



# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

April 11, 2017

Att. Mr. John Shain  
Superintendent  
Toronto Catholic District School Board

**RE: Bishop Macdonell School**

Dear Mr. Shain,

The parishioners of Saint Mary's parish are very excited with the news of a new Catholic Elementary School on the railway lands, near Canoe Landing Park. After consulting with our parishioners, I can say that they were unanimous in supporting the idea that this new school be named after the historical figure of Bishop Alexander Macdonell, the first bishop of Upper Canada, who died on January 14, 1840.

Bishop Macdonell established many Catholic parishes and schools across the province, fought for the rights of settlers and equal payment for school teachers. Wherever they dwelt he went, even by canoe, administering the sacraments, consoling the sick and preparing the dying for death.

This zealous pastor of souls, military chaplain, patriot and educator, no doubt, is among the towering figures of early Ontario history, and a figure very dear to our parish. It is for this reason that the parishioners of Saint Mary's wish to name the new school "Bishop Macdonell Catholic School".

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Fernando Couto, Pastor