

[Page 46 - Life on Bird Islands](#)ISSUE : [Issue 26](#)

Published by Ronald Caplan on 1980/8/1

a job, I guess. We had a good house to live in. I suppose that was it. Work wasn't that easy to get. The Depression was on and all. Those that had a job were pretty lucky. And if you came ashore, well, what were you going to do? That's what we stayed for--was just the job, I have no regrets about it. As far as saying, well, I'm sorry I ever did it--no. Eleven years, and we never missed lighting the light, I don't think it hurt a person. But you'd be dam glad to get a person and get all the news in the spring. We liked it there. My husband liked it. But we were very lucky we came ashore when we did. He fished the next spring and the following March--we were only ashore about a year when he had a fatal heart attack. Now if we'd have stayed there, what an aw? ful mess we would have been in in March. It was just the grace of God itself alone that we came ashore. I often say it was God himself that sent us ashore. / Dan Campbell: Sheep were kept on the in- side island. The New Campbellton people put sheep out there. Pasture all summer. Shear them and put them out on the island. Quite a number of years. Those islands were wooded away back. The outside island, the trees went to boat building and fire? wood. The inside island, it's only 10 years the last clump of trees died off. Was quite a shelter there for the sheep. But when the sheep left that island, the birds took over and they sat in those trees and that's what killed the trees-- Cormorants. Spruce will stand a lot, but it won't stand rich ground. An5nA7ay, Malcolm MacDermid had an old sheep, she went out year after year with the rest of them. And that sheep got that wise, when they'd be taking them off in the fall, she'd lead the rest of the sheep down. See, the lambs would get wild through the sum- mer--they're hard to round up. The men would go out there--the old sheep would be down on the rocks waiting for them. They'd usually pick a fine day and they could lay the boat close to the rocks. You can herd sheep in a boat, you know; get one sheep started and they'll all follow. But this old sheep would lead them down. She'd stand to one side and "the rest of them If you enjoy our magazine you will love this book. DOWN NORTH The Book of Cape Bretons Magazine Edited by Ronald Caplan We invite you to take a trip back in time. Here is a fascinating blend of folk? lore, oral history and traditional crafts compiled from the pages of Cape Bret? on's Magazine. is lavishly illustrated book, residents reminisce about rumrunning, ship? wrecks, and buried treasure; explain how to make snowshoes and spruce beer; swap local songs and ghost stories. A lively irresistible collection. \$12.95 paperback; \$19.95 hardcover; 9" x 10"; 410 black-and-white photos and illustrations Toe 6eA'A-' Available at your local bookstore • I DOUBLEDAY Canada Limited (46T