

Transcribed from handwritten notes
Tweed Site Day

Blissfield - Morris Green

The community of Doaktown joined in 1978 to construct a full sized, fully equipped gymnasium for both community members and students.

The idea of empowerment came from a small schools conference held in Fredericton in 1977. Since the conference underlined the benefits of small schools educationally, I felt that such a school should be properly and adequately constructed. Our school lacked a gymnasium.

We organized a group that prepared a brief for government. Two representatives met with the Minister of Education - Chuck Galligher and then Premier Richard Hatfield. We had in hand a federal commitment of \$180,000 (grant) . The province agreed to contribute \$50 000. Locally we raised, \$15 000 through raffles, food sales, bingos etc... We also went into the forest contracting business where we netted \$50 000. When the year ended, we had built our gymnasium. Its debt was \$65 000. We again met with the Minister and signed our share over to him, the province paid the \$65 000 and our school had its gymnasium.

When we started we were told by government they were not building gymnasiums and if they were, we were 85th on the list.

When we finished we had a facility that was the envy of most other schools. Moreover, we had created such a strong pride of ownership in the facility that it is still felt today.

The project was led by teachers, and supported by every community member in some way or another.

The project's success did much to define us as a community linked by the bond of working and succeeding together.