Winter Cities

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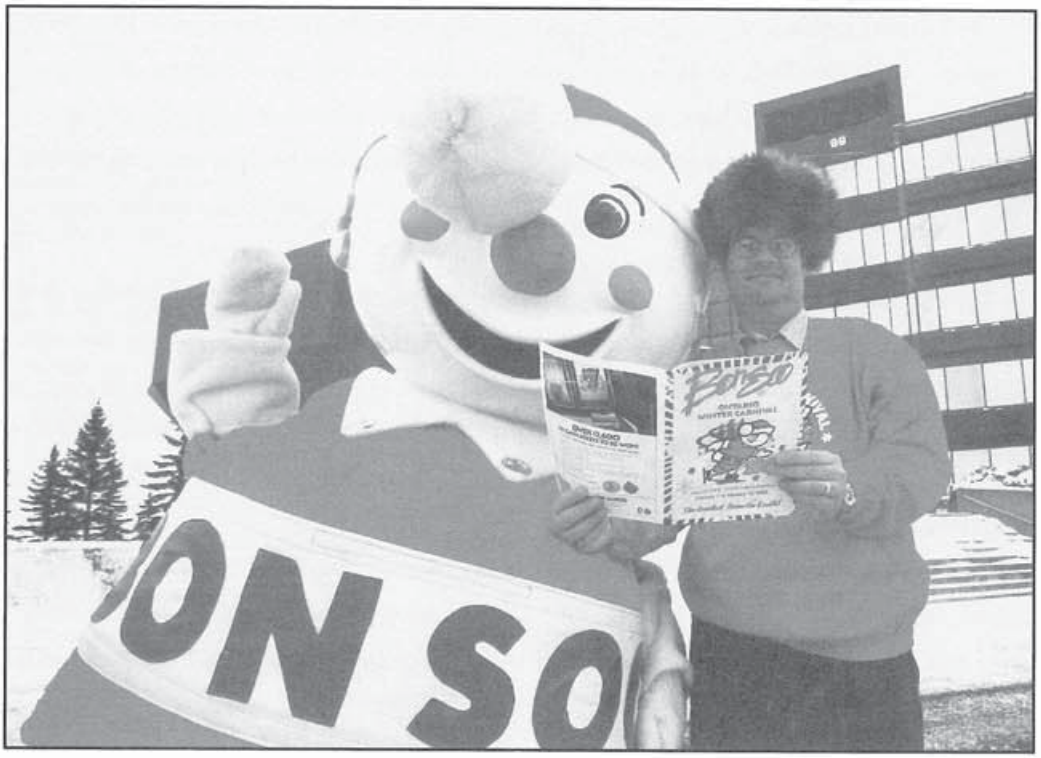

Bon Soo Winter Carnival

Guest Editorial

This edition of Winter Cities offers an array of topics from authors and interviewees ranging from high school through graduate school and beyond.

Laura Ryser and Greg Halseth, of the University of Northern British Columbia, focus on climate (e.g. icy sidewalks and wind tunnels) responsive design of buildings in a small urban setting. Drawn from Laura's Master's thesis, the message of their article hits home with anyone involved in community planning: proposed change runs up against a formidable opponent in the form of institutional barriers.

Using a clever approach (photographs), Acadia University faculty Brenda Robertson and John Colton got residents of Windsor, Nova Scotia to reveal community identity themes and sacred places and spaces. They are correct when they say that their findings are noteworthy for community leaders and planners.

A project worth following is the University of Northern British Columbia's effort examining the feasibility of rooftop gardens in northern climates. Patrick Lucas and his project partner, Emily Hansen, raise some intriguing issues.

The Icicles column provides a quick update on Association related topics as well as an interview with Gina Gallant, the grade 10 gold medalist at the Canada Wide Science Fair. In the case of Gina, former tennis great Jimmy Connors got it wrong when he stated "it's too bad that youth is wasted on the young."

The interview with widely acclaimed Alberta artist Peter von Tiesenhausen leaves the reader wanting to get outdoors with a saw and start carving iceboats and wooden figures. Be sure to check out Peter's web site at http://www.tiesenhausen.net.

I was fortunate to team up with two energetic students for an article on our university's Winter Carnival. And, speaking of carnivals, kudos to Sandra Paul for her piece on the jointly held Winter Cities Forum and Ontario Winter Carnival scheduled for January 31-February 3 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Her message is loud and clear: a great location with something for everyone. See you there!

Tom Merz
Professor of Economics, Michigan Technological University
Mayor of Houghton, Michigan
Director, Winter Cities Association

Cover photo: WINTER CITY FUN - Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada's, Mayor John Rowswell and Ontario Winter Carnival Bon Soo's Mr. Bon Soo, together at the Civic Centre will be hosting the Winter Cities Forum for 2003. (Sault This Week - Paul Norbo)

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The Winter Cities Association is dedicated to realizing the potential of all northern communities. Through publishing, networking, organizing conferences, facilitating research and other means, the Association seeks to make available northern solutions to northern problems and to promote awareness of opportunities associated with the winter season.

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Winter Cities

Volume 21 • Number 4

CONTENTS

ICICLES

What's Up in the Winter Cities

Post-secondary Education in the circumpolar north

"Higher Education across the Circumpolar North - A Circle of Learning" was published by Palgrave/Macmillan in May 2002. Edited by Douglas Nord and Geoffrey Weller, the book is made up of contributions by members of the Association of Circumpolar Universities who discuss the growth of post-secondary institutions in their countries, including Japan, Greenland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Russia, United States of America and Canada.

Douglas Nord is Executive Director, University Centre for International Education, Wright State University, Ohio and a member of our Board of Directors. The late Geoffrey Weller was the Founding President of the University of Northern B.C.

Gardeners across Canada sought for climate study

Climate experts with Natural Resources Canada are asking gardeners to help them redraw the hardiness zones chart. The chart provides generalized climate zones which helps gardeners determine what does and does not grow in their area of the country. It needs revision because climate change is having an effect on Canada's flora. Plants that have survived for a long time in particular locations are now at risk because of decreased snowfall and the loss of that winter protection. Other plants are growing in areas where previously they were not hardy. To take part in the survey, click on to the Natural Resources Canada site and follow directions to the plant hardiness page.

Gina Gallant: teenage inventor

Residents in the north can become preoccupied with road maintenance issues. So when a new paving material is being developed, when it helps to recycle plastic and reduce the use of natural resources, and when the inventor is a teenager, our interest is piqued.

Gina Gallant is a grade 10 student at Kelly Road High School in Prince George, British Columbia. She has been inventing things since grade 5 and has won awards at Regional and National Science Fairs. Her interest in her current project began as she considered ways to reduce waste going to landfills. She had previous experience working with petroleum based asphalt and stone aggregate. She knew that the experiments of others, adding glass and rubber to asphalt, were unsuccessful. Gina's current trials, adding plastic to asphalt, look more promising. She works with shredded No.2 plastic, used to make four litre milk jugs, shampoo bottles and so on. The formula she is using at present is about 3% plastic and 6% asphalt with four different types of aggregate making up the balance. The product is called P.A.R. (PolyAggreRoad). It is estimated that for every tonne (1000kg) of asphalt placed in a road, 30kg of plastic could be used and the use of natural resources reduced by 30kg.

Gina's work is being supported by Husky Oil, Columbia Bitulithic, AMEC Earth and Environmental engineering consultants and the City of Prince George. An area of paving is being tested at Columbia Bitulithic's work yard and Gina hopes a section of a city street can also be found for testing. City officials think that P.A.R. might increase the stability of the asphalt, resulting in an increased resistance to rutting, with improved road drainage and increased vehicle safety.

Gina won a Gold Medal for her project at the Canadian Science Fair earlier this year. She will add to the project and report her test results at next year's science fairs.

Winter Cities Website

How will you use our website? Do you have suggestions for what should be on it?

At its meeting on September 21, 2002, the Board of Directors discussed the development of the Association's website. With the help of staff at the University of Northern British Columbia, we hope to have the first phase in place by the end of this year. This will provide key contact information, a description of the mandate and role of the Association, information about becoming a member and receiving the magazine, conference dates and so on. In the second phase, the site will be built with links to other websites, relevant research, best practices etc.

Board members suggested that proceedings of past Winter City Forums should be on the site and also felt that an image data base would be useful, particularly in demonstrating best practices. It was also agreed that we should ask members for their input. Please write to us c/o City of Prince George, 1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, B.C., Canada V2L 3V9 or by e-mail to: nechakoriver@shaw.ca.

Rooftop Gardens Are Moving North

by PATRICK LUCAS,
Environmental Studies Program, University of Northern British Columbia

This past summer, 2002, the City of Prince George saw the commencement of a new educational program: the Prince George Rooftop Greening Research, Education and Demonstration Project. The program, coordinated and implemented by students from the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC): Patrick Lucas and Emily Hansen, was initiated with the goal of raising awareness and interest in rooftop greening technologies and the associated socio-economic and environmental benefits. As a partnership between the City of Prince George, the Prince George Public Interest Research Group, and the university, the project will include a feasibility study, which will examine the limitations, barriers, and opportunities that exist for encouraging the widespread use and applications of rooftop greening technologies in Prince George. The central research question will be: How can the City of Prince George incorporate rooftop greening technologies as a part of its overall plans and strategies for storm water management within a northern/winter cities context? The goal for this research will be to draft public policy recommendations for the City of Prince George that will assist the community in most effectively capitalizing on the technologies' numerous benefits.

Rooftop Garden - City Hall, Prince George, BC (P. Lucas)

Rooftop greening is the practice of installing gardens or green spaces on the often bare and vacant roofs of buildings in urban areas. The benefits of rooftop greening technologies have been well documented across North America and Europe. Some of these include:

• ***Energy efficiency*** - Rooftop gardens can increase the energy efficiency of buildings by up to 30%!

• ***Air-Pollution*** - Research has shown the rooftop gardens can capture and filter out harmful particulates and toxins from the air, as well as reducing and mitigating the environmental conditions that create smog.

• ***Water Quality*** - Rooftop gardens can retain and filter rain water, thereby improving the quality of storm water before it reaches local aquatic ecosystems.

• ***Food Production*** - Rooftop gardens can provide a convenient and accessible area for growing fruits & vegetables.

• ***Noise pollution*** - Rooftop gardens operate as an extra layer of insulation, reducing the level of noise penetrating into buildings and offices.

• ***Crime Prevention*** - Recent studies completed in the US have concluded that urban areas with a greater abundance of vegetation are less prone to criminal activities, creating safer environments and communities.

• ***Horticultural Therapy*** - Any horticulturalist or gardener will tell you: natural and green spaces are an important source of stress release and are an important part of human environment. Many cities and developers are making an effort to capitalize on this fact to increase the aesthetic appeal of urban environment and work places to increase land values in downtown areas.

With so many tangible and obvious benefits, it is understandable why rooftop gardens are becoming such a major trend in so many part of North America. The Prince George Rooftop Greening Program, which included the installation of a 200ft^2 demonstration garden on the second floor balcony of Prince George city

hall, was a spectacular success. The garden, made up of indigenous grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, dwarf species of Spruce, Birch, and Juniper, was designed from a multi-seasonal perspective, and will be a lasting legacy of how the city can use innovative and creative strategies for mitigating its adverse impacts on the natural environment while building a healthy and sustainable community.

Rooftop Garden - City Hall, Prince George, BC (P. Lucas)

Our immediate reaction is to question the performance of any technology in our northern climate with our long and frigid winters, green or otherwise. With the bulk of research and knowledge concerning rooftop greening technology having been largely developed in the more southern municipalities of Canada and North America, what relevance can it hold for a small city the size, type and location of Prince George?

From the perspective of storm water, rooftop greening can still make a significant contribution retaining and filtering 50% of precipitation in the form of snow (Peck et al, 1999). This is important when considering that typically the only snow not removed from an urban area resides on the roofs of the buildings and structures. Rooftop greening could be an excellent way of reducing the volume and intensity of the spring melt in developed areas.

One attribute of Prince George, and many northern communities, that stands in stark contrast to cities in the south is the difference in land use densities. In cities such as Vancouver, many of the areas in which urban planners are encouraging the wide spread use of rooftop greening technologies have high ratios of buildings and structures to surfaces devoted to streets and open spaces. It is in these areas with much higher percentage of buildings and roofs to competing uses, where the citizens of Vancouver have the highest likelihood of benefiting from such investment. However, cities such as Prince George, with much lower densities, are hard pressed to find any equivalent, an important point to consider when assessing this technologies potential impacts.

Energy efficiency is another area where climate plays an important role in the performance of rooftop greening technologies. Research findings have shown that once the growing medium of a rooftop garden has frozen, its insular properties are neither better nor worse compared to conventional materials (Liu, 2002). Greening the roof of a building can increase the efficiency of a building by 30% for the remaining months of the year, however, the question is: with our climate, are the costs for cooling a building in the summer months high enough to warrant the application of this technology? It is precisely these kinds of questions and challenges our team will be examining during this study to assess the feasibility of integrating this technology into our urban landscape. The key is to gain a comprehensive understanding of how rooftop greening will fit into our community and to create policy that will most effectively assist communities in capitalizing on the numerous benefits this technology has to offer in the long-term.

One lesson we have gained from this program is that view our community from a new perspective can assist in finding new and innovative strategies for confronting the numerous environmental challenges affecting towns and municipalities across British Columbia. Standing on the roof of Prince George City Hall, looking out over an expanse of bare and vacant rooftops, has provided us with the perspective we needed. While rooftop greening in the north may not present the same degree of opportunity as it does in southern municipalities, it will still be an important tool for any community interested in minimizing its impact on the natural environment.

Patrick Lucas is in the Environmental Studies (BA) Program at UNBC and plans to work in environmental planning and sustainable community development. Emily Lucas is a Women Studies major and expects to go on to graduate studies.

References:

Lui, K.K.Y. Energy Efficiency and Environmental Benefits of Rooftop Gardens. Construction Canada v. 44, no 2 (March 2002) p. 17, 20-23.

Peck, Steven W.; Callaghan, Chris.; Bass, Brad.; Kuhn, Monica E. Greenbacks from Greening Roofs: Forging a new industry in Canada. (March 1999) Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Institutional Barriers
to Climate Responsiveness in Commercial Redevelopment in Prince George, BC

by LAURA RYSER and GREG HALSETH,
Geography Program, University of Northern British Columbia

Climate responsive design can enhance the efficiency of city maintenance, reduce operating costs to businesses, and improve the livability of our cities. For example, reducing icy surfaces and wind exposure not only makes city life more comfortable, but it can also enhance social interaction and shopping during winter. Through on-going commercial redevelopment, Prince George, B.C. has had an opportunity to implement climate responsive designs. It can do this because development proposals require review by the city's Advisory Design Panel and approval by City Council. To date, few projects have taken the opportunity to incorporate the benefits of climate responsive designs.

To explore potential barriers to incorporating climate responsive design, interviews were conducted in Prince George with a number of planners, designers, developers, Advisory Design Panel members, and councillors who were involved with at least one of two recent commercial redevelopments (see below). The findings from our research suggest a range of institutional barriers to initiating, implementing, and evaluating climate responsive design.

Institutional barriers to climate responsive design in commercial redevelopment were grouped under three stages (see Table One). First, change is **initiated** through the application of appropriate skills and knowledge, along with the will to pursue change. Second, change is **implemented** through actions laid out in goals, regulations, and guidelines. Through such as structural and regulatory framework, roles and responsibilities are defined, and appropriate human and financial resources are allocated. Third, on-going climate responsive design efforts are then **evaluated** against goals, objectives, and achievements.

Barriers to Initiating Change

Institutional barriers to initiating change included educational, financial, and psychological issues (Table One). In terms of education, for example, there was a clear lack of awareness among participants about climate responsive design principles, and the variety of benefits they may generate.

Table One: Summary, Institutional Barriers to Initiating Climate Responsive Design, Identified by Participants

BARRIERS TO INITIATING CHANGE	% OF TOTAL RESPONSES
EDUCATIONAL BARRIERS	48.1%
FINANCIAL BARRIERS	15.4%
PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS	36.5%
	100.0%

Source: Interview Participants, 1999-2000.

Financial barriers included a lack of funds to pursue educational opportunities, transportation and registration costs, the fact that many non-governmental organizations lack funds to promote climate responsive design, and the cost of publications. With limited funds, choices are

Figure One: Computime Building
View from Quebec Street

Figure Two: Sight and Sound
View from Victoria Street

made between competing educational priority areas.

The most significant psychological barrier identified by participants was a lack of interest. There are perceptions that "we really don't need unique architecture" and that icy sidewalks "just sort of go with the territory." As a result, there is no sense of urgency or perceived need to learn about climate responsive design or push for its implementation.

Barriers to Implementing Change

While participants identified a range of barriers to implementing change towards climate responsive design (Table Two), most comments focused upon structural barriers. For example, some participants felt there was no Advisory Design Panel member who could offer sufficient advice about climate responsive design. There were also time and business constraints that prevented design professionals from volunteering on the Advisory Design Panel. Therefore, there was a limited pool of expertise to provide advice about climate responsive design, and this is difficult to fix in smaller cities that cannot support a larger population of design professionals.

Table Two: Summary, Institutional Barriers to Implementing Climate Responsive Design, Identified by Participants

BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTING CHANGE	% OF TOTAL RESPONSES
STRUCTURAL BARRIERS	23.4%
FINANCIAL BARRIERS	20.7%
REGULATION BARRIERS	17.2%
POLITICAL BARRIERS	13.1%
INFORMATION BARRIERS	9.7%
MAINTENANCE BARRIERS	8.3%
SECURITY / SOCIAL BARRIERS	7.6%
	100.0%

Source: Interview Participants, 1999-2000.

Next, climate responsive design was perceived to be too expensive, and some participants worried that developers would not implement climate responsive design for fear of economic loss. Furthermore, during economically challenging times, some felt the public would not be enthusiastic about climate responsive design as any new jobs would be more important than perceived frills like climate responsive design. Participants felt there were insufficient regulations and guidelines against which the Advisory Design Panel could systematically review climate responsive designs. A further implementation barrier was a general lack of awareness, or an unclear understanding, about existing regulations and guidelines. Consequently, these regulations cannot be utilized to their full potential.

Political barriers included the perception that the design panel is powerless, since its role is only advisory and, therefore, it cannot enforce its recommendations. Some participants also felt political pressure inhibits the pursuit of climate responsive design as decision makers may fear being accused of stifling development.

Key amongst the information barriers was simply a lack of exchange of information, for example, between design professionals and the developer. In addition, climate data was thought to be either not used, or not useable, for urban design. Participants noted most of the data used comes from the supplement in the building code.

Participants were also worried about costs. One area of particular note was landscaping. Participants pointed out that only a few plants can survive road salt, pollution, and abuse, and that landscaping can also be damaged by heavy snow cover, vehicles, pedestrians, and snow removal equipment. Once the plants die, property owners maybe less likely to replace them with the result that the contribution to climate responsive design is lost.

Examples of security / safety barriers included a perception that evergreen trees may provide places for people to hide or reduce visibility for drivers.

Barriers to Evaluating Change

Barriers to evaluating change included regulatory, structural, and psychological barriers (Table Three). For example, participants indicated there was an insufficient regulatory framework in place against which to base an evaluation of efforts. Structurally, if there is a lack of human resources and time presently available to pursue the implementation of climate responsive design, then there will also likely be a lack of human resources to conduct an evaluation of the process. Finally, there may be a reluctance to embark on an evaluation process as a result of political, bureaucratic, or business inertia. As one participant noted, there becomes a tendency to do "things because we've done them instead of saying why we're doing them...".

Table Three: Summary, Institutional Barriers to Evaluating Climate Responsive Design, Identified by Participants

BARRIERS TO EVALUATING CHANGE	% OF TOTAL RESPONSES
REGULATION BARRIERS	37.1%
STRUCTURAL BARRIERS	60.0%
PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS	2.9%
	100.0%

Source: Interview Participants, 1999-2000.

Discussion

A study of participants in the commercial redevelopment process in Prince George, B.C. revealed a significant, complex set of barriers to the incorporation of climate responsive design. Results indicated that significant barriers to initiating change included educational barriers, such as a lack of awareness, and psychological barriers, such as a lack of interest. Therefore, information about how climate responsive

design reduces costs and enhances downtowns needs to be shared with decision-makers, business groups, and residents. Such information could help to identify the need and evaluate the support for climate responsive urban design. Participants also felt education could be enhanced through promotional materials that could inform developers about the questions they should ask designers so that climate responsive design could be incorporated. Since there is a regular turnover on City Council and staff, an orientation program or package about climate responsive design could be developed by senior City staff to broaden awareness amongst representatives.

Concerns over financial barriers also signaled an area of concern for the development community. More cost-benefit analysis studies are needed to understand how climate responsive design features impact the capital costs, operating costs, and competitiveness of a business.

Furthermore, to overcome structural and regulatory barriers to implementing change, some participants identified that a checklist would be a useful tool for ensuring climate responsive design is covered in the review and approval of commercial projects. A checklist would also help to evaluate on-going efforts to pursue change towards climate responsive design in commercial redevelopment.

The importance of this research is that it looked at the adoption of climate responsive design in a small urban setting. Many of the barriers identified may not have been as apparent in previous research, since much of that research was conducted in larger centres which benefit from having more financial and human resources to allocate to issues like climate responsive design. For those interested in pursuing climate responsive design, this research provides an overview of the range of barriers encountered, and suggests areas where further research and information can be gathered to overcome some of these institutional barriers.

Laura Ryser, MNRES, is a Research Assistant for the Rural and Small Town Research Program at UNBC.

Greg Halseth is an Associate Professor, Geography Program at UNBC and is a Canada Research Chair of the Rural and Small Town Research Program.

Winter Carnival

Provides Winter Activities and a Boost to the Local Economy

by KATHY ABBOTT
TOM MERZ
and TRENT WEATHERWAX

Winter means different things to different people. For "snowbirds," it's a reason to flock to a warmer climate. For many residents of Houghton, Michigan, winter offers opportunities to take advantage of what nature has to offer. Surrounded by the waters of Lake Superior, Houghton is located at 47.6 degrees north latitude (for reference, Montreal, Canada is at 45.3 degrees north latitude) on Michigan's scenic Keweenaw Peninsula. A winter wonderland with an average annual snowfall 6.25 meters the area is a popular destination for Nordic and downhill skiing, snowmobiles and ice fishing.

Houghton is also the home of Michigan Technological University. Each year Michigan Tech students put on Winter Carnival. Initiated by student organizations in 1922 and originally called "Ice Carnival," the then one-day event had a circus theme with students dressed in animal costumes while competing in figure and speed skating. The event continued until the stock market crash in 1929. In 1934 it reappeared when Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, the current organizer, took over the duties of putting on the event.

Carnival officially begins on a Wednesday afternoon and concludes the following Sunday evening. Students and community members participate in Carnival through special events, which commence a week before the official start of Carnival. Events include Nordic and downhill skiing, snowshoe races, snow volleyball, human dogsled races, ice bowling, broomball, ice fishing, skits and a queen competition. A torchlight parade down Mont Ripley ski hill located near the campus creates a spectacle of snow-reflected light in the night sky and is followed by an awesome fireworks display.

Ice bowling consists of students and community members being placed on plastic sleds and tossed down the ice as human bowling balls aimed at one-meter high plywood pins. Students participate in skits showcasing their stage and comedic talents for the enjoyment of local residents, fellow students and visitors to the area. Broomball is poor person's

ice hockey. Played in an indoor ice arena, brooms are used to strike a rubber ball by players wearing tennis shoes or boots. Using a duct-taped broom head to put a ball past the goalie sounds simple, but just moving upright along the ice can be challenging. Even a skilled ice-hockey player can look klutzy. Helmets, knee and rump pads are a must!

Snow statue building is the highlight and core activity of Carnival. When initiated in 1936, college and local school students built the statues. To encourage entries, the Houghton Rotary Club awarded prizes for the best statues.

Tech students begin sculpting elaborate snow statues in early January. Work shifts are assigned to cover the 8 to 14 hours per day necessary to complete the statues before judging occurs. The larger structures are often over nine meters high. While built with scaffolding, snow fence and plywood, completed statues must be freestanding. Electric ironing provides a smooth finish. Statues are judged in four divisions: fraternities, women groups, residence halls, or student organizations. A one-night division is added for community members. With music blaring, extension cords and water hoses intertwined, statue construction is a carnival within Carnival. A total of 73 statues were built for Carnival 2002.

Each year Blue Key chooses a carnival theme. Statues, queen candidates' talent presentations and skits are judged based on the current theme. In 2002, the theme was Snowy Re-Creations of Worldly Destinations. The first place statue in the fraternity division depicted Disney's theme park and was titled 100 years of Magic Frozen in Time.

During Carnival, Houghton experiences a large number of visitors. Hotel rooms need to be reserved nearly a year a head of time. Restaurants are crowded. Survey data indicate that the 2002 Winter Carnival attracted 3,429 overnight visitors and 2,228 one-day visitors. It was estimated that visitors spent $532,890 in the community. The effort and participation of university students and community members combine to make Winter Carnival a source of winter activities and a boost to the local economy. For those considering a visit, the 2003 Winter Carnival celebration is set for February 12-16. Additional information about the Houghton area and Winter Carnival can be found at http://www.city-ofhoughton.com and http://www.mtu.edu.

Abbott and Weatherwax are Michigan Tech students. Merz is Professor of Economics at Michigan Tech and Mayor of Houghton.

Photo credit: Caroline Weber Kennedy.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Winter Cities Association will be held in Sault Ste. Marie on Friday, January 31st, 2003 at 4:00 pm.

Winter Cities Forum

Bon Soo Winter Carnival - Living In Balance

by SANDRA PAUL

Canadians understand extremes. We know isolation and community, stunning beauty and bleak desolation. We endure the angry blizzards of winter and welcome the warm breezes of summer. We thrill to the riot of colour that is our autumn forests and we yearn for the return of life each spring.

We meet Northern challenges together. We embrace every gift from nature and we seize every opportunity to play. We don't just cope, we thrive.

Over the centuries, we have learned that the key to our well-being and happiness is balance. And "Living In Balance" will be the theme of The Winter Cities Forum, to be held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario Jan. 31 to Feb. 3, 2003.

Co-hosts Mayor John Rowswell and Ontario Winter Carnival Mascot Mr. Bon Soo will demonstrate that balancing act. Rowswell and his colleagues are currently planning a world class Winter Cities Forum and Bon Soo general manager Donna Gregg is planning Mr. Bon Soo's Big 40th Birthday Bash.

We'll be exploring serious issues at the conference, but keeping the principle of balance in mind, we'll be making time to attend some of the more than 125 indoor and outdoor fun events that make up Ontario Winter Carnival Bon Soo—The Greatest Snow on Earth. Bon Soo has been selected for each of the past two years as one of the top 50 Ontario festivals and one of the top two winter carnivals.

Winter Cities speakers, panellists and workshop presenters, all experts in their fields, are committed to helping us define our challenges and to explore the solutions, to work toward achieving balance in all areas of our lives—in business, the environment and economic growth/development.

This conference presents an opportunity for delegates to network with professionals from many disciplines including mayors, city planners, government officials, architects, engineers, environmentalists, academics, etc.

Delegates are also being invited to participate in a Showcase of Municipalities which will offer communities the chance to share their expertise and advancements with all those in attendance and with the community at large.

Highlights include:

Quality of Life -The conference program will bring together panel members from urban compact, urban sprawl, urban medium, rural/remote and Aboriginal North communities to discuss the relative benefits and challenges. Climate change and its effect on Winter Cities will be explored. Examples of impact on tourism, quality of life and economic partnerships will be presented including brown cloud, forest fires, trans-border pollutants. Other presentations will look at the health and wellness of Aboriginals, the dilemma of commuting, successful health delivery models, and health research.

Tourism -Topics for discussion include community links and challenges for sustainability, marketing of the region leading toward balanced development, trail development, the Great Lakes Circle Route Action Plan, and Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources Gerry Ouellette will outline the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Action Plan. St. Mary's Paper representatives will present a discussion paper on Balanced Development.

Economic Partnerships -This category of presentations will explore community and international partnership, marketshare programs, best practice examples and success stories of linkages/partnerships, co-operation and benefit, industry clusters, and the future development of technology, especially information technology, for economic development and raising the quality of life in Winter Cities.

Youth - Sault Ste. Marie will introduce the Winter Cities Youth Forum, an attempt to bring youth into the discussion of Winter Cities challenges. The focus of the forum will be attitudes, challenges and solutions, including strategies for educating our young people and keeping them at home. How to avoid losing our best and brightest Northern young people to Southern cities.

Municipal Showcase - Cities will be provided the opportunity to showcase their communities—their strengths, their possibilities, their products, their potential—with the goal of making connections with

... continued page 14

Identity and Sacred Spaces:
A Winter Community Investigates the Differences

by BRENDA J. ROBERTSON and JOHN COLTON
School of Recreation Management/Kinesiology, Acadia University

Background: Windsor, Nova Scotia is a community located on the Avon River approximately 70 kilometres from the capital city of Halifax. The community enjoys great variance in the seasons with warm summers and long winters. Settled in 1685 by Acadian French, the town has enjoyed a long, diverse and colorful history that has given this community many unique features relating to history, sport, culture, and outdoor pursuits. Among these are the following: the oldest blockhouse of its kind in North America at Fort Edward, the birthplace of hockey, home of the world's largest pumpkins, the highest tides in the world, the longest continually running agricultural fair in North America, Atlantic Canada's largest painted murals, the birthplace of Thomas Chandler Haliburton who was the father of North American humor, Kings-Edgehill which is the oldest independent school in the British Commonwealth, and the Internationally renowned Mermaid theatre company. It is these cultural and heritage sites that have enabled the Windsor community to actively position itself as a tourism destination with a rich history.The town boasts a broad range of recreational opportunities. The town serves as home to a myriad of groups including retirees, professionals who commute to work in the city, and those who work in the mill, mines, and agricultural industry. As such this small community with its very rich and diverse history appears to be lacking in a distinct identity. In the past, the community has taken on various identities. For a rural community, Windsor possesses a myriad of educational, spiritual, physical, environmental, and social resources. The aspect of the community that that has received the most media attention as a winter community in recent years is the claim that Windsor in the birthplace of hockey. During the winter of 2002, The Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC) featured a day long live broadcast from a frozen pond in the community relating to all aspects of the winter sport of hockey.

Haliburton House

Purpose

The focus of this study was to investigate what aspects residents associate with the identity of the community as well as what features of the community are "sacred" to them as individual residents. Central to the investigation was a comparison of whether the aspects that residents consider important to the identity of the community were also those that they felt a connection to personally.

Methods

Having residents identify which of the many features of the community they most associated with the town's identity and what aspects of the town held special meaning for them was a challenge for researchers. It was important to the research that participants think about aspects of the community throughout the entire year, rather than focusing on only the winter months during which data were collected. Data for this study were gathered through a photo elicitation process. Participants were issued disposable cameras and asked to take two sets of photographs. The first was photographs of those aspects that they associate with the overall identity of the community. The second was photographs of aspects of the community that are most important to them personally. A researcher met with each participant and conducted a brief interview and issued instructions for the photographic aspect of the data collection process. Participants were given two weeks to take the pictures and return the camera to the researcher. Within two weeks the photographs were developed and the researchers conducted second interviews with the participants to collect descriptive

interpretations of the photographs.

Three segments of the population were included in the study: adults over 50 resident in the community for at least 25 years, working adults under 50 resident in and raising their families in the community, and high school aged youth. These groups were selected to provide the perspective of people who share a long association with the town and its resources, and who can reflect on aspects of identity change and continuity; younger residents who are raising families in this community; and youth who reside here. Ten participants from each of these segments of the population were identified with the assistance of key informant.

Results

Table 1 reflects those aspects of the town that participants consider best represent the overall identity of the town of Windsor. It is interesting to note that 64 different sites were identified by multiple respondents as relating to community identity. A further 49 themes were identified by single participants. With over 110 themes appearing in the pictures of these few participants, it would appear as though there is a lack of consensus on what exactly constitutes the identity of the town of Windsor. Although there were a vast number of sites identified, they clustered around 17 general themes as presented in Table 1.

Clearly history and outdoor recreation were most frequently reported to be primary aspects of the community identity by all three groups. Indoor recreation was considered important to the community identity by a number of participants as well, especially the youth. The town's association with education was also frequently mentioned by all groups although less so by youth. Those in middle adulthood frequently provided photographs that relate to the work carried on in the town and essential services provided to the residents such as police and fire services, and saw these as contributing to the community identity. It is interesting that the youth provided more pictures of cultural, natural, and medical aspects of the town than the other groups. It is perhaps less surprising that the older adults considered religion to play a role in the community identity.

Table 2 reports the places and spaces in town that are considered special or "sacred" to participants. That is, participants were asked to identify those places that are important to their personal lifestyles. There were 64 multiple responses on what are the sacred spaces with over a hundred sites that were reported by only one participant.

Outdoor recreation venues were the most consistently photographed sacred spaces across all groups. Those in middle adulthood most frequently provided photographs of houses as sacred spaces. In some cases it was their own home and in other cases the homes of friends and neighbours that they valued. The youth frequently provided photographs of outdoor areas that were scenic but perhaps more importantly served as venues for informally socializing with friends, even during the winter months. Schools were also frequently photographed by the youth as sacred spaces, again not solely for the educational value but also for the social connection school provided. Their houses and those of their family and friends were also recorded on film and again opportunities to socialize were in part what made those venues special to them. Few of the older adults reported that houses were sacred spaces. They generally preferred locations away from home including venues in the community where recreation took place. The group in middle adulthood were the most diverse in what they considered to be sacred spaces in the community with outdoor recreation sites, specific shopping venues, natural areas, education and religious institutions to all be important in addition to housing.

Comparisons of the two sets of pictures indicate that although perceived as an important component of the identity of the community, few participants valued historic venues as sacred spaces for themselves. Outdoor recreation venues

TABLE 1
Frequency of Community Identity Themes by Age Group

Theme	Older Adults	Middle Adulthood	Youth
History	16	33	23
Outdoor recreation	16	32	34
Education	10	12	8
Indoor recreation	8	14	22
Culture	6	8	9
Work	5	10	4
Religion	5	4	3
Housing	5	4	3
Community services	5	11	7
Scenery/nature	4	6	8
Monuments	4	5	4
Medical	4	5	8
Shopping	1	3	6
Transportation	1	6	4
Graveyards	1	3	1
Festival	0	2	0
Restaurants	0	2	4

TABLE 2
Frequency of Sacred Space by Age Group

Theme	Older Adults	Middle Adulthood	Youth
Outdoor recreation	15	22	25
Indoor recreation	9	7	14
Shopping	8	11	3
Scenery/nature	7	14	26
Education	4	16	22
Religion	4	14	3
History	4	4	1
Work	4	0	0
Community services	4	8	4
Restaurants	4	3	5
Housing	3	25	16
Monuments	2	5	2
Transportation	2	2	3
Culture	2	2	2
Graveyards	1	3	1
Festivals	1	0	0
Medical	1	6	1

Windsor residents engaging in their favourite outdoor activity: hockey

were considered important to both the community identity and the personal association for many participants in all age categories. It is interesting that work carried out by various industries is considered part of the town's identity but only the older adults considered these places to be sacred spaces.

There are conclusions from this study worth noting for community leaders and planners. The first is that those aspects of a community that provide for the identity, and as such are important to the community as a whole, are not necessarily the ones that are valued most by residents personally. Rather, it is those aspects of the community that address the personal needs of residents that are valued most. In this particular case, although many residents considered aspects of the history to be extremely important to the identity of the community, relatively few felt attachment to the historical aspects. Despite the fact that Windsor positions itself as a town steeped in a rich and varied history, it is ironic that those individuals involved in the study did not associate highly with these historical and cultural areas from a sacred attachment perspective. If this study is any indication of a wider community attitude toward the personal relevance of these cultural and historical areas, what does this signify for the role of tourism development and promotion in the Windsor area and the nature of the tourism experience, and also the role of recreation provision for local area residents?

All age groups felt a strong association with outdoor recreation year round. With such knowledge, community planners and programmers could undertake initiatives that would more closely link personal interests with those of the overall community. For example, Windsor has many fine historic venues, which for the most part are only open seasonally, mainly for the benefit of tourists. Yet, most venues could provide opportunities for outdoor recreation for the residents year round. By doing so, community resources could be maximized, the needs of residents could be better accommodated, and a stronger bond could be formed between residents and aspects that represent community identity, ultimately building stronger community cohesion.

It is a conundrum in the sense that a small town like Windsor must take advantage of its assets, such as the historical and cultural sites noted, and use these to generate financial revenue. But what are the costs of this to the ongoing provision of recreation opportunities that may, in the end, provide the greatest personal benefits? In the introduction, it was noted that a sense of identity was lacking in the town of Windsor despite the seemingly rich heritage and culture. Perhaps, this lack of identity relates to an inability to manage the past and present in such a way as to maximize the benefits for community residents and potential tourists. Although this research provides insight into these and other issues, its value lies more in the questions it has raised for further investigation.

Brenda Robertson has been an Associate Professor at Acadia University for 19 years. Her primary interests are in leisure behaviour, leisure education, community development, and at-risk populations.

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Blockhouse

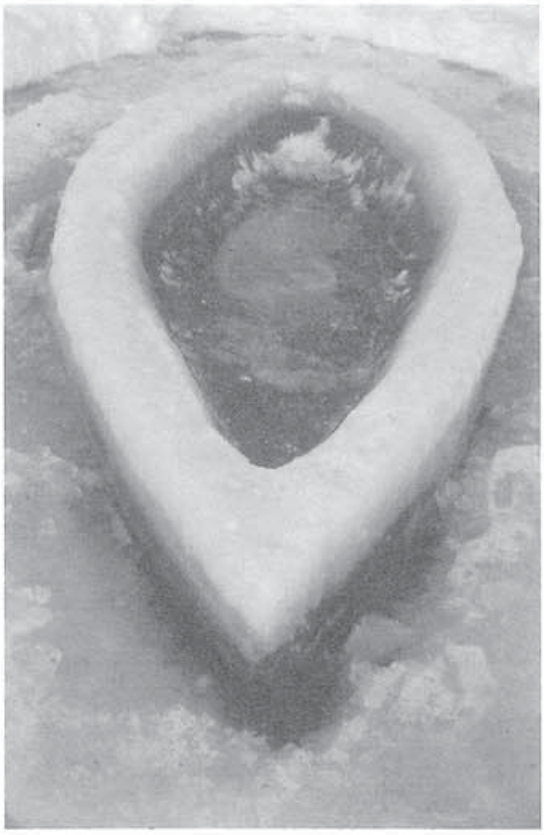
Peter von Tiesenhausen:
A Northern Artist

by ANNE MARTIN

If you live in a winter climate and you are a creative person who loves the outdoors, you want to work with the natural materials in your environment.

Peter von Tiesenhausen is such a person. He is fascinated by ice, by what it looks like, its colours and its properties. He enjoys working with it, not to reproduce buildings and other objects that we associate with ice sculpture, but to explore the nature of the ice itself and because it is so beautiful. In all his work, he looks for the essence of the material and tries to echo this in what he creates.

He describes an experience in late winter, walking along the shore of the Bow River at Banff. He came across a huge chunk of ice at the river's edge. He was carrying an axe and he shaped the ice into a rough boat shape, put a rock into it and launched it into the river. Knowing that he had created it out of the natural materials at hand, Peter describes the experience of watching the ice boat travel downstream as poetic.



Ice Boat

Back at home on his farm northwest of Edmonton, Peter started excavating into frozen lakes and ponds, learning more about the nature of ice and cold. He found that where he was digging he could force the frost down thirty inches below the adjoining ice and that the colder it was, the further down he could force the frost and the faster he could work. This is when he began building ice boats. His excavations took on a boat shape. He could climb in and look through the translucent ice hull at the bottom of the pond, observing plants and insects. He wondered how far he could push this and tried to divide a pond in half by creating a trench to reach the bottom. This did not work although it came close.

When the hull of the ice boat was as deep as it could go, Peter sawed around it to release it so that it floated, rising above the surface of the frozen pond. The boat was about eighteen feet long and four feet wide and as much as three feet deep with a foot-thick hull. Although it couldn't go anywhere, its motion was magical, you could hear and smell the water and the idea of a vessel being contained in the space from which it had come was intriguing.

Ice boats, of course, don't last. They freeze up overnight and start to melt at the first Chinook. Peter finds himself working through the winter with remnants of boats scattered about. These days he misses a consistency of cold and not being able to count any more on the stability of the seasons.

Peter describes his work as finding out about the land. A lot of his discoveries have been known for many years but he is learning for himself, not from books but from his own experience.

Peter also sculpts with wood and in 1997 created five larger-than-life wooden figures from tree trunks, carved with a chain saw and charred in a bonfire. He stood them up in his Ford pickup and drove them to a Gallery in Calgary where they were displayed on a roof. They went from there to a Gallery in British Columbia and then went home for a year. At the time, Peter had no plans for further exhibits but in 2000 he was invited to display them at two locations in Ontario. As he drove

"The Watchers" from Tuktoyaktuk on their journey home

across the country, he realized that the figures and the truck had become an art piece in themselves. The figures had no name up to that point but en route to Newfoundland a Micmac elder named them "The Watchers". They were installed for a period on the Flatrock Peninsula in Newfoundland, widely spaced and gazing out across the North Atlantic, exposed to the elements

In 2001, Peter had hopes of "The Watchers" making their way home via the Northwest Passage but could find no ship able to take them. However, he got permission to lash them to the bridge of the Canadian Coast Guard ship "Henry Larson" that was heading to Greenland for the summer on a scientific expedition. Halfway through the summer, the ship was re-assigned and did indeed travel through the Northwest Passage.

In the Beaufort Sea near Tuktoyaktuk, "The Watchers" were unloaded by helicopter on to a NTCL barge. The weather conditions during the transfer caused two figures to collide, one losing his legs at sea. These were later rebuilt by Peter. "The Watchers" spent the winter in Tuktoyaktuk and in mid March of this year Peter picked them up in his truck for the long drive home. In their nearly five year journey, they had covered about 35,000 kms by land and sea, travelling through every Province and sailing the waters of three oceans, effectively circling the whole of Canada.

"The Watchers" have now been cast in solid iron and the resulting monument is to be installed in downtown Toronto. It will be exposed to the elements and will rust but, as Peter points out, rust is true to the iron. For him, the monument will convey the idea of journey, of hardship and of the north.

And what of the original figures? At present, they are in a Toronto Gallery but after that probably even Peter doesn't know. He likes the process to find its own way.

Peter von Tiesenhausen lives in Demmitt, Alberta. He studied for 2 years at the Alberta College of Art and Design. His web site is www.tiesenhausen.net.

"The Watchers" arrive home

... *from page 9*

other communities for further development.

Check out our Web site at www.wintercities.com as our Web site is continually being updated. A registration form is also available online.

Ontario Winter Carnival Bon Soo's opening weekend features outdoor carnival activities and live entertainment at the Roberta Bondar Park and Pavilion on the St. Mary's River Waterfront right next door to the Winter Cities host hotel—Holiday Inn Sault Ste. Marie. Official Opening Ceremonies and Fireworks Extravaganza are Friday, Jan. 31 at the Pavilion. This will be the kickoff to Mr. Bon Soo's 40th Birthday Party. Also nearby is the carnival favourite The Bon Soo Fantasy Kingdom, a spectacular winter playground professionally sculpted entirely of snow! Visit this themed wonderland of snow creations. Saturday night delegates can enjoy live Bon Soo entertainment at nearby Memorial Gardens. Sunday, Bon Soo competitions continue through the day, including an ice sculpting contest, and a dog-pulling contest.

Visit the Bon Soo Web site at www.bonsoo.on.ca for a complete schedule of the 10 days of indoor and outdoor events and a photo gallery.

Sandra Paul is the Media Chair of the Planning Committee for Winter Cities Forum 2003. The Forum website is at: www.wintercities.com