

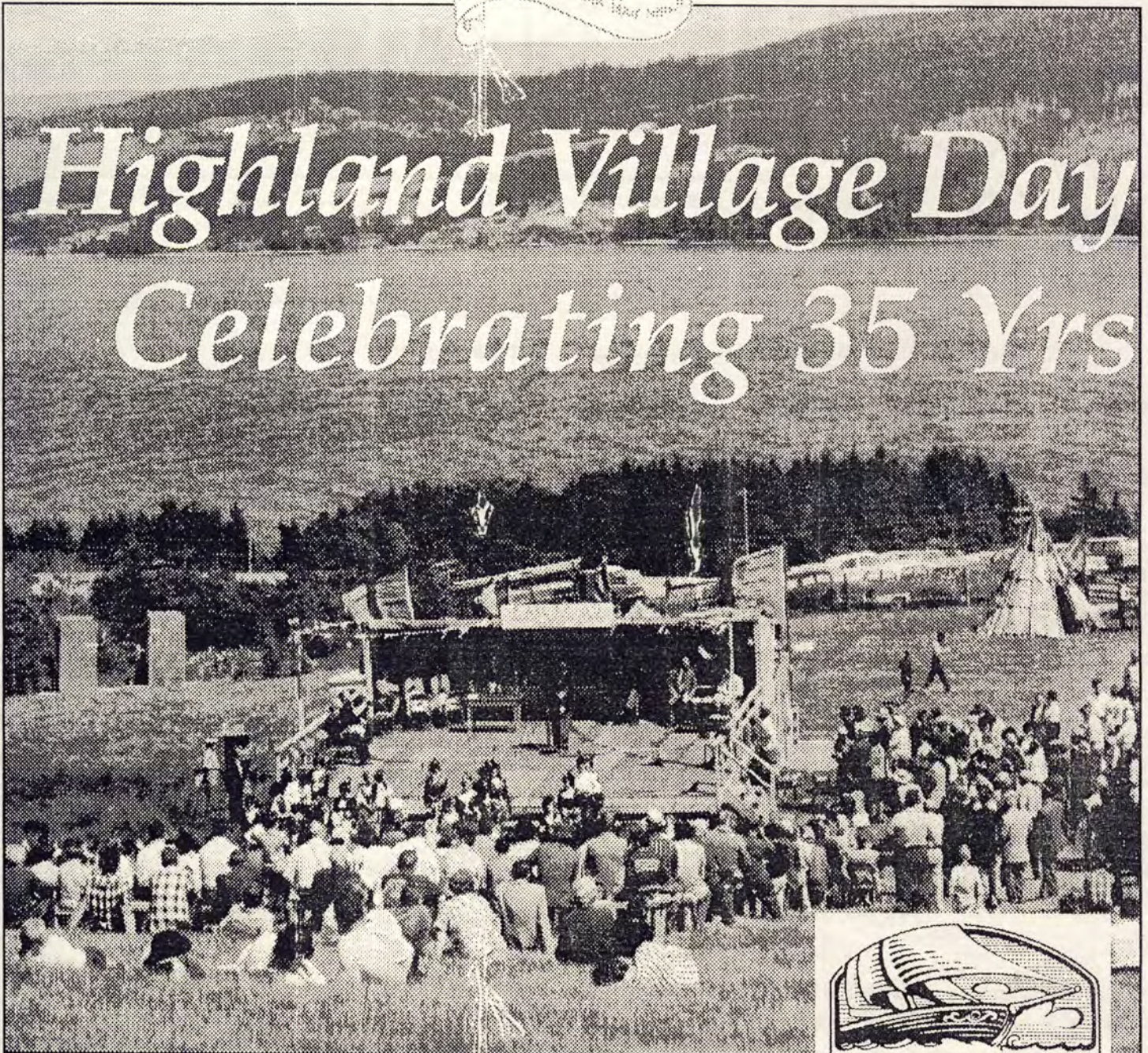
Naidheachd a' Chlachain

Nova Scotia Highland Village Society

(The Village News)

Summer/Samhradh 1996

Highland Village Day Celebrating 35 Yrs

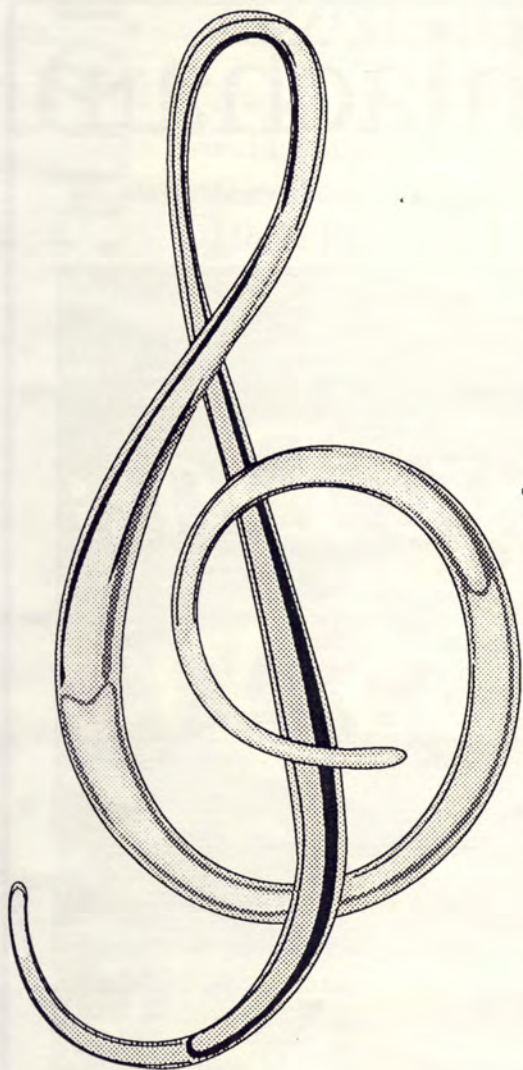


We're on the Net:

<http://eagle.uccb.ns.ca/lona/>



YEAR OF THE
WOODEN BOAT
NOVA SCOTIA 1996



1996 Highland Village Summer festival Showcase

Concert Series

35th Annual Highland Village Day

Saturday, August 3, 1996 - 2-8 PM

Annual Festival of Cape Breton Music & Culture

Admission: \$10.00

Square Dance at Legion 9 PM to 1 AM (\$6.00, 19 & over)

Concert on the Hill

Saturday, August 3, 1996 - 2-6 PM

Duncan Wells, Evans & Doherty, and Slàinte Mhath.

Admission: TBD

Square Dance at Harbour Hall 9 PM to 1 AM (\$6.00, 19 & over)

Family Round & Square Dance Series

Try an Iona set, a round dance or show off your steps at one of our Family Round & Square Dances. It is a night of fun for the whole family. Dances take place on the Highland Village Stage from 8:30 PM to 12:00 AM.

(There is square dance instruction from 8:30 to 9:00 PM)

Friday, July 5 - *Raymond Ellis & Hilda Chiasson-Cormier*

Friday, July 12 - *Charlie MacCuspig & Friends*

Friday, July 19 - *The Dan Rorys*

Friday, July 26 - *Sheldon MacNeil & Susan MacLean*

Friday, August 9 - *Rodney MacDonald*

Friday, August 23 - *The Dan Rorys*

Friday, August 30 - *Rodney MacDonald*

*For more information contact the Highland Village at
(902) 725-2272.*

Highland
VILLAGE

The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society is a non-profit Society with the mission: 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.

The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society operates a 43-acre Museum and Cultural complex including the Highland Village Outdoor Pioneer Museum, Roots Cape Breton Computer Assisted Genealogy and Family History Centre, Highland Village Gift Shop, and Outdoor Entertainment and Theatre facility.

Board of Directors:

President - Bruce MacNeil, Iona;
Vice-Pres. - Walter MacNeil, Sydney;
Sec./Treas. - Dan E. MacNeil, Iona;
Past President - Jim St. Clair, Mull River;
Donald Beaton, Little Narrows; Joan Gillis,
Jamesville; Beatrice MacDonald, Sydney;
Lloyd MacDonald, Ironville; Michael B.
MacKenzie, Christmas Island; Richard
MacKinnon, Sydney; Mary Margaret MacLean,
Whycocomagh; Cathy MacMillan, Jamesville;
Jackie MacNeil, Sydney; Maxie MacNeil,
Highland Hill; and Pius MacNeil, Iona

Staff:

Rodney Chaisson, Manager;
Charlene Kosick, Curator;
Pauline MacLean, Genealogy Coordinator;
James Watson, Gaelic Instructor;
Timothy MacNeil, Maintenance Supervisor;
Gerry MacNeil, Gift Shop Supervisor;
Marie MacDonald, Textile Coordinator;
James MacKenzie, Farm Coordinator;
John MacDonald, Ironworks Coordinator;
Patricia MacNeil, Secretary;
Helena MacNeil, Receptionist;
Glen MacKenzie, Groundskeeper; and Marie
Chehy, Beth MacNeil, Betty MacNeil, Kaye
Anne MacNeil & Vicky Quimby, Guides.

Memberships:

Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage, Canadian
Museums Association, Iona Connection,
Scottish Societies Association of Nova Scotia,
Nova Scotia Gaelic Council, Council of Nova
Scotia Archives, Genealogical Association of
Nova Scotia, Society for the Study of
Architecture in Canada, Tourism Cape Breton,
ICOMOS Canada, Association of Living
Historical Farms & Museums and Tourism
Industry Association of Nova Scotia.

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On the Cover: 1st Annual Highland Village Day, 1962.

Naidheachd a' Chlachain

©. Nova Scotia Highland Village Society, 1996.

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

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From the Manager's Desk

Rodney Chaisson

Welcome to another issue of *Naidheachd a' Chlachain*. In this issue we will have a look at some of our newly completed site development work, a salute to our volunteers and a pictorial look back through past Highland Village Days as we prepare for the 35th annual concert. As well, we also have our regular features.

Over the past three years, we have put a lot of time, energy and money into our site development efforts. Well it has all paid off. This year, we have a site with a different look and a different feel. In three years we have revitalized the interior and exterior of all our museum buildings, completed the reconstruction of our *Taigh Dubh* (Blackhouse), constructed new more user-friendly paths and roadways, improved landscapes and gardens, increased our technology component, paved and expanded our parking facility, brought the canteen up to health and fire codes, improved workshop, stage, and washroom buildings, made improvements to the reception building, fixed drainage problems, expanded water and power to the museum buildings, produced an orientation video, produced new interpretive panels and signage for the site and much more.

All of this was accomplished as a result of the time and energy of volunteers, (including our Executive, Site Development, Genealogy and Museum Committees, especially our Site Development Chairman, Walter MacNeil), regular staff, special grant staff and funding from Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation, Economic Renewal Agency, Human Resources Development Canada, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Canada-Nova Scotia Cooperation Agreement on Culture, Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Works and the Municipality of Victoria County.

We are very pleased with the work that has been done and the new site that has resulted from it. We are not done. We also have plans for the replacement

of our log cabin and the construction of our replica pioneer church. We are growing and proud of it.

This year we did something a little special in celebration of our Volunteers and Volunteer Week in April. In cooperation with the Grandona Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in Iona we sponsored an evening of Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition at the Legion.

Both organizations used the opportunity to thank their many volunteers for the thousands of hours that volunteers donate each year. It was a successful evening with both the Legion and Highland Village making Volunteer of the Year presentations and other honours from the Legion.

This year's Volunteer of the Year for the Highland Village was presented to Catherine "Honey" MacNeil of Iona. Congratulations Honey!

As well contributions from the Volunteers collected at the door that evening, amounted to \$685.00 and were donated to the Computer Room at Rankin Memorial School.

Thank you to all our volunteers for making the evening a success and for making Highland Village and the Grandona Legion what they are today.

This summer will mark the 35th Annual Highland Village Day. This annual Concert which began in 1962, was started to help fund the construction and maintenance of the Highland Village outdoor pioneer museum. Over the past 35 years this concert has contributed thousands of dollars towards the development and operation of what is now a \$290,000 per year operation.

As with our recent site development accomplish-

ments and other initiatives, Highland Village Day could not and cannot take place without the many volunteers who come together each year to make Highland Village Day a success and a tradition known all across Cape Breton Island. We thank you all for that. This year there will also be some change to the format of Highland Village Day. While we will be continuing the high quality of entertainment and festive atmosphere we will be making some changes to ensure that Highland Village Day will continue for another 35 years. For more information on the new format see page 11.

For those with access to the internet, check out our temporary Web Site on the eagle server at the University College of Cape Breton. The site features information on the Highland Village and its programs. It serves as the foundation for a much larger and more detail web site we are planning to have online within the next twelve months. We thank UCCB and Geoff Wilson for giving us the temporary space on their server. Thanks also to Brian MacLeod, a computer coop student from UCCB who put the site together for us. The address is: <http://eagle.uccb.ns.ca/Iona>

Slàinte.

Check out the
Highland
Village on the
World Wide Web.



Check our
Web Page at our
temporary
location at

<http://eagle.uccb.ns.ca/Iona/>

Highland
VILLAGE

President's Report

by J. Bruce MacNeil

Dear Members & Friends:

The Highland Village is now open for the 1996 season and all indications point towards a good year. Visitations of school tours are up, as well as attendance in general.

The Village grounds and buildings are in good shape when there was major construction underway. Volunteers and staff are busy putting some final touches in place such as hydroseeding, a roof on the Taigh Dubh, gardens and the fencing. My gratitude is extended to all involved in these preparations.

This year we are pleased to display a horse drawn hearse which was donated by Hugh Webb of Antigonish and restored by Walter MacNeil of Grand Narrows & Sydney. It is one of the more unique items in our collection and it is sure to attract a lot of interest.

This season, a new format for Highland Village Day is planned - an all day concert from 2 pm to 8 pm on the Highland Village grounds and a square dance from 9 pm to 1 am at the Grandona Legion. After much consideration the Entertainment Committee, Executive and Board of Directors decided that a change was necessary to address concerns such as the security of the museum site & buildings. We ask for

your support and understanding on this important decision.

This year marks the "Year of the Wooden Boat." We are proud to have in our collection an original Kennedy Boat. Many will recall the boat building tradition of the Kennedy Brothers of Alba.

Originally three brothers were involved in boat building which started in 1905 and carried on until 1975. In the early days boats were constructed at a pace of one every three days. In later years nine or ten each winter was produced. They were used mainly for fishing, but were also used for pleasure purposes. They were sold around the Bras d'Or Lakes Watershed area, Sydney, Western Cape Breton, the New England States as well as sold to a Captain from Norway. Most common was the 14-16 footers, and larger boats up to 25 feet in length. In addition a flat bottom 12 footer and snipe used for racing purposes were popular among those interested in pleasure activities. The Kennedy Brothers established a good reputation for building stable boats, or in other words boats that were not "tippy" or "cranky." Much care was taken in ensuring each boat was perfectly balanced. A special display featuring the Kennedy Boat building tradition will be undertaken at the Village.

On the down side of things, the Board has not been able to negotiate a better deal with the Province of Nova Scotia with respect to improved funding and status within the Nova Scotia Museum system. This is most disappointing



given the unfairness of the funding for Nova Scotia Museum sites on Cape Breton Island. (Only 3.1% of the overall Nova Scotia Museum budget is spent on the Island - 1993-94). We are told there is no money, yet money is found for other sites in the Province. We are left wondering why our situation which is well documented dating back to the early 1970's and before cannot be addressed.

As strong letter has been send to the Minister of Education & Culture with copies to several other MLA's. I urge that all members address their concerns to the Minister of Education & Culture (Hon. John MacEachern) regarding this situation. His mailing address is: P.O. Box 578, Halifax, NS, B3J 2S9. Or you can fax him at: (902) 424-0680. Or you can e-mail him at: jmaceach@fox.nstn.ca.

Cheers.

Pioneer Church Fund

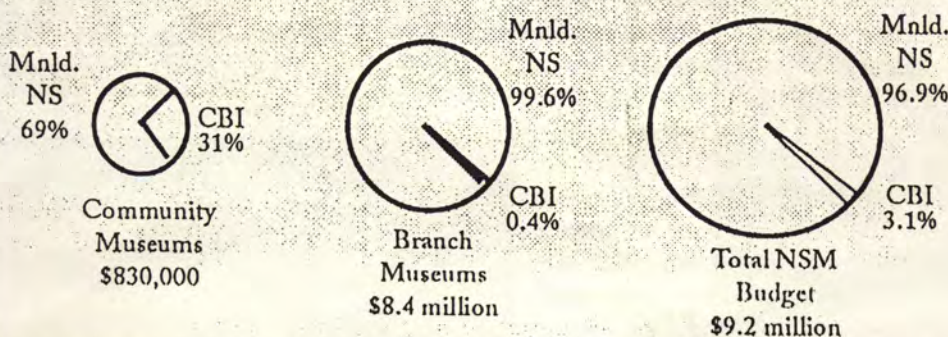
We have established a fund to aid with the construction of a non-denominational Pioneer Church on the site.

Help realize this dream, please donate to the Highland Village Pioneer Church Fund.

All donations are tax deductible.

**Highland
VILLAGE**

Museum Funding from Nova Scotia Museum



This is the present state of museum funding in Nova Scotia. The total museum budget which contains \$9.2 million dollars (excl. Exec. Dir. office and Planning & Communications) contains two pots: Community Museums & Branch Museums. Out of the smallest budget it appears as though Cape Breton gets a fair share - 31% of \$830,000. However, if you look at the Branch pot \$8.4 million, Cape Breton get a meagre 0.4%. Looking at the total picture this Island accounts for only 3.1% of the total NSM budget.

Village News

It has been a busy winter here on the point. We have spent a lot of time working on operational procedures and preparing for our 1996 evaluation and the 1996 season.

We have also made some time for a little fun. We kicked off 1996 with our annual Variety Concert at the McKinnon Harbour Hall, followed by the unveiling of our new video on Heritage Day, a fundraising round & square dance with Slàinte Mhath in March, a Volunteer Appreciation Night in conjunction with the Iona Legion in April and Gaelic Day activities to kick off Gaelic Cultural Awareness Month.

Heritage Day

About 70 people helped us with our Heritage Day activities as we used it to show off our new orientation video. This eight minute video will be used as an interpretation tool to introduce the Village and the Scottish Gaelic Culture to the visiting public. Jim St. Clair narrator for the video, opens by inviting visitors for an experience: "Here we will share with you the continuing warmth of our hospitality, of our regard for the Gaelic language, for our love of the music, and for our continuing respect for family history and Celtic Design. All of these are inheritances from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. We invite you to step back in time and journey through 200 years of human experience."

The video begins with preparations for emigration to the "New World" and moves through time to the arrival of settlers on the shores of the Bras d'Or Lakes; to the settling in the log cabin and preparations for a cold winter; to the thanks for the warmth of the frame house; to the good-byes as children migrate to the "Boston States" in search



Rod C. MacNeil & Kaye Ann MacNeil in a scene being taped by Folkus Atlantic.



A scene from the Beach in Jamesville.

of work. All of this mixed with music from the Gaelic College Pipe Band, the Rankin Family, and the Iona Gaelic Singers will provide the visitors with an introduction to what the Highland Village is all about.

The video was written by Jim St. Clair and produced by Joan Weeks (Folkus Atlantic). The cast is made up entirely from residents of the Iona area and is taped on location at the Highland Village, Highland Heights Inn, and the Jamesville Beach.

Gaelic Day

To kick off Gaelic Day and Gaelic Cultural Awareness Month in Nova Scotia, the Highland Village hosted a day long openhouse in the reception building. The openhouse featured Gaelic films throughout the day: *Màiri Mhór nan Òran* (Big Mary of the Songs a biographical dramatization of Skye bardess Mary MacPherson's career as a poet and advocate for land reform in the Highlands during the era of the sheep clearances); *'S e Ceap Breatainn Tir mo Ghràidh* (Cape Breton, My Beloved Land explores Gaelic Cape Breton in a series of fire-side conversations and concert glimpses which portray the Cape

Breton Gael at home and in performance); and *Uamh an Òir* (The Cave of Gold a high-tech Gaelic Television Committee production examining the significance of Gaelic language and culture in modern society through interviews with leading Gaelic poets and writers such as Iain Crichton Smith and Sorley MacLean). The day was capped off with a milling frolic. Attendance throughout the day was great making it a success.

Sympathies

The Society extends sympathies to the family of the late Rita MacDougall. Rita was a former member of the Village staff. Many will remember her as a guide in the General Store.

Congratulations

Congratulations are sent out to Paul & Stacy MacNeil, Jamesville on the birth of their first child Samera (grandchild to Honey MacNeil and Ronald & Rose MacDonald). To Cathy and Byron MacMillan on the birth of their son Patrick. To Elizabeth and Gregory MacNeil and the birth of their first child Trevor. And to John C. MacNeil and



Yearning for the new world - a scene from our new blackhouse.

Geraldine Moore on the birth of their son Ryan.

We also send out congratulations to some local couples who will be celebrating weddings this summer. To Joanne MacNeil (former staff) and George MacKinnon. To Donna Leah MacNeil (former staff) and D.A. Bonaparte. To Kerry MacNeil (daughter to Jim and Gerry MacNeil) and Sandy MacKenzie. And to Charles MacNeil (volunteer) and Lynn MacDonald.



Gaelic Day Milling Frolic

A Salute to our Volunteers



1995 Volunteer of the Year recipient
Honey MacNeil with Highland Village
President Bruce MacNeil.

Volunteer of the Year Award Honey (FX) MacNeil

*The following was prepared and presented
by President Bruce MacNeil at our
Volunteer Night on April 27 at the Legion.*

Everyone in this building tonight knows and respects Honey MacNeil or "Honey FX" as she is referred to by many. Honey was unanimously nominated by the Board of Directors of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society to be the recipient of a Volunteer Award from Victoria County on behalf of her generous support to the Highland Village and other community organizations.

I would like to take you back in time to 1941. It was January of that year that Honey volunteered for Military Service by joining the Canadian Army. After basic training she worked as a CNA at the Gogswell Street Hospital in Halifax. She then went overseas to London,

England with the "Twenty one Army Group", with whom she commenced work in Headquarters with Army Records.

Her dedication was recognized when she and eighteen others were chosen to go to France and assume responsibilities for reporting casualties back to London. In her tour of duty Honey served in Belgium, Germany and Holland. She was discharged in May of 1946 and in September of that year married FX MacNeil.

This alone would constitute a tremendous effort of public service. But we all know Honey's contribution to the community goes well beyond her patriotic duty to Canada. Along with her husband the late Francis MacNeil, she raised six children, including a set of twin boys. The FX family have all achieved success and each have a strong sense of family and community - much to Honey and Francis's credit.

But there is more. In 1956, Honey started to play the organ in church - a great responsibility she carries out faithfully today some 40 years later. Volunteers are dedicated. Around 1960 she became the telephone operator until the dial system went through in the 70's. Everyone in the community could depend on Honey to be around to route their calls regardless of the time of day.

Honey served as Secretary of the Liberal Assoc. for a number of years as well.

Honey continues to share her

talents as a musician whenever the call goes out, whether it's for a Remembrance Day celebration, a concert sponsored by the Highland Village or a late night party in Washabuck. And she does so graciously and without reward. By the way she is known to outlast Pius when it comes to social gatherings.

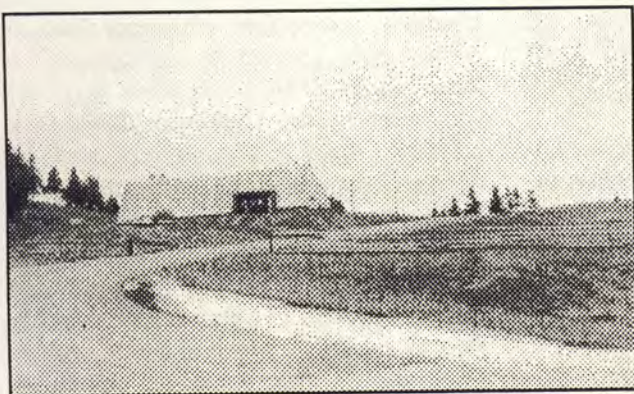
Very recently Honey demonstrated her potential as a Hollywood Star in her role as a Mother bidding her daughter farewell in the recently produced Orientation Video which will be used this summer at the Highland Village. Unfortunately, she did not win an Oscar for her efforts, but those who have viewed this production - she captured their hearts.

*Thank you to Honey and to
all of the Volunteers who
have made a contribution to
the success of the
Highland Village.*



*Presentation of cheque to Rankin Memorial School for Computer Room.
(L-R) Dan E. MacNeil (Chair of Organizing Committee),
Bruce MacNeil (Highland Village President),
Stanley MacLellan (Legion President) and
Joanie MacNeil (Rankin School).*

The New Look on the Hill



Three years ago we embarked on a mission. That mission was to realize our site development wishes. Three years later we have achieved most of that. Over the past few issues of *Naidheachd a' Chlachain* we have highlighted these changes as they took place. As we move into the summer when we are celebrating the 35th Annual Highland Village Day we want to take these two pages to share our accomplishments, for which we are all very proud.

Visitors to the site will notice a new entrance sign, a new and expanded paved driveway and parking lot, upgraded Reception Building, new fencing, upgraded washroom building, canteen, workshop and ticket booths.

In the Reception Building there is a new front desk, new flooring and decor, new orientation video, new interpretive (on-site) map/brochure, new computer equipment and new material in our Roots Cape Breton (formerly Highland Roots) office. Roots also has, now, the entire 1871 census on computer.

As we move up around the hill there are new pathways, groomed forested areas, new fencing, a new Blackhouse, new interpretive panels, and new displays. Also, all of our houses (MacDonald House, MacQuarrie-Fox House and MacIvor-Nash House) as well as the General Store, Schoolhouse and Barn have received work both inside and out. The Church bell is up in the field where we hope to put our Pioneer Church in the future. And the pond was enlarged with a new duckhouse for our water needs and for a habitat for ducks.

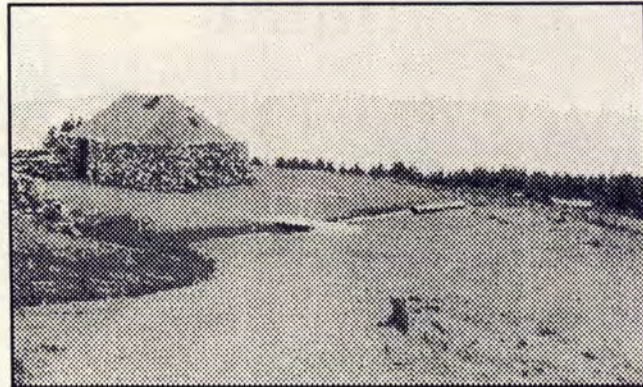
Around the site there are new gardens, new plants and new grass. There are new parking lots for those with physical disabilities or challenges.

There are also changes which may not be so obvious, but are however, critical in our plan. We have put much energy into changing water flows and patterns around the hill. Our experience this past winter shows that we have been successful with this. We also have electrical service to the Forge, General Store, MacQuarrie-Fox House, Barn and MacDonald House. There is a new flush washroom for staff behind the MacDonald House with running water and septic system. We have water to the Barn and the General Store. There is also a modern forge facility in the Blacksmith Shop for production. The upstairs of the General Store has been fitted with heaters for heated off-season storage of artifacts.

Tired yet? There are probably a few things that have been missed in this list. There has been much accomplished over the past three years. For visitors who have not been on site in many years they will notice many changes. For those who visit annually or more frequently they have seen our gradual progress.

We are all very proud of our accomplishments. It has taken many people and much hard work to put all of this together. We invite everyone to come and share with our new look and our new feel. We hope you enjoy what we have done.

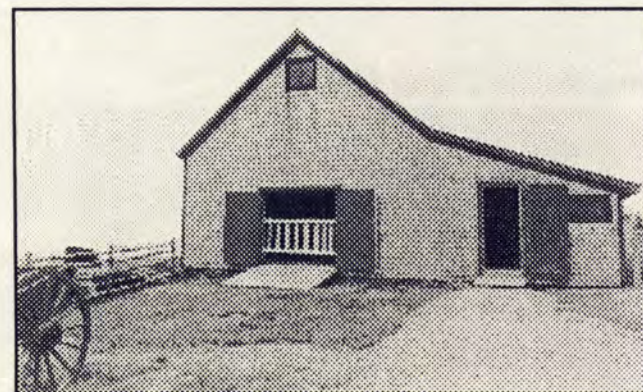




Photos - Pages 8 & 9

Page 8 (Top - Bottom): New paved driveway and expanded parking lot; new siding and upgrading of Reception Building; new pathway from Reception Building to new Blackhouse; and the almost complete new Blackhouse.

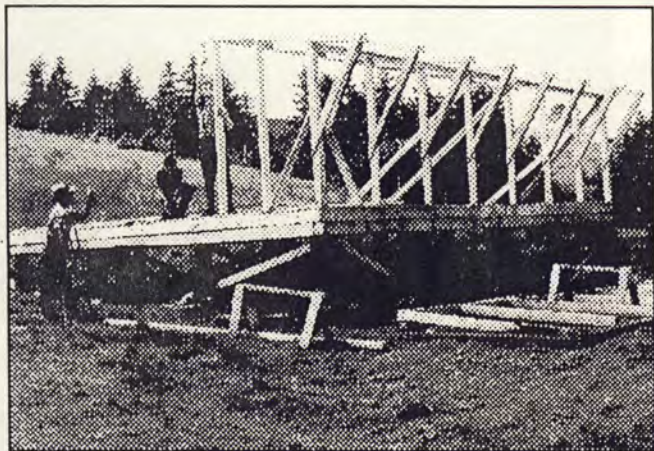
Page 9 (Clockwise from upper right): Interior of new Blackhouse; rear view of Blackhouse and stone fence from path to Log Cabin; Barn Building; view of MacQuarrie-Fox House and 1900's era from front of Barn; the Church bell on its stand in the field overlooking the Village and the Barra Strait; a view of the 1900's era from the front of the MacQuarrie-Fox House; and the MacIvor-Nash House from the Path on the way back to the Reception Building.



Highland Village Day



Celebrating 35 Years

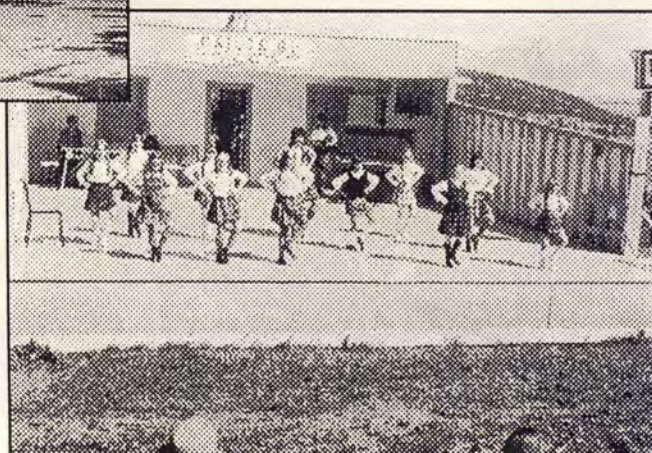


The Early Years...



Clockwise from Top Left: Construction of first stage; Official Opening of 1st Annual Highland Village Day in 1962; Milling Frolic (1965); Highland Dancers (1972); Gaelic Singing (1968); and Iona Gaelic Square Dance Group (1962).

Centre: Rev. A.D. MacKinnon (1967).





More Highland Village Day Memories:

Clockwise from right:
Allan J. MacEachen
and Archie Neil Chisholm (1970)
Gaelic Singers (1965),
and John Allan Cameron (1969).

These are just a few of the many faces which
have appeared on the Highland Village Stage
since 1962.



New Format for Highland Village Day

August 3rd marks the 35th Annual Highland Village Day at the Nova Scotia Highland Village In Iona. This celebration began in 1962 as a means of fundraising for the construction, maintenance and promotion of the Highland Village. Over the years the day has evolved into 12 hours of the best Celtic entertainment from 2 PM to 2 AM.

To ensure that this special day of celebration continues for another 35 years, the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society has spent much time looking at Highland Village Day and its past format. The result is a fresh new format which will begin this August:

- An all day concert from 2 pm to 8 pm on the Highland Village grounds. The concert will continue to present the very best talent and entertainment that Cape Breton Island has to offer.

- A square dance with cash bar from 9 PM to 1 AM at the Grandona Legion, Iona

These changes will ensure that concerns regarding liability and the security of the museum site will be reduced. The newly expanded As well, the Legion hall will provide a more comfortable venue for the evening dance.

The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society wishes to express thanks to the many entertainers, patrons and volunteers for your unwavering support of the past 34 years, as we ask sincerely for your continued support of Celtic entertainment and Highland Village Day as a major fundraising event for the Nova Scotia Highland Village. Most importantly we ask for your understanding for the necessary decision that was made in order to ensure continued success of this special day.

Thus Highland Village Day will continue to make a positive contribution to the promotion of Celtic traditions in the Province.

Curator's Corner

Charlene Kosick

"Hands on Clay: The Year of Earth & Fire"

This year has been designated by the Provincial Minister of Education and Culture as "Hands on Clay-The Year of Earth & Fire". A special exhibit show casing select items from the Museum's pottery collection will be featured in the Reception Building for the summer season. Included in the display will be three pieces of late nineteenth century Scottish pottery donated by Marlene Egan of Bo'Ness Scotland.

"The Year of the Wooden Boat"

The Nova Scotia Tourism theme this year is "The year of the Wooden Boat".



We are fortunate to have in our collection a Kennedy boat which was built by William and Duncan Kennedy of West Alba, Inverness County. To accompany the Kennedy Boat display in the Barn, a special exhibit on the Lake Boats of the Bras d'Or will be featured in the Reception Building.

Ornamental and House Gardens for Period Buildings

During this past winter, the Museum/Education/Research Committee has developed a plan for house and ornamental gardens at the MacQuarrie/Fox and 1900's Houses.

When you next visit you will find garden beds of herbs and vegetables as well as lilacs, hostas, apple trees,

peonies, honey suckle and bleeding heart. We are looking for a Golden Glow (picture on right) to place beside the kitchen door of the 1900's House. Anyone with such a plant who is willing to share with us can contact me anytime between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM at the Museum.

Children's Activities

Last season, we were fortunate to have on staff, Phyllis MacLellan, a resident of Ottawa Brook. Phyllis was instrumental in creating the artwork for many of the children's activities which will be available for our young visitors this summer.

Inventories

One of the most valuable resources available to researchers is the inventory. Whether personal or business orientated, these lists give us a unique glimpse of the material culture of those who came before.

This spring, the Museum received two inventories through the diligent efforts of Jim St. Clair. While conducting his own research in the Court House in Baddeck, Jim was able to locate the widow Mary Lawrence of Arichat and Peter Leaver of Big Baddeck who left behind inventories in the years 1802 and 1812 respectively. Both are a welcome addition to our

historical file on this period in history and will be put to use this summer.



These listings of furniture, clothing, housewares, reading materials, and livestock allow us to paint a mental picture of life during the early part of the nineteenth century. By using these images we are able, with a greater degree of authenticity, to recreate the settings lived in by people so long ago.

Artifact Donations

(as of this publication)

Jack Shneider,
Carlie MacNeil,
Sheila MacNeil,
Robert MacRury and
Marlene & Michael Egan.



One of the latest additions to our collection is a horse drawn hearse. Pictured with the hearse is Hugh Webb (left) who donated it, and Walter MacNeil who restored it. It is displayed in the barn. We will have more on the hearse in the next issue.

The Microfilm Reel

Pauline MacLean

Footsteps through the Past

Continuing in the series of excerpts from *The History of the Catholic Church in Eastern Nova Scotia, Volume I*, we will focus on the parish of Arisaig. In Volume I, we are told that Father Alexander MacDonald was the parish Priest in the early years. Before the construction of churches in the communities, Father MacDonald said Mass under a tree. At Arisaig he used a tiny log chapel built in one day by the citizens in 1792. This building quickly became too small so in 1807 a new church was contracted and by 1812 the glebe was enlarged and the exterior of the church was finished. Bishop Plessis visited that year. He described the church in these terms: "The new church ...40 ft. by 26 ft. is well wainscotted outside but bare within... in a location which is pleasant and very easy to reach". Father MacDonald died in 1816 and his death was a great loss to the community.

A regional seminary was planned for Arisaig by Rev. Dr. Edmond Burke. He began planning this school in 1816, before he was raised to the Episcopate. While many plans for training priests for the Highland population were made, Dr. Burke died in 1820, before the construction could begin. A letter written before his death and to be translated accordingly, warned his parishioners against "... the excessive use of alcoholic liquors particularly at funerals and weddings ... frolics may be retained for men alone or women alone depending on the nature of work to be done." Dr. Burke's will stated that he wanted to provide for the boy's and girl's schools but made no mention of the seminary.

In 1821, Father Colin P. Grant undertook to enlarge the church. In 1829 Bishop MacEachern described it as "... a

chapel 60 -70 odd feet with galleries on both sides..." along with "... a spacious glebe house...". Further descriptions of the Parish of Arisaig may be found in Volume II.

Turning to *The History of the Presbyterian Church in Cape Breton* we move on to the congregation of Knox, Glace Bay. Knox came into existence as a full congregation September 16, 1903 with 112 members, 152 families and 700 adherents. It was formed from a division of St. Paul's also in Glace Bay. The first service was held the following Sunday with Rev. E.D. Millar, D.D. of Yarmouth. The first meeting of the congregation held on October 12, resolved that "a church should be built as speedily as possible" and the church be named Knox Church. A call was extended

to Rev. William Meikle with a salary of \$1200.00 and a free house. He was inducted and the congregation worshipped in Victoria Hall until the new church was ready. It was opened by Rev. Clarence McKinnon D.D. on January 30, 1905. It had a seating capacity of 800 and was built for a cost of \$28,000. Two years later a manse was built on Yorke St. for \$5600.00. Ministers for Knox were Mr. Meikle, Rev. D.N. McRae, Rev. Hugh Millar, Rev. Albert McLeod. Mr. McLeod was minister at the time of the writing of this book in 1921.

Several young men from the congregation also became ministers. Brothers George and Peter McAulay ministered in the U.S.; John N. Morrison in the U.S.; Hector Ferguson in the Pas, Manitoba and William McKenzie who, at the time of the writing was completing his studies at the Presbyterian College in Halifax. Knox has since become Knox United, a member of the United Church of Canada and continues in the fine tradition of its forefathers.



A New Name & A New Look

The genealogy office has acquired a new name and a new logo (see upper right hand corner of the page). We are now called Roots Cape Breton. It was felt this name would more accurately represent the service we offer to the public.

The logo, with the tree bearing fruit and its roots anchored in the island, give the connection from start to finish in researching our ancestors. I hope you will tell me your feelings about the changes.



It's Done - The 1871 Census

Also this spring we have reached a milestone with our database. The entire 1871 census, representing 7 boxes of microfilm, has been entered in the files. We now have 90,000+ entries representing this census and other sources. The Highland Village Resource Center has been formed to assist research in the Museum and to provide access to the library and files of interest. Further information can be found by calling the Village.



Our New Logo

Gàidhlig

Seumas Watson

The following story is an international folktale of which many Gaelic versions have been recorded in Scotland and Ireland. This Cape Breton setting was recited by Malcom MacKinnon (Calum Jonaiddh, Iain mac Iain, Aonghais Ruaidh, Ghilleasbaig mac Fhionnlaidh) of Orangedale, Inverness County. The first Mackinnon on Malcom's paternal side to settle in Cape Breton emigrated from the Isle of Muck in 1854.

Di-luain, Di-mairt

Dà bhodach a bha croit uamhasach orra, 's bha 'ad gu math... companaich mhór a bh' anna ri chèile. 'S chaidh fear dhiubh amach dha 'n choillidh, amach air a' rathad suas a choimhead air gnothaichean air choireigin a bha aige ri fhaicinn. 'S bha creag mhór air a' rathad 'dol amach dha 'n choillidh, 's chual' e 'n ceòl 's an dannsa ann a sin. Agus stad e 's thànaig gioban beag amach 's dé bh' ann a sin ach sìthich. 'S dh' fhoighneachd e dheth dé am port a bha siod aca.

"Uell, Di-luain, Di-màirt, Di-luain, Di-màirt."

Agus thuirt esan, "Di-ciadain."

Uell, chaidh 'ad astaigh 's thòisich 'ad arithist air a cheòl Di luain, Di-màirt. Do-ciadain. 'S bha 'ad ri dannsaichean uamhasach math. 'S dh'èibh 'ad amach dé bha dhith air air son seo.

"Uell, nan toireadh tu a' chroit seo dhìom, bhithinn glé thaingeil. Cha n-eil an còrr dheth a dhith orm."

Alright. Nach ann am prioba na sùl' a bha a' chroit far a' bhodaich? Chaidh e dhachaidh. 'S là na dhà as a dhéidh sin choinnich e air a chompanach agus bha e 'cromadh sìos 's nuair a choimhead e suas air thuirt e, "Cé an dòigh a leighis tu do dhruim?"

Dh'inns' e a dha mun a' rathad seo far a' robh creag 's far a' robh na sìthichean a' dannsa agus gu dé am port a bh' aca: Di-luain, Di-màirt. 'S nuair a thuirt esan, "Di-luain, Di-màirt, Di-ciadain," bha an dannsa gu math na b'fhearr.

Amach thug am bodach eile. Thànaig e 's bha 'n ceòl a' dol air adhart. Siod am

port a bh'ann: 'Di-luain, Di-màirt, Di-ciadain'. 'S thuirt esan, "Di-ardaoin!"

Thànaig fear dhiubh a choimhead gu dé bha seo. (Uell shiod an ath- là as déidh Di-ciadain - Di-ardaoin). Bha 'ad a' feuchainn ri dannsa, 's nuair a ruig 'ad Di-ardaoin bha 'ad a' dol am miosg a chèile 's a' tuiteam 's... Uell, thànaig trioblaid mhór 'nam miosg 's amach a thànaig 'ad. Cha robh 'ad glé thoilichte.

Dh'fhoighneachd 'ad dheth gu dé bha e 'g iarraidh. Uell, bu leis 'ad an cnap a thoirt far a dhruim thuirt e. Thionndaich e (an sìtheach) mun cuairt, "Dh'fhaoite gum b'fhearr leat té eile."

'S thug e air croit a' bhodaich eile, 's chuir 'ad air-san an dà chroit.

Monday, Tuesday

(English Translation
of Di-luain, Di-mairt)

There were two old fellows who had terrific humps, and they were very... they were great companions. One of them went out to the woods, going up the road to see something or other that he had to see. There was a great rock by the road leading to the forest. He heard dancing and music going on inside it and he stopped. A little bit of an old fellow came out and who should he be but a fairy. The man asked him what their tune was.

"Well, Monday, Tuesday, Monday, Tuesday."

So the man said, "Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Try and dance to that."

Well, the fairies returned inside (the rock) and they began dancing again to the tune of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and they were dancing very well. So they called out as to what reward he wished for this.

"Well, if you would remove this hump from my back, I would be most grateful. There's nothing else I want."

Alright. Wasn't it removed from the old man's back in the blink of an eye? He went home, and a day or two later he happened on his companion who was going along bent down. When he looked up he said, "How did you mend your back?"

The other fellow told him about the road where the rock was and the fairies who were dancing and about their tune: "Monday, Tuesday,"



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And then when he said Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, the dance was much improved.

The other old fellow set off right away. He arrived and the music was in full swing. This was their tune: "Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday."

He shouted out, "Thursday!"

One of the fairies came out to see who was there. (Well, that's the next day after Wednesday - Thursday). They were trying to dance and when they reached Thursday' they got tangled up in each other and were falling down and ... Well, great difficulty arose among them and out (of the rock) they came. They were quite unhappy.

They asked the old fellow what reward he wanted. Well, he said he wanted the hump taken from his back.

The fairy turned around (saying), "Perhaps you'd like another hump."

And he put the other old fellow's hump on him. They put two humps on him.

-Recorded, transcribed and translated by Jim Watson

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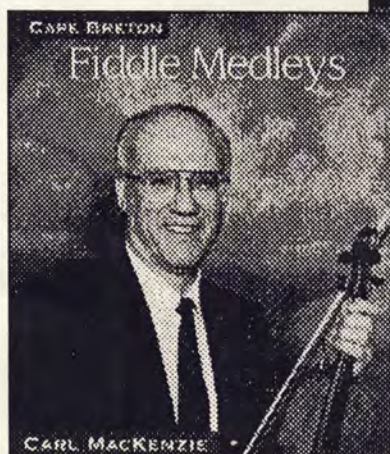
Rawlins Cross

Ashley MacIsaac

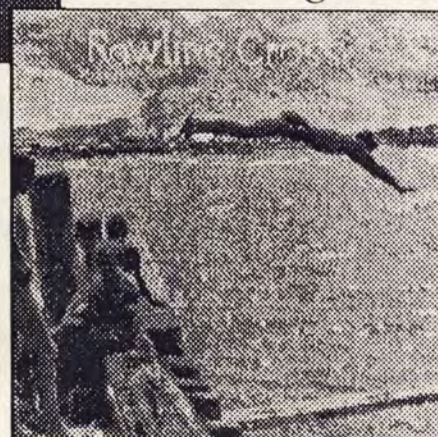
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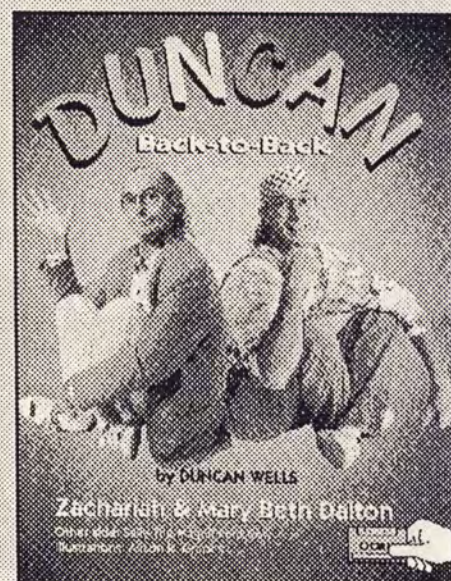
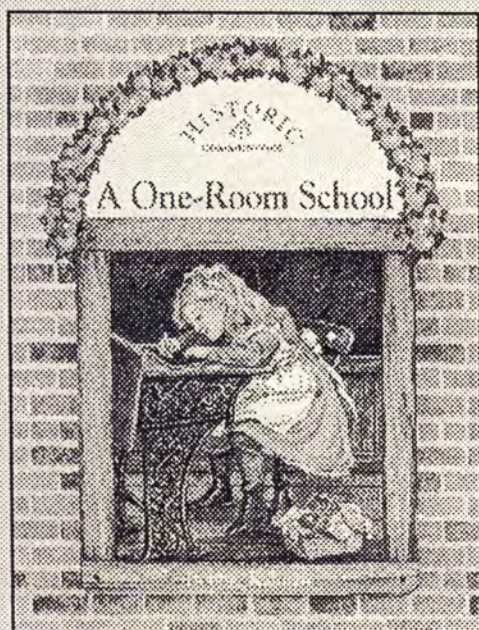
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*(New schedule effective - August 5, 1995 -
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Please send application and payment to:
Nova Scotia Highland Village Society

P.O. Box 58, Iona, NS, B0A 1L0, Canada
Phone: (902) 725-2272 Fax: (902) 725-2227
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