



# Board Bulletin

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**June 26, 2009**

*Board Bulletin provides an update on news and information gathered from meetings of the Thames Valley Board of Trustees.*

Regular Board met in Public Session on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Thames Valley Education Centre Board Room.

The meeting opened with a special musical presentation by the Mitchell Hepburn Public School Grade 7 Band from St. Thomas, conducted by Jacqueline Reichenbach. Mitchell Hepburn opened its doors in the 2008-09 school year – one of the first new schools opened since Thames Valley District School Board was created through the amalgamation of several local schools boards more than a decade ago.

Trustees recognized the accomplishments of several individuals across Thames Valley.

**W. John Laughlin Staff Development and Leadership Award**, given annually to a principal who exemplifies the Board's values of a caring, learning community. This year's recipients were: Patricia Thompson, Principal of Saunders Secondary School in London, and Debra Farquhar, Principal of Ashley Oaks Public School in London.

**A. B. Lucas Secondary School Science Department Awards:** Trustees were told of the many awards and accomplishments this year by science students at Lucas, among them Tony Kwon, Ratna Varma and Caitlin Martin Newnham were recognized for their successes in local, regional and national science fairs.

**South Secondary School Social Justice Club:** Trustees learned that South's Social Justice Club recently received national recognition for its accomplishments at a Me to We Celebration in Toronto with Ontario Lt.-Gov. David Onley and Princess Sophie, The Countess of Wessex. Some 14 students and two teachers attended the event. Teacher Anita Watkins, the club's staff advisor, told Trustees the club grew from just 15 members to more than 100 members in less than two years. Students Nathan Blankco and Sara England also told Trustees the club has raised thousands of dollars for Free the Children and local charity projects.

**Skills Canada Medals**, awarded to technology students who participated in local, regional and provincial technological skills competitions. This year, 38 TVDSB students competed in 31 events at the provincial level. Wayne Cramp, a Thames Valley teacher on special assignment with the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program in Woodstock told Trustees the following student were provincial medalists:

Gold Medal: Jennifer Stuber from Laurier Secondary School in London won in the photography competition. Ian Gauld from Saunders Secondary School in London won in the Industrial Wiring competition. And a team from London's A. B. Lucas Secondary School, which included Garett Surmanski, Scott Holmes, Jessica Andrews and Shane McBean, won in the Home Building competition.

Silver Medal: Danielle Zammit from Strathroy District Collegiate Institute won in the Baking competition.

Trustees then took time to offer their appreciation for the work of student Trustees Jacob Rowe and Laura Varghese, whose terms have come to an end. New student Trustees were elected earlier this year.

Trustees approved the TVDSB Special Education Plan for 2009-10.

Trustees also approved a recommendation to rename London's South Secondary School to London South Collegiate Institute – the school's original name when it was founded in 1922-23. During the first 40 years, the word "London" was gradually abandoned and the name South Collegiate Institute became its name. In 1963, the Board of Education for the City of London decided all high schools would use the common term "secondary school" in their formal names – a practice that was abandoned when the board merged into the Thames Valley District School Board in 1998. The school community believes that restoring the "collegiate" name will help preserve a unique sense of identity for the school as well as promote the uniqueness of the Old South community.

**For more information contact:**

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