



Main Menu

- [Home](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Murphy's Law](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Community](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Our Facebook Page](#)
- [Submitted Videos](#)
- [Submitted Pics](#)

Jewel in Guysborough's crown

By Lois Ann Dort

GUYSBOROUGH – Tucked in under a heavy white blanket of snow, DesBarres Manor Inn is fast becoming a world-renown vacation getaway and not just in the height of the summer tourist season. This month the Inn received attention from three websites for romantic appeal during the winter months and especially for Valentine's Day. Sharing Travel Experiences (www.sharingtravelexperiences.com) named DesBarres Manor Inn one of 10 of the most romantic hotels in the world. MSN Travel named DesBarres Manor Inn one of Canada's top 10 Valentine's getaways and Highway 7 (www.highway7.com) named DesBarres Manor Inn as their top spot in Nova Scotia for a romantic getaway. This past Tuesday, Glynn Williams, proprietor of Authentic Seacoast Resorts, which includes the DesBarres Manor Inn, sat down with *The Journal* in the comfortable drawing room at the Inn to talk about these accolades, the many attributes of the Inn and the future of Authentic Seacoast Resorts.

"It is a beautiful place," says Williams, gesturing expansively around the room. "The town is totally gorgeous next to the harbour; the quaintness of it. Also, it is away from the hustle and bustle of more urban environments. It is quiet here. You can almost hear the snow landing on the tree tops. That is a good thing if you want to be romantic. And the setting here, with the churches along here on Church Street; it is totally gorgeous. And then there is the Inn itself. This year we celebrate the 175th anniversary of this building...People are attracted to that. In romance it is not just romance in terms of one another as a couple but in the romance of Nova Scotia, the romance of Guysborough and in terms of the history I think that attracts people.

"One of the reasons that DesBarres is featured is that it is a beautiful building, a beautiful setting, one can relax here in authentic affordable luxury....It is a comfortable place with all the trimmings and what we are really fortunate in having is Joe MacLellan as our chef. He is really amazing. I have travelled the world, as many of our guests have, and some folks have said that the best meal they have had in their lives has been cooked here in DesBarres Manor. That is really saying something," Williams says and then goes on to detail culinary awards the Inn has won and the biography of chef MacLellan, a native son of the Ohio Valley in Antigonish County who has worked in five-star restaurants in Toronto before returning home and to the staff at DesBarres.

"This is the first year we've been open year-round," says Williams, noting that fine dining in Guysborough is only a phone call away. "It's simply making a reservation and Joe will take care of groups or individuals."

Guysborough locals have been waiting anxiously to see what Authentic Seacoast Resorts has planned for the building on Main Street formerly known as the iconic community convenience store, The Wonder Store. Williams' would not confirm any rumors but says, "It is going to be quite exciting I think. Hopefully we will have a lot more to say as March rolls out. At the moment it is going through a big renovation....I think it is really going to be very good."

Williams' vision for the future of Authentic Seacoast Resorts includes more jobs for the Guysborough area. "Last year we had almost 30 people working for us in Guysborough, not all full-time....Around 12.5 on a full-time basis. This year I expect that the number of full-time equivalent people will probably be 25 to 30. I can see doubling our workforce in Guysborough

this year. And we have some things up our sleeve over the next three to four years where we could potentially see 50 to 75 people working for us full-time....I think over the next while we are focused on growth. People want to work and it is a real challenge to find work in the private sector and I am doing everything I can to provide meaningful, sustainable, long-term employment for folks.

“We have to be creative in terms of creating a viable business in Guysborough because the local market is quite small....What we have got to do is develop businesses in a business climate that focuses on what we can do here in Guysborough that we can offer to the world,” says Williams.