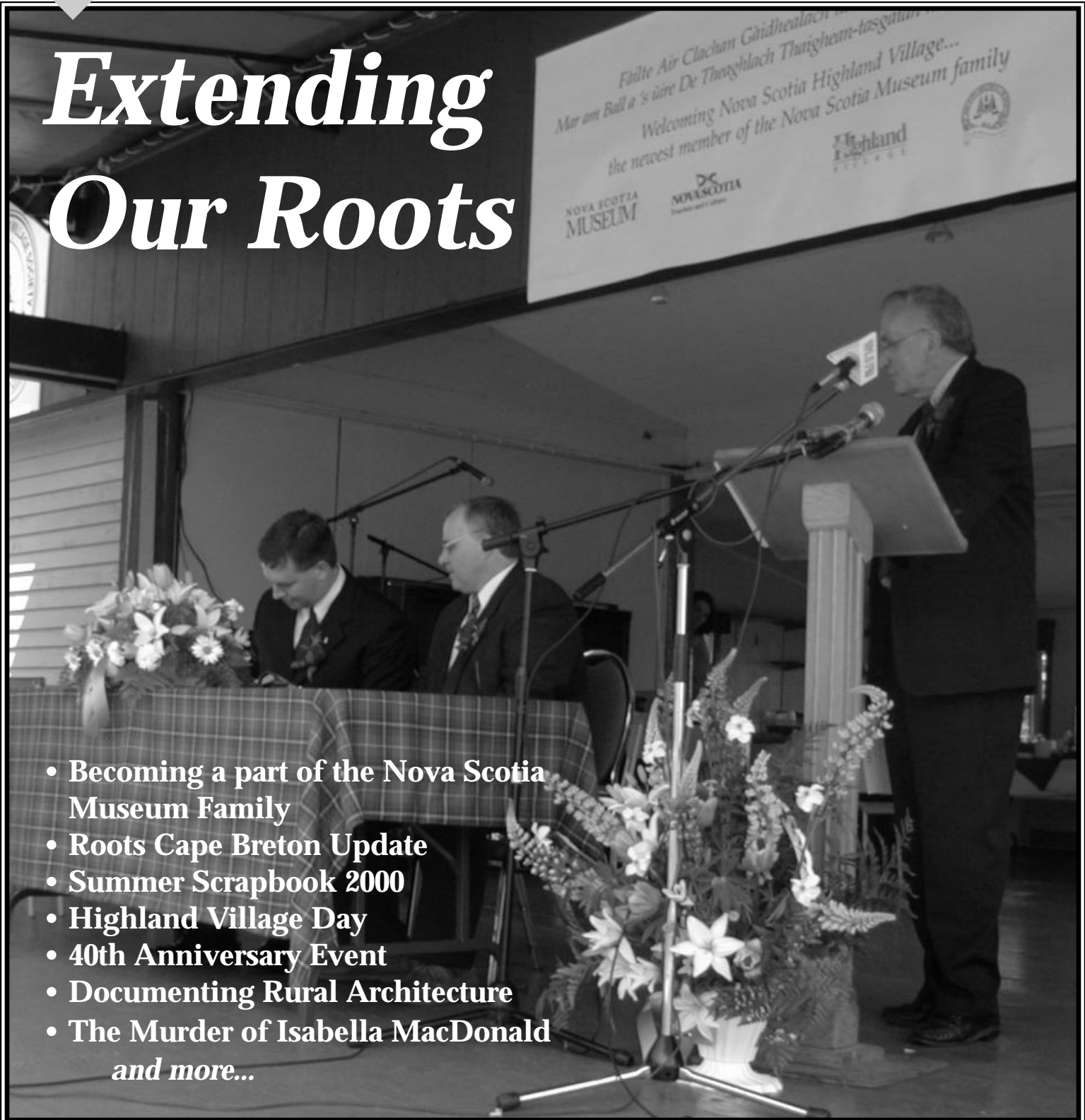


# Naidheachd a' Chlachain

(THE VILLAGE NEWS)

Nova Scotia Highland Village Society

## Extending Our Roots

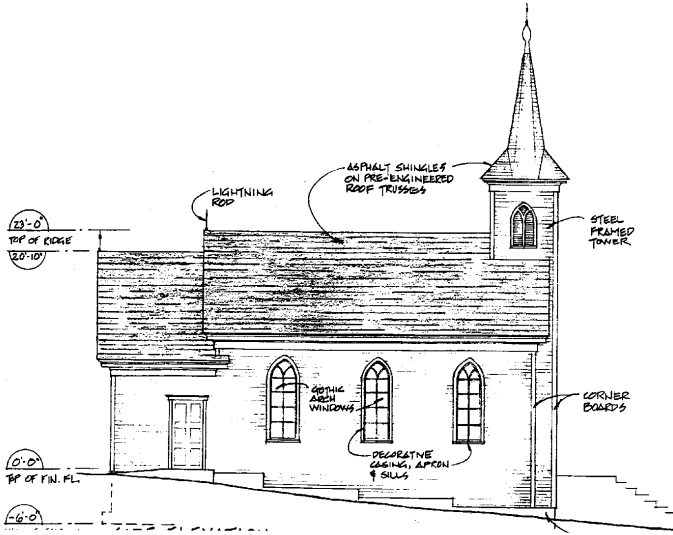


- Becoming a part of the Nova Scotia Museum Family
  - Roots Cape Breton Update
  - Summer Scrapbook 2000
  - Highland Village Day
  - 40th Anniversary Event
  - Documenting Rural Architecture
  - The Murder of Isabella MacDonald
- and more...*

# HIGHLAND VILLAGE PIONEER CHURCH FUND

A Pioneer Church has been for many years a dream of the Highland Village. We are now working towards the fulfillment of that dream. A fund has been established to aid with the acquisition or construction of the Church. Already, over \$ 10,000 has been collected for this project.

**Your support is needed to make this dream a reality.**



This design by Trifos Design Consultants of Sydney is one being considered by our Design Committee. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Sep 00 \$10,200

Mar 00 \$9300

Nov 98 \$6800

Nov 97 \$5000

**Help realize this dream!**  
 Please donate to the Highland Village Pioneer Church Fund

## Take Out A Membership

Join the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society

The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society is a non-profit Society registered under the Societies Act of the Province of Nova Scotia. The Society is made up of a membership which elects the Board of Trustees (from their ranks) to operate the Society on their behalf. Members can attend meetings, elect the Board, sit on committees, receive and approve annual reports including audited financial statements, receive *Naidheachd a' Chlachain* (bi-annual newsletter), receive notices for events, and feel a sense of pride in contributing to Nova Scotia's Scottish Gaelic Culture.

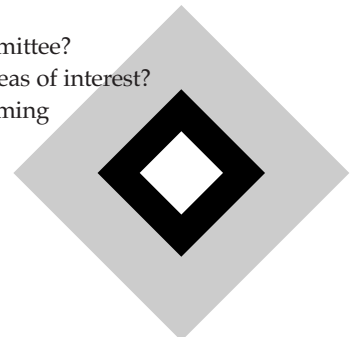
Membership is open to anyone.  
 Individual memberships are \$15.00 per year.  
 Family memberships are \$25.00 per year.  
 Life memberships are being developed.  
 Watch for more information.

**Support the Highland Village!  
 Join today!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Want to become more involved? Serve on a committee?  
 Volunteer for a special project? What are your areas of interest?

- Museum Interpretation & Education Programming
- Genealogy & Family History/Research
- Gàidhlig/Gaelic
- Entertainment
- Fund-raising
- Site Development





The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society was incorporated on November 3, 1959 under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia with the purpose of constructing a replica pioneer village at Iona.

The Mission of the Society is: to protect, interpret and further the collection of buildings and artifacts at the Nova Scotia Highland Village site at Iona; and to preserve and promote the Scottish Highland and Island Culture as found in Nova Scotia. (1979).

In June of 2000, the Highland Village became a part of the Nova Scotia Museum Family (Department of Tourism & Culture). The Society will continue to operate the site on behalf of the Province. The site is a 43-acre Museum and Cultural complex including the Highland Village Outdoor Pioneer Museum, Roots Cape Breton Genealogy & Family History Centre, Highland Village Gift Shop, and outdoor entertainment and theatre facility.

The Society is a member of the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage (FNHS), Canadian Museums Association (CMA), Iona Connection, Còmhairle na Gàidhlig, Alba Nuadh (Nova Scotia Gaelic Council), Council of Nova Scotia Archives (CNSA), Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia (GANS), Nova Scotia Genealogy Network Association, Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada (SSAC), Association of Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM), Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS), and Tourism Cape Breton.



A PART of THE NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM  
MEUR de THAIGH-TASGAIDH  
NA H-ALBANN NUAIDH



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*On the cover: On June 17th, 2000, the Highland Village officially became a part of the Nova Scotia Museum. Emcee Jim St.Clair looks on as the Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Nova Scotia Minister of Tourism and Culture and J. Bruce MacNeil, President of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society sign the proclamations.*

## Naidheachd a' Chlachain

© Comunn Clachan Gàidhealach na h-Albainn Nuaidh (Nova Scotia Highland Village Society), 2000.

Naidheachd a' Chlachain (The Village News) is published in Iona, Nova Scotia twice each year by the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society. Comments, suggestions and contributions are welcomed.

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From the  
**DIRECTOR'S  
DESK**

By Rodney Chaisson

Welcome to the Autumn 2000 issue of *Naidheachd a' Chlachain*. The title of this issue is *Extending our Roots* which is a reference to becoming a part of the Nova Scotia Museum, a family of 25 museums across Nova Scotia. It is also a reference to the continued data entry work in our Roots Cape Breton Genealogy & Family History Centre.

The Guest Editor for this issue is Cheryl Sullivan. Cheryl is working with us as a research intern through the Heritage Skills Apprenticeship Program of the St. F.X. Enterprise Centre in Antigonish. Cheryl provided us with the extensive history of the Highland Village that was published in the last issue of our newsletter.

For this issue Cheryl has pulled together all kinds of articles and photos from the past summer here at the Village including the celebration to mark the Highland Village becoming a part of the Nova Scotia Museum, Highland Village Day, 40th Anniversary Dinner & Dance, summer programming, as well as some documenting of buildings around rural Cape Breton Island. In addition we will have a murder story from Jim St.Clair and reports from staffers Charlene Kosick, Jim Watson and Pauline MacLean.

Also, Cheryl came across a special find from our archives. It

was a report written in Gaelic by Major C.I.N. MacLeod. The report was presented here in Iona on Thursday, October 13, 1955. It provides a description of the history of the Highland Village project to that date as well as providing some answers to questions raised by the Iona group. This report is included in this issue in both its Gaelic form as well as an English translation by Jim Watson.

Many of  
C.I.N



(l-r) Jim St.Clair, Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Bruce MacNeil, and Candace Stevenson

MacLeod's files from this time period are available as part of the Society archival records, which are currently being sorted. Included in these files are the blueprints from Colin Sinclair, minutes from various meetings and other documents mentioned in the report on page 18.

#### Our New Family

The highlight of this past summer has been the celebration that took place on June 17 which officially saw the Highland Village become a part of the Nova Scotia Museum.

It was a wonderful day of celebration. There were speeches, stories, and song. It was a fantastic start to this new exciting rela-

tionship with the Province of Nova Scotia.

There is more on these festivities beginning on page 6 of the newsletter.

We have been diligent all summer working out the details of this new relationship and making the Village a full part of the Nova Scotia Museum. In the months to come we will see the incorporation of Provincial graphics into our stationary and pro-

motional materials, as well as the incorporation of Highland Village information and visuals in Nova Scotia Museum marketing and promotional materials.

Over the winter we are going to be spending much time on interpretive and educational programming especially as it pertains to Gaelic language. The goal is for the Highland Village to become the only Gaelic-English bilingual museum in North America.

In order to accomplish this we will be placing more emphasis on staff training and professional development as well as research.

We have accomplished much here over the past few years especially in terms of physical

appearance and condition of the site. Now, with the partnership of the Nova Scotia Museum we are in a position to move forward with our interpretation programming and educational outreach.

Watch for the next newsletter where we will have much more detail on the future of the Highland Village as part of the Nova Scotia Museum family.

If you want to find out more about the Nova Scotia Museum log on to the museum's website at <http://museum.gov.ns.ca>. There you will find information on all of the NSM sites across Nova Scotia as well as the learning resources available through the Summer Street offices.

#### Bon Voyage Candace

While we very much enjoyed the June 17th celebrations which made us a part of a larger family of museums, we also bid farewell to the person who has been the leader of that family. Candace Stevenson has been the Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Museum for over two decades. This summer she retired from Government. We thank Candace for all that she has done in assisting the Highland Village to become a part of the Nova Scotia Museum and wish her all the best in her retirement. *Tapadh leibh.*

#### Next Issue

Next issue we will have more information on the new relationship with the Nova Scotia Museum, an update on the Roots Cape Breton data entry project, more results from Cheryl's research, information on our participation in a national pilot project to develop museum standards for all of Canada, and much more.



#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES (2000-2001):

Bruce MacNeil, Iona (President)  
Walter MacNeil, Sydney (Vice-Pres)  
Dan E. MacNeil, Iona (Treasurer)  
Brian Hussey, Marion Bridge (Secretary)  
Jim St.Clair, Mull River (Past President)  
Donald Beaton, Little Narrows  
Mary Campbell, Iron Mines  
Fonce Farrell, Washabuck  
Janet Gillis, Jamesville  
Ann Marie MacKay-MacNeil, Grass Cove

Michael B. MacKenzie, Christmas Island  
Dr. Richard MacKinnon, Sydney  
Mary Margaret MacLean, Whycocomagh  
Mary K. MacLeod, Dominion  
Hugh Webb, Antigonish  
Daniel Chiasson, Legal Advisor Pro-Bono, Baddeck

#### Committee Chairs:

Museum: Jim St.Clair  
Genealogy: Jim St. Clair  
Highland Village Day: Quentin MacDonald  
Site Development: Walter MacNeil  
Audit: Dan E. MacNeil

#### VILLAGE STAFF (SUMMER 2000):

**Administration**  
Rodney Chaisson, Director  
Patricia MacNeil, Admin. Assistant

#### Museum

Charlene Kosick, Curator  
John MacDonald, Blacksmith  
Stevie MacNeil, Farm Hand  
Colleen Beaton, Interpreter  
Marie Chey, Interpreter  
Carmella Farrell, Interpreter  
Kimberley MacIver, Interpreter  
Beth MacNeil, Interpreter  
Kaye Anne MacNeil, Interpreter  
Vicki Quimby, Interpreter  
Sylvia Tupper, Interpreter

*Student Interpreters - Anne Louise Campbell, Brianna Lynch, Michael MacDonald, Erin MacNeil, Jennifer MacNeil, Leigh Milne, Meagan Quimby, and Collette Thomas.*

#### Gàidhlig (Gaelic Program)

James Watson, Coordinator

#### Roots Cape Breton Genealogy\* (As of Sept. 2000)

Pauline MacLean, Coordinator  
Data Entry Clerks - Ian Baker, Wanda MacDonald, Kenneth MacKenzie, Debi MacNeil, Tim MacPherson, Margaret Ann Matheson and Blair Munro.

#### Gift Shop/Reception

Gerry MacNeil, Supervisor  
Sadie MacDonald, Clerk

#### Maintenance

Tim MacNeil, Worker  
David MacKenzie, Grounds

#### Special Projects

Cheryl Sullivan, Heritage Skills Intern

# PEOPLE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## IN MEMORY/DEDICATION

*This issue of Naidheachd a' Chlachain is dedicated to Kaye MacNeil from Iona who passed away recently. The Highland Village that exists today has developed because of the dedication of its volunteers. Kaye was one of those volunteers and a member of the Society throughout the years, and her son Dan E. continues the tradition today. Our sympathies go out to her family.*

*Sympathies also go out to Jim St.Clair and the Wright-Rankin Family for the passing of Margaret Wright this past summer.*

## CONGRATULATIONS

*Congratulations go out to:*

- Board Member Jim St.Clair for receiving his honorary doctorate from the University College of Cape Breton.
- Gaelic Coordinator Jim Watson on his marriage to Frances MacEachen.
- Board Member Anne Marie MacKay-MacNeil and her husband Sandy on the birth of their son.
- CBC Sydney Mainstreet host Wendy Bergfeldt and partner Don Munro on the birth of their daughter.

## BEST WISHES

*Best wishes go out to Joe Rahey for a speedy recovery.*

## THANK YOU DONORS

*The Society wishes to thank those who have made donations over the past several months:*

- Don Hyslop and the students at Dwight Ross School in Greenwood, Nova Scotia
- In memory of Judge Harry MacInnis from Virginia.
- Jim St.Clair in memory of Kaye MacNeil.
- Mabel McCutcheon in memory of her husband.
- David Wimsett, Petaluma, California
- Marie MacLean, Washabuck, NS
- Catherine MacNeil, Sydney, NS
- The Iona Gaelic Singers, Iona, NS

## THANK YOU PARTNERS

*The Society wishes to thank all the government departments & agencies, businesses and other organizations that have provided funding to the Society or those that have partnered with us on projects:*

- Nova Scotia Museum (Department of Tourism & Culture, Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Minister). A special thank you goes out to the Minister, his staff and everyone involved in making the Highland Village a part of the Nova Scotia Museum.
- Municipality of Victoria County
- Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation
- Nova Scotia Department of Economic Development
- Human Resources Development Canada
- Nova Scotia Department of Community Services
- Gaeltalk Communications (Am Bràighe)
- St. FX Enterprise Centre
- Tree Canada Foundation & Home Depot
- Marketing Partners: ECBC, Icon Communications, Highland Heights Inn, Castle Moffett & Atlantic Cruise Ship Services

## Highland Village Calendar

### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

- Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3 (noon-4pm)
- Free Admission

For more information on our events call us at (902) 725-2272 or e-mail us at [hvillage@highlandvillage.ns.ca](mailto:hvillage@highlandvillage.ns.ca)

**2001 Dates - The Highland Village opens for the season on May 19th, Highland Village Day is August 4th, Codfish Suppers are July 14th and August 25th and Pioneer Day is September 8th. The last day for the 2001 season is October 14th.**





A Part of

## THE NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM

A major milestone in the evolution of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society was reached this past year. In early April, following the introduction of the Provincial budget, the Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Minister of Tourism & Culture, announced that the Highland Village would become a part of the Nova Scotia Museum. On June 17th, the Minister led a celebration on site to officially mark the occasion of the Village's entry in to the Nova Scotia Museum of families.

This is a very significant event in the history and development of the Highland Village. It is a recognition by the Government of the importance of Gaelic language and culture in Nova Scotia. It is also a recognition of the effort and accomplishments of the Society over the last 40 years. However, the significance of this new relationship goes far beyond recognition.

For the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society, it means a new partnership which will foster further growth of the Highland Village and development into a bilingual Gaelic-English museum. It also means funding support; more sharing of information and similar issues with other members of the Nova Scotia Museum family; increased access to the professional resources of the Nova Scotia Museum and much more. While the Highland Village will be a part of the Nova Scotia Museum, the Society will continue to operate the site on its behalf.

For the Gaelic language and culture it means a greater commitment to language and cultural interpretation on site as well as increased outreach to the Gaelic community.

For the Cape Breton Island museum community it means a greater presence of the Nova Scotia Museum on this Island. It

also means an increased representation of Cape Breton Island in the Nova Scotia Museum family. The other NSM site on the Island is Cossit House in Sydney.

The Society is very excited about the future as part of the Nova Scotia Museum. Since the June 17th celebration we have been working with NSM staff on the transition as well as planning for the future. We will have much more on this in the next issue of *Naidheachd a' Chlachain*.

The Celebration on June 17th provided a wonderful entrance into the Nova Scotia Museum Family. There were participants from all over Nova Scotia to help mark this significant occasion. The weather was incredible and as usual the entertainment was second to none.

The day included a formal ceremony that began with the singing of *O Canada* in Gaelic by the students of Dwight Ross School in Greenwood, Nova Scotia and the students of Rankin Memorial School in Iona. It was followed by speeches and the signing of an agreement by the Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Minister of Tourism & Culture and J. Bruce MacNeil, President of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society. Jim St.Clair was emcee for the ceremony. Following the official ceremony there was

which included the Minister, Deputy Minister Michele McKenzie, members of the NSM Board of Governors, NSM staff and other guests in a tour of the Highland Village Museum.

The day was capped off with a family ceilidh backstage by Raymond Ellis, Donnie Campbell, Susan MacLean, as well as some of Raymond's fiddle students.

Throughout the next few pages of *Naidheachd a' Chlachain* are images of the June 17th event. It was a very memorable day and the Society extends its appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the day.



Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Minister of Tourism & Culture

àite mar a tha an Clachan Gàidhealach a' cumail na h-eachdraidh sin beò tro an càin agus le bhì ag innse an stòraidh air mar a bha iad a' fuireach air dùthaich anns na bliadhnaichean a chaidh seachad. "Guma fada bhios ceò as bhur taigh."

I am pleased to be with you today to welcome Highland Village to the Nova Scotia Museum family. The Gaels have a long and renowned history in Nova Scotia. It is only fitting that the Highland Village maintains that history through their language and their lives in the rural past.

"May smoke long billow from your chimney" is an old Gaelic saying meaning, may you enjoy many long years. And it is a very appropriate one to share with you today.

Another ancient Gaelic saying suggests that the goddesses of inspiration in the arts and sciences left Athens and went to Scotland. Perhaps they even followed the Gaelic-speaking Scots to their new home here in the Cape Breton highlands.

Some could say it's fanciful to think that those very Muses are still here with us in the year 2000. To those who might, I'd ask them to consider Nova Scotia Highland Village.



The cake prepared and donated by Mary Ann Crane

entertainment by the Iona Gaelic Singers and the Boisdale Trio. There was step dancing and square dancing. There was food prepared by the Highland Heights Inn and a special cake prepared and donated by Mary Ann Crane of Northside East Bay. The stage was beautifully decorated by Jimmy and Donna MacNeil of Iona.

Bruce MacNeil, President of the Society lead a delegation

The text that follows is the speech presented by the Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Minister of Tourism & Culture:

Tha mi toilichte a bhith an seo an diugh 'nur measg gus fàilte a chuir air a' Chlachan Gàidhealach gu Nova Scotia Museum. Tha eachdraidh fhada, chliùteach aig na Gaidheil ann an Albainn Nuaidh. Cha n-eil e ach ceart gu bheil

Consider the Village's preservation and presentation of Scots Gaelic culture, traditions, and language.

For forty years, the Highland Village Society has contributed to the survival and development of the unique Scots-Gaelic culture.

How? Through its museum. Through its buildings. Through its learning sessions and through its candle-light tours. There are the school programs and traditional suppers. There are the music and dance performances on Highland Village Day. I have to add that through its concerts, the Village has encouraged scores of young performers - myself included.

These modern-day Muses of the Nova Scotia Highland Village have rekindled our interest in the Gaelic people and their lives. We are again inspired by their arts, crafts, traditions, music, and in the storytelling.

All these things are vital parts of today's culture. Things that are strongly linked to our past.

The Gaelic-speaking Scots played an important role in Nova Scotia's history after their arrival in the 1700s. They are one of the European-based cultures who influenced strongly our Nova Scotian identity.

We, in turn, are the guardians of Gaelic words and ways.

We have a responsibility to teach young people to understand and speak the language. We have a responsibility to inspire an appreciation of Gaelic culture.

This Gaelic culture is a part of what makes Nova Scotia different from any other place in the world. It is a place where visitors to the province are captivated by the history of the Scots Gaels and their old-world customs. It is a place where they can experience the romance of the music and be fascinated by the remarkable language.

Of course, this tourist interest in Highland ways has a positive impact on our economy. In the past year alone, the number of visitors to Nova Scotia Highland Village has increased by 30 percent.

Our department sees clearly the potential and promise of Nova Scotia Highland Village.

We're committed to working with the Village to preserve the language, to preserve the culture, to preserve the traditions of the Scots Gaels.

We're especially pleased to see Nova Scotia Highland Village developing into a bilingual site where both English and Gaelic are spoken. It's an imaginative concept and one I wholeheartedly support.

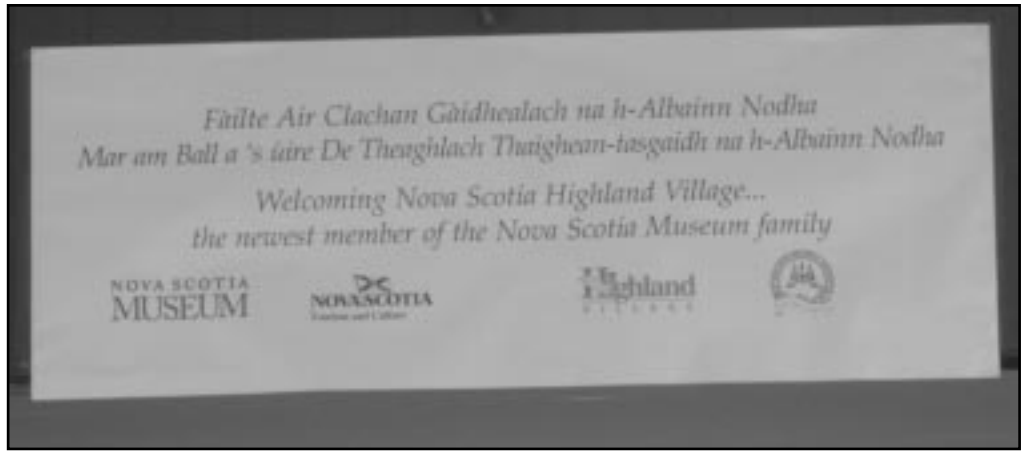
Clearly, our modern-day Muses won't be working in isolation. Nova Scotia Highland Village will now have the benefit of the expertise, the experience, and the perspective of colleagues from all parts of the Nova Scotia Museum.

The Nova Scotia Museum is a decentralized institution with 25 sites spread from Sydney to

community of Cape Breton.

And, in that year, the Board of Governors recommended that Nova Scotia Highland Village become part of the Nova Scotia Museum family. Our government is pleased to accept that recommendation.

Our work with Scots Gaels in Nova Scotia isn't stopping here. Right now staff in our department are working with Gaelic organizations and individuals across the province. They will assess the economic impact of Gaelic tradition, language, and culture. And they will suggest



The Welcome Banner



Official luncheon. Clockwise from bottom: Rev. A. A. Ross, Jim St. Clair, Michelle McKenzie (Deputy Minister), Bruce MacNeil, Rodney Chaisson, Candace Stevenson (NSM Executive Director), Mary Margaret MacLean, and the Hon. Rodney MacDonald.

Yarmouth. It is a museum system that allows a creative response to the heritage needs and interests of specific regions and cultural groups, including the Scots-Gaels of Nova Scotia.

In 1998, the Nova Scotia Museum appointed Gaelic linguist, James Watson as a research associate. In that year, wide-ranging consultation took place between the museum and the people and the heritage

strategies for the future. We look forward to their findings early next year.

We are today building on the vision of the members of the Grand Narrows & District Board of Trade some 40 years ago. They saw the need then to take steps to preserve the Scots-Gaelic culture in Cape Breton.

With forward-thinking vision, they established the Highland Village Society.

The Village continues to be a leader of heritage organizations. A leader in developing library and archive resources. A leader in gathering family history information. And a leader in innovative use of contemporary technology.

Throughout the years, the staff and the board of this society have travelled thousands of miles to serve on provincial and regional boards. They've offered workshops on museology, on genealogy, on the Gaelic language, and on storytelling. Their leadership is to be commended and encouraged.

I would like to commend the present-day staff and boards of Nova Scotia Highland Village and the Nova Scotia Museum. I commend you for your perseverance, diligence and cooperation. Together, your hard work has forged this new union.

And together may you be most successful in researching, in preserving and in presenting this rich history and culture. For Nova Scotians and all our visitors.

As I wrap up my remarks today, I'm reminded of an old story in my home area of Mabou. A story concerning the ancestors of the Rankin Family. A story that says regardless of the sadness or grief or disasters that come to us, there will always be music and dance and laughter.

And so it is here in Iona. Here in the beauty of Iona, I believe the Muses are here to stay and are quite content. Congratulations, Highland Village. Welcome to the Nova Scotia Museum family.





Clockwise from top left:

- Minister MacDonald, Deputy Minister Michelle McKenzie, her children and emcee Jim St.Clair catch a ride to the ceremony.
- Our Gaelic singers for *O Canada* (in Gaelic) from Dwight Ross School in Greenwood, NS and Rankin Memorial School in Iona
- The Boisdale Trio (L-R) Janet Cameron, Joe Peter MacLean and Paul Wukitsch
- Iona Gaelic Singers (L-R) Maxie MacNeil, Rod C. MacNeil, Hector MacNeil, Frances MacEachen and Neil John Gillis.
- The official square set (L-R) NSM Executive Director Candace Stevenson, Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Michelle McKenzie and Cape Breton dancing guru Burton MacIntyre.







Top Left: (L-R) Volunteer Honey MacNeil, former Highland Village President Ellen MacNeil and former staff member Anna MacNeil.

Top Right: (L-R) Joe Peter MacLean of Boisdale and the Hon. Rodney MacDonald play some tunes.

Bottom Right: (L-R) Board member Brian Hussey and Highland Village Genealogist Pauline MacLean take part in a square set at the Evening Ceilidh.

Bottom Left: (L-R) Highland Village President Bruce MacNeil, Hon. Rodney MacDonald and Jim St.Clair lead the delegation touring the Museum near the MacDonald House.





# SUMMER SCRAPBOOK 2000

Our new digital camera got good use this summer, capturing some of the activities and special events that took place at the Highland Village. Here is a selection of images from the summer of 2000.



*Donnie Campbell CD Launch Party, July 2*



*Dancing for our visitors from Alderwood.*



*Jim Watson providing some song in the MacDonald House.*



*A Tall Ships 2000 Participant passing by the Village.*



**Top Left:** Marie Chelvy with Gary Sowerby of the Funky Museum Roadshow.

**Bottom Left:** The Living History program provided children with interesting learning experiences, including going out into the fields with Vicki Quimby to find plants for dyeing wool.



**Top Right:** The Traditional Codfish Suppers would not be possible without a dedicated crew in the canteen and backstage.



**Bottom Right:** Hugh Webb's antique trains were an interesting feature of Pioneer Day on September 9th.







Anne Louise Campbell, one of our summer student interpreters.



Pauline MacLean and the genealogy data entry staff were hard at work all summer.



There were many opportunities for fun during the Living History Program for Children.



The wagon rides were an extremely popular attraction during Pioneer Day on September 9th.



Gary Sowerby and Heather Capstick of the Funky Museum Roadshow enjoying an Iona square set.



Many satisfied (and full) customers at the Codfish Suppers.



Steve MacNeil taking a break with two of our student staff: Michael MacDonald and Leigh Milne.





# HIGHLAND VILLAGE DAY

August 5, 2000

The 39th Annual Highland Village Day was held on August 5, 2000, complete with perfect weather and a wealth of musical talent.

This year's concert was opened by Jim St.Clair and the MCs were the perennial favorite Hector MacKenzie and CBC's Ian MacNeil. Approximately 1900 people attended the afternoon concert and a crowd of 231 enjoyed the music of Celtic Tide from PEI during the evening dance at the Iona Legion.

This year, the **Award of Merit** was given to **Mae Cameron**, in honour of her contributions to musical life on Cape Breton Island, both in Gaelic and English. Mae is well-known for her dedication for well over 70 years as a teacher, choir director and Gaelic soloist. Congratulations go out to her, as well as to the hard-working members of the Entertainment Committee under the guidance of Quentin MacDonald who put together this successful event. For those of you who missed the concert, here are some photos of the day, taken by Cynthia MacNeil of Washabuck.



Vancouver Gaelic Choir



Jimmy and Roseanne MacKenzie



**From Left to Right:**

Rodney Chaisson, Award of Merit recipient Mae Cameron, Beth MacNeil, and Bruce MacNeil.

**Top Left:** Ray Ellis, fiddle; Susan MacLean, piano



**Top Right:** Paul Wukitsch, fiddle; Joe Peter MacLean, fiddle; Gordon MacLean, piano



**Bottom Left:** Joe Rankin, step-dance; Kyle MacNeil, fiddle; Sheumas MacNeil, piano



**Bottom Right:** Celtic Tide





*Aggie MacLennan's feet in motion*



*The Iona Gaelic Singers*



*Tracey Dares MacNeil, piano; Paul MacNeil, bagpipes; Allie Bennett, guitar.*



*The face painter was popular with the younger crowd.*



*Fiona MacGillivray and Ciaran MacGillivray, singers.*



*Anita MacDonald, stepdance; Donnie Campbell, guitar; Ray Ellis, fiddle; Susan MacLean, piano.*



*All tired out!*



## 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

June 10, 2000

On the evening of June 10, 2000, the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society formally celebrated their 40th anniversary with a dinner and dance at the Iona Legion. The Society took this opportunity to honour several members for their special contributions. The **Volunteer of the Year Award** was given to long-time member **Joan Gillis**, and a special "thank you" presentation was made to **Vince MacLean** for his 20 year involvement as producer of the Highland Village Day concerts. Two **Lifetime Achievement Awards** were also given to **Father A.A. Ross**, the sole surviving member of the group who signed the official incorporation charter of the Society in 1959, and to **Rod C. MacNeil** for his continuing involvement since the very early days of the Society. Father Ross, who was unable to be present during this event, was formally presented with his award on June 17. Festivities also included a slide show celebrating the history of the Society. The evening ended with dancing and music provided by Kintyre. Many thanks to all who had a part in making this event a success.



*Rodney Chaisson, Dan E. MacNeil, and Bruce MacNeil with award winners Rod C. MacNeil, Joan Gillis, and Vince MacLean.*



*Enjoying the music!*

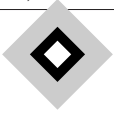


*Enjoying the meal!*



*Rodney Chaisson and Rod C. MacNeil cutting the anniversary cake.*





# ON THE ROAD AGAIN

*Documenting our architectural heritage*

During the summer, a number of historically and architecturally significant buildings were visited by members of the Society and staff. The purpose of these trips was to gather information about buildings and architectural features found in Cape Breton, and to document them using our new digital camera for further reference and research. Sites included: Gault Smith's barn in Hillsborough, built in July, 1927; the MacIver (Murphy) house in Washabuck, built c. 1828; and a turn-of-the-century home in Roseburn that was slated for demolition. A visit was also made to the foundation and remains of the "twin" of the MacDonald House.



*Exterior view of Gault Smith barn, Hillsborough*



*Left: Close-up view of the interior structure of the Gault Smith barn.*

*Right: Gault Smith in conversation with Rod C. MacNeil and Jim St.Clair.*



**Left:** *The exterior of the MacIver House, Washabuck.*

**Right:** *Closeup of the centre chimney structure in the MacIver House.*

## CURATOR'S CORNER

by Charlene Kosick

It's here once again towards the end of a busy season and wonder where the time went. When the gates first open in the spring, you think the summer will never end. There is so much to do and so much to accomplish in such a short time. The time does pass, however, and with it a sense of loss as I reflect on the very many busy days, the not so pleasant days and best of all, the days which were so good you did not want them to end.

### School Tours

Many of the best memories revolve around the days when there are children on site: lots and lots of children! That is the only way to describe the month of June when there are as many as 150 per day. All eager, all curious and all anxious to "hit the hill" after a lengthy bus ride. In orientating children to the site, we try to structure the talk in such a way as to have them relate the past to something they are familiar with in the present. This comparison exercise helps them put the past into perspective and make them more comfortable with the whole experience. After all, they are here primarily to learn and that they can have a good time doing so enhances the learning experience.

I tend to think we underestimate children in their ability to grasp the past. This has never been so apparent to me as when I was visiting with a group of children after their tour. When I posed the question, "What did you learn during your visit?" one young man in grade four told me that he believed people in the "olden" days were much nicer than today. When I asked why, he replied, "I learned that everybody had to work together and

when they did, they sang songs and had lots of fun so it didn't seem like work, nobody does that anymore!" I think that young man learned more in one morning than most of us in a lifetime. Experiences such as these remind me why we, as museum professionals, do what we do.

### Living History Program for Children

Our living history program is also a great learning experience for children. They range in age from eight to fourteen and spend the day on site performing period tasks as well as making their own lunch. We have yet to have a dissatisfied customer which I believe reflects very positively on the level of commitment of our interpretive staff. Many of the children are repeat visitors and I think that is the highest compliment.

I was once asked how I handled the older children who, when they first arrive, did not appear to want to be here. My response is that you very seldom have to handle them. Once they dress in costume and participate in the activities, the attitude disappears and they forget to act



Preparing for the Restoration of the Fordson Tractor.

"cool" in their enjoyment and interest in the program. That is what living history is all about!

### Pioneer Day

Pioneer Day, held on the 9th of September, was a great success. People of all ages spent the day on site enjoying the activities provided. We had horse and wagon rides, a cooper, potter, an antique train display and musical entertainment on the stage.

These added activities along with our regular events, made the day special for all who attended.

Once again, we relied on those dedicated people from the community who kindly shared with our visiting public, their special talents. Without them, the public

would have missed the experience of a milling frolic, music in the parlour of MacIver/Nash House, how land was cleared and how soap was made, as well as a taste of oat cakes cooked on a griddle, apple cider from a press and homemade ice cream the way it used to taste!

Having these special activities only enhanced the talents of our interpretive staff as they performed many of the tasks they do on site on a regular basis. Pioneer Day is always a special day on site and I would like to take this opportunity to thank very sincerely all those who contributed their time and effort to make it so.

### Museum

Every year, we strive to continue with the overall enhancement of the collection as well as introduce new ideas for the enjoyment and learning experience of our visiting public. This year was no exception. The General Store has seen some changes with the revamping of the Post Office and Tailoring Display. We

were able to improve the interpretation by adding more artifacts to the area as well as rearranging what was already present to make it more appealing. The Fordson Tractor is currently undergoing a complete restoration. Consultation with Walter MacNeil, who has shown great interest in the project, and the Henry Ford Museum has enabled us to move forward with improvements to the



Hay rake donated by Janette Grant from Little Narrows.

vehicle. Through these sources, we were also able to come to a decision in regard to historic colors for the tractor. We all look forward to seeing the finished project this fall. The hay rake, donated by Jeannette Grant, has also been refurbished and repainted and is a welcome addition to the vehicles on display in the Farm area.

### New Accessions

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their generous contributions to the collection:

Jeannette Grant-hay rake

Mary MacLeod- hand crank sheep shears

Anne MacLeod in memory of her husband Murray James MacLeod-cranberry picker, spinning wheel, two maps of the clans of Scotland

Lloyd Lewis-window screens for MacIver/Nash House

Everett Moore-Ladies white cotton nightgown circa 1900

Seamus (Jimmy) MacNeil - several books from the late eighteenth hundreds and early nineteenth hundreds, 2 photograph albums with pictures, a stereoscope and a large crock

Wayne Forrester-many artifacts ranging from antique bottles to oil lamps and cash register

This brings to a close my contribution to *Naidheadhd a' Chlachain*. I look forward to sharing more news with you in the next issue.





## GÀIDHLIG

by Jim Watson

Tha mi air a bhi an sàs gu trang am Programme Gàidhlig a' Chlachain am bliadhna eadar teagasg cloinneadh, falbh anull dha 'n Albainn as leth a' Chlachain agus a' cur air dòigh comataidh do chomhlairicheana bhios cuideachadh leis a phrogramm a leasadh 's an tìr ri teachd. Seo agaibh, matà, cunntas air mar chaidh mo chuid làithean an t-samhraidh a chosg aig a' Chlachain.

Aig toiseach an Lùnasdail, bha a' cho-labhairt Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig 2000 'ga cumail thall 's an t-Seann Dùthaich aig Oilthaigh Obar Dheadhainn. B' ann amach air cuspair na Gàidhlig a bha an cruinneachadh seo do luchd-eachdraidh, cànanachan, agus rannsachaidhean ciùil agus beulaithris. Tha mi 'gam àireamh fhéin a bhi gu math fortanach cuireadh fhaighinn bho Roinn na Ceiltis Obar Dheadhainn gus òraid a chuir air adhart ann agus mar a thugadh dhomh biadh 's fagadh fhads a bha mi ann: daoine gasda aoidheil! Aig an aon àm, tha mi gu math fad' an comain luchd-stiùiridh a' Chlachain airson a' chul-taic airgid a chum iad rium air na cosgaisean siubhail a bha an lùib an turas seo. B'e cuspair m' òraid-sa seanachas air eachdraidh luchd-àiteachaidh Gàidhealach an Eilean Cheap Breatainn anns an ochdamh ceud deug.

Mar a tha fhios aig ballrachd Comunn a' Chlachain, tha status

ùr 'ga thoirt air a' Chlachain mar mheur de Thaigh-tasgaidh na h-Albann Ùir. Bha pairt dhe 'n rèiteach seo stéidhichte air chùmhnannt gun dèan An Clachan barrachd gus cùis na Gàidhlig a leasachadh 'na bhroinn agus ann an coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig 's fhar-saingeachd. Tha sùil againn, mathà, ri proiseactan ùra a chuir air adhart 's an ùine ri teachd gus foghlam na Gàidhlig a dhaingeanachadh aig a' Chlachain measg chosnaichean agus anns na crìochan mun cuairt. Mar a' cheud cheum, chaidh roimh-innealachd airson leasachadh na Gàidhlig a riochdachadh airson deasbuidh measg Comataidh-stiùiridh Programme na Gàidhlig a chaidh a thaghadh bho chionn mìos a thìde. Tha sinn an dràsda a' cumail oirnn mar chòmhlann gus clàr-gnìomhachais a chuir air dòigh agus oideachadh na Gàidhlig a thoirt seachad an darna cuid do mhuinntir a' Chlachain agus do mhuinntir na coimhearsnachd ro' àm an earraich.

Chaidh cuideachd Eilean nan Òg. Bha a chumail air làrach a' Chlachain fad cola-deug. Bha an sàs ann am bliadhna trìuir do chaileagan eadar ceithir bliadhna deug agus cóig bliadhna deug a dh' aois. Bha na ban-oileanaich seo drèpeil shuas 's shìos a' bhruthach ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig measg cosnaichean a' Chlachain agus cuide ri beulaichean àraide a thàinig a chéilidh oirnn. Tha sinn ri mìle taing a thoirt dha daoine còire seo a leanas a thug seachad an talun air feadh a' phrogram: Seumas MacNill, Cùl Chalum Chille; Calum MacNill, Highland Hill; Màiri Sine Nic Lao-

main, Gleann Dàil; Eòs Mac'Illeain, Baghasdail agus Cailean Watson, Baile na Ban-rìghinn. Tha sinn an dòchas gun cum iad uile romhpa air gléidheadh cànan 's cultuir nan Gàidheal an Eilean Cheap Breatainn. Fàgaidh mo bheannachd agaibh a' seo le seann abairt a chualas bho chionn ghoirid, "A h-uile là sona dhuibh gun aon là dona dhuibh."

Between working with students, travelling to Scotland and setting up a new Gaelic Advisory Committee, it has been a busy season for the Village's Gaelic Programme. Here is a brief sum up of the activities initiated over the summer months.

At the beginning of August, I travelled to Scotland to read a paper at the University of Aberdeen during the three day conference Gaelic Studies 2000. This first of-its-kind conference dealt specifically with Gaelic studies and attracted linguists, historians, folklorists and ethnologists concerned with the Gaelic context of their disciplines. My own presentation was given in Gaelic and focused on oral accounts of early pioneer stories recorded from Gaelic speaking descendants across Cape Breton Island. I am grateful to the University of Aberdeen Celtic Department for the invitation to attend and the food and accommodations provided during my stay. Mìle taing also to the Highland Village Board for granting the travel expenses which allowed me to make the trip. This was the only paper presented from Cape Breton.

As membership knows, Highland Village now enjoys branch status as a part of Nova Scotia

Museum. It is tacitly understood that this means improving Gaelic programming on site and reaching out to the greater Gaelic community. As a result, we are planning new projects to strengthen Gaelic training at the Village and in other areas of Cape Breton. As a first step, a strategy discussion paper was written and discussed by the newly appointed Gaelic Committee. We are carrying on as a group at present and expect to begin providing Gaelic training on-site and at the community level before spring.

And finally, the Eilean nan Òg program hired three youth apprentices this summer who spent two weeks at the Village learning Gaelic, meeting with tradition bearers and engaging in interpretive activities on site. This year's apprentices were Jenny Bond, Shenacadie; Meagan Rankin, Mabou Harbour and Emily MacKinnon, Ainslie Glen. We are indebted to the tradition bearers: Jimmy MacNeil, St. Columba; Maxie MacNeil, Highland Hill, Mary Jane Lamond, Glendale; Joe Peter MacLean, Boisdale and Jamie MacNeil, Boisdale for their participation. The program is most grateful to Gaeltalk Communications, Queensville, Nova Scotia; John Telfer, Ontario; Mabel McCutcheon, Hamilton, Ontario and Glen Wrightson, The North American Gaelic Society for their financial support and encouragement in bringing this cultural program to young Cape Bretoners. And of course Eilean nan Òg owes a debt of thanks to Nova Scotia Highland Village for its generous provision of on-site resources.

Sin agaibh e!

But a quiet graveyard in Grantville, Richmond County is the final resting place of Isabella MacRae Campbell MacDonald, whose murder in 1840 was recorded in newspapers and court records of the day.

Born in Glenshiel, she was the daughter of the Rev. John MacRae and Madeline (MacRae) MacRae. In 1806, she married John Campbell who had retired in 1804 as a Captain with the Breadaline Fencibles. They took the tack of Duntulm on the MacDonald Estates on Skye. Capt.

John Campbell died, probably in Barbados where he had gone to investigate the opportunities in a new economic venture. There were eight children, the youngest of whom was born shortly after his father's death. Isabella soon after Campbell died married Donald MacDonald against the advice of her family it would seem. With two of her Campbell children and a son by MacDonald, Isabella (and her second husband) came to Cape Breton in 1830 with a group of Skye settlers. While most of this

group came to live in Skye Glen and Margaree, the Campbell-MacDonald family took up a tract of land in Kempt Road, River Inhabitants.

In 1840, while intoxicated, Donald MacDonald apparently caused the death of Isabella while they were returning from Arichat in a small vessel. She had criticized him for drinking too much and he struck her with an oar. Her gravestone in Grantville Cemetery makes no mention of

*continued on page 19*



The Murder of

## ISABELLA MACDONALD

by Jim St. Clair

In recording the lives of early Scottish families in Cape Breton, murder and scandal are rarely mentioned in genealogies.





## FROM THE ARCHIVES

translated by Jim Watson

GAELIC PANEL:  
HIGHLAND VILLAGE

At Iona, Thursday, 13th October, 1955

Tha seachd bliadhna diag on chuala mise iomradh an toiseach air a' Chlachan Ghàidhealach. Aig an àm sin bha e air a thogail an Glaschu an Albainn mar aitreabh de 'n Fhéill Mhór Impireachd Bhreathuinn a bha air chois anns a' bhliadhna sin. Fhads a bha an Fhéill am follais, bha mórán luchd-turuis a' tadhal air a' Chlachan, is chòrd e ris gach duine a chunnaic e. N uair a thàinig an Fhéill gu crìch, leag iad a h-uile leac a bh'anns a' Chlachan is cha chualas guth mu dhéidhinn tuilleadh.

Air an t-seachdamh là de 'n Lùnasdal 's a' bhliadhna naoi ciad diag, dà fhichead 's a trì diag chaidh mi-fhéin is Uilleam Mac an Fhìlidh Mhóir a chéilidh air Prìomhaire na h-Albann Nuaidhe, an Halifax, an sàr Ghàidheal Aonghus Mac Dhòmhnail nach maireann. Thug am Prìomhaire tarruing air a' Chlachan Ghàidhealach is às a' chonaltradh a bh'againn thuirt e ri Uilleam Mac an Fhìlidh Mhóir á Amherst, a sgrìobhadh gu Cailean Mac na Ceardadh, an Glaschu, fear-deilbhe a' Chlachain Ghàidhealaich, a dh'fhoighneachd air son dealbhan a' Chlachain, is am modh-togalach a bh'air.

Fhuair Uilleam na dealbhan air an snaidheadh gu grinn air a' phàipear gorm is chaidh na dealbhan sin a shealltuinn do bhuill Comunn nan Comunn Albannach an Glaschu Ùr, air an treas là de 'n t-Samhuinn 's a' bhliadhna naoi ciad diag, dà fhichead 's a ceithir diag. Thuirt buill a' Chomuinn an là sin gum bu chòir dhomh fhéin is do Uilleam barrachd rannsachaidh a dhèanamh mu 'n chùis. Rinn sinn sin air an aona là diag de 'n Fhaoilteach aig toiseach na bliadhna so nuair a thug sinn leth-bhreac de dhealbhan a' Chlachain do Phrìomhaire Hicks, An Còirnealair MacCoinnich, is am Fear-ònoireach Dauphinee, Ministear na Malairt is a' Ghìomhachais.

N uair a dh'fhosgail Tigh na Pàrlamaide, an Halifax, chaidh iomairt a' Chlachain Ghàidhealaich a chur fo chomhair an Luchd-Riaghlaidh leis

an Dotair Mac ille-Mhaoil, Baddeck; an Dotair Langille á Siorramachd Chumberland, is Stiùbhart Mac na Coise Pròiseil á Pictou. Rinn Stiùbhart dhraid a bha comasach air cuspair a' Chlachain Ghàidhealaich an Tigh na Pàrlamaide, air Là Féill Fhàidh.

Ged nach robh Comunn nan Comunn Albannach ag ràdh smid fad na h-ùine so, cha robh iad uile 'nan tàmh. Chaidh am Breitheamh Alasdair Mac Fhionghuin á Antigonish gu gnìomh is chuir e ri chéile gu h-eagnuidh gearr-chunntas air iomairt na Gàidhlig is a' Chlachain Ghàidhealaich an Albainn Nuaidh. Chaidh an gearr-chunntas so a chur fo chomhair Prìomhaire na Mór-Roinn is Ministearan na Pàrlamaide an Halifax, air an treas là de 'n Mhàigh 's a' bhliadhna so fhéin.

Fad mìosan an t-Samhraidh so, chaidh litrichean - air an sgrìobhadh an deagh Ghàidhlig - a sheòladh chugam-sa o na daoine a leanas a tha a' tàmh an Ì, no an Seantraigh, mar a their cuid: Niall MacNéill, Frannsaidh MacNéill, Calum MacNéill, Stephan Ruairidh MacNéill, Uilleam MacCormaig is Eachaunn MacNéill. Fhuair mi cuideachd litrichean on Legion Chainéideanach an Ì is o bhuill Comunn na Dachaidh is na Sgoile anns a' chèarnaidh sin. Bha gach litir dhiubh sin a' roghnachadh gu dùrachdach gum biodh an Clachan Gàidhealach air a thogail an Ì, no an àiteigin faisg air Ì.

Air a' chòigeamh là diag de 'n t-Sultuin chuireadh litir do gach Comunn Albannach an Albainn Nuadh ag iarraidh orra àite freagarach a thaghadh air son a' Chlachain Ghàidhealaich. Fhuair mi cuid de na freagairtean sin air ais. Théid na freagairtean sin fo chomhair Comhairle a' Chlachain Ghàidhealaich, Comhairle a chaidh a thaghadh o chionn seachduine no dhà. So agaih Buill na Comhairleach sin: An t-Ùr. Dòmhnall A. MacFhionghuin á Pictou; Uilleam Mac an Fhìlidh Mhóir á Amherst; Steabhan MacFhionghuin á Antigonish, Iain Ruairidh Mac Dhòmhnail á Sidni, is mi-fhéin mar fhear-cathrach, (gun chomas taghaidh).

Sin agaibh, matà, a chàirdean, cunntas air eachdraidh a' Chlachain Ghàidhealaich an Albainn Nuaidh cho fad 's is fiosrach mise.

ANSWERS:

(1) Chòrd an gearr-chunntas ri Ministearan na Pàrlamaide gu ro-mhath. Thug fear ma seach dhiùbh a bheachd seachd air a' Chlachan

Ghàidhealach ach dh'aontaich gach mac-màthar dhiùbh nach gabhadh an Luch-Riaghlaidh cuid no gnothach ri àite a thaghadh air son a' Chlachain Ghàidhealaich is cha tug iad barrantas sam bith seachd gum faigheadh sinn cuideachadh-airgid on Luchd-Riaghlaidh.

(2) Thuirt an gearr-chunntas gum biodh e iomchuidh an Clachan Gàidhealach a bhì air a shuidheachadh an àite far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig fhathast am bilean an t-sluaigh, àite far a bheil Gàidheil a' tuineachadh is far a bheil iad comasach air ceòl Gàidhealach is Dannsaichean Gàidhealach a dhèanamh. Thuirt an gearr-chunntas cuideachd gum bu chòr do n fhearann mun cuairt a' Chlachain Ghàidhealaich a bhì 'na chruth 's 'na chumadh mar mhac-shamhail do'n tìr às an tàinig na Gàidheil o thùs.

It's seventeen years since I first heard mention of Highland Village. At the time it was built as a replica in Glasgow, Scotland at the British Empire Exhibition that was on at the time. While the exhibition was open, many tourists visited the Village and all liked it. At the end of the exhibition, every stone of the Village was torn down and nothing was ever heard of it again.

On the seventh of August 1953 William Fillmore and I visited the late, outstanding Gael Angus L. MacDonald in Halifax. The premier raised the subject of Highland Village and during our chat he told William Fillmore of Amherst to contact the Highland Village photographer, Colin Sinclair, in Glasgow and to inquire about photos for the Village and the method used to build it.

William received the pictures neatly etched on blue paper and they were shown to members of the Nova Scotia Association of Scottish Societies in New Glasgow on the third of October, 1954. The members responded saying that William and I should make further inquiry on the matter. We did this at the first of this year, on January eleventh, when we gave copies of the Highland Village photographs to Premier Hicks, Colonel MacKenzie and the Honourable Member Dauphne, Minister of Trade and Industry.

When the House convened in Halifax, the Highland Village enterprise was brought before MLAs by Dr. MacMillan, Baddeck; Doctor Langille, Cumberland; and Stewart Proudfoote, Pictou. On St. Patrick's Day, Stewart gave an able speech to

Assembly on the matter of Highland Village.

Although there was absolutely no comment from the Nova Scotia Association of Scottish Societies during the time, they weren't all idle. Judge Alexander MacDonald, Antigonish, got to work and put together a summary on the Gaelic initiative and Highland Village. This account was presented to the Premier and Cabinet in Halifax on the third of this year.

Throughout the summer months letters, written in excellent Gaelic, were sent to me from the following people residing in Iona, or Sandray as some would say: Neil MacNeil, Frances MacNeil, Malcolm MacNeil, Steven Rory MacNeil, William McCormick and Hector MacNeil. I also received letters from Iona written by the Canadian Legion and the Home and School Association. Each of these letters sincerely expressed the wish that Highland Village be built in Iona or nearby.

On the fifteenth of September, a letter was sent to every Scottish society in Nova Scotia, requesting them to recommend a suitable site for Highland Village. I received some responses in return. These responses will be presented to the Highland Village Committee which was established a week or two ago. The committee members are: Reverend Donald A. MacKinnon, Pictou; William Fillmore, Amherst; Stephen MacKinnon, Antigonish; John Rory MacDonald, Sydney; and myself as chairman with a vote. And that, friends, is an account of Highland Village's history in Nova Scotia, to the best of my knowledge.

ANSWERS:

(1) The summary was well received by Cabinet. They individually commented on Highland Village, but all agreed that government wouldn't take part in site selection and there was no assurance we would get financial assistance.

(2) The summary stated that it would be appropriate for the Village to be situated in an area where Gaelic remains spoken by the people; a place that was settled by Gaels and where they have a capacity for Gaelic music and dance. The summary also said that the surrounding countryside should resemble the land from which the Gaels first came.



# THE MICRO-FILM REEL

by Pauline MacLean

Genealogy in the Roots Cape Breton office has taken a new twist this year. We have told you about (in the last issue) the Enhancement Project and the data entry taking place. What the description doesn't tell you is the life and movement injected into the office and the people we are researching.

Data entry is ongoing seven days a week. We have had nine and currently 7 persons working shifts in the office. It makes for close quarters but an enjoyable atmosphere for learning about Cape Breton. We are seeing patterns emerge from various records such as names common to an area,

learning to read various types of handwriting, and, from the school records, finding special interest items within the pages of the registers.

One such item is a page of recitations or entries for autograph books. Once upon a time the autograph book was an important item for the last day of school. I remember going from friend to friend getting them to sign my book. Even the "big kids" would sign a book. Here is an example from that collection:

*Remembrance is a silken cord  
Which binds two hearts together.  
If you do not cut that cord  
We will be friends forever.*

Also in the school records for the early 1900's was a section in the end of the register recording nature observations. Some of the observations listed for 1913 in Glace Bay are:

*the first snow flew in the air on  
September 3rd and covered the  
ground on Nov. 3rd. The mayflower  
open on April 11, violets on May 11,*

*Dandelion on May 19, buttercups on  
June 3, Daisies on June 24. Plowing  
and planting started in April on the  
22 and 23rd.*

Various emotions are also evident when working with certain records. The first record we tackled was the deaths for Cape Breton. It had causes of death both familiar and new to us, villieuse, intemperance, killed by a barn falling on her, cancer, disease of the heart, gravel.

By far the hardest thing to deal with was the recording of deaths of children. There are 2900 deaths of infants and children recorded between 1864 and 1877. Some times you could see the effects of diphtheria or flu on a family with deaths of children, mother or father recorded within days or weeks of each other. Everyone was glad to see that section finished. We moved on to births to cheer ourselves up.

So each type of record we are working with will hold its own secrets. Our job will be to find

them and tell the stories of the people found there.

On another front I have received several family histories this year. Among them are "MacIntoshes of West Bay", "Descendants of Christina MacLeod of Skye", information on Glendale, River Denys Mountain, Judique and areas from Allan Gillis in Ontario, Bezansons, two letters sent to and from Middle River, MacLean information from Pictou with ties to parts of Cape Breton, the "Devoe/deVaux Family History", "Drummer on Foot" and the new book of the genealogy of the Mark Crowdis family of Margaree. Also we have received a scrap book of information on Cpt. John P. MacNeil and Maj. Gordon MacNeil, both winners of the Military Cross. All these add greatly to our collection and our understanding of life in Cape Breton. Our thanks go to the researchers for their many hours of work and the willingness to share their efforts.

## The Murder of Isabella MacDonald

continued from page 17

but states she was the daughter of Rev. John McRae of Kintail, Scotland and the widow of Capt. John Campbell of Duntulm, Isle of Skye. The newspapers of the day report the trial of Donald MacDonald, however, and speak also of Isabella's connections in Scotland.

One of the children by Campbell, Charles James, who came to

Cape Breton with his mother and stepfather and half-brother came to be one of the wealthiest men in Cape Breton in the 1800s. A merchant and shipbuilder, he was the owner of the coal mine at New Campbellton (a community named for him). His face is incised in the stone building in Baddeck. He called his property in Baddeck "Duntulm" after the tack house in Skye where his parents lived.

The other Campbell brother who came with his mother in 1830, Lauchlin MacKinnon

Campbell, returned in his twenties to Scotland and studied for Presbyterian ministry. Eventually, he came to be minister to a large Gaelic-speaking congregation in Tasmania. The church is called Campbell Presbyterian Church in his honour.

Another son of Isabella, Colin Nicol Campbell, came to be a prominent and wealthy rancher in New Zealand. One of Isabella's daughters, also named Isabella, came to Cape Breton on her brother Charles James Campbell's vessel Breadalbane in 1848, eight years after her

mother's death. She married Donald John MacNeill, a merchant and farmer of Westmount, Cape Breton.

The other children of Isabella and John Campbell remained in Scotland. But the story of their mother's violent death certainly was transmitted to them. A quiet graveyard in rural Cape Breton is the location of the burial site of a Scottish immigrant who was the object of considerable scandal and the mother of people who were influential in locations around the world.

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