

**N**otre Dame Catholic High School may be a fairly new name on the Catholic education scene in Ottawa but it has an ancestry, filled with traditions and ties to the past, going back more than 100 years to 1894.

Present-day Notre Dame Catholic High School officially opened at its current Broadview Avenue location in September 1994. This was a cause for great celebration at that time because, for a number of years following the extension of full funding for Catholic schools in Ontario in 1984, the Catholic community in the west end of the City of Ottawa had struggled to establish a secondary school community. Finding and acquiring an appropriate facility remained a challenge for almost a decade.

In 1987, faced with a great need for a new high school in the west end of the city, the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board leased the former Fisher Park High School on Holland Avenue, opening its doors to over 1,000 Catholic high school students; a population drawn from the amalgamation of St. Raymond's and St. Joseph's Schools, two former junior high schools which were growing with the advent of full funding. The school was temporarily and yet appropriately named West End Catholic High School. However, a search was undertaken for a new and definitely more Catholic name. Several possible names were presented and voted upon by the students and staff. The inspiration of the "fighting Irish" won the day and the new high school was subsequently named Notre Dame Composite High School.

In 1994, the school board finally negotiated a new and more appropriate site. The former Highland Park Vocational High School on Broadview Avenue, also in the west end of Ottawa, became the new Notre Dame. Extensive renovations were carried out at the new site at that time, but more physical changes were in store.

# NOTRE DAME

## CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



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St. Raymond's Intermediate School and St. Joseph's Intermediate School had integrated on Keyworth Avenue in 2000, two great school communities and traditions coming together under one roof as the new St. Joseph's Intermediate School. However, this was short-lived as this new St. Joseph's closed in 2002, its students joining Notre Dame, which then became a full grades 7 to 12 school. Extensive remodeling preceded this move so that Notre Dame High School could accommodate everyone. Improvements included a new gym, new science and tech labs and renovated classrooms. An official opening of the expanded and renovated facility was held in January 2003.

The original St. Joseph's School opened in 1894, on the University of Ottawa campus, serving the Sandy Hill community until 1957 when it burned down over the Christmas holidays. In 1959, St. Joseph's reopened at a Wilbrod Avenue site, where it served children from Senior kindergarten to Grade 5, while grades 6 to 8 students were accommodated for one year in another building just down the street. In 1960, the new St. Joseph's High School was opened, staffed by the Carmelite Fathers, followed by the Basilian Fathers and the Sisters of Holy Cross. A private Catholic high school, it was located on Broadview Avenue just south of Carling Avenue, offering the full range of high school grades.

St. Raymond's Intermediate School opened on Fellows Road in 1970. It remained an intermediate school until 1973, when Grade 9 was added, and the facility underwent an expansion. A year later, the school grew again to include Grade 10, an arrangement that was unchanged for 12 years. When full funding was extended to all Catholic schools in Ontario, St. Raymond's began to offer Grade 11 in 1985 and Grade 12 in 1986. The senior students moved to the new Notre Dame Catholic High School on Holland Avenue when it was formed in 1987. St. Raymond's Intermediate School continued to operate for grades 7 and 8 students until it was closed in 2000, at which time its students transferred to St. Joseph's Intermediate School on Keyworth Avenue. The grades 7 and 8 students from St. Joseph's as well as those from Holy Rosary School moved to a new facility on Keyworth Avenue, while the senior students from St. Joseph's and from St. Raymond's Intermediate united to form the new Notre Dame High School on Holland Avenue.

**Present Principal**

André Potvin

**Past Principals**

Evelyn Kelly  
Walter Hempey  
Julian Hanlon  
Hazel Lambert