

Good Evening Everyone – my name is Robyn Bushey and I will be speaking on behalf of the community, many of who are here tonight. I have been a teacher for the past 20 years so education and especially my children's education is very important to me. I have lived in Sunny Corner my whole life so both of these schools hold a special place in my heart. Not only did I attend NSEE and NSER, but I have three children that are going through these schools. In June my oldest daughter Mikayla graduated from NSER. As I sat at the graduation and listened to our wonderful principal Dean Mutch give a personal address to each graduate and individually offer a piece of advice to take with them, it definitely reaffirmed that we made the right decision to have our children attend these schools. There is definitely something to be said about attending smaller schools.

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As a member of this community, I must say that I have never been as proud as when I walked through the doors of this gym on September 30 at the Save the School meeting and saw about 850 people of all ages, here to support NSEE and NSER! What an awesome community we live in! As I sat and listened to the sustainability study presented by Superintendent Stymlest, I felt nothing but pride – academic achievements that far exceed results of other schools in the district and provincially, beautiful and well maintained schools and a community committed to making it even better! I kept waiting for her to discuss the negative factors; however, there were none! In my opinion, she reaffirmed what we already knew – that we have awesome schools, educators and staff.

As I was preparing this presentation, I talked to some people about NSER and NSEE and was surprised at how many individuals lived away, and came back to live in this area when their children were of school age so that their children could experience the same small community based education that they did. I also talked to people who have heard about the excellent quality of education at these schools and have moved their families within this community so their children could attend the school. One such family was Dr. Kruger from South Africia who moved here 8 years ago and decided on our school after reading a review in MacLean's magazine placing our schools in the top 10 in Canada. Also about six months ago, Dr. Swart and his family were leaving South Africia and opening a practice in Miramichi. NSER was so highly recommended, that their daughter now attends here as well. I feel this alone speaks volumes to the education our children are receiving, and in my mind, you can't put a price on education.

To show how these schools are the hub of our community, here are just a few things that our schools are used for during the evenings – that are not school related:

Girl guides, Karate, Badminton, community remembrance day ceremonies, seniors computer classes, piano recitals, Harrison McCain Institute – graduation and banquet, Earl Doherty Memorial Tournament and other tournaments, Lawlor Show and Shine, and yoga to name a few.

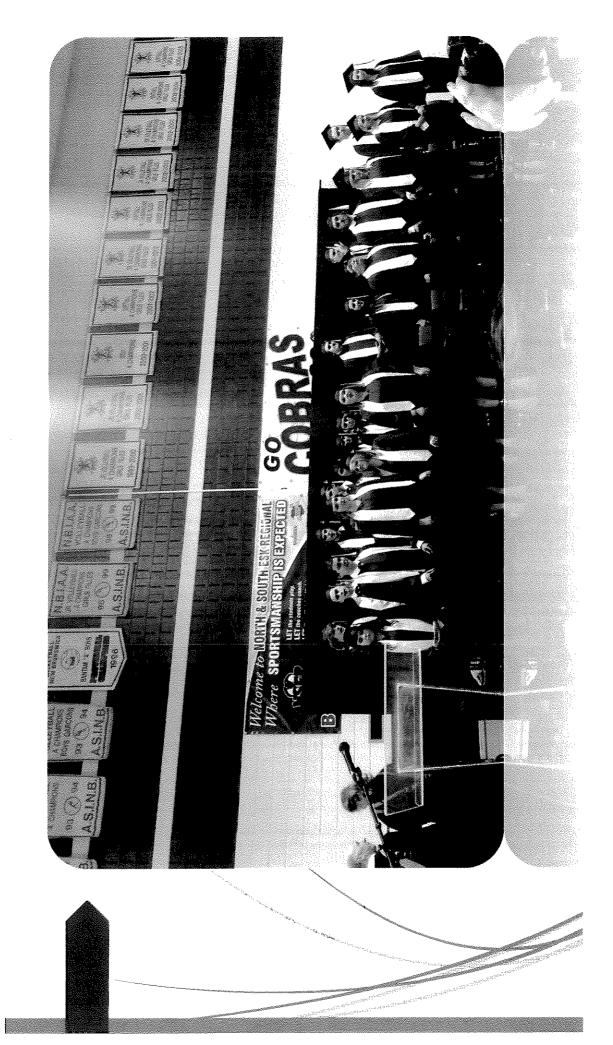
There are also various events held in the evenings by our children and teens that require community support for attendance. Drama productions at all age levels, the haunted house, fundraising suppers, Christmas concerts, again to name just a few. The support of our community at each of these events is simply overwhelming. Seniors in the community coming out night after night for a drama production with no ties to the school – just to support the children...definitely awesome.

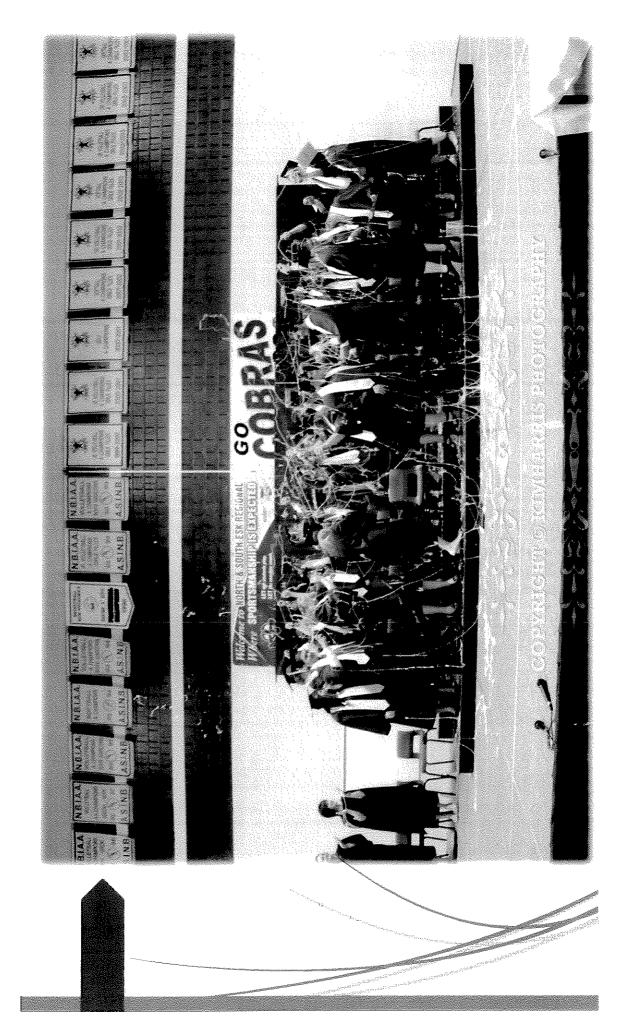
Over the past three years, people from the community have donated over a quarter of a million dollars to NSER alone! This money was donated by an anonymous donor and by fundraising efforts by students. I am betting that statistic is not the norm at other schools. With this money and a little district money, the school was able to purchase blinds for the entire school which are necessary for safety reasons with the lockdowns, student chairs, new sound system, lights for the theatre productions, new equipment to run the score clock in the gym, and all new stools for the chemistry lab. The biggest investment was the two new beautiful soccer fields – including bleachers, fencing and prep of the fields. These were expenses that the district did **not** have to contribute any money to because of the generous contributions of this community.

Besides all of these contributions, both schools participated in various fundraising activities so that the children could go to more events and have a well-rounded education. NSEE estimates that they bring in approximately \$15,000 per year in fundraising initiatives.

NSER and NSEE staff are both grateful for the support of this community. In turn, they are teaching our children about giving back and helping those in need....qualities that are just as valuable as education taught in the classroom. Some of the projects include students working together to give clean drinking water to third world countries, trick or eat to collect can goods for the local Food Bank, fundraising to support the monthly salary of a teacher at an orphanage in Haiti, sponsoring families at Christmas and purchasing food for underprivileged children around the world, as well as a couple of substantial fundraiser's one for a sick child and the other a sick teacher, raising over \$50,000 between the two. The students can see the impact they are making, and realize the importance of helping those less fortunate.

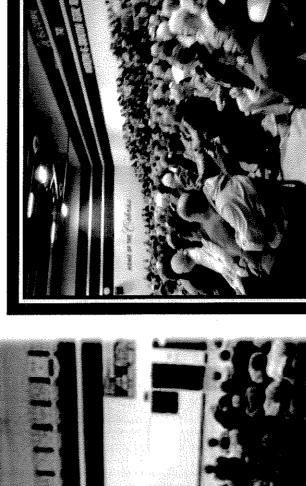
We, as a community, would like to thank the DEC for listening. NSER and NSEE are undoubtedly the hub of our community, which is evident in the support here tonight. Our little community is far from "little" in terms of its financial support and physical presence at each and every event held within these two facilities. We are a community with a big heart for our schools and our children and we stand in solidarity hoping that our voices make a difference! Thank you!

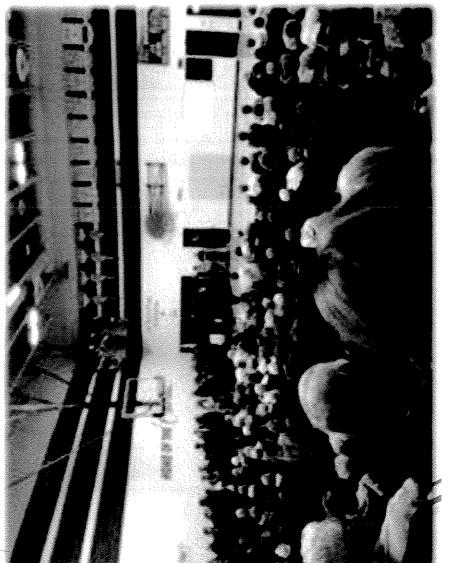




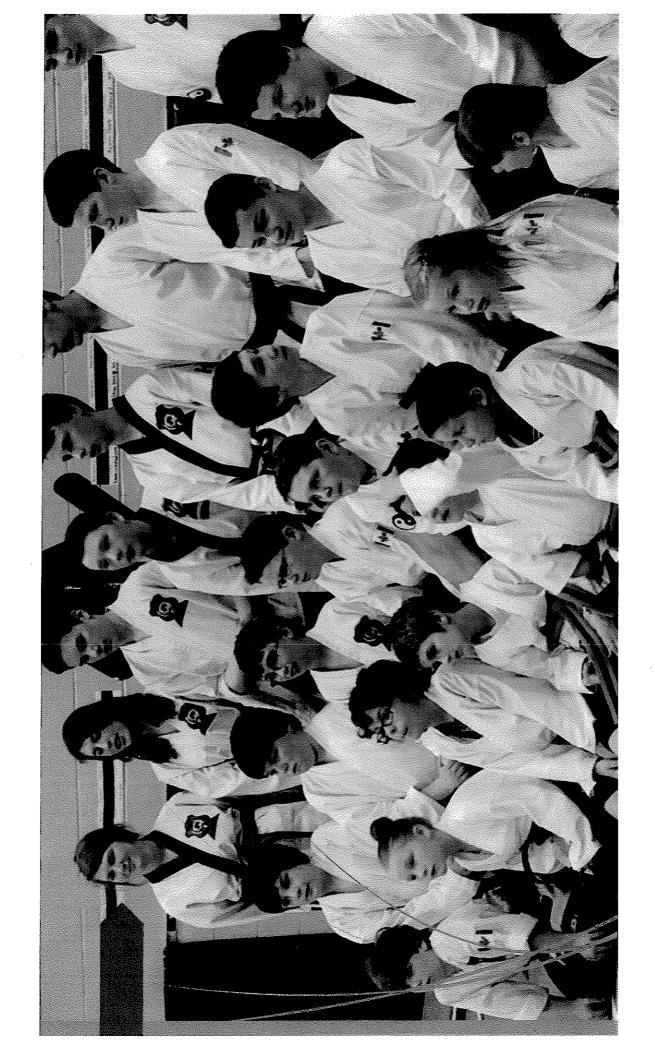


September 30, 2015 – Save the School

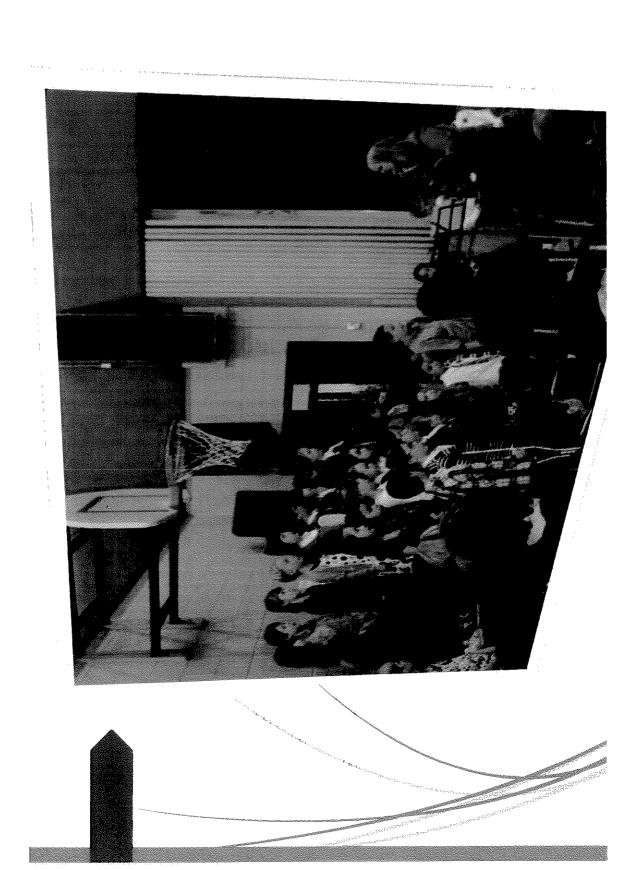














\$8 per Week

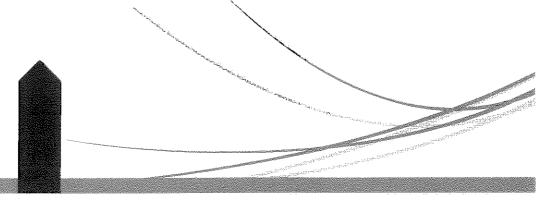
New and Existing Clients Welcome • No Experience Needed

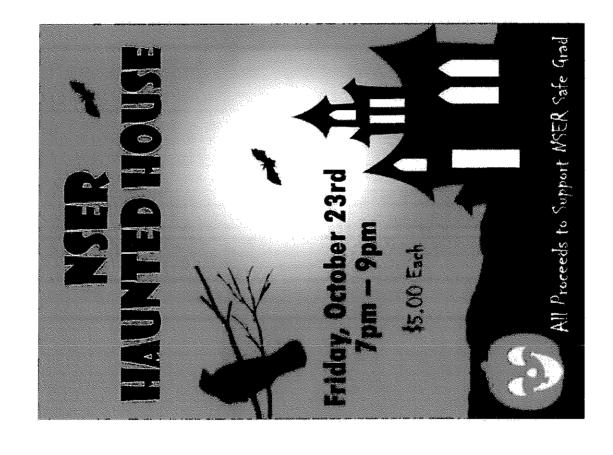
6 Week Program Begins September 22 Tuesday @ 6:30 pm

NSEE Elementary School Gym - Sunny Corner

Shannon Daley Certified Yoga Instructor









Community Contributions & Fundraising

Over a quarter of a million dollars in the past three years!!

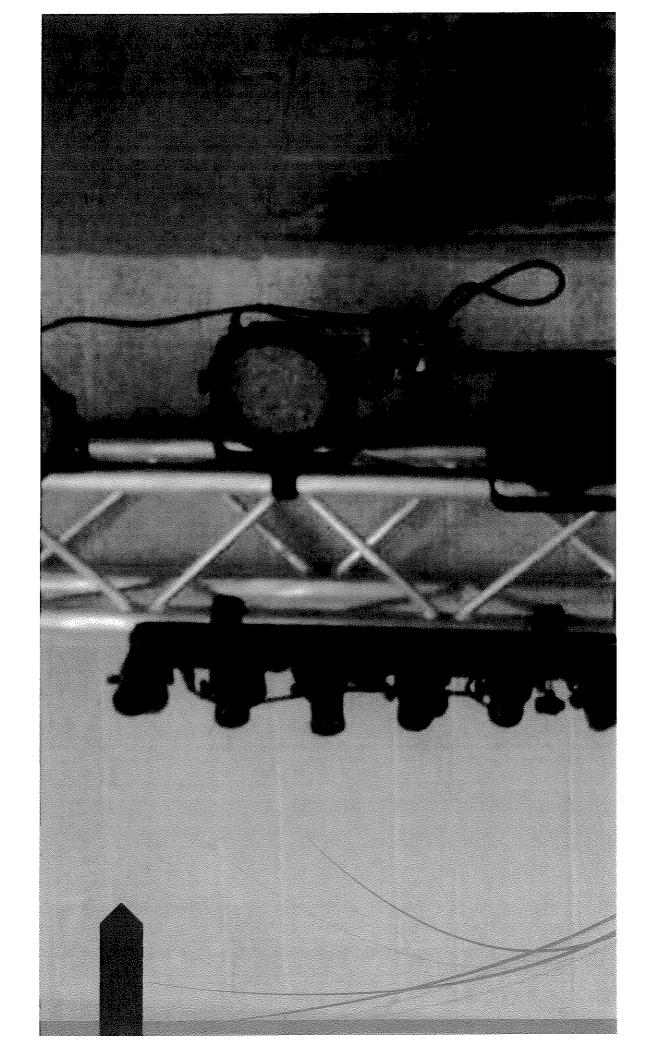




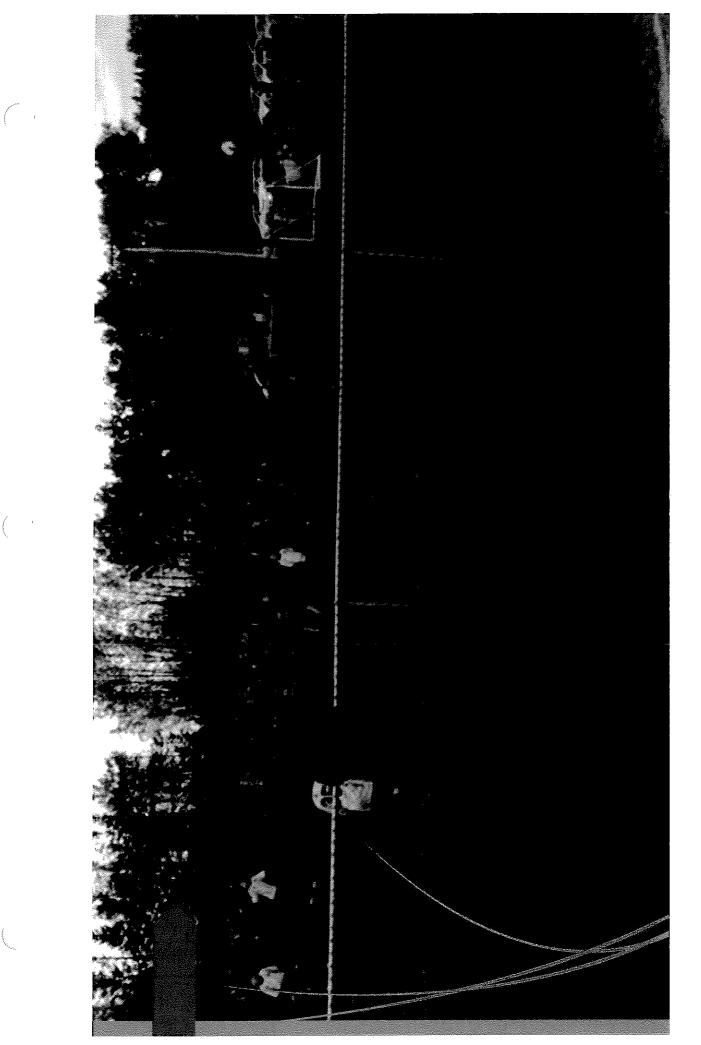
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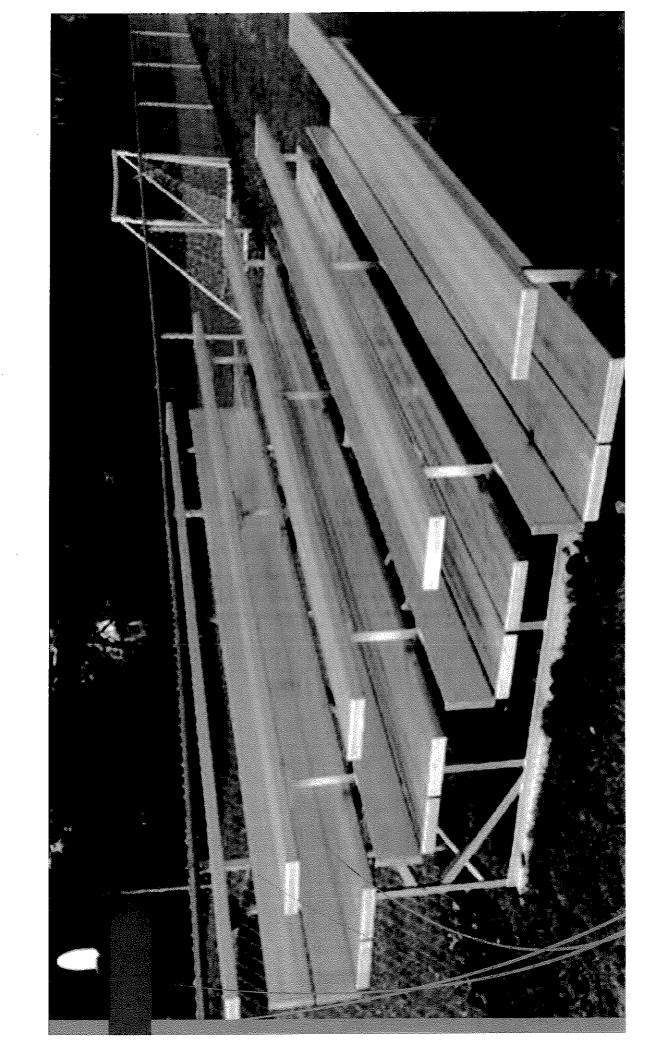


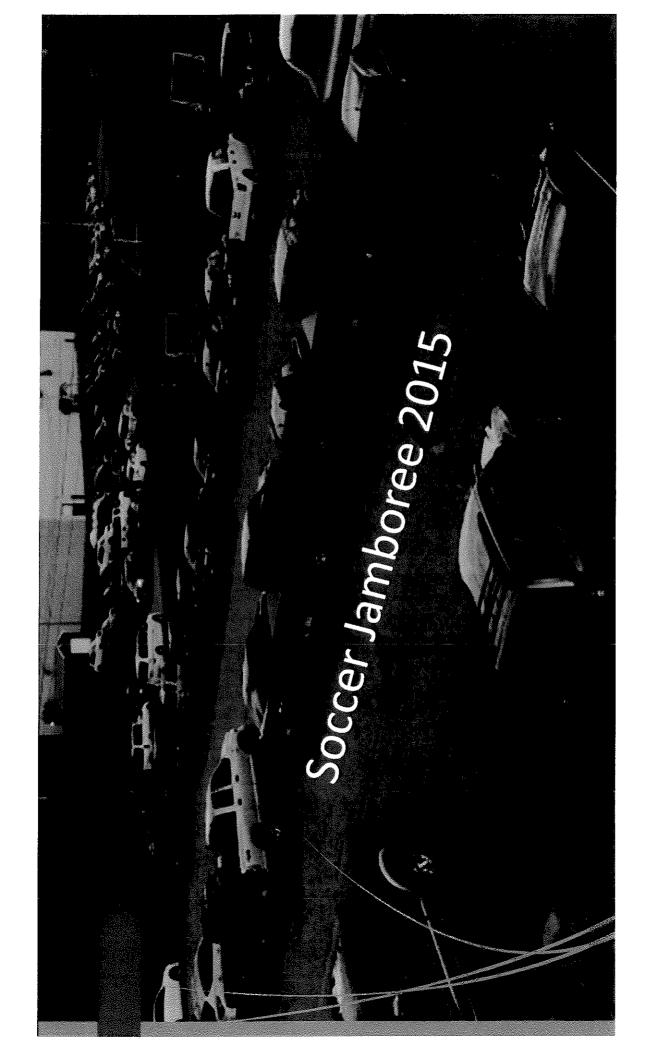












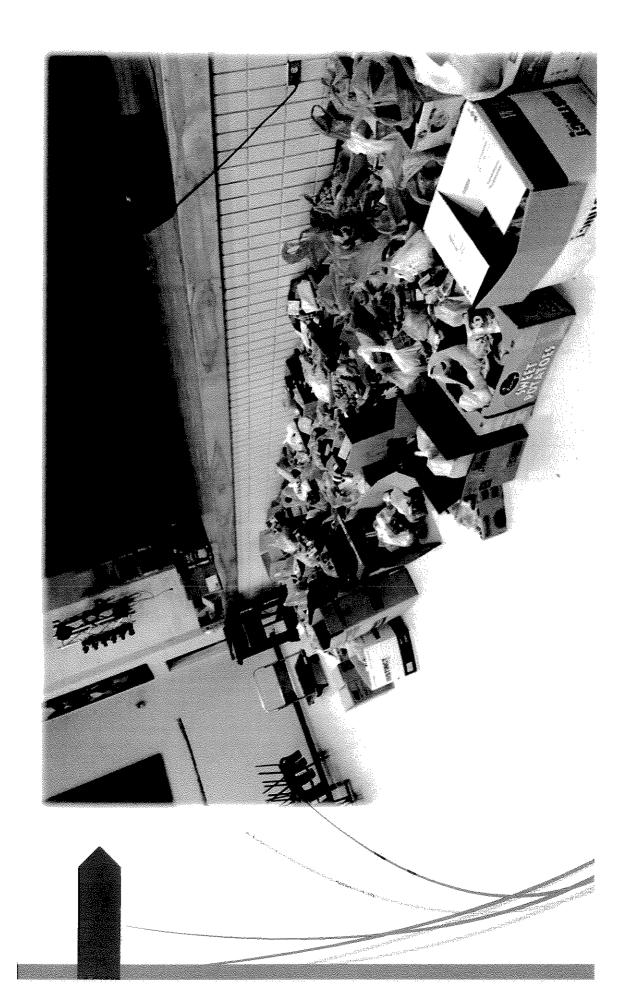




J. Carrier

Food Bank Donations



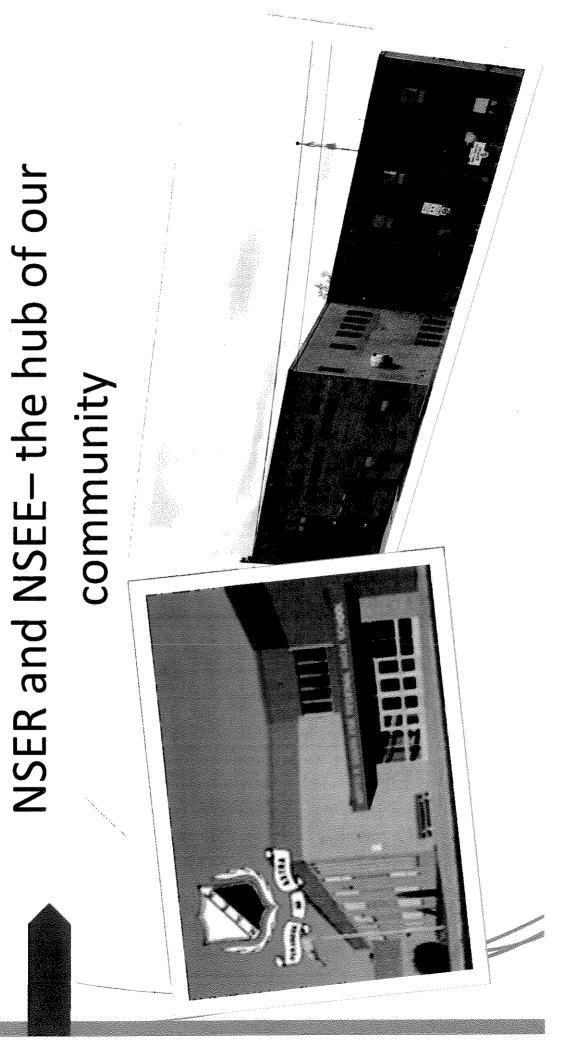


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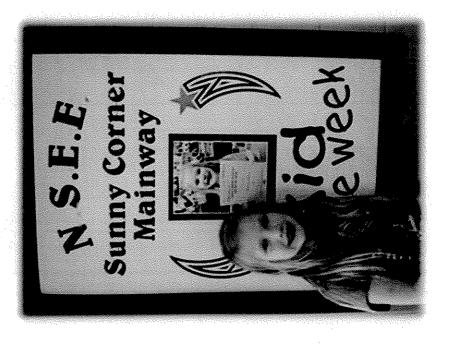


"Tou have not hved today untilyou have done something for someone who can never repay



Sunny Corner Irving Mainway

Claudia Bryenton



Good Evening to Everyone: My name is Claudia Foran Bryenton local business owner of the Sunny Corner Irving for 32 years and a proud Graduate of N.S.E.R.! Both N.S.E.R. & N.S.E.E. have a major impact on our flow of customers coming through our doors! With the school being within walking distance of our site it gives access to the students for employment opportunies within our site. This in turn has given me the great experience over the years to know the students on a first name basis and watch them mature into the young women & men of our future. It can't be expressed enough of the quality of teaching that has and will come from these two exceptional schools here in Sunny Corner! On behalf of myself, everyone here tonight and our strong community I would like to quote" Never put off until tomorrow the things we can do today" Do it now, the best remedy is action and we begin tonight! This night will never return and we must make this a night to remember and make our voices heard! Our presence here tonight says it all about our awesome schools and our community of Sunny Corner! Thank-you

Sunny Corner Subway Kathy Astle



BERESFORD-BATHURST-MIRAMICHI-ROGERSVILLE

101 King George Hwy.

Miramichi, NB E1V 1K7

506-627-1510

subwaynenb@gmail.com

Good evening everyone, my name is Kathy Astle, and I am the General Manager for all Subway Restaurants in Miramichi. Many Subway restaurants are built to accommodate students at lunch. This was no exception in December, 2006, when the Subway in the Sunny Corner Irving opened.

Since that time, we have employed a large number of students. Over our 9 years of operation in our Sunny Corner location, we have seen most of those students go on to be successful in their own endeavors.

Atlantic Subway offers an education scholarship for employees and we are proud to say that one of our employees won. His name was Jacob Tozer, a former student from N.S.E.R. Jacob worked during his high school years, and we are extremely proud of his hard work & dedication. He was a great addition to our Sunny Corner Subway staff.

Recently, Subway was involved in assisting with the NSER girls soccer team and has also worked closely with the students of NSER during safe grad & NSEE providing a kid's pack for "Student of the Week". We provide a great lunch special geared towards the students. It is a healthy alternative to fast food at an affordable price.

We would be very disappointed if the school status should change, seeing as how we have such a close bond with the students of NSER & NSEE and their families.

Conclusion (Community Impact):

It is quite clear that NSER and NSEE have the total support of the community. Look at the crowd that have attended the last two meetings and the support given by the last several speakers.

Therefore no CONCERN !!
Status Quo works!

mpact on Other Schools

Impact on Other Schools:

- There would be no impact on other schools with option 1 -States alo
- With option # 2, moving grade 6 to NSER, each school would need to adapt to the changing environment.
- impact on NSER as the school would need to be reorganized to ensure boundaries that are developmentally appropriate With option # 3, closing NSEE, there would be a significant for elementary, middle and high are present.

Conclusion (Impact on other Schools):

Our Choice is OPTION #1

Therefore no CONCERN !! Status Quo works! Economic Development

Economic development:

development projects in the community or surrounding Consideration of planned and future economic area.

This is something that we need our elected government officials to resolve.

This is out of our control and can only be addressed at election time.

Therefore no CONCERN !! Status Quo works! Conclusion (Economic Development):

Overall Conclusion:

North and South Esk area have two schools with very high evels of education being offered. They are both very financially stable and structurally sound

So what comes first?

Quality Education? Or a need to destroy a Quality Education?

e have proven that Quality Education Comes First !!!

Therefore no CONCERN !!
Status Quo works!



Roy Silliker <save.nser.nsee@gmail.com>

Proposed NSER/NSEE school closure

Kelly Sherrard

Wed, Oct 7, 2015 at 12:17 PM

To: "elizabeth.stymiest@nbnet.nb.ca" <elizabeth.stymiest@nbnet.nb.ca>, "michael.morlock@nbnet.nb.ca" <michael.morlock@nbnet.nb.ca>, "ron.ecker@nbnet.nb.ca" <ron.ecker@nbnet.nb.ca>

I grew up in Boom Road and attended NSER, graduating in 1980. I come from a fairly large family, 10 in all, all of whom attended and graduated there. Most of my brothers and sisters went on to attend university, and there are a number of degrees amongst them including Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Science, 3 Engineering (Civil, Survey and Electrical), Dentistry, Orthodontics, Nursing and Teaching. Some have attended other schools as well. One key factor that so many of us have developed from attending NSER and the teachers we had was a love of learning, to think "outside of the box", the importance of teamwork, to appreciate the sense of community, and other attributes that carry on in their lives today, some 30+ years later.

NSER is not just a school, it was a breeding ground where people can learn the to take the limits off of what they think they can do and be encouraged by their teachers to strive for more than what others have done. When I attended NSER, we had a Physics teacher who I called some 20 years after graduation to ask him a question. He remembered me.

NSER's reputation for graduating well prepared students far exceeds the Miramichi community. In the early 1990's, I met with the Registrar of Dalhousie University to discuss a program. She asked me what school I had attended. I told her it was a little school in the Newcastle area called North & South Esk Regional High School. She had a smile on her face and replied, "some of our best students come from that school". This is a testament to the quality of both the students who graduate and the excellent programs taught there.

This school's importance goes far beyond someone's data sheet at the Dept. of Education office. It is the heart of the community and people not only across Canada but around the world owe their success to the teachers in that building.

I strongly urge you to keep the doors of both NSER and NSEE open. People want their children educated in THEIR COMMUNITY, with the same dedicated teachers they had, and who care as much for their children's education and success as they do.

Regards,

Kelly Sherrard NSER Graduating Class of 1980



Roy Silliker <save.nser.nsee@gmail.com>

Save Our Community Schools NSER & NSEE

Bob Ellis

Mon, Oct 5, 2015 at 4:57 PM

To: "Elizabeh.Stymiest@nbed.nb.ca" <elizabeh.stymiest@nbed.nb.ca>

Cc: "Micheal.Morlock@nbed.nb.ca" <micheal.morlock@nbed.nb.ca>, "ron.ecker@nbed.nb.ca" <ron.ecker@nbed.nb.ca>, "saye.NSER.NSEE@gmail.com" <save.nser.nsee@gmail.com>

My self, Robert Ellis, my Wife Paulette and mother in law Norma Young share this email, in support of Saving the NSER & NSEE Community School by Option B which was described as moving the grade 6 to the NSER from NSEE. Enabling both school to keep on being used for all the numerous school and community activities that are ongoing to date.



Roy Silliker <save.nser.nsee@gmail.com>

Save our SLEEP...

K A Goodfellow

Thu, Oct 8, 2015 at 9:21 PM

To: Elizabeth.Stymiest@nbed.nb.ca, Micheal.Morlack@nbed.nb.ca, ron.ecker@nbed.nb.ca, save.nser.nsee@gmail.com

Superintendent Stymiest and District Education Council:

I love sleep.

I suspect you love sleep too, Most people complain they don't get enough sleep. And students?? They NEVER can get enough sleep! Their growth hormones are suppressing melatonin levels so they can't sleep at night and only want to sleep in the morning. Fabulous studies have been done demonstrating how even marginal increases in sleep can improve the quality of learning students can achieve.

Why is this relevant?

I am aware that you have been inundated with facts and figures pertaining to the viability of these educational facilities and community centres, so I will skip the rhetoric and get to my point.

Sunny Comer, NB is one of the small, country communities that makes New Brunswick what it is. People who choose to live there do so for a variety of reasons. They want to be part of a vibrant community while celebrating the beauty and riches of the Miramichi River. Part of the desire to live in this and nearby communities is the availability of a great education. Provincial scorecards demonstrate that NSEE/NSER regularly and repeatedly achieve above-average results in both their school district and the province.

HOW is a community to survive if you take away its easy access to education? Closure of these schools would result in a nearly 27 km trip to Miramichi on school buses - this would detract from the time a student is able to study, partake in extracurricular activities and more importantly, SLEEP! Any educator can tell you the importance of sleep to a student. There have been a myriad of studies underpinning its importance.

The simple math on this point is:

Busing students to Miramichi will conservatively add 45 minutes per day to each student's commute. 45 minutes x 187 school days = 8,415 minutes 8,415 minutes = 140 hours 140 hours = nearly 6 days OR 20 SCHOOL DAYS... ON A BUS.

Add to that horrible statistic, the increase in snow days and now an increase in time spent in buses - would you want your child spending more time on the roads in winter?

The NSEE & NSER school system supports a community. It keeps people local. Many of the staff at both schools live locally. Forcing students and staff to travel greater distances, possibly on poor road conditions, while cutting short their home time is both dangerous and incongruous with educational standards.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Sincerely, Anne Goodfellow Class of '96

PS - I can personally make available to your committee the dozens of peer-reviewed studies outlining the importance of sleep to a student's education.

I am a parent, former graduate and member of the community . I was born and raised in this community and contribute my learning in this school, giving me a very sound basis and confidence to achieve higher learning, for my career as a physiotherapist. Through my involvement in extracurricular events at this school, including drama, student council, yearbook, radio club, public speaking and sports, I was able to grow from a quiet, subdued child into a confident, well rounded mature adult . This has given me the ability to relate and deal with a variety of personalities and problems I see on a daily basis, giving me the ability to be of the best help to the current members of my community, of all ages young and old. Without this solid background, my further involvement in my professional life would not be the same as a business owner, an active member of my professional association and as a mentor for the next generation of physiotherapists. I thank all my former mentors at NSER for this.

However I am not writing this letter based on my emotional attachment and thanksgivings to NSER. I am writing this from my concerns as a physiotherapist. Through my 24 year career as a physiotherapist, I have learned a lot on how the human body and brain works. Physical movement and playful activity is required to learn and develop as a human being. A child develops through reflexive patterns to develop the cognitive maturity for higher learning, past the basic needs. The human needs physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well being, in an appropriate social environment, in order to achieve in academics. To have ideal learning we need to feel safe and have sufficient social engagement. We need curiosity, trial and error, and emotional attachment. When we are in stress mode we focus on survival. A child may tune out, freeze, go into fight or flight mode. So it would be in our best interest to have our children learn in a safe appropriate learning environment. It appears the scores on provincial tests that you showed above average shows these needs are being met in these community schools. By amalgamating these 2 schools, how will these scores change? How can we tell if the child will go into stress mode? Will they see the school as a safe curlous environment. Or will it be scary, big, noisy, something to tune out, flight or fight?

The following are my points to consider if you are considering amalgamating both schools.

1- There will be 1 gym for the children from age 4-17. Already there are challenges with scheduling the current activities between the gym at NSER. With both schools it would be unlikely there would be sufficient time to schedule other activities that go on at NSEE, including intramural, extracurricular sports and community activities such as Karate, drama, community presentations. What times would practices be and would this affect the number of children that would be able to participate in fun, playful physical activity. This is needed now as well as a basis for their mental and physical well-being and their involvement in these in their adult lives. Could parents and grandparents be able to attend these functions? If there is no gym time left for the community, how does it leave the well being of the community? The time commitment for parents? Remember stressed parents lead to stressed children.

Even if this did cost the education system money what would it do to our medical system?

Would there be any room left for creative options for the well being of our community such as senior/child working groups, day programs for seniors, outdoor groups, canoe club. With the location of the school from Miramichi city limits, it plays a pivotal role for community involvement as our needs in

other domains such as health care change from hospital base to community based programs. Do we want to set this up that there is no leeway in other societal needs in times of change?

Other considerations regarding size are things such as toilets, library books, space/ floor layout, cafeteria service tables, chairs would have to be revamped. What would this cost be?

Development/learning cannot be done in a state of stress. A 4 YEAR OLD CHILD DOING AN ACTIVITY IN A LARGE, BRIGHT NOISY GYM AN YEILD DIFFERNET INVOLVMENT THAN STARTING IN A SMALLER MORE SUBDUED GYM AT NSEE. I HAVESEEN THIS WITH ASSISTING COACHING SMALL BALL AS WELL AS ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DRAMA AND SPEAKING IN PUBLIC. If a child is scared, he or she will not want to be involved in physical or social development, which can be a barrier to learning. Seniors often frequent the school to watch grandchildren and relatives at their sporting or drama events. Seniors need interaction but busy environments can be challenging for seniors. It is very different watching a child in a small gym/ less noisy school filled with smaller children compared to a large echoing gym. Factors can change the amount of community involvement both in their presence and their contribution to the school.

Socially, we cannot shelter our children from the bad in society forever but when a child is exposed to negative factors early on, before he/she has had a sound base of right and wrong, what happens if the small child is exposed to bad language, drugs, promiscuous activity. Does that affect behaviour and learning as well as morals? Will that affect what he/she learns that day? What is the cost of bullying, fear, withdrawal, both from a cost of learning as well as the guidance needed to address these issues? What does it cost our school/community if children are involved in drugs at a young age?

With respect to having more resources as the schools amalgamate, I feel that is a matter of perception. Kindergarten child has very different need than a graduating student. Two separate principals can address those needs more than 1 principal for both ages. Special resources for music may be less of a priority as it can be addressed extracurricularly if needed.

With respect to the children who have learning challenge the staff at NSEE have consistently put huge efforts into addressing their needs, exploring various learning styles, adaptations and working with other professionals in a very open minded, conscientious and energetic manner. Keen concern of staff as members of our community caring for children of our community yields different results than specialists outside of community.

The school has always had an open policy. Obviously the space it has now allows room to do separate meetings as needed. If they were amalgamated, would this continue?

With regards to moving the Grade 6 to the high school, it did not make sense to put NSEE under the trigger. Regardless of this, Grade 6 children play a pivotal role in mentoring younger children, physically assisting in the smaller grades, gaining confidence, challenging leadership roles to develop into a solid emotional base for leadership roles later on in life. The youth leaders assist with intramural and other events at the school. Could these be run without their help and if so at what cost to teacher time? The grade 6 students do not get paid for their contributions in money only in development. Grade 5 student do not have the same maturity level to follow through with these roles.

So to summarize, I am expressing my desire to stay status quo, mainly on the basis of NSER's pivotal role as a community environment which does not have room to combine NSEE and NSER to allow it to function at the same potential for our whole community well-being-physically, mentally and socially.

Through issues with gym time (intramural, extracurricular and community based, resources and teaching available to appropriate age levels, guidance for bullying and other issues, involvement of the students, parents, grandparents and community as a whole in their presence and contributions, community physical activity and mental health issues, Grade 6 leadership and cost for physical changes in amalgamation. Can you put a cost on this impact that could change our current learning averages and well-being of the students and if so, can we weigh how it will affect other budgets such as health care and seniors care.

To further summarize, do we need to make changes just for change sake? As I have learned in business and life, if it isn't broke, don't fix it. Perhaps there are other ways to save in our education system that could be worth 110, 000/year.

Jane Nastasiuk

Attention: Beth Stymiest

On Wed. Oct. 1 st, 2015 I attended the Sustainability Study: North and South Esk Regional High and North and South Esk Elementry power point presentation.

At the beginning of the presentation you stated, this is not personal. In my opinion, I find this very personal as I'm an alumni of NSER, graduate of 1981. Over the years I have attended many activities/events held at both schools. Following is a list of some of the activities/events I've attended: Remembrance Day Service, Fall fair and book sale, Home and School fund-raisers (breakfasts/dinners), plays/musical performances, Spelling B's, sport tournaments (volleyball, basketball, soccer), Pow Wow at NSER by Metepenagiag school, Graduation incentives with local dealership-Ford, fashion shows, Christmas craft sales, and Christmas concerts. Having these activities/events at both schools are a positive. The schools are a community base that fosters a friendly, fun and active lifestyle for all ages. As stated in the study the structures of both schools are good.

Another hub for activity is our Sunny Corner Rink, located in close proximity between NSER and NSEE. Public skating, hockey, Sunny Corner Days, and dog shows are a few activities/events held at this facility. A school closure would have an overall negative effect on the rink, questioning its sustainability and future in our community.

As a community, we must make a stand to keep our schools open. We the tax-payers should be electing a government whose top priority is education. Economic development needs to be focused on growth creating good paying jobs for our young people so they will stay in New Brunswick. If elected governments were achieving success in this

endeavour, we would not be doing Sustainability Studies in our schools. Sincerely,

Heather A. Johnston. Heather A. Johnston From: Lisa Lavoie

Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 12:44 PM To: Stymiest, Beth (Superintendent) (ASD-N)

Subject: Sustainability Study

Hello Mrs. Stymeist,

I am unsure if I can attend the meetings for the sustainability study for NSEE. I do not have my fiance's work schedule yet and we do not have babysitters for my son. My name is Lisa Lavoie. I was a student of yours at Superior Junior High School in 1990 or so. You were my English teacher and I fondly remember you reading novels to us every day.

As for the school closing, if the sustainability study proves that keeping NSEE or NSER closed would be more beneficial, I feel that these meetings are more of a formality and the decision has been made and the meetings are just smoke and mirrors.

My issue is not with the schools closing as much as with the safe transportation of our children. As a parent, my son Lukas is 8, and he still requires a booster seat and seat belt in my car. However, there are none of these things on the buses. We live in an extremely rural area as with most of the students at the schools. Being out of the city limits, our roads are not salted. They are very unsafe and there are many large wood trucks going by every day.

I would highly recommend upgrading our buses with seat belts. With all of the savings on less staff and less schools to run, I feel that looking into seat belts for the kids is not much to ask. I would like to know the cost of one seat belt, as I would buy my own if needed.

I will try to attend all the meetings, but if I cannot go to meeting #2, could you please read my e-mail? The province is saving so much money closing the small schools and making mega schools. I think that some of the money saved should be spent on safety. Quite frankly, I don't care what school Lukas goes to as long as he arrives and comes home safely. I prefer a smaller school but if that can't be done, this would put my mind at ease.

I was very happy to see that you are the Superintendent. Congratulations on such a wonderful promotion. You were a wonderful teacher and I am very happy for you.

Regards,

Lisa Lavoie