

Bluenose II restoration one step closer

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The newly minted Lunenburg Shipyard Alliance appears to be alone on the short list of candidates to undertake the estimated \$14 million restoration of Bluenose II.

Tourism, Culture and Heritage Minister Percy Paris announced March 3 that the consortium, made up of Lunenburg-based Lunenburg Industrial Foundry and Engineering Ltd. (L.I.F.E.), Covey Island Boatworks and Snyder's Shipyard of Dayspring, was the successful respondent to a request for interest in the project that was issued last December.

"This is another crucial step in securing the future of Bluenose II," Mr. Paris said. "The Lunenburg Shipyard Alliance brings together the experience and know how of three world-class Nova Scotia companies and ensures the investment to preserve this icon flow to the provincial economy."

He said the province will issue a request for proposals shortly which will serve as the basis of a contract with the three local firms, with work on the vessel expected to begin later in the year.

While it is known that the reconstruction of Bluenose II will be carried out on the Lunenburg waterfront, an exact location has not been announced.

John Steele, president of Covey Island Boat Works said the announcement represented "a fantastic opportunity to be involved with preserving a critical link to Nova Scotia's seafaring heritage.

"We're looking forward to working with the province to ensure Bluenose II continues to play its role in representing Nova Scotia for many years to come," he added.

The restoration of the ship, dubbed "Nova Scotia's Sailing Ambassador" is being funded jointly by the province and federal governments under its infrastructure stimulus program.

Under the terms of that agreement, the work must be completed by March 31, 2011.