

Saoghal na Gàidhlig...

The Gaelic way of living in the world

An Nollaig anns a' Ghàidhlig:-Aig ceann seachdain na Dùdhlachd 4-5, chaidh an treas Nollaig's a' Ghàidhlig a chumail aig Colaisde na Gàidhlig, Baile Anna. Thàinig dealasaich na Gàidhlig le chèile, aig gach ìre de chomas anns a' chànan, a dh' aona ghnòthach cothrom a' chànan a bhruidhinn agus aig an aon àm Féil na Nollaig a mholadh gu caidreamhach.

Bha Talla Mhic Coinnich air a sgeadachadh gu rìomhach, le coinnean air an lasadh anns na h-uinneagan agus Craobh na Nollaig, làn shnasan, aig oir an teinntin. Chruinnich an sluagh às gach ceamaidh: eadar Wolfville is Sannraigh, eadar Glaschu Nuadh agus Suidnidh 's a sgìre, eadar Truro is Bagh an Ear, thàinig iad dhan Fhéil. Rinn aon duine siubhal bho Mhontreal!

Chan fhaod sibh smaoinichadh nach robh obair ri dhèanamh aig a h-uile duine! Bha clasaichean ann madainn is feasgar aig ceithir ìrean: fìor luchd-tòiseachaidh, darna ìre tòiseachaidh, eadar-mheadhonach, is adhartach/fileanta. Chaidh mi a thadhal air clas na darna ìre agus bha spòrs aig a h-uile duine 's iad ag ionnsachadh fhaclan timcheall air stòiridh breith Ìosa, m.e. stàball, prasach, ciòbairean, na h-ainmean air tiodhlaicean an rìghrean—uile gu léir troimh mheadhon na Gàidhlig agus cothrom aig gach duine fear dhe na h-innleachdais a thoirt a-mach às a' phoca 's an t-ainm aige 'ionnsachadh. Mar sin, chaidh stòiridh na Nollaig 'innse, ceum air cheum.

Bheir mi an àirde dà rud eile a thachair aig an Fhéil: an taisbeanadh sgoineil a rinn an t-Ollamh Coinneach Nilsen, cathraiche na Roinn' Cheiltich aig St. FX, air Féiltean na Bliadhna a bha 's a bhith-eas na Gàidheil a' cumail, le teisteanas bho mhuintir Ghàidhlig na h-Albann Nuaidh' fhéin air bhideo is air inneal chlaisteach. Agus feumaidh mi na còcairean a thug dhuinn deagh dhinnear na Nollaig 'aithneachadh!

Di-Dòmhnach, mas do sgaol gach duine, bha cothrom ann suidh' a-staigh aig seasan anns na naidheachdan, feadhainn dhiùbh 'nan ròlaistean a thug gair' air a h-uile duine. An cuala sibh a-riamh air a' chaillich dhan deach a beath' a shàbhaladh le 'pancake'? No air an duine dha b' urrainn cnag thombac' a chagnadh, ged a chaidh a cheann a ghearradh dheth? No air a' phàisd' a bha 'na "bhodach" aig àm a bhaistidh? No air an tè a thuit troimh mhàs a' bharail' -uisge? No air a' chorp nach robh 'na chorp idir? No mar a fhuair an duine a-mach á broinn an fhéidh? B' fhiach a bhith an làthair dìreach airson na naidheachdan seo a chluinntinn!

'S toil le clann-daoine stòiridhean a chluinntinn agus 's toil leis na Gàidheil iad gu h-anabarrach. Bu dual dhaibh an cuid foghlaim is eachdraidh is stòiridh a thoirt seachad bho linn gu linn troimh 'n bheul is 'nam bharrail-sa sin an t-adhbhar a tha a' Ghàidhlig beò 'nar measg fhathast. Agus ann a bhith ag éisdeachd ris na naidheachdan agus 'gan togail, gheobh luchd-ionnsachaidh gréim air a' chànan.

Mar chrìoch, fàgaidh mi sibh le Fàil' na Nollaig a thug Alasdair MacDhùghaill, Siudaig, dhuinn: "Guma fada beò sibh is smùid às ur taigh, feusd air ur bòrd, dram 'nur botal, is aotromas 'nur cridhe".

Christmas in Gaelic:- The weekend of December 4-5, the third "Christmas in Gaelic" was held at the Gaelic College, St. Ann's. Gaelic enthusiasts of every ability in the language came together especially to speak Gaelic and celebrate Christmas socially together.

MacKenzie Hall was handsomely decorated with candlelight in the windows and a Christmas tree, full of ornaments, standing by the hearth. People gathered for the celebration from Wolfville to Iona, from New Glasgow to Sydney and its environs, from Truro to east Bay. One man even made the journey from Montreal!

Don't imagine there wasn't work to be done by everyone! There were classes morning and afternoon at four levels: Beginner I, Beginner II, Intermediate and Advanced/Fluent. I visited the 2nd beginner class where everyone had fun learning vocabulary around the story of Jesus's birth, like stable, manger, shepherds, the gifts of the three kings—all through the medium of Gaelic, with students learning the names of the various objects as they handled them. In this way, the Christmas story was told, step by step.

Two highlights were the presentation by Dr. Ken Nilsen, Chair of the St. FXU Celtic Department, on the festivals of the Gaelic calendar year, with video and audio testimony from Nova Scotia Gaels; and the fine Christmas dinner prepared for us by the College cooks.

Before everyone dispersed on Sunday, there was opportunity to sit in at a storytelling session, with plenty of laughter in response to the tall tales. Did you ever hear the one about the old lady whose life was 'saved' by a pancake? Or the man who could still chew a 'plug' of tobacco after his head was cut off? Or the child who was an 'old man' by the time he was baptized? Or the woman who fell through the bottom of a water-barrel? Or the corpse that wasn't a corpse at all? Or did you hear the one about how the man escaped from the belly of the deer? It was worth being there just to hear these stories!

Humankind loves stories and Gaels most especially do. They passed on by word of mouth to succeeding generations their store of knowledge, history and tales and I believe that's why Gaelic is still alive in our midst. By hearing these stories and making them their own, learners get a grip on the language.

I'll conclude with a Christmas salutation given us by A.J. MacDougall, Judique: "Long may you live, with smoke (coming) out of your house, a feast on your table, a dram in your bottle, and happiness in your heart".

The Gaelic Way of Living in the World is written by Catriona Parsons and sponsored by...



Office of Gaelic Affairs
Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig

Bean there COFFEE CAFE Holiday Hours

Susan wants to let her customers know that Bean There will be closed December 24th, 25th, 26th & 27th reopening on the 28th and will be closed January 1st, 2nd & 3rd reopening on the 4th

Holiday Hours

Thursday, December 23, 2010	Regular Business Hours
Friday, December 24, 2010	Closed at 1 pm
Monday, December 27, 2010	CLOSED
Tuesday, December 28, 2010	CLOSED
Wednesday, December 29, 2010	Regular Business Hours
Thursday, December 30, 2010	Regular Business Hours
Friday, December 31, 2010	Closed at 1 pm
Monday, January 3, 2011	CLOSED
Tuesday, January 4, 2011	Regular Business Hours

Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!

Baddeck
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Shore Road, Baddeck

Fred & Pam and the staff at Baddeck Freshmart, would like to wish a holiday season filled with joy and happiness to all their customers and friends!

Weli Nipi Alasutmamk Aqq
Welli Puna! Newin
(Merry Christmas, Happy New Year)

Fruit Baskets, Party Trays & Hor d'Oerves are available for the Festive Season

Holiday Hours
Open Christmas Eve till 4 pm • Christmas Day Closed
Open Boxing Day from 12 Noon till 5:00 pm
Open New Years Eve till 5 pm & New Years Day 12 to 5 pm

Municipality of the County of Victoria

2010 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Dingwall Transfer Station and New Haven Enviro-Depot

Friday, December 24 th /2010:	BOTH CLOSED AT NOON
Saturday, December 25 th /2010:	BOTH CLOSED
Monday, December 27 th /2010:	BOTH CLOSED
Tuesday, December 28 th /2009:	BOTH CLOSED
Wednesday, December 29 th /2010:	Transfer Station and Enviro Depot Regular Hours
Friday, December 31 st /2010:	BOTH CLOSED AT NOON
Saturday, January 1 st /2011:	BOTH CLOSED
Monday, January 3 rd /2011:	BOTH CLOSED
Tuesday, January 4 th /2011:	Transfer Station and Enviro Depot Regular Hours

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