

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

Quality • Inclusive • Faith-based • Education



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## WCDSB: "We Have Much to Celebrate"



**Michael Schmitt**  
Director of Education

*"The highlight for me has been meeting many of you in your schools, your worksites and in the community. I continue to be inspired by your commitment to our students to ensure that Waterloo Catholic really is the heart of the community. No matter what your role is, you understand that our first call is to the students. Thank you for the opportunity to have served as your Director of Education and for your support throughout the year".*



**Happy Summer!!!**  
See you in September

**June, 2015**

It has been an honour and privilege to serve as your Director of Education this school year!

I extend appreciation to the Trustees, the Senior Team, Principals / Vice-Principals, staff at the Catholic Education Centre / Dutton Dr. and the many of you who have welcomed and assisted me during this year.

We have much to celebrate as the school year ends and we look forward to summer. **Our Mission and Vision** have been renewed and the board has identified new **Strategic Priorities** and **Directions** that will provide direction for the next three years. At the heart of this new strategic plan is the restatement that our Catholic schools will be the heart of the community.

These inspirational words will lead us to consider how best to nurture our Catholic community to ensure faith is lived and witnessed in community; students and staff are healthy in mind, body and spirit; and everyone is included, respected and welcomed.

Student engagement, innovation and achievement describes the second priority to ensure success for each. Here we articulate that all stakeholders along with students will be engaged, nurtured and valued; that students will achieve to their highest potential in a 21<sup>st</sup> century world; and staff who serve them will be engaged in collaborative learning communities.

All this is accomplished by building capacity to lead, learn and live authentically. The board will strive to provide professional learning for all employees that is timely and responsive; execute leadership training and succession planning that is intentional; and make decisions, take actions and ensure stewardship of resources is evidence based and responsive.

This year we continued to articulate a Catholic vision of education for our students that is about education and formation – one that sees to it that all students learn at high levels and one that sees to it that our students become living witnesses to the Faith. We continue to be proud of our students.

To honour those students in our schools whose very presence makes a difference and who contribute to the essence of what it means to be living our Gospel values, we celebrated the **Beacons of Hope** recognition award and hosted six community breakfasts to honour these young people.

Moving forward, the next school year will see the introduction of **French Immersion**. We are excited about this new program and look forward to its growth throughout the system.

The highlight for me this year has been meeting many of you in your schools, your worksites and in the community. I continue to be inspired by your commitment to our students to ensure that Waterloo Catholic really is the heart of the community. No matter what your role is, you understand that our first call is to the students.

Thank you for the opportunity to have served as your Director of Education and for your support throughout the year.

It is my pleasure to welcome **Loretta Notten** as the new Director of Education. Loretta brings a wealth of leadership experience in Catholic education and a demonstrated ability to build consensus and community. I am delighted to welcome Loretta to Waterloo Catholic.

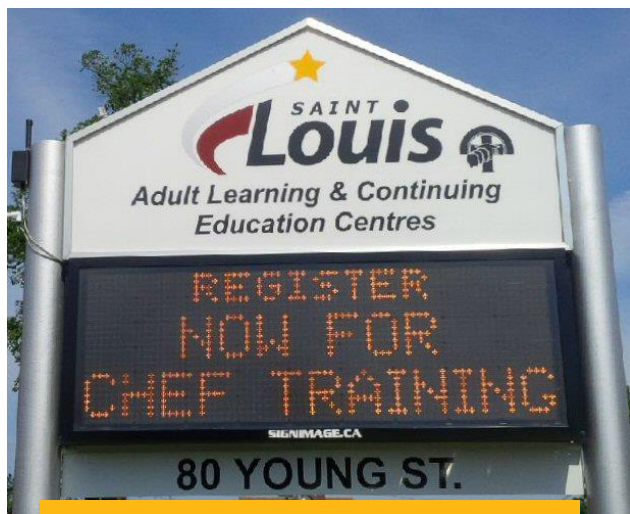
As I take my leave this summer, I thank all of you for the good memories I will take with me and I extend my personal best wishes to all of you.

God Bless!



**Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools**

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There's always something exciting happening at our **St. Louis Adult Learning & Continuing Education Centres**.  
Find out more at:

<http://stlouis.wcdsb.ca/>

## Message from the Chair of the Board



Another school year is coming to a close and as we all look back and reflect I know that many across our system recognize much success and know we are very fortunate to be able to recognize and celebrate our success with faith. Our Catholic school system allows us that privilege. As a Board of Trustees we proudly support our staff,

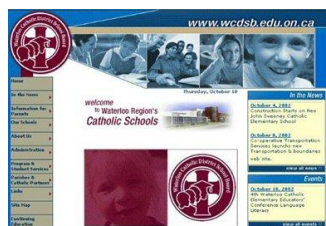
students and our community as we strive to do our work and make decisions in the best interests of all.

We were very fortunate this year to have **Michael Schmitt** step in as Director of Education, allowing Trustees time to seek a new Director. Michael has been a tremendous asset to our system and it has been a pleasure to work with him. We have completed our search and are very proud that **Loretta Notten** will be joining WCDSB in September. We look forward to Loretta introducing herself in the Fall Community Update.

We also thank our outgoing Student Trustee **Maria Paz Rodriguez** as she finishes off her term and we wish her well in the future. We also welcome back Student Trustee **Karen Hakim** for her second term and incoming Student Trustee **Sebastian Monsalve**. We look forward to their input and participation at the Board table. This May we also recognized many staff across our system for their many years of service and commitment to Catholic education. This year's Chair's Award went to **Joni Grundy** who is retiring as VP at St. Mary's H.S. The Community Partner Award was presented to the **Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council** in recognition of their outstanding support of our students.

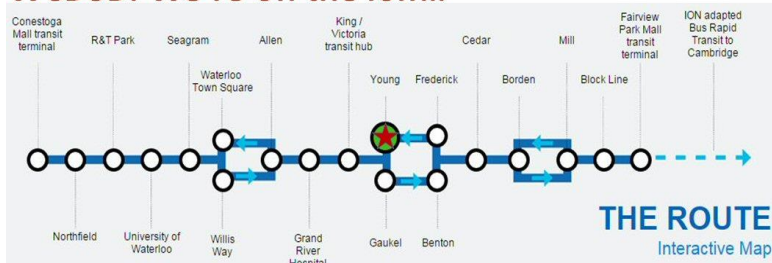
On behalf of the Board of Trustees, **Joyce Anderson, Bill Conway, Manuel da Silva, Amy Fee, Frank Johnson, Wendy Price, Greg Reitzel, Brian Schmalz, Melanie Van Alphen** and our Student Trustees **Karen Hakim** and **Maria Paz Rodrigues** we wish you a safe and joyful summer!

Manuel da Silva  
Chair of the Board



Our website has changed a lot in the last 15 years!  
[www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca)

### WCDSB: We're on the ion...



Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre  
Waterloo Catholic District School Board Newcomer Centre  
Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation  
Catholic Community Foundation of Waterloo Region  
St. Louis Adult Learning & Continuing Education Centre -- Main Campus  
St. Mary's Catholic Church

## Follow Us !!

twitter

<http://twitter.com/WCDSBNewsWire>  
#WCDSBAwesome

YouTube

[www.youtube.com/user/WCDSBVidLink](http://www.youtube.com/user/WCDSBVidLink)



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## Congrats to our new EcoSchools!

Students and staff at 14 of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools have gone green in a big way, achieving certification as "**Ontario EcoSchools**".

### GOLD

Holy Rosary CES  
Monsignor Doyle CSS  
Saint John Paul II CES  
St. Anne (K) CES  
St. Clement CES  
St. Daniel CES  
St. Margaret of Scotland CES

### SILVER

Blessed Mother Teresa CES  
Holy Family CES  
Holy Spirit CES  
St. Brigid CES  
St. Nicholas CES

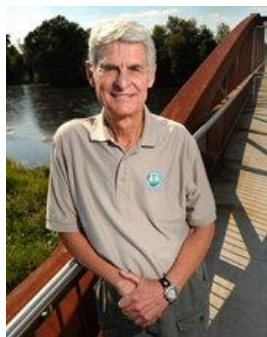
### BRONZE

St. Luke CES  
St. Vincent de Paul CES



Students at St. Daniel CES have created a special butterfly garden as part of their EcoSchools program. St. Daniel received a GOLD certification in the school's first year in the EcoSchools program!

### 2015 Distinguished Graduate Award



This year's recipient is former **St. Jerome's University President Dr. Doug Letson** – who attended **St. Jerome's H.S.**

You can read more about Dr. Letson's many accomplishments at:

<https://www.wcdsb.ca/about/headlines/news/nr/2015/>

Photo courtesy SJU

## Get Ready!

# Links FOR LEARNING | 2015

GOLF CLASSIC • IN SUPPORT OF THE WATERLOO REGION CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

CONESTOGA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

## Join Us...

**New Location:** Conestoga Golf Club, Conestoga

**New Date:** Thursday, August 27, 2015 8:00am

**New Price:** Registration • Cart • Breakfast • Lunch \$150

**Registration & Information:**

519.578.3660, ext. 2373



## Meet Our New Director of Education...



**Loretta Notten**

We are very pleased to introduce our new Director of Education – **Loretta Notten**.

Loretta will be introducing herself more fully in the September, 2015 Community Update newsletter. Meanwhile, for more information please visit:

[https://www.wcdsb.ca/about/headlines/news/news\\_rel.html](https://www.wcdsb.ca/about/headlines/news/news_rel.html)



Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

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## Around the Region...



On May 26 our WCDSB team "**Pat's Pedalers**" raised \$4,200 in the **Heart & Stroke Foundation BIG BIKE Ride**. Honourary captain was former WCDSB Phys Ed Consultant & heart health advocate **Pat Doherty**.



2015-16 marked the first year for WCDSB's new **Beacons of Hope Awards**. The award was established to recognize a student from each WCDSB school who represents integrity, hard work, consistent efforts, Catholic values, and who may not get recognized with the traditional academic / athletic / student spirit awards. The students above are from the **St. David** family of schools.

St. John CES does a great job being "heart of the community" -- promoting "success for each" and creating "a place for all"!

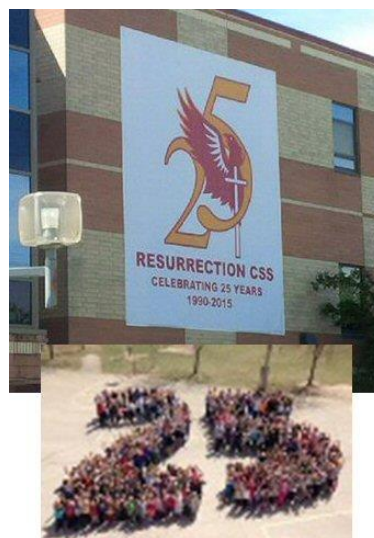


Students at **Saint John Paul II** post their commitment to the environment on their "Leaves of Change" tree!



On May 5 Waterloo Regional Police Chief **Bryan Larkin** snapped one of his famous "Larkies" while visiting **St. Elizabeth CES**.

**Can You Guess What Milestone Anniversaries Resurrection CSS & Holy Rosary CES are Celebrating????**



**Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools**

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