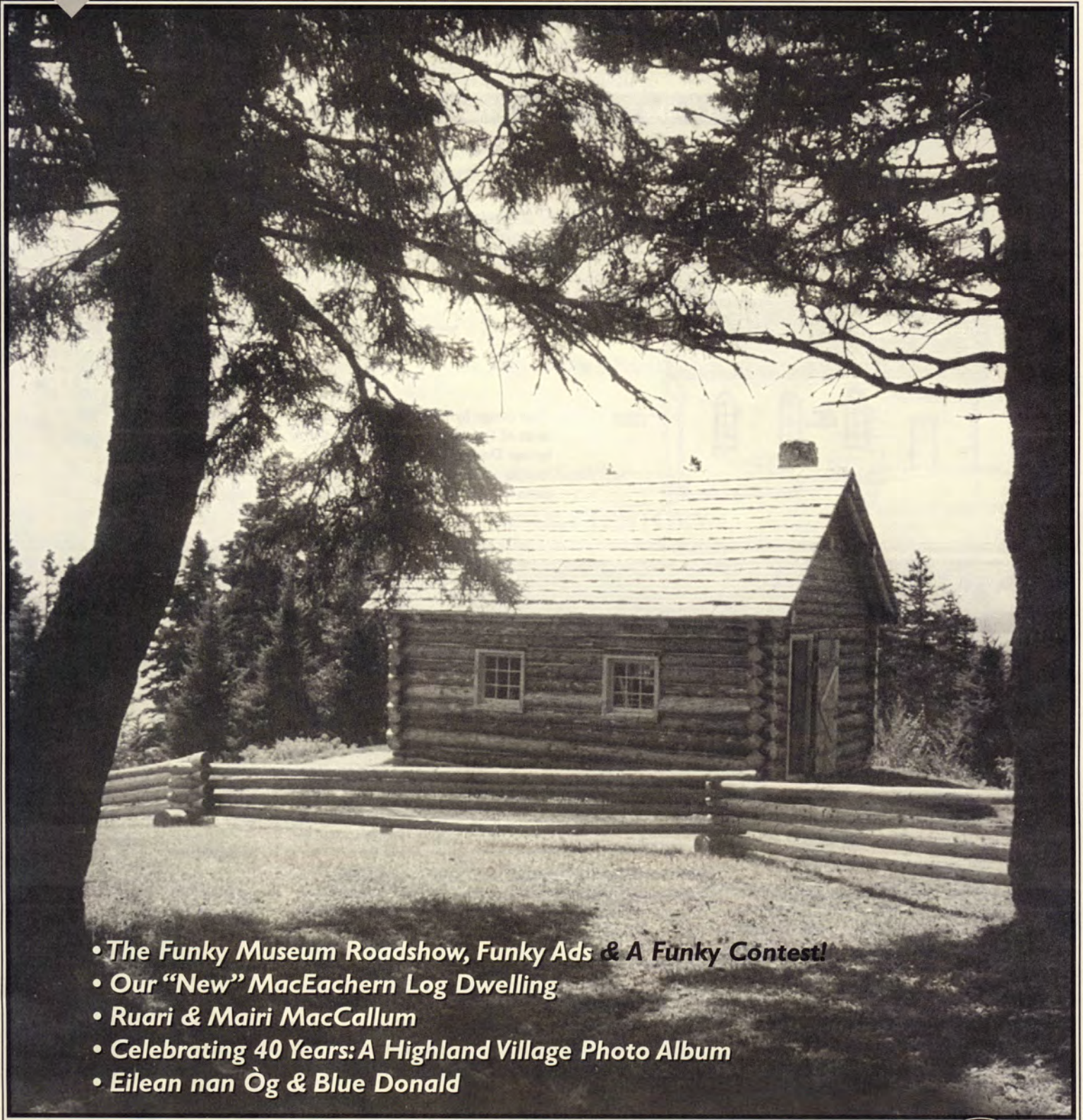




Naidheachd a' Chlachain

(THE VILLAGE NEWS)

Nova Scotia Highland Village Society



- The Funky Museum Roadshow, Funky Ads & A Funky Contest!
- Our "New" MacEachern Log Dwelling
- Ruari & Mairi MacCallum
- Celebrating 40 Years: A Highland Village Photo Album
- Eilean nan Òg & Blue Donald

Highland
VILLAGE

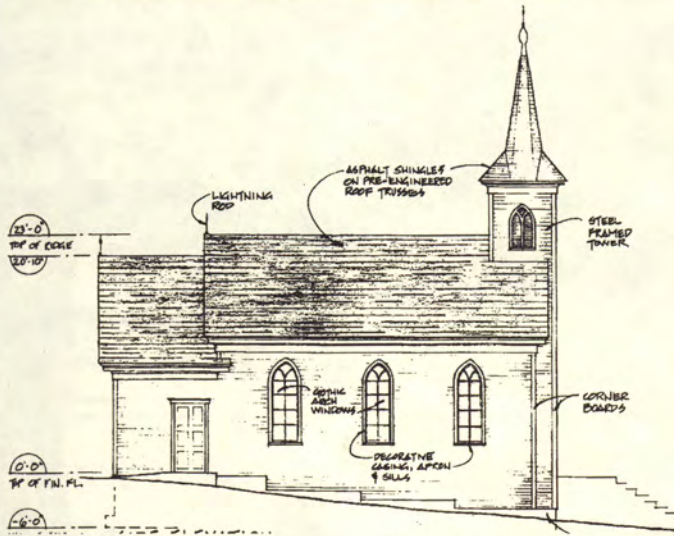
www.highlandvillage.ns.ca



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 construction of the Church. Already, over \$7,000 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 are looking for your comments and suggestions.

Aug 99 **\$7300**

Nov 98 **\$6800**

May 98 **\$5800**

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.

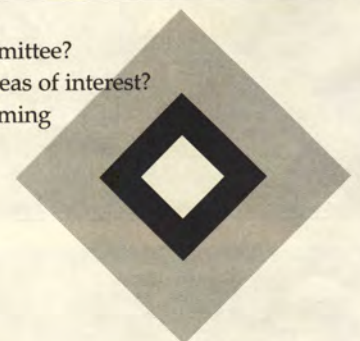
Membership is open to anyone.
Individual memberships are \$15.00 per year.
Family memberships are \$25.00 per year.
Life memberships are being developed.
Watch for more information.

**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 20, 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.

The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society operates 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 (FNSH), 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.



CANADIAN • MUSEUMS • ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION • DES MUSÉES • CANADIENS

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Front cover: The new MacCallum Log Dwelling, Highland Village

Naidheachd a' Chlachain

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

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ISSN # 1201-4974

Mailed under Canada Post Canadian Publications Mail

Product Sales Agreement #854441

From the MANAGER'S DESK

By Rodney Chaisson

Welcome to the Summer 1999 edition of *Naidheachd a' Chlachain* (The Village News). This is the first of two issues which will look back at our history as an organization.

The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society was officially incorporated on November 20, 1959 through the Societies Act of the Province of Nova Scotia. The incorporation document was signed by seven men - Major C.I.N. MacLeod, Rev. A. A. Ross, Earl MacInnis, William L. McCormack, Rev. A.D. MacKinnon and Stephen J. MacKinnon. All of these men had one dream in mind. That dream was to create a pioneer village to interpret the lives of the Scottish Gael in Nova Scotia, a concept dating back to 1935.

We have come a long way in 40 years. The site at Iona is home to a living history museum with 10 period buildings representing life in Scotland in 1780 and in Eastern Nova Scotia from 1780 to 1920. Our visitation has grown to well over 20,000. We have become a respected member of the Nova Scotia museum community.

In addition, we have developed Roots Cape Breton Genealogy & Family History Centre for persons in search of their ancestors. This centre has become known for its

"accurate research."

We have a gift shop with a selection of music and Gaelic books that is not matched anywhere else on the Island. And we have an outdoor amphitheatre with a backdrop second to none.

The successes over the years have happened because of the dedication and fortitude of our volunteers and staff. We have not had many financial resources over the years, but we have had a dedicated core group of people who worked hard to see their dreams come true.

In the winter newsletter we will focus more on these successes and how we got here. This September we are hosting a session to record orally recollections and observations of our 40 year history. These will be published in the next issue. As well, I will speak with Vince MacLean of Washabuck about his 20 years as the producer of our annual Highland Village Day Concert.

We have come a long way in 40 years...we have become a respected member of the NS museum community

This Issue

In this issue of *The Village News*, we will focus on the visual recollections of the Highland Village's past. Page's 10 and 11 contain some pictures taken over the years featuring our construction and development.

In addition to our past as an organization, this issue of *Naidheachd a' Chlachain* will also feature our experience as part of the Funky Museum Roadshow (a project of the Nova Scotia Museum aimed at creating awareness amongst Nova Scotians and dispelling the myth that museums are dull places.) We will also get a tour of our new MacEach-

ern Log Dwelling. This structure was built this past winter to replace our former log house. As well, we will get a peak at a new children's book written by Jim St.Clair and published by the Village in cooperation with UCCB Press.

We will also have our usual contributions from our Curator, Gaelic Coordinator and Genealogy Coordinator as well as news from Hector's Point and our Highland Village crossword feature. As always, we very much appreciate your comments and suggestions on this publication.

Music of the Iona-Washabuck Peninsula continued

Based on the listing of musicians from the Iona-Washabuck Peninsula that we published in the last issue, I have received a few additions: *Helena MacNeil, singer, Barra Glen; Aloysius MacKinnon, Gaelic singer & fiddler, Barra Glen; and John P. MacKinnon, Gaelic singer, Barra Glen.*

We also made an error in the listing of John Robert MacNeil of Red Point. The listing had recorded him as deceased. John Robert is very much alive and living at the Senior Citizens Complex in Iona. We apologize for this error.

Highland Village: A Part of the Nova Scotia Museum ?

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary and reflect on the people and events that took this organization to this point, we are also looking at the future. And while, challenging, I believe our future to be a bright one.

In January 1999, the Board of Governors of the Nova Scotia

Museum approved that the Nova Scotia Highland Village would become the 26th member of the Nova Scotia Museum family (provided that the Government put the appropriate funding in the Nova Scotia Museum budget). This would give the Highland Village a more secure and appropriate budget, better align us with the professional resources of the Nova Scotia Museum, and enable us to achieve our mission and goals. We are very excited about the possibilities and potential of this new relationship.

The Highland Village would become part of the Nova Scotia Museum subject to government funding.

As of the date of publication, the Government had not provided the Nova Scotia Museum with required monies. As a result, we are still operating as a community museum. However, we are hopeful that we will move forward with the Museum in the near future. We hope to have more on this in a future newsletter.

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Staff News

I want to congratulate staff on some professional accomplishments over the past few months. Our Gaelic Coordinator Jim Watson has been appointed Research Associate with the Nova Scotia Museum. Our Genealogy Coordinator Pauline MacLean has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the Council of Nova Scotia Archives. Interpreters Vicki Quimby and Beth MacNeil have completed the Federation of Nova Scotian Heritage's Basic Level Museum Studies Course. Way to go!!!

Until the next issue, I wish all of you the best.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES (1999-2000):

Bruce MacNeil, Iona (President)
Walter MacNeil, Sydney (Vice-Pres)
Dan E. MacNeil, Iona (Sec./Treas)
Jim St. Clair, Mull River (Past President)
Donald Beaton, Little Narrows (Mem-at-Lg)
Fonce Farrell, Washabuck
Ann Marie MacKay, Grass Cove
Michael B. MacKenzie, Christmas Island

Dr. Richard MacKinnon, Sydney
Mary Margaret MacLean, Whycocomagh
Mary K. MacLeod, Dominion
Hugh Webb, Antigonish

Committee Chairs:

Executive: J. Bruce MacNeil, President
Museum: Jim St.Clair
Genealogy: Jim St. Clair
Site Development: Walter MacNeil

VILLAGE STAFF:

Administration
Rodney Chaisson, Manager
Patricia MacNeil, Admin. Assistant

Museum

Charlene Kosick, Curator
John MacDonald, Blacksmith
Stevie MacNeil, Farm Hand

Colleen Beaton, Interpreter
Marie Chehy, Interpreter
Carmella Farrell, Interpreter
Beth MacNeil, Interpreter
Kaye Anne MacNeil, Interpreter
Vicki Quimby, Interpreter
Sylvia Tupper, Interpreter

Roots Cape Breton Genealogy

Pauline MacLean, Coordinator

Gàidhlig

James Watson, Coordinator

Gift Shop/Reception

Gerry MacNeil, Supervisor
Sadie MacDonald, Clerk
Florence MacNeil, Clerk

Maintenance

Tim MacNeil, Worker

Youth Interns (1998-99)

Breagh MacKenzie, Researcher
Betsy MacNeil, Researcher

Summer Students (1999)

Sharon Boyd, Interpreter
Jesselyn MacKinnon, Interpreter
Jennifer MacNeil, Interpreter
Collette Thomas, Interpreter

Special Employment Program (1999)

Anthony Bonaparte, Labourer
David B. MacKenzie, Labourer
Jimmy MacKinnon, Labourer
Sharlene MacLean, Interpreter
Patricia MacNeil, Labourer
Katy Michael, Interpreter
Chantal Prosper, Interpreter

The VILLAGE NEWS

News from Hector's Point

The Summer of 1999

The 1999 season, thus far, at the Highland Village has been a tremendous success. Our museum visitation has increased significantly. Our programs and fundraising events have been well attended and well received. We have completed positive physical additions to the site as well as new programming initiatives. The feeling is up beat and positive. We also have a few things in the bag and are hopeful that the summer's success will continue through to the fall.

The following shows how our attendance and sales to mid August 1999 compare with the same period of 1998:

Museum Visitors	+ 30%
Highland Village Day	+ 14%
Codfish Supper (July)	+ 25%
Roots Cape Breton	+ 112%
Gift Shop	+ 28%

Other highlights this season include:

- In May, we hosted the launch of the 50th Anniversary re-publication of Neil MacNeil's, *The Highland Heart in Nova Scotia* by Breton Books. This book contains Neil's memories of growing up in Washabuck. Guest speakers included Ron Caplan of Breton Books, Jim St.Clair and others. The launch was broadcast live on CBC Cape Breton's *Mainstreet* radio program.
- In June, we took part in two province wide events aimed to create awareness of Nova Scotia's museums - The Funky Museum Roadshow and Museum Day Weekend. We received much positive publicity around these two events. For more on the Funky Museum Roadshow

see page 6 of this issue of Naidheachd a' Chlachain.

- Children from the Atlantic Burn Camp in Boisdale were on site this summer. These children came from all over the Atlantic Provinces to attend the annual camp in Boisdale. They travelled to Iona via train and then spent time with our staff learning all about the Scots in Nova Scotia.

- Candlelight tours with Jim St.Clair have been very successful. Jim has added more to his

tour including more on Mairi and Ruari MacCallum. As well participants learned to sing some Gaelic mouth music.

- Our Living History Program for Children continues to be a hit. We have had some children participating this year for the third year in a row. This program becomes more popular every year.

- Our two Codfish suppers were up over that of 1998. This year over 1100 people were served between the two events. Everyone left with a smile on their face and a full belly. This continues to be one of our most important fundraising events.

- Highland Village Day just keeps getting

better. Our attendance was up again this year. This year the concert was opened by John Campbell of the Cape Breton Post. MCs were Ray MacDonald and Hector MacKenzie. The Award of Merit

was awarded to Ray MacDonald of CJFX's Ceilidh Program for his contributions to the promotion of the culture. 39 different acts performed from fiddlers, to pipers to Gaelic singers and much more.

- We have enhanced our interpretation over the winter and this past spring. We have added 18 interpretive signs around the site. These signs are in both English and Gaelic and cover subjects such as the settlement of the Barra Strait, burls, post 1890 agriculture, stump garden and more. We have also set up a seamstress shop in the General Store. The new log cabin (see page 8) has become our new weaving interpretive centre. Embroidery and lace making have been added to the MacQuarrie-Fox House animation.

As you can see we have had a busy and productive summer. All indications for the fall show more of the same.

A special thank you goes out to everyone who has helped make this season a success.

Thanks Vince !

For the past 20 years, the task of organizing and producing our annual Highland Village Day Concert has been in the capable hands of Vince MacLean. This year was Vince's last year as Producer. Vince leaves a legacy of great concerts in keeping with the Scottish Concert tradition on this Island.

We very much thank Vince for this great contribution.



The new seamstress shop in the General Store.

A Very Special Donation

A special presentation took place on Highland Village Day this year. Don Hyslop a teacher at Dwight Ross School in Greenwood, NS, presented a cheque for \$200.00 to the Highland Village. The money came from the proceeds of a Gaelic

concert organized by one of his classes. They decided to donate to the museum. A very generous donation. Special thanks to all of them.

People

Congratulations are extended to our Manager Rodney Chaisson and wife Charlene on

the birth of their son Zachary Steven in June. Also, Sharlene MacLean an interpreter on our Job Creation Partnership Program, delivered a baby girl, Breagh Elizabeth, in August.

We send out our sympathies to Michael Anthony MacLean and family on the loss of their wife and mother Rose. Also, to the family of Noreen MacLeod, sister of Liz (Dan E.) MacNeil.



Vince MacLean, Highland Village Day Concert Producer retires.





Nova Scotia Museum's

FUNKY MUSEUM ROADSHOW

Red Cloud Loose in Nova Scotia

It was to be adventure of all adventures. In 1980, Gary Sowerby and Ken Llangely, both Nova Scotians, left Toronto in their 1980 Volvo (called *Red Cloud*) to travel around the world. Their aim was to beat the world record. They did just that. They circled the world in 74 days, 1 hour and 11 minutes.

That adventure wasn't enough. In 1984, they hit the road again travelling from the tip of Africa to the top of Finland in 28 1/2 days. And in 1987 Gary went from the bottom tip of South America to the arctic coast of Alaska in just under 24 days.

What does any of this have to do with museums in Nova Scotia? Earlier this year, *Red Cloud*, his original adventure vehicle was to call the Museum of Industry in Stellarton home. Gary and the folks at the Nova Scotia Museum got together and decided to create a Nova Scotia adventure with fun.

On June 4th, Gary along with *The Chronicle Herald's* columnist Peter Duffy set off from the Museum of Industry on a 9 day trek in search of the 25 funkier things in Nova Scotia's museums. The purpose was to show that museums can be fun places. Hence the *Funky Museum Roadshow*.

On June 5th, the Funky Roadshow arrived at the Highland Village. Being the "funky" people that we are, we put together a program called *Fiddler on the Roof* which involved our own version of the dance called *America*.

James Boswell writes in *Journal of a Tour of the Hebrides (1773)*: *In the evening the company danced as usual. We performed with much activity, a dance which, I suppose, the emigration from Skye has occasioned. They call it America. Each of the couples, after the common involutions and evolutions, successfully whirls round in a circle, till all are in motion; and the neighbourhood is set afloat.*

Well known fiddler Rodney MacDonald (now Minister of Tourism & Culture) played traditional tunes from the roof of the blackhouse (hence *Fiddler on the Roof*) while dancers Dawn & Helen MacDonald, Mac Mourin, Mairi Rankin and Blair MacDonald performed a variation of the dance. This was followed by a dance called "Thread the Needle" with involvement from Gary Sowerby, Peter Duffy, the Nova Scotia Museum's John Hennigar-Shue, Highland Village President Bruce MacNeil and Past President Jim St. Clair and others.

Once the dance was completed, Rodney MacDonald, led the group from the Blackhouse to the new MacEachern Log Dwelling with more traditional sounds.

The day was enjoyed by all, sentiments which were apparent in the writings of Peter Duffy. As a bonus our blackhouse made the funky list.



Photos (top to bottom):

- (1) *Red Cloud* and our "Funky" blackhouse.
- (2) *Thread the Needle*
- (3) Gary Sowerby speaks on his round the world journey while John Hennigar-Shue of the Nova Scotia Museum looks on.
- (4) Rodney MacDonald - *The Fiddler on the Roof!!*



Highland Village's FUNKY ADS

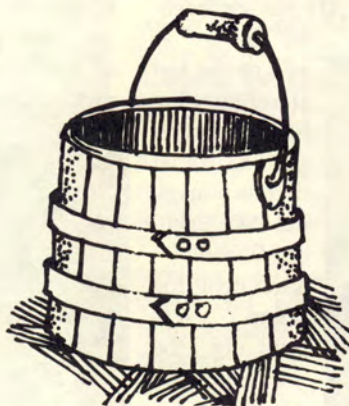
From Icon Communications

Our blackhouse isn't the only thing we have that is funky. Thanks to Icon Communications, we also have a series of funky ads. These are available on a series of two posters. If you would like the pair let us know.

We Remember When...



Alarm clocks had to be fed and watered!



"Running water" meant a quick trip to the brook!



Mixers only had two speeds: fast and tired!



Butter came from "Daisy" – Not from the fridge!



The "daily grind" was usually salt and pepper!



"Fast food" was hard to catch!

FUNKY CONTEST!

We are looking for funky ideas for more "We Remember When..." images. Send us your ideas and you could win a special Highland Village prize pack (Highland Village Sweatshirt, Joe MacLean's *Old Time Scottish Fiddle Music from Cape Breton Island* CD, Highland Village Print by Marie Moore and Jim St.Clair's children story *The MacCallum House, 1798*. Retail value - \$ 105.00) We will pick the top three entries. All winning entries become the property of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society. Contest deadline is November 30, 1999. Finalists will be published in the Winter Issue of *Naidheachd a' Chlachain*. Contest is not open to staff of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society or Icon Communications Ltd.

The

MACEACHERN LOG HOUSE

Our Newest Addition

The Nova Scotia Highland Village is very pleased to announce the addition of a new building to its site. This building called the *MacEachern Log Dwelling* replaces our log cabin



Exterior of the MacEachern Log Dwelling (taken en route from the Blackhouse).

which was built over twenty years ago.

The older building was constructed by a corps of early volunteers who based the construction of the building on oral history research. This building served us well. Unfortunately, however, over the years the weather got the best of it. It needed to be replaced. This building and all of those who constructed it will be remembered fondly.

With the continued deterioration of the log cabin, the need for a replacement increased each year. In 1997 a design committee was established to research and recommend a design. The committee decided that the new structure should be based on the MacEachern home (later occupied by the Cassells and then the MacRitchie

families) in Alba, between Iona and Orangedale.

This particular design was chosen for the following reasons: (1) it is based on an actual building which enhances the authenticity of the site; (2) it is representative of a typical log house in the early 1800's in keeping with the chronological flow of the site; (3) it has been recorded in photographs as well as a published report by Dr. Richard MacKinnon (see Summer 1998 issue of *Naidheach a' Chlachain*); and (4) it has sentimental value as one of the last standing log homes of that period.

The original MacEachern-Cassell-MacRitchie log home was built in the mid 1800's by Alexander MacEachern, born in 1818 in Scotland and migrated to Cape Breton Island in 1828. He was one of the original pioneer settlers to settle in what is now Alba, Inverness County. MacEachern was at one period a way office keeper (owner of a house from which mail was brought before being distributed). He later served as a Justice of the Peace and operator of the post office.

By 1901, ownership of the property went to the Cassell Family (Alexander, Lockhart and Mary - all unmarried). They adopted a daughter who later

married a Lauchlan MacRitchie. By 1970 the property was abandoned and the building was burned in the 1980's.

While substantial renovations were made to this home during the later part of the 1800's, much of the original structure was



Exterior of MacEachern House through the woods from the MacDonal House.

identified through the research of Dr. MacKinnon. All of this information was considered in the design of the new building.

With the assistance of capital funding from Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation and the N.S. Departments of Economic Development & Tourism and Education & Culture, the Highland Village was ready to begin construction by the summer of 1998.



Interior of MacEachern House showing the kitchen table, loom and Interpreter Katy Michael.

Steve Chehy, a local carpenter in MacKinnon Harbour, got the job of bringing these plans to reality. Construction began prior to closing in the fall of 1998. The building was enclosed prior to snow fall and ready to occupy by the spring of 1999.

Steve and his workers worked diligently to construct a building that was historically accurate yet able to last for many many years.

We are grateful to our design committee (Jim St.Clair, Walter MacNeil, Richard MacKinnon, Charlene Kosick and Donald Beaton) as well as Steve Chehy and his workers for their leadership and effort in the construction of this building.

In its inaugural summer, the MacEachern Log Dwelling has served the programming needs of the museum very well. It was designated our weaving interpretation centre and is a highlight of our visitor experience.



Interior of MacEachern House showing loft, fireplace, kitchen table and interpreter Katy Michael.



Interior view with Loom, part of the Weaving Interpretive Centre.

From the Island of Tìree

RUARI & MAIRI MACCALLUM

A Children's Story

Come, come along with me to meet two young people of long, long ago. Their names are Mairi and Ruari MacCallum. You may find their names quite unusual when compared with those we use today. Mairi is a Scottish Gaelic name similar to the English name Mary, while Ruari is similar to the name Rory, found in English. Gaelic is the language they use in their conversations and in their songs.

Indeed, everybody on the Island of Tìree, off the coast of Scotland, speaks Gaelic to each other. Even in church, the minister reads from a translation of the Bible in Gaelic. But Mairi and Ruari are learning some English from their Uncle Calum who is a sailor and has lived in North America. So they can say "how are you?" in English and know that it means the same as the Gaelic "Ciamur tha thu?" They often laugh at the sounds of the English words which seem strange to them.

This begins the story of Ruari and Mairi MacCallum in *The MacCallum House, 1798* by Jim St.Clair. It is a children's story about the life of two young people, Ruari and Mairi MacCallum, who lived in a community called Kirkapol on the Island of Tìree in Scotland. Mairi and Ruari, and their family, spoke Gaelic and lived in a house made with stone walls and a thatched roof. They shared stories and songs with their neighbours. They worked the land for food.

One day a letter arrived from Cape Breton

Island in North America. In it, their uncle told of a life in the "New World" with better opportunities.

While the adults in the community pondered the letter and its invitation, Mairi and Ruari con-

family began to prepare for their journey.

The MacCallum House, 1798 gives the reader insight into what life was like for children in Scotland at the end of the 18th Century. It shows the attitudes of the people, as well as the sense of home and family.

This 70 page book is filled with colour photographs taken in the Blackhouse at the Highland Village, watercolours by Patsy MacAulay-Mackinnon, line drawings of implements used by Ruari, Mairi and their family, and some black and white photographs from Scotland. It is a wonderful resource for children and adults alike wanting to know what life was like during that time.

The MacCallum House, 1798 is the first in a series of five books in what is called *Following the Path: The Highland Village Series*. Throughout this series, readers will follow the history of Mairi and Ruari MacCallum

and their descendants from 1798 Scotland to 1920 Cape Breton Island. The series will use the homes at the Highland Village as the stage for these publications - *The MacCallum House, 1798* (Blackhouse in Scotland); *The MacEachern House, 1800* (Log Dwelling in Cape Breton Island); *The MacDonald House, 1829* (Centre Chimney House, Cape Breton Island); *The MacQuarrie/Fox House, 1865* (Centre Hallway House, Cape Breton Island); and *The MacIvor/Nash House, 1900* (Turn of the Century House,



The MacCallum Family packing for their journey to Nova Scotia. One of several illustrations by Patsy MacAulay-Mackinnon.

Cape Breton Island).

Once all five in the series have been produced, a special volume with all stories will be published as a collectors edition.



Jim St.Clair reads from The MacCallum House, 1798 at the book launch.

sidered what life will be like in North America.

Once the decision was made to move to Nova Scotia, Mairi and Ruari and their



The Launch of The MacCallum House, 1798 was attended by many and aired live on CBC Cape Breton Radio.

FOLLOWING THE PATH



*The MacCallum House
1798*

Highland
VILLAGE SERIES

James O. St.Clair

40th Anniversary

PHOTO ALBUM*Growth in Pictures*

On November 20, 1959, the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society was born. It was the culmination of a dream - a dream that had been in existence in one form or another since 1935.

Today, 40 years later, we remember those who dreamed and those who helped bring that dream to reality.

On September 28, 1999, from 7 to 9 pm, the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society is gathering stories from its past in an effort to better understand it and to celebrate its history as a cultural organization in Nova Scotia.

The successes that the Village has achieved to date have happened because of the drive and the dedication of people to ensure that it become reality.

In preparation for the oral history as well as our winter 2000 issue of *Naidheachd a' Chlachain*, we are asking for stories, clippings and photographs pertaining to the history of the Nova Scotia Highland Village Society.

We are also working on a master list of board, staff and volunteers. If you have memories of this we would love to have them.

We have come along way in 40 years. We want to celebrate it and thank those who enabled it to happen.

In the meantime, we have pulled out some photos from our library. These photographs show construction or capital improvements of one sort or another. Many of them also show volunteers or staff working hard to bring these projects to completion.

**NOVA SCOTIA
HIGHLAND VILLAGE
SOCIETY
Celebrating
40 Years
1959-1999**



Donald Beaton ads soil for the sod on the new Blackhouse.



Land being cleared between the MacDonald House and Barn.



Construction work on the front of the General Store.



Sprucing up the School.



Preparing for the roof of our first blackhouse.



Preparing for the roof of our new blackhouse.



The MacQuarrie-Fox House moving up Route 223 to the Highland Village.



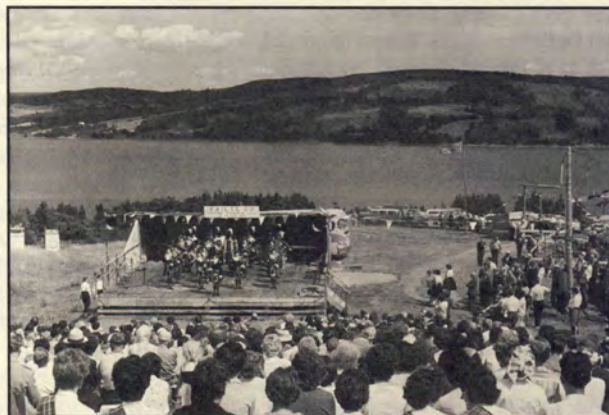
The MacQuarrie-Fox House heads for St. Peter's Canal



Sprucing up the MacIvor-Nash House



Hector MacKenzie working on the interior restoration of the MacQuarrie-Fox House.



An early Highland Village Day – a volunteer effort.



Renovation work on the Visitor Centre



Construction of the First Highland Village Stage



Construction of the new expanded and paved parking lot.

The

CURATOR'S CORNER

By Charlene Kosick

School Tours

Ready! Set! Go! Here they come! School children from all parts of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island choose the Nova Scotia Highland Village for their annual school field trip in June and we are very happy they do.

Between June 1 and June 24, 1,374 children arrived on site for a trip back in time. They were intelligent, exuberant, excited and sometimes exasperating, but they were all very welcome. After all, we are an educational facility and what better way for

young people to learn than with a hands on experience.

The letters on this page were included in a package sent to us by the grade four class at Robin Foote Elementary School in Sydney after their class visit on June 14, 1999. You will see by the statements and questions, that each child has a unique experience when they visit with us. These are only two of the more than twenty letters from the children. We have others on display in the reception area of our Visitor Centre.

Did You Know?

It was not until the middle of the nineteenth century that sewing machines suitable for domestic use were available to lighten the labours of women sewing for their families or to make a living. The earliest patent was taken out by Thomas Saint, an Englishman,



No. 3 Seamstress

THOMAS SAINT PATENT (see note)
Printed in Plain Oak, at \$21.00
a Quarter-cut Oak, extra finish, at \$22.50



No. 4 Seamstress

FIVE DRAWERS (see note)
Printed in Plain Oak, at \$21.00
a Quarter-cut Oak, extra finish, at \$22.50



No. 4 Drop-Head Seamstress

The mechanism drops out of sight and out of use, leaving a neat table. To open it, use the drop and lift the head.
Printed in Quarter-cut Oak, at \$22.50

LEADING FEATURES OF THE SEAMSTRESS SEWING MACHINES.

High Arm,
Hardened Steel Bearings,
Light Running,
Rotary Shaft Movement,
Self-Adjusting Working Parts,
Self-Threading Shuttle,
Automatic Bobbin Winder,
and the Head is fitted with the Latest Patent Self-Feeding Driving Wheel.

Combining Simplicity, Durability, Reliability, Speed, Strength and Beauty.

THE ATTACHMENTS, supplied free with each machine, are of the latest improved pattern, interchangeable and cannot be put on wrong. Constructed to slide on the frame, they require neither screw-driver nor thumb-screw to remove. They are made of the best steel, and are fitted with a variety of blades, Tuckers, Liners, Under-Blades, etc., for sewing all kinds of fabrics, from the coarsest to the finest.

Do not judge the quality of the machine by the price you pay for it. The quality of the machine is not in the price, but in the quality of the work it will do. The machine is not a piece of machinery, but a piece of art. It is a work of art, and it is a work of art that will last for ever.

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Seamstress Desk Cabinet Closed

Printed in Quarter-cut Oak, at \$21.00
a Quarter-cut Oak, extra finish, at \$22.50



No. 3 Eatonia

THREE DRAWERS (see note), finished in Oak, at \$17.50.

No. 3 Eatonia—Drop head cabinet, with patent self-feeding mechanism, and a self-feeding bobbin winder. It is a beautiful design, hand-crafted and painted, and never fails to please. \$20.00

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EATONIA High Arm Sewing Machines

THESE are some of the most perfect sewing machines ever made, and they are the most perfect sewing machines ever made. They are the most perfect sewing machines ever made, and they are the most perfect sewing machines ever made.

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THESE are some of the most perfect sewing machines ever made, and they are the most perfect sewing machines ever made. They are the most perfect sewing machines ever made, and they are the most perfect sewing machines ever made.

If you have a sewing machine send for our Thread Controller, price 10c ea.

36 Corbett Drive
Sydney, N.S., B1R 2H4
June 14, 1999.

Dear Mr. Cosick,
My name is Emilia Thorburn. I really enjoyed my visit to Highland Village. It was really fun. My favorite buildings were the schoolhouse, the McQuinn/Tax house and the General Store. I really liked the costumes that the men and women had in the buildings. I also liked the animals, especially the sheep. I liked looking around the gift shop, and walking around. I found the house very interesting. Where do you get everything to put in the house? Where do you get the outfits for the people in the buildings? Where did you get the animals? How did you make the rock candies? They are pretty good, so were the other candies. I liked the roof on the Black House. How did you get the grass up there? I enjoyed the Highland Village. Thank you for letting us come. I hope I can come again.

Yours truly,
Emilia Thorburn

45 Murphy Rd.
Sydney, N.S., B1R 1R1
June 16, 1999.

Dear Mr. Cosick,
I had a good day. I learned a little about the olden days. But what I liked most about it was I missed school. All I had to do was look for stuff. What I didn't like was that no one was at the blacksmith and I forgot the other house.



Sincerely,
Nick Burge

Special Thanks

The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society wishes to acknowledge its funding and marketing partners:

Operational Funding

- Nova Scotia Department of Tourism & Culture through the Nova Scotia Museum and the Cultural Affairs Division
- Municipality of Victoria County

Special Project Funding

- Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation/Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA/ECBC)
- Nova Scotia Department of Economic Development & Tourism (ED&T)
- Human Resources Development Canada
- Treasury Board of Canada (through the Alexander Graham Bell Museum)

Marketing Partners

ACOA/ECBC, Icon Communications, Highland Heights Inn, Castle Moffett, Atlantic Cruise Ship Services, Celtic Colours Society, Ban-nockburn Tours, Inverary Inn, Telegraph House, Silver Dart Lodge, and Gisele's.

The MICROFILM REEL

By Pauline MacLean

Tell me a story, Daddy. I'll do better than that, Mary, I'll read to you from Great-uncle Robert's diary. He wrote about his life in Cape Breton in 1842, that's a very long time ago. It begins like this...

Extract From Robert Elmsly's Diary

My thoughts lead me back to May, 1839, when I first landed at Sydney (Cape Breton), from Scotland, from the schooner "Nimrod", Captain Marsh, passage within one month.

I felt delighted with Sydney. During the summer, I heard of Baddeck, and, towards December, plans were perfected to foster some trade in Baddeck, and a shallop, named "Indian Shallop", of some 25 tons, was selected, fitted up, loaded, & cleared at customs, and ready for sea. A clerk, Wm. Kynock proposed to entertain him with a grand supper before leaving, and all justice as done to the viands provided at that feast. Many toasts were proposed and responded-to with Victor, and, next day, the expedition sailed.

I have often heard of & seen expeditions starting for the Arctic regions & North Pole, for Whales & Discoveries, with less ceremony than that now alluded-to. Not knowing the position of Baddeck, far less the dangers to be encountered going to and remaining there for 6 months, I felt uneasy for my friend's safety.

The destination was reached. The winter passed, and the shallop returned in the Spring, loaded with produce & 24 pounds, in hard cash.

These were jolly times, and, being very anxious to see Baddeck, I proposed to accompany my friend on his next visit, which occurred on 21 March, 1840, and we travelled on the ice, and landed on Mutton Island, at 3:40 p.m.

C.J. Campbell was in charge

of Mr. Anderson's store, on the island.

When settled down, I found matters novel & agreeable. Having nothing to do, I began to look around for enjoyment, an undertaking not hard to do. Our store was situated on Mutton Island, in a building, one end of which was occupied by Wm. Kidston & wife, both of whom were very agreeable.

I was very fond of ships, boats & canoes, & here, all at once, such were found. The first Briget that I saw navigating the Lake was of about 15 tons Burthen, well-rigged & capable of navigating the beautiful waters in which she was situated. The first paddle-boat was of like Burthen, propelled by two well-fed Rats (?). Those vessels were regular traders between the Island & the Main Land., followed by a tender, in shape of a wooden canoe. In charge of Mr. Kidston, the real bark was a novel sight, & afforded me great pleasure.

"Robinson Crusoe", few persons have not read the adventures of this celebrated person, & some have wished to be similarly situated, provided they were sure of not being toasted & eaten. In my ardour, I felt like Robinson, & set out exploring. Mutton Island was beautifully wooded, with Birch, Maple, Beech, & Spruce, from each end, except a small spot, where a lovely garden had once existed, there being only a foot-path through the woods. I enjoyed the scene, chased a few rabbits, partridge, & squirrels, but, having no gun, none were seized. Following animal tracks for a while, I suddenly entered a square space, of some 20 X 40 feet, in which I found the frame of a small vessel, which I surveyed all around. Viewing the situation, no outlet could be seen for man to enter from below, to convey the timber where-with to construct this vessel. My eyes were naturally cast down, and, behold! The sky was visible. My mind reverted to the 5th & following chapters of 1st Kings, from whence relief was found. The timbers for this vessel were no doubt hewn, fitted, & lowered down from above, to be then put in place by some mysterious hand.

On one occasion on the Island, I found a spring pole,

very strong, and, having the curiosity to test its working, I found my arm in a wire, & my body suspended in the air. There I hung, helpless, but, by exertion, broke loose, & was once more free.

As to drowning, this occurred at Sydney, in our kitchen. A puncheon was inserted in a pantry, on a level with the floor, to save water for washing. I entered the den one day, hurriedly, and went, head-first, into the vat. My absence was discovered at once, and I was extricated before the spirit fled.

My experience of American Life was very rough, and attention was then turned to more pleasant scenes. On looking round, I observed Indian encampments in various situations, and, at once, became enamoured with the scene. The innocent creatures would offer for sale bunches of lovely smoked & dried trout, fit for our beloved Queen's table, also eels, lovely quill boxes, baskets. Oh what a sight! It excelled Robinson Crusoe & all his adventures.

Robert Elmsly

Robert Elmsly was born in Scotland about 1823. He sailed with his uncle, an Anderson, to Sydney, Cape Breton, in 1839. As he says, he eventually made his way to Baddeck and later became postmaster. He married Mary A. Plant in 1836 and had 5 children. He died in 1903 at Baddeck. The full diary spans the years 1856 to 1888. One excerpt for July 28th, 1857 says *very warm weather. Rain much wanted. July 29th Emily Corbett went to Whycocomagh. Rain after dinner, till late. Does much good.*

How many diaries are here in Cape Breton and what stories do they tell? Small tidbits or long stories will all contribute to our information base and fill in gaps between the lines of dates and places. If you have a diary you would like to share with us, we would like to talk to you. Contact us at the Village.

Visitors Up!

Our visitor numbers continue to grow with e-mail requests increasing the most. The new season is also shaping up to be a busy one. Stop in and visit the office, I can't make tea but we

can talk.

Release of 1911 Census?

This letter is sent to us from Lyn Winters expressing concern about the non-release of the 1911 and later.

Genealogists, historians and other researchers are going to have to take up their pens again if they hope to win release of any further census records.

One proposal being considered by government in response to a public letter writing campaign on this issue could bar release of any further census records for almost another century.

Under current law, 1901 is the last census that will ever be made public. After being flooded with letters requesting that the law be changed, John Manley, the Minister in charge of Statistics Canada, instructed the agency to develop possible solutions.

Manley said in a recent letter that he now has two proposals before him. The first would enable the release of all census records to the public 92 years after they are taken, including those taken between 1911 and 1991.

The second proposal would apply only to census returns that will be taken in the future. That means that the next census that would be released would be the return taken in 2001. Its year of release would be 2094.

The first proposal would effectively meet the concerns of genealogists. The second is completely unacceptable. If you agree, then it is time to write some more letters and make your views known to your Member of Parliament and to Mr. Manley.

Remember, you do not need a postage stamp, simply address it to your local MP, House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6. Letters to Mr. Manley should be addressed to the Honourable John Manley, Minister of Industry, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6.

As a suggestion, to save changing the letters to suit the players, send your letter to Mr. Manley's office, make an extra copy and send it to your local MP with a note that you expect he will also bring this matter to the Minister's attention.

Please don't delay - do it now or we won't see another census released until 2094! Will you be around?

GÁIDHLIG

By Jim Watson

Eilean nan Òg 1999

Accenting cultural regeneration this season at Highland Village, an innovative Gaelic project, *Eilean nan Òg* (Island of Youth), was held on site August ninth through the twentieth. The project brings tradition bearers together with apprenticed teenagers who have shown a strong desire to become immersed in Cape Breton's Gaelic culture and language.

Eilean nan Òg's format was conceived and designed by Gaeltalk Communications of Queensville, Inverness County and facilitated by the Village's Gaelic Heritage Program. Instruction is presented in a five goal framework:

1. Familiarize participating youth with the linguistic, cultural and historical background of the Scottish Gael in Cape Breton Island;
2. Introduce participants to the language based art forms of the Cape Breton Gael including song, story, music and dance;
3. Provide a learning ambience that portrays the historical presence of the Gael in Cape Breton and provides opportunities to participate in heritage activities related to rural life;
4. Bring together apprentices with community based Gaels to learn directly from tradition bearers;
5. Motivate apprentices to seek other and ongoing learning situations that will enhance their Gaelic skills while acting on behalf of meaningful cultural development in the community.

Apprentices were chosen on the basis of written submissions explaining why they wish to be in the program. This year's youth

were Jennifer MacKinnon, MacKinnon's Harbour; Mairead Beatson, Mabou; Hector MacNeil, Big Beach and Warren Bonaparte, Iona.

Apprentices participated in a daily schedule of lessons and activities that were reinforced by Gaelic speakers who shared with teenagers their stories, songs, music and dance.

Tradition bearers included Maxie MacNeil, Highland Hill, singer; Jimmy Caluman MacNeil, St. Columba, singer; Frances MacEachen, Queensville, stepdancer; Jeff MacDonald, Kingsville, singer, storyteller and song composer; Joe Peter MacLean, Boisdale, fiddler; Mary Jane Lamond, Glendale, singer; Rod C. MacNeil, Barra Glen, singer, historian; Jamie MacNeil, Boisdale, singer and Sandy Cameron, Mabou, storyteller. We are grateful for their generous contributions of time and lore.

Eilean nan Òg classes took place in a number of locations on site and were integrated with staff animation. Apprentices wore period dress and sessions were accessible to the public. In doing so, the program added a good deal of pertinent cultural activity to the site through the demonstration of Gaelic culture on the grounds and in the MacDonald House. As part of the program, apprentices also volunteered for the Christmas Island Féis where they assisted Jim Watson and Beth MacNeil in planning and holding a two day Gaelic cultural camp for children.

Eilean nan Òg was well received by apprentices who praised Nova Scotia Highland Village as an ideal location for Gaelic cultural training of this kind. Plans are being made for continuing the program next year.

As an *Eilean nan Òg* guest at the MacDonald House, St. Columba singer Jimmy "Caluman" MacNeil presented the following oral history: a story

from the eighteenth century.

Dòmhnall Gorm

Cha chreid mi nach dug an deamhan leis e. A' bhantrach a bha 's na Haighleans... bha 'ad a' dol dha na Haighleans a dh'iarraidh feadhainn òg 'son an airm. Bha 'ad a' faighinn deiseil 'son a' bhlàir mhóir ann a Quebec.

Thànaig 'ad gu taigh seann bhantrach. Cha robh ach aon mhac aice. Thuir 'ad rith' gu feumadh a mac a dhol còmhla ris aon an airm. Thuir i gu robh i sean agus cha robh i slàn - cha b'urrainn dhi beòshlàint' i fhéin a dhianamh tuilleadh. Thuir e gu feumadh e falbh co dhiubh. Uell, dh'osnaich i an uairsin agus thuir i ris a dhol astaigh ann an grunnnd irinn, le anam 's le choin.

A' latha 'n deaghaigh a' bhlàir, bha 'ad a' suidh' amuigh co dhiubh. Bha bruach mu 'n coinneimh, bruach 'dol sios mar gum b'eadh. Agus aig bonn a' bhruaich bha coill' ann. Chunnaig 'ad an duine seo 'tighinn amach as a' choillidh. Thànaig e suas am bruach far a' robh e. Bha seòrsa do fhiar air a' bhruch. Cha chitheadh 'ad na casan aige. Ach nuair a chitheadh 'ad e o mhiadhain suas, stad e. Dh'éibh e mach ann am Beurla, "Is Donald MacDonald there?"

Thuir Dòmhnall Gorm, "Yes." "Uell," os esan, "I would like to have a private interview with you."

Thuir fear dha 'n fheadhainn eile ris an uairsin, "Have nothing to do with that man."

Thuir Dòmhnall ris, "I'm not scared of man or the Devil. I'll do as the man requests"

Choisich e sios am bruach far a' robh an duin' eile 's fhuig e 'n duin' eile 's dh'fhalbh an dithist ac' an uairsin. Chunnaig an fheadhainn eil' 'ad a' seanachas còmhla ri chèile mar gum biodh 'ad eòlach air a' chèile roimhe seo. Chaidh 'ad astaigh dha 'n choillidh 's cha n-fhac' 'ad riamh e 's cha d'fhuair 'ad riamh e. Shiubhal 'ad sios 's suas, cha d'fhuair 'ad marbh no beò e.

Bha cuimhn' ac' air na thuir a' bhantrach ris - gu rachadh e

staigh a ghrunnnd irinn. Rinn 'ad amach gur e an deamhan a thànaig 'ga iarraidh... Captain Donald MacDonald.

Blue Donald

I think the Devil took Blue Donald away with him. The widow was in the Highlands... They were going to the Highlands to find young fellows for the army. They were getting ready for the big battle in Quebec (Plains of Abraham, 1759). Donald and his men came to an old widow's house. She only had one remaining son (Eachann). They told her he would have to go with them into the army. She said that she was old and sick and couldn't provide for herself any longer. Blue Donald said he'd have to go anyway. Well, she sighed then and said he could go to the bottom of Hell with his soul and his dogs.

The day after the battle, the soldiers were sitting outside. There was an embankment in front of them, as it were. At the bottom of the hill there was a thicket. They saw this man coming out of the woods. He climbed up the embankment to where they were located. There was some kind of grass on the hill and they couldn't see his feet. When they could see him from the waist up, he stopped. He called out, "Is Donald MacDonald there?"

Blue Donald replied, "Yes." "Well," he said, "I would like to have a private interview with you."

One of the others said to Donald then, "Have nothing to do with that man."

Donald said to him, "I'm not scared of man or the Devil."

I'll do as the man requests."

He walked down the banking to where the other fellow was and when he reached him the two went off together. The others saw them talking as though they knew each other beforehand. They went into the forest and they never saw or found him. They looked everywhere but they never found Blue Donald, dead or alive.

They remembered what the widow said to him - that he would go to the bottom of Hell. They figured the Devil came to get him ... Captain Donald MacDonald!



Eilean nan Òg: Apprentices with Tradition Bearer Mary Jane Lamond in the MacDonald House.



CROSSWORD

Gaelic Dates

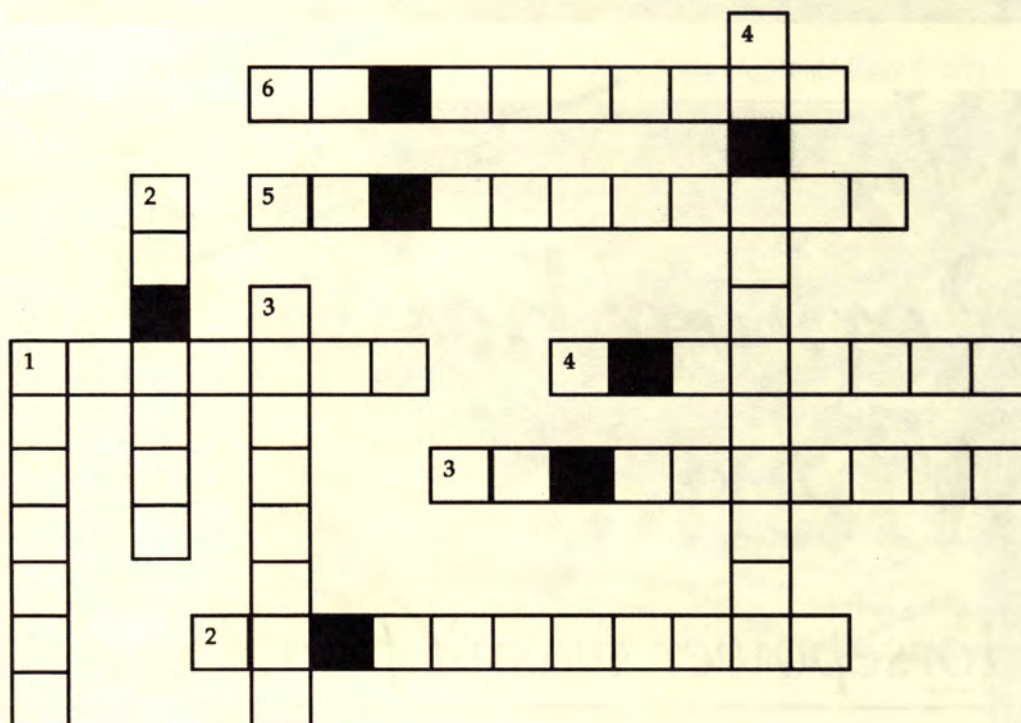
The answers to the crossword puzzle are the translations of the following dates:

Down

1. Monday
2. March
3. Friday
4. Sunday

Across

1. Tuesday
2. December
3. February
4. Easter
5. August
6. Christmas



Answers can be found below.

Looking for the perfect present?



Highland Village Giftshop

Visit our Gift Shop for a range of high quality gifts and local crafts. You will find the Island's largest collection of Celtic Music and Gaelic books. The Gift Shop is located in our Visitor Centre.

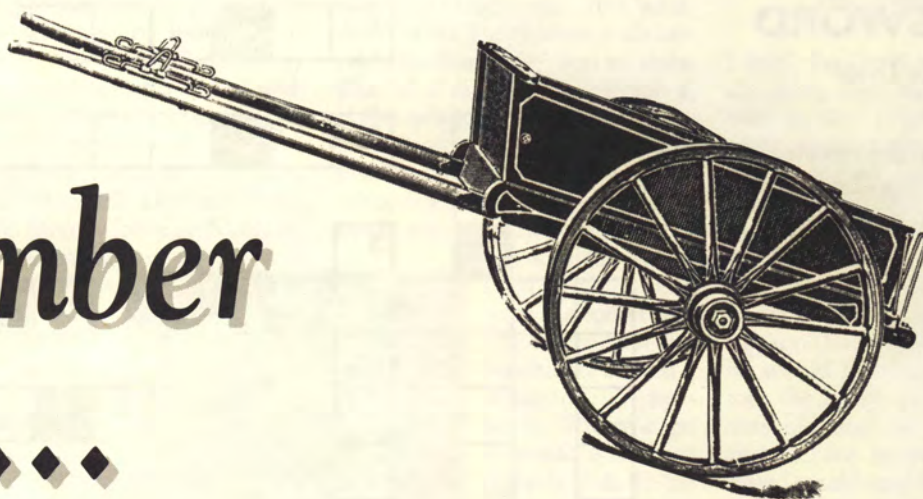
Check out our on-line Gift Shop
on the world wide web at
www.highlandvillage.ns.ca

We will have a full catalogue of music available on the site this summer and a full selection of books, clothing and other items this fall. If you do not see a book or music title on our site, e-mail us and we will try to find it.



Answers: Down - (1) diluain; (2) am màrt; (3) dihaoinne; (4) di dómhnaich
Across - (1) dimàirt; (2) an Iùnasdal; (3) an gearran; (4) a' chàisg; (5) an Iùnasdal; (6) an nollaig

We Remember When...



Horsepower wasn't found under the hood!

Come experience the simple pleasures and hard work of Scottish Pioneer life on Cape Breton Island. *June 1 – October 17.*

- Outdoor Pioneer Museum
- Roots Cape Breton Genealogy and Family History Centre
- Highland Heights Inn & Dining Room
- Gift Shop

*Come Feel the Spirit
of Our Pioneer Ancestors...*

Highland
VILLAGE

Iona, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia

(902) 725-2272

 **Naidheachd a' Chlachain**
(THE VILLAGE NEWS)

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P.O. Box 58 Iona Cape Breton
Nova Scotia B0A 1L0 Canada

Telephone: (902) 725-2272
Facsimile: (902) 725-2227

E-mail: hvillage@highlandvillage.ns.ca
Web Site: www.highlandvillage.ns.ca