

Wanted: a woodlot strategy

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SUBMITTED TO THE BRUNS

This week's article is a response to the opinions put forth by Dr. Ian Methven, former Dean of Forestry and Environmental Management at UNB Fredericton. In 2004, The Daily Gleaner published Dr. Methven's column, entitled "Time to Move Beyond Old Uses Of UNB Lands." The entire article is available on UNB's website under the "Woodlot Implementation Plan." I presume that the article was written in an official capacity, since Dr. Methven was then Director of the Centre for Property Studies, and because the University has seen fit to include it on the website, and I will respond accordingly.

In his article, Dr. Methven argues that UNB needs to "break free from traditional views of the role of the UNB Lands in general and the Woodlot in particular." Even though he doesn't clearly articulate what defines "traditional views," Dr. Methven seems to be of the opinion that a change in policy is in order and "tradition" is out. What makes his position difficult to understand is that he himself pointed out that through the Faculty of Forestry, the "educational, research, recreational and environmental attributes of the asset were realized." That was in 1908. Is this the tradition

that Dr. Methven thinks is now untenable? It seems that in 1908, the only attribute that wasn't realized was the monetary value of the asset. Welcome to the 21st century, where all that matters is the monetary value.

Among the reasons that Dr. Methven provides for developing the Woodlot are financial pressures, land pressures, and "the responsibility of the university to the development of its broader community." To the first reason, I would argue that many universities are facing similar challenges in balancing their budgets, but not all universities are endowed with land holdings similar to UNB's. What strategies are other universities adopting to increase their budgets? Increasing tuition costs, bequests/donations, and privatization of services and/or buildings are all sources of funding that are being pursued.

You don't have to look any further than the nearest eatery on campus to see the privatization of services at UNB. This article is not suggesting that it's unproblematic to increase privatization of certain aspects of a public education, but it is not my intent to argue that right now.

As for funding sources, public funding continues to be the main source of revenue for universities. If UNB's funding could be secured through a difference source, such as public funds, one might assume that the pressure would be off the Woodlot to act as a revenue generating stream. Or would it? Dr. Methven also claims that land pressures are among

the reasons why the Woodlot is being "proactively" developed. Maybe I didn't notice, but I was not under the impression that Fredericton was bursting at the seams, and needing the type of development that is being proposed. You would think that Fredericton is the Fort McMurray of the east the way the need for new "integrated" housing developments is being pushed.

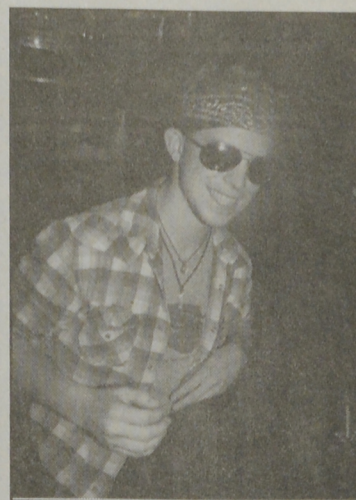
Finally, regarding the University's responsibility to this community, I would argue that its responsibility is not simply for the economic development of Fredericton. To take Dr. Methven's supposition at face-value is to mistake standard of living for quality of living. The standard of living is the material basis that measures prosperity. Yes, it is important, but it is not the only consideration on which to base a decision of this magnitude. Quality of living isn't tangible, and can be difficult to measure, but is important nonetheless. If we use Wikipedia's definition of quality of life as a degree of well-being, I don't see how the presence of Eastside Mario's or Michael's Craft store is meeting the needs of Fredericton.

I don't expect Dr. Methven to read this article, but if he did, I would urge him not to judge tradition so harshly, since it is tradition that has preserved the Woodlot thus far.

The finality of the decision to develop is what alarms me; once the Woodlot is developed there's no going back. Just to leave you with a final question: What does UNB owe to future generations living in Fredericton?

the brunswickan. Newpoint

QUESTION: What are you going to dress up as for Halloween?



"Marge Simpson,"
Adam K.



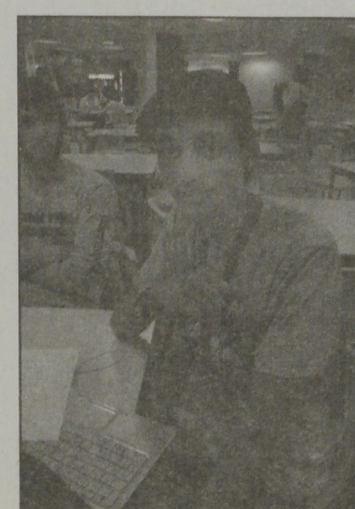
"Dschinghis Khan,"
Colin Banks



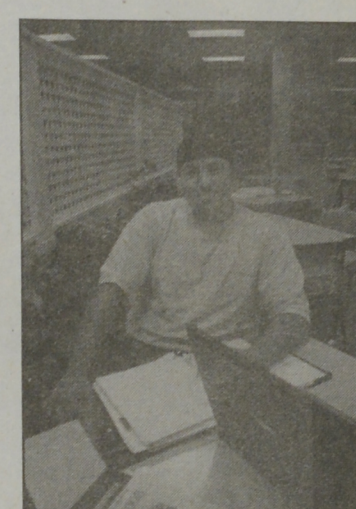
"The Mystery Machine,"
J.P.



"A Kool-aid Jammer,"
Kevin Musgrave



"A mummy,"
Khaled



"The Hulk,"
Kirt Dedam



"Gangster Mario and Luigi,"
Matt Brace



"A Pyro,"
Mitch Messom



"No idea,"
Nick Mazerolle

The Brunswickan Annual General Meeting

November 6th,
2008 at
4:30 p.m.



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Dr. Andrew Smyth
422 York Street
The Chestnut Complex
Bilingual Services
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New Patients Welcome/Close to Campus



Time for a SWEET DEAL!

12" Pizza up to 5 toppings
12" Garlic Fingers with 2 FREE Donair Greco Dips
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2 L Pepsi

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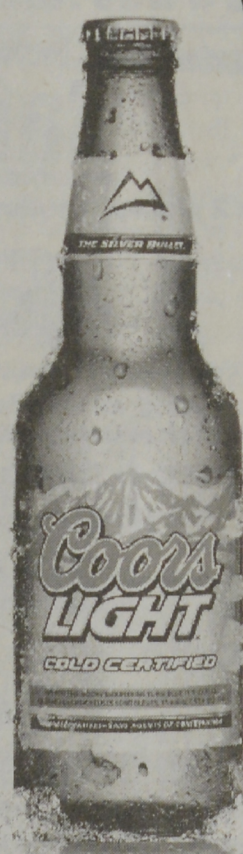
WEDNESDAY

Be here TONIGHT to win tickets to Coors Light Regional Finals at Zee's On Friday November 7th.

Winner from that will go to Nationals at MYSTERY Location!!!

Molson
Midweek
Mayhem

10pm - Close



\$2.25 Coors Light, Canadian, or Cold Shots

\$2.25 Rum, Rye, Gin, or Vodka or Spiced Rum

**\$2.25 Coors Light Draft (16oz)
2 for 1 Jagermeister**

Get in early to avoid the lineup for Freddy's biggest Student Party Night
No cover with valid 08/09 student ID.

SUNDAY's!!!
Karaoke 10pm - Close

Karaoke with Sean Burgess in the Pub
DJ Fuji in the Main Bar
2 for 1 Liquor (all but topshelf)
\$2.50 Alpine Draft (16oz)

Saturdays

Freddy's Biggest Party
Beat the line and get in early to enjoy

10pm - Close \$3.75 **BUD LIGHT**
10pm - Midnight

\$3.00 Doubles of Rum, Rye, Vodka, Gin or Spiced Rum
Midnight - Close: \$4.25 Captain Morgan Spiced Rum

Captain Morgan
SPICED

FREE CASH FRIDAY\$

EVERY Friday is 90's Ladies Night
No Cover for Ladies,
and 90's prices
and music for everyone.

From Fredericton's Place to be

10pm-Midnight \$2.00 Rum, Rye, Gin,
Vodka or Spiced Rum

10 - Close \$3.75 Coors Light Bottles or
Draft (16 oz) \$2.50 Cold Shots

Midnight - Close \$3.75 Rum, Rye, Gin,
Vodka or Spiced Rum



Friday, October 31st - Halloween Party (Cash Costume Prizes, Bands, DJ's, etc.)
ScareCrow in the Pub for the Friday and Saturday