



Trustee Newsletter

Spring 2017



Jane Thomson

*Town of South Bruce Peninsula
Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula*

Welcome Spring!

It continues to be my privilege to represent the Town of South Bruce Peninsula and the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula at the Board table. The past two years of accommodation reviews have been particularly challenging. These decisions are not easy and require very careful consideration of both local and board wide concerns. Throughout these reviews, I have been very impressed with the level of parent and public engagement in our education system. We all play an important role, so please stay engaged.

This involvement is also evident in each of our schools as parents, volunteers and staff work to provide wonderful opportunities for our students. Thank you for everything you do to enhance education for our students.

As the school year begins to wind down, our Bluewater schools are bustling with activity! While students and staff prepare for year end class trips, exams and important transitions, I am pleased to report on some happenings from a system wide perspective.

Minister Hunter Visits Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter visited Bluewater on April 19 to tour Paisley Central School and Beavercrest Community School. It was an excellent opportunity to provide the Minister with a firsthand glimpse of our vibrant rural schools, and demonstrate the commitment by our board and community partners to work collaboratively to serve the best interests of our students. View our [media release and photo gallery](#).



2017-18 Budget

Trustees are currently working through the budget process with the requirement of submitting a balanced budget to the Ministry of Education by June. Thank you to those who participated in our recent online public survey. We hope that you found it to be an easy and convenient way to submit feedback. Please let us know if you would like us to continue with this format in the future. Staff have been busy compiling results from the 193

responses received to help trustees prioritize the key areas of importance as expressed by our communities in moving forward with next year's budget.

2016-17 Accommodation Reviews

On April 18, trustees approved final [recommendations](#) for the Markdale and Chesley/Paisley



area accommodation reviews. We thank our many local organizations, municipal partners, parents, students, staff, and students, staff, and other community stakeholders, who spent hours attending meetings and coming up with creative solutions to address some of the tough challenges faced by our board. Your consultation was imperative to informing the staff recommendations and final decisions made by trustees! We

have an excellent education system in Bluewater. Our challenge as trustees is to make informed, and sometimes very difficult, decisions from a broader perspective that balance the educational needs of all students within the vast geography of our district, so that we can continue to deliver this high level of excellence within the resources available to us.

How to Contact Me

Your questions and feedback are always welcome by contacting me by phone at 519-793-3788 or at the e-mail address below. General trustee information is also available by visiting www.bwdsb.on.ca/trustees.

As always, our shared commitment remains focused on providing quality education for every student in a safe and caring environment.

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Across the Board....



Summer School 2017

Registration for summer school is now open at www.bwdsb.on.ca. In addition to regaining a lost credit, many secondary students enrol in summer school for a cooperative education experience or an extra course to get ahead. Students increase flexibility in their paths to success in fun classes with energetic teachers and students from across the area. Elementary summer school, one or two-week courses, are also available to Grades 7 and 8 students. There are no course fees or transportation charges for elementary students!

Education Week

Celebrate Education Week with Bluewater District School Board from **May 1 – 5, 2017!** This year's theme is "[Ontario150](#)" in honour of the 150th anniversary of Ontario. Students, staff and members of the public are encouraged to share any heritage themed activities happening in their school communities on their social media networks using our hashtag, **#EdWeekBWDSB**. Examples will be highlighted on the board website and on Twitter, [@BluewaterDSB](#), during Education Week.

Celebrating our Science Stars

Our top young scientists competed in the 2017 Bluewater Regional Science & Technology Fair (BRSTF) in Owen Sound on April 5 (senior) and April 12 (junior). At both levels, the Best of Fair Award recipients were from Bluewater District School Board! One of these students has also made BRSTF history by becoming the first from our area to join "Team Canada" at the International Science and Engineering Fair in May! Other Bluewater senior students were chosen for the Canada Wide Science Fair Team at the national competition in Saskatchewan, also during May. Learn more [here](#).



Bluewater Students Excel in Public Speaking

Our students continue to develop essential literacy and research skills through public speaking. Thirty-three students from 11 elementary schools competed on March 29 in this year's French public speaking contest in Chesley with the top speakers advancing to the provincial contest in May. In English public speaking, students participated in the Bruce and Grey County regional championships, among several other district competitions. Thank you to all of our community partners for their sponsorship and support of these initiatives, which teach students the skills of summarizing and synthesizing their ideas, experiences and points of view; to inform, convince and entertain their listeners.



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