

Churches and Schools

The Good Shepherd Church



As the community grew, more churches and schools were added to the area. Beaver Bank was mainly known as a school district community. In 1865 the first school in North Beaver Bank opened. It was on Daniel Hallisey's farm. By 1925, Middle Beaver Bank got their first school.

Beaver Bank even had a finishing school called the Grove School. In 1880 a private school, for young ladies, that was run by Anne, Helen, and Penelope Grove moved from Halifax to Beaver Bank. This private school was run in their house and ran for some time but finally closed in the 1890's.

The Good Shepherd Church was the first official church in Beaver Bank. The land was donated by the Grove family and funds were donated by their students to have a building established, allowing the services to move from the Grove home to the new building. The first service in the new building was held on October 3, 1886. The formal consecration was on June 17, 1890. The Good Shepherd Church was a small building built on top of a hill. It remained like that for a century, and then a much larger, newly constructed building replaced it.

A second church was built in Beaver Bank in 1888. It was the Beaver Bank Presbyterian Church. It was renamed the St. John's United Church in 1965 after the purchase of the former Sancta Maria Regina Chapel, which was the first Catholic Chapel in Beaver Bank. It was located on the R.C.A.F. Station with services being held from 1955 through 1964.

The Telephone Comes to Beaver Bank

A meeting was held on December 19th, 1911 with the election of officers. This meeting was for the Beaver Bank Rural Telephone Co. The business of buying the Lower Sackville line was completed in December 1911. Before this line was bought there was said to be only two telephones installed by the Lower Sackville Telephone Company. In Beaver Bank, one was at the Grove's house and the other one was at the railway station. This was as early as 1905. Slowly, after the line was bought, phones were placed in households until practically every house had one.

A Concluding Thought

Beaver Bank's early life was like many other communities. It started out as a small community with no electricity and located in the middle of nowhere, but has been growing for over 200 years and is still growing today as a community changing the lives of many people in the process.



The Good Shepherd Church



Early Life and Social Developments of Beaver Bank

The Middle Beaver Bank School House



**LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE BEAVER BANK
COMMUNITY AT THE
FULTZ HOUSE
MUSEUM**

The Origin of the Name

Beaver Bank has been a home for many people for over 200 years. Beaver Bank did indeed get its name from the actual beaver. It was once full of these creatures and they built their dams all throughout Beaver Bank.



Over 200 years ago, in 1798, the first grants of land were handed out. The grants were given to Andrew Blair, George and John Bond, John Hockinbul, Henry King and also John and Philip Hefler. These seven people are the first recorded people who were issued land in Beaver Bank.



Lumbering & Farming: The Staples of the Beaver Bank Economy

Lumbering and farming were the main sources of income in the early development of Beaver Bank. The lumber trade attracted contractors. The first saw mill was located on the site where the present Barrett Lumber Co. is located. Since they did not have electricity they used the power of water. Workers started with up and down saws and then came the rotary saws. Eventually, with electricity, they started using electric motors, powered by diesel.

Farming was also big in Beaver Bank. Mr. Richard Barrett purchased the first mowing machine and horse drawn rake. Mr. S. McKay Shaw owned the first threshing machine in Beaver Bank, which was bought in 1904. Horses powered this machine.

In 1816 the government gave 50 pounds to build a road, which is known as the Rawdon Road. This road would come from the Fultz's property all the way through to Beaver Bank. This made the people of Beaver Bank very excited and happy since they now had a road that went directly to Sackville. It was not until 1956 that the people of Beaver Bank saw paved roads in their community.

This new form of transportation provided new opportunities for area farmers and lumberman. Products could more easily be sent to markets in Halifax and make more profit.



Early Forms of Transportation: The Stagecoach & Railway

Initially the stagecoach was the major form of transportation. The stagecoach would start its journey in Halifax and have a few stops before it reached Sackville. The people of Beaver Bank would have to meet, on what is now known as the Old Windsor Road, in order to catch the stagecoach back to Halifax. The first trip of the stagecoach, which had six horses, was on February 14th, 1816.



**The Beaver
Bank Station**

The railway was a major component to Beaver Bank. In 1854 construction of the "Windsor Branch" of the Intercolonial Railway began. The Halifax to Windsor branch of the Intercolonial Railway was opened on June 3, 1858. Daniel Hallisey became the first Beaver Bank stationmaster. The Beaver Bank station served the area until 1956. It was located a couple minutes up the Beaver Bank Road (near where Windgate Drive is located today).