

**TO OUR SOMALI BROTHERS AND SISTERS, OUR ETOBICOKE NORTH
NEIGHBOURS, OUR TEACHER FRIENDS, AND THE TORONTO SCHOOL
COMMUNITY**

From 900, 910, 930 Queen's Plate Drive Parents and Community

Please help us tell the Toronto District School Board to return our children to their neighbourhood school.

**Join our protest at the TDSB, 5050 Yonge Street (just south of Mel
Lastman Square and the North York Centre Subway) at 6:00 pm,
Wednesday, June 23, 2010.**

10 years ago, our children were removed from Humberwood Downs P.S. to make room for children from wealthier families.

They were sent to Elmbank P.S., a school with less diversity, fewer resources, and much further away through wide dangerous streets. The map on the other side of this page paints a clear picture of this move.

Most of our children are Somali. At Elmbank, they joined many other Somali children, as part of a process we are now starting to understand as the creation of an Apartheid school system in Toronto – the growing segregation of poor, black children, who are increasingly from immigrant families.

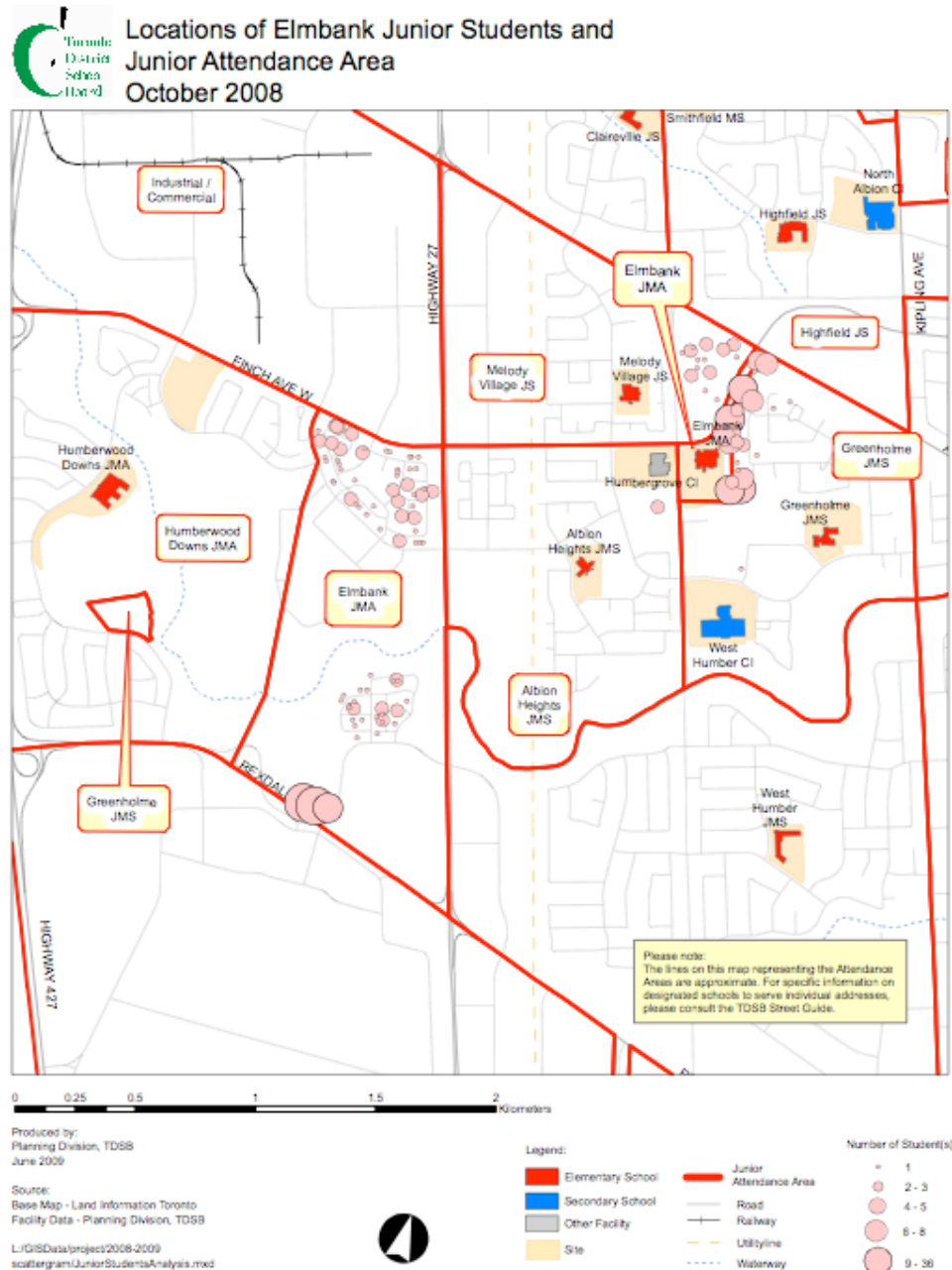
For 10 years, this move from Humberwood Downs has resulted in: limited access to after-school recreation, cultural and tutoring programs; much less parent involvement in school affairs; reduced contact between parents and teachers; and an overall inability of parents to keep watch over their children in an often violent and dangerous neighbourhood.

We have come to expect this kind of class-biased and racist restructuring of school boundaries in places like South Africa and Mississippi. We don't expect it in "multicultural" Toronto.

**Join us in saying "No" to this segregation and to the hardships involved in losing
our neighbourhood school. Say "Yes" to genuine social class and racial diversity
in public education.**

We want to add that we have a good relationship with the teachers and administration of Elmbank School. This protest should not, in any way, be seen as a criticism of their hard work and their commitment to the school and to their students.

For further information please contact Hibo Hagi-Nur (416) 679-9568, hhaginur@hotmail.com, Abdullah Wardhere (647) 701-2279, atransportation7@gmail.com, Hersi Ali (647) 241-9375, sahal_ali@hotmail.com, Ahmed Khine (416) 674-9940, Iabamadah@hotmail.com



On this map, the Queen's Plate buildings are represented as three overlapping circles on Rexdale Blvd. Humberwood Downs JMA is a walk to the west around a

park from these buildings, while Elmbank JMA involves walking south east along Rexdale Blvd, north up Highway 27 and east across Finch Ave. – all very wide and dangerous roads.)