Volume 2 **Partici—Paper** Number 10

December 1981

Community leadership is required to encourage and sustain participation

RECREATION INVERNESS COUNTY

Director's Desk

In the past two editions of Partici-Paper I spoke on delivery systems and on effective planning.

This month I am going to write about school programming and the involvment of the Recreation Department.

Initially, Adult Education was responsible for all school programming, up to approximately three years ago. At that particular time, the Department of Education found it necessary to drop all recreation programming under its funding policy. Because of this decision, programming opportunities for our citizens were greatly reduced. It is at this particular time that the Recreation Department became directly involved.

Mr. Alex Doyle, Superintendent of Schools, agreed in principle with the possibility of the Recreation Department sponsoring recreation programs within the schools. However, it was agreed that a committee should be set up to look into the proposal and report back to the School Board with recommendations. The committee was made up of School Board members, principals, Recreation Committee members, assistant Superintendent, and myself.

After several meetings the committee produced the following recommendations:

a) That the Recreation Department be allowed to run programming within the schools of Inverness County.

b) That the Recreation Depart-

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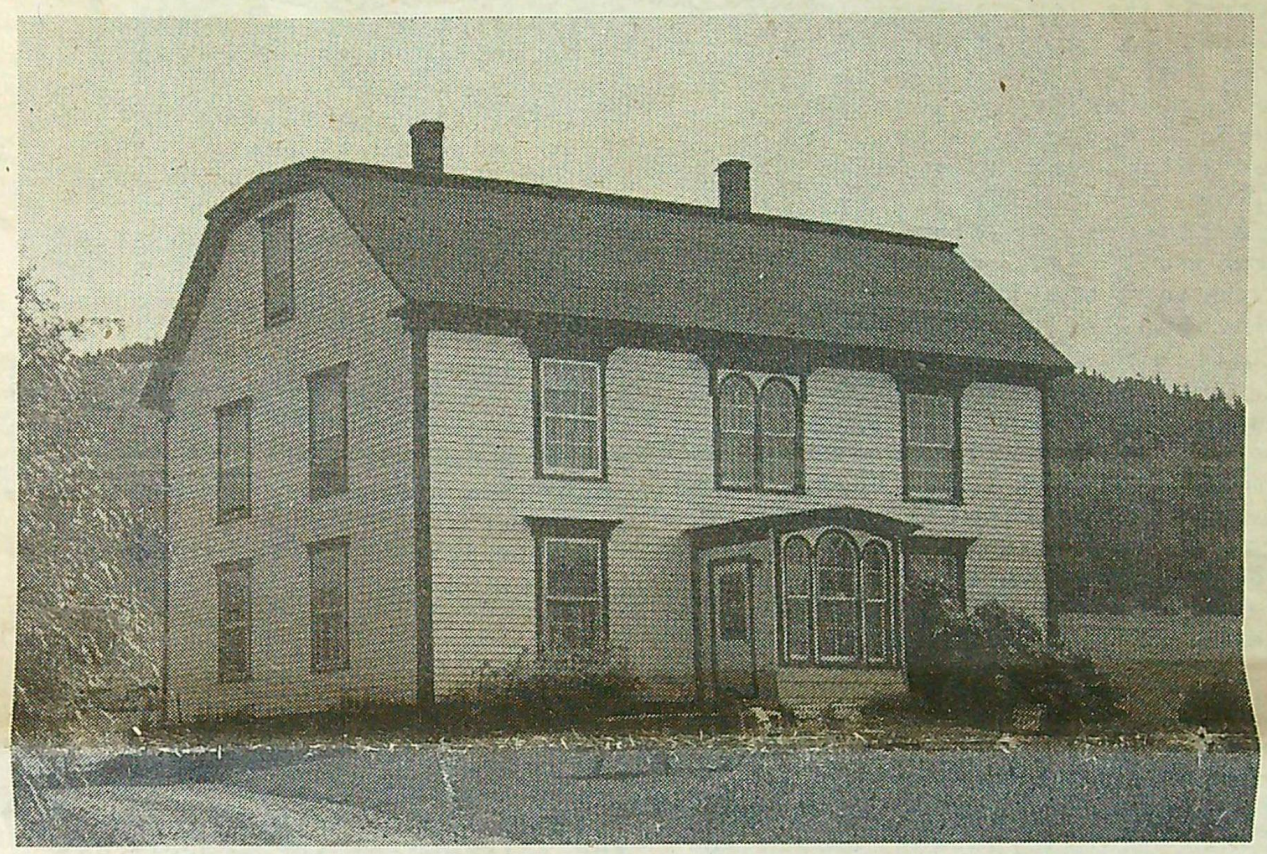

MacLeod House - Dunvegan, a beautiful example of early house architecture in Inverness County. Although built in the middle of the nineteenth century, it still has echoes of the eighteenth, in its symmetrical arrangement of windows and its Georgian elegance.

Hearth and Home

The Houses Our Ancestors Lived In

When the first settlers reached the western shores of Cape Breton, their first thoughts would concern shelter, once their initial shock of seeing so many trees had abated.

The Highland Scots settlers who arrived in Inverness County, especially, had never seen so many trees, and had no experience building in wood. The precious roof tree beams which held up the thatch of their stone houses in Scotland were previously guarded and preserved, especially in the Hebridean islands where the landscape is bare, rocky, and denuded of trees. When the Clearances were underway, the quickest way to evict a family was to fire the thatch and burn the roof trees. The roof could not be replaced and the family was without shelter. When these people arrived in Inverness County, they looked into the grim face of a relentlessly "gloomy forest." The Bard John MacLean wrote: "It is no wonder that I am gloomy living here back of the mountains in the middle of the wilderness at Barney's River with nothing better than plain potatoes.

Before I make a clearing and raise crops and tear the tyrannous forest up from its roots by the strength of my arms, I'll be worn out, and almost spent before my children are grown up."

It is difficult for us to imagine today the enormous amount of work involved in building that first primitive shelter and clearing enough land to plant crops.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Another year of publication is just ending, and Partici-Paper is well into its third year. The response to this publication has been favorable. It is hoped by the editor and staff of the Inverness County Recreation Department that this paper is serving the needs of the people of this county. To further serve those needs, we require input from our readers. "Partici-pation" on the part of our readers will make Partici-Paper work.

If you have something of interest in your community that relates to recreation and culture, let us know. These two headings can be very broad indeed. Recreation can include everything from knitting to biking to watching a play, going to a concert, or playing the harmonica. It does not necessarily mean a sports event, though this area is included. Hobbies of all kinds are of interest to us. Culture is perhaps the broadest topic of all. It can include historical profiles of communities and individuals, book reviews, and articles on local artists, musicians, performers, and artisans. And if there are any interesting legends or "eerie" tales from the past of Inverness County, Partici-Paper would be glad to print them. Each reader of this paper is a potential contributor. Don't be afraid to submit articles or information. Write or call our office. Let's "partici-pate" in Partici-Paper!

4-H NEWS

What exactly does "4H" mean? Well, this name is derived from the first letter of the four words - Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The significance of these words are expressed in the 4H Pledge:

I pledge
My head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service,
My health to better living,
For my club, my community,
and my country.

4H, therefore, exemplifies "four-fold" development. the aim of this program is to make our youth better citizens; mentally, religiously, physically and spiritually.

4H carries various programs to achieve its goal: Public Speaking and Demonstration competitions, leadership workshops, various conferences and tours are some of these. One other important aspect is the actual project work. This teaches the member practical skills as well as how to be responsible.

Part of the 4H Philosophy is that projects are less important than girls and boys. Our project method is only a means to an end, that being the development of a person's potential in an increasingly complex society. A project must meet the interest of the member, be acceptable to his/her family, and be practical about facilities, materials, equipment and finances available.

Many people especially in uban type areas have never gotten involved with 4H because of its rural background. The old belief is that 4H'ers are rural farm youth only. Please dispell this notion, as we offer many varied projects from livestock (dairy, beef,horse,sheep,rabbit, poultry) to homemaking (garment, foods,woodworking,handcraft) to outdoorsman (fisheries,snowmobile, forestry,horticulture) to self-determined projects where the member chooses his/her own project. So, you can see, there is something here for any youth and for any adult willing to teach others a skill or share their knowledge.

Arthur Pick
4H Representative

Deer Season Ends

The third annual Glendale Deer Hunt came to a close on Nov. 30. Trophies were presented for Heaviest Doe - Lawrence Mac Gillivary, Heaviest Buck - Daniel MacDonald, Most Points - Alex MacInnis and Billie Smeenk with 8 points each. These trophies are presented in memory of Donald MacDonald.

Director (cont'd)

ment must have prior approval from the school principals.

c) That the Recreation Department be allowed to charge a minimum registration fee of $15.00 for instructional programs and $10.00 for non-instructional programs.

d) That the Recreation Department pay to the School Board all monies received from the registration fees, over and above the cost of instruction.

e) That the Recreation Department be responsible for having a supervisor within each school while the Recreation Department programs are occurring. The cost of such supervision will be the responsibility of the Recreation Department.

f) That the Municipal School Board be responsible for the paying of janitors. Such costs would be recovered from the monies received from the Recreation Department.

Between the Fall of 1980 and the Spring of 1981 the Recreation Department offered thirty-four programs throughout the municipality which resulted in revenue of $6,911.00. The expenses relating to the above programs included $4,276.50 paid to the instructors and $2,624.50 paid out to the Municipal School Board for maintenance and janitorial services. The Recreation Department also paid out $1,266.00 to supervisors who helped promote the above programs.

The Recreation Department's intent is and will continue to be that of providing recreation opportunities to our citizens at a reasonable cost. To do the above we try, in most cases, to work with community groups and organizations. However as is the case with school programming, we sometimes need to take a direct role. I sincerely ask you for comments and suggestions for future programming. In order to provide effective programming throughout the county, we need and request your understanding co-operation. After all, "Inverness County Recreation is YOU".

On behalf of the staff and the Recreation Committee, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

CULTURE AND FITNESS NEWSLETTER

Municipal Department of Recreation Inverness County

Second Class registration number 5012

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Submissions to John Cotton or Betty Campbell

NEXT DEADLINE: DEC. 30

Houses (cont'd)

The first season would be spent cutting and shaping the logs to build a small cabin. The clearing would still have its stumps that were left to rot and then later removed and the log cabin would have its large stone fireplace where huge hardwood logs were consumed for heat and cooking. By comparison to the stone dwellings left behind in Scotland, the Highlander's first crude shelter in Cape Breton was a far cry from his former home. Though it might

no glass windows

have no floor but the packed down earth on which it was built, and no glass windows, it did have a substantial fireplace and chimney, and if properly chinked by mud and moss, it was secure from wind and rain. And there was always lots of fuel for heat throughout the long cold winters that so astounded the first settlers.

The Acadians who had been living in Nova Scotia for some time, had adapted quickly to the climate and had built wooden dwellings from the forests around them. The Loyalists who came to the area of Port Hood or Chestico, brought with them their skills from New England and their own influences in house design.

If we look around Inverness County today at some of the early houses, we can see very unique house designs. Few of the log cabins survived for very long. Once they had their purpose, they became barns and outbuildings, when the settler's family was able to have a proper house built of sawn timber.

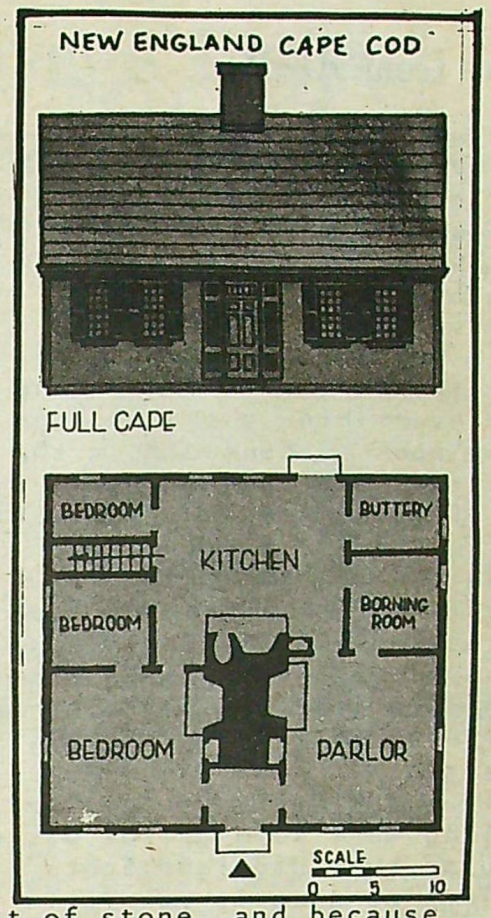
What were the influences on house architecture in Inverness County, and what were the early houses like? The typical early house was one and a half storeys, usually with a large central stone chimney which provided two or three fireplaces in the lower rooms. It was clapboarded on the outside and had a shingle roof. Small panes of glass in sash-hung windows provided light, and interior walls were usually of wide planks cut in widths not seen today. The upper storey may have been divided into two areas, on either side of the chimney, one for sleeping, and one side reserved for the huge loom necessary to each home where all the weaving was done for the family's use. The most active room was the kitchen-which usually occupied one half of the downstairs. A huge hearth hung with cast iron pots on a movable crane was the heart of the home. All meals were cooked over the open fire which was never allowed to go completely out. Live coals were a precious commodity in an age that did not have matches. Rooms were lit by tallow candles-in some homes-a luxury and very carefully conserved-which were either hand-dipped or made from molds. Tallow was the grease saved from cooking and from the fat of slaughtered animals.

A good example of a house of this type built around 1820 came from Stewartdale near Whycocomagh and is located now at the Highland Village Museum in Iona. Houses varied in degree of comfort and refinement depending on the resources of the family and the materials available. As soon as sawmills and gristmills were built in the early pioneer communities, other skilled trades appeared-glaziers, tanners, boatbuilders and stone masons.

more spacious frame houses

In the village of Chestico (Port Hood), according to the 1818 census, there were, by occupation-three traders, three shoemakers, two weavers, one blacksmith, one miller, and one full time fisherman, and all these in a population of about 170 people. By the 1820's, most of the pioneers were out of their first log shelters and settling into more comfortable and spacious frame houses. Many of these houses still exist throughout the county, some changed and modernized, many still little altered in their outside appearance.

For many of the houses, the stylistic influence seems to have been a combination of the New England-Cape Cod style cottage and the Highland Scottish stone croft house. In Scotland, all houses were



built of stone, and because most of the settlers who were forced to emigrate to Cape Breton came from incredibly impoverished conditions, their homes were primitive and lacking very basic comforts. In the outer islands, the "taigh dubh" or "black house" was the usual shelter. A single storey dwelling with very thick stone walls, and a thatch roof which only occasionally had an opening in it to let the smoke from the peat fires escape, it not only provided meagre shelter for its people, but housed the animals as well in the byre which was at one end of it, divided off by a small stone or wooden partition. The chickens were quite often penned within the space between the family's living area and the byre. The

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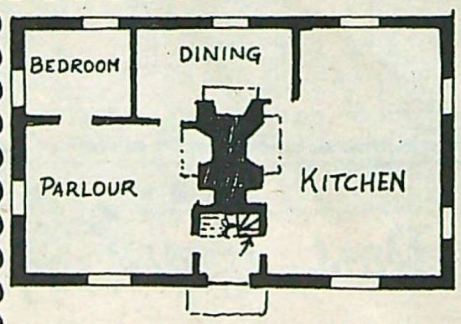
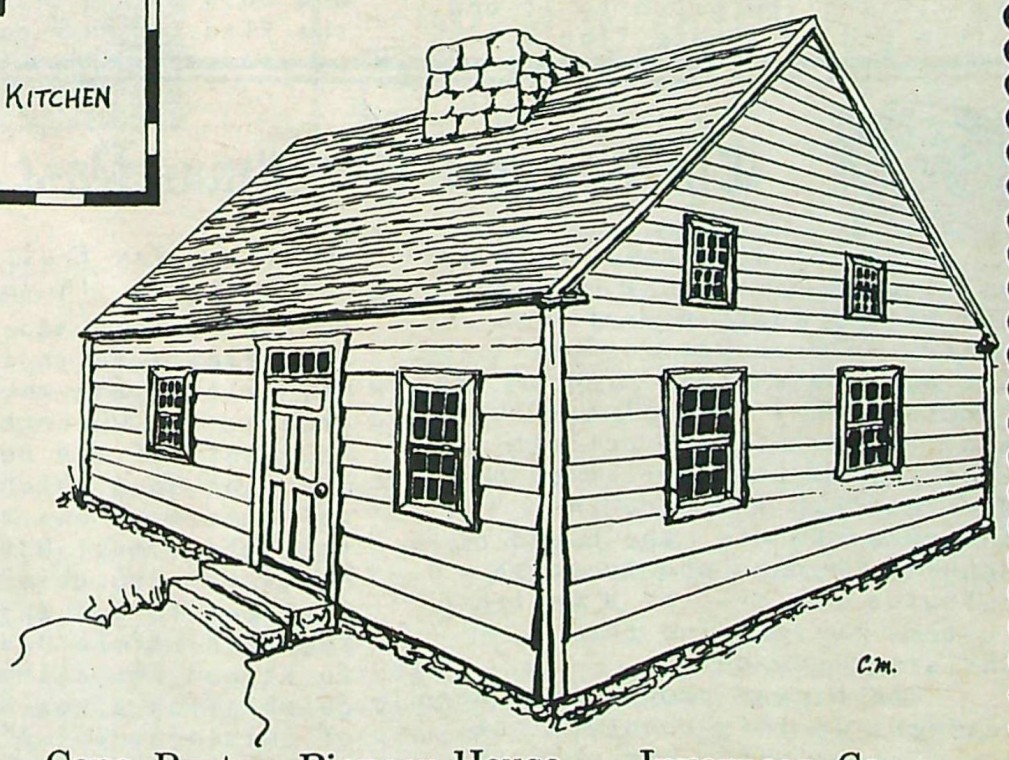


FLOOR PLAN



Cape Breton Pioneer House -- Inverness Co.
1810 - 1840