

Catholic board saddened by death of its first director of education

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board was saddened to learn of the death of Joseph (Joe) Hugel, its first director of education.

Mr. Hugel led the board from its formation as the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board in 1968, through to 1982. Upon his retirement, he was elected trustee and served from 1982 to 1985.

Mr. Hugel passed away Nov. 21.

During his first year as director, the board consisted of 8,000 students, 27 schools and had an operating budget of \$5 million. The board had been formed in 1968 through the amalgamation of eight small local Catholic school boards. Mr. Hugel came from one of these boards, the Mississauga Catholic School Board.

“Joe Hugel will be remembered as a giant in the history of Dufferin-Peel,” said current Director of Education John B. Kostoff. “He was instrumental in overseeing the birth and extraordinary growth of the board during his years as director. He will be remembered as a strong advocate for Catholic education, an extraordinarily kind and compassionate man and a gift to Dufferin-Peel.”

“Joe Hugel was one of those rare individuals whose commitment to Catholic education leadership included service as both staff and trustee,” commented Board Chair Mario Pascucci. “I was blessed to have served with Joe back when I was first elected to the board. He will be missed.”