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Fall Programming Insert

Partici-Paper

September 1991 Volume 12, no.9

A Success!

Tour du Cap Breton

by Mary Anne Ducharme

"It's a mental game," Ambrose Delaney said. It became apparent what he meant. The cyclists stay in a tight group, pacing themselves at a base of 53 km an hour for most of the race. They talk back and forth a bit. But each one jockeys for position in the group, keeping an eye on who is in what position for the final sprint down French Mountain to the finish. Who will make the break first? When?

Ambrose sees his chance, breaks away from the crowd, picks up speed to 85 km an hour, flies into a one minute lead -- but there is almost 15 km to go. Other cyclists have also broken from the pack, forming a chase group of six. Did he break too soon? Can he keep the pace to the finish?

He maintains his lead, but the chase group is closing in, and he puts on more speed, feels himself strong. But in a glance, he sees he is losing ground, and Czeslaw Lukafzwicz from Toronto passes him, then Jacques Landry from Quebec and John Harris from New Zealand. He bursts with more speed trying to regain position in the lead group again, but he doesn't make it. Lukafzwicz finishes well ahead.

Later he found out that David Spears from Dowling Ontario, a former Olympian, was the over all winner for Tour du Cap Breton. Ambrose finished 19th in a field of 36, with his fellow Cape Bretoner, David MacLeod, finishing 21st.

The Cheticamp crowd in front of Trois Pignons gives a rousing cheer when Ambrose comes in, anyway. He was the clear local favourite to win, but win or lose he is the favourite. He is a native son, though now he is living in Sydney, and his parents still live in Belle Cote. Ambrose felt this pressure.

Winning the entire Tour du Cap Breton, with its $25,000 prize was certainly a goal, but if not that, then he at least wanted to win the Cheticamp section of the race, for his own people.

But his competition was a field of 36 of the fastest cyclists in the world in this event, with participants from Canada, the United States, Europe, and New Zealand. The race, with men and women's competitions, is one of the Canada Cup series, and the first one ever on this level east of Quebec City.

This race was 125 km of tough terrain from Cheticamp to Margaree Harbour bucking strong headwinds on the north return through Cheticamp again, up grade to the crest of French Mountain. The temperature was 30 degrees Fahrenheit, and on French Mountain, it was hailing.
Ambrose, along with the others in the men's race had already raced 110 km on Friday in Sydney, 170 km from Baddeck the following day, and now this race. On Labour Day another forty laps around Sydney.

Delaney and another Cape Bretoner, Dave MacLeod, have been dominating the Maritime circuit by placing in the top three of several races and performing well in the nationals.

For Ambrose, now 30, this race was a "last hurrah" in cyclist

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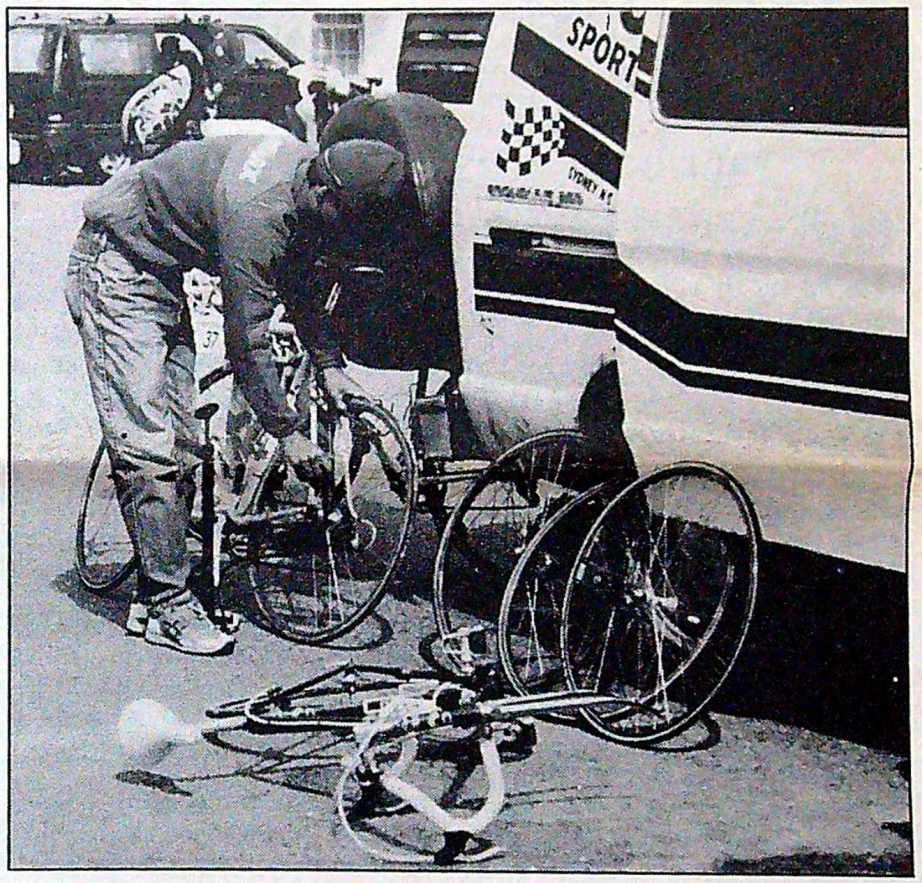

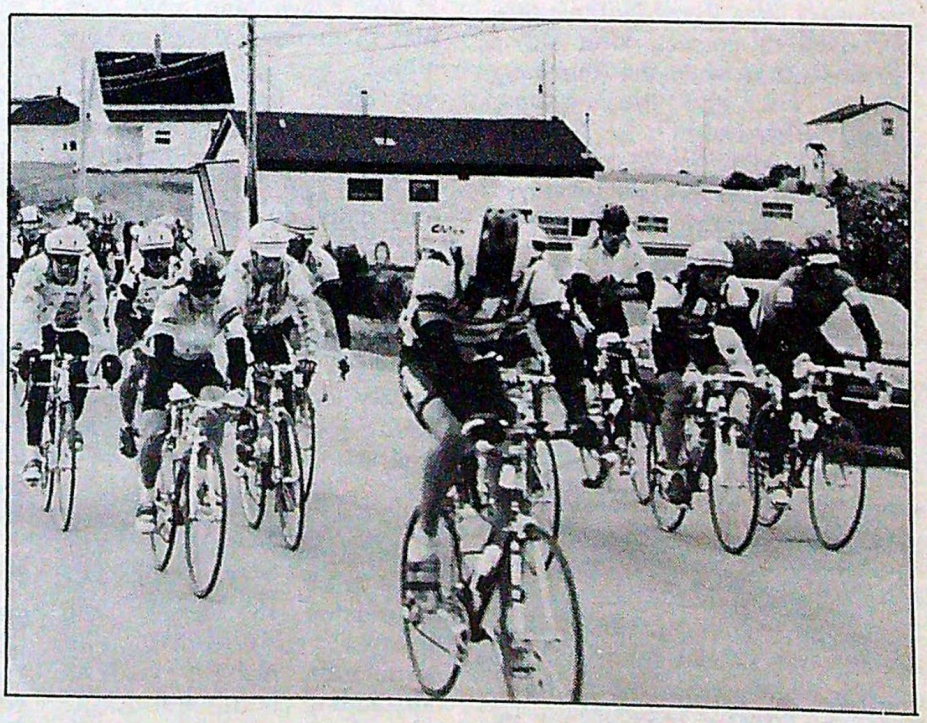

Ducharme photos

Tour du Cap Breton

competition on this level. He had competed for seven years, and had put in gruelling hours of training for the tour, two or three hours every day and two to four hours every weekend. He is in top physical condition, as lean and muscular as the other bikers, and more experienced than many, but those several years younger have the edge of stamina, that extra few ounces of energy.

The women's competition, involving cyclists from the States, Canada, and as far away as Venezuela, left Cheticamp about 10 am under heavy overcast skies -- hearing the flags whipping in a furious wind in front of Trois Pignons. There were tense moments in this race as one of the cyclists was forced to drop out because of a severe asthma attack; and another was flying down the long hills of French Mountain with faulty brakes.

In the break from the pack, there was a lead group of five women, with Edie Fisher from Winnipeg coming in first; Shelly MacKay from Ottawa second; and Kim Munro, from Tampa, Florida, third. Sante Bauermeister from Ontario was the overall winner for the entire Tour du Cap Breton.

Officiating the entire race was Louise Lalonde, the top international cycling official in

Ducharme photo

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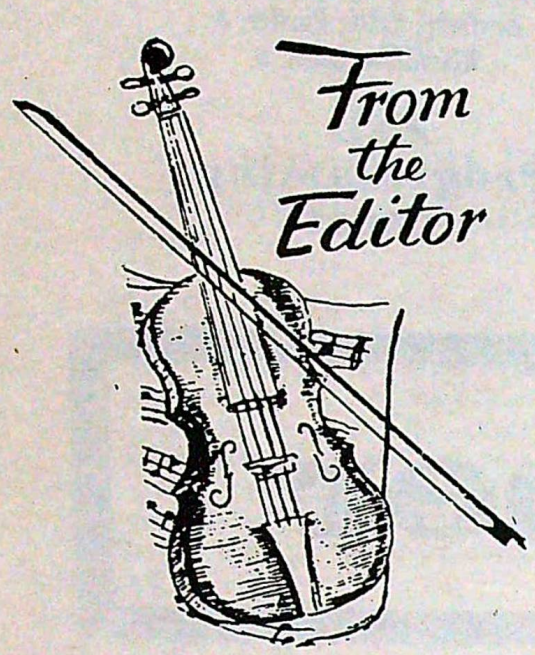

1971 - 1991 Fiddlers have far from vanished!

-but are we missing opportunites in collecting widely scattered fragments of valuable history? Are we staying up to date about the musicians and the trends of our living musical heritage? Can we afford to take anything for granted?

The Vanishing Cape Breton Fiddler story is fascinating because this 1971 CBC program, exactly twenty years ago, appeared to be a pivotal event, referred to again and again in articles, life histories of fiddlers, and in conversations. I began reviewing this era of the early 70's and found changes taking place in the world of Cape Breton fiddling. I wondered how the current state of fiddling compares to then, and whether or not the perspective among current fiddlers about *The Vanishing Cape Breton Fiddler* had mellowed. Was Ron MacInnis now perceived as correct, after all? I reasoned that while the Vanishing Fiddler era, and the resulting Glendale Festival of Scottish Fiddling in '73, were both familiar subjects to older Inverness County people, the exact details of these events were becoming a little fuzzy in memory. And most people under 30 were not born yet or were too young to remember it. It seemed like it was time for another look.

In my efforts to find out about this story, I found more questions than answers, with tantalizing uncollected fragments of music history just around the next corner. There are significant stories yet untold, and a need for published interviews to keep current the work begun by Allister MacGillivray in *The Cape Breton Fiddler.*

CULTURAL AWARENESS WEEK '91

Sponsored by the Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia

OCTOBER 21 - 27

Cultural Awareness Week '91 is approaching quickly- and it's going to be the best ever! The Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia (CFNS) is very excited about the events and activities already planned for the week of October 21 -27, 1991.

Cultural Awareness Week is a province-wide celebration of our culture designed to heighten awareness of and increase participation in cultural activities. EVERYONE IS INVITED! **Join the fanfare! Celebrate our diverse culture! Share the fun!**

Every Day throughout our province, people are actively involved in cultural activities and events which enrich our lives.

If you dance, sing, paint, act, play an instrument; explore your ethnic heritage, write, visit museums, libraries or art galleries; take art, craft or dance lessons; attend concerts, plays or films; you TOO are part of our cultural life in Nova Scotia.

We encourage you, as an active member of the cultural community, to participate. Highlight a regularly scheduled activity or organize a special event --- the possibilities are endless!

This year again, the Cultural Federations present **The Cultural Life Awards** programme to identify and honour individuals and corporation which have made an outstanding contribution to the cultural life of Nova Scotia. The awards are in recognition of those who have demonstrated exceptional and long term commitment, dedication and leadership in our province. Within the cultural/multicultural community, these individuals and organizations have made a lasting contribution to our strong and healthy cultural life. It is right and proper to honour them.

Cultural Life Awards will be presented in the following categories: Outstanding --
1) Corporate cultural supporter,
2) Individual cultural supporter,
3) Cultural executive
4) Amateur Artist
5) Professional Artist
6) Educator.

YOU may nominate someone! Inverness County has many people who deserve cultural recognition. One of them could represent us at the Cultural Life Awards Dinner held Friday, October 25, at the Sheraton Halifax.

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 27. For details contact:

CULTURAL LIFE AWARDS
Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia
5516 Spring Garden Road,
Suite 304
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 1G6

Promotional materials are available which your organization can use to promote your special events or highlight your regular weekly activities. Give buttons to participants, print your own information on the inside of the programme cover, promote your events with a poster and hand out brochures about Cultural Awareness Week '91. Promotional materials are available free of charge on a first come, first serve basis. Supplies are limited, so order yours today. **Order deadline is October 4, 1991.**

A Terry Fox Run

Whycocomagh, September 15, 1:30

leaving Cameron Hall and proceeding to Skye Glen Centreville Community Hall

Any person willing to help out or for further information, call Burton MacIntyre 756-2769 or 756-2441 pt .

Partici-Paper

EDITOR
Mary Anne Ducharme
R.R.#2 Whycocomagh, Nova Scotia, BOE 3MO
Telephone: 945-2982

We welcome contributions of articles, photos, letters dealing with issues and opinions, information and promotion about community events.

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