

[Page 56 - Bishop Plessis Visits Cape Breton, 1815](#)ISSUE : [Issue 56](#)

Published by Ronald Caplan on 1991/1/1

lent. One of the Frenchmen who had brought us from Little Brador was confirmed after the mass, then he and his companions were sent away to return to their village. After breakfast, taken at John McLane's, we returned to the chapel. Vespers and the rosary were recited aloud in the presence of some twenty Highlanders who understood nothing, followed by a spiritual reading in French, which they understood even less, and during which they left, one by one. During the rest of the evening everyone either read or prayed, in order to sanctify the feast as much as possible. We ate a few oysters, drank a bit of milk with mashed biscuit, evening prayers were said, and we went to bed in those parts of the chapel that were the less wet because a terrible storm, accompanied by violent thunder, had burst around five o'clock in the evening. A hailstorm with remarkably large stones had followed. After the hail came the rain, to which the thin roof of the chapel was unable to resist. Therefore, there was very little space on the floor which was not wet. A moderate rain fell during part of night. The good Scots had promised to take the prelate and his companions to the Indian village. To this end, a large barge had been brought in the evening near the chapel. June 30 - it was nearly an hour after the sun had risen. The weather was calm but hot; it was necessary to use the oars almost as soon as we left. The trip was fairly long. It was nearly noon when we arrived at the mission. Some 60 Micmac families had gathered. This poor Christian flock has not had a missionary, properly speaking, since the death of the late Mr. Maillard. This respectable priest, whose irreproachable life, zeal and good deeds have done so much honour to the Missions, to which he belonged, had the full confidence and veneration of the Acadians and the Micmacs. During 30 years, he was devoted to their salvation, visiting all the missions throughout what are now the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick where he did good everywhere. Miramichi and Labrador were the two principal areas where the Micmacs of these parts met. He went, every year, from one of these villages to the other, but his principal place of residence was at the latter. He thoroughly studied their language, wrote down all of their prayers and hymns, invented hieroglyphics, taught them how to use them and to transcribe them, gave their language a proper form, and (this should make a young missionary nervous) he declared, at the end of one of his last books, that he had often been uninformed about them, because of not having learned their language well enough or for not having studied their character better. After the conquest of Canada, the Micmacs, sharing with the Canadians and the Acadians the frustration of having passed under English domination, but less moderated and less enlightened than these two peoples, thought they would get even for their subjection by working towards the destruction of the English. Those in Nova Scotia, intent on pursuing this course of action, began to waylay the English everywhere they could surprise them. The citizens of Halifax could barely go out of town without falling into some ambush. These murders had become so frequent that the government thought of some measures to either resist or prevent those attacks. But how to catch the Indians who, their deeds done, took speedily to



the woods? Instead of trying to repulse the attackers futilely, the government took a wiser course. It was to befriend Mr. Maillard, to treat him properly, and to have him use his influence upon the Mfcmacs so that these disorders could be brought to an end. And so it was. The government granted him a 200 pounds stirring pension. At a time when the English government's aversion to the Catholic religion knew no bounds, Mr. Maillard had a church in this capital. The Indians from the Province followed him and there were no more disorders which had brought desolation to Halifax before. Even the Acadians, who had become odious to the government and dispersed, as will be seen later, had permission to follow him and to practice their religion in this town, under his protection, as long as he lived.

Employers Are Educators, Too! At U.C.C.B. CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION WORKS It works for students. And it works for you! As a Co-op employer, you will benefit from:

- Reduced Hiring Risks
- Reduced Recruitment and Training Costs
- Higher Employee Retention
- Students Available on a Year-Round Basis
- Better Utilization of Personnel
- You will work with U.C.C.B. to develop a highly trained work force, keeping t