



Spring 2016

Trustee Newsletter



Linda Hamill

*Municipality of Meaford
The Blue Mountains*

2015-2016 has been a very busy school year, both in our schools and around the Board table! At the school level, Christmas concerts are always a highlight during my Decembers. I was able to attend several, enjoying French songs at Sydenham Community School, dancing at St. Vincent-Euphrasia Elementary School, and taking a journey through school history at Meaford Community School. My husband, three grandchildren and I attended the Sugar Plum Fair at Beaver Valley Community School and did our share to aid the fundraising.

In April, I had the opportunity to attend the Junior Science Fair in Owen Sound. Sydenham and Meaford Community Schools were well represented. I enjoyed learning about reducing radioactive waste, water desalination, coffee grounds as traction, peer pressure, and which is the best probiotic yogurt. The students were teaching us so much!

Kiwanis came to Georgian Bay Secondary School recently. I was privileged to hear excellent performances by Georgian Bay's senior and Meaford Community School's grade 8 orchestras.

Attendance at School Council meetings is my way of finding out what is happening in our school communities and what their concerns are. As a result, I have attended as many as possible. This has been especially important during the accommodation review.

This school year, I have been volunteering once a week at St. Vincent-Euphrasia with reading groups. It has been a great opportunity for me to see firsthand what happens in our schools.

It has been a busy spring for trustees because of the accommodation reviews going on in our area. As a result, Meaford Community School will close at the end of the school year, St. Vincent-Euphrasia will become a JK-3 school and Georgian Bay Secondary School will become a grade 4-12 school. All Owen Sound secondary students will attend West Hill Secondary School as of September 2016. Sydenham Community School will be moving into a renovated OSCVI building in September 2017. This will mean transitions for many families and teachers. We have been able to reduce excess space in our schools by close to 2,000 spaces while maintaining quality and strengthening programs for our students. On April 29, 2016, the Ministry of Education announced that a new JK-12 school will be built in Meaford.

Upcoming events I will be attending include the Parent Involvement Committee Spring Networking Meeting on May 11 and Sydenham Community School Family Fun Night on May 17. As well, I look forward to our special grade 8 graduations and anticipate that there will be reunions at Meaford Community School.

I encourage you to check out coming events at your local schools by visiting their websites. There is a calendar on the right side of each home page.

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Across the Board....

Education Week

Schools in Bluewater District School Board will be recognizing Education Week from May 2 - 6, 2016. To honour this year's theme of "Achieving Excellence: Promoting Well-Being", examples of Bluewater's ongoing commitment to this important priority will be highlighted each day of Education Week on the board [website](#) and Twitter [feed](#) using the hash tag, #EdWeekBWDSB. Others are invited to join in on their social networks with any Bluewater success stories that celebrate the efforts of caring educators, student accomplishments or school initiatives that support this year's theme!

Summer School 2016

Registration for summer school in Owen Sound is now open on the board [website](#). In addition to regaining a lost credit, many secondary students enrol in summer school for a co-operative education experience or an extra course to help them get ahead. Students increase flexibility in their paths to success and enjoy classes with energetic teachers and students from across the area. Elementary summer school, 1 or 2-week courses, are also available to grades 7 and 8 students. There are no course fees or transportation charges for elementary students!

12th Annual Regional Technological Skills Challenge

The premier skilled trades event for local students on April 1, 2016 in Owen Sound was a success with many participants excelling in the various competitions. Click [here](#) to view the list of top scoring students and a photo/video gallery. Thanks again to the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program!

Bluewater Regional Science & Technology Fair

Bluewater junior and senior students had a chance to show off their scientific creations on March 30 and April 13, 2016. Click [here](#) to learn more about the event, including this year's gold recipients and their fascinating projects.

Board Meetings and Webcasts

Members of the public are always welcome to attend monthly Committee-of-the-Whole Board Meetings (first Tuesday) and Regular Meetings of the Board (third Tuesday). Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Bluewater District School Board Education Centre in Chesley. For a complete schedule and agendas, click [here](#).

Regular Meetings of the Board are also webcast live at the following [link](#), or can be viewed after the fact by clicking [here](#).



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