



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Lighting the Way – Rejoicing in Our Journey*

## **MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***TRUSTEES APPROVE CONSOLIDATION OF CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN SARNIA UNDER THE NAME OF ST. PATRICK'S***

Trustees for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board have voted in favour of consolidating the two Catholic high schools which serve Sarnia and Lambton County. The new school, which will be located at the Rapids Parkway site currently occupied by St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School, will be named St. Patrick's Catholic High School. The name change will not become effective until full consolidation is complete, which is expected in 2013.

"The name of St. Patrick's carries with it a 75 year legacy of excellence in Catholic education in Sarnia and Lambton," says Anita Labadie, Chair of the Board. "With this consolidation, we are creating a school community that will offer the very best in academic, extra curricular, social justice and sports programs – which will ensure that same excellence for future generations of students."

"In just over ten years, the St. Christopher Catholic community has built a fine tradition of academic excellence and winning sports teams," says Linda Ward, Vice Chair of the Board. "I know that as we bring these two stellar schools together, our students will face a strong and vibrant future, which is rooted in the finest traditions of Catholic education."

The consolidation of Catholic secondary school students at one location will make it possible to offer a greater variety of programs and more specialized courses for students in all pathways for success – including apprenticeship, college, university and the workplace. Full consolidation will require some construction at the Rapids Parkway site, to accommodate specialized programs.

The consolidation will also allow the Board to close the East Street facility that currently houses St. Patrick's Catholic High School, which, if it were to remain open, would require about \$10 million in upgrades and repairs over the next ten years.

The Board's approval for consolidation of the two schools is contingent on funding by the Ministry of Education.