

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

The Amalgamation of Irishtown, Hughes Brook, Summerside, Meadows and Gillams

Prepared by:

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Prepared for:

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*Made Pursuant to the Municipalities
Feasibility Reports and Regulations, 1980*

the feasibility of amalgamating the towns of Irishtown, Hughes Brook, Summerside, Meadows and Gillams as outlined in the Notice of Intent dated September 1, 1989 and as outlined on the plan attached as Appendix 'D'.

Section 3

3.0 - Background

All Communities in this proposed amalgamation are located upon highway 440 on the North Shore of the Bay of Islands, with the Community of Gillams being the most westerly and the Community of Hughes Brook being the most easterly.

3.1 - The Community of Gillams

The Community of Gillams has a population of 512 with a Community Council comprising of five members and an annual budget of approximately \$241,000.

100% of the Community is serviced with a municipal water system and approximately 40% of the community is serviced with both water and sewer services. The Community has a

property tax system of taxation and has instituted a residential property tax rate of 4 mills and a poll tax of \$70.00 for the year 1990.

It provides fire protection services, playground facilities, street lighting, town hall facilities which are maintained and operated by a volunteer fire department with community volunteers and a part time town clerk and maintenance man. There is a town plan and the National Building Code has been adopted.

Gillams has 4.5 kms of local road and provides maintenance to these together with water and sewerage utility together with the use of a dump truck and front end loader. Sanitation and garbage collection is handled by local pick-up with disposal site being that of the Corner Brook Disposal Area.

The Community's contribution toward water and sewer debt charges is 12% of the total debt charge. The remaining 88% is met by the Province. Actual figures are: Municipal Contribution - \$19,363; Provincial Contribution - \$132,390. In its most recent financial statement for the year 1987 the Community had an accrued deficit of approximately \$45,759.

The average property tax per household is \$118.00 per annum.

3.2 - Community of Meadows

The Community of Meadows has a population of 671 comprising of 190 residences. It has a Community Council comprised of five members and an annual budget of approximately \$293,000. 100% of the community is serviced by a municipal water system and 40% of the community is serviced with both water and sewer. The community has introduced the property tax system of taxation and has instituted a residential property tax rate of 2.25 mills with an annual poll tax of \$75.00. The Community provides its fire protection services with the aid of a 1973 Intermediate Pumper. It has a municipal ballfield and recreation facilities and provides street lighting, town hall facilities with the services of a town clerk and maintenance man. It has adopted a town plan and has instituted the National Building Code. Its five year capital works program is estimated at \$1.6 million - water and sewer facilities and \$100,000 - road reconstruction and repairs. The community has 4.1 kms of local road and provide maintenance to these roads and in respect of the water and sewer utility through the use of a dump truck, a

grader and a one-ton pickup. Sanitation is handled by local pickup and disposed off in the Corner Brook Landfill Site.

Contribution by the Community of Meadows towards its water and sewer debt charges is 10% of the total debt charges. The remaining 90% is met by the Province. Actual figures are \$21,562 - municipal and \$168,755 - provincial. In its latest available financial statement for the year 1986 the municipality was showing an accrued deficit of \$55,212.

The average property tax per household is \$60.00 per annum.

3.3 - Community of Summerside

The Community of Summerside has a population of 798 with a community council comprising of five members and an annual budget of approximately \$253,000. The Community is approximately 30% serviced with water and sewer. It has the property tax system of taxation and has instituted a residential property tax rate of 4 mills and a municipal poll tax of \$75.00 per annum.

Fire protection services are provided by a joint sharing

arrangement with the Community of Hughes Brook and Irishtown. It has a town hall/community centre complex, provides recreational facilities in the form of a park, ballfield and outdoor pool, provides streetlighting and other basic municipal services. Paid staff is comprised of a town clerk and town manager. It has a town plan and has adopted the National Building Code and its five year capital works plan is estimated at \$1.7 million for water and sewer facilities and \$164,000 for road reconstruction and paving. Summerside has 3.7 kms of local road and maintenance for these and the water and sewer utility is done through the use of a municipal dump truck and the town manager/maintenance man. Sanitation is handled by local pickup and waste is disposed off at the Corner Brook Disposal Area. The Community's contribution to water and sewer debt charges is approximately 12% of the total debt charge. The remaining 88% is met by the Province. Actual figures are: \$17,743.00 - Municipal versus \$117,359.00 - Provincial. From its latest available financial statement the municipality shows an accrued deficit of \$36,909.

The average property tax per household is \$108.00 per annum.

3.4 - Community of Irishtown

The Community of Irishtown has a population of approximately 798 comprising of 200 residences. It has a Community Council of 5 members and has an annual budget of approximately \$323,000. 90% of the Community is serviced with water and/or sewer. The property tax system of taxation has been instituted and a residential property tax rate of 3.5 mills and a poll tax of \$65.00 per annum has been set for the year 1990.

The Community provides fire protection services through a cost shared fire fighting network between that community and the community of Hughes Brook and Summerside. It provides recreation facilities such as a playground, park area and ballfield and provides street lighting and other normal basic municipal services. It has a town plan and has adopted a National Building Code.

Irishtown has 2 kms of local roads. Waste Disposal and Sanitation is handled by local pickup services with the disposal being handled in the Corner Brook Disposal Area.

Communities contribution to water and sewer debt charges is approximately 7% of the total debt charge. The remaining 93% is met by the Province. Actual figures are

\$18,680.00 - Municipal and \$217,749.00 - Provincial. In the latest available financial statements for the year 1987 the municipality showed a surplus of \$3,255. The average property tax per household is \$86.00 per annum.

3.5 - Community of Hughes Brook

The Community of Hughes Brook has a population of approximately 141 with the total number of residences being 40. It has a Community Council comprising of five members and an annual budget of approximately \$65,000. 100% of the community is serviced with a water system. There is no sewer system other than septic tanks and disposal fields. The Community has adopted the property tax system of taxation and has instituted a property tax mill rate of 3 mills with a poll tax of \$105.00 per annum for the year 1990. Fire protection is provided to the Community through a joint effort between this community and the Community of Summerside and Irishtown. It provides recreation facilities in the form of a playground. It has a town hall/community centre complex and it provides street lighting and other basic municipal services. It has adopted a town plan and land use and zoning regulations. The Community of Hughes Brook has approximately 1.8 kms of road and garbage collection is done locally with disposal being in the Corner Brook

Landfill Site. The Community's contribution to water debt charges is approximately 12% of the total debt charge and the remaining 88% is met by the Province. Actual figures are \$5,400 - Municipal and \$35,000 - Provincial. In its latest available financial statement for the year 1987 the municipality shows a surplus of approximately \$3,800. The average property tax paid per household is \$95.00 per annum.

Section 4

4.0 - Public Hearings

A joint feasibility public hearing was held in the Community of Summerside Town Hall on March 1, 1990 at 7:30 p.m. Approximately 200 persons were in attendance. The proposal for amalgamation was outlined to those in attendance by the Commissioners after a brief demonstration by the individual mayors of the five municipalities involved.

4.1 - Written Briefs were presented by:

- (i) Mayor Jeff Browning - Mayor of Gillams
- (ii) Mayor Vaughn Heffernan - Mayor of Hughes Brook

- (iii) Mr. William Byrne - Councillor, Irishtown
- (iv) Mrs. Minnie Vallis - Mayor of Meadows
- (v) Mr. Joe Loder - Mayor of Summerside
- (vi) Mrs. Agnus Penney - On behalf of Senior Citizens, Brownies, Guides and Recreation Committees.
- (vii) Mr. Ralph Loder - On behalf of Hughes Brook-Irishtown-Summerside (HIS) Fire Department.
- (viii) Parks and Recreation Committee

See Appendix A.

4.2 - Oral Presentations were made from the Floor from the following persons:

- (i) Mr. Rick Woodford, M.H.A. - Noting that the Community of Hughes Brook was part of his District and also he felt an affiliation to the other communities involved having served several years on the Humber Joint Council as a Councillor in Cormack.
- (ii) Mr. Richard Park - Personal

Section 5

5.0 - Record of Briefs

5.0 (1) The first brief was presented by Mayor Jeff Browning on behalf of the Community Council of Gillams. The brief immediately stated that the Community Council of Gillams sees no benefit whatsoever to be derived from the proposed amalgamation and the Community Council does not want amalgamation. He noted that a recent poll of the Community's taxpayers (250) shows that 247 signed against amalgamation.

The brief states that the Community has grown considerably in the last 19 years since incorporation especially in the areas of water and sewer, fire protection and so on. It notes that 100% of the households are connected to an excellent water supply and 42% of the homes have the community sewer system. He noted that the Community is now in a good position to improve the level of other services mainly extensive road work and so on and further noted that other communities considered in this amalgamation package do not appear to have reached the same level of development in regards to essential services and he felt that should amalgamation

occur, capital funding would be directed into other areas rather than what is now known as the Community of Gillams. The brief notes that Gillams have been fortunate over the years to have strong volunteer fire department and recreation commission. The fire department's response time is less than ten minutes to any area of the community at any time of the year. It notes that should a fire station be set up in a more central location for all communities the response time would increase.

He noted that the recreation commission is very strong in promoting and directing sports and fitness activities for both youth and adults alike. The commission operates and maintains a community hall at no expense to the municipality and the community hall is the centre of all activities in the community and is used by other groups as well as the ones mentioned. It is felt that this kind of working relationship will disappear upon amalgamation. It is anticipated that higher taxes are certain if amalgamation takes place because of staffing, purchasing of heavy duty equipment, paid employees and so on to do work that is presently done by volunteers. The Community anticipates a downgrading of services and notes that Council now has a problem in its tax collections having raised its mill rate from 2 to 4 and questions what would happen if people would be asked to pay 12 to 14 mills.

The final paragraph of the brief states NO to amalgamation.

5.0 (2) The second brief was presented by Mayor Vaughn Heffernan of the Community of Hughes Brook. The Mayor stated that in order to properly respond to the proposal of amalgamation as proposed it would be necessary to have more readily accessible information than has been provided. He stated that the information available to him was too general and too brief. He stated that he was not familiar with grants that go to municipalities with town status nor was he clear whether amalgamation proposes even services through the new town or whether more planning is possible. He also states that he is unsure of the planning process for a town versus a community. The brief notes that the biggest problem in Hughes Brook is increasing recreational and industrial traffic and that the Community is a throughway for traffic travelling on dirt roads into rural areas. This creates significant wear and tear on local municipal roads. He noted that the entire community is serviced by water at the present time but the system is insufficient to allow expansion and the demands for expansion are great and with a new water system the community could expand by one-third. He noted that sewerage services are provided individual septic systems and while 18% of the existing properties are below standard size for such

systems, they all appear to be operating satisfactorily. There are no complaints by residents.

Garbage pickup is sufficient and disposal takes place in the City of Corner Brook Waste Disposal Site. It was noted that the idea of a cost shared dumpsite with other Northshore communities has been discussed. The brief notes that community identity seems to be expressed in a community through recreational events which are organized by a community recreation committee and ladies and mens dart leagues and private individuals. It notes the tremendous amount of hours contributed by volunteer services in community service mainly in recreation which functions are often held in the community hall. 50% of the cost of operating the community hall are covered by hall rental. The Council office is open nine hours a week with the Town Clerk being a resident of the community and easy access is available to taxpayers for paying bills or answering questions. Tax collection is a major effort and it is suggested that with the support of the Justice system this problem could be corrected. The brief noted that the receipt of the proposal by the Department for the feasibility study was received only a very short time prior to the hearing and various illustrations were given to show that the information contained in the proposal were indeed sometimes

inaccurate.

In its conclusion, the brief states that a petition of the residents indicate they prefer to have a small community where their local government is "known to them". It suggests that a planning authority be set up to look at the overall needs of all the communities. It noted that the community would like to be provided with more information which could enable better evaluation of the proposal.

5.0 (3) This brief was presented by Mr. William Byrne, Councillor on behalf of the Community of Irishtown.

The brief begins by saying that amalgamation will do nothing for the Community of Irishtown and Council states that it cannot think of any positive benefits it could have. It states the time for amalgamation was years ago when Government was spending millions of dollars building various community halls and installing separate water and sewer systems in each individual community. This, at that time, was a duplication of service but now that this has been done it sees no need to amalgamate. It notes that the community was settled in the mid 1800's and that the community has senior citizens born around the turn of the century that are indeed residents of Irishtown and

cherish their identity. These citizens use a portion of the Community Hall for various functions and should the existing community hall be relocated many of them would be unable to get around to the new area. This would be felt to be an injustice to the many fine folks who have made the community what it is today. It mentions the various other organizations using the hall regularly at no charge and states that with amalgamation one community would have to upkeep five halls which would be very expensive and questions where the money would come from other than charging those who use the facility now for free.

It is suggested that if the Community amalgamates with others the mill rate could not be kept at 3.5 and that Government will gradually phase out the assistance being given suggesting that they should become self sufficient but to do this the new municipality will need various amounts of equipment and so on which would cost money and of course taxes would increase. It notes that all five communities presently employ a part time clerk and three of them a part time maintenance man and enquires as to whether or not a community of 3,000 people can be run by one office clerk and one maintenance man and suggests that it can't. It suggests that in order to make ends meet in a new community a mill rate of 10 mills would

have to be set.

The brief discusses the HIS Fire Department which is cost shared between Hughes Brook, Irishtown and Summerside and notes that it is one of the best volunteer fire departments on the island and expresses concern about what would happen to that Department upon amalgamation and suggests the safety of the community would suffer by having to look after a larger municipal area. It suggests possibility of a paid fire department should amalgamation occur. Again, increasing payroll burden and higher taxes. Concern was expressed with respect to monies being received and put where it would be most needed since each community has its own needs. It notes that at the present time animal control would be something which could be shared between communities and notes further that garbage collection in the Town of Irishtown is done by the community of Meadows which is working well. The brief is summed up by stating that amalgamation would be no good for the community.

5.0 (4) The Community of Meadows in its brief objects to amalgamation or the proposed merger and states that in a public meeting held on July 23, 1989 taxpayers of the community expressed content with the present community boundaries and its objection to the proposed

amalgamation. It noted that the Community was always able to pay its bills, it had not experienced any shortage of candidates for council, it has an adequate water supply to all residents and sewer system which services 60% of the community. It has an adequate garbage collection and a well trained well staffed volunteer fire protection team complete with fire hydrants, pumper truck and fire hall. It notes that the community hall is second to none on the north shore of the Bay of Islands and is a major source of income for council. It contains a doctors clinic, a drug dispensary, public health nurse office, council office and meeting rooms which can accommodate fifty people together with an auditorium capable of catering to 200.

The brief notes the senior citizens are provided with comfortable modern meeting accommodations in the new fire hall and the town owns and operates a new garbage truck, a grader and a dump truck which with the exception of the new garbage truck is totally debt free. Regional sharing of services is not new to Meadows. This has been done with various communities for quite some time an example of which is the Community of Meadows providing garbage services to the Community of Irishtown by contract. The Community of Meadows will also provide water to a number of households in the Community of Summerside. The brief

stresses that the volunteer work has been the core of its growth and that in dollars the value could not be estimated. It stresses the social life of the community for children and elderly which otherwise would be downgraded and the cost involved would be far greater than any savings proposed by amalgamation.

It is noted that every employed taxpayer in the Community has to travel to the City of Corner Brook for vehicle insurance, gas, etc. and that this is a cost to the taxpayers of Meadows of approximately \$2,700 per year. It proposes that it is willing at any time to discuss a greater sharing of services and states that it has proven itself responsible and capable of handling its own affairs. It mentions the fact that the Honourable the Premier has promised that the issue of amalgamation would not be forced and firmly states that amalgamation is not right for the people of Meadows and its response to the proposal is a unified NO.

5.0 (5) Brief on behalf of the Community of Summerside presented by Mayor Joseph Loder. The brief begins by stating that the Community in general is adamantly opposed to amalgamation "we don't need amalgamation - we don't want it".

It states that the general consensus is services should be shared wherever possible and notes the sharing of the firefighting service in Hughes Brook, Irishtown and Summerside and the fact that Meadows will provide some water services to part of the Community of Summerside. It was suggested that other services might be shared such as garbage removal, dog control and so on but it states the fact still remains we do not need to share a common municipal government. It notes the community spirit and the local events which are held to allow the old and young to get out and mingle with their friends.

The brief illustrates the financial problems being experienced by the Community and that in 1986 there was a debt of \$40,000 owing on delinquent accounts and since that time this has changed so that today Summerside has a collection rate of 99%. It notes that the Community has worked hard to get a new Community Hall and municipal infrastructure and that it will fight to keep it. It states that other communities are still having financial hardships and should an amalgamation occur then the Community of Summerside will be right back where it started. It states that in a meeting with Mr. Wells, the M.H.A. in mid August it was stated that a tax raise would not be necessary with amalgamation. At this stage Council does not see it in this light and feels that with

increased staff to do the work of one large municipality it would mean increased payrolls and of course increased taxation. The brief goes on to illustrate what equipment, infrastructure and so on will be required to operate in the new municipality and continually points out the fact that this would follow with increased taxation. It notes that under the present system for repayment of debt charges that if all communities were combined or being left individual the municipality would still have to pay 20% of fixed revenues regardless and this would not provide for saving of monies. The brief also notes the good relationship between the communities and feels amalgamation would change this relationship drastically because of the continued in-fighting to have services provided in various parts of the Community. It is noted also that a petition was circulated in 1989 to get the views of the taxpayers and out of 547 voters, 411 signed against amalgamation. The brief gives an illustration of how amalgamation has worked on the south shore of the Bay of Islands and suggests that at the rate of development in that area it would take 28 years to complete a water and sewer system on the south shore.

The Community's brief clearly shows that it is against the proposed amalgamation.

5.0 (6) Mrs. Agnus Penney submitted correspondence on behalf of the Senior Citizens, the Irishtown Recreation Commission and The Brownies, Sparks and Girl Guides of Irishtown stating its opposition to amalgamation.

5.0 (7) A brief drafted by Mr. Ralph Loder, former fire chief of the HIS Fire Department with respect to fire protection was presented by Mr. Loder.

This brief illustrates that due to the unique geographical location of the five communities there would be no benefits to citizens to have fire departments amalgamated. It would mean a complete reorganization of the fire department volunteers and firefighters. Ladies auxiliaries could possibly become non-existent and the population base would mean additional equipment requirements i.e. pumpers, etc. More communications and firemen would render the existing departments obsolete and the need to provide nil. In summary, the brief states that the response time would be too long, cost of relocating and rebuilding and re-equipping fire departments would be too great, there would be a lost of volunteer interest by firefighters and auxiliary people and last but not least homeowners who are farther away from fire hall would possibly have increases in fire insurance.

5.0 (8) This brief submitted by the Summerside Parks and Recreation Committee. The brief expresses its fear that with amalgamation in that the Committee now has free access as a volunteer group to all facilities owned by the Community and as a volunteer group it should have some input into further plans to change the structure of the area. It feels that amalgamation would mean that one community would have five halls to use and upkeep and there would be considerable increases in the cost to operate and maintain these facilities. Consequently, it will require increased taxes. It notes that through volunteerism considerable monies are raised which go toward things in the Community and that changes would mean that the relationship with Council would change drastically. It was felt that with one community hall a support by volunteers would not nearly be as great.

5.0 (9) Brief presented by Richard Park, Resident of Gillams. In this brief Mr. Park notes that he does not represent any particular group or a particular area. However, he is expressing personally what he understands are views shared by many individuals throughout the community. Mr. Park notes that the objectives of amalgamation appear to imply that it will result in a larger population and the creation of a larger tax base and suggest that consolidation of the communities in

question would do nothing to increase either the population or the tax base. He feels that there is no rationale or reason for anyone to assume that amalgamation will start new businesses and there is no reason to suggest the new business interests will suddenly locate in the newly created municipal unit.

The brief notes that another objective of amalgamation is a more effective use of monies spent and while suggesting that it is a noble aim, it is time that Government began to get most use and best value for the dollar. Mr. Park suggests that the best way for Government to get better use for its dollar is to prevent bungle engineering for projects, cutting out of red tape and incompetence at the Provincial level together with scheduling public works contracts during the summer months rather than the late fall or early winter. Mention is made of municipal boundaries which exist in the five communities at present and it is suggested that changing or alternating of these boundaries would do nothing to help in the establishment of a better one single municipality and Mr. Park suggests that it is nothing new in Newfoundland to have a large number of municipalities as the Province was always in this situation and to cut down on the number of incorporated municipalities would prove nothing and suggests that making municipal units big does not assure

a more efficient administration and questions the fact that it might cause inefficiency. The brief notes that it is indeed practical for some communities to share services with neighbouring communities which is presently being done in the communities today, however, it is not practical to share all services such as road maintenance, fire protection, recreation, community centres and so on.

Mr. Park in his brief suggest that while the world is being flooded by a tide of democratic freedom it appears that in Canada we are having our freedoms eroded by Government. He suggests that an example of amalgamation not working might be Corner Brook-Humber Mouth-Curling where he states there are literally thousands of citizens within the boundaries who dispute Government's suggestion that it is working.

The brief ends by stating that amalgamation can only mean a downgrading of material, a loss of identity and hardships for many of our people and suggests rejection of the proposal.

5.2 - Oral Briefs

5.2 (1) Mr. Rick Woodford suggested that he did not represent the entire proposed area of amalgamation but

that Hughes Brook was part of his electoral district. He stated that he felt that he had an affiliation with the other councils since a few years ago he was Mayor of the Community Council of Cormack and was President of the Humber Joint Councils which incorporated all of the areas in the proposed amalgamation area. He stated that he would use the House of Assembly as his forum to argue the proposed amalgamation issue. He stated that the concept was not wrong but that the approach was wrong. He said that time was needed to work the matter out properly with a proper agenda outlining what has to be given and what the communities are going to get.

Other written briefs or remarks were made by other individuals or groups as follows:

- (a) The Summerside Rockets 4 H Club - Against Amalgamation.
- (b) The Lions Club of Meadows - Against Amalgamation.
- (c) Meadows Volunteer Fire Brigade - Against Amalgamation.
- (d) Holy Trinity Anglican Church Women's Association, Meadows - Against Amalgamation.
- (e) Members of St. Paul's Church, A.C.W., Summerside - Against Amalgamation.
- (f) Gillams Recreation Commission - Against Amalgamation.

- (g) Senior Citizens, Gillams - Against Amalgamation.
- (h) Gillams Firettes - Against Amalgamation.
- (i) Gillams Volunteer Fire Department - Against Amalgamation.
- (j) Small Business People of Summerside - Against Amalgamation.
- (i) Luke Park, Concerned Citizen of Gillams - Against Amalgamation.
- (j) A petition on behalf of the residents of the Community of Irishtown opposed to amalgamation.
- (k) Miscellaneous individual notes stating objections to the amalgamation proposal.

SECTION 6

6.0 (1) General

The Commissioners examined all written briefs and oral comments presented during, before and after the hearings and also undertook individual research with respect to all matters which might or might not affect the ultimate conclusions drawn.

The Community of Gillams with its population of 512 and the Community of Meadows with its population of 671 have a combined total of residences of 331. Both

municipalities have adjoining boundaries with residential development being immediately adjacent of each other and water systems some 300 feet separate from each other. As a matter of fact in 1987(?) the Department of Municipal Affairs then recommended that the Meadows water system be tied into the Community of Gillams system after the source of supply in the Community of Gillams had become inoperable due to failure of the well and various mechanical problems. The Meadows system, being gravity flow, was quite adequate to serve both communities. However, the municipality requested its own source of supply and eventually was given authority to proceed to a gravity flow system with the Town having its own transmission main. The source of supply for both these systems is from the same pond each having a different intake.

Gillams has a property tax rate of 4 mills and Meadows a property tax rate of 2.25 mills. Both are fully serviced with a water system with approximately 40% being serviced with sewage. The combined annual subsidy to service the debt charges on these systems by the Provincial Government is approximately \$301,000 versus \$41,000 being contributed by the municipalities. The two municipalities contribute approximately 11% of the total debt charges. The combined deficit of these two municipalities is

approximately \$101,000.

The water and sewer rates and poll tax for the two municipalities are as follows:

	<u>Water/Sewer Rates</u>	<u>Poll Tax</u>
Meadows	\$8.00/\$4.00 per month	\$75.00 per annum
Gillams	\$9.00/\$4.00 per month	\$70.00 per annum

Each municipality has its own volunteer fire department, playground facilities, town hall facilities and town clerk and maintenance man. Each have separate garbage collection, however, the Town of Meadows is contracted by the Town of Gillams to pick up its garbage. Each municipality has its own town plan and various building regulations and other general regulations.

The Community of Meadows boundary is immediately adjacent to a section of the Town of Summerside which is known as Christophers Cove. This area is distinctly separated from the major developed portion of the Community of Summerside by large rock outcropping and considerable distance. For the Community of Summerside to provide services to Christophers Cove would prove to be extremely costly and far beyond the means of the Community unless

a completely separate system could be provided. The problem has been surmounted however in that agreement has been reached between the Community of Meadows and the Community of Summerside. The Community of Summerside will install a water system into Christophers Cove and the Town of Meadows will contract to sell water to the system, having a sufficient supply of water and being so close to the area in question. The combined total of roads in the Community of Gillams and Meadows is less than ten kilometers and both communities have the following equipment to maintain these and the water system:

- 1 Dump Truck
- 1 Front End Loader
- 1 Grader
- 2 1-Ton Trucks together with fire equipment comprising of 1978 pickup assembly and a 1973 intermediate pumper.

The Community of Summerside, Irishtown and Hughes Brook have a combined population of approximately 1,737 with Summerside being 30% serviced with water and sewer, Irishtown being 90% and Hughes Brook being 100% serviced with water and no municipal sewer system installed. The following mill rates are in effect for property tax.

Summerside - 4 mills

Irishtown - 3.5 mills

Hughes Brook - 3 mills

The combined total of annual debt charges being subsidized by the Province is approximately \$370,000. The combined contribution by these three municipalities on these debt charges total approximately \$42,000 or percent of the total.

The water and sewer rates and poll tax for the three municipalities are as follows:

	<u>Water/Sewer Rate</u> <u>Per Month</u>	<u>Poll Tax</u> <u>Per Annum</u>
Summerside	\$8.00/\$4.00 per month	\$75.00
Irishtown	\$8.00/\$4.00 per month	\$65.00
Hughes Brook	\$8.00 per month - No Sewer	\$90.00

The three communities of Summerside, Irishtown & Hughes Brook have a combined and united fire department with a fire station being located in the central community of Irishtown manned with a 1985 625 gallon per minute pumper truck and other necessary equipment. Experience has shown that such joint co-operation is working extremely well. The combined local municipal roads in these three

communities is approximately 7.5 kilometers. The communities have no municipal equipment but each has a town hall and community centre complex. Each has a town clerk and the Communities of Hughes Brook and Irishtown have a maintenance man. The accrued deficit for the three communities is \$36,335.00. The average property tax paid per household ranges from \$108.00 per annum in Summerside; \$86.00 per annum in Irishtown and \$95.00 per annum in Hughes Brook.

Briefs submitted by all the communities in the proposed study area either state or imply that each community is now in a good position to improve its level of service to its residents and stress the individualism of each community and comradeship being experienced through having individual recreation and volunteer services. There is no doubt that the contribution of individual volunteers and volunteer agencies is of tremendous benefit and value in the operation of recreation facilities, community halls, youth groups and so on and certainly reduces costs considerably to the municipalities as a whole.

6.0 (2) Financial

Property taxes paid in all five communities are extremely low. This is due to low property values being combined with a low mill rate. Taxes levied do not provide for the adequate maintenance of basic services and combined with water and sewerage, rates are insufficient to properly and adequately maintain a municipality without considerable subsidies by the Provincial Government.

A review of the financial affairs of each of the communities suggests that if the Communities of Meadows and Gillams were amalgamated into one municipality and the Communities of Summerside, Irishtown and Hughes Brook were amalgamated into another municipality with a more improved property tax and water and sewerage tax rate increase, combined with the consolidation of some services, the municipalities would indeed become more self-sufficient and also more equitably share the contribution towards the annual water and sewer debt charges.

See Appendix A and B for two proposed budgets for each of these proposed amalgamations with a proposed property tax of 4 and/or 6 mills with an annual water and sewerage tax of \$144.00 where both services are provided and \$96.00

per year where only one of the other is provided. These budgets also provide for a poll tax of \$100.00 per annum.

6.0 (3) Other Criteria

Access and Representation - Under the proposed amalgamation access of the residents to elected and appointed officials could be considered to be a hardship for some of the residents particularly those who are residing on each end of one single municipality. This problem would be reduced considerably if the five communities were reduced to two i.e. Gillams-Meadows being one and Summerside, Irishtown and Hughes Brook being the second. Distances within each community would be considerably reduced and access would be much more readily available.

A ward system for the first election could be introduced and the distribution of councillors be done on a population ratio. This would guarantee representation by the residents of each existing community on a newly elected council. The name of each community could be maintained in the naming of each new municipality or jurisdiction i.e. Community of Meadows-Gillams - Community of Summerside-Irishtown-Hughes Brook. This is not uncommon throughout the Province. Should either of

the new municipalities wish to change its name then this should be left to the jurisdiction of the new municipality should it be formed. Even with a new name history has shown that original names of communities continue to exist to specifically define its own particular region.

Suitability and Need of the Area for Municipal Servicing

- With respect to the Communities of Meadows and Gillams the water system is 100% complete at this time with approximately 40% of the population being serviced with sewer. With a combined municipality and a combined and integrated municipal plan new areas of development could be defined and eliminate the ribbon development which is now taking place. An engineering review of the sewerage needs in these communities would illustrate where the demand is greatest and where proper emphasis should be placed to provide such service. A similar situation would exist with the amalgamation of Summerside, Irishtown and Hughes Brook where only portions of each service is only now provided. In both scenarios however existing developed areas should be red-circled to restrict further ribbon development and should an incorporated municipality permit further ribbon development outside this particular area then the total cost should be absorbed fully by the respective

municipality.

Physical Constraints to Municipal Servicing - The number one constraint to municipal servicing in this entire area is the rugged, rocky terrain combined in some areas which are wet and boggy causing severe sewerage problems with respect to construction and/or waste disposal fields which may now exist. The second constraint, of course, would be distances between properties needing servicing. Once again, a complete engineering analysis of these problems would contribute greatly toward the final analysis of where services should go and where future development should take place and considerably reduce the overall cost when weighed against the development of five separate and distinct municipalities.

A revised and combined municipal plan drafted and representing two municipalities rather than five together with good engineering expertise would provide expert and thorough information regarding future road construction and or subdivision development and once again prevent ribbon development or haphazard development in areas where costs for such servicing in the future could be restrained.

Administrative capacity of Municipality - Each of the

five municipalities of Gillams, Summerside, Irishtown, Meadows and Hughes Brook have a five man Community Council. Each has by law a town clerk and each have a maintenance man with Community of Meadows having a Town Manager. Considering the small population in each of the communities amalgamation would permit consolidation of some of the staff and facilities and thereby provide a reduction in overall operational expenditures.

Co-ordination and Cost Efficiency - The amalgamation of the Town of Gillams and Meadows would result in more co-ordinated and cost efficient operation due particularly to consolidation of municipal services and municipal facilities and through the introduction of a new town plan. Hopefully a new such plan, incorporating the areas suggested for amalgamation would, combined with good engineering practices, ensure a higher density of population in the future to make use of water and sewer and road facilities rather than permit random and haphazard development that now exist. The continued competition between municipalities for commercial, industrial and residential development in such a small area is beneficial to no one when related to cost and repayment of debt charges.

Financial Feasibility and Equity to Taxpayers - The new

municipal council of the amalgamated municipality would determine tax rates and benefits for services being rendered. Each of the amalgamated communities would have to set one mill rate across the board for property tax and levy a water and sewer tax on residents being so serviced. A review of a consolidated budget on behalf of the two proposed amalgamated communities shows that each could show surplus in the first year of operation. This, of course, depends on whether or not the suggested mill rate and water and sewer rates are placed in effect. The contribution to water and sewer debt charges will also increase although only slightly unless the present formula for repayment of water and sewer debt charges is reviewed and amended. Under the present system, however, the councils involved would begin to decrease its overall accrued deficit. (See Appendix B.)

The suggested tax structures, while only being suggested could be instituted over, say, a two year period so the tax would not cause tremendous hardship to those who receive an increase.

Equality - Amalgamation of Meadows and Gillams and the amalgamation of Summerside, Irishtown and Hughes Brook would result in a greatly improved equality to the

taxpayers in each individual municipality by ensuring improved services in all aspects of municipal administration. While in the initial stages this would be extremely hard for the residents to comprehend at this time the benefits in a few short years would be clearly shown in improved roads, utilities, municipal administration and so on.

Feasibility of Amalgamation does not exist in the eyes of many of the residents of the five communities discussed. This is caused by lack of understanding of a more improved sharing of services and the fact that taxes now being levied and paid in all of the municipalities are at a bare minimum in comparison to any prosperous and affluent municipality in the Province. Of course, the Province itself must take considerable responsibility for this problem and would be so doing in consolidating a lot of the municipalities throughout the Province.

Simplicity of a Proposed Municipal Structure - The amalgamation of Gillams and Meadows would result in one municipality doing more efficiently what two are doing at the present time and where the only physical separation is a road sign. There would be no need to increase staff or municipal service equipment.

Similarly, with respect to the amalgamation of Summerside, Irishtown and Hughes Brook. The proposed structure would be one community council consisting of five members with no increase required with respect to staff or municipal equipment. In both cases, however, it would be suggested that a ward system be instituted to ensure representation from all existing community councils areas on new council.

Acceptability - At the present time such amalgamation of these municipalities could not be considered as being acceptable to the municipalities involved. All briefs pertaining to same and other representation illustrate that such would not at this time be acceptable to the residents. However, it is felt that within a couple of years the majority of residents in the area would see the overall benefits as also would the Provincial Government particularly so should Government decide to change both its existing grant structure and water and sewer debt charge cost sharing formula. Indeed, municipalities would soon see the benefits of further sharing and combining of services through amalgamation.

As long as the existing situation of extremely low property tax mill rates and water and sewer taxes continue to have no minimums there will be no initiatives

on behalf of municipalities to improve its tax base and accept its responsibility to more fully contribute towards the major costs of capital expenditures.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Communities of Gillams and Meadows and Christopher's Cove be amalgamated into a single new community.
2. The Communities of Summerside, Irishtown and Hughes Brook be amalgamated into a single new community.
3. The ward system be introduced for the first term of the new council to ensure representation from all communities involved and this representation on council be calculated on population.
4. The boundaries of the new town be as indicated in Appendix C.
5. Each town adopt an integrated town plan as quickly as possible and further develop a five year municipal capital works plan with respect to infrastructure identifying all capital needs in the

new municipality for the next five year term.

6. The names of the new towns be the Community of Gillams-Meadows in town number one and Community of Summerside, Irishtown and Hughes Brook in the second scenario.
7. All assets and liabilities of the communities involved be assumed by each new town.
8. A municipal election be held in the new town during this calendar year to become effective January 1, 1991.
9. If amalgamation is to proceed the Provincial Government commit itself to maintain a continual effort to complete the water and/or sewer system in the areas now deficient.

①

Community Council of Gillams

P. O. BOX ³⁹⁶⁸~~155~~5, R.R. 2

Corner Brook, Newfoundland

A2H 6B9

February 20, 1990

BRIEF

To: The Commission for Hearings into the Amalgamation ^{OF}
Hughe; Brook, Irishtown, Summerside, Meadows and Gillams

From: The Community Council of Gillams

On behalf of the Community of Gillams, we present this brief because we are very concerned as a Council about what Amalgamation would mean to us and to our community. From what little information we have been able to gather, we can see no benefit whatsoever to be derived from the proposed Amalgamation.

(247) The Community Council does NOT want Amalgamation AND the ^{THIS} attached poll of the community's taxpayers (250) show us that they are in complete agreement. ^{OF THE 250 247 SIGNED OUR POLL AGAINST}

^{AMALGAMATION}
The Community of Gillams has grown considerably since it was incorporated 19 years ago, especially in the areas of essential services i.e. water and sewer, fire protection, etc. All of the households are connected to an excellent water supply and 42 % of our homes to the community sewer system. Council is now in a good position to upgrade the level of other services...namely some extensive work on by-roads etc.

Some of the other communities considered in this Amalgamation package do not appear to have reached the same level of development in regards to essential services. We feel that any Capital funding over the next number of years (if amalgamated) will not likely be directed to Gillams but to the "have nots" in an effort to achieve a common level.

Community Council of Gillams

P. O. BOX 3968 , R.R. 2

Corner Brook, Newfoundland

A2H 6B9

Gillams has been very fortunate over the years to have both a strong volunteer Fire Department and Volunteer Recreation Commission. The Fire Department has an excellent response time(less than 10 minutes to any area of the community at any time of year). This same protection could not be possible if the response had to be made from a fire station set up in a central location.

The Recreation Commission which is also strong in numbers has worked hard and\cooperated with community councils to put in place and keep in place an excellent Recreational program. Besides promoting and directing a sports and fitness activity for youth and adult alike, they are operating and maintaining the Community Hall...at no extra cost to the town. Our Community Hall is the centre of all activities and is used by other groups as well.

Council feels that this kind of working relationship will not be evident under amalgamation and ultimately our community centre would close and with it our Recreational Programs would Go..more importantly perhaps our youth would GO, for where else is there for them to go but on the streets.

Therefore, considering the above mentioned situations, we can see no way that Amalgamation would be of any benefit to Gillams. Higher taxes are certain for all of us after Amalgamation and at a rate which would have to be set for staffing, purchasing of heavy-duty equipment, paid employees(to do the work that is presently being done by volunteers) we feel that we would have to look^{at} a very serious downgrading of services. Council's have been having collection problems with our present mill rates set from 2 to 4. What will happen if people are asked to pay at least 12 - 14 mills which will probably be the case?

Our small community means a lot to the people who live there. We are looking after our own affairs and wish to be left alone to continue to do so.

Until such time as government can offer us something better than what has been proposed and until such time as we can get some answers to the many questions that we have...we say "NO" to Amalgamation.

The Community Council of Gillams

Jeff R. Browning...Mayor
Geraldine Murphy...Deputy-mayor
and Councillors
Larry Wight
Wayne Blackwood
Catherine Gillam

ATT.
Petition

Gillams,

February 20, 1990

PETITION

TO: Hon. Eric Gullage, Minister
Dept. of Municipal and Provincial Affairs
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

RE: Proposed Municipal Consolidation Program.

PETITION: We, the undersigned voters of the Community of Gillams, hereby register our objection to the proposal by your government, to amalgamate the Community of Gillams with the Communities of Meadows, Summerside, Irishtown and Hughes Brook. We are certain that the proposed consolidation will mean a downgrading of most essential services and a loss of facilities.
We object to any action by your government that would consolidate our community with others, without our consent.

NAME	TELEPHONE #
1 Eldon Bishop	783-2054
2 Lillian Park	783-2404
3 Boyd House	783-2294
4 Macneil House	783-2534
5 Maffie Park	783-2503
6 Auster Park	783-2503
7 Warren Park	783-2503
8 Valerie Park	783-2503
9 Howard Park	
10 Alma Park	
11 Cory Park	

PAGE ____
OF ____

ON AMALGAMATION FROM THE COMMUNITY OF HUGHES BROOK, MARCH 1, 1990

IN GENERAL:

In order to respond with reasonably sound judgment to a new proposal any individual or group needs to be well informed. Throughout the 1989-1990 process of studying amalgamation the Community of Hughes Brook has felt that readily accessible information was far too general and too brief. We lack real familiarity with the regular grants that go to municipalities with town status. We are not clear whether amalgamation proposes even services through the new town, or whether more adaptable planning is possible. We are unsure if the planning process for a town is the same as it is in a community. All of this vagueness has given our residents, as well as our council, a fear of the unknown and a wish to retain the known local government. We wish that the hearing process included information giving sessions, as well as, information gathering sessions. The proposal of February 23, 1990 from the Department of Municipal Affairs increases this wish, rather than alleviating it.

All that we can do is review what our situation is and how we see it with regard to the large picture.

SERVICES (INCLUDING THOSE REFLECTED IN 1989 CAPITAL WORKS SUBMISSION):

Roads: The biggest problem in Hughes Brook is the increasing recreational and industrial traffic. Hughes Brook has become

a thruway for traffic traveling on dirt roads into rural areas. Industrial traffic principally travels to and from Corner Brook, but recreational traffic comes from a wide area of the West Coast. This traffic creates significant wear and tear on the existing gravel street in the community.

Water: Water is the second priority for Hughes Brook services. The existing population can be served by the present water supply, but the community has received considerable pressure to expand. If the water supply were available the community could have expanded by one-third by this time.

Sanitation: Sanitation is served by individual septic systems. While 18% of existing properties are below the present lot size standard for septic systems, all appear to be operating satisfactorily. That is, there are no complaints from residents. All residences built within the past three years have received Department of Health approval and meet present standards.

Garbage pick-up is sufficient for the time being. However, it may not be the most effective system. Hughes Brook uses the garbage dump owned by the City of Corner Brook. The idea of a cost-shared dump with other North Shore communities has been mentioned. Hughes Brook residents do complain about charges that they receive for individual trips to the Corner Brook dump. They are told that they are charged because they are not residents of Corner Brook.

COMMUNITY ACCESS/COMMUNITY IDENTITY

The focus of community identity seems to be expressed through recreational events. Recreational events are principally organized by four groups:

1. The Community Recreation Committee often with support of Council.
- 2 & 3. Ladies and Mens Dart Leagues, and
4. Private individuals.

Recreation provides events throughout the year for all ages of residents. In 1989 over 1,500 people-hours were volunteered in community service. That amounts to more than 10.5 hours per capita. The majority of these were recreational events, which were mostly held at the community hall. Examples of other volunteer work include snow clearing and community clean-up. 50% of the costs of operating the community hall are covered by hall rental.

The Community Office is open nine hours per week with the town clerk resident in the community. She is easily accessible to tax payers for bill paying and questions.

Tax collection is a major effort for the town clerk and for council. Perhaps, a larger municipality would have greater

forcefulness in tax collection, but this council has reduced delinquent taxes by persistence and by the service of a collection agency. In a larger municipality tax payers would probably have the cost of postage added to their tax burden. At present this community believes that tax collection would be more effective if it were perceived to have the support of the justice system.

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON 'THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
PROPOSAL FOR A FESABILITY STUDY OF FEBRUARY 23, 1990

The Community of Hughes Brook recieved this proposal on February 26, 1990, a scant day-and-a-half from the deadline for submissions to this hearing. The proposal gives every evidence of having been hastily prepared and executed. It is factually deficient for the following reasons:

<u>PROPOSAL STATMENT</u>	<u>ACTUAL FACTS</u>
Clerk - full-time	Clerk - <u>9 hours per week</u>
Maintenance man - full-time	Maintenance man - as requested by counci, <u>very irregular</u>
5-Year Capital Works Program - No submission	Submission on 5-Year Capital Works Program <u>WAS MADE IN</u> <u>1989</u>
Water system pumped from Hughes Brook - unlimited supply	Water system from <u>dam</u> - <u>Supply limited</u> to presently approved residences.

A simple check of the salary figures from the Community Budget would have shown that the total amount is far below minimum wage for one person and could not possibly refer to two full-time staff.

Where is the 1989 5-Year Capital Works Submission that did go to the Department of Municipal Affairs? And what did the the authors of this proposal use for their evaluation of the water system? The Planning Officer who assisted with the preparation of the Town Plan certainly had access to the correct facts. The Town Plan has been the guideline which council has used to restrict further residential development based on inadequate water supply.

The conclusions reached by this proposal related to Hughes Brook are so inappropriate that they put the whole proposal into question. Incomplete data, hastily gathered, has led the authors to faulty conclusions. Documentation reflecting the concerns of the Community is available and should have been examined.

The proposal virtually ignores the potential growth of all five communities. Such a factor should not be ignored. Direction of growth and planned development is the role of the Department's Planning Section. Hughes Brook has land and cannot develop it because of an inadequate water supply. Pressure for development means that the question is going to need to be answered no matter what unit forms the local government in this area.

Further information could include a carefully prepared proposal of this nature and an examination of alternative development directions for all communities. The proposal of February 23, 1990 only examines one alternative.

CONCLUSION

Via a petition residents have indicated that they prefer to have a small community where their local government is known to them. They have clearly stated they approve of Council sharing services with other communities, where these are cost effective. Undoubtedly, this stated view reflects a sense of being involved with council decisions and plans.

Council has discussed the local government alternatives which follow:

1. Remain in the same local government units,
2. Amalgamation as proposed.
3. Adopt a planning authority which would cover a very wide area, namely all of the North Shore of the Bay of Islands. This planning authority would be more effective in dealing with questions of roads, rural land development, and environmental safety. Rural areas are presently developing in what appears to be a hodge-podge, developer request, cow-path fashion. To follow that concept, the present amalgamation proposal

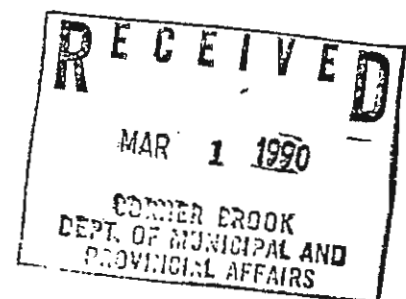
ignores a need to stop problems before they occur.

The wider authority concept might well help allieviate the Hughes Brook thru-traffic road problem.

As stated at the outset this council would like more information about the implications of amalgamation. Our residents need to know just how much of the cost of services to other communities would fall to them. Hughes Brook residents need to know if they would be required to have sewages services. Hughes Brook land is suited to operating without sewages services. To be pushed into having an unnecessary service certainly appears uneconomic. These questions should be answered if any cooperative spirit is to exist between residents, local government and the provincial government.

The Hughes Brook Council appeals to the commissioners at this hearing and to the Department of Municipal Affairs to provide more information, which can enable adequate evaluation of this proposal.

Submitted to:
Department of Municipal Affairs
Commissioner A. Colbourne
Submitted by:
The Communtiy of Irishtown



February 27, 1990

AMALGAMATION

What will Amalgamation do for the community of Irishtown? From our point of view, NOTHING! Since we were first informed that the provincial government has plans to amalgamate the five communities of Hughes Brook, Irishtown, Summerside, Meadows and Gillams, we have been racking our brains wondering what positive Benefits it would have on us. We cannot think of any.

The time for amalgamation was years ago when the government spent millions of dollars building community halls and installing seperate water/sewer systems in each community. This was surely a duplication of services. But now that we are fully established and progressing favourably, we do not need to amalgamate.

This community was settled in the mid 1800's. We have seniors here now who were born around the turn of the century. They are residents of IRISHTOWN! Try telling them any differently. We all cherish our identity but the older citizens are very proud of the community they settled and it is their wish that we remain as we are. Our seniors use a portion of our communitiy hall for various functions. Should amalgamation come into effect, it is quite possible that our hall may have to be closed, probably sold if it is possible to do so. This would mean that our senious would have no place to meet for any form of recreation. Many of them are unable to get around to the point of travelling very far for entertainment. This would certainly be an injustice to the many fine folks who made us what we are today.

Then take the other organizations. In Irishtown we have Brownies, Sparks and Girl Guides who use our hall regularly. They are not charged any rent to hold meetings and get-togethers. With amalgamation, even if we were able to find a way to keep the hall operational, it would be impossible to let anyone use the hall rent-free. One community would have to pay for the upkeep of five halls and this would be very expensive. Along with an electricity bill of about \$3500 - \$4000 a month, there are also cleaning supplies to purchase, furniture to maintain and janitorial services to pay. Where would we get all this money? We would have no other recourse than to charge those who now use the facility free of cost, we would

have to charge a higher fee to all who wish to use it. This may seem to the government to be a petty issue, but to us and all residents of our community it is an issue of great importance.

The government says that amalgamation doesn't mean increased taxes. We say it does. The Feasability Study states that it will be the responsibility of the new municipal council of the amalgamated municipality to determine the tax rate. We feel that the mill rate could not be kept at the present 3.5 Mills we are now paying. If we amalgamate, the government will gradually phase out on the assistance they give us. They say that we should be self-sufficient. To be self-sufficient we will need snowclearing equipment, graders, backhoes, trucks etc. This will cost money. Although Meadows and Gillams has some equipment, it is old and it won't do the work. We would have to purchase new equipment and the cost of this would far exceed our revenue. Where do the extra money come from? Increased taxes of course. Out of the five communities involved, the highest mill rate is 4. For communities of high unemployment, our taxes are kept in line, enabling residents to pay their tax bill, while enabling councils to pay our bills. All five communities at present employ one part-time clerk. Irishtown, Meadows and Gillams also employ a part-time maintenance man. Can we run a community of 3,000 people on one office clerk and one maintenance man? No we can't. We would need at least two full time office staff and two full time maintenance men. Our weekly payroll would be approximately \$1,800. Then we would need heavy equipment operators. Two operators would cost the community another \$900 weekly. This totals \$2,700 weekly. Right now our weekly payroll for the five communities total about \$1,100. Where will we get the extra money for payroll? Increased taxes. We feel that to make ends meet, our mill rate would have to be set at about 10 mills.

Here in this area we have the H. I. S. Fire Department. This is a shared service between Hughes Brook, Irishtown and Summerside. Government has to agree that it is one of the best volunteer departments on the island. Should we amalgamate, what happens to our department? Our fire fighters devote hours and hours of volunteer time to train. But they are spread out as much as they possibly can. their response time now is very good, but it would not be as good if they had to travel to Meadows or Gillams. The safety of the communities would suffer. Then again, if a fire department should have to look after the five communities it

would need extra equipment. We would not find the interest that is there now. We could not expect these firemen to give of their service freely under amalgamation. We feel that we would end up having a paid fire department. Again, payroll burden! To meet the payroll, we need extra dollars. We get extra dollars from higher taxes. Many factors have to be taken into consideration and discussed before this very important matter can be agreed upon financially or otherwise.

Then we have our councillors giving freely of their time. Are they going to volunteer their time for a community that covers a distance of 12 miles and has a population of about 3000 people? Can we really expect them too? Of course not. A community of that size would require paid councillors. More tax dollars. The relationship of the five communities at present is very good. But with the amalgamation of the five communities this would change. Determining where money received would be most needed would be very hard to do. Each community has its own needs. The communities left out when money is awarded would not take it kindly. The communities on the South Shore already amalgamated are not so much better off. What about Pasadena and South Brook? They wanted amalgamation and it took them two years to get it.

Another shared that could be looked into would be animal control. This could be very beneficial for the communities. We, at present are having our garbage collected by the Community of Meadows. This is working out very well.

Amalgamation has been twenty years to late in coming. We feel that the recent Feasability Study is far from correct. A more up-to-date study is needed which can be presented to the residents of the various communities on a community by community basis. The residents of the five communities concerned can be compared to a blind person feeling their way in the dark being asked to make a decision on a matter that they do not know anything about. This study and research should be done over a reasonable period of time and then ask the residents to make their feelings on the matter of amalgamation known. How can this be done under the present circumstances?

Mr. Wells is going around the country preaching that the Meech Lake Accord is no good for Newfoundland. I am damn well sure that amalgamation is no good for us.

Anthony Blanchard
to community of Miramichi

The Community of Meadows

BOX 13, SITE B, R.R. 2

Corner Brook, Newfoundland

A2H 689

This presentation has been prepared by the Community Council of Meadows with respect to the proposed amalgamation of the Communities of MEADOWS, GILLAMS, SUMMERSIDE, IRISHTOWN and HUGHES BROOK.

This Council hereby makes its objections to the proposed merger.

One key reason for objection is the public opinion of the tax payers of Meadows which was made known at a public meeting held on July 23, 1989. The people of Meadows have expressed content with the present community boundaries.

Council has always been able to pay its bills. Services provided to date have been somewhat acceptable to the taxpayers.

Meadows has never experienced a shortage of candidates for Council. During a recent election, nine candidates stood for election, almost double the number required.

Meadows has an adequate water supply which provides services to all residents. Sewer services are supplied to approximately 60% of the community. The remaining unserved sections of the Community is however in dire need of sewer services.

Garbage collection service is provided to all residents and street lighting is provided to most areas.

Meadows has a well trained, well staffed Volunteer Fire Protection Team. We have fire hydrants capable of servicing every home; a small pumper truck with an additional pump. The truck is capable of pumping 400 gallons per minute and the additional pump 200 gallons per minute.

Meadows has a new Fire Hall capable of housing all machinery and equipment. This hall also contains a meeting room for the Firemen and Firettes. Meadows Volunteer Firettes are a team of dedicated women who have laboured many untold hours raising funds to assist in the purchase of much needed equipment for the Firemen.

The Community of Meadows

BOX 13, SITE B, R.R. 2

Corner Brook, Newfoundland

AZH 689

-2-

Meadows has a Community Hall second to none on the North Shore. This hall is a major source of income for Council. The hall contains a Doctor's Clinic, Drug Dispensary, Public Health Nurse's Office, Council Office and Meeting Room, a Board Room, an extra meeting room that can be utilized to accomodate 50 people and an auditorium capable of catering to 200 people.

Meadows also provides a separate Hall for Lions and Lioness Clubs. This hall is totally maintained by these two volunteer groups.

Our Seniors, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude, are provided with comfortable, modern meeting accomodiations situated in the new Fire Hall. This space is fully utilized and maintained by the Seniors Club.

Meadows owns and operates, aside from the Fire Truck, a new garbage truck, a grader and a dump truck. Everything including the Community Hall with the exception of the new garbage truck, is totally debt free.

Meadows operates a Ball Park which is fully utilized for recreational purposes during the summer months. Plans for a childrens park are underway and some work has already been started on this facility.

While regional sharing of services is one of the presumed benefits of amalgamation, this would be nothing new for Meadows. Sharing of services has been in effect for some time. Meadows has supplied equipment for use in several communities involved in this proposed merger as well as others not involved.

During January and February of this year, Meadows provided garbage collection services for the taxpayers of Irishtown. A contract is now in place to continue this service for the remainder of the year.

The Community of Meadows

BOX 13, SITE 8, R.R. 2

Corner Brook, Newfoundland

AZH 6B9

-3-

An agreement has been signed with Summerside Council whereby Meadows will provide a water supply to a number of households under Summerside jurisdiction.

During several crisis situations in neighbouring communities this past summer., Meadows was among the first at the scene with equipment and person power to render assistance.

Many of our local roads were turned over to Council by Government in very sub-standard conditions. Despite extremely low road grants, Meadows has managed to improve all local roads in its jurisdiction.

Meadows has acted in a very responsible manner towards its debt charges and will no doubt continue to do so.

In May of 1989, Council hired a full time Community Manager. This person has been required at times to work seven days per week especially during storms and flooding conditions.

Council is also involved in concern for the environment. In 1989 some work was performed in theCommunity towards preservation. More work is planned for the coming year.

Worthy of mention is the fact that the number of work hours by our residents to make Meadows what it is today, could never possibly be estimated in dollars and cents. Volunteer work has been the core of our growth.

The social life of our Community for our children, youth, families and seniors is greatly enhanced by and through the use of facilities owned and operated by Council. Any downgrading or termination of such services, combined with a loss of volunteer work, could have devastating results on the lives of our people. The cost involved in downgrading or termination could be far greater than any savings proposed by amalgamation.

Our tax structure is at this time, in line with the economic conditions of our community bearing in mind that for every employed taxpayer, the minimum cost involved in travelling to and from

The Community of Meadows

BOX 13, SITE 8, R.R. 2

Corner Brook, Newfoundland

A2H 689

-4-

Corner Brook is an additional \$2700.00 per year, per vehicle, for vehicle insurance and gas, money which is for most part deposited in Corner Brook, coffers. Surely any figure much higher than what we now have would force us into another Smallwood resettlement.

Meadows Council is willing at any time to discuss a greater sharing of services with any Council involved in this proposed merger, providing of course such services would be in the best interests of all involved.

As stated earlier, Meadows has proven itself responsible and capable of handling its own affairs and will no doubt continue along those lines.

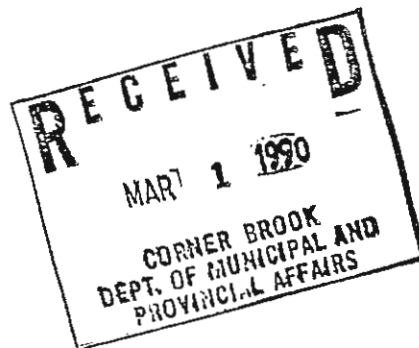
Our Premier, The Honorable Clyde Wells has promised the communities involved in this issue that amalgamation would not be forced upon anyone. We trust this does not involve withholding funds necessary for our growth on the premise of being left without an option. Such a move could create the death of all five communities involved and a name suitable for the combined communities could very well be "Ghost Town".

We firmly believe amalgamation is not right for our people at this time. We trust our taxpayers, also known as voters, will not be forced into hardships because of our decision.

The response from Meadows to this proposed amalgamation is a unified "NO".



Minnie J. Vallis, Mayor



AMALGAMATION FEASIBILITY REPORT

Submitted to: Department of Municipal Affairs
Commissioner A. Colbourne

Submitted by: Summerside Community Council

Date: March 1, 1990

As stated earlier, in the early stages of the amalgamation process, this council and this community in general, is adamantly opposed to amalgamation. We don't need amalgamation, we don't want it.

Council has met with council representatives from Hughes Brook, Irishtown, Meadows, and Gillams. None of these communities are in favour of joining forces.

We believe that the general consensus is that we can and agree that we should share services wherever possible. We are most definitely in 100% favour of sharing services. Summerside is already sharing a fire-fighting service with the communities of Irishtown and Hughes Brook - The H.I.S. Volunteer Fire Department. This department is known province wide and is considered to be one of the best on the island. It is through the cooperation of the three communities that the department has developed so positively. Credit goes to the volunteer fire fighters, the councils and the residents in general for their support.

We have recently put a shared service agreement into force with the Community of Meadows. Meadows has agreed to supply water to the residents of the West End of our Community, namely Christopher's Cove and Davis Cove. This was the fastest and most economical way to obtain a water system for the area and through negotiations between the two community councils, we were able to reach an agreement that we are both comfortable with. We have drastically reduced the cost of installing the system by going this way, probably by a million dollars. We didn't need to amalgamate to do it. Two councils sat down and talked and worked out an agreement that benefits the two communities.

We realize that other services can be shared. One such service is garbage removal. There is no reason in the world why all five communities cannot share a weekly garbage removal service. It would be to our advantage to do so and some conversation to the effect has already been entertained.

These are just several services which can work well; I am sure that if we put our thoughts together, we could come up with many more that would work to our advantage. One such is regional Dog Control; a major problem for most of us. But, the fact still remains - we do not need to share a common municipal government to share services. We all cherish our identity and that is how we wish to remain. Our forefathers settled here many, many years ago and established each community. They are a very proud people. By talking to some of our seniors we find that they, as early settlers of the area, cherish their identity more than gold. We have to consider those people when it comes to getting around in order to pay their tax bills. Most of our seniors are unable to travel very far and it would be unfair to expect them to travel to another community to pay their bill. This must also be taken into consideration when social events are planned. We need social

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events to be held nearby in order that all residents, young and old can take advantage and get out and mingle with family and friends. This community has been in financial chaos for years. In March of 1986, there was in excess of \$40,000 owing on delinquent bills. I, along with my fellow councillors, had just been elected to serve the community. If we had known the financial state before hand, we would not have even considered running for a council position. We discussed our options with a government employee and he advised to either declare bankruptcy or else to get tough and stick to our guns - and get tough we did. It has been a long, hard struggle. Our financial state was so bad that we had to pay cash to get cleaning supplies at a local store. Our cheques were not accepted. We realized that we had to make some harsh decisions and we set about to do it. At that time only about 25% of taxpayers were making any attempt to pay taxes. Today, we have a collection rate of 99%. This doesn't mean that all accounts are paid up to date, but it does mean that 99% of our taxpayers are making an effort and paying something. Amalgamation at this time is a step backward. It took awhile, but the residents of this community have finally been educated to the fact that they have to pay taxes. You don't sit back and wait for services before you pay taxes; you pay your taxes and then you look for services. Over the past four years, we've been put down many times for decisions that had to be made and carried out. But in the long run, it's been worth it. We paid off all the delinquent bills and we are finally able to pay our day to day bills on time and have no creditors on our backs. We have applied for and gotten a shared cost government guaranteed loan for paving one of our by-roads. Two years ago, this seemed like an impossible dream. We have invested in new community hall furniture and some new office equipment and the residents of the community really appreciate it. They see that we are becoming financially stable and they are proud. At a time, when we see light at the end of the tunnel, we do not want to be told that all we've strived for no longer exists. This is our community. We have all worked hard to build it, and we will fight to keep it.

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X-Bank

We realize that other communities may still carry the financial hardships that we have fought so hard to overcome. Should we be forced to amalgamate with them, we would be right back where we started. No community out of the five designated for amalgamation has any great asset to share with the other four. We are relatively small and we do not have a lot of equipment or so. So in that respect, we do not have much to share. If we do anything positive, I am quite sure that we do not wish to have unpleasanties. At a time when we have fought so hard, even, we do not wish to be dragged back down by some community that is presently in debt.

In a meeting held with our M.H.A. in mid August, Mr. [Name] stated that a tax raise would not be necessary with amalgamation.

not see it in this light. We feel that we would need increased staff to do the work of the municipality and that would mean increased payroll. Increased payroll means another tax burden for the residents. Presently the office salary of the five communities combined totals \$44,800.00. Should we amalgamate, office salary would be much higher. For instance, we would need to hire a town manager, a regional clerk, and at least two receptionists. The salaries of these four employees would be far in excess of the present rate. In the report from Municipal Affairs it states that Hughes Brook, Summerside, and Meadows presently have full time clerks. This is most definitely not the case. Hughes Brook has a clerk who works nine hours per week, Summerside's clerk works eighteen hours per week, and although the exact number of hours worked by the clerk in Meadows is not known, we have been told by Meadows that she does not work full time. We have checked with other communities in Newfoundland who have approximately the same population our five communities combined would have. Each one of those we talked with have at least four full time office staff. We've talked with Pasadena, Deer Lake, & Harbour Grace. By comparing the information each one gave us, we found that their average annual payroll for office staff is \$100,000. By keeping in line with the guidelines set down by The Dept. of Municipal Affairs, our annual office payroll would be approximately \$88,000. This is double what we are paying now. Where is the saving? Presently, the communities have only part-time maintenance men. Again, should we amalgamate, we would need at least two full time maintenance persons. Here again, we would have an increase in salary. This would cost the municipality at least \$35,000 annually. Along with the cost of extra payroll, we have to dish out more for Worker's Compensation. Workers Compensation would have to be paid for office staff, equipment operators and maintenance people. At a 2% rate for office staff we would pay out \$1,760 annually. At 4% for maintenance men and equipment operators, we would pay about \$1,400 and \$1,600 respectively. This totals \$4,760 annually for Workers Compensation Coverage. Where would the extra money for salary come from? Increased taxes!

This is just salaries. Now we have to start acquiring equipment with which to work. We would need heavy equipment such as graders, backhoes, and trucks to do road maintenance etc. When we buy the equipment, we need operators. Again payroll burden. Where does the government propose that we get the money for all those things if we don't raise taxes. We say that taxes would go sky high. Meadows has at present a grader and a dump truck and Gillams has a Backhoe, but this equipment is far from new and it would be impossible to service all five communities. A new grader would cost \$150,000, and a new backhoe/loader would cost \$50,000. A new dump truck would cost \$30,000. The only equipment that is now owned by any community that is fairly new and would be of benefit to the new community is a one ton truck owned by Meadows and Gillams. Other than that loans would have to be gotten in order to purchase much needed equipment. We would need a couple of

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vehicles for the maintenance men to use; this being an additional cost of about \$30,000. Then there is the high cost of gas and maintenance. There are so many things that the government has not considered. Right now, the individual communities can get together and if we so desire we can buy a necessary piece of equipment when we feel that we can afford to do so. We can share anything. But we don't have to share a government.

Earlier in this report, we touched on the H.I.S. Volunteer Fire Department. This department is made up of 25 volunteers who have devoted hundreds and hundreds of hours of their time for training to protect our three communities against fire. Regional fire protection cannot work. The H.I.S. has one 840 pumper, while Meadows has a smaller fire truck and Gillams has only a pickup assembly. To be equipped to protect the whole of the new community, it would be necessary to purchase a new 840 pumper at a cost of \$150,000. Then we would need a new rescue van which when fully equipped costs \$70,000. This would be another added expense to the new community. We have talked with many of the volunteers who now give so freely of their time and the general consensus is that the new community would be much too large geographically and that it would be very difficult to get volunteers to serve. Our department now answers approximately 75 chimney fire calls per year. The response time is very good but this would change with the long travelling distance and injury and loss would be the end result. We would have volunteer burn-out and we would end up having a paid fire department, again another financial burden. Much of the money used now to run the fire department is raised through fund-raising by the volunteer fire fighters and firettes. With a paid fire department the whole burden falls on council.

Premier Wells does not want Meech Lake pushed on Newfoundlanders, and we the residents of the North Shore of the Bay of Islands don't want amalgamation pushed on us. But, that is how it now appears. Funding has just been announce for Capital Woks for 1990. We have not been awarded ONE PENNEY. Neither has any of the other four communities slated for amalgamation. All throughout Newfoundland, — the great majority (approx. 95%) of the communities opposing amalgamation have not received funding this year. This community was considered by the provincial government to be priority for the past five years. Why has that changed this year. In Municipal Affairs feasibility report it is stated that our system is not yet operational. They are aware of this, so they must also be aware that we cannot collect revenue from a system that is not operational. They are well aware of the water shortage problems which are experienced here year after year. So, why aren't we considered a priority. Municipal Affairs seems to be out to prove a point. You do not have to amalgamate, but if you don't, you suffer the consequences. Therefore, because we don't sit back and be dictated to about something we believe very strongly in, we are left to suffer. When the system is turned on in the spring, we will have only about 20% of our population serviced with water and sewer

and we don't have funding to go any further because we oppose amalgamation. Government is saying that amalgamation is not the reason we are left HIGH AND DRY this year, but we believe differently. Capital funding is being used as a lever. If you amalgamate, you get funding, if you don't amalgamate, you get no funding. Mr. Wells is saying that if you don't want amalgamation you don't have to have it, but in his hidden agenda he is saying that if you remain separate, you will not progress. This is not democracy, this is dictatorship. Are we really in Newfoundland? Just where is our member in the House of Assembly when we desperately need him?

There are just so many things that the government has not considered. How will we pay for the upkeep of five community halls? These halls are the only place in any of the communities where social events can be held. The people of the region do not want those buildings closed down. But with amalgamation, it would be a difficult task to have adequate funds to maintain all five buildings. If any has to close, who decides which ones they will be? Council will have this difficult task of making this unpopular decision and it is a decision that could and would most likely result in creating hard feelings along the residents. The provincial government keeps saying that each hall could be kept open and used for various purposes, one being commercial use. Who in any of the five communities involved, know of any commercial use for our buildings? In communities on the North Shore we do not have much commercialism, thus it would be next to impossible to utilize our buildings to this extent. From October to May, the electricity bill for our community hall runs anywhere from five hundred to seven hundred and fifty dollars per month. Four out of the five community halls from Hughes Brook to Gillams are just as big as the one in Summerside. Therefore, chances are that their bills are just as large as ours. Even though, with amalgamation, all income would be going into one bank account; all expenses would have to be paid from one account also. It would cost about \$3,500 monthly to pay for heat and lights for the five halls. The government speaks of increased revenue. Fine, if we take five bank accounts and combine them, it may look as though we have some money. But, on the other hand, we have to take the bills and combine them. Now, where is the gain? The residents of each community will still want to see something for their tax dollar. Money has to be spent in each community. If funds are low, who gets the services? Who decides who gets the services?

Each community has debt charges. When we combine all five, we are looking at a very hefty bill. Whether each community pays debt charges individually or if we combine forces and pay together, we still have to pay 20% of fixed revenue regardless. So, how are we saving money. Some communities have higher debt charges than others, but they are also more advanced. When it comes to water

& sewer servicing, Summerside is far behind the other four communities. Presently we have only about thirty-five families hooked into the sewer service. We are hoping that by early spring we will have water in the line order to start collecting revenue for water service. We pay our debt charges, while we collect only a very small amount of revenue. Why should we, an unserviced community, (who for several years did not receive one penny for capital funding, while the other communities were given funding and were able to advance,) suffer to help pay the debt charges of those communities.

According to the budget copies, three of the five communities take remuneration pay for councillors. The Community of Summerside takes no form of remuneration whatsoever. Judging from the budget, neither does the Community of Meadows. The three communities which have remuneration pay, gives only a small token. Should amalgamation go through, we feel that it would be impossible to get councillors to serve without much more remuneration pay. Their responsibilities would greatly increase, and they would expect some form of compensation for the hours they would have to devote to doing the job. Again, this would be an increased financial burden to the taxpayer. Then there is the problem of getting councillors out to travel to meetings. No matter where the council office is located, some councillors would have to travel great distances, this especially during winter would be a step in the wrong direction. Council would not have the interest that is now shown. According to the report from The Department, government feels that residents would have greater accessibility to councillors with amalgamation. We feel that this is totally wrong. Unless being councillor was a paid position, people just wouldn't get involved. No one person would want to serve on a council of seven people and be responsible for 417 people without receiving compensation for his work. It is just too cumbersome. Council would have to be paid - still another expense to the taxpayer.

At present, each community on the North Shore has a good relationship with the others. Should we be forced to amalgamate, this could change drastically. Like I stated before, Summerside is the farthest behind when it comes to Water & Sewer Servicing. This community is where the funding is most crucial at the time. Our council fights hard to get that funding. If we join forces and have a council made up of representatives from the five communities, that fight would change. Each person would fight for his own area. It would not matter who had the most drastic needs; it is human instinct to look after your own. It would take years for us to realize that we are now one community and we fight for one community. For years, the residents of each area would still look out for number one - number one being their own place of residence.

Residents of this community circulated a petition late last summer to get everyone's views of amalgamation. It was turned down flat.

Out of 547 voters, 411 signed the petition against amalgamation. Surely this must tell the government something. The time for amalgamation was back in the early 70's when all those little communities were being incorporated. Instead of five separate water & sewer systems, one system could have serviced the whole area. This would have saved Money. But not now. Everyone has their dams constructed and their own individual chlorination buildings and millions of dollars has been spent getting the system operational. But the fact is unchanged. The money is spent now, we can't get it back. Government can't get it back.

Just take a look at how amalgamation worked for the South Shore of the Bay of Islands. They joined forces and while each community on this side of the bay got \$250,000 each for water and sewer, they were given \$250,000 for the four communities. At the rate they are going now it will take 28 years to complete the system. What is the good for a community from Hughes Brook to Gillams to be awarded \$250,000 for water & sewer? Absolutely no good. And then, look at the distance from Hughes Brook to Gillams; we are spread out over about twelve miles. It's crazy to even entertain the idea of having one community - one government. We're doing fine the way we are. We are all for shared services, but we do not want and demand that we don't have a shared government.

Then, lets take a look at Pasadena and South Brook. They wanted amalgamation, but it didn't happen overnight. A lot of study went into the process and for something that they believed would benefit the area, it took two years to complete. Why, are we expected to be willing to accept it so readily?

Years ago, Curling joined Corner Brook. At the time they had their own Drug Store, Bank and Post Office. Over the years, those things have been phased out. The Drug Store is gone, as in the bank, and by spring the post office will be gone. This shows that with amalgamation, some services can be lost.

We have small business people in our community and we make every effort to keep their taxes at a minimum. They have a very limited revenue and high taxes would most definitely be a hardship on small business and they could be forced to close. They help form the tax base in the community and council does not wish to see anyone go out of business.

In Municipal Affairs report, there is a breakdown of what the predicted revenue would be from one combined municipality. It shows a property tax rate of only 3.5 mills. From first glance this report looks like it is very beneficial to all of us. But, what isn't in the report is the increase in expenses for a combined municipality. In our report we have listed a good many of the expected expenses and they are high. Government is looking at what is gained by amalgamation, we are looking at it from every angle and we see no benefit whatsoever. The only benefit seems to go to

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the government. They would have fewer municipalities to deal with, therefore, less work to do. Also, should we amalgamate, the residents of the area will still have to commute to Corner Brook daily to go to work. Therefore, if we can be forced to accept all financial burden to the running of the community, the government is saving money. Individually, we still buy gasoline every day to get to our work place and the government collects on this. The government benefits, not the individual, not the community.

Joseph Loderi
Mayor.

We, the undersigned, residents of the COMMUNITY OF SUMMERSIDE, totally oppose the amalgamation of our community with four other North Shore communities.

5 Edward Hann
Holly Hann
Herbert Hann
Mary Hann
Mary Jerry
Jerry Hann
Lisa Hann
Warren Hann
Clarence Kendall
Wendy Kendall
George Kendall
Murray Kendall
Lucy Kendall
Wicki Kendall
Amy Lake
Ambrose Lake
Pearl Crocker
Bursay Crocker
Randy Crocker
Sherry Kendall
James Searls
Larry Davis
Roger Tjellman
Kenny Van
Donald Pearson
John Pearson
Harry Pearson
Olma Pearson
Sherrill Pearson
Sherrill Pearson
Monty Hann
Becky Hann
Lucy White
Donna White
Brenda White
Dwayne White

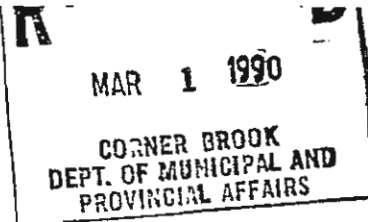
James
Lisa Murrin
Linda
Ross Smith
Stella Smith
Paul Thompson
Maurice Wheeler
Ira Wheeler
Kate Wheeler
Richard Wheeler
Florence Christopher
Jack Christopher
Don Sheppard
Judy Ruth
Cliff Ruth
Sylvia Ruth
Lillian Ruth
Caroleen Gueley
Eunice Taylor
Rally Taylor
Thomas Perry
Haldene S. Penney
George Perry
Danniy McLean
Calvin & June Taylor
Dick & Judy Sparks
Joseph & Emma Lundgren
Stanley Lundgren
Lorraine Kodie
Ralph Kodie
Lionel Kodie

IRISHTOWN RECREATION COMMISSION

The Parks and Recreation Committee of Irishtown is made up of volunteers. All monies raised through various functions are spent to improve recreational facilities in our community. We feel that if we are forced to amalgamate it will be very difficult to get volunteers to contribute their time free of charge. The community will be so spread out, that it will be a hard task to get things working. Right now we use our community hall for most of our functions. We have a lot of entertainment as a means of family and neighbors getting together to socialize. Should we have to lose our hall, all this would change.

We cherish our community and work long and hard to better it. It is our wish that Irishtown remain as it is. We believe that this is what is best for all concerned. We see no benefits from amalgamation now.

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We, the undersigned, on behalf
of the Irishtown Recreation
Commission are against
amalgamation

Agnes Penney President
Faig Anderson Secretary
Joan Peicey Director
Kathleen Byrne Director
Genta Glennis Vice President
Leonard Anderson Director
Brad Blanchard Director
Elizabeth Kennedy Director

AMALGAMATION

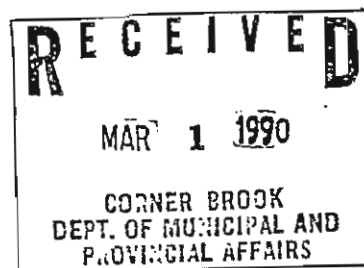
The Brownies Sparks and Girl Guides of Irishstown are a non-profit organization. We depend on our community to provide space for us to hold our meetings and get-togethers. Our council has been very good to us by letting us use the community hall for all our meetings free of charge. We appreciate all that has been done for us.

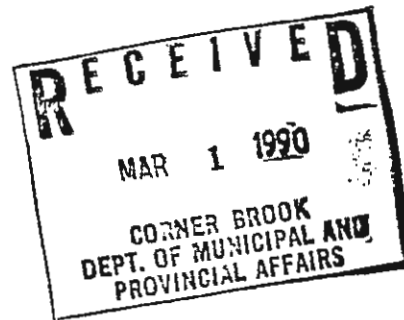
With amalgamation all our benefits would be gone. No longer would we be able to have use of our hall free of charge. A much larger community could not afford it. If it were possible to keep our hall in operation we would still have to pay rent. Being a non-profit organization we could not afford to pay rent. Even if we could have use of the hall in another community we would have to travel long distances and this would be too hard on our children. Especially in winter time. We the leaders and Sparks, Brownies and Girl Guides of Irishstown totally oppose amalgamation.

Kathleen Byrne

Diane Penney

Kathleen Byrne
Dianne Penney





BRIEF

Submitted to: Dept. of Municipal Affairs

Submitted by: Ralph Loder, Former Fire Chief H.I.S. Fire Dept.

Subject: Amalgamation - Hughes Brook, Irishtown, Summerside
Meadows and Gillams

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire Protection

Because of the unique geographic location of our five communities, spread over such a large area, Hughes Brook to Gillams, there would be no benefit to citizens to have fire departments amalgamated to serve such a large area. Even if a new fire hall were to be erected in the centre of the five communities - the response time would be too long - creating greater dangers in emergencies.

Amalgamation would also mean reorganization of the fire departments, which now are already entrenched in each community, causing chaos.

Volunteers, such as firefighters and ladies auxiliaries (firettes) would possibly be non existing, bringing further burdens financially on the amalgamated community.

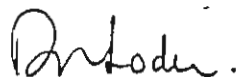
Bringing amalgamation for our communities and increasing population base would also mean additional equipment, i.e. pumpers, NO LESS THAN TWO would be required, more communications and a larger amount of firemen required, rendering the existing fire departments obsolete and giving each community the burden of disposing of the fire protection equipment they now own.

In summary there would be no advantage at this point in time to amalgamate all five communities to get better fire protection. This is why.

- a) Response time would be too long - resulting in larger fire losses, because precious seconds in fire situations means greater property losses, not to mention, endangering human lives.
- b) Cost of relocating, rebuilding and re-equipping a new fire department would be too great of a financial burden for the communities to bear.
- c) Loss of volunteer interest both for fire-fighters and auxiliary people who are the backbone for fund raisers for the fire departments.
- d) And last but not least, homeowners furthest from the fire hall would possibly have increases in fire insurance premiums, another burden for the citizens to bear.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Signed:



Ralph V. Loder

We are members of the Summerside Parks and Recreation Committee, a volunteer group who plan social activities for residents in the community as well as carry out fund raising activities to raise money to improve our community park and recreational facilities.

We work with council and we have the support of council in our ventures. As we do volunteer our time and efforts for the recreational good of the community, we feel that we should have some input into any plans the government may have to change the area.

At present, council permits Parks and Recreation to use the hall rent free for all meetings and fund raisers. This means a great deal to us as every cent counts when we are trying to purchase new recreational equipment or upgrade our park, ball field and swimming pool.

We fear that with amalgamation, free access of the community hall will no longer be possible. The community will have five halls to upkeep and maintain and no person or group will be able to use the hall rent free anymore. Council may have to increase the cost of hall rental and charge anyone who uses the hall. Bills still have to be paid, - utility bills, janitorial bills, and cleaning supplies. The cost of overall maintenance will still be there and council has to find the dollars somewhere to pay those bills. Naturally, hall rental fees will increase.

Then there is the accessibility to the hall. If council cannot afford to keep all five halls open, one or more may have to be closed. Should this be the case, all groups would compete for a time to use whatever halls are available and that would be frustrating.

Use of our hall is just one issue. Voluntarism is another. We give of our time, hours on end to work for the betterment of our community. All monies raised go toward something in our community. We don't have to travel any distance to meet and we have a good relationship with each other and with council. The relationship with council would change drastically. Should we have one central municipal council, that council will be responsible for the whole area, from Hughes Brook to Gillams. At present, our council gives us some financial support. We fear that this support would not be there if we have a regional council. This new council will be responsible for all five communities and they will not have the funds to pass out to five Parks and Recreation Committees as donations. If they can't support all five, I am sure that they will not choose to support one. All fund raising will fall on the shoulders of a group of eight or ten volunteers. This would cause hardships in getting people to volunteer their time for Parks And Recreation.

These may seem like unimportant issues to the provincial government but when it comes to social life in our community, all

issues are very important.

We like our community just as it is, and hope that the government will take our concerns into consideration.

Signed:

Parks and Recreation Committee

Wade Kendall (President)

Randy Crocker (member)

Linda Wheeler (Liaison officer)

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March 1, 1990

BRIEF.

To: The Commission for hearings into
the proposed Amalgamation of Hughes
Brook, Irishtown, Summerside, Meadows
and Billams.

By: Richard Park, Billams

PREAMBLE.

My Commissioner I will preface my
comments before making them. I do
not represent any particular group, nor
do I claim to speak for the area
as a whole. However, I have discussed
the proposed amalgamation of the Community
in question here, and I assure you
that the concerns I express are shared
by many individuals, who, for one
reason or another will not or can not
present them in this kind of forum.

W. D. Murphy
Bryant

I will begin by considering the objectives and Criteria for amalgamation as proposed in by Municipal Affairs in a paper dated July 11, 1989.

One of the stated objectives of Amalgamation is the Consolidation of Municipalities which will result in a larger population and the creation of a larger tax base.

I would suggest that Consolidation of the Communities in question here will do nothing to increase population or the tax base. Because Amalgamation will not mean a larger population, it will not mean more revenue from the population component, and I fail to see how Amalgamation will increase the tax base. There is no rationale or reason for anyone to assume that if we amalgamate more people in the new Municipal Unit will start businesses. There is also no reason to believe that outside business interests will suddenly locate in the newly-created Municipal Unit. Thus the tax base from business will not increase after Amalgamation.

I submit, Mr Commissioner, that increased population and larger tax base are not credible criteria and has absolutely no relevance to this Area.

Another Objective of Amalgamation is the more efficient use of monies spent to subsidize and cost-share water and sewer and road construction (\$50 million) and in Statutory grants (\$47m) in 1986 or 1987.

This is a noble aim. It is time that governments began to get the most use and best value for its dollar. However,

Municipal Councils are not the reason for high expenditures in public works.

The provincial government will say there is too much duplication in communities such as ours. The Commissioner I submit that the provincial government can indeed do some things to get ~~the~~ more efficient use of its public works money, but Amalgamation is not one of them. The government can prevent bungled engineering of projects, cut out much of the red-tape and incompetence at the provincial level and Schedule

public works like water/sewer installation and road building during the summer months - not in the late fall and early winter as is often the case.

These are elements of public works over which municipal councils have little or no control and therefore can not be held responsible if lost are too for provincial government departments.

The existence of municipal boundaries artificially separate municipalities from sources of revenue in surrounding areas, is seen as a problem by the government. This is not the situation on the North Shore of the Bay of Islands. It may be true in some areas of the province. For example, Corner Brook may be disadvantaged by the municipal boundaries which separate it from all the revenue from Steady Brook. No community in the proposed amalgamation of Billams, to Hughes Brook has a boundary that is depriving another community of anything. Meadows has no source of revenue that is being denied Billams. Irishtown has no source of revenue that is being denied

to Summerside or Hughes Brook by a municipal boundary.

Again, I submit, this Criteria can not be used as a basis for amalgamation of our communities, as it makes no sense.

Another Objective of the Amalgamation scheme is to put down on the number of municipalities in the province. It states that Newfoundland Communities are too small and are, because of their size, being criticized. This is not new. Nfld. Communities have always been small and for more than three hundred years we have been criticized. However, these are shallow reasons, poor excuses for making everyone big.

I submit that making political units big does not assure a more efficient administration. Indeed, it may be more logical to assume that the bigger a government gets the more inefficient it becomes. If being big is efficient, how come our federal government will have a \$30 billion deficit this year?

Proximity is given as another Criteria for Amalgamation.

There is no doubt that it is indeed practical for some communities to share services with neighbouring communities. For example, garbage collection disposal are two such services that could be shared. We are presently sharing common educational facilities. However, it is NOT practical to share ALL services in the communities being considered here. It is not practical in road maintenance, fire-fighting, recreational facilities, Community Centres to mention some. While the distance from one end of the proposed Municipal Unit to the other is not great in miles or Kilometers, the geography of the area makes adequate service difficult or impossible if we attempt to do it from one location - regardless of where that location is in the new Municipal Unit.

The government is suggesting that some communities have become "bedroom" communities for service centres. This appears to be troublesome for the government.

This may be the case for some areas being considered for amalgamation, but it is not the case on the North Shore of Bay of Islands. No community in this area is a service centre to another community and no community is a "bedroom" to another. It therefore follows that proximity and being a "bedroom unit" do not apply.

The Government may indeed consider some of our communities as "bedroom units", but we are not asleep. We are awake and we can see some of the consequences of amalgamation for our area. We don't like what we see and we don't want it.

The Commissioner this issue relates very directly to basic democratic rights. One of these rights is the right to make choices. At a time when the world is being flooded by a tide of democratic freedom, it appears that we in Canada are having our freedoms eroded by governments. While the people of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union

Are just now regaining democratic rights, our governments are making decision, many of which are significant, against the wishes of our people. Our premier has gone on a personal crusade against the Federal Government and the Meech Lake Accord because of its adverse affects on provinces like Newfoundland. He is practically demanding that the federal government not adopt something against the wishes of the people. I am hereby asking that our provincial government ~~and~~ not establish an amalgamation scheme on communities where there are no real benefits to be derived.

In Closing I would like to respond to the governments suggestion (July 11, 1989 Ref) that Amalgamation has been good in the past. ~~The~~ Amalgamation of Carver Brook, Humbermouth and Curling was cited as one good example of such a positive Amalgamation. There are literally thousands of citizens within the boundaries of the Amalgamated Carver Brook who would dispute the governments. If Amalgamation has been so good, should Humbermouth

be fighting for urban renewal after 30 years of Amalgamation? Should most of the original businesses moved out of Curling? Should Curling have lost her bank to Cerner Brook?

These are some of the benefits that Amalgamations has brought that area, and they are not the kind we desire for our area.

Mr Commissioner in spite of what the Government has said about the benefits of Amalgamation I am convinced it can only mean a downgrading of service, a loss of identity, and hardships for many of our people.

I therefore ask that when you report to Government on your hearing that you register my rejection of Amalgamation for Villams with other Communities as proposed by Government.

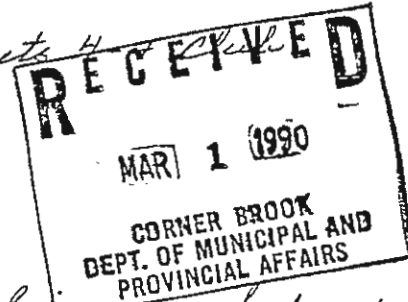
Respectfully Submitted
Richard Park

February 26, 1990

To: Whom it may Concern

Fr: Leaders and members of
The Summerside Rockets H. Club

Topic: Amalgamation.



We are presenting this brief on behalf of the H-H Club in this community to express our objection to Amalgamation.

The H-H Club has been a very active organization in this community for the past 30 years. This current year we have 28 adult leaders and 80 members, and this has been the trend over the years.

As we understand it, if amalgamation happens, some of the community halls would have to be closed. This is of great concern to us.

When the community made plans to construct a hall, the H-H Club's volunteer leaders played a vital role in that they obtained financial grants and put many hours of volunteer work into supervising these grants as well as many hours of physical labour into construction of the basement.

The H-H Club, being a youth club, uses the hall free of charge; this being an agreement with the Council and each year we put things back into the hall as our community project.

Other communities on the North Shore do not have H-H Clubs; therefore we would find it a great inconvenience if this hall were not

available to us, and transportation problems would make it impossible to go to another community. We certainly could not afford to pay rent for the hall, and it is a vital part of our organization being able to function.

As a group of volunteer adult leaders who are working hard for the youth of this community, we strongly object to Amalgamation.

Sincerely

The Leaders and
members of the Summers
Rockets 4-H Club.

Meadows Volunteer Fire Brigade

Community of Meadows

Box 13, Site 8, R.R.2
Corner Brook, Nfld. A2H 6B9



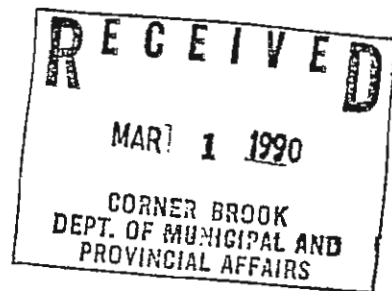
Telephone: _____

Chief _____

Deputy Chief _____

February 26, 1990

Mr. Art Colbourne
Assistant Deputy Minister
Department of Municipal and
Provincial Affairs
P.O.Box 8700
St. John's, NFLD
A1B 4J6



Dear Sir :

Re: Proposed Amalgamation of Hughes Brook,
Irishtown, Summerside, Meadows and Gillams

Please accept this letter as our objection to the proposed amalgamation plans for the communities of Hughes Brook, Irishtown, Summerside, Meadows and Gillams.

The Meadows Volunteer Fire Brigade has been in operation since 1973 and at present, it is made up of 19 members who volunteer their time and service to assist their community.

At present, our Brigade has a standing agreement with all the Fire Departments on the North Shore that if a major fire occurs in another community, we would assist with the fire, if required. In the past, we have found that this arrangement has worked quite well and we would like to continue this policy.

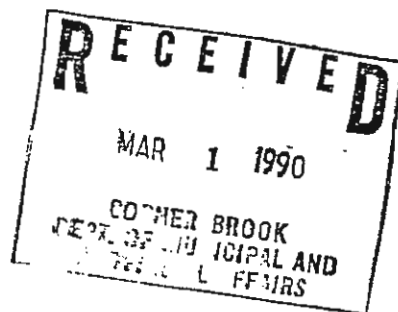
If the proposed amalgamation of the five communities goes through and we lose our individual fire brigades to one large department, we believe that the morale and commitment of our present members will begin to dwindle and their interest in remaining a part of the fire department will diminish. In addition to this, it is our belief that the proposed amalgamation will eventually have to lead to a paid fire department as opposed to volunteer brigades which are now in place. Thus, in the end, it will cost government more for fire fighting cost in the area.

In conclusion, our brigade does not feel that the community of Meadows will have anything to gain from the proposed amalgamation plans now being put forward and we are strongly against the proposal.

Yours truly,

Roger Wright for.

Meadows Volunteer
Fire Brigade



*Alet Brade
Spencer Brade
Shawn M. Waters
Randy Brade
Gary Huchue,
Roger Wright (2nd chief)
Gary Whuber
Charlie Wells (chief)*

The members of Holy Trinity Anglican Church Women, Meadows, have grave concerns about the proposed amalgamation of the five communities of Hughes Brook, Irishtown, Summerside, Meadows, and Gillam's.

Along with other issues, we as a volunteer group are committed to work towards improvement of family life, care of the aged, youth work, and improved living conditions for our children.

It would be impossible to estimate the numbers of volunteer work hours given by residents of our community towards making Meadows a place in which we could be proud to live. There still exists a very strong spirit of volunteerism which we believe has been the backbone of survival under some of the toughest situations.

We are proud of our founding fathers and mothers and today they have been provided with comfortable, easily accessible and affordable meeting accommodations which is being utilised to the fullest during those twilight years. Our youth and our younger children have accommodations for healthy, wholesome recreation and activities. Families have access to family recreation and sports.

In an age in which we are witnessing a rampage of marital violence and family breakdown in our society, our families are able to spend valuable time together which we feel is a major factor in alleviating stress on families due to economic conditions or other factors prevalent in our society. We believe in sharing and caring and this can be

witnessed in all five communities involved in this proposed merger. We believe this sharing and caring can still continue if we are allowed to maintain our autonomy. However, a merger has the potential to destroy the social fabric of individual communities and also the aspect of volunteerism. This could result in serious social issues and a cost far greater than mere dollars and cents.

We urge you, therefore, to strongly consider our past and present efforts in building the community we have today. We also urge you to listen to the voice of the people as they exercise their democratic right to choose for themselves a future of hope.

We, sir, stand opposed to amalgamation.

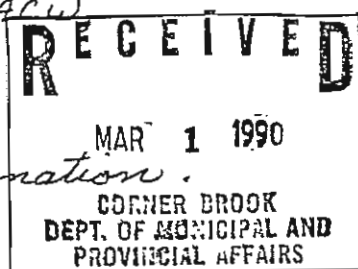
Respectfully submitted by
Holy Trinity Anglican Church Women
Meadows
Anna Pittman, President

14
February 27, 1990

To: Whom it may Concern.

From: Members of St. Paul's Church ACW
Summerside

Our Views on Amalgamation.



As a Church organization who is a vital part of this community, we wish to express our views and concerns on the proposed Amalgamation of the five communities of High's Brook, Lishtown, Summerside, Meadows, and Killams.

Amalgamation of all these communities into one would make a community too large to be governed well, either politically, financially, or be able to provide services expected and deserved by the population.

One major concern of organizations such as ours would be the availability of Community Halls. We use these facilities to hold fund-raising events that is the backbone of keeping our organization financially capable of paying expenses of the Church.

With the proposed large community the government is planning, there is no way all the community halls could remain open as they are now. If they did remain open, the rental of these facilities would be so high, it would defeat the purpose

of having fund-raising events in the first place. Also, having a hall in each community means accessibility by people without transportation who can walk to take part in events.

Amalgamation of such a large area would mean disaster to services now provided unless taxes were to sky-rocket. The general population of this area cannot afford this. The unemployment rate in this area now means hardship for a lot of families. Increased taxes is something we do not want or need.

As a group of 25 women of this community, we are against amalgamation of such a large area and wish to make our views known.

Sincerely,

members of St. Paul's
A.C.W.

15
BRIEF ON BEHALF OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION OF GILLAMS WITH
REFERENCE TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S MUNICIPAL
CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM

WE WISH TO STRONGLY EXPRESS OUR CONCERNS OVER OUR POSITION IF
AND WHEN THIS AMALGAMATION WERE TO TAKE PLACE.

FROM THE INFORMATION WE PRESENTLY HAVE, WE CANNOT IDENTIFY
ANY BENEFITS TO OUR COMMUNITY OR ITS PEOPLE IN THIS PROGRAM.

WE FEEL THAT BY LIVING AT THE FAR END OF THIS "NEW TOWN", WE
MIGHT LOSE OUR COMMUNITY HALL FOR WHICH WE HAVE WORKED SO
DILIGENTLY TO RENNOVATE AND COMPLETE. WE HAVE HAD GREAT
SUCCESS IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY. OUR HALL IS
COMPLETELY SELF SUPPORTING AND IS ABSOLUTELY NO BURDEN TO THE
COMMUNITY COUNCIL OR THE PEOPLE OF GILLAMS.

WE CARRY ON

A DARTS RECREATION PROGRAM FOR ADULTS
A DARTS PROGRAM FOR OUR YOUTH
TEENAGE DANCES
WINTER CARNIVAL PROGRAM EACH YEAR
ANNUAL CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS
CARD GAMES
CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

OUR HALL IS USED BY VARIOUS OTHER GROUPS IN THE COMMUNITY
THE COUNCIL FOR ITS ANNUAL BANQUET, ELECTIONS, AND OTHER
FUNCTIONS

THE POLITICAL PARTIES FOR THEIR RALLIES
THE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE FOR THEIR BANQUET AND FUND
RAISING ACTIVITIES
THE CHURCH GROUPS FOR SOME OF THEIR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES
PRIVATELY, IT IS USED FOR BIRTHDAY PARTIES, WEDDINGS,
ANNIVERSARY PARTIES, ETC.

IF WE WERE PLACED IN A POSITION OF HAVING TO DISCONTINUE THE
USE OF THIS FACILITY, WE FEEL THAT BY HAVING TO TRAVEL
GREATER DISTANCES FOR RECREATION WILL BECOME A GREATER BURDEN
ON OUR PEOPLE.

THIS ALSO APPLIES TO OUR PARK AND RECREATION AREA WHICH WE
HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO GET IN THE SHAPE IT IS NOW IN. WE
HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT FUNDING FOR OUR RECREATION AREAS, THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THESE FUNDS AND THE OVERALL ADMINISTRATION
OF RECREATION PROGRAMS. BEING A SMALL COMMUNITY WE MAY NOT
BE IN A POSITION AFTER AMALGAMATION TO VOICE OUR CONCERNS AND
TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES WE HAVE IN THE PAST TO THE PEOPLE WE
SERVE, THE PEOPLE OF GILLAMS.

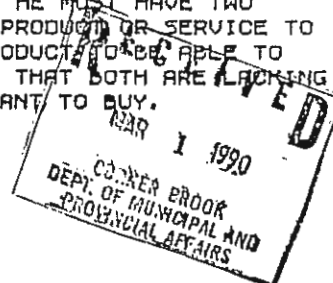
WE FEEL THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY OF LOSING AN IMPORTANT
PART OF OUR COMMUNITY LIFE, AND THAT IS OUR IDENTITY, THE
SENSE OF TOGETHERNESS.

IF AMALGAMATION WERE SO GOOD FOR US, WHY IS IT THAT THERE IS
APPROXIMATELY 95% REJECTION. IF GOVERNMENT HAD ITS HOMEWORK
DONE (AFTER ALL THIS IS THE PREMIER'S DISTRICT) THEN WE
SHOULD HAVE SOMETHING MORE THAN ANTIQUE EXAMPLES OF EARLY
AMALGAMATION, AFTER ALL THINGS HAVE CHANGED IN THE PAST
THIRTY YEARS.

IF A SALESMAN IS GOING TO SURVIVE THEN HE MUST HAVE TWO
THINGS GOING FOR HIM. HE MUST HAVE A PRODUCT OR SERVICE TO
SELL AND HE MUST HAVE FAITH IN THAT PRODUCT AND BE ABLE TO
PERSUADE CUSTOMERS TO BUY IT. WE FEEL THAT BOTH ARE LACKING
HERE AND IF GIVEN A CHOICE, WE DON'T WANT TO BUY.

THANK YOU

Alfred Park



16
GILLAMS
February 24, 1990

BRIEF

To: The Commission for Hearings into the Amalgamation of
Hughe's Brook, Irishtown, Summerside, Meadows and Gillams

From: The Senior Citizens of Gillams

The following brief is presented by the Golden Sunset Senior Citizens Club of Gillams, on behalf of it's members and all the senior citizens of Gillams.

One of the concerns we have as Senior Citizens is the uncertainty of what Amalgamation will mean for us in terms of facilities. We have only been organized about one year, but during that time have become very active with meetings and social gatherings. In a very real way we have begun to organize things for ourselves, and get involved in the community. All of our activities have taken place in the Community Centre. This is the only facility available to us, and we fear that Amalgamation could eliminate this facility, as it could be considered a surplus building under the Amalgamation scheme. While government may say NOW that closing this facility is not part of the plan or won't become part of the plan, we have no assurances that this will in fact be the case. The loss of this facility could cause our group to fold at a time when we were just getting to be active members of our community again.

Another reason why we reject Amalgamation is the problems we foresee in centralizing Municipal offices in one area of the proposed municipal unit. We fear that with the distance from one end of the area to the other, and with Gillams on one extreme end, that offices will move out of this community. This will put a burden on senior citizens in visiting the office to pay taxes, or do other business promptly. Many of our group, indeed most of our group, do not drive, and would be at a disadvantage under Amalgamation. Many of our Senior Citizens are now within walking distances of Council offices and any changes by government that would take away access to Community offices are unfair and unacceptable.

A third concern of Senior Citizens is the downgrading of some services which will come about if Amalgamation comes about. The government is suggesting that Amalgamation will mean improved services. This is not possible on the North Shore of the Bay of Islands, considering the geography of the area, the conditions of our roads and the distance involved in the proposed municipal unit here. Fire protection is an example of a service that will be downgraded if Amalgamation takes place. There is every indication that a Central fire station would be established to serve the area. This essential service would definitely be downgraded by such a move. We consider our present service to be quite adequate, and while we are not against sharing services with other communities, we do not want them consolidated to the point where we, in this community, loose

Another reason why we reject Amalgamation as proposed by the government is the loss of identity that will result. Most of us were born here, as were our parents and grandparents. We have raised our families here, and identify with this community. The government may not appreciate what this means to us. It means more than being 'petty' or 'narrow-minded'. It means having a sense of belonging to a community---because we have worked for it in bad times as well as good. We have never turned from our responsibilities to our Community. Like most Newfoundlanders we have a heritage that we are proud of and don't want to lose.

We don't want two hundred years of our heritage here to be swept away with the stroke of a government pen.

In conclusion we ask that this brief become part of your report to the government, with a very clear statement that the Senior Citizens of Gillams are "Against" Amalgamation.

Respectfully Submitted

Claude Blanchard

Claude Blanchard

Florence Brake

Florence Brake

for Golden Sunset Senior Citizens
Gillams

17
February 23, 1990

To whom it may concern,

We, the members of the Gillams Firettes feel that Amalgamation is not for us. As members of a group working towards providing fire protection to families in our community, we think that property and well as human lives will be put in jeopardy if we are forced to amalgamate.

If amalgamation means shared fire protection for all communities, which we are led to believe it means, we do not feel we will be protected adequately.

At the present time, with fire protection close at hand in our own community, firemen and equipment can be at the scene within minutes. With a combined fire dept. it stands to reason that the obvious choice would be the equipment that is now located in Irishtown. They have a much bigger truck and more equipment. However the time it would take to get a call to that community and have a truck of that size drive over our highway to get to Gillams would be much too long to make a difference to burning property. Also if a person should happen to be trapped in a house fire they would have no chance at all of being rescued alive. That alone makes the idea of amalgamation undesirable in our opinion.

Fire protection being our main concern, we feel that we can only stand to lose by amalgamation.

Thank - You

Gillams Firettes

Audrey Brake
Secretary

18

Gillams Fire Dept.
Feb. 22, 1990

To Whom It May Concern

Brief on behalf of Firemen of Gillams

Re: AMALGamation

We, the firemen of Gillams, believe that the eventual "phase out" of our fire department would be detrimental to the safety of our community. We feel that the distance is too great (especially with the present road conditions) and amalgamation could only result in a downgrading of our present service. For the past twelve (12) years this fire department has provided a service--which we consider second to none--amalgamation can't improve on that. Gillams Fire Department consistently has had twenty-five members- who volunteer to attend weekly meetings and training sessions to better protect our community. With amalgamation the number of Gillams firemen would be drastically reduced.

We believe that the Gillams Fire Department is in a unique situation: our department fire hall is located less than one thousand feet from the regional high school (which presently houses 540 students). We have made arrangements (through mutual agreement) with the Meadows Fire Department (located two miles away) to reciprocate services allowing us to respond to calls from their Elementary School (approximately 300 students). Amalgamation will relocate the departments and destroy this ideal set up-- a move backwards, not forwards.

Amalgamation will also mean the loss of our community hall--fundraising will be drastically handicapped.

Members (unanimously) believe that amalgamation would result in a centralized fire department. This will result in an increase in insurance rates for all residents simply because of the increased distance from the fire hall.

We believe that the identity and togetherness of our community will begin to deteriorate and eventually will be destroyed. During our previous years we have organized annually a series of community events: winter carnival, Christmas Parade, community bonfire and fire prevention week. These useful community projects will disappear.

Our Voulenteer Firemen have a sister partnership with a group of ladies representing the Gillams Firettes. These ladies are actively involved in fire-department and community activities often fundrasing activities. This would be somewhat eliminated or completely dissolved.

In summary, our impression of amalgamation with respect to our fire department.. we feel we will have to notify the home owners in our community that

---in event of a fire at home, don't call the fire department to report a fire burning--call the insurance company instead and tell them the fire has burned.

Harry Hunt

Harry Hunt
Secretary

H.H./c.h.

19

SMALL BUSINESS OBJECTS TO AMALGAMATION

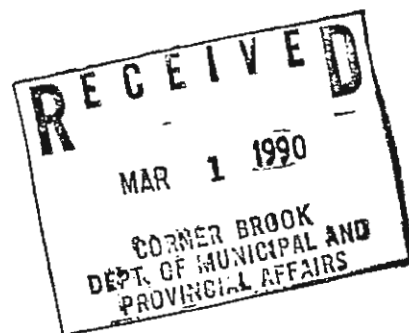
We are a group of independent small business people in the Community of Summerside. Right now we pay a property tax of four mills on our business property and we have a business tax of varied rates which are kept in line by council to assure that we are not overburdened by taxes.

We have a limited amount of revenue, as does any small business in a small community. There are just so many dollars to go around. If we amalgamate, our community will be much bigger in size, but this doesn't mean extra income for us. People will still shop in their own immediate area. That's only natural.

We fear that amalgamation will bring tax hikes. There will be no way for our communities to prosper without tax increases. Increased taxes will most definitely be a great burden to small business. If we have to pay more, we have to charge more; if we charge more, we lose customers. We are afraid that amalgamation can do more harm than good for us - we could lose our businesses, because we could be forced to close.

We are in total opposition to amalgamation.

Linda Wheeler
North Shore Video Centre.
Joseph Lodur.
H & L Holdings Ltd.
Doris MacLean MacLean Store.
Lodur Store Ltd.



20

GILLAMS
February 27, 1990

BRIEF

To: The Commissioner for Hearings into the Amalgamation of Hughe's Brook
Irishtown, Summerside, Meadows and Gillams

From: Luke Park...a concerned citizen of Gillams

I do not wish to have my community (Gillams) amalgamated with any of the others mentioned above.

We in Gillams have a good garbage collection, good fire fighting facilities and for the most part good water and sewer for most of the community.

There are other communities that are far behind us in all or most of these services. It is possible that we would have to share the burden of those communities that are not as far advanced as Gillams in water and sewer services. When monies are allocated for work on these projects, we would have to wait and be penalized in a way for having been better off with the work that we have already done.

There is nothing to be gained by Gillams in Amalgamation with these other communities and I am against Amalgamation.

Respectfully submitted by:

Luke Park
GILLAMS

21
WE THE UNDERSIGNED, RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY OF IRISHTOWN, TOTALLY OPPOSE THE
AMALGAMATION OF OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE OTHER FOUR COMMUNITIES OF THE NORTH SHORE.

Maria Pacey
Emma Pacey
Joan Murphy
Shirley Murphy

Bec Byrne
V. Adams Byrne

Benny Byrne
Priscilla Byrne

Alexander Murphy
Genny Murphy
Walter Murphy

Benny Byrne-Hann
Lena Hann
Jackie Murphy
Claton Murphy
Junior March
Leanne March
Daffodil Wareham
Don Wareham