

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen, etc,

I am Judy Bleakney and I represent the Coles Island Community Church.

Unlike our dear friend, Mr. McCready who can boast of 50 + years of living in Coles Island, we have been a part of your (our) community for a very short time; 2 years.

However, we have found our community to be friendly, open and embracing.

Coles Island School and Coles Island Community Church have worked hand-in-hand in some ways on what I would call a loosely structured partnership for quite some time now.

Our church had run a weekly after school program (kids Club), working with the school having the children dropped off from the school bus in our church yard for some time. Last year, when using the bus was no longer an option, we started to run an evening weekly program for our community children.

In the past our Youth Group would meet at the School Gym. This program is being re-instated starting in January 2015. Jan 23 @7:00pm will be our first meeting. Once a month the Youth of our community have been allowed the use of our school gym where our church will run a sports program for all youth of our community.

We believe as a church part of our goal is to be available for the Kids and Youth of our Community. In many ways a lot of our goals are similar to the schools. We desire to provide a safe and secure place for children and youth to learn valuable life lessons while having fun at the same time. We desire to influence our kids and youth in such a way as to enable them to make positive life choices.

In the past and in the present in many ways we feel our church and our school do PARTNER with each other to help make these things happen.

On every front we believe we are BETTER TOGETHER for each other and our community.

As in any partnership, if one partner is removed there is loss and suffering for all those left behind.

If our school is removed from our community, we believe that will represent great loss and suffering to our whole community at large, especially to our children and youth. We will all feel the negative effects of this loss.

Our prayer is that our community will not need to experience this loss and that we can always remain BETTER TOGETHER.

Thank You.