

Great Village Elementary Visits Tatamagouche



Some of the Great Village Students standing in front of the wall mural of Anna Swan (7'11" tall) and holding one of life-size dresses, made in Nova Scotia and is on display at the Anna Swan Museum. (Submitted)

The Great Village Elementary School recently went on a very informative field trip to Tatamagouche. The students rotated around three stations.

They toured the Creamery Square Museum, walked on the walking trail and toured the village on the Tatamagouche Road Train. The students had a great time and learned a lot, especially their visit to the Anna Swan Museum.

Anna Swan (1846-1888) was born and raised in New Annan, near Tatamagouche. At age four she was four feet tall and by the age of six was as tall as her average-sized mother. She reached a total height of 7'11" and weighed almost 400 pounds.

Also known as the "Nova Scotia Giantess, she was employed at P.T. Barnum's American Museum in New York City for several years

before touring Europe with a troupe of entertainers.

When visiting a circus in Halifax with which Martin Van Buren Bates — another enormously tall person — was traveling, He was 7"9". Anna was spotted by the promoter and hired on the spot. The giant couple became a touring sensation and eventually fell in love and, on 17 June 1871 in St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, they married. Rev. Rupert Cochrane, a friend of Anna's family who happened to be preaching in London at the time, agreed to conduct the ceremony.

In 1872, Anna and her husband purchased 130 acres of land and had furniture made to their specifications. Martin supervised the construction of the house. The main part of the house had 14-foot high ceilings, while the doors were extra wide and were 8 and a 1/2 feet tall. The back part of the house was built an average size for servants and guests.

Anna had two children but neither of them lived. The first was a girl born on May 20, 1872; she was the same size her mother had been at her own birth. The Bates family moved to Seville, Ohio, in June 1874 on their return from the United Kingdom.

While touring in the summer of 1878, Anna was pregnant for the second time. She went into labour on January 15, 1879. Anna continued in the first stages of labour for 36 hours. Their physician, Dr. Beach, realized that the birth was not going in a normal direction and tried using forceps, but the baby's head was too large.

He called another doctor who also tried using forceps. They put a strong bandage around the baby's neck to assist with the delivery. The baby was born on January 19, and survived only 11 hours. He was the largest newborn ever recorded, at 23 pounds 12 ounces and nearly 30 inches tall and each of his feet were six inches.

Thank you to the volunteers who hosted the tour in Tatamagouche as well as the parent volunteers who helped the school on the trip.



Great Village students take a ride on the Tatamagouche Train, which has been giving tourists and local residents a ride around Tatamagouche all summer. It is now in Halifax being used by Murphy's On-the-Water giving rides to tourists aboard the cruise ships to the historic downtown part of the city. (Submitted)



Great Village Elementary students take a rest and pose for a photo after hiking on the Tatamagouche Trail. (Submitted)

CCRSB Starting Early Dismissal Pilot Project

By Linda Harrington

Beginning this winter season, CCRSB schools and offices will be participating in an early dismissal pilot. Days when the forecast predicts developing winter weather conditions (blowing snow, icy roads, freezing rain, etc.) late in the day, CCRSB may consider announcing an early dismissal for schools. The early dismissal will be based on predicted weather conditions for certain geographical areas (Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland and East Hants), just like morning cancellations. Individual schools will not be dismissed early, only groups of schools, by geographical area.

The early dismissal pilot has two goals: To reduce the number of instructional (learning) days lost to a full day cancellation due to the weather, while keeping the health and safety of students and staff a top priority. To assist parents and guardians in their planning for days when the forecasted weather is poor.

Early dismissal will be one or two hours before the usual school day end. For example,

on a day when a one-hour early dismissal is announced in the morning, a school normally dismissing at 2:30 pm would dismiss at 1:30 pm that day. Bussed students who normally arrive at their bus stop at 3:15 pm should arrive at their bus stop at 2:15 pm. The end of the day simply rolls back an hour or two depending on the early dismissal decision.

The early dismissal decision will be announced on the school board website (ccrsb.ca), Twitter and Facebook by 6:30 am. The "All Schools OPEN" button on the CCRSB website will turn orange, and will read "Early Dismissal". Click on the button to get information about

the early dismissal decision, including where it will be happening. The early dismissal decision will be sent to all local media, to be carried on the radio and on news websites.

Schools will announce the early dismissal on their own websites, and via their social media channels.

Some schools may also choose to send an "Alert" email or text message to parents and guardians, announcing the early dismissal.

Questions about the early dismissal pilot can be directed to school principals, CCRSB Student Transportation at 902-897-5561 or CCRSB's Operations Department at 902-897-8930.



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