

# **NEWS RELEASE FROM THE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO**

**Date:** June 3, 2008  
**Subject:** Bus Driver Appreciation Day  
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## **CDSBEO Thanks Bus Drivers for their Excellent Work**

**Kemptville, ON** – Monday June 2, 2008 marked the first ever Bus Driver Appreciation day in the CDSBEO. Every school across the Board's eight counties held unique ceremonies to honour their drivers and their dedication to delivering our students to school safely.

Manager of Transportation, Nicole Makinson explained the idea behind the day, "It is an opportunity for our Board, schools, parents and students to thank our drivers for taking our precious cargo to and from school on time and ready to learn."

Director of Education, Bill Gartland, was on hand at a ceremony to honour the drivers at Holy Cross Catholic School in Kemptville. He had the opportunity to thank driver Jennifer Kaldeway for her role in provided a quality Catholic education. "The entire Board is grateful for what you do. It's wonderful to see how our drivers are so dedicated to safety and procedure, while also becoming an important part of our students' lives."

Also in attendance were the students who ride on Ms. Kaldeway's bus, Leeds Trustee, Robin Reil, Superintendent of Education, Mark Musca, Principal Donna Koekkoek, Vice-Principal, Catherine Empey, and Manager of Transportation, Nicole Makinson.

Ms. Makinson also attended a presentation in Ingleside at Our Lady of Good Counsel. Board Chair Ron Eamer presented drivers Linda Embling, Elaine Caron-Leger, and Michelle Lalonde with a token of the Board's appreciation. "You can tell how much the students care about their drivers," said Mr. Eamer. "And you can certainly see how much the drivers care about their students. They are a vitally important part of our school Board and today is a wonderful way to show them how much they mean to us."

Linda Embling has been a school bus driver for Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. George's in Long Sault for more than 30 years. She said she was touched by the show of appreciation. "It's really amazing to have the Board do this for us. So many of us love driving our kids; they really do become like family to us over the years. Bus Driver Appreciation Day shows us that the Board cares, but we're also being shown how much our kids care about us too. That really means a lot and makes us feel really special."

Also in attendance at Our Lady of Good Counsel were Dundas and Stormont Trustee, Karen McAllister, City of Cornwall and Glengarry Trustee, Todd Lalonde, and Principal, Patricia Dennison.

For more information, please contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Bob Perreault at 613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206 or 613-859-0678 (mobile).

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 40 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.