

# A Political Victory for Youth

By Nick Stewart

Recently throughout the national media there have been concerns about the lack of youth participation in politics throughout Canada, which should be a concern among youth, since inactivity undoubtedly leaves the younger generation out of the decision-making process. An important factor leading to this inactivity is the lack of young elected representatives, which leaves youth feeling that those elected do not represent their views. This turns some youth away from politics. For these reasons, it is encouraging to see several young people run for office in the recent provincial and municipal elections on PEI. 25 year-old Will McFadden ran for the mayoralty of Charlottetown, while UPEI student Nick Boragina ran for the New Democrats in District 11 Parkdale-Belvedere, with Phillip MacDonald contesting District 1 Souris-Elmira.

Doubts among young people persisted however, as they saw some young candidates not polling well on election day. However, MacDonald put forth a strong campaign which came with- in just a few hundred votes of unseating veteran MLA Andy Mooney. Still, doubts may have still existed questioning whether young candidates could actually get elected to public office.

We can put those doubts to rest now. In the Summerside municipal election, 23 year-old UPEI graduate Tasia Lambe won the seat for Ward 5 Hillcrest - Platte River last Monday. It was an impressive win at that, as she defeated the incumbent councillor and finance chair, Ron Dowling. Also impressive is that this victory shows that young people can indeed get elected to public office. It represents a step forward for young people in politics, and also a step forward for the interests of young people.

Hopefully this victory will encourage more young candidates in future elections and encourage more political activity among young people, increasing our participation and input into the public process. The more we as students participate in the political forum, the more often we can bring our issues to the table, and as students we face many crucial issues as we strive to further our education and find good careers.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
COMMISSION ON  
ELECTORAL REFORM

### FINAL PUBLIC MEETING

Atlantic Veterinary College  
Lecture Theatre 'A'  
Thursday, November 20th, 2003  
7:30 p.m.

### SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

UPEI President Wade MacLauchlan  
Dr. Tom Connors  
Hon. Patrick Boyer

Everyone Welcome

# Trans-Canada Trek: New Brunswick

By Rebecca Shorten

Part 7 of 9

When we crossed the border from Quebec into New Brunswick, we had to make a decision. Time was beginning to run away from us. We had to decide whether to take the longer, winding coastal route and see the Acadian villages or take the straighter inland route to Nova Scotia. I wanted to see the Acadian villages, but my friend was feeling the urgency to get back to Kingston, so we compromised and took the inland route to Kouchibouguac Park. I don't really feel it was much of a compromise, but at least the park was beautiful.

Camping at the park was full, so we had to go to a nearby private campground. But we went back to the park and had a swim at Kelly beach, which was out on a sand bar. That was pretty cool. There was a wooden board walk out to it and we saw some herons, plovers, and an osprey dive into the water for a fish. They kind of just hover there looking for a fish then just drop out of the sky into the water. We were skipping some stones and an Iranian family asked us to show them how to do it. The little girl obviously was paying attention because she got it right away, but the father was awkward at it, but he somehow managed to get a couple skips in before the stone sank.

We had dinner at a little restaurant that some people had converted an old house into called "Pizza cinq étoiles." I swear, that was the best pizza I have ever eaten in my life. We had the seafood pizza, and my friend said

it was like chowder on a pizza, but it was so good. They put a lot of seafood on it, too, which was great.

Unfortunately, because we only stayed one night in New Brunswick, we didn't really get to see much of it. It appears (at least from what I saw from the highway) that most of the people live on the coast. The inland highway was not really very interesting, although it is pretty.

I was very impressed with the level of bilingualism of the province. It seems as though everyone, at least in the northern part closer to Quebec, speaks both English and French fluently. Nowhere else in Canada have I come across that. And being from British Columbia, French is not a language you come across often anyway. I am envious of those that can speak both languages so fluently.



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