

FATHER JOHN REDMOND AWARD

By **Nelly Kelders**, Member Services Director

The Fr. John Redmond Award for outstanding contribution to Catholic education in Ontario was created in 1980 by the Ontario Catholic Secondary School Principals' Association. Some of the previous winners include The Honourable William G. Davis, former premier of Ontario, His Eminence Emmett Cardinal Carter, Sr. Joan Cronin, Bishop Ryan, Fr. Jim Mulligan, Msgr. Dennis Murphy, Ed Nelligan, Patrick Slack, Tom Reilly and John Wheatley. CPCO now presents this award annually to the group or individual whose contribution to Catholic education has made a significant provincial impact. This year's recipient is Louise Ervin.

For more than 20 years, Louise Ervin has been an outstanding leader in Catholic education. She has served as a trustee with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board since 1985. She served as chair of the board in 1991, 1992 and 2004. Louise has devoted much time to several organizations in the Waterloo area including the Waterloo Region Task Force on Youth, the Region of Waterloo Community Safety and Crime Prevention Council, the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber of Commerce Education Committee and the Ontario Federation of School Athletics Associations.

Louise was elected to the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) in 1991 and served until 2006. She was the president of OCSTA from December 2000 to May 2004. Louise served on the Board of Directors for the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) from 2000 to 2004 and was president of ICE in 2002. Louise was also elected to the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA) in 1996. In this organization she served as president from 2000 to 2002. In 2007 Louise received the OCSTA Award of Merit and the CCSTA Higgins Award for her contribution to Catholic education in Canada.

Lou Rocha, Executive Director began his introduction of Louise by quoting what others have said about her.

Louise Ervin has given whole-hearted service to our young people by her service with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board... at the national and provincial Catholic education levels.

Most Reverend Anthony Tonnos, Bishop of Hamilton

Louise's thoughtful and deliberate approach to educational issues enabled her to successfully meet each and every challenge. She always puts the students first and has made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of students.

Elizabeth Witmer, former minister of education



L to R: Nelly Kelders, Louise Ervin, Lou Rocha

I am honoured to have served on the OCSTA board of directors during Louise's tenure as president. Louise helped to forge many strong and lasting relationships with former and present government leaders. Louise is a trustee who has wholeheartedly embraced her role as a guardian and steward of Catholic education. She is a school leader who is a witness to her faith through her actions and words. The future is truly promising for our youth as long as we continue to have the inspired leadership and commitment of outstanding trustees like Louise Ervin.

Bernard Murray, president
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

Lou noted that Louise has been a friend to CPCO for many years and that she worked closely with four of our presidents during her time as OCSTA president. She always listened carefully as CPCO offered its perspectives and recommendations for improving the Catholic school system. During her presidency Louise continued to build and promote the positive relationship between our organizations.