

# Manotick/Winchester EMC

## New student seating areas really rock at Metcalfe school, Greely company gives good deal on boulder benches

Posted Oct 25, 2012 By Emma Jackson

EMC news - Osgoode Township High School rocks a little more this month, thanks to a partnership with Greely Sand and Gravel.

The local landscaping company gave the school a "good break" on eight boulders to act as outdoor seating in front of the school during lunch hour and after school.

For \$1,000, the school received eight mountain grey wall stone boulders ranging from 3 to 5 feet long and all about 18 inches high, to act as natural benches for the students.

The boulders were ordered specially for the school, which needed more height than the normal 12 inch cut. They were delivered and installed over the Thanksgiving long weekend.

Greely Sand spokesperson Neil Quinn said between the tonnage price and the delivery costs, the company probably saved the school about \$500.

"They gave me a number to work with and we made it work. (\$500) is not much in the scheme of things," Quinn said.

The OTHS alumni added that the company tries to help area schools however it can.

"We can't donate everything, but we can give them a break. It's for the kids and for the school," he said.

The rocks were funded equally through the school's heritage fund and the school council.

Guidance employee Sarah Godoy, who helped organize the new rock benches, said the school council had installed several boulders a few years ago, and they are very popular.

In a student survey last year, a common request was for more boulder seating.

"The students asked for more, and that's what we're responding to," Godoy said.

She said buying industrial benches that can withstand a high school's steady use is much too expensive for a school to finance on its own. Each bench can cost up to \$2,000, she said.

"For \$1,000 we have six more seating areas instead," she said.

Grade 10 students Kortney Sheldrick, Courtney Everson and Jill Emmerson were enjoying one of the new benches during lunch hour on Oct. 17, and said the rocks are a comfortable place to hang out.

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Emma Jackson, Metroland Courtney Everson, Kortney Sheldrick and Jill Emmerson, all Grade 10 students at Osgoode Township High School in Metcalfe, enjoy the new rocks outside their school.

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