

Community Meeting April 16, 2004

Purpose of meeting: To discuss the future of the Mar Community Centre

Agenda: Water Concerns – Colleen to introduce Bill Jones – 15 minutes

Hester Cunningham – recap of how much it costs to run the hall on a yearly basis.

History of Building – Vivian ^(H. McDonald) – Building was opened in 1907 as a one room schoolhouse and has served several generations of local families. My father ^(Bert Hardman) was one of the first students to attend in 1907 and the building accommodated 50 students at that time. During my time at this school there were approximately 30 students attending with one teacher.

There were 2 gyms downstairs – one for the girls and one for the boys which were separated by a partition plus one toilet on each side. There were 2 stairways – one for the girls and one for the boys. Eventually the toilets (one holer) became washrooms and were moved upstairs – one at the top of each set of stairs. The school closed in 1966/67 and the WI purchased the building in 1967. Since then there have been a number of changes. The girls stairway was closed off and the washrooms were moved to their current location. The bell room/cloak room/library was located where the dishwasher is now. The cupboard area of the school has not changed since I went to school here other than the sink being replaced. New windows were put in by the WI and a ramp was added. The windows downstairs were replaced with money donated by friends and family in lieu of flowers after my mother, Alice (Weir) Hardman passed away in 1998. She had been a member of this branch of the WI for over 70 years...and according to records my Grandmother Sarah Weir had been President of the Institute in 1914. This branch of the Institute will be celebrating their 100th year anniversary in 2005. So you can see the importance this building has had as a central part of this community.

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