

IN THIS

- **2** GOLF TOURNAMENT
- **3 SPRING DRIVE**
- **4** CHALLENGES AHEAD
- 5 ONE FAMILY'S GRATITUDE
- **6** FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
- 7 RISING COST OF TUITION
- 8 FROM DREAMS TO REALITY
- 9 BLESSINGS RECEIVED
- 10 FOUNDATION FOOTNOTES

FEBRUARY 2 0 0 9

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 3

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

CONTACT: MARLENE BERGSMA mbergsma@sdch.on.ca

Finance & Development Edition BY WAYNE SCHILSTRA, BOARD CHAIR

(Image adapted from Wikipedia, the free on-line encyclopedia)

FELOPED

DEFFORED

SDCH: A CLEAR VISION

This is a Snellen eye chart, used to determine how "normal" your vision is. Snellen charts are named after the Dutch ophthalmologist Herman Snellen who developed the chart in 1862. An actual sized chart is to be read with one eye covered standing a distance of 20 feet away. 20/20 vision means that when you stand 20 feet away from a chart, you see what a normal human being can see. If you see 20/40, that means that when you stand 20 feet away from the chart, you see what a normal person sees standing 40 feet away from it. The higher the second number, the worse your vision is. 20/200 (you see at 20 feet what a normal person sees at 200) is the number for legal blindness in the United States. (Source: http://www.hometrainingtools.com/articles/eye-chart-science-project.html)

How good is your vision, and what does this have to do with Smithville Christian High School? The SDCH Board is hoping to have about 30 people come out on Saturday, February 28, 2009 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. to plan and dream about the future of SDCH. We are organizing a Strategic Planning Workshop to be held at the school with lunch and refreshments provided. We will be led by Brenda Tindale, a professional consultant, who has helped our school over the last five years to develop its strategic plan. She has also helped many other Christian Schools map out their visions for the future.

This is not a seminar where you just listen to someone speak. This day is designed to be an interactive workshop where each person is given an opportunity to express his or her ideas, joys and concerns for SDCH and for Christian education. This is an important event

Continued from page 1

and is part of the on-going strategic development of our school.

Tindale says our existing five-year plan has helped us achieve many successes, but now it is time to take another look at what is working at the school and what are the areas of concern. Especially valuable will be the fresh ideas that participants will contribute, she says. All the information will be summarized by Tindale and used by the strategic planning committee when it drafts a new five-year plan in May.

If you have a desire to assist the Board develop a plan for the future of SDCH; want to enjoy some free food and want to enjoy a day of fellowship, contact Theresa VanOenen, Strategic Coordinator, at tvanoe@sympatico.ca, or the school office at 905-957-3255 or sdoffice@sdch.on.ca

SDCH has been a vibrant part of the Christian community for the past 29 years, impacting the lives and minds of thousands of young people for Christ. We know that God has great things in store for SDCH for at least another 29 years. Please take one day out of your busy schedules to offer your insight. We would love to see you there.

The last line has been added to the Snellen chart. Can you make out what it says?

If you read: SDCH: A CLEAR VISION, then you have excellent vision. You are the kind of person that we need at our strategic planning workshop on February 28.

In Service to our school – His school

Golf Tournament: Volunteers

BY MARLENE BERGSMA

Want to get involved in an event that's guaranteed to be successful and guaranteed to have good weather?

Smithville Christian High School and its partner schools in Fruitland and Smithville are desperately seeking energetic and committed people to take over the organization of the annual golf tournament that benefits these three schools.

What's the crisis?

The organizers who have faithfully run this tournament for almost two decades are moving on.

What's in it for you?

The chance to get involved in an event that has been a tremendous blessing to the schools, and that will be a blessing to you. You'll be provided with training, support, and the resources you need to be successful, and you'll know that you are continuing a tradition that has been blessed by God.

In the nearly two decades the tournament has run, it has raised nearly half a million dollars that went straight to the schools. The Niagara Association for Christian Education has used its tournament proceeds to provide bursaries, buy buses, and protect teaching jobs. In the eight years that Smithville Christian has been a recipient of tournament funds, it has received \$184,000, which was used to reduce tuition. Best of all, much of the money comes from outside the schools' traditional supporting communities.

And what's with the guarantee of good weather?

"In the 18 years we've run this tournament we have had only one two-hour period of drizzle," says organizer Rob Heersink, whose two children attended John Knox Christian School and Smithville Christian, starting in 1990 and graduating in 2004. "We've had spectacular weather, up, down and sideways." In fact the golf courses that have hosted the tournament over the years have said "You guys are living right, whatever you guys are doing," Heersink says. "It's a testament to God's favour. God loves golf, I guess."

Want to volunteer, to nominate someone else or to know more?

Contact Ted Harris at (905) 957-3255 or tharris@sdch.on.ca

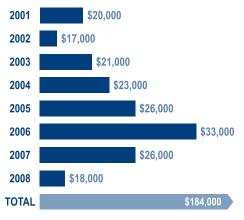


One of our valued sponsors, P.J. Vermeer of the Westbrook Group of Companies, enjoying another fabulous day of golf and fellowship.

Many Thanks!

Smithville Christian High School extends its gratitude to Rob Heersink, Kevin Antonides, and Harry DeVries for their many years of dedicated tournament service – always better than par!

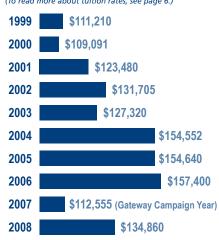
How the Golf Tournament has Blessed Smithville Christian High School



Spring Drive

2009

Another important source of non-tuition income for our school is the Spring Drive. (To read more about tuition rates, see page 6.)



(GOAL ...)

\$155,000

Facing the Challenges Ahead

BY TED HARRIS



Smithville Christian High School is facing a drop in enrolment. This is not unique to us. All the schools in our region are facing the same challenge, and Christian schools throughout the province are facing either imminent enrolment decline or general uncertainty about the commitment of their clientele. This is the unavoidable result of a changing demographic trend, one that includes, simply put, fewer children and young people. We certainly cannot escape these challenges. At the same time, we need to make plans to maintain the viability of our school and the vibrancy of its programs.

There are several steps that we are taking to face this challenge head on:

- We have hired a part-time director of communications and admissions, Marlene Bergsma, who spends all of her working time for our school talking to people and putting structures in place that will move our school closer to becoming the school of choice for Christians in our area.
- We are working to ensure strong relationships with our partner schools. Even though amalgamation with local elementary schools was not viewed to be the best choice for SDCH, there is certainly a need to work closely. Their challenges are our challenges; their growth is our growth. We will continue to be part of the same discussions with them.
- We are expanding our plans for educating international students. We have been blessed with opportunities to share our wonderful program with students from around the globe. We are working hard to become more accessible to students from different countries whose lives can be impacted with the blessing of a Christ-centred education.
- We are enhancing the way we present ourselves to families looking for educational alternatives to the publicly funded school system. Here are some key elements of that effort:
 - A redesigned web site
 - A new school sign
 - Updated promotional materials
 - More events involving the community
 - More events generating publicity for our school
- The finishing touches are being put on a comprehensive marketing plan which will guide these and other efforts in the coming years.
- Strategic Planning. As you read earlier, we are taking the time to gather as a crosssection of the entire community to prepare for the future. Please consider getting involved on February 28 to share your vision for how to face the challenges ahead.

These steps will not make us immune to the challenges of an economic downturn or demographic trends, but as stewards of this blessing, we need to strive to make sure that our blessing is positioned to be shared with those families who need yet to experience the joy of Christian high school education.

Friendship, Academic Achievement, Perspective and Caring ONE FAMILY'S GRATITUDE

BY MARLENE BERGSMA

The teachers are there for students," Kooiman says. "Whenever they have questions or problems or concerns, they felt there were people there to help them.

From the day their first child started Grade 9 and made new friends, to the day their youngest child completed a major assignment and clearly articulated that God had a plan for his life, alumni parents George and Tina Kooiman have been grateful for Smithville Christian High School.

"At the beginning of the school year each of our children connected with lots of new friends and developed lasting friendships that extended way beyond their years at school," says Tina Kooiman, beginning with their daughter Lisa's first day at SDCH in 1997.

Over the years, Tina and George have noticed how much the teachers at Smithville Christian have cared for their students and communicated with parents.

"The teachers are there for students," Kooiman says. "Whenever they have questions or problems or concerns, they felt there were people there to help them."

The Kooimans also liked the close contact between home and school created by the regular newsletters, Forecast and Echoes, and their children loved the wide range of extracurricular activities available to them "to develop their gifts and talents."

The Kooimans are grateful for the quality of the education their children received at Smithville Christian, with some of their children going on to challenging post-secondary careers.

Their daughter, Heather, who is currently completing her masters in nursing at McGill University in Montreal, is thankful for both a teacher-inspired passion for science and the academic preparation she received at Smithville Christian.

"When I graduated from SDCH and went to Dordt College, I felt so academically prepared," recalls Heather. Lisa was similarly well-equipped. "I could help other students with things that I had already taken at SD," she says.

Two of the Kooimans' sons, Kevin and Mike, benefited from the shops and technical courses offered at Smithville Christian. Kevin's co-op assignment at H.W. Woodcraft led to a full-time job when he graduated, and work experience for Mike also landed him a full-time job. "The hands-on courses and tech courses allowed them to excel." Kooiman says.

In 2008, when her youngest son, Josh, was graduating from Grade 12, Kooiman saw another tangible example of the value of Christian education. For his culminating project in Challenge and Change in Society, Josh prepared a scrapbook of how his worldview had been influenced by teachers, friends and family members.

"It was a wonderful testimony of how God had worked in his life," said Kooiman. "It was an absolutely wonderful project for the students to reflect on who they were and how they would influence their communities."

Keeping our Financial Affairs in Order

BY DOUG STUIVE

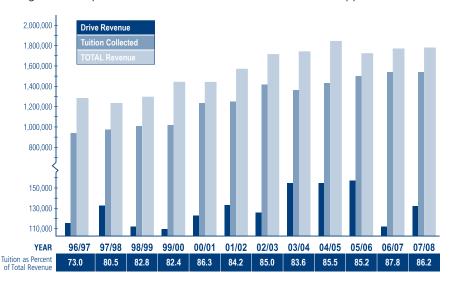
You will have read elsewhere in Echoes about the upcoming Strategic Planning Session to be held on Feb. 28. Included in the current Strategic Plan, developed five years ago, is a theme "Effective Financial Management." The Finance Committee has been charged with accomplishing several targets. Here is a summary of some of the accomplishments so far along with the current year's target.

Year 2 - Capital Campaign

The Gateway Campaign ...building leaders for tomorrow. The goal of this campaign was to raise \$1.5 million, with the funds being used to eliminate debt and upgrade the HVAC system. \$1.3 million was raised, the HVAC upgrades have been completed and the debt level has been reduced to \$320,000. Campaign pledges are still coming in and when all pledges have been received, the debt is expected to be reduced by at least another \$200,000, leaving us with a mortgage of well under \$100,000. The school is on a solid financial footing as a result of the Gateway Campaign.

Year 3 – Fundraising Plan

Fundraising guidelines were produced, with the goal of effective fundraising management. In particular the school wants to ensure "that supporters will not be



frustrated by the frequency or nature of solicitations. All fundraising events must be examined on the basis of the funds they yield and to what degree they develop community and good will."

Year 4 – Financial Communications

The objective was to find a way to effectively communicate financial information to the membership. The outcome of this process is the production of this Echoes, which is the second one to have a financial theme. We hope you find this publication to be insightful regarding the finances of the school.

Year 5 - Tuition Structures

This is the current year's target issue. By May 31, 2009, the committee must submit a recommendation regarding tuition structure, with a rationale, proposed implementation strategy and timeline

Historically, the tuition structure at SDCH has been based on a family rate. This reflects a community approach to Christian education. However, our research on tuition structures has shown some schools have moved to a per-student rate. Essentially all tuition structures we have reviewed are based on one of the two rates, either family or per-student. Which of these is the most appropriate for SDCH is the question the committee is wrestling with at this time. Some of the key factors to be considered are:

The Rising Cost of Tuition 11,000 10,000 9,000 8,000 7,000 6,000 5,000 4,000 Families paying tuition only to SDCH Families paying tuition to two Christian Schools 1,000 1,00

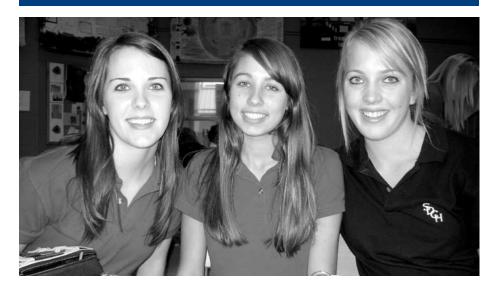
- Impact on marketing of the school
- Affordability
- Cost-based tuition exploring the relationship between tuition and operational expenses
- Relevance and responsibility of community, and
- Assistance to families with two tuitions to pay.

The committee welcomes your input, and also asks that you consider getting involved in the Strategic Planning session. If you can't be there, please remember to keep the process in your prayers. It is through God that we are blessed and can move forward confidently into the next five years.

Finance Committee - Caroline Eyk, Peter Feddema, Ted Harris, Doug Stuive, Tim VanHoffen, Steve Folkerts



School Days at Smithville Christian



THE SPRING AUCTION: MAKING DREAMS REALITY

BY TED HARRIS

Every teacher at Smithville Christian High School dreams of having all the best tools and technology to deliver the most excellent lessons to students. Sadly, our budgets never allow them everything they wish for, but that's where our fundraisers come in. Each year they plan two key events: a fall softball tournament and a spring plant sale, dinner and auction. In the months preceding the spring event, set this year for May 23, the staff have little difficulty generating their wish lists of items that would directly impact the learning of students.

As you, our supporters, plan to be involved with this spring fundraiser, here are the early entries on the list of requests from the teaching staff:

Our PE program will soon include a fitness room, which will be located in the former small engines shop. This will enable students and staff to use fitness equipment on site in a room specifically outfitted for fitness. There are some minor room modifications needed, but the main request is for sturdy fitness equipment.

Our new small engines and welding shop is in need of additional tools in order for it to be fully operational. Other supporters have been very generous in support of this program, but there are a few key purchases yet to be made.

The Family Studies program needs new mechanical babies for the unit on infancy. Perhaps you have seen students around our community caring for the needs of these simulated infants. Our two "babies" have far outlived the life expectancy of a mechanical infant.

The kitchen renovation plan included several items that have not yet been purchased. These include dish carts and some additional appliances. Some of these will be targeted on this year's wish list.

We are blessed with good technology to support the learning of our students. Each year steps need to be taken to keep our technology as close as possible to the leading edge. Though the budget allows for a suitable rotation of most computer technology equipment, the work of the fundraisers enables the staff to purchase projection equipment which enhances the quality of our classroom presentations.

As you can see, for the staff and students of SDCH, the end of May brings more than the joy of a long weekend; it also brings excitement about what we will be able to purchase to support our goal of instructional excellence. The 'extras' provide a spark that enables learning to flourish.

NEW THIS YEAR:

Giant Garage Sale!

The May 23 Plant Sale, Dinner and Auction will feature a morning Garage Sale. Rent a table for \$10 or come and shop for great bargains. Invite your neighbours and friends to rent a table or to bring their cash to search for treasures. The Garage Sale and Plant Sale runs from 8 a.m. to noon and will be held rain or shine (indoors if the weather is bad). Vendors can set up their tables the night before. To book a table, contact Wilma DeHaan at (905) 957-1479 or eddehaan 5@hotmail.com.

Members of the SDCH Fund Raising Committee: Linda Batenburg, Wilma DeHaan, Nelly Deklerk, Will Lammers, Joanne Monster, Marlene VanderStelt, Sharon Zwier.

Blessings Received

Small Engines Shop

The second semester has begun, and students have been learning in our new small engines and welding shop for a few weeks. Some of this time has been used to finish several elements of the construction project. From the design to the foundation to framing to siding to insulation to finishing, this is a project that has been the result of a great deal of help from our supporting community. Students will now be busy in a shop program that offers them additional shop skills along with experiences to help them identify and develop their gifts so that they can serve. We are profoundly grateful to all those who helped make this new program a possibility.

Kitchen

Our kitchen is no longer a stumbling block for major events in our gym. In fact, it is big and bright and modern. This is a result of the work of our fundraisers who sponsor our spring dinner, plant sale and auction as well as our fall baseball tournament. The renovation features all new cabinets as well as new sinks, flooring, paint, and appliances. The work was completed during the summer of 2008 after years of planning and saving by the committee. Smithville Christian High is grateful to the fundraising committee and to all who helped us with this project.



ANNA DYKSTRA AND KRYSTEN ZWAAGSTRA IN THE NEWLY RENOVATED KITCHEN, SERVING SOUP FOR THE GRADE 12 FRENCH TRIP FUNDRAISER.



FRENCH TEACHER BOB ANDREE ADJUSTS THE THERMOSTAT IN HIS CLASSROOM.

Heating and Air Conditioning

Despite the cold outside, we have had a much warmer winter inside Smithville Christian High than we have experienced in a long time. This is thanks to the major modifications made to our heating and air conditioning systems during the summer of 2008. When the heating system was finally "calibrated" in December, our staff took control over temperature, and students felt the results immediately. This clearly makes for a better learning situation. These changes were made possible by the Gateway Campaign of 2006. The additional good news is that with careful planning on the part of our building committee, the price tag was \$30,000 less than we anticipated. The money saved will go directly to the other campaign goal: reduction of our mortgage.

FOUNDATION

for Niagara & Hamilton Area Christian Schools

MEMBER SCHOOLS:

Beacon Christian Schools, St. Catharines

(Elementary & Secondary Campuses) www.beaconchristian.org

Brantford Christian School www.bcsbrantford.ca

Calvin Christian School, Hamilton www.ccshamilton.ca

Dundas Calvin Christian School www.dccs.ca

Dunnville Christian School www.dunnvillechristianschool.ca

Hamilton District Christian High www.hdch.org

Jarvis District Christian School www.jdcs.ca

Niagara Association for Christian Education

(John Knox (Fruitland) & Covenant (Smithville) Christian Schools)

www.nace.ca

Smithville District Christian High www.sdch.on.ca

Trinity Christian School, Burlington www.tcsonline.ca

Wellandport Christian School www.wellandportchristianschool.ca



Footnotes

Smithville Christian High Foundation

Smithville Christian High Foundation is now an officially registered business name of the Foundation for Niagara & Hamilton area Christian Schools (FNHCS). In fact, a personalized business name has recently been registered for each of the eleven FNHCS member schools. As the member school expansion process was unfolding last year, the FNHCS Board was aware of the possibility of a "disconnect" developing between a now larger Foundation and each of its member schools. Having our own name allows us, as an individual member school, to more effectively take ownership of promoting our foundation.

As a group of eleven schools in the Niagara and greater Hamilton area, we are still committed to working together under our umbrella foundation, the Foundation for Niagara & Hamilton area Christian Schools. This will not change, nor the fact that all of the eleven school foundations will continue to be led by the same Executive Director. An organized and uncomplicated approach will still exist for all Christian school supporters to support more than one school if they choose to do so.

What vested financial interest does the Smithville Christian High Foundation currently have in FNHCS? (All figures are as of August 31, 2008.)

Our Endowment Fund, which began with a \$17,000 cash gift from an "outside" donor in 2001, now totals \$54,357. This endowment will also hold future estate gifts that have not been designated otherwise.

The Computer Technology Fund, which continues to grow through \$100 monthly preauthorized contributions from a single donor, totals \$8,815. All interest continues to compound within the fund. It is the founding donor's request that this fund begin to pay out annual earnings to the school to support our computer program once the fund surpasses the \$10,000 threshold. Additional contributors, whether they be onetime, periodic or ongoing, are always welcome. We have an ongoing 50% interest in the Daniel & Tina Bremmer Memorial Endowment Fund. This fund totals over \$60,000 and the annual earnings received are designated to support our bursary programs.

As a founding member school, we also have a significant interest in the \$300,000 Niagara Christian Education Bursary Fund established through a single gift received in November of 2007. Again, all earnings received annually support our bursary programs.

SDCH will continue to be a beneficiary of the \$12,200 Stewardship Education Endowment established by a donor several years ago to promote Christian stewardship principles by funding suitable curriculum development.

Our school will continue to be an ongoing beneficiary of the FNHCS General Endowment Fund which supports all the member schools proportionately. All gifts not designated for a particular school but intended to be held for the longterm are placed in this endowment. This fund currently totals nearly \$76,000 and it is anticipated that it will grow significantly in the near future. As this fund continues to grow, our annually assessed membership fees will continue to decline!

And how do we hope that you, as Smithville Christian High supporters, help us ensure continued positive growth within our foundation?

We would be very grateful and honoured if you were to find yourself in a position where you are able and willing to contribute now. There are certain ways to structure these gifts, such as gifting appreciated securities, that would avoid detracting from the current financial support our school depends on.

Implement an effective estate plan. If you are not able to contribute now, please consider planning a future gift as part of your estate plan. Our Executive Director, a qualified Certified Financial Planner™ and Certified Senior Advisor™, would be pleased to show you how and answer any related questions you might have. No two estate plans are alike. For some, a will bequest is the most straightforward method—and we all need an up-to-date will. In addition to a will, some may have some funds available to invest in a Revocable Deposit Agreement (rainy day account) or may be in a position to gift an existing or new life insurance policy or name our foundation as beneficiary of your registered investments. some seniors, investing a lump sum in a Charitable Gift Annuity may be a very suitable means of ensuring an income stream for life plus plan for a future gift

for our school. Effective estate planning offers you peace of mind! Any estate planning related questions should be forwarded directly to our Executive Director, Henry Koornneef at 905-957-8172, (toll free) 877-340-9555 or via email: office@schoolfoundation.ca

Prayerfully support our foundation so that we will be blessed with continued growth in the future; also thank our Lord for the many ways in which He has blessed us in the past.



Henry J. Koornneef, CFP, CSA Executive Director

905-957-8172 1-877-340-9555

office@schoolfoundation.ca www.schoolfoundation.ca Don Nelson CFP MBA CSA Doyle & Nelson

Matt Dam Hon. BA Bus

Financial Services

Niagara Falls & Fonthill 1-888-889-4742



© Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 2008





 Dwight te Brake

T. 905-899-2424 • F. 905-899-2426 dwight@tebrake.ca • www.tebrake.ca 52026 Hwy #3, R.R. #3 Wainfleet, Ontario LOS 1V0

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



Remember...

Always aim for achievement and forget about success.

Your Partners in Education

Consider a career in horticulture at

756 Diltz Road, Dunnville, ON N1A 2W2

phone 905.774.8044 · fax 905.774.2818

email info@rosaflora.com · website www.rosaflora.com

Rosa Flora Rimited



Joe VanGevtenbeek

Licenced Plumber and Gas Fitter RR#1 Wellandport Ontario, LOR 2J0

905-386-6483

Fax 905-386-0703 Cell 905-651-8558

OW/NERS CLARENCE'S SERVICE CENTRE LTD.

801 CANBORO RD. P.O. BOX 129 FENWICK, ON LOS 1CO PHONE: 905-892-3652 FAX: 905-892-4828 EMAIL: JDAM@COGECO.NET

LOUIE DAM & HANS DAM

EKKER General Repairs & Auto Sales .

84028 Reg. Rd. #27, RR#1 Wellandport, ON LOR 2J0

905-386-6253 Fax: 905-386-0265

"Your neighbourhood auto specialist since 1992"



HOME DESIGNER

ONTARIO LICENSED DESIGNER Serving All of Haldimand/Niagara for the past 25 years

- One fixed fee
- · Professional & Detailed designs
- · Unlimited Changes/Revisions
- · New Houses, Additions, Garages and Cottages

JASON SCHILSTRA email: Jason@rijus.com

Home & Design

905.701.1110 www.rijus.com

(8)



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

Come visit our Garden Centre in Grimsby!



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

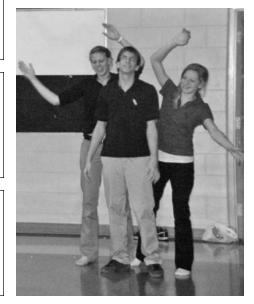
Toll Free 1-800-461-7374

147 Main St. E., Grimsby • 905-945-2219 184 Highway 8, Stoney Creek • 905-664-2810



THE VILLAGE SQUARE REG. RD. 20. P.O. BOX 299. SMITHVILLE. ON LOR 2A0 PHONE 905-957-2333 • FAX 905-957-2599

TOLL FREE 1-800-465-8256





Serving the Lincoln Area Since 1969 Complete Collision & Restoration Repairs



5529 Regional Road #81, Beamsville, ON LOR 1B3 Alan & Jerry Phone: 905-563-7702 Gerritsen

Fax: 905-563-5321



1.888.BAYVIEW ext 344

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



Bert Mulder SALES & SERVICE

1051 Broad Street E. Dunnville, Ontario N1A 2Z1

Office: 905-774-6115 Fax: 905-774-1578 Res: 905-774-8120





Bus: 905-945-0660 • Fax: 905-945-2982 ell: 905-515-8066 • wavnes@remax-qc.com

www.wayneschilstra.com