County of Inverness

CONGRATULATIONS GRADS!

Partici~Paper

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"Nova Scotia is getting the reputation of being the quilting province of Canada"

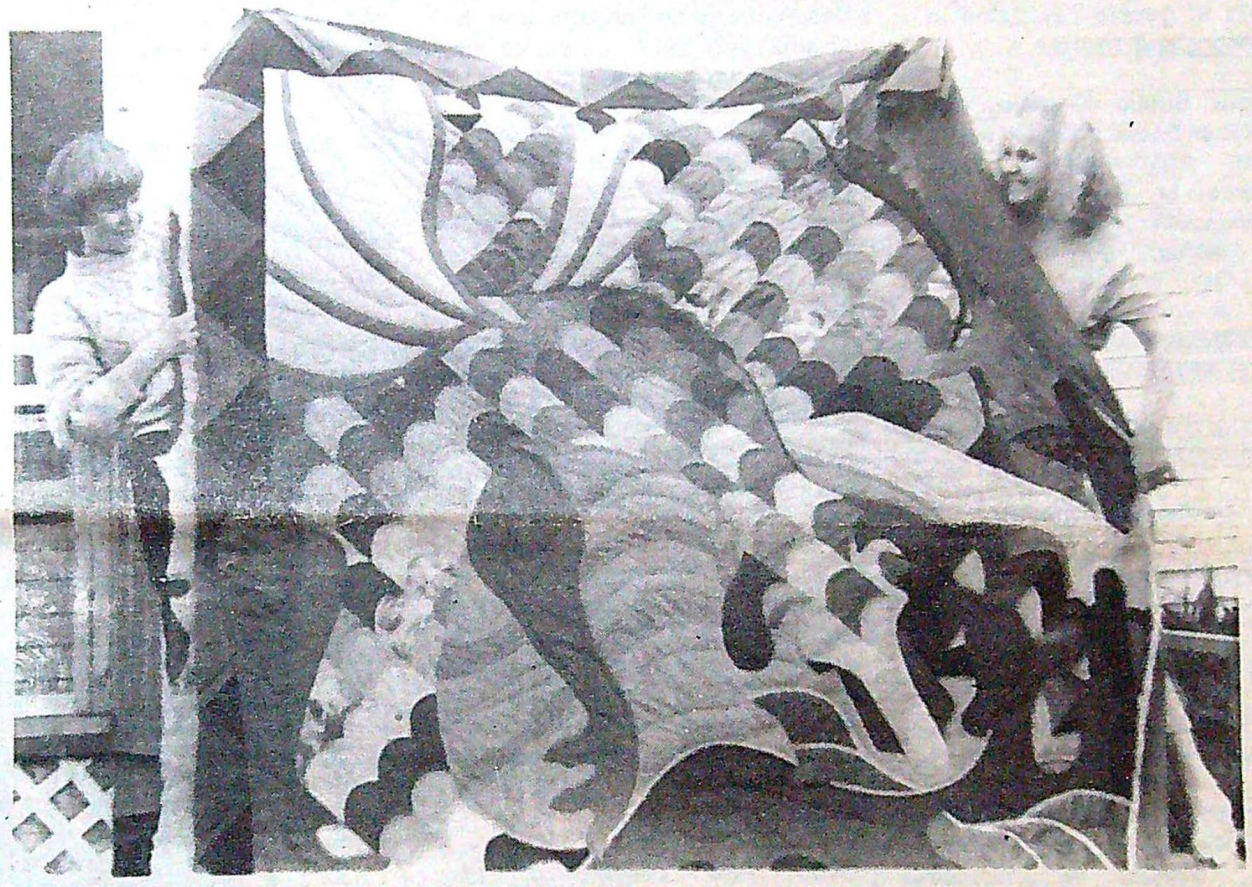
QUILT '89

Mary Anne Ducharme

In Inverness Beth Ryan, with determined serenity, hand stitches another section of the huge quilt, while her boys play outside with that exuberance special to being young in the spring. Now and then, they burst into the kitchen like a gust of wind and she has to put aside her work for a while. But she's soon at it again, as she has been for 8 or so hours every day for the past three weeks. A callous has hardened on her right index fingertip where she pushes the needle upward from the reverse side of the quilt--where thousands of stitches form graceful curves and free-form scrolls in gold-coloured thread.

Time is running out. The deadline is in three days.

The front side is a one-of-a-kind work of art, designed and pieced by graphic designer Virginia McCoy, also of Inverness. They work as a partnership, as they have since the spring of '88, Virginia designing, Beth quilting. They call their little company "The Piecemakers," and they never make the same quilt design twice.



Provincial Year of the Quilt

Local quilters submit work for Mount St. Vincent Exhibition

Beth Ryan (left) and Virginia McCoy, Inverness quilters, display their entry for the juried exhibition at Mount St. Vincent. The wall hanging is entitled: "RHINNDH: DRAGON MOTHER"

Virginia spent a week designing the quilt and cutting the pieces, another three weeks constructing the quilt with her sewing machine. They lost count of the hours spent on this project, but it may well be nearly 400 hours!

Their submission is an 86" x 94" wall hanging entitled *"Rhinndh: Dragon Mother."* It is a work of fantasy, a dream-magic creation 'in which things may change form merely by the power of thought.' The large form is that of "Rhinndh," (pronounced Rinda), composed of the warm-bright coloured scales of the mother dragon. The legs, arms, wings, and head form curved, flowing shapes on the diagonal, beautifully framed by the dark greens of the border (triangular dragon 'spines'), and the solid green of the baby dragon. The design is completely original, one that surely would win the admiration of science-fiction writers such as Anne McCaffrey.

It is an example of the new spirit of creativeness in quilting that has made the imaginative use of fabric a leading-edge art.

"What Beth and I like is the use of repeated curves," Virginia explains, "curves that lock together--it is a kind of tradmark in our work. We used curved lines in our first quilt called *"Forest Fire,"* which is now sold and in England, and we plan to use curves in our next project--a large scale seascape."

Virginia and Beth think about marketing their work, realizing how little they know about getting adequate return for their long hours, and they hope that shows like *"QUILT "89"* will put them in contact with others who quilt, and potential buyers. While their work is becoming known, they hope to get pay enough to keep going at their labour of love.

By the deadline date of May 30, Virginia and Beth have already packaged their masterpiece and submitted it to be "juried"--surely their long labour will not be in vain? Surely, the quilt will be accepted for the exhibit? They won't know until June 15! This is their first exhibition of this stature.

continued page three

Ancestors Unlimited

by Jim St. Clair

Publications

As one of the finest of its excellent publications, the Nova Scotia Museum has issued as part of the Education Resource Services *SIX MICMAC STORIES*, retold in English by Ruth Holmes Whitehead with illustrations by Harold McGee.

The small volume is dedicated to Rita Joe and Sarah Denny and to the memory of the Micmac storyteller *Alietji'jo'q*. It is an excellent book for all ages and needs to be found in libraries and in homes of people interested in local history and folklore.

The Nova Scotia Museum has issued other books recently which may be purchased in local bookstores or from the Nova Scotia Museum Complex, Summer Street, Halifax. some of these are:

TRADITIONAL NOVA SCOTIA DOUBLE KNITTING PATTERNS

SILENT STEEDS: CYCLING IN NOVA SCOTIA IN 1920.

THE ROSS FARM STORY

BASIC QUILTING

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: EARLY PRINTING IN NOVA SCOTIA

THE FOSSIL CLIFFS OF JOGGINS

THE HUGUENOT HERITAGE OF SOME FAMILIES OF NOVA SCOTIA, edited by Donald Wetmore and Leone Cousins, Falcon Press, Box 223, Kingston, N.S.

THUNDER OVER NEW ENGLAND: BENJAMIN BONNELL, LOYALIST by Paul J. Bunnell, Christopher Publishing House, 106 Longwater Drive, Norwell, Massachusetts. $15.45. A top-notch blending of history and genealogy--a family "fleshed out" in an historic setting. Excellent for libraries looking for material on Loyalists, their lives and times.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: GENEALOGY AND GRAVE HUNTING by Richard E. Miller, In-Time Publications, Box 9451, New Haven, Connecticut 06536. $17.40. The lessons and information to be gained by headstones. A good "how to" book.

1871 CENSUS, GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY, N.S. from Mary Elizabeth Koen, 28 Allen Road, Swampscott, Massachusetts 01907. $28.00 (Can.) Vol.II arranges the material in an alphabetical order. The location of any of the 16,000 residents of the County in 1871 is possible.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO BONA ARSENAULT'S HISTOIRE ET GENEALOGIE DES ACADIENS, Janet B. Jehn, 863 Wayman Road, Covington, Kentucky. ($19.95 U.S.) A valuable collection of material about the Acadians (many of whom eventually settled in Inverness County) from the early 1600's to the late 1700's. Reference to the original work by Arsenault in 1978 is needed, but the material is excellent.

GENEALOGICAL PERIODICAL ANNUAL INDEX, VOL. 26, from Heritage Books, 1540E Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie, Maryland, 20716. ($20.00 U.S.) The index has over 11,000 citations from 272 periodicals. It needs to be in libraries and in the home of people who are serious genealogical researchers.

NOVA SCOTIA GENEALOGIST, Spring 1989. In addition to a number of other interesting articles this issue contains a short study of the importance of genealogy as "a practical and important aid to genetic research and health." It stresses the need for families to look deeply into health patterns which seem to be inherited. This particular article mentions most particularly schizophrenia.

(Who has researched the incidence of cancer in the Cameron Family of Big Marsh, Inverness County, for instance?)

Queries

1. Alexander J. MacDonald, Box 455, Port Hawkesbury, in search for information on Ann or Mary Ann Doyle, b. about 1831 of a father born in Ireland and a mother of Scottish descent. She married ca. 1846 Alexander MacDonald. Who was he? The family is found in Port Morien in the 1891 Census.

2. Mike MacDonald, 6599 Glen Erin Dr., Apt. 2223, Mississauga, Ontario, L5N 2X3 is searching for information on Archibald MacDonald b. ca. 1827, came to Margaree in 1850's and then moved to Cape Tormentine, N.S. He married Elizabeth Mahoney.

3. Lily Dreger, 8331-120 ST, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 1XL, is searching for information about the MacRae Family which moved from Middle River to Lake Ainslie.

4. Steve Laundin of 2330 Gravelly Beach Loop, NW, Olympia, Washington 98502 is searching for information about John Campbell who was born in Scotland about 1812 and died in 1888 in Bellevue, Idaho. He was married to Jessie Blue in 1848 at River Denys. After going to Boston in 1871, the family moved to Nevada and then to Idaho. His children included:

Neil.....b. ca. 1849
Catherine....b. ca. 1852
James.....b. ca. 1862
Mary (?).....b. ca. 1858
Isabel.....b. ca. 1855

Are these the Campbells who operated a grist mill on the Skye River between Ainslie Glen and East Skye Glen?

1950'S newspaper collection of clippings

The Port Hastings Historical Society has recently acquired a very valuable set of photocopied newspaper clippings from 1954 on. These are the collection of one person who clipped many items which relate to many parts of Inverness County: births, deaths, marriages, anniversaries, events. They may be consulted at the Port Hastings Historical Society.

It is important to remember that the clippings found in books, bureau drawers and sewing baskets are very useful and valuable archival material. They should not be thrown out, but given to a local historical society.

Scotland Letter, ALEXANDER LAIDLAW

The recent *CHESTICO MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER* carried (among other interesting items) the letter of Alexander Fraser Laidlaw, written in 1977 about his trip to Scotland. It contains much interesting material and considerable tradition.

Please send queries, requests for information, answers to queries and accounts of family gatherings to

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Memories linger for anyone who has passed time in a country store: the jingle of the bell when the door opened; a child tapping his coin on the candy showcase; pig starter; barn and shorts and middlings in the feed shed; but most of all the conversation around the potbellied stove. The country store was the centre of a small universe, a capsule of life as it happened.

"Forgot the hole"

–Joe MacIsaac, Port Hood

"A guy by the name of Lewis was clerking at Peter Smyth's store. He couldn't read or write, but he could figure things in his head. In those days it was mostly barter. Somebody bought a grindstone from him. So Lewis drew a picture in the book to charge it to the man's name. When the man

continued page four