



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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## PROCLAMATION

### OCTOBER IS LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

**WHEREAS** lupus is an autoimmune disease that can cause severe damage to the tissue and organs in the body and, in some cases, death; and

**WHEREAS** more than five million people worldwide suffer the devastating effects of this disease and each year over a hundred thousand young women, men and children are newly diagnosed with lupus, the great majority of whom are women of childbearing age; and

**WHEREAS** medical research efforts into lupus and the discovery of safer, more effective treatments for lupus patients are under-funded in comparison with diseases of comparable magnitude and severity; and

**WHEREAS** many physicians worldwide are unaware of the symptoms and the health effects of lupus, causing people with lupus to suffer for many years before they obtain a correct diagnosis and medical treatment; and

**WHEREAS** there is a deep, unmet need worldwide to educate and support individuals and families affected by lupus; and

**WHEREAS** there is an urgent need to increase awareness in communities worldwide of the debilitating impact of lupus;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT October 2011** is hereby designated as "**October is Lupus Awareness Month**" in the County of Prince Edward, when lupus organizations around the world call for increases in public and private sector funding for medical research on lupus, targeted education programs for health professionals, patients and the public, and worldwide recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue.

**DATED** at Picton this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011  
Peter A. Mertens, Mayor