

Aithisg Bhliadnha | Annual Report 2018/19

Comunn Baile Ghàidheal na h-Albann Nuaidh | Nova Scotia Highland Village Society



Baile nan
Gàidheal
Highland Village
MADE OF STORIES



IONA
Surround Yourself with Beauty



Iona, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia - April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019



Our Vision, Mission & Proclamation

Comunn Baile Ghàidheal na h-Albann Nuaidh | Nova Scotia Highland Village Society

The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society was incorporated on November 3, 1959, under the Societies Act of the Province of Nova Scotia, with the purpose of constructing and operating a replica pioneer village at Iona, as well as preserving and promoting Nova Scotia's Highland Scottish Gaelic culture. In 1962, the Society held the first Highland Village Day Concert to raise money for the construction and operation of the Village. Over the subsequent four decades, the site took shape. In June of 2000, *Baile nan Gàidheal* | Highland Village* became a part of the Nova Scotia Museum Family. The Society continues to operate the Village on behalf of the Province. The operation consists of a 43-acre museum and cultural complex including the Highland Village Living History Museum and Gaelic Folklife Centre, Roots Cape Breton Genealogy & Family History Centre, Highland Village Gift Shop, and an outdoor entertainment/theatre facility. The Society is a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency.

Vision & Mission Statement

Our vision is to be the leading Gaelic folklife centre, recognized in Nova Scotia, nationally and internationally as an essential institution for continuing development and representation of a vital and sustainable Gaelic community.

Our mission is to grow as a Gaelic folklife centre that bilingually nurtures, communicates and celebrates the heritage and cultural identity of Nova Scotia's Gaelic community.

The following **proclamation** was signed between the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism & Culture** and the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society Iona, Cape Breton Island on the occasion of an event to celebrate Highland Village as a new member of the Nova Scotia Museum family:

Whereas, Nova Scotians believe the history, culture, language and traditions of the Scots-Gaelic people are a valuable and living part of the Nova Scotian story; and, these people have contributed greatly to the formation of our Nova Scotian identity; and,

*Whereas, after due consultation, the people of Cape Breton and its heritage community have indicated their desire to see Cape Breton Island heritage further represented in the Dept. of Tourism & Culture** provincial museum system; and,*

Whereas, the Board of Governors of the Nova Scotia Museum has recommended that Nova Scotia Highland Village become a part of the Nova Scotia Museum family and the Province of Nova Scotia has accepted this recommendation;

Therefore, we, the undersigned, duly pledge to continue to work toward the creation of an understanding of the story of the Scots-Gaelic people through our museum. We promise to continue to preserve and present the Gaelic language and culture for the benefit of all Nova Scotians and visitors. We agree to strive to inspire the people of our province to Know, value, and maintain this important part of Nova Scotia's past, present and future: the culture, traditions, and language of the Scottish Gaels.

Signed this day at Iona, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia - June 17th, 2000.

** Baile nan Gàidheal | Highland Village, formerly Highland Village Museum/An Clachan Gàidhealach, is a part of the Nova Scotia Museum family, operated in partnership with the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society. The new name/branding was adopted in early 2015.*

*** Now the Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage.*



President's Report

- M.A. MacPherson

It is my pleasure to report to the Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society on the activities of the Board of Trustees for 2018-19. This year two board members will retire, Catherine Fuller and Angie Farrell. We express our appreciation to them for their many years of service to the Highland Village.

Betty Lord is scheduled to retire after six years consecutive as a board member. However, there will be a suggested change of the Society's By-laws to allow Betty to remain in her key position as treasurer as we embark on our Site Development Project, which will see our annual cash flow more than double during that period. It is the recommendation of the Board of Trustees that we not have a change in that critical position at this time. That by-law amendment will come before the AGM later this evening for your review and vote.

This past year has been another banner season for the Highland Village with visitation exceeding our 2018 record of 25,142 people. We continue to build on the excellent experience that visitors have when they come to the site and interact with the staff.

We finally received provincial support for our Site Development Project on March 29, 2019. This was the response to our formal request made to the province in September of 2016. The provincial portion of \$1,200,000 will be matched with \$1,200,000 from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), and \$100,000 from the Municipality of Victoria County, that was formally announced at the Highland Village on October of 2017. Our Fundraising Cabinet is now actively engaged in seeking to secure the balance of the \$1,100,000 that must be raised to match the provincial and the federal government partnerships. The actual work on the Site Development Project is underway, and we will be seeing changes happening on the hill in the coming months. It is a three-year project with a plan to have all work completed by the end of March 2022.

The Executive, Finance, Fundraising, Engagement, Nominating, Planning and *Stòras na h-Òigridh* (Treasures of Youth) committees have worked diligently throughout the year. We want to make special mention of the Planning Committee's leadership in a strategic planning process that is now underway. This endeavour is of critical importance to the Highland Village as we prepare to meet our challenges and enhance the services and success of the Highland Village.

Once again, this year, we acknowledge the wonderful work of our team of volunteers who remain a major strength of the Highland Village community. We are grateful to the many people who willingly donate their time and offer their advice to assist the operation. The community of the Highland Village is enriched by this engagement and it is frequently noted by our visitors that they see this museum as more of a family than an institution. Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers.

On behalf of the board I extend gratitude to the core personnel who are the face and heart of the Highland Village. The staff continues to maintain a great sense of pride, commitment and excellence in its work that has come to be recognized as a trademark of the Highland Village experience. The ever-present good cheer, commitment and spirit of the staff make a visit to the site a memorable experience for all ages.

The Highland Village recognized three individuals in 2018-19 who have made significant contributions to the overall community. Anna MacKinnon was presented with the Society's Award of Merit on Pioneer Day last year. Imelda Kelly from Christmas Island and Sarah MacNeil (youth) of Ottawa Brook received our Volunteer Awards through Victoria County's Volunteer recognition program.

The board is looking forward with enthusiasm to 2019-20. We will see significant changes on the hill over the next three years, changes that we think will enhance the visitor experience and establish a solid future for the Highland Village. The Highland Village continues to be a strong performer in the Nova Scotia museum system.

Respectfully Submitted
M.A. MacPherson, President

Director's Report

- Rodney Chaisson

I am delighted to present this annual report on the operations of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society to its membership and stakeholders for the fiscal year April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

As we reflect on the year, *Baile nan Gàidheal* | Highland Village remains focused on being a centre of excellence for the transmission and experiential presentation of Gaelic Nova Scotia culture and heritage. It strives to provide quality visitor experiences and leadership in promoting linguistic and cultural renewal in its community.

2018/19 Overview and Highlights

The 2018/19 fiscal year saw continued advancements on several fronts, namely visitation (another recording breaking season) interpretation & programming, collections management, infrastructure improvements, as well as outreach & partnerships.

While 2018/19 saw much to celebrate, it was also a year of loss for the Society with the passing of its long-time Manager of Interpretation and Gaelic leader Jim (Seumas) Watson. Jim passed away in November 2018 after a lengthy battle with cancer. His vision and leadership transformed the Village to the Gaelic place it is today, recognized internationally for interpretation and outreach of Gaelic language, culture and identity. Fittingly, Jim's celebration of life was held in the tuning room (backstage) in mid December. While Jim's passing does leave a huge void in our operation, he has inspired all of us to move forward and continue to grow *Baile nan Gàidheal* as a Gaelic place.

I also want to acknowledge at the outset of my report, the recent passing of Rod C. MacNeil, a tradition bearer and long time supporter of the Highland Village at 95 years of age. In addition to sharing his knowledge of the culture and his deep repertoire of songs, Rod provided leadership in the growth of the Village, especially during its first four decades. We will certainly miss Rod on the hill sharing a song, making

soap, or sharing the narrative of the settling of Iona and the first meeting with the Mi'kmaq. Rod's son Tim is our Manager of Operations.

Here are some highlights from the 2018/19 year:

- Throughout the 2018 visitor season, the Highland Village continued to place much energy in the strengthening and deepening of our Gaelic story. *Na Cleasaichean* have been leading our animation staff throughout the season to incorporate more stories, songs and cultural nuances in their animation. A focus this year has been on speaking in English like Gaelic is your first language (i.e. accents), which some of the staff, including some of the summer students, have been able to successfully incorporate into their animation. They have also worked on superstitions, beliefs, and other characteristics of the culture. Deepening the Gaelic ambiance on site will be a continued goal and priority over the next few years.
- The Province of Nova Scotia approved their \$1.2 million contribution towards our \$3.6 million site development plan. All three levels of government have committed to the project with a combined contribution of \$2.5 million. A capital campaign cabinet is in place to raise the balance of the remaining \$1.1 million. We are currently working with Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and Nova Scotia Museum staff on the implementation of the project.
- Vibe Creative Group in Sydney has been engaged to lead the Society through the preparation a new 4 year strategic plan. Our last strategic plan expired in 2014. This new plan will guide us through the implementation of our Site Development Strategy provide some direction towards human resource planning.
- In terms of visitation and earned income, it was another record breaking year for the Village. *Baile nan Gàidheal* had 25,649 visitors in 2018, an increase of 2% (505 people) over 2017. The increase was largely due to a stronger cruise ship season for the Port of Sydney. While cruise attendance was up, off the road visitation and school program participation were both down. On the earned income side, overall gross earned income revenues were up 1.5% or \$4,666.

- Volunteer engagement remains strong. In 2018, our volunteers contributed 2,194 hours, a slight increase over 2017. The vast majority of those volunteer hours were for special events, in particular the *Oidhche nam Bocan* | Night of the Spooks Halloween program, as well as fundraising.
- Engagement through social media, especially Facebook continued to grow throughout 2018. As of December 31, 2018, we had 5,959 likes on Facebook (up 20.5% from last year), 2,792 followers on Twitter (up 5.5%), and 1,420 followers on Instagram (up 20%). Visits to our core website were up 8% in 2018.

Looking ahead, the Highland Village will remain focused on the key issues that speak to the long term sustainability of the operation: visitor experience opportunities, community engagement, infrastructure, and human resources.

Baile nan Gàidheal | Highland Village continues to evolve. In spite of some challenges, we are making progress. This report reflects on our 2018 experience, setting the foundation for further progress in 2019.

Organizational Objectives

Interpretation & Programming - *To tell the story of Gaelic Nova Scotia through experiential and interactive programs.*

This is the area of the Highland Village operation that has seen the most significant growth in the past several years and will continue to be where we place much emphasis as we move forward. Progress has included: increased presence of Gaelic language and culture, improved representations of Gaelic folklife, introduction of first-person/role playing in animation, increased activities and demonstrations throughout the site, introduction of hands-on activities for all ages, increased emphasis on making the site more engaging for children, and introduction of a new orientation video.

In addition to our daily animation, 2018 programming included: children and youth programs, storytelling tours, special theme days, workshops, education programs (in class and on-site), dances, feast days,

celebrations of food, and special interpretive events (Highland Fare Day, Donald Og Day, Pioneer Day, and *Oidhche nam Bòcan*).

While we have made considerable progress with interpretation and programming, there is still much work to do in these areas: deepening social ambiance, exploring the relationship between the Gaels and the Mi'kmaq, continued growth of first person capacity through research, training and character building, enhanced hands-on opportunities for all age groups, improved farm interpretation, incorporation of natural history themes, and value added experiences.

The expectations of a museum visitor have changed significantly over the past two decades. Today's visitor is seeking encounters that allow for meaningful social interactions, which they use to create memorable experiences, while connecting emotionally to the information being presented to them. Continuing research, including visitor feedback and best practices, will play an important role in ensuring that our programs and interpretation remain relevant and engaging for visitors.

Gaelic Community Capacity Building & Outreach - *To be a leader in advancing Nova Scotia's Gaelic heritage and identity on behalf of its cultural community.*

The Village is a recognized leader for Gaelic language and cultural development in Nova Scotia. Since joining the Nova Scotia Museum in 2000, we have been very active in advancing Gaelic related initiatives in our province: Gaelic Development Strategy, *Gàidhlig aig Bhaile* | Gaelic in the Community - TIP immersion methodology, *Cainnt mo Mhàthar* | My Mother's Tongue website, Gaelic image project, *Stòras nan Gaidheal*, *Stòras a' Bhaile*, the Gaelic Leaders Group, and others.

We are currently working with the Office of Gaelic Affairs and *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* on the preparation of an economic and social impact study for Gaelic Nova Scotia. We also continue to host and maintain the *An Drochaid Eadarainn* web portal and host the annual *Stòras a' Bhaile* Gaelic Folklife School. We also sponsor the *Stòras na h-Òigridh* | Treasures of Youth Scholarship Fund with the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia. Three scholarships were awarded in 2018 to Maggie Power of

Orangedale, Gillian Blaney of Lower Sackville, and Maggie Morais of Frankville. The Endowment, set up to support youth hone traditional Gaelic skills, now has \$60,000 in capital.

We are recognized regionally and internationally for our community outreach and development work around Gaelic language and culture. We will continue to initiate and participate in activities that advance the capacity of the Nova Scotia Gaelic community.

Research - *To sponsor and conduct high quality research that supports intangible and tangible representations in animations, programs and outreach.*

In order to ensure authenticity in programming and material presentation of the site, as well as staying abreast of best practices in interpretation, we have undertaken a number of research initiatives to support our work. We continue to publish *An Rubha, the Highland Village Gaelic Folklife Magazine*, with articles related to Gaelic language, Gaelic arts and material culture. We also continue to offer Genealogy research on a fee for service basis.

There is still much research to do. We continue to conduct research activities that support interpretation, including first person character development as well as the material culture presentation that supports our interpretive story. We will also continue to research current trends and best practices in museology, especially as they pertain to visitor engagement and experiences.

A Part of the Nova Scotia Museum - *To be an exemplary member of the Nova Scotia Museum family of museums.*

Highland Village staff have been involved in, and continue to be active on, working groups and initiatives within the Nova Scotia Museum including: M8 collective of large locally managed sites, Interpretation Working Group, Education Sub-Committee, Collections Management Working Group, as well as other NSM initiatives, including the NSM 150 anniversary celebrations.

The Board of Trustees also signed off on the new License Agreements between the Society and the Province of Nova Scotia. This new agreement provides the Society with the authority to operate the Highland Village for the Province, and outlines the responsibilities of each of the partners.

Community Partnerships and Engagement - *To engage with our communities by leading and supporting cultural, social and economic development initiatives.*

We are involved in many other groups to advance initiatives in our local community, in the wider Gaelic cultural community, and in the provincial tourism and heritage sectors. Our most significant partnerships at this point include: the Celtic Heart marketing partnership, M8 collective, Gaelic Leadership Group, Cape Breton Island Culture Sector Leadership Group, *An Drochaid Eadarainn* working group (St. FX, NSCAD, Office of Gaelic Affairs, and Victoria County), and the Central Cape Breton Appreciation Dinner for the Cape Breton Cancer Centre (with the Iona Legion and Paul MacNeil, Councillor, District 1, Municipality of Victoria County). Staff also participate in committees with the Association of Nova Scotia Museums, Heritage Cape Breton Connection, *Comhairle na Gàidhlig*, and Destination Cape Breton. Our director currently serves as Vice-President of the Association of Nova Scotia Museums.

Another partnership that has been growing over the past few years, is that with our First Nations neighbours. Highland Village has been working with Eskasoni Cultural Journeys for almost a decade. In 2016, we began working with the new Skye River Trails initiative in We'koqma'q. There a growing interest in Indigenous cultural experiences. We will continue to work in partnership with our Mi'kmaq neighbours.

The most recent partnership initiative is working with our local community to develop a tourism industry committee to position and market our community as a tourism destination. The establishment of a committee is an action from Victoria County's new Tourism Strategy. It will sit as part of Central Cape Breton Community Ventures. The

committee has been promoting a new branding for the area to support “Iona” as a tourism destination.

Human Resources & Governance - *To develop and support the human resources necessary to advance the mission and vision.*

Highland Village is very fortunate to have a skilled and dedicated staff. To ensure that staff are able to meet our operational needs, including interpretation (linguistic and heritage skills, content knowledge and interpretive methodologies), legislative compliance and organizational capacity, the Highland Village continues to invest in relevant training and professional development opportunities. In addition to training, the Highland Village also has a solid human resource management framework.

In spite of the above, sustaining our human resource base remains the most significant challenge facing the Highland Village. Pending retirements in the next 5 to 10 years will see the loss of valuable skills and knowledge, including, cultural knowledge and skills, heritage and craft skills, leadership skills, and corporate memory. While we have had some short term successes in recruiting young, keen, skilled staff members, there is still much work to do to ensure a sustainable human resource base for the future.

Two of our staff were recognized for their years of service to the Highland Village at our annual board/staff Christmas dinner in December. Appreciation was extended to Tim MacNeil and Rodney Chaisson, for 30 years and 25 years respectively. Our longest servicing staff member is Kaye Anne MacNeil with 34 years service. At December 31, 2018, the average length of service for Highland Village staff is 12 years.

It is also important to note a few retirements this past season. Neil J. MacNeil, Operations Manager retired in August 2018, after 4 years. Sharon MacNeil, a casual animator also retired this past year after 6 years. We will certainly miss both of them on the hill, but wish them the best in their retirement.

The 2018 Highland Village Award of Merit was awarded to Anna McKinnon of Inverness for her work and generosity in mentoring Gaelic learners.

Volunteers are important to our operation and our success. Volunteers contributed 2,194 hours to the Highland Village in 2018, a 5% increase from 2017. The slight increase in volunteer hours comes primarily from fundraising initiatives led by Betty Lord.

We continue to recognize the contributions of our volunteers to our successes. 2019 Volunteer awards, through the Municipality of Victoria County, were presented to Imelda Kelly from Christmas Island and Sarah MacNeil (youth) of Ottawa Brook.

Provincial Infrastructure - *To develop and maintain the physical infrastructure including grounds, buildings, farm, artifacts, and equipment in accordance with accepted standards.*

The management of our current physical infrastructure continues to adhere to accepted standards. Staff have participated in training on national standards for maintenance of heritage buildings. Staff have a productive working relationship with Nova Scotia Museum and the Building Services division of the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) personnel regarding building maintenance issues at the Village.

In each of the past four years, the Highland Village has received a maintenance stipend from Building Services to complete major maintenance projects. The stipend has enabled us to completely replace and repair the exterior of the centre hallway (MacQuarrie-Fox) and centre chimney (MacDonald) houses, replace the stage roof, work on the general store, and others. Building Services also funded the reconstruction of our log cabin which opened in June 2017.

The Highland Village also has a clear vision for the physical site. The vision has been articulated in a strategy that has been approved by the NSHVS Board of Trustees and endorsed by Nova Scotia Museum and TIR staff. The \$3.6 million strategy addresses the physical and operational needs of the site including visitor services, interpretation enhancements,

operational support, aesthetics, administration, and stewardship. As of the end of March, 2019, all three levels of government have committed to supporting the project to the tune of \$2.5 million. The Society has put in place a Fundraising Cabinet to raise the balance of the \$1.1 million community and private sector contribution. Implementation of phase 1 of the strategy is currently underway.

Marketing & Building Awareness - *To effectively market Baile nan Gàidheal as a destination for experiencing Gaelic folklife and as an international centre for Gaelic culture and heritage.*

Our marketing strategies and tactics over the past few years are generally meeting with success. Off the road (FIT) visits are up by 39% (3,860 people) from 2014. Unfortunately, we saw a slight decline in FIT visits in 2018 (down 6% or 918). However, our 2018 FIT numbers are higher than any other year except for 2017. See the visitation and participation section for more on our statistics for 2018.

Engagement through social media, especially Facebook, continued to grow throughout 2018. At December 31, 2018, we had 5,959 Facebook likes (up 21% from last year), 2,792 Twitter followers (up 6%), and 1,420 Instagram followers (up 20%). Our weekly Gaelic proverbs with accompanying photo are quite popular with our followers (as are the Village cats - Mary Margaret & Annie Katherine). We will continue to engage via social media, as well as keep abreast of any trends. We also experimented with paid Facebook ads and will continue to do so in 2019.

The Highland Village is also one of the founding and signature partners in the “Celtic Heart of North America” marketing cooperative, the goal of which is to promote and enhance Cape Breton Island’s Gaelic/Celtic tourism product. Celtic Heart is entering its 10th year of operation. As noted in the partnerships section, Highland Village is also working with its community to position and market the Iona area as a tourism destination.

Funding - *To secure long-term funding to support these objectives*

Over the past four years, the Highland Village has accessed new funding through Building Services (NS TIR) to support maintenance projects on

site. The maintenance allowance has averaged \$30,000 per annum. We expect this to continue as an annual contribution.

In 2018, the Village accessed the following funding: \$2,500 from Destination CB & Victoria County for Festival & Event expenses; \$3,400 from Gaelic Affairs (GLIC) for Stóras a’ Bhaile; and \$34,953 in student funding from Provincial and Federal funding programs. The Society also continues to work on accessing resources to support its \$3.6 million site development plan.

As the above demonstrates, we continue to make progress on the journey towards achieving our vision.

Visitation & Participation

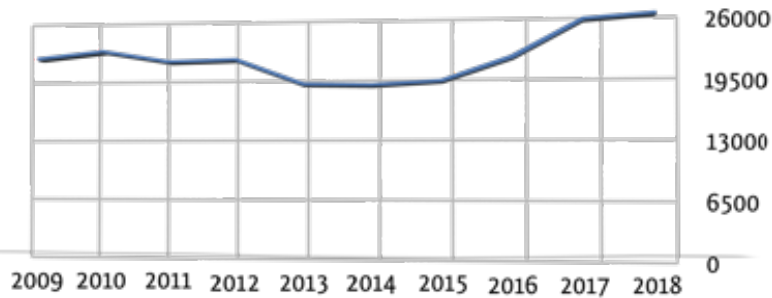
2018 was another record breaking year for the Village. Overall site usage/visitation for 2018 was 25,649, an increase of 2% (or 507) over 2017. This increase was the result of more cruise ship passengers (up 14% or 976 people), rentals (up 18% or 115 people), and other (up 94% or 756 people). Off the road (FIT) was down 6% or 918 people. Schools were down 22% or 304 people). Other groups were down 38% or 118 people.

Our break down of visitation is as follows: 54% of visitors are off the road (FIT - free & independent traveller); 32% from cruise ships docked in

Mode	Total Visits			
	2017	2018	Difference	%'age
FIT	14,792	13,874	-918	-6%
Schools	1,397	1,093	-304	-22%
Cruise	7,216	8,192	976	14%
Rentals	629	744	115	18%
Other Group	307	189	-118	-38%
Other	801	1,557	756	94%
Total Year	25,142	25,649	507	2%

Sydney; 5% from schools or in-class visits; and 9% from the remaining modes (rentals, other groups, etc.).

— Highland Village Visitation - 10 year Trend - 2008 - 2017



10 Year Trend - Total Visitation

As noted above, visitation in 2018 set a new Highland Village record with 25,649 people, an increase of 2% or 507 people over our previous record in 2017. The chart above shows our visitation over the past 10 years. Our 2018 attendance was 19% higher than 10 years ago (4,067 people).

Geographic Sources

The Highland Village marketing plan over the past few years has been focused on growing our local visitation (re-introducing Cape Bretoners to the Village and the experience we provide) and halting the decline of tourist traffic.

The challenge for us in growing our local visitation is that our community, specifically Cape Breton Island, has seen unprecedented population loss in the past two decades. Here are some stats to consider: In 1996, the population of Cape Breton Island was 158,260. The 2016 census reported that the number of Cape Bretoners dropped to 132,010, a stunning 17% decrease in the past twenty years. That is a loss of 26,250 people.

Visitation by Source							
Source	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018 over 2017
CBI	6,171	6,200	5,593	6,204	7,179	7,070	-2%
NS	1,515	1,565	1,504	1,757	2,068	1,717	-17%
Canada	3,119	2,944	3,218	4,150	4,523	4,429	-2%
US (no cruise)	2,319	2,397	2,479	3,017	3,187	3,214	1%
International	732	782	822	978	1,001	999	-0%

The other side to our demographic challenge, is that we have amongst the oldest residents in the country, which will result in further decline in the next 20 to 30 years. While our potential for significant growth in local visitation is challenged by our demographics, there are certainly many Cape Bretoners who have not been to the Village or never heard of it. We will continue to focus our efforts on reaching out to those folks, as well as those who make the Village a part of their summer each year.

As far as 2018 goes, the number of Cape Bretoners that came to the Village were down 2% (109 people). Visitors from mainland Nova Scotia were down 17% (351 people). The rest of Canada was down overall by 2% (94 people). However, when broken down further, Quebec was up 8% (55 people) and Ontario was up 1% (15 people). Atlantic Canada and Western Canada were both down by 17% (351 people) and 3% (49 people) respectively.

Acknowledgements

Tapadh Leibh-se Gu Mór

The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society gratefully acknowledges the support of many individuals, organisations and governments for their unwavering support of the Highland Village and its work. *Acknowledgements of our funding and project partners can be found on page 17 of this report.*

Farm Program Partners (2018): Dell Corbett, Grand Mira ('Mira Jean' Clydesdale Horse); Bruce Aikman, Middle River (Highland Cattle); and Bob Groves, River Bourgeois (Soay Sheep).

Artefact & Archival Donations (2018): Ann Bonnar, George's River; Charlotte Brann, Glace Bay; Catherine Crawford, Baddeck; Sherry Finney, George's River; Catherine Gillis, North Sydney; Lorna Harvey, Port Hawkesbury; Gerard MacNeil, Montreal/Red Point; Theresa MacNeil, Beaver Cove; Donald MacPhail, Lawrencetown; Joan Morrison Sydney; Geneva Pond, Sydney; Pene Pottie, River Bourgeois; Debbie Reashore, Sydney Mines; Barry Shears, Vancouver Island (loan); and Rev. Ted Thompson, Halifax.

Sustaining Membership - Our first Sustaining Member is Lawrence Glenn, Newport, RI. Móran taing!

Financial Contributions (2018) - The John & Judy Bragg Family Foundation, Oxford, NS; Pauline & Pius Campbell, Jamesville, NS; Rodney & Charlene Chaisson, Ottawa Brook, NS; Dan & Nancy Chiasson, Baddeck, NS; Peter Cook, Starks, ME; Raymond Fernandes, Halifax, NS; Chris King, Baddeck; Johanna Kyte, Toronto, ON; Betty Lord, Howie Centre, NS; Helen MacDonald, New Victoria, NS (In Memory of John Gillis); Charles & Sadie MacDonald, Ottawa Brook, NS; Quentin MacDonald, Washabuck, NS; Jodi MacDonnell-Scott, Coxheath, NS; Marlene & Danny MacDougall, Port Hastings, NS; J.J. MacEachern, Mabou, NS; Pauline & Donnie MacLean, East Lake Ainslie, NS; Vince & Charlotte MacLean, Washabuck, NS; Vince & Natalie MacLean, Northside East Bay, NS; Anne & Lawrence MacNeil, Ottawa Brook, NS; Beth MacNeil, Beaver Cove, NS; Donnie & Theresa MacNeil, Beaver Cove, NS; Janet MacNeil, Barra Glen, NS; Kaye Anne MacNeil, Benacadie, NS; Sandy MacNeil, Rear Big Beach, NS; M.A. & Sandra MacPherson, Creignish, NS; River & Lakeside Pastoral Charge, Orangedale, NS; Barry Shears, Royston, BC (In Memory of Margaret Shears); Michelle Smith, Skye Glen, NS; Jim St. Clair, Mull River, NS (IMO Jim Watson); and Phyllis and Philip Williams, Point Edward, NS.

Stòras na h-Òigridh Financial Contributions (2018) - Leslie Dominy, Renfrew, ON (in memory of Daphne Dominy); Charlie Ellis, Little

Narrows, NS; and Vince & Charlotte MacLean, Washabuck, NS (In Memory of Sadie MacKenzie and John Gillis).

Congratulations - To staff members Colin Watson on the birth of his son James Michael Angus; Shay MacMullin on the birth of her second grandchild, Eòghann; Carmen MacArthur on the birth of her twins Calum Joseph and Angus Eòghann; HV President M.A. MacPherson on the birth of his second grandchild.

Best Wishes - We also send our best wishes out to Highland Village Past President Jim St.Clair, and Donald Beaton, a former board member, volunteer and father of Animator, Colleen Beaton who are both ill in hospital.

Sympathies - We extend our sympathies to the families and friends that have lost loved ones over the past year including Highland Village Manager of Interpretation Jim Watson; Longtime Highland Village volunteer, past board member, and Iona Gaelic singer Rod C. MacNeil; Kevin Carrigan, brother to animator Phyllis Williams; well known Washabuck fiddler Carl MacKenzie; former Highland Village animator Elsie MacLeod; Gaelic tradition bearer Martha Ramey; Iona Gaelic singer John Gillis; and fiddler Fr. Angus Morris.

Wrap Up

In closing, I wish to thank the board and staff of the Highland Village for all of their contributions to the successes of the Society. We certainly could not have made the progress we have without their dedication and commitment.

With a new strategic plan, capital project, and continued growth, the next few years are going to be exciting ones here at Baile nan Gàidheal | Highland Village. I look forward to working with all you as we strive to be the premier venue for experiential presentation and transmission of Nova Scotia Gaelic language, culture & folklife.

Respectfully submitted by
Rodney Chaisson, Director, June 19, 2019

Financial Report

- Betty Lord, Treasurer

I am pleased to provide this overview of the finances of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society for the year ended March 31, 2019. The complete statements and audit report, as prepared by Grant Thornton, are available on our website, or by request.

Balance Sheet		<i>(Year ended March 31)</i>	
Assets	2019	2018	
Cash	\$ 117,072	\$ 53,069	
Receivables	\$ 4,229	\$ 3,068	
Inventory	\$ 31,491	\$ 26,665	
Prepays	\$ 4,759	\$ 10,129	
Vehicle	\$ 5,903	\$ 11,807	
Restricted Cash	\$ 383,579	\$ 356,702	
Total Assets	\$ 547,033	\$ 461,440	
Liabilities & Surplus			
Payables & Accruals	\$ 51,624	\$ 24,996	
Deferred Revenue	\$ 168,043	\$ 139,157	
Total Liabilities	\$ 219,667	\$ 164,153	
Surplus/Net Assets	\$ 327,366	\$ 297,287	
Total Liabilities/Surplus	\$ 547,033	\$ 461,440	

Balance Sheet

- ▶ The Society was in a good cash flow position at year end with assets of \$547,033 including: (a) \$117,072 in cash assets; (b) \$4,229 in receivables (HST); (c) \$31,491 in gift shop inventory; (d) \$4,759 in prepaid expenses for the 2019/20 fiscal year; (e) \$5,903 for net book value of truck purchased in July 2015; and (f) \$383,579 in restricted cash - *see statement of changes in net assets on page 17.*
- ▶ Liabilities of \$219,667 included payables and accruals (\$51,624), operational deferred revenue (\$60,415), and site development deferred revenue (\$107,628). Operational deferred revenue included grants received for projects that will take place in 2019/20. Site development deferred revenue are internally restricted funds collected for the site development project.
- ▶ The Society's net assets at March 31, 2019 were \$327,366, an increase from \$297,287 at March 31, 2018 - *see statement of changes in net assets.*

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures (next page)

- ▶ Operational funding from the Nova Scotia Museum was unchanged for the fiscal at \$738,296. A one-time contribution towards equipment purchases of \$4,500 was received from the Museum in 2018/19 bringing the total contribution to \$742,476.
- ▶ Our annual maintenance allowance from the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal came in at \$30,357. The allowance is based on actual billings to TIR for work completed by our maintenance staff.

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures	Budget 2018/19	Actual 2018/19	Actual 2017/18
Revenue			
Nova Scotia Museum	\$ 738,296	\$ 742,796	\$ 744,496
Admission Fees*	\$ 129,284	\$ 140,029	\$ 129,284
Donations*	\$ 3,554	\$ 8,813	\$ 3,554
Food Svs & fundraising*	\$ 53,298	\$ 57,918	\$ 48,375
Gift Shop/Retail*	\$ 135,064	\$ 125,160	\$ 135,130
Interest	\$ 1,106	\$ 4,057	\$ 2,796
NS TIR - Maintenance	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,357	\$ 30,264
Miscellaneous*	\$ 2,036	\$ 9,081	\$ 2,366
Programming*	\$ 10,373	\$ 11,564	\$ 16,977
<i>Special projects</i>	\$ 53,065	\$ 6,500	\$ 22,188
Total revenue	\$ 1,156,076	\$ 1,136,275	\$ 1,135,430
Operating Expenditures			
Retail Operations	\$ 84,286	\$ 73,074	\$ 84,423
Cultural Interp./Programs	\$ 22,500	\$ 21,622	\$ 21,289
Site & Facilities	\$ 55,431	\$ 61,250	\$ 49,979
Operating/Administrative	\$ 936,609	\$ 913,342	\$ 923,807
<i>Special projects</i>	\$ 53,265	\$ 16,692	\$ 27,757
Total expenditures	\$ 1,152,091	\$ 1,085,980	\$ 1,107,255
Depreciation	\$ (5,903)	\$ (5,903)	\$ (5,903)
Capital improvements	\$ (6,000)	\$ (14,313)	\$ (7,474)
Net surplus/(deficit)	\$ (7,918)	\$ 30,079	\$ 14,798

- ▶ The Society received earned income (noted with an *) of \$352,565 in 2018/19, up 5% or (\$14,082) over 2017/2018. Significant variances included: Admission Fees (+\$10,745), Retail Sales (-\$9,970), Food Service & Fundraising (+\$9,543), Donations (+\$5,259), Miscellaneous (+\$6,715), and Programming Fees (-\$5,413). Gross profit on retail sales was \$52,086 up 3% or \$1,379 over last year.
- ▶ Earned income was \$18,956 (6%) higher than budget for the fiscal. Variances included: Admission Fees (+\$10,745), Retail Sales (-\$9,904), Food Service & Fundraising (+\$4,620), Donations (+\$5,259) and Miscellaneous (+\$7,045).
- ▶ Operational expenses (not including special projects) to March 31, 2019 were 1% or \$10,210 lower than last year, and 3% or \$29,538 under budget. Major increases included: OHS, Travel, Training, Grounds Maintenance, Repair & Maintenance, Food Service Expenses, and Credit Card Charges. Major decreases included: Wages, Marketing, Retail Cost of Goods Sold, and Office Supplies.
- ▶ Wages and benefits of \$748,001 were net of \$34,953 in wage subsidies received from Nova Scotia (Labour & Advanced Education) and Canada (Canadian Heritage and Employment and Social Development) student wage programs. Wages were down \$19,140 or 3% over last year and 4% or \$27,042 below budget.
- ▶ Project funding of \$6,500 included: \$2,500 from Destination Cape Breton's Festival & Events Program; \$3,400 from Gaelic Affairs for Stòras a' Bhaile; and \$600 from Communities, Culture & Heritage and Support4Culture for the Nova Scotia Museum science education program.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets	Unrestricted fund	Restricted replacement reserve	Site development reserve	Unused sick days reserve	2019 Total	2018 Total
Opening Balance	\$ 8,440	\$ 197,073	\$ 71,431	\$ 20,343	\$ 297,287	\$ 285,085
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 30,079	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 30,079	\$ 14,798
Transfer to (from) reserve	\$ (34,662)	\$ 2,836	\$ 31,826	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (2,596)
Balance, end of year	\$ 3,857	\$ 199,909	\$ 103,257	\$ 20,343	\$ 327,366	\$ 297,287

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

- ▶ Due to accounting, rules the Society reported an overall surplus of \$30,079 at year end increasing our net assets from \$297,287 at March 31, 2018 to \$327,366 at March 31, 2019.
- ▶ The actual operating (unrestricted) fund had a loss of \$4,583 reducing the accumulated surplus for our operating account to \$3,857 at March 31, 2019.
- ▶ Restricted reserve fund balances at March 31, 2019 included: Replacement reserve (\$199,909), Site Development (\$103,257), and Unused sick days (\$20,343).
- ▶ The Site Development reserve was established to support the site development plan and includes externally restricted funding including the first \$80,000 of an expected \$100,000 contribution from the Municipality of Victoria County as well as donations. Internally restricted monies for the site development project are included in deferred revenue - site development.

- ▶ The unused sick days reserve was established to cover wage expenses for replacement staff up to the value of the accrued unused sick days for the staff person being replaced. As of March 31, 2019, the value of accrued unused sick days was \$121,331.

Other Notes

- ▶ The Highland Village truck purchased in 2015 for \$29,516, had a book value of \$5,903 at March 31, 2019. The truck is being depreciated annually by \$5,903 for five years.
- ▶ Pursuant to the Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act, the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society is required to disclose individuals with compensation greater than \$100,000. There are no board members, officers, employees, contractors, or consultants with compensation greater than \$100,000.

Respectfully submitted,
Finance Committee
Betty Lord, Treasurer (Chair)

Nominating Committee Report

- Dan Chiasson, Vice-President

The Nominating Committee of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society is pleased to present its report to the membership of the Society. Serving on the committee this past year have been Betty Lord, Dan Chiasson, and Quentin MacDonald.

The committee thanks retiring board members Catherine Ann Fuller (2003-2012 & 2013-2019) and Angie Farrell (2013-2019) for their contributions to the work of the Board and support of the Society.

The composition of the Board of Trustees, including its officers, will be as follows:

- ▶ Gordon Campbell, SS Whycomogagh Bay (Exp. 2022/25)
- ▶ Dan Chiasson, Baddeck (Exp 2019/22)
- ▶ John Hugh Edwards, Ross Ferry (Exp 2017/20)
- ▶ Madeline Harvey, Estmere (Exp 2022/25)
- ▶ Quentin MacDonald, Washabuck (Exp. 2018/21)
- ▶ Jodi MacDonnell-Scott, Coxheath (Exp. 2020/23)
- ▶ Vince MacLean, Northside East Bay (Exp. 2018/21)
- ▶ Donnie MacNeil, Beaver Cove (Exp. 2020/23)
- ▶ Wilfred MacNeil, Johnstown (Exp. 2022/25)
- ▶ Murdock A. MacPherson, Creignish (Exp. 2017/20)
- ▶ Melissa Nicholson, Baddeck (Exp. 2017/20)
- ▶ Meaghan O'Handley, Grand Narrows (Exp. 2017/20)
- ▶ Michelle Smith, Skye Glen (Exp. 2020/23)

The Board of Trustees is also proposing to extend the term of Betty Lord until 2021 (as she would normally be retiring from the board at this AGM, having completed her six year term) as per clause 29 (2) of the Society's by-laws, subject to approval by the membership and the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

Subject to the approval of the above, the officers of the Society will be as follows:

- ▶ President - Murdock A. MacPherson
- ▶ Vice President - Dan Chiasson
- ▶ Treasurer - Elizabeth (Betty) Lord
- ▶ Secretary - Quentin MacDonald

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee

Betty Lord (Chair), Dan Chiasson, and Quentin MacDonald

June 19, 2019.

Board of Trustee Bios

Gordon Campbell is originally from Big Bras d'Or. He graduated with his BBA from UCCB in 1987 and received his CA designation while working with Deloitte & Touche in Sydney. For the past 27 years, Gordon has worked in a number of senior finance roles, primarily with the Empire Sobeys group of companies. Married to Vera, they have 3 adult children and currently reside in Southside Whycomogagh Bay.

Dan Chiasson is a lawyer who has practiced in Baddeck for many years. Dan has served as the Society's pro-bono legal advisor for over 25 years. Dan is very involved in community organizations. He lives in Baddeck with his wife Nancy.

John Hugh Edwards was born and raised in Sydney Mines and has lived in Ross Ferry for the past thirty years, minus periods of exile in the United Kingdom and Ottawa. In 2002, John Hugh facilitated a province wide series of meetings on the future of Gaelic in Nova Scotia. A report on the consultation was released by the NS Department of Tourism and Culture in December 2002.

Madeline Harvey grew up in Northern New Brunswick. She came to Cape Breton and Parks Canada as a student interpreter while attending St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. She has worked in various segments of the hospitality industry as well as in the private sector, prior to a return to Parks Canada in 2005, assuming her current role as manager of Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site, Marconi National Historic Site, St. Peters Canal National Historic Site and Canso Grassy Islands National Historic Site in 2013. She currently sits on several community boards. Madeline and her husband, Paul, currently live on the shores of The Bras d'Or Lake on the Iona Peninsula. When not at her place of work, she enjoys reading historical fiction, boating and travelling with her husband and spending time with her 3 adult children, their partners and her eight grandchildren.

Betty Lord, Howie Center, is a Gaelic singer and a student of Gaelic language and culture. She has organized numerous Gaelic cultural events including language workshops, lectures, concerts, as well as fundraising events. She is a founding member of *Feis a' Bhaile Bhig*, in Pictou County. Betty is retired from Sobeys.

Quentin MacDonald was born, raised & presently living in the neighbouring community of Washabuck. His father Ronald was a fluent native Gaelic speaker and his mother Joan is a traditional step-dancer who performed at the first Highland Village Day Concert. Quentin has been a volunteer at the Village since the mid-1980s and the Highland Village Day concert producer since 2000. He has a great interest in promoting the culture and history of our Scottish Gaelic ancestors.

Jodi MacDonnell-Scott is a registrar with the Nova Scotia Community College, Marconi Campus. She lives in Coxheath with her husband Dave.

Vince MacLean is a former mayor for the City of Sydney, Leader of the Official Opposition for the Province of Nova Scotia, and Minister of various NS departments. Vince has sat on the boards of many important institutions and community organizations including the Sydney Airport Authority, Marine Atlantic, ACOA, Old Sydney Society, Cape Breton Regional Economic Development Authority, Nova Scotia Cancer Society and others. Vince is son of

the late well known fiddler Joe MacLean of Washabuck. Joe's collection of fiddle manuscripts is housed at the Highland Village. Vince lives in Northside East Bay with his wife Natalie.

Donnie MacNeil grew up in Big Beach and graduated from Rankin Memorial High School and Mount Allison University. Donnie spent 9 years working in BC. He and his family moved back to Cape Breton in 1999 to live in Beaver Cove and work with the Nova Scotia Community College as a Manager of Information Technology. Donnie is currently retired from NSCC. Donnie and his wife Theresa, have 2 daughters who are currently in university. Donnie a grandchild of the Allan J's (Angie) from Christmas Island, but is more commonly referred to as "Donnie Leona" (MacKinnon) after his father passed at an early age.

Wilf MacNeil is a former teacher and administrator with the public school system. He is currently CEO of Learn North Inc in Port Hawkesbury. He is involved in several community and regional development organizations. He resides in Johnstown.

M.A. (Murdock Andrew) MacPherson is a retired educator and administrator who has worked in public, military and private school as well as St. Francis Xavier University. He currently instructs in the University of New Brunswick's Masters of Education program. He lives in Creignish with his wife Sandra. They have two adult children, and a granddaughter and a brand new grandson.

Melissa Nicholson was born and raised in Big Baddeck. Growing up, history and culture was an important part of the lessons she learned at her grandfathers' knees. She has a BA in Celtic Culture from Cape Breton University (which featured a one year immersion at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig) and a B.Ed. from St. FX University. She is currently substitute teaching at various schools on Cape Breton Island.

Meaghan O'Handley grew up in Boisdale. She teaches Gaelic and music at Rankin School of the Narrows. She has been involved with Gaelic language and culture for many years. She lives in Grand Narrows with her husband Ian MacNeil and son Theron.

Michelle Smith came to Cape Breton 35 years ago to study Gaelic language and culture and ended up staying to live, farm and raise her family. In that time she has become noted for her knowledge about traditional agriculture and heritage seeds. She served as secretary on the board of Seeds of Diversity Canada for six years and continues to volunteer for a wide range of farming and community development projects. She has three grown children - Rosie, Laurel & Linden.

NSHVS Board of Trustees 2018/19*

M.A. (Murdock) MacPherson, Creignish - President (2014)
 Daniel Chiasson, Baddeck - Vice President (2016)
 Betty Lord, Howie Centre - Treasurer (2013)
 Quentin MacDonald, Washabuck - Secretary (2015)
 John Hugh Edwards, Ross Ferry (2014)
 Angie Farrell, Christmas Island (2013)
 Catherine Ann Fuller, Baddeck (2013)
 Jodi MacDonnell-Scott, Coxheath (2017)
 Vince MacLean, Northside East Bay (2015)
 Donnie MacNeil, Beaver Cove (2017)
 Melissa Nicholson, Baddeck (2014)
 Meaghan O'Handley, Grand Narrows (2014)
 Michelle Smith, Skye Glen (2017)

Board Committees:

Executive Committee	M.A. MacPherson (Chair), Dan Chiasson, Betty Lord & Quentin MacDonald
Finance Committee	Betty Lord (Chair), Vince MacLean & Michelle Smith
Planning Committee	John Hugh Edwards (Chair), Dan Chiasson & Meaghan O'Handley
Fundraising Committee	M.A. MacPherson (Chair), Betty Lord, Vince MacLean & Jodi MacDonnell-Scott
Engagement Committee	Quentin MacDonald (Chair), Melissa Nicholson & Meaghan O'Handley
Stòras na h-Òigridh Treasures of Youth Committee	Margie Beaton, David MacLean, Jill MacLean, Susan MacLean (Chair), Vince MacLean, Donnie MacNeil, Lisa MacNeil & Meaghan O'Handley
Nominating Committee	Betty Lord (Chair), Dan Chiasson & Quentin MacDonald

*Board as of June 2018 AGM

NSHVS Staff 2018/19 (April 2018-March 2019)

- Rodney Chaisson, *Director*
- Jim Watson, *Manager of Interpretation* (on leave since May 2017)
- Katherine MacLeod, *A/Manager of Interpretation*/Learning & Media Specialist* (A/Manager since May 2017)
- Pauline MacLean, *Mgr. of Collections/Genealogy*
- Neil J. MacNeil, *Manager of Operations* (retired August 2018)
- Tim MacNeil, *A/Manager of Operations* (since August 2018)
- Janet MacNeil, *Administrative Assistant*
- Shay MacMullin, *Coordinator of Cultural Experiences*
- Emily Clegg, *Coord. Agricultural Renewal/Costumes*
- *Front Line Staff:* Colleen Beaton (Animator), Pauline Campbell (Animator), Marie Chehy (Animator), Catherine Gillis (Animator), Jamie Kennedy (Animator/Blacksmith), Cecelia Laing (Animator), Emily MacDonald (Animator), Sadie MacDonald, (Visitor Services Coordinator), Marlene MacDougall (Visitor Centre Clerk/Animator), Hoss MacKenzie (Animator/Blacksmith), Aileen MacLean (Animator), Basil MacLean (Animator/Farmer), Anne MacNeil (Visitor Centre Clerk/Animator), Beth MacNeil (Animator), Kaye Anne MacNeil (Animator), Sandy MacNeil (Animator/Farmer), Sharon MacNeil (Animator), Vicki Quimby (Animator/Textile Consultant) & Phyllis Williams (Animator)
- *Na Cleasaichean/The Players* - Amber Buchanan, Mary Jane Lamond, Carmen MacArthur, Shamus Y MacDonald, Joanne MacIntyre & Stacy MacLean
- *Operations Team:* Patricia Gaudley (Custodian), Brendan Higgins (labourer - term), David MacKenzie (Groundkeeper), Paul MacLean (Carpenter)
- *Student Animators (unless noted otherwise):* Zoie Chaisson, Hannah Krebs, Connell MacKinnon, Jessica MacLean, Logan MacLellan, Cody MacNeil, Jamie Anne MacNeil, Maggie MacNeil, Sarah Mansfield & Shaelyn Varnes (Visitor Experiences Asst)
- *Marketing Coordination* - Max MacDonald (contractor)
- *Fundraising Consultant* - Linda Crocket
- *Volunteer Programmers:* HV Day Producer - Quentin MacDonald



Tapadh leibh-se gu mòr

The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society acknowledges the partnership and support of all three levels of government towards the operation of *Baile nan Gàidheal* | Highland Village:

Province of Nova Scotia

Baile nan Gàidheal | Highland Village is a part of the Nova Scotia Museum Family of Provincial Museums (Dept. of Communities, Culture & Heritage) operated in partnership by the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society. The Society is grateful for the support, both financial and in-kind, provided by the department. The Society acknowledges the support from other Nova Scotia Government departments & agencies including: Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal, Gaelic Affairs (CCH); Labour and Advanced Education; and the Nova Scotia Provincial Lotteries & Casino Corporation.



Government of Canada

The Society appreciates the support of the Government of Canada through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Department of Canadian Heritage, and Employment & Social Development Canada.



Municipality of Victoria County

The Society thanks the Municipality of Victoria County for its support through the Recreation & Tourism Dept. and Paul MacNeil, Councillor District 1.



Partnerships

The Society is a signature partner in the Celtic Heart of North America Marketing Cooperative; a founding partner in the Experience Iona initiative and a hosting partner for the *An Drochaid Eadarainn* web portal.



Other partners include: CB Centre for Craft & Design; Cape Breton University; Celtic Colours Festival Society; Colaisde na Gàidhlig | The Gaelic College; Central Cape Breton Community Ventures; Comhairle na Gàidhlig | Gaelic Council of NS; Community Foundation of NS; Destination Cape Breton; Eskasoni Cultural Journeys; Féis an Eilein; Fortress of Louisbourg; Municipality of Inverness County; Iomairtean na Gàidhlig | Office of Gaelic Affairs; Iona Heights Inn | Jill's Chocolates; Musique Royale; Grandona Legion Branch 124; Musique Royale Festival Society; NSCAD University; St.FX University (Angus L. Macdonald Library); Sgoil MhicFhraing a' Chaolais | Rankin School of the Narrows; and the Municipality of Victoria County.

Memberships & Affiliations

The Society is a member of Association of NS Museums (ANSM), Canadian Museums Assoc. (CMA), Heritage Cape Breton Connection, Council of NS Archives (CNSA), Genealogical Assoc. of NS (GANS), Cape Breton Genealogical & Historical Association, Assoc. of Living History, Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM), Tourism Industry Assoc. of NS (TIANS), Baddeck & Area Business Tourism Assoc. (BABTA), Sydney & Area Chamber of Commerce, Strait Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Cape Breton Partnership. The Society is also affiliated with the American Alliance of Museums (AAM USA), Museums Association (UK), Gaelic Society of Inverness (Scotland), Canadian Payroll Association (CPA), and Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP - Cape Breton Branch).



Comunn Baile Ghàidheal nan h-Albann Nuaidh
Nova Scotia Highland Village Society

4119 Rathad 223, Rubha Eachainn, Alba Nuadh, B2C 1A3 | 4119 Highway 223, Iona, NS, B2C 1A3
(902) 725-2272 1-866-442-3542 www.highlandvillage.ca