



By **Michael Murray** and **Sharon Wright-Evans**
Conference Co-chairs

Sowing the Seeds of Faith

The program is set, the planning is almost complete and the excitement continues to build as the London District CPCO unit prepares to welcome the Catholic principals and vice-principals of Ontario to London for the 2008 Conference and AGM. *Sowing the Seeds of Faith* has been in the planning stages for well over a year and all our members are looking forward to sharing with their colleagues the outstanding program that we have ready to present.

Many of our members will recall the 2003 conference in London, *Rooted In Faith*. We are building on many of the themes from that conference as we also celebrate the tenth anniversary of CPCO and move towards the future of Catholic education in Ontario.

We will be welcoming our provincial members to the London Convention Centre on Thursday, April 17th for the beginning of our conference. The opening liturgy will set the tone for a conference that looks at our past, speaks to the present and challenges us to prepare for the future. Max Valiquette, one of the foremost experts in the area of youth culture and marketing, will be the keynote speaker on Thursday evening providing us with an opportunity to learn more about the youth of Canada.

On Friday we will celebrate Mass with Archbishop Thomas Collins of Toronto. The Mass will be concelebrated with Bishop Ronald Fabbro of the London Diocese. Also joining them will be our board's chaplain, Father Jim Mockler. Following Mass, Archbishop Collins will be the keynote speaker for the morning session.

The program committee has put together a wide variety of workshop offerings. Presenters include Sister Anne Kathleen

McLaughlin, who will present a historical play on Julian of Norwich and Sister Joan Cronin who will speak to the future of Catholic education in Ontario asking, "Catholic Schools, Where Do We Go From Here?" Eric Roher will have a timely presentation dealing with violence in schools and two of our London District principals, Brett Babington and Margie Marotta, will be presenting a workshop on inclusive education for all. We will also have Richard Hammond an architect who worked with the Sisters of St. Joseph in literally building for the future. He will share lessons learned from the construction of the new green motherhouse located here in London. Sean Conway, former minister of education in the David Peterson government, will conclude the conference with a keynote address on the future of Catholic education.

Not only do we have an exciting program planned with liturgies and presentations, we also have a hospitality committee that promises a welcoming and entertaining time. The celebration of CPCO's 10th anniversary will also be commemorated in several ways. The gala dinner on Friday night will be an opportunity to celebrate our history and our future. Our guests will also recognize this year's winners of the Principal of the Year awards.

The London Convention Centre and the Hilton London Hotel are located close to the train station and main highways. The facilities are second to none and offer a great setting for our conference. We look forward to welcoming you to London and we know that *Sowing the Seeds of Faith* will provide the framework for an exciting celebration of past friendships, present collegiality and a future filled with colleagues who will share with the challenges of the continuation of Catholic education in Ontario.