

In the fall of 1978, the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board opened its second junior high school. This came six years after the establishment of the Board's first junior high school in the east end of its jurisdiction, Lester B. Pearson, in 1972. This new school would serve students in the western region of the Board's jurisdiction and was initially called "Bells Corners Senior Elementary School." Construction delays meant that the school did not open until October, so the first month of that school year found the students and staff in portables back at their home schools. In October 1978, the new school opened.

Later that school year, the school community unanimously requested that the school be named after the evangelist St. Paul — the school board concurred.

Initially, feeder schools for this new junior high school were Our Lady of Peace, Bayshore Catholic, St. Martin de Porres, Georges Vanier and St. Thomas. In later years, St. Paul drew students from other schools as well, such as St. Philip in Richmond, St. Isidore in South March, St. Michael in Corkery, St. Michael in Fitzroy Harbour and St. John the Apostle.

The school's first principal, Robert Curry, and his enthusiastic and gifted staff quickly made St. Paul one of the more progressive schools in the Ottawa area, but it was not too long before the school saw a major change thanks to the full funding provided for Catholic schools by the Provincial Government. In 1985, Grade 11 was added, followed by Grades 12 and 13 in subsequent years, as St. Paul grew to be a complete Catholic high school. With this extension from a junior high school to a full grades 7 to 13 school came major renovations and additions. From 1985 to 1991, this inclusion of the higher grades added to continued growth, with the result

# ST. PAUL

## CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



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that more than 75 teachers were hired in a six-year period.

The opening of Holy Trinity Catholic High School in Kanata in 1990, as the Catholic high school for most Kanata and Stittsville students, and the construction of Mother Teresa Catholic High School, heralded the beginning of a number of changes, which would impact St. Paul. In the spring of 1997, students and staff at St. Paul were informed that students in Grades 7 to 10 who lived in the Barrhaven area would be moving in the fall to become members of the first student body of the new Mother Teresa Catholic High School in

Barrhaven. Approximately 350 students and 20 staff members from St. Paul were affected by this move.

In the spring of 1999, students in Grades 7 to 10 who lived in the Emerald Meadows area of Kanata and the Richmond area were advised that they would be leaving St. Paul to become part of the new Sacred Heart Catholic High School opening in Stittsville. Fourteen staff members as well as about 250 students left St. Paul in this exodus to Sacred Heart. In the spring of 2000, the St. Paul Catholic High School community was once again required to relocate, this time to the former Sir John A. MacDonald High School on Draper Avenue in the west end of Ottawa. The Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board invested five million dollars in refurbishing the facility to bring it up to current standards. What a facility it was! It had two gymnasiums with hardwood floors, a university-style lecture hall, a cafeteria, new science and tech labs and an auditorium that could hold 750 spectators, ideal for both school and Board-wide performing arts initiatives.

St. Paul High School celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2004, with many former students returning to reflect on the good days that they had spent there. The enthusiasm exhibited by these graduates was testament to the great school spirit, which has been a hallmark of St. Paul over its history, no matter what its grade offerings, no matter where its students came from, and no matter where the school was located. Such events as "Cassa Café," open houses, spaghetti dinners and school plays have been venues for the development of this school spirit. In the early years of the school, some members of the staff and students made sandwiches after school for the Shepherds of Good Hope shelter. There were also canned food drives and school trips to the Dominican Republic to help the less fortunate. The more recent efforts at

St. Paul for tsunami relief in Southeast Asia and for assistance for victims of Hurricane Katrina are examples of the school's resolve to reach out to help others and to assist, where possible, with the ultimate goal of encouraging world peace.

St. Paul High School was one of eight Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board schools, which, in the 2005-06 school year, raised approximately \$6,000 in total for the "OK Clean Water Project." This project (OK stands for Ottawa-Kumbo, a town in Cameroon in Africa) is an initiative of the Congregation of Notre Dame, an international religious community of Sisters and associates. The "OK Clean Water Project" supports the purchase of water pipes that are laid from a clean water source into their communities by villagers in Cameroon.

St. Paul has become known for its athletics, its community work, its drama, its music, its debating (the St. Paul Debating Club won the all-Ontario championship), its peer helpers, its support of the Snowsuit Fund and the Waupoos Foundation project, and its apostolic work in the Dominican Republic since 1991. Indeed, a permanent exhibit of the work that St. Paul students have accomplished over the years in the Dominican Republic is on display at the Canada and the World Museum. In athletics, the school has hosted the Ontario Federation of Schools' Athletic Association Provincial Girls' Basketball Tournament in 2003, the Provincial Girls' Rugby Tournament, also in 2003, and the Provincial Boys' Rugby Tournament in 2004.

St. Paul has won the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Award (CAHPERD) for its quality daily physical education program every year from 1994 through 2005. It has also received a provincial Outstanding Intramural Achievement Award.

The St. Paul Catholic High School yearbook has been recognized for its excellence both locally and nationally. This recognition has included numerous first-place awards in the Ottawa area as well as a first-place in the Canadian Yearbook Review in 2003, 2004 and 2005 and a first-place rating in the American Scholastic Press Association judging in both 2004 and 2005.

In all of this, academics have not been overlooked. Over the years the school has graduated well-rounded and educated individuals, successful not only in various subjects but also in personal growth, assuming a sense of responsibility for the world in which they live. St. Paul students have entered the J.A. Titan Business Competition at Carleton University, winning five times. The grad retreat is always a highlight of the students' years at St. Paul, giving them an opportunity to reflect on their years at St. Paul and on what lies ahead in life. Priests such as Father Edward Lunney of St. Martin de Porres Parish, Father Peter Schonenbach of Holy Redeemer Parish, and Monsignor Paul Baxter of St. Patrick Parish have worked closely with the school to encourage and promote the prevailing atmosphere of Catholicity. The spiritual leadership in the school from chaplains such as Sister Shelly Lawrence and Nicole Levesque further bless the school.

St. Paul Catholic High School became a leader in the development of special education programs with a focus on inclusion of all students in the school community as paramount. A dependently handicapped unit was opened at the school in 1987.

The school holds a welcoming barbecue during the last week of August for the new grade 7 students.

In 1992, Principal John Shannon initiated the St. Paul Leadership Camp where students learn to recognize and develop their leadership talents, helping them to take ownership and responsibility for the life in their school.

### Present Principal

William Barrett (2006-present)

### Past Principals

Robert Curry (1978-85)  
 Michael Baine (1985-91)  
 John Shannon (1991-97)  
 Greg Mullen (1997-2002)  
 Eugene Milito (2002-06)

### First Teaching and Support Staff

Robert Curry, Principal  
 Michael Matthews, Vice-Principal  
 Bill Murphy  
 Gary Yates  
 Margaret Imbleau  
 Aubrey Ayer  
 Douglas White  
 Audrey Lamarche  
 Alan Dickinson  
 Celia Groulx  
 Nancyjane Cawley  
 Lynne Langille  
 Pat Richards  
 Faiz Griplas  
 Maurice Sullivan  
 Francine Berthiaume  
 Remo Zuccarin  
 Jane Buck, Head Secretary  
 Jeannie Gorgichuck, Secretary

### Staff Achievements

Former Teacher Terry Anne Carter (1981-2000, English) was Ottawa's "Random Acts of Poetry" poet for 2005. She has been the Education Chair of the League of Canadian Poets and was Vice-President of Haiku Canada and participated in the Basho Festival in Japan in 2004.

Former Teacher Margaret Imbleau (1978-2002, English/Religion) contributed to two Family Life high school textbooks for Catholic schools in Ontario sponsored by the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Former Teacher Audrey Lamarche (1978-91), Vice-Principal (1991), Department Head in Contemporary Studies (1989-91), Subject Advisor Family Studies (1986-89), and Special Project Assignment Teacher (SPAT) for Family Studies (1990). She was Vice-President of the Ontario Family Studies/Home Economics Educators' Association (OFSHEEA) in 1990. She received the OFSHEEA Award of Excellence in 1991 for her contributions to the promotion of family studies in Ontario.

Former Teacher Jeri Lunney (1987-98), Vice-Principal (1987-88) and Department Head in Mathematics (1988-98) has co-authored grades 9 and 10 basic-level textbooks with Nelson Canada and grades 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 advanced-level texts for Houghton Mifflin Canada. She received the Don Attridge Award for teacher excellence from the Ontario Association for Mathematics Education, the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in Mathematics, and the Descartes Medal for Signal Service to Mathematics in the schools of Ontario from the René Descartes Foundation of the University of Waterloo.

Former Teacher Jan Connors Matthews (1980-2003) received the Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation Award as one of the top educators in the Ottawa-Carleton region.

Science Teacher Ralph Carney received the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2000.

English Teacher Linus Shea served as President of the local unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers'

Association from 2001 to 2005.

Teacher Erika McCarthy (1995-99) wrote an anti-racism curriculum for the study of immigration to Canada in 1998. In 1999, she received the Roy C. Hill Provincial Award for Innovations in Curriculum.

Principal John Shannon received the Order of Merit For Exceptional Service from the Archdiocese of Ottawa in 1997.

Principal Eugene Milito (2002-06) was one of 28 recipients of the Canada's Outstanding Principal Award.

## Former Students

Sean O'Donnell plays for the Phoenix Coyotes of the National Hockey League.

Scott Cashman, a goalie, played at Boston University and was drafted by the National Hockey League.

Lisa Bergin played basketball at the University of Ottawa.

Heather McAlpine played basketball at Carleton University while her sister Suzanne McAlpine played basketball at the University of Toronto.

Declan Bonner played soccer at St. John's University in the United States and then returned to play soccer at Carleton University.

Kelly Vandenberg played soccer at Carleton University.

Christine Murphy played basketball at Bishop's University and is now an assistant coach there.

Emily Murphy played basketball at the University of New Brunswick.

Alison Smyth is a singer of opera, classical music and Broadway musicals. In 2004, she made her professional debut in the Toronto production of the Broadway musical *Hair Spray*.

## School Colours

The original school colours were brown and gold. The colours were changed to blue and gold in the mid-1980s.

## Logo

The school logo is in the shape of a pentagon, with the two angled sides converging at the bottom. It has a blue border on a white background. In the centre, there is a blue cross with the school name "St. Paul" printed vertically on the cross in white letters. A gold maple leaf in the background silhouettes the cross. The crest is draped with a gold banner having a blue border. Written on the banner are the words "Fill Your Minds With All That Is True."

## Symbols

The symbol that distinguishes St. Paul athletics teams is the golden bear. The grizzly bear is the school's mascot. The bear paw is the logo on the school's sports wear. Everything from t-shirts to track pants have the bear paw stamp. The bear paw is also painted on the gym floor and on the walls of the gym, as well as in a number of other places throughout the school.

## Making Science Fun

Teacher Ralph Carney arrived at St. Paul Catholic High School in 1984 to teach his favourite subject, science. Head of the Science Department from 1986 to 2000, Ralph makes science fun for his students. He has motivated many to take part in Science Fairs, the Science Olympics at Carleton University and the Newton Contest organized by Waterloo University. His extracurricular efforts have been centred around the Science Club, ping pong and the Electronics Club.

Over the years, he has taken a number of his science classes to Canada's Wonderland to analyze the roller coaster rides. His classes have had lots of fun building roller coasters, Rube Goldberg machines, catapults and hovercrafts.

The science lab is one stop that students do not allow their parents to miss at the open houses. On these occasions, Mr. Carney is only too happy to crank up the Van de Graff machine and watch a somewhat startled mother stand before it while the intense static makes her hair stand straight up. The student invariably goes home knowing that his or her mother has enjoyed one of Mr. Carney's fine scientific experiences.

Mr. Carney creates an exciting playing field for science, whether it be in his lab or in the hallway where students are often seen testing the machines that they have built as part of the science program at St. Paul.

### **What Makes St. Paul a Special Place?**

Former Principal Eugene Milito provides an insight into the special character of St. Paul Catholic High School in his response to the frequently asked question about what are some of the positive features of the school.

Without hesitation, my answer always begins with the dedication that is shown by the students, staff and parent community towards the school. We believe in working with all of our stakeholders in developing each student spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally. We believe that everyone here will experience success while walking the halls. We believe in preparing our students to become positive role models in the community. Success should not always be measured on what someone knows. We must ask, "What have you become?"