



We'd like to welcome the new Community GPI Director, John Odenthal. As a long-time supporter and board member of GPIAtlantic, John brings his expertise and enthusiasm to the Community GPI project.



An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure...

'Tis the Season...

Now that GPIAtlantic has charitable status, you can give a gift and get one back! That's right, buy a membership for a loved one and receive an income tax credit. Contact us at donate@gpiatlantic.org or visit our website for more gift giving details.



Our new status has also meant some changes to our membership policies. We will be updating our website in January to reflect these changes. Click here for more [details](#).



PowerPoint to go

Just to let you know, all of GPIAtlantic's recent PowerPoint presentations are available from the website. They are a great resource for information on our various research projects. Visit the website at <http://www.gpiatlantic.org/ppt/index.shtml> to view what's available.

GPIAtlantic's *Cost of Chronic Disease in Nova Scotia* by Ronald Colman was released October 17, 2002. Nova Scotia has the highest rate of deaths from cancer and respiratory disease in the country. It also ranks first for arthritis and rheumatism. The report highlights the staggering cost of chronic disease in Nova Scotia. Chronic diseases cost the economy \$3 billion annually, equal to 13% of NS's GDP or \$3,200 per person. With chronic diseases representing such a large draw on the province's coffers, disease prevention becomes very cost effective.

An estimated 40% of chronic diseases can be prevented. Tobacco use is the most preventable cause of illness and death in Nova Scotia since it increases the risk for lung and other cancers, cardiovascular diseases and respiratory ailments. The report recognizes poor diet, physical inactivity, smoking and obesity as major contributors to most chronic diseases, with these four risk factors accounting for one-quarter of all medical costs. Those who are unemployed, poor or with less education are also at increased risk for poor health.

The report recommends that Nova Scotia establish a Chronic Disease Prevention Strategy to engage citizens and government in these issues.

The report was a lead story on the front page of the October 18th edition of the Chronicle Herald. To view this article and other [news coverage](#), click here. To [purchase a copy](#) of the report, click here.



New Volunteer report released

On January 8, 2003, GPI Atlantic released its third update of its 1998 report on the Economic Value of Civic and Voluntary Work in Nova Scotia. Earlier updates were in 1999 and 2000. The GPI report results were reported in major articles in the New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal and Moncton Times-Transcript, and in GPI interviews on CBC-TV and radio, ATV in the Maritimes, and CBC Information Morning in Halifax, Sydney, and St. John's.

The latest Statistics Canada numbers show that voluntary work has declined across the country: There are 960,000 fewer Canadian volunteers than in 1997; 74,000 fewer in Atlantic Canada; and 30,000 fewer in Nova Scotia. But the numbers also show that the remaining volunteers are working much harder, particularly in the four Atlantic provinces, where volunteers put in longer hours than in any other province. Since 1997, for example, Newfoundland volunteers have increased their hours by more than 50%, in PEI by 46%, in Nova Scotia by 32%, and in New Brunswick by 16%.

In Newfoundland, PEI, and Nova Scotia these extra hours have more than made up for the loss of volunteers, and the level of voluntary services offered to the sick, elderly, disabled, youth in need, and others has actually increased. The Atlantic region has the highest rate of voluntary work in the country, but the GPI report warns of the danger of burnout, as the workload now rests on far fewer shoulders. The report also points to the importance of measuring voluntary work to keep track of the health of the vital voluntary sector.

To order the full report, [click here](#). Or view the [press release](#).



& The Apple goes to...

On October 25th, GPI researcher Jeff Wilson presented the ecological footprint model at the Association of Science Teachers (AST) annual conference, "*Cutting Edge Science 2002*", as a tool to teach the concept of sustainability. Over five hundred teachers and education students from all over Nova Scotia attended the AST conference. The presentations were well received and there was a high level of knowledge and interest in the ecological footprint concept. The next step is to develop a unit on ecological footprint analysis to be incorporated into the grade 10-science curriculum guides. To view [Jeff's presentation](#), click here.



Final Report from the Round Table

As mentioned in earlier newsletters, we had been frustrated with the direction the National Round Table's sustainable development indicators initiative had been taking. Therefore, it was a pleasant surprise to review the final report and note that the issues of disagreement had been acknowledged and fairly recorded. The issues were presented as challenges and directions for future development, and as part of the larger framework. The Round Table has committed to an excellent new accounting framework to be developed by Statistics Canada that will include natural, human and social capital in Canada's core national accounting system.



Community GPI

The first year of the three-year community project in the North end of Halifax was started this October. This project is based on the model created in Glace Bay and Kings County, which have collected extensive community level data on wellbeing and other issues important to the community. Community GPI Director John Odenthal has opened an office at 2099 Gottingen St, and hired two additional staffers. In February a series of meetings with community groups will begin, to determine what indicators are most useful to the community. The plan is for the community survey to be constructed, tested, and ready to go to field in September of 2003.

Now that all the surveys from Glace Bay and Kings County have been collected and the data entered and verified, the next phases (analysis and dissemination of data) are in the works. In early December, Ron Colman, George Kephart, and John Odenthal spent two days in Glace Bay participating in a presentation to local groups by Dr. Peter MacIntyre of UCCB. He presented his analysis of tobacco use patterns in Glace Bay to health professionals and smoking prevention groups based in the local area. The event was under the superb direction of Stacey Lewis, Director of the Cape Breton Wellness Centre. From the ensuing discussion on tobacco use among youth, a committee was formed to meet with all the Glace Bay school principals and encourage them to launch smoking prevention programs in all their schools. This follows the lead of Glace Bay High, which is now completely smoke free.

In February, UCCB researchers will present their analysis of the employment data from the GPI survey in Glace Bay, followed by analysis of the peace and security data. The findings will be presented to the members of the community to stimulate new policy and voluntary initiatives. Researchers at Acadia U. are going to be commencing the first analysis of the survey data for Kings County in the near future.



GPIAtlantic goes to the movies

GPI's Jeff Wilson and National Film Board producer Kent Martin led a discussion on November 19th, 2002 on Marilyn Waring's documentary "Who's Counting: Sex, Lies and Global Economics". The discussion followed an airing of the documentary, which looks at economics, politics, gender, human rights, war, environmentalism, Aboriginal wisdom, community development, globalization and social welfare. For more information about the film, click here:

<http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/whohv.html>



News Briefs

- GPIAtlantic researcher, Linda Pannozzo corrects Forests Products Association's inflation of the number of jobs associated with NS forestry
- GPIAtlantic publishes the fourth issue of Reality Check, devoted to health issues. Click here
- GPIAtlantic researcher, Karen Hayward, completes work on "Income and Health" research in partnership with York University and University of Saskatchewan
- CBC's national "Commentary" features GPIAtlantic
- GPIAtlantic provides information to Halifax MPs on ratifying Kyoto
- GPIAtlantic's *Halifax Harbour study* cited in "Understanding the Halifax Harbour Solutions Project"
- GPIAtlantic advisor to the Canadian Institute for Economic Evaluation
- Council for a Smoke-Free PEI applauds the PEI government for the Smoke-Free Public Places Act. GPI

Atlantic had presented its report on smoke-free places to the PEI government caucus

■ Australia's "Global Sustainability" project highlights *GPIAtlantic*

■ Bill Turpin responds to Maclean's magazine article "You Call This Progress?"

■ *GPIAtlantic* featured in the recent edition of *Alternatives Journal*.

■ Ron Colman was guest speaker at the Support to Single Parents AGM in Moncton, NB

■ Acadia University faculty discuss collaboration with *GPIAtlantic* and King's County community.

■ *GPIAtlantic* presents the *Economic Impact of Smoke Free Workplaces; an Assessment for New Brunswick* in Fredericton.

■ Ron Colman presents to the 5th Annual Health Conference in Saint John, NB on Women's Health. Featured on NB radio and television.

■ *GPIAtlantic* presents to the NS Federal Communications Council on the union of social and economic development.

■ *GPIAtlantic* presents the *Costs of Social Exclusion* to all three NS party caucuses

■ Ron Colman presents to the Atlantic Canada Economics Association Conference hosted by SMU.

■ Bill Turpin participated in the AGM of Rural Communities Impacting Policy

■ *GPIAtlantic* featured on the Peter Warren call-in show on National Public Radio

■ *GPIAtlantic* engages in a successful all-day strategy session

For more on *GPIAtlantic* activities, check out our [expanded news briefs and calendar](#).



Report Release Dates

■ **October 17:** *Cost of Chronic Disease in Nova Scotia*, released in cooperation with Health Canada, NS Department of Health, and Dalhousie University

■ **October 23:** *NB Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces*, released by NB Department of Health, Health Canada and the New Brunswick Cancer Society.

■ **February 2003:** *Women's Health in Atlantic Canada: 2003 update* 2 volumes (Ronald Colman, Andrea Hilchie-Pye, Noreen Millar, Shelene Morrison).

■ **March 2003:** *GPI Soils and Agriculture Accounts parts 1V, V and V1* (Jennifer Scott).

■ **Spring 2003:** *Equity and Disease in Atlantic Canada* (Karen Hayward)

■ **Spring 2003:** *Solid Waste Accounts* (Jeff Wilson). Currently under expert review.

■ **Spring 2003:** *Debt and Assets* report (Colin Dodds).

■ **Spring 2003:** *Cost of Tobacco in New Brunswick*

■ **Spring 2003:** *Air Quality Accounts* (Anne Monette). The report is currently under expert review.

■ **Spring 2003:** *Work Hours* (Linda Pannozzo). Final report release anticipated for end of April.

■ **Spring 2003:** *Women's Health Indicators*, report prepared for Women's Health Bureau, Health Canada

■ **October 2003:** *Sustainable Transportation*

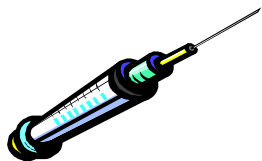
See a schedule of [Upcoming Events and Presentations](#)



GPIAtlantic

storms the Rock

Ron Colman visited Newfoundland to spread the word about our research. While in Newfoundland, he maintained his usual hectic schedule, with four presentations in one day! In the morning, he presented the *Economic Impact of Smoke-free Workplaces in Newfoundland* to the Newfoundland and Labrador Alliance for the Control of Tobacco. At lunch he met with faculty at Memorial University to discuss constructing sustainable forest indicators for Inuit communities in Labrador. In the afternoon he presented to the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Finance on the economic impact of smoke-free workplaces and on cost of chronic disease and risk-factor methodology. Ron's talk on the *Economic Impact of Smoke-free Workplaces in Newfoundland* was featured in a Newfoundland radio interview. See our PowerPoint presentation on the [Newfoundland experience](#).



The Coast is Clear...

It's one of the biggest, most widespread criticisms of the Romanow Report so far: sustainability. While Roy Romanow mentions the word throughout his 356 page report, there's no strategy aimed at making our health care system more affordable over the long term. Romanow addressed sickness treatment in great and expert detail. But GPIAtlantic wants people to look beyond "The Future of Health Care In Canada," and start thinking about how a healthier population can reduce the demand for health care and save money... for in the GPI view of Romanow in the recent *Coast* magazine, click [here](#).



Congratulations

Bravo to GPI researcher Linda Pannoza for receiving a 2002 first place award from the Atlantic Community Newspapers Association for her article *Shafted*. The Coast Magazine article talked about the ongoing hardships of a life spent tied to the mining industry. The ACNB gave the article the highest praises- "Linda Pannoza's gripping account of yet another legacy of the collapsed coal mining industry and the negligence that caused it shows what can happen when you give a good reporter time to investigate a story and ample space to write it. The story is clearly written and researched, pulls no punches, and has a real emotional impact". We recognize Linda's writing prowess, it's nice to see others do as well!!



Return To Sender

GPIAtlantic's address has changed. We can now be reached at:

GPI Atlantic
PO Box 9511
Halifax, NS
B3K 5S3 Canada



The newsletter is a work in progress, so please feel free to send us your suggestions, criticisms or observations. Please contact us at gpinews@gpiatlantic.org