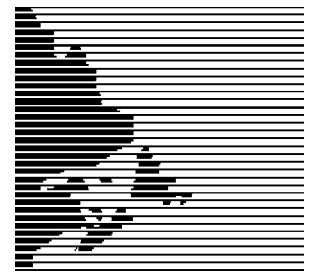


AAPT NEWSLETTER



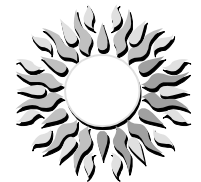
Atlantic Association of Planning Technicians

Spring 1999

Inside: News From the Schools
Spicing Up Kentville's Municipal Recipe
Project 2000 , GIS/GPS Conference Report,
And More !!!



Workshop '99



“The Internet as a Planning Tool”

The wheels are in motion to bring you an interesting three days on Prince Edward Island in June. The final dates are June 23, 24 and 25 in Charlottetown. The Education Committee is hoping that as many of you can attend as possible so book those dates now! (registration fee TBA). Our topic is packed with information for the online tech or those looking into GIS options without high costs. Here's a sneak preview:

The Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre is sending a presentation on their GEONOVA website, including a chance to explore this site.

The PEI Department of Tourism has developed their website using AutoCad and we hope to have a representative to tell us about that.

Baseline Business Geographics is working some interesting applications using the internet and Alton will be talking to them about attending.

During all this we will be touching on website creation and having a hands on activity designing our own web pages. So those of you interested should put on your thinking caps and be prepared with information to use in this session.

We are also looking into having the respective vendors set up displays to give you a chance to see their products and ask question during the breaks.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for June 24. Election of Officers is coming then so those of you interested in serving on the Executive or education committees can contact the past president Al Simpson who handles the nominations.

All this and beautiful PEI in June, certainly a workshop not to be missed. Look for the registration form and final agenda soon and don't forget the members discount. I hope to see you there!

News From the Schools

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

As of March 5, Mike Donnelly has actually surfaced near Corpus Christi, Texas, after being unplugged for 1 1/2 months, perhaps a record!. He had last been heard of in Winnipeg in January but seemed to still be plugged into the system. His plans were to drive to Mexico via the Florida Keys (making some of us wonder about his sense of geography in terms of the most direct route). As of March 5 he and his family were apparently camped out on some beach. (ED: it figures when I need him he's doing the beach bum thing!)

Meanwhile his replacement Paula Scallion- Pond, class of 94, bravely soldiers on, all the while wondering what's going on with the 'younger generation' of students.

The new Technician for Cartography and Planning, Annie Ferguson a recent returnee from Ontario after 16 years with the City of London, is adapting to our version of the real world and is beginning to think about putting down roots in 'the valley'.

Assistance in the program has also been provided this year by Jim Todd (graphics) and Roger Sturtevant (Annapolis DPC), and Dave Kern (Delta 4 Consulting) in the research projects. The projects themselves have their usual range of topics, although if there was a common element to the requests this year, it was clients requests to apply GIS to projects that the tool either was not ideally suited, or else with data that was inappropriate or incomplete. As a result, many students are analyzing

user needs and making recommendations based on their analysis of GIS in their projects. Topics this year include:

- a policy analysis of proposed coastal lands program for New Brunswick
- customizing a user interface (2 projects both for Greater Moncton DPC)

- a number of GIS applications:

 - 2 model forests

 - 1 for the Schubencadie Canal,

 - 1 for a local community group

 - involved in marine resource management,

 - 1 on infrastructure management

 - for Bridgetown

 - 1 for NS Dept of Natural

Resources

- a database analysis for the Western Valley Development Authority

- an examination of the cranberry industry for the Clean Annapolis River Project

- an examination of the public-private partnership in new school development in Annapolis Royal.

Its approaching graduation , so the 2nd year is in their normal frenzy over job prospects (the first ones seem to have just started coming in) and faculty are attempting to keep them calm and focused. As usual neither is happening (think about it, were you calm in March or April at COGS ?) (were the Faculty ?). The Co-op program for the first year students is more popular this year, with 7 approved positions so far (as compared to two last year) so they're all looking forward to getting out there and being somewhere other than Lawrencetown for the summer. This won't employ all of the first year, but it is a much better start than we normally have at this time of year.

As for me ? I'm no longer in administration and have returned to full time teaching. For all of you who ran to attend my law classes, yes they're still on Friday afternoons in the Fall, and Monday mornings in the winter so that student attention is at it's peak (is this why 2nd. Years have

Sunday night parties ?)

Phil Hore, Instructor, COGS

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

On The Job Training

A number of challenging on -the-job training placements have been made this year. Some of these include:

- In-fill study for the Town of Stratford, P.E.I.

- Planning Technician, Queens Region Municipality, Liverpool, Nova Scotia

- Municipal data creation, Town of Rothesay, New Brunswick

- GIS Needs Assessment, Island Drafting, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

- GIS technical support, Graham McKay Consulting, Summerside, P.E.I.

Graduate Updates

1999 grad Rodney Blanchard was the successful applicant in the competition for a Planning Technician position with FGA Consultants of Fredericton, New Brunswick. Students of the program finished 1st and 2nd among a field of 52 applicants.

Norah Jardine (class of '98) has recently been appointed as a Development Officer with the Royal Planning District Commission in Norton, New Brunswick.

Provincial 911 Project

Eastcan Geometrics Ltd. of Halifax, N.S. has been retained to carry out the civic addressing portion of a new provincial Emergency Response System project for Prince Edward Island. Data collection will utilize GIS, GPS and Vocarta voice recognition software. Two URP students are being hired immediately

as team members on this project. A third will begin work in May. The students are three of eight people hired from a field of over 100 applicants.

Sherbrooke Community Plan

Students of the program have played a large part in the updating of the Official Plan for the community of Sherbrooke, P.E.I. The planning consultant in charge of the project has utilized the students in various aspects of this process including undertaking a land use survey, acting as facilitators at a public meeting, taking photographs of the area and producing mapping for inclusion in the plan.

GIS/GPS CONFERENCE

Submitted by Hilary Campbell
Halifax Regional Municipality

I was pleased to be able to attend the 2nd Annual GIS/GPS Cape Breton Conference, held on 15 & 16 October 1998 at the University College of Cape Breton. The two days were packed with interesting speakers, and it was good to meet such a wide range of GIS users and discover what is being developed these days. The theme of the conference was "GIS is All Around Us."

The keynote speaker for the event was Alex Miller, president of ESRI Canada. His talk revolved around the simple fact that computers and computing technologies are being integrated into our everyday lives at a phenomenal pace. Technology will embed geography into most information applications, ranging from environmental concerns to education, marketing to military.

Did you know that there are well over 200 million computers, but several billion chips, currently in use? Chips allow us to measure virtually everything, so the question now is how to use and store that information. There has been an explosion in the number of computer users, which is ongoing. GIS professionals are, and will

continue to be, the foundation of that explosion, as new tools and methods evolve to keep pace. A "network economy" is emerging, and geography will integrate it. Already, as we know, GIS is connecting organizations, processes and data. Even more significant, however, is the use of GIS in decision support, as the relationship between data collection, science/analysis and decision making tightens by becoming faster and more automated.

Other speakers built on that theme by describing some of the projects they have been developing. There were updates from: the Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre on the Nova Scotia Mapping Program and the Civic Address File; the Department of Health on the use of GIS in developing general practitioner service areas; the Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs on (and I quote) The Joy of Statistics and GIS; the Department of Natural Resources on using GIS/GPS for forest protection; the Department of Agriculture & Marketing on planning and resource management; and the Canadian Coast Guard College on its new program, developed in-house, to assist in marine search and rescue missions.

A speaker from Canada Post, Heather Kinsley, spoke about their efforts to integrate mailing and civic addresses, as they are migrating away from general delivery, rural routes and post office boxes. This was welcome news to anyone who had ever generated a notification list! Ms. Kinsley also informed us that there is a relatively new initiative being developed at the federal level, called the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure, with a secretariat established recently to guide this effort. In essence, this is the first step towards national data standards. Judging from the experiences of those south of the border in this regard, developing these standards will take a number of years, but it's good to see that something is finally being done to address this issue. For more information on this exciting initiative, take a look at <http://cgdi.gc.ca/>.

Former AAPT member Joyce Babin, GIS manager for the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, gave an informative and humorous talk on using the federal voters list to generate a municipal voters list. She indicated that it was a long and

arduous task to get the two datasets combined, and privacy issues prevented them from using their normal method of verifying the list, which was to post the list in various public places for inspection. In short, it was almost as expensive to use the federal list as it would have been to go out and enumerate CBRM from scratch.

Joyce was also a key organizer of the conference, which was hailed by all attendees as a rousing success - congratulations, Joyce! I look forward to next year's event with great anticipation, and I encourage anyone who uses or has an interest in GIS to try to make it to Sydney for this extremely useful (and very reasonably priced!) conference.

Project 2000

Project 2000 is a Holland College Foundation initiative which makes funds available for the purchase of equipment needed by College programs. Programs make yearly application to this fund.

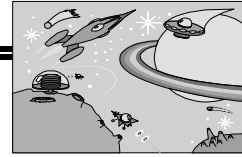
Applications utilizing financial support from outside sources are looked upon favorably. The Urban and Rural Planning Technology program has benefitted from this fund in the past. Recent successful applications have included a MapInfo site license purchase and an SPSS site licence, both supported by outside sources.

In October Alton Glenn requested the Associations support for an application to Project 2000 for the purchase of a new printer for the programs computer lab. The specific request was for \$1000. Alton suggested that this amount could stand as the Associations facility fees for the 1999 workshop.

Keeping in mind that the cost of the recent sessions held at COGS were in excess of this amount, the executive felt that this would be a worth while endeavor and one in keeping with our objective of supporting the Planning

Technology program at the college.
The executive approved of the release

of funds and I am happy to report that
the programs application was
approved by Project 2000



Feature

Spicing up Kentville's Municipal Recipe

CityView GIS has taken the Planning Department for the Town of Kentville to a new level for both our customers and inter-departmental communication.

It has been over two years now since the Planning Department did an in-depth evaluation of various GIS platforms. Why CityView? one always asks..... Well to be honest, I have to say the key components to this system are user friendliness, design capability and flexibility of the system to be used for numerous projects. I believe everything in this world can be geo-referenced to some degree and CityView proves it!

Most municipal units across Atlantic Canada that operate a GIS, do so in a very repetitious way. Most environments have common mapping layers and similar data linked to those layers. It may be civic numbers, lot numbers, assessment data etc.. Here in Kentville, we are enhancing our GIS to correspond to just about everything that comes through our doors.

At this moment we are inputting every road sign in the Town of Kentville. This project stemmed from a lost court case dealing with inappropriate signage and insufficient markings. When this project is completed, we will be able determine what signs should be replaced and the replacement value of those signs for budgeting purposes with digital photos and other pertinent information.

With just a population of 5551, manual updating is attainable, which in turn has kept our system precise. The Planning Department has designed numerous forms (databases) that may or may not link to mapping. Our main form, 'Property Information Form' contains numerous data with numerous links. One can do a search on a property and within milliseconds, all the pertinent information about that parcel is retrieved with a corresponding map. We can show an individual an image of every existing structure, an assessed value, all the permits ever issued on a parcel, water line measurements, provincial data, zoning, number of units, and even the type, size and value of a tree that is on a front lawn. Oh yes, and let's not forget the dog that lives in the house.....We also have Dog License Forms.

Because of its overwhelming power and flexibility, other

departments are also jumping on board. The Recreation Department is in its preliminary stages in developing a form with a primary aim at serving facility management in the areas of maintenance schedules, park inventory, facility inventory and equipment inventory (tractors, irrigation systems etc.). Parks and Recreation, like Planning could have a detailed organized database linked to mapping. For example, one could show and provide specs on electrical outlets in a particular facility for promotional events. The Public Works and Water Commission have already developed forms for curb-stop ties, curb opening permits and fire hydrant information, again all linked to mapping. However, the latest project is using CityView for E.M.O. We have broken the Town into six EMO zones with data attached to each zone. If this project works to plan, it could be used as a model for other EMO strategies to follow.

The Planning Department continues to use CityView for permit applications, subdivision applications and zoning certificates. The beauty about CityView unlike other GIS systems, is that it allows you to process new ideas easily, where other systems would require large amounts of programming. Our primary goal here in Kentville is to one day have CityView on the internet. This would allow the world to examine this wonderful new resource that is assisting Kentville's daily operations.

Dave G. Wallace,
Planner/GIS Administrator
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Commentary

Ruth Dugas, President

When realizing that the time has come for another edition of the news, I found myself wondering what to write about. So I started once again ploughing through the contents of my desk. There has been a pile accumulating during the winter months and this seems a good time to dig through it:

Hmmm , here's a couple of magazines with various info ranging from business, resources management, to GIS related stuff - they fail to bring any glimmers of an idea. One did contain an interesting article about the Nova Scotia Western Valley's approach to sustainable development. More economic related, the article does promote the model example of watershed management and resource preservation. Another had an interesting piece on employment recruitment services. I guess this should garner a few tips to help one secure that elusive job!

Here's a few copies of maps from the GEONOVA NSPRD site, which I am at times, frustrated with. It never fails that whenever I have a use for this data there is inevitably discrepancies, omissions or errors (One of the reasons why the folks at Amherst will be invited to present a session on this website at our upcoming workshop).

Oh this is food for thought, Alden Thurston faxed me an extract from a 1960's home economics text book. It tells how to be a good wife! Some of you really have to read this in its entirety to appreciate it. The gist of it seems to be that you are to cater to all his needs, have dinner planned and ready on time when he gets home (*good luck*). Make yourself pretty looking for him, keep the house clear of clutter, minimize all noise (*does this mean locking the kids in the cellar?*) "Caring for his comfort will provide you with immense personal satisfaction" (*oh really!*) And yet another jewel: "His topics of conversations are more important than yours." *Gee maybe this is why I've*

gone through two husbands. Do you think he was trying to tell me something or just being funny?

I just found *The Desktop Mapping Times*. This publication is from Baseline Business Geographics and has some interesting info. I am hoping that we will see their representatives at the Workshop.

I guess I should file this invoice somewhere, it is for an interesting item I got from a small business in the valley. You see I have an HP 350C plotter that seldom gets used. (mainly because I am still waiting after a year or more for my digital files - but that's a bone I won't pick here). I found that the ink cartridges dried out fast, and that meant opening new ones anytime I had to plot something. The photocopy repairman who services our machines runs this business and I had asked him if he had any ideas on the problem. Well, he suggested these clips for the cartridges. He carries them with him because he services some of these products and has to have cartridges in his repair kit. They snap on the cartridge and allow you to store them until needed. They cost \$4 each and probably will save me a lot more. Anyone interested can give me a call and I'll put you in touch with him.

Arc User magazine. A weighty item aimed it seems users knee deep into analysis and avenue applications. I usually skim this for items pertaining to planning. I get Arc News and Arc North also, I find the latter to be an easier read. It has the Canadian side of the industry with some interesting applications of GIS.

How many of you received the NovaLIS News? I think these guys are trying to distract us from their lack of progress on the LRMI. What do ya think?

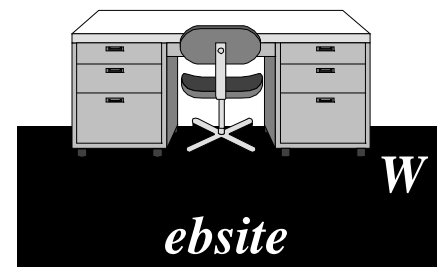
Where did all these faxes come from. I have to clean this mess more often!

OH OH , More Civic Address file information. I must say the progress is impressive on this as they have now come out with procedures for road naming and community naming oops, I should say General Service Area

Labelling - which is now the buzz term for that task! As well as boundary delineation procedures. Most of these are already common sense and practised in the majority of areas I am sure. Others are a bit absurd and given that many of our municipalities have a handle on the road and community name thing we won't have to worry about it. It does appear that this endeavour is creating a long paper trail that may not be a bad thing, but likely to lead to more clerical work having to be done by technicians involved in maintaining the civic addressing in the municipality. On an aside the new Municipal Government Act includes a section that places the possibility of civic addressing enforcement within the municipality's by-laws if they choose. I can't imagine many councils opting for that. Can you see it, the poor by-law enforcement officer travelling the municipality to tell residents that their civic number is on wrong, or too small. Then what are they supposed to do, I didn't see a mention of the ability to levy a fine?

I was going to discuss some of the things in the MGA but I haven't had time to read the relevant sections yet. Are you kidding, there's so much other interesting stuff on my desk. !

Oh gee, I got to go I just found a note to call the insurance company and I'm in deep trouble if I don't. I have enjoyed cleaning my desk with you, I hope you did too!



The hold up with the website appears to be finding a server. We are working on it and will keep you informed.

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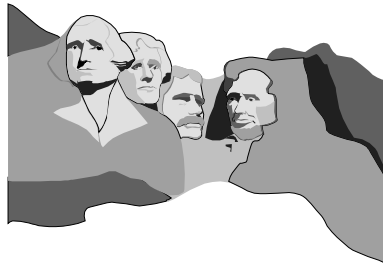
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Congratulations

Its a Girl! Elizabeth was born to Alton Glenn and his wife Daphna on March 1.

On The Move

The new technician for the town of Wolfville is Chad Renouf. Best of Luck Chad!

Membership

Membership renewal is coming up Please make sure that you are up to date in order to receive a discount of the June Workshop registration! Complete the form accompanying this newsletter and return to Peter Corbett with your cheque.

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

Articles or ideas for this newsletter may be forwarded to :
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