

October 24, 2016

Re: Potential Closure of Honey Harbour Schools

Dear Sir/Madame,

We have just learned of an announcement to put Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School on a “modified” Accommodation Review and that Trillium Lakelands District School Board will be making a decision on this same Accommodation Review for the Honey Harbour Public School on October 25, 2016. Although primarily a tourist town, both Honey Harbour and Port Severn still have a viable population sustained year round. We personally had a unique situation in order for our siblings, cousins, and then our children to attend the schools in Honey Harbour. Our families primarily attended the public school, but some of them did attend the Catholic school and the uniqueness was that they had to be transported by boat and snowmobile as the seasons dictated. We couldn't imagine them having to have also been bussed long distances as well had there not been the Honey Harbour schools, as is the direction this will take if the schools close.

We can appreciate the fact that having 2 schools in a small community seems both impractical and not financially sound but there is still a compromise to be made here if both boards would come together to locate all students in one school which is not out of the realm of possibility. We believe it is imperative to both the local economy and the present and future young families to keep the children in the community rather than travel them extremely long distances to other schools (safety being of great concern as well with transporting on major highways).

We, being both residents of the area and part of the business community, feel that we cannot afford to have our young families leave the area because of this issue. They are the future of the community, so let's make good choices and do whatever is necessary to keep them here.

Sincerely,

Dennis and Karen Robitaille

Cc: Ab Falconi, Superintendent of Education, S-MCDSB  
Carol Corriveau-Truchon, Trustee, S-MCDSB  
Larry Hope, Superintendent of Education, TLDSB  
Louise Clodd, Trustee, TLDSB