

# The County’s history through its buildings

by Joan MacInnes

The dwelling featured in this article is in the proximity of eighty years old. It was built in the early 1930’s. Although not as old as the majority of buildings which appear in this column each month, it is nevertheless a unique house, as it is believed to have been the first prefabricated structure to have been built in the Village of Baddeck.

What is meant by a prefabricated or kit house is that all the lumber has been pre-cut along with some assembly such as the roof trusses, etc., and these materials are transported by truck to a prepared building foundation and then assembled. The main advantage of a prefab dwelling over a “scratch” house would be the expediency as it pertains to the time entailed in completing the building.

While prefab houses are still available, they are not as widely popular as the new modular style buildings which are built in large factories and are shipped intact in two sections then placed on a foundation and affixed together.

The people who had this house erected were Captain Norman Noel and his



Noel/MacRae House - Baddeck

wife, Katie. They purchased the property from Everett Rice in 1930. Thirteen years later, in 1943, Katie Noel sold the house and property to Murdoch and Gladys MacRae. It was in possession of the MacRae family until seventeen years ago when it was purchased by a Baddeck hotel. Presently, it is rented out on a seasonal basis to the travelling public.

Architecturally, it is typical of the style of these types of buildings that were designed for the prefabrication industry. It is two-storey with a steeply pitched gable roof. The exterior cladding is a combination of clapboards and shingles. The house was built on a concrete foundation. There is an open veranda across the front façade which is three bay and asymmetrical.

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Schedule

**Wednesday, May 4:** Baddeck Academy (9:30-10:45 am), North River at Church (11:45 am-12:15 pm), Barrachois Bridge at the Church (1-1:30 pm).

**Thursday, May 5:** Indian Brook at Leather Works (10:30-11:15 am), Little River at the Wharf Road (11:30-noon), Gaelic Singers Hall (noon-12:30 pm), Wreck Cove General Store (1-2 pm).

**Wednesday, May 11:** Middle River at the churches, (9:45-10:15 am), Middle River School (10:30-11:45 am), Wagmatcook Preschool & Head Start (12:15-12:45 pm).

**Thursday, May 12:** Boularderie East at the Highway Garage (9:30-9:45 am), Boularderie School (10-11:30 am), Boularderie at Grant’s Store (11:45-noon), Ross Ferry (1-1:30 pm), Kempt Head (2-2:30 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


**Jig for Mario and Carol** Rachel Conlan

jig



For the past few years CBU has attracted some excellent exchange students from the traditional music program at the University of Limerick. This year Wicklow fiddler **Rachel Conlan** spent three months in Cape Breton, both studying at the college and playing lots of music around the island. She composed the above tune for her new friends Mario and Carol Colosimo of Dominion.

**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

