

Dr. F.J. McDonald Catholic School bears the name of a legendary supporter of, and advocate for, Catholic education in the City of Ottawa. For many years, Dr. F.J. McDonald, a medical doctor, was the inspector of separate schools in Ottawa. His work and contributions to Catholic education were such that the Board named the school in his honour.

Dr. McDonald became convinced that the efforts and achievements of separate schoolteachers were neither understood nor appreciated. In 1930, under his leadership, separate schoolteachers in Ottawa set up their own local organization to make professional and economic gains. However, Dr. McDonald believed that a provincial organization would benefit all Catholic teachers in the province, but it took several years to achieve this. Dr. McDonald consulted with other separate school inspectors across the province. They encouraged the teachers to form a provincial teachers' organization. Support from the clergy and religious congregations teaching in Ontario was also forthcoming, leading eventually to the formation of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA).

The school was in operation for more than two years before it was formally renamed Dr. F.J. McDonald Catholic School on December 14, 1970.

The first few years for the school were anything but calm. Originally opened at the nearby St. Leonard Catholic School on Rob Roy Street in the Pinecrest-Queensway area on September 3, 1968, it moved to its permanent site on Ahearn Avenue at the end of September that year, bearing the name Britannia Bay Catholic School. However, even at this permanent site, the students were housed in portables until the end of September 1969, when the new school

DR. F.J. MCDONALD

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



**2860 Ahearn Avenue
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facility finally opened. Z.J. Nowak was the architect. More than a year later, on December 14, 1970, the school was formally renamed in honour of Dr. McDonald.

The school celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1993. At this memorable event, an anniversary Mass was followed by a reception attended by Board Trustees as well as by Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board Director of Education George Moore.

Other memorable events have taken place. In June 2005, students visited nearby Mud Lake, an environmental gem

and a local conservation area along the Ottawa River. Students celebrated its upgrading made possible by their development of a science area. The school, along with a local conservation group, helps promote respect for Mud Lake. A grade 6 class met with Canadian astronaut Marc Garneau at Ottawa City Hall where he received the key to the city. The school was chosen as the home base for the Rag and Bone Puppet Theatre from 1987 to 1990. This theatre group, associated with an artists-in-residence program, staged many performances for the school and students visited the group's workshop at the school for creative arts instruction.

Dr. F.J. McDonald Catholic School is home to a nursery school as well as a child/adult drop-in centre. The Pinecrest-Queensway Community group leases space from the school board, running a daycare program for the community.

Dr. F.J. McDonald Catholic School was one of eight Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board schools that in 2005-06 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, which are laid from a clean water source into their communities by villagers in Cameroon.

Dr. F.J. McDonald Catholic School has a kindergarten room, six regular classrooms, a gymnasium, a computer lab and a library.

Present Principal

Brian Legree

Past Principals

Gregory Daly
Douglas Goodwin
James Morrison
Philip Butler
John Dörner
Michael Blimkie
Marcel Lafleur
Brian T. Kelly

Teaching Staff in 1971-72

Phyllis Shearer
Louise LeMoine
Jeanne Fortier
Mrs. B. Chapman
Miss Shields
B. Burant
Diane Grison
Miss L. Doherty
Brent Gilmour
Winnifred Trudel

Family Connection

Dr. F.J. McDonald's daughter, Carolyn Watson, was a teacher, retiring from Bayshore Catholic School.

School Colours

Green and gold

Logo

The school logo features a giant "M" on top of a sunrise-starburst featuring a cross and a banner with the name "Dr. F.J. McDonald Catholic School."

