

POSSIBLE SCHOOL AMALGAMATION

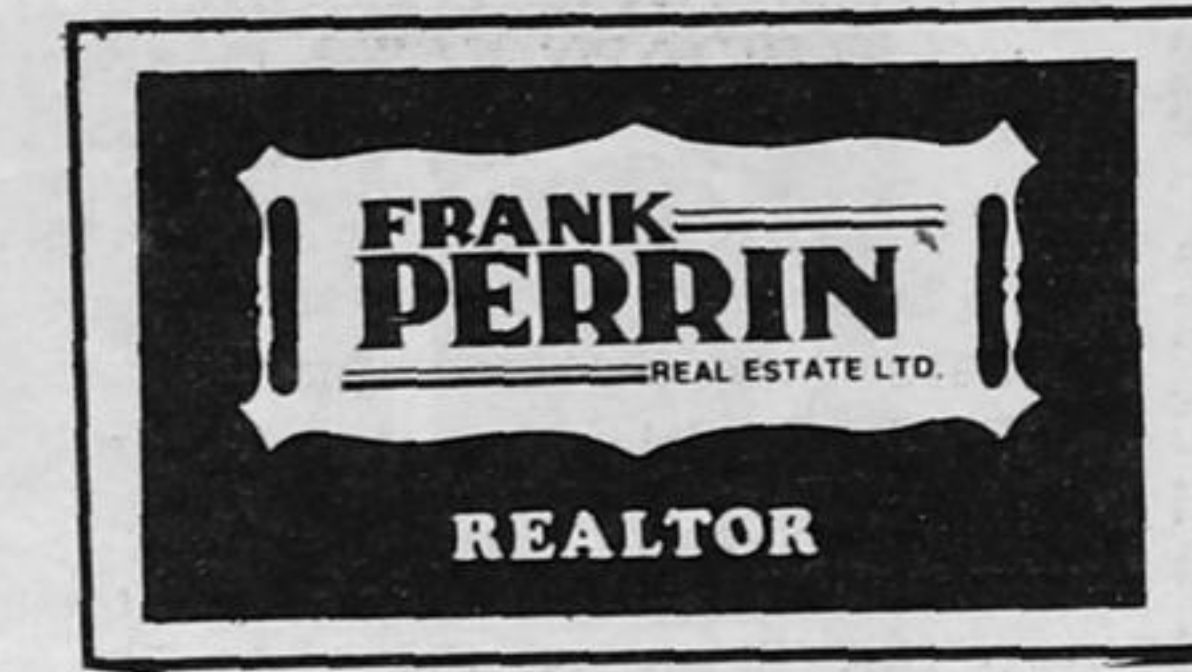
The Leeds-Grenville Board of Education has proposed a feasibility study on the possible Amalgamation of South Crosby Public School, Elgin and Beverley School, Delta. A letter, dated April 29th, was sent to all parents inviting their participation on an advisory committee to study the matter. The Board's decision to conduct such a study was based on declining enrollment projections contained in the Board's Report on Declining Enrollment - 1986. It should be noted that, in any case, no changes would take place before September, 1987. After reading the full report, however, the South Crosby School Committee felt it was essential that all the pertinent information be made known to the South Crosby School community. This was done at a meeting on Tuesday, May 27th which was attended by over 80 parents as well as Mr. Harley Eyre, the area superintendent and Dorothy Davies, School Trustee. Highlights of the report were distributed and further explanation of the report's findings were provided by Jan Allen, of the School Committee. After this, Mr. Eyre expanded on the Board's role, past and present, and its obligations in the distribution of school populations and the value of amalgamation. Dawne Smith, Chairperson of the School Committee then opened the meeting to audience response.

After listening to all the facts, the prevailing view was that the Board appeared to have already settled on amalgamation of South Crosby and Beverley Schools. The proposed advisory committee, as pointed out, was heavily weighted with people connected to the Board. Many parents expressed very strong views on the proposed amalgamation, questioning both the need for it and the benefit to be derived from it for our children. The following points were made:

- that our school is an integral part of our community and would be greatly diminished by such an amalgamation
- that enrollment levels at South Crosby are adequate and projected to remain so
- that the bussing involved would be stressful on our children
- that such an amalgamation would involve splitting up children within a family, with some attending one school and some another
- that the Board should consider other options to resolve anticipated problems at Beverley School.

The outcome of this long and emotional meeting was a unanimous resolution on the part of the parents present that "The South Crosby School Community will

not participate in the proposed advisory committee because its scope as defined is too narrow. As a followup to this meeting, the School Committee has sent a letter to Wayne Tompkins, the Board's Director of Educational Services, reiterating the strength of community opposition to the amalgamation and urging a reconsideration



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BEVERLEY LAKE #VWF2614
Approx 75 acres recreational property near Lyndhurst. Plenty of trees, 4000' shoreline, fronts on paved road. \$60,000.

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LYNDHURST #R2648
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of it. As well, a group of concerned parents has drafted a petition opposing the amalgamation. This will be distributed throughout the area over the next few weeks. Personal letters addressed to Mr. Tompkins are also encouraged. Further information on this issue can be obtained by phoning Jan Allen at 359-5647.

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