

+VG ARCHITECTS & EPOH AWARDED \$43 MILLION PROJECT **Work to Begin on New Huron Superior CDSB Consolidated High School**

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 by: Brad Coccimiglio
Courtesy of SooToday.com

The site and architectural consultant for the new Catholic secondary school have officially been decided. The Huron Superior Catholic District School Board announced on Wednesday night that 20 acres of land has been purchased in the northeast end of the city for the new school.

The board purchased three parcels of land on the north side of Second Line East, in the area of the Pine Street extension, which has yet to be opened. The land is east of the intersection of Second Line East and Old Garden River Road.

"Because we're consolidating all of our secondary schools into one site, we were trying to find a place that would be geographically centred," said HSCDSB Director of Education John Stadnyk. "The Great Northern Rd, Second Line intersection probably typifies the geographic centre of development.

It's an ideal location and we have sufficient acreage for what we hope to build with all of the proper amenities." The Ministry of Education has allocated \$43.4 million for the school. "The pieces are starting to line up," said Stadnyk. "It's a well-funded project. I think it's the biggest capital project in Ontario at this time."

The architect consultant services for the project, which was also announced on Wednesday night during their monthly trustees meeting, will be the team of +VG Architects and EPOH Inc. Architects & Engineer. EPOH is based locally while The Ventin Group is based out of southern Ontario,

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Courtesy of Rogers Communications

Work to begin on new Catholic high school, Sault Ste. Marie will be home to a new Catholic high school in the future. It was announced at Wednesday's Huron-Superior board meeting that 20 acres of land was purchased in the area of Second Line East north of the Pine Street extension before Christmas — that's where the new \$43 million dollar school will be built.

Director of Education John Stadnyk says the location was the best one for the board with the surrounding natural environment. EPOH and Brantford-based +VG Architects have been awarded the contract for architectural consultant services for the project. Stadnyk adds that a group including principals, superintendents and parents will likely travel and visit some schools in Southern Ontario to gauge what would be the best design for the new high school.

He says it will take about a year for the design stage to be completed with shovels to break ground in the spring of 2013,

with offices in five cities including Toronto, Kitchener, Brantford, London and Belleville. +VG Architects has been involved in school designs previously, including Huron Heights Secondary School in Newmarket, Muskoka Falls Public School in Bracebridge, Queen's School of Business in Kingston and Superior Collegiate & Vocational Institute in Thunder Bay.

Nine proposals were received for the design, most of which consisted of a team of consultants which involved more than one firm. Of the nine written proposals submitted, the group was shortlisted to four proponents, which were selected for interviews. "We used criteria for ranking the interviews," said Stadnyk. "They scored well in their interview responses and the concepts that they were presenting and their implementation plan and so on."

According to Stadnyk, the hope is to begin breaking ground on the new school in the spring of 2013 with an anticipated opening of September 2015. The school, which has yet to be named, will house St. Mary's College, St. Basil Secondary and Holy Angels Learning Centre.

The naming process is also underway with submission forms available at any of the three schools involved in the consolidation, Catholic churches across the city, the HSCDSB Catholic Education Centre and on the HSCDSB website. Forms will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2012. The new name of the school is expected to be announced in early February.

and opening in September 2015. In addition to announcing the land purchase and selecting the architectural consultants for the project, Catholic board trustees also found out the search has started for a name for the new Huron-Superior secondary school.

Names are being accepted until February 1st, with the top possible names expected to be submitted at the next Catholic board meeting on February 15th.

Suggested names can be submitted through forms at catholic churches across Sault Ste. Marie, at the Catholic Education Centre or by e-mail at www.newschools@hscdsb.on.ca. An update was also made concerning Holy Cross Elementary School, which is on schedule to open in time for the 2012-2013 school year. Construction continues to progress at the former St. Patrick's site. When completed, Holy Cross will house students from four separate elementary schools.

+VG Architects is a full-service architectural firm offering new design, expansions and heritage restorations for cultural, educational, municipal, justice, healthcare, residential and recreational facilities. Our staff of 50+ operates in four offices in Ontario, in Brantford, Kitchener, Toronto, London and Belleville. See www.plusvg.com for more information.