

Former premier promotes European investment

by Adam Cooke
The Reporter

PORT HAWKESBURY- Nearly a year after his departure from provincial politics, Rodney MacDonald is still promoting Nova Scotia to potential European investors and landowners.

The former Inverness MLA and ex-Premier was one of the keynote speakers at an investment seminar hosted by *Canadian Pioneer Estates Limited* and *Canec Land Developments Incorporated* last week at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre's Shannon Studio.

"This is the land that my family grew up on and continues to live on, it's the land we work on, it's the land we

play on," MacDonald told the Civic Centre gathering Friday afternoon.

"It's the land I want to see preserved, protected and cherished, and it's also what I like about Canadian Pioneer Estates, because that's also what they're promoting."

In his capacity as the first Immigration Minister in the John Hamm administration, MacDonald became familiar with the work of seminar organizer Rolf Bouman, who oversees both Canec and Canadian Pioneer Estates Limited. The Auld's Cove-based businessman earned praise from MacDonald for his work in bridging the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

"What continues to

impress me is not only the economic links that are being forged overseas and here in Nova Scotia and across the country, but also the cultural links that are being made," said MacDonald.

"And, as Premier, I was very happy to see Rolf each and every day, because of the millions of dollars of harmonized sales tax that came to the province of Nova Scotia - I believe that, over the last four or five years, that's well over \$3 million that goes back to the people of Nova Scotia."

Friday's seminar marked the second of two events involving a group of German investors invited to Nova Scotia by Bouman, who secured renowned German economist Andreas Popp for the previous discussion earlier this summer. For the Civic Centre presentation, Bouman followed up MacDonald's presentation with a point-by-point run-down of investment and business options by immigration lawyer Suzanne Rix of the Halifax-based law firm *Cox & Palmer*, and the event was hosted by Port Hawkesbury barrister Patrick Lamey of Evans MacIsaac MacMillan, which has represented *Canadian Pioneer Estates Limited* over the past two decades.

Both Bouman and MacDonald pointed to Nova Scotia's strong financial outlook as an attractive option for potential European investors, merchants and landowners. The two men lauded former federal Finance Minister and Prime Minister



Photo by Adam Cooke

For the latest of his seminars promoting Nova Scotia to prospective landowners and residents, Rolf Bouman (left) of *Canadian Pioneer Estates Limited* and *Canec Land Developments Incorporated* was joined by internationally-renowned German economist Andreas Popp (centre) and former Premier Rodney MacDonald, who gave the keynote address at the Friday afternoon session.

Paul Martin for taking a strong stand on Canada's debt issues that had a lasting impact on Atlantic Canada.

"I saw the results of that afterwards, being both a cabinet minister and the Premier," MacDonald recalled. "As a result, I thought we were able to deal much more effectively with

what was happening locally over the last number of years."

Suggesting that he prefers to "leave political parties behind, because it's all about leaders," Bouman praised provincial and federal officials for creating Nova Scotia's healthy business climate, and encouraged poten-

tial investors to embrace the Strait area if they choose to set up shop in this region.

"When immigrants come here, they should be well-informed as to what they should expect," Bouman declared. "It's important for us to be a part of the world, the country, the province and the municipality."



Photo by Adam Cooke

Immigration lawyer Suzanne Rix, of the Halifax-based firm *Cox and Palmer*, spoke in English and German as she addressed the issues many new Nova Scotia residents and landowners commonly face.