

# The County’s history through its buildings

by Joan MacInnes

The buildings depicted in the two photographs are of the former J.P. MacLeod stores which had been located on Chebucto Street in Baddeck.

The first store established by John P. MacLeod, Sr. was erected in 1874. To begin with, the store was quite small and it is believed that he and his family occupied the upper storey as a dwelling



Former J.P. MacLeod Stores in Baddeck



with the drug store this part of the store housed varied other ventures such as a liquor store, a stationery and book store, and a pool hall.

As it turned

out, the second MacLeod Store was to succumb to the fate of its predecessor as it too was destroyed by a fire on December 30th, 1964 which ended ninety years of entrepreneurship for the MacLeod family.

In the picture of the original store there are members of the MacLeod family along with local residents. The streetscape picture (circa) 1927 shows the newly built store. Note the burnt out ruins on the north side of the street which include Robert Emsley’s house immediately east of the Court House, the lot on which the MacKay-MacAskill store stood and beyond that the site of St. Michael’s church.

I would like to extend many thanks to Catherine Crawford (a member of the MacLeod family) for her generous help by providing information and also making available the two photos.

prior to the completion of their home on Queen Street in the mid-1880’s. The first structure was remodelled and enlarged and soon gained a reputation as being one of the finest businesses in the village. By adopting the principles of fair dealing and honesty with his customers and acquaintances, his business flourished and he was just as successful as any of the merchants in Baddeck at that time. When his three sons matured, namely, Malcolm, Philip, and John P. Jr., they were brought into the business and it began operating under the name of John P. MacLeod & Sons.

John P. MacLeod, Sr. retired from the business in 1923 (circa). His eldest son, Malcolm died in 1924 which resulted in a reorganization with the store operated by sons, Philip and John P. Jr. When John P. Jr. retired, his brother Philip took over and was assisted by his

sons, Douglas and Gordon.

The original building on the site was a victim of the devastating fire which occurred in September of 1926. The fire which began in the MacKay-MacAskill store spread across the street to the MacLeod store and it was destroyed along with twenty-five other structures east of the Court House, which included stores, dwellings and St. Michael’s church.

Despite their misfortune with the loss of their livelihood, the MacLeod’s did not waste any time in re-establishing their business. Within a few months, they had constructed a new store and they were the first business to re-build following the 1926 fire. Both stores occupied the same lot.

They resumed their grocery and dry goods store and also leased out the western end of the building to one Edward Beaton who operated a drug store. Along

**Theatre on the Hill presents:**

**The Fiddlers on the Hill**

**All Summer Every Saturday Night Ceilidhs in Ingonish**

**With fiddler Paul Cranford & weekly guests**

Aug 27 - **Stewart MacNeil** (of the Barra MacNeils) + **Brenda Stubbart** (fiddle & piano)

Sept. 4 - **Rocky Shore** (Otis Tomas (fiddle), Deanie Cox (gutiar & vocals), Paul MacDonald (guitar), David Papazian (fiddle, concertina & tin whistle) & Sarah Beck (fiddle)

Concerts start at 8:15 PM

37890 Cabot Trail,  
St. John’s Parish Hall, North Ingonish  
(beside The Seagull Restaurant)

## Bookmobile Schedule

**Wednesday, August 24:** North River at St. Andrew’s Church (11:45 am-12:15 pm), Barrachois Bridge at the Church (1:30-2 pm).

**Thursday, August 25:** Indian Brook at Leather Works (10:30-11 am), Little River at the Wharf Road (11:15-11:45 am), Gaelic Singers’ Hall (noon-12:30 pm), Wreck Cove General Store (1-2 pm).

**Wednesday, August 31:** Middle River School (10-10:30 am), Wagmatcook Preschool (11-11:30), Wagmatcook Cultural Centre (11:45-12:15).

**Thursday, September 1:** Boularderie East at the Highway Garage (10:15-10:30 am), Boularderie at Grant’s Store (10:45-11 am), Ross Ferry (11:15-noon), Kempt Head (1-2 pm).

**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](http://www.cranfordpub.com)). Email [psc@cranfordpub.com](mailto:psc@cranfordpub.com)

reel Robert ‘Mafia’ MacDonald Dara Smith-MacDonald

A native of Antigonish County, Port Hawkesbury fiddler and teacher **Dara Smith** released *Connections*, her debut CD a few months back. Accompanied by Adam Young on piano, and Junior Fraser on guitar her CD is available at stores around the island. The tune above was written for her husband Robert, a gregarious fellow who knows ‘everybody’ - hence the nickname. This summer Dara taught at The Gaelic College and played at various events including last week at one of the regular Tuesday/Friday ceilidhs held at The Celtic Tearoom. in Indian Brook. In upcoming weeks you can hear Dara in concert at the following venues:

• August 25, 7 PM - The Chestico Museum, Port Hood. For info call 787- 2244 • September 17, 8 PM - The Louisbourg Playhouse

## Victoria County’s Residential Curbside Organics Collection

**Garbage Shipped to Guysborough**

**For the month of July, 2011, 272.69 Tonnes of garbage were shipped bringing the total to 15,753.22 Tonnes**

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.

**Organic Materials Collected**

**For the month of July, 2011, 21.14 Tonnes of organics were collected bringing the total to 898.45 Tonnes**