

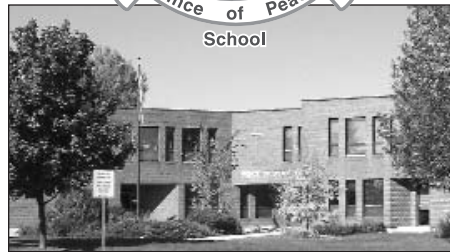
PRINCE OF PEACE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

When the new Prince of Peace Catholic School on Heatherington Road in Ottawa opened in 1977, it was believed to be the first of its kind, linking an elementary school with a chapel. The roots of the new school and chapel can be found in the rapid population growth that occurred in the area of Walkley Road and Heron Road in the 1960s. This brought about the need not only for a new school but also for the formation of a new Catholic community, St. Peter.

The construction of what would become Prince of Peace School came as a result of overcrowding and continuing growth at Queen of the Angels School on Heron Road, a school that consisted not only of a main building but also of 14 portables located on Briar Hill Road. At the same time, there were changes and pressures taking place in Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, which served the area. Beginning in 1969, Sunday Mass was celebrated in the chapel of Campanile School on Heron Road. When Campanile was closed in 1973, the location for Mass was moved across the street to the gymnasium of St. Peter High School.

Because of the distance from Resurrection of Our Lord Church and the increasing size of that parish, a movement grew for the Archdiocese to create a new parish in the area. It began as a Catholic community under the associate pastor of Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in 1975 and became the new Catholic community of St. Peter in February 1977, although still a part of Resurrection of Our Lord Parish. To provide a home for this new Christian community of St. Peter, proposals and negotiations resulted in a joint church/school venture that saw the construction of St. Peter Chapel along with the new Prince of Peace Catholic School. The chapel seated 120 and was connected to the school in such a way that it could be opened up to the



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gymnasium, thus accommodating an additional 350 people. The St. Peter community and the school cooperated, with parishioners helping to purchase the chairs and tables for the school gym, while the school staff and students helped pay for the main crucifix in the chapel. In May 1981, St. Peter was proclaimed as a separate parish.

The chapel and school were built at the same time, with E.J. Cuhaci as the architect and Paul D'Aoust as the general contractor. Construction took place in 1976 and the school was occupied in January 1977. It was built at a cost of approximately \$1,300,000, and consisted of a two-storey,

38,000 square foot facility situated on a five-acre site. The school featured a general-purpose room, a library resource centre, three kindergarten rooms, three special education rooms and 12 regular classrooms, along with the chapel attached to the school. The school could accommodate approximately 500 junior kindergarten to grade 6 students.

The first draft of the design for the new school called for a totally open concept configuration on the second floor of the school; however, after further consultation, the open concept component of the school was reduced to just three rooms.

The school was officially opened on Sunday, October 16, 1977, with Bishop John Beahan blessing the facility, assisted by Rev. David Corkery, Pastor of Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, Rev. James Whalen, Associate Pastor of St. Peter's community, and Deacon Stephen Hill, the Bishop's Secretary. At the official opening, the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board was represented by Board Chairperson Frank Gilhooly and Board official B.J. Kipp, along with Trustees Roberta Anderson, Rita Desjardins, Paul Kelly, Jack MacKinnon and Area Superintendent Paul Brady. The school choir, under the direction of Mrs. Geraldine LaRocque, provided the music.

The new school was named "Prince of Peace Catholic School" as a result of a public consultation process. The Queen of the Angels School community was asked in the 1975-76 school year to submit suggested names. A selection committee reduced the list to five and, after further input and consideration, the name "Prince of Peace Catholic School" was submitted to the trustees of the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board, who subsequently granted approval. In 1976-77, the newly formed school began occupying the Briar

Hill Road portable site, drawing its students from Heatherington Road, Ridgemount Terrace and surrounding areas. The students and staff remained at the temporary quarters until moving into the new Prince of Peace School in January 1977. Meanwhile, Queen of the Angels School continued to operate on Heron Road in 1976-1977, drawing its students from Heron Gate and surrounding areas. In June 1977, Queens of the Angels School closed and its students were transferred to Prince of Peace School.

Present Principal

Gail Taillon (2006-present)

Past Principals

James Morrison (1976-81)
 Joan O'Toole (1981-83)
 James McStravick (1983-84)
 Michael Blimkie (1984-89)
 Glenda McDonnell (1989-94)
 Yvonne Harper (1994-95)
 Mary Somers (1995-2000)
 Catherine Williamson (2000-02)
 Katie Kenny (2002-06)

First Teaching and Support Staff

Margaret Payette
 Sister Barbara Prior
 Jean Hall
 Pam Trudel
 Joan MacMillan
 Marie-Louise Gauthier
 Nina Loui
 Jean Charette
 Geraldine LaRocque
 Frances Blanchfield
 Diane Boulerice
 Sheila Hadley
 Diane Laforge
 Nicole Letourneau
 Theora Sisk
 Roger Gauthier, Custodian
 Marian Bowie, Secretary

School Colours

Blue and gold

Logo

The school logo features a dove hovering over a shield in a circular logo featuring the crown of the Prince of Peace on top, with the school name "Prince of Peace" on a banner below.

First Hot Dog Lunch

The parent-teacher association had everything ready for the school's first hot dog lunch when a malfunction occurred in the electrical room of the new school. This caused the fire alarm to sound, forcing everyone out of the building. The Ottawa Fire Department arrived on the scene and extinguished the fire.

Strike and Mud

Several weeks after the school opened, a custodial staff strike occurred. Since Heatherington Road was not paved at that time, there was mud tracked everywhere in the school. Conditions deteriorated to such an extent that even the Board's educational superintendents arrived one day to staff the brooms and mops to clean up the mud.

The Nish

There was a "leftover" space on the second floor of the new school that was called "The Nish." The origin of "Nish" is from the Mic Mac language, meaning "gathering place." The Nish became a gathering place for staff on the second floor of the school. It is now used for the school's breakfast program and as a meeting room.

Day One Song

Here we are gathered, hurray for all
 Finally gathered, hurray for all
 Hurray for teachers, principal too,
 Hurray for movers, for me and you
 Hurray for builders, painters and all
 For school board members who
 carried the ball
 Hurray for nurse, Father Whalen
 and friends
 Hurray for joy, may it never end.

Hurray for learning, especially
 here
 We'll come each day in our very
 best cheer
 Whether it's Science, Spelling or
 Art
 We know we're off to a very good
 start.

Good-bye to the "portables"
 We loved them, it's true
 Now we've arrived at a school
 that's brand new
 We're all at Prince of Peace, you
 see
 Hurray for our school and for you
 and me.

Prince of Peace School Song

You're a grand old school
 You're a high-ranking school
 You're the best in Ottawa, we all
 say
 Here the kids are smart
 And do their part
 We're loyal to you ev'ry day
 Ev'ry heart beats true
 For our own colours, too
 You're the best school in ev'ry way
 Should auld acquaintance be forgot
 But our school is here to stay!
 Prince of Peace School

A Teacher Remembers

In the fall of 1969, I began my 32-year career, with St. Margaret Mary School being my first assignment, followed by Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Luke, Prince of Peace and concluding with my time in the classroom at St. Thomas More in 2001.

The Hall-Dennis Report was the educational trend of the day when I first started teaching, while the Common Sense Revolution set the trend covering my last years in teaching. Learning centres and tables, the introduction of the metric system, the 50/50 bilingual program and the teaching of information technology were a few of the changes that I experienced in my career.

When I recall rewarding experiences, I immediately call to mind Prince of Peace School. I taught the “unilingual” program and, needless to say, some days were quite trying and tiring. “Look, listen and you will learn” was the motto that I espoused. Seeing students overcome challenges and meeting with success is very rewarding. One student whom I remember in particular arrived in Grade 3 unable to name all of the letters of the alphabet. This talented girl was able to write beautiful poetry by year’s end. She would say, “I’m listening and looking but I’m still having trouble.” She always persevered and was able to re-enter the bilingual program where she performed very well. There were many such success stories.

Contact with former pupils always surprises me. The light things that they remember such as white elephant sales to raise money for worthy causes, Halloween parties and a Christmas stocking that I crocheted for my students.

During my career with the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board and later the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board, I met many super teachers, made new friends and had the pleasure of having great French partners along with supportive principals and vice-principals.

Linda Denison



