



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 Broughton.

BROUGHTON

As we travel along Horne's Road we come to Broughton Road on the left.

At the beginning of the road we find summer bungolows, many of them 100 years old. There are also a few more new homes built in recent years.

As you go along you will come to a sharp turn. Just as you come to this turn you will come to the beginning of the historic properties (1).

**** Interview - Eleanor Anderson ****

Hotels (3) (4), General Mining Office (5), Mine (6)

Past these properties, you will come to the miner's cottages which were built on the road between Loon Lake and Cochrane's Lake.(7) The foundations of the buildings can be found among the forest growth that has covered the site.

Broughton was a deserted village for many years but more families are moving to the area in recent times.

**** Please place # 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 6, and 7 in the proper places now.****

MIRA GUT

Back on the Horne's Road we turn left to Mira Gut. A short distance on the right is the home of Harold and Mary Phillips. Harold runs a family trucking business. (8)

On the sight of the Phillips family property you will find the remnants of the old "Gisborne Railway" which spanned the river from Brickyard to Mira Gut in the 1870s. (9) It was an iron bridge, transported from England, which crossed the river near the home of Harold and Mary Phillips. It was a high trestle bridge with a center lift section to allow ships with high spars to clear. The train then continued on to Reserve where it branched to Sydney and Glace Bay. Travel by train took most passengers to Glace Bay to shop and for appointments. Today of course most people would travel to Sydney. The first school was built in 1866 near Harold Phillips lane.(10)

As you travel a short distance on the left, you will come to the site of the Mira Baptist Church built in 1870. (11) Having not been used for many years it was torn down. In 1919 a second school was built near here.

**** Please place # 8, 9,10, and 11, in the proper places now. ****

Just a little further along you come to the home of Irwin Lloyd. The Post Office was in this home.(12)

Just down on the right you come * « read that leads to the Nicoll landing. This is where Nicoll Steamboats would return after they travelled the river with passengers and freight.(13)

****Interview- Dolores Nicoll****

As you travel the road toward the beach you will pass Sylvan Hall.(14)

**** Please place # 12, 13, 14 in the proper places now. ****

At the end of Horne's Road turning right, you will come to the beach and boardwalk. People from all surrounding areas come to the beach in the summer. It is a perfect place for children, as it is shallow close to the shore and the water is warmer as the river meets the ocean.(15)

On the opposite side of the road you will find the oldest standing home in Mira Gut. It belonged to Jonathan Martell who operated a post office as well as a small hotel; today known as a bed and breakfast.

In early years this was the site of the Station House and a the S&L Railway. Young Spencer Martell was a station master. Alex Ferguson from Brickyard was also a Station Master for over 44 years until it closed in 1960. It was a very busy center as people arrived to travel up the river, such as Miners who would come to the Mira for picnics. Freight and mail for the whole area came here by train. (16)

In 1903 Jim Parsons lost his life when the train plunged into the river as the train swing bridge was left open.

There were 2 bridges at this time, one for cars(17) and one for trains(18). Opposite the beach the road led to a lane that arrived at the wharf, A very busy hub in those days. There were trains being loaded with sand and gravel; and pit props and bricks hauled down the river, some boat building, and freight and passengers arriving and departing on boats from up the river. It was the highway of the time.

Mira Gut quarry operated in this area with rock being taken by flat cars to Sydney Steel. The blasting often broke windows and even put a rock through the roof of the MacKenzie Boarding house.

**** Please place # 15, 16, 17, and 1% in the proper places now.****

By the car bridge there were 2 stores and a large rooming house. The stores were D&P MacKenzie's Store(19) and next door was Y.S. Martells store. (20) This store also had a post office. A large rooming house with 18 rooms was owned and operated by the MacKenzie Family. It was called "The Cliffdale". (21) Dr. Patten would stay here when visiting country patients. There was a room kept for him. As there were always people coming and going they had a good business. It was sold in 1985 and demolished in 1993.

Loading stands were between the stores where trucks would back up to load rail cars on a siding, from the line across the road. Coal would be taken to Louisbourg Coal Piers especially during war time, to be shipped from their ice free harbour.

**** Please place # 19, 20, 21 in the proper places now.****

Coming back up the lane turning right you would cross the bridge and pass Brickyard Road. You come to a brook running from the Tank Pond. Locals called this "Gaspereau Brook" as kids would fish there when the gaspereau were running.(22)

Past there on the left, Craig and Robert MacDonald loaded sand and gravel at a loading stand. (23)

Opposite, on the right, by the Tank Pond, there was a water tank for the train.(24) This Tank Pond was originally owned by The Brothers of Charity from the Fortress Of Louisbourg. They were Doctors as well as Priests, looking after the sick from the fortress. Later it was owned by Martells, and then MacDonalds.

Bungalows were scattered along this area and the road was built along the old train bed.

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

Looping back to Horne's Road turning left you will pass the Pioneer Graveyard, also the site of the Baptist church which burnt and was later rebuilt up on Horne's Road. (25)

A little further you will find the homes of the MacKenzie family. On the opposite side of the road was Kenwood Hall owned and operated by the MacKenzie Family.(26)

**** Interview - Rae MacKenzie ****

Down the road on the left you will find the site of the Mira Gut Rink. It was a very nice rink with a clubhouse and a Delco Plant that provided light. It was very fancy for the time. It would be behind where Reggie Steele lives today. Mira had a Mens and Ladies hockey team.(27)

**** Please place # 25, 26, and 27 in the proper places now.****

ROUND ISLAND

Following along the road you will come to Round Island, a farming and fishing community as most were in this area. Almost every home would have a garden and operate a small farm even if they worked in other places as well.

A large farm was operated by Mark Greer, today continues to be farmed by Fred Steele.

In the years gone by a railway was supposed to come to Round Island from Broughton, but because the mine closed and the town was never really fully developed, that didn't happen.

In early years, church goers would travel to Broughton for services.

There was a one room school in Round Island (28) as in most places in early days. Everyone would walk to school. Today many summer homes and cottages are found on the ocean-side of the highway.

Fishing was also very important as many homes were built right on the water. James MacQueen, a fisherman and life long resident, fished for most of his life, in the early days using a rowboat. As a boy he told of finding a body washed up on the shore from a sea disaster, not uncommon in those days. In later years he had more than one rescue to make out at sea. Besides fishing, James was a boatbuilder in his own right. (29)

**** Please place # 28, and 29 ', -'. proper places now.****