

Bloomfield, Briana

From: Paul Boisvert [paul_jm_boisvert@yahoo.ca]
Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2012 3:09 PM
To: Bloomfield, Briana
Subject: Re: Council Meeting June 11, 2012

Dear Briana

I am writing on behalf of Le Jardin des Decouvertes, a French preschool on 23rd street East in Owen Sound. We are writing to inform you that we are very interested in creating an unofficial 'French Quarter' in Owen Sound where our preschool is located. In doing so, we were hoping that there might be a chance of changing the two 'stop' signs around our school to bilingual '**Stop/Arrête**' signs; the first located where 23rd Street meets 8th Avenue East and the second where 23rd meets 9th Avenue. We feel the benefits are two-fold.

The first is educationally. Studies have shown that children acquire a second language when the target language and culture is viewed positively within their own community. By changing the 'stop' signs, we feel it would help our community move towards providing validation to French students all over the city, that French is a part of our heritage, and that it is regarded highly within our community. In no way are we suggesting that changing a couple of signs from 'stop' to '**Stop/Arrête**' would be the ultimate solution to language acquisition, we are merely stating that symbolically, it would be more than another step in the journey for cultural growth within the community.

The second benefit would be culturally. By establishing a 'French Quarter' in Owen Sound, even if it is unofficial, you offer something to the city that other places in both Grey and Bruce County do not have. Again, it is purely symbolic, yet it gives character to this wonderful city, and brings to light just how much French and French culture is part of this city. From a tourism perspective, imagine being able to say that Owen Sound offers a French Carnaval (as we are planning this summer) and to be able to say it is in the 'French Quarters' of town. Perhaps it will never overshadow the other wonderful events that take place in the city, but even Summer Folk started as a couple of bands just playing in the park.

Thank you again for you time and patience.

Sincerely

Paul Boisvert