Partici-Paper

Inverness County

Sept./Oct. 1999
Volume 20, #5

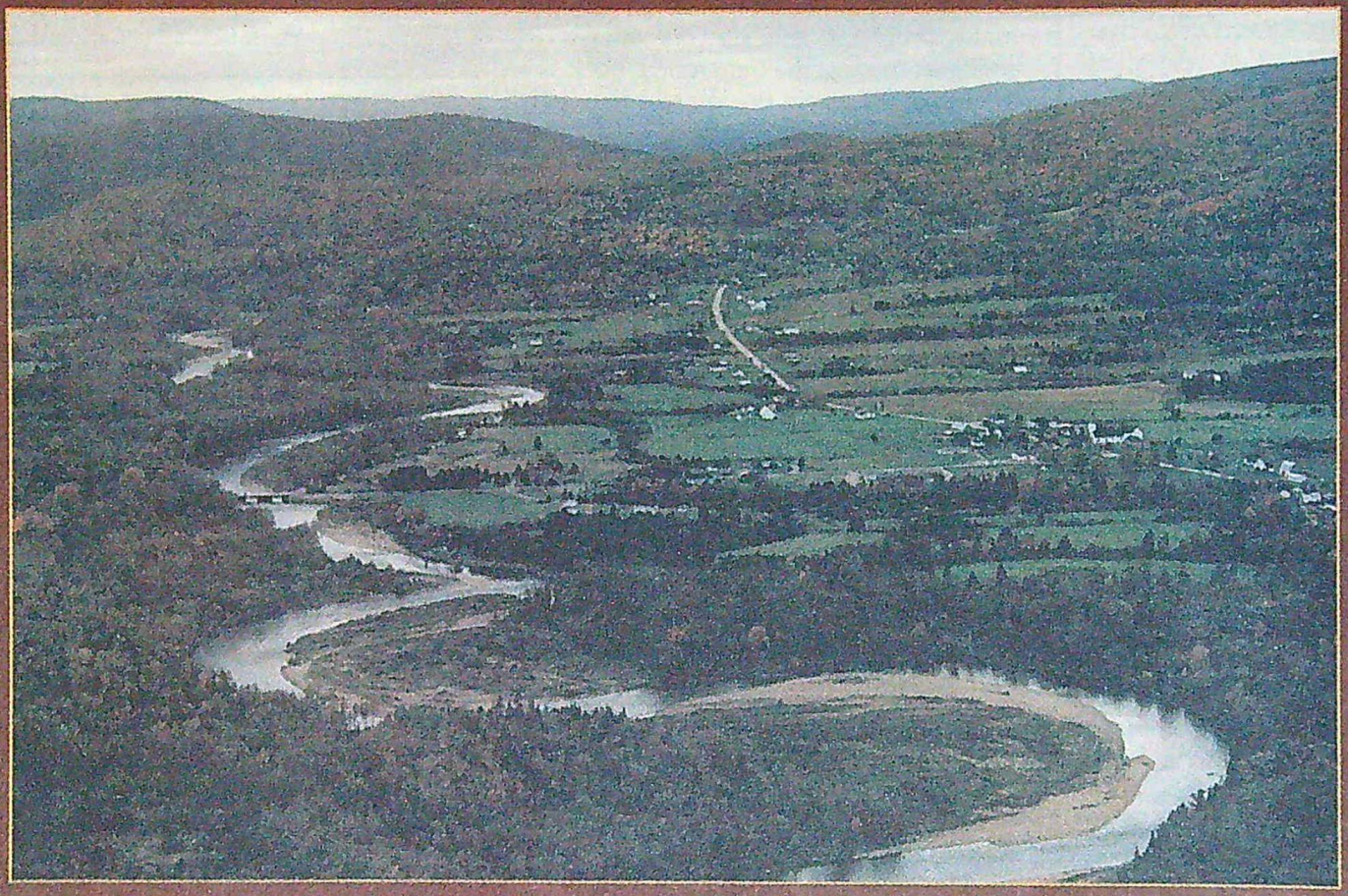

Photo of the Margaree River Valley by David Gillis

Fall '99
Recreation & Continuing Education Programming

Track & Field Fun Day
Mi'kmaq Hieroglyphics
Hands Dancing '99
Walter Delorey -
Drawing from photo negatives

Tribute to Murdock MacLeod
West Mabou Hiking Trails
Cherry Good's Crofting People
Ancestors Unlimited
All Fired Up .... *and more!*

Partici-Paper, Sept./ Oct. 1999
Volume 20, #5

Partici-Paper
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DIRECTOR'S DESK

A Farewell to Donna Doiron

On July 29th, 1999 we bid farewell to our colleague and friend Donna (MacDonell) Doiron, Program Coordinator for the Inverness County Recreation/Tourism Department. Donna has worked in the Recreation/Tourism Department for 18 years and was instrumental in the growth of not only the many programs and services offered to residents through the Department but in the growth of the whole Department as well.

We will miss you Donna - we wish you all the best with your new job and look forward to a visit from you now and then!

Welcome Anna Lee MacEachern

As we say good-bye to Donna, we welcome to the office Anna Lee MacEachern from Inverness. Anna Lee has taken on the responsibilities of coordinating recreation and continuing education programs for the Recreation/Tourism Department. Anna Lee has worked for the Department as a programmer in Inverness for the past several years as well as being a GED instructor and has been heavily involved in adult literacy programs in the County. If you have any questions pertaining to Recreation and Continuing Education programming you can contact Anna Lee at 787-2274.

RECREATION & CONTINUING EDUCATION

This month's issue of *Partici-Paper* contains a full outline of the fall schedule of Recreation and Continuing Education classes. Courses include youth and adult arts & crafts workshops, fitness classes, and adult education programs. Be sure to check out the listings for programs in you area. Registration for Recreation & Continuing Education programs will begin the week of September 20.

NEXT *PARTICI-PAPER* DEADLINE for contributed material: November 8
(This will be the Christmas issue)

COACHING CLINIC

NCCP Theory Level I
Coaching Clinic
Inverness Academy, Cabot Street,
Inverness
September 17 - 19.
Course length is 13.5 hours
beginning Friday evening at 6:30.
Fee: $25.
To register
call the Recreation/Tourism office
at 787-2274.

WINTER/SPRING EVENTS BROCHURE DEADLINE:

The deadline for events to be published in our Winter/Spring events brochure is November 5.

For further information:
Recreation/Tourism office
at 787-2274, fax 787-3110
or email: brochure@invernessco.com.

Any non-profit organization or groups planning fund raising activities to be held between December 1999 and May 2000 can submit their information for promotion in our annual Winter/Spring brochure. Any event, big or small, that is open to the public can be listed free of charge. Be sure to include dates, times, location and admission cost.

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Farewell, Donna Doiron

by Mary Anne Ducharme

For 18 years Donna (MacDonell) Doiron has been with the Inverness County Recreation/Tourism Department, and many people have worked with her in that office and on community projects and special events through the years.

What comes to mind in my own associations with her are the qualities that the Director, John Cotton, and many others have come to admire and respect in her: professionalism, integrity, diplomacy, and competence in all of her work. She has been invariably friendly and open to the thoughts of other people– a person of common sense who not only could express her own ideas clearly, but could be a responsive listener– traits that are invaluable when working with a wide range of personalities on a daily basis. She could work alone, with people one to one, or as a team member with equal poise.

Donna has helped the Department tremendously as it forged new areas of responsibility that were ground-breaking in this County – not only recreation programs and volunteer recognition, but complicated tasks in tourism and community development, in adult education and literacy, among many other tasks.

Because she was there at the beginning and took part in the explorations and planning necessary to launch new ideas, she came to have a unique perspective that will be hard to replace. We could all depend absolutely on Donna for just the right information needed, for how projects evolved, and for her own sense of continuity that came from long experience.

Donna's public persona at events like volunteer recognition nights was understated– things went smoothly and efficiently because of her organization behind the scenes. But she let others take the limelight and preferred that her own role remain discrete and quiet. Thanks given to her were accepted graciously, but she conferred the credit to others and was happy in doing so.

No one can possibly "take her place." A new person will have to earn his or her own position of respect in the Department and in the County. However, Donna's legacy remains strong from which to build for the future: the precedent of her style and the positive associations she has fostered have become part of the personality of the Department. The groundwork of many new initiatives are firmly established as well as the ways and means of dealing with daily tasks and challenges.

I remember Donna way back– when the Department under John Cotton was still fairly new and new directions were just being mapped. We had a tiny, cramped office in the basement of the Courthouse, with no windows except the one in the outside door. It was next to the jail, and the prisoners stood at the door and chatted with us on occasion. Most of our files were in boxes, there were no computers, and the receptionist on the main floor had the only typewriter we had access to. Somehow, Donna helped make it a pleasant place to be, a place where things got done well, a place from which to grow.

Thank you, Donna. We will remember you always with respect, and with delight that we knew you.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL INVERNESS COUNTY TRACK & FIELD FUN DAY

The Recreation/Tourism Department is very pleased to report that the Track & Field Fun Day held July 9th at the Judique Recreation Grounds was deemed a success. Successful because we had such a great turn out of participants and because we had the coordinated efforts of some fantastic volunteers and workers from local organizations. The day was open to participants between the ages of 5 & 14 with registration totaling 126. Track and field events for this junior age group are meant to promote and encourage physical fitness and to emphasize participation and sportsmanship. That, of course, is part of the Department's mandate, to directly or indirectly provide this type of program or activity. Although these activities are coordinated by the Recreation/Tourism Dept. they could not be carried out if not for the community organizations who are willing to take an active part and become real team players. This year's track and field meet was held in conjunction with Judique On the Floor Days and we would like very much to thank the Judique Recreation Association staff and volunteers as well as workers who were farmed out from the Judique Community Centre, Judique Volunteer Fire Dept., Creignish Recreation Association and Port Hood Action Group. We really couldn't have done it without you!

Thank you to Gabrielle MacLellan who volunteered her time to provide some musical entertainment and to the members of the Inverness Search and Rescue, Bill Gillis and Donald Fortune who were the First Aid attendants for the day. A special thank you to all school principals who allowed us to come in to the schools to promote the track meet and for those who were able to provide us with some of the equipment needed to run the meet. And, of course a big thank you to our sponsors who willingly supported our event, exemplifying their community spirit: CIGO and CJFX radio stations, The Oran, The Reporter, Dairy Queen, A&W, McDonalds, Subway, Pizza Delight, Food Warehouse and Sobeys. . . And, once again we would like to thank the parents and family members who were so supportive of the children and made it possible for them to attend.

July 9th - Inverness County Track & Field Fun Day Results

BOYS AGES 5 & 6

50 METER
1st Connor MacDonald (Port Hood)
2nd Darcy MacGee (Creignish)
3rd Neil MacDonald (Port Hood)

100 METER
1st Alex Berry (Creignish)
2nd Preston MacDonnell (Inverness)
3rd Connor MacDonald (Port Hood)

200 METER
1st Darcy MacGee (Creignish)
2nd Seamus Lewin (Judique)

STANDING LONG JUMP
1st Alex Berry (Creignish)
2nd Jeremy MacDonald (Judique)
3rd Kenneth Beaton (Port Hood)

SOFTBALL THROW
1st Alex Berry (Creignish)
2nd Liam Fitzgerald (Long Point
3rd Neil MacDonald (Port Hood)

BOYS AGES 7 & 8

50 METER DASH
1st Neil MacMillan (Mabou)
2nd Eugene Fraser (Inverness)
3rd Tyler S. MacDonald (Port Hood)

100 METER DASH
1st Eugene Fraser (Inverness)
2nd Connor Quinn (Port Hood)
3rd Vince LeBlanc (Judique)

200 METER DASH
1st Jamieson MacIsaac (Judique)
2nd Tyler Bond (Long Point)

400 METER RUN
1st Kale MacKenzie (Inveness)
2nd Tyler Bond (Long Point)

SOFTBALL THROW
1st Connor Quinn (Port Hood)
2nd Eugene Fraser (Inverness)
3rd Tyler Bond (Long Point)

STANDING LONG JUMP
1st Kale MacKenzie (Inverness)
2nd Tyler Bond (Long Point)
3rd Kean MacLean (Long Point)

BOYS AGES 9 & 10:

50 METER DASH
1st Shamus Campbell (Inverness)
2nd Bradley Bourgeois (Cheticamp)
3rd Matthew MacIsaac (Judique)

100 METER DASH
1st Nicholas MacNeil (Creignish)
2nd Shamus Campbell (Inverness)
3rd Iain MacDonald (Troy)

200 METER DASH
1st Adrian Cameron (Whycocomagh)
2nd Kenzie Beaton (Mabou)

400 METER DASH
1st Nicholas MacNeil (Creignish)
2nd Seamus MacGee (Creignish)
3rd Shawn MacIsaac (Inverness)

SOFTBALL THROW
1st Nicholas MacNeil (Creignish)
Tie 2nd Iain MacDonald (Troy) & Kenzie MacEachern (Judique)
3rd Matthew MacIsaac (Judique)

STANDING LONG JUMP
1st Iain MacDonald (Troy)
2nd Bradley Bourgeois (Cheticamp)
3rd Shamus Campbell (Inverness)

(see page 8 for photos!)

Mi'kmaq Hieroglyphics
and the politics of language

by Mary Anne Ducharme

What are Mi'kmaq hieroglyphs?

Mi'kmaq hieroglyphs are pictures or symbols which represent an idea, word, syllable or sound, instead of alphabetical letters. Spaces between glyphs or individual words, represent spaces between words which are read horizontally from left to right as in English.

A glyph is composed of one or more discrete graphemes that signifiy the morphemes (prefixes, suffixes and word stems).

The Mi'kmaq hieroglyphic language has an inventory of approximately 2,700 graphemes, which is a large number of symbols to memorize. But keep in mind that the average adult reader of Chinese is required to master over 4,000 individual characters

OCTOBER IS MI'KMAQ HISTORY MONTH

According to Harvard Professor Barry Fell, Mi'kmaq hieroglyphic writing has origins in Third Dynasty Egypt around 3000 B.C.

A friend brought him a 1866 document printed in New York, *The Lord's Prayer in Micmac Hieroglyphs*. Fell (a botanist, not a linguist) concluded that about half of the hieroglyphic signs were remarkably similar to Egyptian hieroglyphs in the cursive form called *hieratic*. He claimed that the meaning of these signs in Egyptian matched the meaning assigned to them in the English transcript of the Mi'kmaq text. His interpretation of his findings were published in his book *America B.C.*, first printed in 1976.

Fell's idea is rejected by Mi'kmaq scholars concerning *komqwejwi'kasikl* or their non-alphabetic script. Most historians find that there is a lack of physical evidence of Egyptian influence, and Barry Fell's credibility and honesty as a scholar has been seriously questioned.

The true cultural and intellectual achievements of the Mi'kmaq are slowly emerging in new research, but definitive scholarly works about hieroglyphs are in extremely short supply. Henry Schoolcraft, who studied Native culture for many years, declared to the American Congress in 1851 that the Algonquian Indians (including the Mi'kmaq of Eastern Canada) had not developed writing or reading in any form. Whether or not this is correct is still open to further study.

The Mi'kmaq belief, handed down in oral tradition, is that the hieroglyphs were developed for inscribing maps and tribal records long prior to the coming of the Europeans to *Mi'kma'ki*, the native homeland. In 1995 Murdina Marshall and David L. Schmidt, produced the first-ever publication of hieroglyphic readings, *Mi'kmaq Hieroglyphic Prayers*, with transliterations in alphabetic Mi'kmaq and English. The book asked a fundamental linguistic question: " . . . are the hieroglyphs merely a memory aid for recalling familiar prayers, or do they comprise a true writing system?" There is a need for further research to answer this question fully, but this much is clear: Mi'kmaq hieroglyphic writing is " the first script developed and used in North America (excluding Mexico) for a native language . . . {and} The most intense efforts to develop and promulgate the script were those of the Mi'kmaq people themselves."

"Seventeenth Century reports by French missionaries testify to the existence of pictographic writing among Eastern Algonquian-speaking people, a linguistic groups of which Mi'kmaq is a member," said Marshall and Schmidt. Bishop Colin F. MacKinnon of Arichat, for example, reported that when the French first arrived in Acadia, the Indians wrote messages, letters, and notes on pieces of bark, stone and trees. A closely related tribe in Maine, the Wabanaki, had large manuscripts kept by medicine men which were read over sick persons.

The role of the Catholic Church in the preservation of Mi'kmaq hieroglyphs is well-documented. The first Catholic conversion is attributed to Grand Chief Membertou who was baptized by French missionaries in a ceremony of alliance between his people and the Holy See on 1610. Thereafter, Recollect, Jesuit and Capuchin missionaries, among others, learned the spoken Native language to more effectively teach prayers and church dogma, though they were dissatisfied with the method of teaching by oral repetition. Recollet Chrestien Le Clerq's records in *Nouvelle Relation de la Gaspesie* described his discovery that children wrote down "characters" with charcoal on birch-bark to help themselves learn prayers. He diligently undertook to learn these hieroglyphs, produced instructional papers which he distributed among the Mi'kmaq people.

Priests who lived among the Mi'kmaq from first European contacts until well into the 1950's observed that hieroglyphic texts were written in blank legers or on paper thin sheets of birch bark, and the volumes were handed down through generations. But these artifacts have become increasingly scarce and finding Mi'kmaw individuals who are fluent in this writing system is rare.

A French priest, Pierre Maillard, who died in Halifax in 1762, apparently claimed that he personally invented the system of Mi'kmaq hieroglyphics in

(continued next page)