

Rockwood parents concerned with school boundary planned changes

To the Editor,
Re: Edward Johnson JK-6 Boundary Review

I am a parent of three children who live in Rockwood and attend French Immersion in Guelph. Our children are currently in Grade 7, 4 and 2. Our family is currently in a state of devastation at the proposal of moving two of our children to Brisbane School. Brisbane may be a fine school, but 10 years ago when we were deciding where to buy our house, we chose Rockwood because our children would go to French Immersion in Guelph. Going to school in Guelph was not an after thought. It was one of our motivating factors to move to Rockwood.

I grasp to understand why the Board would take the Rockwood group of children and move them in a completely different direction. I can only hope that those in the proposal process did not really understand the impact it would have on our children and how entrenched Rockwood is in the Guelph community. Other than that reason I cannot believe the relocation was chosen intentionally knowing the devastating impact it would have.

Rockwood is essentially a suburb of Guelph. When you live in Rockwood your family becomes more and more intertwined with all of the community groups and services

that Guelph extends to us. Our hospital is the Guelph General. Our family doctor, eye doctor, orthodontist, medical specialists, are in Guelph. Our kid's community sports activities are in Guelph. Hockey, soccer, swimming, basketball, dancing, volleyball, lacrosse, music, all take place in Guelph. This is just the natural progression of where you go for these things when you live in Rockwood because you consider yourself a part of Guelph. Our kids are established in these sub-communities as well as their school community.

All of this will not happen if we sever our ties with French Immersion in Guelph. It will destroy our community.

For my family personally, we will have one child still in Guelph and two going to Brisbane. Our family will be divided. Our daughter who is in her fourth year at Edward Johnson has made some really close friends in Guelph. She would feel the psychological impact of removing her from this dynamic as well.

Rockwood is not some town on the map located in between Guelph and Erin. It is not a coin flip of which direction we travel. Rockwood is a part of the Guelph community. It always has been. Sending our children to Brisbane would be devastating to our community. Our



CARE PACKAGES: The 2nd Rockwood Girl Guide unit, pictured at their November 29th Enrolment Night, is now 23 members strong – up by 14 new girls this year. In partnership with local Sparks and Brownies units, the Rockwood Guides support women's education efforts in Afghanistan this holiday season by sending care packages of school supplies overseas. – Submitted photo

children will be severely and negatively affected. It is not in the best interest of the well being of our children.

Perhaps not knowing before and knowing now how much Rockwood is a part of Guelph, my hope is the Boundary Scenarios

will be reviewed and our children will be allowed to stay in their community.

Sincerely,
Debra Craddock
Rockwood, ON

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- Jenny

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