



Marino Gazzola

I have been a Trustee with The Wellington Catholic District School Board, since 1990, and just started my 30th year as a trustee. I am the current Chair of the Board, and I am serving my 16th term as the Chair. I have been a member of The OCSTA Board of Directors since 2007, and have served as regional director for Region 4, Vice-President, President 2012 to 2014, and Past President. I am currently the regional director for Region 4.

I am also the current President of The Canadian Catholic Schools trustee's Association, serving my third year as President. I have served on the CCSTA Board since 2010, as The Ontario representative and as a table officer.

I have been fortunate to receive awards and recognition during my time as a trustee.

1992 – Lieutenant Governor General of Ontario's 125th Anniversary Medal for Community Service

2000 – Wellington OECTA Award of Merit

2002 – Guelph Police Service Member of The Year

2013 – Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for Community Service

2018 – CPCO Father John Redmond Award for Outstanding Service to Catholic Education in Ontario

Catholic education has always been and continues to be a passion for me. I am often reminded of the words of Sister Claire Fitzgerald, *"We are Catholic Trustees, not Trustees who happen to be Catholic"*.

It is very important to me that Catholic education in Ontario continue to be vibrant, strong and alive. With many detractors for our system, we often find ourselves defending our right to exist. Instead we should be promoting our system and our faith, along with our constitutional right. But we need to remember that we cannot always hang our heads on the constitutional rights, as we have seen what can and has happened in other provinces. We need to make others aware of the great things that are happening in our Catholic schools, along with the fabulous members of society that have graduated from our system.

As a member of The OCSTA Board of Directors I would continue to work tirelessly to ensure the decisions made at the table are the decisions that are best for all of Catholic education in the province. I am and have always been a team player, and it is the team approach that I preach and practice. United we stand but divided we certainly will fall.