

Trillium Lakelands District School Board
P.O. Box 420
300 County Road 36
K9V 4S4

Attention: Accommodation Review Committee

To Whom It May Concern;

I have lived in Honey Harbour all my life. I attended our local elementary school before attending high school in Midland. Yes, Simcoe County. My parents fought the school boards back in the 1970's to ensure the local children of our community did not have to attend a secondary school in Gravenhurst. Again, another suggestion by the school boards that made no sense then, and makes no sense now when Simcoe County is much closer and children are not being bused up a bustling highway such as the 400 series or Highway 11.

If you close our school (s) down, it will be an enormous detriment to our community as a whole! Children and Family's will loose their quality time as a Family which will be taken over by long bus trips 5 days a week; it will have a negative impact on the development and learning of our children; children already complain about having to go to school everyday. How is taking them out of their community and adding 1.5 hours bus rides going to help? Are we setting them up for failure already? Will drop-out rates skyrocket?

Our school children will not have a relationship with those students in Glen Orchard. Our children will not have extracurricular activities in Glen Orchard as it is too far away. Our parents will be forced to take more time away from work when our children have to attend doctor's appointments or get sick while at school. Our children will barely go to school in the winter months because of the difference in weather in this large territorial capacity. Our children will not have time to do homework after school as it will be time for dinner and then bed. Our children will have no time to play after school. Our children will not have time for Family time during the week. Our children will not be learning the way they should because they will be exhausted by the time they arrive for school and will be ready for a nap by the time the afternoon arrives. Their days will be so long, they will be underfeed. I could go on and on..... Are we really treating them like children? Or, are we expecting them to grow up before they are 4 and have roles of adults!

Why not “pole” the people who live in Honey Harbour, Port Severn and surrounding area and ask them how many services they use in Muskoka verses Simcoe County.

I plead with you to please, please, listen to us a community!

I ask the question, the HH Public School is at the max capacity at todays’ date. How, and I repeat, how, does it make sense to close this school to fill a school in Glen Orchard? If you close this school, not one Family will send their children to Glen Orchard. It just doesn’t make sense! Therefore, by closing the school in Honey Harbour will not infact increase the numbers in Glen Orchard because all of these students will now be attending Victoria Harbour schools or schools in Simcoe County. So, you are not gaining anything for Glen Orchard; have closed a school in Honey Harbour that was at its max capacity; devastated a hamlet and their Family’s and businesses and you are in the same situation with Glen Orchard that you started with!

The school must remain open! The only other option is to change the boundary and have it under the umbrella of the Simcoe County District School Board.

Janine White
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