



Durham Catholic District School Board

# St. Paul Catholic School

**Motto: "The Love of Christ Motivates Us"**



## **In the Beginning**

The original idea for a Catholic elementary school in east Whitby was put forth by Monsignor Paul Dwyer in 1957. Monsignor Dwyer, who was in charge of all Oshawa parishes, and Albert Love, the chairman of the Oshawa Separate School Board, had the great foresight to see the need for a Catholic school in that area. A co-op home-building plan headed by Father Lawlor was in the planning stages in 1956 and well underway in east Whitby by 1957. Monsignor Dwyer bought the land (he was very wealthy due to speculation and investments, and always drove a black 98 Olds) and sold it to the newly established school board.



Monsignor Paul Dwyer's valued support was the reason the school was named St. Paul. Another honour was given later, in 1976, when the Oshawa Catholic High School was renamed Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School. Albert Love was now recognized as a supporter of Catholic education. After he was knighted, a new Oshawa school was named Sir Albert Love Catholic School in 1965.



*Confirmation Class, 1968*



THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE ONTARIO COUNTY ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD

1969 - 1970

### **Off and Running**

In order to build a school, the area had to establish a school board. In 1959, Roman Catholic School Section #9 (R.C.S.S. #9) Township of Whitby was set up. St. Paul was the only Catholic school in the Board. The Board consisted of the following executive members, who were not elected, but who remember being asked to take the positions. “If we wanted a school in our neighborhood, we had to do the job.”

- Joseph Cooper, Chairman (later a Durham R.C.S.S Superintendent)
- Frank J. Moloney, Treasurer
- Gerald Cole, Secretary

These one-year positions were held by the same three men until the school board amalgamated with the Town of Whitby Board in 1968.

The children in the area where St. Paul Catholic School was to be built were attending either the local public school, Dr. Robert Thornton, or travelling some distance to St. Christopher in Oshawa or St. John in central Whitby. School Section #9 was bordered by Thickson Road to the west, Taunton Road to the north, Whitby-Oshawa line to the east, and Lake Ontario to the South. The newly formed R.C.S.S #9 Township of Whitby had to prove the need for a new school by providing assurance of growth, and show that the distance was far enough from the other two Catholic schools. A census of all Catholic families was taken door to door throughout the area. Mr. Ed Finan, future Director of the Catholic School Board in Durham, was a valuable source of assistance for the new Board members. “Mr. Finan was always there to help us ... to teach us about setting up records,

financing the new school... basically he educated the new school board.”



*First Communion, 1970*

## **The Little School That Grew**

### *Political Changes*

Over the next 30 years, St. Paul Catholic School experienced four major political changes:

- 1959 – R.C.S.S. #9 Township of Whitby Board is formed
- 1968 – R.C.S.S. #9 Township of Whitby joins R.C.S.S. Town of Whitby
- 1969 – St. Paul becomes part of the Ontario County Separate School Board
- 1974 – The area is amalgamated into the Durham Region R.C.S.S. Board

### *Physical Changes*

The school also underwent major physical changes:

- 1961 – St. Paul opens with four classes, an office, two washrooms and a furnace room
- 1964 – Two classrooms, a staff room, and a small playroom are added
- 1969 – A western extension (down a ramp) of four more classrooms, two washrooms and another furnace room is added
- mid-1980s – three portables are placed on the south side
- 1987 – A major expansion sees the school redesigned, with the additions of all classrooms, a library, a gym, new offices, four new washrooms and 11 portables on the west side
- 1988 – Two portapacs are added.



*Confirmation Class, 2001*

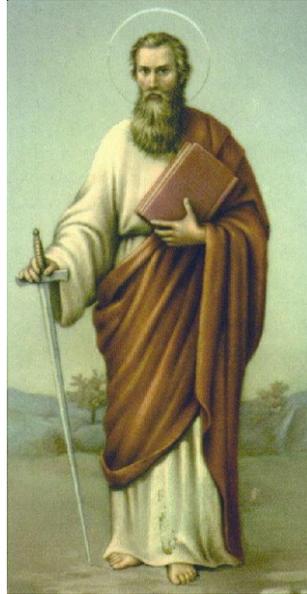
### **The Plan Becomes a Reality**

With the need for a Catholic school in the area proven, the funding was made available. The architects Craig, Zeigler, Short and Strong were hired and the chosen contractor/builder began work on the school. The cost for the original school was \$92,000 and included four classrooms, two washrooms, an office and a furnace room. Since there was only a front door, all classrooms included their own fire doors. The teaching staff positions were advertised and Joe Cooper and Gerry Cole interviewed the staff. St. Paul Catholic School opened in September 1961 with approximately 90 students and three staff members. Miss Eleanore Harrington taught 19 children in grades 3 to 5 in the morning and 23 Kindergarten students in the afternoon. Miss Lee Bloye taught 36 Grade 1 and 2 students, and the principal, Bob Ireland, taught 12 Grade 6 to 8 students in the morning and Grade 3 to 8 students in the afternoon.



*Carol McInerney and Hope Giddings-Delves*





### **Our Patron Saint**

St. Paul was an early Christian missionary and theologian known as the Apostle to the Gentiles. Born Jewish in Tarsus (Asia Minor), he trained as a rabbi but earned his living as a tentmaker. As a Pharisee, he persecuted the first Christians until he had a vision of Jesus while travelling to Damascus and became a Christian. Three years later he met Peter and James and from then on was known as the 13th Apostle. From Antioch, where he was based, he travelled widely, preaching to the Gentiles. By telling non-Jewish people that they did not have to follow Jewish law, he helped to establish Christianity as a separate religion rather than a Jewish sect. On a journey to Jerusalem, he was arrested and imprisoned for two years. The circumstances of his death are unknown. Most of what we know about Paul's ministry and religious views comes from his letters in the New Testament; the letters are the first Christian theological writing and the source of much Christian doctrine. Because of Paul more than anyone else, Christianity became a world religion.

## School Prayer

Pray for us, St. Paul,  
that we may be worthy  
of the promises of Christ.

The Church is the building  
which stands upon Christ,  
St. Paul and the other apostles  
are its pillars  
and we are its living stones.

Teach us to do what is right  
though we may seem to fail.

Help us to agree with one another,  
to live in peace,  
so that the God of love and peace may be with us.  
Amen.

### Principals

Bob Ireland (1961–1964)

J. Hogan (1964–1967)

Ted Hickey (1967–1970)

Mike Breaugh (1971–1972)

Jim Johnston (1972–1975)

Brian Vrebosch (1975)

Wilma Hurley (1976–1980)

Noel Woods (1980–1983)

Bill Ward (1983–1987)

Aime Rousseau (1987–1994)

Brenda O'Donoghue (1994–2000)

Paddy Cauley (2000–2004)

Linda Frost (2004–2007)

Liam O'Brien (2007–2009)

Andrew Oliver (2009–2012)

Margaret Geer (2012-present)

### *Contributors:*

*Anna Karstulovich*

*Mary Jo Hurst*

*Pat Whitlock*

*Bill Joly*  
*Maureen Moloney*