



Joseph Robichaud Photography

The Westin Nova Scotian Hotel in Halifax is going through some major enhancements.

Puttin' on the renovations

Changes ongoing at historic Westin Nova Scotian

By Carol Johnstone
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"The most important tiling that's near and dear to my heart right now," says Sandie Currie, director of sales and marketing for the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, "is renovation."

After Hilton's failed bid for the Casino, Newcastle Hotel management group of Connecticut bought the historic old Nova Scotian in April 1996, rescuing it from either the chopping block or wrecking ball, says Mi's. Currie.

Newcastle acquired the franchise for the Westin name and opened in August of '96.

At that time, Newcastle did several million dollars of renovation on infrastructure, re-pointing and re-facing the brickwork, re-doing the lobby and the restaurant and renovating about 100 of its 297 rooms.

It's now time to complete renovations of the guest rooms, making sure each has a 'Heavenly Bed'

made by Simmons specifically for Westin and new soft goods vinyl, carpets and bedding.

Most the \$3 million will be spent on the ballrooms the Commonwealth and the Atlanta, where they hold, among other taings, annual fundraising events.

One of these is Diamonds and Denim. Westin is th? presenting sponsor for this dress-down QEII Foundation gala. In September, 2001 they turned the Commonwealth ballroom into a biker bar replete with Harley Davidson motorcycles.

"It was an incredibly successful event," says Mrs. Currie.

Then, two months later, they turned the whole floor, into "tire most fabulous black-tie gala for tire I WK," called Puttin' on tire Ritz.

She says, "they're going to be done very elegantly, very rich deep colours, a lot of golds." She pulls out sample boards with swatches of carpeting, and various fabrics for drapes, chairs and wallpaper. They're medieval colours — deep burgundy, gold, forest green, and a

coppery rust colour.

"They're going to be totally gutted and started over," including putting in a new parquet dance floor. They should all be done by spring in time for tire summer season."

She thinks "Nova Scotia's poised for a wonderful summer in 2002, marketing to the Eastern U.S., because people will be ready for a break by then and feel comfortable enough to drive to nice, safe, comfortable Canada," where tire dollar is worth almost twice as much.

"Lovely people. Great scenery. Beautiful facilities and services. Couldn't be more welcomed up in Nova Scotia."

She's prepared. Among other tilings, they have a Gas it Up program available now on weekends, which will continue into the summer months based on its success. For every night's accommodation, the guest receives a \$20 coupon redeemable at Irving Stations.