



ECHOES

IN THIS ISSUE

- PAGE 2 WHAT'S NEXT
- PAGE 3 NEW WAYS OF LEARNING
- PAGE 4 CLASS OF 2012
- PAGE 5 SCHOLARSHIPS
- PAGE 7 REBELS FOR GOD
- PAGE 9 GRADUATION AWARD WINNERS
- PAGE 9 GOLF TOURNAMENT
- PAGE 10 HIGH SCHOOL ROMANCE
- PAGE 10 A DELIGHTFUL INHERITANCE
- PAGE 11 DOES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

AUG 2012
VOLUME 32, ISSUE 5

6488 SMITHVILLE RD.
P.O. BOX 40,
SMITHVILLE, ON
LOR 2A0
PH. 905.957.3255
FAX 905.957.3431
smithvillechristian.ca

CONTACT:
MARLENE BERGSMA
mbergsma@
smithvillechristian.ca



Consultants Caroline Baker and Hugh Handy of GSP Group explain the trails issue to students in the Grade 9 Geography class.

Students having lasting impact in their community

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Students at Smithville Christian High School are leaving a lasting legacy in their community, through their contribution to a new Trails and Corridors Master Plan that will guide decision-making for decades to come. At the same time they're getting hands-on experience in civic engagement.

The Township of West Lincoln wouldn't have its new Trails and Corridors Master Plan without the school's involvement, said township planner Rachelle Larocque.

"If we didn't have you for a partner we couldn't have gotten the funding," said Larocque, explaining that the township was successful in its request for a \$42,000 Healthy Communities Grant because the school agreed to be part of the township's application to the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport.

"We needed a community partner and the school was an ideal candidate because of the petition the students had brought with the all the research and background," she said, referring to a January 2011 presentation from Mr. Neale Robb's Grade 10 Civics class.

After the Township was awarded the Healthy Communities Grant, it was able to hire planning consultant GSP Group to conduct

Continued on page 2 ...

What's Next

Now that the Township of West Lincoln has a Trails and Corridors Master Plan, it can use the document to guide decision-making and spending. It can also use it to apply for more grants.

Smithville Christian High School is partnering with the township again on several other grant applications. If the applications are successful, Geography students can look forward to designing new trails, PhysEd students can collect data on safety and walkability, and Shop students will be building park benches and other amenities for the township's new trail system. Stay tuned for more exciting news about the ways Smithville Christian students are blessing their community.

"I was just so thankful," said planner Rachelle Larocque. "You went far and above our expectations. Together we went so much further than we ever could on our own."



Rachelle Larocque, a planner with the Township of West Lincoln.

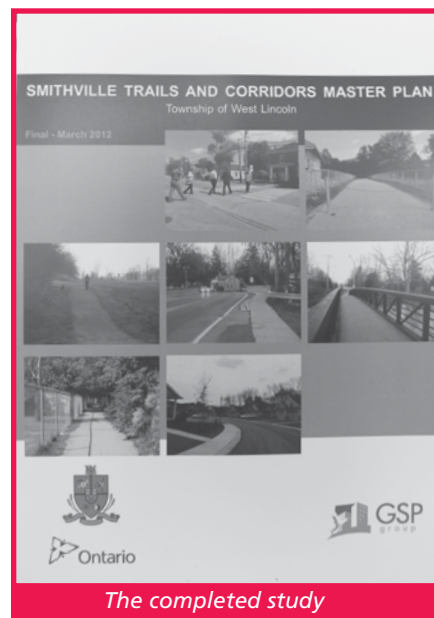
Continued from page 1 ...

the study. The school was the site of several community meetings hosted by GSP, and then the students of Mrs. Gina VandenDool's Grade 9 Geography class sprang into action.

Her class worked with the township's consultants to conduct a survey of students at five local schools, administering the surveys and collecting and analyzing the data. It was a mammoth undertaking, with close to 600 surveys completed.

"You guys blew me away completely, 600 surveys is almost unheard of in a project like this," Larocque said. "In a larger community maybe you could get that many, but for a small community, you are not going to get 600 responses from any group. Even the (two) wind turbine petitions only have 300 names each."

In addition to improving the quality of the study's results, the work of the Smithville Christian geography students also helped to engage the community, Larocque said.



"Getting the youth involvement and getting their opinions was something I doubt they would give (to an adult)," Larocque said. "Getting students out is difficult." Thanks to the work of the Smithville Christian students "we had data we would not have had."



Students entering survey results into a database.

The result of the Smithville Christian students' work is a lasting legacy with real impact, Larocque said. The master plan will guide decision-making for at least the next 20 years.

"Every time a (new) trail will get built, they will have had involvement. Their mark is definitely on the plan."

READ THE PLAN

You can read see the Smithville Trails and Corridors Master Plan on the Township website at http://www.westlincoln.ca/the-township/municipal-documents/cat_view/69-planning/132-trails-and-corridors-master-plan There is also a copy available in the school library. Student Sydney Vermeer's one-page summary of the student survey is included in the document as Appendix A.



Members of the public at a Trails & Corridors open house held at Smithville Christian High School

A New Year Filled with New Ways of Learning

BY TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

We are excited to begin another school year. The further we get into the new millennium, the further immersed we are in addressing the needs of 21st Century learners.

This year we will work harder to make the learning of our students meaningful and relevant. This means that we will be doing more of what's known in educational circles as Project Based Learning. Project based learning gives our students a chance to accomplish course goals while at the same time producing something which can give more joy to the student, can be enjoyed by an audience, or can be used to bless the community around us. Our students' work on the Smithville Trails and Corridors Master Plan is one example of project based learning. Knowing that the results of their learning will be shared with others positively impacts how students approach learning tasks.

In addition to our partnership with the Township of West Lincoln, we will need the help of our support community to

make project based learning a success. We intend to use a couple of evening opportunities during the coming year to give our parents and friends an opportunity to interact with the learning of students. At the same time, our teaching staff have had a careful look at the number of evening events our supporters have been encouraged to attend. We intend to combine our Presentation of Learning evenings with other events to keep the number of evening events in check. Our fall Presentation of Learning evening will be combined with our Open House evening on January 17, and our spring Presentations of Learning will be combined with our Spring Membership Meeting on April 25.

So why these changes? We want the learning of our students to be excellent, impactful and remarkable. It's also Biblical to give greater opportunity for our students to interact and learn alongside their community. I hope you enjoy the opportunities to interact with our students, to learn along with them, and to give them encouragement and meaningful feedback.

CONGRATULATIONS



David Aantjes



Kaleb Antonides



Derek Bastien



Tallia Bezemer



Melinda Bouwers



Natasha Buys



Scarlett Cheng



Jesse Colyn



Tyler Couperus



Adua Dalla Costa



Cassandra DeBoer



Kurtis DeVries



Christopher Dekker



Sarah Duck



Selena Elgersma

CLASS OF 2012

What's with all those scholarships?

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

At every graduation ceremony of Smithville Christian High School, the names of dozens of graduating students and dozens of scholarships worth hundreds of thousands of dollars are read out.

What's with that?

B-O-R-I-N-G – especially if you don't know the students who are being offered the scholarships. And isn't it a bit boastful, to gloat about all that money?

Perhaps, but we'll be continuing the practice.

At Smithville Christian, we're in the business of educating students, and one of the ways we can measure the success of our work is in the quality of our graduates. The list of entrance scholarships read out at grad is proof that colleges and universities across North America value our students and the education they received at Smithville Christian. All of our students accomplish great things, but this is one of the ways that we celebrate student success.

We don't print the list in the grad program because it is not complete and it would not be accurate. Not all of the information

makes its way to the school office, and not all of the awards have been handed out by grad night. There are always more scholarships and bursaries going to our graduates than we can report on at graduation night.

It's also important to know that the scholarships are offers – not real cash. While students may be offered scholarships or bursaries from multiple schools, they only receive the money from the school they end up choosing to attend.

So next time you're at grad and the list is being read, delight in the accomplishments of the kids you know and thank God for a high school that is both Christian and excellent.

Smithville Christian celebrates student success in many ways. An athletics banquet plus an awards ceremony are held every June. Check our blog for more accomplishments, and see page 9 for more awards handed out at grad.

2012 Graduates continued on page 6 ...



Crystal Elmers



Alexander Feddema



Morgan Feddema



Travis Feddema



Jacob Folkerts



Sydni Hanemaayer

See the school blog, available from our website homepage www.smithvillechristian.ca for the winners of Athletic Awards, Activity Awards and Ontario Scholars.



Ivan Heeg



Alexander Hoekstra



Mariah Hoekstra



Jazmine Hogeveen



Sarah Huurman

GRADUATING CLASS OF



John Kamphuis



Nathan Keen



Michele Kelly



Bradley Kerkhof



Jocelyn Klompmaker



Ethan Korten



Adrian Kuipery



Ashton Li



Emily Monster



Phume Ngampornsukswadi



Nicholas Pols



Alanna Pot



Thomas Potac



Jillian Prinsen



Nathaniel Rahm



David Scholman



Joshua Scholman

2 0 1 2



Julia Smit



Nathan Snippe



Bethany Stuive



Christina Teeuwssen



Michael Teeuwssen



Tyler Tiersma



Rebels for God

Graduates of Smithville Christian High School and their guests were encouraged to be rebels for the glory of God by grad speaker Ann Andree (Class of 2002).

"I know that is not the advice your parents want me to give you," Andree said, urging them to be like the homeless young man turned activist who she knows from her work as a supervisor of counseling services at a downtown Toronto drop-in centre. Citing Romans 8 – "If God is for us, who can be against us? . . . For we are more than conquerors" – Andree said being more than conquerors means doing what that man did and rising above the values of our culture.

"Our current cultural context is to care about winners and losers," Andree said. "In contrast, I hope that your Christian imagination has been inspired by your time here, so that you are thinking differently about your place in the world."

Andree urged her listeners to be agents of transformation in whatever work or study they pursue, so that "our care for the least powerful in society is our measure of success, our definition of victory.

"Graduates and gathered community, whatever you do as you leave this place, do it to the glory of God," she said. "That's being more than conquerors."

2012 Graduates continued on page 8 ...



Kassandra Tilstra



Bradley VanBuuren



Lucas VanGeest



Randy VanGeytenbeek



Hayden van Grieken



Devon Van Hoffen



Justin Van Hoffen



Kaitlin VanRyn



Ariana VandenDool



Brandon VandenDool



Andrea VanderHeide



Jacob VanderHeide



Shannon VanderVeen



Shannon Vanderhout



Erin Vanderlaan



Matthew Veldman



Taryn Vermeer



Janae Vlaar-Philbrick



Sarah Wagter



Amelia Wang



Ben Wang



Nataschia Westerhoff



Darren Wierenga



Leah Witteveen



Kiko Yang



Seth Zantingh



Rick Zhu

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US!

For more stories about the great things that are happening at Smithville Christian High School, visit our blog at smithvillechristian.blogspot.ca. There you can sign up for email notification of new blog posts - you'll get school news delivered straight to your inbox.

Some of the award-winners from the Smithville Christian High School Class of 2012

- West Lincoln Citizenship Award - *Justin VanHoffen*
- Canadian Citizenship Award - *Justin VanHoffen and Natasha Buys*
- Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award - *Janae Vlaar-Philbrick*
- PoutryFest Niagara Scholarship - *Janae Vlaar-Philbrick*
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 393 Poppy Fund Bursary - *Chris Dekker*
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch 393 Bursary - *Janae Vlaar-Philbrick*
- Groff's Photography Bursary - *Mariah Hoekstra*
- A.J. McCarthy Scholarship Award - *Tallia Bezemer*
- Smithville Garden Club Scholarship - *Randy VanGeytenbeek*
- Governor General's Award - *Janae Vlaar-Philbrick*

Swing, Drive and Putt for Christian Education Sept. 20 & 22

Sign up as a sponsor or golfer at the annual Smithville Christian High School and Niagara Association for Christian Education Golf Tournament at Sawmill Golf Course. Two ways to get involved, two days to play golf: **Thursday Sept. 20** and **Saturday Sept. 22**.

Play 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, dinner and prizes. Shotgun start, best-ball scramble.

Noon check-in both days.

To register as a golfer or sponsor, visit the school website at www.smithvillechristian.ca and click on the tournament links on the Bulletin Board.

Thursday **\$250**, Saturday **\$150**.

Special student walking foursome:
Saturday only **\$400**





High school romance becomes permanent

One of the benefits of a Christian high school education is the lasting friendships that are formed. For some grads, those friendships are REALLY lasting. Jordan Stuive was in Grade 9 when he first asked Sarah Mulder on a date in 2003. Nearly a decade later, the happy couple was married on June 16 this summer, and held their wedding reception in the place where Jordan first asked Sarah on a date – the gym at Smithville Christian. Best wishes and many blessings on your marriage.



2005 - Grade Eleven

A delightful inheritance

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

I sometimes find myself lamenting the shortage of Biblical texts for Christian education, such as “thou shalt send thy children to Christian schools.” As someone whose job it is to encourage parents to choose Christian education for their children, I sometimes wish there was more proof. But here’s something from Psalm 16 in which I find encouragement.

5 LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.

6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

It’s expensive to send your children to Christian school, and when parents make the decision to choose Christian education, they might even feel like they are compromising their children’s inheritance. After all, there are so many other things we could spend that hard-earned money on. But a student in a Christian school truly does have “a delightful inheritance.”

What does that inheritance look like? That student has been given the gift of “boundary lines in pleasant places.” That student receives daily “counsel,” and “instruction” from Christian teachers. Most importantly, that student is invited daily to keep his or her “eyes always on the Lord.”

7 I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

8 I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

The result?

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Wow. How wonderful is that? In a world that teaches our children to measure success in terms of what they can buy or how much they own, Smithville Christian High School is teaching its students about “the path of life.” In classrooms, in chapels, on sports teams, we are able to be filled with joy in the presence of God.

Truly, a delightful inheritance.



Members of the gold-medal winning praise team at the National Music Festival in Ottawa in May. Front row, from left: Ben Bonsma, Marcus Buist and Ryan Vermeer. Back row: Rachel Vermeer, Phume Ngampornsukswadi, Melinda Bouwers and Brandon VandenDool



SMITHVILLE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION*

Does Christian education make a difference?

The results of the Cardus Christian Education Survey (CES) released last year offered many tangible results about the positive, long-term impact of Christian schooling. Christian school graduates do indeed make a difference in very meaningful ways in our churches, in our ministries and in society in general.

Last year's Christian Education Survey was based on input from alumni throughout North America. Cardus immediately began with efforts to produce a Canadian version of the study, with many Smithville Christian High School alumni participating in an online survey in early spring of this year.

The results of the Canadian study will be revealed at a special launch being held Wednesday, September 26, at Redeemer University College's Art Gallery & Auditorium, 777 Garner Rd. E. Hamilton, Ontario

Reception at 7 pm in the Art Gallery followed by the presentation in the Auditorium at 8 pm.

Tickets are \$20 each and can be reserved online at www.cardus.ca/events/106

It is our privilege to assist Cardus in promoting this event as our foundation has a vested interest in the outcome of this study.

Wouldn't any current supporter appreciate knowing that a legacy or planned gift being considered now will indeed support a movement that makes a meaningful and lasting difference?

You can read more on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FNHCS

Inquiries may be forwarded to our Executive Director:

Henry J. Koornneef

Tel: (905) 957-8172

TF: (877) 340-9555

Email: office@schoolfoundation.ca or to any Board Member

<http://www.schoolfoundation.ca/board2.html>

Please visit us **ONLINE:**
www.schoolfoundation.ca

**Registered business name of the Foundation for Niagara & Hamilton area Christian Schools*

Westbrook

Success is never final and failure never fatal. It's courage that counts.

Your Partners in Education

WAYNE SCHILSTRA
Broker



RE/MAX
Garden City Realty Inc., Brokerage
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



64 Main St. W., Grimsby, ON L3M 1R6
Bus: 905-945-0660 • Fax: 905-945-2982
Cell: 905-515-8066 • waynes@remax-gc.com
www.wayneschilstra.com



**1051 Broad St. E
Dunnville ON
(905) 774-6115
1-800-591-1161**

Home hardware
building centre

Quality products and services

• lumber • hardware • paint
• farm • pet • equestrian • feed
... and so much more!



Don Nelson* CFP® MBA
Don Nelson Financial Services Inc.



Matt Dam* Hon. BA Bus
Matt Dam Financial Services Inc.

**905-892-5993
1-888-889-4742**

*Mutual funds offered by
Sun Life Financial Investment
Services (Canada) Inc.

© Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 2012.

Sun Life Financial



MEESTER INSURANCE CENTRE

FARM • BUSINESS • HOME • AUTO • LIFE

THE VILLAGE SQUARE
REG. RD. 20, P.O. BOX 299, SMITHVILLE, ON L0R 2A0
PHONE 905-957-2333 • FAX 905-957-2599
TOLL FREE 1-800-465-8256



RIJUS
Home & Design

Ontario Licensed
Custom Designs
for New Homes,
Additions & Garages

Jason Schilstra

PH: 905-701-1110 | info@rijus.com | www.rijus.com

SERVING ALL NIAGARA & HAMILTON - HALDIMAND FOR 30 YEARS



LET BLUE SPRUCE HOMES SPRUCE UP YOUR HOME!

Wil Bootsma
t: 905-937-6932 f: 905-646-8025
wil.bluespruce@cogeco.ca

13 Parnell Rd.,
St. Catharines, ON
L2N 2W1



1.888.BAYVIEW ext 344

P.O. Box 2,
3764 Jordan Road,
Jordan Station, Ontario,
Canada L0R 1S0
phone 905.562.7321
fax 905.562.7851
www.Bayviewflowers.com



Come Grow With Us!

Consider a career in horticulture at...

ROSA FLORA
Pride in Every Petal

Phone 905.774.0612 Fax 905.774.0632
E-mail: careers@rosaflo.com
Website: www.rosaflo.com
717 Diltz Road, Dunnville ON, N1A 2W2



Dwight teBrake C.A.
Professional Corporation

T. 905-899-2424 • F. 905-899-2426
dwight@tebrake.ca • www.tebrake.ca
42126 Hwy #3, R.R. #3
Wainfleet, Ontario L0S 1V0

- ◆ Accounting
- ◆ Consulting
- ◆ Personal & Corporate Taxation
- ◆ Succession Planning
- ◆ Agri-Business Programs, Accounting & Tax

Philip Dekker

www.dekkersauto.ca



74029 Regional Road 27, Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0
Tel: 905-386-6253 | Fax: 905-386-0265

Come visit our
Garden Centre
in Grimsby!



Flowers, plants
and unique gift
giving ideas for
every occasion!

Toll Free 1-800-461-7374
147 Main St. E., Grimsby • 905-945-2219
184 Highway 8, Stoney Creek • 905-664-2810



Grantham Plaza, 400 Scott St., St. Catharines, ON L2M 3W4
Phone: 905-937-8833 • Fax 905-937-7196
website:www.vandendooljewellers.com

Joe's Plumbing
"new installation and repair"

Joe VanGeytenbeek
Licenced Plumber and Gas Fitter



Heat Link
Floor Heat System
RR#1 Wellandport,
Ontario, L0R 2J0

905-386-6483
905-386-0703
Fax
Call 905-651-8558

the co-operators
A Better Place For You™

Peter Dieleman, CFP
Agent

345 Argyle St. S.
Caledonia, On N3W 1L8
(905) 765-5788
fax: (905) 765-1811
cell: (905) 929-6783

214 Broad St.
Dunnville, On N1A 1G2
(905) 774-7576
fax: (905) 774-9479
email: peter_dieleman@cooperators.ca

Jerry's Auto Body

Serving the Lincoln Area Since 1969

Complete Collision & Restoration Repairs

5529 Regional Road #81, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B3

Alan & Jerry
Gerritsen

Phone: 905-563-7702
Fax: 905-563-5321

Electric Power Tool • Saw Blade Sharpening
Supplier of Quality Woodworking Machines • Industrial Sales

ART'S TOOL SALES & SERVICE LTD.

10 NIHAN DRIVE
ST. CATHARINES, ON L2N 1L1
Tel.: 905-646-0728
Fax: 905-646-8938
Email: atsales@artstoolsales.com
www.artstoolsales.com



Fred & Adrian Koornneef
Suppliers of Greenhouse Vegetables and Tender Fruit
www.koornneefproduce.com



Louie VanderBerg
Sales Representative

905.937.6000

louievanderberg@sympatico.ca
www.louie-sold.com



101 Lakeport Road, St. Catharines, ON L2N 7L7
Toll Free 1.866.999.9497 | Fax 905.935.8215
BROKERAGE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED