

Alumni seek to renew and energize ties with UNB

Gordon Loane

The Brunswickan

The association that represents UNB's 45,000 graduates worldwide has unveiled a proclamation of renewed commitment to the university and released a new strategic plan aimed at energizing its membership.

Kevin Ratcliff, President of the UNB Associated Alumni, unveiled the proclamation and outlined five new directions for intensified alumni involvement in the life of the university in a ceremony last Friday at Sir Howard Douglas Hall on the UNB Fredericton campus.

The culmination of one year of "self examination" by the Associated Alumni Council, the strategic plan "Energized and Involved" calls for alumni to provide advice and become advocates for the University.

"We will be a resource to the (UNB) President, the Board of Governors, the key decision-makers and to faculty and students," Ratcliff told a gathering of Alumni, students, faculty and staff on hand for the unveiling ceremony.

"Our priority will be policy advice on strategic issues like funding and research development."

"We will be the eyes and ears of the University across the globe, providing reconnaissance and helping to ensure the relevance and responsiveness of UNB to the so-called real world in which most of us live and work," he pledged.

As advocates for the university, Ratcliff said alumni members will

endeavour to promote UNB among potential students, work to enhance the university's reputation and seek the support of government, business and industry.

The Alumni will play a strategic role in the University's fundraising programs, Ratcliff promised.

"Alumni are the university's single most important donors and its most credible volunteers," he said.

In the area of student recruitment, the new strategic plan calls for increased alumni involvement.

"Working closely with both UNB campuses, we will actively work to attract students to this university, giving them the same rewarding personal

experience and fine education that have stood us in good stead since graduation," Ratcliff emphasized.

The Alumni also intend to take an active role in school-to-work transitions.

"Who better to help students find success in their careers than the alumni who have preceded them down the path of life?" Ratcliff said.

"We will serve as coaches, mentors, and guides, assisting students in finding employment and creating lifelong learning opportunities for all of our members."

Ratcliff said the UNB Associated Alumni has chosen to become energized at this time for a very good reason.

"Our University stands at a crossroads," he claimed.

"Government cutbacks, deferred



Bruns Staff The Brunswickan

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maintenance, increased competition for students and faculty, the expectations of the new Knowledge economy and a global society, have placed tremendous pressure on this institution," Ratcliff warned.

The UNB Associated Alumni President said UNB intends to remain a national caliber university. Inspired by the recent \$1 million gift to the Alumni Association from alumnus Andy Devereaux, Ratcliff said everything will be done to ensure UNB maintains and enhances its stature as one of the best universities in Canada.

UNB President Elizabeth Parr-Johnston was clearly wowed by the Alumni's renewed commitment.

"As President of this institution at this historic time, I am deeply moved by your generosity of spirit, your endorsement of our renewal directions and your contagious enthusiasm for tackling the challenges ahead."

"We need to work long and hard, strategically and thoughtfully, to achieve the goals we have set for this institution, our institution," she said.

Parr-Johnston said being a national

university worthy of the name is more difficult than ever before and success is a tenuous proposition.

"However, on the basis of what I have heard today, knowing what I do about the strengths of this institution and the dedication of our people I firmly believe that we will prevail," Parr-Johnston said.

The proclamation of Renewed Commitment to the University, signed by the Executive of the Alumni Council, is slated to appear in its entirety this week in New Brunswick newspapers including *The Brunswickan*.

Bremner scholarship

News Staff

The Brunswickan

Joshua Young of Welshpool, N.B., has been awarded the 2000-2001 Bremner Scholarship in Concrete Materials by the University of New Brunswick.

Valued at \$1,000, the annual scholarship assists outstanding students who are pursuing civil engineering graduate studies in the area of concrete materials at either UNB Fredericton or UNB Saint John.

"It is a great honour to receive this scholarship," said Young, who is working toward his master's degree on the Fredericton campus.

"The topic of my research is investigating controlled density concrete using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) techniques developed by the UNB MRI Centre."

His research will focus on the movement of moisture in concrete under different conditions such as freezing and thawing.

The Bremner Scholarship in Concrete Materials was set up by the Committee for the Organization of International Conferences on Concrete. It honours the contributions of Theodore Bremner, an Honorary Research Professor at UNB, to the work of this committee.

Bremner has been widely recognized as an expert on concrete.

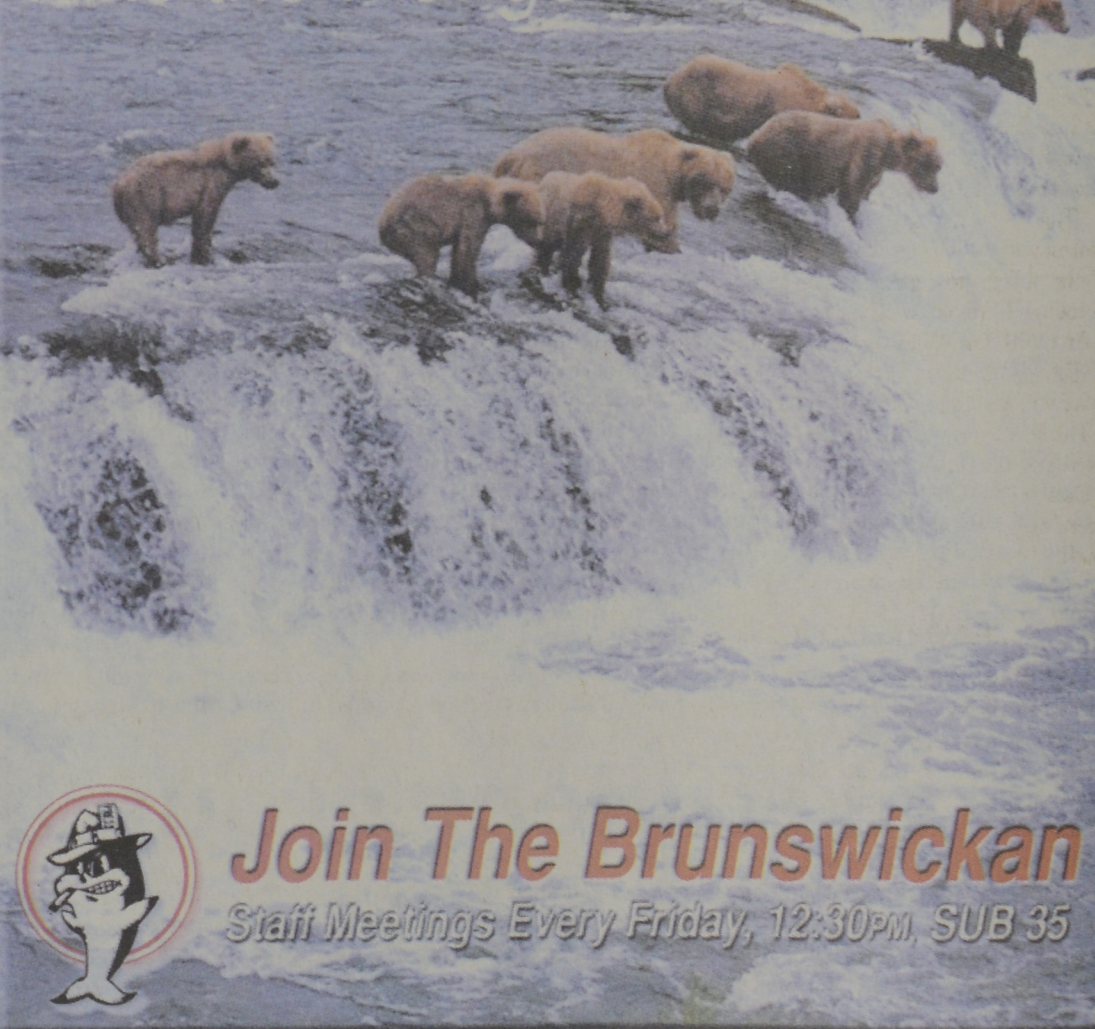
In 1993 Bremner was elected a Fellow of the American Concrete Institute; in 1994 was awarded the rank of Fellow by the Canadian Society of Civil Engineering.

In 1997, he received the prestigious Frank G. Erskine Award for outstanding contribution to the use of lightweight aggregate.

Professor Bremner's principal area of interest is improving the durability of concrete in a marine environment.

Natural Resources Canada, the U.S. Corps of Engineers and 3M are among the organizations that have supported Bremner's research.

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Clear-cut – continued

From Page 1

the community at large would be welcome to that."

Whiteford also pointed out that, of the three locations considered on campus for the new e-commerce Centre, the preferred location appears to be the one where the most green space would be eliminated.

Two other locations on campus that had been considered but have since been apparently rejected included the Aitken Centre parking lot area where there are no trees and a location near Chapman Field where fewer trees would have been chopped down.

Whiteford also questioned why the proposed three-storey, 45,000 square foot facility that will house the NRC e-commerce Centre and parking area is slated

to take up so much space on campus.

"It would seem that the NRC's request for space is excessive," he said.

The UNB Professor is also under the impression that the proposed site for the new NRC Centre has still not been officially approved by the UNB Board of Governors.

"I hope the Board of Governors will re-consider and be insightful enough to pose certain questions as to this proposal."

"My fear is that we are so happy for this NRC project that we have just simply grasped at it without really asking some very interesting kinds of questions and stating concerns," Whiteford commented.

Whiteford has a background as an advocate for green spaces and environmental concerns at UNB.

He noted that during his service on the UNB Fredericton Academic Senate some years ago, he tried to get a resolution passed that would have eliminated the indiscriminate cutting of trees on campus.

"Unfortunately that particular proposal was defeated," he said.

Despite that reversal, Whiteford handed credit to Associate Vice-President Campus Services and Planning Michael Ryan for preserving some of the woodlot on the east side of the Student Union Building last summer during the recent building expansion.

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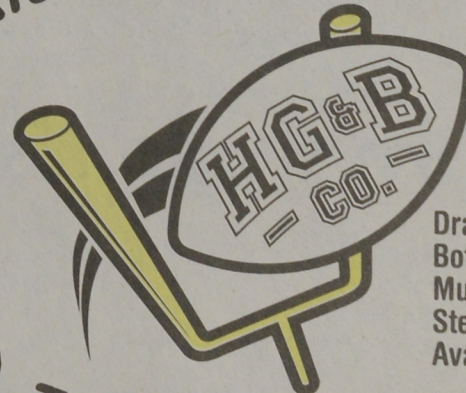
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