



Downeast Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Society
1455 Highway # 2, Lantz, Nova Scotia B2S 2A2



PRESS RELEASE 2011

ANNUAL NOVA SCOTIA BLUEGRASS & OLDTIME MUSIC FESTIVAL PREPARES FOR 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Board of Directors of the Downeast Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Society is hard at work preparing for the 40th Anniversary Celebrations of their Annual Nova Scotia Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival.

The Annual Nova Scotia Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival has been held at various sites in Nova Scotia including Hardwoodlands, Nine Mile River, Black Rock, Ardoise, Avon River, and Stewiacke and since 2009, in Bible Hill at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds. The Board feels this site is by far the best site the festival has called home. The Annual Nova Scotia Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival is the oldest of its kind in Canada and among the oldest in North America and just a wonderful place to spend a great bluegrass weekend.

The Downeast Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Society will be presenting the 40th Annual Nova Scotia Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival on the weekend of July 28, 29, 30 and 31, 2011. Bluegrass and Oldtime Music enthusiasts from the Maritimes and from all across Canada and the United States will gather at this fine site to enjoy the great stage shows, to pick and grin around the park, to meet old friends and to make some new ones.

There will be lots of rough camping, also 80 plus water and electrical sites available all on a first come – first served basis. The grounds will open for early-bird campers on Monday July 24th.

The main stage is housed in the AgriDome which is 120' X 266' with a white plastic cover that allows natural light in the daytime and has overhead lighting for nighttime. This gives all the advantages of outdoors with the safety, comfort and convenience of indoors. The attendees use lawn chairs on a turf floor to view the stage show and there is ample space inside for band product sales and lots of space for vendors, with the exception of the food vendors which will be just outside the dome. This will be our third year at this location and the feedback from has been exceptional.

Griffin Audio Services, one of Nova Scotia's finest sound companies, will be supplying the sound in the AgriDome and the acoustics are superb.

Because of the 40th Anniversary the Board has stretched their budget and gone from the normal 7 or 8 bands to 12 bands to entertain you.

The feature group this year will be David Peterson & 1946 from Nashville, Tennessee and we look forward to some great shows from this group. David carries a team of the best musicians'



bluegrass has to offer. David himself has a voice that truly can be heard without a sound system, he has taken bluegrass back to where it originated in 1946 with the Bill Munroe sounds and brings it to us as if we had moved back in time and also moves along the years and brings it all to us in a wonderful sound including a few country songs as well. Because David started out studying to be a minister before he discovered the love of bluegrass, you will hear some wonderful gospel as well. If you want to feel the hair rise on the back of your neck, you must see David Peterson and 1946 at the 40th Annual Festival.

Nova Scotia's Spinney Brothers will be along to entertain us this year. The Wolfville, Nova Scotia based group was formed about twenty years ago and just last year became a fulltime band. They have numerous Eastern Canada Bluegrass Music Awards to their credit, including Band of the Year, Vocal Group, Recording, Banjo, Entertainer, Guitar and Male Vocalist of the Year. They have produced many recordings of which five won nominations at the East Coast Music Awards and in the fall of 2010 were inducted into the Nova Scotia Country Music Hall of Fame. Their Brother harmony is very exciting as they perform their style of traditional bluegrass music, including lots of original material. This group can be heard on radio stations all across the globe, including www.bluegrassradio.org from Georgia. Allan, Rick, Gary and Darryl are sure to blow you away at the 40th Anniversary Annual Nova Scotia Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival.

Bluegrass Tradition, another exceptional bluegrass band from Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore will perform for you at the 40th Annual festival. This group is made up of excellent musicians who have previously performed in many other bands and will do an excellent job entertaining you. These musicians have already received many awards for their talents at the Eastern Canada Bluegrass Music Awards and are the reigning Band of the Year. Trevor Boutilier on Mandolin, Karen DeCoste on Bass, Fraser Martin on fiddle, Darrin Beaton on guitar and Darren Richard on banjo will supply you with a quality performance that will be remembered for years to come.

Grassfire from Hants County, Nova Scotia will be on hand to bring their talents to you. Long time band leader Dale Wood is one of Eastern Canada's Master Mandolin players and also a member of The Nova Scotia Country Music Hall of Fame. In this version of Grassfire Dale has brought together a great deal of talent and the performances at the festival will certainly show you that. Besides Dale they include Kenny Collins on Bass, Robert Salmon on Banjo and Eastern Canada's 2010 Male Vocalist of the Year, Glen Williams on guitar.

Also from central Nova Scotia, Megan Isenor & Connections have agreed to come and perform for you. A young and very talented fiddler, Megan Isenor formed this group a few years back and has grown it to produce a great variety of very good music and step dancing. The band consists of Megan on fiddle and stepping, her dad Bruce Isenor on banjo and dobro, Aunt Stephanie Isenor-Ryan on guitar, Cousin Nathan Beeler on mandolin and guitar and Cousin Warren Beeler on bass. With everyone on vocals this family band is a must to see.

A new group going by the name of Shadow River from the Valley of Nova Scotia will also be with us this year; this group was formed by Banjoist Ryan Dillman last year. Ryan is a two time winner of Banjo Player of the Year and has teamed up with some talented young folk to produce more great music for you, they include Brian Hazlett on bass, Lukas Munroe on fiddle, David Doyle on guitar and Doug Proctor on dobro.

A New Shade of Blue reformed last fall after a year's absence and will be at the 40th Annual Nova Scotia Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival to wow the audience with many numbers from their old repertoire and a number of great new ones as well. Dean Simm and fellow band members Brett Decker and Todd Macumber adopted former Spinney Brothers bass player Terry Mumford to round out their group, this group has collected many awards, has a number of recordings and will give you a show that is second to none.

"Janet McGarry & Wildwood" from Charlottetown will be on hand. Janet was "Female Vocalist of the Year" at the Eastern Canada Bluegrass Music Awards for five years and is now a master. Her PEI awards include Bluegrass Artist, Female Vocalist, Songwriter, Recording and Song of the Year. She has done many recordings and has had seven nominations at the East Coast Music Awards. Janet and multi talented husband Serge Bernard write many of the original songs she does. Serge is the banjo player in her band and also adds to the fine harmonies. Three years ago Janet visited Nashville, TN where she recorded "Scenes from an Old Country Graveyard" at Blue Circle Records recording studio. "This is extremely exciting just to be part of such an exciting project which is called the Daughters of Bluegrass Project and celebrates female voices in bluegrass music" says Janet McGarry. The bass player in the band is Roxeen Roberts who holds awards for Female Vocalist and Bass player and the Guitarist is Ryan Roberts who has spent some time playing with Special Consensus from the USA. Ryan is also a 5 time winner and holds a Master Award in Songwriting. Janet McGarry & Wildwood will produce some excellent entertainment for you, don't miss their shows.

The members of our second group from Western Prince Edward Island, SK Bluegrass have been working hard on their material and performing all over the Island for many years and this year will be on hand to perform for you at the Annual Nova Scotia Festival with Eileen & Frank Brown, Jerome Arsenault, Glenda Johnston and their newest band member, a young lady by the name of Bethany Coughlin. Be sure to come out and support these folks from our neighboring Province.

Rustic Harmony will travel from Sackville, New Brunswick to entertain you. They have been together since the early 90's and started playing festivals in 1994. They have produced several recordings during that time, which include old-time country, Bluegrass and Mountain Music made fresh by the duet styles of Len & Allan. Three of their recordings won nominations at the East Coast Music Awards for them. Allan is a five-time winner and Master for Dobro Player of the Year at the Eastern Canada Bluegrass Music Awards. Allan & Len write much of their material and you will enjoy their duet styles, some of which are similar to the Louvin Brothers, The Blue Sky Boys and Jim and Jesse. Len, Allan, Pat Ann and Carman look forward to seeing you there.

The Douthwrights from Moncton New Brunswick have not been with us at the festival for a while but will be on hand this year with their regulars, Shane Douthwright, two time Male Vocalist of the Year, on Guitar and wife Nadine on bass, father Dennis on mandolin and the Legendary Eddy Poirier will be on banjo, plus their newest member, Ray Cormier on guitar and everyone in the group will be on vocals, this group is a treat to see and listen to, make sure you are there to see them.

The GrassKickers from Moncton will also be strutting their stuff for you; this group has been in operation for a number of years and just keeps getting better. The Band consists of Leader Russell Sawler on banjo, Michael Allain on Mandolin, Matt Brun on Guitar, Jeremie Goguen on Guitar and Naomi Doncaster on stand up bass. This group is sure to excite you with their great instrumentation and their excellent vocals.

If anyone wishes to fine tune his or her pickin' skills, vocal skills, or song writing skills, FREE workshops will be provided by several very qualified instructors.

Art's Organized Jam will take place on Thursday evening in the AgriDome, this will be a stage show made up of folks usually seen pickin' and singin' around the grounds plus some great new groups that did not get to play on the main stage this year.

The main stage music will run from Noon on Friday to about 11:00 PM, from 9:30 AM on Saturday to about 11:00 PM and from 9:15 AM on Sunday to around 3:00 P.M.

AS USUAL!!! As fans gather at the site early in the week, the field pickin' begins, and it doesn't stop until sometime late on Sunday. That amounts to 24 hours a day with some of the hottest and best jamming found anywhere and has become a trademark of the festival. After the Main stage closes the AgriDome remains open and many of the pickers gather to compare notes and licks, so rain or shine the pickin' goes on.

The weekend admission price includes FREE rough camping Thursday to Sunday. Early bird camping is available for a nominal fee. Daily rates are also available, but without camping privileges.

Advance weekend passes may be purchased at Ron's Hair Care and Mingo Music in Truro, Nova Scotia, Dempsey Upholstery in Berwick Nova Scotia, Gordon's Ladies Wear in Amherst, any of the Downeast Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Society Directors, Bernice & Jerry Murphy at the festivals, or by mail before July 1st to – Tickets c/o Charles MacKenzie, RR # 1, Belmont, NS B0M 1C0. For those in the Nova Scotia/New Brunswick border area – listen to Wilson Moore's Bluegrass Jam on CHMA for local outlets or email – jerry1939@eastlink.ca for more information.

If you don't have a camping unit, you may contact the Super 8 Hotel, our Host Hotel, for reservations by calling (902) 895-8884. Tell them you are coming for the Bluegrass festival to get a special price for your room of \$119.00 per night.

The Downeast Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Society is a non-profit volunteer administered organization with members throughout the Maritime Provinces. It is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Bluegrass and Oldtime music in a controlled family atmosphere.

The Society acknowledges The SOCAN Foundation for their support of our Songwriters.

If more information is required please don't hesitate to call at any time or go to www.downeastgrass.com

Jerry Murphy
Treasury and Promotion
(902) 883-7189
jerry1939@eastlink.ca

Or

Charles MacKenzie
President
(902) 662-2896
charlesmac2@eastlink.ca

