



We would like to honour all of the incredible Canadian women at LBPSB who have marked Lester B. history and dedicated their careers to teaching, education, and supporting students.

Dorothy Dixon, a secretary at Allion Elementary and Deborah Dixon principal at Lasalle Comprehensive Community High School are sisters and share which women inspired them over the years.

Both sisters agree that Angela Andrews, now retired principal of Beurling Academy, was an inspiring female leader who helped them launch their career. “What an incredible woman! She gave us both career opportunities. Her strength and her spirit of mentorship made it so easy for students and colleagues to approach and learn from her. She always walked the halls and knew her students and staff. She was available and had a phenomenal work ethic. She never shied away from giving back,” says Dorothy.

For Dorothy, another Canadian woman whom she admires closer to home is her younger sister who happens to work down the hall from her. “The reason I started working at Lester B. is because I followed Debi who was already here. My sister is a woman of integrity and one

of her mottos is ***let your words be thoughtful few and true***. This is something she exemplifies and I am a proud big sister! It's a true honour to be in her shadow," says Dorothy.

Chris Cyr, a former principal from St-Thomas, is also an inspirational Canadian woman, especially for Debi. "When I started my career in administration, she would always have time to answer my questions, guide and encourage me, especially when it was time to make difficult decisions. She empowered me to rise above the situation and I am so lucky I came across her early on in my career. To this day, I still aspire to be a leader who gives people a chance and who believes in the new generation," explains Debi. "Both Chris and Angela really showed me how important it is to give people a chance, to listen to them, and to encourage them and this is the type of leader I strive to be."

Last but not least, Debi and Dorothy share another common role model. "Our mother, of course!" say Debi and Dorothy. She's an incredibly strong and courageous woman who immigrated to Canada from Jamaica and raised six children. To this day, she embodies what it means to be an anchor for our family and continues to inspire us and has a led a life filled with resilience," says Dorothy. "She is a proud Canadian, the matriarch and the glue that keeps our large family together."