

Grand Manan Archives

Finding Aid - Grand Manan Community School 1 June 2001- Collection (MG215)

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Grand Manan Community School 1 June 2001- Collection

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Summary information

Repository: Grand Manan Archives
Title: Grand Manan Community School 1 June 2001- Collection
ID: MG215
Date: 1996 -2001 (date of creation)

Physical description: 3 cm textual documents

Note [generalNote]:

By 1964, the Grand Manan High School opened in 1948 was not meeting the needs of the students of Grand Manan. Plans were started to construct a new High School on the property at the back of the existing High School. Once the new High School opened, the old High School was turned into an Elementary School and Cafeteria for both schools.

The Elementary School was used through to 1999, when it was demolished. A major renovation and expansion was done to the school built in 1968. An addition to the south, housed the new Kindergarten to grade 5 students. The demolition of the Elementary School made room for an eastern wing to house a new gymnasium and library. The new school opened in 2001 as the Grand Manan Community School.

History of Education on Grand Manan Island - The first schools on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, were started shortly after the arrival of the first English-speaking settlers in the eighteenth century, with schools built in each settlement as soon as the settlers were able. The earliest recorded teachers grant was for Magnus Green to teach in the North Head - Castalia area of Grand Manan in 1845. By 1851, five teachers were receiving grants and there were four 'school houses' here. By 1861, there were six schools. Most village school instruction reached a level close to the present Junior high. Until 1943, education was an activity of each village, with some students going to other village schools for later grades when those grades were not offered in their own villages.

New Brunswick's, and in turn Grand Manan's, education system became increasingly centralized as the century progressed. In the first half of the 20th century, education was administered and funded by county-level governments. By the late-1940s, mainland communities were establishing regional school districts to give rural students the opportunity to have a full high school education. Parents on Grand Manan asked for similar opportunities, and a high school was established on temporary quarters in the 1943-1944 school year.

Grand Manan's new consolidated high school was opened in Grand Harbour in 1949.

The next wave of changes came in the late-1960s. First, in 1967, a new high school opened behind Grand Harbour's old high school, and the latter was turned into a junior high. Next, in 1968, as part of the provincial government's Equal Opportunity program, the Department of Education in Fredericton assumed administrative and financial responsibility for education throughout the province, and Grand Manan, in turn, was made School District 22. 1978 was the last year the community schools on Grand Manan were operating. In 1979, students were transported by bus to the central Grand Harbour location. The junior high school became the only elementary school for students on Grand Manan. The elementary school on outlying White Head Island, however, remains operational in 2019.

The third and latest wave of changes began in the mid-1990s. In 1996, the Department of Education reduced the number of school districts, and, in 1997, it instituted province-wide kindergarten programs. As a result, the district office on Grand Manan was closed in 1996 (Grand Manan became part of District 10, centered in St. Stephen), and the high school was renovated and expanded in 1999 in order to accommodate students from kindergarten to grade twelve as well as a new library and gymnasium. The former junior high—the structure built in 1949—was demolished the same year that the newly expanded school re-opened.

Source: Gleneta Hettrick and Ava Griffin Sturgeon

Note [generalNote]:

By 2001, much of the record keeping for the school was electronic and due to privacy laws most records have gone to the mainland to head office. This collection remains open although further donations are not expected.

Custodial history

When the school board offices closed on Grand Manan in 1996, Gleneta Green Hettrick, then the archivist, acquired many records from the office. Additional donations to this collection were added as construction occurred at the schools and more records were found. All records were created by the school associated group.

Scope and content

This collection contains the Proposal for a new community school, 1996 ; news clippings re school renovations ; Elementary financial records 1996-97.

Notes

Title notes

Related material

See Photos of school de-construction at MG800.882.9.10.1-12

12 photos of Grand Manan High School built in 1948: one postcard of the school after it first opened and one photo with buses out front shortly before it closed ; 10 photos of the demolition of the building 1999 in preparation for reconstruction of the school to become the Grand Manan Community School.

See Photos of school re-construction at MG800.882.9.11.1-21

Packet of 21 photos of the reconstruction of the Grand Manan High School into the Grand Manan Community School, opened in 2001. Photos date from June 1998 - Sept 2001 and show sod turning ceremonies to the finished new classrooms for K-12.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
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Collection holdings
