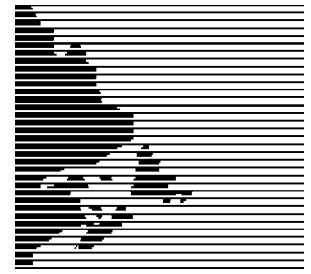


# AAPT



# NEWSLETTER

*Atlantic Association of Planning Technicians*

*Fall 1999*

Inside : News From the Schools, Commentary, Whats Up in East Hants?  
Workshop '99 Review, AGM Highlights

## Workshop '99 Review

submitted by Karen Ramsland  
NS Dept of Housing and Municipal Affairs

The Association held its annual general meeting and workshop from June 23rd to 25th. This year's workshop was generously hosted by Alton Glenn and Holland College at their Charlottetown Campus. The theme was "The Internet as a Planning Tool". It was a great introduction for Web neophytes but taught seasoned "surfers" a thing or two as well.

We began our program with a demo and talk by Carol Murphy. Carol is a graduate of Holland College's planning program and now works with the Province of P.E.I. The tour she gave us through P.E.I.'s Department of Development's Web site shows the power that mapping can bring to the Internet. Using AutoDesk Map Guide, Carol and her colleagues have created an interactive site where visitors can query maps and databases and obtain amazing detail about P.E.I.'s built environment. Thanks Carol and best wishes on the new addition to your family.

After looking at this sophisticated web site, we were lucky enough to learn how a basic Website is created. Is it magic? Our intrepid guide was able to show us that its actually quite a straight forward process. Andrew Bone, an employee with Halifax Regional Municipality and AAPT member, introduced us to Web page design; making it understandable and fun. Thanks Andrew for a job well done.

To keep us current with some initiatives on the Nova Scotia scene, we had the services of Geomatics Centre employees. Curt Speight, Todd Burt, Perry Hamilton and Mark Hebert were our guides through some Internet sites where mapping is an integral part of the system. These sites were created by the talented bunch at the Geomatics Centre. Users of the Property Records Database site can query property and assessment databases to produce custom maps and reports for any property

in Nova Scotia. At the second web site, Trails Nova Scotia, users explore the lesser known trail systems in Nova Scotia.

Our last formal session gave us an opportunity to see MapInfo software in action. Its been used to create user defined maps on sites around the world. Andrew Lush, with Baseline Business Geographics navigated us through a number of these sites, including some that he created himself. Thanks to Andrew and his colleague Stephen Ford for introducing us to the capabilities of MapInfo.

In addition to the formal presentation by representatives of MapInfo, Eric Melanson of Esri Canada, was on hand to answer questions about Esri software and its capability for mapping on the Web.

Once again this year, the venue was excellent, the workshop material timely and the presenters informed and well prepared. A special thank you to Alton Glenn and the staff of Holland College.



Curt Speight N.S. Geomatics Centre (L) and Eric Melanson of ESRI (R).

## Websites from Workshop

These are some of the websites that we visited during our workshop

The P.E.I site address is [www.gov.pe.ca/mapguide](http://www.gov.pe.ca/mapguide)

For help in creating websites go to [www.htmlgoodies.com](http://www.htmlgoodies.com)

The two sites that were created at the Geomatics Centre are: [www.trails.gov.ns.ca](http://www.trails.gov.ns.ca) and <http://geonova.gov.ns.ca> ( you must pay a monthly fee to use this site but you can see a sample for free).

Baseline Geographics website is [www.baselinegeo.com](http://www.baselinegeo.com)

Some commercial sites that have information, demos and free trial software:

[www.mapinfo.com](http://www.mapinfo.com)

[www.esri.com](http://www.esri.com)

[www.alaire.com](http://www.alaire.com)

[www.autodesk.com](http://www.autodesk.com)



Andrew Bone checks on Mike Thompson's progress in the web page design session



AAPT members (you know who you are!) Discuss the sessions during leisure time.

## Merit Awards

**The 1999 Merit Award Recipients were:**

**Holland College: Patrick Kelly**

**COGS : Tara Holmes**

**Congratulations!**

## *Missing!*

Unfortunately no workshop goes totally smooth. Reported missing on the last afternoon by one of our invited guests, was a compact disc which formed part of the display from ESRI.

Should anyone know of the whereabouts of the CD please inform the executive, we are anxious to have this item returned. A description is as follows :

**Gold Colored; ESRI; DMT I Data CD**

## *AAPT Website*

**Visit us at :**

**<http://www.cogs.ns.ca/aapt>**

# News From the Schools



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

Life is back to 'normal' for us at COGS. Mike Donnelly is back on campus and his replacement, Paula Scallion-Pond is back at her version of the real world, the Halifax Water Commission. Much thanks to Paula for a job well done. She has now joined a select club (composed of herself and Andrew Paton of Housing and Municipal Affairs), of those who have been full time replacements for faculty for a year. There's no award for members, other than realizing that the glazed look in your eyes will soon pass.

As I said, Mike is back, and vigorously denys any rumours (spread by me) that he can't read a map, stating that no, he did not go to Mexico by way of the Florida Keys, nor did he go to Vancouver from Texas by way of Baja California. Somehow though, he did feel obliged to mention that he drove and his wife navigated. As to whether or not he was able to unplug himself from the computer over the year, he did admit to using the internet cafe in Corpus Christi 3 times, and that he used the internet in Vancouver to do his taxes since his employer had lost his T4 form. Not all was 'R and R' though as he and Dave Raymond of Cartography here at COGS did a contract with the Geomatics Dept. at UNB on evaluating image compression software. When asked: "so what did you learn on your year off ?", he replied that the automobile

is destroying Europe. Claiming to be refreshed (even after 5 weeks back at work) he indicated that his future plans were "Early retirement. Period."

Our other 'casual' instructors are also back : Jim Todd (Todd Graphics) is in 2nd year graphics, while Roger Sturtevant (Annapolis District Planning Commission) and Dave Kern (Delta Four Consultants) are both advising 2nd year students on their research projects. The students are now (early Oct.) beating their project proposals and outlines into shape and all have clients, ranging from Parks Canada to Kings Co. Planning and Development Dept.

Enrollment in the program is up (as it generally is at COGS again this year), with twenty-one in first year, eleven in 2nd and four 'in-between'. The first year class is primarily from Nova Scotia but there are some from New Brunswick and one from Newfoundland. About two thirds of the class have some level of other post-secondary background with the largest group of five being from SMU geography.

Last year's graduating class is almost all employed, with one of ten not having been heard from. Two have gone on to further related studies. Unlike the previous class, almost all were on contracts, some of which have already been renewed and extended (for up to a year in some cases). Three are in New Brunswick, but the rest are 'in province'. A special thanks should probably go to East Hants which is currently well under the 'control' of our grads now (whether this is good or bad only time will tell). For a change only three were hired specifically for jobs using GIS or other computer skills, while others took positions in development control, research projects, graphics etc..

Our open house this year is Nov. 19. If you can, come down and see

what's happening.

Phil Hore, Instructor, COGS  
for more information contact :  
(902) 584-2071, hore@cogs.ns.ca

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

Hello from PEI! It was great to have a number of the members over for this past summer's workshop and AGM. Hope to see you again soon.

Fall brings a new school year and new challenges. The following is a brief description of some of this year's plans as well as updates on recent graduates.

### 2nd Year Projects

A number of challenging projects are in the works for students of the programs' second year class. These include:

- \* A design for an urban trail system to supplement the transportation options in the pedestrian-dense University area of Charlottetown
- \* An examination of safety concerns in the City of Summerside, with recommendations and designs for improvements utilizing the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
- \* Site analysis and design for condominium development proposal in Egmont Bay
- \* Inventory of underutilized small urban common areas in Charlottetown. Report to include recommendations and designs for improvement
- \* Work with an Island planning consultant on the Official Plan for the Town of Souris. Duties to include a land use survey, preparation of public notices and meeting facilitation
- \* Work with an Island planning consultant on a development plan for Slemon Park; the former CFB Summerside, now corporately owned

## Graduate Updates

*Class of 1999*

Joseph Driscoll and Dallas Gillis took advantage of the program's articulation agreement with the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design through their acceptance into NSCAD's Environmental Planning program. Best of luck, guys!

John White has secured the position of Junior Development Officer with the Planning and Inspection Services Division of the PEI Department of Community Services and Attorney General. John will be providing development control services to eastern PEI from the department's office in Montague.

Following a contract position with the planning department at the Town of Stratford, Patrick Kelly has been retained by the Information Technology and Geomatics Services branch of the PEI Provincial Government. The bulk of

Patrick's duties will be the provision of mapping services related to the Province's 911 civic addressing project.

Rodney Blanchard reports all is well in Fredericton, N.B., where he works as a Planning Technician for FGA Consultants. Since accepting the post last January, Rodney has been involved with a number of challenging projects including a municipal plan for Quispamsis and a future land use plan for Fredericton West.

Mike Walker has recently completed a contract with Eastcan Geomatics Ltd. of Halifax, N.S. in which he was retained to carry out the data collection for the civic addressing portion of a new provincial Emergency Response System project for Prince Edward Island.

#### *Others*

Norah Jardine (class of '98) was recently hired as a Planning Technician by the Region of Queens Municipality in Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

After working as a Planning Technician for one year; '98 grad Jill Cheverie has decided to further her education through study in the Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering department of the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, N.B.

1995 grad Lou-Anne Wolfe has been hired as a Junior Development Officer with the Planning and Inspection Services Division of the PEI Department of Community Services and Attorney General. Lou-Anne will be providing development control services to the western part of the Island from the department's office in Summerside.

## AGM Highlights

The following are highlights of the Annual General Meeting held on June 24, 1999 at 3:30 p.m.

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Ruth E.W. Dugas, President  
Dixie Lee Cress, Vice-President  
Alden Thurston, Nova Scotia Rep  
Alton Glenn, PEI Rep  
Shawn Lamey, New Brunswick Rep  
Cheryl Mackintosh, Mark Hebert, Karen Ramsland, Mike Walker, Chris Higgins, Sean Driscoll, Jacqueline Richard, Andrew Bone, Jill Cheverie, Mike Thompson, April Whynot-Lohnes

#### **MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the 4 June 1998 Annual General Meeting were approved.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The financial report was accepted.

#### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

The membership report from Peter Corbett noted that the AAPT currently has a total of 42 members. Two new applications for full membership were reviewed and accepted at the Executive Council/Education Committee meeting held 23 June. The two new members, April Whynot-Lohnes and Paula Scallion-Pond were approved by the AGM.

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

#### *Skills Review*

Ruth reported that the review of the skills list was ongoing and not much progress had been made. She advised those present that the Executive had discussed the need to review the AAPT By-laws at its 23 June meeting and was seeking the approval of the membership for the Executive to strike a committee to review the By-law and bring the proposed revisions to next year's Annual General Meeting. A motion was passed to do this.

#### *AAPT Web Page*

Ruth reported that the AAPT web page will be up and running on the server at COGS in the very near future. She said that COGS has agreed that the web page can be on the server as long as it does not cause them any work. Andrew Bone confirmed that the web page files have already been sent to Dan Spearns. He said that Dan suggested the AAPT donate a small hard drive to COGS instead of paying a yearly fee.

The possibility of putting job postings on the website, with possible links to the Provincial Government and HRM job listings was discussed. Maintenance issues were identified as a possible concern. Andrew said it would not take a lot of time to post items and maintain the information on the website. Those in attendance at the meeting agreed that Andrew should be the AAPT web master and would be responsible for maintaining the website.

#### *Certification of AAPT Members*

It was suggested that the possibility of certification can be looked at as part of the By-law review.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### *Invitation to Atlantic Planners Institute Conference*

Jennifer Tsang has invited a representative from the AAPT to attend the Atlantic Planners Institute conference in October, at which the proposed Professional Planners Legislation will be discussed. It was agreed that some one from the AAPT should try to attend. Mike Thompson said he would let Jennifer know that some one from AAPT will attend the conference. A motion was passed to pay the registration fee for the person attending the conference on behalf of the AAPT.

### *Letter From COGS re: Workshop Charge*

Ruth reviewed a letter dated 9 December 1998 from Dr. David F. Woolnough, written in response to the 23 November 1998 letter Ruth wrote on behalf of the AAPT membership expressing concern about the amount charged for the 1998 workshop. Dr. Woolnough gave a detailed breakdown of the various expenses and expressed the opinion that COGS had actually subsidized the AAPT workshop and would continue to do so in the future.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1999 - 2000**

Ruth stepped down from the chair for the election of president and Alton Glenn took the chair.

Mike Thompson nominated Ruth Dugas for president. Ruth was elected president by acclamation.

Ruth then took the chair and the election of the remaining officers proceeded.

Officers for the next year were filled by acclamation and are:

Vice-President - Dixie Lee Cress  
Secretary/Treasurer - Hilary Campbell  
Nova Scotia Rep - Jill Cheverie  
PEI Rep - Alton Glenn  
New Brunswick Rep - Shawn Lamey  
Newfoundland Rep - Roland Burek  
Membership Chair - Peter Corbett

Ruth explained the role of the Education Committee and asked for volunteers to serve on the Committee. The following people volunteered to serve: Alden Thurston, Andrew Bone, Mike Thompson, Chris Higgins and Karen Ramsland.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### *One Day Presentations/Seminars*

Ruth reported that Alton Glenn had received a suggestion from Hilary Campbell that the AAPT might wish to consider putting on one day presentations in various areas throughout the year to reach members who can not come to a three day workshop in the summer. She also mentioned it had been suggested that the AAPT could also consider sponsorship of certain events, putting up a display or providing a speaker at other functions.

This idea was discussed and those in attendance felt it was a good idea and it could also open up the AAPT to people who were not currently members. It was agreed that the Education Committee would investigate this further.

### *Holland College Urban and Rural Planning Program*

Ruth said she heard that Holland College may not be accepting first year students for next year's planning program.

Alton Glenn confirmed that there is a review underway, looking at where money is being spent and whether to revise or drop programs. He suggested that the AAPT may wish to write in support of the Holland College Urban and Rural Planning Program.

Ruth was instructed to write a letter on behalf of the AAPT in support of the Holland College Urban and Rural Planning program.

### *Lifetime Memberships*

Alton Glenn suggested the idea of the AAPT giving lifetime memberships to the founding fathers of the AAPT.

Ruth suggested that the founding fathers could be invited to the year 2000 workshop, which would also be the 25th anniversary of the AAPT, and the lifetime memberships could be awarded then. A motion was passed to look at this.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Andrew asked whether the membership was interested in having the website translated into French. Ruth said it was a good idea, but it could be difficult finding someone to do the translation. Jacqueline Richard said she would ask around her office to see if someone there would be willing to try.

Ruth thanked Alton on behalf of the membership for the excellent job he did organizing this year's workshop.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Thompson moved the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

For a complete transcript of these minutes contact AAPT Secretary, Hilary Campbell, 902 490 4494

## What's Up in East Hants?

Submitted by Chris Higgins

With the fastest growing area in Nova Scotia, there is always something new and challenging on the "to do list" in East Hants.

Recently the Planning & Development Department along with Environmental Design and Management (EDM) Ltd. received a national planning award of excellence. This award was one of five given out across the country and was short listed from 55 entries. The award was for a Long Term Development Plan for the corridor area of the Municipality. The objectives of this study were to develop a long term plan by determining the capability and suitability of various lands for recreation, open space, environmental and heritage protection, residential and potential commercial development and transportation corridors. This study, along with many others, were approved by Council to provide background information for the current Plan Review. The Planning and Development Department has also been reviewing the Subdivision By-law, MPS and LUB since the summer of 1996. This review is anticipated to be complete in February 2000, making it one of the first full set of documents to be reviewed by Municipal Affairs under the new Municipal Government Act.

Once the Planning Review is completed, I will be working on improving the Municipality's GIS. Many of the studies that have been completed as part of the Review had a GIS component to them. These studies have provided the Municipality with many new layers including floodplains, watersheds, geology, 2 metre contours, soils, potential parks etc.. Most of this data is for the corridor area, however some studies were municipality wide. We will also be looking into a permit tracking system as well as investigating the use of a digital camera.

Also, once the Planning review and Y2K project (another one of my duties as Y2K Coordinator) are completed, I will begin

to design and maintain a Municipal web site.

## Commentary

Ruth Dugas, President

The role of the planning technician can be one with many variations of tasks and responsibilities. I have had moments of musings lately which I would like to share with you.

There are several offices out there, not unlike my own, with maybe two or three staff members. As the lone technician, we find ourselves wearing many hats, sort of the "Jack of all Trades" Technician. I think this can be rewarding in that the range of skills which we leave school with are utilized more often. It keeps us well honed and ready for anything that may arise in the course of the planning day. Although at times keeping up with current technology is difficult with the limited finances found in a small department, we manage to struggle along.

Some of us more than others find the need to learn new skills in this type of workplace. Peter Corbett has many roles to play in the running of the Annapolis DPC, as he is in charge of payroll and office administration. Dixie Lee Cress also carries out many functions as she is the only member of the Lunenburg DPC staff that is there every day. As you can see from his article, Chris Higgins is finding that the term "anything else council deems necessary" adds much to the technician's

job description.

With the latest surge of employment in the geomatics sector some technicians will find themselves positioned in a work environment where their capacity may be for a specific task. At times I find myself envying these people who may only have to think about one job. I say this as one who is torn between priorities and often only does bits and pieces of the long running projects until one of them gets done. Oh, how nice it would be to sit and work on something without the interruption of "here's another job for ya."

In all these situations we can look at expanding our workshop topics to bring in some of the little used, but still relevant skills that these type of technicians find getting a bit rusty. Hopefully our continued educational program can serve to support all technicians in some meaningful way, while still attempting to focus on the upcoming technologies.

Personally I am reluctant to let the old technical pens be retired. And don't even think that I can throw away those colored markers. The other day Gary (mentor\planner) needed a rezoning report map for the next evening. As I threw together a map that looked fairly presentable, with my black pen and hand lettering, I asked him what he would do if he didn't have a tech that could do a "quick and dirty, needed it yesterday" type of map? His comment folks - "I wouldn't have one that couldn't". It sure made me feel wanted. Thanks Gar!

## Contacts

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### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

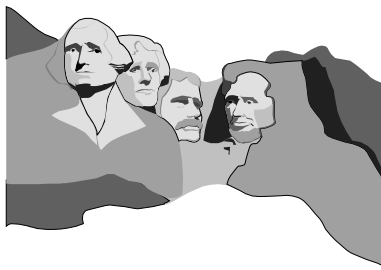
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### **PROVINCIAL REPS**

#### **NEW BRUNSWICK**

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Greater Moncton Planning District  
Commission  
655 Main St. City Hall Moncton NB  
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#### **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

Alton Glenn URPT Holland College  
425 Granville St. Summerside P.E.I.  
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(902) 888 6461  
FAX (902) 888 640

#### **NEWFOUNDLAND**

Roland Burek, Town of Paradise  
P.O. Box 100, Paradise NF  
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(709) 782 1281  
FAX (709) 782 3601

#### **NOVA SCOTIA**

Vacant due to the resignation of Jill  
Cheverie.

### **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION CONTACTS**

#### **Holland College**

Alton Glenn  
See PEI Rep above

#### **NS Community College - COGS**

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## Congratulations

Joyce Babin, Ex Technician (but always one at heart) was married on June 26. When questioned, her one comment was - "don't laugh Ruth" This reporter is still on the story.

## On The Move

The new D.O\Technician for the County of Annapolis is Britt Roscoe. Best of Luck in the new position Britt!

Tim Burns is welcomed to the Municipality of Queens as their new Technician replacing Jill Cheverie.

By this writers calculations Theresa Piovesan should be back in Cape Breton although this is not confirmed.

## Membership

Please make sure that your memberships are up to date.

## 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.

## *Submissions*

Ok guys, you've all seen the kind of stuff we like to put in this publication, Now *pleeeeeeeeeeease !!!!* send us something new, (or uses of a similar nature)

Articles or ideas for this newsletter may be forwarded to:

AAPT c/o Ruth Dugas  
P.O. Box 10 Tusket, NS, B0W 3M0  
(902) 648-0432 FAX  
email c\o bldgrec@istar.ca

# This space for rent!