

THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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www.occdsb.on.ca/mcg

Thomas D'Arcy McGee Catholic School bears the name of the Confederation-era politician who fought for the right of Catholics in Ontario to have a religious-based education system. Perhaps better known as a Father of Confederation and a Member of Parliament who was assassinated on Sparks Street in Ottawa, he may have made his greatest contribution to public life by his support of Catholic education in Ontario. It was in honour of this support that the school, originally slated for the French-speaking community, was named after him when it opened in September 1969.

Located in the Beacon Hill North section of the former City of Gloucester, the school was built in conformity with the "open concept" educational philosophy prevalent at that time. Originally, it had a population of over 1,200 students, ranging from Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8, housed in a building featuring seven pods of four classrooms each as well as a number of portables. In the 1972-73 school year, the Beacon Hill South Senior Elementary School, later to become Lester B. Pearson Catholic High School, was housed at Thomas D'Arcy McGee, using several classrooms and portables until construction of the new school was completed in January. With the opening of this new high school, the grades 6 to 8 students attending Thomas D'Arcy McGee were directed to the new school. A year later, the grade 6 students were repatriated to Thomas D'Arcy McGee.

In 1985, a unit for dependently handicapped students was established at the school.

On May 1, 1994, the school celebrated its 25th anniversary. The ceremonies included a Mass presided over by Monsignor Robert Huneault. Special guests at the anniversary ceremonies included: the first principal, William Roach; Anne

Examples are school-wide and classroom liturgies, fundraising for charities, and community service.

In the late 1990s, the school became known for its musical productions directed by teachers Janet Bentham and Peggy O'Meara. These included *Godspell*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which was presented in May 1999 in the auditorium at Gloucester High School.

Present Principal

Marcel Lafleur (2005- present)

Past Principals

William Roach (1969-75)
Starr Kelly (1975-80)
Robert Slack (1980-85)
Robert Curry (1985-90)
Richard McGrath (1990-91)
Sam Coletti (1991-94)
Thomas Duggan (1994-97)
Paul Wubben (1997-98)
Jane Hill (1998-2001)
Francis Kenny (2001-05)

First Teaching and Support Staff

Nicole Chartrand, Senior Kindergarten
Mary Whittenburg, Senior Kindergarten
Sarah Boudreau, Grade 1
Janet Laba, Grade 1
Barbary Jette, Grade 1-2
Linda McGue, Grade 1-2
Norma Menard, Grade 2
Caroline Renko, Grade 2
Daniel Lahey, Grade 3
Christine Maxwell, Grade 3
Wilma Vullings, Grade 3
Nancy Cochran, Grade 4
Anne Kiefl, Grade 4
Sue Lavigne, Grade 4
Anne Marie Gauvreau, Grade 5
Roderick Grant, Grade 5

Stankovic, Chairperson of the Carleton Roman Catholic School Board; Claudette Cain, Mayor of Gloucester; Gilles Morin, the area MPP; and Eugene Bellemare, the federal MP for the area.

By 2005-06, the enrolment at Thomas Darcy McGee Catholic School had dropped from its heady initial student population of 1,300 students down to only 193, encompassing Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6.

The school provides many opportunities for prayer and for a demonstration of the Catholic faith.

Bernie Boudreau, Grade 6
Rolland Lapointe, Grade 6
Carolyn Bordeleau, Grade 7
Donna Turcotte, Grade 7
Theresa Dubien, Grade 8
Robert Laplante, Grade 8 and
Vice-Principal
Claudette Racine, French Teacher
Nancy Charbonneau, Librarian
Ruth Cosstick, Secretary
Jean-Marie Dagenais, Custodian

Former Student

Amanda Labelle, a local country
and western singer who graduated in 1998