



Durham Catholic District School Board



St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School

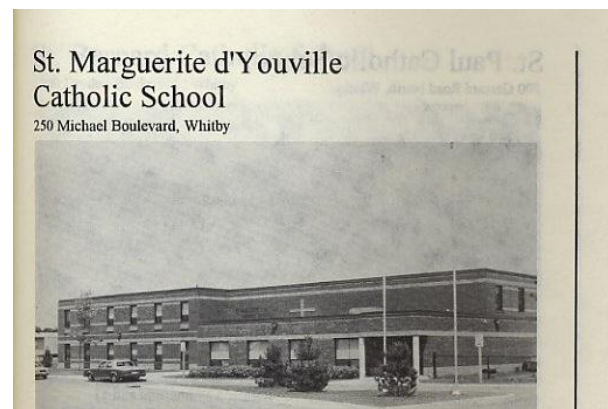
Motto: "Believe It... Live It!"

In the Beginning

St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School was opened in September 1990 to reduce the overcrowding at St. John the Evangelist and St. Theresa Catholic Schools. Most of the 359 students who started that first September came from St. John the Evangelist C.S. In September 1991, the enrolment had increased to 416, as former students of St. Theresa C.S. came to St. Marguerite d'Youville C.S.

St. Marguerite d'Youville C.S. was built in 1988 as a relocatable building, originally to be a French First Language High School.

The first occupants were students of École Secondaire Catholique Charles Garnier. The French-speaking high school was later moved to Oshawa until a permanent site could be built. The title was transferred, and in 1990 the school became St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School. In order to accommodate Kindergarten through Grade 8 students, some changes were made to the building during the 1990–1991 school year. The Industrial Arts and Family Studies rooms were converted to Kindergarten classrooms during this time.



Construction

Breaking ground



Framing





The back of the school

Building

Masonry work

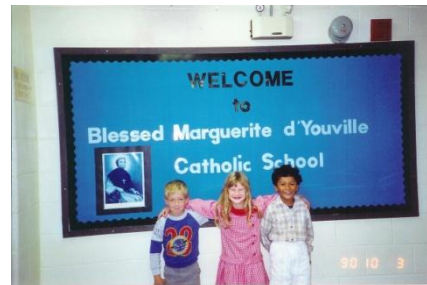


Near completion

The school was named to honour Marie Marguerite d'Youville, who in 1737 founded the order of the Grey Sisters. The name of the school was chosen for its significant historic connection and recognizes the long service of the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate



Conception in the Whitby area. The religious order was highly regarded by educationalists for its work in teaching the youth of the country. The religious order, founded in 1926, was invited to Whitby in 1959 at the express wish of Father Leo J.



Austin to establish a Catholic High School, later named Archbishop Denis O'Connor Catholic High School.

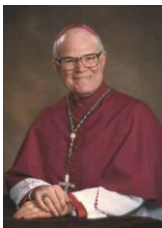


The name of the school was approved by the Durham Catholic District School Board on



January 16, 1989. At first, the school was to be called Blessed Marguerite d'Youville, but the name was changed upon her elevation to sainthood by Pope John Paul II in

1990. The official opening of St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School took place on April 11, 1991, with the blessing by the Most Reverend Robert B. Clune. The first principal of the school was Lionel Kelly.



Moving into the School



St. Marguerite d'Youville C.S. students were originally nicknamed the "Hoyas," with a bulldog as their mascot. In 2006, under the leadership of principal Maureen Thomas, a decision was made to change the school's nickname and mascot. After a year-long process of brainstorming new names, voting on a winner and developing a new logo, St. Marguerite C.S. students became known as the Mavericks. Shortly afterwards, principal Janine Bowyer arrived. St. Marguerite carried forward the new name with the introduction of the Mighty Maverick Award, through



which school spirit was celebrated. The award recognizes students for everything from small acts of kindness to much larger acts of charity that were organized to help those in need.

In 2010, it was announced that St. Marguerite d'Youville would begin a Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) program in the fall of that same year. With this decision, significant classroom renovations were undertaken in the summer of 2010 to the kindergarten wing of the school. Enrolment in the program increased significantly for the fall of 2010, and a total of four ELKP classrooms were completed to accommodate the influx of new students. At this time, two portable buildings were added to the school property to accommodate our growing numbers.



In 2010 and 2011, the students and staff of St. Marguerite d'Youville achieved an important accomplishment, earning their way to a Gold Certification from Ontario EcoSchools. As part of the EcoSchools certification process, the school, under the direction of Eco Committee leaders Mrs.



Ambra and Mrs. Plommer, planned and implemented a school greening project, whereby 13 native trees were to be planted in the schoolyard. The goal of this project



was to foster an environmental ethic in the students, support the local ecosystem and create more shade in student play areas. The project involved months of planning and fundraising, as well as dedication and hard work from



many in the school community, including teachers, students, administration staff, custodial staff and parents.



In April 2011, with more than \$10,000 raised by the students, the school community proudly planted 13 trees in the schoolyard, which have been lovingly cared for by the school community.



There is an important historical connection of the schools Eco initiatives to the mother of charity, Marguerite d'Youville: in the greater Montreal area, few natural areas have been

as well preserved as that of Saint-Bernard Island. The wetlands, ponds, streams, grasslands, maple syrup farm and multicoloured oak trees found there make up the exceptional ecosystem that provides a home for diversified wildlife and flora species.

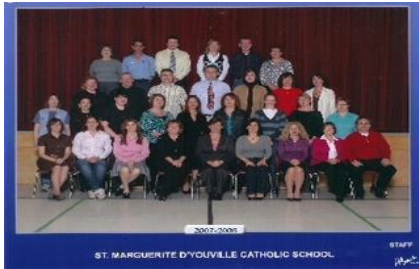


There are 11 floral species that are categorized as endangered or vulnerable and 214 species of birds. The island also provides a special home for fish, in part because of specially prepared wildlife installations.



An agreement was reached in 1993 between the Grey Nuns, the Quebec Wildlife Foundation and the City of Chateauguy that allowed for the creation of the Marguerite-D'Youville Wildlife Refuge. This name stems from the founder of the Grey Nuns of Montreal, who became the owners of the island in 1765. The Sisters of Charity, who owned the island for 245 years, have signed a 40-year conservation agreement with the Fondation de la faune du Québec to ensure the protection of this provincially significant wetland habitat. It would seem that it is no coincidence that the St. Marguerite d'Youville C.S. community is as dedicated as the Sisters are to caring for the local environment, as was the school's namesake.

Staff through the Years



Our Parish

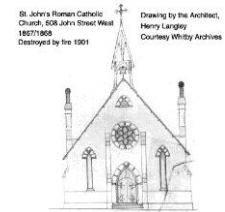
Once a month, students at St. Marguerite d'Youville C.S. make the 1.2 km walk from the school to St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church to celebrate Mass together. The church is located at 903 Giffard Street, where it has stood since 1959. The current church is the third building to be home to parishioners of St. Johns.



Catholics, mainly from Ireland, began to settle in the Whitby area in the 1830s. By the end of the 1840s, they were able to attend church in either Oshawa or Pickering Village. Whitby remained closely connected to these churches for the next 100 years. The first Catholic church in Whitby



was blessed and opened on May 24, 1868. It was called St John's Roman Catholic Church and was located on the corner of John and Palace Streets in Whitby. It was designed by architect Henry Langley, one of the most prolific architects in 19th-century Ontario. Langley, who was known for his training in Gothic architecture under William Hay, designed



more than 70 churches for many denominations; 12 of Langley's buildings are in Whitby, including All Saints Church, St. John's Roman Catholic Church and the Whitby High School (1872).



Sadly, St. John's Catholic Church was destroyed by a fire in 1901. However, by 1902, a new church was built on the same site and on December 14 of that year, the new church was blessed by the Archbishop of Toronto, Most Reverend Denis O'Connor.



By 1957, there were 500 families and 1,700 parishioners, and this second church was far too small. In October of that year, permission from Cardinal James campaign fund with a goal of Giffard Street was acquired from church was completed the His Eminence James Charles Toronto, on June 7, 1959.



year, Father Austin received McGuigan to build a new church. A \$170,000 was established. Land on the Separate School Board. The following year and was blessed by Cardinal McGuigan, Archbishop of



The church, which still serves the parish, is of a very distinctive design. Frank A. Burchers' contemporary design is best described as diamond shaped. From the outside, the roof resembles a saddle. With no columns or obstructions, the altar is visible from all points in the church. The year 2008 marked the 125th anniversary of the parish and the 50th anniversary of the current church.

Our Patron Saint



Marguerite was born on October 15, 1701, in Varennes, Quebec. After her husband died, she was left with two small sons to raise and her husband's debts. She opened a small store to repay her debts, educate her sons, and provide for the needs of Montreal's poor.

When she was 26, she came to the deep realization that in the great human family, we are all sisters and brothers loved by a providential and compassionate God.



She welcomed her first resident, a blind woman, into her home on November 21, 1737. She also begged for assistance to bury criminals who had been hanged in the marketplace. Seeing her selflessly caring for the poor inspired three women to join her. On December 31, 1737, they consecrated themselves to the service of the poor, in whom they saw the person of Jesus.

In 1753, Marguerite was appointed Director of the General Hospital. Soon the hospital was filled with the elderly, orphans, prostitutes, the mentally ill, physically handicapped, chronically ill and abandoned infants. Marguerite lived in the General Hospital from 1747 to her death on December 23, 1771. She fought for the rights of the poor and her primary concern was to spread the Good News of God's compassionate love for every human being.

Pope John XXIII beatified Marguerite on May 3, 1959, proclaiming her "Mother of Universal Charity." She was the first Canadian woman to be called "Blessed." On December 9, 1990, Pope John Paul II canonized this "Mother of the Poor" and presented her to the entire world as a model of compassionate love. Marie Marguerite

d'Youville was the first Canadian-born person to be made a saint. Her feast day is October 16.

(Source: adapted from www.greysisters.ca)

School Prayer

Saint Marguerite d'Youville

I beg of you
Wherever I may be
Whatever I may do
Take me by the hand
And lead me to Jesus

Together let us walk the Way
The one where Jesus is recognized in
The poor, the abandoned
The sick, the forgotten.
Walk with me in the light of the Truth
That is Jesus,
So that one day with you
I may enjoy Life everlasting.
Amen.

Principals

L. Kelly (1990–1997)
S. Roche (1998–2003)
M. Thomas (2004–2006)
J. Bowyer (2006–2009)
J. Leclerc (2009)
J. Huxter (2009–2011)
M. Legacy (2012 to present)

Contributors:

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