



Atlantic Association of Planning Technicians

2011 Year in Review

In February we hosted the NSCC COGS Employer Industry Tour for the 2nd consecutive year. This involved students from the NSCC COGS Geographic Sciences Program coming to Halifax to visit with various employers to assist the students in determining their 2nd year concentration. The students toured HRM Planning Services, Canadian Hydrographic Services, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Department of Natural Resources, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, and Parks Canada. The AAPT also hosted an evening social event at the Middle Deck where approximately 35 people were in attendance comprising of the NSCC COGS tour students, NSCC COGS faculty and alumni, and members of the AAPT.

In May the AAPT by-law went through an overhaul in terms of housekeeping amendments and general document layout which were approved at the 2011 Annual General Meeting in June during our annual workshop. The annual workshop was held at the NSCC Centre of Geographic Sciences and NSCC COGS faculty and students provided valuable lab sessions in hand-ons training along with other presenters from the Geomatics industry. The workshop was extremely well attended with a total of 28 registered.

You may recall that back in February of 2010 we launched our new website with further work planned in 2011 to make website updates more efficient and available to all of the executive. In 2011 the website was redeveloped with the web development skills of Immediac and launched in October 2011. The website is now database driven and can be maintained by the entire executive via login credentials, has a more professional look and feel, contains new content (map gallery, toolbox, membership map, etc), has an online membership application, has a members only area that is accessed via login credentials, and more. This represents a significant step forward in delivering dynamic content to our members and hopefully attracting new members.

In October we donated \$1,000 to the Nova Scotia Community College Foundation to be used in its entirety as a contribution to the NSCC COGS campus for the restoration and documentation of the Walter K. Morrison collection.

Over the past year we gained 13 new members to bring us to a total of 53.

Some of our anticipated initiatives for 2012 are webinars to deliver professional development options to members, interaction with Planning students and industry employers, and the creation of French versions of our handouts and brochures. In addition, planning for the 2012 workshop will start early in the new year and further information will be made available as details solidify.

I would like to thank the AAPT executive, council and education committee for all of their hard work this year. Based upon the above review of 2011, we saw a number of successful accomplishments and for that we should be proud. I look forward to working with you in 2012 as we continue to promote and develop this association. I would also like to recognize the contribution that Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations have made once again this year in support of the association.

On behalf of the Atlantic Association of Planning Technicians executive and council, I would like to thank you for your membership and support and wish you all the best in 2012.

Scott LeBlanc, AAPT President