

Sacred Heart Catholic High School opened its new \$18,000,000 facility in Stittsville in March 2000, but it was back in December 1992 that the very first actions were taken to make this school a reality. Indeed, a Stittsville location was not originally envisioned as the site for this Catholic high school. It was only due to the efforts of the local trustee, a motivated community and a responsive municipality that Stittsville was chosen in 1995 by the Carleton Roman Catholic School Board as the site for its new western area high school.

In December 1992, the Carleton Roman Catholic School Board instructed its planning staff to conduct a study of the growth development in the extreme western section of the Board's jurisdiction, with a view to establishing a location for a proposed new high school to relieve the impending overcrowding at Holy Trinity Catholic High School in Kanata. By 1994, this new western area high school was third on the Board's capital priority list. In June 1994, planning staff presented a report identifying the area north of Highway 417 in Kanata as the recommended location for the new school. Consequently, they were anxious to locate a specific site in the area. When Goulbourn Trustee Mary Curry saw the planning report, she viewed the situation differently, favouring a Stittsville location, where it could serve both the town and the western rural areas of the Board's jurisdiction. She argued that Stittsville and rural students deserved to have a Catholic high school in their home community, rather than being bussed to Kanata. As a result, the matter was referred back to staff for additional study.

This spurred on the community. A strategy was developed to increase the identification of the new western area high school with Stittsville. It began when a brief was presented to the Board of Trustees in November 1994, by the new Stittsville

# SACRED HEART

## CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



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Committee of Catholic Ratepayers and their spokesperson, Cathy Collyer. The brief advocated that the new western area high school should be located in Stittsville to serve the Goulbourn and West Carleton areas, since this was the only area of the Board's jurisdiction without its own high school. In association with this brief, the Holy Spirit Catholic School Parent-Teacher Association presented a petition, collected under the leadership of Carol Traversy, which contained over 1,200 names of residents of Stittsville who favoured having the new western area high school.

Beginning in December 1994,

and extending to the end of March 1995, a letter-writing campaign to the Provincial Government urging funding for the new western area high school was undertaken by the Stittsville Committee of Catholic Ratepayers, coordinated by Mrs. Collyer. By 1995, the western area high school had risen to second place on the Board's capital priority list; however, at this point, no decision had yet been made regarding its specific location. Another component in this campaign to have Stittsville chosen as the site of the new high school was the involvement of Goulbourn Township and particularly of Mayor Paul Bradley and Councillor Allan Ryan. The Township had been seriously thinking about developing a recreation complex, and there was a possibility that some kind of partnership could be brokered with the school board regarding a joint, campus-like development. In March 1995, Mayor Bradley appeared before the Carleton Roman Catholic School Board to suggest that if the new western area high school were located in Stittsville, it could be associated with the Township's new recreation complex. A survey showed overwhelming support for such a joint development.

At an April 1995 meeting, the Carleton Roman Catholic School Board voted unanimously that the new western area high school would be located in Stittsville. Staff was authorized to identify a fully serviced 20-acre site within the community. The Board hoped at that time that the new high school could be built and in operation by September 1997, but provincial capital funding was needed before the project could get under way. In the end, it would be four years between the 1995 decision and the actual commencement of construction in 1999. The chief obstacle was the lack of provincial government funding to build the school, a matter which was further impeded by the amalgamation of school boards across the province, including those in Ottawa and

Carleton. With the creation of larger district school boards, the province abandoned its previous funding procedure for new schools and implemented a new formula in which financing of school construction was dependent on a scarcity of pupil places across the Board's entire jurisdiction. In the end, this new funding formula helped, because the new Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board had a shortfall of pupil places at the secondary level and so funding became available for the new Stittsville Catholic High School.

The municipality identified and then purchased a 50-acre parcel of land on Abbott Street for its new recreation complex, with 20 acres sold to the school board for the high school site. Sharing the servicing costs helped reduce the overall construction expenditures for both parties. In July 1998, the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board appointed Edward J. Cuhaci and Associates as the architects for the new Catholic high school in Stittsville. The school board wanted to begin the construction because of extreme overcrowding at Holy Trinity, where there were 30 portable classrooms in use and no space for any more. Finally, all delays were eliminated and the clearing of the site for the new high school began in February 1999.

In March 1999, Ron Engineering and Construction (Eastern) Ltd. was hired as the construction management firm for the Stittsville Catholic High School. An official sod-turning ceremony was held at the site on Monday, May 3, featuring a blending of soil by students from Holy Trinity Catholic High School and representatives from other area Catholic schools, namely Holy Spirit, Georges Vanier Catholic, St. Michael Corkery, St. Philip, St. Mark High School and St. Paul High School. Father Frank Scott of Holy Spirit Parish blessed the project, which had a March 2000 completion date. In June, a temporary home for the new

Catholic high school, then well under construction, was found in Confederation High School on Woodroffe Avenue adjacent to the Nepean Sportsplex. This would house the enrolment of 700 students in Grades 7 to 11 until the new facility was completed.

Finally, on Monday, March 6, 2000, at the dawn of the new millennium, the students and staff of Sacred Heart Catholic High School spent their first day in their new premises. A brighter glow now shone

on Catholic education in Stittsville and in the western rural areas of the Board's jurisdiction. Enrolment at Sacred Heart grew steadily. In January 2004, a new \$4 million, 31-room permanent addition was opened, eliminating a plethora of portable classrooms that had sprouted at the rear of the school. Despite the addition, portables once again appeared at Sacred Heart as school enrolment neared 2,000 students in Grades 7 through 12 in the fall of 2005.

One exciting feature of Sacred Heart High School was the inclusion of a 700-seat, state-of-the-art performing arts theatre. Its presence has encouraged a steadily growing arts program, including music, visual arts, drama and dance. School productions of *Anne of Green Gables* and *Little Shop of Horrors* on the stage have proven memorable.

Not only has the enrolment at the school grown steadily from its inception, so too have its school spirit and traditions. Many of these spirit and tradition building events have focused on charitable ventures.

The annual cake auction at Sacred Heart has grown into the main charitable fundraising event, with a record \$14,000 in donations realized in 2005 and turned over to the various deserving charities involved. This amount was surpassed in 2006 when the auction raised almost \$20,000. The funds

were donated to the various charities that the school had adopted for the year: the Shepherds of Good Hope, Development and Peace, Operation Go Home, Waupoos Foundation, Faith and Light, ALS Research, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, WaterCan, Judee Orphanage in Haiti and the Easter Seals Society. Sacred Heart students also participate in the annual Toy Mountain initiative and in "Toque Tuesday," an event that raises funds for the homeless. In 2006, Sacred Heart received the "Golden Toque" award for having raised the most funds for the homeless of any school in Canada through the sale of toques in the annual "Raising the Roof for the Homeless" event. The "Husky Howl Run/Walk" is now an annual event, raising funds for the Stittsville Food Bank. Students have also been generous in raising money for tsunami and hurricane relief efforts.

The Sacred Heart Catholic High School girls' hockey team won a provincial high school hockey championship banner in 2002; the junior cheerleaders became provincial champions in 2004. Industry Canada has recognized the technological innovation at Sacred Heart by conferring its Innovative Schools Award. Sacred Heart began its life as a school community that tried to be on the cutting edge in its use of technology across the curriculum and continues to do so to this day. In 2005, Sacred Heart students placed first in Ontario in achievement on the provincial literacy test, an indication of the academic enthusiasm and focus of its students.

Sacred Heart also offers virtually every sport available through its athletics program, fielding teams in most interscholastic sports while also harbouring an active intramural sports program. Sacred Heart has received the platinum award from the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD) for the past six years, indicating the school's focus on physical

fitness.

Sacred Heart Catholic High School maintains a close relationship with Holy Spirit Catholic Parish. Indeed, the construction of Sacred Heart in the community was a godsend for Holy Spirit Parish as it has relocated its Sunday Masses to the larger gymnasium, having outgrown its initial home in the Holy Spirit School gym. The parish now has plans to build its new church across Shea Road from Sacred Heart High School. It is scheduled to be built in 2007. These dual pillars of the Catholic faith in Stittsville will be in full view of each other as they will undoubtedly continue to work and worship together in the years to come.

The school has developed "The Well," a youth spiritual retreat program, popular with both students and teachers. Those involved gather in the school chapel on Fridays to discuss their faith, to sing and to pray together.

### Present Principal

Valerie McGillis (2005-present)

### Principals

John Shaughnessy (1999-2005)

### First Teachers and Support Staff

John Shaughnessy, Principal  
 Sue Henry, Vice-Principal  
 Tom D'Amico, Vice-Principal  
 Mark Beaudry, Department Head  
 Robert Belanger, Department Head  
 Carol Bode  
 Brian Boggs, Department Head  
 Jeannine Boissonneault,  
 Curriculum Leader  
 Larry Brown  
 Jeannie Cameron, Teacher  
 Assistant  
 Sue Camilucci, Secretary  
 Todd Carley

Lorraine Carney, Department Head  
 Glenn Carr, Department Head  
 Anne Cheetham-Curry  
 Krista Chisholm  
 Paul Collins  
 Matt Dawber  
 Christine Deschenes  
 Matt Dineen, Curriculum Leader  
 Fran Durocher  
 Rebecca Erskine  
 Kathy Fischer  
 Heather Fraser, Curriculum Leader  
 Dave Hanna  
 Dave Hansen  
 H.P. Hansen  
 Frank Harris, Department Head  
 Denise Hoppner  
 Kristen Kelly  
 Jennifer Klatt  
 Tracey Labreche  
 Helen Lafortune, Guidance Secretary  
 Ron Lakusiak, Department Head  
 Lynne Langille, Department Head  
 Malcolm Lawrence, Department Head  
 Dayna Lee  
 Curtis MacNeil, Curriculum Leader  
 Heather MacPhee  
 Mike Maloney  
 Catharine Manson  
 Matt McCarthy  
 Brid McDonald, Department Head  
 Nora McKnight  
 Iliana Mican  
 Debby Moore, Secretary  
 Jim Murphy  
 Halia Osadca  
 Melissa Perrotta  
 Marion Poyner, Librarian  
 Linda Raaymakers, Teacher Assistant  
 Sil Sanna  
 Mary Semenchuk  
 Len St. Clair

Kelly Stephen, Chaplain  
 Dan Sullivan  
 Robert Tarnoczy, Curriculum Leader  
 Josee Turcotte  
 Brenda Webber, Secretary  
 Caroline Zentner

### Former Students

Alexis MacIsaac, a 2004 graduate, spent time as a performing member of a Riverdance touring company. She has a CD featuring her fiddling and is widely recognized as an accomplished fiddler and dancer. While at Sacred Heart, she played starring roles in the school's productions of *Anne of Green Gables* and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Kyle Wharton, a 2005 graduate, has played for the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds and also the Ottawa 67's of the Ontario Junior A Hockey League. He was the second pick of the Columbus Blue Jackets in the National Hockey League's entry draft in 2004, the 59<sup>th</sup> player chosen over all. In June 2006, he signed an entry-level contract with the Blue Jackets.

### Staff Recognition

Sacred Heart teachers Matt Dawber and Helen Pat Hansen received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in 2000.

Sacred Heart teacher Matt Dawber received the Capital Educators' Award in 2003. Educators from educational institutions in the Ottawa area are eligible for this award through a nomination and selection process.

### School Colours

Red, white and silver

## Logo

“Wisdom,” “Faith” and “Purpose” are the three words that are featured on the logo of Sacred Heart Catholic High School.

“Wisdom” is on the logo as it represents a higher level of knowledge and personal growth. Wisdom allows for the discernment of right or wrong and permits the individual to better understand his/her role with respect to community/academics/life skills, etc.

“Faith” represents the faith that each person has personally and the faith that they have in others. It also represents the school’s commitment to the Catholic faith as a way of life.

“Purpose” represents the action achieved through faith and wisdom. There is purpose in life/school/growth, both personal and spiritual, and also contribution to society when a person has faith and wisdom combined.

The logo was developed after Sacred Heart students were asked to suggest possible designs. A committee, representative of the school community, selected the most appropriate ideas and then these ideas were incorporated into the logo. Teacher H.P. Hansen was instrumental in helping convert these various ideas into a finished product.

Besides the words “Wisdom,” “Faith” and “Purpose,” the logo features the name “Sacred Heart” across the top, as well as several symbols.

An open book symbol represents learning, knowledge acquisition and academics. It is also representative of the Bible and the spiritual direction of the school.

The cross is the central aspect of the logo and focuses on the role of personal and community faith. It represents a commitment to the principles and practices of Jesus Christ.

A boy and girl in motion on the logo represent the movement that young people have within their development at school and within their spiritual and personal growth. It also represents the strong physical education and attention to personal development and health that Sacred Heart Catholic High School promotes.

The pair of creative arts masks on the logo represents that Sacred Heart has a vibrant and strong Creative Arts focus in music, drama and art. It also represents the school’s humanities focus. The “traditional” icon of the drama masks has been used to represent this focus.

A pair of hands symbol on the logo represents the individuality of each person and the concept that what a person does in life is a result of his or her hard work and contribution to interaction with the community.

The shape of the Sacred Heart Catholic High School logo is in the form of a shield. The shield has been based on the shape of the heart but formed into a standardized shield similar to those used at many colleges, universities and other organizations. This is to bring a familiar and universally accepted mode of design to the logo, because people identify with what they know.

The colours used in the logo are red, white and black.

## Team Names

“Huskies” is the name of the sports teams of Sacred Heart High School, selected after students submitted suggestions. A committee, with representatives of parents, teachers and students, narrowed the choices submitted and then the students voted on the names on the shorter list, with “Huskies” winning the vote. In keeping with the “Huskies” name, the main gymnasium at the school is called the “Huskydome.” A Husky dog’s head is the emblem of the sports teams at the school.

## Prominent Visitor

Margaret Trudeau, former wife of Prime Minister, the late Right Honourable Pierre Trudeau, visited Sacred Heart in June 2006 in her role as Honourary President of WaterCan, an organization that works to provide wells in countries around the world, and to educate the populace about the use and benefits of clean water. At Sacred Heart, she accepted on behalf of WaterCan, a donation of \$2,500, part of the funds raised by the school’s annual cake auction. Her appearance to receive the WaterCan donation was arranged by Stittsville businessman Phil Sweetnam who is a supporter of the organization. He had told the school that if \$2,500 were raised for WaterCan from the cake auction, he would try to have Mrs. Trudeau on hand to accept the donation. The presentation rather appropriately took place during the retirement gathering for Sacred Heart Teacher Mike Maloney, one of the most avid promoters of the school’s annual cake auction.

## School Chapel

The Grey Sisters donated a tabernacle and several religious artifacts to the school after the closure of one of their convents. These are located in the school chapel.

### Papal Certificate

On the occasion of the official opening of the school in the spring of 2000, the school was presented with a certificate of blessing from Pope John Paul II.

### Unusual Events

It happened one day when an unsuspecting exchange teacher from Australia, while on his way to the school along the Trans Canada Trail, winding its way in front of Sacred Heart, encountered a bear on the trail. There have been a number of bear sightings in the area as the school is located beside a wooded area.

Another unusual happening was when a gas leak in front of the school forced a quick evacuation of the building.

### Federal Government Grant

The Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board received an \$80,000 energy efficiency grant from the Office of Energy Efficiency of Natural Resources Canada related to the construction of Sacred Heart Catholic High School. The grant was the maximum available under its Commercial Building Incentive Program. In order to qualify for the grant, the design of Sacred Heart Catholic High School had to demonstrate a reduction in energy use of at least 25 percent when compared to the requirements of the Model National Energy Code for Buildings (1997).

### Peace Tower Flag

Trustee Arthur J.M. Lamarche presented a Canadian flag, which had flown on the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill in Ottawa the week before the official opening of Sacred Heart Catholic High School on May 1, 2000, to the school at the official opening.

### Naming of Sacred Heart Catholic High School

The name "Sacred Heart Catholic High School" was selected for the new high school in Stittsville in June 1999, after a consultative process involving the Catholic community of the area, parents, high school students and staff.

Initially, more than 100 names were suggested. A steering committee comprised of the principal and chairperson of the school councils of the schools that would be feeding the new high school, narrowed the potential names to five. These were then submitted to the Catholic community for the selection of the three final names, which were then forwarded to the trustees of the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board for a final decision, as required by Board policy. The name "Sacred Heart" was selected.

Popular devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Roman Catholic Church goes back to the seventeenth century, when Our Lord appeared to St. Margaret Mary as she prayed before the Blessed Sacrament. It is believed that all of Jesus' love for humanity is enveloped in His Sacred Heart. In 1856, Pope Pius IX introduced the feast of the Sacred Heart into the church calendar. The feast is now celebrated on the Friday of the third week after Pentecost.

At the time of the selection, Father Frank Scott was the pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Stittsville. Father Scott enjoys a special affinity with the Sacred Heart. He was ordained at his home church, St. Michael in Corkery, on Friday, June 29, 1984, which was the feast of the Sacred Heart that year. For the ordination ceremony, a banner depicting the Sacred Heart of Jesus was hung on the front of the church. This four-foot by eight-foot banner had been especially made for the occasion by Marie Pierce, an artist at St. John the Apostle Parish in Nepean. Father Scott retained the cherished banner and frequently displayed it at Holy Spirit Parish Masses. He also took the banner to a Mass that he celebrated at the new Sacred Heart Catholic High School in the fall of 1999 while it was located at Confederation High School in Nepean. The banner's welcoming representation of the Sacred Heart evoked a decidedly positive reaction.

At Sacred Heart Catholic High School, the Sacred Heart is beautifully and prominently depicted in a stained glass window, donated by the school's architect, Edward J. Cuhaci. It is located between the foyer and the chapel.



