

A Very Good Year for Parking at UPEI

by Mariève MacGREGOR

"[The parking situation] is very good this year. Everything is relative, so I guess relatively good is a better answer. It's definitely better than this time last year," says Vice President of Finance and Facilities Neil Henry.

The system is fairly simple: cars must have a permit. If a car does not have a permit sticker, it will be either ticketed or towed.

"The permit is in place to regulate parking," says Henry.

"The \$50 rate is incredibly low when compared to that of other universities in the Atlantic region ... If parking was free, you could pave over this entire campus and not have enough space ... The fee is in place to make people more efficient about how they arrive on campus." The system was implemented in 1995 to discourage people from bringing a car. The financial reward for the University was also likely a factor in the implementation of the fee system.

There are over three thousand students attending UPEI this year, part-timers included. There is a staff of over one thousand employees. Last year, there were 1,111 general parking spots, and eighty-six reserved parking spots. This year, with the additional parking in C lot (by the new classroom-centre) and the lot by the new Student Centre, we have 118 new parking spots. So, to sum up these numbers, there are four thousand people on campus daily, and 1,202 general parking spots, excluding the 109 reserved spots and fourteen spots for the disabled.

So why don't we have at least two thousand spots to accommodate at least half the university population?

"Last year there were complaints about not being able to find a parking spot, particularly between 8:30 and 10:00 am," explains Henry. In the winter, the parking situation is not helped by snow, which can bury forty to fifty parking spaces. He sent security to do a survey of vacant spots

in all general lots at specific times of the day, four times per day, for three weeks.

"The worst that it came to was thirty-five vacancies. Lot D [the farthest away, out in the football field] is rarely ever full, but students arriving late and looking for spots close to the buildings, they are the ones who are complaining." (*Anyone who has walked from lot D across the open field in the winter may appreciate why there are often vacancies in that particularly cold corner of hell.* -Ed.)

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Henry says he has received no complaints so far this year.

"Not everyone likes to complain, so chances are that there are ten people for every one complaint that is filed."

The additional parking, added with the building of the classroom and student centres have obviously been a help. While at the moment the parking by the Student Centre is reserved, it will become general parking next year. When the Barn is torn down, it will not be used for parking, because of the slope of the ground and foundation. Most likely, it will be a prospective building site.

So what does it take to get a lot in place? Well, for starters, the new parking added this year is estimated to have cost \$300,000. It took four or five months to plan out where to put it, find out what wires and pipes are running under it, and strategize how to plot the spaces for maximum use.

AVC Students Host Open House 2001

by Erin E. GRAY



Earthquaaaaaaake!!!

AVC students put on quite a show at their annual Open House on Saturday, November 3rd. With just over 2300 adults and children taking the self-guided tour of the college, vet students were able to show their pride in their school and their studies.

As always, the petting zoo was a major hit with people of all ages. Held in the teaching hospital barn, chickens, ducks, piglets, sheep, a miniature horse, a calf and cow, a draft horse and even a hedgehog were given much attention by animal lovers.

Other displays included Humane Education (where vet students visit schools to teach the children about the correct treatment of companion animals), a demonstration of clicker training (part of a humane dog training program), and a lesson in gowning and gloving for surgery. There were also aquatic displays of unique lobsters, fish and various shellfish, a fly ball demonstration, a farm service display and a demonstration of an ultrasound on a dog.

The student-organized event allows vet students to educate the public on various aspects of animal care. With over 75 percent of the 240 vet students participating, Open House is an event that is much anticipated event by both students and the public, and raises the level of interest in the Vet College.

"We had amazing support from the students. We all get so excited about Open House. It gives us a chance to enjoy our school and what we do here," says Jennifer McKay, Public Relations Representative of the Society of Atlantic Veterinary Students (SAVS).

"Staff and faculty were also incredibly supportive - without them, this event would not be possible."

Vet students have already started talking about next year's Open House, and are planning for yet more new displays and demonstrations to keep this tradition at AVC alive and improving.