



When your parents were little boys and girls, they lived in these beautiful communities surrounding our school, Riverside. These communities had many people living there each having a store, a church, and a one room school. If you were to travel down any of these roads you would see children outside playing after their household chores were completed.

Let's start by visiting the community of Catalone.

Catalone is a community built around Catalone Lake, a large tidal water lake. The community of Catalone was named after a French Officer , who was a cartographer (a map maker) who was stationed at the Fortress of Louisbourg. His name was Gédéon de Catalogne. After the French, many of the early settlers came from North Uist, Scotland in the early part of the 19th century. The language spoken was mostly Gaelic but also English,

Catalone was made up of three areas:

1. Catalone Gut
2. Catalone
3. Catalone Road

When driving through Highway 22, you come to a very steep hill today known as Peck's Hill, but when your parents were little it was known as MacVicar's Hill. The MacVicars were the original owners of the land which was granted by the government in the 1800s. MacMillans also lived for many years on the hill. Flora MacMillan taught for many years in Albert Bridge and Catalone. In later years Charles and Camilla Peck lived here and operated a Bed and Breakfast (1). Now you are entering the community of Catalone.

CATALONE GUT ROAD

A little further along on the left you come to what is known to residents as the Northside Road (2). This land was also mostly farmland. As grants of lands were large, in many cases families lived far from neighbors. Lands were owned by the MacDonald, MacRury, MacInnis, MacMillan and MacNevin families to name a few. As the original train, The Gisborne, from Louisbourg traveled across Catalone Lake, many people traveled to and from Glace Bay. In later years Glace Bay residents built bungalows around the lake. The lake has numerous bungalows in the many little inlets. Stories are often told of treasure buried on the Big Island in Catalone Lake. It was said to be buried there by the French as they were driven out of Louisbourg. In years gone by, many people came to the island to dig for gold or hidden treasure. None was found. Someday, maybe we will be the new Oak Island. (3)

**** Please place # 1, 2, and 3 in the proper places now.****

Catalone but is where the lake runs into the ocean. Because of this Catalone Lake is a tidal waters. It has few leeches as saltwater enters the lake at the gut. There is a strong current under the bridge at Catalone Gut. Swimmers must be careful as there have been drownings, as swimmers underestimate the strength of the tide. The beach is known as Buckley's Beach (4). Several farms were also along this area: MacKeigan, Dickson, Baillieul, Shaw, Clark and MacVicar. Tommy Dickson operated a forge for shoeing horses for many years. He always owned a horse. Community children visited his farm and, his beloved horse Nancy. The gut, as in most small villages, had a one room school (5).

Robert and Craig MacDonald operated a Sand and Gravel business for a time. Often trucks were loaded by hand. Helen MacDonald was famous for writing poetry and Robert MacDonald owned a small picnic and campground site at the Gut (6). Jack MacKeigan's pond was a place where many local fishermen kept their boats as it was protected from the ocean. The Stop and Shop was a small store that operated in later years. It now stands vacant and weather beaten (7). It also had a train station, where people from that side of Catalone Lake would meet for travel (8).

**** Please place # 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 in the proper places now. ****

CATALONE

Back up on Highway 22, past Catalone Gut Road you will come to the second hill. It was called MacAulay's Hill, as the farmland owned on both sides was the MacAulay's. In later years, there was a rock quarry which mined limestone (9) . Today this is a popular coasting hill for the children who live close by.

Just past the quarry is Catalone River (10) People in the area often refer to it as "Big Brook." It originally had two bridges, a short distance apart. But when the new bridge was built it became one bridge. People often fish smelt and gaspereau in the brook. Local children swam in the brook in summer, especially under the bridge where it was a little deeper. Many years ago, a saw mill was operated up the Brook Road (11). It was operated by bonny Allan MacDonald for many years.

Malcolm and Florence MacAulay and Henry and Isabel Hall lived on their family land by the brook for almost 100 years. Your grandparents will remember going up the brook road to wash their car. People would take buckets of water from the brook and take some soap from home, like Rinso, to wash their cars. It was the first "Car Wash" in Catalone (12).

**** Please place # 9, 10, 11, and 12 in the proper places now.****

In the early 1960's, Roger Bishop built a canteen known as the Stonewall down the road by the brook (13). A popular site included picnic tables and an area for children to play by the little brook, which was also called Margaret's Brook (14). Later Roger moved the Stonewall canteen to the present campground. This campground land was originally owned by Neil MacAulay who operated a forge. He would make horseshoes, fix the plows, make nails, sleigh runners and metal for farming equipment. Later several homes and bungalows were built here along the shores of the lake. Mr. Bishop opened the campground with modern hook ups and tenting areas. It was later sold and owned by the Ogilvie Family for many years. Today it is owned by Mike Cook. It has more than 100 full time campers with a pool, a hall, and a bakery. It is now called Hidden Treasure Campground (15).

Just past the brook at the end of New Boston Road, you would have come to Margaret MacIntyre's store (16). This land was once owned by Alex H. MacAulay, Margaret's uncle. It was operated right on the edge of the road. There was only the width of one car in front of the store which often had windows broken by the snow plow. It housed a post office and a telephone office. It had one of the first gas pumps

in the area. Mrs. MacIntyre operated the store well into her 80's, being famous for being open late at night for travelers returning to Sydney or for young people hitch hiking home. It was a gathering spot for young people from the area.

One of the memories of the people of Catalone, was the earthquake that occurred on November 18th, 1929. The ground trembled and the dishes in the cupboards shook. People were very nervous but no one was hurt and there was no damage to the farms.

*** Please place # 13, 14, 15, and 16 in the proper places now.***

Turning right at the store, you will travel up New Boston Road. Several farms were located on this road. But today many families have moved to this area but no farming is ongoing. Just up the road is the Catalone Recreation Center which opened in the Aar 1970's (17). It is a community center to promote recreation and a meeting place. It added a ball field several years later and was named after Ernest Bishop a former Councillor. Throughout the years, the community center has worked hard to promote community programs such as skating parties, sledding parties, dances, ball tournaments, dart tournaments, card games and lobster suppers. It continues to be an important part of the community today. A short drive up the road, you will find the Devil's Hill Falls, a beautiful waterfall just a short walk off the road (18). It is visited by many people throughout the year. In summer, it cascades into a lush green, mossy area and an icy valley in the winter. It is well worth the visit. Another business on the road you'll find New Boston Auto Salvage operated by Donald MacIntyre (19). If you continue along this dirt road, it will take you to New Boston and back to Highway 22 at Albert Bridge.

**** Please place # 17, 18, and 19 in the proper places now.****

Back on Highway 22, as you move along the road, you come to the original Catalone General Store which was moved from Terra Nova Road many years ago, probably in the 40's or 50's (20). The store was operated by Clara MacLean, then sold to Edgar and Winnie Bishop from England. It was a store that sold groceries, meat cut by a small slicer, clothing, footwear and sewing materials. It resembled a General Store. It was sold several times until the McComber family bought it and later was torn down to build a modern store on the same site. It now operates as an Irving Gas Station and general store.

Just past the store and campground, you come to the Lock End Cemetery which has served the community since 1837 (21). The first Scottish settlers, who moved to the area, always buried their relatives at the head of the lake. So, they founded the cemetery at the Head of Catalone Lake. Years ago many families were buried together especially with death due to Tuberculosis which killed all family members in some cases. There were no vaccines or medication to fight off this disease. It was the killer of this generation.

Just past the cemetery, you will find the MacMillan United Church which opened in 1926 (22). Church was held in a tent on site until the church opened. Previous to that, people either walked or went by horse and wagon to Union Presbyterian Church in Mira Ferry. Church often went for many hours where families would meet neighbors and friends to socialize.

Across from the United Church was the site of Catalone School (23). The original school was where the cemetery is presently located. It was a small rough building. Later, a two-story building which served as a school on one level and church and Orange Lodge on another. The hall burnt and was replaced by a school in 1925 and was used until 1966. There was no bus then, more children attended in winter because in the summer months boys went to sea and many worked on the farms. Children walked through deep snow only open by horse or human tracks. Some walked across the lake as ice was thick in winter. When walking the ice, you would have to be careful as there were "hot spots." Horse and sleighs used to cross the lake were known to have been lost smashing through the ice. Men often "bushed" the lake by putting u.) eA9 thin trees were in spots appeared. Today older residents still warn those on skidoo, and travelers, where to watch for these "hot spots." At school, heat was provided by a pot belly stove; and there were outdoor toilets, one for boys and one for girls. Later indoor "bucket a day" toilets were used. This meant one bucket of water would be added to the toilet each day. Older boys and girls would gather wood to start the fire and get water at the brook. Each morning they lined up for a cod liver oil capsule. The school was used for family dances, wedding dances, adults and children would attend. Elections, Christmas concerts, and Arbor days would also be held there./ When the Fortress of Louisbourg expropriated (bought land without a choice to sell it) lands fvw#946-Tsuatia in Louisbourg, many families were moved to Catalone and a new more modern four room school was built to accommodate them. It was called Margaret MacVicar School. It was named for Margaret MacVicar, one of the original Mac Vicar family members from the hill. She had moved away to Rhode Island, New York and became a high school English teacher. She always contributed in various ways to her first school and her place of birth. The school opened as a

grade primary to six school and in 1969, it became a primary to three school until its closure in 2000 when Riverside Elementary opened. In later years, the old school was used as a Church hall and was finally moved to Louisbourg and used as Rovie's Pizza and 7esentiww it is used for offices for Louisbourg fisheries.

Close to the school, there was a small brook known as the school house brook (24). Water was hauled, not only to the school, but all the homes nearby. When children went to bail water in summer, they would throw rocks ahead to scare the snakes away from the hot rocks where they sunned themselves. In winter they would need to bring a small axe to cut a hole in the ice.

**** Interview Isabel Hall / Florence MacIntyre ****

** Please place # 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 in the proper places now.**

Past the school house brook you would come to the Pulp Yard (25). It was owned by Simpson & Williams. Pulp wood was bought to be shipped by boat from Louisbourg to markets in Europe and Egypt. It operated for many years at this site. Many people worked in the woods cutting, peeling and selling wood at this yard, also loading wood on the pulp boats as they came into Louisbourg. Across from the pulp yard you will find Peck's Lane. The first bungalow on this lane was owned by Cameron's Lumber Yard in Glace Bay, now several bungalows and homes are owned on this lane by the lake.

Across from Peck's known Lane, is the Department of Transportation traveled by horse and sled Depot, as the highway shed (26). This is where tractors and until the early 1950's. led and not plowed. Dirt roads were common plows were Previously in early days roads were much narrower and Just beside the shed, is Terra Nova Road known to the community as the "Old Road," as it was the original road to Louisbourg before the present road was constructed. Terra Nova Road was mainly made of up farms. Many families took in "Home Children" from England. The children would stay and work for the family until the age of 18• Many children were as young as five coming from England to stay with families. To name a few, were John Hall, Florence Adams MacAulay, Ernest Bishop, Clara Davis MacDonald, John Davis, Jimmy Davis, Piercy Franklyn as well as from Catalone but and Kennington Cove. There were Edgar Bate, Louise White MacMillan, Mary and Betty MacVicar, Craig and Robert MacDonald and others from orphanages across Nova Scotia.

On Terra Nova Road, Clara MacLean built a large house and started a Tea Room. Later this building was moved by skid (wooden rollers) pulled by horses and became Catalone General Store. As more people began to travel and work in Sydney at the Steel Plant, and to the fish plants in Louisbourg, and later to Fortress Louisbourg, the Terra Nova Road was no longer used. Family names in Catalone included Hall, MacDonald, MacLeans, Mac Isaac, MacPherson, MacCuish, William, MacIntyre, Woodworth and Gaigneur families.

**** Please place # 25, and 26 in the proper places now.****

Past Terra Nova Road, on the new Louisbourg Highway, there was only one good sized farm land with a large house on the property. There are about 20 homes along the road present day.

CATALONE ROAD

Turning onto Catalone Road at the Crossroads (27), you would have found the farmland owned by Colin MacNevin. Just down the road you would come to St. James Presbyterian Church Hall (28). In the church hall there would be socials, square dances with music by a fiddler or 2 from a harmonica played by Archie Lauchie MacDonald from the hill who provided the entertainment; also games (musical broom, musical chairs, and tucker). Milling Frolics were also often held.

**** Interview- Florence MacIntyre / Allan MacLeod ****

Across from the hall, was the location of Margaret MacVicar school (29), built in 1966 which we spoke about earlier. There was no school on Catalone road in the early days. The children from the railroad trestle up, went to Catalone School and from the trestle down, went to Bateson School and later to Main-a-Dieu. Children walked to Bateson school in all kinds of weather. School was never called off. A few teachers would get the train from Louisbourg and walk to the school or get a drive with the mail driver. Teachers were paid very little. Their salary for the year was \$175 dollars. Sometimes they never got paid and the teachers just lived with the people from the community.

Down the road from the hall, you will find St. James Presbyterian Church (30) which opened on September 19th, 1926. It was built by hand by the men of the community.

Today it still serves several families from the community. Along Catalone road, you would have found farms such as those owned by Nicolson MacCuish, Robertson, and MacIntyre families.

**** Please place # 27, 28, 29 and 30 in the proper places now.****

Franklyn Road used to be a road to the MacDonald Farm. Present day it has several families living along the road including a Car Repair shop, M Automotive operated by Damian MacKay (31). Continuing down the road you will come to Wadden's Pond where children gathered to skate and burn rubber tires at night for light (32)

There were saw mills (33) along the road. One was operated by Angus MacIntyre which was set up near the MacCuish home. Men were employed there. The trees were cut by the men and hauled to the mill by horse and sawed into lumber which would be sold. Overnight the men would stay in camps where a cook provided their meals. This mill was run by gas engine. Another mill was operated near the brook by the railroad tracks and it was run by brook water. The brook today is called the Mill Brook.

The S&L Railway (34) ran from Louisbourg through Catalone along the lake to Catalone Gut, Mira Gut, Glace Bay and on to Sydney. Many people travelled by train to shop, doctor's appointments or to visit relatives. The last run was in 1968. The railway station and a store (35) was found on the Old Station Road and was run by Alex R. MacDonald., who served as a county councillor for 41 years. The railway station and store would have been very busy and the heart of this community. It too, was a General Store selling all kinds of meats and molasses by the barrel. Later, this store was passed down to his foster son from England, Ernest Bishop. He operated the store for many years and later built a new home and store by the highway. It was sold and operated by Donnie MacNeil but is now the home of George and Patricia Wadden.

**** Please place # 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 in the proper places now****

On top of the hill the post office (36) was at the home of Dan Lauchie MacIntyre, and later his sister Flora. Mail would come by train. The driver would pick up bags of mail and deliver it to the post office. It would be sorted and delivered to other post offices in Bateston and Catalone. In the winter the mail driver would use a horse and sleigh. People would come to the post office to pick up their mail or mail a letter for one or 2 cents.

Today, on the left, on the top of MacIntyre's Hill, there is an Art Studio operated by Brent Harding. (37)

On the top of the hill you will find the homes of Macintyre families, which gives this area its name. On the Bateston side, it's known as Thrill Hill. If traveling by car, you will feel butterflies in your stomach when going over this hill. Don't drive too fast! Below the hill you will find the homes of the Parsons, MacLeod, Nalepa, Mesher and most recently Stockley families.

**** Please place # 36, and 37 in the proper places now.****

You will now be leaving Cataione and heading to Bateston.