

## Briefly, The News

### NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Margaret Ann Blaney, Public Safety Minister, has appointed eleven new members to the Advisory Council for the Status of Women.

The newly-appointed members are Kathryn Stewart representing Miramichi; Kathleen Archibald, Restigouche; Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, Greater Moncton; Jackie Mathews, Charlotte; Rev. Joanne Barr, Greater Fredericton; Brenda Murphy, Greater Saint John; Anne Cummings, Carleton; Dianne Laurence Dupont, Chaleur; Patricia Allen, Kings-Albert; Gisele Bujold-Michaud, Madawaska-Victoria; Docile Cormier, Westmorland-Kent who will also serve as vice-chairperson of the council. The current representative from the Acadian Peninsula, Rose-Aimee Hache, will continue for another two years while the rest of the members have been appointed to serve three-year terms.

"A good working relationship has been established between the Council, the chair and myself," said Blaney. "We are working together for the benefit of all women in New Brunswick. I have been impressed with the sense of partnership that has unfolded over that past months, and look forward to working with the Council to improve the lives of New Brunswick women."

### WASTE DISPOSAL AND THE ENVIRONMENT TOPIC OF DINEEN MEMORIAL LECTURE AT UNB

The University of New Brunswick will be host to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Dineen Memorial Lecture at both, Fredericton and Saint John campuses, entitled Landfills: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.

Kerry Rowe, vice-principle (research) at Queen's University, will deliver the lecture in Saint John on Tuesday, April 2, at 8 PM in the Ganong Hall Lecture Theatre and in Fredericton on Wednesday, April 3, at 8 PM in Head Hall's Dineen Auditorium. The lectures at both lectures, as well as the receptions afterwards, are open to the public free of charge.

Dr. Rowe will give a technical lecture in Fredericton, at 2:30 PM on the afternoon of April 3 in the Dineen Auditorium, Head Hall. The lecture will be entitled Some Remaining Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Challenges of Waste Disposal.

The lectures, which focus on technology and its impact on society, are sponsored by the university, the faculty of engineering in Fredericton and Saint John, and the Associated Alumni of both campuses.

### FREDERICTON-MONCTON HIGHWAY/ SETTLEMENT REACHED

A settlement has been reached for all claims to develop and build the Highway from Fredericton and Moncton under contract with the Maritime Road Development Corporation (MRDC).

MRDC submitted a statement of claim for \$27.2 million to an arbitration board as set out in a dispute resolution process outlined in the contract the government signed with the highway developer.

The government has settled the total disputed amount of \$107 million with MRDC for \$24.5 million. These deputies covered a range of issues related to construction and administration on the highway project, including contaminated soils as well as unknown or differing soil conditions, additional costs for deficiencies in sections of highway and extra work at various locations.

This settlement brings the total amount paid to MRDC for the project to \$629.9 million. The other two proponents submitted bids of \$754.9 million and \$778.8 million.

### MORE TO BE DONE TO FIGHT RACISM

New Democrat Leader Alexa McDonough marked with International Day for the Elimination yesterday with a call for renewed efforts to deal with inequalities between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal Canadians.

"Negotiations towards self-government for Canada's First Nations must acknowledge out mutual obligations as expressed in numerous treaties, and must respect the inherent right of Aboriginal peoples to self-government, land management and economic development," McDonough said. "In the fight against racism, Canadians have much of which to be proud. Canadian multiculturalism is not simply a model of tolerance; it is a celebration of the ethnic diversity that characterizes our citizenry. Our history of involvement in combating racism on the world stage and our efforts to eliminate racism at home have set us on the right course towards greater ethnic harmony."

### TASK FORCE UPDATE

City Police have scaled down the task force looking into incidents of assault that have occurred on and in the vicinity of the campuses. Campus Security as well as the Student Campus Police continue to be watching for any unusual activity on campus and report incidents to the City Police.

If you see anything that seems suspicious or if you are a victim of any criminal act, we urge you to contact Campus Security immediately at 453-4830 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

UNB Security & Traffic has a Web site that contains information on issues of safety and security on and off campus. The address is [www.unb.ca/security](http://www.unb.ca/security). We also encourage you to visit the Fredericton City Police site at [www.frederictonpolice.com](http://www.frederictonpolice.com).

-Compiled by T.J. Essensa

## Prof and course evaluations: public domain?

by Samantha Robichaud

Unlike many other universities, UNB has no public venue for students to share their opinions about their professors and courses.

In most cases, it is not the university rather the student union who administers the public evaluations. For example, Mount Allison University Student Administrative Council publishes a Guide for its first year students detailing the results of student surveys. Bishops University, the University of Toronto, and Queen's University are also examples of universities that have a method for public access to evaluations.

According to Michael Ircha, Associate VP Academic of UNB, the negotiated collective agreement with teachers does not allow the results of the Student Opinion Surveys that UNB administers at the end of each term to be revealed.

Some UNB professors were not even aware that the current evaluations are not made public. Upon finding out they were not, Dr. William Cherkoff, professor of Mathematics, remarked, "I don't know why they don't make the results public... I'd have no objection to that."

Most students also feel there should be some public evaluation of results.

"When I first came here, I had no one to ask about courses... it would've been useful to have some evaluation or something to help me out," said one student.

The UNB Student Union is looking into adopting a program recently implemented at the University of Calgary called the "Universal Student Ratings of Instruction."

"The University of Calgary has already gone through the process of establishing these evaluations and thus the Student Union will be able to benefit from their experience," said Kate Whitfield, incoming UNB Student Union president.

"This program could replace the current system as well as provide other benefits, but would require a massive lobbying of the Senate" said Whitfield.

However, there are currently some alternative routes for students to uncover this information. One controversial website, "www.ratemyprofessors.ca", was created "to help students select the best professors they can by giving them access to other students' opinions," according to its creator, John Swapceinski.

The professor ratings are on a five-point scale, and include the "easiness" of the course and the helpfulness and clarity of the instructor. An optional category is how "sexy" the instructor is,

indicated by a chili pepper beside the name. This addition is a point of debate.

Wendy Robbins, a professor from the English Department, was adamant in her objection. "I don't think that's relevant any more than if we rated students based on their appearance... that is over the line for me," said Robbins.

Since evaluation data is often not made public, Swapceinski said, his website is another option. "The idea behind my website is that some information is better than none at all."

Swapceinski's website is expanding rapidly; there are currently 140,090 ratings from 1463 schools on 37,335 professors, including 142 from UNB.

Ircha is not an advocate of the site because he doesn't see the results as valid. "It's fairly unfair because what you're getting is a faculty member having six or seven students rating them... and the problem is, it's out there for the world to see."

Swapceinski acknowledged the limitations of the ratings. "The data on my website is not as statistically valid as the university administered course evaluations, but unfortunately there are very few universities that make their data public."

There is also a method on the website by which any ratings or comments anyone feels are unfair can be flagged for review by screeners who decide whether to remove them.

## Bruns team delivers more than newspapers

by Meaghan MacPhee

Hi! My name is Meaghan MacPhee. I am in Grade One French Immersion at Nashwaaksis Memorial, and I am happy to tell everyone I just became a big sister.

See, Mike and my mom work for *The Brunswickan*. Mom is Kathleen MacPhee, and Mike is Mike Lee. They deliver the *Bruns* all over town and the campuses - but at 6:20 in the morning, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, Mom and Mike really delivered! Yep, our family has a brand new baby boy.

His name is Colm Michael and he is so cute! He's pretty big already, 'cause he weighed eight pounds and eight ounces when he was born.

The MacPhee part of the family is happy I'm a big sister and the Lee part

of the family is really glad I'm a big sister too!

I am going to be such a good big sister. I'm gonna help Mom when she gives the baby a bath, I'll help feed him, and I'll even hold Mom's nose when she has to change his you-know-what-kind of diaper. And when Colm is older, I can teach him to walk, and talk, and read, and all sorts of good things.

Even my Grammie works at *The Brunswickan*. I guess that means Colm and I will have to work there when we get older. Hey! That's another thing I can teach my little brother... how to be a good Brunsie!

I am going to be the best big sister in the whole wide world!



New big sister, Meaghan MacPhee, is happy to lend a hand.

## Tuition

Continued from page 1

To coincide with the ever-rising costs of university there has been a steady decline in government aid over the past two decades.

The rate of tuition across the nation is comparable to UNB. The University of Toronto has seen rates increase up from \$3,951 in 2000-01, to \$4,029 for the 2001-02 academic year, in a general arts degree. The University of Alberta is currently charging a total of \$4023 for a full year of courses, and even small under-graduate universities like Mount Allison are looking at fee increases from \$4,040 in 1999-2000, to \$4,610 for this academic year.

Universities nationwide are protesting tuition increases in ever more extreme degrees. In BC students stormed the legislature, and at Mount Allison University student slept outside in tents in -20-degree weather as a form of silent protest. Many other universities have taken similar initiatives in response to the ever increasing tuition rates.

With debt loads of graduating students reaching rates of up to \$25,000, many middle and low income students are left struggling with the reality that post-secondary education may not be a reality for them in the future.

**Comments?  
Suggestions?  
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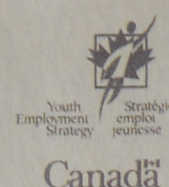
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