

# EARLY DAYS Along The Cobequid Shore

By Dick Akerman

Who was "Devil Tom"? Why did Robert Spencer sue Peter McClellan and Laurence Peppard? What was "The Colonel's Grant"? Where did "Queen Nell" get her finery? How did Squire Fulton lose his shirt? The answers to these and a multitude of other questions about early days along the Cobequid Shore can be found in two forthcoming publications.

In preparation for this year's 250th Anniversary of the coming of the Cobequid Planters, Carol Campbell and James F. Smith of the Colchester Historical Society examined hundreds of documents from a wide variety of sources. With the help of modern technology, they were able to uncover a tremendous amount of new information, all of which will be made available to the pub-

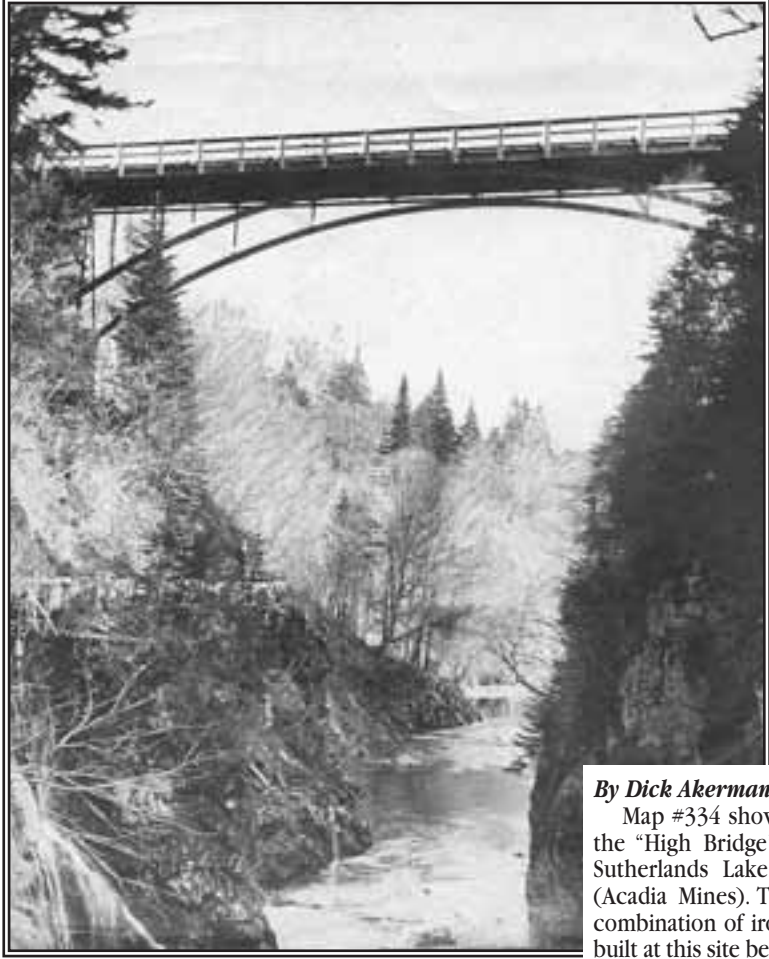
lic in two different publica-

tions. Necessaries and Sufficiencies, Planter Society in Londonderry, Onslow and Truro Townships, 1761 - 1780, published by Cape Breton University Press, recounts the story of Planter migration from New England and Ireland to the shores of Cobequid Bay and relates the joys and sorrows of creating new lives in a wilderness setting. The book examines a society centred on close family and community ties and an economy based on household production of linen, a cooperative lifestyle which was disrupted by the American Revolutionary War. Scheduled for publication on May 1st, the approximately 260-page volume will be sold in book stores around the Maritimes, at the Colchester Historical Society, and on the

Internet. The list price is \$24.95.

Planters and Grantees of Cobequid, Nova Scotia, 1761-1780 has a completely different format, one which emphasizes individual families. Arranged alphabetically by surname, the two-volume set sketches every grantee and planter who can be documented to have lived in Cobequid during the period. An initial paragraph provides details of a Planter's origins and pre-immigration career. A middle section contains abstracts and quotes selected or adapted from available documentation for the years 1761-1780. A third or closing paragraph includes family data and outlines individual careers following 1780. To encourage further research, the source of all information is provided. The two-volume set, totaling over 1000 pages, will be available at the Colchester Historical Society in Truro on May 7th. Cost is \$80.00 per set.

# Historic Sites Along The Shore - DOMINION CHAIR COMPANY



*The Shoreline Journal, in collaboration with the Colchester Historical Society Archives, have inaugurated an ongoing feature utilizing a combination of the digital "A. F. Church Maps" to pin point the circa 1875 location of a Colchester site of historical importance, and connect it to an archival photograph of that site, in that frame.*

By Dick Akerman

Map #334 shows the location of the "High Bridge" on the road to Sutherlands Lake at Londonderry, (Acadia Mines). The first bridge, a combination of iron and wood, was built at this site before 1870 and was replaced by the steel arch bridge in the photo, in the early 1880's. In 1940 this bridge was replaced by an overhead suspension bridge, which in turn was replaced recently by a "Bailey" type bridge. At one time this was considered to be the highest bridge in the province. In all, three bridges spanned the Great Village River at Londonderry Mines, the middle one, located a half mile down river from the "High" bridge, and called the "Manager's bridge, was destroyed in a trucking accident in 1971, and never replaced. The third bridge, a half mile further downstream, was near the Catholic Church and Glebe House, and was therefore called the "Chapel Bridge". The steel structure at this site, built in 1898, was replaced by an oversized culvert in 1972.

*Dick Akerman has been compiling information on behalf of the Colchester Historical Museum Archives, which will be published as a monthly column in the Shoreline Journal.*



## From the archives of the COLCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ph: (902) 895-6284  
Fax: (902) 895-9530

Box 412, 29 Young St.,  
Truro, NS, B2N 5C5

email: colchestermuseum@ns.aliantzinc.ca



**April's Promise**  
  
**April showers bring mayflowers  
So the saying goes  
But April first is all fools day  
And of course it snows.**

**Winter should have lost its grip  
And spring be here to stay  
Alas the winter hates to leave  
'tis a cold and rainy day**

**March gave us a taste of spring  
Warm winds, birds and rainy days  
April promises spring's begun.**

*F. B Adams*

# Scotia Metal Products Ltd

## Metal Roofing & Siding

Made in Nova Scotia

Many Colours to choose from

Visit our showroom at

188 Joseph Zatzman Drive Dartmouth

**902-468-7217**

**www.scotiametal.ca**

# Karen Casey Colchester North

30 Duke Street, Truro, NS  
B2N 2A1

Phone 893-2180  
Fax 893-3064

OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 - 4:30

Email: karencasey@ns.aliantzinc.ca  
www.karencasey.ca

"Support Our  
Local Farmers,  
Buy Local, Eat Fresh"

