

## ...Hector Continued



replica ship *Hector* at Pictou. But life moved on and we couldn't make a trip.

All those years of talking around the family dinner table about Nova Scotia got my son, an electronics engineer, to come on holiday to Nova Scotia with his wife and our two young grandchildren. While

he was here, he got a job interview, and then a job offer. They moved to the Eastern Shore in 2006.

Stuart and I spent the next six years travelling back and forth to be with them before getting permanent residence, and finally making it our home. And all of us Canadian citizens.

So in the end, it was the *Hector* that got our family to Nova Scotia!

*Note: Lochbroom celebrated the 250th anniversary of the departure of the Hector in July of 2023. Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston sent a ceremonial certificate to the celebration, "to honour the profound historical significance of this site. It commemorates the final communion gathering that marked the transformative journey of a brave group of emigrants to North America.... This church stands as an enduring connection, symbolizing the deep bonds and shared heritage between Scotland and Nova Scotia. May these cherished ties remain unbreakable and everlasting."*

After I completed this short-term job, I was invited by Ullapool Museum (one of the private museums) to become their volunteer education officer. We were now living in Lochbroom, not far from Clachan and Lochbroom Parish Church where the first migrants finally gathered before their long journey to Canada.

I knew the story of the *Hector*, having written about the historic journey in the information pack. I had been involved in the *Hector* display at the museum. But I did not know much about Nova Scotia and its place in Canadian history.

Then a group of students from the Gaelic College in Cape Breton showed up, for a piping and dancing performance at the community centre. Their visit started me becoming much more aware of the strong ties between Ullapool and Nova Scotia.

When Stuart got a job at a university, we reluctantly moved south back to England. But our interest in Nova Scotia grew, and we hoped one day we would go and visit Nova Scotia and see the

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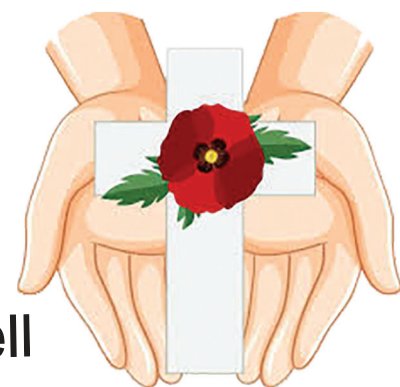
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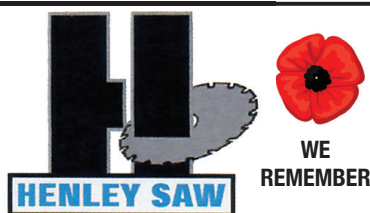
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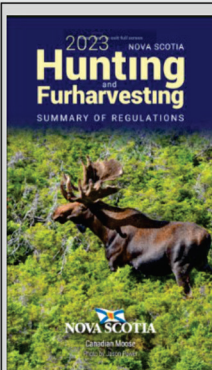


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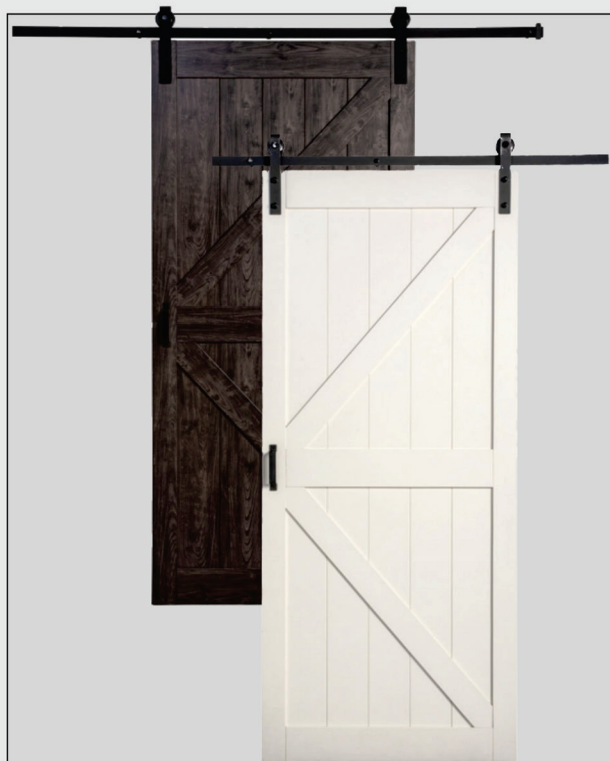
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