

Honouring dedicated employees  
and valued community partners  
who make Rainbow Schools  
great places to be

2020 & 2021  
B O A R D A W A R D S

# Vision

We are leaders in learning,  
inspiring success  
for all students  
by reaching minds  
and touching hearts.

# Mission

We bring learning to life,  
enabling students  
to fulfill their aspirations.

# Values

Honesty | Respect | Empathy  
Responsibility | Integrity  
Courtesy | Resilience  
Acceptance | Courage  
Co-operation

## Reaching minds.

- Provide authentic and engaging learning opportunities
- Set high expectations and create excitement for learning
- Support students to reach their potential
- Foster 21st century skills and competencies
- Deepen literacy and numeracy skills

## Touching hearts.

- Nurture physical, mental, social and emotional well-being
- Forge strong relationships and build resiliency
- Honour diversity and enhance cultural understanding
- Value student, staff, parent/guardian and partner voice
- Celebrate student, staff, school and system success



The individuals being recognized in this booklet have made a significant contribution to public education in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin in a number of ways – in the school, in the community, in athletics, in special education, and in education for sustainable development - as teachers, consultants, system principals, executive assistants, psychometrists, executive leaders and partners.

In their own special way, they have had a powerful and positive impact on students in Rainbow Schools, both inside and outside of the classroom.

The ways in which award recipients contribute vary, but they all have one thing in common. They are dedicated employees and dynamic educational partners who go above and beyond the call of duty to reach minds and touch hearts in our schools, the communities that we serve and beyond.

# From the Chair and Director of Education



**Doreen Dewar**  
Chair of the Board

The presentation of awards at a meeting of the Rainbow District School Board is an annual highlight for Trustees. It's a much-anticipated celebration of staff and community partners who nurture and mentor the students in our care.

The pandemic presented a new set of circumstances, but it didn't dampen our determination. Unable to gather in person, we brought all of our esteemed award recipients together in this tribute that we are now sharing far and wide.

We are proud of our award recipients for their individual and collective contributions to Rainbow Schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island. They represent the values that we cherish and the character traits that we model and teach.

We are also proud of the many staff members who have achieved a milestone in their careers – 25 and 35 years of service. What a tremendous commitment to public education!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank you for all that you do. We appreciate your dedication and continued support.

Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doreen Dewar".



**Norm Blaseg**  
Director of Education

In Rainbow Schools, people make the difference. On the frontlines and behind the scenes, they are the champions of children and youth, and they come from many places and in many forms.

From the professionals who dedicate their lives to education or the service of education to the partners who spend countless hours meeting needs or providing opportunities, they are our heroes.

Together, they reflect the experience, energy and enthusiasm that make Rainbow Schools great places to learn. They give of themselves to provide a strong circle of care and, in the process, open doors, enabling students to explore a world of possibilities and achieve their full potential.

It gives us great pleasure to recognize our long-serving employees and to introduce our award recipients to you. They deserve a round of applause for their dedication and diligence.

Please join me in extending to them our deepest gratitude and sincere congratulations.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norm Blaseg".



# Years of Service

2020

**Marileen Monette**

Administrative Assistant  
Markstay Public School

2021

**Brenda Johnston**

Educational Assistant  
MacLeod Public School

**Sharon Katarincic**

Custodian  
Northeastern Elementary School

# 25 Years of Service

## 2020

### **Brad Bond**

Educational Assistant  
Manitoulin Secondary School

### **Tim Lockeyer**

Teacher  
Little Current Public School

### **Trevor Budgell**

General Maintenance - Elementary  
Maintenance Shop

### **Dave Makela**

Athletic Administrator  
Secondary Program

### **Christine Craig**

Teacher  
Little Current Public School

### **Joseph Muffo**

Educational Assistant  
Lasalle Secondary School

### **Lori Green-Case**

Educational Assistant  
Little Current Public School

### **Daryl Smith**

Teacher  
Lockerby Composite School

# 25 Years of Service

## 2021

### **Lisa Corbiere-Addison**

Teacher  
Manitoulin Secondary School

### **George Gauthier**

Manager of Information Services  
Centre for Education

### **Kari Gerhard**

Teacher  
Assiginack Public School

### **Heather Jefkins**

Teacher  
Assiginack Public School

### **Leslie Mantle**

Principal  
Lively District Secondary School

### **Karen McGraw**

Educational Assistant  
Manitoulin Secondary School

### **Maria Meandro**

Educational Assistant  
Princess Anne Public School

### **Lisa Piquette**

Principal  
Westmount Avenue Public School

### **Carole Powell**

Teacher  
Valley View Public School

### **Stephen Sheehan**

Teacher  
Lively District Secondary School

### **Daniel Smith**

Teacher  
Charles C. McLean Public School

### **Philip Stephens**

Custodian  
Little Current Public School

# Awards for Outstanding Contribution to the Co-Curricular Program

2020



**Karen Passi**

Teacher  
Lasalle Secondary School

As a long-standing coach and teacher at Lasalle Secondary School, Karen Passi has helped many students find success in cross-country running, cross-country skiing and alpine skiing. Karen is always willing to step in to take over when another coach is unable to attend an event, and her volunteer work is second-to-none inside and outside of school. Students, staff and families appreciate her availability, kindness and expertise.

A tireless advocate for the co-curricular program, Karen meets with students before and after school to keep them engaged in training. Karen has chaired and been part of many athletic teams and associations including Chair of the 2019 OFSAA Cross-Country Running Championships in Sudbury and Chair of the Fielding Memorial Cross-Country Running Invitational in 2019. Karen is also an invaluable member of the SDSSAA Track, Cross-Country and Alpine Ski Committees. Karen's efforts garnered her a NOSSA Pete Beach Award nomination in 2020. Karen Passi is a true champion for student health and well-being. *Congratulations!*



**Kim Chezzi**

Teacher  
Lively District Secondary School

Kim Chezzi is a driven and dedicated teacher whose passion for student achievement is evident by all who know her. Kim takes pride in teaching science and physical education at Lively District Secondary School and enjoys helping students reach their goals on and off the field. No matter how big or small the ask, students, colleagues and families can always count on Kim for support and encouragement.

Over the years, Kim has contributed to school sport associations in many ways, including as an SDSSAA Executive Member, NOSSA representative to OFSAA, NOSSA Executive Member, and currently serving as the NOSSA rep to OFSAA. She is also a past member of OFSAA Hockey and Golf Sport Advisory Committees. Since 2000, Kim has coached girls hockey and co-ed golf, leading both teams to championships. Kim has also coached girls soccer and futsal, as well as boys volleyball and co-ed bowling teams. *Congratulations on your Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Co-Curricular Program, Kim!*



**Sherry Green**

Program Leader  
Sports and Physical Education  
Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School

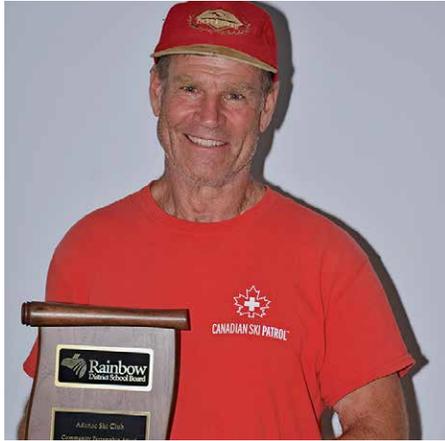
Always up for a challenge, Sherry Green is relentless in her pursuit to keep kids moving. As Program Leader of Sports and Physical Education at Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, she uses a combination of physical activity and innovative curriculum to enhance the overall health and well-being of students and staff. An excellent coach, she has led many teams to numerous regional and provincial championships, including volleyball, track and field, alpine skiing, cross-country running and badminton.

Sherry introduced new courses to re-engage senior female students in physical education, and secured grants for fun outdoor activities. She models and instills in others the importance of giving back and is an active member of sport governance, serving as Convener for SDSSAA and NOSSA girls volleyball. Under her leadership, Lo-Ellen Park Athletics enjoys a high participation rate, which is a true testament to her positivity, commitment and support of students and coaches. The first to recognize and celebrate others, Sherry is most deserving of a 2021 Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Co-Curricular Program. *Congratulations!*

Recipients of the **Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Co-curricular Program** teach values such as fairness, team building, work ethic, discipline, inclusion, perseverance and respect. Sport has the power to promote values, contributing to the development of responsible citizenship.

# Community Partnership Awards

2020



## Adanac Ski Club

Alpine skiing is one of the Sudbury District Secondary School Athletic Association's (SDSSAA) oldest contested sports, with championship records extending as far back as 80 years. Throughout the decades, the Adanac Ski Club has been a constant partner, supporting the sport in many ways. The Club has made local, school-based ski and snowboard events possible through volunteers, timing and training equipment, technical coaching and official direction, and even course set up and tear down.

The Adanac Ski Club has helped high school races run to a technical standard enjoyed by club skiers, and, over the years, has facilitated the development of racers to enjoy success at the NOSSA and OFSAA levels. Eight championships have been hosted since 2013 and Rainbow Schools have garnered top spots in all but one Level I team championship, and all but two Level II team championships. Rainbow District School Board thanks members of the Adanac Ski Club for helping students reach their athletic potential. *Congratulations!*

The Community Partnership Award was accepted by Terry Del Bosco.



## Canadian Federation of University Women

The partnership between Rainbow Schools and the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) has had a significant impact on students and families. CFUW members spearheaded the Adopt-A-Family Outreach Program in 2005 as a way to support local families in need during the Christmas holidays. In January 2016, members expanded the program, collecting, sorting, bagging and distributing thousands of travel-sized essentials to schools for students, including soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes and various creams.

In December 2020, with generous donations from CFUW members as well as 30 community partners, the Adopt-A-Family Outreach Program supplied gifts, toiletries and food vouchers to 28 families, which includes 108 students in Rainbow Schools. Through it all, health and safety remained at the forefront. What an amazing feat in the midst of a global pandemic! Members vow the program will continue as long as there is a need. The CFUW is most deserving of a Community Partnership Award. *Congratulations!*

The Community Partnership Award was accepted by Barbara Booth.

Recipients of the **Community Partnership Award** represent many qualities - sound humanitarian skills, dedicated to a child's overall education, a strong belief in the intrinsic value of volunteer work, and ability to influence students for the good, to name a few.

# Community Partnership Awards

2021



**Dr. Tara Baron**  
General Pediatrician  
NEO Kids

A General Pediatrician in Greater Sudbury, Dr. Tara Baron studied at McMaster University and trained at the Hospital for Sick Children. Following five years at Sick Kids in Toronto, Dr. Baron moved to Sudbury in 2004. An Associate Professor at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Dr. Baron is involved in teaching all levels of medical education and is the Program Director for the pediatric training program. She also coordinates fourth-year medical students during their pediatric rotation.

In an effort to find creative ways to improve health care delivery for children, Dr. Baron has hosted school-based clinics at Princess Anne Public School and Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, as well as outreach clinics on Manitoulin Island. Dr. Baron appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with schools to deliver quality health care to students. For their part, schools enjoy having Dr. Baron on their team supporting student achievement and well-being. Thank you, Dr. Baron. *Congratulations on this most-deserving award!*



**Wendy Larouche**  
Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury

Wendy Larouche has been a long-standing partner with Rainbow District School Board in her role as Resource Facilitator with the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury. A support for parents, Wendy shares her expertise and offers a critical service when children are newly diagnosed. This includes guidance during the diagnosis meetings, the Identification, Placement and Review Committee process, and Individual Education Plan. Highly trusted by families and school staff, Wendy's strong interpersonal skills help parents and students navigate the world of special education with ease. To see her in action is inspiring, going the extra mile to ensure students reach their full potential.

Wendy served as Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee for seven years, and provides input on the Board's Special Education Plan. She delivers presentations that are relevant, engaging and informative, organizes special group sessions and guest speakers, and collaborates on various initiatives. Wendy Larouche is never too busy for a family or child in need. *Thank you, Wendy, for being an advocate for students.* Your support is greatly appreciated.



**St. Peter's United Church**

It takes a village to raise a child, and the congregation at St. Peter's United Church works tirelessly to support Sudbury Secondary School with donations to the Value Vault. For 15 years, church members have helped students meet their basic needs, enabling them to focus on their education. At any time of the year, especially during holidays and throughout the pandemic, members have answered calls to supply hygiene and toiletry products, non-perishable foods, handmade mittens, hats and scarves, gift cards, bus passes, treats and even small appliances. They also hand deliver items to the school.

The kind-hearted congregation of St. Peter's United Church gives consistently and anonymously. Their generosity enhances the learning experience, allowing students and families to feel a sense of comfort and stability in challenging times. At Sudbury Secondary School, the smiles on students' faces bring staff the greatest reward. Rainbow District School Board joins with Sudbury Secondary School in acknowledging the collective humanitarian efforts of St. Peter's United Church, a most-deserving recipient of a Community Partnership Award. *Congratulations!*

# Go Green Globe Awards

2020



## Adamsdale Public School

Staff and students at Adamsdale Public School have remained consistent in their environmental efforts, certifying Silver and Gold through EcoSchools in 2018 and 2019 respectively. The school's Eco Team performs waste reduction energy audits, delivers announcements, inspects waste and compost, and teaches proper sorting and other eco-friendly practices. Students also took part in a Planet Protector Academy assembly.

To celebrate Earth Day, green activities are enjoyed by all, including litterless lunches, lights out, and neighbourhood and schoolyard clean-ups. All classes have Good On One Side (GOOD) bins, and students are encouraged to refill their water bottles donated generously from Ramakko's and Tupperware® at the school's water filling stations. Students grow seeds in their classes to plant in the school garden as well as the Minnow Lake Community Garden. They enjoy collaborating and creating meals using the fresh ingredients. *Congratulations Adamsdale Public School for your outstanding environmental stewardship.*



## Sudbury Secondary School

Fast fashion is a clothing industry trend that keeps sales and consumption high. Sudbury Secondary School counters that trend by up-cycling textiles rather than throwing them out. Students bring in gently used clothing to the school's Value Vault to swap with items brought in by others. This concept promotes an eco-friendly lifestyle by exchanging quality used and vintage fabrics, often made of natural fibres like wool, leather and cotton, and reducing the amount of micro-plastics and other pollutants entering waterways. This supports the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals of Responsible Consumption and Production.

Students enjoy planting tomatoes, cucumbers and herbs, and learning in the school's outdoor classroom. They also participate in a recycling program that diverts recyclables from landfills. For their efforts, they garnered the very first Go Green Globe Award in 2007-2008. They also earned EcoSchools certifications from 2018 to 2021. *Congratulations Sudbury Secondary School for continuously promoting sustainable practices for learning and for life.*

The **Go Green Globe Award** recognizes significant contributions to sustainability.

# Go Green Globe Awards

2021



## Manitoulin Secondary School

Manitoulin Secondary School earned a Platinum certification in 2020 - the highest level possible with EcoSchools Canada. Extensive renovations increased student access to the outdoor courtyard, home to fruit trees and garden beds filled with colourful vegetables grown by students in the Specialist High Skills Major in Agriculture. A bee colony helps local pollinators and honey production, and the school's active greenhouses produce flowers, vegetables and herbs for the community.

Students collect weekly recycling from classrooms to divert waste from landfills. They host schoolyard cleanups each spring and fall, and extend their reach for Earth Day to include ditch cleanups across Manitoulin Island, adjusting waste handling techniques for increased protection during the pandemic. Used batteries and electronics are collected for recycling, and natural materials such as metal straws and wood toothbrushes are sold to reduce plastic waste. Students gained greater perspective on environmental initiatives at a local Green Conference, and have taken part in water walks from all ends of Manitoulin Island to promote clean water. *Congratulations!*



## Valley View Public School

Valley View Public School opened in September 2007 as the first Green School in Northern Ontario, boasting many ground-breaking eco-friendly features to reduce energy consumption, including a geothermal system, radiant floor heating and water reuse system. School life is also built on sustainability. Students spend some 950 hours annually learning outside. A group of Grade 3 students collects recycling and compost weekly, and classes salvage Lunch Mate containers and markers through corporate programs.

During remote learning, staff have worked diligently to continue environmental education. Students enjoyed various at-home projects with a green focus such as composting experiments, outdoor scavenger hunts, and art using recycled materials. Students planted wildflower seeds for the pollinators, cleaned up their yards for Earth Day, and studied recyclable items for the blue bin. The Go Green Globe Award recognizes the efforts of the entire Valley View community in working towards an EcoSchools certification. *Congratulations!*

# Awards for Excellence

2020



**Richard Duffy**  
Intermediate Numeracy Consultant (7/8)  
Centre for Education

Never satisfied with the status quo, Richard Duffy has made it a habit to continuously examine, question and adapt his teaching practice to best meet the needs of learners. The ultimate goal is to close the gap for students who are at risk of not completing their education. With his wealth of knowledge and unmatched work ethic, he has developed literacy and numeracy diagnostic tools to support these efforts. Richard has spearheaded the creation of resources, supervised writing projects, and led professional development in mathematics and literacy. His influence is evident in the Board's use of his intervention strategies.

He has also been recognized for his outstanding contribution to the elementary basketball program, where he continues to mentor, convene and organize tournaments. Every summer, Richard rolls up his sleeves as the site lead for the Intermediate Summer Learning Program. A difference-maker who is passionate about celebrating student success, Richard Duffy has the ability to inspire staff to create lasting change in their practice for the benefit of students. *Congratulations!*



**Heather Gaffney**  
Principal  
Student Success and O'Connor Park

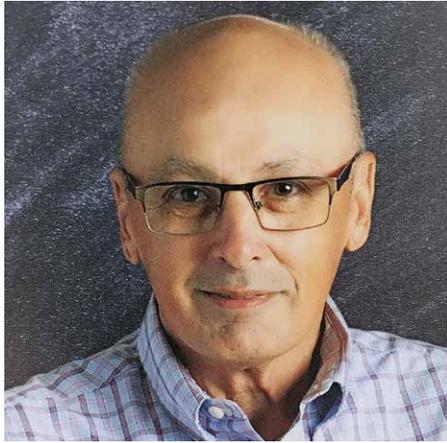
Heather Gaffney has dedicated her near 30-year career to student achievement as a teacher and administrator. Her work at Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, Lockerby Composite School, Sudbury Secondary School, Lasalle Secondary School, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School and, again, at Lockerby Composite School led her to her current role as system Principal of Student Success and O'Connor Park. Her primary focus is to identify and close learning gaps.

Well-versed in educational research, the use of data, leading edge resources and innovative strategies, Heather leads a team of educators dedicated to student success. Open and honest, Heather is an excellent communicator with an attention to detail. A fearless leader, Heather takes pride in tackling challenges, and inspires others to be creative and find ways to help students learn and thrive. Heather is the ultimate champion for student success, an innovative educator who works with a team of caring staff dedicated to making a difference. The epitome of professionalism, Heather Gaffney is an ideal candidate for an Award for Excellence. *Congratulations!*

Qualities that **Award for Excellence** recipients represent include enthusiastic, motivational, uplifting, co-operative, positive, reliable, conscientious, dedicated, knowledgeable, progressive and caring.

# Awards for Excellence

2020



**Henry Girard**

Teacher  
Espanola High School

Students have always been excited to attend Henry Girard's technology classes at Espanola High School. Whether it's building cardboard boats or fabricating metal stoves, Henry finds purposeful and creative ways to engage students in hands-on learning and push their limits. As the Program Leader in Technology, he inspires students to explore viable career pathways in the automotive, manufacturing, electrical and design industries. He also recognizes the importance of strong literacy and numeracy skills in all subject areas and enjoys spending time with students who require extra support.

Students with special needs have a special place in Henry's heart. He is proud of a recent graduate diagnosed with autism who is now working towards a modified Fabrication Diploma at Sault College. Henry's office door is always open to students – with a meal and hot drink ready, and a safe space to dialogue. Dynamic and enthusiastic, he encourages students to have pride, to always give but not expect in return, to never give up on anyone, and to be trusting of others. For his compassion and passion, he is truly deserving of an Award for Excellence. *Congratulations!*



**Jennifer Leblanc**

Teacher  
Markstay Public School

Whether it's focusing on academics or mental health and well-being, Jennifer Leblanc has her pulse on all of the students in her care. In her 15 years with the Board, Jennifer's positive attitude continues to shine brightly. She prides herself on being one of many teachers in her classroom, nurturing students to be leaders in their own educational journey.

Jennifer has worked diligently to implement a math tracking system at her school to help colleagues monitor student progress across all grades. Her weekly math challenges keep students engaged and make math fun. Jennifer understands the power of a growth mindset to develop curious, creative, resilient and self-regulated individuals ready to take on the world. When she is not in the classroom, Jennifer organizes school functions, leads the Go Green team, coaches cross-country running, and serves as a mentor for new teachers. Jennifer Leblanc is a most-deserving candidate of an Award for Excellence. *Congratulations!*

# Awards for Excellence

2021



**Catherine Bell**  
Teacher  
Princess Anne Public School

Catherine Bell has worked with Rainbow Schools for 16 years as an Educational Assistant and a teacher in primary, junior, resource and summer learning. Throughout her many roles, her dedication to student success has never wavered. An excellent communicator, Catherine is always willing to take risks to advocate for student needs. She meets regularly with staff to share best practices and learn new ways to support students. She also goes beyond the call of duty to be involved in school functions.

During the pandemic, Catherine has worked tirelessly to meet her students where they need her the most. She has engaged them with Leveled Literacy Intervention lessons and one-to-one support. She even created her own Lexia videos. Students are inspired and nurtured by Catherine's positive attitude. Her kind, caring nature, and her sincere belief in every child's ability to succeed make her an outstanding educator most deserving of an Award for Excellence. *Congratulations!*



**Lorrie Leger**  
Teacher  
Sudbury Secondary School

Teacher Lorrie Leger is a true advocate for students, going above and beyond to ensure they have the resources needed to succeed. Lorrie Leger is the driving force behind Sudbury Secondary School's Value Vault as well as the breakfast and snack bin programs, securing funds, purchasing food and preparing meals. She also applied for the Ugliest Schoolyard Contest to transform the school's courtyard into a green oasis, and campaigned to add basketball courts to promote healthy, active living.

Lorrie organizes Bingo fundraisers to support Special Education field trips, equipment and technology. During her time as Literacy Program Leader, she made sure reading was a priority. She added book bins to classes and created the Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) campaign. Lorrie is selfless, extremely approachable and well-respected by her colleagues. Kind and compassionate, she recognizes the importance of well-being to student achievement. *Congratulations!*



**Leslie MacLellan**  
Psychometrist  
Centre for Education

Leslie MacLellan gives her all to help make a difference for students in Rainbow Schools. A seasoned psychometrist, Leslie is open-minded, receptive, kind, caring and empathetic, all qualities that make her an asset to the Board's Psychology team. She is the first one to work each and every day, and her tenacious appetite to squeeze in more work for the benefit of students is always admired and appreciated.

A natural team player, Leslie works closely with various staff to ensure students are assessed respectfully and efficiently. She seeks ways to improve services and continuously supports colleagues in meeting the demands of the job. Leslie is the go-to for many who are grateful for her patient nature. Her psychological assessments are second-to-none. Thoughtful and engaging, Leslie MacLellan has had a profound impact on students, parents and staff. Leslie is most deserving of an Award for Excellence. *Congratulations!*

# Awards for Excellence

2021



**Norm Blaseg**  
Director of Education  
Centre for Education

Norm Blaseg served as Director of Education of the largest school board in Northern Ontario during a time of significant change. Under his leadership, which spanned more than a decade, Rainbow District School Board revitalized existing schools, built new schools, enhanced programs and services, and expanded community partnerships, always with a focus on student achievement and well-being. Indigenous education, special education, mental health, equity and inclusion, parental involvement, student engagement, professional learning and curriculum development flourished.

In the past year, this work continued amidst the backdrop of a global pandemic where the health and safety of students, staff and families has been first and foremost. Norm Blaseg leads with purpose and passion, making people the priority. With committed trustees, dedicated staff, supportive parents, amazing students and valued partners, he is most proud of what everyone accomplished together in the shared vision of Reaching minds and Touching hearts in Rainbow Schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island. Norm Blaseg ends his distinguished service in public education on August 31, 2021 with a solid foundation and rich legacy. *Congratulations!*



**Heather Thirkill**  
Executive Assistant  
to the Director of Education  
Centre for Education

Heather Thirkill began her career with Rainbow District School Board as an Administrative Assistant in various schools, including Churchill Public School, Lasalle Secondary School, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School and Lockerby Composite School. In 2003, Heather was hired as the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Special Education, and for the past 10 years, Heather has worked alongside senior administrators and elected officials as Executive Assistant to the Director of Education. She records minutes for the Board and Executive Council, and is integral in planning, implementing, and archiving resolutions, practices and procedures. As the corporate historian and navigator, she is the daily go-between on political and operational interactions.

Resilient and intuitive, Heather is a supreme communicator and problem-solver. She is not only dependable and dedicated, she displays patience, wisdom and a strong work ethic. She is also selfless and caring, always checking in on colleagues and going the extra mile to offer support. Her good humour and kind nature can be felt in every corner of the Centre for Education. Heather Thirkill is most deserving of an Award for Excellence. *Congratulations!*

# Barbara Konarek Memorial Awards

2020



**Carole Burke**

Intensive Support Teacher  
Redwood Acres Public School

Carole Burke has devoted 23 years to teaching in Rainbow Schools in the primary, junior and intermediate divisions. She currently works with our most vulnerable students as an Intensive Support Teacher at Redwood Acres Public School. Carole's calm demeanor and positive energy are favorable to the learning needs of her students, and her attention to detail keeps her classes running smoothly. Students thrive in her care, evident by a group of Kindergarten students with autism who are learning to speak and gesture.

Carole maintains beneficial relationships with staff, students, families, administration and community agencies. She takes initiative and welcomes new challenges with open arms. She is a mentor to colleagues, runs weekly ISP meetings, and celebrates student success. She also devotes extra time to students inside and outside of the classroom. A true champion for all children, Carole Burke is most deserving of the Barbara Konarek Memorial Award.  
*Congratulations, Carole!*

2021



**Lisa Scharf**

Intensive Support Teacher  
Jean Hanson Public School

Lisa Scharf is a dynamic, professional, co-operative and self-motivated teacher in the Intensive Support Program at Jean Hanson Public School. From writing and art, to outdoor activities and life skills, Lisa knows her students' true strengths and challenges them to trust their abilities. She differentiates lessons so students are confident, and adds more academic expectations as students break learning barriers.

A strong team player, Lisa is compassionate, confident, committed and caring. She works with staff to bring best practices to her students, and acts as a mentor to new teachers. Lisa demonstrates the belief that all students have the right to an education in a safe and caring environment. She works to help students achieve success inside and outside of school. Some of her students have won awards for their academic achievement. *Congratulations, Lisa!* You are most deserving of the Barbara Konarek Memorial Award.

Barbara Konarek was a long-time Special Education Consultant with the Board. The **Barbara Konarek Memorial Award** is presented to a deserving educator or member of the support staff who has made a significant humanitarian contribution to the life of a student or group of students.

# William N. Roman Teacher of the Year Awards

2020



## Darren Foy

Teacher  
Algonquin Road Public School

Students speak with fondness about Darren Foy. He has added value to my life. He has given me chances that would not be available without him. I am extremely grateful for his going beyond the curriculum. Parents are equally as effusive, likening Darren Foy's vocation in education to the dedication an artist feels towards their craft. As a Special Education Resource Teacher, parents appreciate his kindness, compassion, empathy and willingness to listen and learn. He gives students the time and space to explore, experiment and take risks. His colleagues say he cares about each child, sets high expectations, builds school community, is passionate about his work, purposeful in his practice and generous with his time at school and system levels.

Over the years, Darren Foy has empowered students to create and innovate through hands-on learning in science and technology from Grades 1 to 8. His classroom at Algonquin Road Public School has been transformed into a growth mindset factory with 3D printers, scroll saws, drill presses, a CNC router, hand tools and more. It's a maker space where students, and often families, hone their skills in robotics, make cardboard boats, launch rockets and elastic powered cars, watch fish hatch, and build book holders and Adirondack chairs. Inspired by their mentor, students have won many medals at local and provincial skills competitions. An exceptional teacher, Darren Foy epitomizes what it means to bring learning to life. *The Roman family joins with Rainbow District School Board in congratulating Darren Foy, the 2020 William N. Roman Teacher of the Year.*

2021



## Sabrina Briscoe

Program Leader of Special Education  
Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

The ultimate caring adult, Sabrina Briscoe builds relationships to support student achievement and well-being. This ability has enabled her to create a culture of reading at Chelmsford Valley District Composite School. Tools like the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System and Lexia Rapid Assessment are used to determine needs. Individually targeted interventions, such as Levelled Literacy Intervention Kits, Lexia PowerUp, and Empower Reading, are used to respond to these needs. With the goal of reaching as many students as possible, this two-fold process of assessment and intervention requires creative timetabling solutions, organization, and innovation to implement and sustain, as well as continual flexibility in responding to needs as they change.

Beyond Sabrina's responsibilities as Special Education Program Leader, she has also led the K to 12 reading intervention strategy for all. Additionally, Sabrina leads professional learning during staff meetings and professional activity days, helping to guide teachers in their understanding of assessments and accommodations in the development of differentiated instruction. Most importantly, reading is made a priority in all subject areas, across all grades. With support and dedication from the entire C.V.D.C.S. team, reading enthusiasm is woven into the fabric of the school, building fundamental skills for learning and for life. *The Roman family joins with Rainbow District School Board in congratulating Sabrina Briscoe, the 2021 William N. Roman Teacher of the Year.*

**William N. Roman** was a highly respected Superintendent with the Board. Olga Roman and members of the Roman family join with the Board in presenting this award in his honour. Award recipients represent the qualities we hold dear in a teacher of the year - excellent teaching habits, commitment to professional learning, belief in the self-worth and innate curiosity and learning potential of all students, ability to create a caring, nurturing, learning environment where students can become risk-takers, committed, dedicated, enthusiastic and innovative, teachers who inspire a love of learning in students of all abilities.



The **Joan Mantle Music Trust**

**Community Award** is presented by the Joan Mantle Music Trust Steering Committee to an individual or organization from the community served by Rainbow District School Board who has had a significant impact on music and/or music education at the elementary, secondary, post-secondary or community levels. Recipients share Joan Mantle's passion for music education for all ages, have had a positive impact on music in the community, promote lifelong music education and have served as an inspiration to others through their musical contributions and accomplishments in the community.

The Joan Mantle Music Trust was established in the fall of 2008 to help refresh, modernize and revitalize school music programs in Rainbow District School Board. The Trust allocates funding for musical instruments and equipment to selected schools on a rotating basis. The Trust also accepts the donation of new and used musical instruments and allocates them to schools in need. This ensures that there is an ongoing improvement in the condition of musical equipment throughout the Board, allowing for students to achieve more in their musical studies together.

# Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award

2020



**Charlotte Leonard**

Charlotte Leonard recently retired as Professor Emeritus of Music at Laurentian University, where she taught music history and low brass. Charlotte served as Chair of the Music Department frequently during her 35-year teaching career, first at Huntington University and, as of 2005, at Laurentian University.

A graduate of Lasalle Secondary School, Charlotte Leonard was a member of numerous musical ensembles under the direction of Joan Mantle. Following graduation, Charlotte attended the University of Western Ontario where she received an Honours Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree. She also earned a Master of Music in Trombone Performance from the University of Michigan, and both a Master of Arts and a Ph.D. in Musicology from Duke University.

An exemplary and versatile performer, Charlotte Leonard plays principal tenor or alto trombone regularly with the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra, the North Bay Symphony Orchestra, the Northern Brass Quartet, the Northern Brass Choir, the Sudbury Jazz Orchestra, and occasionally with the Sault Symphony Orchestra and Timmins Symphony Orchestra. She is also a member of Triple Play with Dr. Charlene Biggs and Brenda Arrowsmith, and recently performed in YES Theatre's orchestra production of *Mary Poppins*.

Charlotte has had a tremendous impact on local music education over the years. As a university instructor, she taught a number of current and former music teachers including Cory Ross, Marc Savard, Peter Scherzinger, Marc Taillefer, Peter Nelson, Gary DiSalle, Catherine Valiaho, Tracy Mark and Colette Nadeau, as well as teachers in other local school boards. She has been awarded several Certificates of Appreciation from Laurentian's Centre for Academic Excellence for her work with students.

*"Dr. Leonard played a crucial role in my transition from a working musician to that of an educator. I remember her as knowledgeable, kind, and patient, with an optimistic disposition. As an adult returning to university, she was a human connection in a daunting institution."*

Peter Nelson, Manitoulin Secondary School

Charlotte has been directly involved with the Northern Ontario Music Festival's Honour Concert Band since its establishment. Nominated high school music students from across Northeastern Ontario gather annually for a two-and-a-half-day intensive program under the mentorship of local music educators. Charlotte's contributions include arranging student nominations, screening nominees during the Music Festival, recruiting music educators as sectional rehearsal leaders, and organizing the Band's culminating performance.

Charlotte Leonard has been a volunteer performer with the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra (SSO) since 1980, receiving an Ontario Volunteer Service Award in 2014 for her many years of continued service. She has served at various times on the Symphony Board, Principal Players Committee, and Fundraising Committee, as well as the Search Committee for a new music director. As a Symphony Board member, Charlotte was instrumental in organizing a fundraising campaign to present the closing concert of the 2017-2018 season. She is also a principal organizer of the first SSO "Symphony Crawl" in downtown Sudbury.

Charlotte Leonard is a most-deserving recipient of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award. *Congratulations!*

