

# Catholic Community Newsletter



COMPLIMENTS OF THE BRUCE-GREY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPRING 2009

## Sacred Heart High School receives prestigious EQAO award

**W**ALKERTON'S Sacred Heart High School is one of the first two recipients of the Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Recognition of Achievement award presented by the provincial Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). The other recipient is Kapuskasing's école élémentaire publique Le Coeur du Nord.

In announcing the award, the EQAO said: "Your efforts over many years have led to measurable improvements on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. We are pleased to recognize this achievement, which was made possible by the programs put in place by your principal and teachers, the strong participation of students in all grades and the support of parents."

"This is indeed a great honour," said Sacred Heart High School Principal, Murray Kuntz. "It is a testament to the hard work of our students, staff and feeder schools, as well as the support of our parents and the community. We are certainly proud of our student success."

During the 1970s and 80s, Dr. Stephenson, a physician, served in Ontario politics as Minister of Labour, Minister of Education, Minister of Colleges and Universities, Chair of the

Management Board, Treasurer and Deputy Premier.

"Dr. Bette Stephenson's career represents a lifelong commitment to education and public service. As a member of the EQAO board, which she joined at its inception, she was instrumental in bringing the agency to its focus on improved learning outcomes for students," said Brian Desbiens, EQAO's Chair.

"Solid and reliable information on student achievement is crucial to helping educators improve student learning. I'm really proud of the culture of assessment that EQAO has, since its inception, been able to establish in Ontario. I'm also really, really pleased that so many schools have used assessment information and have demonstrated positive student results. I am delighted such schools will be recognized. They should be celebrated throughout the province," added Dr. Stephenson.

"The schools recognized at tonight's event, and others over time, are a testament to the many schools across the province that have made effective use of both EQAO data and evidence from other sources to enhance and support



*Murray Kuntz, Sacred Heart High School Principal, left and Susan Sakal, English teacher, right, accept award from Dr. Bette Stephenson.*

student achievement," said Marguerite Jackson, EQAO Chief Executive Officer. The award was presented April 29, 2009 at a special event in Toronto.



### Music groups win Kiwanis gold

Music teacher Lesley Chiasson took Notre Dame Catholic School's intermediate band and a nine piece woodwind group to the Owen Sound Kiwanis Music Festival and came away with two gold medals.

A parent, who attended the event, summed up the band's performance in an email to the school:

*"I just heard the band perform for Kiwanis – they sounded GREAT!"*

# Catholic Community Newsletter



Bruce-Grey Catholic District  
School Board  
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## Director's Message

### The Year in Review

IT is hard to imagine that we are entering the last month of the school year. It seems the older I get, each subsequent June arrives more quickly than in the previous year.

We continue to have many wonderful student/staff opportunities taking place throughout our Board due to the efforts of many.

During Catholic Education Week, we were pleased to have Mr. Greg McNally, Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Schools Trustees' Association, as our guest speaker at our annual dinner. We had a great turnout of staff, parish representatives, and community members in attendance. Greg shared with the group the importance of remembering our Catholic history and celebrating our accomplishments.

Our recent partnership with King's University College provided 30 of our Grade 11 students from St. Mary's High School and Sacred Heart High School with a chance to experience university life while attending "Carpe Diem"; a Catholic student leadership conference on May 28 and 29. The evening of May 28 included a dinner and ice breakers, guest talk, movie/coffee house and a night in the student residence with 480 high school students from a variety of school boards. Then on May 29, students attended social justice workshops provided by the professors at King's University College. The keynote speaker was Greg Rogers, Coordinator of Student Leadership at the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Recently, we had the opportunity to attend an EQAO first time event in Toronto, the Dr. Bette Stephenson Award celebration. Sacred Heart High School was selected to receive the first Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Recognition of Achievement which acknowledges schools demonstrating growth over time in the area of student achievement.



The staff, students, and the school community should be very proud of this fabulous accomplishment.

Another first time event for our Board was our "Applause Breakfast" which was held in Chesley on May 4, 2009. Twenty-six students from across our Board were recognized for their contributions to their school community by means of demonstrating our Catholic virtues of deep caring. It was truly an uplifting experience to hear the many ways the students are engaged in the life and spirit of their schools.

Once again our young scientists arrived back from the Canada-wide Science Fair with very impressive results. Three of our students attended the Canada-wide Fair held in Winnipeg and returned home with a total of three Gold Medals, two Silver Medals, and one Bronze Medal along with cash and scholarship money.

The ultimate success of our Catholic education system is dependent upon students, parents, staff, our parishes and community partners. To our staff; thank you for your hard work and efforts on behalf of our students; to our parish Priests, thank you for supporting us in our Catholic faith; and to our families and community partners, thank you for all of your support as we continue our journey in Catholic education.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer holiday.

Bruce MacPherson  
Director of Education

## Students advance in speaking contests

A Grade 3 student at Mother Teresa School in Walkerton placed second at the provincial level of the Royal Canadian Legion Public Speaking Contest. On his way to the top, Tristan Zettel placed first in the Walkerton Branch contest, the zone contest in Mount Forest, the district

contest in Chatsworth, and the area contest in Toronto. The title of his speech was "Why I'm Not Doing a Speech This Year." Another Walkerton student, Kristen Luinstra, placed second in the Provincial Lions Club Effective Speaking Contest. Kristen is a student at Sacred Heart High School.

shine online  
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## Catholic Education Week celebrates Catholic education's good news for all

MAY 5 marked a highlight of this year's Catholic Education Week – the annual Catholic Education Week dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall near Walkerton.

Greg McNally, pictured, Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association was this year's guest speaker.

He urged the audience not to take Catholic education for granted, referring to the demise of denominational schools in Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador.

He also mentioned how welcome and at home he felt in the Bruce-Grey community. The farming communities that encompass this Board, he said, create a true feeling of belonging and our Catholic community shares the good news for all to make the world a better place.

Mr. McNally asked our Catholic community to make three promises:

1. To make sure there is joy in our work and to engage in the fun side of education.
2. To know our story. To know who



we are, where we have come from and where we need to go. Remembering the sacrifices that were made to build our schools will move us forward, he said.

3. To speak out on behalf of Catholic Education and to let others know that our communities benefit because of our system.

Catholic schools attend to the mind, heart, body and soul of our students, he said. We develop and nurture people of peace, compassion and hope who witness to our faith through joyful service.



*As part of the celebration, each school submitted a poster displaying student work that reflected the Good News for All theme.*

*Students at Mary Immaculate School in Chepstow created this rendition of the Stations of the Cross.*

*Catholic Education Week in Ontario is marked by special activities at all grade levels, including prayer celebrations and service activities.*



# Dual credit opportunities

SECONDARY school students can experience college academic life and gain both high school and college credits through the "dual credit" program.

The dual credit concept gives students an opportunity to sample college education, work in college laboratories, experience a new environment, and build their confidence.

*"If it was not for this course, I would still be...trying to figure out what I want to do with my life, like so many other students. Now I am on the path I want to be on and I cannot thank the co-ordinators and teachers enough for giving me this life-changing and learning experience.*

*– Student participant*

The dual credit program began in Ontario in 2005 with thousands of students experiencing success.

Under the program, secondary

students take a college course from a college faculty member. If they meet the course requirements, the students are given an optional credit at their secondary school – which counts toward their diploma, and are issued a college transcript. The course will be recognized at the college if they choose to attend a program for which the course is a requirement.

The Bruce-Grey Catholic board is part of the Central Lakes Regional Planning Team, which is a partnership of five school boards and Georgian College. Funded through the School-College-Work Initiative, the team is responsible for delivering dual credits, regional forums and outreach activities, the overriding goal being to connect students, their parents and teachers to the college pathway.

College courses are offered at Georgian's Owen Sound campus and its Walkerton satellite facility. More information about dual credits and programs for the fall-winter session is available at [www.centrallakes.ca](http://www.centrallakes.ca).



*Bruce-Grey Catholic winners in the national science fair are left to right, Laurissa Christie, Jenna Schlorff and Megan Schlorff.*

## Local students excel at Canada-wide science fair

THE Bluewater Regional Science & Technology Fair 2009 Canada Wide Science Fair Team came home from the week-long competition with triple gold, double silver, triple bronze medals and an honourable mention totalling \$28,900 in cash and scholarships.

Three students from the Bruce-Grey Catholic board participated in the event.

### Megan Schlorff

Grade 10 student, Megan Schlorff of Sacred Heart Secondary School in Walkerton, won the gold medal in the intermediate earth and environmental science division.

For the second year, Megan also won the gold medal in the Via Rail ENVIROEXPO interdisciplinary division. Gold medals carry a \$1,500 cash award and a \$2,000 entry scholarship to university. The Via Rail gold medal also carries a \$10,000 scholarship.

Megan's project was an extensive analysis of environmental impacts of common household chemicals and drugs that are poured down the drain. The chemicals and drugs then leak or seep from sewage treatment plants into the Saugeen River watershed.

### Jenna Schlorff

Jenna Schlorff of Holy Family School, Hanover, won a gold medal in the junior physical and mathematical division and a silver medal in the AUTO 21 interdisciplinary division.

The gold medal carries a \$1,500 cash award and the silver medal comes with a \$700 cash award. Jenna also won a total of \$3,500 dollars in entry scholarships. Jenna's project was a mathematical testing of two collision reconstruction formulae.

She tested the exact trajectory equation by jumping a remote car over a ramp at different angles. The speed was measured using police radar which was compared to the calculated speeds of the equation. The second test was the crush sustained by a vehicle after a collision. Jenna measured the crush of 50 vehicles, calculated the speed of the collision then compared it to the speed recorded by the Crash Data Recorder (black box) of the vehicle. Jenna found that the first equation was accurate but the crush formula was not as accurate as the electronic device.

### Laurissa Christie

Laurissa Christie, a Grade 10 student at St. Mary's Secondary School, Owen Sound, won the silver intermediate Via Rail ENVIROEXPO medal for her project on Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder. She also won the bronze medal in the intermediate earth and environmental science division.

The bronze medal carries a \$300 cash award plus a \$1,000 entry scholarship to university. Laurissa conducted a chemical analysis of the pesticides found in pollen that honey bees collect and return to the hive. She also tested a product that was supposed to counter the effects of Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder.

### Late news!

At press time we learned that Megan has been chosen to represent Canada at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists.

Megan will travel to Paris, France to compete in the week long competition from September 11 to September 16. She will be the only Canadian student at the competition.

## Applause award winners



TWENTY-SIX Bruce-Grey Catholic students were recognized at the Board's first annual Applause Breakfast held in May at the Klages Mill in Chesley.

"We believe it is important to formally recognize the efforts and achievements of students whose presence and actions are foundational to our success," said Director of Education Bruce MacPherson.

The Applause Breakfast Awards program honours selected students and their parents for their ongoing contributions to their respective school communities.

The following students were recognized with a certificate and an award.

### Mary Immaculate School, Chepstow

Matt Lang  
Carly Morris

### St. Peter & St. Paul's School, Durham

Geoffrey Dow  
Cole Black

### Immaculate Conception School, Formosa

Jordan Durrer  
Brett Fischer

### Holy Family School, Hanover

Zach Pohlman  
Devin Albert

### St. Anthony's School, Kincardine

Michael Wardrop  
Stan terWoerds

### Sacred Heart School, Mildmay

Lindsey Landry  
Sarah Grubb

### St. Basil's School, Owen Sound

Brandon Muller  
Kendra Martin

### Notre Dame Catholic School, Owen Sound

Victoria Swailles  
Lauren Louzon

### St. Joseph's School, Port Elgin

Sydney Ryan  
Meagan Fox

### Sacred Heart School, Teeswater

Trystan Beninger  
Emily Franken

### Mother Teresa School, Walkerton

Katrina Day  
April Logel

### St. Mary's High School, Owen Sound

Nicole Brulotte  
Kellan King

### Sacred Heart High School, Walkerton

Nathan Mazur  
Selena Cassidy

The Board would also like to recognize the following sponsors who made this event possible:

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# News



## Notre Dame student police chief for a day

A Grade 5 student from Notre Dame Catholic School in Owen Sound spent a day recently at that city's police station. But for a very good reason. Lindsey Marck was the winner of the Police Chief for a Day contest.

Students had to write an essay to qualify for the award which was open to all elementary students in the city. Notre Dame Principal Michael Bethune points out that three of the top five entries came from his school.

## Immaculate Conception fundraising for Sri Lankan project

IMMACULATE Conception School in Formosa has been fundraising over the past year to raise \$13,500 to help build a school and a well in Sri Lanka. Last year the students raised \$13,000 for a school in Sierra Leone.

This year's project got its start when six students from the school attended the Me to We Day rally in Toronto at

*"It's amazing to know that just being a small ordinary school can make a big difference in the world. It is a great feeling knowing that I was one of the leaders who helped build a school in Sri Lanka. Also, that because of our accomplishment we will help so many kids who have nothing, have an education." – Hayley Fischer, student council leader*

which Free the Children's founders, Craig and Marc Keilburger issued a challenge to all participants to raise enough funds to build 100 schools in countries in need around the world.

The students came back to Immaculate Conception and issued the chal-

## Bruce-Grey Catholic schools participate in Terry Fox Run

The numbers are now official. The 11 Bruce-Grey Catholic schools that participated in the 2008 National School Run Day collectively raised \$15,081.22 for cancer research.

More than 3,700 Ontario schools participated in the run which raised \$6.6 million.

A letter of thanks from the Terry Fox Foundation said: "Please accept our thanks for the encouragement and support you provide to all your schools with respect to their Terry Fox efforts. The world is a better place because of your schools."

## Smooth Transition to Grade 9 is goal of program

Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton and St. Mary's High School in Owen Sound are offering "Transition to Grade 9" programs in August for all Grade 8 students entering secondary school in the fall.

The programs, which are very similar, give students the opportunity to get acquainted with, and learn more, about their new high school. Timetables will be distributed, lockers assigned, and computer login procedures will be demonstrated.

Students also will have the opportunity to meet some of their teachers and peer mentors, to tour the school, and to learn about school procedures and co-curricular activities.

lunge to their fellow students. The challenge was accepted and the students set a target of \$13,500 for the Sri Lankan project.

Fundraising commenced in earnest in October and to-date has included pumpkin bowling, cookie sales, a gift basket draw, roast beef dinner and silent auction and a dance-a-thon.

The community also got involved. The school received a \$700 donation from the staff and customers of Dunkeld Restaurant, and some 125 items were donated to the silent auction by businesses and members of the school community. In addition, members of the Formosa CWL, along with many more volunteers helped with the dinner and auction.

To-date, more than \$10,500 has been raised. As well, matching funds granted through the New Horizons Foundation will add another \$5,000 to the total.

The students have learned a lot through the process. They have learned a great deal about Sri Lanka, but they have also learned that if we work together as a community we can make a big difference in the lives of others.

The Sacred Heart program is slated for August 25 and 26; the program at St. Mary's will be held August 26 and 27. Invitations have been sent to all incoming Grade 9 students.

More information is available from St. Mary's High School at 519-376-4278 or Sacred Heart High School at 519-881-1900. All new Grade 9 students are urged to attend.

## Literacy camps offered this summer

The Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB is once again offering an opportunity for its students to improve their literacy skills in a summer camp experience with peers and experienced teachers.

Five locations will be offering the camps this year: Holy Family, Hanover; Mother Teresa, Walkerton; Notre Dame, Owen Sound; St. Joseph's, Port Elgin; Saugeen First Nation.

Two weeks of camp are being offered – either August 10 to 14 or August 17 to 21.

This is the fifth annual summer camp experience offered by the Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board. For more information, please contact the Board office.

## Relay for Life

Sacred Heart High School held a Relay for Life at the end of May and raised over \$34,000 for cancer research.



*Bruce-Grey Catholic's Core French teachers met several times during the year as part of a teacher learning and leadership project to work through the book, Making Connections.*

*Facilitators Carolyn Kelly and Nora Donnelly worked with the teachers to ensure common strategies for effective literacy practices in Core French. In the photo teachers are shown discussing appropriate levels for student writing.*

## Bruce-Grey Catholic Community Newsletter

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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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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.