

PRE-VISIT ORIENTATION FOR TEACHERS

An Clachan Gàidhealach / Highland Village is a living history museum and folk-life center that interprets and celebrates Gaelic Nova Scotia. On forty acres of hillside over-looking the Bras d'Or Lakes, the Gaels' customs and rural life come alive through costumed animators, farm animals, period buildings and artifacts. Daily demonstrations of culture and crafts place the visitor in the Gaels' world from immigration to the early 1900s.



AN CLACHAN GÀIDHEALACH ~ HIGHLAND VILLAGE

During the late 1700s to mid -1800s, thousands of Scottish Gaels emigrated from the Highlands and Islands and settled in eastern Nova Scotia. The Highland Village Museum depicts the rural experience of early settlers, and their descendants, on a journey into the twentieth century. The site features Gaelic language, cultural activities, traditional crafts, costumed guides, domestic animals, thousands of artifacts and twelve period buildings. The museum also offers education programs, learning vacations, and special cultural presentations. Four distinct themes comprise the site: Life in Gaelic Scotland, Pioneer Life in Nova Scotia, Farm Life and Village Life.

SANNDRÀIGH ~ IONA

Fàilte oiribh uile gu Sannraidh! A Gaelic welcome awaits you in Iona, Cape Breton Island. Participate in Nova Scotia's Gaelic culture at one of many community events or at the Highland Village. The Iona Peninsula is located in the centre of Cape Breton. Here, one can view the breathtaking vistas of the Bras d'Or Lakes, noted for its wildlife and as a breeding area for the bald eagle.

Gaelic History and the School Curriculum

A visit to Highland Village relates to many aspects of Nova Scotia Elementary and Secondary school curricula:

-Gaelic language and culture in Nova Scotia

-Material culture of rural living

- Changing technology and life on the land

-Historical architecture and artifacts

Students visiting Highland Village will have an educational encounter with the tangible and intangible past. Learning opportunities can include the following activities:

-Comparing and contrasting historical eras.

-Connecting the past with the present.

- Discussing and writing about Gaelic culture.

-Following the historical development of Gaelic Nova Scotia.

-Gaining an appreciation for the historical lifestyles of Highland settlers.

-Identifying artifacts and interpreting their uses and relevance.

-Interpreting the history of everyday life from different social perspectives.

-Learning about the relationship of buildings and tools to the land and daily labor.

By integrating buildings, artifacts and culture, the Village evokes Highland history in Nova Scotia through animation of life in times past.

Class visits to Highland Village prompt students to consider historical artifacts in relation to the people who used them. Students can trace the development of tools, implements, machines and other technologies during early nineteenth-century life in the Scottish Highlands up to the Great Depression era. The Village tour is based on an historical progression over succeeding time periods. Students will find an exceptional environment for comparing themselves with the people who came before them.

*GRADE AND ORGANISING CONCEPT	UNITS ,TOPICS AND COURSES
GRADE PRIMARY "Connections"	ROOTS ♦ historic family roots ♦ family traditions PLACE ♦ natural and constructed features of their community
GRADE 1 "Interactions"	PLACE AND TIME ♦ evolution of their community NEEDS AND WANTS ♦ interdependence of communities
GRADE 2 "Change"	PEOPLE ♦ the future of their community ♦ technological change in their community ♦ changing nature of work in their community
GRADE 3 "Provincial Identity"	THE WHOLE COURSE EXAMINES NS There are four units: Place, Peoples, Citizenship and Heritage.
GRADE 4 "Explorations"	THE NATURE OF EXPLORATION ♦ explorers and the impact of exploration EXPLORING THE LANDSCAPES OF CANADA ♦ physical and human landscape ♦ heritage symbols associated with Canada's symbols
GRADE 5 "Societies"	COLONIAL, FRENCH AND BRITISH SOCIETIES "MY SOCIETY TODAY"
GRADE 6 "World Cultures"	CANADA: REFLECTIONS ON A MULTICULTURAL MOSAIC
GRADE 7 "Empowerment"	The whole course examines Canada from around 1800 to the end of World War I
GRADE 8 "Canadian Identity"	The whole course examines Canada from WWI to present
GRADE 9 "Atlantic Canada in the Global Community"	The whole course examines Atlantic Canada and its connection to the rest of the world.
GRADE 11	CANADIAN HISTORY 11 Gaelic Studies 11 Geography 11 / Geography of

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

HIGHLAND VILLAGE: A GAELIC FOLK-LIFE CLASSROOM

- ◆ Students visiting the site can investigate and learn about the requirements of subsistence lifestyles. They will observe the relationship of the rural Gaelic-speaking Nova Scotian with the environment from which they drew their livelihood.
- ◆ School tours of the site provide opportunities to see and interact with demonstrations of crafts and chores performed by guide-staff in period dress.
- ◆ In addition to exploring the physical world of Gaelic Nova Scotia, students will be introduced to Gaelic language and culture.
- ◆ Students visiting the Village will discover the Bras d'Or's inspirational natural environment with panoramas taking in all of Cape Breton's counties



THEMES AND IDEAS TO EXPLORE

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| ❑ AGRICULTURE | Grain crops, flax, berry shrubs, historical flowers and burnt stump and vegetable gardens. |
| ❑ CRAFTS | Traditional skills applied to the creation of items necessary for daily life. |
| ❑ DOMESTIC ANIMALS | Highland cattle, Soay sheep, horse, pigs and chickens. |
| ❑ ENVIRONMENT | Rural life, forest, Bras d'Or Lakes, flora and fauna. |
| ❑ GAELIC CULTURE | The culture of the Gaels in everyday activities of rural life. |
| ❑ GAELIC HISTORY | The story of the Gaels' emigration and settlement in Nova Scotia. |
| ❑ GAELIC LANGUAGE | The language of the Gaels and its use in everyday life |
| ❑ INTERPRETATION | Costumed guide staff, Gaelic/English signage, exhibits and demonstrations. |

- ❑ TECHNOLOGY Machinery and implements.
- ❑ TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE Buildings in styles from the dry mortared blackhouse to prototypes of contemporary buildings.
- ❑ WORKING ON THE LAND Cleared fields, special fencing, farm implements and tools for felling the forest.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM

When organizing a tour of the museum confirm the purpose of your visit in the following areas:

1. Focus of information
2. Group or grade level
3. Objectives.

If there is a specific aim or focus you would like your tour to have, please ask to speak with Manager of Interpretation Jim Watson or Chief Interpreter Joanne MacIntyre so we can be better prepared to accommodate your group.

WALKING TOUR FOR SELF-GUIDING GROUPS

THE SELF-GUIDED TOUR

HOW DOES SELF-GUIDING WORK?

The Highland Village walk-around is clearly marked by directional signage that indicates the chronological order of the buildings. If required, guide-staff will be pleased to inform visitors with relevant information about the tour path.

TEACHER ASSISTANCE ON-SITE

Teachers and chaperones will be provided with an information packet and map highlighting specific points of interest. An orientation guide will assist in organizing group tours. Interpretive staff will provide information on their respective buildings and direct visitors to the next stop.

LENGTH OF TOUR

Average touring time for Highland Village is approximately one hour. Large groups will be divided into smaller groups and staggered by intervals resulting in a longer tour time.

FACILITIES

The museum has upper and lower level car parking, a gift shop, public washrooms and a picnic area with tables and a shelter.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

Highland Village is open to the public during spring, summer and early fall. Much of the tour takes place outdoors. Dress should be suitable for prevailing weather conditions of the day.

FOOD AND DRINK

Students can eat their packed lunches in the picnic area. Food and drink are limited to this section of the grounds.

PURCHASES AT THE MUSEUM

Souvenirs, giftware, related books and music are available at our reception center gift shop. Also, small items such as stick candy, toys as well as hand-forged items can be purchased in the General Store on the museum site.