

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Students Build Race Cars as School Fundraiser

**Cornwall, ON (Friday, February 7, 2020)** – Students at **St. Joseph’s Catholic Secondary School** in Cornwall, will have an opportunity this semester to put their skills to work building two race-ready Enduro cars. The cars will be raffled off to raise funds to modernize the automotive shop, to support and enhance the school’s Specialist High Skills Major program in Transportation.

Transportation Technology teacher David LePage is pleased that students will be involved in the project.

“We are continually thinking outside the box to come up with innovative ways to engage students, and we are extremely appreciative and excited to be part of this project.”

The cars were donated by Troy Hickman, General Manager of Cornwall Toyota, who has a close partnership with the school.

“On the business side, we’ve been involved with the cooperative education program at St. Joseph’s for a number of years, hiring many students in the process. On a personal level, being a graduate of this school, I’m thrilled to be able to give back,” explained Hickman.

“One hundred per cent of the proceeds raised from the raffle will be used to purchase shop equipment to keep the school’s program going for many years to come.”

The cars will be built according to Cornwall Motor Speedway rules but will feature additional safety features thanks to Olsonfab Metal Fabrication in Cornwall, who has agreed to donate materials and provide shop time for students to build roll cages.

Grade 12 student Johnny Mondoux, who is currently enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major – Transportation Program, is extremely excited about the project.

“This could be the coolest thing I will do in my high school career. I can’t wait to get started.”

“As far as we know, this is the first time that such a project will be undertaken anywhere in the province, and I am thrilled it’s happening at St Joseph’s,” noted Principal Renee Rozon. “Skilled trades and apprenticeship programs are a priority for us, along with creating experiential learning opportunities for our students. The money generated from this project will help to continue to modernize and better equip the shop.”

Since the school’s inception in 1985, the Transportation Program has provided a career link for many students who are currently employed in a wide variety of occupations within the transportation industry throughout Eastern Ontario. Through the schools Specialist High Skills Major program, students develop the skills necessary to transition into cooperative education placements, which leads to the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, and ultimately paid employment.

“You would be hard pressed to find a shop locally that does not employ one, two or more graduates from our school,” explained Andrew Maloney, cooperative education teacher. “The relationships we’ve fostered with our partners over the years is the driving force behind student success.”

# News Release

The school will be hosting an Automotive Expo on April 30, with a wide variety of transportation related employers to showcase employment opportunities in the field. The event will showcase a race car display, including cars of St. Joseph CSS graduates who feature prominently in the local racing scene. The school is also hosting a Women in Trades summer camp for grade 6 to 8 girls in July, that will start with a night out at the races.

Tickets for the Enduro car lottery are available for purchase to individuals over the age of 18. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets may contact the school at 613-936-0349.

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Photo (left to right): Troy Hickman (General Manager, Cornwall Toyota), Johnny Mondoux (student), Renee Rozon (Principal) and David Lepage (Teacher)

For more information contact:  
Amber LaBerge, Communications Officer  
613-485-0268 (cell)  
[amber.laberge@cdsbeo.on.ca](mailto:amber.laberge@cdsbeo.on.ca)