

40 Years Ago

Is what is happening now much different than what happened 40 years ago when the area's one room schools were consolidated into the larger schools we see today. The uncertainty. Is it the right decision? Unknown to the people back then is the change in the area's population that has occurred and the financial implications that have arisen. We are not alone. There are approximately 300 schools across the province in the same situation we are in now and the fate of some of them has already been decided - closure. I don't think any one here can say that the status quo can remain and expect that education standards can remain high. There is only so much money and one never knows for sure how much that is going to be. We are here to recommend to the Board how to best address the issue of declining enrolment and thus funding in these five schools. Some will say that this committee and its meetings are a public relation event to satisfy the government's policy and the board already has its mind decided upon what scenario will happen and possibly has an overall long-term plan. We don't know. Yes, what this committee recommends may not be adopted by the board, but the insight we, the committee, and you, the public, learn is valuable. The board knows they must justify their decision. The public input from these meetings lets the board know the pulse of the community, even though the heart of that community may soon be gone. I know personally, I will be hurt and my children devastated if our school closes and each one of you, the same, but reality is out there. Depending who you talk to, they feel their school is okay or their school is the one to close. We do not know what the end decision will be. All I ask is my fellow committee members and the public are open-minded and receptive to ideas and suggestions to make the best recommendation or recommendations to the board, and that the board seriously wrestles with their ultimate decision concerning the future of these schools.