

Planning and Planners: are Works of Excellence being Acknowledged?

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EDITORIAL:

Planning for Excellence:



We begin this editorial realizing that this June issue is relatively late. It has to do with the length of time required to hear



from all of the faithful correspondents in our far-flung API realm. We're aware it was a very busy spring in the planning profession. Planners don't complain a great deal, but perhaps we're feeling the effects of "doing more with less?" We're thankful to all who contributed to Planners Pen, in spite of the "busy-ness" of this spring season.

Now, on to more topical thoughts ...

Almost thirty years ago, Wm. H. Claire, AIP, FASCE observed that social and economic factors confronting urban planners are increasingly important in solving most physical planning problems. He clearly saw that the planner's need for knowledge in other disciplines forces reliance on others for the comprehensive planning that has become an accepted planning responsibility.

"Urban or regional planning should be the profession that assembles for analysis, interprets, and recommends all the pertinent social and economic facts and goals as a basis for comprehensive planning decisions and evaluates the advantages and

disadvantages of alternatives," said Claire.

A tall order, beyond a doubt. And as daunting a task today as it was thirty years ago.

Yet, we've rarely met a planner who's not striving to be the best planner for the tasks in which she, or he, is engaged. We can't think of a planner who doesn't try to give the best possible advice in whatever situation is at hand. We rarely see a planner who doesn't uphold the ethics and practice the principles on which our planning profession is based. What we're getting around to

saying is that almost every planner we know seeks to put out a work product that reflects the highest level of planning excellence.

It is of course true that most planners in their day-to-day professional activities are bedeviled by the "brushfire syndrome" with which we're all acquainted (oft-times all too well acquainted). That is, competent professionals are pressed into hasty action in issues that crop up suddenly, require a swift response, and therefore don't allow for a satisfactory period of contemplation.

But in spite of unscheduled emergencies, we have observed over the years, and continue to see, the production of plans in Atlantic Canada that meet a high standard of excellence. Plans that cover the full gamut from development plans, to official land use plans, to strategic plans aimed at the improvement of our environment and our socio-economic well-being. Plans of excellence that reflect the output of substantial time, energy and wisdom, and that may be worthy of broader recognition.

This issue of Planners Pen hopes to create an awareness of the existence of

plans and planners all around us. It seeks, at the direction of API Council, to engender an alertness among our region's planning professionals that will have them looking out for plans of excellence which, in their opinion, would be worthy of recognition, further exploration and quite possibly, awards.

Of course, awards are a long-standing tradition in our "mother-institute", CIP. Not only are nominated plans read and appraised by knowledgeable people, but awards are publicly made at the annual CIP conference, where the recipients are lauded by their peers, and not infrequently drawn into discussions about their distinguished work. Resourceful and devoted planners deserve those moments in the limelight, and in our opinion, such moments don't come often enough for many of our practicing professionals. Could this be because planners are too modest to tout their own achievements? Are we all too preoccupied or over-worked to take notice of works of excellence in our profession? Or are we merely deferring to the academics among us to take notice of the quality of our output?

Having drawn attention to the theme of excellence in everyday planning tasks, this newsletter intends to challenge members in all of Atlantic Canada to be on the lookout for works of excellence. We exhort them to bring their observations to the attention of API's elected councillors and the broader membership.

Also in this newsletter issue we happily include glimpses of planning-related activities in our region, and we share the outcome of some of the discussions that are happening at API Council and actions being taken by CIP headquarters. Finally, our newsletter would not be complete without membership committee information and messages from our planning schools. We offer a word of sincere gratitude to all who contributed to this issue of Planners Pen.

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THE PREZ SEZ:

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API's president, Stan Clinton reports on our affiliate's response to CIP's 2000 cross-country discussion forum. The gist of the discussion focus was on "... what are we doing and what should we be doing?"

As we reported in last fall's newsletter, Stan Clinton and John Jarvie (Past President and API Representative on CIP Council) bravely undertook an Atlantic

Canada junket to solicit input from the API membership through a series of informal meetings.

From the President ...

Dear Colleagues:

In November of last year, John Jarvie and myself visited a number of locations in Atlantic Canada to meet with membership to canvass its opinions on the services provided both by CIP and API. We visited Saint John, Fredericton, Shediac, Charlottetown, Sydney and Halifax, and later a session was held in St. John's where we posed the following questions:

1. Are we providing the right services?
2. What services should be added?
3. What services should be discontinued?
4. What services could be offered on a user pay basis?
5. How can CIP raise the profile of the planning profession?
6. How can CIP best influence planning principles and practice?
7. With which organizations should CIP be closely aligned?

In terms of the services provided, those which could be added or those which could be discontinued, it was quite clear that members wanted to receive something tangible such as Plan Canada and the Planners Pen, the ability to attend regional and national conferences, and the provision of opportunities for professional development. There was some discussion on the relative merits of electronic opposed to hard copy for publications, but the majority appears to want a continuation of hard copy but with modifications. For instance, it was thought that Plan Canada should become a less academic publication, perhaps in a livelier column format where back copies are archived and searchable.

In terms of conferences, there was a discussion of whether or not they should be held annually or bi-annually at the national level with the affiliate conferences filling in the intervening years. Regardless, there seems to be a preference for more regional content and for the provision of papers to all members whether or not they attend the conference. As far as new services are concerned, the one raised most often was the need to provide, produce, and facilitate professional development opportunities. With this in mind, API Council has requested that this year's conference and AGM which are being organized by the Newfoundland Branch, focus on some aspect of professional development and, if possible, liaise with other groups to provide a more in-depth opportunity.

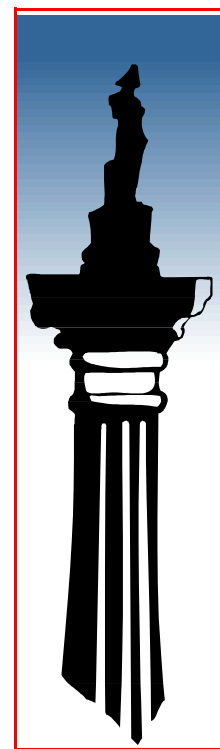
Other services which were suggested for provision were a greater emphasis on the web with links to other planning sites, the provision of job postings free to membership, the adoption of a mentoring process for exam preparation, and an effort to increase membership through the inclusion of other planning practitioners and associates. Indeed, it was felt that if the Institute were more visible and provided improved service, this would show benefits in terms of increased membership.

The only services which were suggested that could be provided on a user pay basis were the introduction of liability insurance and book/publication discounts. In terms of discontinuing services, it was suggested that the international focus, except for membership reciprocity, be dropped as not being applicable to the vast majority. Also under this heading were the suggestions to change the emphasis of Plan Canada, movement out of the paper business, and re-focusing of the conferences towards training and education.

In order to raise the profile of the profession, it was felt that the institute and API should become more visible and take positions respectively on a national and regional concerns. However, this advocacy should not just be reactive. A poor job has been made in planners staking out their area of expertise and we have not done a good job of promoting our successes either as a profession or those of individuals within it.

The pursuit of licencing was raised, along with raising our profile by partnering with other groups on projects, getting the message out to high schools and universities with perhaps CIP producing Planning 101 for dissemination nationally. As far as licencing goes, we wait with anticipation the efforts of the Nova Scotia Branch.

In terms of liaison with other organizations, those most often mentioned were ICURR, the FCM,



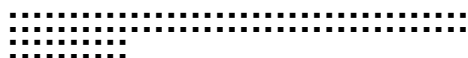
APA, Architects and Landscape Architects Associations, and a pursuit of closer ties with the New England region of the USA.

The above is only a summary of the outcomes. As far as they pertain to CIP, it has been provided with a copy and as far as they pertain to API, Council has already considered them and initiated some actions such as the continued publication of the Pen, conference content, and improved local visibility. Over time, we hope to more closely address more of the needs expressed by our membership and, in this respect, if there is any advice or suggestion you may have, please do not hesitate to provide them to one of the executive.

Yours sincerely
STANLEY N. CLINTON
President



LOOKING AHEAD IN API: COUNCIL'S GOOD ADVICE



WORKS OF EXCELLENCE

**THINK ABOUT SUBMITTING A
NOMINATION!
DO IT NOW!**

API Council has suggested that the fall issue of Planners Pen be devoted to profiling work of excellence in the Atlantic Provinces.

On behalf of Council, we now request submissions from our membership of work that would be of interest to practicing planners in the region. These submissions will serve to nominate works for the 2001 API awards.

We optimistically assume that we will receive submissions, and we look forward to highlighting these in the next issue of Planners Pen to show everyone what our members are achieving in their professional lives.

Submissions can be by mail or by e-mail



to:
Dennis Friesen, Planners Pen
47 Warburton Drive
Charlottetown PE C1A 8Z3
or dfriesen@isn.net

Let's hear from you!

API and CIP WEB SITES

For the benefit of those members who have not yet explored planning web pages, API Council announces the following:

- Location of the API web site
<http://www.atlanticplanners.org/>
- Location of the CIP web site
<http://www.cip-icu.ca/>

Here's a summary listing of what's new on the API site:

- Canadian Land Reclamation Association Conference 2001 in Halifax
- Member Services Consultation Summary Report (Fall 2000)
- Minutes of Council Meeting, Saint John, NB, March 24, 2001
- Listing of Current Branch Executives
- Listing of Current Council Members
- Planners Pen Newsletter back issues
- API Council Business

- NEW VERSION - An Act Respecting Licensing Planning Professions
- Member Services Consultation Summary Report (Fall 2000) - What you wanted CIP and API to do for you and for the profession.
- Membership Advertising - Policy Manual amendment
- Annual General Meeting, Charlottetown - Report on June 21, 2000 meeting
- Annual General Meeting Nova Scotia Association of Professional Planners - Report on May 12th meeting
- Planning Schools News - NEW PAGE
- API Membership Review A Critical Perspective - An NSAPP Information Report to Council
- Updated Nova Scotia Membership List - Announcements

- CIP2000 CONFERENCE FINAL REPORT - February 2001
- NSCAD EP Alumni Web site
- PIBC report on Continuing Education and Professional Development
- City of Fredericton Southeast Hill Plan
- REPORT FROM THE CIP PRESIDENT on CIP Management & Structure, Plan Canada Recommendations
- N. S. Professional Planning

Legislation - December 2000 Draft
Maurice Lloyd Named CIP Fellow
Halifax Regional Municipality Content
25th Anniversary of API as CIP Affiliate (1997)

Why not log on and see for yourself?

STUDENT AWARDS API

This is a reminder that nominations for the API student awards are open. Nominations can be forwarded to API Secretary Ken Forrest by email, ken.forrest@city.fredericton.nb.ca or at the address
Ken Forrest, MCIP
Senior Planner
City of Fredericton, Development Services Department
b. (506) 460-2110 f. (506) 460-2126

STUDENT TRAVEL

Student travel assistance to the CAPS, API, or CIP conference is available at API. A maximum of \$100 per student member of API to a maximum of \$500 per school is available and requests can be made through the student representatives on Council.

NEW API INITIATIVES

Council is considering identifying a block of funds for service enhancements and professional development opportunities. This will be discussed in more detail at the AGM.

Suggestions from the membership will be welcomed. They can be sent either to secretary Ken Forrest, or to president Stan Clinton, whose e-mail addresses may be found in this newsletter

API CONFERENCE AND AGM 2001

In the coming weeks, further details on the annual API Conference and AGM will be forthcoming. For now, we know that the conference is planned to be held in St. John's, NF in October.



FROM CIP COUNCIL

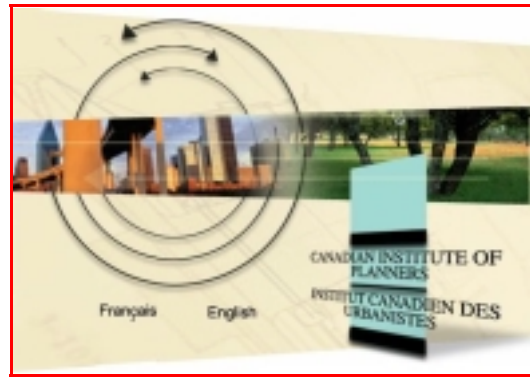


Steven Brasier, CIP's executive director whom we introduced in the previous Planners Pen, has submitted the following

news release. Atlantic planners, please take note:

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) is pleased to announce that it has hired Kimberly McCarthy-Kearney as its new FROM CIP COUNCIL ... continued) Program Coordinator, Communications, effective June 11, 2001.



follows in both official languages:

Les prix Vincent Massey pour l'aménagement urbain 1971

A propos de la soumission des projets et de l'attribution des Prix, par Humphrey Carver, président du jury

Kimberly will mainly be responsible for updating the CIP's web site and for exploring new areas of development with the CIP web site, bringing new sources of information and new services online for CIP members. She will also work closely with the Plan Canada Editorial Board and be responsible for other CIP publishing activities. In addition, she will be responsible for working with the CIP's Awards and Continuing Professional Development committees, and will contribute to the Institute's media relations, government relations, policy and advocacy activities.

From 1989 to 1998, Kimberly was a member of the Canadian Armed Forces. She underwent training in Cornwallis, NS, St. Jean, QC, and Borden, ON, before going on to serve as an Administrative Clerk at CFB Shearwater (1990 to 1995) and then at CFB Halifax (1995 to 1997). In mid-1997, Kimberly moved to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa, where she served as a Resource Management Support Clerk until 1998.

In 1998, Kimberly left the military and began attending Retter Business College, completing a one-year program to become a Multimedia Developer. During her training, she developed an interactive CD-ROM for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that is now used in schools across Canada and she developed a section of the RCMP's web site.

In early 2000, she held a term contract as a website developer for Zipperhedz Technologies Inc., a web site development firm founded by military spouses with technical backgrounds. In August 2000, she became Editor of the "Family Connections" a newsletter published by the Petawawa Military Family Resource Centre, which included chairing a volunteer newsletter committee. For the past six months, Kimberly has worked on contract with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. as Document Control Clerk for the MDS Nordion Medical Isotopes Reactor Project.

Kimberly brings to CIP broad-based professional experience and administrative

skills, rounded out by sound computer knowledge and evident strength in her web site development and graphics capabilities. She is currently enrolled in part-time studies with Mount Saint Vincent University. Having achieved a Certificate of Business Administration (with emphasis on marketing), she is continuing her studies toward a degree.

Steven Brasier, CAE, Executive Director / Directeur général

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INSPIRATION and AWARDS



AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE:

Here are few interesting items from the past we've discovered in our recent research of the subject ... can a "blast from the past" be inspirational as well?

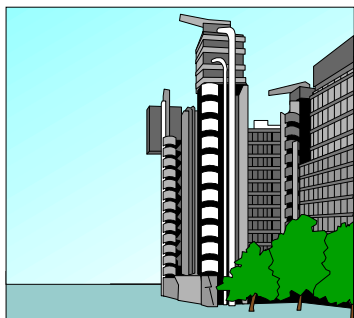


We're planners! Looking back often helps us to look ahead.

In keeping with our current search for recognition of excellence in planning in Atlantic Canada, we present here a reissue of a Canada-wide excellence in planning adventure three decades earlier. We hope this will serve, in part, to inspire all API members to observational alertness for excellence.

The following is from Excellence in the Urban Environment, HABITAT Vol. 15 No. 3, 1972, published by CMHC. The text

Les responsables de l'attribution des Prix, une fois lancée l'invitation de soumettre des projets, avaient reçu en fin juin 1971 près d'une centaine de descriptions amplement illustrées. Une telle masse de documents divers exigeait pour un examen attentif, beaucoup de temps et d'attention: le visionnement des séquences filmées demanda à lui seul environ quatre heures de projection ...



Le jury était composé de Sid Buckwold, dynamique et populaire maire de Saskatoon; Michel Barcelo, architecte et urbaniste bien connu pour son travail dans les quartiers défavorisés de Montréal et qui travaille maintenant à l'aménagement du futur aéroport de Ste-Scholastique; Gérald Fortin, sociologue, chef du centre de recherches urbaines et régionales de l'université de Québec; Doris Shadbolt, érudite conservateur de la Galerie d'Art de Vancouver; et moi-même, chargé de présider le jury. Nous nous sommes rencontrés à la fin du mois de juillet afin d'examiner les projets recus et avons été enchantés par la quantité et la variété des soumissions, lesquelles provenaient d'ailleurs d'un océan à l'autre, soit de St-Jean (T.- N.) à Victoria.

De la centaine de projets qui nous étaient parvenus, nous avons décidé d'en examiner sur place une quarantaine, estimant que nous ne saurions conseiller l'attribution d'un Prix à une oeuvre que nous n'aurions pas personnellement évaluée. Nous avons par ailleurs défini notre "politique", basée sur un critère d'excellence et qui ne consistait pas à recommander une douzaine de réalisations "diplomatiquement" échelonnées par province. Et la notion d'excellence que nous faisons nôtre devait comporter un élément de participation de la part du public. Autrement dit, il ne s'agissait pas de sélectionner d'habiles photographies de réalisations esthétiques, mais de retenir des projets d'intérêt général dont la raison d'être majeure était la satisfaction de tous. C'est pourquoi nous nous sommes retrouvés tous les cinq, un beau matin venteux de septembre, fort occupés à examiner un parc à St-Jean ... Deux semaines plus tard, le Pacifique remplaçait pour nous l'Atlantique et Victoria offrait à notre examen un square de la vieille ville. Dans l'intervalle, il nous avait été donné de parcourir une vingtaine de villes et d'y admirer tour à tour de belles réalisations dont l'éclat n'est terni que par la misère qui afflige certains quartiers. Il était

réconfortant, toutefois, de constater tout au long de ce périple les efforts accomplis par les Canadiens en vue d'améliorer la qualité de leur vie urbaine. Ces efforts sont d'autant plus méritoires qu'ils se heurtent à l'apathie, à la standardisation, à la production de masse, à la bureaucratie, pour ne rien dire de l'envahissante et omniprésente automobile, autant de facteurs propres à miner l'esprit créateur le plus obstiné. Ce voyage nous a cependant appris que le Canadien sait créer de la beauté lorsque la solitude de ses villes surpeuplées l'opresse et qu'il peut sans doute gagner la bataille qu'il a engagée contre un mode de vie déshumanisé.

Il est difficile de ranger ces réalisations dans des catégories bien définies, chacune d'entre elles possédant un caractère unique, mais on peut cependant les grouper arbitrairement en divers genres.

I Les emplacements centraux, qui donnent à l'environnement urbain sa dimension, sa perspective et son unité, sont psychologiquement déterminants: ils contribuent en effet à dissiper l'aliénation consecutive à des paysages sans attrait et apparemment sans fonction.

II Les emplacements piétonniers, dont l'importance n'est plus à souligner dans la lutte que mène le piéton contre l'envahissement croissant des véhicules au centre des agglomérations. Ces îlots interdits au trafic automobile, outre qu'ils constituent des espaces non pollués au centre des villes, sont indispensables à l'aménagement paysager.

III Les espaces naturels, que certaines villes ont eu la sagesse de préserver intacts, sont ouverts au public dont us améliorent grandement les conditions de vie tout en faisant office de "poumons" dans les cités surpeuplées.

IV Les réalisations qu'enrichissent l'environnement en luttant contre l'uniformisation progressive dont il est victime et qui offrent aux particuliers l'occasion de manifester leurs dons créateurs.

V Les actions créatrices entreprises en vue de refaire l'environnement menacé par des organisations et des systèmes cependant indispensables au "fonctionnement" des grandes villes. Pour

contrebalancer la rigidité des structures en place, des groupes doivent s'organiser pour sauvegarder le milieu ambiant dans lequel us ont choisi de vivre.

Les emplacements centraux

Nombre de réalisations proposées pour l'attribution de prix peuvent être considérées comme des "centres d'intérêt" destinés à rehausser la qualité générale d'un milieu donné.

Les emplacements piétonniers

D'autres prix été décernés a des réalisations dont la principale caractéristique est d'avantager les piétons.

Les espaces naturels

Parmi les réalisations proposées pour l'attribution des prix Vincent Massey, parcs et espaces naturels occupaient une place importante et allaient de vastes surfaces d'espace vert à de modestes petits aménagements floraux. Était également proposé un choix divers de plages - d'océans et de lacs - de collines, ainsi que des zoos et des terrains de jeu, sans naturellement outlier le traditionnel parc où la famille s'assemble pour une pique-nique estival.

Les réalisations enrichissantes pour l'environnement

La mécontentement latent ressenti à l'égard de l'environnement provient en grande partie de l'éventail très limité des choses qui forment le décor quotidien de notre vie: rues monotones, immeubles standardisés, voitures de série, grisaille permanente de la grande ville ... Rien, autrement dit, de nature à éclairer tant soit peu une monotonie revenue habitude faute de pouvoir la rompre.

Les actions créatrices pour refaire l'environnement



Les forces qui régissent l'environnement urbain, bien qu'anonymes, s'exercent de façon si oppressante et si inéluctable sur le citoyen qu'il apparaît difficile de concevoir comment ce dernier peut manifester une quelconque initiative innovatrice. La plupart des études menées sur les problèmes des centres canadiens font état des "systèmes" urbains: les villes sont vues comme un véritable réseau de systèmes inter-communicants sur le triple plan économique, administratif et fonctionnel. Les recherches dans cette direction concluent par ailleurs que les problèmes urbains ne peuvent être résolus que par une meilleure coordination entre ces divers systèmes.

La notion d'excellence s'inscrit, par définition, à l'extérieur et au-dessus de ce courant de forces mexorables et impersonnelles qui caractérisent ces systèmes. L'excellence, aux antipodes de ces systèmes, ne peut provenir que de l'action délibérément créatrice d'individus ou groupes déterminés à exprimer une opinion dans un contexte donné. Les habitants d'une ville, comme une certaine forme d'art qu'ils peuvent contribuer à faire naître, ne peuvent donc que se juxtaposer à ces diverses forces, donc à ces systèmes.

Le programme d'attribution des prix Massey est utile dans la mesure où il attire l'attention générale sur des réalisations de nature à améliorer l'environnement urbain et sur l'action constructive de certains éléments de la population.

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Comments on the submissions and Awards by Humphrey Carver, Chairman of the Jury

The Vincent Massey Awards for Excellence in the Urban Environment 1971

The sponsors of the Awards issued an open invitation for proposals. By closing date at the end of June, nearly 100 submissions had been received, complete with reports, plans, photos and films describing each project and explaining what it had contributed to urban environment. It was an enormous quantity of material; the films alone required about four hours viewing time.

The Jury consisted of Sid Buckwold, the enterprising and popular Mayor of Saskatoon; Michel Barcelo, architect and planner, well-known for his work with poor people in Montreal and now working on the regional environment of Montreal's future airport; Gerald Fortin, sociologist, who is head of the University of Quebec's Urban and Regional Research

Centre; Doris Shadbolt, the curator of Vancouver's Art Gallery, a scholar of the arts who drives an Alfa-Romeo; and myself as chairman of the Jury.

At the end of July we met one another for the first time and examined all the material very thoroughly. We were immediately delighted to find what an extraordinary variety of things had been submitted, ranging from big civic centres and large parks down to quite small pieces of the city scene. And we were pleased to discover that submissions had come, literally from coast to coast, from St. John's to Victoria.

At this first meeting the Jury decided that, out of the nearly 100 submissions, about 40 should be visited, because we would not recommend an Award for something we had not actually seen with our own eyes. Also, in an informal way, we began to discover a point of view for carrying out our task. First of all, we would stick to the criterion of "excellence." We wouldn't just pick out a dozen pretty good examples distributed diplomatically by regions; what we would recommend for Awards would be "excellent" by the most exacting standards. Secondly, the "excellence" of anything must include the involvement of people. This wasn't a contest of photogenic charisma like so many architectural competitions, nor was it concerned with sophisticated taste. We were looking for "people places."

So one morning at the beginning of September the five members of the Jury were standing against a stiff Atlantic wind, on the headland that overlooks the entry to St. John's harbour. And nearly two weeks later we were on the waterfront of Victoria, in the pink and perfumed glow of a Pacific sunset. In between we had looked at the excellence and the misery in the urban environment of 20 Canadian cities.

It was exciting to see, almost in an instant, what Canadians had been thinking and doing to make life tolerable in cities threatened by the deadly monotony of standardization, mass-production, bureaucratic regulation, the dominance of the automobile and all the other influences that threaten to crush the creative spirit. It was clear, in a flash, that Canadians are indeed capable of creating great beauty in the urban wilderness and that we may yet win the battle against the computer and the systems analysts.

It's difficult to sort out the projects into simple categories because most of them have arisen out of some quite unique local situation. However, just to suggest how the awards are related to the whole subject of the urban environment, they may roughly be grouped under these headings:

I Central Places. These are places that give shape and focus and purpose to the urban environment. They are strategically important in offsetting the sense of alienation which people suffer when their environment seems purposeless and meaningless.

II Pedestrian Places These are important in the larger strategy for diminishing the use of automobiles which pollute and blight the urban environment. The pedestrian city gives social content to the environment and is essential for the revival of the urban arts of townscape and landscape.

III Open Spaces. Some cities have been particularly successful in conserving part of their natural landscape environment as public open space. An easy access to a domestic landscape and even to wilderness landscape greatly extends the liveability of the urban environment.

IV Enrichment of the Environment. Because the urban environment tends to be standardized in content and quality, people in cities feel the need to enrich and extend the range of content and quality, preferably through their own creative effort.

V Creative Action in Making the Environment. Big cities could not exist and could not be managed without large-scale systems and corporate institutions. But, because of their size and mechanical remoteness, they threaten to overwhelm the creative capacity of people who live in cities. Therefore people have to organize themselves to confront these

Central Places

A number of the places submitted for awards can be described as central places or focal centres within an urban environment, places that give meaning and purpose to a community.



Pedestrian Places

Another group of awards involve places for the pedestrian in the city. Consideration of the pedestrian in the city is partly a concern for his convenience and safety and partly a way of restoring to city people the experience of meeting one another as people, not just as greedy competitors in the traffic squeeze.

Open Spaces

Among the submissions of awards were many different kinds of parks and open spaces - some of them great expanses of open landscape, some of them little corners of the city salvaged to make a flower garden. There were ocean beaches and lake beaches and ski hills and zoos and places for chasing various kinds of balls - and there were many versions of that favourite Canadian park, a place for the family barbecue picnic under the trees.

Enrichment of the Urban Environment

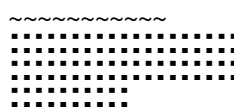
A good deal of dissatisfaction with the urban environment arises out of the very limited range of things that we see around us every day of our lives. The same standardized streets and buildings and cars and urban "junk" enclose us every day. It is ordinary. None of this scene ever seems to reach a quality of excellence and it represents a very small part of the spectrum of the whole created universe of which we are part.

Creative Action in Making the Environment

There are forces that sometimes seem to make the urban environment so powerful, inevitable and incontestable that it is hard to see how people who live in cities could exert their own creative will. Most of the recent Canadian studies of urban problems have been preoccupied with the subject of urban "systems"; the city is seen as a network of inter-acting, inter-related systems - economic, bureaucratic and functional - and it is pointed out that urban problems can only be solved through better co-ordination of these systems. The quality of excellence is, by definition, something outside and above the normal product of these inexorable forces and impersonal systems. These forces and these systems cannot themselves create excellence. Excellence can only occur through the conscious creative action of people striving to express themselves. The people in the city and the art in a city are in juxtaposition, as it were, to the forces and the systems. ... actual cases of excellence in the urban environment ... [are] the fruit of inspired hard work by identifiable people.

That is the significant thing about these cases of excellence in the urban environment. They are the imprints made on cities by real people. They show that people in cities can indeed confront all the powerful forces and all the impenetrable networks of systems, with a good deal of confidence. It is not impossible to put into the environment things that are beautiful and things that come from people's hearts. If it were not so, there would be no possibility of a reconciliation between city people and the enormous scale of the forces that build the environments of big cities. There would be nothing left but

confrontation and alienation.



MESSAGES FROM THE SCHOOLS
NSCAD



A Winter Semester Report: Environmental Planning, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design

This past school year held many challenges and opportunities for the students of Environmental Planning. The EP II students dealt with challenges of group dynamics while organizing community functions, and producing materials for a community information program. With the Portland Estates Residents Association as clients, the students put on an open house at the "Home Depot", on Portland Street in Dartmouth, NS. The open house centred on informing the residents of methods they can adopt to alleviate pollutant stresses on their watershed

The students of EP IV ventured through the trials and tribulations of policy and plan making under the guidance of Valerie Spencer. The Studio differed from most as the EP IV students tackled issues from different approaches to direct their independent policy work.

Although the focus, for the most part, was the Cow Bay Watershed and surrounding area, no clients were taken on due to the scale and variety expected in the work. Student papers ranged from identifying riparian zones to urban growth management.

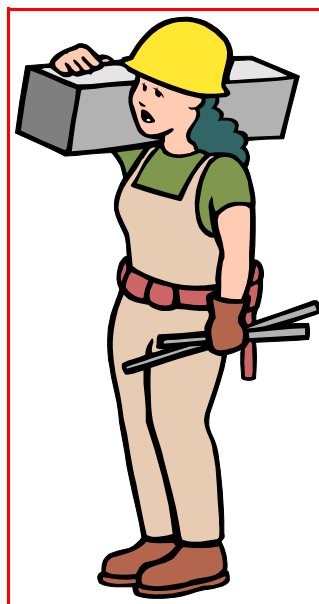
Don Awalt graduated from the Environmental Planning program this year. Congratulations Don. His final independent project produced a management plan for the historic Camp Hill Cemetery, located between Robie and Summer St. in Halifax. Don concurrently earned a BFA with a major in photography.

On another note, one I am sure will produce mixed emotions, of both nostalgic sadness and optimism, it appears this was the last year the program will be offered at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. The administrators, and the faculty of both Dalhousie Architecture and NSCAD Environmental Planning, are in the process of ironing out wrinkles to transfer Environmental Planning faculty from NSCAD to Dalhousie University. The students currently enrolled in Environmental Planning will have their current academic obligations honoured and have been assured that they will be looked after and included when decisions are made. Current students will graduate with the NSCAD Environmental Planning or Design degrees, with a possible "in association with Dalhousie", (things still

have to be ironed out). They will still be offered the courses they need to do their degree and courses at NSCAD will still be available to them. It is most likely the program will be housed in the Faculty of Architecture Building on the Dal-Sexton, formerly, Dal-tech, formerly TUNS, campus.

When the currently enrolled students graduate, however, the Environmental Planning BDES will be no more, and Environmental planning will lend its influence, focus and faculty, to improving the Urban and Rural Planning Masters program at Dalhousie, and creating

one strong planning program in Halifax. With this in mind it would be appropriate to look back on the history of the program at the college.



The Environmental Planning Program was established in 1971. Started by two American architects Bill Smith, and Bob Parker, the program was then “Environmental Design.” The main focus at the time was on both indoor and outdoor design solutions.

By 1975, however, the focus changed. The program became as it is known today, Environmental Planning. American Peter Truitt (now employed with the EPA) was brought in and as well, in the late seventies, Pauline Barber was hired on for her social/community focus.

When Pauline left in 1979, Dr. Jill Grant, who to this day is a valued asset and currently the chair of the design division of the college, joined the faculty. EP also added Doug Rigby two years later after Peter Truitt left. Doug stayed for a few years but left to do work in Africa with some International Agencies. He now resides in Dartmouth.

In 1984, a former student, John Zuck, who like Dr. Grant remains with the program, came aboard, and at the end of the eighties one of the two originals, Bob Parker resigned to pursue private practise. It was at this time Dr. Patricia Manuel joined, who with Prof. Zuck and Dr. Grant, now make up the full time faculty of the EP program. Dr. Manuel is currently the head of the EP program.

The program suffered a saddening loss with the untimely passing of originator Bill Smith, who died suddenly from a biking accident in 1991. Susan Guppy then joined the program for a year before going to Dalhousie. Beverly Sandalack, now with the Planning program at the University of Calgary, joined after Susan Guppy, and remained part of the faculty for six years.

As well as the aforementioned full time staff the program has long benefited from professionals from the area who served as part-time educators. People like Peter Klynstra, Derek Davis, Lloyd Robins and Marcelle Belliveau, to name a few, have historically provided a strong contribution to the success of the program.

The Environmental Planning Program, in its 30 years, has graduated over 250 students, who hold diverse positions: provincial directors, junior planners, landscape architects, heads of NGO’s,

university professors etc.. EP has, as well, offered it services to the community on many occasions, taking on clients and focusing on real world problems and solutions in its studio learning format. The program was recognized by the Province of NS in the 90’s through a Provincial Environment Award for the community work that it does. Overall it has made a very strong contribution to the profession of planning, the world of design, and the environment.

As a student of the program I am somewhat sad but optimistic about the merger, and I know that many of the faculty and other students feel the same way. On the one hand, the program has provided me with a learning atmosphere which was friendly, challenging and fun. However, the relentless commitment of the faculty to the education of its students, the student teacher ratio, and the studio based learning styles are not likely to change with the address.

It is clear that the one thing that will definitely be missed is the sheer atmosphere and philosophy of NSCAD, which gave the program something unique and special that cannot be expected to be carried over to Dalhousie. However, perhaps the unknown holds special in its own right. Perhaps the

new merged program will make its own traditions and provide an even greater contribution to the profession and students. Many of the EP students look forward to the change and see possibilities that lie ahead. Many Dalhousie URP students may also welcome the addition of the design and environmental

resources that the merger will bring them.

One thing is certain, the Alumni of the program will not have to look back and see a program struggle and fade away; rather they can see a program after thirty years still striving to provide the best education, and giving the greatest contribution it can. Environmental Planning is leaving NSCAD not in weakness, but in strength, with its sights set on becoming even stronger.

** With special thanks to Dr. Jill Grant for sharing her knowledge of the EP history.*

Dallas Gillis,
NSCAD EP, API/CIP Representative
.....

DALTECH

This Term: Urban and Regional Planning

The first year class of 2000 was smaller than usual but diverse in backgrounds and interests. Their first major project was the required Urban Studio course. This year the class studied a 990-acre parcel of land known as Prince’s Lodge, the site of a controversial future development. The site was divided so every student was assigned a portion of land and each student created their own conceptual proposal for the area.

In October a group of students headed to Montreal as part of the Fall Module led by Susan Guppy. Students enjoyed exploring the streets of Montreal and each chose a specific topic for further study and presentation. Highlights included a Habs game and a social organized with the McGill students.

In November, the second year class presented a regional planning proposal to City Hall that they had been working on in a studio class. The class made a great impression and Councilors received the presentation enthusiastically.

In the Winter Semester, the first year Rural Studio focused on Musquodoboit Harbour. After extensive research on the village, the class held an Open House in the community and put together a document entitled Inspiring Future Directions.

The CAPS Conference at York University was an opportunity for Dalhousie students to meet and communicate with other planning students. Formal presentations were given by Dalhousie second year MURP students, Tracy Bealing, Brooke Melles and Anne Hutton on the First Nations Planning Model.

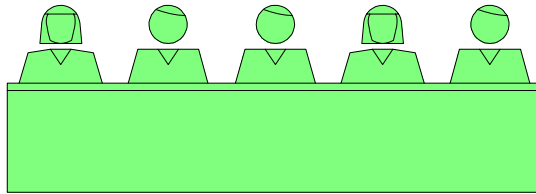
In March as part of the annual Winter Term Module students helped Frank Palermo organize the events. The topic this year was transportation in HRM and the students held a Public Forum as an opportunity for students and members of the public to brainstorm possible solutions to transportation issues.

Special congratulations to first year student Patrick Moan and his wife Christine on the January birth of their first child Niall, the latest addition to the MURP team.

Congratulations also to Kasia Tota the recipient of the Rosetti Scholarship for 2000. Kasia will be part of a team of student teaching assistants going to

Amsterdam for the History of Cities course.

Lucy Trull, DalTech
Halifax, Nova Scotia



Thanks also to Lucy, here is a brief course description of the History of Cities course: (partly taken from the academic calendar) The class examines selected cities (this year it's Amsterdam), their originating form, important buildings and building types in their history. The aim is to explore the relationship between Architecture and urbanism and the relationship between buildings and the city.

It is a double credit and is open to both graduate Arch. and MURP students. There is also a group of TA's who accompany the instructor (Frank Palermo) to the city to study it in depth and then help facilitate the course throughout the semester. Kasia Tota is the planning TA and thus the recipient of the Rosetti Scholarship for the upcoming year. She will be going to Amsterdam in August for four weeks.

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CLRA CONFERENCE 2001

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Canadian Land Reclamation Association

Conference 2001 in Halifax
August 26-29, 2001
Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Contacts: Fred Bonner and David Hopper
e-mail: bonnerfj@gov.ns.ca
dbhopper@gov.ns.ca

Call for papers

This year the conference organizers aim to highlight land and waterway reclamation efforts that use the principles of environmental stewardship and sustainable development in planning, management and design.

- Suggested topics include:
- Environmental planning/management
 - Landscape design
 - Ecological restoration
 - Community land management models
 - Mining and abandoned mine land
 - Degraded forest sites
 - Derelict industrial/contaminated sites
 - Social, economic and liability issues

- Landfills
- Utility corridors
- Agricultural land restoration
- Inventory systems
- Ecosystem/wildlife issues
- Policy and regulations

Abstracts (180 words or less) are invited for submission by April 30, 2001, in WordPerfect or MS Word format via email or on diskette by post. Detailed information respecting proper format for papers and publication protocol will be made available on the CLRA web page by February 2001.

For more information go to www.clra.ca

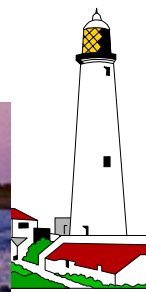
.....
**NSAPP TO HOST
2003 CIP
CONFERENCE**
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This just in from hard-working Donna Davis, who never backs away from a challenge. We thank her for bringing us up to speed as we move toward 2003!

2003 CIP CONFERENCE

It's official. We are committed. The Nova Scotia Association of Professional Planners has agreed to host the CIP National Conference in 2003. The conference will be held in Halifax and planning for the big event has begun in earnest. A Conference Organizing Committee has been established and a Conference Chairperson selected. The members of committee are as follows:

- Donna Davis, HRM - Chairperson
- Maurice Lloyd, AtlanPLAN Ltd.
- Jill Grant, NSCAD
- Barry Zwicker, WML
- Peter Nelson, Town of Truro
- Brant Wischart, SNS&MR
- Chris Lowe, SGE Group



If you are interested in helping with a work group or simply want to find out more about what is happening, please contact any of the

Albert Dunphy, Annapolis County
Planning Services
John Heseltine, ATI Consulting
Bill B. Campbell, Waterfront Dev. Corp.
Ltd

Two years may seem like a long time to plan, but for anyone who has been involved in such an exercise, you know all too well that time slips by quickly. You also know there is lots of work to be done to make such an event successful. The Committee's work to date has included obtaining information regarding possible conference venues. This information is now with the National office for confirmation and negotiation. Some ideas have developed regarding a conference theme. Current thoughts are revolving around the general theme of "Building Communities". A general theme like this can include many sub topics and work is progressing now to focus in on specific areas of interest. The committee feels the general theme also provides an opportunity to broaden the target audience for the conference.

There are seven specific areas of responsibility for the host affiliate: conference program, mobile workshops, social events, marketing and merchandising, local orientation/ volunteer coordination, fund-raising & exhibits, and student and university liaison. Members of the organizing committee are seeking volunteers to head up these respective areas of responsibility. Do I hear any volunteers?

Planning the 2003 Conference can be a great opportunity to bring together the planning profession in Nova Scotia and the Atlantic region generally. Our challenge will be to involve as many people as possible and in particular to include those outside of the Halifax area in the planning process. With computers and email this should be an easier task than perhaps in the past, however, it does remain an obstacle to overcome. It will take the work of many committed individuals to make this a very successful event. It is our opportunity as planners to showcase our planning efforts as well as the region generally. We feel we are up for the challenge!

organizing committee members above. I can be reached at david@dregion.halifax.ns.ca. or 902-490-4417. Hope to hear from you.

Donna Davis
President, NSAPP

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BRANCH BIZ
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All about API:

For the benefit of all our members, we provide here the basic information that we all need to know about our Council and our branch folks.

It probably goes without saying that all of this information (along with a host of other interesting things) can be found on our API Web page, which also has links with the "mother-ship" CIP site:

Atlantic Planners Institute postal address:
116 rue Albert, suite 801
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G3
(and in case you're wondering why our address is in Ottawa, this is due to the fact that API contracts with CIP to provide administrative services formerly done in Halifax.)

API Council as of this date:

Stan Clinton, President
sclinton@mail.gov.nf.ca



John Jarvie, Past President and National Council Rep.
jarviejo@nbnet.nb.ca
Donna Davis, NS Representative

david@dregion.halifax.ns.ca
Karen Roberts, Treasurer and NF Representative
kroberts@jacqueswhitford.com
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Secretary and NB Representative
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John Dalton, PEI Representative
jdalton@city.charlottetown.pe.ca
Tracy Bealing,
Dalhousie Student Representative
tbealing@hotmail.com
Dallas Gillis, NSCAD Student Representative
dallasgillis@hotmail.com

=====
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.....
Newfoundland & Labrador Branch
.....

AN INVITATION!

INNOVATIONS IN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

As practising planners, the public consultation process is a key component of our work. So, join the Newfoundland Branch in St. John's from October 11th-13th for an intensive 2.5 day professional development opportunity focused on new and innovative approaches to public consultation. Information will be distributed shortly and posted on API's website. In the meantime, for more information please contact:

Stephen Jewczyk, President
SJewczyk@MTPEARL.nf.ca

Elaine Mitchell, Conference Chairperson
EMITCHEL@mail.gov.nf.ca
Stephen Jewczyk is President of the Newfoundland and Labrador branch this term. He sends the following report:

REPORT FROM THE ROCK

This year is turning out to be an exciting year for planning in Newfoundland and Labrador!!!!

A New Year and a New Act

The year began with the Urban and Rural Planning Act 2000 coming into effect on January 1, 2001. This new Act provides municipalities with more responsibility and local autonomy for the planning process. The Act allows municipalities to have more flexibility in preparing plans and development regulations that respond to the size, complexity, and uniqueness of each municipality. In an effort to better inform the public and to expedite the approval process, it is now mandatory that municipal plans and their amendments be accompanied with the development regulations or the amended regulations as part of the plan approval process.

Responsibilities are clearly spelled out in the Act. The provincial role in the planning process relates to matters that are of a provincial interest and as the registrar of adopted municipal plans and regulations. The municipality is responsible for ensuring that adequate public consultation is integrated as part of the local planning process when the municipality prepares municipal plans and regulations that reflect the local interest. Council now has the authority to appoint public hearing commissioners who recommend to Council on the proposed municipal plan, development regulations, and their

amendments. Council is now the final approval authority in the process and, upon approval, the plans are referred to the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs for registration. To ensure appropriate public process, the Province requires that document submissions must include the approved plan, regulation, or amendment, and the public consultation information that formed the Council review process.

It is too early to tell how effective the new planning process will respond to the current development environment, but there are a number of municipalities involved in various stages of the process.

Here a Plan, There a Plan, Everywhere a Plan Plan

With the new Act has come a flurry of municipal plan reviews. The City of St. John's, the City of Mount Pearl, and the Towns of Paradise, Portugal Cove-St. Philips, and Torbay are currently reviewing and updating their municipal plans. Different approaches have been undertaken to respond to the public consultation process under the new Act. As an example, the City of St. John's has employed an outside facilitator to hold a series of public meetings throughout the City to obtain public feedback on the City's proposed new municipal plan.

Everything's Waiting for You "Downtown" (Petula Clarke)

The City of St. John's has just released its "Downtown Strategy for Economic Development and Heritage Preservation". The Strategy was prepared by a consulting team lead by Canning and Pitt Associates over a period of a year and a half. The Strategy addresses municipal leadership, heritage industry support, marketing of the downtown as a place to do business, incentives for reusing older buildings, administrative boundaries of the heritage conservation area, streamlining the application process, and better technical information for homeowners, contractors, and property developers. A final report and four background reports are available to the public upon request.

The Rise of Public Activism

Not since the 1970's has public participation, public debate, and public decision-making been at such a high level regarding planning and development issues in Newfoundland. It seems like every planning proposal or development application evokes major debate on the benefit of the proposal or development to the community and who truly represents the interest of the public. The public has become more sophisticated in



understanding both the issues and processes, and has aggressively attempted to influence the municipal policy and discussion on such matters.

As an example, over the past couple of years, eight neighbourhood associations and, more recently, a city-wide citizens' coalition have become established in St. John's. These groups regularly respond to planning and development initiatives in the City. Two members of the St. John's Citizens' Coalition have announced their intentions to run in the elections for the St. John's Municipal Council in September 2001. This will make for an interesting municipal election in the Capital City. The public debate is just beginning to sizzle.

Fill Your Plate with Planning Issues

Speaking of sizzle, the Branch is continuing with its successful Planners Plate luncheon speakers series. The topics have been tantalizing and have whetted the appetite of those who attended. Recent main courses have included: Jim Price speaking on the sustainable use of the Main River Watershed in January; Jim Case providing an architectural odyssey of South Korea in February; and Dr. Robert Mellin presenting Early Modern Architecture in Newfoundland in May. Newfoundland planners will have to fast until the fall when the Planners Plate series resumes.

API Professional Development Workshop 2001

The Branch is now actively organizing the API Annual Conference. Given the recent focus on public consultation, the conference will be a professional development workshop on public consultation and facilitation.

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Prince Edward Island Branch

The PEI Branch "power base" is at Charlottetown City Hall this term. John Dalton, Charlottetown city planner is branch president, and Don Poole, also a

Charlottetown city planner, serves as secretary-treasurer.

PEI planners extend their thanks to these two busy planners for their sustained interest in branch affairs, and also thank Kingsley Lewis and Anne-Marie Smith who previously served in those positions.

In the news:

Land Use Inventory of Interest to Local Planners

Agriculture and Forestry is now doing a comprehensive land use inventory that examines current land uses such as agriculture patterns, forest conversions, wildlife habitat requirements, soil erosion potential and the forest harvest impact.

Government expects this inventory to aid in reports on the state, health, harvest and management of natural resources. It will provide an accurate picture of current resource conditions and trends in both public and private holdings.

Because so much of the Island is owned and controlled by individuals such as farmers and woodlot owners, the success of the comprehensive land use inventory depends on the cooperation of the private sector.

Branch Activity in 2001

Following up on several recent changes among our small membership, John Dalton, branch president, led the PEI group through a membership roundup early in 2001. This began with an e-mail to everyone on the earlier list asking if there was anyone missing from the list who should be there and who should be receiving future e-mail notices, invitations, and the like for branch business purposes.

Shortly after the roundup the Branch was invited to make a submission to PEI's Signage Policy Review Committee with respect to "provincial policies respecting roadside signage and to make recommendations on the future direction." The committee represents government, the private sector, the tourism industry and Island municipalities.

The branch reached a consensus of its position and ultimately made a presentation to the committee, which went something like this:

Highway Signage Presentation

About API...

... API members adhere to a set of national

policies and a code of practice which identify the importance of professional ethics and the principles of sustainability in planning.

... API is not a preservationist organization committed to anti-development policies. API recognizes the importance of economic growth and development which contributes to the economy, and in turn acts as a driver for the funding of health, education, and social programs and economic development initiatives.

... At some point in their career, most land use planners have worked with developing signage policies and regulations.

The submission then went on to respond to a number of specific focus questions which the committee had asked:

QUESTION 1. What should the objective of a provincial signage policy be ?

... a provincial signage policy should focus on promoting clear, unobstructed directional signage to geographic destinations which can be readily interpreted at normal driving speeds.

Roadside signage is currently the most effective means of directing locals and visitors to destinations across the Province. This focus of moving people and products throughout the Province with precise directional signage should not be undermined by excessive commercial signage - particularly excessive 'unique' commercial signage which can present distractions and confusion to the traveling public.

... moreover, excessive commercial signage can present a disjointed, negative impression to the traveling public when imprinted on the Island landscape. While somewhat dated in appearance, the current HISS (Highway Information Signage System) signs do create the "similar look, similar feel" approach for signage that is now being embraced by the IT sector for creating web sites and home pages on the internet for consumers.

... a web site or home page is largely an "interactive sign" used to capture the attention of users and allow for easy access to various services, information and purchases available on the internet. The idea behind the "similar look, similar feel" approach to web sites allows the participant to become comfortable with a familiar format, familiar functions and access to services and products. This format also allows users to recognize symbols/icons as representing specific functions and outcomes.

... Local, national and transcontinental corporations are also aware of the benefits of presenting consistent roadside signage and corporate logos as a means of

conveying a message to consumers of "here we are - the company you know by name and logo."

... Therefore, a provincial signage policy should strive to build on the current level of the "similar look, similar feel" approach to signage with enhanced HISS signs. Perhaps this will encompass the adoption of widely known symbols for signs (i.e. lodging symbols, service station symbols, attraction symbols, etc.). It may mean adopting colour codes or thematic signs to distinguish restaurants from accommodations and beaches from golf courses. Scale and design of signs is paramount in presenting appropriate signage.

... a signage policy that embraces a comprehensive roadside sign concept for PEI should provide the same comfort to the traveling public as web site designers and private sector corporations seek to achieve with "similar look, similar feel" approaches to conveying a message. In this way, P.E.I. can effectively be packaged as a quality product while preserving the landscape for which many travel to the Island to experience.

QUESTION 2. What needs should highway signage meet?

... highway signage should provide direction to communities, attractions and hard to find locations. ... it should not be advance advertising for businesses and attractions located on the road on which a motorist is traveling, hence acting as an "off lot advertisement" prior to reaching the location. Directional signage to destinations should be the over-riding focus of highway signage.

QUESTION 3. What is the appropriate balance between commercial advertising and protection of the island's landscape?

... surveys point to high percentages (approx. 80%) of visitors travelling to P.E.I. to enjoy the scenery. For those seeking a "landscape experience" when visiting the Island - it may mean absorbing the Island by viewing the rural hedgerows, the rolling hills, row-upon-row of Island potatoes, farm homesteads, seaside villages, rural roads and scenic vistas. Therefore, the attraction of the Island landscape for visitors, and as a public good, should be spared at all reasonable cost in terms of commercial signage.

... Bombardment with excessive commercial signage will most likely create the effect of not being able to "see the forest for the trees" as commercial signs can detach the visitors from the landscape they came to see.

QUESTION 4. What requirements should be in place for on-premise signs ?

... they should be in scale with the size of the business that the sign represents. This relationship of sign size to business size can be accomplished through a basic equation of tying the size of the sign permitted to the size of the building width facing the public right-of-way or to the lot frontage on which the business is located.

... the on-premise sign size is an accurate reflection of the business size. This avoids the potential for skewed sign sizes that are not reflective of the product or scale of the operation (i.e. an over sized sign advertising T-shirt sales for a small roadside business).

... While the Province currently requires a permit for the erection of ground signs through the Department of Tourism, consideration should also be given to requiring permits for fascia (building front) signs that face the public right-of-way. Fascia signs can contribute or detract from the appearance of buildings. This has an impact on landscape.

... As materials, colour and sign design are subjective in nature - it is a difficult area to place specific requirements. However, the Province could adopt "sign guidelines" as a means of establishing a basis from which to measure the appropriateness of signs - both ground signs and fascia signs. This has been an effective practice in the case of the heritage area in downtown Charlottetown where all sign permits are reviewed according to specific criteria - design, materials, colour, and location on building.

... PEI should reserve the right to refuse an on-premise sign it believes to be inferior, offensive in nature, or contrary to the public interest. While this too is subjective, it is important to have an "architectural disharmony" clause in regulations as a means of rejecting unsightly signage.

QUESTION 5. What type of off-premise signs should be allowed and how should they be regulated?

... off-premise signs should not be permitted other than those permitted by HISS. Off-premise signage is the beginning of the road with no return where competition in the "one-up-manship" mentality reigns as businesses compete to justify the proliferation of off-premise signs.

QUESTION 6. What is the appropriate role for



municipalities in regulating signs ?

... P.E.I. has 75 municipalities comprised of 2 cities, 7 towns, and 66 communities. Those municipalities that can dedicate the necessary financial and human resources to creating and enforcing signage bylaws more stringent and /or more extensive than the Province should be permitted to do so provided the bylaws are enforced.
 ... it seems appropriate that municipalities which are more urban in nature (cities and towns) should be permitted to establish bylaws as the urban experience varies considerably from the rural.

QUESTION 7. How can the Province best administer a signage policy to meet the objectives?

... a financial commitment is required by the Province to ensure adequate staffing levels are maintained to review and approve the signs erected within Provincial jurisdiction. Part of the administration will require sign regulations, sign design guidelines and increased coordination between government departments.
 ... Specifically, a communication link could be developed between the building permit authority and the sign permit authority to share information regarding building permit approvals and the subsequent requirement for signage review by tourism. This communication could act as a trigger for the signage authority to be aware of the requirement for a sign permit.
 ... Currently, the property developer is required to present the sign application to the Tourism Department for approval. The link to Community and Cultural Affairs could further PEI's goal of achieving "one-stop shopping" for building permits.

SOME ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS:
 Technology plays a vital role in our daily lives. New technologies and initiatives could have implications for a reduction in overall signage needs when considering:

... advances in on-line map sites allows individuals to print maps, review travelling routes and travelling times from a personal computer at home or at work in a different part of the world. On-line internet advances allow individuals to book and pay for accommodations, restaurants, attractions and other services prior to departing for the journey
 ... some automobiles can receive real time geographic information, graphic map displays and directions from within the automobile while travelling
 ... the 911 Emergency Response System has required the naming of every street and private road in the Province
 ... For many visitors, the length of a

vacation has decreased - hence the need for advanced planning prior to arrival for accommodations, activities, etc. has increased.

Conclusions:

Signage is an important means for a business to present itself. The Island landscape is an important component of the Island tourism industry. Meshing the two interests is critical to sustaining the tourism industry. Consideration should be given to landscape as a public good much in the same manner as water and air are considered public goods worthy of protection.

... As exit surveys point to high percentages of visitors seeking a "landscape experience" when visiting PEI, failure to protect the value of the landscape may contribute to the demise of the industry if those seeking a unique landscape experience are dissatisfied with an abundance of inappropriate roadside signs which interfere with the enjoyment of the Island landscape.

... Does increased individuality in sign size, design, colour and materials achieve the end goal of presenting the Island as a superior tourism product worthy of repeat visitations ? Or does the free market approach to signage threaten the tourism industry and turn back the clock 25 years by requiring future legislation to remove signs unsympathetic and inappropriate in scale and design to the Island landscape

... It would appear that the path toward appropriate directional and informational signage has been established with the current HISS signs. The HISS sign path may need upgrading, but not a new direction.

Prepared and presented by
 PEI Branch, API

.....
New Brunswick Branch

Gilles Guérette, MCIP, has made his career in New Brunswick over a period that spans more than 30 years. He has been very active in API affairs in the past, and was elected this year as President of the New Brunswick Branch, a post previously held by Michelle Couturier. Gilles has now commenced to make contacts which will probably result in a



report on
 Branch
 Activities for
 the next
 newsletter.

Having served as President of the New Brunswick Branch when it first became active in the mid-80's, he observes, "When I look back at the activities of the Branch since that time, I realize that it has fulfilled the expectations we had when it was founded: namely to be an informal means for New Brunswick Planners to get together from time to time to share ideas on issues specific to our Province."

M. Guérette says there are clear indications that NB Planners are interested in potential Branch activities. He expects to have the support of several active members in future branch activities. His work has thoroughly familiarized him with planning in his province, and we thank him for sharing some of that acquired wisdom in the following article, presented first in French, and followed by an English translation:

De l'urbanisme au développement durable ... mais au-delà?

Nouvelle époque, nouveaux outils pour le Nouveau-Brunswick ...

Il y a plus de huit ans que la Commission sur l'utilisation des terres et l'aménagement rural (la CUTER) a remis son rapport final au gouvernement. Comme le recommandait la CUTER, toute la province est maintenant entièrement desservie par des commissions d'aménagement: douze au total, y compris la Commissions d'aménagement rural établie à "base temporaire" pour veiller sur le reste du territoire jusqu'à ce que ces secteurs établissent leurs propres commissions. Au niveau provincial, cependant, la structure de planification, comme le processus de



planification ne sont pas si évidents.

Huit ans après la CUTER, il n'est pas certain que les politiques provinciales recommandées par cette commission pour traiter d'une gamme de questions jugées critiques, n'aboutiront à quelque chose. Il n'y a toujours pas d'indications quand la Loi sur l'urbanisme (1972) sera révisée; ni même si elle le sera. Lorsque la loi actuelle fut adoptée en 1972, la Direction de l'urbanisme faisait partie du Ministère des Affaires municipales. Depuis cette période, dans la capitale provinciale, la planification a fait l'objet d'une "odyssée interministérielle". Après une brève intégration au Ministère de l'Environnement, elle est devenue la Direction de la planification de l'utilisation des terres au sein du Ministère des Municipalités, Culture et Habitation. À l'heure actuelle, elle se trouve en quelque part parmi les diverses branches et divisions du Ministère de l'Environnement et des Gouvernements locaux, où elle est connue comme Direction de la planification de l'aménagement durable. Le seul résultat perceptible de cette saga est la réduction de son personnel professionnel et technique.

Une fois proclamés, les amendements récents à la Loi sur l'urbanisme du Nouveau-Brunswick auront pour effet d'augmenter les droits de permis de construction en milieu rural de \$5.00 à un niveau s'approchant d'une formule plus fidèle aux véritables coûts d'inspection. Aussi, la Commission d'appel en matière d'urbanisme sera fusionnée à la commission d'appel à l'impôt foncier. Mais au delà de ces amendements de nature routinière, on peut se demander ce qu'une loi totalement révisée pourrait ressembler, 29 années après son adoption en 1972 de la loi actuelle. Ceci ne veut pas dire que la planification de l'aménagement disparaisse pour autant. Les commissions d'aménagement font bonne figure en matière de planification municipale et locale au Nouveau-Brunswick. Et plusieurs questions émergentes appellent encore au besoin pour l'implication de la profession d'urbanisme. Le Programme de



protection des champs d'alimentation en eau qu'introduit présentement le Ministère de l'Environnement et des Gouvernements locaux, et dans l'avenir, les mesures à venir sur la protection des bassins hydrographiques d'alimentation en eaux municipales sont des questions demandant l'implication de nous tous impliqués dans la planification de l'aménagement. En effet, nous devons soulever ces questions de première importance pour le public en général. Les programmes de protection des champs et bassins d'alimentation en eau peuvent s'avérer une opportunité permettant d'établir notre position en relation aux efforts de planification de l'appareil gouvernemental de la province.

Lorsqu'au début des années 1970 la loi actuelle était en rédaction, la province était directement impliquée dans l'implantation de programmes Fédéral/Provinciaux (Mactaquac, programmes ARDA, les programmes du Nord-est). Pour cette raison, la planification régionale est apparue comme la solution pour aider à l'implantation de ces programmes sur les territoires impliqués. Mais les situations ont changé avant même qu'un seul plan régional ne soit adopté.

La situation actuelle, pour sa part, est caractérisée entre autres par l'intégration de la direction de l'urbanisme au sein du Ministère de l'Environnement. Il se peut que ceci mène vers une vision où la planification de l'aménagement du terrain sera intégrée de manière plus proche de considérations environnementales. De plus, des concepts comme celui de "développement durable" et plus récemment de "croissance réfléchie" ("smart growth") ne fonctionneront pas non plus sans une meilleure intégration entre la gestion du développement économique, de l'aménagement du terrain, et de leur impact sur les caractéristiques environnementales du milieu naturel. Il semble évident qu'avant de modifier la Loi sur l'Urbanisme, il serait sage de déterminer de quelle manière les nombreux partenaires au processus de planification feront usage de ce nouvel outil. Il s'avère essentiel de connaître dans quelle direction se situe la vision des élus actuels, et particulièrement le Ministère de l'Environnement et des Gouvernements locaux.

En toute éventualité, l'approche la plus plausible pour garantir une fin positive au processus semblerait être, avant d'aborder la Loi comme telle, de mettre en place les éléments suivants:

1) au sein de l'appareil gouvernemental, une structure permettant d'effectuer la planification de l'aménagement,

2) une vision officielle de la structure de liaison entre la province et le milieu local (municipal, rural, régional) en mesure d'élaborer et de coordonner les politiques provinciales et locales, et
 3) une définition du processus prévu pour le développement de ces politiques, et pour leur implantation à tous les niveaux de gestion des structures sociales (provinciales, régionales, locales).

La Loi sur l'urbanisme est sous juridiction de l'Assemblée législative. Elle repose sur le leadership, et la direction du Ministre responsable pour la planification de l'aménagement. La Ministre de l'Environnement et des Gouvernements locaux, de concert avec ses collègues du Conseil des Ministres sont, en fin de compte, celles qui doivent consentir au processus. La volonté politique est le premier élément fondamental à tout le processus. Mais pour atteindre sa fin, une nouvelle vision des résultats doit être définie et encouragée par la profession des urbanistes, les commissions d'aménagement, les comités consultatifs et les juridictions municipales de la province. Gilles Guérette, Micu

From Community Planning to Sustainable Development ... but beyond?

New era and New tools for New Brunswick ...

It has been over eight years since in New Brunswick the Commission on Land Use and the Rural Environment (CLURE) has submitted its final report to Government. As recommended by CLURE, the entire Province is now fully served by planning commissions: twelve including the Rural Planning Commission which has been established on a "temporary basis" to look after the remainder of the territory until those areas set up their own commissions. At the Provincial level, however, the land use planning structure, and the planning process are not as obvious.

Eight years after CLURE, it is not clear whether the provincial policies recommended by that Commission to address a series of issues considered critical, will go anywhere. There are still no indications when the Community Planning Act (1972) will be reviewed, or even whether it will be reviewed. When the present Community Planning Act was passed in 1972, the Community Planning Branch was part of the Department of Municipal Affairs. Since that time in provincial capital, planning has been the object of an "interdepartmental odyssey".

After a brief integration with the Department of Environment, it became the Land Use Planning Branch of the Department of Municipalities, Culture and Housing. Currently it is found somewhere among the various branches and divisions of the Department of Environment and Local Government, where it has been renamed the Sustainable Planning Branch. The only obvious result of this saga has been the reduction of professional and technical staff of the Planning Branch.

When they are proclaimed, recent amendments to the Community Planning Act of New Brunswick will result in fees for a building permit in rural areas being raised from \$5.00 to a level closer to a formula which will enable the recovery of building inspection costs. The Provincial Planning Appeal Board will be abolished and merged in with the Tax Appeal Board. But beyond those “house cleaning” amendments, one may wonder what would a completely new Community Planning Act look like in New Brunswick, 29 years after the adoption in 1972 of the present Act. This is not to say that land use planning is non-existent. Planning Commissions are very much part of the municipal and local planning landscape of New Brunswick. And there are several arising issues which still need input from the planning profession.

In the early 1970's, when the present Planning Act was being drafted, the Province was involved extensively in implementing Federal Provincial Development Programs (Mactaquac, ARDA programs, the Northeast Program). For that reason, regional planning appeared to be a solution to help implement those programs for the parts of the Province affected by them. But these situations have changed even before a single regional plan had been adopted.

The situation today is characterized, among other things, by the integration of the Land Use Planning Branch with the Department of Environment. Perhaps this may lead to a vision where land use planning will be more closely related to environmental considerations. Furthermore, concepts such as “sustainable development” and more recently “smart growth” will not work either without a much better integration of management efforts between social trends and forces, economic development, land development, and their impact on environmental features of natural areas. Quite obviously, before the Planning Act is revamped, it would be wise to determine how various partners to the planning process would be using the new tool.

There is a need to know what direction is intended by the current elected officials, and particularly by the Department of Environment and Local Government.

In any event, it seems that an approach to take in order to guarantee that the process reaches its term would be, before tackling the Act itself, to first have the following elements in place:

1) within government itself, the structure which would enable land use planning,

- 2) an official vision of the structure linking the Province and local areas (municipal, rural, regional) capable to develop and coordinate provincial and local policies, and
- 3) a definition of the process anticipated for the development of those policies and their implementation of all levels in the management of community structures (provincial, regional, local).

The Planning Act is under the jurisdiction of the Legislature. It relies on the leadership, and direction of the Minister responsible for Community (Land Use) Planning. The Minister of Environment and Local Government, together with her colleagues in Cabinet are, ultimately, the people who must give their consent to the process. The political willingness is the first essential element of the process. But before it reaches its term, a vision of the outcome needs to be defined and promoted within the planning profession, the planning commissions, planning advisory committees, and municipal jurisdictions of the Province.

By Gilles Guérette, MCIP

.....
We are pleased to provide a brief summary of Gilles Guérette's career achievements, although as most planners will understand, these are only the highlights:

- Professional Associations*
- * *Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (1972)*
 - * *President of the Atlantic Planners Institute (1975-1976)*
 - * *Current Chairman of the New*

Brunswick Branch of the Planning Institute (also first Chairman, 1984 /85)

- Planning Related Experience*
- * *District Director, Restigouche Planning District Commission since 1976.*
 - * *Commission on Land Use and the Rural Environment (CLURE) (1992-1993); Part-time staff and co-author of the final report in 1993.*
 - * *Community Planning Branch, Department of Municipal Affairs, Fredericton (1970-1976), Planner and Senior Planner.*
 - * *Community Improvement Corporation, Fredericton, Planning Demographer (1967-1968).*
 - * *Studies*
 - * *Bachelor of Arts (1965), University of Moncton.*
 - * *Master of City Planning (1970) University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.*

M. Guérette lives in Campbellton, New Brunswick.

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Nova Scotia Branch

Peter Nelson reports on Nova Scotia branch activities, which continue to revolve around the "ground-breaking" process for official status of planning professionals. This process is being watched with great interest by all of API.

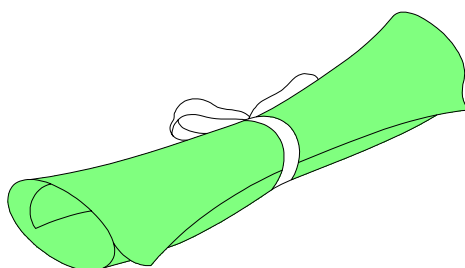
NSAPP Update
Planning Legislation - Act

Implementation Committee

This year the NSAPP Executive and the Act Implementation Committee worked towards having a private members bill introduced into the legislature. We received positive support for our efforts from the Architects and Engineers, for which we are grateful. We also invited the Planning Technicians and the Municipal Development Officers to participate in this initiative, however, after some consideration, that invitation was declined and both organizations objected in writing to the proposed "Planning Professions Act". The Act Implementation Committee was disappointed by this lack of support and consequently decided to proceed with the original "Professional Planners Act" given the original mandate. With so much time lost and a short spring legislative period, the committee has opted to attempt the fall sitting.

In the mean time the committee was asked to have the Department of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations provide comment on the proposed legislation and to attempt to resolve the issues with regard to the Development Officers and Planning Technicians. This has been pursued, and the comments of the legal advisors at the Department have been forwarded to the Committee. These in turn will be forwarded with recommendations to the Executive of NSAPP for an opinion on whether or not the suggestions are substantive to the original document.

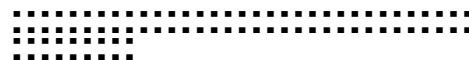
In the meantime the Committee will be pursuing discussions with the Department, the Development Officers and the Planning



Technicians to try and resolve outstanding issues. It is hoped that all this can be resolved for the Legislative Council and before the fall sitting of the House. Through publishing this PEN article the Committee would as always like to have the opinions of the general membership of API. Please forward any comments to <pnelson@town.truro.ns.ca> and they will be forwarded to the Committee

Respectfully Submitted;
P.A. Nelson - Chair, Act Implementation Committee

Last, but not least, we commend Nova Scotia Association of Professional Planners for their offer to host the 2003 CIP CONFERENCE. We are hopeful that our other branches will support this effort with their interest, their assistance, their moral support and their attendance.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



Membership Committee Report

Over the last eight months the Membership Committee only met once, in January 2001, to discuss membership issues. During this meeting the Membership Committee elected one planner to Full Membership; three planners to Provisional Membership; and credited a total of 6 years of

experience for three planners.

During this time the Membership chair also met with the National Membership Committee in Ottawa in January to discuss and recommend for action a number of issues common to all the affiliates. Specifically the Committee discussed issued related Membership recruitment and retention and as always when this item comes up for discussion a significant amount of time was spent discussing the written and oral exams. The Committee therefore discussed standardization of membership criteria, including proposed changes to the written exam (both the exam questions and the options open to a planner writing the exam) and clarification of what is expected from candidates taking the oral exam.

The local Committee also saw a chapter close on its long tenure as Bernadet Samulski resigned from the Committee. Bernadet has served the Committee and the Membership as both the New Brunswick representative and as chair of

the Committee. When she made it known that she would be stepping down as Committee chair she agreed to stay on as a provincial representative until a suitable replacement was found. Also I suspect that her deep commitment to membership matters would not allow her to simply leave without making sure the new guy could do the job of Chair. So while we will miss Bernadet on the Committee we can thank her for a job well done and wish her all the best with her real life. And the Band played on ...

In closing as chair of the Membership Committee I would like to thank my fellow Committee members as well as Christine Helm for their continued professionalism and perseverance over the last number of months. Specifically I would like to thank Bernadet for her work on the Committee and welcome Wilson Bell as our new New Brunswick representative. And last but not least I would also like to commend those who have been elected to Full or Provisional Membership as listed below.

Respectfully Submitted:
John Bain, MCIP

Full Memberships: Jillian Patton
Provisional Memberships: Brad Fulton,
Colleen Humphries, Greg Zwicker

MEMBERSHIP ACTIONS AT API COUNCIL

John Bain, the Chairman of the Membership Committee attended the Council meeting to review a number of items raised at the National Membership Committee meeting. He indicated that

Your letters, comments, suggestions and articles will be welcomed at:

**Planners Pen
47 Warburton Drive
Charlottetown PE C1A 8Z3
Telephone: (902) 892-1493
E-mail: dfriesen@isn.net**

there are 3 major issues:

1. the oral interview/exam process;
2. standardization of the membership process for non-degree practitioners; and
3. the written exam.

DISCUSSION: It is clear that the oral examination is intended to be a true exam by affiliates nationally. The National Membership Committee adopted a motion to remove all ambiguity with this issue to clearly indicate that it is an exam. The affiliates agreed to standardize the oral exam process by 2006. The exam is to be applied with rigour and is to follow the CIP membership guidelines. National Council has subsequently endorsed the motion passed by the National Membership Committee.

The non-degree practitioners issue has been referred to the affiliates for comment. It is clear that the process differs by affiliate at present. Ontario has a process to admit non-degree practitioners while Alberta

strongly opposes permitting those without degrees to become full members. The National Membership Committee has requested input from the affiliates by the end of 2001. Further communication from CIP will be forthcoming to enable discussion at the affiliate level. The information can be placed on the web site and comment solicited from the membership on this issue.

In the written exam a 4th question has been added dealing with planning theory. National Membership Committee enables the exam to be written, invigilated,

or take-home. API currently requires an invigilated exam. Manitoba is the only other affiliate with such a formal approach.

DECISIONS:

The Membership Committee to develop a recommended process for the written exam.

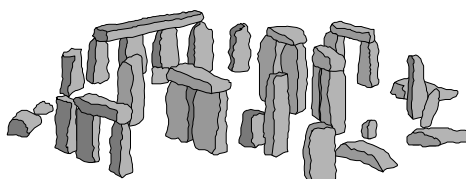
Refer CIP policy for non-degree practitioners to the NS Legislation Committee for comment.

The following people are appointed by Council to mark written exams. Newfoundland : Ken O'Brien, Dennis Knight, Mary Bishop
New Brunswick: Armand Robichaud (French exams), Gilles Guerette, Bernadet Samulski
PE and NS appointments are yet to be made.

API Membership Committee: Ed Kaufhold, Wilson Bell, Dennis Friesen, John Bain.

Letters of appreciation will be sent to past API Councillors and Membership Committee representatives.

API's affiliate agreement for 2001 with CIP is \$1,500 for CIP to provide administrative services. Council is satisfied with the quality of service being provided by CIP.



Planners Pen

**Newsletter of the Atlantic Planners Institute/ Le bulletin de l'Institut des urbanistes de l'Atlantique
an affiliate of the Canadian Institute of Planners/un member de l'Institut canadien des Urbanistes**
