

**Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund
June, 2009**

Rollo Bay Parent Council

President: Louise Deagle

Principal: Ronnie McIntosh

Name of Project: School Closing Ceremony

Goal(s):

- To celebrate the contribution of Rollo Bay School--the students, parents, teachers and staff--to the community over its lifetime.
- To bring the community together to recognize the valuable role Rollo Bay Consolidated has played in the lives of so many.

Description:

Rollo Bay and music go hand-in-hand, so we planned an evening of music (the Chaisson Family), memories (slide show, work displayed, photos, mementos) and sharing (stories, food).

Did you achieve your goal?

Yes! A wonderful crowd filled our gym to celebrate, remember and reflect. A real sense of value and community could be felt.

Who did the project benefit?

Firstly, the grade five and six students--for it was a special night of awards and report cards; and former students who were present shared memories and music. The Rollo Bay community as a whole benefitted, for we came together to be part of this celebration.

What challenges are you still facing with parent engagement?

A large banner is now on display for former school and community members to reflect on. It reads: "Learn from the Past; Live in the Present; Plan for the Future." This is now our challenge.

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

The closing of a school that has meant so much to children and adults is difficult. Rollo Bay wanted to capture the spirit that exists now and will continue to exist in the hearts of the people.

It is true that we carry our history, all of our history with us. While the physical building will no longer be used as a school, everything that happened in the school or because of the school lives on in the hearts and minds of everyone who for years "were the school."

Children, parents and teachers--of the past and present--have much to be proud of, much to celebrate. Rollo Bay School was the heart of a rural community that has had to continually transform itself to remain what PEI has always been about, people sharing and caring for one another.