

The “Collingwood Creation” Window & “Lights of Heaven” Clerestory JEAN VANIER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL Sarah Hall, RCA

Concept

My intention was to create a warm, celebratory atmosphere in the chapel. The theme of the main window is the beauty and goodness of all creation. The setting is both local and universal – evoking a sense of wonder, joy and recognition. The design uses overlapping maps from different eras to create a feeling of rekindled memory.

The imagery begins with a contemporary view of Collingwood, showing the town plan and shoreline of Georgian Bay. The design moves up through the creation of the earth, plants, flowers and trees, and as it progresses other maps are incorporated: Champlain’s remarkable 1617 map of the area. Adam and Eve are taken from his New World sketches.

The visual story of creation moves up through the lights of Heaven, including the sun, moon and stars. Birds of the air, creatures of the sea, and the beasts are represented from drawings of ancient maps.

Radiant light, illuminating all of creation, passes from the top of the window to the shoreline of Georgian Bay. Within these windows are the fields of turquoise and blue with strong points of light set at various intersections, and with a tonal shift from dark to light across the windows. The overall impact of the windows is of hope, unity and the splendour of creation: intended as a joyful reminder of Faith to the students, their parents and staff.

The six clerestory windows are evocative, abstract compositions which carry the idea of bonds between heaven and earth – and our intricate, complex path through life.

Materials and Techniques

The stained glass is made in traditional leaded technique. The glass used is primarily Lamberts full antique with additional glass painting, etching, sandblasting and screen-printing.

