

Rodney MacDonald to head Gaelic College

by Jim Morrow

When Rodney MacDonald was Premier of Nova Scotia his government created the Department of Gaelic Affairs.

On September 15th the former Premier will take over as the Administrator of the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts

Founded in 1938, the school is devoted to the study and preservation of the Gaelic language, arts and culture, so this posting should be a perfect fit for the educator, politician and fiddle player who can also speak Gaelic and step dance.

The formal announcement and introduction will take place at the annual fundraising event “*Pane in the Glass*” at the Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design 3rd floor Loft in Sydney on September 8th.

Mr. MacDonald will be responsible for all operations and departments at the College in St. Ann’s.

Maureen Carroll, Gaelic College Chair of the Board of Governors of the Gaelic College Foundation also told

The *Victoria Standard* that pianist Tracey Dares-MacNeil will become the Director of Education and Programming. “We at the College really feel we are taking a giant step forward with these two talented artists and administrators,” she said.

Featured at the auction will be works by Bill Rogers, Nora Gross, Carol Kennedy, Beverly Niven and many other artists who have taken part in the *Pane in the Glass*.

Bill Rogers says, “I have had a long relationship with the Gaelic College and I am only too happy to help out with a work for the *Pane in the Glass* fundraiser.”

There are also a few up and coming young artists presenting works at the event.

“The quality of the work and the final product is outstanding,” says Ms. Carroll. “The outpouring of support from the artists is overwhelming and the number of windows donated has exceeded our expectations.”



Former Premier, educator and fiddle player Rodney MacDonald will take over as Chief Administrator of the Gaelic College in St. Ann’s on September 15th.

Machines on the move



Multiple earth movers are busily excavating, digging and otherwise re-arranging the area that used to be the parking lot in front of Baddeck Academy. Scrambling to be ready for the return of students who are normally dropped off from and loaded onto the school buses in the same location, the machinery and their operators are on a very tight deadline to be finished by the first day of school.

Stage presence and passion for Gaelic

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They may have had the best seats in the house but the judges also had the most difficult job to perform, deciding which of the 14 young delegates was most deserving of the title. It wasn’t easy but after a series of elimination rounds, when it was all said and done it was Rebecca Blakeney that was crowned Miss Teen Cape Breton 2011.

Representing Ingonish, Rebecca is a 17 year old honours student who attends Cabot High School. She impressed the judges with her charming personality, incredible stage presence and her passion for the Gaelic Culture.

In addition to receiving the crown and sash, Rebecca was awarded a \$1000.00 scholarship sponsored by The Bay, a laptop computer, a crystal engraved trophy and a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Also recognized for their outstanding contribution to the evenings events were 1st runner up Bhreagh Ross, representing Sydney River, and 2nd Runner up Keisha Harris-Mitchell, representing Margaree. Both received a sash, an

engraved crystal trophy, a bouquet of flowers and an iPod touch.

Several secondary prizes were awarded throughout the evening as well. Emma Simpson of North Sydney received the title of Miss Fitness; Chelsea Sylliboy of Eskasoni received top honours in the category of scholastics, while Adrianna Rudderham was named Miss Friendship. 1st Runner up Bhreagh Ross took home the award for best talent while 2nd Runner up Keisha Harris-Mitchell was also named Miss Popularity.

Special thanks to the musical group God Sent who graced the stage several times throughout the evening performing a number of traditional Cape Breton tunes as well as their rendition of some gospel favourites.

MC for the evening Kay Batherson must be commended for the strong effort she put forth in keeping the program interesting and on time.

Thanks must also be extended to the corporate sponsor of the event, New Deal Development, and to those who assisted behind the scenes, who helped make the event such a success.

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