

I grew up in Port Dover & attended PDPS finishing grade 6 there. The property was sold & the school was torn down.

I attended Doverwood for grades 7 & 8 ...A school that now sits dormant.

& Yes, PDCS was my high school which was also sited & closed.

To learn of the opening of Lakewood Elementary at the site of my old high school was exciting. Especially when my daughter told me she would be running track & field on the Todd Eaton memorial Track, a boy who'd been a friend of since kindergarten.

I now live in Simcoe, a place I never thought I'd live growing up as a 70's Doverite...rival to the Simcoetonians, back in the years of my youth. I've no personal ties to either of the two schools under review for closure right now.

When my daughter Anderson was born I had no opinion of the public school she would attend, but our location sent her to Elgin.

At social events I was asked about where Anderson would attend school and after answering "Elgin" I became worried by all the bias & negative comments & rumors of the school having a "bad reputation".

Anderson is now in grade 6 and through her years at Elgin she has grown into a compassionate & caring person, who has discovered her own personality & is now an individual sensitive to the situations of the underprivileged and proud to be a mentor to new friends yearning to learn from her.

Elgin has a proven past of being capable of integrating all who are entitled to learning. Be they Special like the Autism class or Special like the Enrichment class. Kids from all over Norfolk have been welcomed to attend the only school who hosts both for many years now.

This is not an Elgin vs WestLynn War to prove who is better.

The fact is this amalgamation is going to happen.

The question is where is the better site?

If neither school existed now and a brand new facility was the proposal what would be the most central and accessible site for all?

Come the day this finally happens my child will have moved on to high school...so as an outsider looking in, I believe the location of Elgin is the best decision being the most central and accessible for all.

Perhaps the best suggestion is the already prepared & costed Elgin upgrade & expansion...However make it a New School...with a New Start for all...by bringing

everyone together for new beginnings at....a newly named school....

Let all the children be the first students of.....?

Simcoe Central Elementary School???

Karen Ashley