

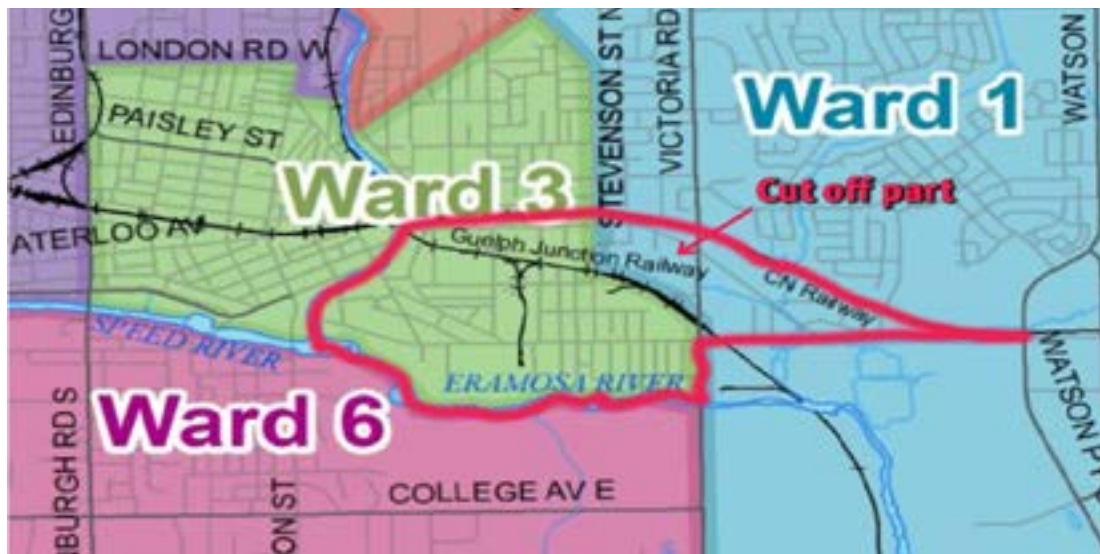
The Ward Residents' Association

Honouring the past, planning the future

<https://thewardresidentsassociation.org/>



The Ward Residents' Association sought feedback on the proposed ward reconfiguration through various means. The most common comment was a dislike of the prospect of the traditional Saint Patrick's Ward being split between two new wards. The second most common comment was a desire to retain dual member wards. This map outlines in red the traditional Saint Patrick's Ward, superimposed over a portion of the map for the currently proposed scenario 8-1.



The four principles (discussed in detail in the ward boundary review) are:

- a) Representation by population;
- b) Projected growth patterns;
- c) Communities of interest; and
- d) Natural boundaries and geographic features

Saint Patrick's Ward has strong natural boundaries and geographic features. Saint Patrick's Ward is literally cut off from most of Guelph by natural and geographic features, the Speed and Eramosa Rivers, and the Metrolinx rail line. You literally have to cross a barrier to enter the Ward from the rest of Guelph.

Saint Patrick's Ward is a strong community of interest, with common social cohesiveness and shared history that spans many decades.

The proposed scenario 8-1 fails to recognize this neighborhood by dividing it. The alternative scenario 6-2 does recognize the ward for the most part but cuts off the part of the wards east of Victoria. Almost all of the scenarios presented cut off this easternmost portion.

The population of Saint Patrick's Ward is about 4500. The population of a ward in an evenly divided 8 ward system is about 22000 people. The population of the part of Saint Patrick's Ward east of Victoria is just over 200 people. Similarly, the part of the Ward east of Stevenson and north of the GJR tracks is about 200 people. So, these "cut off" portions of the Ward are thinly populated and the addition or removal will not significantly skew the population balance between wards in any new system.