

Loss for family, friends and community



Robert MacLellan

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characteristics was his ability to see what needed to be done. Then he would work to find ways around the many obstacles he would have to face to accomplish the task.

May we all learn from his efforts.

Robert MacLellan's experience and expertise will be missed in Victoria County.

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Health issues magnified in rural areas

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Authority play in addressing these issues? 2a) What is the most important health issue that needs to be addressed in your community? 2b) What should be done to address this issue? 3a) What is the most important health service challenge in your community? 3b)How should the DHA respond? 4) What can your community do to help the District recruit and retain health professionals?

The District summarized its response under the four themes used for strategic planning: Healthy Communities, Healthy Services, Healthy Workplaces and Healthy Policy.

Under **Healthy Communities** the Report states:

All communities are experiencing both a decline in population as well as an aging profile for remaining citizens. Economic opportunities to keep young people or support immigration are important to sustaining rural Cape Breton. Transportation is an important issue that is not being addressed and will force relocation for some individuals as they age. Opportunities that promote healthy activities need to be enhanced at a local level.

To deal with these issues the District needs to apply a "rural lens" when examining policy options and in responding to input on provincial or national health initiatives.

Under **Health Services** the Board plans to fulfill identified needs by utilizing an inventory of existing visiting clinics and Telehealth services. The District will review areas for expansion and report on success in increasing access to services closer to home.

The District will update its plan for senior's care after finalization of integration of continuing care based on the objective of keeping seniors in their homes as long as practical.

The issues raised through the meetings have been shared with EHS and a response will be provided.

In regard to **Healthy Workplaces** the Board saw that Recruitment and retention of health professionals to rural communi-

ties needs attention in light of the upcoming retirements.

Communities are committed to creating newcomer welcoming committees and reviewing existing structures for selection, placement and recruitment of health professionals.

Schools of health professions will be contacted to determine how they consider the needs of rural Cape Breton in admission processes.

The fourth theme, **Healthy Public Policy** recognized that these sessions were successful and need to continue in order that rural issues are heard. A rural voice on health issues is lacking at provincial and federal levels.

The report concludes that Rural Health is an important part of health care in Nova Scotia, indeed in Canada. Despite

this, it is an area that is often overlooked. For example, there has been no significant follow up to the rural health references in the Kirby and Romanow reports on health care in Canada. There is also no national rural health strategy. Access to services, out migration of young people and supports for an aging population are magnified in rural areas. The determinants of health, which are interactions between social and economic factors, the physical environment and individual behaviour that determine our overall health, may have a greater impact on the health of people in rural areas. In order to sustain good health in rural areas, the District is committed to working with community partners, agencies and local and provincial governments to address issues in our rural communities.

Liberals warming to Ignatieff's style



Liberals young and not so young, local and not so local, all came to Baddeck for the party's national caucus summer retreat. Pictured are L-R David Dingwall; former Premier of Nova Scotia, Russell MacLellan; former Premier of Ontario, Bob Rae; Nancy Dingwall and baby Finley MacIntosh.

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years of government and you won't get a darn thing done on the environment."

And it sounded like he believed what he said when Ignatieff called out to the NDP and the Greens saying, "We share your objectives. Look at the unsurpassed beauty out there. Look at the obligation that we all have to be stewards of the environment. To invest in renewable energy; to take us from being the most inefficient users of energy in the world to becoming the most effi-

cient users of energy.

On the economy he said, "It doesn't make sense to cut corporate taxes when you are \$54 billion in the hole."

Building to a pre-election finish Mr. Ignatieff proclaimed, "It is time to change this government. It is time to get government we can trust. It is time to have a powerful government, a fiscally responsible government, a socially compassionate government and there is only one place to come and get it. The big red tent in the center of Canadian politics."

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