



## **A National Treasure Gains National Recognition! Thank You!**

**January 31, 2005** – The Departments of Fisheries & Oceans and Environment announced today that they will recognize the national historical, economical, environmental and scientific importance of Sable Island by committing to the continuation of a protective human presence. The federal government will assume responsibility for staffing and operating the Sable Island station starting on April 1, 2005. The provincial government of Nova Scotia, a strong influencer in this decision, will continue its tradition of support for Sable Island.

Sable Island Preservation Trust currently staffs the station with four people year-round but has found the effort to maintain funding and logistics for the remote station to be overwhelming for a volunteer board. Sable Trust has been working with the key Sable Island stakeholders for several years to develop a new approach to managing the core infrastructure on the island. "The Board of Directors is elated and relieved with this decision, and re-energized to work on some exciting projects for 2005 now that the core funding issue is resolved," stated April Hennigar, President of Sable Trust.

Sable Island Preservation Trust's mandate is the long-term conservation of Sable Island. This decision by government to formally recognize the importance of Sable Island is a huge step toward the accomplishment of this goal. Ms. Hennigar explained "with government commitment to an ongoing human presence and operation of the core infrastructure, Sable Trust can focus on preserving the history, building awareness of the island's significance locally, nationally and internationally, and funding research and conservation projects on Sable".

Sable Trust thanks everyone who contributed towards this decision. "This is an inspiring example of how ordinary people can make a difference in the world by working towards a common goal!", commented Ms. Hennigar. "Many people called or e-mailed with support, wrote letters to political representatives, helped spread the word publicly or privately, bought a ticket for the first annual Great Sable Island Expedition Trip Lottery, attended a public meeting, and volunteered with Sable Trust."

It's not too late to help! You can ensure the long-term conservation of Sable Island by becoming a member in Sable Island Preservation Trust, volunteering your time and talents.