

Remember that you are never alone, Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives!

St. John Paul II

It was such a pleasure to welcome my fellow Trustees to St. Dominic's for the first Board Meeting of the year and the Commissioning of our new Student Trustee, DOM's Student McKenna McCoy. It was an honour to welcome her and I look forward to hearing the great ideas that she will bring to the Board table over the coming year!

At that meeting, Trustees were given an advance copy of "A History of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board", by Robert Dixon. It is really interesting to read about how Catholic Education came to be in our area, and all of the passionate and committed people who have ensured that it continues to thrive.

Did you know that Our Lady of Mercy in Honey Harbour was the first Catholic School in Muskoka and Parry Sound, or that it was run for many years by the Sisters of Saint Joseph from Peterborough? Did you know that a committed group of parents in South Muskoka worked with the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board (SCRCSB) to apply to the government for permission to expand their area in order to open Monsignor Michael O'Leary Catholic School in Bracebridge? Or that when Saint Mary's opened in Huntsville on Ravenscliff Rd where the Ontario Hydro building is now "the parents built playground equipment using concrete sewer pipes, wooden cable spools from Ontario Hydro and fifty-five plastic barrels from Kimberly-Clark" (p 402)?

The Combined Parry Sound Roman Catholic Separate School Board (CPSRCSSB) has its own chapter describing the journey of families in the creation and growth of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School in Parry Sound from 1988 until they became part of the SMCDSB family in 2009.

The book describes the challenges of opening a Catholic Secondary School in Bracebridge. Did you know that the infamous Mr. Johnson has been teaching math to St. Dom's students since the doors first opened in 1995, and our Board's Director, Brian Beal became Principal there in October of that year?

We are planning a very special evening on October 25th at Holy Spirit Parish in Barrie to officially launch the book and celebrate Our Story ~ Our Journey. Please watch the Board website for your invitation. If you are unable to join us that evening, the books will be available in all of the schools and I hope that you will have a chance to learn from your child about how they see themselves fitting into the SMCDSB story this year.

God Bless,
Carol Corriveau-Truchon