



# NEWSRelease

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

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## ***ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD AND BLUEWATER HEALTH WORK TO FINALIZE AGREEMENT ON SALE OF FORMER ST. PATRICK'S PROPERTY***

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board and Bluewater Health are finalizing an agreement that would result in the sale of the former St. Patrick's Catholic High School property to the hospital. Discussions regarding the East Street property are on-going; however, officials from both the school board and the hospital are optimistic an announcement is not far off.

"We have a long-standing working relationship with members of the Bluewater Health senior administration," says Jim McKenzie, Associate Director and Treasurer of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board. "We believe the sale of the property to the hospital is in the best interests of the community; and will greatly assist their organization in its long-term planning, regarding future growth and development."

"We are pleased to be nearing completion of a sale agreement that will be a win-win for the Sarnia community," says Mike Lapaine, Vice President of Operations and Chief Operating Officer for Bluewater Health. "Our ownership of this property is vital to the future of Bluewater Health and will also secure the agreements we currently have in place with community organizations to preserve track for the next several years."

At tonight's Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees for St. Clair Catholic, a demolition contract was awarded to Schouten Excavating Inc. of Watford, at a cost of \$449,000. It is expected the work to demolish the vacant school building and remove the debris will begin as soon as possible and be completed by May 31, 2016.

The East Street site was closed on June 30, 2014. The Board approved the disposition of the property in January 2015, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 444/98; and on November 4, 2015, the Ministry of Education confirmed the Board had met the requirements of the regulation, which allowed it to enter into discussions with Bluewater Health, regarding the sale of the property.

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