

Welcome to GPI News #9, March, 2002

Dear Member,

Welcome to our GPI newsletter. This issue brings you our annual report that will be presented to our Annual General Meeting to be held in University Hall, Dalhousie University, Halifax at 4pm March 26. Please come to this meeting, which will allow members to see their Board of Directors in action, to select the board for 2002, to meet each other, to enjoy a social and refreshments following the meeting, and to celebrate our accomplishments of the past year.

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, there has been a storm of controversy over the *GPI Forest Accounts*. That debate is summarized in an excellent article by Ralph Surette in *The Chronicle Herald*, March 9 (reprinted in this issue of *GPI News*). The *GPI Greenhouse Gas Accounts*, released last year, have also become increasingly relevant to the current debate on ratifying the Kyoto Protocol. Please see the article on that subject that appeared in *The Daily News*, the unedited version of which is reprinted in this issue.

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 <http://www.gpiatlantic.org/order.cgi>.

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. I look forward to seeing you on March 26 at our annual general meeting.

Ronald Colman, Ph.D,
Director, GPI Atlantic

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Special Bonus

1. **New members offer:** New GPI Atlantic members will receive a free copy of the Nova Scotia Ecological Footprint (100 pages) valued at \$35 + HST, as well as subscriptions to GPI News and Reality Check, and a 25% discount on all GPI publications.
2. **Give a gift to a friend** and download any GPI Atlantic publication for free (value up to \$60). To give a membership in GPI Atlantic, which includes subscriptions to GPI News and Reality Check, as well as a 25% discount on all GPI publications, please visit the GPI Atlantic web site at www.gpiatlantic.org. or [click here](#).

As thanks for your gift subscription, we want to offer you any GPI publication of your choice gratis. When you send in your gift subscription, just let our webmaster, Cliff Esler, know which publication you'd like to receive (webmaster@gpiatlantic.org). As well, all new members will receive the Nova Scotia Ecological Footprint for free, so the person to whom you are giving the subscription will be able to download that report without charge.

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

GPI ATLANTIC ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002

Ronald Colman, Executive Director

Year 2001 once again saw an expansion of GPI Atlantic activity, with our annual budget and number of projects almost doubling for the third year running. Of greater significance is the increasing impact that our reports and research are having on Canadian public policy at many levels. At present, there is a growing wave of interest in developing new indicators of wellbeing and sustainable development in Canada, and GPI Atlantic is riding the crest.

With more activity, our greatest challenge in 2001 was managing the growing interest in our work, and keeping our priorities in order. In almost everything we do, we have to discriminate between what contributes to reaching our core goals and what is seductive but peripheral. Hardly a day goes by without a new invitation for comment, presentation, or new research.

We find ourselves having to make more choices, many of which are not obvious. A prime example is the Community GPI on which we embarked in 2000. It continues to be our largest project, demanding a great deal of time and attention, and for many reasons, it is a project of great merit. But it is also one that was not in our original mandate to develop a provincial-level Genuine Progress Index. The new Canadian demand for community-level indicators of progress and wellbeing has therefore propelled GPI Atlantic in a new direction altogether. On a similar note, in order to finance our core work, GPI Atlantic has had to pursue an increasing number of contract projects, a necessary departure not included in our original business plan.

From its inception, GPI Atlantic has always been a work in progress with the demands for organizational change and new budget items almost outstripping our planning and fundraising capacity. Living on the edge has the benefit of bringing out the best in all of us and, at the end of the day, of sharpening our sense of humor. More than any other factor, GPI Atlantic has attracted a talented, committed group of researchers, staff, board members, and volunteers who share a commitment to a more sustainable society and who actually enjoy working together.

The following were noteworthy 2001 events. (Note: Regular editions of the *GPI News* as well as the GPI Atlantic web site keep our members abreast of recent developments in the GPI world, including report releases, new results, public presentations, news reports, and organizational changes. This annual report will therefore summarize briefly just a few highlights of our last year. For more information, please visit our web site at www.gpiatlantic.org, and see particularly our newsletters. A report on the Glace Bay and Kings County GPI is provided separately by Community GPI director, Marie Palmer, and is therefore mentioned only briefly here.

1. Report Releases

2001 saw the release of several major components of the Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index -- the fruition of several years of research:

- The Nova Scotia Ecological Footprint
- Farm Viability and Economic Capacity in Nova Scotia (part one of the GPI Soils and Agriculture Accounts)
- Income Distribution in Nova Scotia
- The GPI Greenhouse Gas Accounts for Nova Scotia
- The GPI Forest Accounts for Nova Scotia
- The GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts for Nova Scotia

Public release of these reports has received excellent media coverage in both daily newspapers, on CBC radio (news and interviews), CBC TV and Newsworld, ATV, Global, and on other radio stations and local newspapers.

In 2001 we also continued work on several more components of the GPI:

- The GPI Air Quality Accounts for Nova Scotia
- The GPI Solid Waste Resource Accounts for Nova Scotia
- The GPI Transportation Accounts
- Parts 2 and 3 of the GPI Soils and Agriculture Accounts
- Debt and Assets in Nova Scotia

The majority of work on these core GPI components has been supported through GPI Atlantic's own resources, including contract work, memberships, and report sales. For example, the income distribution, debt, and transportation components have received no outside funding. The greenhouse gas and ecological footprint components received only minimal outside funding, with about 85% of the budgets supported through GPI Atlantic's own resources.

The remaining components received funding support from the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada, Halifax Regional Municipality, the NS Voluntary Planning Agency, Environment Canada's Science Horizons internship program (which is funded by HRDC), and the Nova Scotia Department of Environment. Total outside funding amounted to less than one-third of total costs for those components, with the remaining funds generated by GPI Atlantic contracts, memberships and report sales.

Due to funding constraints in 2001, we suspended work on two components of the Nova Scotia GPI on which work had previously begun:

- The Work Hours component of the GPI, including costs of underemployment
- The Value of Leisure Time

There are also seven components of the GPI on which work has not yet begun, including education, livelihood security, and the non-renewable resource accounts (including energy use).

Profound acknowledgement goes to the dedicated and skilled GPI Atlantic researchers, who produced outstanding work in 2001 for very little pay, and in some cases on a voluntary basis: Jennifer Scott, Colin Dodds, Jeff Wilson, Anne Monette, Dr. Tony Charles, Dr. Sally Walker, Dr. Larry Hughes, Linda Pannozzo, Minga O'Brien, Sara Wilson, Heather Boyd, Vanessa Husain, Gay Harley, Laura Landon, Karen Hayward, and Julia Cooper. A top organizational priority for GPI Atlantic is to raise researcher salaries.

In addition, Anne Monette deserves special thanks for formatting and preparing all reports for final release. Anne developed a template for all GPI Atlantic researchers to use, so that all reports now have a common format.

1a) Reaction to GPI Forest Accounts

The release of the GPI Forest Accounts in November 2001 has generated a storm of controversy and a process of change that is ongoing as this annual report goes to press. Nova Forest Alliance Chair Dr. Eldon Gunn harshly criticized the GPI report in the press. GPI Atlantic then published a 135-page point by point response to Dr. Gunn's comments. The Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners Association, Ecology Action Centre, Nova Scotia Environmental Network Forest Caucus, and Eastern Shore Forest Watch all disassociated themselves from Dr. Gunn's remarks, endorsed the GPI report, and withdrew their partnership and participation in the Nova Forest Alliance.

GPI Atlantic presented its results in two separate meetings with Bowater Mersey and Stora Enso, and has been invited to conduct a half-day seminar on the Forest Accounts, which will be sponsored by the Nova Forest Alliance in Stewiacke, NS, on April 10. In early March alone, the controversy generated two call-in shows on Maritime Noon, as well as columns and letters in the Chronicle-Herald. The Opposition has announced plans to introduce a bill in early April requiring special permits for clearcutting. The GPI report had called for sharp reductions in the rate of clearcutting due to a significant loss in value to Nova Scotia's forests that has occurred partly due to current harvest practices.

2. Contract Work and Speaking Engagements

In 2001, GPI Atlantic also completed several other reports under contract, several of which are directly relevant to our core mission, and flow from earlier work:

- Cost of Obesity reports for Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. These reports replicate our Cost of Obesity in Nova Scotia report (2000).
- The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces: An Assessment for Nova Scotia, for the Tobacco Control Unit, NS Department of Health. This report too received

excellent media coverage on its release, and produced a half-hour meeting for GPI Atlantic with the Nova Scotia Minister of Health.

- A separate (shorter) report on the Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces was subsequently prepared for the City of Ottawa. The GPI Smoke-Free Workplaces report is also being used by several municipal councils across Canada, including the City of London, Ontario, and Kelowna, BC, in promulgating smoke-free bylaws.
- GPI Atlantic is currently replicating its Cost of Tobacco and Smoke-Free Workplaces reports for the province of New Brunswick, funded by Health Canada.
- Contracts for work on the GPI Soils and Agriculture Accounts with the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada, and with Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.
- The Cost of HIV/AIDS in Canada, completed for the Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health.
- GPI Atlantic produced an information databank, bibliography, and report on resources on unpaid caregiving for the Healthy Balance Research Project, directed by the Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health and the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women (researcher – Karen Hayward).
- GPI Atlantic produced fact sheets and short reports for the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency on the Value of Voluntary Work; the Cost of Smoking, the Cost of Crime, and other wellbeing indicators for that province. The Newfoundland and Labrador Human Resources Minister used the GPI voluntary work statistics for that province in a speech in the Legislative Assembly to mark the International Year of the Volunteer.
- Impact of CAP Sites on Volunteerism, for Industry Canada, with an additional follow-up report on the social capital value of CAP sites.
- GPI Atlantic also prepared a submission on offshore oil and gas exploration in Cape Breton for the Public Review Commission hearings held in Wagmatcook, Cape Breton.
- GPI Atlantic recently negotiated contracts with Environment Canada (partnering with Jacques Whitford), with the Dalhousie University Department of Community Health and Epidemiology and Health Canada (for a report on the Cost of Chronic Illness in Nova Scotia), and with Recreation NS and Sport NS for a report on the Cost of Physical Inactivity in Nova Scotia.
- In addition, the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, and the NS Department of Environment and Labour have agreed to provide funding assistance towards completion of current environmental accounts.

Speaking engagements and presentations of the GPI were one of the main sources of income for GPI Atlantic in 2001. A listing of these presentations, as well as other contract work, can be obtained by consulting past issues of the GPI News. GPI Atlantic was also elected to serve in a voluntary capacity as a member of the Maritime Regional Committee of the Forest Stewardship Council. Researcher, Jeff Wilson, has taken on a growing number of speaking engagements in recent months, presenting the GPI to university classes and student-faculty gatherings at Dalhousie University, Acadia University, and Mt. St Vincent University. Forest researcher, Minga O'Brien, has also presented the GPI Forest Accounts to a number of audiences.

Researchers Jennifer Scott, Anne Monette, and Jeff Wilson are now all actively working on contracts that will bring some new money into GPI Atlantic and enable us to build our infrastructure. This promising new development indicates that GPI Atlantic's core researchers are becoming a team that can help to generate income and support our new (unfunded) research. This will enable us to raise salaries and stabilize our operations.

3. Community GPI and GPI Atlantic Office

The past year has been an important developmental period for the Community GPI. The offices in Glace Bay and Kings County were reorganized. New Project Managers were hired. Innovations which strengthened delivery of the Community GPI programs in the communities were implemented. Initiatives which would extend application of the Community GPI both within and beyond Nova Scotia were set in place. Financial and managerial procedures were introduced to enhance operations.

This concerted development was made possible by the establishment of the position of Director, Community GPI. Marie Palmer was appointed to this position on 16 June 2001. At this time, the first GPI Atlantic office was established in Dartmouth to house the Community GPI. A summary of the salient changes and overall program accomplishments follows in the Community GPI Project Director's Report.

4. Other Activities

At the end of 2001, GPI Atlantic also joined with the Canadian Policy Research Networks and the Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development in working towards a comprehensive joint funding proposal to Canadian foundations to support the development of a Canadian Index of Wellbeing. The leadership and funding for this initiative has come from the Atkinson Charitable Foundation in Toronto. The three organizations met in Ottawa in January, 2002, and recently presented their joint proposal to a consortium of foundations.

After extensive prototype development and testing, GPI Atlantic produced the first issue of *Reality Check: The Canadian Review of Wellbeing* in November, 2001, which was distributed to more than 4,000 Canadian opinion leaders, government officials, community organizations, and GPI Atlantic members throughout the country. *Reality Check* is published and funded by the Atkinson Charitable Foundation. In its first issue, *Reality Check* published a map of Canada highlighting many of the leading wellbeing indicator initiatives that are going on throughout the country, and the review intends to act as a communications vehicle among these initiatives.

We are particularly pleased that *Reality Check* is being entirely produced in Nova Scotia, designed by Semaphore Design Company, printed by Bounty Printers, and distributed by

Russell House Marketing, all in Halifax. Please visit the *Reality Check* web page on the GPI Atlantic web site (www.gpiatlantic.org/realitycheck)

In 2001 GPI Atlantic continued to issue its *GPI News* electronically to keep its own members informed of latest results, activities, and upcoming events. For past issues of *GPI News*, which has come to act as an informal archive of GPI activities, please visit the web site.

There has been increasing interest in the GPI Atlantic work in other parts of Canada. In British Columbia, a GPI Pacific group has formed and registered as a non-profit society with the intention of replicating and adapting the Nova Scotia GPI in that province. A group on Hornby Island, Vancouver Island, has been using the Community GPI materials, and visitors from the University of Saskatchewan came to Nova Scotia in August 2001 to investigate the potential for replicating the Community GPI in that province.

GPI Atlantic continues its membership in the Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators steering committee of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, and four additional GPI researchers have been active in the NRTEE's expert cluster groups to advise on the selection of sustainable development indicators for Canada. GPI Atlantic was also asked to advise on the Treasury Board of Canada's societal performance indicators, presented to Parliament in *Canada's Performance 2001* and on potential changes to this report for the 2002 reporting year.

5. Organization, Staff, and Finances

The most significant organizational event of 2001 was the formation of GPI Atlantic's first active, working Board of Directors, under the remarkable leadership of Marty Janowitz (chair), Martha Macdonald (vice-chair), and John Leon (treasurer/secretary). Twelve outstanding board members have been extraordinarily active in guiding, steering, and overseeing GPI Atlantic operations and finances since spring 2001. Other board members for 2001-2002 are Paulette Sadoway, Andy Harvey, Hans Messinger, Gilles Deveau, Linda Pannozzo, Steve Peters, Meinhard Doelle, Jim Gimian, and John Odenthal.

Active board committees now include Human Resources (under the guidance of Paulette Sadoway, Martha Macdonald, and Brenda Crane), and Finance (Steve Peters and John Leon). The human resources committee has been developing a standard contract form for GPI Atlantic researchers, and has also been investigating benefits packages for GPI Atlantic staff. A development committee recently formed under John Odenthal; and we are still seeking to start a membership and communications committee, for which we need volunteers. GPI Atlantic members are warmly invited to join one of these committees and assist in guiding and expanding our activities.

In July 2001, John Leon (treasurer) and Sara Winchell (accountant and bookkeeper) completed a new financial accounting system for GPI Atlantic that now enables us to keep track of the budgets and actuals for each individual project, contract, and report, and to monitor all finances carefully and effectively on a monthly basis. Starting in 2002, the executive director and the Community GPI director have been meeting on a monthly basis with the Board finance committee to review the month-end statements. This gives the organization a new level of financial control and allows us to budget and plan more effectively.

Early in 2002, GPI Atlantic hired Cliff Esler as webmaster. Cliff handles all report sales, memberships, and web communications, assists with administrative duties and technical issues, and prepares materials for press conferences and other special events. He has been working on a full-time basis, and providing yeoman service to the organization since mid-2001.

Starting in the fall of 2001, GPI Atlantic has also been fortunate to employ the services of Parker Barss Donham, noted journalist and columnist, both as associate editor of *Reality Check*, and in preparation of press materials for GPI report releases. From January to May, 2001 (when she left to undertake a graduate degree), GPI Atlantic was also delighted to employ the services of Ginger Brooks as administrator.

GPI Atlantic has come to rely increasingly on contracts and speaking engagements to finance its core research activities. There is an increasing demand for GPI Atlantic research, reports, presentations, and participation in workshops and conferences. GPI Atlantic does not market its services, and these contracts come to us unsolicited. Because all our income goes towards continuing our core research activities and producing the Nova Scotia GPI, we have not had enough money to build the necessary infrastructure to support our expanding operations. This challenge is discussed below.

Based on money actually in the bank, the 2002 budget presented to and approved by the GPI Atlantic Board of Directors in January 2002 was a bare-bones budget that would require a significant scaling down of research activities for the coming year, both in the core provincial GPI work and in the community GPI projects.

Fortunately, we have, in February and March, brought in \$74,000 in new contracts and funding commitments for the provincial GPI work that will allow us to retain our research and administrative staff without layoffs, and to complete the air, waste, and transportation components currently under way.

We are at a similar turning point in the Community GPI. If we do not succeed in bringing in new contracts and funding commitments, we can complete the data collection and data entry for both communities in our existing budget, but may have to postpone the data analysis and reporting stages until we have more funding. We are currently negotiating a possible contract to develop a Community GPI for the Halifax Inner City Initiative that will hopefully allow us to continue with our Community GPI work uninterrupted.

Board members John Leon and Gilles Deveau are currently working actively to secure charitable status through an application to Revenue Canada. A first reply has been received rejecting our application, and we are currently challenging that ruling.

6. Future Directions

a) Organizational Priorities

GPI Atlantic is at another significant turning point in its history. There is a tremendous opportunity for us not only to respond to the growing demand for our research, methods, and presentations, but also to expand our activities by marketing our work more actively. But we can only do so if we create the necessary organizational and administrative infrastructure to do so. Currently we do not have the capacity even to respond to the many requests we received, and we have to turn down some of these offers.

We are overworked, largely because we are still supporting our core unfunded work through outside contracts, and because we have had insufficient resources to develop adequate infrastructure, office, and administrative support. As executive director, I can no longer carry on the multiple functions of running and overseeing the organization, supervising the research of our research staff, raising funds and negotiating new contracts, and actually doing research, writing reports, and undertaking contracts and speaking engagements.

Therefore the first and top priority of the coming months is to raise enough money to hire an executive director to take over the running of the organization, and an administrative assistant to support the executive director, thus freeing up the current executive director to focus on the research director role.

In the last 2 months, we have raised the first \$26,000 towards these positions through setting aside a portion of new contracts, and we will continue to fundraise for that goal. Cliff Esler is also embarking on an effort to raise money for this goal through actively marketing our reports to libraries and expanding memberships. If we can achieve this fundraising goal and hire for these two new positions, we will be in a much better position to respond to the expanding requests for our services, and even to market our work more widely (for example in replications of our reports for other provinces.)

One key task of the new executive director will be to explore the possibility of establishing a separate stand-alone GPI Atlantic consulting arm that would take on the growing number of contracts, actively pursue new contracts, and gradually support GPI Atlantic's non-profit work.

As noted above, a second top priority for GPI Atlantic is to raise the salaries of researchers and staff. We have taken some modest steps in that direction in recent months, raising the salaries of some of our longest-standing researchers from \$12 an hour

to \$15 an hour. But we have a long way to go to pay these researchers what they really deserve. They have now accumulated very substantial skills, and we need to acknowledge their growing expertise with adequate compensation. In the coming months we would also like to offer our researchers and staff benefits packages.

b) Core GPI Goals

For our core provincial GPI work, our current and most immediate goal is to complete those components of the index that are currently under way and already begun (see above), so that approximately 75% of the Genuine Progress Index will be complete by fall 2002. Simultaneously, and if we can raise the money to do so, we have two major goals for the coming year:

- 1) Conduct a concentrated consultation and retreat with all the GPI Atlantic researchers and other experts and advisers to identify the most important core indicators and results from all the work completed over the last four years. The goal is to roll these results out by fall, 2002, as our first presentation of the composite Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index. That is - assessing all the results to date, how are we doing as a province, and what are our annual benchmarks of progress?
- 2) Construct a comprehensive database of all our spreadsheets, tables, and charts from all our reports to date that will allow easy updates as future data become available, and that will enable us to link data and provide researchers with easy access to all the GPI results. Our goal is to have researcher Anne Monette undertake this task as soon as she has finished the Air Quality report.

c) Community GPI

As noted above, our current goal is to complete the data collection and data entry for Glace Bay and Kings County, and also to complete a supplementary business survey in both communities. As this annual report goes to press, we are pleased to announce that we have engaged Brad Long as Kings County GPI manager to complete data collection of the remaining 900 surveys in that community. As noted, we are also currently negotiating a possible contract to construct a Community GPI for the Halifax Inner City Initiative.

d) Membership and Report Dissemination

We want to involve our members more actively in our activities (e.g. through committee participation), and to expand our member base and the dissemination of our reports (particularly to libraries). These are our most reliable, independent sources of support, and can help GPI Atlantic become more and more self-reliant. We wish to end this report by thanking all the members who have continued to support our work in the last year, and urge you to continue doing so in 2002.

The Community GPI Report: 2001-2002

By Marie Palmer
Director, Community GPI

[Note: A short overview/introduction to this report is included in section 3 of the GPI Annual Report that precedes this more detailed document.]

General Organizational Development

An office for GPI Atlantic was set up in Dartmouth at 126 Portland Street in June 2001. This has been done on a cost-share basis with Clean Nova Scotia, in the Clean Nova Scotia building. This represents the first “street front” location for GPI Atlantic in the Metro Halifax area.

A records management system was developed for the Community GPI, with the capacity to accommodate any other activity areas, at such time as GPI Atlantic may centralize its operation into one office. Financial and managerial procedures for the Community GPI were set in place. These have enhanced record keeping, tightened financial controls and led to the more effective management and documentation of Community GPI operations. With an eye on development of a larger, longer-term facility for GPI Atlantic, certain location options were also explored. It is expected that the Board will continue this work.

On 6 December 2001, Amelia Ireland was hired as Administrative Assistant, Community GPI. Amelia brought valuable administrative skills to the Community GPI office and has been instrumental in helping to set up new systems.

GPI Glace Bay

In the summer of 2001, the GPI Glace Bay office was reorganized. Researchers Patricia MacKinnon, Debra Prince and Michelle Tarso were promoted into positions of greater responsibility. Ken MacDonald, who had been instrumental in getting the project started in Glace Bay, assisted with publicity and public relations. Irene Tarso was brought on as a Researcher.

Summer students hired under the Provincial Summer Employment Program (for which application had been made in the spring), were trained and put into the field as surveyors to assist in collecting data. They were supplemented by other data collection personnel hired from the community.

A thorough review of project record keeping was undertaken, leading to further development of data collection documentation and reports. A complete inventory was done of all surveys collected to date and the master list was updated.

This work supported final completion of the data collection. Respondents had been selected from a randomized electoral roll for Glace Bay. Research coordinators contacted respondents and assigned surveyors thereafter. Surveys were either left with respondents, to be picked up the following week; or, should the respondent require, assistance was provided by the surveyor. Completed surveys were checked by the Research Coordinators, and surveyors were paid on the basis of properly completed surveys. The Project Manager verified records, exercised quality control and ensured that overall survey administration proceeded as required. Throughout the survey, confidentiality of responses was assured. Surveys were coded so as to permit effective administration. All procedures were undertaken with greatest care to ensure the statistical validity of the survey in all its aspects.

Publicity in the Cape Breton Post and on the CBC helped to promote the project. Development of an advocates group laid the seeds for mobilizing community involvement in the later stage of data analysis, and provided a resource group to help persuade community residents to participate.

By October 2001, data collection had resulted in 1700 completed surveys, the quantity which Statistics Canada advised would satisfy survey requirements for the Glace Bay population. This allowed for two cross tabulations, a confidence level of 95%, and a 5% margin of error. Most impressive of all, this had been completed with a response rate of 82%. A thorough audit of all completed surveys was conducted against the master list. The quality of data was verified against such key characteristics as age, gender and the allocation of days in time-use diaries.

It was at this time that Patricia MacKinnon was appointed Project Manager of the Glace Bay office. Patricia has been with the project since its inception in 2000, beginning as a researcher, and assuming greater responsibilities leading up to her appointment as Project Manager.

To launch the next phase of data entry, GPI Glace Bay entered into a partnership with the Community Employment Innovation Project (CEIP) of Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (SRDC). Under this program, GPI Glace Bay trained individuals from the community and enabled them to develop marketable information technology skills. In return, SRDC has covered all related wage costs. This has allowed GPI Glace Bay to set up a data entry operation which will enter data for both the Glace Bay and Kings County projects. Data entry for Glace Bay should be completed by the end of April 2002. At that time, data entry for Kings County will commence. As work proceeds, the entered data is sent to Dalhousie and St. Mary's Universities, where it is checked for accuracy and entered into databases custom designed for the Community GPI.

Since December, renewed meetings with the community have been held. These have been facilitated through the Cape Breton Wellness Centre and have begun to elicit the community involvement which is key to the final analysis of data. Presentations to the community through groups such as the Glace Bay Steering Committee for community capacity have also helped to build greater awareness of the accomplishments and potential of the project.

The staff in Glace Bay have done an admirable job in completing the data collection to such a high standard, and in laying the groundwork for the subsequent phases of data analysis and community uptake.

GPI Kings County

In Kings County, a Project Manager, Cindy Trudel of C.S. Trudel and Associates, was contracted in March 2001 to deliver 2000 completed surveys. A program to advertise the GPI survey and to recruit community coordinators and surveyors was implemented. Articles in the Chronicle-Herald and Kentville Advertiser, as well as TV and radio coverage, launched the survey, and created a receptive atmosphere in the community. In addition, an active nine-person citizens' steering committee (the Kings Steering Committee) was formed, including a municipal counselor, a highly respected church deacon, the chief medical officer for the region, a Community Health Board representative, and several other respected and supportive community representatives.

In order to administer the survey effectively, five survey teams were developed for the principal communities of the county, including Kingston, Berwick, Kentville (2 teams), and Wolfville. Survey respondents were identified using a randomized telephone survey list, and were contacted by community coordinators to enlist their participation. Subsequent house calls were made by surveyors, as assigned by the community coordinators. Surveys were either left with respondents, to be picked up the following week; or, should the respondent require, assistance was provided by the surveyor.

As in Glace Bay, completed surveys were checked by the community coordinators, and surveyors were paid on the basis of properly completed surveys. The Project Manager verified records, exercised quality control and ensured that overall survey administration proceeded as required. Throughout the survey, confidentiality of responses was assured. Surveys were coded so as to permit effective administration. All procedures were undertaken with greatest care to ensure the statistical validity of the survey in all its aspects.

By July, approximately 700 surveys had been completed. At that point it was recognized that the summer would present particular challenges to survey administration due to the demands of livelihood for rural participants in an agricultural-based economy, and the absence of other respondents due to summer holidays. Consequently, in consultation with community groups, it was agreed to suspend surveying over the summer.

A plan for administration of the remaining 1300 surveys was drawn up to be resumed in mid- September. This was in the process of implementation when, at years end, the Project Manager was forced to withdraw from the project due to health reasons.

This unfortunate occurrence was used as an opportunity to reorganize the project by setting up a GPI Kings County office and hiring a Project Manager whose position would parallel that of the Project Manager in Glace Bay. After an appropriate search, an able candidate was selected in the person of Brad Long. Brad began work in March 2002 and is developing a strategy for data collection, in concert with the Kings Steering Committee, and the Nova Scotia Citizens for Community Development Society (NSCCDS), that will see 2000 surveys completed and verified by the end of June 2002. The intention is to replicate the impressive response rate of Glace Bay in Kings County.

Throughout the work of the last year, GPI Kings County has benefited enormously from the expertise and tireless dedication of Richard Hennigar, Kings Steering Committee, and Leonard Poetschke, NSCCDS.

Community GPI Timeline and Budget

The Community GPI is a four-year project, begun in 2000. To date, it has taken more time and cost more than originally projected. A number of reasons account for this. GPI Atlantic has been advised by research experts that the project was underbudgetted at the outset. It has also been informed that what has been achieved so far has cost considerably less than research projects which are less ambitious in scope. Since 2000, the Community GPI has cost approximately \$190,000 - \$200,000 more than projected. The timeline has been extended by about 10 months to October 2004.

Major funders such as the Canadian Population Health Initiative and the National Crime Prevention Centre – Business Action Program have expressed satisfaction with progress and continued to advance funds as per contract schedules. In the meanwhile, GPI Atlantic has attracted additional funding to help address shortfalls. Over the past year, this has included support from Human Resources Development Canada, the Social Research Demonstration Corporation and the Nova Scotia Provincial Employment Program. Other sources are targeted for the coming year.

Certain factors have contributed to increases in time and expenses in the early phases. In particular, this has included the need for more time to develop the survey instrument (questionnaire) with the communities, and to collect data. The Kings GPI project suffered from the unexpected withdrawal of the Project Manager, due to health reasons, and the time required to select and position a new Manager. In Glace Bay, once data entry began, ways of improving the data entry programs became apparent. This has led to revision of the programs and re-entry of the data.

The complexity of the Community GPI has required additional human resources to effectively manage it. In response, the position of Director, Community GPI was established in June 2001. This was supplemented by an Administrative Assistant position, established in December 2001. This introduced project expenses not initially budgeted. The project was originally designed and budgeted to be completed within a specific time frame. Extensions in the time required to complete the initial phases have resulted in additional infrastructure costs.

Valuable learning came out of the early phases of Community GPI work. It included that:

- The achievement of quality data collection and a high response rate requires careful groundwork with the community, and close coordination of all partners.
- Survey administration is more cost effective if done in the spring or fall. The summer is the most challenging time to survey.
- The particularities of communities must be respected. The time-consuming task of engaging the community from the outset will pay dividends later.

Survey administration in both Kings County and Glace Bay responded to these considerations, such that the Community GPI:

- allowed more time for survey administration;
- suspended data collection in Kings County over the summer of 2001, and resumed it in the fall;
- continued data collection in Glace Bay over the summer of 2001 because, though a less optimal time than the spring or fall, it posed a less serious obstacle than in Kings County;
- invested more time in the development of the relationship with the Nova Scotia Citizens for Community Development Society (NSCCDS) and with other key community partners, including community health boards. The NSCCDS, in particular, will be key to the dissemination plan and knowledge transfer later in the project;
- began to identify and mobilize “community advocates” in both communities. They have already been helpful in data collection, particularly in the achievement of a high response rate. Their role will become even more important in the later phases of the project;
- ensured good publicity for the project in the local media;
- invested more time in quality control factors, such as revising the consent letter in accordance with recommendations from the Dalhousie University Ethics Review Committee, auditing and carefully checking all surveys against the master list to ensure accurate counts and proper calculation of response rates, carefully checking all procedures to ensure the highest standards for the survey;
- began to plan for a more expanded mobilization of the community that will enhance uptake and utilization of survey results by the community.

All of these measures have strengthened the Community GPI and its ability to attract funds in the data analysis and community uptake phases.

Principal Investigators Meeting

On 26 February 2001, GPI Atlantic convened a meeting in Halifax of the Principal Investigators of the Community GPI project. This included Dr. George Kephart, Director of the Population Health Research Unit at Dalhousie University; Dr. Andrew Harvey, Director of the Time Use Studies Program in the Department of Economics at St. Mary's University; Stacey Lewis, MES, Director of the Cape Breton Wellness Centre; Dr. Carol Amaratunga, Executive Director of the Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women's Health; Dr. Richard Gould, Medical Officer of Health, Population Health Services, Western Region, Nova Scotia; and Dr. Ronald Colman, Director of GPI Atlantic. (Regrets were given by Mike Pennock, M.A.Sc., Research Director of the Population Health Research Unit at Dalhousie University; and Malcolm Shookner, M.A, Regional Development Coordinator, Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre.)

Representing GPI Kings County was Leonard Poetschke, NSCCDS, and from GPI Glace Bay were Patricia MacKinnon and Debra Prince. Other participants included Jean MacQueen, Cape Breton Wellness Centre; Dr. Deborah Kiceniuk, Healthy Balance Project; and Allison James, Research Analyst, Population Health Research Unit, Dalhousie University. The meeting was chaired by Marie Palmer, Director, Community GPI.

This was the first time the group had met since data collection began. As such, it provided an important opportunity to report on the status of the Community GPI and to plan for subsequent phases. Important feedback was received. Although the Community GPI has cost more to date, and taken more time, than was originally projected, it was agreed that it is nonetheless under the budget of other, less ambitious research. As such, it was felt to represent very good value for money.

Investigators also confirmed that, although more money has been required to complete data collection and data entry, the unique database GPI Atlantic is now amassing should position it to readily attract additional funding for data analysis and beyond. To this end, it was agreed to apply to additional funding sources. These applications have been under development in March.

The meeting of Principal Investigators was also used to confirm the principle that the databases belong to the communities and that guidelines should be drawn up to address issues of oversight, access, confidentiality and security. It was agreed that the group would meet hereafter on a monthly basis and that these meetings would largely be conducted by teleconference.

Other Community GPI Initiatives

Interest in the work of GPI Atlantic has led to other initiatives in the Community GPI program. Chief among these has been the Halifax Inner City Project (HICP). This developed when the Halifax Inner City Initiative (HICI) approached GPI Atlantic last year to research and implement a genuine progress index for the inner city of Halifax. By December 2001, this had led to a partnership between GPI Atlantic, HICI and the Chebucto Community Net to conduct an innovative project that would create an inner city GPI. Further to this, it would provide internet skills and services to the community, and, through a progressive mentorship program, would localize project management and provide significant employment opportunities.

When completed, it would be the first inner city GPI conducted in Canada and would represent a model for replication in other communities. Funding for the project is budgeted at over \$ 1 million, spread over three years. It has been favorably received by funders. If approved by the Boards of the partner organizations, it could begin before the end of April 2002.

GPI Atlantic has also been approached by researchers in the prairies, led by the University of Saskatchewan, to assist with development of a genuine progress index for targeted aboriginal communities. Although funding is still to be secured, work could begin later this year.

The Community GPI has also provided representation to important initiatives such as the Rural Communities Initiative Policy. This project which grew out of the Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) seeks to establish key indicators for rural communities in Nova Scotia. The Community GPI database could provide unparalleled information in this regard.

In October 2001, a six-month activity report was provided to the Canadian Population Health Initiative (CPHI) of the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR). CPHI is one of the two largest funders of the Community GPI. This was well received, and the next funding installment was advanced. In December 2001, an annual activity report was provided to the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) (Business Action Program) of the Department of Justice. NCPC is the other of the Community GPI's two largest funders. This report was also well received.

All told, the Community GPI program has undergone significant development in 2001-2002. Operations have been consolidated, community offices have been reorganized, and improved financial and managerial procedures have been implemented. Although the fiscal status of the program confirms that it has cost more than projected, experts agree that it is a bargain at the price. More importantly, it has achieved a point where its current accomplishments enable it to attract the funding required to complete data analysis and community uptake. In all of this, GPI Atlantic continues to pioneer this critical work in Canada.

GPI Annual General Meeting

March 26, 2002, 4 PM, University Hall, Dalhousie University

Combined Annual General Meeting with a regular board meeting

AGM Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes of the 2001 Annual Meeting
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. 2001 Annual Report Ron Colman/Marie Palmer
5. 2001 Financial statements Steve Peters/John Leon
6. Election of directors for the 2002 year
Nominations to date – see attached
7. Election of officers for the year (board)
Nominations to date:
President Martin Janowitz
Vice President Martha Macdonald
Secretary Paulette Sadoway
Treasurer Open for nominations
8. Appointment of an executive committee
9. Members' Questions/Issues from the floor.

Board Agenda

*Approval of minutes of February 7/02 meeting.

*Business arising from the minutes

1. Update on GPI Forest Report debate Ron Colman
2. Update on LMDA Project Marie Palmer

*New Business

1. Initiate procedure for selecting new executive director.
2. Next meeting date

Social and refreshments following meeting

[The following article appeared (edited) in the *Halifax Daily News*, March 7, 2002.]

KYOTO and COMMON SENSE

By Ronald Colman

Suppose your doctor tells you that you have high blood pressure that puts you at risk of heart attack. She acknowledges that there are major uncertainties: Most hypertensives don't have heart attacks; your blood pressure may stabilize; or it may cause different problems like stroke. Nevertheless, she says, better safe than sorry. Take drugs to control your blood pressure; change your lifestyle; exercise more; eat less fat.

Now along come the editor of the *National Post*, the premier of Alberta, and the president of the Chamber of Commerce. They tell you in detail how much the drugs will cost you, how much productive work time you'll lose exercising every day, how much less competitive you'll be as a result, how inconvenient it will be to change your diet and your lifestyle. They never mention heart attacks or strokes or premature death. They never mention what it may cost *not* to meet the Kyoto targets.

If you mention risk, they quickly remind you the doctor's diagnosis is uncertain. Better be absolutely certain before you act or spend a dime. How certain, you ask? When I have a heart attack? When Nova Scotia farmers experience a fourth year of drought? When we have another ice storm or when Charlottetown is flooded?

No wise decision, and no accurate reckoning of costs and benefits are possible when we ignore half the equation, when we ignore the costs of *not* controlling our blood pressure, and of *not* curbing our greenhouse gas emissions.

When a risk is potentially catastrophic, we err on the side of caution. We follow the doctor's advice. We wear seat belts and bicycle helmets, even when the risk of death and catastrophe is remote. And we carry that logic forward to future generations. We regularly make sacrifices for our children -- to ensure *their* safety, security, and wellbeing.

Caution in the face of uncertainty

That "precautionary principle" is even written into law. Part One, section 2 (b) (ii) of the Nova Scotia Environment Act states:

"The precautionary principle will be used in decision-making so that where there are threats of irreversible damage, the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation."

In the face of uncertainty, insurance companies raise premiums in response to higher risk assessments. And we follow the precautionary principle in our own lives when we follow the doctor's advice, and when we take our fire insurance against the very unlikely risk that our house will burn down.

Yes, the science of climate change is uncertain. But it is much less uncertain than the chance of our house burning down. A consensus of 2,000 highly qualified international scientists on the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) noted that the 1990s were the hottest decade on record, that snow cover has declined by 10%, mountain glaciers are retreating, and sea level is rising. They stated:

"In the light of new evidence and taking into account remaining uncertainties, most of the observed warming over the last 50 years is likely (66-90% chance) to have been due to increase in greenhouse gas concentrations.... The projected rate of warming [in the 21st century]...is very likely (90-99% chance) to be without precedent during at least the last 10,000 years."

In the coming century, the scientists project temperature increases of up to 5.8°C as greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere more than double from pre-industrial times. That, they say, will likely cause more heat waves and droughts, more intense storms, a rise in sea level and associated flooding, and adverse effects on agriculture, health, and water.

The scientific academies of 17 countries, including the Royal Society of Canada, the Royal Society of the United Kingdom, and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awards the Nobel Prizes, have strongly endorsed the IPCC findings. In a joint statement, the 17 academies recently urged ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and said:

"We urge everyone -- individuals, businesses, and governments -- to take prompt action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.... The balance of scientific evidence demands effective steps now to avert damaging changes to Earth's climate."

No wonder the Government of Canada declared climate change to be the greatest challenge facing this country since World War II.

And yet, we keep on burning fossil fuels in our cars, homes, power plants, and industries as if there were no tomorrow. Nova Scotians pump out an average of 22 tonnes of greenhouse gases per person each year, twice the west European average. Our provincial emissions are now 15% higher than they were in 1995.

Drought and floods predicted for NS

In Nova Scotia the predicted impacts of climate change include an increase in extreme weather events, particularly hurricanes, floods, and droughts, as well as adverse impacts on the province's fisheries and agriculture industries. Nova Scotia farmers have already suffered from an unprecedented three years of drought in the last four years, with 1999 farm losses estimated at \$50 million. Low-lying regions around Yarmouth, the Bay of Fundy, and Halifax Harbour have been identified by Environment Canada as particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise, higher tides, increases in storm intensity and frequency, and storm-surge flooding.

The Truro flood plain and Tantramar Marshes are also susceptible to flooding, and sections of the southern and eastern shores may experience erosion and increased coastal instability. In other parts of Nova Scotia, saltwater infiltration of groundwater, threats to communication links, and overtopping of dykes are also predicted, along with falling lake and groundwater levels.

Climate change economists, using computer models, have estimated that each tonne of greenhouse gases we emit will cause at least \$38 in climate change damages. This means that Nova Scotia's current annual greenhouse gas emissions will cause more than \$760 million in damages. Carbon dioxide has an atmospheric life of more than 100 years. So every tonne of greenhouse gases we emit now will continue to heat the planet and cause damage for a very long time, affecting the welfare of our children and grandchildren.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions could save \$200 million

All the talk about the "cost of Kyoto" never mentions this side of the equation -- what is the cost of not reducing our emissions? In its 230-page Greenhouse Gas Accounts for Nova Scotia, GPI Atlantic did look at both sides of the equation and found that every dollar invested now in reducing greenhouse gas emissions will save at least \$17 in avoided damages due to climate change.

The GPI report also identified many ways to reduce greenhouse gases that would *save* money and make us *more* competitive, (for example, by conserving energy and thereby reducing business costs.) Without serious dislocation, the province could reduce its greenhouse gases to 17% below 1995 levels by 2010, and avoid more than \$200 million a year in energy costs and global climate change damages.

Yes, ratifying Kyoto will require some lifestyle changes, just like controlling our high blood pressure. But for the sake of our children's safety and security 50 years from now, will we not be willing to drive a smaller car rather than an SUV, to carpool when possible, and to turn down our thermostats at night?

The reassuring thing about the precautionary principle is that if our blood pressure goes down, and if climate change scientists determine there is no risk of global warming, we can always ditch the drugs, eat more meat, and burn more fossil fuels. By contrast, once we have had a heart attack or another drought, ice storm, hurricane, or heat wave, once Charlottetown or Truro are flooded, our options are much more limited. Another drought year will put many Nova Scotia farmers out of business. How long will we wait to take preventive action?

What the National Post, or the Alberta Premier, or the Chamber of Commerce President never tell you is that "uncertainty" could mean *worse* than predicted outcomes as easily as better ones. Let's play it safe and do our part to make the world a safer place for our children rather than a more dangerous and uncertain one.

Ratifying the internationally agreed Kyoto Protocol, says the Royal Society of Canada, is "a small but essential first step towards stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases" that will create a base "for the more substantial reductions that will be necessary by the middle of the century."

That's the advice of our country's most prestigious scientific academy. It is time to stop delaying, and follow the doctor's wise advice. And when the Post, and Mr. Klein, and the Chamber come calling, let us at least ask to see both sides of the cost equation.

For the full GPI Greenhouse Gas Accounts for Nova Scotia, please visit the GPI Atlantic web site at www.gpiatlantic.org.

Kudos on the GPI Fisheries Accounts

In a letter to Dr. Tony Charles, lead author of the GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts, Peter Stoffer, Member of Parliament for Sackville – Musquodobit Valley – Eastern Shore, and NDP fisheries critic in the House of Commons, wrote:

"I recognize that your report highlights the most appropriate approach for the current and future management of the fisheries."

The report is available on the GPI web site at www.gpiatlantic.org. For a summary of the report, please see the last issue of the *GPI News*.

GPI Atlantic in Environmental Studies Textbook

GPI Atlantic has been invited to submit a statement for inclusion in the third edition of the Oxford University Press text, *Resource and Environmental Management in Canada: Addressing Conflict and Uncertainty*, edited by Bruce Mitchell, Associate Vice President Academic, University of Waterloo. The book is oriented to second year university students interested in resource and environmental management and planning.

GPI FOREST REPORT GENERATES VIGOROUS DEBATE

Forest Talks Collapse as Groups Walk Out

The release of the *GPI Forest Accounts* in November, 2001, generated a major, ongoing debate on forest management and harvesting practices in Nova Scotia. Four months later, there are still newspaper columns, letters to the editor, and CBC call-in shows on the subject. The Nova Forest Alliance (NFA), the province's main forest stakeholder organization, is in disarray following a walk-out by several partners; and a major debate on forest practices is likely in the upcoming session of the Legislature.

In December, 2001, the Nova Forest Alliance chair, Dr. Eldon Gunn, publicly attacked the GPI report. In January, GPI Atlantic released a detailed 135-page response to Dr. Gunn, along with a summary. In February, four groups withdrew from the NFA. These groups publicly endorsed the GPI study, and distanced themselves from Dr. Gunn's statement. The GPI results were cited in a major conflict over clearcutting old forests in the Chester area.

At separate meetings, GPI Atlantic presented the GPI results to two large forest companies – Stora Enso and Bowater Mersey – both with a large stake in the province's forests. On April 10, GPI Atlantic is scheduled to engage in a half-day dialogue with the Nova Forest Alliance on the *GPI Forest Accounts*, to be held at Stewiacke. GPI forest researchers, Linda Pannozzo and Minga O'Brien, are currently working on a tabloid summarizing the main GPI forest results, that is being designed for distribution to the general public.

In the spring session of the Nova Scotia Legislature, the opposition plans to introduce amendments to the Forests Act recognizing the multiple uses of forests, "banning clearcutting as a harvesting method unless it can be shown that no other form of harvesting can be justified," and promoting selection harvesting. The amendments also require that forests be managed sustainably, and that the special permission of the Minister is required to do a clearcut "only where no other form of forest management technique can be justified."

This discussion in the Legislature will ensure that the debate continues. To give readers a flavour of the current debate in Nova Scotia, *GPI News* has reprinted below a section of the letter submitted by groups withdrawing from the NFA.

Groups Withdraw from Nova Forest Alliance

On 26 February, the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association, the Nova Scotia Environmental Network's Forest Caucus, and the Ecology Action Centre, withdrew from the Nova Forest Alliance (NFA). The Eastern Shore Forest Watch

Association announced its withdrawal two weeks earlier, and the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq had already suspended its involvement with the NFA three years ago.

As one of their key reasons for withdrawal, the groups cited the misrepresentation of the GPI report by the NFA Chair, Dr. Eldon Gunn. The following excerpted statement of withdrawal was signed by Tom Miller – President, NS Woodlot Owners and Operators Association, Susanna Fuller and Peter Austin-Smith – Co-chairs, Ecology Action Centre, and Pam Langille – Interim Chair, Nova Scotia Environmental Network Forest Caucus.

"As outlined in the recently released Genuine Progress Index (GPI) Forest Accounts report, the condition of Nova Scotia forests has been greatly degraded by 400 years of timber harvesting and human development. Over the past two decades, the rate of cutting has doubled by volume, and in the last decade alone, the area clearcut annually has doubled. In Nova Scotia, almost all harvesting (98.9%) is accomplished by clearcutting or similar even-aged management systems.

"The widespread and indiscriminate use of highly-mechanized, liquidation-style forestry has taken a tremendous toll on Nova Scotia's forests. The situation has not gone unnoticed, with many Nova Scotians deeply disturbed by the over-cutting they see throughout the province. The Nova Forest Alliance's own public opinion poll found that 91% of Nova Scotians believe the present rate of timber harvesting is too high to sustain the forest for other values or uses, and 85% do not agree with the use of clearcutting as a harvesting method in central Nova Scotia. Most Nova Scotians see clearcutting as destructive to wildlife, forests, soils, and aesthetics and they want it stopped.....

"In November, 2001, GPI Atlantic released a comprehensive 2-volume report, entitled "The Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index Forest Accounts". Many individuals and groups who have been dismayed by forestry practices in Nova Scotia have recognized and welcomed the GPI Forest Accounts as a landmark document in the effort to restore Nova Scotia's degraded forests. Like the professed aims of the Model Forest program, GPI Atlantic "understands that a forest is much more than trees" (CMFN 2002).

GPI Study "Based in Sound Science"

"We woodlot owners and environmental groups consider the GPI Forest Accounts report to be based in sound science, and highly valuable in charting a new course towards sustainable forest practices in Nova Scotia. The GPI Forest Accounts use official sources (NSDNR forest inventories) to document the dramatic loss of forests greater than 80 years old, and the sharp increase in clearcutting over the last 10 years.

"The GPI report cites dozens of published, scientific analyses to demonstrate that this decline has seriously compromised the capacity of the forests to produce high-value lumber for the forest industry, to provide vital ecosystem functions, to protect soils and watersheds, to sequester carbon, to sustain viable populations of many forest dependent animals and plants, to support the tourism industry, and to provide recreational value to Nova Scotians.

"The carefully documented "leading edge" case studies in Volume 2 of the GPI Forest Accounts demonstrate a sustainable and economically viable way forward to manage our forests more responsibly. It shows how we can begin to restore some of the lost value of Nova Scotia's badly degraded forests, providing valuable information that, given the mandate and purpose of the Model Forest program, should contribute to the direction, activities and goals of the Model Forest Network and the NFA.

"The GPI report has been praised by Judith Cabrita, Managing Director of the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS):

"The Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia welcomes the release of the GPI Forest Accounts for Nova Scotia, and we hope it produces positive action to protect a natural resource of vital importance to our industry.

"The ... GPI Forest Accounts clearly express... concerns of the Tourism Industry ... that ... clearcutting and poor forest management undermine 'the province's ecological, social and economic fabric', 'depriving future generations of their natural inheritance.'"

"From Leslie Hauck and Darren Brown of the Eastern Shore Forest Watch Association (ESFWA):

"ESFWA has reviewed the GPI report on forestry and believe that it is credible, deserves careful consideration, and has very positive and forward-looking recommendations which will benefit the forests and inhabitants of Nova Scotia, and the larger ecosystem."

NFA Should Embrace GPI Forest Accounts

"Given the similar goals of the NFA and GPI Atlantic, one would have expected the management committee and the partners of the NFA to embrace the GPI Forest Accounts report, and to examine in detail how it could be used to help shape the future direction of the NFA program. In fact, the exact opposite occurred. Following the release of the GPI Forest Accounts report in November, 2001,

the Chair of the NFA, Dr. Eldon Gunn, made highly disparaging comments to the media, dismissing the report in its entirety. He also indicated that there was nothing useful to learn from the "best practices" case studies in the report's second volume.

"Mr. Gunn failed to acknowledge even the most basic realities that are carefully documented for the first time in the GPI report, and he deliberately misrepresented what the report actually said. His comments were biased, irresponsible, and misleading.

"In response to Gunn's public comments and misrepresenting his views as those of the NFA partnership, the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association suspended their membership in the NFA.

"Gunn appears to represent only a very narrow set of interests, i.e., the forest industry and the upper management levels of the NSDNR. He has ignored the concerns of the tourism industry, environmental, wildlife, nature, sports and other groups, many woodland owners, and the views of most of the general public. Indeed, many retired and practicing foresters and forest technicians in Nova Scotia express, in private, their reservations with current forest management trends in the Province.

"Mr. Gunn's failure to acknowledge the most basic realities documented in the GPI report, and his long-time association with the NSDNR, in particular his involvement with their wood supply forecasting activities, indicates a bias that calls into question his position as the official representative of a supposed multi-stakeholder consultation.

"Until last week's partnership meeting (Feb. 5/02), neither the NFA management nor Gunn had done any 'damage control' around this issue. In December, the NFA management committee met and discussed the concerns raised in three letters to the committee from the ESFWA, the EAC, and the NSWOOA about the appropriateness of Gunn's comments. The committee opted to keep Gunn as chair, and made no attempt to distance itself publicly from his comments or to recognize the merits of the GPI report in any way.

"Gunn's original comments have been disturbing, but so has the lack of appropriate response from him, the Board, and the NFA management. Were the NFA genuinely interested in improving forest practices in NS, they would have welcomed the publication of the GPI report, recognized its worth, and initiated efforts to address its many recommendations. Instead, they have asked that the NFA be removed from the report's acknowledgements and Gunn

himself ignored invitations from Dr. Ron Colman of GPI Atlantic to meet and discuss the findings.

“The NFA partners have finally endorsed a dialogue with GPI Atlantic on the GPI Forest Accounts findings, which we welcome. We will wait to see whether this dialogue leads to genuine changes in actual forest practices along the lines recommended in the GPI report.”

SEE http://www.gpiatlantic.org/forest_debate.shtml FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE DEBATE GENERATED BY THE RELEASE OF THE GPI FOREST ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING THE FULL TEXT OF THE GPI ATLANTIC RESPONSE TO THE NFA CHAIR.

SEE <http://www.gpiatlantic.org/pubs.shtml#forest> FOR GPI FOREST ACCOUNTS, EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES, AND PRESS RELEASE.

99 per cent clearcutting: Axes flash anew in forest fight

By Ralph Surette

In *The Halifax Chronicle Herald*, March 9, 2002

CONFLICT over forest policy has been burning hotter and hotter this winter, although not entirely in public view, as an embattled forestry establishment struggles to avoid admitting there's any problem at all with its relentless clearcutting.

In the most recent episode, the Woodlot Owners and Operators Association, the Environmental Network Forest Caucus and the Ecology Action Centre pulled out of the Nova Forest Alliance (NFA), after two other groups left earlier.

The NFA is the Nova Scotia version of a national program funded by Ottawa to pursue best practices and improved forestry. The dissident groups say they've been suckered: that the Nova Scotia government and the big operators who dominate the NFA have scuttled all movement towards sustainable forestry while pretending to pursue it, using their presence as a cover to pursue "liquidation" forestry.

Tensions rose last fall when GPI Atlantic released an elaborate report, citing hundreds of sources, that rang the loudest alarm yet on the decline of Nova Scotia's forest, pointing to the loss of virtually our entire stock of old growth trees and the reduction of the forest to small, knotty wood.

The establishment counterattacked in the form of an analysis and statements by Eldon Gunn, professor of engineering at Dalhousie University and, incidentally, chairman of the NFA. Gunn accused GPI (for "genuine progress index") of having "no science" behind its report and of indulging in "landscape myths" by harking back to times when the forest was in better shape. He also claimed that the diminishing age of the forest was explained by the spruce budworm infestation of the 1970s, and pooh-poohed examples of sustainable forestry as part-timers and hobbyists messing around.

GPI counterattacked with another large report, not only defending its science but accusing Gunn of misrepresenting the original report from end to end - indeed, of hardly reading it at all - for the sole purpose of belittling it. Especially, it pointed out, the budworm was a Cape Breton/Colchester County affair whereas the entire forest was degrading, and had been long before the budworm.

And it repeated a devastating statistic: The "value-added" - basically the jobs spun off from the raw resource - of Nova Scotia forestry is only one-third of Ontario's, one-half of Manitoba's and two-thirds of New Brunswick's. If the public could see it clearly, this would be the same argument we're having over natural gas: What are we getting in return for the exploitation of our resource? Since we not only gave Crown lands away to

large companies but subsidized them in various ways for decades as well, the answer might be: less than nothing.

What Gunn meant by "no science" was ultimately that GPI deviated from the standard one-dimensional accounting method: wood in, wood out.

GPI argues that watershed protection, wildlife habitat, soil degradation, recreation potential and other factors must also be counted in the true value of a forest, which also seems to be the public's view.

The sticking point: Not only is clearcutting merciless, but 99 per cent of all cutting in Nova Scotia is clearcutting. The establishment can't in the slightest accept any deviation. The Nova Scotia government has been improving its policy, including with a package in January extending 30-metre buffers along waterways (which can be selectively cut but not clearcut) to private land and requiring that "clumps" be left in clearcuts every few hectares. Still, this falls short of challenging the clearcutting juggernaut. It would have been more impressive, even as a symbolic gesture, had government, for example, tripled the width of the buffers, requiring at least token selective cutting. But even a token is apparently too much.

If the powers that be accepted that even a significant fraction of forest activity should be selection cutting, it might break the ice and be considered the beginning of progress. It might also ease the pressure for protected areas, since a select-cut forest is an intact forest even while being cut. But money, big technology and old Nova Scotia politics - an unfortunate mix - dictate otherwise. Meanwhile, watch for the next round. The tensions necessarily rise as the slaughter progresses.

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CALENDAR of RECENT and UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall 2001: GPI Atlantic featured in *Alternatives Journal* (Fall, 2001, edition 27:4, pg. 5), in article titled "Nova Scotians Count What Really Counts."

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

Dec. 7: Minga O'Brien, co-author of *GPI Forest Accounts*, presentation on forest report to Dalhousie University Biology Dept seminar.

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

WINTER-SPRING 2002

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, with particular reference to current Bowater Mersey clearcut in Kaiser Meadow..

Jan. 10: CBC Radio 1 national show "This Morning" with Shelagh Rogers interviews Ronald Colman about GPI report on *The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces*.

Jan. 11: GPI Atlantic interview on CBC Charlottetown on Smoke-Free Workplaces.

Jan. 11: Linda Pannozzo and Laura Landon, GPI Atlantic researchers, present *Crude Costs: A Framework for a Full Cost Accounting Analysis of Oil and Gas Exploration, Cape Breton* to the Public Review Commission in Cape Breton. The report was prepared for the Save Our Seas and Shores Coalition and is available free of charge on the publications section of the GPI Atlantic web site at www.gpiatlantic.org.

Jan. 14: 9pm (NFLD) "The Gross Domestic Product or GDP: What does it really measure?" Elizabeth May of the Sierra Club of Canada and Ronald Colman of GPI Atlantic discuss the GDP and its failure to measure the health of the nation, or the environment. On the Alder Institute's *Open Air: Natural History Radio from Newfoundland and Labrador*, CHMR 93.5 FM.

Jan. 14: GPI Atlantic interview with Brockville Recorder on smoke-free public places legislation in Leeds, Grenville, Lanark region of Ontario.

Jan. 14: GPI Atlantic participates in half-day workshop on emissions trading, Halifax, sponsored by the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

Jan. 15: GPI Atlantic interview with ATV on Costs of Obesity for “Live at 5” news show.

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, Halifax Regional Municipality, and the Resource Recovery Board.

Jan. 16: 3pm: GPI Atlantic 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. 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). 20 representatives of fishermen’s associations were present. Interview was aired on all three television stations (CBC, ATV, Global), and featured in *The Chronicle Herald*, *The Daily News*, and on radio.

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

Jan. 17: CBC Newfoundland Information Morning interview with Dr. Tony Charles, author of GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts.

Jan. 18: 12 Noon: GPI Atlantic presentation by Ronald Colman 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. 20: Silver Donald Cameron's article "The Fun Sector" cites the GPI Atlantic voluntary sector numbers. *Halifax Sunday Herald*.

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

2pm: Nova Scotia Environmental Network Forest Caucus meeting discusses the *GPI Forest Accounts for Nova Scotia*.

7pm-9pm: GPI Atlantic 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: GPI Atlantic meetings with NS Department of Health, Halifax

Jan. 24: GPI Atlantic meets with Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) regarding Halifax Inner City Development Project.

Jan. 28: GPI Atlantic releases its 135-page response to comments on the GPI Forest Accounts made by Nova Forest Alliance Chair, Dr. Eldon Gunn. Please see the GPI Atlantic web site for a full account of this controversy and related news stories.

Jan. 29: GPI Atlantic forest researchers and report authors meet with representatives of Bowater Mersey to present report results and their relevance to Kaiser Meadow clearcut.

Jan. 30: Completion of Caregiver Information Bank project for Healthy Balance Research Project.

Jan. 30: 7-9.30pm: Jeff Wilson, GPI Atlantic researcher, presentation at Ondaatje Theatre, McCain Building, Dalhousie University in event organized by Society for Corporate Environmental and Social Responsibility (CESR). The event aired “Who’s Counting? Sex, Lies & Global Economics,” a documentary about New Zealand’s Marilyn Waring, who also sits on the GPI Atlantic advisory board and is currently planning a GPI for New Zealand.

Jan. 31: 8.30am: GPI Atlantic presents review of Industry Canada paper on Kyoto growth opportunities at a Climate Change consultation held at the Climate Change Secretariat, Ottawa.

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

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

February: GPI referenced in Feb/2002 edition of *Scientific American* in an article by biologist and Pulitzer Prize winner E.O. Wilson, who calls for a balanced, “real-world” accounting system.

February: GPI Atlantic forest accounts featured in Coastal Communities Network News.

Feb. 1: 11am: Presentation on Community GPI to HRDC conference, Ottawa. Talk focussed on community-based research.

2.30pm: Presentation of GPI Atlantic report on BC rural CAP-site survey results to Industry Canada's CAP director and staff, Ottawa, including videoconference with BC Industry Canada office.

Feb. 4: 9.30am: Press conference, Chester Municipal Building, Chester: GPI Atlantic presents GPI Forest Accounts results as part of news conference on Bowater Mersey's Kaiser Meadow clearcut. GPI results extensively reported in articles in St. Margaret's Bay and south shore newspapers, and on local radio stations.

12:15 pm. GPI Atlantic presentation to Provincial Affairs Committee, Halifax Metro Chamber of Commerce meeting, Purdy's Wharf, Halifax.

Feb. 6: Presentation on Nova Scotia Genuine Progress Index and Costs of Social Exclusion at half-day workshop, ACOA and Nova Scotia Federal Council, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax

Feb. 7: Special meeting GPI Atlantic Board of Directors, 4pm-7pm: on GPI 2002 budget, Halifax Inner City Project, and impact of the GPI Forest Accounts.

Feb. 12: Community GPI Director, Marie Palmer, meets with Steven Dukeshire, Coordinator, Rural Communities Impacting Policy, for information and collaborative planning.

Feb. 13: GPI Atlantic joins Advisory Board for the Calvert-Henderson Quality of Life Indicators.

Feb. 15: GPI Atlantic meets with Pollution Probe executive director, Ken Ogilvie, and environmental consultant James Sullivan.

Feb. 18: 9.30-11.30am, GPI Atlantic participates in Community Health Indicators Focus Group, Henson College, Halifax.

Feb. 20: Dr. Sally Walker, lead author of the *GPI Greenhouse Gas Accounts*, presentation, "Introduction to the Genuine Progress Index," to N.S. chapter of Council of Canadians, Tatamagouche Centre., Tatamagouche.

Feb. 21: GPI Atlantic meeting with Chalmers Macleod, representative of Stora Enso forestry company concerning the GPI Forest Accounts for Nova Scotia.

Feb. 21: GPI Glace Bay staff makes presentation on the Glace Bay GPI project to the monthly meeting of the Glace Bay Steering Committee for Community Capacity, Savoy Theatre, Glace Bay.

Feb. 22: 9.15-10.30am: GPI Atlantic keynote address on “Social Capital: The Economics of Good Health” to Health, Wellness and Recreation Symposium, University of Victoria, British Columbia.

11.30am: GPI presentation on “Return on Investment in Preventive Health” to B.C. Capital Health Region public health officials, at Victoria Hospital.

1.30-3pm: GPI presentation and workshop on “Indicators and Decision-Making,” University of Victoria, BC.

4-6pm: GPI Atlantic meeting with Industry Canada, BC, on CAP site valuations.

Feb. 23: 9am-1pm: Organizational meeting of GPI Pacific, Victoria, BC.

Feb. 25: GPI Glace Bay staff represent Glace Bay GPI project at the regional meeting with federal and regional representatives of the Community Employment Innovations Project (CEIP) of the Social Research Demonstration Corporation (SRDC), Glace Bay.

Feb. 26: 1pm-5pm: Meeting of Community GPI principal investigators, researchers, staff, and representatives from the Glace Bay and Kings County projects, on the Development and Application of Community Population Health Indicators, 15th floor boardroom, Tupper Medical Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax. Four participants from Glace Bay and Sydney (Cape Breton Wellness Centre) join researchers from Kings County, Dalhousie University, St. Mary’s University, Maritime Centre of Excellence for Women’s Health for review of project progress and next steps. Twelve attend in total.

Feb. 26: Press release, and letters sent to Regional Director, Canadian Forest Service, and to Nova Forest Alliance by the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association, Ecology Action Centre, and Nova Scotia Environmental Network Forest Caucus withdrawing from Nova Forest Alliance and endorsing the GPI Forest Accounts. Eastern Shore Forest Watch withdrew from the NFA two weeks previously.

Feb. 26-27: GPI Atlantic is a partner in population health conference, “Healthy Nova Scotians Living in Healthy Communities: Working Towards Population Health for Nova Scotia,” held in Truro. Other partners include Health Canada, the NS Dept. of Community Services and the Community Health Promotion Network Atlantic (CHPNA).

Feb. 27: GPI Atlantic is notified of use of GPI Ecological Footprint adopted in NS Department of Education Teachers Resource for Grade 10 Science students.

Feb. 28 and March 5: CBC Maritime Noon interviews and call-in show on withdrawal of four organizations from the Nova Forest Alliance. GPI Forest Accounts are frequently cited in this controversy.

Feb. 28: 7.30pm, McMechan Auditorium, Dalhousie University, premiere of new documentary film: "The Forests of Nova Scotia" directed by Halifax documentary

filmmaker Dave Ewenson. The film features materials from the GPI Forest Accounts and footage from the press conference where GPI Atlantic released its groundbreaking GPI Forest Accounts for Nova Scotia.

Feb-March: GPI Atlantic undertakes joint contract with Jacques Whitford Environmental Consultants for Environment Canada to explore alternative models of assessing health impacts of air pollution GPI Atlantic researcher Anne Monette is undertaking this work.

Feb-March: First Nations Forestry Association in Nova Scotia supports writing and design of a popular tabloid version of the GPI Atlantic Forest results for the general public. NS Public Interest Research Group may contribute to this effort as well, and GPI Atlantic will match the funds provided by these organizations. Work is being undertaken by GPI Atlantic researchers Linda Panozzo and Minga O'Brien.

March, 2002: GPI fisheries and marine environment researcher Heather Boyd will participate in a workshop in PEI to devise indicators of sustainability for the southern gulf watershed, and to identify data sources.

March: GPI Atlantic's report *Women's Health in Atlantic Canada* cited in *Chatelaine* magazine (Mar/2002, p. 69-74) in article titled "Stress and Consequences," by Gabrielle Bauer, along with interview with report author.

March 1: GPI Atlantic interviewed on methods of valuing forests – for British Columbia old forest valuation project.

March 4: Interview with Gordon Henderson, CTV on costs of stress, to be included in CTV one-hour documentary to be aired April 21, 10pm

March 4: Marie Palmer, Community GPI Director, represents GPI Atlantic at meeting of the Rural Communities Impacting Policy, 10.30am – 1pm, Halifax.

March 4: GPI Pacific is officially incorporated as a non-profit society in British Columbia with the goal of constructing a Genuine Progress Index for BC. GPI Atlantic has been asked to act as research adviser to this project. The GPI Pacific list-serve is: gpi-pacific@vcn.bc.ca

March 5: 2-5 p.m. GPI Atlantic presentation to Masters of Environmental Science students at Dalhousie University on GPI Forest and Fisheries Accounts, and the Ecological Footprint. (Postponed due to Dalhousie University strike).

March 5: Chronicle-Herald report on the Nova Forest Alliance / GPI Forest Accounts controversy.

March 5: GPI Atlantic (Marie Palmer, Director, Community GPI) together with

representatives from the Halifax Inner City Initiative, and the Chebucto Community Net, meets with the Department of Community Services regarding the Halifax Inner City Project, Halifax.

March 5-6: GPI Atlantic presentation to Environment Canada, Downsview, Toronto: Workshop entitled: “Beyond Indicators: Indices for Environmental Sustainability,” and GPI Atlantic participation in 2-day workshop.

March 7: GPI Atlantic Finance Committee meeting: 12-2pm Halifax

March 7: Full page GPI Atlantic article, entitled “Ratify Kyoto or Risk Future”, *The Daily News*, reprinted in this issue of GPI News. The article can also be accessed at: http://www.gpiatlantic.org/mc_colman_kyoto_dailynews3-7-02.shtml.

March 8: Pam Langille represents GPI Atlantic at the full day meeting of the Maritime Regional Committee, Forest Stewardship Council, Sackville, NB.

March 8: GPI Atlantic Marie Palmer (Director, Community GPI) and Meinhard Doelle (GPI Board Member) meet with representatives of the Halifax Inner City Initiative and the Chebucto Community Net regarding the Halifax Inner City Project, Halifax.

March 9: Article: “99% clearcutting: Axes flash anew in forest fight”: Ralph Surette writes in *The Chronicle-Herald*, on the growing debate on the *GPI Forest Accounts* and on the withdrawal of five organizations from the Nova Forest Alliance. Article is reproduced in this issue of GPI News.

March 9: GPI researcher, Dr. Larry Hughes, DalTech, article on Nova Scotia and greenhouse gas emissions, *The Daily News*.

March 11: GPI Atlantic (Marie Palmer, Director, Community GPI) meets with representatives of the Kings County Steering Committee (Richard Hennigar), NSCCDS (Leonard Poetschke) and the new Kings County Project Manger (Brad Long) for a meeting of orientation and strategy development regarding completion of the Kings County GPI data collection, Dartmouth.

March 12: 2-5 p.m. Minga O’Brien, co-author of *GPI Forest Accounts*, speaks on “Industry and Nature Conservation” panel at Environmental Science class, Dalhousie University.

March 12: Completion and submission of GPI Atlantic report on the Economic Value of Voluntary Work at British Columbia’s rural CAP Sites; and of proposal prepared for Metro United Way on the Economic Value of Volunteer and Non-Profit Organizations in Metro Halifax.

March 12: GPI Atlantic (Marie Palmer, Director, Community GPI) makes presentation to the Chebucto Community Net Board regarding the Halifax Inner City Project, Halifax.

March 13: Jeff Wilson, GPI Atlantic researcher and author of *The Ecological Footprint*, university keynote speaker at Acadia University's Enviro-Week, March 11-16.

March 13: GPI Atlantic participation in Treasury Board of Canada full day consultation on Societal Performance Indicators, Sheraton Hotel, Ottawa. Consultation evaluates the Treasury Board's *Canada's Performance 2001* to Parliament, and makes recommendations for indicators and reporting method for the 2002 report.

March 14: Ottawa: GPI Atlantic presentation to the Canadian Population Health Initiative conference and partnership meeting.

March 14: Presentation to environmental studies class, Dalhousie University, Jeff Wilson.

March 15: GPI Atlantic - Global TV News interview on Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts, in relation to Canso's economic troubles and government rejection of redfish quotas.

March 15: Vancouver, BC: Public release of two GPI Atlantic reports on the Impact of Volunteerism in British Columbia's Rural CAP Sites; and on the Economic Value of CAP Sites.

March 19: Hants County: GPI Atlantic researcher, Minga O'Brien, will present the GPI forest results at a meeting of citizens concerned about forest spraying and sustainable forest practices.

March 19: Glace Bay GPI Community Working Group meeting, led by Stacey Lewis, Director, Cape Breton Wellness Centre, and the GPI Glace Bay staff to plan for community involvement in data analysis.

March 21-22: Ron Loucks represents GPI Atlantic at Agriculture and Agrifood Canada workshop in Aylmer, Que., on the National Agri-environmental Health Analysis and Reporting Program.

March 24: (tentative): GPI Atlantic forest accounts presentation to Atlantic regional conference of Youth for Environmental Action.

March 25: Toronto: GPI Atlantic, Canadian Policy Research Networks, and Pembina Institute present proposal for Canadian Index of Wellbeing to a coalition of foundations and potential funders, sponsored by Atkinson Charitable Foundation.

March 25: GPI smoke-free workplaces report results presented at a press conference by Physicians for Smoke-Free Nova Scotia.

March 26: 4pm. GPI Atlantic Annual General Meeting and Board of Directors meeting, University Hall, Dalhousie University, Halifax. All GPI Atlantic members are heartily welcomed and encouraged to attend!

March 27: GPI Atlantic presentation at St. Francis Xavier University, sponsored by Development Studies program.

March 27: GPI Atlantic submits draft reports on Air Quality, Solid Waste, and Biodiversity in Soils and Agriculture to the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

March 29: GPI Atlantic presents report on *The Cost of Chronic Illness in Nova Scotia* to Dalhousie University Department of Community Health and Epidemiology.

March 29: GPI Atlantic presents reports on *The Cost of Tobacco in New Brunswick* and *The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Workplaces in New Brunswick* to Health Canada, New Brunswick Department of Health, and New Brunswick Cancer Society.

March 29: *Reality Check #2* is published and distributed to GPI Atlantic members and 4,000 opinion leaders throughout Canada.

April 3-5: Presentations in Charlottetown and Summerside, PEI, on smoke-free workplaces; and workshop/consultation with PEI government agriculture and forest staff on valuation of natural resources, Charlottetown.

April: GPI forest researchers present GPI forest accounts findings to community group in Hants County.

April 4: Jeff Wilson presentation on GPI to Dr. Peter Mckenna's Political Science class on climate change, Mount St. Vincent University.

April 4-6: Richard Hennigar, Kings GPI, presents community GPI project to National Rural Conference 2002, Delta Prince Edward Hotel, Charlottetown, PEI.

April 6: 10am-1pm: GPI Atlantic presents results of its GPI Forest Accounts for Nova Scotia to the annual general meeting of the Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association, Truro.

April 8-9: Toronto: GPI Atlantic presentation to Canada's 2002 Environmental Summit: The Strategy Institute and The Canadian Institute For Environmental Law And Policy- "Partnering For Sustainability" Conference. Presentation on Nova Scotia GPI is at 11.30am, April 9.

April 10: 1pm-4.30pm, Stewiacke, Nova Scotia: GPI Atlantic seminar on the GPI Forest Accounts for Nova Scotia, sponsored by the Nova Forest Alliance.

April 15-16: (tentative) Ottawa: GPI Atlantic participation in workshop on Climate Change and Health, University of Ottawa, sponsored by Health Canada

April 17: GPI Atlantic presentation to the Romanow Commission on health care in Canada.

April 21: 10pm: GPI Atlantic featured in CTV documentary on costs of stress.

April 26: Ottawa: GPI Atlantic participates in the Environment and Sustainable Development Steering Committee of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

April 30: GPI Atlantic submits final reports on Air Quality, Solid Waste Resource Management, and Biodiversity in Soils and Agriculture to the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

April: Introduction to GPI approach will be included in Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' Alternative Budget.

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

May 3: 12-2pm: Toronto: GPI Atlantic presentation to foundation representatives and funders of children's wellbeing initiatives.

May 6-10: Corporate Social Responsibility Week, sponsored by the Conference Board of Canada, will highlight examples of good corporate citizenship, sustainable economic development, community investment, and environmental stewardship. According to the Conference Board, the Canadian public expects "businesses to set higher ethical standards and help build a better society." For more information, see http://www.conferenceboard.ca/ccbc/CSR_week/default.htm or email Camille Beaufort at beaufort@conferenceboard.ca

May 10: 8.30-9.30am: GPI Atlantic presentation to the Nova Scotia Town Planners Association annual conference, Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax

May 14: 4pm-6pm: GPI Atlantic board of directors meeting, 7th floor boardroom, World Trade and Convention Centre, Argyle, Street, Halifax.

June 5-9: Kingston, Ontario: GPI Atlantic presentation to conference plenary on "People and the Planet: Changing Values for a Sustainable Future."

June 19: Edmonton, Alberta: GPI Atlantic keynote address to Canadian Pension and Benefits Institute annual conference, (600-1,000 attendees).

June: GPI Atlantic presentation on Women's Health indicators to Women's Health Bureau, Health Canada, Ottawa; based on GPI report *Women's Health in Atlantic Canada*.

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 and senior, 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* (issue #2 to be published this month), and a free PDF 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

Visit our Web Site

Please visit our web site at www.gpiatlantic.org and stay in touch with our work. The web site provides:

- free on-line articles, press releases and media clippings on the GPI work;
- a summary of current activities and presentations;
- publication abstracts and ordering information;
- an update of progress on the Community GPI;
- a list of our board of directors and researchers;
- membership information.

You can contact GPI Atlantic by calling 902-489-7007, e-mailing info@gpiatlantic.org or writing to Box 489, RR#1, Tantallon, NS B0J 3J0.