

The County's history through its buildings

by Joan MacInnes

The first designated building to house a high school for Victoria County was constructed in 1953 in the Village of Baddeck. Originally a structure on its own, over the years, it has been integrated into a single school complex now known as Baddeck Academy.

It is situated on the Shore Road with the Bras d'Or Lake in the background. It was built to serve the high school needs of some twenty-eight rural and village school sections within the county.

At the time of construction, the

physical plant which consisted of the buildings (school and bus garage), furniture, and equipment was provided by the Province of Nova Scotia. Initially, the school was administered by the School Board of Victoria County and the operation costs were shared on a seventy-five to twenty-five percent basis.

Designed to accommodate approximately two hundred students, it incorporated facilities for a broad and inclusive high school curriculum. It contained five academic classrooms, one of which doubled as the science laboratory. The auditorium/gymnasium



Baddeck Rural High School

was centrally located in the school and it also served as the cafeteria. In addition to the above mentioned, there was a library, home economics and industrial arts departments, and a stage for school performances as well as providing an instructional area for the music department.

The Baddeck Rural High School opened its doors to students in September of 1953. The official opening took place later in the fall on Friday, 13th November with special guests in attendance in the persons of Hon. Angus L. MacDonald, Premier of Nova Scotia, Hon. Henry Hicks, Minister of Education, Hon. R.M. Fielding, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Dr. C.L. MacMillan, MLA for Victoria County. Also taking part in the opening ceremonies was the warden of the county, A.E. MacLeod, Gordon S. Harvey, school board member, James MacKinnon, Inspector of Schools, and Charles W.K. McCurdy, secretary of the Victoria County School Board.

The first teaching staff were as follows: Gordon Hagen, Principal, Miss Christena Morrison, head teacher, Gerald Capstick, Mrs. Frieda Jones, Miss Elizabeth King, John MacLean, Mrs. Eveline MacLeod, Ronald MacPherson, and Stanton Sarty. The support staff were: Fred Robinson, caretaker, and school bus drivers, Douglas MacRae, supervisor, Hector MacRae, James "Jimmy King" MacLeod, and John W. MacFarlane.

AUCTION & PUBNIGHT

Fundraiser to Support the Rescue of Healthy Horses from Going to Slaughter and to Aid in their Rehabilitation

June 12th • Bras d'Or Yacht Club

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Pub Night w/Pub Grub from 10 pm-1 am
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FIDDLER'S CORNER by Paul S. Cranford.

If you have a tune you would like to share with other Cape Breton fiddlers or a musical event that could be promoted in this column contact The Victoria Standard or Cranford Publications (www.cranfordpub.com). Email psc@cranfordpub.com

Mr. W. MacLeod of Smokey

Stanley MacKinnon

reel

Captain Stan MacKinnon who operates Fiddlin' Whale Tours out of Pleasant Bay continues to compose music and play his fiddle. Copies of his 2008 CD *Close to the Ocean* are still available locally. I had a visit with him a couple weeks back and he had a number of new tunes to share. The tune above was composed last winter for one of his good friends, Cabot Trail resident Wilfred MacLeod.

In upcoming weeks you can hear Stan at:

- Saturday June 12 (evening) Cabot Shores, Indian Brook, Cabot Trail – Stan MacKinnon and accompaniment.

BYC Learn to Sail Early Registration!

- Monday June 14th
- 6:00 to 7:30 pm
- Bras d'Or Yacht Club

The BYC Learn to Sail Program is ready for another exciting summer! This summer promises to be a fantastic one for all involved...

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For more information, contact Len Harvey at bycjuniorsailing@hotmail.com

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Victoria County's Residential Curbside Organics Collection

Residents can now put organic material such as vegetable peelings, table scraps, meat, fish, poultry, dairy, bones and soiled paper in transparent green bags to be collected weekly along with recyclables and garbage. Special transparent green bags for compost are now available in grocery & hardware stores in Victoria County.

For more information on Recycling or Composting Programs, call Cape Breton's **Recycling Hotline at 1-877-567-1337** or see "Recycling" in the Aliant Yellow Pages