

Welcome to GPI News #7 and #8: December 2001 & January 2002

Dear Friend of GPI,

Welcome to our double issue of the GPI newsletter. Due to a very heavy fall schedule of activities and report releases, as well as the national launch of *Reality Check: The Canadian Review of Wellbeing*, we have combined two issues of the *GPI News* into this bigger edition. Thank you for your ongoing support, for your membership in **GPIAtlantic**, and for your subscription to the *GPI News*.

Your contribution directly supports the GPI research and the continuing development of the Genuine Progress Index. The GPI is a tool that can redirect public policy towards the basic values we share as Nova Scotians, as Canadians, and as human beings. As a completely independent, non-profit group, we depend on your support. Our newsletters are designed to keep members posted on new research results, the latest GPI activities, and policy applications of the GPI. Since our last newsletter, GPI Atlantic has released three major reports, which are profiled in this issue of the *GPI News*.

As a member, you are also entitled to a 25% discount on all GPI publications. When you order publications, simply state on your order that you are a member, and subtract the 25% discount from your cheque or credit card total. Your transaction is then recorded in our special members' database. You can order publications directly from the GPI web site at www.gpiatlantic.org.

We'd also like to invite your participation in our new membership and communications committee, or our development/fundraising committee. If you can give some of your time to this volunteer work on behalf of GPI Atlantic, please contact our webmaster, Cliff Esler, at webmaster@gpiatlantic.org. We are delighted to send this newsletter your way, and we welcome your suggestions and opinions. Thank you for your support

Ronald Colman, Ph.D,
Director, GPI Atlantic

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Special Bonus Offer

Give a gift to a friend that will create genuine benefit and contribute to genuine progress, and download any GPI Atlantic publication for free (value up to \$60). To give a membership in GPI Atlantic, which includes a subscription to *GPI News* and a 25% discount on all GPI publications, please visit the GPI Atlantic web site at www.gpiatlantic.org. or [click here](#).

New GPI Atlantic members will receive a free copy of the revised *Nova Scotia Ecological Footprint* (100 pages) valued at \$35 + HST. And as thanks for your gift subscription, we would like to offer *you* your choice of any GPI publication gratis. When you send in your gift subscription, please let our webmaster, Cliff Esler, know which publication you'd like to receive (webmaster@gpiatlantic.org).

We depend on member support to do our research and to construct the Genuine Progress Index. Thank you!

GPI NEWS No. 7, December, 2001, and GPI NEWS No. 8, January 2002

DO INDICATORS SHAPE POLICY?

GPI Atlantic has always argued that indicators are powerful. What is counted and measured determines what makes it onto the policy agenda of governments. Conversely, the omission of key social and environmental variables from our conventional measures of progress (generally based on economic growth statistics) also distorts the policy agenda and blunts important policy initiatives.

In many ways, the Nova Scotia GPI results have already entered the domain of public discourse in this province. The government regularly cites GPI estimates of the economic cost of tobacco in this province. Volunteer groups use the GPI method of estimating the economic value of voluntary work in their own funding applications. The Premier cites those GPI voluntary work estimates in addressing community service groups, and Nova Scotia media reports regularly refer to GPI results in their normal reporting.

In the last three months, however, GPI Atlantic has experienced the policy impact of its indicator work in a very direct way. Two recent reports have challenged the status quo, ruffled some feathers, and stimulated change in quite a profound way that has taken us somewhat by surprise. Interestingly, GPI Atlantic has found itself on one occasion as a strong ally of government and on another as a thorn in the side of government.

Our 115-page study on *The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces* is currently being actively used by policy makers in Nova Scotia, Ottawa-Carleton, and London, Ontario, who are fashioning legislation to mandate smoke-free public places. Government and policy makers in all three places have welcomed the GPI report as an important source of information in their endeavours to protect public health. Ottawa city officials and public health authorities actually told GPI researchers that they are using the GPI report as their “bible” in upholding the city’s smoke-free bylaw. The Nova Scotia Health Minister met with the GPI Atlantic report author to discuss proposed province-wide legislation that could be a model for other provinces.

In sharp contrast, Nova Scotia government officials were not at all pleased with the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of *The GPI Forest Accounts* (2 volumes, 466 pages). The GPI approach (which values the ecological and social values of a forest in addition to its timber values) is seen as sharply threatening to “business as usual,” which relies on conventional measures that count forests only for the value of the timber that goes to market.

The chair of the Nova Forest Alliance delivered a sharp public attack on the GPI results, and GPI Atlantic has now produced a detailed rebuttal of his comments that will be released at the end of January. As a result of the controversy over the GPI report, several organizations have suspended their participation in the Nova Forest Alliance, and some have called for the resignation of its chair. And when the GPI results were presented to a gathering of nearly 200 forestry professionals in Truro, two weeks after its release, many foresters expressed considerable interest in taking a fresh look at harvest and management practices from the GPI angle. There is no doubt that the GPI report will continue to make waves in the province's forest sector for some time to come.

Newspaper columnist, Ralph Surette, writing in *The Chronicle-Herald* on November 17, concluded his analysis of *The GPI Forest Accounts* with the following statement:

"We need a deep cultural change here. It must start within the profoundly resistant Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, where I recommend that they start by reading this report closely."

In short, two GPI reports released just five weeks apart have seen us as friend and foe of current government policy. As a completely independent, non-partisan and non-profit research group, of course, we cannot fashion the actual results either to please or displease the particular government in power. But we are *very* pleased that our research is not sitting on a shelf gathering dust, and that it is stimulating debate and action.

In actual fact, GPI Atlantic does not view itself as anyone's foe. All the GPI components are based on fundamental elements of the social consensus in Canada that values both public health *and* healthy forests. Indicators that measure progress towards those goals will necessarily lend support to actions that improve the health of the public and the health of our forests, and they will tell the truth about actions that undermine either.

It is a most interesting learning experience for GPI Atlantic to observe how society and government react to new indicators of wellbeing and progress, and how new knowledge infiltrates and is absorbed into the policy process. We are delighted to be in the middle of it, and we welcome the controversy that has recently surrounded our results. Change rarely happens quietly, and our experience in recent weeks is that indicators do indeed have a profound and powerful impact on the policy arena.

RECENT GPI ATLANTIC ACTIVITIES

GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts Released

On 11 September, 2001, GPI Atlantic released its *Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts*, (72 pages), authored by Dr. Tony Charles, Heather Boyd, Amanda Lavers, and Cheryl Benjamin. For obvious reasons, it was the worst possible day in history to release

a GPI report, and it took several days before the media featured it. It was sent to the press at 9am Halifax time (8am New York and Washington time).

Despite some (surprising) coverage in *The Chronicle Herald*, *The Daily News*, and on CBC later that awful week, this report did not receive the usual good publicity that GPI reports get, because people had other things on their mind that day. However, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has expressed considerable interest in the report, and in its methodologies and findings. Completion of this report was made possible through funding provided by the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

The report is being re-released January 16 at a news event at the Classic Seafood fish plant at Jeddore, a fishing village on Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore. Fishermen's representatives will be present at the release. The main findings of the report are highlighted in this newsletter. [Click here for news reports](#), and [click here to order the full report](#).

Smoke-Free Workplaces Report Released

On October 11, GPI Atlantic released its 115-page study on *The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces*, which had been commissioned by the Tobacco Control Unit in the Nova Scotia Department of Health. This is the most comprehensive study on the subject conducted in Canada to date, and was warmly greeted, particularly by health professionals. It was released to a province-wide Tobacco Control conference at Kespuwick, Annapolis Valley, where the Nova Scotia Premier and Health Minister released a new comprehensive tobacco control strategy for the province.

The report release received excellent publicity, including front-page news stories, and extensive radio and television coverage. The release day also included a half-hour meeting between GPI Atlantic and the Nova Scotia Health Minister on the relevance of the report results to proposed NS Government legislation on smoke-free public places.

Since its release, the GPI report has also been extensively used by Ottawa City Council and Ottawa public health officials in promoting that city's smoke-free bylaw. The GPI report is also being used by the City of London, Ontario, where it will be tabled at a City Council meeting on January 14.

Radio and TV interviews on the report findings continue, most recently with a CBC Canada Country TV interview on January 8, a 12-minute CBC national radio This Morning interview with Shelagh Rogers on January 10, and a CBC Information Morning interview from Charlottetown on January 11.

An interview on the Smoke-Free Workplaces report with the Brockville Recorder and Times is scheduled for January 14. In that area the three county Leeds-Grenville-Lanark health unit is currently considering smoke-free regulations. On January 16, a 30-minute

call-in radio show focussed on the GPI Smoke-Free report will be broadcast on The Rutherford Show in Calgary, Edmonton, Kitchener, Winnipeg and other cities at noon Calgary time.

The key findings of the report are featured in this newsletter. Click [here](#) for media coverage, and click [here](#) to order the report.

GPI Forest Accounts Released

On November 14, GPI Atlantic released its 2-volume, 466-page *GPI Forest Accounts* at a news conference hosted by the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS). The executive director of TIANS made a strong statement endorsing and welcoming the GPI report, and several Nova Scotia woodlot owners were present at the conference to support the GPI conclusions and recommendations. Funding for completion of this report was also provided by the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

The report results were featured in a full-page story in *The Daily News* and a lead page 3 story in *The Chronicle-Herald*, and were well reported on CBC TV and radio news. A lengthy CBC Maritime Noon interview provided further coverage. For media clippings on the report release, click [here](#). For the TIANS endorsement, click [here](#). To order the full report, click [here](#). The key findings of the report are included in this newsletter.

First Issue of Reality Check is a Hit!

The inaugural issue of *Reality Check: The Canadian Review of Wellbeing* was mailed to 4,000 Canadian opinion leaders in November, including government officials and news editors across the country. The new review, a joint production of GPI Atlantic and the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, promotes the creation of a Canadian Index of Wellbeing that can provide a more complete and accurate picture of how Canadians are really doing.

Reality Check reports on important indicator work going on throughout the country, that can prod our leaders to put the same energy into promoting social progress and preventing environmental decline as they currently put into promoting economic growth and preventing recession. The first issue was very warmly received and has brought many congratulatory and welcoming letters from throughout Canada.

GPI Atlantic members receive a hard copy of *Reality Check* free in the mail. The electronic copy is available on the GPI Atlantic web site at <http://www.gpiatlantic.org/realitycheck/realitycheck1.pdf>. A strong Nova Scotian team produced the review from start to finish, including Parker Barss Donham, associate editor; Steven Slipp of Semaphor Design Company, design and layout; Michael de Adder, cartoonist; and Russell House Marketing, distribution.

Community GPI Data Entry Under Way; 1st Deliberative Dialogue in Glace Bay

With data collection for the first ever community GPI complete in Glace Bay, staff has begun entering data from the comprehensive community GPI survey. Fourteen people are currently entering the data, and we expect to have the first ever community GPI results available by the end of February. In preparation for that exciting moment, the Cape Breton Wellness Centre hosted a “deliberative dialogue” among Glace Bay community groups in December to prepare for the analysis and discussion of the survey results, after which the findings will be turned into action proposals to benefit the community.

It is no exaggeration to say that within a couple of months, Glace Bay will know more about itself and how it is doing as a community than any other community in Canada. As pioneers in this ground-breaking project, Glace Bay residents will be uniquely placed to help other communities throughout Canada develop their own indicators of wellbeing. The Glace Bay community has shown tremendous interest and support for the project. Considering that the survey is massive (average time for completion = 2 hours), the 81% response rate in Glace Bay has been remarkable. We are learning that wellbeing indicators can themselves mobilize a community!

A researcher from the University of Saskatchewan visited GPI Atlantic in August as part of a project to study the Nova Scotia Community GPI for potential application in certain Saskatchewan communities. Two excellent articles on the Kings County GPI appeared in *The Kentville Advertiser* and *The Chronicle-Herald* in December.

GPI Atlantic Committees – We Need Your Participation

The GPI Atlantic Board of Directors has created new committees to strengthen and develop GPI Atlantic as an organization, and to promote the work. Our Human Resources Committee (Paulette Sadoway, Martha Macdonald, Brenda Crane) has already sprung into action with work on new contracts for GPI Atlantic researchers, investigation of a benefits package for staff, and hosting of a holiday social. The Finance Committee (John Leon, Steve Peters) has just completed work on a 2002 budget to be presented to the Board of Directors on January 17.

We also have two new committees just getting off the ground and we want to welcome your participation in this effort – we need our members’ active help in this endeavour. One is the Development Committee, which will also explore long-term funding opportunities. The second is a Membership and Communications Committee that will also help market the work of GPI Atlantic, expand the membership base, and get our reports into libraries and other places. To participate in any of these committees, please contact Cliff Esler at 902-820-2568 or at webmaster@gpiatlantic.org.

GPI Atlantic Researchers in National Round Table Process

Five GPI Atlantic researchers (3 with Ph.Ds and 2 with Masters degrees) are now participating directly in the Round Table's effort to produce sustainable development indicators for Canada, including work in expert "cluster groups" in fisheries, forests, soils, and social indicators. The National Round Table also provided funding that has allowed completion of the GPI renewable natural resource accounts, which are being used in the process of developing these national indicators.

GPI Atlantic researchers have traveled to Ottawa to participate in the "cluster groups" which are designed to develop indicators in specific topic areas. GPI Atlantic is also a member of the Round Table's steering committee.

On October 23, 2001 and January 10, 2002, Jennifer Scott, GPI Atlantic soils and agriculture researcher presented her work to the "Land and Soils" cluster group in Ottawa and participated in discussions with other indicator experts. She described the indicators used in the GPI Atlantic Soils and Agriculture Accounts, explained why some indicators are stronger than others, and engaged in discussions regarding assessment of soil degradation and land use.

Similarly, Dr. Tony Charles, author of the GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts and Sara Wilson, co-author of the GPI Forest Accounts, participate in the renewable resources cluster group. Dr. Andrew Harvey, GPI Atlantic board member participates in the social capital group. All have presented the GPI Atlantic work as part of their discussions in these expert groups.

Round Table Funding Assists Completion of GPI Renewable Resource Accounts

In November, GPI Atlantic fulfilled a contract with the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy for the completion of the GPI Renewable Natural Resource Accounts:

- The GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts (researchers Tony Charles Ph.D, Heather Boyd, Amanda Lavers, Cheryl Benjamin),
- The GPI Forest Accounts (Sara Wilson, Linda Panno, Minga O'Brien, Ronald Colman),
- The GPI Soils and Agriculture Accounts (soils and water components) (Jennifer Scott and Julia Cooper), and
- The GPI Greenhouse Gas Accounts (Sally Walker Ph.D, Anne Monette, Ronald Colman).

Summaries of these accounts are posted on the NRTEE web site as well as on the GPI Atlantic web site.

GPI Work in Progress: Winter 2002

- GPI Soils and Agriculture Account Part II on Soils and Water, (authors Jennifer Scott and Julia Cooper) scheduled for release in February.
- Work is ongoing on the GPI Air Quality Account (Anne Monette); the GPI Transportation module (Larry Hughes, Ph.D, Vanessa Husain, and David Caulfield), the GPI Solid Waste module (Jeff Wilson and Gay Harley), and the component on Debt and Assets (Colin Dodds). All are scheduled for release in the winter and spring of 2002.

Other GPI Atlantic Projects: Fall-Winter: 2001-2002

- Based on its Community GPI work, GPI Atlantic prepared a survey of British Columbia CAP (Community Access Program) sites to assess their impact on volunteerism. The project is funded by Industry Canada. The survey was very capably administered by Karen Laine and Cat Dextrase, and GPI Atlantic is presently analyzing the results and writing a report that will be presented to Industry Canada in Ottawa on January 31. In the course of a visit to British Columbia in October, GPI Atlantic led a training workshop for a forming “GPI Pacific.”
- GPI Atlantic worked closely with the First Nations Forestry Association of Nova Scotia in the fall to prepare a proposal for a full-cost accounting study of the Pictou Landing First Nations forest and community that will assess the impact of forest restoration on community health. Pictou Landing is the first Forest Stewardship Council certified forestry operation in Nova Scotia. The proposal was presented to the international Forest Stewardship Council, Oaxaca, Mexico, November, 2001.
- GPI Atlantic is a partner in the five-year *Healthy Balance* research project on unpaid caregiving coordinated by the Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women’s Health and the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women. From September 2001 through January 2002, GPI Atlantic researcher, Karen Kayward, worked intensively to prepare a detailed information bank on unpaid caregiving for phase 1 of this project.
- Community GPI director, Marie Palmer, worked closely with the Gordon Michael and Harry Vaughan of the Halifax Inner City Initiative and with the Chebucto Community Net to prepare a proposal for a Community Genuine Progress Index in the economically troubled north end of Halifax. The proposal was presented to the Labour Market Development Agency in December, 2001.
- In January, 2002, GPI Atlantic entered a partnership and contract with the new Organic Agriculture College of Canada at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, to support further GPI development of its Soils and Agriculture Accounts. Jennifer Scott, MES, GPI soils and agriculture researcher since early 1998, is undertaking this project.

- GPI Atlantic is currently engaged in preparation of a study for the Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Unit of the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at Dalhousie University's Faculty of Medicine. The study will assess the economic costs of chronic illness in Nova Scotia; the proportion of these costs that is preventable; and the cost-effectiveness of preventive interventions. In this research, GPI Atlantic is working closely with Health Canada's "Economic Burden of Illness" unit, consulting with Health Canada researchers and staff in Ottawa in December, 2001, and by correspondence since that time.

GPI Atlantic in the U.S. Journal of Innovative Management

A GPI Atlantic article, "Measuring Real Progress," was featured in the Fall, 2001, issue (volume 7, #1) of the Journal of Innovative Management, USA. Commenting on the article in the Journal, Klaus Zink, Chair of Industrial Management and Human Factors, University of Kaiserslautern, Germany, comments:

"This paper describes the necessity of having new measures for progress on the society level.... It is new that a jurisdiction (Nova Scotia) will soon have a detailed and policy-relevant measure of well-being and sustainable development available and ready for actual application in practice, and that a national statistical agency (Statistics Canada) has been interested in and supportive of the work.... The old measure is leading to wrong goals. Growth per se cannot be a value worth living for. The use of a Genuine Progress Index... is a measure we owe to our children."

Atkinson Charitable Foundation Funds Joint Proposal Development

The Atkinson Charitable Foundation, (executive director, Charles Pascal), is providing \$15,500 in funding to GPI Atlantic, the Canadian Policy Research Networks, and the Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development to develop a proposal:

"...for further substantial and coordinated work to ensure the development of solid, well-researched, and easily understood indicators to complement the GDP that reflect the burgeoning interest in measuring the wellbeing of Canadians."

Mr. Pascal's letter concludes:

"We look forward to the results of this next step towards a comprehensive set of measures that:

- *enables a higher level of citizen literacy regarding the progress of our nation;*
- *and facilitates more effective decision-making to ensure this progress is in the right direction."*

The three organizations will meet in Ottawa on January 22-23 to develop a protocol of cooperation and to begin work on this proposal. Hans Messinger, Director of Industry Measures and Analysis at Statistics Canada, and a GPI Atlantic board member, will join the discussions. It is intended to involve organizations from throughout Canada which have been involved in wellbeing indicator work, and to develop a highly respected, expert advisory committee for the project.

The proposal, once developed this spring, will be presented to a wide coalition of foundations, spearheaded by the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, which has taken the lead in promoting wellbeing indicator work.

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Cites GPI Agriculture Report

In December, 2001, Laurence Nason, Chief Executive Officer, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, wrote in the newsletter of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (page 2):

“If anyone has any doubt with respect to seriousness of the challenges currently being faced by the farm community in Nova Scotia they have only to turn to a report released earlier this year by GPI Atlantic (The Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index Soils and Agriculture Accounts Part I: Farm Viability and Economic Capacity in Nova Scotia, April 2001.) That report, more accurately than anyone realized when the report was released, predicts the collapse of a number of our agricultural sectors if agricultural policy in Nova Scotia is not revamped.

*The Executive Summary of that report concludes:
‘Although total farm cash receipts have risen 12% over the past 28 years, all other indicators of economic viability examined here are showing negative trends. If these trends continue at current rates, we are likely to see the virtual demise of several agricultural sectors in Nova Scotia, including apples, vegetables, beef and hogs.’”*

A Special Thanks

GPI Atlantic researchers have shown tremendous dedication over the years, producing first-rate work for very little pay. Without their extraordinary contributions, GPI Atlantic would literally not exist. These researchers’ only overt reward is that their names appear in print when their reports are finally released. But there are also dedicated GPI Atlantic staff members and volunteers who play a crucial behind-the-scenes role in the release of all our reports, and whose role is invisible to the public eye. That hidden contribution deserves special thanks and acknowledgement here.

Anne Monette, our Air Quality researcher, is also a computer whiz in her spare time. She developed an excellent template for all our GPI Atlantic reports, and she steps in at the final stages of every report to format it expertly, to tidy up and make attractive all charts and tables, to lay out the tables of contents and figures, and much more. She frequently finds herself working long days and nights before a report release, always without complaint and in good cheer.

Cliff Esler, our stalwart webmaster, not only maintains the GPI Atlantic web site expertly, and fills report orders and membership applications, but plays a vital role in the release of GPI Atlantic reports. On the eve of every report release (and often right to the wire), Cliff produces the web versions of the report and the summaries and press releases, and arranges printing, binding, and countless other details.

Parker Barss Donham, top-notch journalist and writer, has recently lent his expertise to the preparation of press materials for release of our reports. And John Leon is not only our stalwart volunteer treasurer, responsible for balancing a budget that is chronically thin (a tough, time-consuming and thankless job), but he also sends out all our press packages and report summaries on the day of report releases. His wisdom and good humour over the years have been a bedrock of solid support for the GPI work.

In sum, thank you so much, Anne, Cliff, John, and Parker for your vital, hidden contributions to the release of all our reports. Your role is as crucial to our work as that of the researchers.

CALENDAR OF RECENT GPI ATLANTIC ACTIVITIES

July 9: GPI Atlantic researcher, Colin Dodds, who authored the GPI Cost of Crime and Income Distribution reports, presented the GPI as well as his specific research results to the West Malpaque Initiative at Tyne Valley, Prince Edward Island. The Initiative is an attempt to bridge the social gap between natives living on Lennox Island and non-natives on the mainland.

Aug 24: Presentation by Sara Wilson on GPI Forest Accounts to the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics conference, McGill University.

September: GPI Atlantic materials are used in Northern Ireland public school examinations.

Sept. 10: GPI sustainable transportation researcher, Vanessa Kind, defends her masters thesis for the School of Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University. This thesis, under the supervision of GPI transportation researcher, Larry Hughes Ph.D, will be the basis of the GPI transportation accounts.

Sept. 11: Public release of the GPI Fisheries Accounts. This was the worst day in history to release a GPI report. It was sent to the press at 9am Halifax time (8am New York and Washington time). Despite some (surprising) coverage in *The Chronicle Herald*, *The Daily News*, and on CBC later that week, this report did not receive the usual good publicity that GPI reports get, for obvious reasons. People had other things on their mind that day. The report will be re-released January 16 at a news event at Jeddore Oyster Bay, an Eastern Shore fishing village in Nova Scotia.

Sept. 13: Presentation to Community Action on Homelessness conference, United Church, Brunswick Street, Halifax, with particular emphasis on the recently released GPI Income Distribution report.

Sept. 19: Interview with Shaw TV on global warming and GPI Greenhouse Gas Accounts.

Sept. 20: Keynote address to Communities in Bloom national conference, Trade and Convention Centre, St. John, New Brunswick. Powerpoint presentation to this conference is available from our online bookstore at <http://www.gpiatlantic.org/order.cgi>.

Sept. 26: Marie Palmer, Community GPI director, represents GPI Atlantic at an Atlantic Canada consultation in Halifax organized by the Canadian Population Health Initiative and the Canadian Institute for Health Research to consider strategic directions for future activity, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Sept. 27: Completion of new GPI Profile and Budget, prepared for fundraising purposes, thanks to the hard work of John Leon, GPI Atlantic treasurer, and Cliff Esler, webmaster. Available for free at http://gpiatlantic.org/gpiatlantic_profile.pdf.

Sept. 28: Two presentations to Health, Work and Wellness Conference, Fredericton, New Brunswick, hosted by New Brunswick Heart and Stroke Foundation. Keynote: “Economics as if People Mattered”; “Work and Life: Achieving Balance” – Powerpoint presentations available from our online bookstore (see above URL).

Sept. 29: Presentation to VON, Kings County, Acadia University: “Celebrating Volunteers.”

Sept. 30: Meeting with Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN) and Pembina Institute representatives, Toronto.

Oct. 1: Full day fundraising meeting hosted by the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, Toronto, where GPI Atlantic, CPRN, and Pembina all made presentations. GPI Atlantic presentation is available at http://gpiatlantic.org/gpiatlantic_profile.pdf.

- Oct. 4:** Interview with Laura Bisailon, Expert-Conseil URBA-International Consulting Montreal, Quebec. GPI Atlantic is one of ten organizations profiled by this group in a report on Canadian and international indicator initiatives.
- Oct. 5:** Presentation by GPI researcher, Colin Dodds, on "The Impact of Hockey on Quality of Life: Application of the Genuine Progress Index at the Community Level" to Gorsebrook Research Institute conference entitled: "Putting it on Ice: Hockey in Historical and Contemporary Perspective."
- Oct. 3:** Colin Dodds, Pre-conference radio interviews on the above presentation are aired on CBC Windsor, Saint John, Quebec City, Calgary, Whitehorse, Halifax, Sudbury, Regina, Yellowknife, and Thunder Bay.
- Oct. 5:** Article on Kings GPI project appears in *The Kentville Advertiser*
- Oct. 11:** Release of GPI Atlantic report, *The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces: An Assessment for Nova Scotia*, (115 pages). Report is presented to health professionals and participants at the provincial Tobacco Control conference at Kespuwick, Annapolis Valley. The report and Powerpoint presentation are available through our online bookstore.
- Oct. 11:** Jeff Wilson, GPI Atlantic researcher, presentation to Dalhousie University School of Resource and Environmental Studies class on environmental accounting.
- Oct. 12:** CBC Newfoundland Information Morning debate: GPI Atlantic and Brian Crowley (Atlantic Institute for Market Studies) on tax cuts.
- Oct. 12-13:** Radio and television coverage (CBC, ATV, Global) of GPI Smoke-Free Workplaces report. Newspaper coverage in both newspapers (including front page, *The Chronicle Herald*.) For media coverage, see <http://gpiatlantic.org/clippings.shtml#smoke-free>
- Oct. 12:** Jeff Wilson keynote presentation on GPI and Ecological Footprint to national Sustainable Campuses Conference, Dalhousie University, organized by Sierra Youth Coalition
- Oct. 13: AM:** Meeting in Victoria, British Columbia, with Industry Canada, on BC-CAP site survey.
- Oct. 13: PM:** Full afternoon meeting at the University of British Columbia to launch GPI Pacific – a coalition of academics, community organizations, and government representatives who intend to create a Genuine Progress Index for British Columbia. Coordinator: Karen Laine. Interested BC residents can contact Karen at: k_itw@yahoo.ca

Oct. 18: GPI researcher, Colin Dodds, presentation on: "Poverty and Inequality in Nova Scotia," at the conference of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, St. Mary's University. Colin's presentation was based on the GPI Income Distribution report, which is available through our online bookstore.

Oct. 19-21: GPI Atlantic presentation by Marie Palmer, Leonard Poetschke, and Richard Hennigar on the Nova Scotia GPI, sustainable rural communities, and the community GPI projects, at the Nova Scotia Regional Rural Conference, entitled "Celebrating Rural Diversity – Building on Common Ground", Kespuwick, Annapolis Valley.

Oct. 22: Presentation to National Community Economic Development conference on Community GPI, Citadel Halifax; and meetings with CED conference participants.

Oct. 23: Jennifer Scott, GPI soils and agriculture researcher, presents the GPI Soils and Agriculture indicators to the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy's Land and Soils cluster group, Ottawa.

Oct. 26: GPI Atlantic and GPI Glace Bay (Tricia MacKinnon) presentations to the Atlantic Coastal Action Program Sustainable Communities conference, Sydney, Cape Breton. Plenary session on: "Measuring Progress Towards Sustainable Development," and two workshops on "Measurements and Indicators."

Oct. 26: GPI Atlantic researcher, Jeff Wilson, public presentation on Ecological Footprint, Halifax.

Oct. 28-30: Ottawa, GPI Atlantic participation at Prevention Dividend Project national conference on *Economic Evaluations: Making the Case with Dollars and Sense.* GPI Atlantic presentation is on "Measuring Impacts: The GPI Approach to Economic Evaluations," Ottawa Marriott Hotel.

Oct. 29: Meeting with Ottawa City officials, public health authorities, and chief medical officer on GPI Smoke-Free Workplaces report.

Oct. 30: Dr. Tony Charles, author of the GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts, presents the GPI indicators for this report to the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy's Renewable Resources cluster group, Ottawa.

October: Hiring and training of nine data entry personnel for Glace Bay Genuine Progress Index, under Community Economic Innovation Program for industrial Cape Breton.

November: Articles on GPI Atlantic and the Nova Scotia GPI appear in *Atlantic Progress* and *Atlantic Business* magazines, and in the *Pictou County Evening News*, and

Northumberland Business Report. Articles on Kings County GPI survey appear in *The Chronicle Herald* and *The Kentville Advertiser*.

November: Two GPI Atlantic articles, “Measuring Genuine Progress” (Ronald Colman), and “GPI: The Cost of Crime in Nova Scotia,” (Colin Dodds, researcher) appear in a new book: *Bringing Business on Board: Sustainable Development and the Business School Curriculum*, by Peter Nemetz, Ph.D (editor), University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver. 2002.

November: GPI Forest Accounts are used in Dalhousie University course: Nature Conservation (Biology 3601). GPI materials are also used in Human Activity and the Environment course, Acadia University.

Nov. 5: First meeting of the GPI Atlantic Human Resources Committee under the dynamic leadership of GPI Atlantic board member Paulette Sadoway. Martha Macdonald (GPI Atlantic vice-chair) and Brenda Crane (who helped set up the GPI Glace Bay project) are also committee members.

Nov. 9: Dr. Tony Charles presents his work on the GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts to the Dalhousie University Biology Department’s “Fish Seminar.”

Nov. 9: Marie Palmer, Community GPI director, represents GPI Atlantic at a meeting of Halifax Inner City community groups.

Nov. 13: Meeting with Sister Aurea Cormier from University of Moncton, and New Brunswick Coalition on Pay Equity, on application of GPI income distribution and gender equity data to launch of pay equity case in N.B.

Nov. 13: GPI Atlantic Board of Directors meeting, primarily on relations with Pembina Institute.

Nov. 14: Press conference hosted by Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS) for release of GPI Forest Accounts (2 volumes, 466 pages). Radio, TV and newspaper coverage, including page 3, *The Chronicle-Herald*, and full page stories in *The Daily News*, and extensive interviews on CBC’s Maritime Noon, and Sydney’s CBC Information Morning. Present at news conference were woodlot owners, foresters, tourism industry officials, and academics. Presentations by GPI Atlantic researchers; TIANS executive director, Judith Cabrita; woodlot owner, Jeremy Frith.

Nov. 15: Meeting at University College of Cape Breton, Sydney, with director and staff of Cape Breton Wellness Centre, and GPI Glace Bay staff, to plan ‘deliberative dialogue’ process with Glace Bay community. This process will engage the community in a discussion of the GPI survey results, and turn the results into action plans that can benefit Glace Bay.

Nov. 15: GPI Atlantic accepts invitation from Hazel Henderson to join the Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators Advisory Board. Hazel Henderson is internationally renowned as a pioneer in quality of life indicator work

Nov. 16: Keynote presentation to Celebrating Volunteers conference, hosted by Cape Breton Volunteer Resource Centre. The talk was well reported in *The Cape Breton Post*, and the Nova Scotia premier commented on the results presented in that talk.

Nov. 16: Meeting with Theresa MacNeil, Public Review Commissioner for Cape Breton offshore oil and gas exploration public hearings, on applicability of GPI approach to that issue.

Nov. 19: Minga O'Brien, co-author of GPI Forest Accounts, interview with SRC (French CBC) on the GPI Forest Accounts

Nov.-Dec.: Preparation of assessments of economic costs of 2nd smoke in City of Ottawa-Carleton, and economic impact of Ottawa smoke ban, prepared for KPMG and Ottawa public health officials.

Nov. 29: Presentation of GPI Forest Accounts to forum on “The Science, Economics and Ethics of Forest Harvest Practices,” Truro, NS, attended by more than 200 people, including forestry professionals. Panel with representatives of NS Department of Natural Resources and J.D. Irving. Powerpoint presentation available from our online bookstore.

Dec. 1: Presentation to Halifax Regional Municipality volunteers, “Celebrating Volunteers,” Dartmouth, NS.

Dec. 5: GPI Atlantic meeting with representatives of Canadian Policy Research Networks and Pembina Institute, Ottawa, on joint proposal to foundations for development of a Canadian Index of Wellbeing. GPI Atlantic is represented by the chair of the Board of Directors, Martin Janowitz, and by executive director, Ronald Colman. Following this meeting, a submission to the Atkinson Charitable Foundation is prepared for funding to develop a comprehensive 5-year proposal. The Atkinson Foundation awards \$15,500 to the three organizations for that purpose.

Dec. 6: AM Ottawa City Council: meetings with city officials and attendance at council meeting on Ottawa smoke-free bylaw.

PM Meeting with Rural Secretariat, and briefing with Health Canada’s Economic Burden of Illness researchers and director, Tunney’s Pasture, Ottawa.

Dec. 7: Presentation on Community GPI to National Policy Research Conference (Policy Research Institute), Ottawa: “Engaging Communities for Population Health: Why

are Some Communities Healthy and Others Not?" The presentation is organized by the Canadian Population Health Initiative. Powerpoint presentation available in bookstore.

Dec. 7: GPI Forest Accounts co-author, Linda Pannozzo, represents GPI Atlantic at the Maritime Regional Committee of the Forest Stewardship Council, Oxford, Nova Scotia. Linda also represented GPI Atlantic at the MRC meeting held in October in Sackville, New Brunswick.

Dec. 7: Presentation by Minga O'Brien, co-author of the GPI Forest Accounts, on the GPI Forest Accounts findings, conclusions, and recommendations, Halifax.

Dec. 12: Presentation by Richard Hennigar, chair of the GPI Kings Steering Committee, on the Genuine Progress Index and on the Community GPI to the Eastern Kings Chamber of Commerce quarterly luncheon in Kentville.

Dec. 13: First "deliberative dialogue" / consultation on Glace Bay Genuine Progress Index, with Glace Bay community groups, conducted by Marie Palmer (community GPI director), Stacey Lewis (director, Cape Breton Wellness Centre) and Glace Bay GPI staff, held at the Townhouse in downtown Glace Bay, where GPI Glace Bay has its office. The session was facilitated by the Cape Breton Wellness Centre. Participants discussed how the GPI Glace Bay survey results will be analyzed and used by the community, and how community groups can collaborate to mobilize the community.

Dec. 18: GPI researcher and staff meeting and holiday celebration, Halifax, organized by GPI Atlantic Human Resources Committee

Dec. 18: Minga O'Brien, GPI forest researcher, cited in Paul Schneidereit, "Forestry and the soil sustainability debate", *The Chronicle-Herald*.

Dec. 18-19: GPI Atlantic researcher, Jeff Wilson, presents Ecological Footprint to high school classes at St. Patrick's - Alexandria School, Halifax.

Dec. 19: GPI Atlantic provides materials and statistics to the New Brunswick Coalition for Pay Equity for its press release on the gender wage gap.

Dec. 20: Atkinson Charitable Foundation approves \$15,500 funding to GPI Atlantic, Canadian Policy Research Networks, and Pembina Institute to conduct a workshop and develop a comprehensive 5-year proposal for development of a Canadian Index of Wellbeing.

Dec. 30: Meeting in Kings County on Kings County GPI, and strategy for completion of data collection

Dec-Jan: Preparation of 127-page rebuttal to comments made by the Chair of the Nova Forest Alliance on the GPI Forest Accounts.

December: Preparation of 2002 GPI Atlantic budget

Jan. 8: CBC Country TV interview and call-in talk show on the GPI Atlantic report on *The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces*, and on Smoke-Free bylaws.

Jan. 10: Interview with Shelagh Rogers, CBC national radio, This Morning show, on *The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces* report (10.30am, CBC studio);

Jan. 10: GPI presentation to Nova Scotia Environmental Network Forest Caucus.

Jan. 10: Minga O'Brien, co-author of GPI Forest Accounts, presentation to Chester Municipal Council, Chester Council Chambers, on effects of clearcutting and current forest practices on forest and stream ecosystems.

Jan. 11: Interview on CBC Information Morning, Charlottetown, on smoke-free workplaces report.

Jan. 14: Interview with *Brockville (Ontario) Recorder and Times* on smoke-free public places. The three-county health unit (Leeds, Grenville, Lanark) is currently considering smoke-free regulations for that region.

Jan. 14: Participation with National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy forum on Emissions Trading, Sheraton, Halifax, 1pm-5pm; Meeting with Ken Ogilvie (Pollution Probe); Atlantic Assembly planning meeting, 7.30pm.

Jan. 14: The GPI report on *The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces* will be tabled at a City Council meeting in London, Ontario, at a meeting considering its smoke-free bylaw.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS: WINTER-SPRING 2002

Jan. 15: CBC Information Morning, Halifax, interview on GPI Atlantic Cost of Obesity report, and recommendations for reducing junk food sales and promoting nutritional food in schools.

Jan. 15: Progress report on GPI Solid Waste component, presented by GPI researchers Jeff Wilson and Gay Harley to the steering committee for that project, at NS

Department of Environment and Labour (DEL), 2-4pm. Steering committee includes representatives of NS DEL, Environment Canada, and Halifax Regional Municipality.

Jan. 16: 3pm: Interview and call-in radio talk show on smoke-free public places, *The Rutherford Show*, hosted by Dave Rutherford, and aired in Calgary (noon), Edmonton, Winnipeg, Kitchener, and other Canadian cities.

Jan. 16: 8pm: Presentation of documentary: “Ancient Futures: Learning from Ladakh,” and discussion on genuine progress, Shambhala Centre, Halifax.

Jan. 16: 7pm: Dr. Sally Walker, lead author of the GPI Greenhouse Gas Accounts presents the Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index to the Council of Canadians, Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia.

Jan. 17: 11am: Re-release of GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts, at Classic Seafoods fish plant, Jeddore Oyster Ponds, Eastern Shore, Nova Scotia, Tony Charles, Ph.D (lead author and researcher), and Parker Donham (GPI communications).

Jan. 17: 4pm-6pm: GPI Atlantic Board of Directors meeting, 7th floor boardroom, World Trade and Convention Centre, Argyle Street, Halifax. Board meeting will focus on 2002 budget.

Jan. 18: 12 Noon: GPI Atlantic presentation to Public Review Commission on the potential effects of Cape Breton offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling, Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre, near Baddeck, Cape Breton.

Jan. 21: 11am: Healthy Balance Research Project team leaders meeting at Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

2pm: Nova Scotia Environmental Network Forest Caucus meeting

7pm-9pm: GPI presentation to Kings College journalism students.

Jan. 22-23: Ottawa: 2-day workshop with Canadian Policy Research Networks, Pembina Institute, and Statistics Canada, on development of a joint proposal to Canadian foundations for a Canadian Index of Wellbeing.

Jan. 24: 9am: Meetings with NS Department of Health, Halifax

Jan. 30: Completion of Caregiver Information Bank project for Healthy Balance Research Project; Interim report on Costs of Chronic Illness in Nova Scotia for Dalhousie University Department of Community Health and Epidemiology.

Jan. 30: 4pm: Departure for Ottawa

Jan. 31: 8.30am: Presentation or report on BC CAP-site survey results to Industry Canada, Ottawa

12.30-4pm: Workshop on GPI and indicators of genuine progress for rural communities with Rural Secretariat and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa.

Feb. 1: 11am: Presentation on Community GPI to HRDC conference, Ottawa. Talk will focus on Community-Based Research.

Jan. – Feb.: GPI Atlantic researcher, Jeff Wilson, presents the Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index and his Ecological Footprint and Solid Waste research findings to classes at Dalhousie University: January 30: Law school; Feb. 5: Introduction to Environmental Studies (undergraduate), and Feb. 14: School of Resource and Environmental Studies (graduate).

Feb. 6: Presentation on Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index, and half-day workshop, ACOA and Industry Canada, Halifax

Feb. 18: 9.30-11.30am, Henson College: Community Health Indicators Focus Group

Feb. 22: Victoria, British Columbia:
9.15-10.30am: Keynote address to Health, Wellness and Recreation Symposium”

11.30am: Presentation on “Return on Investment in Preventive Health” to B.C. Capital Health Region public health officials;

1.30-3pm: Workshop on “Social Capital: Economics of Good Health.”

Feb. 23: (tentative): GPI Pacific meeting, Victoria.

March 5-6: Environment Canada, Downsview, Toronto: Workshop entitled: “Beyond Indicators: Indices for Environmental Sustainability.” Presentation on Nova Scotia GPI is scheduled for March 5, 10.45am-12.30pm.

March 12: 4pm-6pm: GPI Atlantic board of directors meeting

March 13-15: Ottawa: Canadian Population Health Initiative conference. Presentation and discussion on the Community GPI, and on parallel CPHI initiatives across Canada.

March 23: National Reference Group meeting, Halifax on unpaid caregiving (Healthy Balance Research Project).

April 8-9: Toronto: Strategy Institute and The Canadian Institute For Environmental Law And Policy: Conference – “Partnering For Sustainability”. Presentation on Nova Scotia GPI is at 11.30am, April 8.

May 2: Stratford, Ontario: 9am: GPI Atlantic keynote address to Conference of the Organization of Small Urban Municipalities entitled: “Striking a Balance.”

May 14: 4pm-6pm: GPI Atlantic board of directors meeting.

GPI ACCOUNTS COULD HELP PREVENT FURTHER FISHERIES COLLAPSE

Here's a shocking thought: If we'd had the GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts 15 years ago, might we still be fishing cod in respectable quantities today, and could we have avoided the disastrous collapse of the Atlantic groundfishery?

We can never answer that question definitively. But we can say with some certainty that, if we'd had the GPI, we would have had less excuse for naively assuming that high catch levels just prior to the groundfish collapse meant a healthy fishery, and some vital early warning signals would have been clearly in the public eye. And we can say with even greater certainty that the GPI Accounts can help us prevent such a catastrophe in the future.

The *GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts* do provide a unique way of tracking the health of fish stocks, people who fish, and the marine environment. And using this new set of accounts or indicators may help to prevent another resource collapse like that which devastated fishing communities in the early 1990s.

One of the 22 core components of the Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index, the 76-page accounts are authored by Dr. Tony Charles of St. Mary's University, a well-known author of books and articles on sustainable fisheries, together with Heather Boyd, Amanda Lavers, and Cheryl Benjamin. Dr. Charles led the research team over three years in compiling data from a wide range of sources on 38 indicators of marine ecosystem health, fish stock biomass and age structure, the state of fishers and the fishing industry, and the challenges of ocean management.

To the best of his knowledge, says Dr. Charles, these are the first such fisheries accounts to have been produced anywhere in the world, and he hopes they will be a prototype for use in Nova Scotia, elsewhere in Canada, and in other countries.

"If we'd had these accounts in the 1980s, there might have been a better understanding of the need to encourage conservation *before* the collapse of the groundfish stocks and the economically devastating moratorium that followed," says Dr. Charles. "Instead, our standard economic growth statistics kept sending misleading signals to policy makers and the public: – High levels of catches and exports looked good, but behind the scenes, the fish stocks were collapsing."

"The more fish we sold, the more the economy grew," Dr. Charles notes. "The GDP and the other economic indicators we use to assess how 'well off' we are actually treat resource depletion as economic gain. That's like a factory owner selling off machinery and counting it as profit."

"So we really need a better set of indicators on the health of our fisheries and marine environment. The GPI Accounts value natural capital and natural wealth – what we leave in the sea – not just what we take out as catches. This goes well beyond what is counted in the conventional economic accounts."

Early Warning Signals

According to Dr. Charles, "another major role of the Genuine Progress Index and its natural resource accounts is to provide early warning signals to policy makers that will allow appropriate responses to resource depletion, to help prevent such catastrophic losses in the future."

For example, the GPI fisheries accounts show that cod stocks had begun to decline precipitously five years before they finally collapsed. At the same time, it seems that spending on basic scientific work and on surveillance and enforcement of fishery regulations decreased significantly, at the very time that greater vigilance was required. By monitoring a wide set of fishery indicators, such problems might be avoided in the future.

The 91-page GPI report contains a wide range of results on the ecological, economic and social aspects of Nova Scotia's fisheries and marine environment:

- The GPI report uses estimates by international scientists to assess the annual value of marine ecosystem services provided by the oceans off Nova Scotia at more than \$180 billion, or more than 340 times the highest value of Nova Scotia's fishery GDP.
- The Nova Scotia fishery GDP has declined by about one-third in the last decade.
- The economic value of Nova Scotia's remaining cod stocks declined by about \$74 million since 1982, and haddock stocks by about \$53 million.
- Nova Scotia accounts for 47% of shellfish closures in Atlantic Canada. The total area closed to shellfish harvesting has increased by an average of 34 sq. km. a year since 1975 and by 264 sq. km. since 1995 alone, a 38% increase in less than five years.
- A positive sign of "genuine progress" is a steady decline in the concentrations of PCBs and other chemical contaminants found in Nova Scotia seabird eggs since 1972, indicating a major reduction in ocean dumping of toxins.
- Assessments indicate that shrimp biomass has increased and lobster biomass levels have remained constant over the past decade. However, the GPI report notes that the increasing dependence of many fishing communities on shellfish

may lead to reduced community resilience in the future if the health of those fisheries is threatened for ecological reasons.

- Since 1990, ownership of fishing quota among draggers in the Scotia-Fundy groundfishery became concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, as fleet size dropped from 350 vessels to less than 150, and catches were distributed less evenly among the boats. The lobster fishery produced more even catches, but recent trends toward the buying up of lobster licenses could increase ownership concentration.

By-Catch and Trawling Data Urgently Needed

The GPI report also notes several vital indicators of fisheries and marine ecosystem health on which better data are needed. For example:

- Improved monitoring is needed for bycatch, discarding and dumping of undesirable fish, since high levels can threaten many species, reduce reproduction, unbalance the ecosystem, and lead to inaccurate stock estimates.
- Better data are needed on the impact of trawling on the ocean bottom, since trawling gear can threaten the shelter, spawning, nursery grounds and food supplies of many species. One study on the U.S. side of George's Bank found that an area two to four times the size of the whole bank was trawled *each year* between 1976 and 1991. Since this location is adjacent to Nova Scotia fishing grounds, this may be a warning to limit the impact of trawling on the ocean floor in this region more effectively.
- There is almost no research on non-commercial marine species, even though the health of these non-target species may be important for commercial species and for the marine ecosystem as a whole. One recent study found that the barndoor skate had been severely depleted through unmonitored and uncontrolled capture in Atlantic trawl nets.

"It is always easy to call for more and more data, but what this report provides is a focus on particular areas in which such data could be important." says Dr. Charles, "Our oceans could be in serious trouble without us knowing about it. Even if we suspect a problem, we can't properly track our progress in dealing with it." Dr. Charles notes that a main purpose of the GPI Accounts is to identify these data gaps, so that DFO and other agencies will do the necessary research.

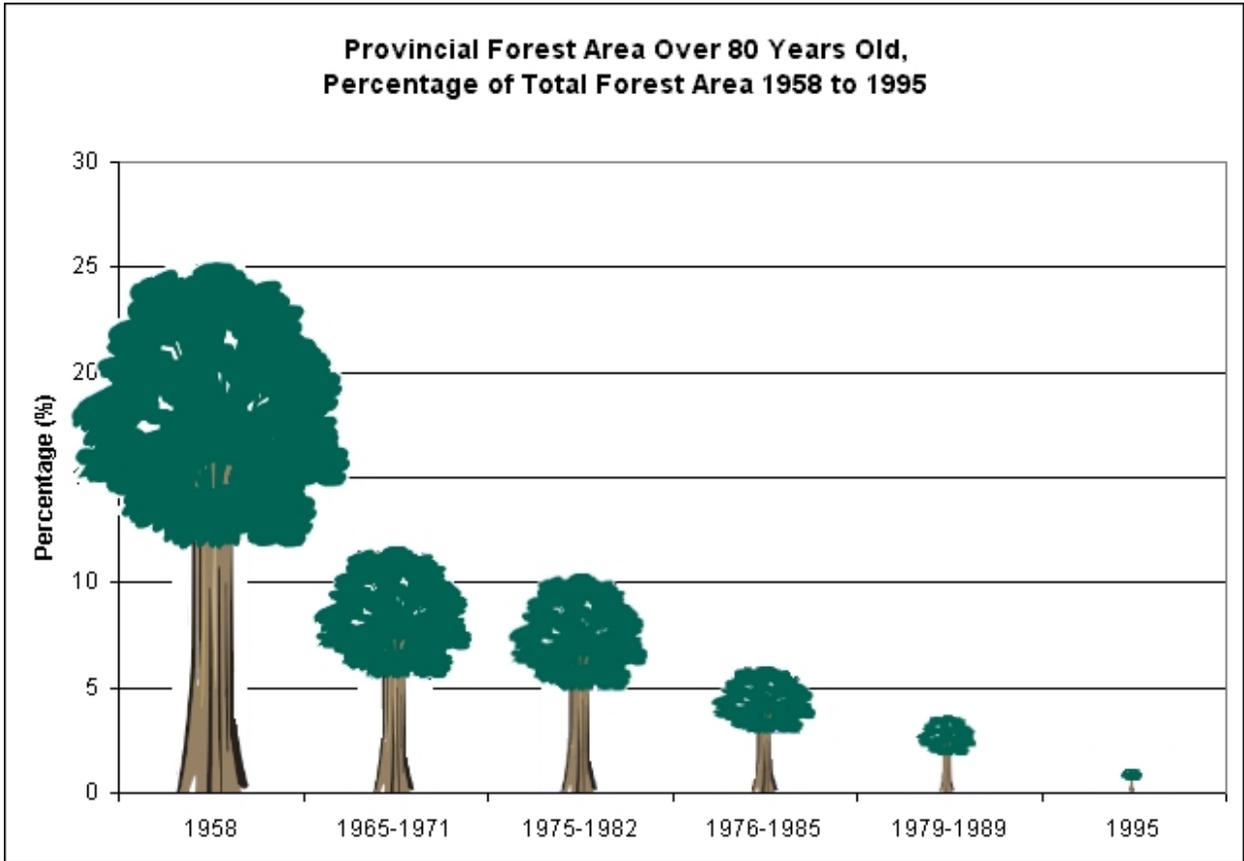
Dr. Charles hopes that the *GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts* will encourage an integrated approach to fisheries management that accounts for the health of the marine ecosystem, the wellbeing of fishing communities, and the need for fishery management to look beyond just the fishery, to ocean and coastal management more broadly.

In particular, says Dr. Charles, the GPI results indicate the importance of "resilience" (the ability to bounce back from shocks) both in the marine ecosystem and in human communities reliant on the fisheries. Diversity, he says, is the key to resilience – biological diversity in the oceans, and economic diversity in coastal communities.

In 2001-2002, GPI Atlantic is also releasing natural resource accounts for Nova Scotia's forests and agricultural soils. According to Dr. Charles, "these natural resource accounts can provide policy makers and the Nova Scotia public with the information we need to use our natural resources in a sustainable manner that benefits citizens, communities and the natural environment both now and in the future."

To order *The Nova Scotia GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts* (91 pages, \$35 plus HST), click here: <http://gpiatlantic.org/order.cgi> . GPI Atlantic members receive at 25% discount.

The Loss of Old Forests in Nova Scotia (From the GPI Forest Accounts – see next page)



NOVA SCOTIA FORESTS IN SHARP DECLINE

Two hundred years of clearcutting and removing the best trees have severely degraded the economic value of Nova Scotia's forests, according to the two-volume, 466-page, *GPI Forest Accounts for Nova Scotia*, released by GPI Atlantic on November 14, 2001. Report authors are Sara Wilson, M.Sc.F, Minga O'Brien, M.Sc., Linda Pannozzo, M.Sc., M.Ed., B.J., and Ronald Colman, Ph.D

Volume 1 of the massive four-year study assesses the current state of Nova Scotia's forests. Volume 2 demonstrates a way forward by profiling six outstanding case studies of best forest practices.

Here are some major findings from the first volume:

Nova Scotia today only contains remnants of the mature and old-growth forests that historically were present in the province. A long history of high-grading, land clearing, and clearcutting over more than two centuries has substantially depleted the province's forested natural wealth. The ecological integrity, health, and economic value of Nova Scotia forests have continued to decline sharply since the 1950s, when the Department of Lands and Forests inventory noted that the quality of the province's forests had already decreased substantially.

Major losses in age-class diversity have occurred since the 1950s, with an increasing percentage of forests in younger age classes, and the loss of almost all the province's older forests. In 1958, forests more than 80 years old covered 25% of the province's forest area. Today they cover only 1% of forest area. Forests more than 100 years old covered 8% of the province's forest area in 1958; today they cover only 0.15% of forested land.

True old-growth forest in Nova Scotia is endangered and exists only in very small, scattered, isolated pockets in the province. We are currently witnessing the disappearance of the natural site-evolved species, structure, and age characteristics of the once dominant Acadian forests.

Natural species diversity has also declined with a particularly sharp decline among some tolerant hardwood species. According to forest inventories, merchantable oak, beech, and yellow birch, for example, have all declined significantly. Black ash, of great cultural importance to the Mi'kmaq, is now rare in Nova Scotia. Among softwoods, eastern hemlock has seen a particularly sharp recent decline, down by more than half since 1958 alone. In the early 1900s, 300-year-old stands of eastern hemlock were common in Nova Scotia, with many trees up to 800 years old. White and red pine occupy less than 50% of their former range in this region (CCFM 1997).

Rate of Cutting Doubles

The rate of cutting in Nova Scotia has doubled over the past two decades by *volume*, and in the last decade alone the actual *area* clearcut annually has doubled, placing additional stress on the province's forests. The wood volume harvested annually grew from an average of 3.3 million cubic metres between 1981 and 1985 (NSDNR 1997) to 6.5 million m³ in 2000 (NSDNR 2001). Ninety-nine percent of this wood is harvested by clearcutting. Based on the annual growth rate of the province's forests, on the rate of seeding and planting in the past decade, and on changes in age structure and species composition, the current annual rate of cutting is unsustainable.

The GPI findings are in accord with public perceptions. A recent public opinion poll found that 91% of Nova Scotians believe the present rate of timber harvest is too high to sustain the forest for other values or uses. A majority also believes that clearcutting should not be used as a harvest method in Central Nova Scotia because it harms wildlife, ruins forests, causes erosion, looks bad, and wastes wood

However, the majority of the province's forests are privately owned, making regulation and forest protection initiatives more challenging than in jurisdictions with higher rates of public ownership of forestland. Of public land in Nova Scotia, only about 20% of provincial Crown land is classified as not available for resource extraction. Once deductions are made, about 60% of the Crown forests or 732,000 hectares are actually available for timber harvesting.

Land clearing and recent increases in clearcutting and the loss of both mature forests and natural species diversity in Nova Scotia forests represent a substantial depreciation of the province's valuable natural capital assets, and a decline in forest economic value due to:

- loss of valuable species;
- loss of large diameter logs and clear lumber that fetch premium market prices;
- loss of resilience and resistance to insect infestation that is enhanced by species diversity;
- loss of wildlife habitat, including decreasing populations of birds;
- loss of forest recreation values that can impact tourism;
- a decline in forested watershed protection, which has likely contributed to a 50% decline in shade-dependent brook trout;
- soil degradation and the leaching of nutrients that can affect future timber productivity;
- a substantial decline in carbon storage capacity and an increase in biomass carbon loss; and
- a decline in other essential forest ecosystem services.

Decline in Value is Invisible in Standard Accounts

This decline has been invisible in standard measures of progress based on the gross domestic product (GDP) and economic growth statistics, which give value to forests only when they are cut for timber. Because they count the extraction of natural resources as economic growth, without considering the direct and indirect costs, GDP statistics send misleading messages to policy makers and the general public and blunt potential remedial action. The GDP gives no value to standing forests, and thus counts their depletion and liquidation as economic gain. This is bad accounting, like a factory owner selling off his machinery and counting it as profit. Similarly, current timber accounting methods ignore the loss of timber and non-timber values such as natural age-class and species diversity.

By contrast, the Genuine Progress Index (GPI) assigns explicit value to natural capital assets, including the full range of forest functions and vital ecosystem services that provide multiple benefits to human society. In the GPI, natural capital is subject to depreciation when not used sustainably. Conversely, restoration forestry is seen not just as a cost, but as a re-investment in natural capital that will produce a valuable flow of goods and services in the future. Just as a factory owner's economic viability depends on the quality and quantity of his equipment, the GPI recognizes that the capacity of forests to provide vital services to human society depends on the health of the standing natural capital stocks.

Extrapolating from one global study, Nova Scotia forests are estimated to provide a minimum of \$1.68 billion (1997\$) worth of services annually in climate regulation, soil formation, waste treatment, biological control, food production, recreation, and cultural benefits (Costanza et. al. 1997). This estimate does not include other vital forest ecosystem services such as soil erosion control, water supply and watershed protection, nutrient cycling, gas regulation, pollination, habitat, disturbance regulation, and genetic resources. Increased clearcutting and the loss of natural forest diversity are rapidly diminishing the value of these forest ecosystem services in the province.

Carbon Storage Capacity Down 38%; Loss Estimated at \$1.3 billion

Nova Scotia's forests store about 107 million tonnes of carbon, thereby avoiding an estimated \$2.2 billion in climate change damage costs. However, the accelerated rate of cutting, and the loss of old growth and mature forests in Nova Scotia since 1958, have drastically reduced the province's carbon storage capacity by 38%, costing an estimated \$1.3 billion in lost value. In other words, based on the 1958 forest inventory, the carbon stored would be worth \$3.5 billion. Carbon loss in Nova Scotia's forests is now contributing to global climate change.

Direct non-timber contributions to the Nova Scotia economy include a four-fold increase in maple sugar production over the past three decades. However, valuable forest-dependent medicinal plants that are dependent on mature forests, are becoming

increasingly rare in the province as forest ecosystems with old-growth characteristics disappear.

Nova Scotians spend \$250 million a year on nature and wildlife-related pursuits, a lot of it in forests, of which 70% is non-consumptive (e.g. hiking, bird-watching, canoeing) and 27% is consumptive (mostly hunting and fishing). In addition, total tourism revenues rose to a record \$1.26 billion in 1999, contributed \$430 million to the provincial GDP, and generated \$200 million in tax revenues (current dollars), with nature tourism the fastest growing sector of the industry. The tourism industry directly employs more than 12,000 Nova Scotians, with direct and indirect tourism jobs increasing by 23.4% between 1997 and 1999. A Nova Scotia government report on the nature tourism market noted that natural settings, protected areas, parks, and opportunities for hiking and wildlife viewing were critical to the development of ecotourism market potential.

More Timber Cut to Support Same Number of Jobs

Total forestry industry shipments in 1999 were \$1.4 billion, and contributed \$431 million to GDP, remarkably similar in size to the tourism industry contribution.

From the perspective of sustainability, however, this forestry industry contribution must be assessed in relation to the health of the natural capital stocks on which it depends. Otherwise, the degradation and depletion of these stocks may appear as economic gain. For example, the fisheries industry appeared to be booming, with record catches recorded, on the eve of the Atlantic groundfish stock collapse.

When the forestry industry contribution to GDP is assessed in relation to volume of biomass harvested, the trends are much more troubling. In 1984, the forestry industry contributed \$90,804 per 1,000 cubic metres of timber harvested. In 1999, the industry contributed only \$68,023 per 1,000 cubic metres, a 25% decrease (constant 1997\$). In other words, the GDP and shipment figures in isolation conceal the reality that far greater quantities of timber are being harvested to maintain a relatively fixed contribution to GDP.

Depending on which job categories are included, estimates of forestry industry employment vary widely. Statistics Canada's Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours puts forestry industry employment at almost 9,000, while a recent study by APEC (2000), prepared for the Nova Scotia Forest Products Association, put the figure much higher – at 13,000.

However, once again, it is not the absolute employment numbers that are most significant from the perspective of sustainability, but the employment per unit of biomass harvested. Higher ratios are a sign of genuine progress in the GPI. However, employment per unit of timber harvested has declined by 26% since the 1980s, from an average of 1.9 jobs/1,000 cubic metres in the 1980s to an average of 1.4 jobs/1,000 cubic metres in the 1990s. In

other words, greater quantities of timber are being harvested to maintain each job in the industry.

Clearcutting is currently the dominant harvest method in the province, accounting for 99% of the total annual harvest. New government regulations provide financial incentives for silviculture (e.g. planting and thinning) with the goal of doubling the volume of softwood harvested from 5.5 million cubic metres (the mean harvest from 1995 to 1998) to over 11 million cubic metres by 2070.

However, the continued focus of both policy and current accounting methods on quantity rather than quality not only encourages clearcutting, but also conceals a significant loss of value per unit of biomass harvested, due to the changing age and species structure of the province's forests. The potential lost market value of premium-priced large diameter and clear lumber through the destruction of old trees in the last 40 years alone is roughly estimated at \$260 million annually, or 19% of total annual revenues.

GPI Forest Accounts Recommendations

To protect and restore the value of Nova Scotia's forest wealth and the full range of forest services, the GPI Atlantic study recommends:

- incentives for investment in forest restoration and uneven-aged management, including selection harvesting, in order to protect and restore the natural age distribution and species diversity of the province's forests, and to provide more jobs;
- a sharp reduction in the rate of clearcutting and the volume of timber harvested annually;
- a gradual industrial shift from volume-based to value-added forest products, to produce high-value wood products, and to increase the number of jobs per unit of resource harvested;
- protection of all remaining old-growth forest;
- that the full range of forest values and services, and the full cost and benefits of associated harvest methods, be counted and tracked in annual forest accounts and in ongoing forest management planning; and
- Sustainable forest management is not the whole answer. Even with the most careful harvesting techniques, there will be some level of impact on forest ecosystems. While there is a great difference between clearcutting and selection harvesting systems, they both involve the construction of roads and the removal of biomass. Even the highest standards applied on a particular woodlot cannot guarantee needed protection of critical forest values at the landscape level. Therefore, no matter how excellent forest operations may be, they are not a substitute for an adequate network of representative protected areas in Nova Scotia.

To order *The Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index Forest Accounts* (2 volumes, 466 pages, \$55 plus HST), click here: <http://gpiatlantic.org/order.cgi> . GPI Atlantic members receive a 25% discount.

A WAY FORWARD FOR NOVA SCOTIA FORESTS

“It’s all a question of story. We are in trouble just now because we do not have a good story. We are in between stories. The old story is no longer effective.”

- Thomas Berry

Volume 1 of the Nova Scotia GPI Forest Accounts indicates that Nova Scotia’s forests are at a watershed juncture. Clearcutting and the liquidation of the province’s forest wealth are occurring at unprecedented rates in the interests of immediate economic gain. This trend is undermining the province’s ecological, social and economic fabric, and depriving future generations of Nova Scotians of their natural inheritance.

While economics are touted as the rationale behind current practices, the full-cost accounting methods of the Genuine Progress Index demonstrate that current harvest practices actually contravene basic economic investment principles. Our natural capital - the principal, or what is left in the ‘forest account,’ has been reduced to a fraction of its former value. This trend is supported by an economic accounting system that has measured and valued only the timber extracted from the forest, without accounting for what remains in the forest. Clearly, “the old story” is not working any more.

The second volume of the GPI Forest Accounts portrays “the new story.” It describes a way forward, by describing actual viable, working examples of efforts to maintain and restore forest natural capital. It describes the harvest methods and economics of these operations in considerable detail, in order to provide practical, concrete information to interested wood lot owners and forest industries, and to governments willing to play a leadership role in supporting such efforts through appropriate incentives.

The new story must also be supported by a new economic accounting system that values the standing forests as well as the products extracted from them. That is a key function and purpose of the Genuine Progress Index.

“Changing the Story” – The Challenge

“Changing the story” in Nova Scotia represents a particular challenge because of the ownership structure of the province’s forests. Twenty-eight per cent of forestland is provincial crown or publicly owned land, 3% is federal land and 69% is in private hands. Fifty-two percent of privately owned lands are small land holdings (less than 400 hectares) and the rest is owned by the forest industry.

Private woodlots account for most of the wood that ends up at sawmills and pulp mills. According to the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR), private woodlots are being “over-harvested” in Nova Scotia. According to one 1997 NSDNR report:

“Overharvesting is a potentially serious problem demanding immediate attention....softwood harvests have exceeded the sustainable supply....The increasing demand for forest products is leading to the harvesting of immature stands that should form part of the future wood supply.”

Between the periods 1981-1985 and 1991-1995, the total amount of timber harvested in Nova Scotia increased by 43%. Most of this cut occurred on small private woodlots where the average annual harvest doubled over this same period. As volume 1 of the GPI Forest Accounts demonstrates, this trend is not ecologically, socially or economically sustainable in the long-term.

As noted, excessive levels of clearcutting have also contributed to a decline in shade-tolerant tree species and a dramatic shift in forest age structure towards ever younger age-classes, with nearly 70% of the province’s forests now younger than 60 years of age. Volume 1 of the GPI Forest Accounts also demonstrates that clearcutting adversely affects soil and water quality, and degrades intrinsically valuable ecosystems that provide habitat for forest-dependent wildlife and aquatic species. The quick removal of trees for short-term economic gain also has a negative impact on communities that rely on stable long-term employment.

In short, volume 1 demonstrates that our current forestry practices have resulted in the substantial degradation of a valuable natural asset, in the loss of services that a forest ecosystem provides “for free”, and in an overall decline in the economic value of our forests.

In the midst of what Thomas Berry refers to as the “dark age of exploitation,” there are, nevertheless, inspiring examples of a ‘way forward.’ -- of sustainable forest practices that can restore the value of the province’s forests and leave a rich inheritance of natural wealth to future generations of Nova Scotians.

Protecting the Full Range of Forest Values

The remarkable stories in volume 2 of the GPI Forest Accounts were selected because those forestry operations protect the full range of forest values and are therefore sustainable in the long term. They provide working models for both large and small scale operators in the province and demonstrate a way to turn around the destructive practices of the past.

In all six profiled case studies, the forest managers have adopted a long-term vision that considers all the values of the forest and all the costs of forestry practices. These costs

include the costs to forest ecosystems, the costs to society, and the costs of foregone income in the short-term for the purpose of longer-term gains.

These case studies demonstrate how present generations are paying the costs of a legacy of poor forestry practices in the past, and how current forest restoration efforts are investments of which future generations will be the primary beneficiaries. They also represent examples of what Berry refers to as the struggle to enter into an “ecological age.”

Windhorse Farm, Pictou Landing and the woodlot of Jeremy Frith are examples of small woodlots in Nova Scotia where ecologically sustainable forestry and restoration forestry practices provide a model for other small woodlot owners in the province. Algonquin Park in Ontario and Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE) in Wisconsin are examples of large industrial operations that provide models of sustainable forestry practices that could be adopted by the large industrial forest companies operating in Nova Scotia.

Finewood Flooring and Lumber Ltd. is an example of a very successful value-added wood products company in Nova Scotia that demonstrates how the number of jobs per unit of biomass harvested can be sharply increased.

Criteria for Choosing the Case Studies

The key to ecologically-based forestry is that any manipulation of a forest ecosystem should try to mimic the natural disturbance patterns that were dominant on the landscape prior to extensive anthropogenic disturbance. Ecological forestry practices also maintain the integrity of natural patterns and processes, even when it becomes financially difficult or inconvenient to do so.

Ecological forestry means harvesting wood without compromising the wide range of vital ecological services provided by a forest and without undermining the natural systems that allow the forest to function effectively in all its aspects. This approach maintains the long-term ecological, social and economic values of a forest.

GPI Atlantic recognizes that all forestry operations will have some level of impact on forest ecosystems. Even with selection logging operations, biomass is removed and roads are built. However, these case studies provide examples in which the maintenance of ecological integrity is paramount, in which the impacts of forest practices are explicitly recognized, and in which efforts are made to minimize these impacts.

Clearly, the best way to protect the full-range of forest values is to establish protected areas, where there is little, if any, human alteration of the landscape. Conservation biologists argue that a 30% protected set-aside is essential to maintain forest biodiversity. However, if logging is to take place, then the case studies in volume 2 of the GPI Forest Accounts are testimony to the possibility of harvesting wood products in such a way as to minimize the negative impacts while sustaining viable forest-dependent communities.

In sum, the six case studies in volume 2 all met the following criteria:

- ❑ The key to ecologically-based harvesting is to harvest wood without compromising the ecological services and systems of a forest, thus maintaining the ecological, social and economic values of a woodlot.
- ❑ Any manipulation of the forest ecosystem should emulate the dominant natural disturbance patterns of the region prior to extensive anthropogenic alterations, i.e. the forest conditions prior to European settlement.
- ❑ Forest practices overall protect the integrity of naturally developed ecosystems and promote tree and wildlife species in terms of distribution, abundance, age structure and individual quality, genetic diversity, and fitness.
- ❑ Forest practices are geared toward maintaining the native ecological integrity of the forest based on forest conditions prior to European settlement.
- ❑ Efforts are made to maintain or improve forest ecosystem health in ways that recognize the multiple uses of a forest.
- ❑ Forest practices are sustainable for present and future generations.
- ❑ Communities surrounding the forest are sustained by stable, long-term employment.
- ❑ Harvesting is accompanied by an increase in the quality and volume of wood grown over time.
- ❑ Harvested timber volumes are consistent, stable and justified.
- ❑ Efforts are made to increase the value per unit of wood (value-added), and therefore the jobs per unit of biomass harvested.
- ❑ Efforts are made to restore the natural ecological integrity of degraded forestland.
- ❑ Attempts are being made to internalize the real human and ecological costs of forestry.
- ❑ Forest operations are locally owned and controlled by members of the community, ensuring that costs and benefits are accounted for locally and thus internalized to a greater degree.

In almost every instance, these principles and practices stand in sharp contrast to those that currently dominate the Nova Scotia forest industry and that have resulted in the serious degradation of the province's forests described in volume 1 of the GPI Forest Accounts.

In particular, the two-fold increase in clearcutting in the 1990s has degraded Nova Scotia's forests at a more rapid rate than at any previous time in the province's recorded history, and sharply diminished the province's natural wealth. Restoration forestry, accompanied by a "moratorium" on current practices will, in the long term, bring back the forest's natural capital and gradually rebuild its value.

The case studies described in the GPI report are examples of operations that are now paying the costs for past practices that have degraded forest values. They also provide evidence that some benefits of current restoration efforts can be realized within 10-25

years, but that, for the most part, restoration is a long-term investment, the benefits of which will be enjoyed primarily by future generations.

In the words of Wendell Berry:

“A forest makes things slowly; a good forest economy should therefore be a patient economy. It would also be an unselfish one, for good foresters must always look toward harvests that they will not live to reap.”

The fundamental approach of the GPI natural resource accounts as a whole is to assess the health of a resource in accordance with its capacity to perform all of its functions optimally and effectively. Thus, a healthy forest is one that protects soils, watersheds, biodiversity, and habitat for wildlife; regulates the climate; sequesters carbon from the atmosphere; and provides timber, employment, recreational opportunities, and other services to human society.

The case studies in volume 2 of the GPI Forest Accounts adhere to this approach and framework, in order to illustrate the extent to which sustainable harvesting practices protect and promote the capacity of forests to perform their varied functions effectively.

Part II of volume 2 of the GPI Forest Accounts also explores the implications of the six case studies for forest policy in Nova Scotia, and contrasts the evidence from the case studies with the impact of current forest practices, including the reduced value of lumber under clearcutting systems.

It also examines the implications of the evidence for employment in the forest industry, for mechanization, and for the potential incentives and disincentives that can be offered by governments to reduce the current level of environmental damage. In particular, the GPI report recommends that the existing silviculture credit system be adjusted to reward and provide incentives for restoration forestry practices, and to penalize practices that degrade forest values.

It must be emphasized that sustainable forest management is *not* the whole answer to protecting the functions and value of Nova Scotia’s forests. Even with the most careful harvesting techniques, forestry practices will have some impact on forest ecosystems. While there is an enormous difference between clearcutting and selection harvesting systems, they both involve the construction of roads and the removal of biomass.

Therefore, no matter how admirable the case studies profiled in the GPI report are, they do not constitute a substitute for an adequate network of representative protected areas in Nova Scotia. In Volume 1, protected areas are separately described as an indicator of forest health. The focus of the GPI case studies on harvesting methods must therefore be seen in the context of an effective protected areas strategy.

For brief (1 page) summaries of each of the case studies profiled in volume 2 of the GPI Forest Accounts, please see http://gpiatlantic.org/ab_forest.shtml#case_studies

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACES

Here are the executive summary and key findings of the GPI Atlantic report on *The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces*.

Exposure to Second-Hand Smoke is a Serious Health Risk

- There is a consensus among the most reputable scientific and medical academies and government agencies on the serious health hazards of second-hand smoke or environmental tobacco smoke (ETS).

Exposure to second-hand smoke causes heart disease, lung cancer, nasal sinus cancer and respiratory ailments in adults, and it causes sudden infant death syndrome, fetal growth impairment and a wide range of respiratory conditions in infants and children, including bronchitis, pneumonia, middle ear disease and asthma exacerbation. ETS exposure causes about 200 deaths per year in Nova Scotia and is the leading cause of workplace death.

More recent research has linked ETS exposure to cervical and breast cancer, stroke, and miscarriages in adults; and to asthma induction, decreased lung function, cystic fibrosis, and cognition and behaviour problems in children.

- Restaurant, bar and casino workers are particularly at risk from workplace exposure to second-hand smoke. In restaurants, second-hand smoke levels are twice as high as in other workplaces that do not have smoking restrictions. In bars and casinos they are 3-6 times as high. Food service workers have a 50% higher rate of lung cancer than the general population.

Excess mortality for workers in smoking lounges, bars, restaurants, casinos and bowling alleys is 15-26 times higher than OSHA's "significant risk" level.

- Smoke-free workplace legislation would reduce ETS exposure among Nova Scotians by 80%, cut cigarette consumption among smokers by 20%, and save Nova Scotia an estimated \$200 million a year in avoided health care costs (\$50 million) and productivity losses (\$150 million).

Ventilation Does Not Remove Toxins or Prevent ETS Exposure

- Expert assessments, empirical evidence, risk assessment procedures, and internationally accepted indoor air quality and ventilation standards have determined that ventilation and non-smoking sections do **not** remove the toxic constituents of tobacco smoke from the air and provide no solution to the problem of exposure to second-hand smoke.

Instead, the recommendations of expert scientific panels on ETS exposure are “*clear, consistent and unanimous – all involuntary exposure is harmful and should be eliminated.*” The U.S. Surgeon-General has called for “*100% smoke-free environments in all public areas and workplaces, including all restaurants and bars.*”

Smoke-free Policy Has No Adverse Impact on Business and May be Good for Business

- Without exception, every objective study using official sales tax data demonstrates that smoke-free legislation has no adverse impact on restaurant, bar, hotel and tourism receipts. Two studies find an initial decline in receipts in the first 1-2 months following enactment, but no evidence of any overall or aggregate decline in the longer term. Indeed, several studies find that restaurant, bar, hotel and tourism receipts increase following smoke-free legislation, indicating that it may be good for business as non-smokers frequent eating and drinking establishments more often and smokers adjust to the new rules.
- Given the consistency of the evidence, the enormous and costly toll of second-hand smoke exposure, the economic benefits of smoke-free workplace legislation, and the demonstrated lack of any adverse impact on business, there is a clear case for such legislation in Nova Scotia. This is particularly true in light of the growing body of legal precedent indicating that governments and employers are bound by law to ensure safe working environments for employees and to remove known health hazards from the workplace.

Tobacco Industry Arguments Have Been Proven False

- Past obstacles to smoke-free workplace legislation can only be understood by reference to tobacco industry resistance and opposition. Tobacco industry documents reveal extensive industry efforts to prevent public smoking restrictions by denying the overwhelming evidence on the health hazards of second-hand smoke and working through and funding arms-length third parties to lobby against smoke-free legislation.
- Industry claims of declining revenues after implementation of smoking bans, when checked against objective sales tax receipts, have always been proven false.
- Active involvement by the health community has been shown to be the most determining element in ensuring the successful passage of smoke-free legislation in other jurisdictions.

To order *The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces*, (119 pages, \$35 plus HST), please click here: <http://gpiatlantic.org/order.cgi>. GPI Atlantic members receive a 25% discount.

Closing Note to Friends of GPI: You Can Support What You Value

The way we measure progress can significantly shift the policy agenda from its present purely economic focus to a broader view of well-being and quality of life that reflects our shared aspirations as human beings. If we are to shift course from some of the destructive patterns we currently embrace and to plan a better future for our children, we can begin by counting and valuing what really matters.

As a non-profit group, GPI Atlantic depends on donations and funding support. Most of the GPI research, data collection and analysis, and community development work is provided on a voluntary basis. Your financial support will enable our staff to devote more time and effort to their GPI work.

Donations to GPI Atlantic (Box 489, RR#1, Tantallon, N.S. B0J 3J0, Canada) will be gratefully acknowledged. Please share this issue of *GPI News* with your friends and associates, and encourage subscriptions and memberships (\$95 individual and non-profit, \$190 corporate and government, \$45 student, plus applicable taxes).

Members receive future issues of *GPI News*, a 25% discount on all GPI reports and publications, four issues of *Reality Check: The Canadian Review of Wellbeing* (to be published later this year), and a free copy of GPI Atlantic's *Ecological Footprint* analysis (100 pages).

Thank you for your support and your interest.

Ronald Colman, Ph.D
Director, GPI Atlantic

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