

I am writing this email letter re the proposed closure of SCITS from a number of vantage points. Thank you for receiving this email and for your consideration of the points I will be making.

1. As a downtown resident [Brock and Maria Street], I am concerned that the closure of SCITS High School will be a further blow to the southend section of Sarnia. On the heels of downtown Sarnia's great revitalization these past few years, and a projected further and anticipated enhancement of the downtown area vis-a-vis the projected plans for the Bayside Mall area, and the restoration of Centennial Park this coming summer, closure of SCITS will nullify the many gains that will result from City of Sarnia's efforts to continue on its path to a further revitalization of the core.
2. SCITS is a beautiful building that should be designated a heritage property. It is a solid and well-constructed building because it was a building that was built at a time when buildings were made of superior materials [many such materials cannot be found today, and are too costly], and in many ways, with handcrafted detailing, by very skilled handcraftsmen. Today's buildings, and the many others constructed in the last 50 to 70 years are not well-made, and St. Clair High School is numbered in that grouping. As a former educator who taught in the very well-built Johnston Memorial School I saw and experienced firsthand the building that was constructed to replace it. P.E. McGibbon Public School that is now located on the Russell Street site, will endure a fraction of time that Johnston Memorial School stood.
3. My daughter attended SCITS High School, as did my mother who will be 90 years of age on her next birthday. Notwithstanding the physical heritage of the a building, why would the L.K.D.S.board members wish to abandon the educational and societal heritage of the community it is elected to serve and to support?
4. The auditorium has been mentioned many times in the media, as has the pool. I am not sure if the physical upgrades done by the lkdsb in recent years have been discussed. When my daughter attended SCITS during the summer months of her high school years there (2003-2007), the asbestos issue was dealt with, as was the air conditioning needs in some of its wings. Was this money all spent in vain?

In conclusion, I would like to pose the question that all of my neighbours, and the many people I talk to are asking. Why would the lkdsb not continue to support a building that has the best chance of standing for another century, as opposed to funding a poorly constructed building, that will deteriorate sooner, and not later?

Thank you very much for listening to my thoughts.

Respectfully yours,

Nancy Forbes-Murray