



Lambton Kent District School Board Meeting
Submission from the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming

February 28, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.

- Staff report projects declining student enrolment in all three schools over the next 10 years.
- As a result the need to examine how to best utilize financial resources, while serving the best interests of students and the impacted communities.
- The proposed boundary would see students in the Hamlet of Camlachie and within the Plympton-Wyoming lakeshore, north of Aberarder Line, being bused to the new school in Forest.
- **The Town is concerned that directing all students to Forest could jeopardize the future of Errol Village Public School.**
- According to the school board's report "LKDSB Pupil Accommodations Report 2016/2017", Errol Village Public School is projected to experience declining enrolment over the next 10 years.
- Errol Village has a current enrolment of 175 students. But is projected to be 123 students by 2026 being a decline of 29.7%. Given this projection, it is conceivable that Errol Village Public School's future might be in doubt.

- The School Board's October 4th, 2016 report does not address Errol Village Public School. **Nor does it examine whether it might make sense to direct children from Camlachie and portions of the lakeshore to Errol Village. From a practical viewpoint, Errol Village is much closer to those areas of Plympton-Wyoming than Forest is.**
- It is unknown how many children from Camlachie and portions of the lakeshore currently attend Aberarder School. However, we expect Errol Village and Camlachie to grow in the future. There are approximately 70 vacant residential lots west of Camlachie and approximately 50 vacant residential lots within Camlachie. Students from households that will eventually reside on these lots may help ensure the viability of Errol Village Public School. This opportunity might be lost if future students from Camlachie continue to be served by a school in Forest.
- Schools play an important role in a community and help shape its identity. Because of their close proximity, Errol Village and Camlachie serves as a 'community'. Aberarder Central Public School is located within Plympton-Wyoming and students that attend the school and their parents may view it as a town-based school. **The new school in Forest will be located approximately 18 kilometres from Camlachie, whereas Errol Village Public School is approximately 1.6 kilometres. It would seem that students attending Errol Village and events held at this school are likely to reinforce a sense of community much more than attendance and events in Forest.**
- **The Town requests the boundary for the new between Errol Village School and the new Forest school be reconsidered. The Town requests a meeting with the School Board to discuss the best boundary location for both schools and to best services the municipalities. Alternatively, the Town requests that the proposed boundary follow Oil Heritage Road. Please see the attached map!**