

Newsbits

By Gordon Loane

City Council nixes garbage plan

A campaign by landlords and tenants has caused Fredericton City Council to abandon a controversial plan to privatize garbage collection services for apartment owners.

While about half of the city's large apartment building owners already pay for private garbage collection, the City was proposing to eliminate public garbage collection for all apartment building owners with five or more units.

Landlords indicated that the increased cost of private garbage collection would be passed on to tenants in the form of monthly rent increases.

One landlord on Fredericton's northside decided to hike rents by \$9 a month if the new system of private garbage collection came into effect.

Opposition to City Council Smoking By-law

Fredericton City Council has encountered opposition to its proposed smoke-free places by-law.

At a lengthy session of Council last week, health lobby groups wanted to see the by-law strengthened even further, while business groups complained that the plan goes too far.

The smoke-free places by-law would require restaurants and pubs within Fredericton City limits to set aside 25 percent of their space as non-smoking by January 1st.

By 2003, 50 percent of the seating area would have to be designated for non-smokers.

Officials from the Canadian Cancer Society and the Heart and Stroke Foundation appeared before City Council asking for tougher measures to counteract the effects of second hand smoke.

Business owners on the other hand fear there will be job losses if the by-law passes and also say it would lead to problems with enforcement because the by-law would not apply to all businesses.

Lobbying for Better insurance rates

A Burtons Corner, N.B. man has formed a company to lobby for better car insurance prices for young men in the province.

Art Hachey, the owner of Equality for Males, wants to obtain a new group insurance rate for young male drivers that will be 10 to 20 percent cheaper than the rates most of them pay as individuals.

More information on Equality for Males is available at www.angelfire.com/art/egfm.

Mature student enrollment down

According to Statistics Canada, the number of 25 to 44 year olds enrolled in full-time undergraduate studies decreased in Canada by about 10 percent over the last six years.

In 1992-93 there were 79,900 mature students enrolled in full-time undergraduate studies but in 1998-99 that number had declined to 73,600.

Journalism lecture set for Monday

The Journalism programme at St. Thomas University will present a live interview with author, columnist, and UNB Writer-in-Residence Douglas Fetherling on the stage of the Ted Daigle Auditorium in Edmund Casey Hall next Monday, December 4th at 7:30 p.m.

Fetherling will speak on the topic of "Journalism and Other Crimes."

He will explore the current state of journalism in response to questions by David Folster, special advisor to the STU Journalism programme.

There will also be opportunities for members of the audience to ask questions.

The event is free and open to the public.

Respected UNB Prof mourned

A retired Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at UNB Fredericton, Professor Leonard P. Edwards, passed away last Friday at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton at the age of 95.

He received a Bachelor of Arts (Mathematics) in 1937 and his Master of Arts in 1938 from Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia and taught in various schools in that province before joining UNB's Department of Mathematics in 1946.

He served as Head of the Department (1966-1970) before retiring in 1973 at the age of 68.

He continued to tutor many UNB students until he reached the age of 90.

Professor Edwards was known by many students and colleagues as an outstanding teacher and received UNB's first Excellence in Teaching Award at Fall Convocation in 1972.

He was also a Fellow of the Canadian Mathematical Congress.

Professor Edwards is survived by two sons - Stirling of Manila, Philippines, and retired UNB Physics Professor Dr. Merrill Edwards of Fredericton; and by a daughter Diane Stephenson of Grand Bay-Westfield, N.B.; one sister Elsie Huskison of Yarmouth, N.S.; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife Bernice and three brothers and one sister.

The funeral service was held this past Wednesday at Christ Church Cathedral.

Interment will be in Fenwick Cemetery, Amherst, N.S.

Those wishing to do so may make donations to the charity of their choice.

Music educator passes away

Dr. Janis Kalnins, who taught music for nearly 20 years at the New Brunswick Teachers College (predecessor of UNB's Faculty of Education) passed away last Thursday at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital at the age of 96.

He was a prominent musician, composer and conductor and served as organist and choir director at St. Paul's United Church in Fredericton for many years.

He's survived by special friends Ann and Paul Horncastle of Fredericton; Alfons and Sigrin Kalns of Mississauga, Ontario and many friends around the world.

Dr. Kalnins was predeceased by his wife Hermine (Inshe) Kalnins.

A memorial service was held yesterday at St. Paul's United Church in Fredericton.

Interment will take place at a later date.

For those who wish, memorial tributes may be made to a charity of the donors choice.

New Residence at UNBSJ

UNB is seeking Expressions of Interest from architectural firms for the design of a new student residence facility at UNB Saint John. A new residence consisting of approximately 238 beds in 119 two-bedroom suites is being envisaged.

Each two bedroom suite would include a small food preparation kitchenette area and a private washroom.

The total building area is expected to be in the 75,000 to 90,000 square foot range.

Submissions for architectural services will be received by the university until Friday, December 15th at 3:00 p.m.

UPEI to build new student centre

Construction is expected to begin in the Spring of 2001 on a new \$5 million student centre at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown.

A grand opening is planned for September 2002.

UPEI students have committed almost \$2 million and the PEI government a further \$1 million towards the project.

Further funds have been committed through a faculty and staff campaign as well as from alumni donations.

The university is also hoping to land other major capital gifts for the project.

City budget hits student pocketbook

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

Students will need to dig a little deeper into their pockets as a result of Fredericton's 2001 municipal budget tabled last week.

Effective January 1st, city bus passengers will pay a cash fare of \$1.45 a ride instead of \$1.35.

The 10-ride card becomes \$14 instead of \$13 and the 20-ride card goes to \$26 from \$24.

The student monthly pass will increase nearly 9 percent, to \$36.50 per month from \$33.50.

In addition, Fredericton residents with physical challenges, who require the services of dial-a-bus, will pay \$3, up from \$2.50.

The senior citizens' annual pass fee will remain unchanged.

The bus fee hikes are expected to raise an additional \$69,000 for city coffers.

Meanwhile, the City of

Fredericton's inside tax rate for 2001 will increase to \$1.39 per \$100 of assessed property value, a jump of 1.95 cents.

Taking into consideration the city's tax rate increase, a 2.31 percent increase in assessments and the two percent fee the province charges to do property assessments, the overall tax increase will be anywhere from \$39.23 on a \$75,000 house to \$104.59 on a \$200,000 property.

Since many homeowners and apartment building owners usually pass on property tax increases to tenants in the form of rent increases, students with apartments or rooms in the City will most likely see modest increases some time during the 2001 calendar year.

In a further development related to the 2001 municipal budget, Fredericton City Treasurer Marven Grant said Summer casual workers may also see less work from the city during the upcoming year.



Mike Cormier / The Brunswickan

Operating surplus but UNB still carries debt

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

UNB's audited financial statements for the 1999-2000 fiscal year that ended April 30, 2000 show an operating surplus of \$101,000 based on a \$135 million budget.

The Fredericton campus ended the year with a \$51,000 operating account surplus while on the Saint John campus the operating account surplus amounted to \$50,000.

Despite the operating account surplus, UNB still has an accumulated deficit of \$3.4 million for the fiscal year that ended April 30, 2000.

In addition, UNB has outstanding long-term debt totaling \$5.5 million as a result of operating its residence buildings on the Fredericton campus.

In a financial report presented to the UNB Fredericton Academic Senate this week, UNB's Vice-President Finance and Administration Daniel Murray reported significant challenges in the current fiscal year related to energy and heating costs.

As a result of increase costs for light and heavy oil needed to operate UNB's Central Heating Plant, the university expects to be about \$500,000 over budget for heating costs this year.

To meet the challenge UNB expects to draw on a substantial portion of its fuel oil price fluctuation reserve of \$400,000 accumulated over the past few years, Murray indicated.

In addition, an anticipated saving of between \$200,000 and \$300,000

in salaries resulting from vacant budgeted positions should more than cover energy costs and other cost increases resulting in a close to break-even operating budget situation by the end of the 2000-2001 fiscal year, Murray noted in his report.

"It is clear from these figures that financial challenges continue for UNB," Murray said.

"If salaries, benefits and most non-salary costs rise only at the rate of general inflation, if fuel prices continue to rise and if a continued gradual decrease in enrolment occurs, operating deficits will result."

"This situation will occur even without recognition of the fact that

university expenses in general tend to rise at a rate of at least one-half of one percent higher than basic CPI increases," he continued.

"This is a result of the specialized equipment, supplies and library materials required at a university."

"Operating deficits would occur without the expansion of any existing programs or activities," Murray emphasized in his report.

For students, Murray indicated that tuition fee increases will be a component in future financial plans.

While refusing to speculate about where tuition levels might be headed at UNB next year, Murray noted in his report that UNB's general tuition fee of \$3,635 for the current

academic year is ranked 13th out of 17 Maritime universities.

He pointed out that UNB, unlike several other Canadian universities, does not charge differential tuition fees for certain degree programs.

"If UNB is to continue to play a vital role in the Province of New Brunswick and offer a broad range of quality comprehensive programs while remaining competitive with other similar institutions in Canada, then our funding situation must be improved," Murray said.

He indicated that UNB must continue to be careful with limited resources and undertake careful analysis before new activities or programs are implemented.

Not this term: UNB Rugby Hearing

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III

The Brunswickan

The hearing of 46 members of the UNB Ironmen Rugby team at the Student Disciplinary Committee won't take place until the new year.

"I apologize for failing to respond earlier, but truly there is nothing to report," wrote Kerry Hatfield, Chair of the SDC in an e-mail message to The Brunswickan after several attempts in recent weeks to learn details. "As things sit now, no further progress has been made."

A total of forty six students have been charged with a variety of violations of the Student Disciplinary Code including possession and consumption of alcohol in a public place, speaking or acting in a manner which harms or threatens to harm

persons or property as well as the misuse of university property. The charges stem from an outdoor party held September 23rd.

As a result of the September incident, the university has suspended the Ironmen Rugby Club for one week and handed them two-years probation for improper use of alcohol, unsportsmanlike conduct and rookie initiations.

One student, allegedly as a result of the incident, ended up in hospital with a life-threatening blood alcohol level.

The UNB Ironmen Rugby Club asked Fredericton lawyer and Rugby Alumni George Filliter to represent them before the SDC.

According to team members contacted by The Brunswickan, they have been advised not to comment

on the case.

Hatfield has already committed to leaving the proceedings open to the public.

"As far as I'm concerned, and I'm certain the final decision is mine, it will be open to the public," she told The Brunswickan in November.

The Student Disciplinary Committee, in addition to Hatfield, includes Law student Rebecca Pitts, three undergraduate student representatives (Steven Shepard, Lori Rand and Cliff Arnold) and one graduate student representative (Ernie Wasson).

The UNBSU representative on the SDC, Joe Allen, has withdrawn from hearing the case because he has been advising members of the Rugby Club about the matter in his capacity as SU Vice-President (University Affairs).

Scott rides Liberal tide - wins again

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III

The Brunswickan

Liberal Andy Scott was re-elected as Member of Parliament for the Fredericton riding.

Scott took 14,174 votes, or 39% of the total votes cast to comfortably defeat Raj Venugopal running for the Progressive Conservatives, who earned 10,924 votes, or 30%.

Canadian Alliance Allan Neill came third with 8,739 votes or 24%.

New Democrat Michael Dunn received 2,584 votes or seven percent while William Parker garnered 233 votes, under one percent of the vote for the Natural Law Party.

The results represent a shift since

the 1997 election. While Scott edged out PC candidate Cleveland Allaby in 1997, he had only a 1,400 vote lead and earned 12,252 votes.

With nearly the same number of voters casting ballots in this week's election, Scott doubled his lead while support for the PC candidate stayed at the same level.

More Frederictonians also moved to the Canadian Alliance, increasing support to 8,700 votes and earning an extra 2 percent of the popular vote in the riding compared to the Reform Candidate in 1997.

The big loser in the 2000 results for the riding was the New Democratic Party. Support dwindled from 13 percent in 1997 to just 7 percent.

Lobby groups not pleased with results

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III

The Brunswickan

Both national student lobby groups were disappointed with the results of the General Election.

"Regardless of which parties took which ridings, the real losers in this federal election are Canada's post-secondary students," said Mark Kissel,

National Director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). Both UNB and St. Thomas student councils are members of CASA.

"Their platform is nothing less than disappointing," explained Michael Conlon, National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students.

"Although the Liberals have begun to reinvest in research and development,

and promise to do more, their record and proposals on funding and student aid are inadequate," Conlon asserted.

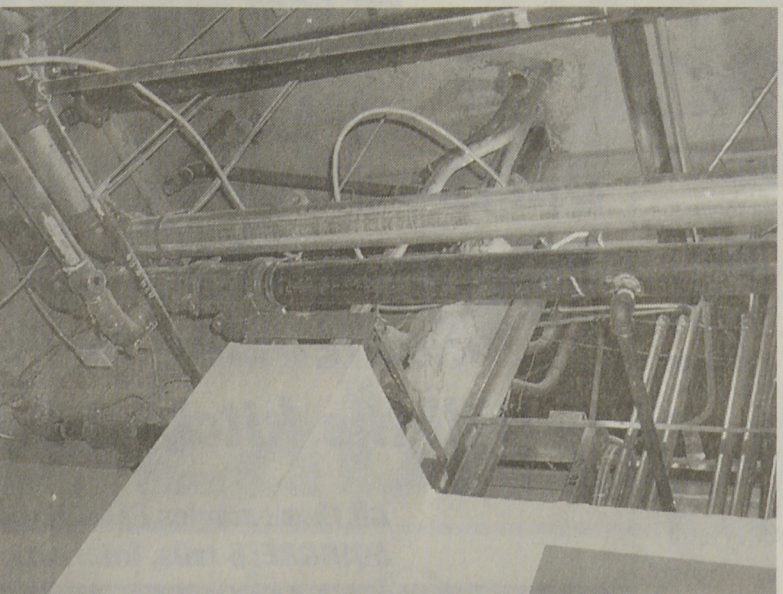
"Instead of restoring the \$5.2 billion they have cut from transfers for post-secondary education and proposing a comprehensive student debt reduction plan, the Liberals are fixated on programs with very limited reach, such as educational tax credits and private savings plans," Conlon said.

CFS ranked the party platforms in a "report card" during the campaign and awarded the Liberals a D. The government came third behind the New Democratic Party (B), the Progressive Conservatives (C), and followed by the Canadian Alliance (F).

"Students weren't asking for big promises in this campaign," argues Kissel. "Students were just asking for their issues to be included in the debate. They weren't."

Kissel warns a third majority Liberal government could lead to complacency.

"The issues facing Canada's post-secondary students and institutions are nearing a crisis point," he emphasized. "If real action is not taken now to address these issues then, come the next federal election, there will not be a public post-secondary education system to make an issue of."



Kevin Forneris / The Brunswickan

Our apologies for the photo of chairs last week. In fact, this was the construction next to the elevator we intended to use.

Ads, but no answers

Joseph W.J. FitzPatrick III

The Brunswickan

The Bank of Montreal appears to prefer purchasing advertising over speaking to a reporter from The Brunswickan.

Several weeks ago, an article was published which highlighted the long-standing complaints the owners of the Campus Shoppe, located on the main floor of the SUB have regarding the bank machines in the building.

There are two Bank of Montreal machines which dispense only \$20 bills.

Greg Belding told The Brunswickan he has complained about the situation for years because it has forced him to keep a larger cash float and go off-campus to get change more often than is needed for his store.

Belding has been negotiating with the Bank, asking them to upgrade their current automatic teller machines (ATMs) to those which dispense multi-denominational bills. But, after four years, the Bank of Montreal has made no move in this direction.

Kim Norris, Director of the SUB, said he was also concerned about security if tenants of the building either have to carry more money or when leaving the building to get more change.

When contacted in October, Michael Ryan, Associate Vice-President Campus Services and Planning, said he was not aware of the difficulties but would be happy to bring the matter to the table when the Bank's lease expires in February 2001.

Since that time, a line of communication has not been established with Jim Quigley, the Fredericton contact for the Bank of Montreal, and calls to the bank's head office in Montreal have not