COUNTY OF INVERNESS
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Partici~Paper

Covering culture, heritage, recreation, physical fitness, tourism, and community activities in Inverness County since 1979.

SCENIC BOAT TOURS CHARTERS

The first sign of the marine giants was a series of water spouts above the undulating sea 500 years ahead of the 40-foot charter boat that was churning along two miles off Cheticamp.

As the vessel closed to within a few hundred feet, the bulbous, blunt heads and thick dorsal fins identified a frolicking pod of "Pilot" or "Pothead" whales, giving the vessel's passengers their first indication of the size of these slowly-manoeuvering marine mammals-- up to 22 feet long and weighing 3,000 to 4,000 pounds.

At the opposite end of the Province, at Brier Island where Nova Scotia thrusts finger-like into the Bay of Fundy, another whale cruise carried excited visitors to a ring-side seat among a pod of much larger "Humpback" whales tipping the scales at upwards of 15 tons and measuring 35 to 40 feet.

The two full-time summer whale-watching operations, the former six years old, the latter three, are the province's first attempt to tap a growing international business and one that has already turned millions of tourist dollars into the economies of seacoast areas of the south, particularly Massachusettes.
As cruise-boat passengers marvel and applaud, the majestic giants of the sea blow, surface and then roll gracefully into a dive, staying under as long as 20 minutes before surfacing again.

Despite their size, the multi-ton marine mammals pose no threat to friendly observers, and whale watchers from children to seniors respond with no trace of fear.

Photographic opportunities are limitless as the whales perform their smooth, spectacular routines, at times within touching distance of the cruise vessels and their appreciative passengers.

The whales provide a fascinating sea treasure for Inverness County!

Scot LeFort identifies whales as the Captain searches the horizon.

WHALE !

by Kevin MacDonell

CHETICAMP - Tourist Eberhard Maevers had remained mostly silent throughout the voyage, except when he explained things in quiet German to his small son, Benjamin.

His scream cut through the chugging of the boat's motor: "A whale!" Conversations were broken off as everyone rushed for a vantage point to view the natural spectacle. Captain Calixte Poirier allowed the boat to come to a halt and joined the passengers to wait for the whale to resurface. Their persistence was rewarded with the sight of the animal breaking the surface with its great dorsal fin. It was far off, but its gleaming black flanks were unmistakable.

The captain identified it as a "Minke" whale, and not the more-frequently sighted Longfin Pilot whale, also known as the "Pothead." Minkes, the passengers were told seemed to be less "sociable "than the Potheads, which sometimes rubbed right up against the boat. Back in the forward cabin, Poirier gunned the engine in an attempt to get closer to the group. However, the Minkes which he identified as being female - kept their distance.

"They must be playing hard-to-get", he joked in French, "maybe we'll have better luck if we find a male!" The 'chase' was on in this unusual safari off the northwestern coast of Cape Breton Island.

continued page 6

GED students pass the torch!

by Mary Anne Ducharme
based on an interview with Archie Neil Chisholm of Margaree Forks

Storyteller, radio personality, master of ceremonies, teacher, consultant for the Minister of Multiculturalism -- these are just a few of the accomplishments of 80 year old Archie Neil Chisholm of Margaree Forks. But the activity that has given him the most "exquisite satisfaction" is teaching GED. With this program of adult education since its inception about 20 years ago, this veteran of 47 years of teaching has no thought of retiring as long he can maneuver in his wheelchair and there's a willing student to be found.

Beginning by tutoring adults independently for free, he then taught for years at an hourly rate of only $2 - $3 an hour when the GED program began. His major incentive was the pride and delight of students who called him to say that they passed their Provincial Examination with flying colors and now had their high school diplomas.

With his long experience, Archie Neil has formulated some very definite ideas about how the GED course should be taught. " Sticking exclusively to the text is a mistake," he insists. "It's a good general guide, but it's not the Bible. You have to give the spark of life to the printed words -- with humor and stories from local politics, from the student's personal experience, from your background of knowledge. If you don't do that, the print on the page seems cold and remote to the students and it doesn't touch them. You have to be the Master of the Digression. You know, the long detour in discussion can very well be more interesting and instructive than the main road."

The relationship between students and teacher in an adult class is also of crucial importance. "You have to treat them as equals and bring with you the air that fosters mutual respect," he says. "I never ridicule or lose my temper, because I know you can't do that to adults and keep their respect. I think the same goes for kids in school, too. You try to keep things casual and open so that students are comfortable with asking questions and are not afraid of exposing what they don't know. That's very important. Most adult students have a lack of self-confidence."

Archie Neil feels that more Canadian content in the literature and social studies portion of the GED text would help Canadian students identify with the material more readily. "You must proceed from what they know to what they find unfamiliar," and what they know more about is Canadian social and political issues, and Canadian literature. The American content gives them less in frame of reference to aid reading comprehension.

When asked what kinds of people have taken his GED classes over the years, Archie Neil replied that all kinds of people have taken seats in his classroom: farmers, lumbermen, housewives, carpenters, fishermen,-- and highschool dropouts who want to go to vocational school or have decided they want to enroll in a university. They range in age between 19 and 60 years old.

He spoke of a boy who went to work in the woods when he dropped out of school in grade 8. He married, his children grew up and graduated from universities, and at the age of 50, he fought through three subjects in GED. In the next classes offered, he finished, passed his Provincials and walked a lot taller in his pride of having Grade Twelve.

Two college graduates enrolled once in Archie Neil's class because they had low marks in English in university and wished to improve their basic skills.

He also had a German speaking couple, a nurse and an engineer, who wanted to aid their learning of English.

"GED is the place to get the preparation for vocations or professions," Archie Neil points out, "but many take the course because of the satisfaction and sense of accomplishment it gives them. GED has so much to offer that it can touch every person, but more has to be done to make people aware of what they can get from the GED program."

He makes a strong suggestion and a call to all former GED students:" Please write to the editor of this paper and explain what the GED program has meant to you, and what use you have made of what you have learned. There are countless others out there whose lives may greatly benefit from GED, but they do not realize its potential. The idea of the Olympics and 'passing the torch' has done so much for other causes, this is one way GED students can pass the torch as well."

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed reading the article you wrote about Rosemary Guest, the Nova Scotia GED award winner for 1986 (Partici-Paper, June 1987). The staff at GEDTS loves hearing about the award winners' life stories and their hopes and plans for the future. We hope the awards program inspires those interested in getting a GED certificate; articles like yours about Ms. Guest help us get the word out about the GED program.

The articles on page 2 about literacy and the GED program were also much appreciated. You may know that Nova Scotia was the first Canadian province to adopt the GED. Thank you for including adult education articles in your paper.

Douglas R. Whitney
DIRECTOR, GED TESTING SERVICE
AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATON
WASHINGTON, D.C.

NOTICE!

Patrons of Windrow Anthology

Many thanks to those who have contributed so that Windrow Antholgy will continue. We are still receiving contributions, and patrons will be listed in the forthcoming issue. In the event that some arrive after our layout and printing dates, your names will be listed in Partici-Paper and in the third edition of Windrow.

Pen and Ink Sketches

Several submissions for the pen and ink sketches have been received by the Arts Council. A committee will be formed to select the best of the drawings and those not chosen will be returned to the artists by mail in July. Those whose art work is chosen will receive $50. from the Recreation Department by early August.

Partici—Paper

Mary Anne Ducharme, Editor

INVERNESS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND TOURISM

Send all contributions to:
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