

Making waves

Terri Saunders/The Beacon

AWARD WINNERS — Members of the Eastport Peninsula Heritage Society were recently honoured



for the work they do in the tourism industry in the province. Robert Hiscock, president of the society's board of directors, accepted the award at the 2012 Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador Conference and Trade Show.

Heritage society honoured for contributions to tourism industry

A local heritage group has been named the recipient of a prestigious provincial tourism award.

The Eastport Peninsula Heritage Society was announced as the winner of the Doug Wheeler Award at the 2012 Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador Conference and Trade Show held in Gander Feb. 23-25.

The award is presented annually to an individual or group that has made a significant contribution to the tourism industry in the province.

"The award honours the memory of Doug Wheeler, a provincial civil servant, and a passionate advocate for tourism, who passed away in 1981," said Derrick Dalley, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation. "It's through this award that his legacy lives on."

The society runs the Beaches Heritage Centre in Eastport, a centre that showcases musicians, offers cultural and historical programming, and promotes tourism in the region.

"The recipient of this year's award demonstrates what can be achieved by an enterprising and energetic group of volunteers who work together as a team with others in the community," said Minister Dalley. "This group successfully planned and created one of our province's quality tourism attractions."

Robert Hiscock is the president of the society's board of directors. He said the work being done at the centre would not be possible without the involvement of people from the community.

"We are very much a group of volunteers, and we work together, for some unknown reason, very well,"

said Mr. Hiscock. "It's because of them we're receiving this award. You know, it's not easy sometimes when you're working with a group of volunteers, but we make it work."

A number of groups and organizations were nominated for the award, Minister Dalley said, suggesting the work they do collectively makes the tourism industry in this province very successful.

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"The contributions all of you make helps make this industry what it is," he said, "and it's great, not only the work that you do, but that we recognize special contributions."

Minister Dalley said the centre is an essential element of the tourism industry not only in the region but in the province.

"For 11 years, the society has successfully owned and operated the centre, a 20th Century school house transformed into an arts gallery and performing arts stage," he said. "The centre is the backbone of the tourism industry in the region. Throughout the year, the centre offers music shows and workshops, drama presentations, children's programs and visual art exhibits.

The centre also organizes festivals, and all of these events obviously enrich the tourism in the area. The centre is known for showcasing artists, singers, songwriters and musicians from around the province."

Mr. Hiscock welcomed everyone in attendance at the conference to visit the centre and see for themselves the work being done there.

"We do have a very active program," he said. "If you're not familiar with our new facility, come visit us. You'll find us in Eastport, on the way to the beach, on your left, and since our renovations over the summer, our building is unmistakable. Just look for the three lighthouses that form the front of our building."

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