

Saoghal na Gàidhlig... The Gaelic way of living in the world

Bho na h-1980an co dhiùbh, bhathas a' dèanamh oidhirp oideachd na Gàidhlig a thoirt do Sgoil MhicRaing a' Chaolais, Sanndraigh, Siorramachd Bhiocoria, agus fhuaras airgead a dh' aona ghnathach luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a thoirt a-staigh dhan sgoil bhon choimhearsnachd. Ann a' 1998, chaidh Dawn 'Bheag' NicDhòmhnaill 'fhasdadh agus, mar sin, bha a' Ghàidhlig 'ga tairginn aig caochladh ìrean; ann a' 2000, chaidh an dreuchd sin a chur le cùrsa ciùil.

B' e Dawn Bheag (tha i a-nis pòsd' aig Gilliosach) a' chiad neach a cheumnaich bho Roinn an Fhoghlaim, Oilthigh 'St. FX', às déidh deasachadh-teagaisg 'fhaighinn a thaobh na Gàidhlig; chaidh cùrsa sònraichte a chur air dòigh dhi-fhèin, fo stiùireadh Oighrig NicFhraing. Ann a' teirm an fhoghair, 2007 (agus a-rithist ann a' 2008 agus 2010), chaidh Oighrig 'fhasdadh aig St.FX, a dh' aona ghnathach clas ann a' Modhan-Teagaisg na Gàidhlig a chruthachadh do dh' oileanaich a bha a' sireadh teisteanais ann a' teagasg na Gàidhlig. Roimhe sin, b' fheadar do sgoilearan na h-Albann Nuaidhe a bha airson a' Ghàidhlig a theagasg, 'nam measg feadhainn a dh' ionnsaich an cuid Gàidhlig 's a' Roinn Cheiltich aig St. FX, a dhol a dh' Albainn gus teisteanas-teagaisg 'fhaighinn. Tha dithis dhiùbhhsan, sgoilear-an a bh' agam fhin, a' teagasg a' sin an diugh, tè ann am Muile agus t' éile aig Sgoil Lionacleit, Beinn na Faoghla, Uibhist.

Anns an earrach 2009, às déidh dhaibh an cùrsa seo a chrìochnachadh agus pàirt dhen chleachdadh-teagaisg aca a dhèanamh ann am Portrigh 's an Eilean Sgitheanach, cheumnaich Meaghan O'Handley agus Eimilidh NicFhionghain le barantas ann a' teagasg na Gàidhlig--cùis eachdraidheil dha-rìribh air an taobh seo dhen chuan! Aig toiseach bliadhna na sgoile 2010-11, ghabh Meaghan ris an dreuchd Gàidhlig-Ciùil aig Sgoil MhicRaing agus Eimilidh ri dreuchd ùir na Gàidhlig aig an aon sgoil, taing do Mhaoin Prògram na Gàidhlig a tha Roinn an Fhoghlaim air cur an gnìomh.

'S ann á Gleann nam Màgan, Ceap Breatainn a tha Eimilidh. Thàinig a sinn-sinn-sinn-seanair, Lodaidh Mór MacFhionghain, aois 17 aig an àm, còmhla ri 'mhàthair Sìne agus ceithre cloinne eile, á Eilean nam Muc ann a' 1828. B' ann às an Eilean Sgitheanach a thàinig Clann 'IcAonghais, cuideachd athair Eimilidh air taobh a mhàthar. 'S e Nic'III Fhao-lain a bh' ann am màthair Eimilidh; thàinig a cuideachd-se á Mórar agus á Eilean Bharraidh. Mar a dh' innis Eimilidh dhomh: "Thog mi suim anns a' Ghàidhlig nuair a bha mi beag... nuair a rachamaid do thaigh mo sheanmhar (air taobh mo mhàthar) bhiodh i a' gabhail nan òran... bha mi uamhasach measail air mo sheanmhair".

Rugadh Meaghan ann a' Baghasdal, Ceap Breatainn. Thàinig cuideachd a h-athar á Uibhist a Deas chun Eilein Fhada, faisg air Baghasdal, ann a' 1823. Buinidh a màthair do Dhòmhnaill aig a' Chaolas Mhór. "Bha poidhle de Ghàidhlig aig mo sheanair, Calum MacDhòmhnaill. B' urrainn dhà a leughadh agus a sgrìobhadh..."

Mar sin, tha an drochaid a chaidh a thogail eadar sine-phàrantan is oghaichean a-nis a' ruigsinn air an ath ghinealach tromhpa, soidhne eile dhuinn de dh'ath-bheòthachadh na cànan.

From at least the 1980s an effort has been made to bring Gaelic instruction into the Victoria County school now known as Rankin School of the Narrows, in Iona, and funding was secured so that native Gaelic speakers from the community would share their knowledge with students. In 1998, when Dawn MacDonald of River Ryan was hired, Gaelic could then be offered in a variety of grades; in 2000, that position was merged with Music.

Dawn, now Gillis, was the first person who graduated from St. FXU's Education Department having received preparation to teach Gaelic; at the time a special course had been put in place for Dawn with Effie Rankin as instructor. In the Fall Term 2007 (and again in 2008, 2010), Effie was hired at St. FX, expressly to create and teach a Gaelic Methods course for students seeking Gaelic-teaching credentials. Before that time, Nova Scotians who wished to teach Gaelic, among them those who had received their Gaelic instruction at St. FX's Celtic Department, had to go to Scotland to gain their diploma. Two of these, former Gaelic students of my own, are now teaching in Scotland, one on the Isle of Mull and the other at Lionacleit School, Benbecula, Uist.

In the spring of 2009, after completing the first-ever official St. FX Gaelic Methods course and taking part of their practice-teaching in Portree, Isle of Skye, Meaghan O'Handley and Emily MacKinnon graduated B.Ed. with qualifications to teach Gaelic—a historical event indeed on this side of the ocean! In the 2010-11 school year, Meaghan took up the Gaelic-Music position at Rankin and Emily a brand new Gaelic position at the same school, thanks to the provincial Department of Education's ongoing commitment to provide Gaelic Language Program Grants.

Emily is from Ainslie Glen, Cape Breton. Her great-great-grandfather, Big Lewis MacKinnon, came from the Isle of Muck in 1828 as a 17-year-old along with his mother Jean and four other children. On his mother's side, her father's people, who were MacInnis, came from Skye. Emily's mother's people were MacLellans from Morar, and MacNeills from Barra. "I developed an interest in Gaelic when I was small," Emily told me. "When we would go to my grandmother's house, she used to sing the songs... I was awfully fond of my grandmother".

Meaghan was born in Boisdale, Cape Breton. Her father's people came from South Uist to Long Island, Cape Breton in 1823. Her mother is related to MacDonalDs from Grand Narrows. "My grandfather, Malcolm MacDonald, had lots of Gaelic," Meaghan said. "He could read and write it.... His wife, my grandmother Sadie (Bryden), had lots of Gaelic too." So the bridge built between Gaelic-speaking grandparents and their grandchildren is now extending through them to the next generation, another sign for us of the re-vitalization of the language.

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

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Office of Gaelic Affairs
Oifis Iomairtean na Gàidhlig

Senior Curlers capture Consolation Honours



Pictured above, (l-r) are Second Jack MacKillop, Lead Bill Smith, organizer Hugh Matheson of Brookfield, Mate Lloyd MacEachern & Skip Benny Robinson.

by Sam Morrison

Once again this winter the Baddeck Curling Club has made its mark on the provincial curling scene with the local 70 and over squad, capturing Consolation honours at the recent Provincial Bonspiel which was held at the Brookfield Recreation Complex.

Opening day action saw the "flu" hit the Baddeck squad which may have contributed to a shaky beginning to the Bonspiel as the Caper squad dropped their two games to Mainland opposition.

The following day saw the Baddeck foursome rally though as they defeated a

strong Wolfville team in morning action before facing a very confident CFB Halifax crew in the Consolation Final that afternoon. Trailing 4-0 entering 5th end play, the Baddeck curlers donned their "rally caps" and proceeded to score three in the 5th end before tying the match with a steal of 1 in the 6th end. With ties to be broken by "Skips Rocks", Baddeck Skip Benny Robinson calmly stepped into the hack where he drew "to the button" a pressure packed shot his Halifax counterpart could not match giving the Baddeck quartet provincial Consolation Honours.

Community Centres Program

Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation is actively seeking project proposals from parties within Inverness County, Richmond County, Victoria County, Cape Breton Regional Municipality, the Town of Port Hawkesbury and the Mulgrave area interested in making improvements to their community centre. Eligible project expenditures must occur no later than March 31, 2012.

Applications are invited from incorporated, non-profit organizations with a demonstrated need for financial assistance toward capital costs.

Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation has identified community economic development as a priority area, and views community centres as an important contributor to the Cape Breton economy.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is **4:00 p.m., Monday, March 14, 2011.**

No applications for community centres funding for the 2011/2012 fiscal year will be accepted or considered after the deadline.

This program is only available for existing locally-owned facilities.

Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation has established guidelines for the Community Centres Program. The guidelines outline the form of funding assistance, eligible recipients, costs and assessment criteria. To obtain a copy of the guidelines and application form, please consult www.ecbc-secb.gc.ca or contact:

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