

GEORGES VANIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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Georges Vanier Catholic School was the first Catholic elementary school to open in Kanata. The school started in September 1967, with the students initially housed at Our Lady of Peace Catholic School in Bells Corners until the new facility in the Beaverbrook area was ready for occupancy. Georges Vanier Catholic School eventually served as the “mother school” for four other Kanata Catholic elementary schools, which opened over the ensuing three decades — St. Martin de Porres, Holy Redeemer, St. James and St. Anne, all of which were established with students who had been attending Georges Vanier. Because of the continuing growth in its attendance area resulting in the creation of other Catholic schools, Georges Vanier has seen its student population fluctuate over time, often creating the need for portable classrooms. Georges Vanier Catholic School has had up to eight portables on site prior to the formation of another school such as Holy Redeemer or St. James.

The school was named in memory of Canadian Governor-General Georges Vanier, who died in March 1967. Georges Vanier was the first French-Canadian to be appointed as Governor-General, serving from September 1959 to April 1967. Born in Montreal in 1888, he earned both the Military Cross for bravery and the Distinguished Service Order in World War I. He rose to the rank of Major-General in 1942 and, after World War II, was appointed Ambassador to France.

The school celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1992 with an event attended by many former staff and students.

Over the years, the school has been visited by numerous guest speakers such as Canadian national basketball coach Jack Donahue, Olympic gold medalist and

Bert O'Connor
Robert Curry
Robert Slack
Ann Blier
Dwight Delahunt
Mary Moss
Diane Jackson

First Teaching and Support Staff

Grace Blimkie
Ed McHale
Pat Sterling
Bonnie Collins
Cheryl Carter
Elizabeth White
Fay Stalman
Nancy-Ann Cawley
Ann Read
Steve Newton
Danielle Jaworsky
Maxine Quilty
Mary Venier
Ann Purlow

Former Staff and Students

Dr. Ruth Dempsey, a former teacher at Georges Vanier, is a professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Ottawa.

Alex Munter, a former student, established a Kanata community newspaper when he was 14 years old. It is still published today as *the Kanata Courier-Standard*. Alex became a Kanata city councillor and an Ottawa-Carleton regional councillor as well as a City of Ottawa councillor after amalgamation in 2001. After his withdrawal from municipal politics, he became a visiting professor at the University of Ottawa. He has declared his candidacy for Mayor of Ottawa in the November 2006 municipal election.

Paul Shepherd, current pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Kanata

sports announcer Carolyn Waldo, champion figure skater Brian Orser and CJOH-TV news anchor Max Keeping, as well as by various members of the Ottawa Senators of the National Hockey League.

Present Principal

Marcia Lynch

Principals

Greg Peddie
Russ Graham
Garry Valiquette
Margaret McGrath
Andy Groulx

School Colours

The school colours are red and white. These colours were chosen because they are the colours of the Canadian flag.

Logo

The school logo has a stylized initial “G” superimposed on the initial “V,” with a maple leaf commemorating Canada’s Centennial Year of 1967, the year in which the school opened, and a cross in the background. The white background and the red outline of the logo reflect the school colours.