

# Anderson House Hosts Benefit

By Brodie MacRAE

One of the most enjoyable evenings I've had in weeks was at the benefit concert for Anderson House on January 17. It was an evening of almost exclusively duets performed by five groups of Island musicians at the Kier Gallery in Charlottetown, organized by Brooke Miller and Christina Forgeron. It was the second time this pair have arranged a coffee-house style benefit evening for the shelter, the first taking place last August at Baba's.

The Anderson House, which has been in operation since 1981, is a provincial shelter for woman and children of abused families. Between 70-80 families from all over the Island make use of the shelter annually. Since it is non-profit, it relies on donations to stay in operation. It needs approximately \$6000 annually from the community to keep afloat.

Mike and Malcolm Stanley began the evening. This father and son team performed a number of Canadian and folk covers, plus some original songs with clear Celtic influences. Sincere playing from them both. Next up was two out the three members of the former Charlottetown band Blue Heron. Their sound was somewhat

folksy mixed with jazz, laidback and easy to listen to. Following them was two members of the ever popular Eyes For Telescopes, Pat Deighan and Belinda Doyle. As their usual venue is Babas, they weren't used to being paid attention and admitted to nervousness as a result. I always enjoy their music and I think an attentive audience helped their performance rather than hindered it.

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The organizers, Brooke Miller and Christina Forgeron were the next to take the stage. You will recognise the latter from her band Christina and the Doggs and the former from the Brooke Miller band. Both are great musicians and Brooke in particular is my among my favourite local artists. They definitely work well together and were the highlight of the evening. Last up were James Phillips and Catherine MacClellan of the New Drifts. This Summerside band has been attracting quite a following around the Island lately and

are well worth seeking out.

Some past fund-raisers of late have been the annual variety concert presented by the Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty in September (part of the proceeds go toward a scholarship for a student who has stayed at the shelter) and a show at the House of Rock in which the price of admission was a toy which would in turn be donated to the shelter. Proceeds from last year's Vagina Monologues went to the Anderson house, and often various local companies will donate proceeds from initiatives such as casual day. Often, the Anderson house is

unaware of the fund-raisers until they receive the donations.

Executive director Joanne Ings considers this fund-raiser an absolute success. \$375 in total was raised, in addition to increased public awareness and education about the shelter and its services.

Anyone looking to organize a fund-raiser or donate to the Anderson house should contact Joanne Ings at 894-3354. Anyone who feels they are in an abusive relationship should not hesitate to call the hotline for support. The number can be found on the inside cover of local phone books.

## UPEI STORM WATCH

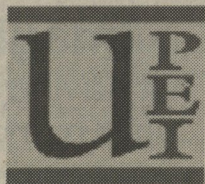
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