

# Radio Bash Rocks Charlottetown

UPEI rocked this past weekend as CIMN radio hosted the annual NCRA-Atlantic Conference (National Campus/Community Radio Association). This two day event brought together the management staffs of all the campus radio stations in the Maritimes to share ideas on running and improving their stations. The delegates took part in workshops on topics such as advertising, volunteer relations, encouraging new talent and getting your station's FM license. Through free-ranging discussions with their colleagues from around the Maritimes, radio station management learned what initiatives had and had not worked on other areas.

Outside of the workshops, the delegates explored UPEI and Charlottetown, were treated to free beer and pizza, and attended the New Music Festival at the Barn on Saturday night. This ten-band bash was by far the highlight of the week-end. Somewhere in the vicinity of 300 people showed up to hear bands from all over the Maritimes play music of all different styles. Theresa Doyle of Charlottetown got the wet/dry event rolling with songs from her first two albums and from her new album (due for release later this fall), as well as her trademark song, "Shearers." Doyle demonstrated her distinctive style, which can probably best be described as a mix of Celtic storylines with rock beats, set off by the extensive range of Doyle's voice. The second floor of the Barn was split down the middle lengthwise, and a stage was set up at each end. This allowed for nearly continuous music -- as one band played, another would set up on the other stage, and be ready to play when the first band's set ended. When Teresa Doyle's set was done, Richard Reagh of Charlottetown took over. Reagh performed songs from his new release, *Half-Dozen of the Other*, including "Bread and Butter" and "The Finer Points of Rage." Richard Reagh sounds like Neil Young with muscle, which combines well with his introspective lyrics.

After Reagh, Charlottetown's own Curfew performed two original songs and several cover tunes. This band had a lot of energy, covering the Rolling Stones' "Honky Tonk Women," Eric Clapton's "Slow Train," and my all-time favourite kick-back-and-holler song, "Everything About You" by Ugly Kid Joe.

Next up, Sons of the Mourning took to the stage, and the evening got started in earnest. The lead singer has a voice with amazing power that gives this essentially thrash band a soulful quality. Halfway through the set, the Sons switched to acoustic guitar and their street-busking format, while the audience slam-danced (to the detriment of many outfits!). Sons of the Mourning were followed by Skinkeeper, a grind core band out of Moncton who combined great hair with great music. Their roaring vocals and grinding guitar work

caused many people in the audience who would never otherwise seek out metal music immediately decide to buy Skinkeeper's album.

Hemlock was the next band up. This is a band that has to be heard to be believed, but never fear, you'll be hearing a lot of them in the next little while! Hemlock's act started with a Gregorian-style chant that led off a half-hour of instrument, tempo and style changes in continuous music. They could run a hard-rock beat into a violin solo, and then into a jungle-beat drumming session. This is the most versatile, flexible, multitalented and unified band I have seen in a long time, and they brought the house down.

