

# Aithisg Bhliadnhal | Annual Report 2024 - 2025

Comunn Baile nan Gàidheal | The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society



Iona, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia - April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025



# Our Vision, Mission & Proclamation

Comunn Baile nan Gàidheal | The 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 folk life museum and cultural centre, Roots Cape Breton Genealogy & Family History Centre, and Highland Village Gift Shop. The Society is a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency.

## **Vision & Mission Statement**

*Our vision is to be the leading Gaelic folk life 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 folk life 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, Tourism & Heritage.*





## President's Report

### - RHONDA WALKER

I am pleased to present this report to the Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society on the activities of the Board of Trustees for 2024 – 2025.

As we emerged from covid, the Board noted that the 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan was outdated. Although it was a thorough plan, much of what had been anticipated to be completed by 2022 had been sidelined by the pandemic. The Board engaged Vibe Creative Group to review the original plan, solicit input from board members, staff and partners, and provide an updated, renewed plan. The plan should be finalized over the summer.

In addition to the Strategic Plan, the Board also noted that the Employee Wellness Survey was out of date. The pandemic changed every workplace, whether those changes were big or small. Understanding its impact here regarding employee wellness and the sufficiency of our human resource policies was clearly important. To this end, the Board hired Anchored Recruiting & HR Solutions to administer the Survey, analyze the results, and make recommendations around human resource policies. The final report is expected in the next several weeks.

Both the Strategic Plan and the Employee Wellness Survey results (and any policy changes coming out of them) will provide important direction on how the Highland Village moves forward. Tied to our mission and vision, they will be the anchor for operations, providing the answer to “why” something is being done versus the “how” answered in the Operations Plan. To ensure that the Strategic Plan and the Wellness Survey are “living” documents with accountability attached, the Strategic Planning Committee and the Human Resources Committee will remain active. A big thank you to all who contributed to the plan and survey.

In early 2023 the Provincial Government announced increased financial resources for the Nova Scotia Museum. A very welcome show of support for Nova Scotia's Museum sector for which we are most grateful, and a testament to the power of consistent advocacy. As we continue to extend our reach in education, preservation, presentation, partnerships, and supporting our economy, so too must we continue to advocate for support for museums, and to highlight their unique contributions to Nova Scotia.

And in the case of the Highland Village, contributions to the world. In partnership with the M8, our Executive Director recently met with the Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage to do just that. By all accounts it was a successful meeting and I hope that we will have an opportunity to host the Minister here at the Highland Village this summer.

Traditional modes of revenue generation are now to be augmented by the Highland Village's participation in the Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Fame 50/50 initiative for museum and heritage organization across the province. Participating organizations will receive 20% of online sales directed to them, and 15% allocated for in-person sales. I encourage you to check this out on the Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Fame website. While not a huge source of revenue, this is a good example of efforts being made to collaboratively support museums and heritage.

We all like to think that what we are doing is important and that others are able to appreciate the work we do. This past season saw recognition of both. In July, the Highland Village shared the Trip Advisor Travellers' Choice Award, putting us in the top 10% worldwide. In the fall, the Highland Village won the Association of Nova Scotia Museums Award of Excellence in Museum Practices-Programming by an Organization for the exhibit “We are Gaels”. Last season also saw our highest visitation numbers to date. Clearly the work at the Highland Village is being noticed. Congratulations to the staff on their dedication to providing an outstanding visitor experience from frontline to back room to administration.

Never forgetting our commitment to “nurture, communicate and celebrate the heritage and cultural identity of Nova Scotia's Gaelic community” as per our mission, I am pleased to share that the much anticipated Gàidhlig aig Baile Institute project, now renamed Cala Cainnte, is anticipated to be up and running in October of 2025. This immersive learning program aims to fast track Gaelic proficiency in new speakers, provide training and professional development for both new and experienced teachers and tutors, and conduct social learning research (see more details at [calacainnte.ca](http://calacainnte.ca)). Developed in partnership with the Office of Gaelic Affairs, this program could not be offered without the incredible hard work and commitment of staff here at the Highland Village. Well done to those involved.

To conclude, I would like to offer heartfelt thanks to the members of the Board of Trustees for their voluntary contributions, the staff without whom we could not offer the incredible experience that is the Highland Village, our community partners, our financial supporters, the Nova Scotia Museum, and our funding partners - the federal, provincial, and municipal governments. I would also like to offer a special thanks to Melissa Blunden, who in her leadership role has shown herself to be an able and fierce advocate for the Highland Village. Alberta's loss has been our gain!

With our plans soon to be in hand, committed staff, and dedicated volunteers, the Highland Village is well placed to continue to fulfill our vision and mission.

Tapadh leibh. Wela'liog. Merci.

*Respectfully Submitted by Rhonda Walker, President The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society June 22, 2025*

### **Acknowledgements (2024/25)**

Tapadh Leibh Gu Mór

Comunn Baile nan Gàidheal | The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society gratefully acknowledges the support of many individuals, organizations and governments for their unwavering support of the Highland Village and its work. Acknowledgements of our funding and project partners can be found at the end of this report.

### **The 2024 Nova Scotia Highland Village Award of Excellence**

We are proud to recognize the dedication and excellence of our team through the following awards and milestones. In recognition of their outstanding contributions and embodiment of our mission and values throughout the 2024 season, the Nova Scotia Highland Village Award of Excellence was presented to:

- Aileen MacLean
- Brendan Higgins
- Phyllis Williams

**Artefact & Archival Donations (2024/25)** Blaine MacKinnon, Beaver Cove; Bill Small, Sydney; Kaye Pinaud, Baddeck; Gillian Scott, Calgary AB; Charlie Cash, Irish Cove; Patricia Campbell, Sydney; Marjorie Serafinus, North Sydney; Janet Gillis MacKinnon, Jamesville; David Newlands, Halifax; Susan MacFarlane, Gillisdale; Marion Logan, Grand Prairie, Alberta; Anne Marie MacNeil, Iona; Paul Wukitsch, Ironville.

**Financial Contributions (April 2023 to March 2024)** - Includes donations to the Next Chapter Campaign, Treasures of Youth Scholarship fund, in memory of donations, in support of Gaelic programming, and general donations.

Marty Krebs, Annie T. MacNeil, Kevin & Theresa Campbell, John MacNeil, Kenzie MacKinnon, Phillip Love, Effie MacCormick, Vince W. MacLean, JJ MacEachern, Firinn Investments Ltd., Frank Sobey; Rodoslav Tkalec, John Farrell, Gail Sullivan, Anonymous, and The Steele Group.

**Farm Program Partner (2024)** Dell Corbett ('Mira Jean' Clydesdale Horse); Sarah Nettleton (sheep); Aileen MacLean (poultry); and Niles Peterson (Highland Coos).





## Executive Director's Report

-MELISSA BLUNDEN

Presented to the Membership of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society for the Fiscal Year April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present this annual report on the operations of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society. As a living cultural landscape, Baile nan Gàidheal | Highland Village continues to serve as a gathering place for connection, identity, and celebration of the Gaelic story in Nova Scotia. Over the past year, we've seen incredible momentum across our programs, interpretation, and community partnerships, reaffirming our role as both a heritage site and a cultural home.

### **Visitor Season and Public Engagement**

The 2024 visitor season was our most successful on record, with nearly 28,000 guests welcomed through our gates. This record-breaking turnout speaks to the strength of our on-site offerings, the dedication of our team, and the increasing profile of Highland Village as a must-visit destination in Nova Scotia. Cruise visitation remained a major contributor, with nearly half of our visitors arriving from ships docking in Sydney. We also saw strong engagement from school groups, repeat visitors, and first-time travellers alike—each drawn by our immersive storytelling, vibrant demonstrations, and warm hospitality.

Feedback from guests consistently highlighted the excellence of our interpretive team, the impact of our exhibits, and the welcoming experience provided by our staff. Our recognition with the Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Award placed us among the top 10% of attractions worldwide—an accomplishment made possible by the care and passion our team brings to every encounter.

### **Program Development and Recognition**

A key highlight of the year was the recognition of our Welcome Centre exhibition, "We Are Gaels", with the Association of Nova Scotia Museums Award of Excellence in Museum Practices-Programming by an Organization. A heartfelt thank you to the Awards Committee for this honour. It's truly a privilege to be recognized alongside such outstanding colleagues in the museum field. This award will inspire us to continue our work with even more dedication, as we strive to preserve and promote Nova Scotia's rich Gaelic heritage.

Our interpretive team continues to deepen our offerings with a focus on meaningful visitor engagement. We continue to tell authentic stories we share and the role we play in presenting Gaelic culture as a living, evolving tradition. With the arrival of our new Manager of Visitor Experience, Jessica Farrell, in August, we began strengthening guest service planning, expanding training, and reviewing new ways to enhance the visitor journey.

### **Community Engagement and Partnerships**

We were proud to continue our collaborative work with the L'nu Advisory Committee, who have provided thoughtful guidance on exhibition panel development, programming, and expanded representation of Mi'kmaw culture and history throughout the site, including the exciting new position of L'nu Interpretation Lead.

Over the year, we hosted numerous Gaelic language programs, (from online to multi-day immersion opportunities) and laid the groundwork for "*Cala Cainte / Language Harbour*", a pilot Gaelic immersion program developed in partnership with the Office of Gaelic Affairs. Planning for a fall 2025 launch is underway, and the program represents an exciting step forward in our vision to offer immersive, community-based Gaelic learning that complements our interpretive mission.

We also worked closely with local partners through the Emerging Destinations Program, in partnership with Tourism Nova Scotia and Central Cape Breton Community Ventures Inc. This collaborative initiative was focused on strengthening the cultural and tourism profile of our region and enhancing the visitor experience through coordinated programming and shared storytelling.

A significant highlight this past year was our participation in the "One People, Two Islands" archaeological research project—a powerful collaboration led by Saint Mary's University, in partnership with ourselves, Historic Environment Scotland, *Sabhal Mòr Ostaig*, the Nova Scotia Museum, St. Francis Xavier University, the Boisdale Historical Society, and the people of the Isle of Eigg. This project explored themes of Gaelic migration, colonial settlement, and lived experience in both Scotland and Nova Scotia. The work has had lasting impact, including the first-ever Canadian listing in Historic Environment Scotland's CANMORE registry—a recognition of our region's international significance in the Gaelic world.

In an incredibly meaningful gesture, the Boisdale Historical Society has chosen to donate its archives to Highland Village in perpetuity, ensuring that the stories of their community will be preserved, interpreted, and made accessible through our curatorial centre and public programming for years to come.

In addition to this generous archival gift, our team advanced important digitization work in 2024. With support from the Municipality of Victoria County, this work will continue and is focused on inventorying and preparing our records for long-term preservation and accessibility, helping ensure that community knowledge and Gaelic cultural heritage can be better safeguarded and shared.

While our Welcome Centre was closed to daily public traffic during these past winter months, we made increased use of the space throughout the off-season for special events, community rentals, music lessons, and traditional Gaelic food workshops. These efforts demonstrated the Centre's potential for year-round use, and we look forward to expanding these types of initiatives and travelling exhibitions in the coming winter seasons.

In addition, at our last AGM we announced the new *Strùpag* initiative—a line of traditional baked goods made in our commercial kitchen. This project brings together economic sustainability and cultural hospitality and is already generating anticipation in the community and among visitors.

### ***Moving Forward***

Over the winter months, a significant focus of our work was the development of two foundational documents to guide our organization into its next phase: a renewed Strategic Plan (2025–2028) and a comprehensive Human Resources Review. These efforts reflect our commitment to intentional, people-centred planning and the long-term sustainability of our operations.

The Strategic Plan identifies key priorities across interpretation, community engagement, operational excellence, and sustainability. It sets out a clear path for how we can continue to grow as a leader in Gaelic folklife while remaining responsive to the needs of our staff, partners, and visitors. We look forward to sharing the document with the full team once the final review is completed.

Simultaneously, the HR Review—conducted in collaboration with our new Human Resources Committee—evaluated our existing policies, practices, and structures. From this, we identified opportunities to improve workload distribution, staff wellbeing, retention, succession planning, and organizational transparency.

Already, this work is informing our day-to-day operations. In 2025 we will be introducing a newly drafted Operations Plan for 2025, aligned with the strategic priorities of both documents. We also launched an internal Staff Action Group—a platform for team members to bring forward ideas, feedback, and solutions that support our shared goals. These changes represent meaningful steps in creating a more resilient, inclusive, and mission-aligned organization, and I look forward to seeing them continue to take root in the year ahead.

### ***Site Work and Infrastructure***

This past year also saw significant upkeep and improvements across the property. Maintenance projects included exterior work on the carding mill, forge, and MacIver-Nash House, ensuring the historical integrity and safety of these structures. General site upgrades continued, helping us maintain a safe, welcoming, and accessible space for all.

### ***Staff Recognition and Milestones***

We are proud to celebrate the dedication, longevity, and excellence of our team, whose efforts bring the spirit of Highland Village to life each day. Long Service Awards, presented during our Christmas celebrations, honoured the following staff for their exceptional years of service:

- Kaye-Anne MacNeil – 40 years
- Aileen MacLean – 20 years
- Hoss MacKenzie – 15 years
- Emily MacDonald – 10 years
- Phyllis Williams – 10 years
- Laura MacNeil – 5 years

Each of these individuals has made a lasting contribution to our mission and community. We extend our heartfelt thanks for their continued commitment to Highland Village and the values we uphold.

### **Awards and Recognition**

We were honoured to present the 2024 Highland Village Award of Merit to Fr. Allan MacMillan for his lifelong dedication to the preservation of Gaelic culture, language, and oral tradition. Through his decades of work as a genealogist, singer, and scholar, Fr. Allan has ensured that the voices of our ancestors continue to be heard and celebrated.

The *Stòras na h-Òigridh* / *Treasures of Youth Scholarship Fund*, managed in partnership with the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia, continues to support emerging Gaels. Over the past ten years, the Fund has awarded \$26,000 to 30 youth across the province. The 2024 recipients were:

- Christena MacCalder (Orangedale) – Gaelic language and song
- Leo LeFort (Westmount) – fiddle
- Katey AuCoin (Stellarton) – Gaelic language, singing, fiddle, and dance
- Donald Gillis (Mabou) – piano
- Wesley MacLean (Millville) – fiddle



*2024 Treasures of Youth Scholarship Fund Recipients*

### **In Closing**

This past year at Highland Village has been a reminder of what it means to belong—of what it means to come home, or to find one, even briefly, in a place of shared story and care. As Executive Director, I am continually moved by the transformative power of what we do here. It's not just about interpreting the past—it's about creating a sense of rootedness for people today. In a time when many are seeking meaningful connection, our work takes on renewed importance.

To our staff—year-round and seasonal—I offer my deepest thanks. Your passion, creativity, and commitment shape this place and define its spirit. To our Board, our partners, our Tradition Bearers and Elders, and community members, and all who have supported our journey this past year—thank you for walking with us. Every conversation, every visitor welcomed, every story shared—it all contributes to something bigger than any one season or program. It creates community.

As we look ahead, we do so with clarity and heart. With many new projects on the horizon, strengthened partnerships, and new leadership on our team, we are poised to continue building a Highland Village that is not only a site of preservation—but one of living culture, welcome, and belonging.

Tha sinn a' coimhead air adhart—we are looking ahead—with purpose, and with the warm invitation that all are welcome here, in this place we call home. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to the journey ahead.

*Respectfully submitted by Melissa Blunden, Executive Director,  
June 22, 2025*



## COLLECTIONS, GENEALOGY, LIBRARY REPORT

Here are some highlights of the past year:

### **Collection:**

The Nova Scotia Museum (NSM) continues to work with the new CI+ database for the collection records. I continue to attend monthly meetings for CI+ to discuss issues and fixes with my fellow collections people and monthly meetings of the Collections Management Working Group which keeps us all up to date with the work of NSM and each other. Storage Area 1 continues to be upgraded and re-arranged. Artifacts and props continue to be offered to us. We accept the ones which fit the mandate, work with NSM to decide which would be suitable for the Provincial collection or are taken for the prop/education collection here to replace numbered items in public sections.

### **Library:**

We continue to add new materials to the library as needed. Vince MacLean's books have been catalogued and are in the process of being added to the library shelves. We have created a small library in the Fox House for staff.



### **Archives:**

The Seanachas Centre work is centered on the Victoria County Archives as we have a catalogue of the items and have purchased a table-top overhead scanner. We have created the Fonds and Series and are digitizing Series A and B. We have a Young Canada Works student who is scanning and labeling the material and putting it in labeled boxes for easy retrieval. The PDFs created are searchable by word and will reside here.

### **Genealogy:**

Requests were had a slight increase the past year (see table). Again most were the difficult searches. However, that type of thing is a stress release.

2024-25 Stats	2023-24 Stats
Email = 40	Email = 20
Phone = 3	Phone = 9
In-Person = 7	In-Person = 6

*Originating locations - US 12, Canada 17, NS 3, CB 13 with 5 others which were requests for information on Gaels and settlement from other areas.*

### **Other Priorities:**

I continue to sit on the Heritage Cape Breton Board of Directors as Secretary. We meet virtually for the Board and have two in person meetings for members in May and November. I was able to attend workshops on Disaster Preparedness for Archives and museums, and a two-day workshop on Emergency Response and Collections Salvage for Cultural Institutions. This last one was put on by the Heritage Emergency Response Network of British Columbia. It was the best workshop I have gone to in ages and was 75% hands on with salvage as we had wet, muddy “artifacts and archival” things to rescue. They hope to inspire regions to create these HERN networks across the country. It is amazing what can be salvaged.

*Respectfully submitted by Pauline MacLean  
Mgr. of Collections/Genealogy, June 22, 2025*

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE REPORT

We were pleased to welcome a record number of visitors from around the globe during the 2024 season, including a 17% increase in cruise ship visitation which contributed to 46% of overall total visitors. Providing an exceptional visitor experience remains strong and is reflected in the results of our CBU World Tourism Institute's Visitor Experience Survey conducted on site throughout the summer and early fall with an outstanding 100% of respondents (228 surveyed) rating Baile nan Gàidheal's staff presence and engagement as positive to very positive.

### Highland Village - Admissions Statistics

	2024	2023	# over 2023	% over 2023
<b>VISITORS</b>				
Off the road visitors	11,891	10,919	972	9%
Cruise ship visitors	12,794	10,919	1,875	17%
Other group visitors	357	429	-72	-17%
Schools	1,103	1,125	-22	-2%
Other	1,423	1,268	155	12%
<b>Total visitors</b>	<b>27,568</b>	<b>24,660</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>12%</b>

This season's Visitor Experience team included 15 Animators, 2 Welcome Centre clerks, 4 summer students (SKILLS, CSJ) and 3 new coordinators positions (Welcome Centre; Animation/Programs/Costumes and the Farm Program); and a baker. The 2025 season will see an additional 3 Animators positions (to alleviate some senior staff transitions from full to part-time), a new Baker & Culinary Lead, a YCW summer student and intern, and a seamstress. To ensure a continued exceptional experience, a new Hospitality Clerk position has been filled for the 2025 to manage the cruise ship hospitality program.

Several tour groups and over 25 schools are booked for 2025, and we are thrilled to welcome Taulk Tours to our site in 2026. A significant amount of time and effort was put into developing a new Visitor Map to better reflect our 'Made of Stories' theme and better support on-site wayfinding.

The Visitor Experience team worked with CBU's post-graduate business marketing course capstone project, who over the winter developed an online marketing plan for our Village Store that will lead to increased sales revenue throughout the year with a particular focus on off-season through the online Shopify storefront. We continue to work toward stocking quality local products including a selection of art and crafts from the L'nu community and have created 'Made Locally' labels to shine some spotlight on the artists.

### Community Outreach:

Our community is what truly makes Baile nan Gàidheal so special. During the winter, the Visitor Experience team organized three sold-out marag making cooking classes lead by Aileen MacLean, hosted 8-week fiddle/piano/guitar music lessons, and welcomed the local senior's social gathering who had the opportunity to explore some of our collection and take part in a Gaelic lesson. Programming and special events are planned throughout summer and fall to strengthen our relationship with community.

### Other Priorities:

Our team will continue to develop, engaging programming and events, effective communication materials, expand social media to engage a larger audience outside of the site and grow relationships with community and partners. As evidenced by our feedback bulletin board, our Animation and front desk team are exceptional, and we look forward to another successful season.

*Respectfully submitted by Jessica Farrell, MBA (CED)*

*Visitor Experience Mgr., June 22, 2025*



## FACILITIES & SITE MAINTENANCE REPORT

### **Site Maintenance:**

A number of maintenance projects were completed during the season. At the MacDonald House, a rotten step was replaced, the windows were sealed for winter, and plywood was installed on the chimney. At the Forge, the sills from the main door to the power room door on the Nash side were replaced. Wall framing was repaired due to rot, four windows were replaced, and the exterior was re-shingled. The window boxes and sashes were also rotted and replaced.

The tractor shed was beyond repair and had to be torn down. A new concrete pad was poured and a larger shed was built to fit the lawn tractor and golf cart. Roof trusses were installed and shingled. Walls were framed, sheathed, and strapped for siding, but the project wasn't finished before the end of the season.

Before opening, the water system was turned on and the farm implements that had been stored for the winter were returned to their spots on-site.

### **Special Events:**

Facilities staff supported major events throughout the season. For Highland Village Day, we picked up a portable stage from Victoria County and set it up as a 16' x 16' main stage. We added an 8' x 8' extension with stairs for dancers and the milling table. Sail material was installed to provide shade. The BBQ and tent areas were also set up, and we helped the sound crew get in place.

For Celtic Colours, we unloaded the sound gear and helped manage the parking lot. The lot still isn't lined, which makes it tough to handle big crowds. For Halloween, we cleaned and filled oil lanterns, lit them each night, set up fire pits, and helped the interpretive staff place props as needed.

### **Site Shutdown:**

At the end of the season, the water system on the hill was shut down and drained, including all six water heaters. Antifreeze was added where needed to prevent freezing. Picnic tables, signs, farm equipment, and other site materials were gathered and stored for winter.

### **Other Priorities:**

Keeping the Welcome Centre up to code was ongoing. This included scheduling inspections and contractors, especially for the commercial kitchen. The water treatment system in the old Visitor Centre needed regular monitoring all year. A new pump was installed in early 2025, with help from the Department of Public Works and the School Board.

The parking lot bathrooms stayed open during the off-season and were cleaned daily. We also gathered quotes and applied to the Municipality of Victoria County for funding to install heat pumps, which will help make heating and cooling the building more efficient.

*Respectfully submitted by Tim MacNeil Mgr. of Facilities and Maintenance,  
June 22, 2025*





## GAELIC INITIATIVES REPORT

### ***Gaelic Initiatives:***

In addition to our regular language and cultural programming onsite, now supported by Colin Watson, Cleasaichean team lead, I organized two well-attended workshops for language learners last summer. The first was hosted by Stacey MacLean and focused on Gaelic songs and composers from central Cape Breton. The second was hosted by Dougie MacPhee, a native speaker from Barra, who told two long, traditional folktales in Gaelic.

The museum has also been active in supporting programming in the larger Gaelic community. We helped organize a couple of week-long language immersions hosted by Hannah Krebs. Several animators were able to attend those sessions with support from the museum, helping build language capacity during the off-season. Similarly, Carmen MacArthur organized a series of six sessions for advanced learners on our behalf, which were hosted by fluent speakers in Mabou, Baddeck, Iona, Antigonish, and Halifax.

We were also pleased to organize a residential version of Stòras a' Bhaile this Spring in Judique. Supported by hosts Mary Jane Lamond, Shannon MacMullin, and John Shaw, the event welcomed ten full-time participants and multiple guests, including Effie Rankin. We helped send several cleasaichean who attended the session, once again adding to our language capacity at Baile nan Gàidheal.

Without a doubt, however our most significant contribution to Gaelic language and cultural programming has been through the Gàidhlig aig Baile Institute, recently been renamed Cala Cainte. Supported by the Office of Gaelic Affairs, Cala Cainte is designed to play a leading role in language revitalization efforts in Gaelic Nova Scotia. Once operational, a long-term, live-in immersion programme will be at its heart. In recent months, Màiri Britton has been hired to lead this work as project coordinator and plans are underway to launch the first immersion later this year.

### ***One People, Two Islands:***

One of the major projects described in my last update was a partnership between Saint Mary's University and Historic Environment Scotland. As part of this collaboration, I was able to represent the museum in Scotland, where I visited Eigg, and spoke about our work at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Dr. Karly Kehoe, who spearheaded the initiative through St. Mary's University, later returned to the Highland Village to give the annual Joe Neil MacNeil Memorial Lecture along with members of the Boisdale Historical Society. Their contributions made the ideal backdrop for Judy Roy to launch her new book about the life and writing of her grandfather, Paddy Nicholson, a native of Rear Beaver Cove.

As a result of this collaboration, the Boisdale Historical Society has chosen to donate a significant archive of material related to their research to the Highland Village. In order to contextualize their contributions, we conducted recorded interviews with seven members of the historical society over the course of the winter months. The interviews were filmed and resulted in nearly ten hours of high-quality audio-visual material for our archive focused on biographical information and oral history.

### ***L'nu Initiatives:***

In recognition of Mi'kmaq History Month (October 2024), we were honoured to welcome Sr. Dorothy Moore to the museum for a special screening of a documentary about her life and work, produced by Dr. Mary Jane Harkins. Sr. Moore grew up in Membertou and is a trail-blazing, educator, social justice advocate and Mi'kmaw elder. This event dovetailed well with the on-going efforts of the L'nu Advisory Group at Highland Village. Our collaboration has resulted in two major achievements over the past year:

The first is an approved script for two new panels for the museum describing L'nu history and culture, translated into Gaelic and Mi'kmaw. These are expected to be installed onsite within the next few months as the final design is confirmed.

The second achievement is the creation of a new position at Baile nan Gàidheal: L'nu Interpretive Lead. In recent weeks, John Sylliboy has accepted this position and has already added a new Mi'kmaw camp scene to the landscape at Rubha Eachainn.

### ***Other Priorities:***

As much as our museum is a tourist attraction, it's also a research and educational facility. We were very pleased to welcome Allan MacDonald to the village in October to deliver the Alex Francis MacKay Memorial Lecture. A native of Glenuig, Scotland, MacDonald is well-known for his ground-breaking researching into the historic links between piping and singing in Gaelic Scotland. Attended by an appreciative audience, his talk was a great way to kick-off Celtic Colours.

*Respectfully submitted by Shamus Y MacDonald, PhD*

*Mgr. of Culture & Language, June 22, 2025*

## Financial Report

– Gordon Campbell, Treasurer

I am pleased to provide this overview of the finances of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society for the year ended March 31, 2025. The complete statements and review engagement report as prepared by the Grant Thornton accountants are available on our website, or by request.

### Balance Sheet (Year ended March 31)

Assets	2025	2024
Cash	\$ 871,085	\$ 559,082
Receivables	\$ 1,642	\$ 3,728
Inventory	\$ 40,192	\$ 47,141
Prepays	\$ 9,361	\$ 4,950
Equipment	\$ 15,490	\$ 20,653
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 937,770</b>	<b>\$ 635,554</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Surplus</b>		
Payables & Accruals	\$ 36,844	\$ 32,774
Deferred Revenue (Op)	\$ 283,108	\$ 93,539
Total Liabilities	\$ 319,952	\$ 126,313
Deferred Revenue (Eq)	\$ 10,400	\$ 15,600
	\$ 330,352	\$ 141,913
Surplus/Net Assets	\$ 607,418	\$ 493,641
<b>Total Liabilities/Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 937,770</b>	<b>\$ 635,554</b>

### Balance Sheet

- The Society was in a positive cash position at year end with assets of \$937,770 including: (a) \$871,085 in cash assets; (b) \$1,642 in receivables; (c) \$40,192 in gift shop inventory; (d) \$9,361 in prepaid expenses; and (e) \$15,490 net book value in equipment for the 2024/25 fiscal year.
- Liabilities of \$319,952 included trade payables of \$36,844 and operational deferred revenue of \$283,108. Operational deferred revenue included grant monies received for projects that will take place and be expensed in 2025/26. Additionally, there was \$10,400 in long-term deferred revenue related to the purchase of equipment for enhanced visitor accessibility. The Society's net assets were \$607,418 an increase of \$113,777 from \$493,641 at March 31, 2024 - *see statement of changes in net assets*.

### Statement of Revenue & Expenditures (next page)

- Core operational funding from the Nova Scotia Museum for the fiscal was \$1,018,849, unchanged from the previous year. \$5,200 related to funding received for improvement of accessibility was also recognized in the year, similar to previous year.
- Our annual maintenance allowance from the Department of Public Works came in at \$27,500. The allowance is based on billings to Public Works for work completed by our maintenance staff.

<b>Statement of Revenue &amp; Expenditures</b>	Budget 2024/25	<b>Actual 2024/25</b>	Actual 2023/24
<b>Revenue</b>			
Nova Scotia Museum	\$ 1,018,849	\$ <b>1,018,849</b>	\$ 1,018,849
Admission Fees*	\$ 206,000	\$ <b>231,600</b>	\$ 206,095
Donations*	\$ 4,000	\$ <b>9,326</b>	\$ 4,132
Food Svs & Fundraising*	\$ 60,000	\$ <b>54,628</b>	\$ 52,202
Gift Shop/Retail*	\$ 180,000	\$ <b>192,679</b>	\$ 177,506
Miscellaneous*	\$ 6,000	\$ <b>31,442</b>	\$ 7,537
Public Works - Maintenance	\$ 25,000	\$ <b>27,500</b>	\$ 27,500
Programming*	\$ 25,000	\$ <b>8,038</b>	\$ 24,214
PNS/NSM Special Grant	\$ 0	\$ <b>5,200</b>	\$ 6,200
<i>Special projects</i>	\$ 256,500	\$ <b>99,286</b>	\$ 863,478
Interest *	\$ 1,500	\$ <b>3,979</b>	\$ 3,406
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,782,849</b>	<b>\$ 1,682,527</b>	<b>\$ 2,391,119</b>
<b>Operating Expenditures</b>			
Retail Operations	\$ 90,000	\$ <b>112,505</b>	\$ 110,744
Cultural Interp./Programs	\$ 40,000	\$ <b>33,292</b>	\$ 30,985
Site & Facilities	\$ 156,000	\$ <b>108,012</b>	\$ 99,951
Operating/Administrative	\$ 1,331,222	\$ <b>1,226,209</b>	\$ 1,188,187
<i>Special projects</i>	\$ 267,000	\$ <b>68,915</b>	\$ 714,875
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 1,884,222</b>	<b>\$ 1,548,933</b>	<b>\$ 2,144,742</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	\$ 0	\$ <b>(5,163)</b>	\$ (5,163)
<b>Capital improvements</b>	\$ (80,000)	\$ <b>(14,654)</b>	\$ (23,092)
<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (181,373)</b>	<b>\$ 113,777</b>	<b>\$ 218,122</b>

- ▶ The Society's earned income (*noted with an \**) experienced an increase in 2024/25. Overall earned income was \$531,692 this fiscal. That represented a 11.9% increase of our 2023/24 revenues of \$475,092. Our two major earned income sources (Admissions and Gift Shop) drove this increase with Admissions up \$25,505 over last year and Gift Shop up \$15,173. Miscellaneous was also up due to the insurance payout related to the June 2024 vehicle incident with the Highland Village truck.
- ▶ Operational expenses of \$1,480,018 (not including special projects) to March 31, 2025 were 3.5% or \$50,151 higher than last year. The expenses were primarily wages, which increased by \$44,611 over last year; cost of goods sold for the gift shop up \$1,761; and Site and Facilities costs.
- ▶ Wages and benefits of \$1,100,685 were net of \$28,411 in wage subsidies received from the federal and provincial student wage programs. Net wages were up \$44,611 or 4.2% over last year.
- ▶ Project funding of \$99,286 included funds Gaelic outreach projects, fundraising support, Festival and Event funding, exhibit development, and the final revenues related to the site development program.



<b>Statement of Changes in Net Assets</b>	Unrestricted fund	Restricted replacement reserve	Site development reserve	Unused sick days reserve	<b>2024 Total</b>	2023 Total
Opening Balance	\$ 304,389	\$ 199,909	\$ (31,000)	\$ 20,343	<b>\$ 493,641</b>	\$ 275,519
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 113,777	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	<b>\$ 113,777</b>	\$ 218,122
Transfer to (from) reserve (net)	\$ (31,000)	\$ 0	\$ 31,000	\$ 0	<b>\$ 0</b>	0
Balance, end of year	\$ 387,166	\$ 199,909	\$ 0	\$ 20,343	<b>\$ 607,418</b>	\$ 493,641

### Statement of Changes in Net Assets

- ▶ The Society reported an overall surplus of \$113,777 at year end increasing our net assets from \$493,641 at March 31, 2024 to \$607,418 at March 31, 2025.

- ▶ In addition, the operating (unrestricted) fund decreased by \$31,000 which represents donations received and transferred to cover the deficit in the site development reserve.

Restricted reserve fund balances at March 31, 2024 included:  
Replacement reserve (\$199,909) and Unused sick days (\$20,343).

- ▶ 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, 2025, the value of accrued unused sick days was \$137,645.

### Other Notes

- ▶ 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,*

*Gordon Campbell, Treasurer & Chair of Finance Committee June 22, 2025*

## Nominating Committee Report

-Joanne MacGillivray, Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present its report to the membership. Serving on the committee this past year were Madeline Harvey (Chair), Joanne MacGillivray (Second Chair), Dena Pruski, Connall MacKinnon, and Rhonda Walker. The committee thanks retiring board members *Gordon Campbell*, *Madeline Harvey*, and *Wilfred MacNeil* for their contributions to the work of the Board and support of the Society.

In accordance with the By Laws of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society (clauses 24 through 29), the Nominating Committee has four (4) vacant positions at this time, and is open to nominations from the floor.

With this election, the composition of the board will be as follows:

- Jane Arnold, Sydney (Exp. 2028/31)
- Lyndsie Bourgon, Halifax (Exp. 2028/31)
- Matthew Cook, Reserve Mines (Exp. 2024/27)
- Joanne MacIntyre, Mabou Coal Mines (Exp. 2026/29)
- Joanne MacGillivray, Northside East Bay (Exp. 2023/26)
- Kenzie MacKinnon, Halifax (Exp. 2024/27)
- Connall MacKinnon, Christmas Island (Exp. 2027/30)
- Vincent MacNeil, South Harbour (Exp. 2028/31)
- Teresa MacNeil, Johnstown (Exp. 2026/29)
- Lindsey Marshall, Potlotek (Exp. 2027/30)
- Barbara Morrison, Sydney (Exp. 2026/29)
- Dr. Gerald Pocius, Sydney (Exp. 2028/31)
- Dena Pruski, Islandview (Exp. 2023/26)
- Heather Sparling, Sydney (Exp. 2026/29)
- Rhonda Walker, Red Islands (Exp. 2025/28)

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

- President - Rhonda Walker
- Vice President - Connall MacKinnon
- Treasurer - Matthew Cook
- Secretary - Dena Pruski

*Respectfully submitted, The Nominating Committee Joanne MacGillivray (Chair), Rhonda Walker, Dena Pruski, Connall MacKinnon, June 22, 2025*

## Board of Trustee Bios

**Jane Arnold** is the Archivist at the Beaton Institute at Cape Breton University, where she has worked for the past 17 years. She is active in the heritage community as President of Heritage Cape Breton Connection, a member of the CNSA Reconciliation Working Group, and serves on several provincial committees. Jane lives in Sydney and is passionate about preserving Gaelic culture and community history.

**Lyndsie Bourgon**, FRCGS, is a Halifax-based writer, oral historian, and National Geographic Explorer. She studied in Edinburgh and holds a master's degree from the University of St Andrews. Lyndsie teaches at the University of King's College and researches Scottish land ownership, crofting, and migration. Her partner's family is from Sydney.

**Matthew Cook** has worked with Parks Canada since 2008. He is currently the Acting Visitor Experience Manager at Alexander Graham Bell Museum in Baddeck. He was a board member and treasurer of the Old Sydney Society and a member of the CBRM Heritage Advisory Committee. He has bachelor degrees in commerce and history and is pursuing a masters degree in Scottish history at genealogy, the University of Dundee. His interests include gardening, reading, and birding. He has two daughters.

**Joanne MacIntyre** of Mabou Coal Mines is a Gaelic speaker, singer, and educator at Dalbrae Academy in her home community of Mabou. She is a graduate of Saint Francis, Xavier University, where she studied Celtic Studies in her undergrad, and continued on to earn her Bachelor of Education and then Master of Education. She served as Chief Interpreter at Baile nan Gàidheal from 2005 to 2010. She is an active member of the Gaelic community, currently serving as a board member for Commun Gàidhlig is Eachdraidh Màbu and Taigh Sgoile na Drochaide.

**Joanne MacGillivray** grew up in Northside East Bay, graduated from Dalhousie and has been teaching in Northern Quebec & Cape Breton since then. Her Dad was John Joe MacGillivray who was a founding member of the Cape Breton Gaelic Society in the early seventies. She is also related to Donald MacEachern who was well known in the Cape Breton Gaelic Culture circle. Joanne taught in Eskasoni & has an interest in the Mi'kmaw & Gael's working together along with her own personal interest in the Gaelic way of doing things.

**Kenzie MacKinnon** graduated from St. Francis Xavier University with a Major in Political Science, following which he studied at the University of Edinburgh. He has law degrees from Dalhousie University and the London School of Economics. Kenzie was awarded the designation of Queens' Counsel in 2013. His practice has been in the area of family and matrimonial law. Kenzie is active in his community, having served on several boards, and being involved in the political process, both at the federal and provincial levels.

**Connall MacKinnon** is a resident of Christmas Island. He holds a BA in Celtic Studies from CBU. He has participated in a number of local Gaelic language initiatives including Gaelic affairs "Bun is Barr" program. He is a carpenter by trade. He spent three years with the St. Ann's Gaelic College organizing their annual KitchenFest music festival. He teaches distance courses with the Gaelic college.

**Vincent MacNeil** is a retired educator with over 35 years of experience in teaching and administration. Born in New Waterford, he is a descendant of Gaelic tradition bearers from Iona and Barra. Vince is both President and

genealogist of Clan MacNeil in Canada and holds multiple degrees, including an MA focused on Gaelic language and culture in Cape Breton.

**Teresa MacNeil** grew up in rural Cape Breton, returning there to live in 1996 upon retiring from thirty-seven years at St. Francis Xavier University where she was Professor of Adult Education and, at times, a senior administrator. She has been active in issues relating to adult learning and community economic development, locally, provincially and nationally. She holds masters and doctoral degrees from the University of Wisconsin in educational policy studies. She led community efforts to achieve the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation for the Bras d'Or Lake and its watershed and has served on many other boards. She is a member of the Order of Canada.

**Lindsay Marshall** is from Potlotek. He is a former chief and CEO of that community, former principal of Unama'ki College, a poet, and a respected Mi'kmaw Elder. He has an MBA from Cape Breton University and is currently the Mi'kmaw Relations Advisor for Cape Breton Field Unit of Parks Canada.

**Barbara Morrison** was born and raised in Sydney and has had an interest in the culture of Scotland and Ireland since she was young. She worked for 2 years with Major CIN MacLeod at St. FX. and then at Highland Village doing tours on the hill. During that summer, she lived with Rod C. MacNeil's family in Barra Glen and learned to play pipes with the Highland Village Pipe Band. Following university at St. FX and Acadia, she taught for 34 years during which time she completed a Masters in Information Technology at CBU/Memorial University of Newfoundland. Retired in 2011, she's rekindled her interest in Gaelic and the pipes and training dogs. She lives in Coxheath with her husband and dog, Reel.

**Dr. Gerald Pocius** is University Research Professor Emeritus of Folklore at Memorial University and a Senior Research Scholar at Cape Breton University. He has taught folklore and museum courses, curated exhibits, and worked with communities on local heritage. Gerald has volunteered his expertise with organizations on intangible cultural heritage and built heritage alike. He lives in Sydney.



**Dena Pruski** is retired from Bell-Aliant where she was an Operations Manager for Small Business. Currently Dena is a volunteer at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital in hospice palliative care and is a member of the East Bay and Area Community Council. She also volunteers as a reader/lector at St Mary's Church in East Bay and assists the CWL with their for funerals and other activities. Dena lives in Islandview.

**Heather Sparling** holds a PhD in ethnomusicology and is a professor of music at Cape Breton University. Her research focuses on Gaelic song, music, and dance in Nova Scotia, and she has a particular interest in language revitalization with music. She is a fluent Gaelic learner who has long been active in the Nova Scotia Gaelic community. She sits on the boards of several community organizations, including the Cape Breton Gaelic Society.

**Rhonda Walker** is a retired civil servant who spent the last 16 years of her career with the NS Dept. of Communities, Culture & Heritage (CCH). She held a variety of roles, most recently Executive Director of Archives, Museums, and Libraries. She has worked closely with volunteer boards, providing advice and support. Now living in Red Islands, she was raised in Sydney and spent many summers at the Walker farm in Ottawa Brook helping to bring in the hay (old school with horses and pitchforks). It was there that she first heard of the Highland Village and of course Highland Village Day. She was excited to support the Village's work and plans for expansion and "Next Chapter" while at CCH.



## NSHVS Board of Trustees 2024/25\*

*\*Board as of October 2024*

Treasurer	Gordon Campbell
Vice-President	Matthew Cook
Trustee	Madeline Harvey
Trustee	Joanne MacGillivray
Trustee	Teresa MacNeil
Trustee	Wilf MacNeil
Trustee	Joanne MacIntyre
Trustee	Kenzie MacKinnon
Trustee	Connall MacKinnon
Trustee	Lindsay Marshall
Trustee	Barb Morrison
Secretary	Dena Pruski
Trustee	Heather Sparling
President	Rhonda Walker
Trustee	<i>Vacant</i>

### Board Committees

Executive Committee	Rhonda Walker (Chair/President), Matthew Cook (Vice-President), Dena Pruski (Secretary), Gordon Campbell (Treasurer)
Finance Committee	Gordon Campbell (Chair/Treasurer), Matthew Cook, Heather Sparling, Rhonda Walker
Human Resource Committee	Rhonda Walker (Chair), Matthew Cook, Barb Morrison, Madeline Harvey
<i>Stòras na h-Òigridh /</i> Treasures of Youth Committee	Lisa Gallant (Chair), Margie Beaton, David MacLean, Susan MacLean, Meaghan O'Handley, Abigail MacDonald, Stephanie MacDonald, Heather Sparling
Planning Committee	Wilf MacNeil (Chair), Heather Sparling, Rhonda Walker, Joanne MacIntyre, Kenzie MacKinnon
Nominating Committee	Madeline Harvey, Joanne MacGillivray, Rhonda Walker, Dena Pruski

## NSHVS Staff 2024/25 (April 2024-March 2025)

### Senior Management Team:

- Melissa Blunden, Executive Director
- Pauline MacLean, Manager of Collections/Genealogy
- Shamus Y. MacDonald, PhD., Manager of Language and Culture
- Jessica Farrell, Visitor Experience Manager
- Tim MacNeil, Manager of Facilities and Grounds
- Janet MacNeil, Administrative Assistant
- Tanya Latham-Corbett, Financial Officer/Payroll

### Hospitality Team:

- Laura MacNeil, Coordinator Welcome Centre
- Anne Gillis, Welcome Centre Clerk
- Courtney MacDonald, Baker
- Anne MacNeil, Welcome Centre Clerk

### Facilities Team:

- Patricia Gaudley, Custodian
- Brendan Higgins, Labourer
- David MacKenzie, Groundkeeper
- Stanley MacLellan, Custodian/Labourer
- Malcolm Matheson, Carpenter

### Animation Team:

- Logan MacLellan, Coordinator Programs / Costumes
- Curtis MacNeil, Coordinator Farm Program
- Colleen Beaton, Animator
- Kristen Boyd, Animator
- Marie Chehy, Animator
- Brenda Dunphy, Animator

### Animation Team Continued:

- Catherine Gillis, Animator
- Cecelia Laing, Animator
- Ian MacCalder, Animator
- Hoss MacKenzie, Animator
- Aileen MacLean, Animator
- John MacLean, Animator
- Kaleb MacLellan, Animator
- Beth MacNeil, Animator
- Kaye-Anne MacNeil, Animator
- Vicki Quimby, Animator / Textile Consultant
- Phyllis Williams, Animator

### Na Cleasaichean / The Players:

- Colin Watson, Coordinator Cleasaichean
- Màiri Britton
- Bernard Cameron
- Edward MacDonald
- Emily MacDonald
- Joyce MacDonald
- Emily MacKinnon-MacDonald
- Stacy MacLean
- Bradley Murphy
- Rob Pringle
- Lili Watson

### Volunteer Highland Village Day Producer: Alex Musial

#### Contractors:

Anchored Recruiting & HR Solutions (Employee Wellness Survey & HR RFP)  
Vibe Creative Group (Strategic Plan Update & Marketing Creative)  
Skyline Atlantic Canada (Creative & Wayfinding Signage)

**Móran taing dhan a h-uile duine!** Many thanks to all involved!



## 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, Tourism & 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 including: Public Works\*, Gaelic Affairs (CCTH); and Labour, Skills and Immigration.



### 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 Tourism Dept. and Donna Matheson-Lefort, 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: Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design; Cape Breton University (Beaton Institute & Centre for Cape Breton Studies); NSCAD University Masters of Design Students; Celtic Colours International Festival; Celtic Heart of North America; Colaisde na Gàidhlig | The Gaelic College; Central Cape Breton Community Ventures; Comhairle na Gàidhlig | Nova Scotia Gaelic Council; Community Foundation of Nova Scotia; Destination Cape Breton Association; Eskasoni Cultural Journeys; Féis an Eilein; Fortress of Louisbourg; Grandona Legion, Branch 124, Iona; Iomairtean na Gàidhlig | Office of Gaelic Affairs; Iona Heights Inn & Jill's Chocolates; Musique Royale; Municipality of Inverness County, Municipality of Victoria County, St.F.X. University (Angus L. Macdonald Library); and Sgoil MhicFhraing a' Chaolais | Rankin School of the Narrows.

## 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), and Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP - Cape Breton Branch).





**Comunn Baile nan Gàidheal | The 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](http://www.highlandvillage.ca)