

Deer Isle airport story

Islanders spoke of the population as including three groups: locals, crunchy granolas, and the rich summer people.

The airport was originally managed by locals and primarily used by people in the fishing industry. As more people moved onto the island who were wealthy some of them came with their own airplanes including planes that could not land at that airport.

The newcomers began to gain more position on the airport committee. They increased the rent for airport use in order to pay for improvements. A concern developed that something else was going on beside just “improving” -- That the upgrades we get to the point where only money people could fly.

The town meeting

The newer people believed that they had things in their pocket and that between a few selectmen and the town manager they would get permission to make improvements to the airport that others oppose.

The vote was 55 to 30 to leave the airport alone.

The appeal

Results of that meeting were appealed. Another town meeting was called. It turned out a huge number of people -- 250 people at the old elementary school.

Siri joined with Bruce in opposition. The two were usually at odds after Bruce clearcut 40 acres near her property. Siri - crunchy granola, Bruce - local

A coalition had developed between “the granolas”, the off-road locals, and others.

The vote once again was overwhelming to not make changes to the airport. Bruce got up towards the end and said, “enough of this foolishness we need to go home to our families and ice cream and television.”