



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



PRESS RELEASE 2009

ANNUAL NOVA SCOTIA BLUEGRASS & OLDTIME MUSIC FESTIVAL NOW HELD AT THE HUB OF NOVA SCOTIA

After 37 years of existence at various sites in Nova Scotia including Hardwoodlands, Nine Mile River, Black Rock, Ardoise, Avon River and Stewiacke, the Annual Nova Scotia Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival, now in its 38th year will be held at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill, which is right in the middle between one end of Nova Scotia to the other, not to mention easy access from the other Atlantic Provinces and beyond.. The Downeast Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Society will be presenting the Festival on the weekend of July 24, 25, and 26, 2009. Bluegrass and Oldtime Music enthusiasts from the Maritimes and from all across Canada and the United States will gather at the new 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 plus 80 water and electrical sites available all on a first come – first served basis. The grounds will open for early-bird campers on Monday July 20th.

The main stage will be 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 will use lawn chairs on a turf floor to view the stage show and there will be 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.

The Cormier Brothers will be supplying the sound in the AgriDome and the acoustics are superb.

The festival is the oldest of its kind in Canada. Through its 37-year history it has become one of the top ranking Bluegrass and Oldtime music events in Canada and 2009, with the new location adding to the comforts, safety and accessibility of the festival will certainly be no exception.



The feature group this year will be Nova Scotia's own Spinney Brothers who are Eastern Canada's Reigning Band of the Year. The Wolfville, Nova Scotia based group was formed about eighteen years ago and has become the group that just has to be at a bluegrass festival. They have 31 Eastern Canada Bluegrass Music Awards to their credit, including Band of the Year, Vocal Group, Recording, Banjo, Entertainer, Guitar, Male Vocalist and Fiddle Player of the Year. They have produced six recordings of which four won nominations at the East Coast Music Awards. 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. The International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) selected the Spinney Brothers to Show Case at the World of Bluegrass in Nashville Tennessee. Allan, Rick, Gary and Terry are sure to blow you away at the 38th Annual Nova Scotia Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival.

Besides the feature group, some of Atlantic Canada's best Bluegrass and Old-time groups will be on the stage to entertain you with some fantastic Eastern Canada Bluegrass Music.

The "Bluegrass Diamonds" will be there. This group hails from the Memramcook area of New Brunswick. They are an accomplished Bluegrass Group and have been performing together for about 11 years. They too are in high demand on the Maritime Bluegrass circuit and parts of the Eastern United States. They also play at various venues in the Maritimes during the off season. They have captured 24 Awards at the Eastern Canada Bluegrass Music Awards including Vocal group of the Year, Recording of the Year and Band of the Year. Bluegrass Diamonds now have seven recordings to their credit, four English and three French which have honored them with five nominations at the East Coast Music Awards. They were also one of the first Bluegrass groups to play on the Main Stage at the East Coast Music Awards. This group will make your visit worthwhile.

"Janet McGarry & Wildwood" from Charlottetown will be on hand. Janet was reigning "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 seven recordings in the past seven years and each one has given her a nomination at the East Coast Music Awards in that year. Janet and multi talented husband Serge Bernard write many of the original songs she does. Band member Roxeen Roberts plays bass and does excellent harmonies as well as some leads, she is Eastern Canada's new reigning Female Vocalist. Ryan Roberts has numerous songs that he has composed and does some excellent flat-top pickin', he is reigning Composer of the Year. Last year 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, She will have copies of the project for sale at the festival.

Timberland Express will be on hand from the Moncton, NB area and are sure to give the audience a great show. These folks are seasoned musicians and longtime members of the bluegrass circuit. Guitarist Denis Goguen will do much of the lead singing but the mandolin player, Laurie Chavarie and wife Paulette will perform some excellent Husband and Wife harmonies as well. Colin Welner on bass and Jeff Doiron on banjo will round out the group.

Rustic Harmony will travel from the Nova Scotia/New Brunswick Border area to entertain you. They have been together since the early 90's and started playing festivals in 1994. They have produced many recordings during that time, which include old-time country, Bluegrass and Mountain Music made fresh by the duet styles of Allan and Len. 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. They don't have a fiddle in the band but you will enjoy the old-time styles of Allan's Harmonica. Len, Allan, Pat Ann and Carman look forward to seeing you there.

Shady Lane Bluegrass Band from the Windsor, NS area hit the bluegrass circuit with a vengeance in 2006 and will produce high energy performances at the festival this year. Band Leader Heather Majcan writes many of her own songs that she will mix with some contemporary ones and has surrounded herself with some excellent musicians who will help her produce a show for you that is second to none.

The Fiddling Landry's from Moncton are Great Grand Children of the famed Ned Landry. Allison and Alexander have followed in Great Grand-dad's footsteps and do a fine job playing old-time fiddle as well as step dancing and playing Mandolin and Harmonica, along with some great vocals. They will bring along Dad (Terry) on guitar and Bill Duplessis on bass and will be a must to see.

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.

New this year will be Art's Organized Jam on Thursday evening, this will be a stage show made up of folks usually seen pickin' and singin' around the grounds.

The main stage music will begin around 5:00 P.M. on Friday and end around 3:00 P.M. on Sunday.

THAT'S NOT ALL!!! 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.

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 can be purchased at various locations throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, or by mail.

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.

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

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