

June 21, 2016

Mr. Dwight Burley
Deputy Mayor of Georgian Bluffs
Chair of Social Services Committee

Ms. Lynne Johnson
Director of Long Term Care, Grey County

Mr. Alan Barfoot
Grey County Warden

Dear Mr. Burley, Mr. Barfoot and Ms. Johnson:

The Family Council of Rockwood Terrace have met several times and been involved with recent rallies in support of maintaining the operation of Rockwood Terrace in Durham. We understand and appreciate the recommendations brought forth to date by the Consulting Company that reviewed the financial impact of operating three Long Term Care homes. We as a Family Council however feel that the possibility of moving Rockwood Terrace would have a very negative impact to the residents, families, staff and the community as a whole.

The Families of Rockwood Terrace have specific concerns about the emotional and social impact a move to Markdale would mean for the residents of our Home. In later life when long term care is necessary, all studies show that the care participation by family members has a positive effect on the resident's mental and emotional well-being. By maintaining strong family connections similar to that which existed before admission to long term care, the resident's sense of self, and feeling of control over their lives can be supported and sustained. Many residents have a diagnosis of dementia and short regular visits are often suggested from care professionals to support such individuals. By moving the home to Markdale this would increase travel time for most families and visits would not be as easily managed. Some spouses do not drive and with the limited transportation options available and the cost in our rural area this too would contribute to a challenge families would face.

A few family members on our Council shared that they moved to Durham to retire. Prior to this, they researched the area planning for their future and chose a town that had both a hospital and a Long Term Care home. If Durham wants to continue to attract people to the area this has to be considered. Moving Rockwood Terrace would most certainly affect the local hospital and interest to the town by future retirees, which in turn could well bring negative changes to property values and the town as a whole.

In closing we want to add that the media attention and uncertainty leaves families and residents feeling very stressed. We hope that a decision is made in a timely manner that supports our concerns and allows Rockwood Terrace to continue to be an integral part of the West-Grey Community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Gingerich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jackie Gingerich

Chair Family Council, Rockwood Terrace