

AM FUARAN

Cuairt-litir Comhairle na Gàidhlig

An Treas Iris – The Third Issue

www.gaelic.ca

November 2008 – An t-Samhain 2008

Comhairle na Gàidhlig is a non-profit society dedicated to the maintenance and promotion of the Gaelic language and culture in Nova Scotia: the only region outside Scotland where they remain everyday aspects of community life. Our audience extends to anyone with an interest in Gaelic language maintenance and the worldwide community of minority language supporters.

Gnìomhachdas na Comhairle - Our Activities

Comhairle na Gàidhlig has been busy with on-going and new projects since our last edition of Am Fuaran. Here's an update of our work.

Gaelic Nova Scotia

Have you seen this symbol? This is the new icon which, after much thought and consultation, *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* chose to represent Gaelic Nova Scotia. The salmon represents the gift of knowledge in Gaelic story-telling. Formed as a G, it also represents the Gaelic language, and the surrounding ripples represent the song, story, music and dance traditions, and the belief system embodied in the language. It was presented and well received by the public in May of 2008.

Comhairle na Gàidhlig AGM

On May 31, 2008, the membership of *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* gathered in Antigonish to reflect and assess their achievements at the Annual General Meeting. The group brought great interest and support for the activities of the *Comhairle*.

The gathering opened with a video on Spòrs activities in schools. Catriona Parsons, *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* President, then described the great enthusiasm with which this work is being received in schools. Shamus MacDonald, Administrative Officer, reported on a number of other activities. The series of community meetings, redevelopment of the website, the final phase of *Cainnt mo Mhàthar*, and preparation for *Cruinneachadh nan Gàidheal* have all been propelled because of essential support staff. MacDonald also reported on FIOS, an independent non-profit body which has formed to support community-based Gaelic instruction.

Lewis MacKinnon offered remarks of support from the Office of Gaelic Affairs, acknowledging the warm reception that *Comhairle na Gàidhlig's* new image for Gaelic Nova Scotia is receiving.

The election of the Board of Governors for the *Comhairle* brought in a slate of many new members, and with them comes a wealth of new energy and diverse skills, providing representation from right across the province's Gaelic community. An informative discussion followed, tea was shared, and those gathered were offered complementary pins and T-shirts bearing the new Gaelic image.

Our website www.gaelic.ca

The new website serves as reference for those interested in Gaelic language and culture. The *Comhairle* is now embarking on updating the website, keeping in pace with the on-going developments in the Gaelic community. One special feature of the website with great potential for the local community, is the interactive calendar of events. With the number of events-listings in circulation now, there is a growing need for a centralized clearing house for information. *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* has the resources to see this happen.

Eilean nan Òg

"I've really enjoyed Eilean nan Òg, I had a great two weeks. I learnt a ton. I can now understand and speak more Gaelic than I could before and I really understand a lot more about the culture"
(From the journal of Caitlin Gillis, Eilean nan Òg, 2008)

Sponsored by *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* and hosted by the Highland Village Museum / *An Clachan Gàidhealach*, Eilean nan Òg is a popular youth cultural apprenticeship program designed to introduce participants to Gaelic language, culture and tradition-bearers in Cape Breton. In 2008, funding from the Gaelic Activities Program allowed six participants to take part in the two-week paid program led by Mary Jane Lamond. Apprentices received daily hands-on instruction in Gaelic language, song, dance, music, oral history and storytelling. They also kept journals reflecting their thoughts on daily activities. The apprenticeship model used in Eilean nan Òg creates a unique learning environment. Gaelic language and cultural skills are taught while demonstrating the connections that exist between them, and participants are introduced to tradition-bearers in their community.

The visits by local tradition-bearers are an important part of this program. They share unique perspectives and knowledge of Gaelic culture. In bringing generations together, young people gain a better appreciation of the knowledge and skills the older tradition-bearers in their community possess.

This program has focused on a small group of interested youth each year, yet the long-term result is clear in our communities today. The knowledge, confidence and interest instilled in them has prompted many to become involved in *Féis an Eilein*, and take courses in Gaelic in their community and at the university level. This year's participants were Neil MacInnis (Mabou), Caitlin Gillis (Jamesville), Rachel MacNeil (Iona), Ryan MacKenzie (Benacadie), Ashley MacKay (Whycocomagh), and Alex Penny (Ironville).

Spòrs

Spòrs is a programme that brings youth to elementary schools across the province to share in the language and musical traditions of Gaelic Nova Scotia. It was with great enthusiasm that the programme was reinstated in 2008. Spòrs visited ten schools, engaging university students from St.FXU's Celtic Studies Department, who received academic credit for their participation. However, funding has not been secured for this year, and it will likely not be offered. The university will take the opportunity to review the program and it plans to see Spòrs operating again soon.



CnG Board - Front: Jessica MacLennan, Catriona Parsons, Tim Aggett
Back: Beth Anne MacEachen, Barbara Sutherland-Foote, Debbi MacDonald
Sobeu, Beo Brett, Emilu MacKinnon, Susan Cameron, Jeanette Strachan

AR CUAIRT-LITIR: OUR NEWSLETTER

Comhairle na Gàidhlig is committed to representing the individuals, organizations and institutions of which the Gaelic community of Nova Scotia is composed. That means being accessible to our membership and keeping people informed of our work. We see this newsletter as an important part of that commitment and hope you enjoy it.

A chairdean ionmhainn :

Tha an saoghal air a bhith tighinn troimh làithean iongantach bho chionn ghoirid, làithean cugallach agus aig an aon àm dòchasach. Nach eil ar cinn a' cur nan caran mar a tha na stoc-mharcaidean a'dol sìos is suas bho là gu là mar gu robh iad air làir-mhaide? Nach eil cuimhn' aig mòran fhathast mar a chaidh an stoc-mhargaid na smàl ann a'1929?

Càit' ma tha a lorgas sinn comharradh dòchasach?

Tha cuimhn'am ann a'1964 a bhith nam shuidhe ann a'talla mór Comhdhail nan Stàitean Aonaichte nuair a chuir Ceannsaidhe Lyndon Baines Johnson 'ainm ri Lagh nan Ceartasan Siobhalta. Agus a-nis, às déidh còrr is dà fhichead bliadhna, chunnaic sinn an lagh sin a'tighinn gu ìre air nach robh dùil aig mòran nam beatha.

'Se am fear a tha gu bhith na Cheannsaidhe ùr a sgrìobh an leabhar "Dànadas an Dòchais". Chuir e an dòchas dàna a bh'aige gu feum mór, gu h-àraidh mar a bhrosnaich e an sluagh leis an dòchas agus an dànadas a bh'aige fhéin. Cha dèan aon duine—no trìuir no deichnear—an gnothach gun chuideachadh bhon fheadhainn aig a bheil an t-aon dòchas, an t-aon rùn.

Tha an smuain sin gam thoirt gu cùis na Gàidhlig ann an Albainn Nuaidh. Tha sinn uile air adhartas 'fhaicinn bho chionn ghoirid; chithear naidheachd air pàirt dhen a'sin anns a'chuir-litir seo : m.e. làrach-lìn *Cainnt mo Mhàthar* a-nis ga chur air bhog; dòighean-teagaisg na Gàidhlig ri'm faighinn ann a'Sgoil an Fhoghlaim aig St.FX, is eile. Ach tha obair mhór ri dhèanamh fhathast agus àireamh an luchd-obrach ach gann. Gu cinnteach, tha astar mór eadarainn agus luchd na Gàidhlig gu math sgapte. Agus gu cinnteach, tha buidhnean ag obair air sgàth na Gàidhlig nan coimhearsnachdan a'siud's a'seo. Ach smaoinich air cho cumhachdach's am bitheadh ar guth nan robh sinn a'co-obrachadh barrachd le chèile?

Faodar tòiseachadh le bhith nad bhall aig Comhairle na Gàidhlig's do bheachdan a thoirt dhan Chomhairle; faodar a bhith ann a'Comataidh na Comhairle (seall ris a'liosta air d. 3); faodar iarraidh air ball Bòrd na Comhairle tighinn is obair na Comhairle mìnachadh ri do chomann.

Ardaich do ghuth; cuir dànadas nad dhòchas's thig air rathad aobhar na Gàidhlig còmhla ruinn!

Chan urrainn dhomh crìoch a chur air a'litir seo gun taing chridheil a thoirt do Sheumas Y. Domhnallach a tha gu bhith gar fàgail airson dreuchd ùr ann a'Nunavut. Rinn Seumas obair sgoinneil dhan Chomhairle mar Oifigear Riaghlach, gu h-àraidh a thaobh *Cainnt mo Mhàthar*. Tha sinn a'cur nam beannachdan às a dhéidh agus dòchas gu soirbhich gu math leis's an dreuchd ùr.

Suas leis a'Ghàidhlig!
Catriona NicIomhair Parsons

LITIR BHO'N OIFIGEAR RIAGHLACH

LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

It has been a very productive year for *Comhairle na Gàidhlig*. Now two very large undertakings, *Cainnt mo Mhàthar* and *Cruinneachadh nan Gàidheal* have been executed, and many early objectives are being realized. They provide a strong platform for work to come. It is a new era, a new set of challenges, and for *Comhairle na Gàidhlig*, a new Board is on hand to set its course.

Comhairle na Gàidhlig has great potential to support the Gaelic Community in building our province's cultural life. This is a time that *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* wishes to see its connections and communications with the Gaelic community strengthen and grow. We look forward to hearing from anyone with ideas and questions about the work of *Comhairle na Gàidhlig*. If there is a time that you might get involved in building Gaelic Nova Scotia, make it now! Contact us or contact your local group, each contribution will make a difference.

Caroline Cameron, Admin. Off. pro tem
(comhairlenagaidhlig@gmail.com)

Dear Friends :

What amazing days the world has experienced of late, full of instability and yet full of hope. Our heads have been spinning with the see-saw of the markets, reminding many of the crash of '29.

Where then do we see a glimmer of hope?

I remember back in 1964 sitting in the great hall of the American Congress watching Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Civil Rights bill into law. And now, after more than 40 years, we have just seen that law come to fruition in a way that many did not expect to see in their lifetime.

The new President-elect wrote a book with the title "*The Audacity of Hope*". He exercised his own bold hope to inspire vast numbers of his fellow Americans, knowing full well that the work cannot be accomplished by a few without the help of all those who share the same hope and purpose.

That thought brings me to the work that is yet to be done on behalf of Gaelic in Nova Scotia. We have all seen recent progress; some of that is alluded to in these pages: e.g. the launch of the *Cainnt mo Mhàthar* website; Gaelic Teaching Methods being made available at St. FX's new School of Education, etc. However, in order to make lasting gains, many more must be enlisted to the work. It is indeed true that groups are labouring in their own communities; it is also true that great distance separates these communities scattered throughout the province. Yet, consider how powerful our collective voice would be with greater co-operation between us!

Places to start: Become a member of the Gaelic Council if you have not already done so and submit your thoughts and ideas to the Council Board; become a member of one of the Council committees (see the list on p. 3); invite a member of the Board to come and explain its objectives to your organization.

Raise your voice; join audacity to your hope and march with us, not to Selma, but towards a strong, assured Gaelic future in the Province.

This letter would not be complete without giving heartfelt thanks to Shamus Y. MacDonald who is leaving us to take up a new position in Nunavut. As the first Administrative Officer of the Gaelic Council, Shamus did yeoman's work, especially on the *Cainnt mo Mhàthar* project. Our blessings go with him and every hope for continued success.

Suas leis a'Ghàidhlig!
Catriona NicIomhair Parsons

Cruinneachadh nan Gàidheal:

A successful event

After months of preparation by its Gaelic Cultural Expression Committee, *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* is happy to relate that plans went off well for the Gathering of Gaels. The first-time event took place at the Keating Millennium Centre, St. FXU, July 24-26, 2008.

People came—from Nova Scotia, other parts of North America, and Scotland. One highlight was the honouring of tradition-bearers from Cape Breton at a banquet, followed by a Youth Ceilidh on the Thursday evening; another was the Milling Frolic in the Arena on the Saturday afternoon. We were pleased to welcome workshop leaders, teachers and performers, not only from among our own numbers, but also from Ceolas in South Uist.

We've been getting positive feedback; a typical response came from Christine MacKay, Isle of Luing, Argyll, Scotland: "I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Antigonish, both conferences and the generous hospitality."

Another achievement for the *Comhairle* is that when it was all over, and all bills paid, we were in the black financially!

Mòran taing dhan a h-uile duine a thàinig agus a thug dhuinn taic de gach seòrsa.

Cainnt mo Mhàthar Launched in Iona

On a sunny October Friday afternoon, a small group gathered in Iona to officially launch the *Cainnt mo Mhàthar* website. The event honoured a long process begun in 2005, and carried out in three phases, growing and developing with the expertise and wisdom of those involved.

The *Cainnt mo Mhàthar* website, www.cainntmomhathar.com, provides free access for learners to videos and recordings of interviews with local Gaelic speakers. The content represents a great achievement, in providing immediate access for learners to spoken Gaelic. A lot of thought and energy was also put into aspects which learners may take for granted, for example its ease of use, the quality of recordings and its professional presentation.

The website launch began with greetings from one of the project workers, Seumas Watson, followed by Catriona Parsons' offering "hearty thanks indeed" to all those who had worked so hard on the project. Among those deserving recognition were Shamus MacDonald and Shannon MacDonald, who had each had a hand in coordinating the project. The Highland Village at Iona provided essential staff, equipment and expertise, and Icon Communications produced the quality website. As well, the Centre for Cape Breton Studies at Cape Breton University assisted in editing the final recordings. Catriona Parsons extended the most warm thanks, however, to the Gaelic speakers whose interviews were videoed and are displayed. Rodney Chaisson of the Highland Village expressed his pleasure at being



Project participants at launch: Joe Peter MacLean, Seumas Watson of Highland Village, Mickey MacNeil, Catherine MacNeil, co-ordinator Shamus MacDonald, Katie Maggie MacLeod, Catriona Parsons of CnG

able to support this project, as it is well within their mandate as a partner in language development. Shamus MacDonald noted that Canada was a favoured destination of Scottish emigrants, but unique events allowed the language and culture to flourish here to the present. Because communities and families carried their dialects from Scotland to their new homes, these dialects are still found around Cape Breton today. Shamus described the Gaelic culture which lives in Nova Scotia as a "crown jewel", thus the website represents a national linguistic treasure.

To represent the variety in dialect, the *Cainnt mo Mhàthar* project made a point of including Gaelic speakers from all around the island. Travelling around to collect these interviews was certainly among the highlights of the project for Shamus, having the opportunity to share tea and stories with the Gaelic speakers, while developing his own language skills.

The collection is described by MacDonald as a "community-based project with international vision". The material focuses on everyday activities, providing an invaluable aid to those who want to use the language in their lives. Along with videos, audio recordings allow listeners to focus on pronunciation, while Gaelic transcription and English translation are also provided for reference.

A few selections from the website were played, including interviews with the native speakers in attendance. The afternoon wrapped up with tea and an opportunity to view the collection of Ryan MacDonald's striking photos of project participants.

Strategic Planning Workshop

As a volunteer organization operating on a provincial scale, *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* has a big job to maintain direction and momentum. The behind-the-scenes work required just for the board and members to meet regularly, let alone carry out committee work is taxing. For this reason, the energy saved in planning and discussion is well spent when it means efficient and practical use of volunteer time. In October 2008, in the interest of maintaining a strong and healthy Board of Directors, *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* undertook a strategic planning exercise.

In 2004, an initial Strategic Planning workshop set a course and established committees for *Comhairle na Gàidhlig*. However, in four short years, a lot of important developments have taken place and an almost completely new Board is in place. *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* put a day aside for its board members to define, as a group, the course of action for the immediate future.

After introductions, Catriona Parsons, *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* president, gave an overview of the history of the organization since its establishment in 1987. The planning exercise began with a review of work from 2004, including the vision and values established, and then the group established a planning time frame of the next year and a half. Following this groundwork, Pauline MacIntosh, St.FX Extension facilitator, opened the floor for general brainstorming on issues that should be addressed on the short term. After several flipchart sheets had been filled, each person was asked to identify issues most important to them, in order to get a sense of prioritization. These points were grouped into committee areas, and expressed as specific actions that could be undertaken in a defined time frame. The board will then regroup within the month to reassess the action plan, prioritize work and bring the committees into action. The committees, as established in 2004,

include Language Development and Education, Communications and Promotion, Policy Development, Community Development, Gaelic Cultural Expression and Governance. The Board invites anyone with an interest in supporting the committees of *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* to contact us.

Teaching Gaelic Methods at St.FXU

For a second year, *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* is pleased to see St. FX University Education Department offering *Gaelic Methods* as part of its Education Degree. The course trains prospective Gaelic teachers in preparation of Gaelic instructional materials for Elementary, Junior High and High school, depending on need, and it provides a critical study of the Nova Scotia Gaelic and Gaelic Studies Curriculum Guide. It is conducted entirely in Gaelic, and examines the range of Gaelic teaching resources, including publications and websites that are available in our own province.

Comhairle na Gàidhlig spearheaded this development with financial backing from the Office of Gaelic Affairs. In these initial years, it is difficult to ensure a large enough pool of students for the university to justify financing it. The university is willing to make it available, as long as external money is provided; however funding is offered on a year-by-year basis. As such, it is not advertised well in advance, and it is therefore difficult for students to plan to include it in their programmes.

There is no doubt that this *Gaelic Methods* class is preparing students well for Gaelic instruction in the schools. This is confirmed by the fact that our prospective Gaelic teachers are being recruited by Scotland. However, the long-term establishment of the course will rely, for the present, on short-term support from sources such as the Office of Gaelic Affairs, and a supply of students with an interest in pursuing Gaelic instruction.

From *Cainnt mo Mhàthar*: Theresa Burke and Martha Ramey



Theresa Burke

Theresa Burke, Martha Ramey and their five siblings were raised in Rear Big Pond. Their parents, Peter and Catherine MacNeil, came from musical backgrounds and visits to their small farm often included Gaelic songs and music.

Educated at home, they were immersed in the traditional life of Gaelic Cape Breton. Their early years were shaped by the family, community and culture that surrounded them. Today, Theresa plays tarabish, bowls, and bakes regularly - and

almost always speaks Gaelic to her daughter Marion. An active volunteer at the hospital, Martha is a dyed-in-the-wool Montreal Canadians fan who rarely misses a game. Both are pleased to see a new generation taking an interest in Gaelic. Theresa and Martha continue to speak Gaelic by preference and remain closely connected to the community of their youth.



Martha Ramey

Na Sìthichean

TB: Sìthich, uell chuala sinn gu leòr mu sìthich.

JW: Seadh, gu dé bh'ann da sin?

TB: Chan eil cuimhn'agam air neart dhiubh. An cuimhnich thusa rudaigin.?

MR: Gu dearra, mu na sìthich!

TB: Seadh, mo sheanmhathair...

MR: Uh huh. Tha fhios a'm gu robh... gu robh an leithidean ann 's bhithreamaid a' smaointinn gu robh 'ad shuas a's a' chlach mhór, shuas a's an abhainn.

MR: Clach mhór a bha thall aig an drochaid air an àit' againn, bha 'ad a' cantail gu robh sìthich ann a' sin, gun tigeadh 'ad amach feadh na h-oidhche. Tha mi cinnteach, mar tha a h-uile clann, bhithreamaid-e ri buraban a'falbh mu chuairt a' deanamh fuaim???. 'S mo sheanmhair, creutair truagh, bha i cho còir, màthair m'athar. 'G innse na rudan sin dhuinn, mu na sìthich 's rudan. Bhiodh 'ad a' cuir figheachain a's na h-éich. Chan eil sin ann tuilleadh.

MR: Tha cuimh' agam, bhiodh 'ad ag innse mu dhéidhinn sin.

TB: Cha ghabhadh 'ad a' toirt ás, na figheachain a bhiodh a's a' mhuing aig an each.

JW: Cha ghabhadh, cha ghabhadh.

TB: Cha ghabh. Chan fhaic thu each ann an dràs'd'sin. Chan eil na sìthich ann na 's motha.

JW: Chan eil. Chan fhaic, chan fhaic.

TB: Chanadh i ruinn gun a bhi muigh anmoch feasgar. Bha 'ad... Bha 'ad a' cantail gu robh daoin' ann a bhiodh 'ad a' feuchainn ri ceòl 'ionnsachadh...

TB: Na rachadh tu amach air cnoc anmoch feasgar...

MR: Bha feadhainn ag ràdh gur ann a' sin a dh'ionnsaich *Granpa* na puirt.

TB: Sheadh, gu na dh'ionnsaich na sìthich dhut. Ceòl.

MR: Puirt?? Puirt, *start* e 's cha b'urrainn dha ceòl a leughadh na sion. Chluthadh e fad na h-oidhche leis fhéin, 's cha sheinneadh e an aon phort dà thuras.

New Gaelic Poetry Book

Lewis MacKinnon's "*Famhair agus dàin Ghàidhlig eile* - Giant and other Gaelic Poems", is now in print. It is a book of MacKinnon's contemporary poetry composed in Gaelic, edited and with a foreword by Catriona Parsons.

The Cape Breton University Press publication includes 89 poems exploring various themes including language, culture, politics and 'matters of the heart'. Although there is a rich tradition of Gaelic literary composition in Nova Scotia, this is a first of its kind, as a complete volume of Gaelic Poetry printed in the province for a public audience. As a contemporary work, it represents a new era of publishing in Nova Scotia, putting to rest the view that Gaelic language composition might belong to the past.

Aside from literary achievement, the book will be an excellent resource for Gaelic learners. Following a tradition established in Scotland for new poetry, each Gaelic poem has a translation on the page opposite. Recordings of some of these poems will be available on the Internet in the future, read by a variety of speakers, representing the range of dialects heard across Nova Scotia.

"*Famhair agus dàin Ghàidhlig eile*" had its Nova Scotian launch in Sydney at CBU Press in October 2008, and has since been promoted in several locations across Scotland, as part of CBU Press' tour, "The way we say it in Nova Scotia".

The Fairies

TB: Fairies, well we heard plenty about the fairies.

JW: Yes, what were they?

TB: I can't remember much about them. Can you remember something?

MR: Of course, about the fairies!

TB: Uh huh, my grandmother. . . .

MR: Uh huh. I know that . . . that the like were there, and we used to think that they were up at the big stone, up at the river.

MR: A big stone that was over at the bridge at our place. They would say that fairies were in there, and that they would come out at night. I'm sure, like all children, we would be irritating, going about making noise???. And my grandmother, poor creature, she was so kind, my father's mother. She would tell us things, about the fairies and such. They would braid pleats on the horses. That doesn't happen anymore.

MR: I remember, they would tell about that.

TB: They couldn't be taken out, the braids in the horses' mane.

JW: They couldn't, no.

TB: No. You don't see horses with that now. The fairies aren't about either.

JW: No. You don't see them, no.

TB: She would tell us not to be outside late in the evening. They would say that people would be there that were trying to learn music.

TB: If you were to go out on the hill late in the evening.

MR: There were some that said that it was that way that Grandpa learnt his tunes.

TB: Uh huh, that the fairies taught him. Music.

MR: Tunes, ?? Tunes, he started and he couldn't read music or anything. He would play the whole night long, by himself, and he wouldn't play the same tune twice.

Cainnt mo Mhàthar thanks interviewer and transcriber Jim Watson, and thanks to Paul Geddes for translation.

Féis Fhiolmaichean na Reul-iùil

Walt Disney once said that if you can dream it, you can do it. Apparently, that wisdom holds when one is dreaming in Gaelic. From October 3-5, 2008 over 160 visitors from Scotland, across Nova Scotia and other Gaelic communities attended an ambitious three-day festival that offered Gaelic language films, filmmaking workshops, ceilidhs, and a strategic planning panel discussion on "Gaelic and Film". *Féis Fhiolmaichean na Reul-iùil* also received tremendous support from The Office of Gaelic Affairs (MOU), ECBC, The Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage (Cultural Activities Program), Victoria County Recreation, and several private and business donors.

Some film screening highlights included the full theatrical-sized screening of *Seachd: The Inaccessible Pinnacle*, the screening of new Gaelic films made by aspiring local filmmakers, and *Elvis*, a Scottish production that was the first program shown on the newly launched digital Gaelic channel in Scotland.

The workshop component of the festival offered training to aspiring actors and filmmakers through two sold-out workshops – Acting for Film, and 16mm Camera Techniques. They were such a great success that the participants are now requesting more training in both acting and other filmmaking topics, and plans are underway to start a registry of people who are interested in acting in Gaelic films. More acting classes will be announced through the

Cape Breton Filmmakers Association for January workshops.

The ceilidhs were an amazing display of Cape Breton talent and spirit. Performers included Mary Jane Lamond, Darrell Keigan and Jerome Sampson, Rocky Shores, Joe Peter MacLean, and many other artists who just offered a tune or two in the traditional taigh ceilidh custom.

The North Shore Gaelic Heritage Society and *Féis Fhiolmaichean na Reul-iùil's* Artistic Director, Nona MacDermid, send their deepest gratitude to everyone who participated and supported the festival. Plans are already underway for next year's festival, and there are at least three important ways that people can help support and grow this truly unique Cape Breton event. First, you can fill out a survey to help organizers learn what people who attended would like and why interested people didn't attend. Second, you can join the 2008 Festival Planning Committee. The goal is to expand the festival across Cape Breton so it would help to have representative from across the island on the planning committee. Finally, you can become involved in the Gaelic acting and filmmaking workshops and get your own film ready for next year. A survey will be available shortly at www.feisfhiolamicheannareuliuil.ca, and details about how to contact Nona MacDermid to join the planning committee are on the website as well.

By Nona MacDermid

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Oifigear Riaghlach/Administrative Officer Comhairle na Gàidhlig (Gaelic Council of NS)

Comhairle na Gàidhlig (The Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia) is seeking an enthusiastic, positive, team oriented individual with exceptional organizational and communication skills to become part of its team. The Council is seeking an administrative officer for a one-year term, with the potential of renewal.

Tha Comhairle na Gàidhlig a'sireadh neach a bhios na Oifigear Riaghlach airson dreuchd aon bhliadhna, anns a'chiad àite, aig a bheil ceanglaichean daingean ri dualchas Gàidhlig na h-Albann Nuaidh. Feumaidh an neach seo a bhith dealasach, dearbhach agus ealanta ann an eagrachadh agus conaltradh; feumaidh gu's urrainn dhà/dhì co-obrachadh leis an fheadhainn eile anns a'sgioba. Bidh an t-Oifigear a'freagairt do Bhòrd Comhairle na Gàidhlig agus bidh e/i an urra ris na leanas : planadh, riaghladh's a'toirt gu buil obair na Comhairle ann an dòigh's gu soirbhich leatha; agus gu h-àraidh gu soirbhich leis a'Ghàidhlig's a dualchas anns an Roinn.

Bidh aig an Oifigear seo ris na mionaidean a chumail; aithisgean, litrichean, cuairt-litrichean agus tagraidhean a sgrìobhadh; an làrach-lìn a leasachadh; pròiseactan a riaghladh; airgead a thogail; agus gnìomhachdais eile a bhios feumail do chùis na Gàidhlig a dhèanamh.

'S fheàrr dhan neach seo a bhith fileanta's a'Ghàidhlig; ach co dhùit feumaidh e/i a shealltainn gu bheil suim aige/aice anns a'chànain's gun dèan e/i a h-uile oidhirp Gàidhlig 'ionnsachadh.

The Coordinator is responsible to the Board of Directors of the *Comhairle* for the planning, implementation and administration of the activities of the organization and for providing vision in its development. Such duties include preparing minutes, reports, correspondence, newsletters and proposals; updating the website; administering projects; establishing and maintaining relationships within the Gaelic community, the Office of Gaelic Affairs and external stakeholders; developing and implementing membership and fund raising plans; and other activities that advance the organization and Gaelic development in Nova Scotia. Travel within Nova Scotia is required.

The incumbent will be able to demonstrate support for, and participation in, Nova Scotia Gaelic culture; read, write and speak Gaelic (or willing to meet these requirements in a defined time period, to be determined at the time of employment); have previous experience in the administration of a small non-profit cultural organization; has a high school graduation diploma or higher educational qualification; can demonstrate strength in the areas of interpersonal skill and teamwork; can give and take constructive feedback; has strong communication skills, both verbal and written (Gaelic and English); can demonstrate ability to interact well with people with tact, listening skills, and positive attitude; has a friendly, courteous and outgoing personality; can demonstrate competency in computer software usage including word processing, spreadsheets, database, presentations, etc.; and has a valid driver's license and own a vehicle.

The position, subject to availability of funding, is for a 12 month term, beginning January 2009, with the possibility of renewal. The salary for the position is \$35,000 per year. The location of work is negotiable, but will be based on Cape Breton Island or in Antigonish County.

Applications must be received by *Comhairle na Gàidhlig* no later than Friday, December 5, 2008 at 4 pm. Send resume and cover letter to *Comhairle na Gàidhlig*, PO Box 123, Iona, NS, B2C 1N8, fax (902) 725-2227, or E-mail to: comhairlenagaidhlig@gmail.com

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

MU AR DÉIDHINN - ABOUT US

OUR VISION

Comhairle na Gàidhlig

(The Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia) is a unified, dynamic leader within strong and vibrant communities where Gaelic language and culture thrive.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Comhairle na Gàidhlig is to lead in creating an environment that makes Nova Scotia a place where Gaelic language, culture and communities thrive.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To increase the number of Gaelic speakers;
- To coordinate efforts to preserve, maintain and develop the Gaelic language and culture;
- To base the development of Gaelic language and culture in local communities with the support of municipal, provincial and federal governments;
- To increase public appreciation and knowledge of Gaelic language and culture;
- To develop and maintain connections with local, national and international linguistic and cultural groups;
- To undertake research and develop policies pertaining to Gaelic language and culture;
- To advise and work with government and communities developing policies and programs that will advance Gaelic language and culture;
- To achieve secure status for the Gaelic language in law in Nova Scotia;
- To strengthen Gaelic communities both culturally and economically;
- To develop a place where people can live and work in Gaelic;
- To increase pride and self-confidence within the Gaelic community;
- To encourage and promote all forms of Gaelic cultural expression

OUR BOARD (2008-2009)

Catriona Parsons, Bayfield & New Campbellton (President)

Jessica MacLennan, Blues Mills (Vice-President)

Beth Anne MacEachen, Dartmouth (Treasurer)

Debbi MacDonald Sobey, Pictou County (Secretary)

Tim Aggett, Dartmouth

Bev Brett, North River

Susan Cameron, Antigonish

Emily MacKinnon, Ainslie Glen

Jeanette Strachan, Framboise

Barbara Sutherland-Foote, Westmount

Gabh an Sàs - Get Involved! Join the Gaelic Council

Membership: A one-year membership fee is \$10.00 for an individual, \$20.00 for a family, or \$25.00 for an organization.

Join the Gaelic Council at www.gaelic.ca or by returning this form to: PO Box 123 Iona, NS B2C 1N8

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Comhairle na Gàidhlig expresses appreciation to the Province of Nova Scotia for its financial support through the Office of Gaelic Affairs and the Culture Division of Tourism, Culture & Heritage