



Hillfield Strathallan College

Here Excellence is a Way of Life

MEDIA RELEASE

Attention: News Directors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HILLFIELD STRATHALLAN COLLEGE ANNOUNCES \$10.5 MILLION DOLLAR DONATION FROM INTERNATIONALLY-RENOWNED INDUSTRIALIST AND PHILANTHROPIST, MICHAEL G. DEGROOTE. *This donation, the largest single gift ever made to an Independent School in Canada, is the anchor contribution towards its Transformation HSC Campaign: a \$34 million investment to create new learning spaces at its Fennell Street West Campus.*

Hamilton, ON - Hillfield Strathallan College announced today a **\$10.5 million donation** from internationally-renowned industrialist and philanthropist, **Michael G. DeGroote**, as the anchor contribution towards its **Transformation HSC Campaign**: a \$34 million investment to create new learning spaces at its Fennell Street West Campus. These facilities will be unique in all of Canada, and will support a dynamic and innovative educational vision shifting the focus from teaching to learning.

This donation, **the largest single gift ever made to an Independent School in Canada**, the College hopes will encourage an outpouring of similar gestures from alumni, current families and community leaders, boosting philanthropic support for 21st century learning in the Greater Hamilton area.

Mr. DeGroote has deep-rooted connections to the College spanning more than 40 years. His four children and five of his grandchildren are alumni of HSC, and his granddaughter is a current student. As a **Patron of HSC**, he is one of four current guardians of the College's history, traditions and future directions; this is the highest honour bestowed by the College on its supporters. Mr. DeGroote was also made an honorary graduate of the Class of 2009 at its closing ceremonies last Saturday.

The Transformation Project will enable HSC to create varied and customized learning environments promoting optimal learning for all of its students. This model reflects recent advances in brain research that prove empirically that every student has unique learning styles, and that today's students are graduating into a world characterized by rapid and unpredictable change. This 21st century world will require them to learn, unlearn and relearn new knowledge, skills and abilities for the rest of their lives. "Transformation HSC is a vision which will ensure that our students are encouraged in each of their individual passions, and that they learn how to adapt, and change in a truly dynamic world," said **Headmaster, Dr. Tom Matthews**.

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The Transformation HSC capital campaign is a \$34 million project to build a completely new Senior School with dynamic, multi-purpose learning spaces and tools, as well as a major community Athletic facility, which will position Hillfield Strathallan College as the leading independent school in Canada. “Learning spaces matter, and the success to date of this breathtaking campaign will ensure that Hillfield Strathallan College continues to contribute bright, passionate and unique leaders to this city and to Canada for decades to come,” added **Adrienne Davidson, Director of College Advancement and the Campaign Director.**

The College also announced that the new Senior School will be known as the “Michael G. DeGrootte” Senior School. “Mr. DeGrootte’s extraordinary support of this fine College for so many years is an example to us all,” commented **Mr. Ron Foxcroft, Chair of the Transformation HSC Campaign.** “As a parent and a grandparent of students attending HSC, I believe that an HSC education is the finest gift a parent can present to a child.”

Hillfield Strathallan College is a **not-for-profit, independent day school**, governed by an arm’s length Board of Governors, and affiliated with the Conference of Independent Schools (**CIS**), the Canadian Association of Independent Schools (**CAIS**) and the Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators (**CCMA**). In addition to meeting Ministry of Education requirements, the College offers the Advanced Placement program which is comparable to first year university studies. It adheres to all CIS and CAIS standards and undergoes an exhaustive evaluation, on a regular basis, by the Canadian Educational Standards Institute (**CESI**), the main accrediting agency for independent schools in Canada.

Since 1901, Hillfield Strathallan College has served the Hamilton and Golden Horseshoe area by providing young people with extraordinary educational opportunities. It offers an enriched academic, arts and athletic program, through its four schools, from early Montessori ages and JK to Grade 12.

Now in its second century, Hillfield Strathallan College remains committed to excellence achieved through a broad approach to education that integrates academic training, character development, and social skills to nurture the whole student.

A successful blending of tradition and innovation, together with a strong partnership between home and school, has created a dynamic learning environment and a cohesive community where students are encouraged to become good citizens, strong leaders, and lifelong learners.

For more information, visit: **www.hsc.on.ca**

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