 15,000 pounds of food that has been distributed to local food banks."

Father Jason Charron, Sacred Heart Chaplain, summed up the donation in four words: "The Gospel in action."



Students take a break from packing food to pose for the camera.

## Early Years Centre

*Continued from front page*

these facilities in a school setting – it allows children to get comfortable with the school."

Program offerings vary from location to location, but all have the same objective, "to engage parents in their child's learning," said Cheryl. For example, the Kincardine site at St. Anthony's School operates every day, while some other sites operate one day a week or even one or two days a month.

Depending on the location and community needs, programs range from parent-child interaction, to early learning playgroups such as music time or book reading, to baby groups for new mothers and their newborns. In



addition, resources such as Public Health vaccination information, speech and language support, parent and children's magazines and other publications, and car seat clinics are often available through the sites.

"Many of our programs provide the skills children will need when they get ready to go to school," said Tammy Price, OEYC staff member who leads the Durham program. "They also provide a strong link to parenting resources in the community and beyond."

## Faith Formation Day, 2011

PUTTING on the Mind and Heart of Christ: Disciples Worshipping, Welcoming, Working for Justice was the theme of this year's annual Faith Formation Day. The annual event was held at Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton in mid-September.

Bishop Douglas Crosby, who was principal celebrant for Mass, gave an inspirational homily about being thankful, trusting God and showing generosity.

This year's keynote speaker was Michael Way Skinner, Religion and Family Life Consultant with the York Catholic District School Board. With humour, conviction and through personal stories, he reminded Board staff that we are an "alleluia people". In the words of St. Therese of Lisieux, we are Jesus' hands, feet and eyes for all we meet.

"Our attitude for the day sets the climate in our classrooms and our places of work," said Michael. Regardless of our role, each of us plays an important part in the lives of our young people, he said. "We are called to be the caring adult that makes a difference in their lives."

During the lunch hour, participants visited a healthy living fair, book vendor and a display of Faces of Fair Trade.

Staff spent the afternoon identifying ways to put their faith into practice by examining school improvement plans, and discussing ways to meet the needs of all learners.

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3. **Catholic Community Newsletter** - an electronic format of our Board Newsletter published three times per year.

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### Bruce-Grey Catholic Community Newsletter

Produced by the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board to inform ratepayers about news and activities.

Editor: Terry Diggle & Associates

Community Newsletter attempts to provide an overview of the accomplishments, the challenges and the issues for the Bruce-Grey Catholic system as a whole.

Comments may be directed to: 519-364-5820  
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[www.bgcdsb.org](http://www.bgcdsb.org)

The Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board can issue tax receipts, in the full amount, for any financial donations made to its schools. Cheques should be made to the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board Charitable Trust and the name of the school should be noted on the memo line. Check to be sure – if your taxes are not directed to the Catholic school system, you can't vote for Catholic trustees on the next election.