

An overpass may save lives: The Student Union's view

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Many students who live in the Forest Hill neighborhood are STU residents of Chatham and Rigby Halls. However, the issue for St. Thomas students may not be as concerning.

STU students are given bus passes to use throughout the year, so students who live in the Forrest Hills area simply use their bus passes to get to campus.

Jennifer Wilcox is a second year STU student who lives in Chatham Hall and is the Vice President Internal for the house. She feels the money that would be put toward a project like this could be spent otherwise, in a way that could be more beneficial to students.

"If there was an overpass over the highway I would use it. It would save a few minutes of walking time which would be great in nasty weather; however I don't think it's worth the expenditure," said Wilcox. "I think the money would be better spent on lighting the pathway."

She believes that many students may choose to cross the highway for their own reasons, and in doing so, they should know the risks and live with the consequences.

"It's their own stupidity if they

choose to cross the highway; there is a sidewalk. What are a few minutes of walking to the rest of your life?" said Wilcox.

The situation is different for UNB students. For them it is much harder to get quick transportation to campus in bad weather. Since students are not provided with bus passes, it makes for frequent and thus expensive bus rides.

"It is getting to be more popular to live in that area. The price of living is low and the quality is high," said Graham. "But there is no quick and safe way to get to school for these students."

Graham said the SU feels that providing an overpass for those students who do not have any other means of transportation will give them a much safer way of getting to campus. The SU is also looking into the bus pass situation and is working to come up with a system that is fair to all students.

The main issue that is holding back the progress of the project is that there may simply be no money available for the cost of the project.

"The bottom line is that there's no funding, and the reason can be drawn from a political lack of desire," said



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickian

UNB Student Leslie Bruce was killed in 2006 crossing the highway behind the Aitken Centre. The UNB Student Union wants a safe way for students to cross the highway.

Graham.

The SU has been working on getting this project up and running since September. If they are ever going to see progress on the project, Graham

said they will need full support of all governments.

The SU, the provincial government, and the Department of Transportation are currently working to provide a

cost-benefit analysis for the project.

"It all depends on how strong-willed the parties are, and of the political will the people have who want to see it happen," said Graham.

Acadia University's president resigns nearly a year ahead of schedule

by Angela Wilson,
CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief
with files from Lucas Timmons



Acadia University pictured here, is now on the search for a new President

WOLFVILLE (CUP) -- Acadia University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Gail Dinter-Gottlieb, is stepping down nearly a year earlier than expected.

Gottlieb will resign her post effective February 29.

Students returning to campus after the holidays received an e-mail from the Acadia Board of Governors informing them that Gottlieb would not be completing her term as President.

Gottlieb first arrived at Acadia in 2003 for what was supposed to be a six-year term, ending in June 2009.

In August 2007, following her mid-term performance review, Gottlieb announced that she would not be seeking a second term for personal and family

reasons.

Gottlieb told the university Senate that the reason for her departure was that she and her husband had been in a long distance relationship for a number of years.

In a press release, Ron Smith, Chairperson of the Acadia Board of Governors, noted that the Board had been working on a transition plan ever since

Gottlieb announced that she would not be seeking a second term. Her resignation now allows the Board more flexibility in that process.

The search committee, for instance, may find a candidate who is available to start immediately without having to ask the current president to step down early.

Scott Roberts, Acadia Director of

Communications, indicated that while Gottlieb and the Board had negotiated an agreement before the public announcement, the drive to leave early came primarily from Gottlieb for personal reasons.

"Many of the projects and programs that she began are completed or drawing to a close," he said. "Dr. Gottlieb thought that it would be best to step aside now, and end with a clean slate."

Students, meanwhile, are seizing the opportunity to take a voice in selecting their next president.

"This is a very critical time for Acadia University. With Dr. Gottlieb stepping down, we must ensure that the next president is an individual that is familiar with Acadia, embraces student opinion, and involves students at all levels of the university decision-making process," said Kyle Steele, President of the Acadia Students' Union.

The Presidential Search Committee, established by the Board of Governors, will now decide whether or not to appoint an acting president before a permanent replacement is found.

In the press release, Smith said that Gottlieb has "a great deal to be proud of," in her time at Acadia. He cited the university's most ambitious and suc-

cessful capital campaign in its 170-year history, the completion of a new Life and Sciences Building and Learning Commons as well as the implementation of a new strategic plan.

Gottlieb's time at Acadia has also been controversial at times. At the end of 2007, she was in China on a recruiting mission as faculty at her university began strike action. She was also president during the only other faculty strike in the university's history in 2004.

During her presidency, Acadia also experienced a significant and steady decline in student enrollment in the face of intense competition for students across the Atlantic provinces.

"It has been a genuine privilege to lead Acadia University through a time of tremendous change in the post-secondary education sector," said Gottlieb in a press release. "I believe Acadia's reputation is well-deserved and I have enjoyed working with our wonderful students and alumni, our faculty and staff, and our network of supporters. The successes we've realized during the past four years position Acadia to meet the rising expectations of future students and preserve Acadia's standing as an innovative, high-quality undergraduate university."

Northern NB community grief stricken

by Lauren Kennedy

A small New Brunswick community is still in disbelief after a tragic accident killed eight of their own. Seven Bathurst high school students and a teacher were killed when their van collided with a semi truck on Highway 8, close to the Bathurst exit.

The accident happened around midnight on Saturday January 12. The van was transporting members of the Bathurst High boys' basketball team, the Phantoms, who were coming back from a game in Moncton.

12 people were in the van and of them, four survived including the team's coach and his daughter. The coach's wife, who was a teacher at another school, was of the ones who died along with boys that ranged from 15-18 years old.

Police say weather was a factor as road conditions were very icy and slippery at the time.

Not only has the community been supporting the friends and families affected through the tough time, both Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Premier Shawn Graham expressed their condolences to the families and community.

Harper expressed in a letter he wrote to the high school principal that he sympathized with the parents of the boys who died, as he is a father himself.

"I just want to extend sympathies to the affected families. This is a tragic situation for the community of Bathurst and our province," said Graham, speaking from Ottawa.

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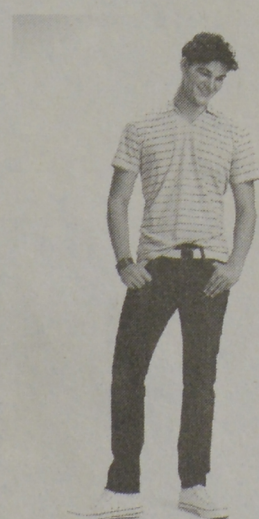
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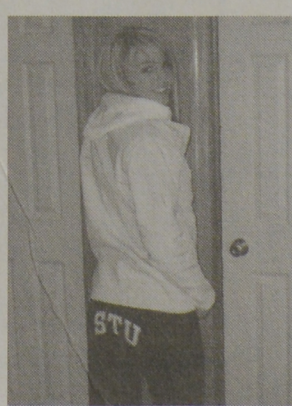
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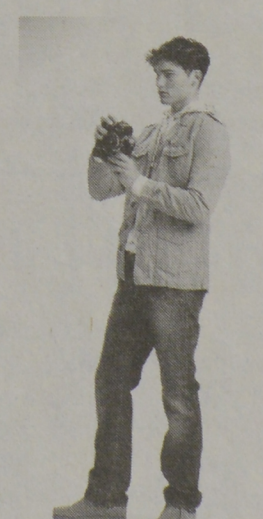
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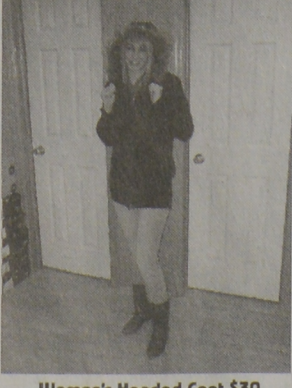
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