

**Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund  
June, 2009**

**Grand Tracadie Home and School Association**

**President: Martie Murphy**

**Principal: Heather Cudmore**

**Name of Project: Celebrating Grand Tracadie School**

**Goal(s):**

- To invite past students, parents, teachers and community members to an Open House to honor the years that Grand Tracadie School has been in operation.
- To provide a sense of closure for students, parents and staff during this very difficult time.

**Description:**

On June 23rd, 2009 an Open House was held at the school from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. During this time, the public was invited to visit the school, view photos and work from past years and to reminisce. Refreshments were served to the large number in attendance.

**Did you achieve your goal?**

Yes, we held a very successful Open House which brought together students, parents, staff, and community members to recognize the closing of Grand Tracadie School.

**Who did the project benefit?**

Parents, teachers, students and community helped to bring closure to this process. The event gave everyone an opportunity to remember, celebrate - and say good-bye.

**What challenges are you still facing with parent engagement?**

Continuing to have the same depth of positive parent engagement in the new schools that the children attend.

**Thoughts about the project topic (provided by project partners)**

The long and proud history of Grand Tracadie School was celebrated through an open house

where present and former students and parents, the community and friends had an opportunity to both celebrate the successes and to share the loss of their school.

Grand Tracadie, like other schools that closed at the end of the past school year, was considered the centre of the community. For most rural communities, the closing of their small school took place years ago. The few small schools that remained open represented a way of life that many Islanders found difficult to change. It is not surprising that it was difficult. For the closing of these few remaining small schools was the final chapter of a regionally-based educational journey that began with the Development Plan of the mid 1960's.

Across PEI, many of these small schools have become community centers, still serving as a place to "center the community". We trust that Grand Tracadie School, while closing its doors as one type of learning facility, will reopen - or continue to remain open - as a place where the community continues to gather, to build and grow and be another example of the rural community excellence it has always been.