Partici-Paper

Inverness County

July/August 2000
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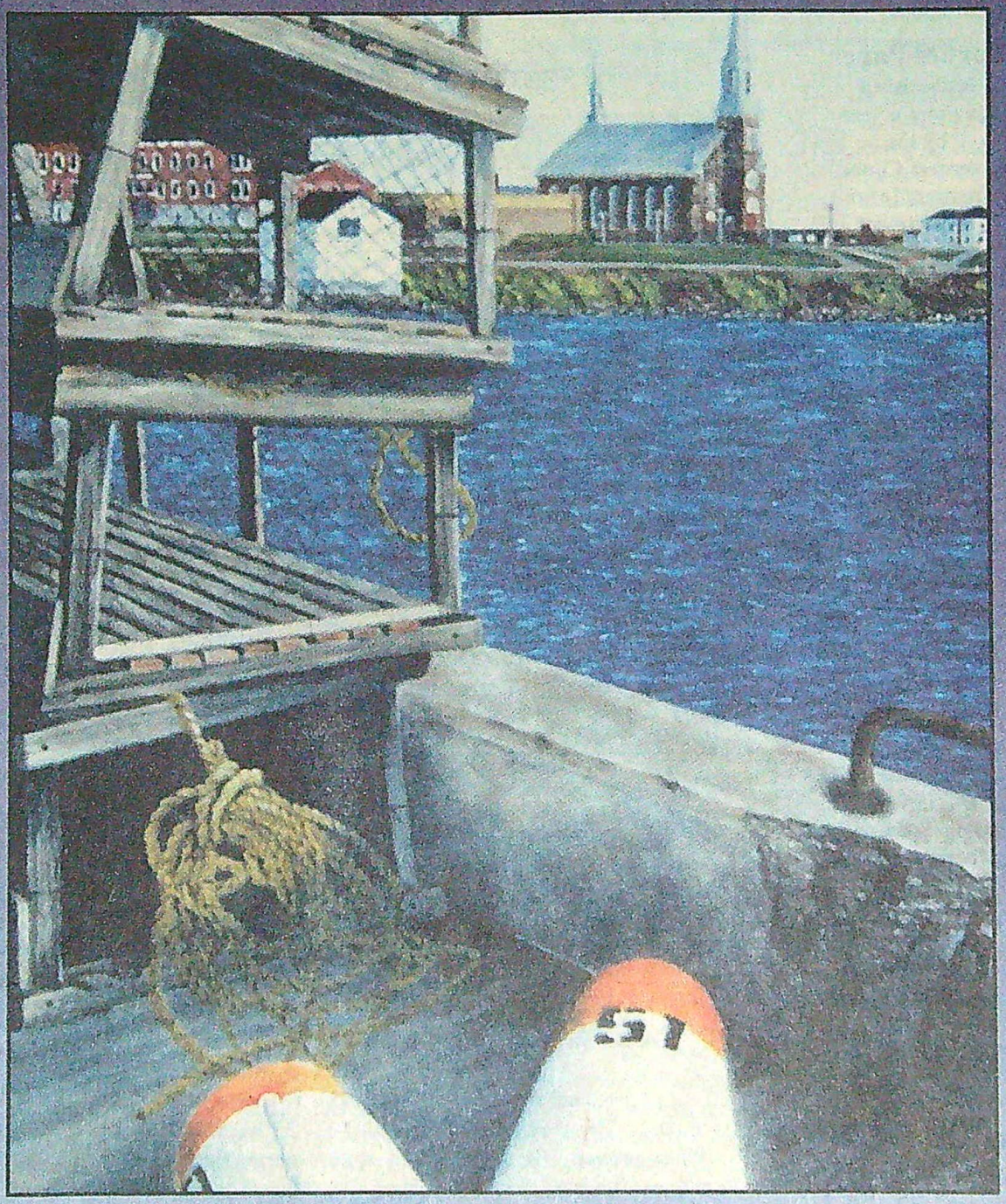

Painting by Paula Camus of Cheticamp

Partici-Paper

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DIRECTOR'S DESK

SENIOR GAMES

The Senior Games 2000 was held recently at the Inverness Academy in Inverness. We are very pleased to report another successful event with 225 seniors attending. Lots of friendly competition, socializing, and of course lots of laughter. For more on the Senior Games, check page 21.

FESTIVAL & EVENTS INFORMATION:

Non-profit organizations holding events that are open to the public are encouraged to keep the Inverness County Recreation/Tourism Department up-to-date on your activities so we may help you promote them throughout the summer. You can reach us at: Tel: (902) 787-3507 or 2274 Fax: (902) 787-3110, or Email: recreation@invernessco.com.

SUMMER SAFETY

Summer has finally arrived, school is out, and people are enjoying the all too brief days of summer. With so many outdoor recreational opportunities available we encourage everyone to be summer safety conscious. In this issue you will find some timely reminders on how to protect yourself and loved ones from the sun, whether you are out in the garden, at the beach or playing sports. You will also find information on safe boating and new boating regulations affecting youth born after April 1, 1983.

WE WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER

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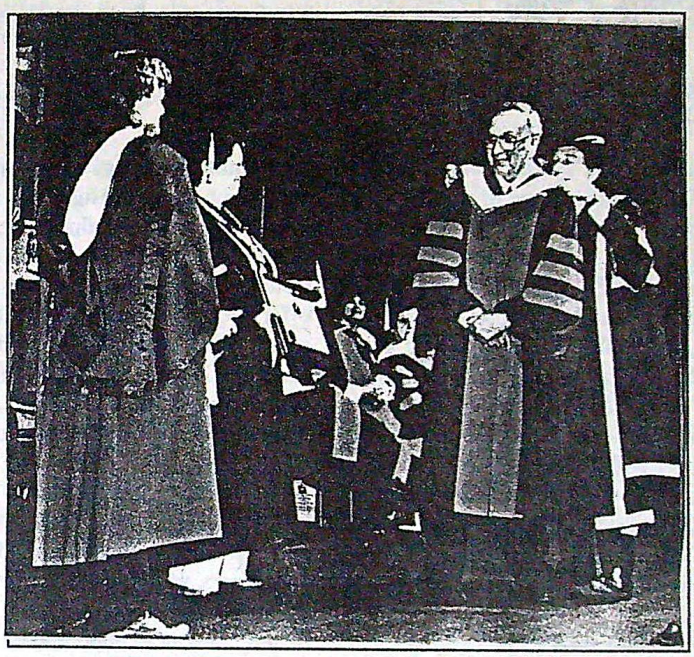
Jim St.Clair Receives Honorary Doctorate of Letters

by Mary Anne Ducharme

On May 13, Jim St.Clair was among those honored by the University College of Cape Breton, which presented him with a Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree for his long and distinguished career in heritage, genealogy, arts and culture.

Jim St. Clair has contributed to *Ancestors Unlimited* for almost two decades, a highly popular column with our readers. *The Oran* features his weekly history column *Then and Now*, the title taken from a former CBC series by the same name. These columns are pure "Jim"-- a combination of history and genealogy, poetic reflection, Celtic mysticism, and gentle irony and humor. Taken cumulatively, his writing represents a depth of knowledge of this region, and have helped to preserve connection with our history and identity.



Our readers have also greatly enjoyed his short stories centered in colorful local history and folklore– especially his Christmas tales. His considerable flair for oral story telling, and his knowledge of folklore, were much in evidence as a frequent guest on the old-time CBC radio series *Archie Neil's Cape Breton*. His distinctive personality and voice– one of a kind– are currently familiar on the airwaves with his weekly CBC history broadcast *Up and Down the Island*.

Besides the airwaves, Jim has directed stage plays at Mabou Consolidated School with Carole Chisholm, and has taken acting roles in community theatre. Those who attended the Hillsborough Players' production of *Scrooge* will remember with delight his energetic portrayal of the title character, a most convincing curmudgeon who transforms into a benevolent friend to all mankind. He is on the founding board of directors for "Strathspey Place", the new performing arts centre at Dalbrae Academy.

Jim has co-authored with Mary K. MacLeod two books on Cape Breton Heritage Houses, *No Place Like Home* and *Pride of Place*. He has also compiled other works of genealogy including *Birth Records of Central and Western Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, 1820's and 1830's*. His most recent work is *The MacCallum House 1798*, the first in "The Highland Village Series" which will follow the story of Mairi and Ruari, children at the end of the 18th Century in Scotland who eventually moved to Cape Breton.

A graduate of Harvard University, initially Jim came to the area from teaching and administration positions in New Canaan, Connecticut. Jim's Nova Scotia teaching career included high school English and history in Mabou, and being an instructor for UCCB in the Problem Centered Studies program. Among his numerous accomplishments, Jim is best described as a Teacher. His persona as teacher is everywhere evident in the mentoring and encouragement of people with fledgling interests in history, museums, the arts, performance, and organizational development.

He remains an "institution" in our County, a vigorous and outspoken activist in influencing the direction of cultural and heritage development organizations in Cape Breton and the province. Among the numerous boards in which he has played leading roles are the Nova Scotia Federation of Heritage, the Iona Connection, the Inverness County Council of the Arts, Inverness County Festival of the Arts, and the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada.

His home at Mull River in Mabou, is on ancestral MacFarlane land, settled by his great-great grandparents in 1820. He has made the old-growth forest lands on his property, called MacFarlane Woods, into a protected Special Place.

Congratulations, Jim, from all of Inverness County. May you long continue to inform, delight, and teach!

You are invited to share your research queries & responses with
Jim St.Clair
Mull River
Mabou
Nova Scotia
BOE 1XO

Inverness County Roots
Ancestors Unlimited

Good reading for local history enthusiasts

Eleanor Anderson of Sydney has recently published *A History of Broughton, Cape Breton County*. The research for this book is from a variety of sources, both printed and oral. The story is a dramatic one: a large town constructed at the turn of the century and essentially abandoned within a decade– built to house coal miners and to provide a major coal mine, Broughton came to be used, after it failed as a coal mining site, to house members of the 185th Overseas Battalion of Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1916 as they prepared to go overseas.

The example is a fine one for people interested in writing local history. The location was one where many people from across the Island lived, either during its time as a coal mining town or at the time of the First World War.

Bemocked of Destiny by Aeneas McCharles is a most unusual book. Subtitled, *A Memoir*, the story of McCharles is that of many young people from Cape Breton who went north or west in the last century. Few struck it as rich as McCharles-- who has a park in Sudbury, Ontario named for him. Few felt as 'done in' by fate as did McCharles. His observations on his life and his memories of rural Cape Breton, Middle River, in the 1840's and 1850's offers insight to all interested in local history.

The book has been reprinted in a limited edition. Copies may be available through Bonnie Thornhill, Baddeck. It is a great read.

Survival of the Unfittest by Robert Mathieson of Sydney, published in 2000 by Jon Donald Publishers Ltd. of Edinburgh brings new insight into the period of emigration from the Highlands and Island of Scotland and the Clearances. Mathieson, a pathologist, writes in a scholarly manner about the poverty and ill-health of distant relatives of people in Inverness County. The book offers new information about the period and takes away some of the old myths about the period. Mathieson talks about the land reform of the mid and late 1800's after the major emigration was over. An essential for anybody looking for new depth about this crucial period.

Ships from Ireland to Early America 1623-1850 by David Dobson lists about 1,500 vessels with particulars of port and departure and/or arrival, number of passengers, and other data. Almost 20% of the ships came through Atlantic Canada, 111 vessels touching on Nova Scotia. This new book makes a valuable addition to the literature of Irish immigration. Published by Clearfield Co. Inc., 200 E.Eager St. Baltimore, Maryland, 21202. $22.00 (US).

In the Morning, Veterans of Victoria County, Cape Breton, edited by Bonnie Thornhill and W. James MacDonald, contains biographical sketches of the veterans of Victoria County who served in both world wars. Illustrated. Available from the University College of Cape Breton Press, Box 5300, Sydney, Nova Scotia. B1P 6L2. $29.95.

Early Cape Breton Newspapers, by Mildred Howard, Vol.IV.(1887-1895) Available from Cape Breton Genealogical Society, Box 53, Sydney, NS. B1P 6G9. $17.00 postpaid.

Beginning Your Family History in Great Britain, by George Pelling. Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1001 North Calvert St. Baltimore, MD, 21200. $9.95 (US)

In the Spring 2000 issue of the *Nova Scotia Genealogist* is a listing of people who belonged to the **International Club of Boston**, an organization founded in 1903 to provide a meeting place and to provide assistance to people whose parents were born in Canada or who themselves were born in Canada. Located on Dudley Street, it provided a building for public meetings and dances. Many Cape Bretoners are listed as members, with their Boston addresses given, a good clue for family researchers. The following are listed for 1908:

Daniel P. Cameron
Port Hood

Alexander Campbell
Mabou

John W. Campbell
Malagawatch

Wesley Carmichael
Margaree

William Chisholm
Judique

Patrick Coady M.D.
Margaree

John Curickshank
Port Hawkesbury

Joseph Fortune
Inverness

David Ingraham
Margaree

James Kiley
Inverness

Eugene MacDonald
River Denys

A. James MacDonald M.D..
Stewartdale, Whycocomagh

James MacDonald
Margaree

Hugh J. MacDonald
Inverness

Angus D. MacDonald
Lake Ainslie

Neil McInnis
Judique

Roderick McInnis
Inverness

Allen McIsaac
Port Hood

Peter McIsaac
Judique

John D. MacKinnon M.D.
Strathlorne

Daniel McKillop
Mabou

Alexander MacLeod
St.Rose

James MacPhail M.D.
Scotsville

Rev. Albert Shields
Margaree

P. Somers Smyth
Port Hood

Patrick Tompkins
Margaree

John Walker
Lake Ainslie

Alexander Walker
Inverness

John Chisholm
Judique

John McKinnon
Queensville

Bernard McGarry
Inverness

Queries

In 1891, a widow **Rachel Winship** was living near the Stoney River Bridge in Hillsborough. She was the daughter of Sam MacKeen, the miller. Who was her husband? What happened to her children? They were: Howard Winship, born in USA about 1878; Granville, born USA ca.1882; Ella born USA about 1884. Where did Rachel MacKeen Winship go about 1895? She is not listed on the 1901 Census.

Who was **William MacKinnon** of Whycocomagh who married Jennie Kidston of Hillsborough and Baddeck? In later years, they lived in Sault Ste. Marie.

In 1881, at the Glendyer intersections, there lived **Jim MacKinnon** and his wife Annie. Amon their children was John Lewis MacKinnon who later lived in Whycocomagh. Who was Jim MacKinnon? Was he from Whycocomagh? Who were his parents?

Who knows about a shipwreck off Port Hood on 26 November 1884? This fishing vessel was carrying William Henry Hodgson when it wrecked. Hodgen's body was washed ashore on the Outer Island. What was the name of the vessel? Who was the captain?

Isle Madame Genealogical Summit

AUGUST 14-19

The Isle Madame villages of Arichat, D'Escousse and Petit de Grat and the nearby communities of L'Ardoise, Louisdale and River Bourgeois and some of its neighboring communities will be the scene of a genealogical conference in August 2000. The idea was initiated by a group of American and Canadian researchers interested in experiencing their past and learning more about their Cape Breton ancestry.

Authors, clergy, educators, historians, and family genealogy enthusiasts will share their expertise with visitors in a week-long genealogical event. There will be daily keynote presentations, community tours, cemetery walks, church visits, and a variety of food and entertainment options.

Questions may be directed to the Summit organizers. Contacts:

Jeanne Belford: jbelford@mindspirng.com
Jeanne Stone: j.josse@ns.sympatico.ca
or call Jeanne Stone at 902-443-5420,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.