

**Kathy Burtnik – Trustee, Niagara Catholic District School Board**

**OCSTA Regional Director Candidate – Region 11**



My interest in Catholic education began as a young child and intensified as a mother to 5 children. The year my youngest graduated from a Catholic secondary school, my first grandchild began his journey in junior kindergarten. As such, my passion and commitment has grown. I have witnessed many changes along the way. Myself as a graduate before full funding was a reality – a time when great sacrifice was witnessed by staff, students, trustees and parishioners. The foundation upon which we currently stand cannot be taken for granted. Our faith is founded on sacrifice, on giving more to others than we give to ourselves in order that people will recognize the love of Christ through our actions. I believe that catholic education is not only a right granted by the constitution, but it is right. Our children in our schools deserve not only an excellent curriculum as approved by the government, they deserve to have Faith come to life through our schools. I first put my name forth as a trustee in 1995, before amalgamation. I have never been acclaimed and have worked to promote and protect all that those who came before us had built. I enjoy the challenges that come from working with others whose motives may be different than my own. I had committed to retiring and realized that the flame of passion for the bigger picture would be best channeled as an elected catholic school board Trustee. I hope to contribute to the life of Catholic education as a director of OCSTA. The experiences provided to me through very active participation with OCSTA continue to inspire me to serve, to learn and to share. I hope to continue to work with all those invested in Catholic education as well as our detractors to ensure that our past successes lead to a very promising future.