CPCO Awards 2007

*By **Nelly Kelders**, Program and PQP Coordinator*

2007 Principal of the Year Award

On Friday, April 20, 2007 the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario concluded its annual conference with a gala dinner at which several awards were presented. President Don Rait recognized the contributions of the seven principals chosen by their colleagues as the 2007 Principal of the Year Award winners.

L to R: Don Rait, CPCO President; Mike Courchesne, Nipissing-Parry Sound CDSB; Larry Murray, Huron-Perth CDSB; Suzanne Rossini, Halton CDSB; Linda Frost, Durham CDSB; Nancy Drynan, Durham CDSB; Rick Ciupa, Niagara CDSB; Paul Barchiesi, Niagara CDSB

I have had the good fortune of being inspired, guided and mentored by so many people.

Paul Barchiesi

To the hundreds of parents and students, thank you for letting me be not only your principal but a big kid, and understanding that no matter how strenuous things got, everything we did was for the benefit of the children.

Rick Ciupa

As a Catholic teacher and principal it has been my privilege to work with parents, staff and colleagues who share a vision of Catholic education that proclaims that each child is created in the image of God.

Nancy Drynan

A school is only a building unless it becomes alive with educators and students who fill it with wisdom, learning and love.

Suzanne Rossini

I am very honoured this evening to be receiving this award in the company of so many of my colleagues, friends and family. To be nominated and chosen by your colleagues makes this occasion much more meaningful and I would like to say thank you to my colleagues from Durham this evening.

Linda Frost

I bring this award back to Huron-Perth, accepting it truly knowing that working with and learning from past and present administrators have deeply affected the way I serve my current school and school board communities.

Larry Murray

We are blessed to be a small but very supportive community of friends as well as professional colleagues. To be recognized by one's peers in this way is a humbling and gratifying experience.

Mike Courchesne

Father John Redmond Award

Each year CPCO presents the Father John Redmond Award to a group or individual whose contribution to Catholic education has made a significant provincial impact. This year's award winner is just such a person. John Wheatley is the executive director of the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association. He has held this position since his retirement as Director of Education for the Wellington RCSSB. Throughout his career John has worked enthusiastically for the betterment of Catholic education working with teachers, principals, supervisory officers and directors of education. He has been diligent in developing partnerships with education partners to ensure that Catholic educators have the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of information and resources needed to enhance student achievement.

L to R: Don Rait, John Wheatley, Lou Rocha

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to an individual who has provided distinguished service to the membership of the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario. Rick Ciupa is such a person. He has had a long and active involvement with CPCO as district representative. He fiercely protects Catholic education and has been involved in teacher and principal organizations throughout his career. He works diligently to encourage his local members to be active in the association and to take leadership roles. This was never more evident than in the leadership role he took as co-chair of the 2007 CPCO conference hosted by the Niagara Catholic principals and vice-principals.

L to R: Lou Rocha, Rick Ciupa, Linda Frost, Don Rait

Past-president's Award

This award is presented annually to the past-president of CPCO in recognition of service to the association in the role of president and extended service as a member of the Executive Council.

Paul Carr has been a member of the Executive Council since July 2001 when he was elected secondary councilor. Paul has also had the pleasure of representing CPCO for two years as a member of the board of directors for the Canadian Association of Principals. His concern for students and Catholic education has been evident throughout his tenure.

L to R: Don Rait, Paul Carr, Lou Rocha