

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL ARC BOARD MEETING

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW 2011:02

Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School,

Warminster Public School

PUBLIC SESSION

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.

A G E N D A

ROY EDWARDS ROOM

- A.**
- (1) Roll Call
 - (2) Approval of Agenda
 - (3) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Mayor Hughes and Councillor Meyer
2. Sara Ayres
3. Tammy Woodrow
4. Naomi Wachowiak
5. Jenna Hooper
6. Garfield Dunlop, MPP Simcoe North

C. FUTURE BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

Teacher/Trustee Liaison Committee Meeting (OSSTF) – April 25, 2012 at 4:30 P.M. – Coldwater Room

Regular Meeting of the Board – April 25, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., followed immediately by the Committee of the Whole in Closed Session (Georgian Room), Public Session will resume at 7:30 p.m. (Roy Edwards Room).

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL ARC BOARD MEETING

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW 2011:02– COLDWATER PUBLIC SCHOOL,

MOONSTONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WARMINSTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

PUBLIC SESSION

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

REPORT	FYI	Decision Req.	MOTION
			Call Meeting to order. Roll Call
		√	That the agenda be approved as printed.
			Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
Delegations	√		1. Mayor Hughes and Councillor Meyer 2. Sara Ayres 3. Tammy Woodrow 4. Naomi Wachowiak 5. Jenna Hooper 6. Garfield Dunlop, MPP Simcoe North
Future Business			
Adjournment		√	Motion to Adjourn

Mayor Harry Hughes and Councillor Kelly Meyer

TOWNSHIP OF ORO-MEDONTE DEPUTATION

The Council of the Township of Oro-Medonte Unanimously Supports the recommendation to keep Moonstone Elementary School Open.

This decision is the most fiscally and educationally sound, while better adhering to Provincial Policies.

The first Staff Recommendation, on the final page of report reads:

1. That the Board approve the transfer of grades four, five and six students from Moonstone Elementary School to Coldwater Public as set out in Report No. B-2-a Accommodation Review 2011-02 Staff Report Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, and Warminster Elementary School, dated March 26, 2012.

It needs to be expanded to ensure that it better reflects all aspects of REPORT NO. B-2-a March 26, 2012-12 that make this recommendation to be the most fiscally and educationally sound.

BACKGROUND:

1. Fiscal situations are rapidly changing causing all levels of government to make difficult decisions.
2. A decision by a School Board that forces children to relocate to a different school is a decision that trustees, parents and the community find to be among the most difficult.
3. Provincial Policies based on one level of funding continue to be revised creating greater costs in specific areas at the same time that overall funding is reduced.
4. The ARC process is intended to :
 - (i) Make all stakeholders aware of the need for change while ensuring that all information necessary for making decisions is both accurate and available.
 - (ii) The size of the ARC employs the notion of “two heads being better than one” thereby increasing the chances of the best decision and it support for the decision assuming that the recommendations are followed.

THE ARC RECOMMENDATION REPORT NO. B-2-a March 26, 2012-4

Was a result of a lengthy community involvement process and was based on Consensus with an Overwhelming Majority vote after a slight revision.

THIS CHECK AN BALANCE WAS REMOVED

1. Staff conduct an attendance area review commencing September 2014 involving Coldwater P.S., Hillsdale P.S., Larchmont P.S., Moonstone E.S., Warminster E.S., and Waubshene E.S., and include the alignment of secondary school attendance areas involving Midland S.S. and Park Street C.I.

NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS RECOMMENDATION REMAINS

2. Transfer Moonstone E.S. Grade Six students to Coldwater P.S. commencing September 2016, pending results of the 2014 accommodation area review and subject to available space within Coldwater P.S. in consideration of the recommendation that no student be moved to a “portable” learning environment as a result of the transfer of students from Moonstone E.E. to Coldwater P..S.

CONCLUSIONS REPORT NO. B-2-11

Two additional points are worthy of noting in addition to those noted in the Conclusions Supporting the keeping Moonstone Elementary School Open as being the most fiscally and educationally option.

1. Keeping Moonstone School open reduces the amount of time that children spend on buses. This is significant for younger children, especially JK. Having 3 year old children ride a school bus for up to 2 hours per day should be and is being avoided.
2. Keeping Moonstone School open provides a programming advantage by having TWO GYMS available for daily physical education and learning activities, this is in keeping with the provincial policy DPA (daily physical activity) 20 mins of moderate to vigorous physical activity for children. It is worth mentioning the Public Health Agency of Canada recommends 60 minutes per day for children.

Staff recommendation #1 on Page 12 of the report does not make it clear as to what parts of the report that the “AS SET OUT” apply to the student transfers

- 1. That the Board approves the transfer of grades four, five and six students from Moonstone Elementary School to Coldwater Public School in September 2016. As set out in Report No B-2-s, Accommodation Review 2011-12- Staff Report – Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School and Warminster Elementary School, dated March 26 202.**

Unless the wording is expanded, it could be interpreted as deviating from the information presented in the report.

As it stands it could mean that, contrary to the checks in balances supported by the ARC, all three grades will be moved from Moonstone School to Coldwater in September of 2016 regardless of whether there would be a need to add portables to Coldwater School to accommodate the moving of all three grades at the same time.

The ARC recommendation included flexibility that would enable future decision makers in four years time ability to optimize the time of transition so that the move would be adhere to the greatest fiscal and educational benefits.

Without this flexibility, relocating portable(s) from Moonstone could incur costs from needlessly being moved to Coldwater to simply accommodate the number of students already being educated in portables. In addition, it could needlessly result in transporting student’s greater distances.

Given the current economic climate, development and growth current trends the ARC realized that even the most soundly based projections made on what is known today doesn’t always pan out as expected in four years time.

It is imperative the wording of #1 to be inclusive of monitoring the projections and to incorporate the flexibility in the timing for the transition of students.

In incorporating the wording of the ARC there is the “upside” in permitting flexibility for future decision makers. This supports the hard work and many hours of listening the A.R.C. members have done by incorporating the public, community members and local decision makers input. The A.R.C has provided recommendations that have been heard and recognized.

Failing to include this flexibility would suggest 100% confidence in being able to predict what will actually happen over the next 4 years.

Suggested Revised Recommendation

1. That the Board Approve the transfer of grades four, five and six students from Moonstone Elementary School to Coldwater Public School commencing September 2016, pending results of the 2014 accommodation area review and subject to available space within Coldwater P.S. in consideration of the recommendation that no student be moved to a “portable” learning environment as a result of the transfer of students from Moonstone E.S. to Coldwater P.S. as set out in Report No. B-2-a Accommodation Review 2011-02 Staff Report Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, and Warminster Elementary School, dated March 26, 2012.
2. That the Board approves the twinning of Coldwater Public School and Moonstone Elementary School, effective September 2016 as set out in Report No. B-2-a Accommodation Review 2011-02 Staff Report Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, and Warminster Elementary School, dated March 26, 2012.

The Board in co-operation with the community through the ARC process spent a lot of time and invested scarce tax dollars to ensure what is both best for kids and sound financial stewardship. In order to fully reap the benefits it is essential that the community’s voice placing checks and balances be incorporated into the recommendations. It is also essential for gaining community support making necessary changes better for all concerned.

In closing our entire council is here to personally thank you for hearing us during the ARC meeting and again tonight.

We also want to reinforce that keep Moonstone School Open is the right decision. Tweaking the report to include the wisdom of the ARC is essential to the process.

Moonstone Elementary School

Sara Ayres
A parent of Moonstone Elementary School

That the Board approve the transfer of grades 4, 5 & 6 students from Moonstone Elementary School to Coldwater Public School in September 2016, as set out in Report No. B-2-a, Accommodation Review 2011:02 - Staff Report - Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, and Warminster Elementary School, dated March 26, 2012.

SCDSB - Policy 2313

Terms of Reference Agenda A

- 400-550 students considered the optimal school size
 - To allow specialized programs
 - Maintain a range of extra-curricular activities

The small school advantage

- Review of educational policy literature
- Faculty of Education and Communication at Simon Fraser University
- Investigated how school size impacts educational quality and community engagement
- “Schools are regarded as critical social structures in our society...”
Nguyen, H., Schmidt, M., & Murray, C. (2007). Does school size matter? A social capital perspective. International Study Association for Teachers and Teaching, Brock University, St. Catharines, Conference Proceedings.

The small school advantage

- Cohesive sense of community
- Academic achievement advantage
 - Complete more years of higher education
 - Score higher on standardized tests
- Close achievement gap between socio-economically disadvantaged and advantaged groups
- Promote character development and emotional stability

Association for Teachers and Teaching, Brock University, St. Catharines, Conference Proceedings.

The small school advantage

- Safer, lower dropout rates
- Collegial working environment for teachers
- More cost-effective than large-school counterparts
 - Higher graduation rates
 - Reduced expenses due to disruptive behaviour, violence and vandalism

Nguyen, H., Schmidt, M., & Murray, C. (2007). Does school size matter? A social capital perspective. International Study Association for Teachers and Teaching, Brock University, St. Catharines, Conference Proceedings.

The small school advantage

- “Canada is falling behind in the educational debate over the impact of small schools on social cohesion and civic engagement”
- “experience in small schools builds better citizens, and provides a better bridge to social equality and civic engagement in later life”

Nguyen, H., Schmidt, M., & Murray, C. (2007). Does school size matter? A social capital perspective. International Study Association for Teachers and Teaching, Brock University, St. Catharines, Conference Proceedings.

Moonstone Elementary School

- Gym time - a minimum of two 50 minute periods per week
- Athletic involvement and performance
 - High intramural participation rate
 - cross-country, track and field, primary and junior running teams (2 months fall, 2 months spring), cross-country skiing, basketball, dodgeball, volleyball and flag football
 - Outstanding results at Area and County meets
 - Multiple Moonstone graduates have received the athletic leadership award at Park St. C.I. over the past 15 years

Extracurricular Activities

- Christmas concert
- Choir - Gold standing and scholarships from the Orillia Kiwanis Music Festival
- Junior Spring Musical
- Math club
- Science club
- Games club
- Art club
- Green team
- Spirit club - House colours

Community Involvement

- Games Night

- Talent Night
- Movie Night

Moonstone Elementary School is the heart of this community

- “The board endorses quality education ...”
- “...meet the needs of this community... to secure and retain smaller schools.”
- “meet...goal of ...school sizes of 400-550...two schools would have to be considered for closure... with no secure funding...supporting capital projects. This is not being recommended.”

That the Board approve the transfer of grades 4, 5 & 6 students from Moonstone Elementary School to Coldwater Public School commencing September 2016, pending results of the 2014 accommodation area review and subject to available space within Coldwater P.S. in consideration of the recommendation that no student be moved to a “portable” learning environment as a result of the transfer of students from Moonstone E.S. to Coldwater P.S.

Good Evening to everyone, and thank you for granting me this opportunity to speak. I applaud the hard work that the ARC performed over the past many months and feel that their recommendations are solid and well considered. I further implore the school board trustees to consider the motion put forth tonight with regards to the further movement of Moonstone Elementary Students. Ideally we would love nothing more than to see high enrolment for all schools thereby making Moonstone E S a full K-8 once again, but we are not without the intelligence to see that currently said scenario does not exist. It is with respect that I too applaud the foresight into twinning the schools thereby giving both locations an opportunity to thrive as well as offer a savings to the board. Examples of area's building in population can be seen into the future and it is with great perception that the recommendations will include the possibility of growth.

A complete, healthy and productive community needs the inclusion of a school. * (photo of school)

Beyond our children's reading, writing and arithmetic the school provides an environment where socialization is imperative, communication is reinforced and respect is nurtured. *(crossing guard)

The same respect is relevant to their behaviors about their homes and community. The ambassadors of Moonstone, Ontario are the Moonstone Mustangs and it is their pride and strength that deserves the recognition of the community they represent. **(Terry Fox, X-country,)

Moonstone Elementary provides our community a safe place to gather and experience social unity in a day and age where people continue to become withdrawn. * (adults using gym)

We can applaud our children's successes and share in their accomplishments. *(on stage)

At the same time the school gives our adults the opportunity to "give back" by way of volunteerism and support. These are qualities that our children see and can further apply in their lives. * (parent reading)

Moonstone Elementary provided me with an opportunity to find my current path when I hadn't realized I was looking for one. As a volunteer for the primary grades and reading weekly with students I was inspired to take the skills I had acquired over my lifetime and put them into play. I began writing and illustrating children's books. Education at Moonstone does not stop with the children.

The importance of a school within a community supersedes the sole purpose of "schooling" within the building. It is within these four walls that a foundation is built for the furthering of education to take place however, education does not stop at the doors. The surrounding community of families, neighbours and business owners further contribute to educating the children and are further educated by the school itself. They work in symbiosis of each other. * (collection)

To be schooled is to be taught certain subjects and information based on approved facts and materials. To be educated is to be given the opportunity to apply and investigate the facts provided and put them into action. The community, to which a child lives in, works in cooperation of the local school to provide the stage where education is played out. It provides real people, real situations and most importantly the opportunity to speak with older, wiser individuals. * (children with Mr. Grey)

It is proven time and time again that schools that benefit from strong parental involvement provide stronger foundations where the overall education of children can flourish. I appreciate that Moonstone will continue to be given the opportunity to play an important role in educating their children.*(families with their children)

Thank you for your consideration of the materials and information provided to you this night.

Tammy Woodrow – Moonstone Elementary School Chairperson

ARC 2011:02



**DELEGATION TO THE SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD APRIL 17, 2012**

NAOMI WACHOWIAK

Thank You!



- **Staff report acknowledges**
 - Rich programming at Moonstone ES
 - Building and renewal costs of Moonstone ES considered normal
 - Adhering to Provincial and Municipal Policies in recognizing the value of maintaining a “complete community” in a settlement area by keeping the school open for student learning.
 - Thinking somewhat outside the box in terms of other cost saving measures.

Support the twinning of Coldwater P.S. and Moonstone E.S.



- Financial savings of a principal and a librarian
- Other benefits can approximate that of a larger school while using existing “bricks and mortar”.
 - Staff Development sharing opportunities
 - Student access to programs and resources e.g. gymnasium and library

Continued Savings to Ministry and the Board



- **Now that the School has a more viable future Parent Council can continue to work collaboratively with the board to decrease costs and improve programming at Moonstone E.S.**
 - Work with local service clubs
 - Apply for grants from the Ministry of Education and other Ministries

The Work of the ARC



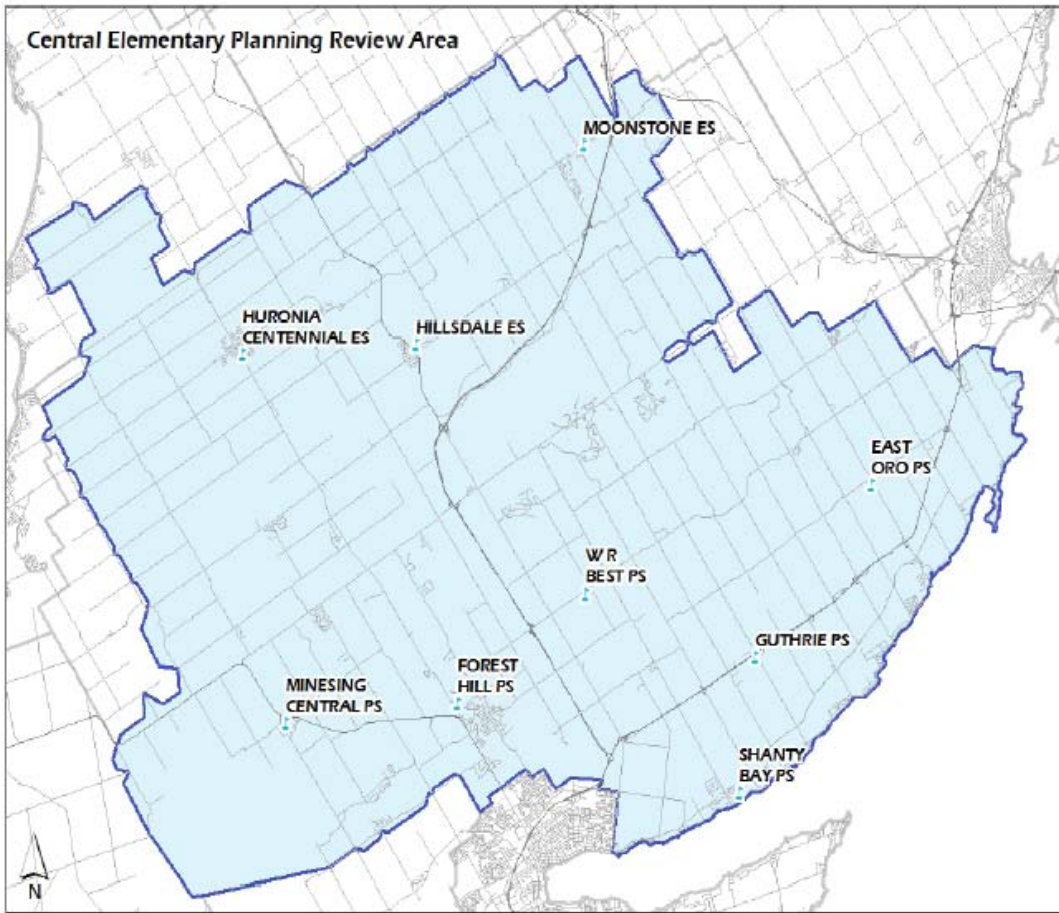
Benefit of Attendance Area Review?

Move "Area 5" students from Hillsdale to Moonstone and realign all students in the Moonstone catchment area to Midland Secondary School. This could:

- 1) Assist with declining enrolment at Midland SS (now at 60%)
- 2) Result in real efficiencies derived from reduced transportation costs.
(Catholic Board boundaries already includes a large portion of the Moonstone catchment area for their Midland SS .)



- **Add busing map (need to scan it in)**



Expected Growth



Population Allocations for Single - and Lower-Tier Municipalities

MUNICIPALITY	2006 CENSUS	PROPOSED COUNTY OPA NO.1	Net Growth Proposed
Municipalities with Urban Nodes			
Barrie	133,500	210,000	76,500
Orillia	31,400	41,000	9,600
Bradford West Gwillimbury	25,000	50,500	25,500
Collingwood	18,000	33,400	15,400
New Tecumseth	28,800	56,000	27,200
Midland	16,900	22,500	5,600
Penetanguishene	9,700	11,000	1,300
Subtotal	263,300	424,400	161,100
Other Municipalities			
Adjala-Tosorontio	11,100	13,000	1,900
Clearview	14,600	19,700	5,100
Essa	17,600	21,500	3,900
Innisfil	32,400	56,000	23,600
Oro-Medonte	20,800	27,000	6,200
Ramara	9,800	13,000	3,200
Severn	12,500	17,000	4,500
Springwater	18,100	24,000	5,900
Tay	10,100	11,400	1,300
Tiny	11,200	12,500	1,300
Wasaga Beach	15,600	27,500	11,900
Subtotal	173,800	242,600	68,800
Total	437,100	667,000	229,900

Even More Growth?



- **Planned expansion of Mount St. Louis Moonstone Ski Resort to add a hotel**
- **Council currently reviewing a proposal to rezone land across the 400 highway for the Mount St. Moonstone for a Weber's restaurant.**

Position the Board for Future Decision Making



- **Problem:** The constrained fiscal environment over the next several years will make making financially responsible decisions that support student learning difficult
- **Solution:** Remaining as flexible as possible.

Proposed Amendment to Staff Option 1



That the Board approve the transfer of grades four, five and six students from Moonstone Elementary School to Coldwater Public School commencing September 2016, pending the results of the 2014 accommodation area review and subject to available space within Coldwater P.S. in consideration of the recommendation that no student be moved to “portable” learning environment as a result of the transfer of students from Moonstone E.S. to Coldwater P.S. as set out in Report No. B-2-a, Accommodation Review 2011:02 – Staff Report – Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, and Warminster Elementary School, Dated March 26 2012.

Good evening. My name is Jenna Hooper and I am a former student of Moonstone Elementary School. Firstly I would like to thank the board for their decision to keep Moonstone E.S. open. I too support the motion that has been put forward earlier that the Board approve commencing September 2016, pending results of the 2014 accommodation area review and subject to available space within Coldwater P.S. in consideration of the recommendation that no student be moved to a “portable” learning environment as a result of the transfer of students from Moonstone E.S. to Coldwater P.S.

I would like to start off by telling you about my personal experience I had at Moonstone E.S. Being a shy individual Moonstone E.S. gave me the opportunity to be part of teams, be a leader and do things I thought I would of never be capable of doing.

I wasn't a very confident person and I was intimidated by the other girls who I thought were good at sports. At Moonstone E.S. I made the Basketball team and was given a chance to show my skills and to my surprise I was a better player than I thought. Being part of the choir and some ensembles and competing in the coldwater music festival made me feel extra special. They accepted everyone to join with no questions asked. I don't consider myself as a good public speaker but in Grade. 6 I put together a good speech and my teacher and fellow classmates gave me the chance to present this speech to the whole school. There were team colours were students were assigned a colour and I was given the chance to be one of the leaders of the Green team. Everybody who signed up for the soccer team were chosen, there were no tryouts. Children from grades 4 to 6 were split into six teams and then played against each other in a mini tournament within Moonstone school.

These are just some examples were Moonstone E.S. gave me opportunities, pushed me outside my comfort zone and allowed me to grow into a better person. Every teacher, principle, secretary and librarian knew who you were, they knew your name, your weaknesses and strengths, and you were never forgotten.

The whole staff treated every student equally and helped any way they could to have each student do well and succeed. My experience at Moonstone E.S. was beyond any other experience I had at any other school I attended. It has influenced my life and has moulded me into who I am today. I wish I could thank all the teachers, principles, secretaries and librarians who were there when I attended Moonstone E.S. and tell them how much I appreciate, to this day, for how they treated me and helped me succeed in life thus far.

Living close to the school and in a safe community walking or biking to school was an option. I remember sometimes playing outside at recess we could see my mom in the front yard and my friends and I would wave to her. It was a great feeling for my mom and me to know I wasn't too far from her and home if I needed her.

The school always had open arms and many warm smiles. It was one big family who worked together, had fun together, laughed together and sang together. I sometimes wish I could go back to those days

when I attended Moonstone E.S and relive the experience I had. I will always cherish the memories I have from there and will retell my stories to my children and so on.

I am still in touch with many students who had attended Moonstone E.S. and I asked some of them what does Moonstone E.S. mean to you. Each one of them would go on and on about their memories and how much they loved being there. They would all say I would want my children going there without question.

When I graduated from College in June 2011 as a Web and Graphic Designer I decided to put together a magazine keepsake that would include History of Moonstone and stories of the school, our community events and allow past students and people from the community to write their thoughts and feelings down. In this book you will see what our community is all about and how much the school is a part of that community. Moonstone isn't your typical hamlet in the country but a unique one. How many little hamlets can say they have their very own Santa Claus Parade with 30 floats. Yes, many people don't believe me but it's true. And thanks to Moonstone E.S. we have the children and families in the community and surrounding area to make our community events as successful as they are. It's amazing how a little community and school can do so much.

It's true what they say about small schools being better for children to have a better education, a chance to succeed and many opportunities. I can second this being a former student of Moonstone Elementary School.

I have been asked by the M.E.E.T. Committee to present you with a copy of this book so you can have a chance to get to know more about our community and school. I would like to present my Moonstone Magazine Keepsake to the Board and have it put into the minutes.

Thank you again for keeping this special school open and the community and I appreciate taking your time to listen to us tonight.

From: Dunlop-CO, Garfield [garfield.dunlopco@pc.ola.org]

Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 12:38 PM

To: Robyn, Lena

Subject: Delegation to Simcoe country District School Board, April 17, 2012

Lena:

Following are the points Mr. Dunlop will talk about in his delegation:

1. The importance of small rural schools in the community.
2. Value of small rural schools to students.
3. Comments on staff recommendations.

Presented on behalf of Garfield Dunlop.

I understand that the delegations start and 6 p.m. Do you know approximately what time Mr. Dunlop would be given the opportunity to present his delegation?

Mary Silk
Executive Assistant
Garfield Dunlop, MPP Simcoe North
705-326-3246