

St. Clair Catholic District School Board**Chatham Elementary Schools
Construction Projects****Extensive Work Completed Over the Summer at Our Lady of Fatima Site**

Over the summer months, a number of improvements were made to the facility at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School, in anticipation of the site becoming the French Immersion school for Chatham.

These improvements included:

- ⇒ The removal of the former Chatham Facility Services building;
- ⇒ New staff parking on the north side of the building;
- ⇒ New FDK play space;
- ⇒ New FDK drop off lane;
- ⇒ New sidewalks;
- ⇒ New outdoor basketball court;
- ⇒ New fencing;
- ⇒ Significant landscaping improvements.



Of course, there is still much work to do and input will be sought from the Monsignor Uyen Catholic School community regarding further refurbishments and enhancements in the months ahead.

Progress on North and South Chatham Schools

On August 30, 2017 the Board of Trustees announced that it had selected an eight acre site at 801 McNaughton Avenue, W., in Chatham as the site of the new north Chatham elementary school. The site is immediately adjacent to St. Clair College and to the recently announced future location of the new Children's Treatment Centre. Close proximity to these two facilities will permit a number of partnerships that will be of tremendous value for our students and our staff.

Since the property announcement, Board administration has been moving the project forward in a number of areas:

- ⇒ An architect has been selected for the north school — Cornerstone Architects from London, Ontario will lead the project. Cornerstone is known to the Board and was the architect for the very successful expansion and refurbishment at St. Patrick's Catholic High School, Sarnia in 2013-2014.
- ⇒ *From Concept to Classroom* — A consultation committee has been struck to offer input and feedback in the development of a schematic design. This group includes representation from teachers and support staff, a principal, Facility Services staff and child care. An input session with the Board of Trustees has also been scheduled and a transition committee, which will include representation from parents and the parishes, will come later in the process.
- ⇒ A traffic consultant has been hired to complete a traffic study, which will be presented to the Board of Trustees.

Site selection in the north was relatively straight forward, as the Board has owned the property that was ultimately chosen since the 1990s. However in south Chatham, this process has been more challenging. The Board has an excellent working partnership with the Municipality, which has been very helpful in moving this important step forward and it is hoped an announcement can be made in the near future. However, now that the delay has stretched past the end of this month it is unlikely the Board will be able to meet the original target of September 2019, as it takes about two full years to move from property selection to project completion.

The extent of the delay is not yet known; however, regular updates will be issued on all phases of project development for both Chatham elementary school projects and the Our Lady of Fatima site.