

## **Lieutenant Governor Community Spirit Award Entry Form**

### **Community Name: District Three, Municipality of Pictou County**

Key Contact Person for Award Submission: Olive Pastor

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Names of Groups within the community who have joined together to put forward this nomination:

1. Caribou District Fire Department
2. Bay View Community Club
3. Caribou River Community Club
4. Caribou Women's Institute
5. Ramsay Family Society of Pictou County
6. Pictou Island Community Association

This has been a challenging but rewarding exercise. We would like to thank you for the opportunity this program presented for us to learn about our community and to share it with others.

Sincerely,

Olive Pastor (on behalf of the communities of District Three, Municipality of Pictou County)

### **District Three, Municipality of Pictou County**

#### **Pertinent District Facts**

Major entrance port to the province

Site of Caribou Provincial Park

Site of Munro's Island Nature Reserve

Site of Waterside Provincial Park

Home of the Maritime Kite and Kayak Festival

Close proximity to the Town of Pictou with its festivals, shopping, dining, cultural and recreational facilities

Location of Pictou Lodge Resort which has accommodated: royalty, heads of government, celebrities and ordinary families

Home of a flourishing fishing industry and the industries which support it

The first community to have its own Tartan, known as the "Caribou Tartan"

Locally owned ferry service to Pictou Island, the site of a delicate eco-structure

A district where people chose to live and to build businesses based on the geography, including, spas, vegetable farms, dairy and beef farms, restaurants, meat plant, fish plant boat-building, propeller making, boat hauling and many more

Site of the Bay View and Caribou River Community Halls

Home of Caribou Women's Institute

Home district to NHL Hockey Player

Home of a Team Canada Player in the World Women's Under Eighteen Championship

Home of Captain Ross MacKay who served on the *Bounty*, the replica used in the movie *Mutiny of the Bounty*

Home of Patricia Thomson niece of Thom Thomson the painter who inspired the *Group of Seven*

## **Background to the District**

District Three of the Municipality of Pictou County is composed of a number of communities loosely held together by their geography. These communities share values, ideals, community history and challenges that effect the day to day living of the residents. The communities within the district include: Bay View, Brae Shore, Caribou, Central, Caribou, Caribou River, Caribou Island, Three Brooks, Waterside and Pictou Island. Our common history unites us and the challenges we face today help develop strong community bonds. Because we are all stakeholders in the district we have to be involved on a daily basis and the actions we take help improve our community. Our district is not stagnant it is always evolving to meet the needs of those living in the area.

The older residents give us stability because of their strong roots in the district. Newcomers recognize this attribute but at the same time bring new ideas to the communities to help generate new life into the district. All residents would agree that they like living in District Three because of the beautiful scenery, sandy beaches, parks and the gentle landscape along the Northumberland Strait. We are unique in that we are a rural district but within close proximity to five towns giving us access to hospitals, churches, shopping, entertainment and other activities.

Our district is made up of people we call neighbors. These are the people we turn to for support for issues or if we need help. We respect each other's opinions and trust those around us to do what is right for our area. Because we talk to each other we have a handle on what is happening within the communities of District Three. This makes us feel safer and connected as residents. In this paper we will demonstrate how we function as a district through our citizen participation.

## **History, Tradition and Cultural Heritage**

The history of District Three dates back to the early days of Scottish settlement. Many of the people in the district are descendants of the early settlers. As with other residents of Pictou County we are extremely proud of our Scottish heritage and traditions. Highland dancing, piping, participation in Scottish Festivals and even the foods we like such as bannock, oatcakes, scones and scotch cookies reflect our ties with the past.

Perhaps it is largely because of our Scottish background that the people of this area like to tell stories. The Phantom Ship of Northumberland Strait is a great crowd pleaser. Many people claim to have seen the apparition sailing along the coast. Many say that it appears and as they sail toward it the ghost ship just disappears. The story of buried treasure in Caribou Harbor has fascinated people here for many years. Ghost stories abound throughout the district. Nobody driving down the Trans Canada Highway at night and alone to Caribou wants to meet the lady in white.

## **Heritage Properties**

District Three has approximately one hundred and thirty Heritage Properties. I know because I inventoried them while I worked on the Heritage Inventory Program for Pictou County. While working I was able to make a calendar focusing on the heritage properties. The sale of the calendars generated funds for the fire hall and both community halls.

Usually old homes and buildings remain standing even after new homes are built. One houses the old residents and the other houses younger residents. In some cases the older buildings are rejuvenated by young couples coming into the area. The community halls in Bay View and Caribou River remain standing and where these buildings once were part of the daily life of the communities serving as schools, they are now mainly used by the residents for clubs to meet and for residents to hold events. The community club members became the custodians of the old school buildings and the school grounds. The clubs have done well keeping people in touch with their past. Every time we attend functions in those buildings it awakens memories of the old school days. The Lazaretto and Convalescent Hospitals are living history of the challenges faced by early residents of the area. The hospitals located in Brae Shore at the mouth of Pictou harbor were the stopping

place to unload passengers with contagious disease in the 1800's before they reached the town. (Olive Pastor)

### **New Immigrants to the District**

As time passed new people came to the area. After World War Two Dutch Immigrants came to Canada and some families moved into District Three. These people knew firsthand what it was like to live in war ravished countries. Their move to this place was not easy because they were placed on farms. Some people did not know how to farm because they lived in towns in Holland. Those people indicated that it was very discouraging in the beginning. There was little or no work and life here was difficult. It was much easier for the children of these immigrants then it was for the first arrivals. Community people helped when they could but it was a time after the war when jobs were scarce. However, over time they became part of our communities. We all live in harmony and the area is a better place because of the diversity. Now there is a much more diverse population which includes English, Irish, French, Danish, Americans and others. At the same time, many people arrive here from other provinces. People were drawn to the area to work at the Michelin plant and Northern Pulp plant (originally known as Scott Maritime). Now they call the area home. Newcomers are approached quickly to get them involved in associations and to have them participate in keeping the communities alive. This makes them feel welcome and it encourages them to stay and be part of the community. Faith-based groups are encouraged to join their respective faith organizations. People in the district have benefited by having members of the Mennonite church among us because they grow crops for sale and sell firewood and they have been especially good at visiting senior people during holidays.

### **Finding Solutions to Community Challenges**

All the small communities in District Three work either individually or when needed, they work together to solve problems. The local Municipal Councilor holds meetings at the community halls where people are encouraged to attend to learn what is happening and to voice their opinions on the issue at hand. Resident participation is usually very good. An example of a recent problem that needed to be solved was the threat of closure of our ferry service running from Wood Islands to Caribou. People came together to work out solutions to keeping the service. Not only did the District have to work together, but we had to work in partnership with eastern Prince Edward Island residents to come up with a solution.

An example of working together took place when the Federal Government did away with operation of the wharves in the area. The fishermen had to come together to form an association to manage the use, care and upkeep of the wharves so they could continue to use them. They have to work with Federal and Provincial Governments concerning maintenance of the wharves and the fishery in general. Therefore, they have a voice in the politics that affect their livelihood. Agreements concerning maintenance of the wharves are also a concern for the ferry service to Pictou Island. The ferry docks at the Caribou wharf. The fishermen have their say in the environmental issues facing Northumberland Strait in their section. This could include issues of pollution to managing the fish stocks. The fishermen work with the Fisherman's Museum in Pictou which operates a lobster hatchery. Local fishermen take the baby lobsters out into the Strait to restock the lobsters. As stakeholders in the fishing industry it is to the benefit of the fishermen to work to keep stock replenished and protected.

A very recent event that occurred in the area was the infringement by the town of Pictou into the rural area concerning the watershed. The people in the district had to meet and protect their rights while accommodating the town's agenda of protecting their water supply. There was much heated discussion but in the end the problem was solved to some extent with conditions to the satisfaction of the town and the rural area.

This year has seen the formation of a temporary group to meet with local politicians to have the Three Brooks Road repaired. The men met first with the local Councilor and the local MLA. The business was taken to the Minister of Transportation and the road is scheduled to be repaired in the future. This is a clear

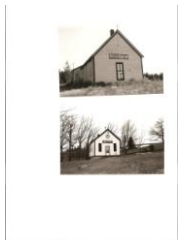
demonstration of how members of the community can organize to get help for problems facing the residents of the district.

### **Adaptable and Flexible in finding uses for Community Halls**

In 2009 Caribou River Community Club started a farmer's market where members of the community had tables to sell their goods. This gave the area residents a chance to buy local, not only helping the growers but helping the club as well. They sold baked goods, crafts, pottery, vegetables, fruit, honey and jam. The club is also active in having breakfasts in the months of May and June. People donate time and products to the meals and residents are good to attend. They have been flexible in renting the hall to outside people for events; the hall was used for *Read by the Sea* and the Grandmothers to Grandmothers event for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. These events prove that people are flexible and adaptable allowing for positive change in the areas they choose to develop. As well, the club has a welcoming committee that reaches out to newcomers to the community.

Bay view Community Hall is used for community meetings, the Caribou Women's Institute meets there monthly and the club is flexible on allowing people from outside the community to rent the hall. Cemetery meetings are held in the community halls. The district has many cemeteries that are cared for by community members. Even the ones under perpetual care often need community support for clean-up days. Residents clean headstones and clear away debris on the lots. These people have a sense of pride when they survey the grounds after a days work. They know that the burial grounds are ready for visitors. In Bay View there has always been a sign that says: "This is the last resting place of your loved ones, please treat it as such." Bay View Community Hall is regularly used for wedding showers or birthday parties. When events take place at the halls community members are contacted. Both halls are used for polling stations during elections. The voter participation for the elections average about 65% of the district population with an equal number of young and old residents voting. During elections many of the residents of the district volunteer their time to their respective parties hoping they will be elected.

In other areas such as Caribou Island and Waterside where the community halls no longer exist the area has been flexible in moving from a predominantly farming community that no longer needs the old school buildings for permanent residents to a community of mostly summer residents. People now live here to enjoy the seashore and the Provincial Park. New businesses have grown in the area with cottages and Bed and Breakfasts. Some residents have found the area productive in growing strawberries and asparagus. Tourists like to drive the length of the island in the summer to watch the boats in the Strait.



Caribou River and Bay View Community Halls

### **Youth Involvement in the District**

The fire department has been a positive organization to attract the young men and women acting as firemen and within the women's auxiliary. Young people who have an interest in participating in either the Farmer's Exhibition Queen Pageant or the Pictou Lobster Carnival Queen Pageant are supported financially by the fire department for entrance fees and towards the cost of evening gowns that are required.

Most families in the district have children who are active in sporting events. The parents of those children are very active in fund raising for the sport involved. Families help with the travel involved in participating in the competitions. Often parents transport community children whose parents cannot attend an event. Some of

the older people who were active in hockey years ago continue to help the sport for the young today by being coaches and referees.

With the changing demographics of the district there are less children than there was a few years ago. This makes it more difficult to have groups in the rural communities. However, in the not too distant past there was a Cub and Scout group that met in the fire hall. For many years the Caribou/Bay View area had a 4H club. Sewing and gardening were taught by local leaders. In later years a calf club through 4H was established in the area. Some young girls belonged to CGIT but they had to attend the group in the United Church in Pictou. Some young girls belonged to Girl Guides and Brownies and a local lady was active as a leader with this group. Most young people belong to the Sunday Schools in their respective churches.

Many of the area children are involved in highland dancing and pipe bands. These two organizations are very active in competitions but they also are included in special events that take place in the district. For example pipers are often present at functions held by community groups. Dancers and pipers are usually on hand to entertain tourists in the area. Pipe Major Rob MacInnis is active in teaching piping with the Heather Bell Girls Pipe Band and he also tries to interest young people to join piping. In Brae Shore piano and singing are taught to local residents and to others who have an interest in their vocal skills. The *Keltic Kittens* fiddlers who take instruction in Caribou take part in many events locally and throughout the county. One lady from Central Caribou donates her time and skills to the 4H club in another district. Her neighbor collects bottles and sells them donating the money to the 4H club. He also repairs toys that are donated to the needy at Christmas time.

## **Seniors**

Members of District Three have respect for the elderly and donate their time to helping out with projects to benefit seniors. One family in Brae Shore takes their miniature pet horses to the nursing home in Pictou once a month. Many of the district seniors now reside in the nursing home. This is a good way to entertain the seniors but also it keeps them in contact with their home community. Local women volunteer at the VON foot care clinic designed for seniors but for other people as well. Many of the seniors from District Three belong to the 50 Plus Club in Pictou. Here they play cards, attend dinners and have access to computers. One of their projects is to sell books at a low price. This keeps the seniors active and in contact with other community members. Perhaps a very significant episode for the seniors was when they came together as a group to get the local history, *The Stories of Caribou* published. After publishing the history the group stayed together for a number of years and held the *Caribou Ceilidh* to continue raising funds. The Ceilidh was always well attended. In fact the hall was filled to capacity. Later the funds we raised through the Ceilidh were used for Graduation Prizes at the local rural high school.

## **Respect for the Environment**

A few years ago a member of the community of Bay View became alarmed that the habitat for the eagles on Munroe's Island was becoming endangered. That resident along with other community supporters was able to convince the Nature Conservancy to purchase the island and then turn it over to the province as a protected site.

The communities in the district belong to the Adopt-a-Highway program. This has been effective in keeping rubbish out of the ditches and it helps keep rural beautification in resident's thoughts. Local residents are often seen picking up paper and other small items that have been tossed and often hazardous to animal life in the community. The district participates in the Recycling Program adopted by the Municipality of Pictou County. It is surprising that some of the best recyclers are the very young and the very old. Some members of the district participate in the "Go Green, Get Clean" program that takes place in April of each year.

Recently, Brae Shore was the site of a barge going aground in the Strait. Caribou District Fire Department was quick to respond to the call and called in the hazardous response team to insure that the sea and the

shoreline was protected from the huge amount of oil that was contained on the barge. An oil spill in that area would destroy the fishery and the beaches that attract tourists and local residents.

### **Caribou Women's Institute**

The Caribou Women's Institute will be forty-four years old on February 26, 2011. The original reason the organization was formed was to educate rural women and to get them out of their homes for social activities. Today the group is active in volunteering their time to help with the craft section at the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition and in helping other groups that need people to cater to their events. Many of the women are seniors and are active in fundraising. The money raised is donated to the IWK, the food-bank, and to Tearman House, a home for abused women and children. As well, they donate prize money to the local high schools for graduation. In 2010 the group made a charitable donation to World Vision.

Through our conveners and guest speakers a wealth of knowledge is shared with the members. We teach each other worthwhile projects to broaden our minds and to learn new skills. One such project involved learning how to make stepping stones that could be placed in members gardens. We have participated in the Rural Beautification Program *Sammy Seagull*, a project for cleaner highways. Our *Sunshine Girl* sends cards to people who are sick and to people who have lost loved-ones. We donate prizes to Northumberland Regional High School and we assist the Bay View Community Hall. The Caribou Women's Institute hosted the Provincial Annual General meeting in 2004 and that was held at the rural high school. At that time Caribou Women's Institute held a competition for all branches to fill baskets with supplies that would be donated to the Red Cross.

In the spring of the year we hold a bean supper to raise funds for the group. This event is very well attended by the community. At Christmas we have our annual Christmas party where we bring guests to celebrate with us. Members of the group bring gifts such as home-made embroidered cards and taped Christmas music for all the other members. In the spirit of fun and entertainment we bowl together each week. One of the favorite parts of our meeting is when our historian reads out of the local history telling of past events and people. Some of the programs to be held at WI meetings in 2011 include: Health Presentation ( VON Adult Day Care), Remembrance Day Presentation, most interesting event for members in WI, items for Palliative Care and presentation of Valentine Crafts.



Stepping Stones and Baskets for Red Cross

### **Volunteerism in District Three**

So why do we volunteer? We volunteer because we want to make things better for our district and for the people living in the district. It is our organizations that allow new people to feel included in our everyday activities when they are asked to help out. District Three has produced many volunteers over the years and it is the volunteers who are responsible for producing positive change. Residents of the area worked hard to establish the Caribou District Fire Department centrally located in Three Brooks. This became necessary because the Pictou Fire Department could no longer handle more than the town fires. The Caribou District Fire Department is made up of nineteen volunteer firemen and the Ladies Auxiliary. Funds are raised for the department through dinners, variety shows and other types of entertainment. In the early years funds were

raised through the production of a Heritage Calendar that was donated to the Fire Department to sell. Some of those proceeds went to the Community Halls as well. The fire-hall has become a center for having wedding receptions, funeral receptions and for fundraisers for district people in need. The Fishermen's Concert is held at the fire hall to raise funds to help the Northumberland Fishermen's Museum located in Pictou. The hall is usually filled to capacity for the concert. The firemen participate in parades, join other fire departments in the " Boot Drive" and work along with other first responders. In 2009 two bays were added to the hall and a new truck will soon follow. The hall is now set at shelter status in case of natural emergencies and has a large generator which will run the complete hall. The department supplies 911 signs for the community residents. And each year we have Santa for the children of the district.



Santa at Caribou District Fire Hall

Plans are in the making on Caribou Island to meet with Federal Government officials so the community will have the option of obtaining the Caribou Island lighthouse when it is no longer in use. This is in the very early stages and residents will have much to do before it becomes a reality. Never-the-less it shows a willingness to work together for a positive outcome to change brought about by modern technology. What was part of community life in the past will now take on a new function as a heritage site. As well, the residents of Caribou Island are taking the time to look after a heritage cemetery which they hope can be used again in the future.

The district can boast that there are two groups of 'Red Hat Ladies' in the area. These women are very supportive attending functions within the district.

A number of district residents belong to Scottish Clan Societies. As members they strive to protect the Scottish culture in Nova Scotia. They are supportive of the yearly Scottish festivals held in the county. They promote the teaching of Gaelic in Pictou County and they display the clan tartans at many events.

Because of our proximity to the Town of Pictou, people in the district usually attend one of the five churches located in the town. This has not been a barrier to volunteering instead, the rural people work hard and donate their time, expertise and money to those churches.

District Three residents volunteer at the lobster carnival held in the town which is well represented by rural fishermen. Many residents volunteer at the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition, a place where farmers compete and display farm products and animals. Residents of the district are well represented at the Hector Festival and they also support the Northumberland Fisheries Museum. Many District Three community members belong to lodges such as the Masons, Oddfellows, Rebekahs and the Order of the Easter Star. Others serve or have served on both local and provincial boards such as the Aberdeen Hospital Board and the Provincial Heritage Advisory Council for Heritage Properties. Other members can be found coaching and refereeing hockey, soccer, baseball and other sports. Still others canvass the area for the Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation and for the Kidney Foundation.

Our entertainers, who provide fiddle music, step dancing and singing for many of our events, need to be recognized. They are always willing to share their time and talents with the rest of the community. This has held true over the many years the communities have existed. Without them the events would be sadly lacking. These people also volunteer their time to entertaining in the nursing homes for our seniors. At least two members of the community teach music and dancing to the children, therefore, we are guaranteed future musicians and dancers for the area. Further, some residents participate in the Kinsmen stage-plays held in the town.

Through the efforts of one person in the District the Northumberland Branch of the Monarchist League of Canada was formed. The group promotes “Constitutional Monarchy” as the best form of government for Canada. They have become a visible presence fighting for our Canadian Monarchy within the whole county. The functions that the Northumberland Branch of the Monarchist League host are extremely well attended by the district and county residents. Dinners are held to celebrate the Queen’s birthday or to celebrate her coronation. This group hosted a dinner to celebrate “Democracy 250” with emphasis on constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy in Canada.

Lastly, no mention of volunteerism and community spirit would be complete without mentioning District Three’s veterans. These men and women volunteer their time to educate our youth about the tragedy of war and the sacrifices of those who serve the country. We see these people at Remembrance Day Services every year, at nearly every parade in the Town of Pictou and in the schools talking to the students.

### **Uniqueness of the District**

As communities go, those in District Three are much like others in the province. However, the area is unique in a couple of ways. First, a defining factor in the district’s development is the influence of life lived along the Northumberland Strait with all the hardships and rewards of living close to the sea. Second, District Three is unique in that the area has maintained a strong sense of community even though we have few institutions or organizations of our own. Instead, we support those within the Town of Pictou. Our greatest strength evident within the district is the people’s ability to recognize the importance of the coastline for our livelihood, leisure activities and our conservation projects. Many people have been willing to stay in each rural community to carve out lives for themselves. Now the “Baby Boomers” are returning. They are bringing back experience and new ideas to the communities. In the last few years the Pictou Lodge Resort returned to ownership by people connected to the community. The new owners are now expanding the site. This bodes well for bringing more tourists to the area. Originally the lodge was known as Wentworth Lodge and was the result of local people wanting to build a business which would bring tourists to the area. It actually fitted in with the new tourist promotions of the time when we were looking to the wilderness for the travelling experience. Later, under the CNR, the lodge catered to upper class travelers. Today, the resort accommodates family vacationers and bus groups. Change had to take place to keep the resort competitive in the busy tourism market.

The people in this district have served this province and this country in all aspects of citizenship through public service. They have served politically, they are law abiding and they support the province and the country when called upon because they understand that a strong country starts with strong communities.

### **Pictou Island**

Pictou Island is a unique community which is part of District Three but because of its location five miles offshore has had to develop and cooperate in a different way than the rest of the district. Pictou Island is a new member of the district having joined us about twenty years ago. They joined at their own request because they believed they had more in common with the communities in District Three therefore, they formed this formal partnership because it would benefit the island more fully. For example the ferry service runs from Caribou, the children attend high school on the mainland and many of the Islanders moved over to the district to live. It was not an easy battle to join District Three but they were determined and are happy to be one of our communities.

Pictou Island is an old community dating back to early settlement. As with other islands and isolated areas Pictou Island has maintained its traditions and much of its cultural heritage. The people who inhabited the island originally were mostly Scots but today there are residents who come from many different backgrounds. These new people take a very active role in all walks of island life and they bring new ideas and skills to the community. Acceptance of new people makes for a more diverse population.

The island people are totally committed to including and cooperating with each other in order to keep the island running smoothly and by being open to new ideas. Because they wish to keep up with the rest of the country they have been willing to make positive change. Just the logistics of island life alone requires that people work together to find solutions to the many challenges of everyday life on the island. The residents are very respectful of each others opinions and because of this are able to make better decisions. The permanent residents (ten individuals) involve the summer residents as much as possible. They are completely committed to environmental issues. They do not disturb the wildlife that inhabits the island. The people try to live in harmony with the coyotes that have migrated to the island in the belief that the stocks will not increase as they do when culled. The seals which come ashore now when there is no ice to have their pups are left in peace. If a disaster happens and the seal pups are washed out to sea they do not interfere because they believe that that is nature taking its course. The islanders recycle and compost. Items that are recycled are kept stored in a building at the wharf and taken to the mainland twice a year by boat. Once a year a barge is brought to the island to remove items that can not go to be recycled including items such as stoves and fridges etc.. Fire laws on the island are the same as laid down for the rest of the province. The residents have to worry about fire on their properties and their wood lots. Visitors to Pictou Island have to take their own garbage back to the mainland when they leave. When residents bring a car to the island they have to pay an environmental fee for removing it. However, if they have one to send back to the mainland the fee is waived. This combined effort helps with protecting the environment of their area. In the spirit of cooperation all the people help when large items such as stoves, washers and fridges have to be removed from the ferry and taken to someone's home.

Island residents have to be adaptable and flexible to maintain safety and to provide for getting emergency services when needed. The residents came together and started a fire department in the nineteen-eighties. They felt that they needed firefighting services on the island for the landowners. They believe in prevention as the first line of defense. Caribou Fire Department is on standby for the island if they need help. Community members volunteer and they have two trucks in service. They have firefighting equipment on site and have fire equipment in the homes of residents. They have a First Responders Team made up of full-time and part-time residents. The volunteers take courses on a regular basis to keep their skills. The firemen are knowledgeable about evacuation by Life Flight and the Search and Rescue Zodiac. As well, they have a helipad site north of the community centre.

The ferry service to Pictou Island is privately owned but subsidized by Nova Scotia Transport. The ferry takes thirty-six passengers and leaves the Caribou Port Authority several times a week. The mail travels by the ferry on Tuesdays and Fridays. When the ferry service stops at the end of November the plane from Trenton Airport takes the mail and passengers to and froe. Groceries are delivered by plane from December to May. To have the services and maintain them requires a great deal of cooperation, adaptability and flexibility by the island people. Like other areas Pictou Island has had to accept the responsibilities of managing the wharves at Pictou Island. A Port Authority was created and it is responsible for the administration of the harbor facilities.

Nowhere is community spirit more evident then with the Pictou Island Community Association. The group came into being when it was incorporated in 1987. All the issues of the community are discussed at meetings of the association. Once a year the District Councilor holds a rate-payers meeting with the residents of the island. At that time they discuss problems that have arisen in the community and they deal with funding for projects. Nearly all permanent residents belong to the association. The Association members are extremely active. They raise money through food auctions, pot luck dinners, raffles and even lobster dinners. The money raised is used to repair the church, the community hall, the cemetery, the recycling storage building, the fire hall and the dance hall. Food auctioned off goes for high prices. One example of this is last summer a seafood lasagna sold for \$ 185.00 after bidding. The club usually makes about \$ 3000.00. On work day in the summer the residents get together to do repairs on prearranged sites and to clean the cemetery. As many as thirty people, including summer residents will show-up and the work details will be distributed

among them. Funds raised from the pot luck dinners are donated to other organizations. The Northumberland fisheries Museum has been a recipient of the donations and now the Island people have decided to give to the Redtail Hawk Society this year. This donation is a great gesture towards helping other areas and to helping the environment at the same time. And finally, the community Association maintains a c@p site so the residents have access to computer services. It should be noted that there is a dance hall on the island where a kitchen party is held each year. You can be sure there will be fiddle music and step dancing at the party. As well the church on the island while no longer active is the site of baptisms, funerals and weddings during the summer months.

As part of the logistics of the community one member of the island is hired to plough snow on the road and keep it open because the road is used as a runway for the plane as well.

At the east end of the island residents have created a park, known as the John MacCallum Memorial Park. The land was donated by the MacCullum Family. The whole community supports the idea of having this recreational area. The park was used for teaching swimming lessons and a change house and an outhouse can be found on the grounds. The park is open to the public but just for day activities. Lastly, the island residents have been flexible in allowing the Progress Club to host the Survivor Pictou Island program on the island. The Progress Club uses this as a fund raiser and the island benefits from a fee that is donated by the club. As with other District Three residents Pictou Islanders are proud of their history, traditions and of the accomplishments they have made to keep their community a vibrant part of life in the twenty-first century.



### **Pictou Island Port Authority, Fire Hall, Sutherland Presbyterian Church**

#### **Community Pride**

Community pride is reflected in the things members of the district view as important in their lives and that of other community members. We accomplish things because we have community spirit and that manifests itself into community pride. A few years ago an elderly Three Brooks resident created the *Caribou Tartan*. The colors in the tartan represent the landscape of the district. Later, the fire department adopted the tartan as a signature part of their uniform- the tie.

Members of the district are always interested in and proud of the creative work our residents put into their entries for the agricultural exhibition held in Pictou. These entries range from animal entries, vegetable entries, and domestic craft entries such as: embroidery, quilt making, painting and preserving of jams, pickles and jellies. Community members attend to see how the district residents placed in the competition.

Perhaps members are proudest when the youth of the area excel in their endeavors. We are proud of our local NHL player, our Team Canada player, the girls and boys who compete in Highland Games and of the children who play and win at soccer, baseball and hockey. One young man from District Three joined the St. Catherine's Rowing Team and they became the winners of the North American Rowing Championship held at Bled, Yugoslavia. That young man is deceased but his memory lives on in the spirit of the community.

The community pride is very evident when tourists visit the area and ask about our communities. Young and old alike speak about the district with a deep sense of pride and belonging. Poems have been written

about the communities, their beauty, the hardships, the people and yes some even poke fun at things that have happened here.

### **An Enduring Community**

Residents of District Three of the Municipality of Pictou County will have no problem providing an enduring community for future generations. We are willing to change with the times. However, we will keep one foot firmly planted in the past because we know what sacrifices were made to build the communities of District Three. We will see that our young people are well educated so they can participate in this hi-tech world. We will keep our culture alive. We will cling to our faith. We will listen to our senior citizens. And while we keep our traditions we will learn new traditions. The rural people of District Three will continue to support the towns that surround us so we have a strong system of health care, modern sports, cultural and recreational facilities within Pictou County. We will work together when sources of our livelihood are threatened and we will help those who need community support. With every community member who decides to work out of the district reaching the global community our survival is ensured and it helps to stem the flow of those flocking to the urban areas. It brings new people to the area as well as attracting those back who have left.