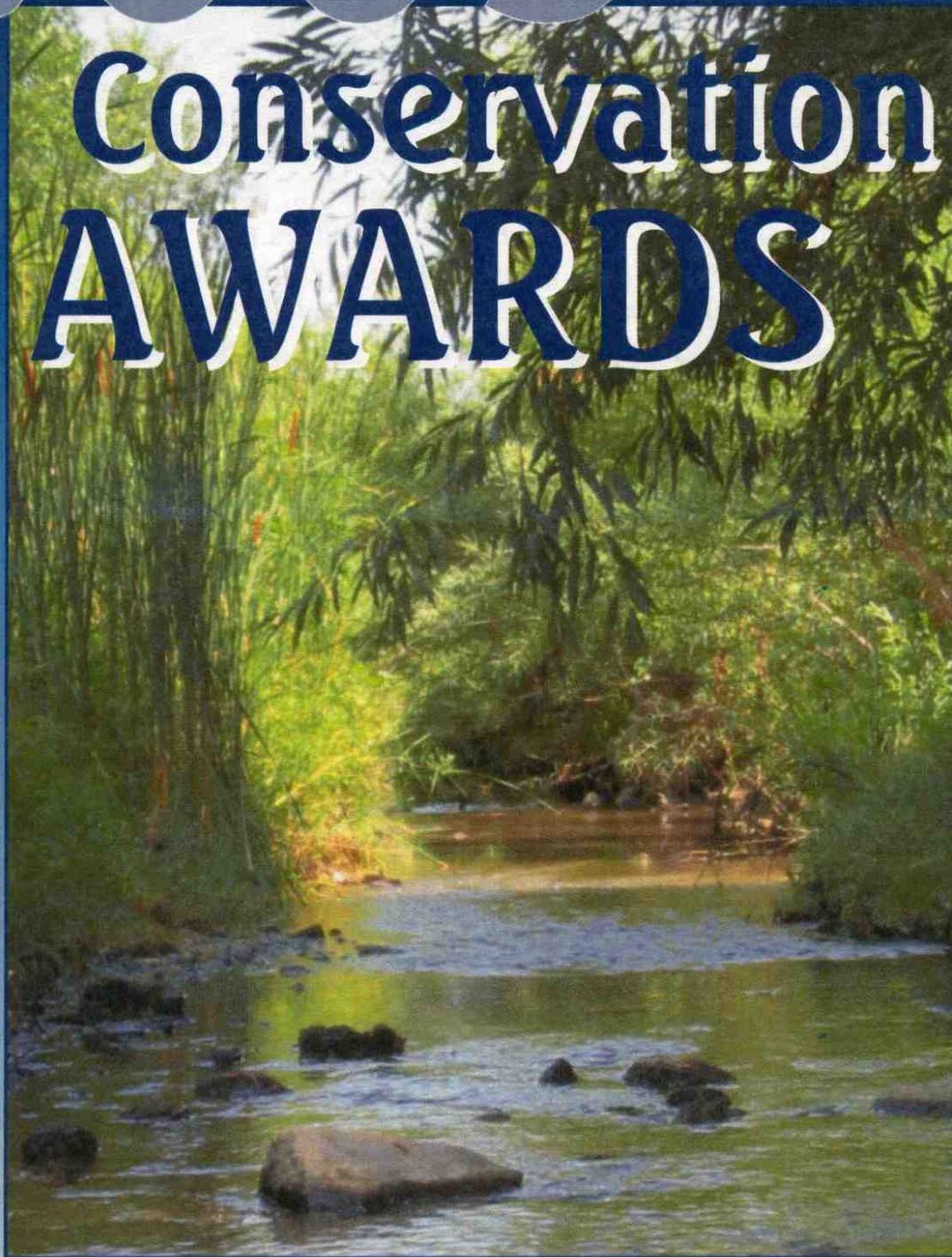


# 2005

## Conservation AWARDS



Conservation Awards honour and recognize those organizations and individuals who have made outstanding contributions towards improving our natural environment, and ultimately the health and quality of life in the Essex Region.





# Windsor - Essex Catholic School Board

for St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School

Education Award

When the time came to undertake a major renovation and expansion at St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School, the Windsor-Essex Catholic School Board made an outstanding decision to do so in an environmentally-friendly way.

Designed by architect Joseph Passa, St. Christopher was recently declared the most energy efficient elementary or secondary school in the Province of Ontario, and ranked the fourth best in all of Canada. The school is 60% more energy efficient than the national model of energy efficiency, which is approximately 10% better than the standards set in the Ontario Building Code. In essence, this means that St. Christopher is about 70% more energy efficient than required by the Ontario Building Code. This translates to an expected cost savings of about \$25,000 per year on gas, electricity and water bills.

St. Christopher achieved these significant energy efficiencies by implementing a number of innovative practices, including waterless urinals, a heating system and radiant-cooling that runs through the floor slab, and fiberglass window frames that are

warm to the touch, even on the coldest days of winter. Sensors have been installed that automatically shut off light fixtures once a room is no longer occupied. Large main areas such as the entry atrium and stairwells are all fit with large windows and sunshading, and the lights in these areas shut off when daylight is sufficient.

Perhaps most exciting is the 5,000 square foot green roof covered with native plants and a six inch layer of high tech soil. This helps to insulate the building, and also provides cooling in the summer. Unlike traditional asphalt roofs that absorb heat, a green roof helps to deflect heat, and also helps to improve air quality. Their nominator states: "This is a marvelous model that should be followed for all new schools and commercial developments in the region. It can be used to help educate others about the environmental and economic benefits of energy efficient design." Interesting and noteworthy is the fact that this state-of-the-art facility was actually built for less than the traditional budget for a 'standard school'. Add to that the cost savings that will be realized over the life of the school, and benefits to our environment, and it is clear that the Windsor-Essex Catholic School Board is most worthy of recognition.