



# News Release

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## **THE NEW P.E. MCGIBBON PUBLIC SCHOOL OPENS**

The Vice-Chair of the Board, Jane Bryce, and Director of Education, Jim Costello, welcomed staff and students to the first day of school at the new P.E. McGibbon Public School in Sarnia. The school officially opened its doors on Tuesday September 7, 2010.

The school is named after Pauline Emily McGibbon who was born in 1910 in Sarnia, Ontario and attended George Street and Lochiel Street Schools and Sarnia Collegiate. Pauline McGibbon was the first woman to represent The Queen in Canada and in the Commonwealth. She was the first female Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and served from April 10, 1974 to 1980. She was an Officer of the Order of Canada (1967), Companion of the Order of Canada (1980), and a Member of the Order of Ontario (1988).

The school is a two storey modern facility with an environmental theme. There are 22 classrooms with a full size gymnasium that can be split into two spaces with a drop down curtain wall. Wireless access is available in the school with SMARTboards and computers in every classroom and computer notebook carts that will rotate throughout the school. Shade sails are located on the playground to provide shade for the students. A rainwater collection cistern is located in learning court. Other environmental features include a high performance wall and roof assembly design to reduce energy costs and increase comfort. It has a "Cool Roof Design" which uses a white roof membrane to reflect the sun and reduce heat transfer into the building. There is a computer controlled heat pump mechanical system that provides heating and cooling throughout the school. Natural wheat board, which is a by-product made from wheat straw, was used in the construction of the classroom furnishings like bookcases and shelving. The school was painted using low volatile organic compounds (VOC) paint and high performance Low-E Energy windows were installed. Energy efficient lighting with occupancy sensors to reduce electricity costs are in place and water-efficient plumbing fixtures that utilize waterless technology have been installed. The project cost approximately \$8.8M.

Enrolment at the school is approximately 442 students. The school is staffed with 24 teachers, 4 Early Childhood Educators (ECE), 9 Educational Assistants (EA) and 1 Child and Youth Worker (CYW) and 1 Secretary. Mark Houghton is the Principal of the School and Kelly Benjamin is the Vice-Principal.

P.E. McGibbon Public School is one of the Board's eight schools offering the Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program (ELP) this September.

The school is located at 217 Russell Street, Sarnia and the phone number is 519-344-4371.

The official celebration to mark the opening of the P.E. McGibbon Public School will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2010. The open house will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with the ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:00 a.m. and speeches at 11:30 a.m.

Lambton Kent District School Board

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