Culture ... Arts ... Entertainment INVERNESS ORAN

Canadian wildlife photography by Rolf Bouman

-by John Gillis

Rolf Bouman is well known in Cape Breton and eastern Nova Scotia as a real estate developer who is the businessman behind Canadian Pioneer Estates. In recent years, however, Bouman has also been making his mark as a wildlife photographer.

Mr. Bouman recently published *Canadian Wildlife Series* in three volumes. He dedicates his three photographic volumes to his children: Jonathan, Lucas and Alyssa.

Bouman was born in 1966 in Germany, and in Germany he completed two trades as a licensed farmer and a licensed auto mechanic.

In the late 1980s he immigrated to Canada and started working as a labourer, welder, pulp cutter, tree planter and interpreter for real estate brokers, Immigration Canada and various law firms.

In the subsequent years he founded the first of his companies called Canadian Pioneer Estates Ltd. and became self-employed as a real estate waterfront developer with a focus on the Canadian east coast, especially Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island.

Many of the photos in the three wildlife volumes were

taken in Cape Breton.

Mr. Bouman also took over an additional consulting company, and in 2002 he started the Canada Cultural Center in Aulds Cove which forms partnerships between Canadian and international artists.

He has stated that the long-term goal of the Canada Cultural Center is to "promote Canadian culture and art internationally, and for this purpose the Canada Cultural Center has formed many partnerships."

Most recently, Mr. Bouman incorporated another publishing company called (Ad)venture Canada Publishing Inc. which is focusing on business ventures and Canadian art, history and culture.

In addition to publishing his books Bouman has set up a promotional website featuring photographs (www. rolfbouman-photo.com).

"After my immigration in the 1980's I was finally able to afford better photographic equipment as well as to dedicate more time to my photography. One of the secrets to my wildlife photography lies in the fact that I almost always carry my cameras with me, because you never know what you will encounter around the next turn while driving or hiking. My long-time occupation as a real estate and

waterfront developer has let me travel more than a million kilometres through Nova Scotia over the past three decades. I was therefore in the unique position to observe and capture photographic subjects at the right moment in the right light. I hope to bring people a bit closer to Nova Scotia, Canada and especially my long-time home, Cape Breton Island. I would also like to thank all Canadians, other friends and family who have supported me over the past 25 years as a photographer, journalist and Canadian land developer," Bouman says.

"Just prior to Christmas Rodney MacDonald and I returned from a trip to Germany where we were promoting Nova Scotia. During that tour we met with the Canadian ambassador in Berlin and German members of Parliament. I gave them copies of the photo books, and things went over very well," Bouman adds.

"As a resident and former premier of Nova Scotia, I can certainly confirm that our province has much to offer in terms of scenery, hospitality, wildlife, history and culture. I was therefore very glad to hear that Canadian/German photographer Rolf Bouman is featuring our province in his photographic wildlife and scenery editions. I would like to

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Moose, photograhed by Rolf Bouman



Black bear, photographed by Rolf Bouman



Rolf Bouman has recently published a three volume series of his Canadian wilderness photos, as well as setting up a web site to display his work.

Bouman...

congratulate Mr. Bouman on his photographic accomplishments and certainly hope that his colourful documentation can bring you closer to our beautiful province, Nova Scotia, and our country, Canada," former Nova Scotia Premier Rodney MacDonald writes in his introduction to Bouman's photographic series.

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White-tailed deer, by Rolf Bouman



Red fox, by Rolf Bouman



Pheasant, by Rolf Bouman



A photo of a bald eagle taken by Eastern Canadian photographer Rolf Bouman.