

Grafton school is a top performer in Fraser ratings

CECILIA NASMITH

Northumberland Today

NORTHUMBERLAND — St. Mary's Elementary School in Grafton is the top Northumberland scorer on the Fraser Institute Report Card on Ontario's Elementary Schools 2011.

St. Mary's was tied with a number of Ontario schools for the number-one spot, making a perfect 10 on their scale-of-one-to-10 ratings — a simplified overall index that takes into account a number of indicators designed to show how well a school is ensuring its students acquire the appropriate knowledge and skills.

Not all schools are tested for this purpose, the report said, but 23 Northumberland schools did appear on the 2011 edition that rated 2,327 Ontario elementary schools.

Ranking behind St. Mary's, the Northumberland schools on the report were:

- Burnham Public School, Cobourg (with a rating of 7.8)
- Camborne Public School (7.8)
- C.R. Gummow Public School, Cobourg (7.6)
- St. Mary's Elementary School, Campbellford (7.6)
- Ganaraska Trail Public School, Port Hope (7.2)
- Merwin Greer Public School, Cobourg (7.1)
- Baltimore Public School (6.8)
- Plainville Public School (6.6)
- Spring Valley Public School, Brighton (6.3)
- Notre Dame Elementary School, Cobourg (6.1)
- St. Michael's Elementary School, Cobourg (6.1)
- Terry Fox Public School, Cobourg (5.6)
- Hillcrest Public School, Campbellford (5.6)
- Brighton Public School (5.5)
- Percy Centennial Public School, Warkworth (5.2)
- St. Anthony's Elementary School, Port Hope (5.2)
- Castleton Public School (4.9)
- Kent Public School, Campbellford (3.7)
- Beatrice Strong Public School, Port Hope (3.2)
- Grafton Public School (2.8)

- Colborne Public School (2.7)
- Roseneath Centennial Public School (2.1)

Of special note in the report:

• Castleton Public School is no more. As of the 2011-2012 school year, it merged with South Cramahe Public School to form the new Northumberland Hills Public School on the site of the former Castleton school.

• Some schools were cited as showing a downward trend in their ratings over the past five years. These include Kent (down from a score of 8 in 2006), Hillcrest (down from 7.8) and Colborne (down from 9.1).

• C.R. Gummow was cited as showing an upward ratings trend, up from 6 since 2006.

Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board director of education John Mackle said the achievement by St. Mary's is a true success story.

"We have been tracking that school for the past six years, and have invested a lot of resources and staff support there to help improve student achievement," Mackle said.

"Five or six years ago it was underperforming, based on our analysis and data that is used on an annual basis to help us target and deliver more precise remedial curriculum to assist kids in improving their skill sets."

The board partnered with the Ministry of Education to address the situation in terms of staff and resources, and Mackle said the results have been gratifying.

"Progressively, they have been improving and improving and improving, which is tremendous."

"Actually St. Mary's is one of three (PVNCCDSB) schools that were in the top 100, and our board overall performs in the top 20% of boards across the province in terms of student achievement."

The Fraser Institute, a public-policy think tank, introduced these ratings in 2003.

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Fees waived for Warkworth hospice

TRENT HILLS — Council has agreed to waive building permit and development charge fees on the residential hospice to be built in Warkworth this year.

The Bridge Hospice project manager Sonny Lennon made the request, saying the community has already shown its support in the donations the hospice has received from more than 200 indi-

viduals. Local foundations have also made substantial contributions, Mr. Lennon said.

The total build is going to cost more than \$300,000, Mr. Lennon said.

He told council a contractor was to be chosen shortly afterward but only to erect a shell.

Mr. Lennon said the hospice will not charge for its servic-

es but will fundraise annually to cover its operating costs. He said the organization will pay the cost of the sewer and water connections but wanted relief from having to pay for a building permit along with a development charge. Together they added up to about \$8,000, he said.

Council members voted in favour of Mr. Lennon's request.

APR 8/11

CRIME

NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

Colborne man arrested in Port Hope on drug charges

PORT HOPE — A Colborne man has been arrested and charged with drug offences in Port Hope.

According to police, on March 22, members of the Port Hope Police Criminal Investigations Bureau and uniformed officers stopped a vehicle on Ontario Street in Port Hope.

Police seized \$5,000 worth of cocaine, and \$10,000 in ecstasy pills which was recovered from the suspect's home.

A 22-year-old man will appear in court in April.

Death Notices

NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS APR. 7/11

DUDLEY, E. Jean - It is with deep sorrow that Jean's family announces her passing on Thursday, March 31st, 2011 in the Speechley Palliative Care Unit (Northumberland Hills Hospital), Cobourg, Ontario. Eleanor Jean Dudley (née McCubbin), beloved wife of Arnold Dudley for 60 years, passed peacefully on Thursday, March 31st, 2011 in her 78th year. Dear mother of Jim (Mary), Gerald (Suzann), Donald and Tiffany. Pre-deceased by her loving daughter, Anne. Survived by sister Helen (John) Sykes of Oshawa. She will be greatly missed by her grandchildren: Lee-Ann, Melissa, Phillip, Tiffany, Angela, Diane, Stewart, Rachel, Jocelyn, Crystal, Nicole, and Nathan. Great-grandchildren: Ashley, Kyle, Amelia, Braydon, Carter and Adrien. Terrific aunt to Sally, Steven and Stanley and great-aunt to Zachary, Laura and Brittany. Jean will be deeply missed by her many extended family and friends. Celebration of life to be held at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Warkworth, on Saturday, April 9th, 2011 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Service at 1:00 pm. If desired, memorial donations to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Warkworth, the Northumberland Hills Hospital, or to the charity of your choice, would be appreciated.

Newlands, Donald James
March 24, 1927 - March 26, 2011

Donald passed away peacefully with his family by his side: his beloved Pauline, her daughter, Nina, and son-in-law, Tom. He was blessed with multiple talents and interests which he expressed through his profession as an award-winning photo-journalist. His passions ranged from Oscar Wilde, Shakespeare and Horowitz to ham radio (#VE3HGN) and exotic cars. His larger-than-life personality and infectious laugh will be missed by his dear friends, including Ethel, Doreen, Mimi and their respective families, and Montreal pianist, Andre Demers. Pauline would like to thank the caregivers at Castlerview Nursing Home and Meighen Manor. If desired, donations may be made to the Toronto Humane Society, 11 River St., Toronto, Ontario, M5A 4C2.

"But to recognize that the soul of a man is unknowable, is the ultimate achievement of wisdom."

The final mystery is oneself!
"De Profundis" - Oscar Wilde

Cards of Thanks Cards of Thanks Cards of Thanks

DUDLEY: The family of the late E. Jean Dudley would like to express their sincere appreciation to all friends and neighbours for the phone calls, flowers, cards, donations and food brought to our home. Also thanks to the staff of Northumberland Hills Hospital and Dr. P. Stratford for their wonderful care and support. Many thanks to Rev. David Cooper and Rev. Bill Thompson for their visits and thoughtful service, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and the Blue Banner Group for the delicious lunch. *INDEPENDENT*
Sincerely, Arnold Dudley and family. APR. 14/11