

Naidheachd a' Chlachain

Nova Scotia Highland Village Society

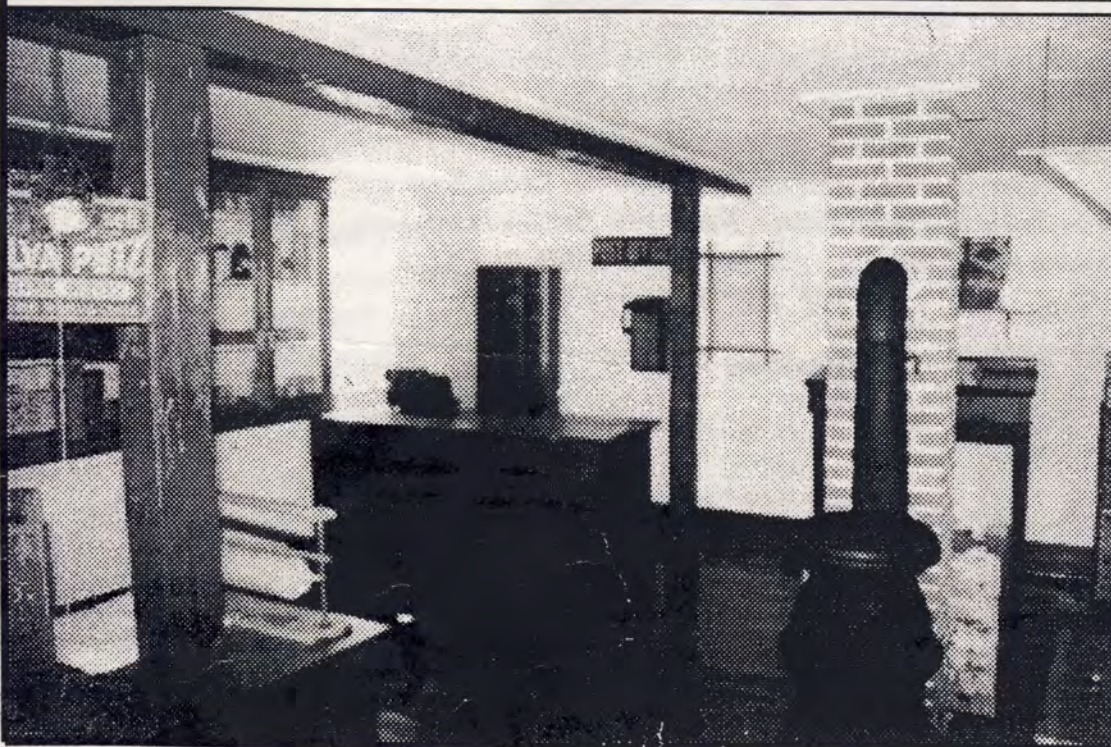
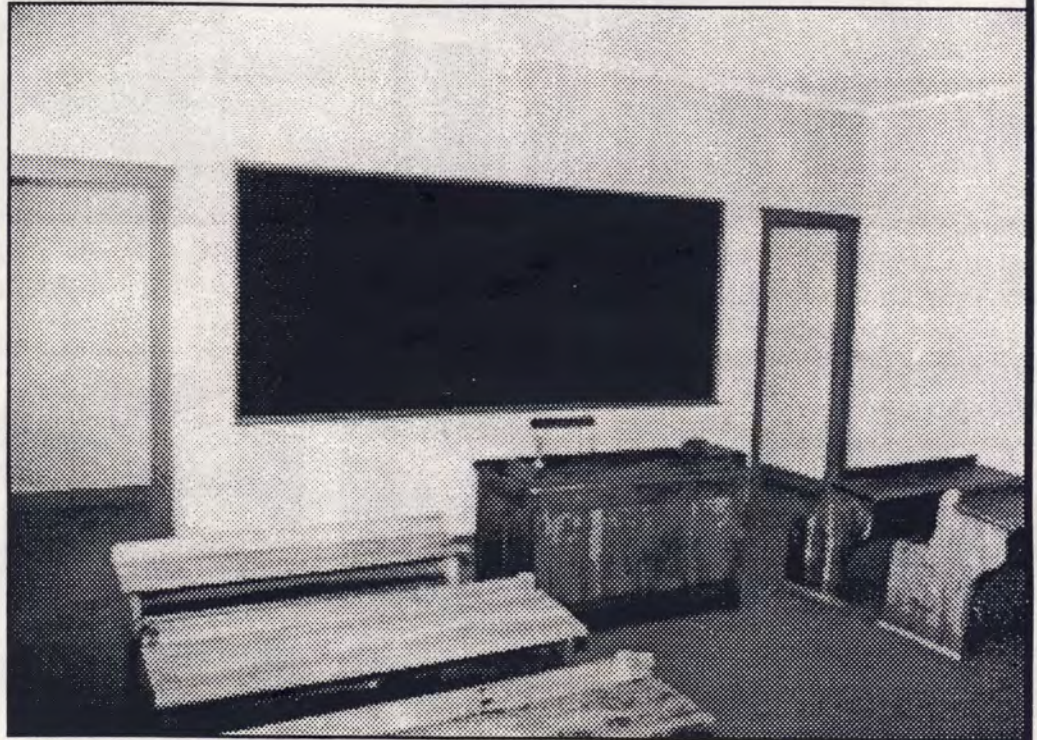
(The Village News)

Summer 1994

Special 35th Anniversary Edition

Nova Scotia
Highland Village

35 Years
1959-1994



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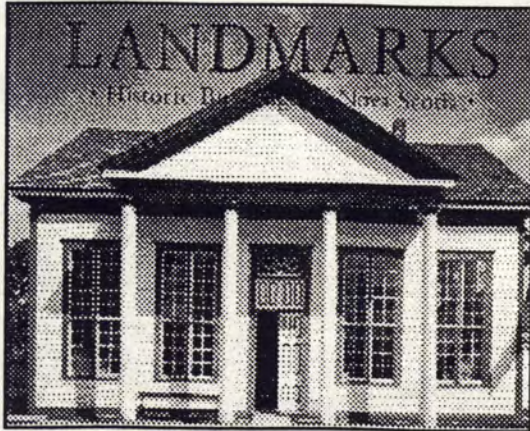
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Naidheachd a' Chlachain
(The Village News)
is published bi-annually by the
Nova Scotia Highland Village Society,
P.O. Box 58, Iona, NS, B0A 1L0
Date of Publication - June 20, 1994

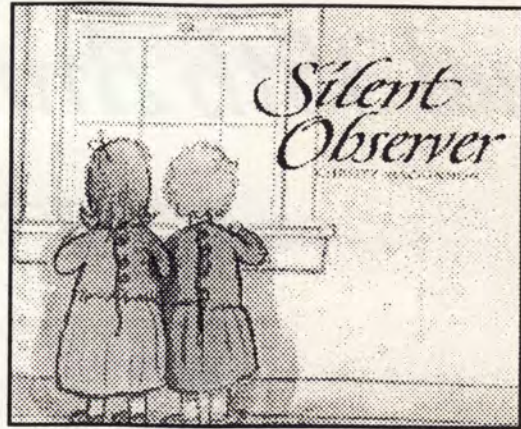


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*We are more than just a museum shop.
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by Elizabeth Pacey & Alvin Comiter
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Silent Observer
by Christy MacKinnon
\$17.95



New Releases

Rawlins Cross

Reel 'n' Roll

Eagle Feather

\$12.95

Cassette

\$21.95

Compact Disc



New Releases

*Stan Rogers
Home in Halifax*

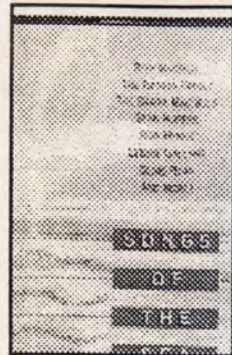
Songs of the Sea

\$12.95

Cassette

\$21.95

Compact Disc



Our Gift Shop offers the best of:

Traditional music from Cape Breton, the Maritimes, Scotland and Ireland

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*Looking for Music
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The Traditional
Album*



Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends:

Congratulations. The Nova Scotia Highland Village is 35 years old today. You deserve much credit for your effort and support.

Over the years many people and organizations have assisted the Society. There are too many to thank. However, some who deserve special mention are the original incorporators; Major C.I.N. MacLeod, Hugh F. MacKenzie, Rev. A.A. Ross, Earl MacInnis, William L. McCormack, Rev. A.D. MacKinnon and Stephen J. MacKinnon; the Grand Narrows and District Board of Trade, the many donors, the hundreds of volunteers and our staff, past and present.

As for the future, there are problems such as funding to be dealt with, but there are opportunities, such as increased craft production on site, Highland Roots, new relationships with the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts in St. Ann's, the University College of Cape Breton and others. Our new farm and textile programs will enhance our presentation. Increased visitation is expected as a result of the Barra Strait Bridge and the newly designated Bras d'Or Lakes Scenic Drive.

With the continued support of our volunteers, our staff, and our community, the Nova Scotia Highland Village can look forward to many more great years.

Bruce MacNeil,
President, NSHVS

From the Manager's Desk

Dear Members:

Happy 35th!!!!

35 years ago today, on June 20, 1959, seven men signed an incorporation charter sealing a vision for a reconstructed Scottish Pioneer village. The Society's success over the past 35 years has happened as a result of the drive and determination of so many volunteers.

Congratulations to everyone that has ever been a part of the Highland Village. You have made it what it is today. You truly have something of which to be proud.

It is hard to believe that one year has passed since I began here as Manager. Thinking back over the past twelve months, I can honestly say that I have enjoyed the experience. I look forward to more challenges in the future.

Much has taken place since last June. I will briefly touch on our highlights. 1993 saw a successful summer season. Overall, our attendance was up over 20% from 1992, and our attendance revenues up 42%. General Sales (Gift Shop, Canteen and General Store) were up by 7%. The net profit from our Codfish suppers increased by 10%. Highland Village Day also saw revenues increase by over 70% from 1992.

In addition to our concerts and community suppers, programming also included: A "seanchas" session took place upstairs in the MacQuarrie-Fox. Staff performed Gaelic songs on stage on Highland Village Day. Pioneer Day again saw many traditional activities throughout the site. In the fall we hosted a Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage training session on Oral History. In February, we sponsored our annual variety concert. As well, the spring saw Hector's Roast in Sydney as well as our Open House and Dedication.

At the open house we dedicated the kitchen in the MacQuarrie-Fox House to Sadie (Sarah) and Mungie (Margaret) MacNeil.

The highlight of the year by far was our winter Human Resources/Infrastructure Development Program which was funded by cooperatively between the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and the Canada Employment & Immigration Commission (CEIC). This project, saw \$150,000 invested in the Highland Village infrastructure.

I want to thank a few people; First of all I want to thank our President, Bruce for many hours to see that things were done just right; the Executive Committee- Bruce, Walter, Donald, Richard and Jim for working so closely with me over the past year as I settled in. I want to thank the Board of Directors and Membership for their support. To the staff for their patience and support as I assumed my new responsibilities. They had to adjust to me and I had to adjust to them. I think that we have a great team here - both staff and volunteer. I see much potential for the Highland Village just based on its human resources. Lastly, I want to thank the community for their encouragement and support. It's great to run a community organization with the community support that the Highland Village has. It's second to none in Nova Scotia. Congratulations to you all.

Finally, I want to welcome you to the new format for "Naidheachd A' Chlachain" (*The Village News*) our revised newsletter. I hope you like the new style. For now I intend to publish it twice a year (Spring & Fall). If you have any comments or submissions, please pass them along. It's *your* newsletter.

Tapadh leat.

Rodney Chaisson,
Manager, NSHVS

Nova Scotia Highland Village Celebrates 35 Years

1994 marks the 35th anniversary of the Nova Scotia Highland Village. On June 20, 1959, seven men; Major C.I.N. MacLeod, Rev. A.A. Ross, Earl MacInnis, William L. McCormack, Rev. A.D. MacKinnon, and Stephen J. MacKinnon came together in Iona to sign the incorporation charter.

The idea of the Highland Village dates back to 1938. At the British Empire Exhibition held that year in Glasgow, Scotland, one of the most interesting exhibits was a reconstructed Highland Village or Clachan which illustrated the lifestyle of the Highland Scot of a bygone era. Among those attending the Exhibition were a number of prominent Nova Scotians, most notably Premier Angus L MacDonal. He and his companions felt that a similar Village should be created in Nova Scotia as a testimony to the many Scottish pioneers who settled here.

Unfortunately, World War II was soon underway and the project was shelved. The idea, however, did not die and in the early 1950's the Association of Scottish Societies (a Province-wide organization) initiated serious discussions with Premier MacDonal and his Cabinet. In May of 1955, in a brief presented to the Provincial Government by this Association, one of the major projects recommended was the building of a Highland Village somewhere in the Province. The Association furthermore suggested that a committee (drawn from their membership) be selected to choose the site of the Village. This committee was formed and subsequently reviewed a large number of locations.

In March, 1956, Hector's Point, Iona was chosen by the committee as the preferred site of the proposed Highland Village. Representatives of the local Grand Narrows and District Board of Trade, who had submitted the Iona proposal, now had to get busy. Their first task was to obtain quit-



Early Highland Village Day

claim deeds to the property at Hector's Point, land belonging to Stephen Urban MacNeil. This alone took almost two years. While the local Iona group was doing this, the Association worked actively in seeking funding for the project from both the Provincial and Federal Governments. Unfortunately no Government support was forthcoming and the Association of Scottish Societies began to lose interest in the project and eventually disbanded some years later.

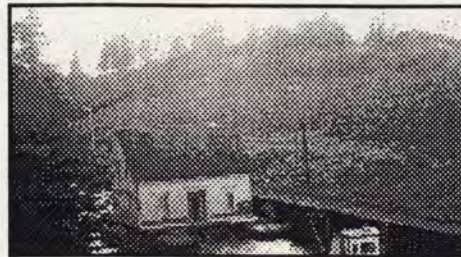
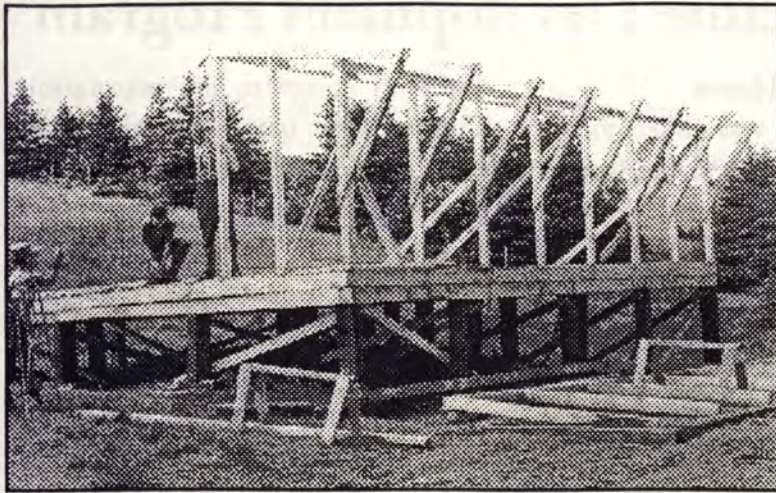
After witnessing the lack of success on the part of the Association, the local Iona group realized that, if the Highland Village was to become a reality, they themselves had to act. Therefore, with the Association's blessing, in November 1959 they became incorporated under the Societies Act, as the Nova Scotia Highland Village.

Over the next six years this group continued its efforts to obtain Government funding while assembling various building plans and attempting to start some modest construction on the site. In order to draw attention to the project and raise some money, an outdoor Scottish concert was held on the First Saturday of August, 1962. The Event was called Highland Village Day and took place on an outdoor

stage built with volunteer labour. The concert proved to be a great success and quickly became an annual event. That same summer, again with volunteer labour, a log house was erected and stocked with artifacts collected locally. This became the first museum building and the following summer a curator, Stephen Rory MacNeil, was hired. A few years later, in 1966, a larger museum was built and a small operating grant was obtained from the Province.

As these events were unfolding, the concept of what the completed Village should look like was changing. A majority of the members felt that there should be more to the lay-out than several buildings depicting life in Scotland, and that at least half of the Village should be devoted to the experiences of the Highland settler in Nova Scotia. This concept has evolved until today, where most of the Village portrays the early years of the Scot in Nova Scotia.

(Amended from the Highland Village Day (1962-1986) anniversary booklet.)



Highland Village Photo Album

Above (clockwise) - Construction of Stage, Construction of Blackhouse, First Pioneer Day, MacQuarrie-Fox House is St. Peter's Canal, Early Museum Building
Below (clockwise) - Cooking the Codfish, Barra MacNeils in 1900's House Parlour, Jim & the Rankins, and School and Forge.



Human Resources\Infrastructure Development Program

The highlight of this past year was our winter Human Resources/Infrastructure Development Program which was funded cooperatively between the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and the Canada Employment & Immigration Commission (CEIC). This project, announced by Francis LeBlanc, MP for Cape Breton Highlands-Canso, in January, saw a \$150,000 investment in the Nova Scotia Highland Village. About two-thirds of that money was invested into the infrastructure of the Village - i.e. museum buildings, museum artifacts, Highland Roots and administration. The remainder took care of the wage costs required to implement these capital improvements.

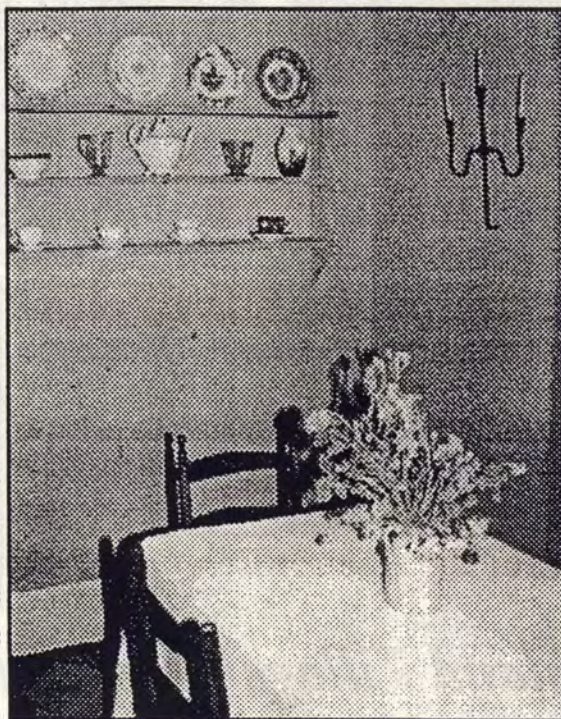
The following is a description of the work completed:

MacQuarrie/Fox

Historic colors on the walls, stain and varnish on the floors, and reupholstering and restoration of artifacts were completed as well as period reproduction doors, chairs for the kitchen (modeled after a slat back chair donated by the Fox Family), railing for the staircase and the restoration of a stove for the parlour at Lunenburg Foundry. The choice was made to purchase the curtains for the house rather than have them made. The curtains are very similar to those advertised in "The Robert Simpson Company" catalogue for Spring and Summer 1900.

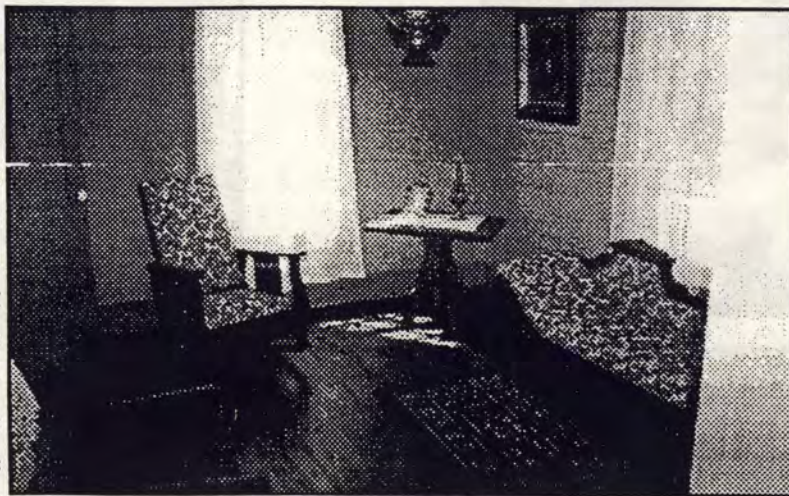
1830's House

A partition was added to the parlour of the home and the former downstairs bedroom became the din-



MacDonald House Dining Room

ing room. Historic colors were used in the entire downstairs area. Many of the furnishings were restored and



MacQuarrie-Fox Parlour

four rush seat chairs were purchased for the dining room. We also commissioned seven period reproduction

doors to complete the restoration. This summer our Blacksmith, John MacDonald, will forge the necessary hardware to hang the doors.

Store

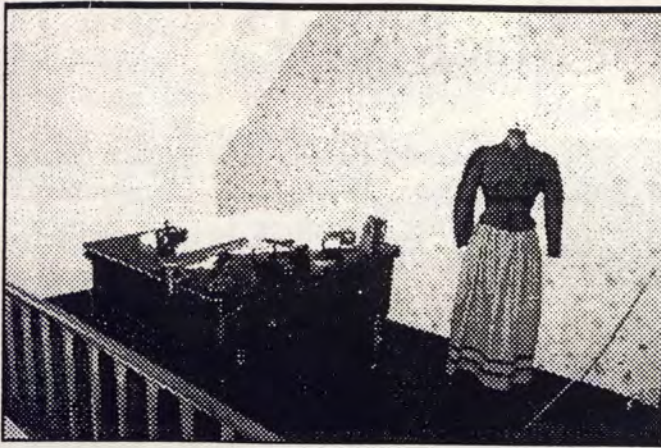
The General Store displays the most obvious changes. Structurally we have added insulation and pine boarding, wired the building for electricity and commissioned a new flue. Medicine cabinets, new shelving and countertops now provide a safe environment for artifacts. We also added a post office and painted the interior with historical colors. The second floor has also been renovated and it is intended that this area will be used for heated storage during the off season.

School House

The entire floor plan of this building has been changed. Upon entering, you will notice that we have added a partition and provided entrances for boys and girls at each end. The desks now face the partition with the teacher's desk and blackboard on the backside of the partition. Historical colors were also used on the interior.

1900's House

The downstairs area, excluding the kitchen, received new tongue and groove spruce floors which were stained and varnished. The kitchen did have its ceiling pine boarded. New wallpaper in the parlour, dining room, upstairs landing and bedrooms were chosen and applied. The paper closely matched that which was advertised in several turn of the cen-



Upstairs of 1900's House

ture catalogues. The furniture was restored and reupholstered and new curtains purchased.

Reception Building

New carpeting and flooring were installed in most areas of the building. All offices, reception area,

boardroom, gift shop, & museum space were painted. A new reception desk was built. The floor outside the boardroom, adjacent to the reception area was raised



MacQuarrie-Fox Dining Room

and a railing installed. Cabinets in the Boardroom were adjusted and a new countertop and sink installed. New walls were constructed in the loft areas.

Forestry

Wooded areas were thinned and cut for farm program and for future development.

Technology

Our computerization jumped forward 5 years under this project. A Novell network allows our new and

existing terminals to share information and communicate with each other. Two new 486DX-66 workstations and a Power Macintosh 7100/66 will add to our efficiency and production. The Power Mac, a Microtek ScanMaker IIXE colour scanner allow us to produce in house publication such as our newsletter. An

Okidata OL850 laser printer also adds to our technology enhancement.

In addition, our software has also been updated. Lineage our

Highland Roots software is being updated to better handle the requests for Genealogical information and charts from the Geneal public. As well updated programs such as Widows, WordPerfect, Quattro Pro, Q & A, Quark XPress and Adobe Photoshop allow better information flow and control.

Not only are we linked internally, we soon will be linked to the outside world. New modems will allow us to hook into the Internet, U.C.C.B., and networks and databases around the world.

Library

Under this program the library/archives facility was organized. Library books and files have been catalogued and placed on a data-base system for easy access. The books, periodicals and historical files will be accessible to staff and Society members through this office.

Research

Background research was completed for our proposed interpretive signage program. The research focused on the natural history aspect of the Highland Village Site and the Bras d'Or Lakes.

Thank yous.

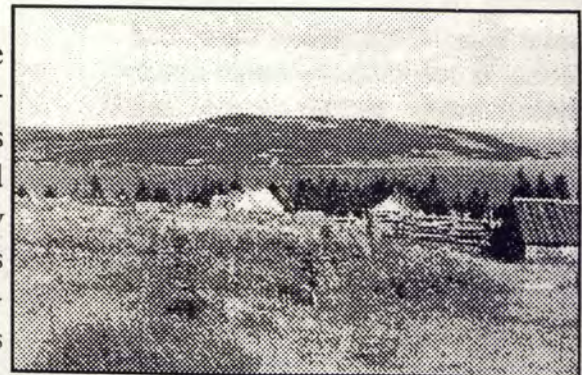
There were many people responsible for the success of this project: Walter who chaired the Site Development Committee, the Committee itself; Maxie, Michael



MacLeod's General Store

Dan, Donald, Tim & Helena, our staff; Charlene, Timmy & Pauline, and our grant staff; David Murphy, Mary Lorraine Farrell, Janice Burke, Debra MacNeil, Patricia MacNeil, Bernadette MacDonald, Tom Playford, Allan MacSween, Bobby Matheson, Stevie Bonaparte, Ernie Arsenaault, Carlie MacKenzie, and Bill Luker.

If you have not already been around the site. We encourage you to do so. You will be pleased with the improvements.



Cleared field for farm program.

A Roast in Honor of Hector MacKenzie

By Mary Leigh MacNeil

On Saturday April 30, 1994 family and friends of Hector MacKenzie gathered at the Bi-Centennial Gym in Sydney to honour him at a Roast sponsored by the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society. The Roast was held in appreciation of Hector's contributions to Scottish and Cape Breton culture, especially the Highland Village over the years. Hector is probably best known for his fiddle playing and dry wit. He has been M.C. for Celtic concerts from Halifax to East Bay and is a favorite M.C. for the annual Highland Village Day Concert. Hector, a confirmed bachelor, and carpenter by trade is also a talented singer and song writer and brother of accomplished fiddler "Carl Who(?)" MacKenzie and Charlie MacKenzie, former *Singalong Jubilee* singer.

Dennis Ryan was M.C. for the evening and got his chance to roast Hector as well. Other Roasters included Ray "Mac" MacDonald of CJFX Radio, Antigonish; Francis MacDonald of Inverness; Mary Margaret (*Princess Margaret*) MacLean, from Whycomogagh; Hector L. MacKenzie of Saltsprings, Pictou County, President of Clan MacKenzie; Daniel Rankin of Mabou; and followed by Special Remarks by Archie Neil Chisolm.

Mary Margaret MacLean had a special treat, a very *early* recording of Hector's rendition of a Gaelic song, singing one verse and the chorus over and over seven times. Almost every roaster mentioned Hector's early ambitions of becoming a priest. As a youngster, he could often be found preaching sermons to his classmates or hearing confessions in the closet.

Before it was over, Hector got his chance to redeem himself and



"roast the roasters". He thanked everyone for coming, including Ray Mac and his lovely wife Mary Mac. Ray sure is glad Mary Mac's father made Mary Mac marry him. He also apologized for his own wife not being there, as she was "away on her March Break" and wouldn't be back until Highland Village Day, or Christmas Day, whatever comes first.

Hector was presented with numerous awards on behalf of St.

Columba Parish; Holy Rosary Altar Society; Washabuck Community Centre; Grandona Legion Branch 124; Clan MacKenzie; Clan MacNeil; Cape Breton Fiddlers Association; Christmas Island Fire Department; An Tulloch Gorum Society; St. Vincent de Paul Society, Sydney Mines; Scottish Societies Association of Nova Scotia, Baddeck Highland Gaelic Society; Premier John Savage, and the MLA Ken MacAskill. Bruce MacNeil, President of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society presented Hector with a special Award of Merit on behalf of the Society.

Entertainment was provided by Carl MacKenzie, Donnie Campbell, Hilda Chiasson, Dave MacIsaac, Paul K. MacNeil, Jamie MacInnis and Allan MacKenzie. There was also special performances by the Barra MacNeils, the Washabuck Connection and Ronald MacDonald of Washabuck performing the infamous *Bear Dance*.

From our Photo Archives

Can you date this picture?



Curator's Corner

Hello again! These past months have been busy at the Highland Village and there have been many changes as a result.

The Human Resources Infrastructure Program which we were lucky enough to receive this winter enabled us to restore and reupholster many of our artifacts as well as five of the historic buildings which house them. Historic colors brought the rooms to life and provide a more authentic background for the collection. Everyone appears pleased with the changes and we have received many complements.

School tours are up by approximately 150 students. One school, West Kent School of P.E.I. made their third annual visit to the Highland Village this year. We seem to have become popular with schools from off the Island and we hope the trend continues.

"Quilts of The Island", under will once again be adorning the walls of our Museum. Avril and I discussed "showing off" some of the quilts in our period buildings when she was here in April. Those members of the society wishing to display their work during the show should please contact me as soon as possible

Two programs, Farm and Textile have been created this year with the help of ECBC. We are hoping that they will enhance the period presentation on site and provide us with products we may use to the advantage of the museum.

*Beannachd leat,
Charlene Kosick*

Gàidhlig

In review of Gaelic skills development for the 1993 season, tutorials over a ten week period were concentrated on streamlining instruction for staff members in relation to their individual workplace. As well, Gaelic singing and story telling become a structured compo-

nent of daily activity among the buildings; with a regularly scheduled focus on Gaelic song sessions in MacLeod's Store. Guides were also provided with representative anecdotes and historical information on Gaelic culture and material life for the purpose of routine inclusion in their verbal presentations to visitors.

Highland Village also played host to a successful recording session of Gaelic speaking informants from Inverness County and the Iona area who provided our resource archives with more than two hours of Gaelic songs, stories and historical reminiscences. In addition, a number of visiting Aberdeen University Celtic Department students, under the direction of Dr. James Grant, spent two days on site (along with Boisdale fiddle player Joe Peter MacLean) participating in Gaelic song sessions and playing Scottish music to the entertainment of appreciative visitors. The students enthusiasm for the Cape Breton Gaelic community has led to plans for many of them to return this year. Dr. Grant has been conducting a comparative Gaelic dialect survey in the Iona Peninsula and on the North Shore over the past two summers.

Jim Watson

From Mac-Talla

Chaidh fear Seamus Smith a thacadh ann St. John, N. B. air an là roimhe 's e 'g ithe orainse. (Man chokes to death on orange.)

Mharbh Ailean Mac Leòid, aig an International Pier, muc an là roimhe, aois trì mìosan deug gu leth, agus thomhais i ceithir cheud 's a trì fichead us seachd puinnnd deug. (Giant pig butchered, 760 pounds.)

Chaidh pàirt de luchd-soithich de stuth làidir 's de thombaca a ghlacadh ann an Cheticamp toiseach na seachdain. Thàining e á St. Pierre, agus chaidh e chuir air tìr gun e dol an còir taigh- cuspainn. Chaidh fiach sia ceud dolar a ghlacadh, agus tha pàirt de 'n luchd nach d'fhuaireadh fhathast. Tha móran de 'n obair seo a'dol air adhart. (Smuggled tobacco and alcohol seized in Cheticamp.)

Our Roots- Past and Present

From the past

Several letters from Cape Breton to Lismore, Scotland are in our possession. Here is an excerpt from one of those letters.

North Mountain, August 24, 1849

Dear Brother,

Your letter came to _____ some time ago dated May the 19 which gives us the greatest satisfaction and we are happy to learn that you are well and enjoying good health I am long(ing) for you concerning your departed Infint but nothing is impossible for the Great Almighty O that we could say what those(?) of old did, its the Lord that gives and the Lord that takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord

Sincere Brother you made mention in your letter of Immigrating to some part of America but in the first place I would advise you to take a particular care to what part you would go to. Cape Breton has the name of poverty but for all I would recommend it before other parts of the continent other wise its of a healthy climate - Therefore I would like you very well to come to this Island in a (manner) but mind that you would require a good Sum of Money to buy a property or a farm and that would keep you and your family comfortable all your lifetime for some that move East and West Canada turned back because them places were so unhealthy therefore if you ever happen to come across the raging billows of the Atlantic I would try to accomodate you for one winter and that time you would get acquainted . but mind to please your own consience in which I will not be blamed.....

From the present:

Recently aquired material for Highland Roots includes family histories from Bernidine MacDonald Campbell covering various areas of Cape Breton and of John Menzies and Helen Campbell, compiled by Florence Menzies Griffen.

Pauline MacLean

1994 Summer Events

Sunday June 26- The Barra MacNeils in Concert featuring Sunfish, Buddy MacDonald, Jamie MacInnis, Washabuck Connection, The Iona Gaelic Singers, Ryan & Boyd MacNeil, and Hector MacKenzie as M.C. Gates open at 12 noon. Concert begins at 2 pm.

Sunday July 10- Rankin Memorial Home & School Strawberry Festival, featuring various strawberry desserts.

Saturday July 16- Traditional Cod Fish Supper, 3:00-6:00p.m.

Saturday August 6- 33rd Annual Highland Village Day Concert. Followed by a square dance under the stars.

Tuesday August 16- An evening concert at the village with music and song of the Scottish Geadhaltchd featuring Ishbel MacAskill and the Lochinver Ceilidh Band.

Saturday August 20- Pioneer Day.
Traditional Cod Fish Supper, 3:00- 6:00p.m.

Friday August 19 thru Tuesday August 23- Quilts of the Island on display throughout the Village.



The Barra MacNeils - June 26

Nova Scotia Highland Village Society Membership Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Prov./State: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Are you interested in volunteering at the Highland Village? Y N

If yes, what talents/skills would you be willing to share with the Village? _____

Areas where we need volunteers include; On-Site School Tours, Special Events (e.g. Highland Village Day, Codfish Suppers, etc), Fundraising, Genealogical Research, Museum Interpretation, and other special programming. If you have any other talents/skills that we may tap, please let us know.

- Tapadh leat

The fee for membership is \$5.00.

Donations

All donations made to the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society are tax deductible. Please support the on-going work of Nova Scotia Highland Village Society.