

# Lighthouse coming home



**Pictured in front of the St. Paul's Island lighthouse are L-to-R: Kelly Fitzgerald, Keith Bain, Cecil Clarke and Hamilton Carter. Presently located at the Dartmouth Coast Guard facility, the lighthouse is being prepared to be brought to Dingwall's St. Paul Island Historical Society Museum in the spring, in the near future.**

by Jim Morrow

The efforts of local politicians, the relentless arguments of the St. Paul Island Historical Society and residents in Dingwall have paid off in that St. Paul Island's lighthouse is being repatriated to the Historical Society's museum in Dingwall.

"Years and years of hard work have been put in by the Society and the communities north of Smokey to bring home this historical treasure they lost decades ago," said Victoria-The Lakes MLA, Bain. "Everyone that has been involved in this venture is feeling a sense of pride today. The lighthouse is an essential part of the history of St. Paul's Island."

Hamilton Carter of the St. Paul Island Historical Society said he hopes to have the lighthouse dismantled and painted before it is brought back to the Dingwall museum in time for the next tourism season.

# Celtic Colours 2010 was a strong economic driver

*Special*

The numbers are in for 2010 and the Celtic Colours International Festival continues to be an economic boon to Cape Breton. The 14th annual festival took place from October 8-16 in communities all across the Island. There were 45 concerts and 250 community cultural events over the nine days. 18,000 tickets were sold to concerts and attendance at community cultural events was 15,400. 54% of the audience came from off-island and 46% were from Cape Breton. The number of attendees increased by 400 over 2009.

Every year Celtic Colours calculates the dollars spent by its audience as a means of measuring the impact of the festival. We survey the audience widely, and ask them how much they spend while they are in Cape Breton in addition to their concert tickets and travel to get here. A contest ballot at every performance determines the geographic origin of visitors. In 2010 the audience expenditure was \$6.2 million, an increase of 13% over last year. That is purely the new dollars spent and is not the "economic impact" as calculated using standard economic impact models. According to calculations by ECBC in 2009 using their model, the impact of the festival is more than \$15 million.

The tourism sector is the big winner. Hotels, rental cars, restaurants, museums and cultural facilities all benefit from

increased business during the festival. Mary Tulle is CEO of Destination Cape Breton. "Celtic Colours has allowed for the season to be extended so that occupancy rates are that of peak summer season." Many small businesses and artisans report that Celtic Colours is their busiest time of the year.

The impact of Celtic Colours goes well beyond the tourism sector and the dollars spent by visitors. The festival also contributes to the revenues of artists, venues, and community groups throughout the island. Cape Breton artists received performance fees of more than \$130,000 in 2010 in addition to CD sales and broadcast fees. Many were seen by international talent buyers and benefited from opportunities for bookings all over the world. Venues and community organizations received more than \$100,000 in direct revenues from the festival. Groups who hosted community cultural events earned an additional \$75,000 from their events. Many local churches and halls owe the upkeep of their furnaces and roofs to Celtic Colours.

Jacquelyn Scott is the Chair of the Celtic Colours Festival Society. "Both the festival programs and the community events make a significant contribution to the quality and sustainability of community life on the island. Without hundreds of committed volunteers and capable staff this simply would not happen."



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