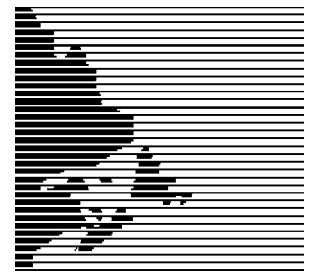


AAPT NEWSLETTER



Atlantic Association of Planning Technicians

Fall 1998

Workshop '98 Review

Planning Technicians from across the Maritimes gathered in Lawrencetown, N.S. on June 3-5 1998 to attend their annual AAPT workshop, hosted this year by the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS). Participants were treated to an excellent two and a half day technical program; 'New Tools for the New Office'. All of these 'new tools' can add richness to base map data and expand our ability to represent what's on the ground. In the first day and a half, we were introduced to the wonderful world of Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Our Instructor, Dennis Kingston of COGS was able, in that short period of time, to explain the basic concepts, lead us in field work and then help us visualize this data using GPS software. He presented a well organized, clear and - most important - fun introduction to GPS. We may not all have had the opportunity to strap on the GPS equipment and head for the great outdoors but we can all benefit from a clearer understanding of the origins, value and limitations of GPS data. Now, thanks to Dennis, we're tossing off expressions like 'real time differential' and 'epoch intervals'! Another source of information to augment base mapping is the air photo. But not every office has access to expensive image editing software to fit the photo to a map. Thursday afternoon, Jim Todd, a free lance instructor at COGS, introduced us to a

method that will 'hand register' a scanned air photo to a base map with reasonable accuracy using Corel Photo-Paint. We learned to scale, stretch, rotate, skew and distort a photo until it finally gave in and more closely fitted the base map of the area. As Jim remarked, this process is as much art as science. Friday morning we explored another avenue for clarifying mapped information - photographs. We've all learned that a picture is worth a thousand words and these days there are new ways to get those pictures. Don Bickford with Halifax Regional Municipality was kind enough to share his experience with digital cameras. We discussed the software and the various uses that we can make of digital images.

Thanks goes to all those who organized this year's workshop. It was well run, informative and entertaining.

Karen Ramsland
NS Dept. of Housing and Municipal
Affairs



N ews From the Schools

Planning and Land Information Technology, Nova Scotia Community College, Lawrencetown

Another year has started at COGS and we're in the process of 'gearing up' another class of students while the returning students tell me how much they've missed us over the summer. First year is larger than ever, with (as of Sept. 3rd) a class of somewhere between 22 and 24 (I'm still waiting to see who shows up after labour day). This year there are only 2 new students from outside the province, both from Alberta. Of the new students, 60% are direct entry from high school (a much higher % than previous years), 25% from the work force (seeking retraining) and 15 % from other post-secondary, (lower than previous years). In the second year, 11 students have returned. Of these, 27% are from other provinces, 55% from university, 36% from high school, and the rest from the work force.

Placements:

Employment was again high for last spring's graduating class. Six of them are employed with the private sector,

one is doing contract work, one is with government and 2 went out west, so that we're not sure (unemployed at last contact). Most of the work was in NS, although 4 are working out-of-province. The private sector component of the employment may be at its highest ever.

Student Projects

Second year students are busy developing their research project topics. Most returned to class with clients and clients this year so far include: Bay of Fundy Resource Center, Dept. of Natural Resources, Fundy Model Forest Network, Greater Moncton Planning District Commission (2 projects), NS Forest Alliance, and the Western Valley Development Authority. Discussions are underway between student and client with: Clean Annapolis River Project, Halifax Waterfront Development Corporation, Shubenacadie Canal Commission and the NS Dept of Agriculture. Many projects are GIS oriented.

Staffing

The biggest challenge for this year will be that Mike Donnelly is off for the year on deferred salary. Right now he's waiting for his wife to get her passport so he can pack her and the youngest kid off to England. He's been replaced by Paula Scallion-Pond, who graduated in 1994, and has been working as an engineering information technician (GIS) at the Halifax Water Commission. Jim Todd is teaching the 2nd year Graphics course and Roger Sturtevant, a local planning director, and David Kern, a local planning consultant are again acting as advisors for some of the research projects. A new Geomatics Technician will be providing services to the Planning program. As a planning technician for the City of London for 10 years, we are looking forward to welcoming Carol-Anne Ferguson to COGS.

Phil Hore Instructor, COGS
for more information contact:
902-594-2071, hore@cogs.ns.ca

Urban & Rural Planning Technology, Holland College, Summerside, P.E.I.

Hello from P.E.I. ! A new school year begins once more. A fine group of new and returning students is on board again this year.

Staffing

I would like to welcome Krisann Heaney (URPT Class of '88) to the program. Krisann will maintain her position as a GIS Technician with the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Dept. while providing periodic service to the program as a Lab Assistant.

Graduate Updates

1986 grad Dale Kloiber has recently returned to the island. He was appointed as the Planning and Development Officer for the town of Stratford.

Terry Scott (Class of '95) has accepted the position of Geomatics Technologist with the Provincial Treasury Department of the P.E.I. Provincial Government.

David Curley ('98) is employed as a Junior Development Officer with the Planning and Inspection Services Division of the P.E.I. Department of Community Services and Attorney General in Summerside.

Awards

Second year student John White was the recent recipient of a \$1,000 Geomatics Atlantic Scholarship. This award is one of only two presented each year. John was competing with his classmates as well as students from six other Maritime schools. Congratulations John!

Urban and Rural Planning Technology has recently received an award of recognition from the Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association. URPT has participated in a number of projects with this Summerside based watershed management group over the last six years.

Student Activities

A tour of industry sights in New Brunswick was undertaken this past spring. Stops included the city planning departments in Saint John and Fredericton, the Provincial Department of Municipalities, Culture and Housing, Universal Systems Ltd., FGA Associates, the New Brunswick Geographic Information Corporation and the Fundy Regional Economic Development Commission. Current students had the opportunity to meet URPT graduates at work at these sights.

Ongoing student projects include a civic numbering exercise in Brackley, tree inventory mapping in Summerside and fire district mapping in North Rustico. Anticipated activities for this year include student involvement in the Official Plan process for Kinkora and Souris.

Workshop '99

The program is looking forward to hosting the 1999 AAPT Workshop and Annual General Meeting. See you in the Spring!

Alton Glenn, Planning Instructor
URPT Holland College



Membership dues are OVERDUE for many. Please make sure that you are up to date by filling in the form accompanying this newsletter.

Feature

Annapolis District Planning Commission : A Decade of Experience with GIS Development

By Roger G. Sturtevant, MCIP

It was nearly a decade ago that I was asked to write about the Annapolis District Planning Commission's perspective on the potential uses of a Geographic Information System in a small planning office. (ED: See 3rd issue Newsletter, Spring 1989) At that time, the Commission was fully engaged in an early pilot project involving MUNMAP, a Generation 5 product that's primary strength was an 'open architecture' using structured query language (SQL) to link various popular off-the-shelf database and mapping softwares. The pilot, known as the 'Bridgetown Project', ran on a MUNMAP platform with AutoCAD and R-base. Data from the Town of Bridgetown was used to demonstrate the efficacy of GIS in a modest planning environment, The pilot was successful on many fronts and confirmed the potential of GIS use in a small office.

The ADPC worked closely with the Province, a private partner and the Town of Bridgetown in the 'Bridgetown Project'. The pilot won wide acclaim and garnered interest nationally. The move was then on to find ways of capturing more data and further training staff so that the project could be more widely implemented on a day - to - day basis.

In 1990, the Commission was asked to expand. The large areal region that it needed to provide service to, precluded its continuance with the pilot as developed. If the 'Bridgetown Project' was to be continued for four municipal units, major changes in product development would need to occur.

As the ADPC approaches the end of a GIS decade, we are into our sixth year as the rural partner on a pilot known as the LRMI (Land Records Management Infrastructure). The LRMI was announced by the Premier in 1993 as a streamlined way to provide computerized records of land that could be used by municipalities and the Province effectively and broadly. Importantly, the LRMI included a process to evaluate the way land records were made and maintained, eliminating redundancies wherever possible. Perhaps the highlight of the LRMI was its promise of transactional, real-time data distribution across a provincewide network. NovaLIS, using ESRI and Oracle products was to design and implement the LRMI through two pilot sites, Halifax and the Annapolis District Planning Commission.

The Commission found itself at a decision-making crossroads. A shift to the interactive LRMI was a calculated risk in its GIS progress and development. The implementation promised to be much more robust than a stand-alone GIS product, yet would take several years to realize in the pilot sites.

To-date the LRMI process has been fitful and often delayed....

although productive in important ways. While the ADPC has waited on true GIS implementation - using AutoCAD software for municipal infrastructure inventories and limited thematic planning products; the LRMI has changed the face of Provincial record keeping on many fronts. The Registry of Deeds has been overhauled and the Grantor/Grantee index is now a useful and efficient computer record. The integration of the Registry of Deeds and LIMS information is another milestone. So too, is the assessment account number/ PID match efforts that have led to much more accurate and clear databases. The assessment and parcel dataloads for the LRMI are well advanced, as is a CadEditor product for municipal use.

The LRMI has pushed the Province and pilot sites into development of standards of record-keeping required for accurate information management and GIS reliability. A fundamental benchmark and a commitment of ongoing partnership, the ADPC signed the first datasharing agreement with the Province. This initial two year agreement specifies and confirms data exchange and data integrity.

Over the last 10 years, our experience with GIS has been mixed. The ADPC has foregone modest independent systems development in favour of shared efforts toward an interlocking provincial-municipal LRMI tied into a local GIS workstation environment. We have seen the development and implementation of several small office GIS applications across the Maritimes and Canada. At this stage, the LRMI still needs to *demonstrate* electronic data exchange (EDX) between product modules. The LRMI also needs to implement GIS performance and LRMI functionality *in the pilot sites*. We are concerned, yet hopeful, that next year at this time we will be able to report on the *proof of the product in our local planning office*. Our perspective continues to be positive: our focus remains trained on the obvious advantages of a municipal GIS that is part of a distributed, shared and interactive LRMI.

EDITORS NOTE: Roger is the Planning Director for the Annapolis District Planning Commission located in Bridgetown. Anyone wishing more information on this subject can contact him at (902) 665-7526.

AGM

June 4, 1998
College of Geograhic Sciences
Lawrencetown, NS

Unapproved Minutes

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

Attendance:

Ruth E.W. Dugas - President
Don Bickford - Vice- President
Al Simpson - Past President
Dixie Lee Cress - Secretary Treasurer
Alden Thurston - Nova Scotia Rep
Alton Glenn - P.E.I Rep.
Karen Ramsland, N.S. D. H. M. A.
David Poole, Municipality of Kings
Brian Gallant, Baseline Business Geographics
Agnes Flam, HRM
Jill Cheverie, Region of Queens Municipality
Shawn Lamey, Greater Moncton Planning District Commission
Francis A. LeBlanc, Beaubassin Planning Commission
Mike Thompson, Pictou County DPC
Grace Proszynska, Municipality of Kings County
Lori Cook, Tantramar Planning District Commission
Chris Higgins, Municipality of East Hants
Rob Jerrott, Municipality of the County of Kings
Theresa Piovesan, Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting

It was moved by Alton Glenn and seconded by Don Bickford that the minutes of the June 26, 1997 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated: Motion Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes

Ruth reported that she had received a fax from Andrew Bone letting her know that the web site had been set up and contained approximately seven (7) pages. She noted that Alden Thurston and Peter Corbett had visited the site, but couldn't find/ access that much information. She said Andrew advises that the fee to register a domain name (.ca) is approximately \$70.00 and that aapt.com has already been registered by

the American Association of Psychiatric Technicians. Ruth said she would ask Andrew to attend the next executive meeting to further discuss the web site.

Skills Review

Karen Ramsland asked about the dacum chart.

Ruth explained about the need to review and update the skills list. She said that Peter Corbett has not been able to make any progress on the dacum chart because of the recent changes at the Annapolis DPC office.

Don Bickford asked if Peter could email the By-law to members of the By-law Review Committee for them to review. Ruth said that hopefully Peter will have time to deal with the dacum chart since it is needed before the Committee can do much.

Brochure

Ruth said she had a copy of the brochure completed in english if anyone wanted to take a look at it. She said that we may have to hire a professional translator or contact someone in the planning field in New Brunswick to do the french translation.

Shawn Lamey said that Moncton City Hall sends their documents out to a professional translator. He said he would take a copy of the brochure back with him and see what their translator would charge. Francis LeBlanc said he would also take a copy of the brochure to look over and see if he thinks someone in his office could do the translation.

Professional Planners Association

Allon Glenn asked about the status of the proposed Professional Planners Act. Ruth said that the only change to the proposed legislation she was aware of was a change from "designated" to "licensed" professional planner. As far as she can tell, the draft has not gone before the Legislative Review Committee and members of the Planners Association don't seem to be aware of what is going on. She said that Phil Hore is concerned about planning tech students and whether or not the use of "licensed" means that they will have to become members of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP).

Newsletter

Dave Poole congratulated the AAPT on the recent newsletter.

Ruth said that she was hoping to get another one out by the end of the summer. She thought she would

continue with the reports from the schools as part of the newsletter format.

Certification

Ruth said that there was nothing new to report regarding certification because the committee did not meet during the past year.

Correspondance

Ruth reported that a letter had been received from the Engineering Technologists asking if the AAPT had any concerns regarding their proposed Act. She said that she had written back to them advising that she didn't see anything for the AAPT members to be concerned about.

Financial Report

A financial report for the period September 1, 1997 to June 2, 1998 showing a bank balance of \$6,506.31, was circulated at the meeting.

It was moved by Mike Thompson and seconded by Dave Poole that the financial report be accepted as presented; Motion Carried.

New Business

Workshop Costs:

The cost to put on the workshop was discussed and concern was expressed over the cost of the facility fee plus HST charged by COGS.

Ruth said that we would likely break even after paying the facility fee to COGS, the cost for the GPS equipment from Trimble, the gratuity paid to Jim Todd and the cost of the hospitality suite.

Mike Thompson suggested that we send a letter to the Province expressing our concern about the cost to use the COGS facilities.

Ruth suggested that she write a letter to COGS expressing our concerns about the amount charged for the use of the facilities, acknowledging that we understand the charge is for cost recovery for after hours use, but pointing out that the AAPT is a non-profit professional association and many of the members are alumni from the COGS programs.

Mike Thompson suggested that perhaps our employers should also be writing letters of concern.

It was moved by Dave Poole and seconded by Mike Thompson that the President write a letter to COGS expressing the AAPT's concern over the increasing costs for facilities that we have always been welcome to use; Motion Carried.

Information For Next Newsletter

Karen Ramsland volunteered to write up a summary of the workshop for the next newsletter.

Theresa Piovesan asked if a list of email addresses of AAPT members could be sent out to all members.

Don Bickford volunteered to make up a list of email addresses to be included in the next newsletter. It was decided to use the email addresses from the recent membership renewal forms and workshop registration forms. Peter Corbett and Dixie Cress are to forward this information to Don.

Membership Report

Ruth gave the 1997-98 membership report on behalf of Peter Corbett who could not attend the meeting. There are approximately 59 active members. As a result of the recent membership mailout, 25 members have renewed and 7 have asked that they be removed from the membership list. There were also 13 new memberships approved during this period.

Election of Officers

Ruth stepped down from the chair for the election of the officers and the Past President, Al Simpson, took the chair and opened the floor to nominations. Dave Poole nominated Ruth Dugas for president. The nomination was seconded by Don Bickford. Ruth was elected president by acclamation.

Ruth then took the chair and the election of the remaining officers proceeded. The names put forward for officers for the next year were:

Vice-President:

Alden Thurston (nominated by Don Bickford, seconded by Theresa Piovesan); Alden declined to accept the nomination.

Dixie Lee Cress (nominated by Ruth Dugas, seconded by Alden Thurston); elected by acclamation.

Secretary/ Treasurer:

Hilary Campbell (nominated by Alden Thurston, seconded by Don Bickford); elected by acclamation.

The following appointments for Provincial Reps and Membership chair were made:

Nova Scotia Rep - Alden Thurston

PEI Rep - Alton Glenn

New Brunswick Rep - Shawn Lamey

Newfoundland Rep - Roland Burek

Membership Chair - Peter Corbett

The following people volunteered to serve on the Education Committee and

were subsequently appointed:

Rob Jerrott, Jill Cheverie, Karen Ramsland, Brian Gallant, Don Bickford, Mike Thompson and Chris Higgins.

Other Business - Workshop '99

Alton Glenn introduced the matter of workshop topics for the next workshop which will be held at Holland College, Summerside, P.E.I. in the spring/summer of 1999. He said that he felt the list of possible workshop topics listed in the 1997 Annual Minutes were still relevant and asked if there were any other suggestions.

Topics suggested during the 1997 Annual General Meeting were:

web page design, electronic publishing, AutoCad as a design tool, negotiating skills/how to deal with developers and consultants, digital imaging techniques, desktop publishing.

Other topics suggested were:

time management, perhaps for a half day session, anything from the Holland College planning curriculum may be relevant, FTP.

Alton also said that the CACPT uses video conferencing for their meetings and asked if the membership felt there was any merit in trying this for the workshop, as it would allow more people to participate without having to travel. Dave Poole suggested that the Executive/Education Committees look the feasibility of doing this, even for part of the workshop.

Adjournment

Mike Thompson moved the meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

It was brought to my attention that our esteemed Vice President, Dixie Lee Cress was the recent recipient of the Guy Henson Award. This award is given to person attaining the highest overall standing of students graduating with the "Certificate in Local Government Administration" The CLGA is a two year program designed as a basic or introductory course to municipal administration. Great work Dixie.

On The Move

Theresa Piovesan has taken a years leave of absence from the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to work in Halifax with the Water Commission

Also now with Halifax Water Commission is Rob Jerrott who left his position with Municipality of Kings. He was replaced there by Marlene Clements.

A new Development Officer / Planning Technician has been hired in Windsor West Hants. Best of luck to Doug MacInnis who formerly worked as Development Officer for Colchester Municipality.

April Whynot has become full time with the Lunenburg Municipality.

Karen Dempsey is now with the Town of Bridgewater.

Merit Awards

This years Merit Award Recipients were:

COGS : Janet Porter

Holland College: Norah Jardine

Congratulations to you both, best of luck in the future.

Commentary

Congratulations



Ruth Dugas, President

Hi Everyone, the summer has passed too quickly as always and now the time is upon us to gear up for the winters work. Planning will soon begin for the spring/summer workshop in P.E.I. and we hope to bring you another great session on the Island. Alton Glenn and I have been talking and I've ordered good weather for this one. (pack that rain gear just in case.... I don't always get what I want you know!)

I've been thinking a lot about what to put in the newsletter as my contribution to this issue and during a moment of cleaning my desk, I got down to the layer that contained a thick package that needed my attention. I read this material earlier in the summer when it first appeared here and didn't think about it since then. Now I see that I have some following up to do on the issue and maybe others in the same position will need to pay some attention to it as well. With that thought in mind here's a little reminder for some, and food for thought for others, on a subject that will probably remain as part of our jobs forever:

Nova Scotia Civic Address File Project

This comes to us courtesy of the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs, and was set into motion in 1997. Many of our offices have been sent information on this endeavor and were invited to participate in a meeting in September last year concerning the project's initial report from Geoplan Consultants, obtained from a questionnaire survey taken in June 1997. Any of you who were at this meeting will remember there were various concerns raised and the meeting as a whole was informative and I suppose productive. Those of you who are not familiar with this project, here's a brief run down:

Reliable, geographically referenced database of civic addresses for the entire Province.

Simple, right? At first glance maybe. But there's a lot involved with this which has yet to be fleshed out and is still at the options stage.

To date a workplan document arrived on desks of those concerned this July, and it outlined the project's objectives and a plan for the pilot area. Accompanying the workplan was the final report from Geoplan with the implementation alternatives and costs. Both lengthy reports containing many issues and worth a read to anyone involved with civic addressing. Upon reviewing the workplan, I noted the proposed Policy Manual and Procedures and Guidelines Manual contains some familiar items, including assignment of civic numbers, signage, MSAG, community boundaries, road naming etc...

No offense but, here we go again. It's been 10 years for many of us working with this civic addressing 'stuff' and I think we have a good system for handling these matters. My burning question which I guess wasn't answered at the September meeting is, are we looking at the possibility of a new set of rules based on the pilot area and the need for a more precise criteria for locating buildings? Of equal concern is the cost to municipalities. I feel I made some positive input at that meeting and perhaps some of it was taken into consideration. It is great that we will have this data all linked and I hope that the results will be a system that will prove its usefulness..... Please, not another project that goes nowhere until the next budget.

Thanks to all those dedicated people who submitted items for this issue. I hope you all enjoy the read.

Brochure

Our AAPT Brochure is now available in English and French. Anyone wishing to order these can contact the President. Thanks goes to Francis LeBlanc in Shediac for the excellent translation job.

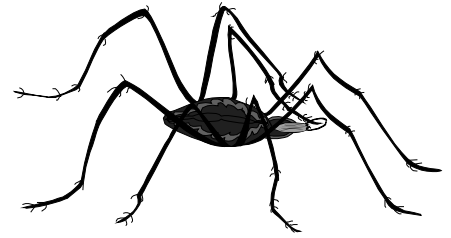
website is up and running but not at the final address, so I won't be publishing that site location until it is final. There is the basic information on it now and I plan to have a copy of the newsletter and our By-laws on there with up to date information on our association this month. By that time you should all be able to find us at a registered name. If anyone has information that they think should be on the site, contact Andrew at HRM.

PH: 902 490 6644

FAX : 902- 490 6727

email: bonea@region.halifax.ns.ca

Reminder



One last note: anyone who volunteered for something at the AGM should follow through as soon as possible. If you are now on the Education committee be prepared for the **commitment**, workshop comes quick and meetings will begin soon.

WEBSITE

Andrew Bone informs me that the

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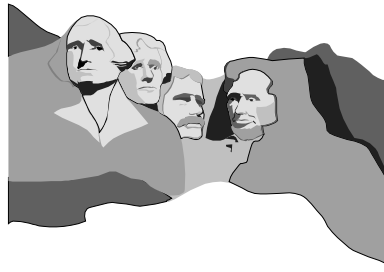
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NEWFOUNDLAND

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EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION CONTACTS

Holland College

Alton Glenn
See PEI Rep above

NS Community College - COGS

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email: hore@cogs.ns.ca

Humor Me!

An Owed to the Spelling Checker

I have a spelling Checker
It came with my PC
It plane lee marks four my revue
Miss steaks aye can knot sea.
Eye ran this poem threw it,
Your sure reel glad two no.
Its vary polished in it's weigh.
My checker is a bless sing,
It freeze yew lodes of thyme.
It helps me right awl stiles two reed,
And aides me when aye rime.
Each frays comes posed up on my screen
Eye trussed too bee a joule.
The checker pours o'er every word
To cheque sum spelling rule
Be four a veiling checkers
Hour spelling mite decline,
And if were lacks or have a laps,
We wood be maid to wine.
Butt now bee cause my spelling
Is checked with such grate flare,
Their are know faults with in my cite,
Of non eye am a wear.
Now spelling does knot phase me,
It does knot bring a tier.
My pay purrs awl due glad den
With wrapped words fare as hear
To rite with care is quite a feet
Of witch won should be proud,
And wee mused dew the best wee can,
Sew flew are knot aloud.
Sow ewe can sea why aye dew prays
Such soft where four pea seas.
And why I brake in two averse
By righting want too pleas.

Submissions

Articles or ideas for this newsletter may be
forwarded to :

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