

Culture ... Arts ... Entertainment

INVERNESS ORAN

***Friends United* honours First Nation peoples and aboriginal artists**

-by John Gillis

A beautiful new book has been released in Nova Scotia honouring First Nations people and artists.

The book, *Friends United*, is a collaboration between First Nations artists, publisher Rolf Bouman and former Premier Rodney MacDonald.

"*Friends United* was designed and created to honour our First Nations people. Its purpose is to build bridges and create a mutual understanding through art between First Nations people, their communities and all other peoples. This book will be available in Europe as well due to the large interest we have experienced in Europe with regards to native heritage, culture and art. We were very fortunate that our former premier, Rodney J. MacDonald, joined us in our efforts to produce this book. It was his insight into native culture and heritage that allowed us to bring everybody closer together, and I would like to thank him for his countless efforts. Finally and foremost, I would like to thank our eight Native artists for their commitment to this project. For close to two years, they have worked very hard in creating meaningful paintings that make this book so special," says Bouman, a Cape Breton real estate developer and founder of Canadian Pioneer Estates, wildlife photographer and publisher.

Former Premier Rodney MacDonald states in the introduction to the book that he is excited to be part of the

project and acknowledged that at first he wasn't sure how it might unfold.

"We have witnessed nationally and internationally much admiration and reverence for our First Nations people, this being especially true for their culture, heritage and art. This is why I believe there is great potential for First Nations people through this project which aims to bring individuals and communities closer together while displaying First Nations people's talents worldwide, especially in Europe," said MacDonald.

Artists featured in the book include: David J. Brooks, Fancy PeterPaul, Lorne A. Julien, Chelsea Brooks, Darren Julian, Amanda Julian, Norman PeterPaul and Sandra Simon.

Mr. Bouman also recently published a photographic *Canadian Wildlife Series* in three volumes.

For more information contact Mr. Bouman: (Ad)Venture Canada Publishing Inc., Rolf Bouman Photography, 13149 Hwy 104, Aulds Cove, Nova Scotia, Canada B0H 1P0. Phone 902-747-2733 or 902-747-2750 or fax 902-747-2755. Visit: www.rolfbouman-photo.com or www.friends-united.ca. Email: info@rolfbouman-photo.com.



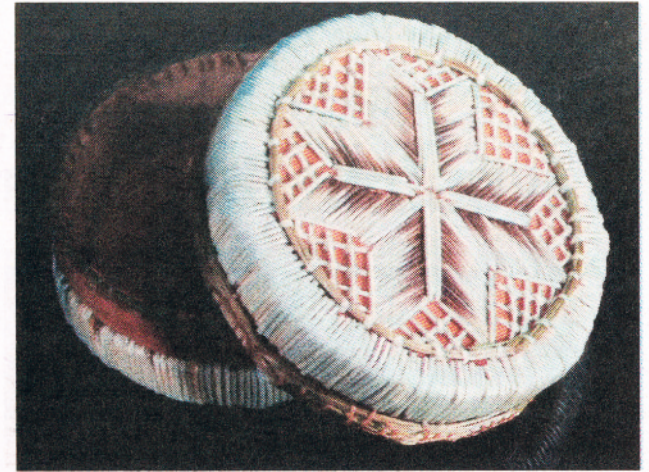
Detail from *The Warriors* by Darren Julian



Lorne Julien's Heavenly Eagle.



Rolf Bouman and artist Norman PeterPaul.



Quill basket by Sandra Simon.



Amanda Julian -- Sacred Fire.



Artist Chelsea Brooks with her father, artist David Brooks.



Mikmaq Catching Loons by David Brooks