



L to R: Margaret Gardonio, Toronto CDSB; Peter Cerra, Huron-Superior CDSB; Brian Peters, CDSB of Eastern Ontario; Maureen Wills, Brant-Haldimand Norfolk CDSB; Ted Gorski

CPCO Honours Its Own

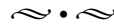
At its 10th anniversary gala dinner on Friday, April 18, 2008, the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario honoured six of its members who were chosen by their colleagues to receive the 2008 Principal of the Year award. They were recognized for their contributions to Catholic education and student achievement.

2008 Principal of the Year Award



As Catholic principals, we are given an opportunity for leadership in our schools that goes far beyond the mandate to improve student learning. We are called to provide a daily message of hope to all members of our school communities. We are called to be Christ for others in our role as instructional leaders, while modeling fair and just practices in all that we say and do. I am not alone in those challenges of leadership and I am privileged to work among colleagues that model those qualities every day.

Kathy Fraumeni



It is truly affirming and exciting to experience the privilege of being a leader in Catholic education today and to work in collaboration with colleagues who share a passion for ensuring that our young students are afforded every opportunity to be fully embraced in God's love. Our most imperative mandate as Catholic school leaders today is to continually celebrate the goodness of Catholic education and work as effectively as possible to promote and protect the cherished system we believe in.

Ted Gorski



When we make others know that they belong, then we all know that we belong. (Jean Vanier)

I feel very honoured and privileged to be called a Catholic educator and to belong to a Christian community of believers. I have much to be thankful for... To the children, each unique gifts of God, thank you for guiding me to the understanding that differences should not only be recognized but also truly celebrated. You inspired me to try to live Jean Vanier's words.

Brian Peters



Every day is a new challenge especially with the variety of learners under our watch. Without dedicated teachers, our role as leaders would be much more difficult and challenging. The Huron-Superior CDSB and our local OECTA unit have provided our principals with input into the delivery of all new educational directives. As a group we are called and committed to develop the full potential of each child, and at the same time cultivate enriching opportunities that will deepen the faith of all students.

Peter Cerra



As I receive this award, I am very aware that I work in the rich context of a Catholic school community. Alone, I have done my job; working together with staff, students and parents, we have all created positive and dynamic learning communities. To all my former school communities, I am very grateful for the collegiality and the many lessons learned. To my present school community, James Cardinal McGuigan CHS, I am very grateful to work with dedicated professionals, determined students and supportive parents. They bring joy to every day we spend in community.

Margaret Gardonio



This is indeed a unique opportunity in one's life to celebrate and thank friends, family and colleagues publicly for their unending support and confidence in me as a Catholic educator. I have loved my vocation from the day I walked through the doors of my first school in 1969. I continue to be blessed with incredible mentors who inspire and motivate me to be the best I can be. Thank you to CPCO for providing every district with such a prestigious recognition.

Maureen Wills



Jim Minello, Secondary Councillor presents Kevin with his award

Distinguished Service Award

Kevin Mulvey, Windsor-Essex CDSB

The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to an individual who has provided distinguished service to the membership of the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario.

This year the CPCO executive council invited members to nominate a candidate for this award. The Windsor-Essex Catholic principals and vice-principals put forth Kevin Mulvey's name for consideration. Kevin is truly deserving of this award.

In a principal's career now exceeding two decades, Kevin has represented his fellow principals and vice-principals on countless association and school board committees, chairing several of them. He also regularly presents at the local Faculty of Education and principals' courses.

When CPCO was an OECTA committee, he served as the West Region's Secondary Director and assisted in the preparations of CPCO position papers and the organization of West Region drive-in conferences. In 1998-2000 and 2005-06 he again served as the Windsor-Essex representative to Western Region. Kevin worked tirelessly as the principals' representative on the Ontario Secondary School Trustees' Association's Secondary School Completion Committee in 1989-90. He is currently the voice of the Windsor-Essex principals and vice-principals at the Council of District Representatives.



L to R: Lou Rocha, Don Rait, Dan Tighe

Past-president's Award

Don Rait, Simcoe Muskoka CDSB

The past-president of CPCO receives this award in recognition of his service to the association in the role of president and extended service as a member of the Executive Council.

Don Rait first became involved with CPCO as a member of CPCO's professional development committee. In 2001 the Simcoe Muskoka principals and vice-principals hosted CPCO's conference *The Future is Here* in Alliston. Don co-chaired the organizing committee with Carole Allen. It was also during that conference that Don was elected to the CPCO executive council as an elementary councillor.

Don has been a member of writing teams for the CPCO retreats *Leading From Within* and *Living Parables, Sowing Seeds*. He has also given generously of his time to act as a retreat facilitator for colleagues across the province. Don is a talented musician and has lent his writing, guitar and singing talents to assist in the development of a CD which is a resource for the *Living Parables, Sowing Seeds* retreat.

As a member of the CPCO Executive Council, Don continues to advocate for a further development of CPCO into the leading provider of professional learning not only in Ontario but nationally and internationally. Don led a group of Ontario education leaders on a research project to Australia in July 2007. This was an opportunity to share and learn from one another about succession planning for school administrators.