



# West Grey Chamber of Commerce

Box 671, Durham, ON N0G 1R0

[westgreychamber.ca](http://westgreychamber.ca)

[westgreychamber@gmail.com](mailto:westgreychamber@gmail.com)

519-369-5750

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Open letter to Grey County Council,

The West Grey Chamber of Commerce would like to register our strong opposition to closing Rockwood Terrace and moving the residents elsewhere.

We know the county is currently considering its options on the fate of our long-term care facilities, and would like to point out the following:

- Closing Rockwood Terrace would take 145 employees and 100 residents out of Durham. Add their respective families and the numbers are much higher. The facility generates a great deal of business for our stores and services. The town has a population of just 2,500, and these losses would be a major blow to the local economy.
- After the nearly crippling closure of the Interforest factory, Durham is beginning to grow and prosper again. New businesses are starting up and the vitality of the community is on the upswing. We need to continue the gains rather than reversing them by shuttering an important employer and service.
- There is a long waiting list for people looking to get into Rockwood Terrace. Why not make it better and larger to accommodate them?
- The consultants only looked at the financial implications - the costs - of expanding other county facilities or upgrading Rockwood Terrace to the province's 2025 standard.

Why would the county not consider building a showcase senior's home in Durham that would attract older people and their families to the area?

The trend toward an aging population that's happening in West Grey is also happening across the province and the country. Durham has a lot to offer older people - with one of the best hospitals in the area and other amenities, our thriving arts and cultural scene, and some pretty stunning natural attractions. Rather than seeing long-term care for seniors as a cost burden, why not look at it as an investment opportunity?

West Grey's strategic plan specifically states that it will encourage Grey County to continue to support critical amenities in West Grey, including Rockwood Terrace. It also outlines council's support for amenities, activities and natural attractions that will draw retirees to our area.

Grey County's motto is 'open for business', so we think council should demonstrate that by supporting the town of Durham.

West Grey Chamber of Commerce.