COUNTY of INVERNESS

Partici~Paper

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The members of Mabou-Hillsborough United Church Women have chosen Maud Hart of Mabou for her valuable work as a volunteer.

Maud has been a member of our organization for over forty years. During the years, she has sometimes served as president and sometimes as secretary.

Mrs. Hart is a member of Mabou-Hillsbourgh United Church, where she has served on the Board of Stewards and is presently an Elder.

Maud was a member and past-president of the original Mabou Home and School Association. She was also a trustee of the Mabou School Section.

Mrs. Hart is active in many other organizations in the county. She is a member of the Mabou Gaelic and Historical Society. She has been president of Mabou Weavers and is presently secretary of the Mabou Senior Citizens Club. As a member fo the Mabou Pastoral Care Unit, she visits shut-ins of the community.

As a member of the I.C. M. Hospital Auxiliary, Maud solicits membership dues in the Mabou Area and also collects donations of food, crafts, etc., for the Christmas Tea and Sale and the Spring Fling put on by the Hospital Auxiliary. She works one day a week in the Tuck Shop. She has looked after Patient Care in the hospital for two years.

We thank Mrs. Hart for her many hours of work spent as a volunteer.

Maud Hart, among her many community involvements has been a president of the Mabou Weavers. Here she is shown with tartan cloth she has woven on her own loom.

Maud Hart for 1988 Volunteers!

On February 16, by a random draw, MRS. MAUD HART OF MABOU, was chosen to represent Inverness County at Provincial Volunteer Week ceremonies in Halifax. The luncheon and awards ceremony will take place on April 14, beginning at he Hotel Nova Scotian and then moving on to Government House. Lieutenant Governor Allan Abraham will host the Awards Ceremony.

The Chronicle Herald newspaper plans to highlight volunteers from across the province. (Date to be confirmed). We are very pleased that Mrs. Hart will be one of the two Cape Breton volunteers featured.

The Inverness County Recreation/Tourism Department congratulates Maud Hart and extends a special "THANK YOU" for representing the tremendous volunteer effort that exists in Inverness County when she travels to Halifax in April!

See inside for more on volunteers!

Viewpoint

Letter from New Zealand

A Bhana-\Charaid,

I have recently been sent information about your publication "Partici-Paper." As there is a great deal in common in the aims of your publication and my own magazine called "Tinne" (Link).
We are most interested in establishing contact with organizations like yours in an effort to support one another. We could perhaps exchange information or materials of interest.

Tinne is a non-profit bi-lingual publication which we have been producing on a monthly basis for the past 18 months. Whilst based in New Zealand and aiming to keep Scottish traditions in this part of the world as much to the fore as possible, we are keen to establish links with similar groups in other parts of the world.

George Halliday

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A visit with Brenda MacLennan

by Mary Anne Ducharme

It is always refreshing to talk to enthusiastic people who have both the ambition and the positive initiative it takes to break with the usual and travel roads not often taken. Brenda MacLennan is that kind of person. She recently visited me at my home in Whycocomagh and explained her involvement with a non-denominational and non-political cultural exchange program called CROSSROADS INTERNATIONAL.

It is one thing to get excited about ideas, and quite another to act on them in a tangible, immediate way that leads you to go across the world into a totally different culture. That is exactly what Brenda proposes to do in May of this year. She is going to Swaziland as part of a cultural exchange, and for six months she will be teaching in that country, her living conditions totally unknown to her at this time. Few of us would want to contemplate possibly living in a hut with no electricity or water and none of the comforts we take for granted; making do with very little money; participating deeply with an alien culture; eating unfamiliar food (or very possibly going hungry); risking health--all because you want to share what you are with people you do not know, and come away enriched by the experience.

But Brenda does not just focus on what she may gain from this; she focuses on coming back home and helping to enlarge some of our perspectives about the world community, and our own part of it. Brenda feels that all of us can learn from other cultures and apply that knowlege to our own situations, perhaps with startling effects. Many of us can remember learning something, as children, that totally changed our view of the world,--something that once we knew it, made a difference not only in our attitudes but in our ways of acting. When we became adults such flashes of understanding occured less frequently, and in some individuals not at all. Too many of us settle into ruts of thinking, not able to perceive solutions to our problems, not able to see that the future lies "not in our stars, but in ourselves."

When we encounter a culture that is very different, or very different modes of thinking and acting in a person, it challenges us to look at ourselves with new eyes. Perhaps some of the things we took for granted now gain greater value; perhaps some of our troubles that seemed so impossible are not so difficult; perhaps we suddenly see our shortcomings more clearly; perhaps solutions to problems have been plainly there in front of us all along and we did not recognize them. Just maybe we need a little bit of shaking now and then to make us climb out of our ruts.

When you talk to Brenda, she emanates sparks of challenge and her ideas rebound with your own so that her mental energy fires you as well. Our area needs people like Brenda, and her experiences in Swaziland will make her an even more valuable Cape Bretoner.

CROSSROADS international pays for most of the cost of the six-month time that Brenda will be in Swaziland, but she has to raise $1,600. on her own before she can go.

She hopes that organizations and individuals in Inverness County will share her vision of what this experience means, and assist her in raising the required money. She is willing to speak to any organization before or after the trip.

IF ANY INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS WISH TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION, PLEASE CALL BRENDA AT 756-2659.

Gaelic Traditions

in Newfoundland

Newfoundland's Gaelic Tradition
(Article in Tinne Magazine from New Zealand, Edited by George Halliday.)

The Scottish Oral History Group's latest edition of their newsletter, BY WORD OF MOUTH, has a report on their Conference held in Edinburgh last year.

One of the papers in particular may be of some interest to readers as it deals with a subject on which little seems to be written.

The topic in question was "Traditions of the Scots in Newfoundland" and was discussed by Margaret Bennet of Edinburgh's School of Scottish Studies.

Newfoundland only became part of Canada as late as 1949 although as a colonly it was founded in 1583 and has a very distinct indentity with a unique form of English bearing the marks of the Irish ancestors of many of the settlers. It should not be confused with Nova Scotia where the role of Scots and Gaelic is well known.

After the publication of a book on the island in 1968 by the Newfoundland writer, Harold Orton, in which was mentioned the fact that Scots had settled in Codroy Valley in the South West and that Gaelic had once been spoken there, Margaret Bennet, a Gaelic speaker herself, from Skye, visited the island and found that Gaelic still survived and was part of a still flourishing traditon. This decided her to launch a detailed study based on extensive field work which will in time to be published.

The Scots arrived in the valley in the mid eighteen hundreds some of them having first found Nova Scotia not to their liking. Traditions were inevitably modified; one notable change being that wauking (the valey is the island's only major wool growing area) was also done by men although orain-luaidh were still the province of the women. There were of course new songs and poems such as Oran nam Mogaisean, many of which had not been recorded and some this traditional material has made an impact on other ethnic groups.

On the other hand, many tradtions have been tenaciously clung to as in piping which, as opposed to modern Scotland, was still being taught by the old syllabic notation known as Cainntearachd.

Ceilidhs were still being held in the 70's, in which the toast was "Deoch-slainte a'chuairtear a ghluais bho Albainn." But as in Scotland, the coming of electricity in the last twenty years with the simultaneous arrival of television following the building of the Trans-Canada Highway across the island in 1967, has signalled the rapid decling of the ceilidh as a cultural tradition. Up until the advent of television in the valley, Gaelic had been the language of the home among Scots.

Tourism Study

The results of a Tourism Study conducted in Inverness County in 1987, sponsored by the Inverness County Recreation/Tourism Dept., Incor Investments Ltd. and Cape Breton Development Corp., have been published and are now available to the public. Anyone interested in reviewing the report, may do so by contacting the Recreation/Tourism Office at 787-2274.

Partici-Paper
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