

Baile nan Gaidheal HIGHLAND VILLAGE

During the late 1700's to mid-1800's, thousands of Scottish Gaels emigrated from the Highlands and Islands and settled in eastern Nova Scotia. The Highland Village depicts the rural experience of early settlers, and their descendants, into the twentieth century's beginning years. The site features Gaelic language, cultural activities, traditional crafts, costumed guides, domestic animals, thousands of artifacts and 12 period buildings. The museum encompasses four distinct themes: Life in Gaelic Scotland, Pioneer Life in Nova Scotia, Farm Life and Village Life. Highland Village also features a special school visit program and cultural presentations.



Sgadan is Buntàta | Herring & Potatoes HIGHLAND VILLAGE SCHOOL VISIT PROGRAM

Baile nan Gàidheal | Highland Village is a living history museum and folk life centre that interprets and celebrates Gaelic Nova Scotia. On a 43 acre hillside overlooking the world renowned Bras d'Or Lakes, the Gaels' customs and rural life come alive through costumed animators, farm animals, period buildings and artifacts. Daily demonstrations of culture and crafts place the visitor in the Gaels' world from immigration to the early 1900's.

Our in-class program is titled *Sgadan is Buntàta* (pronounced skat-un iss bun-dat-uh), Herring and Potatoes, a staple foodstuff of the Nova Scotian Gael, relished and oft mentioned in song.

Visits from Highland Village staff can accommodate both elementary and secondary students

Class visits will provide opportunities for students to see and interact with demonstrations of crafts performed by staff in period dress.

In addition to being made aware of the material culture of Gaelic Nova Scotia, students will experience an introduction to the Gaels' language and customs.

Key Topics to Explore on Gaelic Nova Scotia

Crafts

Traditional skills applied to the creation of textiles necessary for daily life

Domestic Animals

Highland cattle, Soay sheep, horses, pigs and chickens

Rural Life

Clearing the forest, working on the land and sea

Gaelic Culture

The Gaels' expressions of story, song, dance and music

Gaelic History

The story of the Scottish Gaels and immigration to Nova Scotia during the 19th century

Gaelic Language

The language of the Gaels in history and today

Crop Growing

Traditional crops, grains, fruit bearing shrubs, flax and historical flower gardens

Traditional Architecture

A variety of buildings ranging in styles from the Highland stone Black House to prototypes of contemporary buildings

Sgadan's Buntàta | Herring & Potatoes A HIGHLAND VILLAGE IN-CLASS CULTURAL EXPERIENCE





Gaelic History and the School Curriculum

The Sgadan is Buntàta program from Highland Village relates to many aspects of Nova Scotia Elementary and Secondary school curricula:

- Gaelic language and culture in Nova Scotia
- Material culture of rural living
- Transitions in life on the land
- Historical architecture and artifacts

Our visiting Highland Village animators will provide an educational encounter with the tangible and intangible past. Subject matter can include the following:

- Interpreting the history of everyday life
- Connecting the past with the present
- Discussing and writing about Gaelic culture
- Learning about the relationship of buildings and tools to the land and daily labour
- Comparing and contrasting historical eras
- Gaining an appreciation for the historical lifestyles of our ancestors
- Identifying artifacts and interpreting their uses and relevance
- Following the historical development of Gaelic Nova Scotia

By integrating cultural knowledge, history and crafts, the Village's in-class program evokes Highland history in Nova Scotia through animation of life in times past.

Class visits from Highland Village interpreters will prompt students to consider the importance of Gaelic history in Nova Scotia. Students can trace the development of tools, implements, machines and other technologies during early 19th century life in the Scottish Highlands up to the Great Depression era. The Sgadan is Buntàta visits will introduce succeeding eras of Nova Scotia's Gaelic history. Students will have a unique opportunity for comparing themselves with the people who came before them.

The Highland Village in-class cultural experience is designed to bring presentations of Nova Scotian Gaelic folkways to public schools, which may not otherwise be able to visit the museum site in Iona. School visits can also accommodate classes engaged in special projects on the provinces' historical Scottish communities. Presentations are conducted by costumed animators knowledgeable in domestic crafts, agricultural practices, historical background and Gaelic language and culture.

Like herring and potatoes, the Highland Village in-class experience provides the basic sustenance to inform students on the character times and culture of Gaelic life in rural Nova Scotia.

**Information provided by the Department of Education as reported in the Final Report of the Voluntary Planning Heritage Strategy Task Force.*

*Grade Units, Topics, and Courses

Grade Primary
Connections

Roots–Place

- historic family roots
- family traditions
- natural and constructed features of their community

Grade 1
Interactions

Place and Time

- evolution of their community

Needs and Wants

- interdependence of communities

Grade 2
Change

People

- the future of their community
- technological change in their community
- changing nature of work in their community

Grade 3
Provincial Identity

Examine Nova Scotia

- Place, peoples, citizenship and heritage

Grade 4
Explorations

The Nature of Exploration

- explorers and the impact of exploration

Exploring Landscapes of Canada

- physical and human landscape
- heritage symbols associated with Canada's symbols

Grade 5
Societies

Colonial, French and British Societies
"My Society Today"

Grade 6
World Cultures

Canada: Reflections on a Multicultural Mosaic

Grade 7
Empowerment

- examines Canada from around 1800 to the end of World War I

Grade 8
Canadian Identity

- examines Canada from WW I to the present

Grade 9
Atlantic Canada in the Global Community

- examines Atlantic Canada and its connection to the rest of the world

Grade 11

Canadian History 11
Gaelic Studies 11
Geography 11/Geography of Canada 11