

Planners Pen

A.P.I. at Ground Zero? Professional Planners and Planning

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL

Planners at Ground Zero

THE PREZ SEZ

It's a new Administration!

LOOKING AHEAD IN API

API Council action

FROM CIP COUNCIL

New urban research effort

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Work that is worthy of
honourable mention

MESSAGES FROM THE SCHOOLS

Changes

CIP CONFERENCE, 2003

Nova Scotia beckons

API FALL CONFERENCE 2001

Newfoundland hosted

API BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Newfoundland & Labrador

Prince Edward Island

New Brunswick

Nova Scotia

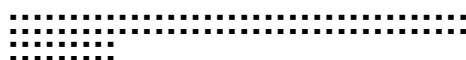
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Discussion



EDITORIAL:

Are we at Ground Zero?



As this issue of Planners Pen goes to press, the devastation of September 11 continues to prey on people's minds. Not only among those who experienced "Ground Zero", but also among those of us who watched and heard the reports from afar. This was a devastation masterminded by clever, if deranged, self-appointed planners whose goals and objectives are diametrically opposite to those that represent our profession -- goals and



objectives that were carefully crafted to introduce havoc, chaos and death where there has been beauty, order and life.

Professional planners pride themselves in their methodologies for intervening in a broad variety of ways in society to empower communities to make their places better, to care for their disadvantaged and to prepare for a brighter future. Planners work to help people in communities harmonize their existence together as neighbourhoods representing North America's global ethnic spectrum. They work to engender in people respect for one another and healthy interaction in groups and individuals – to instill and build a sense of pride and a sense of place that clearly works to bind a diverse society together.

While this may come out sounding somewhat platitudinous, we need to realize that our Atlantic Planners Institute has apparently been encountering its own "Ground Zero". As reported in this newsletter and on the Web, Stan Clinton and John Jarvie courageously undertook an Atlantic Canada journey to obtain input from API's planners in a series of informal meetings. They were on a "ground zero" circuit that sought to redefine the mission of API, the range of services it ought to be offering its members, and the "spin" it

ought to place on the definition of planning. This latter quest was specifically to help API to cope with the ever-increasing difficulty of defining what a professional planner is and does.

According to our "mother ship", the CIP, Planning "means the scientific, aesthetic, and orderly disposition of land, resources, facilities and services with a view to securing the physical, economic and social efficiency, health and well-being of urban and rural communities."

CIP further goes on to say that "responsible planning has always been vital to the sustainability of safe, healthy, and secure urban environments. Canada's population is growing and, with more people migrating from rural to urban areas, the planning profession must increasingly deal with urbanization issues, such as:

- conversion of land from natural habitats to urban built areas,
- maintenance and use of natural resources and habitats,
- development of transportation related infrastructure,
- environmental protection."

CIP also reminds us that our profession, in addition to its interest in land use, also leans toward the sweeping range of tasks described as:

- planning social and community services,
- managing cultural and heritage resources,
- creating economic capacity in local communities,
- addressing transportation and infrastructure, and
- working internationally."

Altogether, a neat and capacious bag of tricks, don't you think?

But in spite of this definitive national statement, we affiliates seem to be still at Ground Zero. It's as though we're not entirely happy with our adopted planning definition. We're still plagued with the

problem, in some cases, of professional planners who do not subscribe to Institute membership. We continue to debate the wisdom of our entrance requirements. We try to measure the variety of skills which newly-enrolled planners must experience before they become eligible for "Full" membership, and we worry about opening our doors to associates and to practitioners who don't have the requisite diplomas.

Nova Scotia's planners have worked long and hard on the concept of legislating that province's planning profession, and other API branches have all held discussions. And while we strive for professional solidarity, in four distinctly different provinces, we are not yet altogether confident in defining ourselves as a profession.

In 1969, Alfred Kahn, social planner said, "PLANNING as a process is in evolution. The word conjures up varied images. To some, it is as all-inclusive as thinking. To others, it is as delineated as specific time-phased programming."

In 1972, Gordon Taylor stated, "to build an Utopian society we need to produce Utopian citizens. And even if we aim at something less ambitious than Utopia, it is still the case that we are limited by the defects of human behaviour..."

Kevin Lynch, reknowned site planner writing between 1962 and 1975, mused, "... handsome places we know seem to have grown naturally, while recently planned areas are ugly and uncomfortable. If that is true, why do we make ... plans?"

So how far have we come in three decades? How near are we coming to fitting in comfortably to the planning definition that, in a "one-size-fits-all" attempt, struggles to describe us all?

Not yet near enough, we think.
.....

In this newsletter issue we are pleased to present reports and items of planning activities in our region. We highlight discussions and debate from API Council and actions coming out of CIP headquarters. Finally, our newsletter gives web-site and membership committee information and presents messages from our academic members. We sincerely thank all who contributed to this issue of Planners Pen.

.....
THE PREZ SEZ:
.....

"In the next issue of the Pen will you please include a notice to the effect that Alex Forbes was elected President," Past President Stan Clinton said to us recently when we had commended him for his hard work for us during his term in office. But as an afterthought he modestly added, "Thanks for your thoughts. I will still be around as I now assume the role of API representative on National Council."

We all know what that means. Lots more work! And Stan Clinton has taken this on with the same enthusiasm shown by John Jarvie before him. Our Institute is grateful and fortunate to have people like these, dedicated to API's service.
~~~~~

**Subject:** Alex Forbes, New API President

**Description:** Alex Forbes, City of Fredericton, was elected API President at the AGM in St. John's. Alex is originally from PEI and is a 1991 TUNS graduate.

*He was Secretary and NB rep on Council for a number of years in the mid-nineties and has been an avid supporter of our institute and our profession throughout his career.*

**Date Posted:** 10/18/01

*We've launched a new administration. Alex Forbes, API's new president as of the October election, sends the following message:*

**Greetings from the President ...**

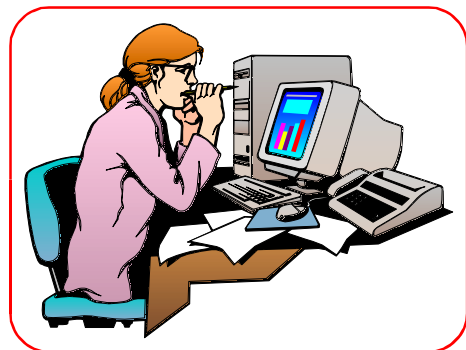
At our recent AGM in St. John's Newfoundland, I was elected as your new president.

I would like to thank the membership who voted in the recent election for participating. It has always been my belief that the strength of our profession lies in the participation of the larger membership and not in the executive. As your president, I will attempt to pursue the initiatives that are important to you. I would suggest that any members with issues or concerns should forward them to their branch representative or call me directly. In the next couple of weeks, I will be talking to the branch presidents to get a handle on what is going on in each of the provinces. If you would like to call me directly, please do so at 506-460-2080.

As I pointed out in my election flyer, I think that we need to work as a group on the issue of advocacy for professional planning. Each member should think of a way that they can promote the planning profession in their community during the year. Speaking to various audiences such as students in schools and universities,

service clubs, Chambers of Commerce groups, etc. are all important venues where we can disseminate our message.

I also think that on-going professional development is critical to ensure that our members are current with recent developments in the field and knowledgeable about best practice experiences. And finally, I think that all of the branches should be pursuing the issue of professional licensing in their respective provinces. Nova Scotia has led the Institute in this regard and the other branches may wish to follow suit. In closing, I look forward to working with



you for the next couple of years to make API a stronger affiliate of CIP.

Alex Forbes MCIP



**API LOOKING AHEAD:**



~~~~~  
RECOGNIZING GOOD WORK:

Special Recognition of Planning Projects

API Council recently invited members to send recommendations or nominations for SPECIAL RECOGNITION of PLANNING PROJECTS that might be considered as works of excellence. We are planners spread throughout four Atlantic provinces, and a lot of good work is produced in our region every year. But aside from our annual conferences, we don't get many opportunities to share our projects with one another.

The last Planners Pen challenged planners to think about projects that are going on each day in the Atlantic Region. We asked API members to submit nominations for consideration by Council ... nominations of planning projects worthy of honourable mention, and possibly an award for excellence.

Have you considered submitting a nomination? Do it now! Student submissions are also welcome.

API Council continues to request submissions from the membership of projects that would be of interest to practicing planners in the region. These submissions will not only serve to provide information for planners, but will also serve in a broader sense to nominate works for Atlantic Planners Institute recognition and awards.

Here are the simple steps you need to take:

1. Take a few minutes to prepare a summary description of the project which you feel worthy of honourable mention .
2. List the persons who did the work, and include a brief summary of their respective contributions to the project. Don't forget names and addresses. Include also the names of any institution, corporation, group or sponsor involved.
3. Give the site or location of the project and describe any local or regional enhancements that may have resulted from the project.

API Council looks forward to highlighting these nominations to show everyone what our members are achieving in their professional lives.

Submissions may be by e-mail to:

Ken Forrest, MCIP
City of Fredericton, Development Services Department
ken.forrest@city.fredericton.nb.ca

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

Nominate a work of professional excellence! Please note that nominated student projects would also be most welcome ...

API Works of Excellence Committee Named

API Council intends that the committee would review submissions and select a winning entries from the lot. The intent would be to give all the nominees some promotion of their projects in the Pen.

Here is the excerpt from the Council minutes of October 2001:

The API initiative to recognize works of excellence was discussed. There needs to be an awards committee to implement this program. The branches suggested the following nominees for the Committee:

- Elaine Mitchell - NF*
- Kingsley Lewis - PE*
- Gavin Hubley - NB*
- Maurice Lloyd - NS*

The purpose of the works of excellence program is to publicize some of the work being done by members in professional and academic practice. The Pen will be used to publicize these projects to the larger membership and the Awards Committee will also select a best project to be recognized at next year's API Conference.

COUNCIL MOVED to proceed with the program as proposed.

STUDENT AWARDS API

This is a further 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

API and CIP WEB SITES

If you haven't yet explored planning web pages, API Council suggests you start with:

- http://www.atlanticplanners.org/**
(location of the API web site)
- http://www.cip-icu.ca/**
(location of the CIP web site)

Why not log on and see for yourself?

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 has been available and requests should be made through the student representatives on Council.

MOST RECENT API COUNCIL SESSIONS

The following excerpts from our most recent Atlantic Planners Institute Council decisions are provided for your information.

Secrecy of the ballot: the names of voters will be torn off the envelopes prior to giving them unopened to the scrutineers. It was the consensus of Council that ballots that cannot be identified prior to opening will not be counted and will be destroyed. Council will review the by-laws as they relate to elections to determine if any amendments are necessary.

Ken Forrest to appoint Mary Bishop to complete the 2000 audit for API.

Revised budget: the budget is proposed to be balanced with \$28,950 of revenues and expenditures. Council accepted the 2001 budget and year-to-date information. It was noted that API has \$46,000 in the bank account, \$27,000 in GIC's and \$2,500 in receivables.

It was recommended that the draft 2002 budget be placed on the API web site. It was the consensus of Council to do this.

Donna Davis reported that the following people are members of the NS executive: Greg Zwicker, Michael Poulton, Peter Nelson, and Paul Smith. Donna is continuing as President. The executive is keen and active.

National Council: John Jarvie reported that he has attended his last CIP Council meeting and that Stan Clinton will be taking over as the API representative on National Council. He reported that CIP has improved the staffing of the National Office. There are now 4 people working in the office. A communications person and a new secretary have been hired recently. CIP has spent a lot of time dealing with financial issues. The finances have been largely straightened out and Council is focused on implementing the strategic plan that has been prepared..

2001 CIP Conference was extremely successful. There was very strong attendance and the event was profitable. John noted that international programs have also been the subject of a lot of work by CIP Council. The student intern programs and the programs in place with CIDA need to be promoted.

Ad to be placed in newspapers advising of Dennis Friesen's appointment as a fellow.

It is projected that the 2001 API Conference will break even at the very least.

Membership: A request has been received from CIP to have John Bain, API Membership Chair, attend a meeting of the National Membership Committee in November in Ottawa. API to pay for the expenses of John Bain to attend the National Membership Committee meeting. The position of API Council on the issues to be addressed at the National meeting must be conveyed to John Bain. Council also decided that the Past President should sit ex-officio on the Membership Committee to provide better liaison between Council and the Committee.

Education Committee: The longevity of the undergraduate program at the amalgamated Dalhousie/NSCAD planning program needs to be addressed. The role of the graduate and the undergraduate program was discussed. It was agreed that either Council or the new president and Donna Davis should meet with the faculty to discuss this issue. In particular, the capacity of the planning education program, the lack of supply of new planners, and the future of the undergraduate programs are issues that need to be addressed.

API Council will write to Tom Emodi at Dalhousie asking to participate in the discussions about the future of the undergraduate planning program at the university. It was decided to request an update on the programs and offer API's advice and support as employers of professional planners to design the best planning education program possible.

Council also discussed the question of the student representatives attending Council meetings. It was agreed that the student reps have to be informed of their obligations to represent student interests and Council should see if any further assistance could be provided to facilitate participation.

By-law Committee: The Committee should review the by-laws as it relates to the balloting process for API presidential elections. He also indicated that the Committee should look at the advisability of having faculty representation on Council. The by-laws dealing with cheque signing authority should also be reviewed.

Awards Committee: Two nominations for the API Student Awards have been received. Patrick Moan from the graduate program and Jamie Orser from the undergrad program have been nominated. API Student Awards will go to the nominees pending confirmation that they are student members of API.

Works of excellence: The API initiative to recognize works of excellence was discussed. There needs to be an awards committee to implement this program. The purpose of the works of excellence program is to publicize some of the work being done by members in professional and academic practice. The Pen will be used to publicize these projects to the larger membership and the Awards Committee will also select a best project to be recognized at the API Conference.

Council reviewed the responses to date from the membership on the OPPI Journal initiative. It was agreed that it was too early to make a decision on whether the Journal should be distributed regularly given the limited number of responses to date. It was agreed that further input should be requested at the AGM. Council

will review this item at its next meeting or by conference call to make a decision on whether regular distribution should be pursued.

Council discussed the advisability of having a faculty representative on Council. A formal faculty appointment to Council would be expensive and further add to API's administrative costs. Instead, it was proposed that one Council meeting per year be held in Halifax and that a block of time be set aside to meet with the faculty as well as the students to better liaise with the school. It was also agreed that the Council minutes would be circulated to faculty for their information.

Appointment of Fellows: Maurice Lloyd has suggested that a committee of members should be established to nominate fellows. A committee of the following people was suggested: Maurice Lloyd, Chair
Stephen Jewczyk, NF
Dennis Friesen, PE
Peter Nelson, NS
Armand Robichaud, NB
Council agreed to create a Fellows Committee and to invite the members identified to serve on the Committee.

Associate Member Plan: The Plan prepared by CIP was tabled. Ken Forrest indicated that in his view, there aren't many perks proposed to encourage membership given the price and the bundle of services to be provided. Forrest wasn't opposed to the concept, however. Donna Davis agreed that it is a good idea but an attractive product has to be provided to encourage people to sign up. Ken Forrest pointed out that the APA membership fee is the same as the differential conference registration fee between members and non-members. This encourages people to join as they then receive the APA publication Planning. Associate members

should not be involved in CIP governance issues, the focus should be on a package of services.

Council decided the Associate Member Plan doesn't deserve to be a priority. CIP should focus on improving services first and to stop losing existing members.

The Retention and Recruitment Paper prepared by CIP was tabled. Donna Davis stated that this is a positive initiative for both CIP and the affiliates. Donna stated that it is critical to have good data to make this effort successful. It is important to know when and why people choose not to renew their memberships. It was noted that some of the suggestions in the paper involve a lot of administrative work that may be difficult for small affiliates to cope with. John Jarvie suggested that it is not necessary to involve telemarketing or direct mail firms. It was suggested that promotional materials might be generic in nature and designed such that the affiliates can add relevant information as well. Stan Clinton suggested that retention will be most successful if it is focused at the local level. CIP should look at having an entry and exit survey or interview to get better information on member needs. Ken Forrest stated that the key in his view is for services to be stabilized and improved. CIP membership needs to be valued by both planners and their employers.

The Special Admissions paper from CIP was tabled. Ken Forrest stated that he has problems with the paper. On the one hand, CIP is encouraging professional legislation for planners and at the same time, CIP is looking to loosen membership criteria. He questioned how these two seemingly different directions can be reconciled with each other. Donna Davis stated that planners are either professionals or they aren't. The definition of a professional used by most involves having some type of



formal university education in a given field. Council questions as to how many non-degree potential members are out there. It seems that nearly all new planners have at least an undergraduate degree. Council thought that CIP should focus first on the associate member approach to try to capture people working in the planning field without degrees.

The discussion paper should be posted to the web site for the information of members and to seek their feedback. API Council does not support the recommendations contained in the Standardization of Membership Requirements Discussion Paper.

Student Funding: In light of the amalgamation of the NSCAD and Dalhousie planning education programs. Council agreed that \$1,000 should be available with a maximum of \$100 to be provided to each student member for travel to CAPS, CIP, or API Conferences. Council agreed to send a letter to the student representative advising of API's policy and state that API is prepared to consider changes if the students come back with a proposal.

Fees: The CIP proposed fee increase paper was tabled. First, the report indicates there was a 15% increase in membership in the late 1990's yet revenues stayed stable. He also stated that the graphs included in the report don't seem to indicate much of an increase in expenditures for member services looking forward to 2005. Council however did not have a concern with the increase provided that there are clear improvements in member services.

Council then discussed API fees for 2002. Council agreed to keep fees at present levels for 2002 given API's reserves and projected expenditures.

New API Discussion Forum

API Webmaster, Mark Poirier has set up a new API Discussion Forum (which you should join, he says, if you have not already done so). The web site is: <http://www.communityzero.com/api-iaa>

It's our understanding that 10-15% of our API membership have already signed on, and Mark Poirier has already tested the system by posting an opinion. Following is that opinion, along with one of the early responses.

We felt the issues being discussed were an excellent illustration of API's Ground Zero situation described in the editorial to this issue:

The Future of Undergraduate Planning in the Atlantic Provinces:

Nobody appears to want to comment on the future of undergraduate planning in the Atlantic Provinces, an issue which is critical to our profession. Therefore, I'll take a stab at it ...

This silence is so typical of API:
 (i) we give up our membership administration to CIP;
 (ii) we consider giving up on our newsletter for the Ontario Planning Journal;
 (iii) we cannot find anyone in all our four provinces to mark a membership entrance exam anymore, so we have to ask out-of-affiliate people to do it for us;
 (iv) and now we're by default proposing to move undergraduate planning out of our region, so that high school leavers will have to go to Toronto and beyond once again !

The late Bill Smith, the founder of and long-time teacher in the NSCAD degree program, must be turning over in his grave.

Why don't we just give up on API next? Put it out of its misery after 30 years of struggling and let us all join OPPI. I'm not blaming present or past Councils for any of this; I've been there too and don't recall my doing anything particularly constructive.

We need an undergraduate planning degree program in the Atlantic Provinces. We need a program which is reaching out and working with Atlantic communities, on Atlantic issues. We need to encourage more high school graduates to go into planning, and to do it here.

Not every student interested in planning wants to go through an entire undergraduate degree before even starting into training for a career in it. Not every student is sufficiently academically-inclined to want to or sufficiently well-off

enough to be able to go to university for 5 or 6 years before working.

Dalhousie may or may not be the place for the undergraduate program to end up in. I've never been impressed with Dalhousie's level of interest in community outreach or in providing academic opportunities to those in the work force. I suspect that the planning program started at TUNS back in 1978 would never have gotten underway if the absorption by Dalhousie had already taken place.

There may be a better place for the program - in the Geography Department at SMU, for instance. Who is going to make the pitch to Dalhousie and other universities to maintain and improve the program other than our professional group? Who is going to build up an interest in the profession among high school graduates other than us ?

API has traditionally had a role in reviewing the planning programs at NSCAD and TUNS/Dalhousie for CIP accreditation. When I and my committee reviewed NSCAD in the early 1990's, I was impressed with the strong student support for the program. They especially liked the amount of real-life community-based projects - something that was apparently rare in other undergraduate programs across the country.

I don't know why the program has fallen on hard times and been getting so few students. I just know the profession owes it and Bill Smith something.

What should we do ? Establish a Undergraduate Planning Support Task Force, with a clear mandate: to try every avenue to keep undergraduate planning alive in the Atlantic Provinces, and to raise student interest in taking it.

 Mark E. Poirier, MCIP

Mark - let me make a quick and provocative response to your email. I am a planner who has had little to do with API. Why? It is not relevant! Tough position to take but it is an honest point of view. Based on your view that API members are not involved and engaged then I can only assume that many others feel the same way. Organizations such as API have to understand that membership and engagement of their members requires an exchange of value. The organization must ask itself what value do we offer our membership. What value do they want? Without value there is little incentive to be involved or engaged. In professional lives there are too many competing demands for time and energy.



My career has moved in other directions and so I am not networking with planners like I once did. I do keep in touch with the profession and I use all of my planning skills in my current position. The profession of planning is a very rewarding one and a most relevant one. I do not believe however that API has successfully positioned to support the needs of these very relevant people - your members. Sorry for this but I thought a provocative and honest response to a larger question that seems to lurk behind your comments might kick off a debate that could address API's shortfalls. You, with some frustration, ask " why don't we give up on API?"

My suggestion is that API develop a plan for the organization and in doing so start with a blank piece of paper to create something of true relevance to all members. In doing so think outside the box. This is offered as a constructive criticism.

Sincerely, Floyd

E-communication at work! We hope the foregoing sample encourages you to have your say in matters that concern us all ...

see <http://www.communityzero.com/api-iaa>

CIP COUNCIL

CIP Council is preparing a submission to the Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues. Information on the task force will be found at:

<http://www.liberalcaucus.houseofcommons.ca/urb/>

For your information, we include the following description of the research effort:

CIP Policy Research Survey,

October 23, 2001

Atlantic planners, please take note that CIP work is under way in canvassing opinions, including those of members of the College of Fellows, and members of the Association of Canadian Urban Planning Programs (ACUPP). The report is expected to be presented at a hearing on December 3rd in Ottawa.

CIP looked for responses to three questions:

Q1. What do you consider to be the most important urban policy issues of national significance? Responses were to be limited to the "top 5" issues, and ranked from 1-5 in descending order of importance.

Q2. How should these urban policy issues be addressed? What needs to be done?

Q3. What role(s) do you see for the federal government in addressing these issues? For example, how might the federal government manage its resources, deliver its programs, etc.?

Responses were summarized and now form an important part of the CIP's position paper. The work was coordinated by Mark Seasons, PhD, MCIP RPP, Past President, CIP & Chair, CIP Policy Subcommittee
School of Planning
University of Waterloo
E-mail: mseasons@fes.uwaterloo.ca
Phone: 519.888.4567 x5922
Fax: 519.725.2827

Other CIP Initiatives

CIP Council has recently been working on proposals with CAPS (The Canadian Association of Planning Students) to raise money for scholarships and to improve the relationship with the planning schools. The Member Services annual report has been tabled and is available, and the final report from the 2000 CIP Conference in Charlottetown went to CIP Council.

National Council is working on a number of other initiatives. They are working on a credit card affinity program. The proceeds from the program would go toward scholarships. Council is dealing with the CIP committee structure, fellows program, and CIP excellence documents.

Themes of CIP Conference 2002

The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) and the Planning Institute of British Columbia invite you to attend the 2002: Making Waves conference in Vancouver from May 26 to 29, 2002.

Come to Vancouver and steep yourself in five exciting themes related to the transformation of communities and planning.
THEME 1

- *City in Nature/Nature in City*
THEME 2
- *Pas de Deux: Land Use and Transportation*
THEME 3
- *High Technology and the New Economy*
THEME 4
- *City Soul: Uptown/Downtown*
THEME 5
- *Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability*

Location of the Conference

The City of Vancouver and its region is one of the most beautiful urban areas in the world. As Canada's third largest metropolitan area, rapid growth and change have called for tough choices in land use, growth management and transportation planning. Its diverse west coast setting, from mountains to ocean, provide an excellent context within which to explore the experiences and emerging challenges faced by urban and rural communities.

While the weather may be unpredictable, it is mild and rarely prevents Vancouverites from enjoying their active lifestyles. In addition to sharing experiences and exploring emerging challenges, participants can take time out to enjoy Vancouver's rich recreational lifestyle, play a round of golf, sail around the bay, or a walk around Stanley Park.

HONOURABLE MENTION FOR EXCELLENCE:

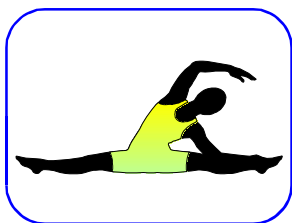
Here we are pleased to feature some interesting items that have arrived in response to our request for submissions of API planners' works of excellence.

Peter Ewert, Planner & Urban Designer, has submitted the HRM Active Transportation Project: Streets for Cycling, a project for Halifax Regional Municipality's Traffic and Transportation Services and has supplied planning and design services for The Trans Canada Trails Project, a project for HRM Parks and Recreation.

The primary purpose of these projects is to develop a plan for cycling routes and multi use paths within peninsular Halifax. Both project involved concept design work,

basic and secondary research. Additional responsibilities included responsibility for public participation events associated with the projects and project web page design.

Design work for the Streets for Cycling project was recently implemented in downtown Halifax. It is the first cycling route with lanes dedicated for both utilitarian and recreational cycling use in Atlantic Canada. Peter holds a Master of Urban & Rural Planning degree from Dalhousie University Polytechnic, 1999 (Formerly TUNS) and a BScience degree Psychology from Saint Mary's University, 1996. His areas of professional interest in planning have ranged from residential subdivision concept design, transportation planning, and crime prevention through environmental design. Peter's design philosophy emphasizes the interconnections between people and the many environments in which they share.



HRM Active Transportation

Project: Streets For Cycling

Report on the Vernon Seymour Cycling Route 'Bike Friendly' Intersection Design Study 1

CONTENTS

Introduction ...

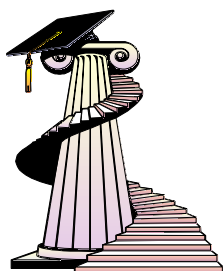
Context ...

Community Feedback ...

Conclusion and Recommendations ...

Introduction

Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) wishes to ensure as much as possible that the street environments which are used for cycling are made as safe as possible. It is therefore important to identify the safety concerns that community members may have with respect to the streets that they use for cycling.



The Streets For Cycling (SFC) pilot project is an initiative of Halifax Regional Municipality's Traffic and Transportation Services, which began the study in 1999. The general scope of the study includes contributing to a

body of knowledge useful in developing cycling planning, policy and facility designs for our commuting cyclists and potential cyclists.

In the HRM community containing the Vernon/Seymour cycling corridor, there is a growing number of grade school, high school and university students commuting by bicycle at all hours of the day from their homes to attend classes or other functions on school premises or university campuses. In addition, residents in the area use bicycles to commute to work or for recreation.

An open house 1 was held on October 18, 2001 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Dalhousie University Student Union Building presenting 'bicycle friendly' intersection design proposals for two key

intersections in the Vernon/Seymour cycling corridor. The purpose of the event was to permit the community an opportunity to contribute their opinions and suggestions to the project.

It also allowed project members an opportunity to assess the designs in terms of how well they are received by the community. Consequently the event provided a 'snapshot' of how the larger community may 'buy in' to the road safety concepts of cycling facility design.

Most automobile / cycle accidents occur at intersections as a result of conflicting auto/cycle turning and crossing behaviours within or near an intersection area 2 . Cyclists being struck by motor vehicles cause approximately 90 per cent of cycling fatalities.3 Both intersection designs

presented at the open house include strong cyclist and pedestrian safety themes. The designs are intended to reduce automobile turning and crossing movements and the potential conflicts caused by these behaviours.

The event was well attended by area residents, the cycling community, and the community at large. Approximately 80 community members attended over the course of the evening.

Community members were asked to comment on detailed 'bike friendly' intersection design recommendations prepared by CBCL Ltd. for the Vernon/Jubilee and Vernon/Coburg/Seymour intersections.

Context

The Vernon/Seymour cycling corridor connects the Quinpool Road business and residential areas with the university and hospital areas, and downtown retail and entertainment areas.

The residential area between Quinpool Road and Coburg Road is a popular area for university student housing. Many of the university students in the area use the cycling route to commute to school and to travel to downtown locations during the day. Appendix II provides a context map containing the cycling route

Community Feedback

A comment form was provided requesting opinions regarding different areas of the study. In addition, community comments were collected through e-mail and by telephone. The following summarizes the returned comments 4 as well as additional comments received during and after the event. A more detailed comment summary is included as Appendix VII.

Vernon / Jubilee Intersection

Two bike friendly intersection options for this intersection were presented to the open house participants for comment. Appendix IV contains a graphic representation of both options.

Option 1 proposes that automobiles have right turn only access to Jubilee Road from Vernon Street with no access to Vernon Street from Jubilee Road. Cyclists can turn on to Jubilee Road or proceed through the intersection and the bicycle only zone to the left of the right turn zone to continue travel on Vernon Street.

Proposed traffic signals on Jubilee road can be cyclist actuated in order to stop Jubilee Road traffic allowing the cyclist to proceed through the intersection. Normal two-way traffic resumes after the intersection zone on Vernon Street.

Option 2 proposes a single traffic island in the middle of the intersection permitting cyclists to proceed through the intersection and continue travel on Vernon Street. Automobiles have right turn only access to Jubilee Road and cyclist-actuated traffic signals are proposed as in Option I.

In addition, all traffic is permitted right turn access to Vernon Street. Normal two-way traffic resumes after the intersection zone on Vernon Street.

Community Comments

Participants in the open house were asked to comment on the proposed changes to the Vernon Jubilee intersection. The following summarizes responses to two questions that were asked on the comment form:

The proposed 'right turn only' from Vernon Street on to Jubilee Road for automobiles at the intersection will improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. What is your opinion?

Seventeen of the returned comment

sheets agreed that the design options for this intersection would improve cyclist and pedestrian safety. In addition five of the telephone comments and two of the e-mails were favourable to improving cycling facilities along the Vernon/Seymour cycling route. The most frequently stated reasons were that the designs would make it easier for cyclists to cross Jubilee road, help to reduce traffic on Vernon Street, minimize accidents at the intersection and prevent motorists from 'rolling stops' at the existing stop sign on Vernon Street.

The proposed intersection design will help to reduce automobile shortcutting on Vernon Street. What is your opinion?

The majority of respondents were concerned that shortcutting traffic on



Vernon Street would be displaced to other streets in the neighbourhood. Other comments suggested that the designs would do nothing to prevent shortcutting between Quinpool and Jubilee. Comments also suggested that tour buses from the Holiday Inn short cut on Vernon Street to avoid the Willow Tree intersection.

Vernon/Seymour/Coburg Intersection

The automobile, cycle and pedestrian traffic patterns in the area closely resemble those in the Spring Garden Road area. Vernon and Seymour streets both form 'T' intersections with Coburg Road in close proximity with each other. The alignment requires both cyclists and automobiles wishing to cross Coburg Road to turn left and then right to continue traveling in the northbound or southbound direction.

The proposed design permits automobile traffic at the 'T' intersections a turn right only on to Coburg Road while allowing cyclists two way access to both Vernon and Seymour Streets. The bicycle zone is located to the left of the right turn zone permitting cyclists to continue through the intersection without having to perform the left turn/right turn maneuver.

The pedestrian crossing on Coburg Road is relocated to a more central location in the intersection. Cyclists have the option of dismounting and walking across or yielding to pedestrian traffic before cycling across the intersection. The proposal calls for cyclist-actuated traffic signals on Coburg Road. Normal two-way traffic is permitted on both streets beyond the intersection zone.

Community Comments

Participants at the open house were asked to comment on the proposed changes to the Vernon/Coburg/Seymour intersections.

The following summarizes responses to two questions that were asked on the comment form:

The proposed 'right turn only' from Vernon and Seymour streets on to Coburg Road for automobiles at the intersection will improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. What is your opinion?

Positive comments on the design at this intersection tended to mirror comments offered on the Vernon/Jubilee intersection. Seventeen of the returned comment sheets agreed that the design

options for this intersection would improve cyclist and pedestrian safety. In addition five of the telephone comments and two of the e-mails were

favourable to improving cycling facilities along the Vernon/

Seymour cycling route. The most frequently stated reasons were that automobile through traffic should be discouraged because of the Vernon/Seymour 'offset' at the Coburg intersection and that the cyclist/pedestrian crossing would be safer for school children.

The negative comments again mirrored the Vernon/Jubilee comments. Four of the returned comment sheets disagreed that pedestrian and cyclist safety would be improved. In addition, four of the telephone comments and three of the e-mails did not support the design proposals. The most frequently stated reasons were that it would transfer higher speed traffic to other streets in the area, possibly near the schools in the area, and would inconvenience some residents as they would have to alter their travel patterns.

The proposed intersection design will help to reduce automobile shortcutting on Vernon Street. What is your opinion?

The majority of respondents were concerned that shortcutting traffic on Vernon Street would be displaced to other streets in the neighbourhood.

Further Participation

Event participants were asked if they would like to actively participate in the development of a Halifax regional bicycle route network and to supply contact information. Twelve event participants indicated that they would be interested in

taking an active role and supplied contact information. The information has been recorded in Appendix VI. In addition, contact information

for community members who responded by e-mail and telephone has been listed.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The majority of community members who made comments generally supported cycling and cyclist using Vernon and Seymour streets, regardless of whether they supported the intersection design options. Nevertheless, it appears that support for the design options at the two intersections is mixed with concerns that the cycle friendly intersection improvements will displace shortcutting motorists to other streets in the area. It appears that sufficient community interest exists to form a neighbourhood committee to further explore the benefits, constraints and alternatives to the proposed designs. The list of interested community members could be used as a starting point in forming a committee.

The safety elements of the proposed designs have implications for traffic patterns in the larger area bounded by Oxford, Quinpool, Robie and South streets. The design options, and alternatives derived from them, may be used as reasonable traffic calming strategies if incorporated into a more comprehensive area study.



**Atlantic Planners Institute
2001 Works of Excellence
-Downtown Dartmouth
Secondary Plan-**

Project Contact:

Jacqueline Hamilton, Planner & Project Coordinator, Planning & Development Services, Halifax Regional Municipality, 902-490-4405

Halifax Regional Municipality and Dartmouth Downtown Development Corporation are submitting the "Downtown Dartmouth Plan" for consideration under the 2001 API Works of Excellence Program. The Downtown Planning Program is a successful model of community-based planning setting new standards in:

- ! *Community visioning & empowerment,*
- ! *Tools for community building & capturing investment,*
- ! *Plan format & presentation.*

Project Description:

In March of 1998, Halifax Regional Council embarked upon a process to create

a “Downtown Dartmouth Plan” to lead the downtown into the millennium. In July of 2000, a new plan was adopted setting clear direction for the downtown.

Context:

Historically, Downtown Dartmouth served as a local commercial centre. Over the past thirty years, Downtown Dartmouth has struggled to maintain its prominence in the face of declining investment and the growth of suburban shopping districts. The City of Dartmouth sought various “urban redevelopment” schemes to counter this decline. Fortunately, these schemes were not fully realized and today the downtown retains much of its small town charm and a wealth of historic buildings.

Dartmouth’s previous municipal plan dating from the 1970s, placed little emphasis on the downtown core. In 1996, the four local municipal governments amalgamated to form Halifax Regional Municipality. The new Municipality placed a high priority on a plan for Downtown Dartmouth in order to address the broader regional interests of fostering development in the core area. Consequently, a fresh approach was needed involving local decision-makers, citizens, and the business community, with a focus on results.

Process:

The project involved a partnership between the Municipality and Dartmouth Downtown Development Corporation, the area business association. Neighbourhood groups, major property owners and developers in the local area have all actively participated in this process.

The public process was championed by a community-based committee who represented a cross section of downtown residents, business people, the local councillor, and representatives from the development industry. This committee helped to keep the process “grounded” and in touch with the needs of the community.

Hundreds of citizens participated actively during the public participation process. Numerous public workshops and smaller “kitchen table” neighbourhood meetings were held to facilitate early and ongoing public input. A public opinion survey was distributed to thousands of businesses and households. Community events such as a “citizen safety walk” provided alternative ways for people to get involved in this process. Various means such as community newsletters, the involvement of the local media, the Municipality’s website, and a distinct downtown logo all

provided opportunities to heighten awareness of this process.

Vision:

As a result of the consensus achieved, the plan includes a clear vision for the future of the downtown. The following are key elements of the vision:

- ! Well defined strategy for repopulating and increasing housing opportunities in the core;
- ! Urban design guidelines aimed at preserving the small town character of the area;
- ! Economic development fostered by reducing red tape and regulatory barriers for the business community;
- ! A physical improvement plan for the “main street”;
- ! A community safety strategy linked with development goals.

Implementation:

The vision is implemented through a three part strategy which includes:

1. *Action Plan* to guide public investment and operational programs. The action plan identifies high impact initiatives to be completed within the next ten years. Creative financing tools are identified to fund the plan over the short term which include public/private partnerships, capital investment, and area rates. Over the long term, tax incentive programs will be needed as a stimulus for development.
2. *New regulatory framework for development* which boasts streamlined rules for development, mixed use zoning, increased opportunities for residential development, and standards based upon the traditional lotting patterns.
3. *Plan Monitoring* to be undertaken on an annual basis through joint effort by the Municipality and the Dartmouth Downtown Development Corporation. Quantifiable benchmarks set out in this plan will aid plan monitoring and provide clear definition of responsibility centres.

Funding:

Project funding was limited and largely came from the Halifax Regional Municipality’s operational resources. Two municipal planners were assigned to provide project leadership, public facilitation, and to prepare planning documents. Resources were also drawn from other organizations and partners, the Dartmouth Downtown Development Corporation, Waterfront Development Corporation, who provided direct or in-

kind resources to support project administration, and public consultation costs. Efficiencies were achieved by matching municipal program priorities with strategic project objectives.

Impacts:

Perhaps unique to this planning process is the fact that along with clear direction on the future vision for the downtown, this process was action-oriented, the plan has resulted in real impacts in the following areas:

Empowered the community to take a lead role in charting a course for Dartmouth’s future. The plan represents community-based vision that is realistic.

Fosters new development and investment that will contribute to the revitalization of the downtown. Three new housing projects are under construction and many others are planned as a direct result of the investor confidence and revitalization strategies of the plan.

Leveraged funds and implemented various improvement and beautification projects. For example, physical safety improvements were implemented as a part of the citizen safety audit conducted during the process.

Vital part of a regional growth strategy for the Municipality that fosters new investment and housing close to where people work and in proximity to transit and other community services.

Summary and Conclusions:

The Downtown Dartmouth Plan creates a framework for revitalizing the core which is relevant to other jurisdictions. The Plan excels in three areas:

1. **Community Visioning:**
The plan serves as a model for building capacity and public consensus in smaller communities with limited resources. It demonstrates how community partnerships can be used to share resources and create networks. The public involvement and visioning techniques allowed broad public input and a consensus based approach. High quality public communication materials were produced with in-house resources. The process also was uniquely designed to be action-oriented, affecting visible results.
2. **Tools for Community Building & Capturing Investment**
The Plan creates a comprehensive approach to downtown revitalization which is transportable to other areas including:
 - < housing infill policy which relaxes

subdivision, street design, and development regulations to promote the redevelopment of vacant and underused sites in the core, < design standards based on the small town character of the area, < streamlined development process, removes regulatory barriers for development, and sets clear and reasonable standards.

The strategies in the plan are made more effective by the involvement of the development industry to test the standards on real projects. Plan policies set measurable targets with a well organized action plan to enable ongoing plan monitoring that will continually involve the community.

.Plan Presentation & Format:

The Downtown Plan represents a model document which sets new standards for the Municipality and the professional planning community through the articulation of a community based vision and values, and user friendly documents, written in plain and simple language.

Project Contributors:

Austin French, Project Supervisor, Regional Coordinator, Community and Regional Planning, Halifax Regional Municipality Planning & Development Services, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax N.S. B3J 3A5, Phone: 902-490-6717.

Mitch Dickey Planner & Project Coordinator, Planning & Development Services, Halifax Regional Municipality, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax N.S. B3J 3A5, Phone: 902-490-4489

Jacqueline Hamilton, Planner & Project Coordinator, Planning & Development Services, Halifax Regional Municipality, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax N.S. B3J 3A5, Phone: 902-490-4405

Marion Currie, Executive Director, Dartmouth Downtown Development Corporation, 101-12 Queen Street, Dartmouth N.S. B2Y 1E7, Phone: 902-466-2997.

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**Atlantic Planners Institute
Submission for Atlantic Planning Work
of Excellence
Nov. 8, 2001**

**City of St. John's, Newfoundland
Downtown St. John's Strategy for
Economic Development and Heritage
Preservation**

Summary:

The Downtown St. John's Strategy, released in June, 2001, promotes economic development in downtown St. John's while protecting and capitalizing on heritage buildings and streetscapes. The steering committee for the Strategy was led by the City of St. John's with its funding partners: the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Johnson Family Foundation, the St. John's Downtown Development Commission, and the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, plus representatives of other interested parties.

Before the planning process began, St. John's had a significant number of vacant downtown properties; residential rehabilitation was underway but commercial rehabilitation was stalled; and offshore oil and gas development was leading to speculation that old buildings would be removed to make way for new high-rise office buildings.

The original idea was to look at the St. John's heritage conservation area – one of the first in Canada, set up in 1977 – to see how things have worked out over the years. The steering committee for the Downtown Strategy went further, bringing together heritage groups, business groups, developers, downtown residents, artists, and others. This co-operation has been the foundation of the Strategy.

Canning and Pitt Associates Inc. of St. John's were the prime consultants, assisted by Sheppard Case Architects Inc. of St. John's, and Ottawa-based heritage consultants Marc Denhez and Dr. John Weiler. They researched the situation, compared St. John's with other cities, consulted with the public and key groups, held a one-day public Downtown Forum which received extensive media coverage, and produced four background reports leading up to the final report:

1. Case Study Analysis
2. Key Issues and Challenges
3. Benefits of Built Heritage Revival
4. Summary of Public Consultations

The 3rd background report quantified the economic benefits of built heritage revival through new research, analysis, and case study data, supplemented with similar data in previous studies from the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada. Such quantification has not been widely available – thus, this report alone is an important contribution to this field of research.

The research revealed that, from 1986 to 1999, downtown property owners invested nearly \$72 million in renovations to residential and non-residential properties. New buyers of residential property in downtown St. John's are placing an estimated 15% to 40% premium on properties with a view of the harbour. Basic heritage-type renovation work supports 200 jobs in the St. John's area. There is significant environmental benefit to reusing older buildings rather than tearing them down.



The distinctive visual appeal and heritage character of the downtown has added to St. John's competitiveness on an inter-regional and international basis, with evidence that this has had a concrete impact on decisions of corporate managers to choose St. John's as a business location. In particular, St. John's film and video industry production firms ranked the ambience and amenity of downtown St. John's as a primary reason for selecting the city as a 'location'. It is estimated that the ten-year (1995-2005) value of film industry production expenditures attributed solely to the civic amenity of downtown St. John's is \$13.5 million.

The final report of the Downtown Strategy contains a Vision for Downtown, focussing on: rehabilitating existing houses and buildings, converting some buildings to new uses, creating new buildings using well designed infill, and transforming the harbourfront into a more "people-friendly" place.

The Strategy contains 29 recommendations, including how to maintain the economic benefits of heritage and how to market older buildings (including underutilized upper floors). The Strategy addresses leadership; the removal of tax and other disincentives that work against reusing older buildings; support of the heritage industry; administrative boundaries; a Downtown Summit of people who have a stake in downtown's future; a streamlined application process for building and development; better technical information for homeowners, contractors and property developers; and recommendations to protect existing viewlines and for a review of the boundary

of the heritage conservation area.

Some of the recommendations are immediate or short-term, others will take longer to implement. In response to the Strategy, the St. John's Municipal Council has introduced a property-tax incentive to help restore commercial and institutional buildings. The City is studying how upper-floor space in commercial buildings can be used economically for residential or commercial purposes while still meeting the National Building Code. A seminar called Doing Business Downtown was held in October 2001. And the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador has begun posting some heritage renovation information on their website.

Persons involved with the Downtown Strategy:

1. Ken O'Brien, MCIP.
Project manager for the Downtown Strategy. Supervisor of Planning and Information, City of St. John's, P. O. Box 908, St. John's NF A1C 5M2. Phone (709) 576-6121; fax (709) 576-8625; e-mail kobrien@city.st-johns.nf.ca. Helped write the terms of reference for the Strategy, solicit funding, arrange meetings of the steering committee, and act as the contact person for the consultants.
2. Stratford Canning.
Canning and Pitt Associates, Inc., P. O. Box 21461, St. John's NF A1A 5G2. Phone (709) 754-1408; fax (709) 753-4471; e-mail scanning@canpitt.ca. Was the lead consultant for the Strategy and co-ordinated research, consultation, and writing.
3. Mary Bishop, MCIP.
Canning and Pitt Associates, Inc., P. O. Box 21461, St. John's NF A1A 5G2. Phone (709) 745-5345; fax (709) 368-1670; e-mail mbishop@canpitt.ca. Did much of the planning research and policy work with Strat Canning.
4. Marie White, Deputy Mayor of St. John's (until Oct. 2001). She chaired the steering committee and was the driving force behind the Downtown Strategy from its conception to completion.

Other members of the Downtown Strategy steering committee:

5. Phonse Miller, president, and Bob Fagan, executive director, St. John's Downtown Development Commission.
6. George Chalker, executive secretary, Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador.
7. Hedly Peddle, executive director, Johnson Family Foundation.
8. Greg Stamp, account executive,

- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.
9. Shane O'Dea, governor, Heritage Canada Foundation.
 10. Michael Clair and Jean Bishop, acting Directors of Culture and Heritage, Dept. of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.
 11. Alison Carter and Kathleen Parewick, St. John's Arts Strategy Committee.
 12. Dieter Staubitzer, Eastern Newfoundland Home Builders Association.
 13. Ron Penney, Chief Commissioner/City Solicitor, City of St. John's.
 14. Art Cheeseman, Associate Commissioner/Director of Engineering and Planning, City of St. John's.
 15. Cliff Johnston, MCIP, Manager of Planning and Information, City of St. John's.
 16. Dave Blackmore, Director of Building and Property Management, City of St. John's.
 17. Elizabeth Lawrence, Manager of Economic Development, City of St. John's.
 18. Kevin Gushue, Manager of Tourism, City of St. John's.

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On behalf of Planners Pen and the API Council, our sincere thanks to the persons who submitted the above works of excellence. We appreciate hearing from them, and being able to publish key elements of the work that has been done in these projects, but most of all we appreciate the expression of interest in the pursuit of excellence in planning.

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MESSAGES FROM THE SCHOOLS

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Dallas Gillis, who has corresponded with us before, has written what he describes as a "brief" piece for the Pen again.

Dallas served as one of two API student representatives on Council last term, and we are pleased to have his observations on the academic amalgamations that have taken place. Dallas informs us there are now two students elected to play a redefined student rep role.

Life After the Merger

It is now into November; and for the NSCAD Environmental Planning (EP) students and faculty, the end of the first semester at their new location is rapidly approaching. As I am sure most are aware by now, the process of merging the undergraduate and graduate-planning programs is well underway. The EP students have settled in a new studio environment in the basement of the Architecture Building on the Dalhousie Sexton Campus, but some spend a lot of time in the MURP Studio. It is apparent that one of the most visible benefits of the merger has been the increased interaction and sharing of ideas between the graduate and undergraduate students.

Students from both programs are enjoying the benefits of the merger, in the greater ease to take classes outside their department and increase in the number of faculty to provide direction. Although I am sure that many students miss the large studio space they enjoyed at NSCAD, students are adapting to the change very well. The required classes for the EP degree are still offered, with the only difference being sometimes a new professor and new classmates from the MURP program.

To achieve more complimentary student involvement the EP students have already taken steps to establish an Undergraduate Planning Society, to mirror the Graduate Planning Society, and are beginning the process of applying for recognition and funding from Dalhousie. In my opinion the administration of Dalhousie University and the faculty and students, of MURP could not have been more friendly and inviting, and that has eased this transition tremendously.

There is discussion of a possible "Bachelor of Community Design" that would replace the existing undergrad program. This program would not be a professionally recognized program and would accommodate a larger number of students with more varied academic interests than just planning. In order to accommodate the larger number of students and to make more efficient use of faculty and space, the intensive studio format wouldn't exist until the final year where students could choose to focus on environment or community in an intensive studio format. If this occurs, when the students enrolled in the program now have



all graduated, which should be spring 2004, there will be no more undergraduate Planning program in Atlantic Canada. However discussions are ongoing and as of yet no concrete decisions have been made. Students are being involved in the process and representatives from both grad and undergrad students will be involved.

All in all the transition has been fairly smooth for the NSCAD and MURP students. Students are taking advantage of the new resources and have been well looked after by the NSCAD and Dalhousie administrations. What the future holds in unsure but those of us in the EP program now, are making the best of our time here and capitalizing on all of the educational opportunities ... and looking forward to another great year.

Dallas Gillis,
NSCAD Environmental Planning
Student President
dallasgillis@hotmail.com

Lucy Trull has also corresponded with us previously. She reports she has been in the process of a Graduate Planning Society change-over which means that soon the positions (including API Council rep.) will change as well. But Lucy has promised to keep us informed. Here is her message:

The link between planning students and planning professionals is an important one. Students appreciate opportunities to bridge the gap between the work they do in school and the professional work they will one day do in the community. Planners in the professional world can benefit by sharing their experiences with students. This allows for reflection on the job that they do, and it also facilitates a potential mentoring relationship between a planning student and a planner.

One way of bridging this gap is communication, and in the case of the API this is facilitated through a student representative. The student representative acts as a link between the API and the students and relays messages and information that students may otherwise not have access to. Students then have a representative at Council meetings and have the opportunity to voice the opinions and needs of students in the planning programs. This representation, however vital, is in need of strengthening.

As planners and planning students we have an obligation to be proactive in our schools, communities and professions. One way to do this is to promote dialogue. But how can this happen if there is little dialogue between planners and students, professionals and academics?

As work begins to pile on and people struggle to find the balance between their professional or academic life and their personal life, communication breaks down. Access to API conferences is difficult for students who are usually concerned with cost and finishing assignments. If the conference is the only opportunity for dialogue and interaction and most students are not attending then the communication is virtually non-existent. If students and planning professionals in the region do not meet, interact and share ideas what will the future of planning be in this region? Will many of these newly graduated students stay in the region if they are not aware of what opportunities there may be here?

Urban planning is at a potentially exciting time in HRM with the upcoming creation of a regional plan, discussions on commuter rail and a comprehensive bike lane plan for the city. The planning department at Dalhousie is also at an exciting point, with the newly amalgamated NSCAD and MURP programs. The desire is to create a more dynamic, higher profile for planning and planning education. Now is the time to reinforce the link between what happens inside and outside the school.

One way to do this may be to have someone on Council appointed as a representative to the school, just as there is a student representative for Council. This person can work with the student representative and try and answer any questions the student may have about API and promote activities and events (such as a career fair which Donna Davis has been interested in promoting) that bring planners and planning students together. It is often unclear to the student representative who is the best person on Council to contact. If there is no one specifically in charge of answering inquiries things can often go unanswered as it is assumed someone else is taking care of it. Holding more frequent meetings at the university is another way of improving communication. A mentorship program where students are paired up with a professional planner may be another. Inviting more public speakers to the school is also an opportunity for interaction. The connection has to be made.

The responsibility of this communication is on all parties, students, faculty, Council members and planning professionals. This exciting time that is upon us is fleeting. We can seize this opportunity and elevate our school and our profession or we can

allow it to pass unnoticed.

On an administrative note: The GPS (Graduate Planning Society) has had a recent cabinet shuffle. The new president is Heather Ternoway, Vice-President is Lindsey Mittelsteadt, Treasurer is Ravi Singh, Luc Ouellet and Jaret Lang are the new computer representatives, Charlene Cressman is our social and sports representative, Jen Meurer is in charge of organizing guest speakers and the new API representative is Mike Logan.

Lucy Trull,
Student
Member, API
and Second
Year Grad
Student



Students were not alone in coping with the major issues of the NSCAD-MURP merger. We are pleased to have Professor Jill Grant share a few thoughts with us. Just what we were looking for! She adds her insight to the adventure as follows:

In early August, NSCAD planning faculty packed up offices and moved to Dalhousie. We now have an expanded faculty of six members in a renamed "School of Planning".

The last group of NSCAD environmental planning students started the core studios in fall 2001. When they graduate in 2004, the NSCAD programs will disappear. They are integrating well with the MURP programs. We think everyone is benefitting from the synergy of the new larger unit.

We are in the process of developing a proposal for new undergraduate programs at Dalhousie. We will build on our strengths in environmental and urban planning and design to offer undergrads exciting new options in a degree program likely to be called "community design". We expect to offer majors in environmental planning and in urban design studies. We intend to retain our commitment to community-based projects and learning through doing.

We are also updating the graduate curriculum. We are considering the idea of proposing some new options that could accommodate a range of choices in graduate study.

Anyone who has thoughts or opinions to share with us as we undertake the review and development of our programs should feel free to contact us. (jill.grant@dal.ca , 902-494-6586)



NSAPP TO HOST THE 2003 CIP CONFERENCE



This comes from Donna Davis, who has already put a lot of time and work into preparations for CIP's National Conference scheduled for Nova Scotia in 2003. We thank her and her committee on behalf of all API planners for lending their energy and their expertise to this project as we move toward 2003!

**from Donna Davis
2003 CIP Conference Committee Chair**

2003 CIP Conference- "Building Communities"

Organizing for the 2003 CIP Conference being held in Halifax is well underway. The organizing committee is meeting monthly to work away at what is now just an 18 month work plan. The dates have been set for the conference- July 6-9th at the World Trade & Convention Centre. Mark these down in your calendar- or stick them on a post-it note until you get a 2003 calendar.

Sub-committees have been established to look after various task and areas of responsibility. The sub-committee leads are as follows:

- Conference Program- Jill Grant/ Chris Lowe
- Mobile Workshops- Bill B. Campbell
- Social Events- Barry Zwicker
- Marketing & Merchandising- Barry Zwicker/ Donna Davis
- Local Orientation/ Volunteer Coordination- John Heseltine
- Fund-raising & Exhibits- Peter Nelson/ Maurice Lloyd
- Student & University Liaison- Jill Grant

If any of these areas interest you, please contact the sub-committee leads to volunteer your services. E-mail addresses of the organizing committee members are as follows:

- Donna Davis- david@region.halifax.ns.ca
- Bill B. Campbell- campbell@wdclhalifax.com
- Brant Wishart- bwishart@gov.ns.ca
- Jill Grant- jill.grant@dal.ca
- John Heseltine- jheselti@mgnet.ca
- Maurice Lloyd- mlloyd@atlanplan.com
- Chris Lowe- chrisl@sgegroup.ns.ca
- Peter Nelson- pnelson@town.truro.ns.ca

Vernon Parker- v.parker@nsis.com
Barry Zwicker- bzwicker@wml.ns.ca

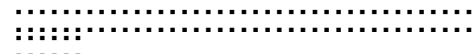
The program group is busy identifying keynote speakers and working to refine the program sub-themes. Four sub-themes have been identified under the general theme of Building Communities: "Building Capacity", "Building Connections", "Building Infrastructure", and "Building Character".

A full half day of mobile workshops is being planned. These will showcase planning initiatives and planning issues in the Halifax region as well as those in outlying towns and rural areas. They will also provide an opportunity for conference delegates to experience our Maritime culture, character and hospitality.

Social event planning is well in hand under the leadership and guidance of Barry Zwicker. He has his entire planning staff at WML feverishly brainstorming over creative and fun social event ideas that will keep the delegates talking for years about their experiences in Halifax in 2003.

The Committee is really excited about our planning activities to date. We are committed to making this the best conference yet and seem to be well on our way. I encourage all planners to get on board and share the excitement. Here is our opportunity to showcase our region and Province while having a "whale of a time"!

Donna Davis
2003 CIP Conference Committee Chair



BRANCH BIZ



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
(the reason 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:

Alex Forbes, President
 Stan Clinton, Past President and National Council Rep.
 SCLINTON@mail.gov.nf.ca
 Donna Davis, NS Representative
 davisd@region.halifax.ns.ca
 Karen Roberts, Treasurer and NF Representative
 kroberts@jacqueswhitford.com
 Ken Forrest
 Secretary and NB Representative
 ken.forrest@city.fredericton.nb.ca
 John Dalton, PEI Representative
 jdalton@city.charlottetown.pe.ca
 Lucy Trull, Student Rep
 trull@is2.dal.ca

Prince Edward Island Branch

John Dalton, President
 jdalton@city.charlottetown.pe.ca
 Don Poole, Secretary -Treasurer
 dpoole@city.charlottetown.pe.ca
 Dennis Friesen, Membership Committee
 dfriesen@isn.net

New Brunswick Branch

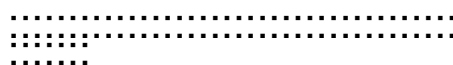
Gilles Guérette, President
 gillesg@nbnet.nb.ca
 Evode Rwagasore, Secretary-Treasurer
 evoder@hotmail.com
 Ken Forrest, API Councillor
 ken.forrest@city.fredericton.nb.ca

Nova Scotia Branch

Donna Davis, President
 davisd@region.halifax.ns.ca
 Peter Nelson
 pnelson@town.truro.ns.ca
 Dallas Gillis
 dallasgillis@hotmail.com
 Tracy Bealing
 tbealing@hotmail.com
 Gary Porter
 Jacqueline Hamilton
 hamiltj@region.halifax.ns.ca
 John Woodford
 Paul Smith
 pjsmith@arcon.com
 Rebekah Cluett Chan
 Tammy Wilson

Newfoundland & Labrador Branch

Stephen Jewczyk, President
 sjewczyk@mtpearl.nf.ca
 Corrie Davis, Secretary
 cdavis@mtpearl.nf.ca
 corrie@roadrunner.nf.net
 Roland Burek, Treasurer
 rburek@town.paradise.nf.ca
 Karen Roberts, API Councillor
 kroberts@jacqueswhitford.com



Newfoundland & Labrador Branch



API CONFERENCE IN Newfoundland:

INNOVATIONS IN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Elaine Mitchell, Conference Chairperson
 EMITCHEL@mail.gov.nf.ca

As practising planners, the public consultation process is a key component of our work. So it was that API planners were invited to join the Newfoundland Branch in St. John's from October 11th-13th for an intensive 2.5 day professional development opportunity.

The sessions were well served by Mark Seasons, Past President of CIP, as facilitator. They focused on new and innovative approaches to public consultation.

A summary of the recent St. John's experience will be prepared and posted on API's website for the benefit of those API members who were not able to make it to the conference. In the meantime, for more information you may wish to contact: Stephen Jewczyk, President, Newfoundland Branch
 SJewczyk@MTPEARL.nf.ca

Stephen Jewczyk is President of the Newfoundland and Labrador but has been unable to send a report at the time of this publication.

API Professional Development Workshop 2001

The Branch organized the API Annual Conference. Given the recent focus on public consultation, the conference featured a professional development workshop on public consultation and facilitation.



Prince Edward Island Branch



John Dalton, Charlottetown city planner is branch president. Don Poole, also a Charlottetown city planner serves as

secretary-treasurer.

PEI planners owe their thanks to the above two persons for their leadership in branch activities, and especially to John Dalton for representing this small branch at API Council meetings this year and at API's Annual General Meeting in Newfoundland.

In the news:

New economic strategy in eastern Kings

Montague, P.E.I. – An economic strategy aimed at generating jobs and development in eastern Prince Edward Island is about to get underway

Solicitor General Lawrence MacAulay, who is also the local MP, made the announcement.

Two consulting firms have been hired to prepare the strategy, and they will begin by gathering information from individuals, communities and businesses.

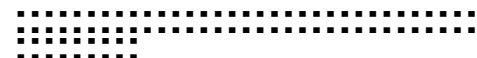
The new five-year strategy follows an earlier one launched in 1995 and which led to developments including a golf course and tourism developments.

Branch Activity in 2001

PEI Branch held meetings in the summer and the fall, and looks forward to an annual meeting in December to take care of the end-of-season chores.

The most recent meeting in late October took a page from Newfoundland Branch's Planners Plate, in which we featured dinner and an educational workshop session structured around a presentation by Crown Lands Corporation. The subject of the discussions was the planning of surplus Crown lands in Charlottetown.

John Dalton reported that membership recruitment is a pressing issue for the PEI Branch. The Branch has had difficulty attracting practicing planners in the province to become members. The December AGM and meeting is being put together. We hope to obtain feedback on the OPPI Journal pilot program at that time.



New Brunswick Branch



From Gilles Guérette, MCIP, comes the following message. Gilles has had a busy term as President of the New Brunswick Branch.

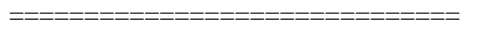
Gilles sent what he calls a brief note on the main event held in Cap-Pelé during October. It is in both official languages. He also noted that he plans on soliciting colleagues to write for the next API publication. We look forward to more opportunities to present features in two languages.

New Brunswick Branch Message

In New Brunswick this Fall, planners met in Cap-Pelé for a two day workshop. The theme of urban and rural design was developed by Alex Forbes from Fredericton, Richard Harvey from Wolfville in Nova Scotia and Paul Jordan from the Rural and Small Town Program of Mount Allison University, presented three perspectives on this continuing challenge facing planners in their attempts to balance growth with the maintenance of architectural and historic values. The workshop ended on an animated exchange coordinated by Ron Corbett. Taking advantage of this event to hold a business meeting, two significant projects were launched. First, a committee has been set up to undertake the planning of the API conference which will be held in New Brunswick in 2002. Paul Jordan, Carole Denis, Aaron Hearshoff and Ken Forrest have volunteered themselves to establish the conference foundations, in cooperation with the API and NB Planners executives.

Mark Reade, Mike Dillon, André Daible, Wilson Bell and Alex Forbes are on the study committee mandated with the preparation and introduction of a private bill for the professional certification of professional planners in the Province. Over the next months, we should see the establishment of a strategy aimed and the recognition of the profession in New Brunswick.

It is with pride that members welcomed Alex Forbes as president of API for the coming year.



Au Nouveau-Brunswick cet automne, les urbanistes se sont réuni à Cap-Pelé pour un atelier de deux jours. A cet atelier, le thème du design urbain et rural fut introduit par Alex Forbes, de Fredericton, Richard Harvey de Wolfville en Nouvelle-Écosse et Paul Jordan du programme Rural and Small Town de

l'université Mount-Allison ont présenté chacun une perspective du continuel défi qu'affrontent les urbanistes pour équilibrer la croissance et le maintien des valeurs architecturales du patrimoine. L'atelier s'est terminé par un échange animé par Ron Corbett. Profitant de la rencontre pour tenir une réunion d'affaires, deux projets d'envergure ont pris leur envol. D'abord un comité a été mis en place pour amorcer la planification de la conférence de l'Institut des urbanistes de l'Atlantique qui se tiendra au Nouveau-Brunswick en 2002. Paul Jordan, Carole Denis, Aaron Hearshoff et Ken Forrest se sont porté volontaires pour jeter les bases de la conférence, en collaboration avec l'IUA et l'Association des Urbanistes du Nouveau-Brunswick. Mark Reade, Mike Dillon, André Daible, Wilson Bell et Alex Forbes forment le comité d'étude visant l'élaboration et l'introduction d'un projet de loi privé visant la certification professionnelle des urbanistes dans la province. Au cour des prochains mois, nous devrions voir se dessiner une stratégie visant à faire reconnaître la profession au Nouveau-Brunswick. C'est avec fierté que les collègues accueillirent Alex Forbes a titre de président de l'IUA pour la prochaine année.

M. Guérette lives in Campbellton, New Brunswick.

2002 API Conference – New Brunswick

Ken Forrest had reported earlier that New Brunswick will be the host of the 2002 API Conference. He stated that some preliminary contacts have been made with the Maine Association of Planners to see if there might be interest in a joint conference. Council indicated that it was ok with the possibility of a joint conference.



Nova Scotia Branch



Donna Davis confirms she is still NSAPP president and, as promised, has pulled together a brief report on her Branch activities. She reports with enthusiasm that the executive is more active and they are busy doing some things! There have been a few changes to the executive which

will become public as well.

NSAPP NEWS

Donna Davis, President
david@region.halifax.ns.ca

NSAPP held its Annual General Meeting and Fall Student Meet & Greet in Halifax on September 27th. Many Faculty and students from the planning programs at Dalhousie joined the NSAPP Executive and fellow professional members for the AGM business meeting. The meeting ended with a pizza social, followed by a Halifax Harbour Boat Cruise. It was a wonderful fall evening and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. It was great to have such a good turnout from the students and Faculty!

A warm welcome is extended to Greg Zwicker and Mike Poulton who have joined the NSAPP executive. Greg is a planner with Wallace, MacDonald & Lively Surveyors Ltd. in Bedford. Mike is Head of the Urban and Rural Planning Department at Dalhousie. A thank you is extended to those members who have agreed to continue to serve on the Executive: Peter Nelson- Past President (Town of Truro), Paul Smith- Secretary/Treasurer (Municipality of Colchester County), Jacqueline Hamilton (Halifax Regional Municipality) and John Woodford (Municipality of King County). A special thank you to Tammy Wilson, Municipality of Lunenburg County for her service to the committee over the past several years. The Executive is currently looking for a member to fill the vacant position on the Committee. If you are interested in working with us or know of someone who might be, please contact any one of the members above (our email addresses are on the API web site).

The Executive are looking for new ways to involve the membership in the Association's activities. A Christmas social event is planned in concert with the Dal Planning School. Talks are underway as well with Dal students regarding a Student Work Fair in the late winter. Faculty at Dal have expressed an interest in possibly co-sponsoring lectures on planning issues/ approaches and the Executive is discussing a possible professional development opportunity to be held in concert with the Dal Planning Symposium in the spring. Let us know your thoughts on these ideas.

Donna Davis

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We know you will be pleased to learn that since mid-summer the Membership Committee has processed the following applications:

Full Membership

Ms. Tracy Wade
Mr. Paul Jordon,
Ms. Colleen Clare
Mr. Glen Cluett
Mr. Jon Oliver,
Mr. Mark Reade
Mr. David Lane

We note that several other applicants are pending at this time.

Provisional Membership

Mr. Jeffrey Turnbull
Mr. Andrew Whittemore
Mr. Andrew Bone
Ms. Alicia McLaren
Mr. Peter Ewert

Student Membership

Mr. Bram Noble
Mr. Ravi Singh

We sincerely welcome all of these to Atlantic Planners Institute

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In addition to the normal business of admissions to membership, the committee, through Chairman John Bain, continues to work with API and CIP on redefining and restructuring various membership functions.

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

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

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**