

Immigration workshop held at Shannon Studio

-by John Gillis

More than fifty investors and potential permanent residents of Canada attended an immigration and investment workshop at Shannon Studio last Friday afternoon in Port Hawkesbury.

Lawyer Patrick Lamey from the legal firm of Evans, MacIsaac, and MacMillan in Port Hawkesbury introduced the first guest speaker for the event: former Premier Rodney MacDonald.

Mr. MacDonald told potential immigrants and investors what he loves about his home province and the Island of Cape Breton, and he encouraged everyone to travel the province and see for themselves all it has to offer.

He spoke of some of the tourism and natural resource highlights of the province and said we are steeped in a multi-cultural history.

MacDonald said Canada's banking system has helped the country weather the recent global economic downturn better than most, and he touted the fact the province is well on its way to achieving high-speed internet access to all areas of the province.

MacDonald said he was proud to have been appointed Nova Scotia's first Immigration minister.

"I have seen firsthand why so many people want to

come to Nova Scotia," said MacDonald.

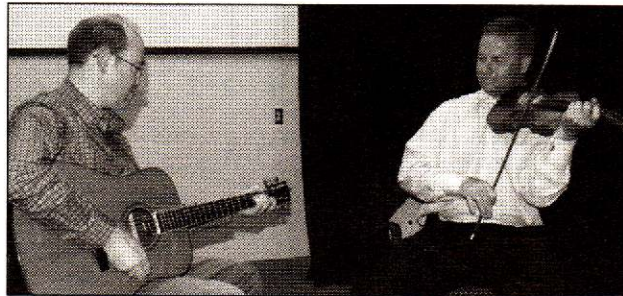
Mr. Lamey said his employer, the legal firm of Evans, MacIsaac and MacMillan, has represented companies owned by Rolf Bouman for some twenty years now. Lamey estimated the firm has handled some 1,000 or more transactions with Bouman's companies with "a clean bill of health."

Mr. Bouman is the owner and operator of four Nova Scotian companies: Canadian Pioneer Estates Ltd., CANEC Land Developments Inc., Kelly Robertson Consulting Inc. and (Ad)venture Canada Publishing Inc. of Canadian Pioneer Estates Ltd.

Mr. Bouman spoke of his experiences immigrating to Canada in the 1980s as a young man and establishing his business ventures here.

Bouman said he is glad he came to Canada to build a life and his businesses and encouraged many fellow Europeans others to see a future here.

"Canada is often considered cold and remote in Europe, and I've been working to change that perception. Thanks to people like Mr. Paul Martin and Rodney MacDonald we have a stable economy and sense of fiscal responsibility here in Canada that makes it a very attractive place in the world. That is especially



Patrick Lamey and Rodney MacDonald

so when you consider the potential for more currency problems and economic downturns, possible problems with the Euro and the American dollar due to very high debt loads in Europe and the United States," said Bouman.

Bouman said land investment and precious metals have long been good investment alternatives to currency. He encouraged investors and potential immigrants to Canada and Nova Scotia to invest here and become citizens if possible.

Suzanne Rix is an immigration lawyer with Cox and Palmer in Halifax. She made an informative bilingual presentation in English and German for all present. She outlined how it's possible to immigrate to Canada under the Nova Scotia Nominee Program with a specific focus on the Community-Identified Stream.

Following the presentation Rodney MacDonald and Patrick

Lamey provided musical entertainment while some of the workshop participants took time to socialize and discuss the workshop.



Rolf Bouman (right) was interviewed Friday.