

# The Community

“When anyone needed help, the community all got together and helped.” *Lorraine Goodon*

The Metigoshe community was a tight-knit group of people. Hardships of the era were dealt with by visiting one another and helping each other out when something went wrong. The relatively isolated location of the community fostered an interdependence between neighbours who lived, worked and played in close proximity to one another.

In times of hardship the community came forward with generosity and kindness. If there was a house fire, lumber was often donated and neighbours came together to help rebuild. Farmers didn't often sell their surplus produce, but gave it to neighbours who were in need of help. As Harold Alberts remembers: “I asked my dad why we never sold [our surplus produce] and he said if we just sold it we weren't helping anyone.”

Neighbours often watched each other's children when parents were indisposed or when family members were in the hospital. People gave each other rides into town, depending on who had a means of transportation. Most everyone was poor, but that didn't keep neighbours from giving what they could to each other. The Métis community created a lifestyle that did not require much money, and many children grew up oblivious of the fact that they weren't financially well off.



*The Metigoshe Community valued their reliance on one another. Food, labour, favours and friendship were shared generously to overcome the hardships of the times.*

This community spirit still exists today, even in an age when services are easier to come by and transportation is not as time consuming as it used to be. The experience of the past persists with the knowledge that a reliance on one another fosters security through good feelings between neighbours.

“Everyone was poor pretty much but we gave what we could.” *Betty Pratt Carey*

“Everyone took care of everyone. If someone was sick we would go next door if we were out of aspirin or something and borrow from our neighbours. We would all share our medicine, or if someone was out of flour and we had extra 10 pounds of flour we would all share.”

*Cecil Canada*

“The community helped in time of need. If someone had to go to the hospital anyone with a car would run them in. In the winter someone would take them with a team, because the roads were closed then. The whole community was like family.” *Roger Goodon*

“We had a house fire and lost everything. The Red Cross and the community helped. They brought clothing, beds and furniture. Someone let us live in their house until we got another one built. Irvin Goodon donated rough lumber for the frame. People came and helped rebuild.”

“I don't remember anyone being that poor, but the community would help. They gave deer meat and potatoes. People helped one another lots in the 30s.” *Betty Canada*



Lorraine (Canada) Goodon



Martha (McLeod) Goodon Bourgeois



Mildred (Bennett) Racine



Murray King



Roger Goodon