



# Picks N' Licks

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Page: 1

## 23rd Annual P.E.I. Bluegrass & Old Time Music Festival July 4 - 6, 2008

There is positive hope, renewed enthusiasm and a bright future ahead! After a long winter the likes we haven't seen in a while, spring is around the corner and our festival committee is full of positive energy and fast at work in preparation for our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Festival at Rollo Bay. At our last Society General Meeting, budget discussions were reopened for the operation of our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual festival. Although very few Island bands were represented, there were positive comments received and a restrained budget was ratified.

As a result, a new approach has been put in place to select Island bands. An application form has been developed and Island bands will be asked to provide appropriate information. This information will be forwarded to an independent jury to rate the bands, then sets will be offered to the top 12 bands. This will ensure that every band has an equal opportunity to play on our stage based on individual submissions. Implementing this jury process is fundamentally important. Over the years, various band members often got more involved by volunteering within the festival committee and inevitably these same members found themselves on the "band selection committee" of sorts. It was important to remove perceived biases from the selection process and protect our society volunteers from criticism often associated with an arbitrary band selection process while enabling them to continue to serve your society.

Primarily, each band member of every band selected to appear shall be required to hold a Society membership. Moreover, bands shall be encouraged to participate in our various society fund raising events leading up to the festival. To date we've had two successful fund raisers, one in Charlottetown, the other in Souris which combined raised about \$900. We will continue to hold fund-raises throughout PEI and a sincere thank you to

the bands and organizers who have volunteered their time and efforts to date. For more information on this new process or to obtain application forms to appear at the festival call Serge at 902 569-3864 or email [sjbernard@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:sjbernard@pei.sympatico.ca).

The Cookbook Committee is also having great success putting together a fantastic cookbook of recipes for camping and bluegrass enthusiasts which is sure to be a great crowd pleaser at our next festival. This new initiative ties in well with a new venture that will combine Bluegrass and BBQ on Saturday evening featuring Island meats, seafood and local products. Filling the air with great music and the spiced aromas of a barbeque featuring Island seafood and products, cast in a pristine setting, this newest initiative we hope will evolve into an annual show setting us apart as a must see event in Eastern Canada.

I also wish to welcome Angela MacCormac who is taking over expanded leadership roles within our festival committee as Stage Chair by assuming Glenda Johnson's duties, and local entrepreneurs Buddy & Carol Aitken from Souris as Grounds Chair(s) enabling our Alan MacRae to move to the more prestigious position of Field Marshall Emeritus. A sincere and heartfelt thank you to Glenda & Alan for being such a pleasure to work with. Your dedication and pride in our festival and society events set an example for us all.

With a complete package in place, we're hoping to embark on our most ambitious marketing campaign yet. Tell your friends and neighbours to come along and join us, become a member of our society today and discover Bluegrass at Rollo Bay! Or why wait until then, join us at our various fund raising events as a fan or a volunteer, fun and friendship is assured.

Rollo Bay Festival Chair - Serge.

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## **PEIBOTMS President's Message:**

**H**ave you seen it! Jerry and Bernice Murphy's 2008 Festival & Events Calendar! This schedule of events should help you plan your summer vacation. Thank you to Jerry, a great bluegrass supporter, emcee, promoter and friend. Some of us are thinking of camping and festivals in spite of all the snow! Cut and paste and save Jerry's website in your favourites as Jerry's News to refer to at any time:

<http://groups.google.com/group/jerrysnews?hl=en>

A lot is happening now with regards to our Island Festivals. Planning is well in-hand with many of you signed up to volunteer. We can't run festivals without you! It is your enthusiasm for Bluegrass and Old Time music and helping hands that make it all come together.

Friday night Jams are in full swing at the Superstore on University Avenue 8:00 -10:00 p.m. Sunday night Jams occur Sunday evenings at the Murphy Community Center. We're very appreciative that we can use these easy-access public spaces. To help raise funds for our festivals, we now have a donation basket at the door or a raffle ticket to purchase. The raffle ticket prizes include a microwave, a large basket filled with lots of items, small basket and a beautiful homemade clock crafted by John Barlow, one of our very talented members. Thanks John. I didn't know about your hidden talents. Come out to the jams. Invite your friends to come and play music or sit back and enjoy listening.

An update on our cookbook project....it's almost ready to go to print. Many hours have gone into typing, proofing and looking for sponsors. We've collected a lot of recipes, facts and fun information to insert into this cookbook.

More concerts are being organized. Angela MacCormac organized one at the Souris Legion on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Charlie Hansen is having one at the BIS, North River Road, Charlottetown Sunday, April 13 @ 3pm. In Summerside, Bluegrass Concerts have changed from every Tuesday to every Monday evening at the Legion, 7 - 9 p.m.

The Rollo Bay Festival will be here before we know it. July 4 - 6<sup>th</sup> is the weekend to mark on your calendar. A great lineup of talented musicians, workshops, and childrens program. Aliant is sponsoring the Rollo Bay

Festival's childrens program again this year knowing that our festival is a family event where children can learn and feel safe in this wonderful music environment. Evangeline follows Rollo Bay, July 11-13th in Abram's Village, PEI ...902-882-3056 and RedClay August 15-17th in Tignish...contact 902-882-3461.

See you at the jams, concerts and in Rollo Bay, Evangeline and Tignish!

Take care folks!

Shirley Jay, President

902-566-2641

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Photo:

**PEI Union of Public Sector of Employees President Shelley Ward and Public Relations Chair Bob Taylor presents a cheque in the amount of \$600 to Shirley Jay, President, PEIBOTMS, along with Cookbook Fund-Raising Committee members, Audrey Barlow and Emily Bryant. Other committee members include Edith Creighan who has done an amazing job with all data entry, and Joyce Arsenault who is offering her proofing skills. Cookbooks will go on sale in June - \$12 each or two for \$20.**

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**PEI's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Laurie Blue (Memorial)  
Bluegrass Festival.....  
November 7 - 9th , 2008**

will be held at  
the Loyalist Lakeview Resort and  
Convention Centre

Committee Chair - Guy Cormier

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## Island Band Feature

The Wheatley River Band consists of David Tingley (guitar, vocals), Robert Milner (guitar, vocals), Gail Mullen (bass, vocals), Don MacGregor (mandolin, vocals) and Peter Richards (dobro). The band's inception can be traced back to the summer of 2006 when the two founding members David Tingley and Robert Milner started getting together at David's house in Wheatley River (hence the name of the band) to practice. Peter Richards began playing with them shortly after, a few more people came and went, and after some months, the band emerged in its current form. Gail Mullen, a well known accomplished guitar player and singer in her own right, agreed to play bass and brought along her great voice. Don MacGregor has become a solid mandolin player, as well as also providing strong vocal support.



Throughout 2007, the band began playing every chance it could. Playing at several venues across PEI during the year, it was invited to play at the recent Laurie Blue festival in Summerside, the largest audience to date, and a great time was had by all.

The weekly practice sessions have definitely paid off for this group who is fast becoming a fan favourite. Playing from a repertoire of folk, bluegrass, old time and country, the band presents a different sound than strictly bluegrass. Singing and playing with great passion is what the band most tries to project and they hope to continue playing for audiences big and small

throughout 2008 and beyond. The band is not quite sure what the future will hold, but is content to play and sing, practice and have a lot of fun, and will continue to support the society at every available opportunity.

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## Fundraiser in Moncton

March 29/08 from 4:00 p.m to 2:00 a.m

Studio 7 Hundred, Main St.

Guests will include: GrassKickers , Bluegrass Diamonds ,Frank Doody ,Ray Legere and Ron Savoie and many more. 10 hours of music

A portion of the \$6.00 cover charge will go to the Hache Family whose child Nadia has brain cancer.

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**2008**

**ECMA**

## Bluegrass Stages

This year the East Coast Music Awards & Convention was held in Fredericton, NB. Congratulations to PEI's very own Saddle River String Band for clinching the Bluegrass Recording of the Year!

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**Janet & Serge**

**Nashville Bound...again!**

Congratulations to Janet and Serge as they head off to Nashville at the end of March.

Serge was accepted in "Leadership Bluegrass", an initiative of the International Bluegrass Music Association whose purpose is to pull together a cross section of people with exhibited leadership qualities into a network of learning and communication. The results will foster a broad-based understanding of the total needs of the bluegrass community, which will help participants better prepare to determine the goals

of the particular organization, company or group in which they choose to serve. He will earn the distinction of being a graduate of Leadership Bluegrass Class of 2008 and join an impressive alumni of the who's who in the music industry. We know he will return with lots of great insight into the bluegrass industry!

While joining her husband in Nashville, Janet will be visiting Blue Circle Records studio in Franklin, Tennessee joining an all star cast of female vocalists, songwriters and instrumentalists to work on the next "Daughters of Bluegrass" project. This third installment is a follow up to the critically acclaimed "Back to the Well" project that earned the coveted 2006 IBMA Recorded event of the Year. Janet was invited by Lorraine Jordan and Ms. Dixie Hall to join them on what promises to be their best collaboration yet.

Janet chose to re-cut "Scenes from an Old Country Graveyard", a song handed to her by Tom T. & Dixie Hall back in 2006. "This song means the world to me" says Janet of the song written shortly after the passing of Janette Carter, an icon of the legendary Carter Family. Janette Carter established The Carter Fold musical theater and museum, an American treasure nestled in the Clinch Mountains of Virginia, dedicated to the preservation of Carter Family Music. Janet first recorded the song on her 2006 release entitled "My Dixie Darlin'" and went on to perform the song on that very stage at the Carter Fold on a magical Saturday night to a capacity crowd. Looking on were Janette's children Rita Forrester & Dale Jett as well as music legends Bill Clifton, Bill Wells and others standing side-stage, a spirit filled evening forever etched in Janet's memory. Janet will be the first Canadian artist invited to participate in this recording of all-star female bluegrass artists. You go girl!

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## MUSIC TIDBITS.....

QUESTION: I have heard that Ricky Skaggs is now recording Bill Monroe songs. Do you have any details?

ANSWER: Ricky Skaggs and his band, Kentucky Thunder, will release a tribute album to Bill Monroe on March 25 on Skaggs Family Records. "Honoring the Fathers of Bluegrass: Tribute to 1946 and 1947" features songs that were recorded by Monroe and what

is often referred to as the original bluegrass band -- Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs, Chubby Wise and Howard Watts. Among the mix of familiar songs and lesser-known material, Scruggs appears on "Goin' Back to Old Kentucky," and Del McCoury sings on "The Old Crossroad."

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## Bluegrass & OldTime Music Jams

**Slow Jams** are held Sundays 6:30-9:30pm, Murphy's Community Centre (formerly the Basilica Rec. Centre). Contact Caroline 569-2471 or [jonescb@eastlink.ca](mailto:jonescb@eastlink.ca)

**Advance Jams** - Fridays 8-10 pm, SuperStore Community Room, Univ. Ave., 2008 Jam dates will be announced in the Guardian & on the radio. Contact Shirley 566-2641 or [asjay@eastlink.ca](mailto:asjay@eastlink.ca)

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## *PEIBOTMS Lending Library* -

Instructional videos, CD's & DVD's for loan \$10 for one month and \$5 for 2 weeks  
Call Caroline 569-2471

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## Music Jokes...

Q: What is the difference between a guitarist and a Savings Bond?

A: Eventually a Savings Bond will mature and earn money!

Q: What is the difference between a banjo and a Harley-Davidson motorcycle?

A: You can tune a Harley.

Q: Did you hear about the drummer who locked his keys in his car?

A: It took him four hours to get the bass player out.

**Next Newsletter will be June 2008.....**  
**If you wish to place an advertisement in the Newsletter. \$25 full page, \$15 half page, \$10 quarter page \$5 business card.**  
**Send ad info to: [asjay@eastlink.ca](mailto:asjay@eastlink.ca) Send Society news to Caroline Jones, Editor [jonescb@eastlink.ca](mailto:jonescb@eastlink.ca)**

**PEIBOTMS's website: [www.bluegrasspei.com](http://www.bluegrasspei.com)**

**\_\_\_\_Keep on picking. See you next time.**