

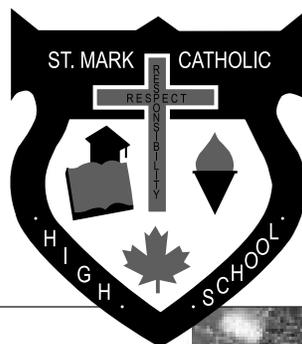
St. Mark Catholic High School outside Manotick has grown in a quarter-of-a-century from a small rural junior high school to a vibrant, energetic, bursting high school, one of the largest in the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board. Through all of this growth and change, St. Mark has developed and built on the traditions of the community, of caring, of athletic prowess and of academic excellence that have made it a beacon not only of education, but of community life itself in the rural southern area of what is now the City of Ottawa.

Past Principal Ron O'Toole, writing in the school's 25th anniversary reunion booklet in May 2005, summed it up best when he wrote, "The school has certainly changed and has grown. From a junior high school in the first few years, it has become one of the largest Catholic high schools in the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board. One of the many features of the St. Mark community that has made the school so successful is the tremendous school spirit that defines St. Mark. You can always feel the positive energy that seems to permeate the corridors of St. Mark. St. Mark has served as a meeting place for rural South Ottawa — a place where people meet and a place where we become good friends."

The school opened in September 1980. It had been referred to during construction as the South Gloucester Senior Elementary School, and became known as Southern Catholic Junior High when it first opened with 250 grades 7 and 8 students coming from the feeder schools of St. Bernard, St. Catherine, St. Leonard, St. Mary and St. Philip. A grade 9 program was added in September 1981, increasing the school's enrolment to about 450 students. Grade 10 was included in 1982. The original building, built for the Carleton Roman Catholic School Board by Paul Daoust

ST. MARK

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



1040 Dozois Road
Manotick K4M 1B2
613-692-2551
www.occsb.on.ca/mrh

Construction, cost \$1,913,610.11. The firm of Craig, Kohler, Dickey was the architect for the project.

The coming of full funding for Catholic education in the Province of Ontario in 1984 meant that St. Mark, which the school was then called, would add Grade 11 in 1985, Grade 12 in 1986, and a Grade 13 in 1987. This greatly increased the student enrolment at the school, a growth that was met by two expansion projects. A 12-classroom addition was built in 1985, with Nicolini Construction Ltd. carrying out the work. This was followed by a major project involving an addition and alterations

in 1987. This time, MCY Construction did the renovation. A beautician laboratory and a new chaplain's office were both created in 1988, while an elevator was installed in 1989.

Continued population growth in the school resulted in another major construction project in 1993. This \$6,391,000 endeavour, executed by Nicolini Construction, involved both an addition and alterations.

The growth and changes at St. Mark did not stop there. In 1997, the Carleton Roman Catholic School Board installed a 12-classroom portable complex at the school to meet the continuing enrolment growth. In 2005, the school had 33 portable classrooms to accommodate its student enrolment of 1,746 students, a far cry from the 250 who were registered in 1980. The 20 teachers and support staff of 1980 had increased to more than 100.

In 2006, the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board began a two-stage project that will see St. Mark receive major upgrades and improvements to its facilities. A renovation-conversion program for specific areas of the school was carried out in the summer of 2006. This included provision of a new weight room and high-needs classroom, expansion of the dependently handicapped classroom, a new resource classroom and teachers' work room, along with improvements to the senior science labs, plumbing, heat control in computer rooms and teachers' rooms, handicapped access, electrical supply, the cafeteria floor, and new exterior doors. Cost of this work was in the neighbourhood of \$300,000. Still to come is the construction of a major two-storey addition at an estimated cost of \$2,200,000, to be ready for September 2007. This addition, along with the opening of a new high school in the Riverside South area planned for September 2008, which will become the new high school home for

St. Bernard School graduates, should result in the elimination of the free-standing portables currently in use at the school.

Enrolment and infrastructure growth over the years at St. Mark, while impressive, tell only a small part of the story of St. Mark Catholic High School. Over these same years, the school community has developed a spirit that is best manifested in a number of ongoing traditions: the end-of-year outdoor Masses, the annual trips to the Dominican Republic, the annual canned food drives and the successful school teams and athletes. For the past decade, senior students at St. Mark High School have traveled to the Dominican Republic for a week, where they experience first-hand the culture and way of life in a Third World country. While the trip lasts only seven days, its effects endure for a lifetime in the hearts of those involved, as it usually proves to be a life-changing experience.

Since 1988, St. Mark Catholic High School has held an annual canned food drive. Over a period of 17 years, more than 688,000 cans have been collected to help the less fortunate and the needy in the greater Ottawa community. The St. Mark canned food drive has become one of the most successful such events anywhere, annually reaching over 50,000 cans in the past few years.

Present Principal

Joseph Veryard

Past Principals

Peter Linegar
Starr Kelly
Julian Hanlon
Don Doyle
Ron O'Toole

First Teaching and Support Staff

Rosanne Mullins
Betty Craig
Margaret Ironstone
Eileen Sametz
Marilyn Kelly
Val Cassaratto
Linda Bekkars
Ben Vlutebeld
Dave MacDonald
Denis O'Brien
Wendy Reynolds
Marg Sampson
Bernadette Ryan
Sam Colletti
Ken Souliere
Peter Linegar
Doug Charland

Former Students

Evan MacDonald, wrestler for Canada in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens

Heather Purnell, Olympic gymnast in 2004, Canadian national champion in vaults and recipient of a full scholarship to Stanford University

Elisa Kurylowicz, a member of the Canadian Freestyle Ski Team for four seasons, retiring in 2006. She won a gold medal in dual moguls in a World Cup competition in British Columbia in 2004.

Motto

"Respect and Responsibility"

School Mascot

St. Mark Lion

Team Names

Lions