

Highland Heights: higher than a highland kick

BY DAVE MACDONALD

Last Thursday the patrons of the Lower Deck welcomed Highland Heights and their upbeat, toe-tapping, get-ya-singing attitude.

This folk/rock band calls Halifax home and have been together for roughly 3 years. By listening and watching these guys (and one girl), you would

say that they've been together for much longer.

If you've heard Highland Heights on their first self-titled album and haven't heard them live, be prepared. They are drifting away from traditional celtic tunes and are exploring new ground with their own material. But even though the songs may not be celtic, they still carry a beautiful, textured

sound that screams "celtic".

This band is made up of Glen MacIsaac (vocals, lead guitar), who by the way, has my vote for the best guitar plucker in Atlantic Canada; Norma MacDonald (beautiful vocals, guitar, accordion, tin whistle...um, how do you say "multi-talented"?); Jimmie Inch (vocals, harmonica, walking bass); Rob Lorway (vocals,

keyboards); and new drummer, Andy Deveau.

Wondering where the old drummer went? It seems he went back to school. Hey, who can blame him?

When asked why they're leaving the celtic side, Norma replied that they believe that bands should evolve. She remarked that she really admired U2 for their album, *Pop*, since it was so different from all their previous stuff.

Highland Heights have tunes in their repertoire ranging from a jazzy, swinging jive, to a quick version of "Rocky Road to Dublin", which will have you out of breath from trying to clap and sing along.

They will be releasing a new album in March, entitled *Never a Dull Moment*, which

promises to follow suit with their new sound. Even though it won't be a traditional album, it will have many of the flavours that are so vibrant in celtic sounds.

If by chance, they carry the energy of their live show onto their next album, *Never a Dull Moment* will be one of the best East Coast albums of 1998.

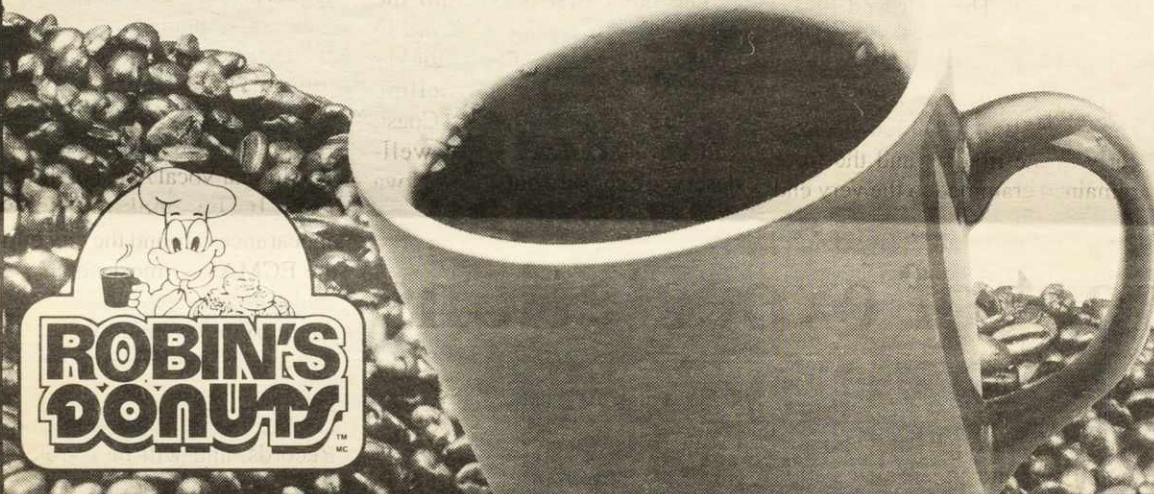
Norma says that they are not worried about losing any of their fans who love them for their traditional stuff. They played a few shows in Cape Breton, where traditional tunes are favored, and they got as much, if not more, of a following.

Highland Heights will be performing at DalTech's T-Room this weekend. *Go!* Don't even think twice, just go. You won't be disappointed.

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