

Press Release:

New Lincoln School gives hope to Greater Geary

GREATER GEARY, NB. The recent announcement about the construction of a new school in Lower Lincoln is giving hope that the Geary Elementary Community School could be next in line. This, according to Trevor Hanson, Chair of the Greater Geary Association (GGA), a non-profit community group speaking in support of the 3000 residents of the four communities of the Greater Geary Area, located south of Oromocto. “Lower Lincoln School was the top capital priority of the District 17 Education Council last year, the Geary Elementary Community School was a close number two. Now that the number 1 priority is being funded, it is our hope that the provincial government will move to the next school on the list, the Geary Elementary Community School, and fund the necessary improvements.”

The Geary Elementary Community School is now the oldest school in School District 17, with the last major capacity upgrade taking place in the 1960s. It has approximately 170 students from K – 5, plus a HeadStart and breakfast program. It lacks a gymnasium (two classrooms currently service as an “activity area”) and wheelchair accessibility, and is bursting at the seams. According to Hanson, both political parties committed to this project during the last election campaign, but the upgrades never happened. “It is our hope that the parties will honour and renew their previous commitments to this project. These upgrades are desperately needed, especially given the fact that physical education and activity are a key component to overall wellness. Students at the Geary Elementary Community School lack an equal opportunity for physical activities by virtue of infrastructure limitations.” Hanson also stated that space limitations have resulted in a waiting list for the HeadStart program. “The Geary Elementary Community School is an integral part of the communities of Greater Geary, with top notch staff, volunteers, students and programs, yet the infrastructure has not kept pace. These upgrades are needed sooner rather than later.”

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Trevor Hanson

Chair, Greater Geary Association