

NEWS RELEASE

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Subject: Notre Dame CHS

From: Bob Perreault – Communications Officer
(613) 258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 (ext. 206)

CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD OF
EASTERN ONTARIO



Box 2222, 2755 Hwy. 43
Kemptville, Ontario K0G 1J0

Notre Dame CHS Construction Program Shines with Completion of First Large Scale Project

Carleton Place, On - Students, teachers and invited guests gathered at **Notre Dame Catholic High School** for the official opening of the school's new physical education storage garage. The finishing touches had just been added to the new utility building constructed almost entirely by Notre Dame students.

Mr. Bill Howe's Construction Technology class built the facility not only to house various pieces of large equipment for the school, but more importantly so students could gain important skills in various trades while earning credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diplomas.

In all, 20 students took part in the project that saw the building erected during the second semester of the school year. "The rain in the spring held us back a bit, but the students' enthusiasm drove the project forward. They pulled it together and have come up with quite a nice product," said Mr. Howe.

Notre Dame CHS Principal Paul Brady said the structure is a welcome addition to the school's landscape. "The building allows us to gain space inside the school by moving larger physical education pieces, such as track and field equipment, outside. We also have several canoes on a trailer that will be stored in the garage, instead of in a volunteer's driveway where they have been up until now. These students have done a wonderful job on the garage and it will certainly be used for many, many years to come."

Community Partnerships Key

Mr. Howe said the students constructed the entire building with the exception of the mason work and the door installation. However, even though Ed Devlin Masonry was hired to complete the masonry work, the company did hire several students to work on the project.

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario's Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program contributed by providing funding for the harnesses used on the project and for certification training for Mr. Howe to teach the proper techniques when using the harnesses and scaffolding. "That training is another bonus for the students," said Mr. Howe, "It is more valuable experience that could lead to apprenticeships over the summer."

Mr. Howe told those in attendance that the project may not have happened without the help of many local partners including **Carleton Place Town Engineer** and **Head of Public Works Dave Young** and **Building Inspector Tom Gallagher**. **Reg Pye Construction** was thanked for organizing outside contractors and the use of the company's scaffolding and transport services.

Many other contributors were also thanked including, **Rona**, **Ideal Roofing**, and clothing retailers **The Source** and **Cahart**.

Mr. Howe thanked all those who helped. "Community partnerships are very important in education to help us deliver hands-on courses of this kind to our students. The wealth of experience passed on helps our students make informed choices and choose their own personal pathways to success. I offer each of you that continue to help make that happen my most sincere thanks," said Mr. Howe.

The course also created additional learning opportunities within the school. The students were each given a DVD at the conclusion of the project, which chronicles the building's construction from the ground up. **Communication Technology Student Mercedes Mann** produced the DVD with the assistance of her teacher **Rio Garvin**.

Program to Expand, Progress

The program is set to continue in the 2006-2007 school year with two projects planned. Mr. Howe announced that two cottage-style buildings would be constructed thanks to the donation of blue prints from **Algonquin College**.

Dave Drummond, of Drummond the Mover, has financed the project and will transport the finished pieces from the school.

The new projects will be the next phase in the natural progression of Notre Dame's Construction Technology Program and will help students gain valuable experience in many previously un-offered trades including plumbing, electrical, dry-walling and shingling.

Notre Dame Catholic High School opened in 1995 in Carleton Place. It offers excellence in Catholic Education from Grades 7-12.

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 41 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.

Learning and Growing Together In Christ