Dear Mayor Strazdas,

In the dictionary portage means to travel by carrying a boat between two bodies of water. When I first moved here my mom always used to tell me that Portage is named Portage because this is where indians used to portage, funny how that works. At the age of seven I didn't want to ~~except~~ accept that the place I moved to would be my home. I loved where I was born, but after these past eight years I think my seven year old self would call this a pretty great place to call home. This is where I learned how to ride my bike, where I felt my first heartbreak, and where I learned what I'm passionate about. This is a home where I've made memories and I feel that, that is the true definition of a home. It's where you make the best and the worst memories, still sticking with it through thick and thin. There are many wonderful things about Portage. Some of my favorite destinations are the movies, the air zoo, and the parks. My favorite thing about portage would have to be the lakes here. I grew up on a lake and I can't tell you how privileged I feel. In the summer you can tube, swim, and kayak. In the winter you can either snuggle up on your couch and watch as the snow blankets the lake making the other side invisible, or you can go out and play in the snow. Speaking of snow, the Millennium Ice Rink is probably one of the greater qualities about portage. It's a great place to have fun with friends and family and drink some hot cocoa. Finally, I really appreciate the school system we have here in Portage. There are so many opportunities to do so many interesting things and I think education is SO important, but the extra curriculars are also very important providing a break between all the endless homework.. I feel fortunate to live a in town as great a the one we call Portage.

-Zoe Reyes