

Bottoms Up nominated for an international music award

By HEATHER GRATTAN
This Week

Bottoms Up has been nominated by listeners of an online radio station for an international Celtic music award.

The group, which prides themselves in their ability to throw an authentic Maritime Kitchen Party, has been building momentum over the past couple of years.

The recording of their live CD garnered them a nomination for an East Coast Music Award last year in the original group recording of the year category and last summer the group was chosen to perform on the west coast at the Filberg Festival, sharing the stage with well-known performers like Valdy.

This latest nomination – this time on an international stage as they are up against a group from Ireland and other from Northern England – has been very exciting news.

“I find this more rewarding than the East Coast Music Awards because we have no idea how our names came to be put in the hat,” vocalist Roy Way said. “To be nominated by our friend and great supporter Mark Roberts of the East Coast Music Show was a great compliment and it was incredible to be considered for the award by other musicians from the Maritimes.

“But this time, this award we have been selected for the nomination from people we don’t even know and are judging us only based on what they hear. To have the public voting for you, people from all over the world, that’s big and to us. That’s what matters the most.”

CelticRadio.net, which is based out of Boston, has been playing Bottoms Up’s CD, Live at the James Joyce, on a regular basis since band member Bob Slaunwhite sent the station a copy of their recording last year.

The online radio station which offers a wide selection of Celtic music from around the world and boasts a regular slate of international listeners, called upon nominations for their music awards from people tuning in and Bottoms Up were nominated in the roots traditional category for their version of “Farewell to Nova Scotia.”

Bottoms Up has history dating back to 1980 when vocalist Roy Way and his friend David Theriault, who plays guitar and sings lead/harmony vocals, started a band called Double Trouble.

The duo toured the local bar scene playing Cape Breton, Newfie and Irish tunes. Within a few years Bob Slaunwhite joined the group and brought along his friend Stuart Doucette, who offers a unique blend of lead/harmony vocals, bass guitar and percussion skills. Bottoms Up was formed in 1984, adding fiddler Erin Smith in 2004.

The Celtic Radio Music Awards is a program sponsored by Highlander Radio to acknowledge and promote exceptional Celtic music across five categories of music.

After a careful screening process, which is based on listener nominations, ratings, requests and other statistics three songs in five categories are selected for community voting. These categories are Celtic rock, traditional, jigs & reels, bagpipes and roots traditional.

Voting for the Celtic Radio Music Awards closes online on St Patrick’s Day, March 17. Currently the band is ahead with 46.22 per cent of the votes.

Doucette said the whole situation is quite hard to believe. “When you look at the fact that one of the acts is from Scotland and one is from England and then there’s us, a little group from New Brunswick, it’s unbelievable. Just imagine people from England hearing us and saying, ‘They must be from Canada with a simple drinking name like Bottoms Up, eh?’”

If Bottoms Up does win this award Smith said the group will be inducted into the Celtic Radio Hall of Fame and they be able to display a banner on their website which boasts this international win. What happens after that is anyone’s guess.

They agree, but there’s no doubt that this extra publicity and chance to share their music will the world should lead to more opportunities.

“Creativity is always flowing, that’s for sure,” she said. “It’s about finding time to get together and get it down. This nomination and international recognition does fuel us and push us even more.”

A link to the Bottoms Up website through CelticRadio.net gives fans of their sound a way to find out more about the group, how to contact them for gigs and how to directly order copies of their CD.

A representative from Celtic Radio recently posted a comment on the band’s website which the group was extremely pleased to read.

“Listening to their music is like falling in love with Celtic Music all over again. Beautiful and rugged vocals tell their story from the Great Canadian Maritimes. This is a band that will have you kicking up your shoes to a dance or singing along with a pint in the pub.

“There is no question, five star music from a five star band – uncommon that they sound so damn good live, you would think you were there rockin’ in the audience.”

Comments like this one, and the connection between the online station and the link to the band’s website has been drawing business from all over, Doucette said.

“A lot of pressure has been taken off,” he said. “Roy had been taking care of our bookings until the website went up and now our music is speaking for itself and people are coming to us.”

One lady was so impressed by what she heard that she called recently to book the band for performance November 17 2009.

“We thought maybe she was mistaken, but oh no, she wasn’t kidding. She liked what she heard so much she wanted to make



INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM: Bottoms Up, a Maritime Celtic kitchen party band which has their roots in Oromocto, has been nominated for an international music award on CelticRadio.net. The group, which is made up of members, from left to right, Bob Slaunwhite, David Theriault, Erin Smith, Roy Way and Stuart Doucette, was nominated for an ECMA last year in the original group recording of the year category for their live CD. The group is now nominated in the roots traditional category for their version of the song “Farewell to Nova Scotia”.

THIS WEEK/SUBMITTED PHOTO

sure we’d be available,” he said. “I think this nomination will open different avenues for us. As a group we don’t want to get away from playing for people who got us where we are today but this is also showing us that if you work hard and give more than 100 per cent and you believe in yourself and what you’re doing people will take notice.”

The past year has been a whirlwind, the group agrees. Last year as they were preparing to attend the East Coast Music Awards in Halifax they didn’t think it could get any bigger than that and then they

felt the same when they touched down on the west coast for the Filberg Festival.

“You reach a goal and think it will never get any better,” Smith said. “You think wow, this must really be it. Then it’s something else and there’s an upswing again. What a ride this has been.”

The best part of it all, Way said, is that for most of the group’s members this attention has been a long time in the making.

“We’ve been doing this for 24 years and our material really hasn’t changed that much since we started. We are still doing the songs we did back in 1984 and people just love it. I think that’s one of the successes of the band, that we stick to that Maritime kitchen atmosphere, which we love and people love too. We’re are having fun right along with our audience.”

Win, lose or draw, he said this accolade is truly something special.

“Internationally this is quite a feather in our hat, that’s for sure. We’re not up against another Canadian group and this isn’t even a Canadian website.”

“Who knows. Maybe we’ll put Oromocto and Fredericton on the map,” Slaunwhite said. “It would be really nice to bring this one home. If we do we hope to do it up right and gather our friends and families together to celebrate in style.”

The public is welcome to log into www.celticradio.net to register their votes for Bottoms Up. Voting closes on March 17.

5th Annual Blast Out of WINTER

Full 2008 LINEUP

LIGHT WEIGHT RV SHOW AND SALE

FREE COFFEE & DONUTS

INSIDE AT RV WORLD

EXIT 297 TRANS CANADA HIGHWAY -SOUTH OF FREDERICTON

FEBRUARY 15-17
FRIDAY 8 am to 8 pm
SATURDAY 8 am to 5 pm
SUNDAY 10 am to 5 pm

Military Special!
Members of the Armed Forces will receive a \$300 discount off any new unit purchased at the show!

UNBELIEVABLE PRICING

Come in and See Our 2008 Coachmen Clipper Lineup

INTRODUCING

OUR NEW LINE OF STARCRAFT SPORT LIGHTWEIGHT TRAILERS

VAN TOWABLE

YOURS FOR AS LITTLE AS \$ 100.00 MONTHLY OAC

2008 COACHMEN NORTHERN SPIRIT TRAVEL TRAILERS
WOW ONLY \$ 17,500
AS LITTLE AS \$179.00 A MONTH OAC

2- 24 FT MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM

FREDERICTON RV World

CONTACT TREVOR, RON OR KEVIN @ 1-866-768-7700 OR sales@rvworld.nb.ca

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | P | A | R | T | | A | T | L | A | S | | R | A | P | |
| G | O | N | E | R | | L | O | E | W | E | | E | D | O | |
| A | R | N | I | E | P | A | L | M | E | R | | D | E | E | |
| | | C | E | N | S | E | | E | A | S | E | M | E | N | T |
| | | | | S | T | A | T | | N | O | N | C | E | | |
| A | C | | | U | L | N | A | S | | M | E | | M | C | I |
| C | R | | | R | E | S | P | I | T | E | | D | E | A | N |
| R | A | S | E | S | | E | R | R | | G | I | R | D | S | |
| E | K | E | D | | C | R | E | A | S | E | S | | D | E | |
| S | E | P | | B | R | | S | I | L | O | S | | Y | T | |
| | | | | A | L | O | U | D | | T | I | D | E | | |
| C | I | R | C | U | S | E | S | | M | E | C | C | A | | |
| U | C | A | | C | H | E | R | R | Y | S | T | O | N | E | |
| B | E | T | | H | E | R | B | Y | | I | O | N | I | A | |
| E | S | E | | E | D | E | M | A | | C | R | E | S | T | |