

Editor,

Is UPEI phasing out the Centennial Scholars program?

This is a proud program established in the fall of 1972 to mark the province's centennial year. It has continued for over thirty years. Basically, it is a program to allow Islanders who are over sixty years of age to enrol in UPEI courses and work toward their degree without paying enrolment fees. They must still buy their books, lunches, parking, and other items. The program allows seniors, most of whom had to leave school early, an opportunity to earn that elusive degree.

The board of governors has moved to limit the program to one course per year. If a senior enrolls at sixty years of age and takes one course per year, how old will that person be when forty credits have been earned? And will that 100 year old student still function in class? Most of us do not have the finances, and even fewer have the will to pay \$20,000.00 for a degree we will never use. We want the degree for personal satisfaction, our late great accomplishment. At our age, it's not likely to be used for financial gain.

We need support. We ask anyone who can throw a little support (or a lot) our way please do so. Professors, both teaching and retired, university officials, past and present, politicians, seniors, groups, individual seniors, and all others who can reach the ears of UPEI authority ask them to reconsider. The legacy of the 1972 authority was the establishment of the Centennial Scholars project to mark P.E.I.'s one hundredth birthday in Canadian confederation.

It will be a sad day for all if today's legacy is the dismantling of this project.

Bill Evans
Centennial Scholar

Gambling by All Ages on the Rise

By Matt Campbell
Reporter

A recent survey of adolescents found that more than 80 percent of those between 12 and 17 years say they have gambled at least once in the last 12 months. More than 35 percent say they gamble at least once a week.

With the rise in online poker and real money gambling, more and more youth are getting turned on to this 'new to them' gambling phenomenon.

Stats Canada also did a study on the effects of gambling in Canada. They found that three quarters of all adults have gambled in 2002 and estimated that 1.2 million adult Canadians were at risk of experiencing a problem with gambling, or were problem gamblers.

"These 1.2 million individuals represented 5% of the total adult population, and 6% of all gamblers. That is, they had suffered adverse effects from their gambling behaviour, such as financial or social problems, anxiety or depression, or dependence on alcohol."

The figures between both studies show similarities, which question the effectiveness of youth gambling laws with concerns to VLTs, lotto tickets and other illegal gambling.

"In 2002, an estimated 18.9 million adult Canadians wagered \$11.3 billion on everything from VLTs, lottery tickets and bingos, to blackjack and slot machines in casinos. This amount was more than a four-fold increase from \$2.7 billion a decade

earlier."

The addition of Charlottetown's new "Racino" may soon be adding to these figures. That is, the opening of some 225 new video lottery terminals (VLTs) in the Charlottetown Driving Park.

Though there was significant public appeal from the public and many of the Churches, Binns and the provincial government decided to go ahead with plans for the new Racino in efforts to revitalize the racing industry and boost government funding.

Texas hold'em, a rapidly growing style of poker is currently one of the most popular sought after means of gambling. Specifically, poker-room.com offers real or play money accounts where users can refill anytime they like, without repercussions in the game. They also offer spots for winners in the World Series of Poker, which costs approx. \$10 000, where the best in the world duke it out for a grand prize of several million dollars. The online gambling community is increasing exponentially.

This leads to some questions among the Atlantic Lotto Corporation. Will they accomplish a reputable image in the online community, and are we seeing an end to those static VLTs. One thing we do know, is that