



AAPT Newsletter

"to promote and advance the interests, education and experience of the Planning Technician"

Atlantic Association of Planning Technicians

FEBRUARY 2012

Workshop 2011 Review

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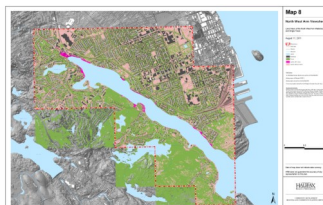
www.aapt.ca

The 2011 workshop was held in June at the NSCC Centre of Geographic Sciences. A total of 28 members registered for the 3-day workshop which consisted of computer labs sessions and boardroom lectures.

Day one started with Mark Hebert (NSCC COGS faculty) conducting a hands-on lab session on *What's New in ArcGIS 10* with a focus on the new interface, Python scripting, Geoprocessing, and Editing. This version of ArcGIS brings about significant changes not only to the look and feel of the software but also includes many new features and tools.

Gayle Maclean (HRM) presented on *Civic Addressing Challenges and Accomplishments in HRM*. She introduced us to the history of civic addressing in HRM, the migration from older systems to newer systems, the HRM Civic Addressing By-Law and Policy, and ongoing data corrections.

Scott LeBlanc (HRM) presented a hands-on lab session on *Viewshed Analysis in ArcGIS*.



This expanded upon a presentation by Mark Hebert at the 2010 workshop where we learned how to process LiDAR data and extract building heights.

The viewshed session focused on the methodology used to extract the building heights from LiDAR, the process of working with a DEM, forest raster data from LiDAR, and building vector/raster data to identify areas of land with waterbody views and significant historic and/or cultural features.

The final session of the day was a *Solutions Expo* in the lab which allowed people to pose questions to the group to seek answers from faculty, presenters, and workshop participants.

Following the last session was the annual Surf and Turf BBQ at Keith Saunders house. Thanks Keith and Susan for opening up your home to us for shelter from the rain and for your warm hospitality!!

Day two began with Tim Webster (AGRG) presenting on *LiDAR for Coastal Flood Risk Mapping*. Tim provided an introduction to LiDAR, how it is collected, and how it can be used for GIS analysis and mapping. He also discussed some flood risk mapping projects utilizing LiDAR.

The first session of the day provided an appropriate transition into a presentation by Dan Utting (DNR) on *Coastal Erosion Hazards Mapping*. Dan spoke of some of the project work that has been ongoing amongst various groups (DNR-ACAS, SMU, AGRG, Geological Survey of Canada), predictions of sea level change in Atlantic Canada, and the rationale for the mapping projects.



Dan also showed numerous graphics depicting the effects of erosion throughout Atlantic Canada over time.

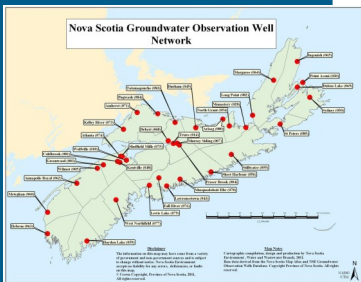
Fred Wendt and Jennifer West (Ecology Action Centre) presented on the *Protection and Management of Water and Watersheds*. Fred provided an overview of the Ecology Action Centre and then spoke to the effects of climate change on water and watersheds, planning issues, pollution prevention, and upcoming challenges (data, analysis, mapping, stakeholders, and jurisdictional issues).

Jennifer West presented on



“Groundwater cannot be managed effectively, at any scale, without data, and the agencies responsible should assign a high priority to securing it.”

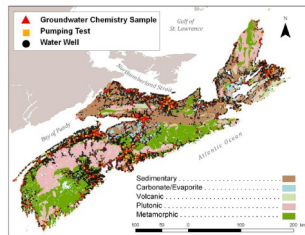
from The Sustainable Management of Groundwater in Canada



Workshop 2011 Review continued...

Groundwater in Nova Scotia and spoke to the research, data, and monitoring efforts throughout the province.

She also introduced us to the NS Environment online Well Log Database and NS Natural Resources online Groundwater Maps and Database.



David Raymond (NSCC COGS faculty) provided a tour of the *W.K. Morrison Special Collection & Terra Cognita Exhibit* at NSCC COGS. This consisted of a collection of framed maps as well as W.K. Morrison’s personal collection of maps currently being cataloged, restored and preserved.

The AAPT Annual General

Meeting (AGM) followed. There were no operational changes to the structure of the association. Please refer to page 4 of this newsletter for the draft minutes of the AGM.

Following the AGM, some AAPT members showcased their out of office skills during a friendly golf tournament at the Eden Golf and Country Club in Paradise.

The last day of the 2011 workshop started with Trevor Robar (LGS) and colleagues presenting a *Permit Tracking Application* that they have been developing for the Annapolis District Planning Commission. This application provides a homegrown permit tracking solution for managing Planning and Development information. For more information on this particular application, contact LGS at info@gissolutions.ca

David Raymond along with

Geographic Sciences students conducted a hands-on lab session on *Data Driven Pages in ArcGIS 10* to demonstrate how to go about creating an ArcGIS map series using EasyGUI and Python scripting.



The final session of the day and the 2011 workshop was a *Solutions Expo* in the lab that allowed people to pose questions to the group to seek answers from faculty, presenters, or workshop participants.

Thank you to all presenters and NSCC COGS faculty and staff for making this workshop possible. As well, thank you AAPT members for such a fantastic workshop turnout.

AAPT Fees

Membership Dues:

- Corporate \$100
- Full \$50
- Associate \$40
- Student \$10

Workshop Fees:

- Member: \$120
- Non-member \$220



Online membership application forms are available at:

<http://www.aapt.ca/apply>

Thank you for your continued support of the AAPT through membership and the workshops.

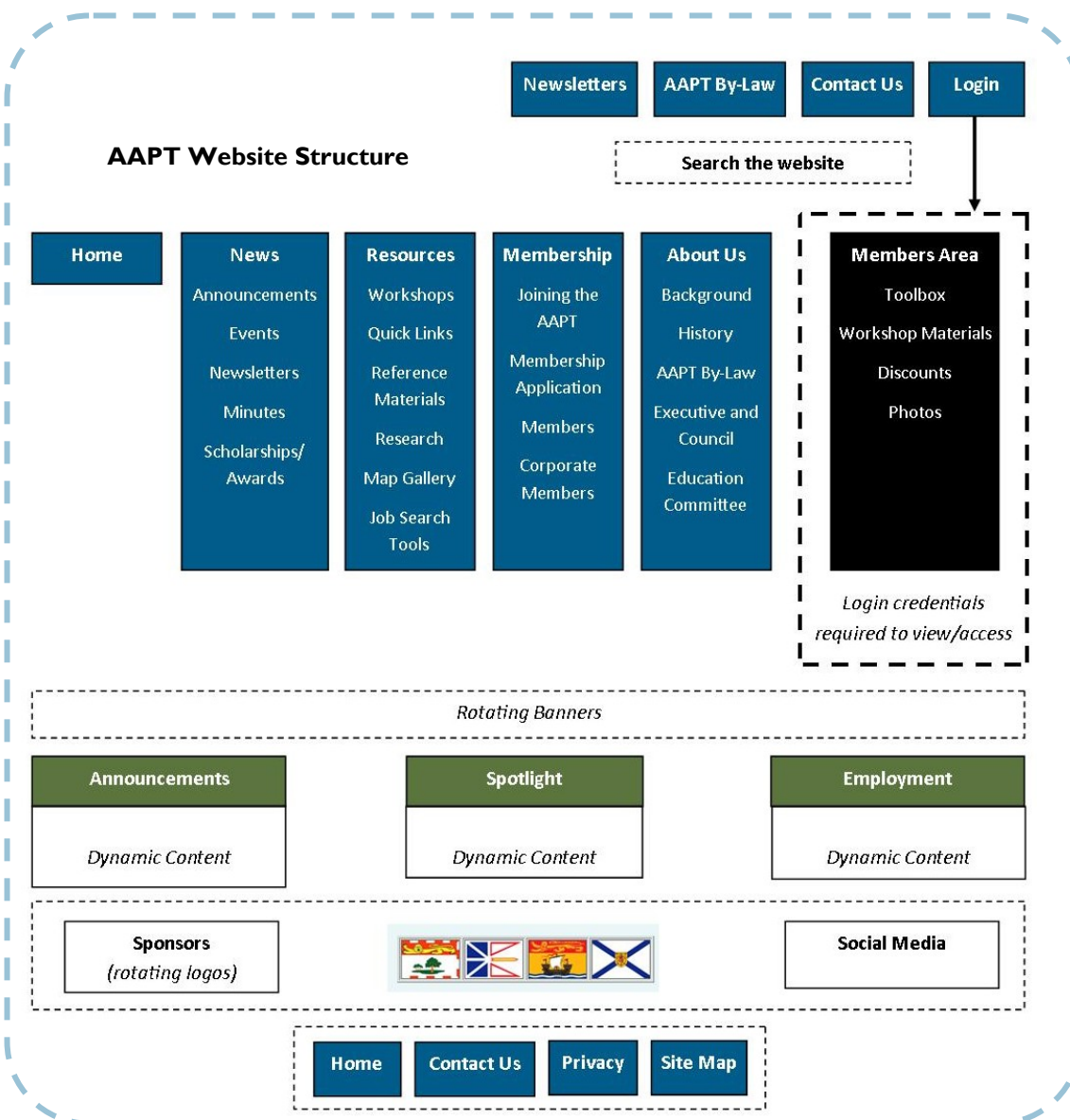
Note: membership fees collected in September.

AAPT Website Updates

In 2011, the AAPT website underwent a significant upgrade to provide the entirety of the Executive and Council the ability to update the website through a database driven live web application using login credentials. To accomplish this substantial initiative, we enlisted the local web developer skills of Immediac in Bedford, NS. The website now has a more professional look and feel and contains many news features.

The Map Gallery is a great way to showcase your Planning/GIS and Cartographic talents. The Toolbox (member login required) will provide you with access to the presentations and data from our workshops. The Online Membership Application will make new membership and membership renewals more efficient. The Search feature will allow to quickly locate the information that you are seeking.

Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the new layout and content by visiting our website at www.aapt.ca and exploring the website structure diagram below.



Website Stats

Old Site

Jun 19 to Oct 23, 2011

126 days

180 visits

531 page views

2.95 pages/visit

2 min 49 sec

Avg. time on site

How Far Are We Reaching?
Airdrie, UK
Tampa, FL

New Site

Oct 24 to Dec 30, 2011

67 days

289 visits

828 page views

2.87 pages/visit

2 min 21 sec

Avg. time on site

How Far Are We Reaching?
Courtenay, BC
Houston, TX

Annual General Meeting (Draft) Minutes 2011

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:45am

IN ATTENDANCE

Scott LeBlanc, President
 Melissa Bonin, Vice President
 Tonia Temple - Horvath, Membership Chair
 Marlene Clements, Treasurer
 Melanie Gerrior, Secretary
 Alden Thurston
 Ruth Thurston
 Tamara Dorey
 Drew Milton
 Amanda Bent
 Adam Holmes
 Mark Hebert
 Justin Penny
 Cheryl Mackintosh
 Kelly Ash
 Erin Berry
 Tracy Bruce
 Mike Donnelly
 Lisa Ellingwood
 Theresa LeBlanc
 C. Keith Saunders
 Donald McLaughlin
 Tracy Robinson
 Monica Beaton

INTRODUCTION OF EXECUTIVE, PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF LAST AGM

It was moved by Ruth Thurston and seconded by Keith Saunders that the minutes of the June 17, 2010 Annual General Meeting be approved.

Motion Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Request to NSCC to Match Scholarships

Currently the AAPT presents two \$500 scholarships.

The AAPT approached NSCC asking them to match the number of scholarships making the number four in total (one for each Atlantic province). The NSCC Foundations (group responsible for reviewing scholarship requests) rejected the request citing that the AAPT was not eligible to have the current scholarships matched and that there was limited funding for such a request.

The AAPT also requested that NSCC include the AAPT scholarships on the NSCC website along with other scholarships and bursaries available to students. NSCC indicated that the current website is under development and they will be unable to include the AAPT scholarship information on the site at this time.

COGS Geomatics Employer Industry Tour

For the second year, the "annual" NSCC COGS Geomatics Employer Industry Tour was held in Halifax with first year COGS students touring industries in Halifax Regional Municipality to aid in determining their second year focus of studies.

A survey of the students attending was completed with positive feedback on the entire experience and 70% responding that the tour helped them pick their second year focus.

A letter of thanks was received from Ada Cheung for organizing and hosting the event and social; including encouragement to continue to organize and host such events in the future, as the students are very positive about the event.

NSCC Facility Rental Fees for Workshops

Bruce Hicks generously allowed the AAPT to use the COGS facility free of charge. Scott suggested sending a thank-you to Bruce Hicks for the generous donation. All in attendance agreed with this suggestion.

Merit Award Renaming

Melanie reported that the membership voted on the renaming of the Merit Award to the Tim LeFurgey Memorial Award and that thirty-two out of thirty-four returned ballots were in favour of renaming the award (thirty-six ballots were sent out).

Scott reported that Adam Robertson was the recipient

"It is a goal of the Association to provide its members with a comprehensive, on-going educational program. Efforts are made to offer seminars in convenient locations and to keep costs to a minimum."

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes 2011

of the 2010 Merit Award and Erin Covey was the recipient of the 2011 Tim LeFurgey Memorial Award.

Sarah LeFurgey along with her two daughters presented the Tim LeFurgey Memorial Award to Erin Covey at the convocation ceremony.

ERUC Exhibitor Booth

Scott reported that he and Hilary Campbell attended the 2010 ESRI Regional User Conference in October and shared duties staffing an AAPT booth (costing \$1100). The booth was well received at the conference and enables the association to help get our name out there.

Promoting AAPT to Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland

Tonia reported that she had prepared several packages containing AAPT promotional material and membership application forms and mailed them out to the municipal offices in Prince Edward Island. She plans to mail the Newfoundland packages out once she returns to the office.

Curriculum Survey (AAPT Skills Survey)

Mike Donnelly reported that the process began a year ago and he only received eleven initial responses. Now he has received forty completed surveys, with seventeen additional surveys 1/2 - 2/3 completed. The majority of the completed responses were by AAPT members (84%). The survey site will be shut down June 20. Mike will send the seventy-five pages of summary statistics to Scott who will post the results/statistics on the website.

This exercise was completed for the benefit of the AAPT and NSCC; with another survey not likely to be completed anytime soon. It was a requirement of NSCC to certify the Community and Environmental Planning program. Sixteen skills were analyzed which could have a profound effect in the software and skills used in the classroom.

Mike commented on the diverse field of participants and responses. The mean responses for the skills were circulated during the meeting for review. Results included nine responses from New Brunswick, four from Newfoundland and zero from Prince Edward Island.

Mike noted that only ten surveys contained site engineering related questions. He will complete a supplementary survey to the thirty participants who did not receive this section and will pass along the results to Scott and NSCC.

Scott thanked Mike for all of his time and effort into completing the survey and compiling the results. Members thanked Mike for his work as well.

CORRESPONDENCE

Several pieces of correspondence were received which Scott presented:

- 1) A thank you card was received from Ada Cheung on behalf of NSCC and students for organizing and hosting the NSCC Employer Industry tour.
- 2) In response to the request from president Scott LeBlanc, a letter was received from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (Dave Smith) agreeing to co-sponsor the 2011 AAPT Workshop with a contribution of \$2000.
- 3) A letter of thanks from Adam Robertson (2010 AAPT Merit Award recipient).
- 4) A Thank-you card from Erin Covill (2011 Tim LeFurgey Memorial Award recipient).
- 5) A letter of thanks from Jeff Knott, 2011 AAPT scholarship recipient.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Marlene presented the 2010 - 2011 AAPT Financial Report with a balance of \$9007.01, which did not yet include the workshop expenses. A speculated balance

of \$10,285.70 was reported. It was moved by Ruth Thurston and seconded by Kelly Ash that the financial report be accepted.

Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Tonia presented the 2010 - 2011 AAPT Membership Report with the association having fifty-one members. It was moved by Melissa Bonin and seconded by Alden Thurston that the membership report be accepted. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Review of the 2010 Presentation to New Brunswick Technicians and Development Officers

Scott reported that sixty-four invitations were sent out to the various offices in New Brunswick. Twelve people attended the presentation. AAPT promotional material and membership applications were sent out the offices unable to attend the presentation.

Listing of AAPT Scholarships on NSCC Website

Scott received word that a new NSCC website is currently under development and that the scholarships will be able to be added to the new site, but cannot be added to the existing site.

2011 AAPT Awards and Scholarships

Scott announced the 2011 Tim LeFurgey Memorial Award recipient to be Erin Covill. Jeff Knott and Jessica Rhodenizer were the 2011 AAPT scholarship recipients.

AAPT List-server Issues

Although no notice was given that the site was shut down for the AAPT list-server, the server continued to work. Scott sent ten notices/emails concerning the issues, but no response was received. Eventually Scott received a response indicating the

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AGM Minutes continued...

software had been upgraded and that the list-server had not been operational for three years (although it had been working for our members). Scott arranged to continue with the administration but needed two volunteers to monitor the information being submitted to the server and approve it to be forwarded to the members. Keith Saunders volunteered along with Adam Holmes to monitor the list-server on behalf of the AAPT. Mark Hebert also volunteered to be a back-up. Alden Thurston will continue to have access to add the contacts to the list-server and Scott LeBlanc will serve as his back-up.

Amendments to AAPT By-Law

Scott quickly reviewed the changes made to the AAPT By-Law which had been previously sent out to members to review prior to the meeting. The majority of the changes were housekeeping issues including updating the program name, the addition of Lifetime members, grammar and punctuation, etc. Keith Saunders moved that the AAPT By-Law be accepted as presented. Ruth Thurston seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the changes, and Keith called for questions. There were no questions. Everyone was in favour with no one opposed to the changes. **Motion carried.**

Less Restrictive Associate Membership Approval

Melanie reported that the membership voted on changing the AAPT By-Law to allow Associate membership to be less restrictive and that thirty-three out of thirty-four returned ballots were in favour (thirty-six ballots were sent out).

AAPT website redevelopment

Two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting; Scott LeBlanc, Hilary Campbell and Ruth Thurston met with a web developer to begin work on the new AAPT website. An agreement was signed for the developer to create a new website with a similar feel to the ESRI website. The website is scheduled to be deployed in July with Scott responsible for updating the content of the site on a go forward basis. The framework is scheduled to take seven hours to complete at a cost of \$1700. The web developer will host the site on their server for an annual fee of \$350 (meaning the AAPT website is no longer with Aliant).

The suggestion was made about adding a forum to the site eliminating the need for the list-server; Scott agreed to look into pricing of this feature. The new website will also include online membership application forms to help reduce the paper Tonia has to manage. It was

noted before the close of the discussion on the website to look into gaining additional corporate members.

French Options for Documents and Website

Tonia reported that she has completed translating the membership form and several AAPT letters to read in French. Mark Hebert's wife helped with some of the translation of the documents. As for a French version of the website the members agreed this would be a good option to investigate further and be looked at as a second phase of web redevelopment.

AAPT Skills Survey Draw for Garmin GPS Unit

Draw to be held Friday afternoon with the remainder of the door prizes.

Note: Cheryl Mckintosh was the winner of the Garmin GPS unit.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2011 – 2012

Scott stepped down from chairing the meeting and Ruth Thurston took the floor. Ruth asked for any interest or nominations for the AAPT Executive.

The following nominations for the Executive were brought forward:

AGM Minutes continued...

- President** - Scott LeBlanc
- Vice-President** - Melissa Bonin
- Secretary** - Melanie Gerrior
- Membership Chair** - Tonia Temple - Horváth
- Treasurer** - Marlene Clements
- Nova Scotia Representative** - Ruth Thurston
- Prince Edward Island Representative** - Rodney Blanchard
- New Brunswick Representative** - Rodney Blanchard
- Newfoundland Representative** - Alton Glen

- C. Keith Saunders
- Marlene Clements
- Mike Donnelly

All positions were filled by acclamation. Scott to confirm with Rodney Blanchard that he is still interested in being the provincial representative for New Brunswick and PEI.

Ruth stepped down from chairing the meeting and Scott resumed his position as chair. Scott thanked the Executive for the work completed in the past year.

Melissa thanked Scott for all of his hard work and efforts as President this past year on behalf of the Executive.

donation to the map library. The members felt this was an excellent idea. Scott to talk to Dave Raymond about the suggestion and a notice will be sent out to the membership to explore further.

Scott and Melissa noted that as part of the membership with the AAPT, members are now eligible for a 10% discount on ESRI Canada Training. There was a handout included in the workshop binder with all of the specifics and the promotion code for the discount.

ADJOURNMENT

Alden Thurston called for adjournment of the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Education Committee Members:

- Hilary Campbell
- Jami Fay
- Mark Hebert

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

It was suggested after the wonderful tour of the new W.K. Morrison Special Collection & Terra Cognita Exhibit that the AAPT make a



Submissions

Articles or ideas for newsletters may be forwarded to:
 AAPT c/o Scott LeBlanc, AAPT President
 Halifax Regional Municipality, Planning & Infrastructure
 Regional and Community Planning
 PO Box 1749
 Halifax, NS B3J 3A5
 (902) 490-1782 leblans@halifax.ca

NSCC COGS Industry Tours & Evening Social

The AAPT will be hosting Centre of Geographic Sciences students enrolled in the Geographic Sciences Program for tours of employers within the HRM, February 16-17.

An evening social for the students, faculty, and members of the AAPT will take place the evening of February 16 from 7-10 p.m. at the Middle Deck in Halifax, NS.

RSVP required via info@aapt.ca

Corporate Membership

Corporate members have the similar rights and privileges as that of a full member with the exception being that they cannot vote on any matter and can not be elected a councilor or officer. They can however attend our workshops. In addition they will receive advertising space on our website

(www.aapt.ca) in the form of their company logo linked to their website.

All of the proceeds from corporate memberships are used exclusively to fund scholarships for Planning students at NSCC COGS.

If you are interested in corporate

membership please contact our Membership Chair, [Tonia Temple-Horváth](mailto:Tonia_Temple-Horvath) at (902) 662-5068.





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 hands-on 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

AAPT Contacts

“Meet the Executive, Council, and Education Committee of the AAPT. If you are looking for more information on a specific issue, start here. We have a representative in each of the Atlantic provinces to help answer your questions or voice your comments..”

President

[Scott LeBlanc](#)

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Past President

[Mike Thompson](#)

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[C. Keith Saunders](#)

Annapolis District Planning Commission

[Hilary Campbell](#)

Halifax Regional Municipality

[Jami Fay](#)

Chester Municipal Planning Department

[Mark Hebert](#)

NSSC COGS Faculty

[Marlene Clements](#)

Municipality of Kings County

[Mike Donnelly](#)

NSSC COGS Faculty (Retired)