### GPI Atlantic

Genuine Progress Index for Atlantic Canada / Indice de progrès véritable - Atlantique



GPIAtlantic's new Managing Director

We'd like to extend a hearty welcome to our new Managing Director Bill Turpin, formerly editor in chief of *The Daily News*. Bill officially began work September 3, but has been getting his feet wet for several weeks. Thank you to the Board Hiring Committee for the long, difficult, and rigorous selection process. We had an outstanding field of candidates. To view a bio of Bill, click here.



On September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2002, why don't you head to the woods to discuss the alternatives to clear cutting? Members of GPIAtlantic have been invited to share in this field day on the 1400-acre woodlot of Dr. Wilfred Creighton, 98 years young, former deputy minister of Lands and Forests. Talk with Bob Bancroft, noted wildlife biologist and Nova Scotia woodlot owner. View work in progress by woodlot operators and consider the options. A traditional hot meal with homemade dessert will be available as well as door prizes and auction for Dr. Creighton's book. For more information and registration, click here.



# goats key to saving millions on NS farms!!

Soils and Agriculture, Part Two, was released on September 5, 2002, covering Soil Quality and Biodiversity. A major recommendation is to integrate cows, goats and sheep into crop-growing areas. The animals' manure is a cost-effective, efficient means for improving soil quality. "The bottom line is that crop yields will increase, while fertilizer and fuel bills will decrease," says report author Jennifer Scott, who has been doing agricultural research for the past 12 years. "Ultimately, the health and economic state of Nova Scotia farms matters because it affects our health, our food and our future." Click here to view the press release.

The report shows that in Nova Scotia, the soil is eroding six times faster than it is building up. The loss of organic matter and planting of soil-degrading crops is leading to decreased soil quality, which costs over \$11 million in lost income on farms. Manure is a safe and cheap way to improve the soil and livestock require pastures and hay, which help build the soil.

The September 5th report release at Cole Harbour Farm received excellent publicity.

To view some of the news coverage, <u>click</u> here.

To purchase a copy of the report, click here.



GPI Glace

### Bay Stirs Up a Storm of Local Fun

- Dispatch from Tricia MacKinnon and Debbie Prince.

Our Public Relations Coordinator, David Braithwaite, suggested several ideas to foster more public awareness of GPI within the community of Glace Bay. Pool, Baseball, and Dart Tournaments, along with a GPI Bowl for Fun night, were just some of the events he proposed. A Pool Tournament was arranged between GPI Glace Bay and Harvest House on June 13, 2002. Although we didn't win, we had a great time, and a re-match will be held in November.

The GPI Invitational Ball tournament, held on August 10, 2002, was a great success. The GPI Gladiators looked very professional in their team hats and t-shirts. Harvest House, CEIP, ACAP, The Hub Club, and Sterling Outreach were represented in the tournament. Dr. Peter MacIntyre, from UCCB, and his friends were invaluable to the team and got us out of more than one tight spot. In spite of the hot day, many spectators attended the games, and enjoyed the hotdogs and pop that were supplied by the participants. The tournament resulted in a tie for first place between GPI Glace Bay and Harvest House. This was the first public relations event utilized to promote GPI's involvement within the community. It was agreed by all who attended that we should hold another Ball Tournament before the cold weather arrives.

The t-shirts and hats will be used again in September, when our Bowling for Fun night is held. Over 40 people have signed up to date, including many of our CEIP employees, Harvest House, and a number of people from

Townhouse as well. Everyone is encouraged to bring his or her family and friends to enjoy the evening and learn a little about GPI in the process.



### GPI / Full-Cost Accounting Enters Environmental Assessment Process

Following a GPIAtlantic briefing in Moncton, NB, explaining full-cost accounting methods and the potential of using the GPI in environmental assessments, GPIAtlantic was cited in the conclusions of the DFO report on the Petitcodiac River Causeway remediation. This is the first time, as far as we know, full-cost accounting has been included in the environmental assessment process. This could substantively change the environmental assessment process.



#### **Database Project**

Under Anne Monette's supervision, researcher Shelene Morrison has begun work on creating a composite database of all GPI results to date. This is the first time we have integrated our spreadsheets, charts, and tables, which will allow us to update reports and to easily replicate our NS reports for other jurisdictions. It will also allow all GPI researchers easy access to the full range of GPI results to date - an invaluable research aid. This is a very positive step towards a composite/integrated Genuine Progress Index for NS.

### Community GPI

Glace Bay survey results have now been entered into our database. Kings County data entry is underway. Researchers from Acadia University have joined our research team. A principal investigators' meeting was held Sept. 12. On Sept. 23, GPIAtlantic began work with community groups on a Genuine Progress Index for the Halifax Inner City.

### GPIAtlantic's Forest Accounts still making waves

- The provincial New Democratic Party has produced a detailed report and discussion paper on Nova Scotia forests, based in large part on the GPI Forest Accounts.
- The Atlantic Forestry Review continues reporting on the GPI Forest Accounts, with the latest issue (July, 2002) featuring a report on GPIAtlantic's half-day presentation to the Nova Forest Alliance. Title of the AFR article: "Heretic's Night at the Nova Forest Alliance."
- The NS Forest Products Association commissioned KPMG, one of the largest multinational accounting firms, to do an audit of the GPI Forest Accounts. GPIAtlantic has just completed a detailed response to questions posed by KPMG, and we expect the KPMG report to be released soon.

### **Now Hiring**

GPIAtlantic has just undertaken two new pieces of work in collaboration with the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, both for the fall, 2002: (1) An update of the 1999-2000 GPI report on Women's Health in Atlantic Canada: A Statistical Profile; and (2) an analysis of the unpaid caregiving results of the Community GPI, correlating results with health outcomes of caregivers. We are currently hiring two researchers for this work. If you are interested in applying, please contact our new GPIAtlantic managing director, Bill Turpin, at bturpin@gpiatlantic.org.



#### **News Briefs**

- GPIAtlantic one of nine winners of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada 2002 medal awards for its work on Smoke-free Workplaces.
- GPIAtlantic featured on CBC TV on the role of call centers
- GPIAtlantic results part of film series on gender differences
- GPIAtlantic interviewed by CBC radio on the changes in profile of AIDS in Canada
- GPIAtlantic's Bill Turpin part of NS Health Research Foundation workshop
- Canadian Commissioner of the
   Environment and Sustainable
   Development mentions GPIAtlantic in report to Parliament
- George Washington University using GPI Forest Accounts in Public Health 110
- Chapter on GPI in new book "From a World of Madness to a World of Sanity: Guides for Action" by George R. Marshall
- CTV Sept 20<sup>th</sup> documentary National Stress Test talks about GPIAtlantic.
- On June 20, Ron Colman presented "Economics as if People Mattered: What Kind of Canada are we Leaving our Children?" to the annual conference of the Canadian Pensions and Benefits Institute
- Colin Dodds presentation on Income Distribution in Nova Scotia featured in chapter of new book edited by Jim Sacouman of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, to be published soon

For more details on the news briefs, and more current and upcoming GPIAtlantic activities, check out our calendar.



Report Release Dates

For more details, including report authors and researchers, please <u>click here</u>.

- **September 5:** Soils and Agriculture, Part Two: Soil Quality and Biodiversity.
- October 9: Cost of Chronic Disease in Nova Scotia, to be released by Dalhousie University Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, in cooperation with Health Canada and NS Department of Health: 11am, Lunenburg Room, Hotel Nova Scotia.
- October 23: Release of Cost of Tobacco in New Brunswick and NB Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces, press conference in Fredericton with NB Department of Health, NB Cancer Society, etc.
- November: Solid Waste (Jeff Wilson).
- November: Debt and Assets (Colin Dodds), first draft currently nearing completion.
- December: Air Quality (Anne Monette), currently being completed.
- Winter 2003: Transportation is about 3 months from final completion.
- <u>■ Winter 2003: Work Hours</u> (Linda Pannozzo) is about 3 months from final completion.



Third issue

#### now available

RealityCheck, The Canadian Review of Wellbeing is a joint production of the Atkinson Charitable Foundation and GPIAtlantic. Click here to view the third issue, Vol. 2, No. 2. To view previous issues of RealityCheck, click here.

### Description of Jennifer Scott's Panel on Genuine Progress

On July 5, GPI Soils and Agriculture researcher, Jennifer Scott, represented GPIAtlantic at a forum on Democracy and the Environmental Movement at the Delta Halifax. For details on Jennifer's talk, click here.



## Economic Cost of HIV/AIDS in Canada"

by Colin Dodds, Ronald Colman, Carol Amaratunga, and Jeff Wilson, is the first article in a new book published by the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, entitled: Striking to the Heart of the Matter: Selected Readings on Gender and HIV. Edited by Carol Amaratunga and Jacqueline Gahagan (106 pages).

The book can be ordered for \$10 (including shipping and taxes), by sending an e-mail to mary.martell@dal.ca with your mailing address, and she will send an invoice along with the book, or by contacting Mary Ann Martell at: Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, PO Box 3070, Halifax, NS B3J 3G9, 902-470-6739 (telephone), 902-470-6752 (fax), www.medicine.dal.ca/acewh.

The newsletter is a work in progress, so please feel free to send us your suggestions, criticisms or observations. Please contact us at <a href="mailto:gpinews@gpiatlantic.org">gpinews@gpiatlantic.org</a>