

Quality of Island Life Co-operative

April 2008

NEWSLETTER

borealis@eastlink.ca

Executive for 2007-08

President - Katherine Clough

Vice-President - Morley Pinsent

Treasurer - Ann Sherman

Secretary - Kathy Stuart

Board Members:

Jill Lightwood

Shari MacDonald

Irené Novaczek

Peter Rukavina

Rob Sharkie



Annual General Meeting

You are invited to the Quality of Island Life Co-operative's annual meeting at **7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, 2008** in the Bunbury Room at the **Stratford Town Hall**. Following the business meeting, the Quality of Island Life Cooperative (QoIL) will host a presentation of an exciting new approach to providing communities with freely accessible, up-to-the-minute information about themselves.

The system, called **Community Accounts**, has been developed by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and has become a widely used, internet-based approach to provide detailed information to residents and groups who have a need for such information to carry out community development projects and other activities. Newfoundland and Labrador Community Accounts has developed a Prince Edward Island Pilot Project Demonstration which will be interactively presented to us remotely from Newfoundland.

The presentation will be held at 8:00 pm, at the Stratford Town Hall, following the QoIL Annual General Meeting. **All are welcome** to the presentation, and interested members of the public are also invited to join the cooperative, by purchasing a share (\$50) in QoIL. Refreshments will be served following the presentation. For more information contact: borealis@eastlink.ca

Quality of Life Co-Op - Objective

• *To develop indicators through a process of community participation and formal research, with the aim of enhancing and monitoring the quality of Island life.*

For the AGM - QoIL BY-LAW CHANGES and BACKGROUND

Upon review by the Board at previous meetings, there has been concern expressed with regard to limitations in the existing by-laws relative to:

- ▶ Obtaining a **quorum** at an annual meeting (requirement 50%+1)
- ▶ The large **size of the board** (bylaws call for 9 members on board), total co-op membership, c. 30 (1/3 of membership must be on board at any one time).
- ▶ Lack of opportunity to deal adequately with **inactive** co-op members (re: requirements for quorum, etc.)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS/ADDITIONS TO BY-LAWS

1. With reference to **AGM meeting requirements** – review of the co-op by-laws reveal that by-law 5 [E] indicates “Thirty per cent of the members plus one (30% + 1) present and in person and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the members. ...” Thirty percent of the members would amount to approximately 10 persons to establish a quorum. This number does not appear to be unreasonable. This review adequately addresses the first and third points listed above.

Recommendation No change in the existing by-law at this time. At some time in the future, the co-op may want to consider an additional by-law which defines an “active member” as distinct from an “inactive member” and accord voting privileges, definition of quorum, etc. At this time it is not required.

2. **Board of Directors size.** Discussion at previous board meetings has suggested that a minimum board size be six members with an option to expand to a maximum of nine members. This allows for inclusion of persons with specific interests or skills for a given strategic direction of the cooperative to

be on the board and involved in the operation of the cooperative.

Recommendation A motion will be presented at the AGM, 20, May, 2008: The existing by-law 6 [A]: ~~“The management of the association shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of nine members who shall be elected at the annual meeting. The Board shall meet quarterly and a majority shall form a quorum.”~~ be deleted and replaced with:

“The management of the association shall be vested in a Board of Directors which shall consist of a minimum of six members with the option of expansion to a maximum of nine members as needs dictate. Immediately following the annual general meeting of the cooperative, the newly elected board shall convene a meeting and elect the executive (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer) from amongst its members. The Board shall meet quarterly and a majority shall form a quorum.”

- Morley Pinsent, 09 April, 2008

Quality of Island Life Co-Operative Mentioned in Throne Speech

Public Engagement

Madame Speaker and Members
of the Legislative Assembly.

The successful shaping and implementation of public policy hinges on forthright, informed public engagement and dialogue. My Government will establish an Office of Public Engagement to provide ongoing assistance and co-ordination to the policy consultations of departments.

Its mandate will also be to build a common foundation of knowledge and information from which both Government and communities can assess and discuss public policy issues. Utilizing the Community Accounts system developed by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and with the assistance of groups such as the PEI Quality of Life Coalition (sic), my Government will strive to ensure that public engagement and dialogue is not just crisis driven but an ongoing and constructive process.

an excerpt from Speech from the Throne - April 4, 2008, PEI Legislature



Land Use Conflict in Island Jurisdictions: *Understanding the Principles and Practice involved in Managing Natural or Cultural Resources*

This International Conference organized by the Institute of Island Studies, UPEI and to be held October 1-3, 2008 will be a pioneer in considering the tensions surrounding land use conflict on island jurisdictions from a multi and inter disciplinary perspective.

A variety of stakeholders will critically present, discuss, and unpack episodes of tension in land use in island jurisdictions - especially those with high population densities or very small geographic scales - where land is a critically more finite resource and where pressures to develop, maintain, restore or rehabilitate 'assets' or 'resources' may therefore be stronger than elsewhere. A day of site visits is also planned.

Discussion in this conference may include

- * Who is the arbiter of last resort in land use conflict? What is the respective role and leverage enjoyed by the state, arms- length development agencies, historical heritage societies, nature trusts and business interests?
- * Why does land use conflict emerge? How do different social coalitions and interest groups conceptualize space differently? What are their respective "emotional geographies"? How are these differences captured and articulated by respective discourses/registers?
- * What is the role of "public opinion" in land use conflict, both generally and in relation to specific cases? How is such public opinion motivated, managed and/or galvanized to act in particular directions?
- * What is the role, if any, of the media, third parties (such as international organizations) and of leadership figures (such as members of the clergy, local municipal officers, local politicians, charismatic civilians, other public figures) in contributing towards a settlement?
- * What are the immediate and long-term motivations behind the decisions that surround land use conflict settlement?
- * Are there any 'best practices' to follow and analyse in the handling of land use conflict situations? And, if so, how are they best identified and scrutinized?
- * What, if any, is the difference between the principles and the practice of land use monitoring, stewardship and regulatory enforcement? How can, and do, agencies tasked with environmental stewardship protect themselves effectively from undue "interference" and "pressure"?
- * What are the implications of such studies for more effective environmental management, both on islands and mainlands?

Abstracts of 300 words outlining proposed papers, will be accepted until June 30, 2008 by galdacchino@upei.ca.

Social Economy Report Launched

Bridging Public Investment and Social Value: An examination of the supports for the Social Economy on Prince Edward Island was launched on April 7, 2008 at UPEI.

Communications specialist Barbara Groome-Wynne presented the results of her study, which included findings from a public workshop that was held November 2007 in Charlottetown.

The study, initiated after recent federal cutbacks and “fiscal reorganization”, documents the level of federal and provincial government funding and policy supports that exist for social economy organizations on Prince Edward Island and to inquire into the impact of any changes in this public investment. Community partners had often expressed a sense of frustration and powerlessness with the lack of public investment in their organizations and the citizens that they serve; however no formal measurement had occurred. The study also inquired into the impact of changes to these supports in recent years. The interviews focussed primarily on the funding relationship with the government, as the reality of social organizations is that funding is often of utmost urgency to organizational survival.

Recommendations were made on how the social sector, policy makers and the public could work together to improve the quality of life for Islanders, especially the most vulnerable members of Island communities.

The Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network, coordinated on PEI by the Institute of Island Studies at the UPEI, commissioned the study, which took place during the summer and fall of 2007. A total of thirty social organizations generously donated their time to be interviewed. The study was funded through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and supervised by Dr. Irene Novaczek, of the Institute of Island Studies, and Janice Pettit, of the Executive Council Office.

The report will be distributed widely to social organizations and government policy makers. It will also be used by academic researchers who collaborate with UPEI to document the social economy and to strengthen and promote this sector.

The Social Economy and Sustainability Research Network seeks to increase the region’s capacity for a dynamic social economy built on partnerships, knowledge and networks. University researchers and community partners collaborate to meet the research needs of the community and to influence policy at the provincial and federal levels.

Interview Highlights

- Prince Edward Island’s social economy is situated within a funding and policy environment that is often volatile and insufficient.
- PEI faces unique public policy challenges as a small island province.
- In addition to changes in the level of public investment, there are long-term support deficiencies that are becoming increasingly difficult for organizations to address.
- These deficiencies are often a result of a lack of public investment characterized by: unstable and inadequate funding; changing government priorities; bureaucratic inefficiencies; dysfunctional communication processes; a cost-cutting culture; and jurisdictional issues between the provincial and federal governments.
- The impacts of insufficient public investment for social organizations include: financial instability; an inability to plan for the long-term; a lack of organizational sustainability; reduced services; and unrealistic expectations of staff and volunteers, particularly in terms of the administrative burden associated with public funding practices.
- Social organizations have responded to the inadequate funding and policy supports through advocacy, network building, raising public awareness, and capitalizing on individual resourcefulness.
- Although the success of these responses has been limited, most of the organizations have persevered and have been able to adhere to their mandate.
- There is an increasing level of resignation as most organizations feel that they have very little influence in the public policy process, particularly at the federal level. This lack of access to decision-making processes is systemic and longstanding.

Actions:

- The study suggests numerous actions that could be taken to enhance Prince Edward Island’s social economy in order to foster a healthy, vibrant and just society:
- Refocus funding criteria and public policy on the needs of the people that the social economy serves.
 - Develop funding programs that are stable and reflective of the nature of the services they support.
 - Streamline communication processes and develop institutional infrastructure that is consistent and flexible enough to meet citizens’ needs.
 - Ensure accountability on the part of all stakeholders involved in the provision of social programs.
- This includes the government.
- Use our *islandness* to enhance the social economy, through effective networks and our strong sense of community.

- Develop solutions to the problems identified in this study through partnerships and the collaborative efforts of social organizations, governments and communities.
- Most importantly, recognize the true value of the social economy and realize that social policy can only be truly informed when those who are most affected have an ongoing role in policy development.

These recommendations were suggested as a starting point for discussion. Further work was done by interested stakeholders to validate these recommendations and to collaborate on possible ways to put them into action at a learning event held in Charlottetown on November 27, 2007.

This study illustrates that solutions to our collective problems are possible. They will be developed through the dedication, expertise and collective will of those who come together to build the bridges between our social economy, our governments and our Island's communities. Together, we can ensure that social value is the dividend of public investment in the social economy on Prince Edward Island.

For the complete document, contact the Institute of Island Studies.

Pulling Strings

The latest book published by Island Studies Press, an imprint of the Institute of Island Studies at UPEI was launched at Province House on March 20, 2008. Entitled "**Pulling Strings: Policy Insights for Prince Edward Island from other Sub-National Island Jurisdictions**," the book is based on research emerging from a project on sub-national island jurisdictions that has been underway at UPEI since 2004. It contains chapters by Godfrey Baldacchino, Hans Connor, Crystal Fall, Barbara Groome Wynne, Kathleen Stuart and Lawrence Liao. The introduction is by John Eldon Green, and the conclusion by Jean Mitchell.

The book proposes this question: "What policy lessons can Prince Edward Island consider from a global review of over 100 similar islands?" Looking at islands from Bermuda to Tasmania, from the Cook Islands to the Faroes, "Pulling Strings" discusses how P.E.I. can make the best of its autonomy for political and economic advantage. More specifically, the book discusses "the power of jurisdiction" in such areas as political sovereignty, the environment, human resources and immigration, sea and air transportation, and social capital and the social economy.

The book is co-edited by Godfrey Baldacchino and Kathleen Stuart. Baldacchino, who hails from Malta, is the Canada Research Chair in Island Studies at UPEI, and Stuart, from Meadowbank, P.E.I., is a sessional professor in Island Studies at the university.

The book, which sells for \$24.95 plus GST, can be purchased from the Institute of Island Studies. All proceeds go to support the Institute of Island Studies' publishing program.

The Climate Project (TCP) Canada Montreal April 4th-6th

A few weeks ago I joined 230 other Canadians for a weekend session to launch The Climate Project Canada. Al Gore and David Suzuki were stars of the weekend, with Mr Gore presenting a much updated version of An Inconvenient Truth to a packed audience at Place des Arts on Friday. Then, on Saturday, taking us, the trainees, through it in a most interactive way with a lot of input from Dr David Suzuki and TCP's science advisor Dr Andrew Weaver from the University of Victoria. On Sunday we heard a wonderful slate of presentations on Canadian public opinion about climate change and the environment, on policy tools to address climate change, on business and institutional solutions and personal approaches. And here are Al Gore's top 4 actions: 1. Carbon Tax (more than already in place in Quebec and BC) 2. Cap and Trade 3. Green Investment Tax Credit 4. **Accessible information systems so everyone knows where we are.** The latter is where QoIL could converge with The Climate Project Canada. The training opened with an inspiring presentation from endurance athlete Ray Zahab whose message was exceeding limits and doing what none thought was possible. The closing was with biologist and filmmaker Jean Lemire from the Magdalen Islands who has taken his three masted schooner to Antarctica to film the exquisite wildlife and document the melting ice cap as a way of raising awareness about climate change.

~ Katherine Clough

Useful links:

http://www.climateprojectcanada.org/index_en.htm

<http://www.rayzahab.com/>

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/sedna/?p=/eng/crew/lemire.php>

SPOTLight



Harry Baglole

Born in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, and raised on the family farm in Wilmot, Harry Baglole is a dyed-in-the-wool Islander.

He has contributed to the Island community and culture through his work as an educator, historian, publisher, editor, university administrator and political activist in local, government, university and private sectors.

Harry attended Summerside High School and the universities of Acadia, Memorial, and Alberta, specializing in English Literature, PEI History, and Education. He began his work career as a teacher, first at Kensington, then in Uganda, and St. John's. Harry returned home to the Island in 1972.

Harry enjoys starting things, whether organizations or projects or activities. This includes team-building: helping to create a "vision" and assembling the best-possible group of talented people to carry it forward.

In 1973, Harry and David Weale founded The Brothers and Sisters of Cornelius Howatt, a patriotic society dedicated to the independent spirit of an anti-Confederate Island farmer and politician. They also collaborated on two books: *The Island and Confederation: The End of an Era* (1973) and *Cornelius Howatt: Superstar!* (1974). Harry co-authored *The Chappell Diary* with Ron Irving in 1977.

Harry saw a need for an Island-based publishing company to print and distribute titles reflecting Island life and culture, and launched Ragweed Press in 1977. It became the Island's foremost publishing company from the late 1970s through the 1990s.

Harry initiated and developed a high school course in Island History for the PEI Department of Education, and edited and published the resulting

text, *Exploring Island History* (1977).

From 1976 through 1980, he served as founding Editor of *The Island Magazine* while working for the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation. He worked as a Community Studies specialist for the provincial Department of Community and Cultural Affairs from 1982 to 1986, during which time he laid the groundwork for the creation of the Community Museums Association of Prince Edward Island.

In 1986, Harry became the founding Director of the Institute of Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island. In the course of 15 years, he developed the Institute into an internationally renowned research and academic centre in the study of small islands.

As one of the leading opponents of building the "Fixed Link" to the mainland, Harry co-ordinated the NO campaign leading up to the 1988 Plebiscite.

Harry has been instrumental in the creation of many local organizations, including the Island Community Theatre (now Theatre PEI), the Prince Edward Island branch of the International Island Games Association, and, in 2004, the Quality of Island Life Co-op. He served as the first President of both the Belfast Historical Society and Prince Edward Island Association of Community Schools and has served on numerous local and national Boards including Farmers Helping Farmers, Partnership Africa Canada, The Island Nature Trust, and the Rural Development Council.

Harry was the recipient of a Certificate of Merit from the Canadian Historical Association, and a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History.

In 1988, he was awarded the P.E.I. Arts Council Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Literary Arts in Prince Edward Island.

At present, Harry is a partner in the consulting enterprise The IRIS Group. Formed in 2005, the group is "a private company with a public purpose" specializing in active research on public policy. Harry's life objective is "to intensify among Islanders a sense of particular identity, a special place in the global society".

The IRIS Group

52 East River Drive,
Stratford, PEI, Canada
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A private company with a public purpose.

The IRIS Group was formed in 2005 by the three founding partners, Harry Baglole, Diane Griffin and Rob MacLean – joined by Yvette Doucette in 2007. They share a passion for Prince Edward Island and a belief in the value of coherent, well-considered public policy. The IRIS Group is also convinced that a strong sense of place and an attentiveness to quality of life are vital elements in any strategy to ensure the well-being of small places in a global economy.

As individuals, the partners in The IRIS Group have worked extensively at the community level, managed NGOs, set up and run a university-based academic research institute and administered a government department.

Their approach to problem-solving is to consult widely with citizens, to gather and analyze data and to draw on their wide circle of on- and off-Island contacts. They frequently work with other highly qualified individuals, called IRIS Associates. These colleagues bring special expertise to rounds out the abilities of The IRIS Group allowing it to do justice to a wide variety of projects.

In addition to paid work, The IRIS Group also tries to stimulate discussion of issues which are important to the Island such as land use and electoral reform. Selected reports are on the website at www.theIRISgroup.ca

- ▶ Economic Impact of Culture in Prince Edward Island and in Charlottetown Region
- ▶ Study of Post Secondary Options for Summerside and Prince County
- ▶ Development of Historical Interpretive Exhibits at the Island Folk Arts Centre
- ▶ Rural Governance in Prince Edward Island
- ▶ Symposium: The Narrowing Island Landscape – Land Use Issues in PEI
- ▶ State of the Environment Report for Prince Edward Island

Census Tract Data

Board Member Peter Rukavina continues to work with Statistics Canada to have the downtown area of Charlottetown be considered a “Census Tract” for the 2011 census. This designation would give Islanders have freely-available demographic information of the same sort that is available for cities like Moncton, Saint John and Halifax.

Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Board discussed the invitation to provide input to a working group on intangible cultural heritage initiated by the Iris Group. It was agreed by consensus that such a process was integral to the mission of QoIL and critical to quality of life. If initiatives can result in improved access points for elders and others in preserving intangible cultural heritage, it should be done. A suggestion was made to install access points in elder care facilities and ensure that other institutions are mindful of protecting a broad range of intangible heritage materials.

Dates to Remember

- ▶ Thursday, May 8 -Board Meeting (tentative)
- ▶ May 20 -Annual General Meeting 7:00 p.m. Stratford Town Hall

Coming Soon ...

Keep checking the web for the new Institute of Island Studies website - which will also host a Quality of Island Life Co-operative site.

You never know what peace is until you walk on the shores or in the fields or along the winding red roads of Prince Edward Island in a summer twilight when the dew is falling and the old stars are peeping out and the sea keeps its mighty tryst with the little land it loves. You find your soul then. You realize that youth is not a vanished thing but something that dwells forever in the heart.

-Lucy Maud Montgomery