

St. Clair Catholic District School Board**Chatham Elementary Schools
Construction Projects****St. Clair Catholic Celebrates with a Blessing of the Ground Ceremony**

(L-R) Mayor Randy Hope, Chair of the Board John Van Heck, Director of Education Deb Crawford, Father Jim Higgins, Chatham-Kent-Essex MPP Rick Nicholls.

A very beautiful and meaningful “Blessing of the Ground” ceremony was held at the site of the new north Chatham elementary school, 801 McNaughton Avenue, W. on January 10th.

Despite some unwelcome rain, a brief ceremony was held at the site, including the unveiling of a sign which proudly proclaims the site of our new north Chatham school. Dignitaries and guests then moved inside to the warmth of the Red Line Room at the Thames Campus Arena, where we held the formal ceremony. It was the first of what will be many opportunities for students of the three north Chatham school communities to come together, as we gave thanks to God for the gift of

Catholic education and asked for His blessing of the ground on which the new school will be built.

There was an excellent turnout of Board staff, community partners and dignitaries, including Trustees, MPP Rick Nicholls, Mayor Randy Hope and Councillor Darrin Canniff, representatives from the Ontario English Catholic Teachers’ Association and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, senior administration and our parish partners.

Special thanks to Father Jim Higgins, Chaplaincy Leader Margaret Palmer and Superintendent of Education Laura Callaghan for their help in organizing this wonderful celebration of Catholic education in Chatham.



Students from the three north Chatham Catholic elementary schools pose with Chair of the Board John Van Heck and MPP Rick Nicholls.

Two Public Meetings Planned – February 12 and February 13, 2018

We have some exciting design plans, both for the new north Chatham elementary school and for the upgrades and renovations at the Our Lady of Fatima site ... and we are eager to share them! Two community meetings have been scheduled for February. They are:

⇒ **Monday, February 12 — Monsignor Uyen Community to Meet at Our Lady of Fatima Site**

Architect Randy Wilson will be on hand to review the schematic drawings for the upgrade and renewal of the OLOF site and discuss timelines for construction. A tour of the building is available at 5:30 p.m. The public meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the OLOF site and should conclude by 8:00 p.m. The meeting is open to all parents/guardians of the Monsignor Uyen Catholic community. Child care is available. **Please register in advance online at <https://www.st-clair.net/community-meeting-1.aspx>**

⇒ **Tuesday, February 13 — North Chatham Elementary School Community Meeting**

Architect Alison Hannay will present schematic drawings and the site plan for the new school. Representatives of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent will also be in attendance. This meeting is open to all parents/guardians of the Our Lady of Fatima, St. Vincent and St. Agnes Catholic school communities. Nearby residents of the site at 801 McNaughton Avenue, W. are also invited to attend. The meeting will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School beginning at 6:30 p.m. and should be concluded by 8:00 p.m. Child care is available. **Please register in advance online at <https://www.st-clair.net/community-meeting-2.aspx>**