

[Page 18 - Dr. Austin MacDonald: How We Got the Hospital Down North](#)

ISSUE : [Issue 40](#)

Published by Ronald Caplan on 1985/8/1

water supply, and that sort of thing. So, we thought it sounded like a pretty good deal, and so it was. From '46 until 1953, that little hospital ran under the management of the Red Cross. It was a year-round hospital. The communities participated the same as always. Because the Red Cross had a certain amount of money which would run out eventually. So they kept up their efforts every year. And then we started raising funds specifically towards building a new hospital. Because the one we had was an old, old building. And it wasn't quite big enough for what we needed. It certainly wasn't convenient for nursing services or anything like that. It wasn't laid out for a hospital. You had most of the patients upstairs. And everything that happened, the nurses had to run up and down the stairs, you know. The water supply was very poor. We made do, but we often had to take out barrels and buckets, and haul water from the brook when the well would run dry. It just had one small operating room. And that operating room was a very simple affair. SYDNEY OHG'ING Centre Happy 200th Birthday Sydney! Serving You for 25 Years BILL'S PET CENTRE SAM THE RECORD MAN SUPER TOUCH T'S SHOPPERS DRUG MART RADIO SHACK SOBEYS TIM HORTON'S AGNEW SURPASS FINDINGS JEWELLERY TAKE A BREAK RED WAGON ENTERPRISES FUN VILLA CANDY 'N THINGS GALS & GUYS HAIRWORKS NATIONAL FILM BOARD BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA SONY STORE MARK'S WORK WAREHOUSE ZELLERS FLOWER FACTORY COLES BOOKS NATIONAL VIDEO JEAN DEPOT CORONET CARDS REITMAN'S BUDGET PHOTO MAHERS METROPOLITAN BOL MORE LANES OLYMPIC SHOE REPAIR IMPERIAL OPTICAL AIR TRANSFER OPEN MON.-SAT. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. fair. MacLeod and another fellow down at the gypsum quarry, Henry MacLean • they invented an operating light. And I think that's down in the museum at Cape North. It should be, anyway. It was made out of a garbage can cover, and they covered it in, and they wired the thing. It hung from the ceiling, and I think it had 4 outlets for bulbs, you know, and this hung over your, operating table. It got hotter than hell, too, by the time you were through with an appendectomy! But any-old-how, it worked. That was the important thing. And David MacLeod made an intravenous stand. Again, on the bottom of it, he had 4 of these knobs off--gearshifts--that's what set on the floor. A very good stand which could be raised and lowered, you know. So that was a homemade piece of equipment. See, we couldn't buy any of this stuff, we didn't have the dollars. The women were great canners and things like that. And for the hospital, the various women around Neil's Harbour would come and help Marie and the other nurses at the hospital to can meat and stuff. And the 3 meats that we used to can were chicken and beef and venison. Now, the chicken and beef we bought at Cape North.' And then there were two other fellows who were very handy with a rifle. And one or the other invariably brought us a big carcass of deer, so we canned that, too. So, meat-wise, the patients got a fair variety. And we would probably have 200 quarts, sometimes 300 quarts, of protein foods of one kind or another. You could get all the fish you needed in Neil's Harbour. The potatoes and the various other vegetables, we got around the farms at Cape North, All winter,



any mild day, there'd be a couple of farmers from Cape North, they would come to Neil's Harbour with a sleigh- load of potatoes and turnips and cabbages and beets and carrots and whatever they raised in their fields, you know, the sum? mer before. And they would sell these and trade some of them to fellows that had pickled fish or corned fish. And take it back. The trade was mostly barter. They would get cash from some people. But all winter long these fellows came in with fresh vegetables, stuff like that. There was a lot more farming went on there then than there is now. They raised all the beef that was eaten there. Co-operative Artisanale de Cheticamp Limitee p. 0. Box 98, Cheticamp, Inverness Co., N. S. (224-2170) [CHETICAMP, N.S. 'o ' '* ' -. ' I Produit de laine crochete. Finest hooking in virgin wool is our specialty. Acadian i Acadian Meals "" "" Soupes - Mets au poisson Museum • "" ' " vlande Crepes aux pommes de terre Our shop is located in Cheticamp on the Cabot Trail OPEN MAY THROUGH OCTOBER, MONDAY THROUGH SUNDAY (18)