



A harbour folk r e v i v a l

by Ellen Reynolds

A public house, or pub, is an establishment where alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed. A Pub Night, as defined by the Harbour Folk Society (HFS) provides not only the alcohol but also copious amounts of folk music.

The Dalhousie Graduate House is the setting for the HFS Pub Night, held the first Saturday of every month. The host of September's Pub night (Sept. 11) was Jon Goodman, fresh from a trip to Ireland with his newly constructed Uilleann pipes and accompanied by Rob Gordon on guitar and mandocello. The generally laid-back crowd at the Grad House, including a high ratio of bearded men, was attentive and responsive to the eclectic and tireless line-up of musicians.

Folkies from all over Nova Scotia and the Maritimes are familiar with the HFS Pub Nights, and the folk community is growing at a rapid pace. Faye Armsworthy, a co-ordinator at the HFS, calls it a folk music revival and, like fashion, it's cyclical. Back in the '60s, folk music was quite popu-

lar, and though it didn't die completely, since then the genre has gone through an "un-hip" stage. It's back again on the commercial scene with groups like Spirit of the West, The Pogues and Billy Bragg (billed as the American folk hero). Locally, there's Figgy Duff from Newfoundland, Lennie Gallant from PEI and Swallow's Tale, a relatively new Halifax group with a celtic influence. These are just a few of the more visible names in folk music, but the Pub Nights are also providing some less-renowned musicians the exposure they deserve.

Since it began in 1980, the HFS has hosted some illustrious names like Rita MacNeil, before she gained fame and fortune, and Stan Rogers, a member of HFS back in '81, who was killed in a plane crash one week before he was scheduled to perform at the HFS. According to Faye, the Folklore Centre in Halifax, the Lunenburg Harbour Folk Festival, the Saturday morning folk program on CKDU, and Touchstone all maintain a mutually supportive relationship with the HFS.

The Lunenburg Harbour Folk Festival is a four-day musical event held in Lunenburg each summer. August '88 was the third annual festival, and although the HFS is a completely separate group, many of the musicians featured at HFS Pub Nights were at the Lunenburg festival.

Twenty-five unpaid core workers currently organize the five regular events per month. Besides the Pub Nights at the Grad House, Harbour Folkies put on a less formal show for "kitchen musicians" every Wednesday night at Taylor's Cafe on Barrington St. The HFS also puts on concerts which have been very successful in the past; the next one is scheduled for November 4 at the Sir James Dunn Auditorium.

"We'll be going the whole nine yards with the first full-blown professional concert, featuring Tom Lewis, a ballad and shanty singer," says Faye.

By definition, folk music is the music of the people. When it's done right, the line that usually exists between the performer and the audience disappears, and folk music becomes people music.

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SCHEDULE

J.J. Rossy's Downtown Shuttle Service

| Location | Arrives | Departs | Arrives J.J. Rossy's |
|--|------------|------------|----------------------|
| MSVU (Rosaria Centre) | 7:00 p.m. | 7:15 p.m. | 7:30 p.m. |
| ST. MARY'S (Loyola Residence) | 7:45 p.m. | 8:00 p.m. | 8:15 p.m. |
| DALHOUSIE (S.U.B.) | 8:30 p.m. | 8:45 p.m. | 9:00 p.m. |
| MSVU one way downtown (Rosaria Centre) | 9:15 p.m. | 9:30 p.m. | 9:45 p.m. |
| FENWICK TOWER one way downtown | 10:15 p.m. | 10:30 p.m. | |
| NURSES RESIDENCE one way downtown (Victoria General) | 10:35 p.m. | 10:40 p.m. | 10:50 p.m. |

| Destination | Return Trips Leaves J.J. Rossy's | Arrives |
|-------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| MSVU | 11:30 p.m. | 11:45 p.m. |
| ST. MARY'S | 12:10 p.m. | 12:25 p.m. |
| DALHOUSIE | 12:45 p.m. | 12:55 p.m. |

Schedule subject to change

Gazette staff meets Monday 5:30 p.m.

Join us!