

# ***SHERWOOD FOREST Public School a school or a new sub-division ???***

Did you know that the Thames Valley District School Board  
has proposed closing Sherwood Forest Public School?

Your input on this issue is needed now!

As required by the Province, the Board has set up an ARC (Accommodation Review Committee) for you to comment on the proposal. The ARC is interested in hearing about the importance of the school in terms of its value to the community as well as the educational experience. The ARC meetings with public input are at 7 PM on:

- Wed., Sept 8 - Sherwood Forest Public School
- Wed., October 13 - TBA

You can follow the ARC at: <http://www.tvdsb.ca/board.cfm?subpage=102817>

If Sherwood Forest Public School is closed, which could be as early as 2012, the future of the school buildings and property is *unknown*; they could be sold and the land use changed. Much, if not all, of the green space and playground could be lost to new development.

Thames Valley District School Board has already put 15 properties up for sale. Another educational user may pick up one of these sites before Sherwood Forest Public School closes. City parks and recreation staff recently commented to us that they believe the recreation needs of the area are being met by the facilities in and around Medway Arena and the green space provided by the Valley is sufficient.

If you wish to speak directly to the ARC, you can make a presentation of up to five minutes at an upcoming meeting. You can obtain the appropriate form at [http://www.tvdsb.ca/files/89379/ARC Public Consultation Form.pdf](http://www.tvdsb.ca/files/89379/ARC%20Public%20Consultation%20Form.pdf) (or call Sandy at 472-9576 for a hard copy of the form), and submit it to Ms. McRae, **eight working days ahead** of the ARC meeting. You need only to submit the form, not your presentation. If you don't wish to speak, but wish to comment, you can make a written submission.

Carol McRae ([c.mcrae@tvdsb.on.ca](mailto:c.mcrae@tvdsb.on.ca))  
Secretarial Assistant - Operations Services  
Thames Valley District School Board  
1250 Dundas Street East, P.O. Box 5888  
London N6A 5L1  
phone: (519) 452-2000, ext. 20076  
fax: (519) 452-2485

Your Executive invited the two public school board trustees to meet to discuss the matter. Here is the response on behalf of the two Trustees, Sattler and Jaffe:

*I understand the intent of the executive of the ratepayer association, and am committed to exploring all the options, but I believe it is important to allow the community-based ARC process to unfold without "political" involvement. I recognize that the process is not perfect, but there really is no easy way to engage communities in conversations that could lead to school closures. This leaves us with the process as directed by the Ministry and operationalized in the current policy of the board - although flawed, it's the best we've got, and we need to give it a chance to work.*

*Since the trustees are the ultimate decision-makers, it is important that they not be perceived as trying to steer the process to a particular outcome. It is really the role of the ARC -- not the ward trustees -- to look at "creative solutions" to respond to the educational needs of the students and the communities involved, and provide advice to the board about how the students within the area should be accommodated. Once the ARC has presented its report to the board, there will be an opportunity for all trustees to ask questions about the committee's recommendations, and Joyce will be able to speak to her experience on the ARC as chair. This will be followed by additional opportunities for the public to present input directly to the board before a decision is made.*

*I'm sorry to have to turn down the opportunity to meet, but I hope you can understand my position. I would only be able to speak to the policy (which you probably know as well as I do at this point) and would not be available to discuss the specifics of the ARC.*

---

# **All Candidates' Meeting** **October 6 at 7 pm at** **Sherwood Forest Public School's gym**

---

It's an election year for city council and school boards. The Ratepayers are hosting an all candidates meeting for the ward councilor and school board trustee positions.

---

## **Other issues in ORCHARD PARK/ SHERWOOD FOREST**

**Medway Valley:** The City continues to propose building a 3 meter wide paved path and bridge for bicycles, pedestrians, and maintenance vehicles over the Medway River. However, City Council has placed a moratorium on paved, multi-use pathways in all Environmentally Significant Areas. Contact Councillor Branscombe for more information at [nancy@nanbran.com](mailto:nancy@nanbran.com) or 519-432-1100

**Horses:** Over the Canada Day weekend, a horse owner from outside the city was riding in the Medway Valley. This is contrary to the city's by-law for Environmentally Significant Areas. If you do see such activity, please notify the city's manager of by-law enforcement at [OKatolyk@london.ca](mailto:OKatolyk@london.ca) or 519 661-2500 ext. 4969. If you can provide the license plate of the trailer/truck, it would be helpful. Councillor Branscombe can also make the call if you prefer. She can be reached at [nancy@nanbran.com](mailto:nancy@nanbran.com) or 519-432-1100

**UWO/Student Housing Issues:** Glenn Matthews is the off campus housing contact for UWO and Fanshawe. If you have any concerns about students who have moved into the area who are abusing the privilege, Glenn can be reached at [glenn@housing.uwo.ca](mailto:glenn@housing.uwo.ca) or 519 661-3787 ext. 83787

### **PLEASE JOIN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Membership: \$10 individual or household

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

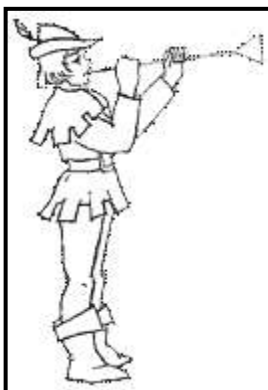
Cheques may be made payable to: The Lower Medway Valley Ratepayer's Group, Inc.

c/o 49 Longbow Road, London, N6G 1Y5

I would be willing to assist:

\_\_\_ in delivering flyers \_\_\_ in phoning \_\_\_ serving on the Executive

\_\_\_ please add my e-mail address to your mailing list



## **ORCHARD PARK / SHERWOOD FOREST RATEPAYERS**

[www.orchardparksherwoodforestratepayers.ca](http://www.orchardparksherwoodforestratepayers.ca)

OR

[www.opsfr.wordpress.com](http://www.opsfr.wordpress.com)