

Portrait - Mrs. J.A.D. McCurdy

by Joan MacInnes

Back in the summer of 2010, the Municipal Archives was most fortunate to have acquired a lovely portrait of Mrs. J.A.D. McCurdy. It had been part of the collection of the original Victoria County archives.

I was informed by Donnie Macaulay that this portrait had narrowly escaped annihilation as it had been discovered at the local dump, however, miraculously saved from its inevitable fate by former Baddeck Bay resident, Eddie Gowda, who in turn gave it to the archives.

Margaret Millicent Ball was



born in Woodstock, Ontario in 1898. She and J.A.D. McCurdy were married in Ontario in April of 1919. In 1947, J.A.D. McCurdy was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, a post he held until 1952. Margaret Millicent McCurdy assumed the role of the “first lady” of the Province during those five years. She survived her husband, Hon. J.A.D. McCurdy by twelve years and died in 1977 at the age of seventy-nine.

The artist who painted this portrait

was Moira Drummond. So far, in my research, I’ve had no success in finding out any information on this artist. Perhaps one of our knowledgeable readers will be able to shed some light on the artist & her career. Any information would be appreciated.

This portrait of Mrs. McCurdy will very shortly be hanging on the “McCurdy Wall” in the Court House, next to the portraits of her husband’s grandparents, David and Mary (Archibald) McCurdy and opposite a photograph of Charles W.K. McCurdy, Victoria County’s longest serving clerk/treasurer and first cousin of J.A.D. McCurdy.

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Thursday, January 13: North Highlands School (10:15-11:30 am), Bay St. Lawrence Community Centre (11:45-12:15 pm), Cape North (1:45-2:15 pm).

Wednesday, January 19: Wagmatcook School (9:30-11:45 am), Little Narrows-Ferry (1-1:30 pm), Hazeldale (1:45-2:15 pm), Washabuck Community Hall (2:30-3 pm).

Thursday, January 20: Rankin School (10-11:30 am), Barra Glen (11:45-12:15 pm), Jamesville at Dunn Road (1:45-2:15 pm), MacKinnon’s Harbour (2:30-3 pm), Ottawa Brook (3:15-3:30 pm).

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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


march

Dan R. MacDonald

Wildfred Gillis

The above tune comes from *Airisaig Airs*, a recent book which contains the compositions of the late **Wifred Gillis** (1923-2002). Born in Antgonish County near Arisaig, for many years Wilfred was a resident of Ottawa. To the Cape Breton musical community he is remembered both for his fine compositions and for his performances with The Cape Breton Symphony. This lovely march was written for a close friend, fellow composer and distant cousin, **Dan R. MacDonald**. (Both are descended from John Ban Gillis, the original pioneer who settled near Arisaig sometime in the early 1790s.) It can be heard on **Allie Bennett’s** CD (*It’s About Time*).

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