



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**From chalkboards to Smart Boards:
Bessborough School celebrates 50 years with new Legacy Center**

(MONCTON, NB, October 28, 2009) – Bessborough School, a K-8 school for students in Moncton’s west end, is marking its golden anniversary with a new \$30,000 information center purchased through the generosity of individual school supporters and corporate sponsors.

The **50th Anniversary Legacy Center** is a state-of-the-art open-concept space that includes the renovated Barbara Gingles Library and a computer center with a Smart Board and 18 brand-new computer workstations. A Smart Board is an interactive whiteboard that provides touch control of computer applications.

Thanks to its donation of \$15,000 in equipment and services, SPIELO has provided and installed the center’s new computer workstations and two large illustrated murals. The improvements were funded by GTECH’s *After School Advantage* program, which has donated \$2 million in computer equipment and technology to 130 after-school programs since it began in 1999.

The community, Bessborough school alumni, and supporters helped match the GTECH/SPIELO donation with an additional \$15,000 toward the purchase of a Smart Board and completion of the center’s renovations.

A special Legacy Wall at the heart of the center will display the names of the donors who helped to add value to Bessborough students’ educational experience.

“Bessborough is unique because of its history in the community, and the multiple generations of students that have attended here,” said principal Sally Somers.

“We know of countless examples of families who went to Bessborough and thought enough of the school, and their experiences, that they’ve enrolled their children here and continue to support it. As a result, the support we’ve received for the Legacy Center has been extraordinary.”

The renovations have taken place behind closed doors, so the students will get their first glimpse of their new information center ‘reveal’ on **Friday, Nov. 6, at 10:30 a.m.**

Dignitaries, alumni, families, staff, and the media are invited to the 50th Anniversary Legacy Center grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on **Friday, Nov. 6, at 11:30 a.m.** at the school. The committee is extending a special welcome to Bessborough School's first principal, Leon Ward.

In addition, the public is welcome to celebrate the 50th anniversary at an Open House at the school on **Friday, Nov. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m.** Meet current and former classmates, teachers, and staff, and enjoy music provided by the school choir.

"We would like to see the Legacy Center become a magnet not just for Bessborough students, but for people in the area who need computer resources," said Jocelyn Cohoon, Legacy Committee co-chair.

"It's our hope that this new facility will support and enrich all members of the community."

Thanks to the generosity of WestJet, supporters who donated \$50 to or more to the Legacy Center have been entered into a draw to win two round-trip tickets to anywhere WestJet flies. The draw will take place Friday morning, Nov. 6, at 11:30 a.m.

Meanwhile, Kevin Gallant, manager of Vaughan Harvey Sobeys and a Bessborough School alumnus, provided the hamburgers, pop, and Sobeys staff for the "Legacy BBQ" fundraiser in September.

The Legacy Committee is grateful to its corporate sponsors, including **SPIELO, GTECH, WestJet, Sobeys, Dramis Network Cabling, Leon's Furniture, Ritchie's Discount Flooring, Lounsbury Furniture, Second Cousins Flooring Accessories, and New Brunswick School District 2.** The committee also extends a special thank you to the **Bessborough School Home and School Association** for its generous contributions.

Many more special events are scheduled to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary, including an alumni reunion and auction this spring to raise funds for further school enhancements.

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