

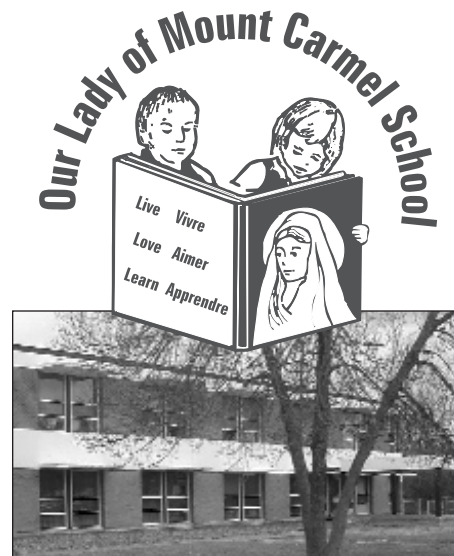
# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The name “Our Lady of Mount Carmel” has been part of Catholic education in the east end of Ottawa for over 50 years, except for a three-year period in the late 1970s.

The development of the community of Manor Park in the years following World War II created several important services to meet the needs of Catholics in this new area. In the religious sphere, this was achieved through Sunday Masses being celebrated at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Barracks, leading eventually to the creation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in February 1953. Educationally, the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board opened a new school on Gaspé Avenue in the Manor Park area in 1953, naming it Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It was a basic school with a number of classrooms which also became the interim home of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. Masses were held at this new school until a church was built on St. Laurent Boulevard, completed in 1957, and blessed by Archbishop Lemieux on March 17.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School grew with the community of Manor Park. In 1961, the school had nine teachers and 354 students. Residential growth in the east end continued to the point where, in 1963, the school board opened another area school on Gardenvale Road off Cummings Avenue — Gardenvale School. This two-storey school was enlarged in the late 1960s with the addition of a library, more classrooms, a gymnasium, an administration office and a staff room.

In the early 1970s, French Immersion classes began at Gardenvale School, with students bussed to the school from various parts of the east end of Ottawa, increasing school enrolment as well as diversifying the school population. At about this same time, grades 7 and 8 students were transferred to junior high schools.



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By 1977, growth in the area had slowed and the original Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School on Gaspé Avenue was closed because of declining enrolment.

In 1980, Joan O'Toole, Principal of Gardenvale Catholic School, brought about a name change, replacing the name “Gardenvale” with “Our Lady of Mount Carmel” to ensure that it was not perceived as a public school, and to reflect the reality that the school was in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. The 1980s also saw the school add classes in special education and become involved with the Royal Ottawa Hospital in a “Gateway Program.”

Over the years, from the opening of the original Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Manor Park in 1953 until present day, Catholic education in this part of Ottawa has reflected the community being served and its residents. In the mid-1950s, the Our Lady of Mount Carmel School population, serving the English-speaking Manor Park area, had a student composition that reflected that reality. In the 1960s and 1970s, this changed somewhat as Ottawa became more bilingual. The Gardenvale School population was from both English and French backgrounds, adding to the diversity of the school community. From the 1980s to the present, the emerging cosmopolitan nature of Ottawa has been reflected in the student population at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School; it now serves a community with a wide diversity of students including many either born in another country or second-generation Canadians. This ever-changing enrolment demographic may be altered again when new development eventually takes place at the former Canadian Forces Base Rockcliffe, an area served by the school.

In the late 1990s, a play structure was installed in the schoolyard. Over the years, many other changes have taken place, such as an expanded library and a new computer lab. Closed-in classrooms have replaced the original open-concept design.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School today supports numerous charitable endeavours, offers a variety of exciting activities for students and holds a number of annual events. Charitable causes, which have been supported by the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School community, include Dystonia Medical Research, St. Brigid's Summer Camp, Run For The Cure, UNICEF, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the United Way and the Ottawa Food Bank.

Co-curricular activities offered for students include a recycling club, choir and music activities, a wide range of athletics including both intramural and Board-wide, a breakfast club, a library club and Mass servers. Annual events that enhance the sense of community at the school include Education Week activities, hot dog days, pizza days, a spelling bee, student-of-the-month assemblies, a Halloween fun day and a walk-a-thon.

### Present Principal

Donna Bekkers-Boyd

### Principals

#### Original Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School

Sister St. Christopher  
Sister Jean Goulet  
Sister C. McCann

#### Gardenvale School

Desmond Lalonde  
Desmond Watt  
Lillian Seed  
James MacPherson  
Walter Hempey  
Joan O'Toole

#### Current Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School

Joan O'Toole  
Francesco Lipari  
Emilio D'Errico  
Georges Bouliane  
Clifford Foley  
Michael Keeler

### First Teaching and Support Staff

(Gardenvale/Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School)  
Bernice Schulhauser, Junior Kindergarten  
Suzanne Birnbaum, Senior Kindergarten  
Joanne Perrault, Grade 1 (English)  
Celine Seguin, Grade 1 (French)  
Irene Corrigan, Grade 2 (English)  
Solange Shank, Grade 2 (French)  
Bernadette Ritz, Grade 3 (English)  
Micheline Leroux, Grade 3 (French)  
Carole Villeneuve, Grade 4  
Lise St. Louis, Grade 5  
Morley Labelle, Grade 6  
Maureen Monette, Resource  
Mr. Monette, Custodian  
Mr. Audette, Custodian  
Ron Patry, Custodian

### Former Students

Michael Henry is now a Toronto lawyer.

Craig Lauzon is an actor on the *Royal Canadian Air Farce* TV show.

### School Colours

Blue, white and green

### Logo

The school logo features two children reading a large book with a picture of Our Lady on the front cover and the bilingual words "Live, Love, Learn" on the back cover.

### Uniforms

School uniforms featuring the school colours were introduced a number of years ago but were discontinued for a variety of reasons.