

Vote for new athletic field

by Sam Morrison

As a life-long participant and observer of the various athletic activities that have gone on at the "Ball Field", witnessing of the decline of a once well preserved and well used facility has indeed being painful to watch.

Back in the 1970's the "Ball Field" was home to two teams in a Fastball League featuring teams from various communities on the western side of the Island. It was also the home field for the Baddeck Beserkers Rugby Club, a going concern in the late 70's and early 80's. Little League baseball and all sports connected with the then Baddeck Rural High School (and Baddeck Elementary) were also contested on the turf of our "Home Field."

While our population decline saw many programs suffer due to a lack of participants Baddeck Academy and summer soccer continued to use the "Field" on a regular basis. Unfortunately what also continued was a slow but sure decline of the condition of the Academy field. Although some improvements and repairs have been carried out we are still faced with a facility that for many days is either unplayable or unsafe, often both. To see the benefits of a new and well designed facility one only need look to our neighboring community of Iona where a beautiful new facility has been in use these last two years.

As is often the case, action on an issue

such as the "Field" comes from the grass-roots level and this situation is a prime example as a group of (mostly) soccer parents have banded together to try and come up with a solution.

Known as the Baddeck Parents Community Group these individuals are trying to explore all avenues to see improvements to our facility including trying to qualify for the Aviva Community Fund Challenge. Sponsored by the Aviva Insurance Group, the fund "gives organizations the chance to share ideas to create lasting change in their communities." The most popular ideas, voted upon by Canadians, have a chance to share in the \$1,000,000.00 Aviva Community Fund.

Another round of voting begins November 15th. As yet the Baddeck effort has not garnered enough votes to move on to the semi-final round of the competition. As group member Kim Dixon stated, "The field isn't just for kids from Baddeck, it's for kids from Middle River, South Haven, St. Ann's and Englishtown, North River and North Shore."

The cost of field renovations is in the neighborhood of some \$250,000.00. All you need to vote is an e-mail address and you can vote 10 times, but only once a day.

To vote log onto <http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf7823> (Kim emphasizes that our "Idea # is acf7823 so be sure to enter those letters and #s accurately.

Saoghal na Gàidhlig...

The Gaelic way of living in the world

Seo deoch-slàint' a bh' aig réisimeid Gàidheil na h-Albann Nuaidhe—A' Chiad Buidheann-chatha (Tuath) agus an Darna Buidheann-chatha (Ceap Breatainn)—nuair a thog iad an glaineachan uaireigin anns na ceithir-ficheadan 's iad a' cuimhneachadh bhuaidhean an dà chogaidh mhóir:

"Cho fada chiteas ceò mu beann,
agus ruitheas uisge le gleann,
maraidh cuimhne air euchd nan treun,
agus slàinte's buaidh gu bràth le saighdearan
'Sìol na' (Fear) Fearail'".*

A reir choltais, b' e luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a bh' ann a' suas gu ceithir fichead anns gach ceud 's a' réisimeid Ghàidhealach seo aig àm a' Chogaidh Mhóir.

'S e "Sìol nam Fear Fearail", am facal-suaicheantais aca, an t-ainm a thug Coinneach MacFhearghais, Siorramachd Richmond, dhan òran a rinn e do Ghàidheil Cheap Breatainn aig àm a' chiad chogaidh, air fonn sgairteil Caismeachd Chloinn Chamshroin: "Nuair a chaidh gairm chur a-mach/ Gus na Gàidheil a theachd/ Agus reisimeid ùr chur air bonn;/ Air an éideadh gu grinn, Ann an fheileadh na suinn;/ Thàinig sìol nam fear fearail air loinn". Am measg nan òran a rinn Coinneach, a' mhòrchuid nach eil againn an diugh, rinn e co dhiùbh trì eile a' moladh nan "gilleann grinn a dh'fhalbh air luing gu deò-nach uainn" chun a' Chogaidh Mhóir.

Ach carson "Sìol nam Fear Fearail"? Cò na fir fhearail bhon d'fhàinig an sìol? "Clann Dòmhnail...luchd sheasamh na còrach"; "Leòdaich, am pòr glan,...Gur h-e cruadal bu dual duibh/ Is bhuaidhaich sibh riamh"; "MacGill' Eòin...nach srìocadh do shluagh"; "MacCoinnich...Fir chruadalach, luath-làmhach/ An uaisle 's an t-srì"; "Clann Mhuirich...Gur gaisgeil, fìor-sheòlta/ Ur mór-theanal chaid"; agus mar sin air adhart anns an òran dha na Fineachan a rinn Iain Dubh mac Iain mhic Ailein, e-fhéin 'na bhall do Chlann Raghnaill, aig àm éirigh nan Seumasach, 1715—gnothach nach deach ro mhath aig an àm.

Dh'fhaoidte gu bheil cliù a' Ghàidheil air a chur nas fhèarr anns na "Sketches" air na Gàidheil a rinn Daibhidh Stiùbhart a' Ghairt (1822), nuair a sgrìobh e gu robh iad nan daoine beusach, stéidhichte ann a' fìrinn agus treun; agus cha do dh' fhàillig iad a-riamh ann a' dleasdanas sam bith a thoirt gu buil.

Tha sinn fada, fada an comain Sìol—fir is mnathan—nam Fear Fearail. Cha téid iad a chaidh a-mach á cuimhne.

*Taing do Iain Mac a' Chléirich, Taigh-tasgaidh a' Ghàidheil, Suidhidh, airson an fhiosrachaidh seo.

The following is a translation of the Gaelic toast used by the Nova Scotia Highlanders—1st Battalion (North) and 2nd Battalion (Cape Breton)—when they raised their glasses sometime in the eighties and remembered the victories of both world wars:

"As long as mist is seen about a mountain,
and water runs by a glen,
memory of the deeds of the brave will last,
and health & victory forever to soldiers of
the 'Seed (Progeny) of the Manly Men'".*

In all probability as much as eighty per cent of the soldiers in this Highland Regiment were Gaelic speakers at the time of the Great War.

"Sìol nam Fear Fearail", which is their motto, was the name Kenneth Fergusson, Richmond County, gave to the song he made for the Cape Breton Highlanders during WWI, to the spirited tune of the "March of the Cameron Men": "When the call was sent out/ For the Gaels (Highlanders) to come./ And to raise another regiment./ Spick and span in their uniform/ The kilted heroes came./ The breed of manly men in fine order". Among the fifty or so songs that Kenneth made, most of which are lost to us today, he made at least three others in praise of "the fine lads who departed as volunteers on ship" for the Great War.

But why the motto "Sìol nam Fear Fearail"? Who are the "manly men" from whom these soldiers are descended? "Clan Donald...who stood on the side of right"; "MacLeods, the fine race...Hardship was your portion/ And you always carried the victory"; "MacLeans...who would yield to no host"; "MacKenzies...hardy, swift-handed men/ Noble in the conflict"; "Clan MacPherson...Heroic and highly skilled are the hundreds that you muster"—and so on it goes in the Song of the Clans by John MacDonald of Clanranald at the time of the 1715 Jacobite uprising, then an unsuccessful enterprise.

The best of the Highland Gaelic character is summed up by David Stewart of Garth in his Sketches of the Highlanders (1822): "Moral, well-principled and brave, they have never failed in any kind of duty entrusted to them".

Great is our debt to the descendants—men and women—of the "manly men". They will not be forgotten.

*Thanks to John Clarke, The Highlander Museum, Sydney for this information.

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



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**Municipality of the
County of Victoria**

Notice of Public Hearing

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the Municipality of the County of Victoria intends to consider and, if deemed advisable, to adopt a new Marketing Levy By-law.

There will be a Public Hearing at the Victoria County Court House on **Monday, November 29, 2010 at 4:00 pm**. Any written or oral representation to the proposed Municipal Marketing Levy By-law are invited at this time.

Copies of the Municipal Marketing Levy By-law may be inspected by interested persons at the Victoria County Courthouse, 495 Chebucto Street, Baddeck, Nova Scotia.

DATED at Baddeck, NS, Monday, November 15th 2010.

Sandy Hudson
Chief Administrative Officer

Posted in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Government Act.

**The Cape Breton-Victoria
Regional School Board**

will meet at
**Baddeck Academy
Baddeck, Nova Scotia**
Monday, November 29, 2010 at 7:00 pm

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

Anyone wishing to make a presentation should advise the Recording Secretary in writing no later than Monday, November 22, 2010.

**Please Contact George Boudreau at
(902) 564-8293 or Fax at (902) 562-6814**