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Fishermen upset with the way halibut quotas are shared staged rallies in Cape Breton on Tuesday.
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Drummed up on a napkin at a roadside diner, a local company's innovative idea is quickly becoming standard equipment for world musicians.
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Family history may shed light on hockey stick

By Julie Collins
CAPE BRETON POST

LITTLE BRAS D'OR — James Jessome is hoping his family's genealogy will shed some light on a hockey stick.

Jessome found the stick in his family home when he was a child.

"I varnished it back when I was a kid not realizing how it could affect the stick," said Jessome. "I did have researchers at Mount Allison (University) look at it, but at the time they couldn't do tests on it because it had been painted over."

Jessome said he even suggested they cut the top off the stick in order to count the rings

"They were concerned that if it does have a history, it may make a difference," he said. "I've since stripped the top, so if they want to take another crack at it in the lab, that would be great.""

Jessome still owns the old homestead in Scotch Lake where he found the stick when he was a child.

"As I understand it, at one time Scotch Lake was called Walker's Lake," he said. "When my grandmother moved back to Cape Breton from Ontario and was getting the house ready to move into, she found a few old coins in the floor boards. I noticed a loose floorboard and reached in and pulled out a number of items including a black powder gun with 1885 on the barrel, and an old stick with the initials DW engraved in the blade."

The black powder gun has since been restored and can be fired.

"Gram told me told me to hold on to the stick, that it might be worth something someday," he said. "I used that old stick in goal when we played hockey as kids on the lake."

James Jessome hopes his family history may shed light on a hockey stick he found as a child.
Julie Collins - Cape Breton Post

Jessome said there are three Donald Walkers in his family dating back to 1803 and he figures the initials DW could have been carved by one of them.

"I'd still like to find out just how old the stick is and maybe the key is in our family history," he said.

He said it's possible the stick could have been carved by the same person who carved the Moffatt stick belonging to Mark Presley in Berwick, N.S.

A team of researchers from Mount Allison University have confirmed that the Moffatt stick is at least 170 years old. "I'd welcome anyone who is involved in genealogy to help ... track down the history of our family on my mother's side, " he said. "When she would reminisce, my grandmother used to talk about hockey competitions between Scotch Lake and Pottle Lake, which was just down the railroad tracks. The more we dig into this the more interesting it becomes. This stick and the Moffatt stick are too similar, too close to just give up on it."

jcollins@cbpost.com