

Impact on Campus bars unclear City considers Smoking by-law

Gordon Loane
The Brunswickan

A smoke-free environment in indoor public places within City limits is the goal of a new by-law currently under consideration by Fredericton City Council.

If adopted, smoking would be banned in public places such as retail and convenience stores, shopping malls, hotel lobbies and corridors, banks, theatres, bowling alleys, reception areas, foyers, entrance ways, hallways, elevators, and public washrooms in places of business within Fredericton City limits.

Smoking would also be prohibited in the public corridors, public washrooms, and meeting rooms in apartment buildings, indoor public pedestrian ways and public areas of eating or eating/drinking establishments having a seating area for 24 or fewer persons as well as for pool halls, bingo halls or private clubs.

There will be certain exemptions from the smoke free places by-law for drinking, eating or eating/drinking establishments having a seating area for 24 or fewer persons as well as for pool halls, bingo halls or private clubs.

Under provisions of the new by-law, eating and eating/drinking establishments within city limits will be required to physically separate a

minimum 25% of seating capacity for non-smokers, effective January 1, 2001.

The non-smoking area will be increased to a minimum of 50% of the seating capacity of those establishments on or before January 1, 2003.

The by-law also contains provisions requiring the owners of eating or eating/drinking establishments to post signs bought from City Hall which indicate whether smoking is permitted in their premises and in which areas.

Fredericton City Hall's by-law enforcement officer will be responsible for issuing fines for violators of the new smoke free by-law.

The proposed new by-law is now at the public consultation stage. The public can submit written responses concerning the by-law to the Clerk's Office at Fredericton City Hall by the close of business at 4:30 p.m. next Wednesday, November 15th.

At its meeting on Monday, November 20th, Fredericton City Council has set aside five minutes to hear each individual who submitted written comments and advised the City Clerk of an intention to appear.

The draft of the by-law is also available online at www.city.fredericton.nb.ca under

the "What's New" section or a copy may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office at Fredericton City Hall between the hours of 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

The smoke free by-law also applies to both the UNB Fredericton and St. Thomas University campuses, where certain smoke free provisions have been in place for several years.

The provision in the new by-law which requires eating/drinking establishments to physically separate a minimum of 25% of seating capacity for non-smokers may require more renovations at the UNB Student Union-owned and operated Pub and Grill, the Cellar, located in the SUB.

But the Cellar may also fall into the category of a "private club" and be exempt from the provisions of the new, smoke-free by-law.

The Cellar has recently undergone renovations and is currently in the midst of arrangements aimed at installing a new kitchen.

The new by-law is expected to have little affect at the College Hill Social Club in the SUB, which has its own separate ventilation system and does not serve food in its drinking establishment.

The Social Club also appears to fall under the provision of a "private club."

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to be talked with. They want to be spoken with, and respected. Students have told me they don't feel that from politicians."

"I believe a day of reckoning is coming on November 27th, when the Canadian people are going to have to make up their mind," he concluded. "Are we going to believe these guys [the Liberals] a third time?"

Venugopal is setting his sights locally, dismissing the "warring camps" idea of government and opposition in favour of "effective and local representation."

The reason party platforms and policy are not the issue in the election, Venugopal maintained, is directly related to the rationale, or lack thereof, that Prime Minister Jean Chretien advanced in calling the election in the first place.

"If you really take a good, hard look at the reasons for the election, there really are no burning policy issues on the fore of the Canadian psyche," he stated, noting that health care and post-secondary education are always important, and don't need an election to prove that to be the case.

The issue of how to spend the federal surplus, Venugopal asserted, is certainly not what students are worried about, either.

"If I said that in the Residences, that wouldn't be the issue that gets me elected," he reasoned. "It's 'what can I do for you?' and 'how can I serve you?' It's not what we do, it's why we do it."

"Students want to know that they are the purpose of Member Parliament's work and not an interruption to it."

Asked where he could have the most impact in a Progressive Conservative government, Venugopal responded he would like to be Secretary of State for Post-secondary Education, a position which would have to be created.

"I'm an International Relations guy, so Foreign Affairs has a deep allure for me," Venugopal said,

adding he's interested in health care as well.

"The federal government has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure health care delivery is at a uniform standard pursuant to the Canada Health Act."

"Of course," he said dryly. "There's one other position in cabinet that would be very appealing to me, and the man who holds that position now has the initials J and C."

Venugopal has gathered a list of party faithful to assist in his campaign, including Brian Harquail, who Venugopal defeated for the party nomination, and 1997 PC candidate Cleveland Allaby.

"The greatest badge of honour I have is being able to work with Brian Harquail as a team," he said. "My biggest fear was that the team would not gel after the nomination convention."

In a novel bit of campaigning, Venugopal has thrown open his doors to anyone willing to accompany him on the trail.

"If they want to see what I say and see what I do as someone who

aspires to public office, just call my campaign office or come and visit me at the corner of Queen and Carleton," he stated.

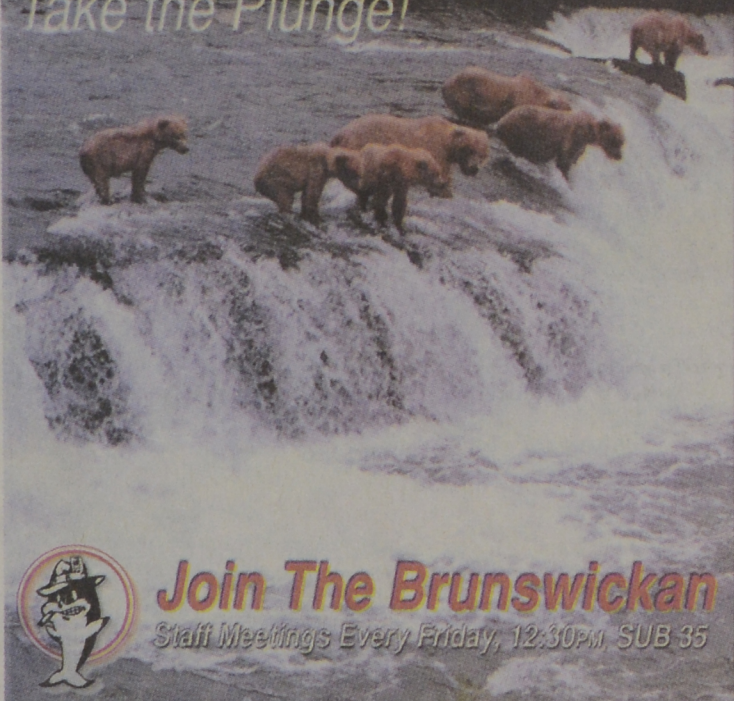
His policy will hold true after the election, too.

"I'm going to practice an open door policy," he said. "Any constituent, whether they write, e-mail, phone, fax or whatever, will be able to get a hold of their Member of Parliament. If they want to see their MP, they'll get to see their MP."

On the question of whether he would step aside for party leader Joe Clark in the event Clark was unsuccessful in his bid for election in Calgary Centre, which is not an improbable scenario, Venugopal alluded to the virtues of the party leader. Clark has served Canada for more than 30 years, he noted. Clark has raised a family in the public eye, and through it all still manages to smile.

"If he didn't win his seat and he asked me to step aside because he wanted to represent Fredericton then I would say yes," Venugopal said.

Don't just look over the edge...
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Join The Brunswickan
Staff Meetings Every Friday, 12:30 p.m. SUB 35

UNB Gravesites restored



Gordon Loane / The Brunswickan

The City of Fredericton, with financial help from UNB and the Fredericton Foundation have restored the cast-iron fence around the burial plot of William Brydone Jack at the Old Burial Ground in Fredericton.

Landscaping improvements have also been made to the gravesite. Jack, a Scottish immigrant, was a pioneer astronomer who built an observatory on the UNB Fredericton campus in 1851, the first of its kind in North America.

He later served as President of UNB (1861-1885). Improvements were also made to the gravesite of James Robb, the first professor of Chemistry and natural history at King's College, the predecessor of UNB.

He also served on Fredericton's first city council and designed the city's Coat of Arms.

The Capital

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Toonie Tuesday/Cheap Night

\$2 Draft & Liquor
9pm-1am



THURSDAY
Open Mike Night

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Graeme Walker
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Only Andy Scott...

¥ has pledged to make access to post secondary education his number one priority.

¥ developed an Action Plan for Higher Education endorsed by a panel of former UNB and STU student union executives.

Only the Liberal Party...

¥ has a platform that promises direct federal government action to give students the money they need for school through the \$2.5 billion Millennium Scholarship Fund, interest relief for student loans, and direct grants to your own Registered Individual Learning Account to pay for graduate school or new skills.



Andy Scott

On November 27th, vote for a strong Canada.

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ANDY SCOTT

Canadian Values. Campus Results.

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