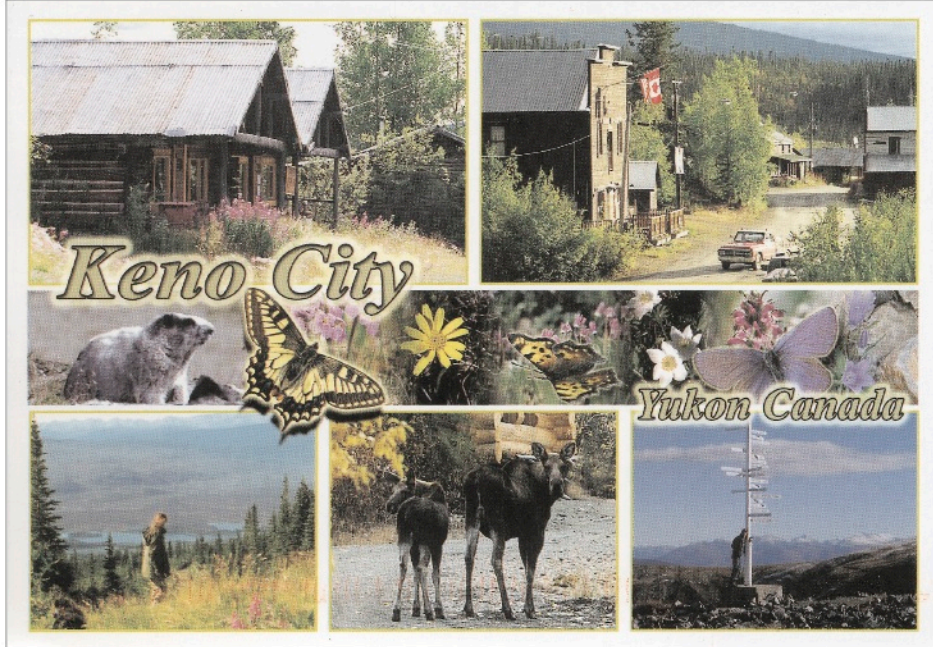


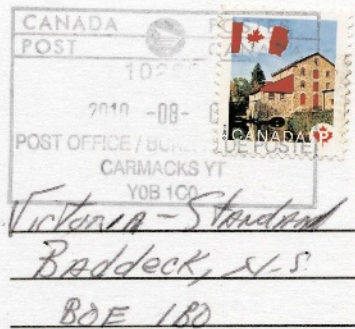
# Postcards from beyond the County lines



**KENO CITY**, the jewel of the Yukon. Nestled in the mountains at the end of the Silver Trail, this tiny hamlet is now home to 20 residents.

And they have  
a pizza shop.  
170 Kms off the  
MAIN ROAD!  
TAKE out a bit of  
AN ISSUE. *Chuck T*

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# Saoghal na Gàidhlig... The Gaelic way of living in the world

Dh'innis mi dhuibh mar a bha mi a' sireadh luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig air mo thuras gu Sealain Nuaidh. Ann an Dun Éideann, am baile as Albannaich 's an dùthaich, far na stad am buidheann againn an toiseach, bha cothrom agam bùthan-obrach a dhèanamh anns a' Ghàidhlig 's na h-òrain aig Oilthigh Otago agus òraid air Gàidhlig na h-Albann Nuaidhe aig Taigh-tasgaidh nan Tìrichean. Dh'aithnich mi gu robh suim mhór aig na comh-pàirtichean anns a' chànan 's a dualchas. Thachair mi ri aon ghille a bha ag ionnsachadh na Gàidhlig air an eadar-lìn; agus choinnich mi càraid aig an robh beagan Gàidhlig a b' àbhaist a bhith ann a' Comann Gàidhlig Dhun Éidinn, comann nach eil ann a-nis.

Aig ceann a tuath na dùthcha, ann a' Waipu, chaidh innse dhomh gu robh boireannach dall a' sin dha b' urrainn Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn agus thug iad mi d' a h-ionnsaidh. Chuir e iongnadh mòr orm an gaol a bh' aice air a' Ghàidhlig agus am blas sgoineil a bh' air a chainnt aice. Cuide ri sin, tha guth-seinn aingeil aice. Dh'ionnsaich mi gun d' thug a caraidean oirre clàr a dhèanamh; leis an airgead a thogadh le reic a' chlàir, chaidh i gu Mòd Nàiseanta na h-Albann ann a' Steòrnabhagh far na choisinn i darra duais ann a' farpais nan Òran Traidiseanta; cha mhór gun creideadh na brithemhan cho math' s a bha a' Ghàidhlig aice.

Smaoinich air mo thoileachas 's mi fhathast ann a' Waipu cuireadh 'fhaighinn céilidh a dhèanamh air Comann Gàidhlig Auckland—cothrom seanchais is seinn 's a' Ghàidhlig agus aran coirce seann-nòsach (gun siùcar), gruth is bàrr 'ithe. 'S ann á Leódhas a tha a' mhórchuid dhen ghrunna 's a' chomann seo ris na thachair mi, cuid dhiubh air a bhith 's an dùthaich bho chionn lethcheud bliadhna; ach an rud a' s iongantach, 's ann á Sgìre a' Rudha far an d' rugadh mi a bha a' mhórchuid dhiùbhsan! Mar sin, bha mi mar gum bithinn aig an taigh, le Alasdair Ceanadach, neach-dàimh dhan t-seinneadair ainmeil, Calum Ceanadach, 'gar stiùireadh anns na h-òrain Gàidhlig.

Cha d' fhuair mi cothrom ach na dh' ainmich mi de luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a choinneachadh. Ach bhuail dà smuain orm: anns a' chiad àite, gu robh Gàidheil ann an Auckland a' cumail cainnt am màthar beò às déidh dhaibh a bhith còrr is 50 bliadhna a' mach á arainneachd na Gàidhlig; agus anns an dara àite, gu bheil co dhiùbhb dithis òigearan ann a' Sealain Nuaidh airson a' Ghàidhlig a thogail agus tha iad air ceumannan a ghabhail gus seo a thoirt gu buil. Buaidh is piseach orra!

I told you of my quest for Gaelic speakers on my trip to New Zealand. In Dunedin, the most Scottish of the country's cities, where our group first stayed, I had opportunity to do workshops in Gaelic language and song at Otago University and give a talk on Gaelic in Nova Scotia at the Otago Settlers' Museum. Clearly the participants had great interest in the language and its culture. I met one lad who was learning Gaelic through the internet, and a couple with some Gaelic who had been members of Dunedin Gaelic Society, which no longer meets.

When I got to the Northland, in Waipu, I was told of a blind woman who could speak Gaelic and was brought to meet her. Her passion for Gaelic, and her authentic accent, made me marvel. Besides that, she has the voice of an angel. I learned that her friends had persuaded her to make a CD; with the money raised from its sale, she went to the National Mòd in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, won second prize in Traditional Song, and amazed the judges with the quality of her Gaelic.

Imagine my delight when I received while still in Waipu an invitation to visit the Gaelic Society of Auckland—a chance to converse and sing in Gaelic and enjoy traditional oatcakes (i.e. unsweetened) with crowdie (curds) and cream. The majority of the group I met hail from Lewis, some having been in the country as much as fifty years; but more extraordinary, most of those were from the District of Point where I was born. So it was like old home week, with Alex Kennedy, a relative of the famous singer, Calum Kennedy, leading us in the Gaelic songs.

I didn't have a chance to meet Gaelic speakers other than those I have mentioned. But two things struck me: first, that after 50 years away from a Gaelic environment, Gaels of Auckland were keeping their mother tongue alive; second, that two young people in New Zealand, one in the North, one in the South, were eager to acquire and speak the language and had taken steps to do so. More power to them!



*The Gaelic Way of Living in the World is written by Catriona Parsons and sponsored by the Office of Gaelic Affairs*



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**Baddeck & Area Historical Society**  
cordially invites you to our first annual

## 'Old Time Picnic'



on the grounds of the original Baddeck Academy on Shore Road, Baddeck, Saturday, August 28, 2010 ~ 2-4 pm

Join us for oatcakes, biscuits & jam, homemade fudge, old fashioned games and a sing-along or two. For your comfort, bring your own blanket or chair!

*We'll have lots of pictures and reminiscences, so bring your memories and share them with us!*

*Theatre on the Hill presents*  
**The Fiddlers on the Hill**  
37890 Cabot Trail, St. John's Parish Hall, Ingonish  
(Beside the Seagull Restaurant)

### Saturday Night Ceilidhs in Ingonish with fiddler Paul Cranford & weekly guests

Concerts start at 8:15 pm • Admission - \$10 • children under 12 - \$3

**AUGUST 28<sup>th</sup> -**

- **Andrea Beaton** (fiddle & piano)
- **Fiona Black** (a touring Scottish accordion player)
- **Sarah Beck and Brenda Stubbart** (both fiddle & piano)

**SEPTEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> -**

- **David Papazian** (fiddle & concertina)
- **Ryan MacNeil (of the Barra MacNeils)** (Irish pipes & piano)

*Enjoy an Evening of Traditional Cape Breton Fiddle Music*