



Durham Catholic District School Board

St. Joseph Catholic School (Uxbridge)

Motto: "Reverence, Respect, Result, Responsibility"



In the Beginning

In 1957, Father Van Zelst, the pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Uxbridge, met with the Cardinal and the men from the parish to discuss the need for a separate school for Uxbridge. Local parents had approached the Archdiocese of Toronto as well, and as a result, a recently vacated convent was chosen as the site for the new school. Property was purchased from the family of Joseph Gould, a member of a founding family in Uxbridge. The school opened on the original property on Toronto St. in September 1958 and the official opening took place on May 3, 1959.

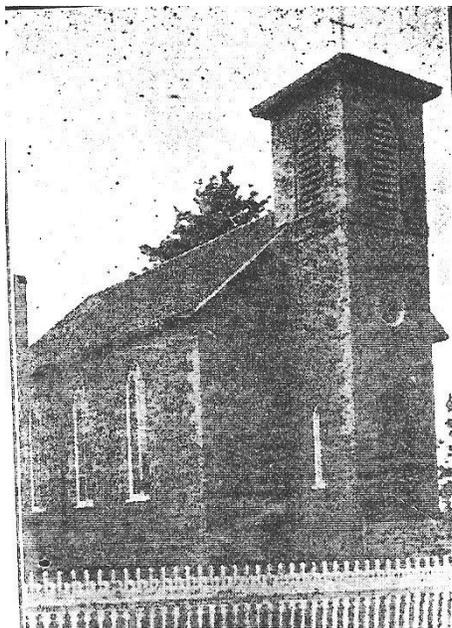
In that first year, the school had only 68 students. The staff included two teachers and the principal, Mr. Campbell. In the coming years, the school grew in enrolment but by 1967, declining enrolment at St. Joseph Catholic School became a serious concern. Father Adrian Lee, who was now the pastor at Sacred Heart Church, took the initiative

to help solve the problem. By January 1969, enrollment had increased to 167 students, with six staff members. By this time, the original building received the addition of a new classroom and a gymnasium.

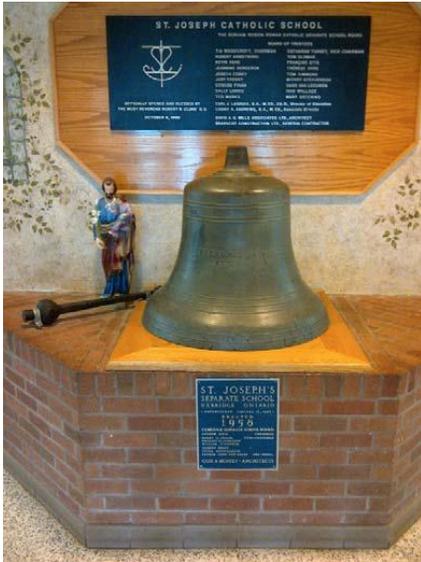
Class sizes continued to grow, and portables covered the soccer field. In 1987, the principal, Mr. Corrigan, approached the school board to build a bigger and better school in Uxbridge. Three years later a beautiful new school was opened. In March 1990, staff and students moved to the new school at its present site at 25 Quaker Village Dr. The staff and students were excited to have 12 new classrooms, a gym, a library, a fully equipped music room, and beautiful planters in each hallway. Miss Irene had an office that she could actually call an office.

Many dignitaries, including former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Lincoln Alexander, attended the school blessing in October of that year. He was a very kind and caring gentleman. It is an honour to have his picture hanging in the school's hallway. The school community thanks him for taking the time to share his life and stories. The staff and students at St. Joseph Catholic School will always remember him.

The ceremony was conducted by the Most Reverend Robert B. Clune. At the entrance to the new school, a beautiful church bell was placed for permanent display. This bell has special meaning to the Catholic school community because it was the original bell from the old Sacred Heart of Jesus Church building. Members of the maintenance department from the Catholic School Board moved the bell to its current spot. Today, it continues to be a meeting place for family members just outside the school office.



The original Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church



The bell from the original church, on display at the entranceway of St. Joseph Catholic School

As the community grew, an addition was built to accommodate a full-time daycare. Portables were added at the back of the school because of increased enrolment and later, two separate, non-permanent structures were added to the main school building. These two structures added six classrooms and reduced the need for portables. At its peak, the school had a population of 524 students.

In the summer of 2009, the two non-permanent structures were dismantled and six portable classrooms were temporarily positioned at the back of the school to replace them. Construction on a new permanent addition began in the spring of 2010. Students, staff and construction workers cohabited the site quite happily until the new addition was completed in December 2010. Students returned after the Christmas break in January 2011 to use the six new classrooms in the main building and were happy to leave the portables. Staff members and students continue to enjoy the beautiful new classrooms.

Throughout its history, the school has enjoyed a close relationship with Sacred Heart Church. Since St. Joseph Catholic School is the only Catholic school in the Uxbridge area, it benefits from the extra attention it receives from parish staff. Over the years, the pastors have provided excellent spiritual guidance and support for staff and students alike. Currently, the school is blessed to have the support and assistance of Father John Duffy.

Today, St. Joseph C.S. is a very busy school. The school has a rich history of extra-

curricular activities and an active Catholic School Council involvement. Many full-scale dramatic productions have been presented, with the most recent being *Twinderella* in the spring of 2011. Students at the school participate in a wide variety of activities, such as sports, drama, dance and writing. School spirit is strong and positive.

Terry Fox Run

St. Joseph C.S. students are very proud to take part in the annual Terry Fox Run. All students, from Kindergarten to Grade 8, get involved. An assembly takes place in the gym, and students watch one of the Terry Fox movies. Every year, a bulletin board is put up in his memory, and now, another is put up for his mother, Betty Fox.

A local orchard provides fresh apples for all of our students to enjoy after they run.



Terry Fox Run

The St. Joseph C.S. community is proud of the money they have raised to help find the cure for cancer. Terry could not finish his run for hope, so the students can continue running to keep his dream alive.

Christmas is the time for giving

The St. Joseph C.S. school community is very proud to participate in the Christmas

Angel program. A Christmas tree is put up in in the school's front foyer and covered with angels. The names of children who are less fortunate at Christmas time are printed on the angels. Students take an angel and buy gifts for the child whose name is written there. Everyone is very generous, and it makes Christmas time easier for many parents. We all believe in the magic of Christmas.



Christmas Angels on the school tree

School plays

In 1992, the staff and students of St. Joseph School decided to follow the yellow brick road. Everyone was thrilled! It was going to be the school's first play performed in front of a live audience. After four long months of preparation, *The Wizard of Oz* was good to go. Over a hundred students and staff were involved in the production. Excitement filled the air, and the play was fantastic! Reviews for costumes and makeup were great, and best of all, the actors and actresses were amazing. Who knew that St. Joseph students had such hidden talents?



Although exhausted after four performances, everyone was so glad that they had gotten involved in preparing and performing the show – and that others got to see *The Wizard of Oz* performed live on the school's own stage. After all, "There's no place like home."

The television series *Anne of Green Gables* was filmed in Uxbridge. In 1994, the actors and actresses at St. Joseph School decided it was time to do another play. What better play than *Anne of Green Gables*? It wasn't the same as *The Wizard of Oz*, but it challenged the students with different roles. Their costumes portrayed the era, and they built the set using items from their own homes.

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES



APRIL 19, 20, 21, 22, 1994

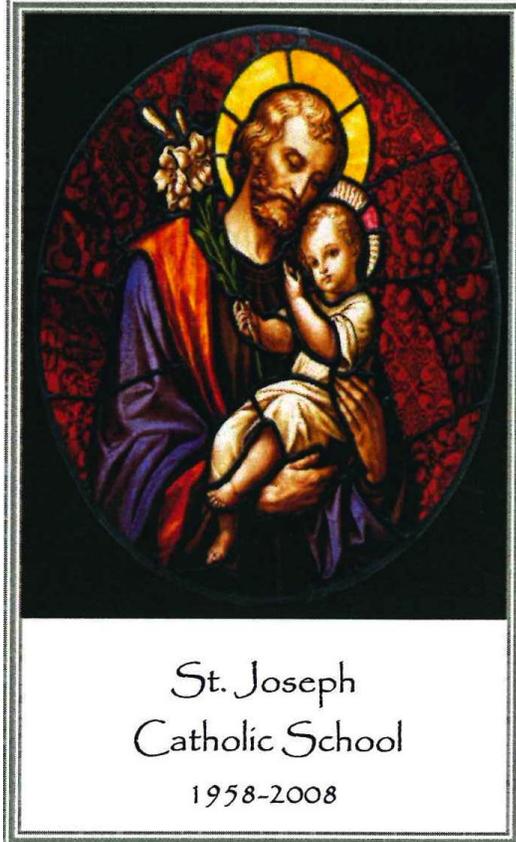
The program from Anne of Green Gables

Once again, there were four nighttime performances and other schools were invited to come and see the play in a daytime performance. Our actors and actresses showed off their talents once again, and the audience enjoyed being part of *Anne of Green Gables*.

St. Joseph Catholic School is a special place for many staff and students where memories are made, and friendships are formed. St. Joseph C.S. is a great place to be!

Our Patron Saint

Joseph was a carpenter. He lived a humble life, even though he was descendent of royalty.



Joseph believed in God, and when the angel appeared to him and told him to choose Mary as his wife, he did so. Joseph put his family first. He left everything behind to protect Mary and Jesus. Joseph knew that Jesus was the Son of God, but loved him as if Jesus was his own son. Joseph also knew that someday, God would want his Son, and that Jesus would follow the wishes of his Father.

We are honoured to have our school named after Saint Joseph.

School Prayer

O Blessed Saint Joseph,
loving and faithful guardian of Jesus,
Watch over us and guide us

in our work and play.
Amen.

Principals

Mr. Campbell (1958–1960)

Mrs. Tohmen (1961–1962)

Michael Jack (1963–1964)

Mr. Patayachee (1965–1971)

Noel Woods (1972–1981)

John D’Costa (1982–1987)

Larry Corrigan (1988–1991)

Dave Ellis (1992–1996)

Geoff Scahill (1997–1999)

Gerry O’Reilly (2000–2003)

Paul Podesta (2004–2005)

Norma Wheeler (2006–2007)

Michelle Lantaigne (2006–2007)

Karen Taggart (2007–2008)

David Brown (2009–2012)

Teresa Sansom (2012-present)

Contributors:

David Brown

Joanne Hutchinson