



## THE MAINE EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

GOVERNOR BAXTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

One Mackworth Island, Falmouth, ME 04105  
www.mecdhh.org

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Dear DHH Friends and GBSD Alumni,

There has been significant progress on the State Department phase 1 facility plan on Mackworth Island. Carter Hall and the connecting walkway to Young and Sanders buildings have been demolished, including the foundations. The view of Casco Bay is amazing, so please try to get a chance to check it out!

This week the demolition of Young Hall will begin. It is anticipated that the main structure will mostly be removed this week, as asbestos, PCBs and lead remediation has occurred, and the power to the transformers in the basement has been disconnected. While the main facility will be removed this week, there are parts, the foundation and the large transformer room, that will likely extend into the next couple of weeks.

If you happen to visit the island, you'll notice tree removal occurring beyond the ranger station on both sides of the roadway. The new gateway is planned for construction in April, so the trees impeding the temporary roadway or ones that present "fall zone" issues to the new gate needed removal. None of those trees were listed as class gifts or unique plantings to the island.

While on the topic of Carter and Young Halls and island trees, this might be a good spot to share some historical facts!

### DID YOU KNOW...

- Young Hall was named after Mrs. Louise Young, who was the Maine School for the Deaf (Portland) Superintendent from 1931-1948?
- Carter Hall was named after Mrs. Frances Carter, who taught Deaf education for many years? Mrs. Carter began her career in the Primary Department on Spring Street in Portland. (Her two sisters taught in Maine Deaf education as well!)
- during the Civil War, Mackworth Island was a barracks for soldiers who were encamped on the island? At that time, Mackworth Island's 100 acres had few trees left, as those were cut to build the barracks and to provide firewood for soldiers.
- after the Civil War, James Phinney Baxter had a "high blood" cattle farm on the island?



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- in 1921, Percival P. Baxter began planting 100,000 pine and spruce trees on Mackworth Island, and the island was declared a bird sanctuary by legislative act?

The island certainly has a long history of “firsts.” While the loss of Carter and Young Halls can be difficult for many alumni and their families, we want you to know we take our role as caretakers very seriously. We continue to look for ways to move into the future while honoring the past.

Please stop by from time to time to watch as the island continues its evolution.

Sincerely,

*Steve Connolly*