

Matthew Hayes in Fredericton, a Mayor for complete communities

By TAEYON KIM

Come this May, the citizens of Fredericton will be asked to choose a mayor, and Matthew Hayes is hoping they'll make a choice for a change. Hayes will be running against incumbent Brad Woodside, who has been mayor of Fredericton for a total of 21 years.

Hayes has a vision for the city of Fredericton. Imagine a city where every neighborhood has a green grocer's, a community garden, a daycare, a park, a café, a restaurant, and convenient public buses that connect you to the rest of the city. Imagine that you can get to work, shop and take your kids to school without having to always use a car. In place of the large dead spaces of asphalt parking lots that sit empty most of the time, imagine a string of small shops, cafes, parks, a community garden, and a public promenade with residences interspersed throughout. Now imagine that you get to help decide what the city does for your community and neighborhood.

Welcome to Complete Communities, one of the "Great Ideas" linked to Matthew Hayes' mayoral campaign. An urban design that makes vibrant, walkable neighborhoods and communities its central feature, complete communities makes it possible to meet your daily needs right in your own neighborhood. It flies in the face of the conventional separation of residences and businesses that require every errand to be taken by car; encourages the growth of small, local businesses; and lets residents have a greater say in how they want their own communities to be built and designed. It improves neighborhood safety and security by bringing more people out into the open, turning empty streets into active and lively public spaces, and reducing street traffic because of increased foot traffic. It is also possible to retrofit exclusively residential suburbs into complete communities, offering local walkable options to suburban residents, rather than a lengthy commute just to pick up a carton of milk.

The future of Fredericton lies in complete communities. Fiscally, it saves money for the city and its residents. As Hayes explains, "This is a competitiveness issue for our city. Sprawl development is going to cost us increasingly more money, both collectively through taxes, and individually through our reliance on automobiles to meet our daily needs." The current direction of Fredericton's urban development is unsustainable.

Things are changing, within the city and without. Outside the city, oil is peaking and with it the price of a litre of gas is skyrocketing. Fredericton needs to prepare itself for a future where formidable oil costs mean residents can look for various alternatives for getting around. And, in a world where high transportation costs will also mean higher costs for imported goods, a sound local economy will be our best bet to ensuring economic security.

In the city, the population is growing and changing. People from rural communities are migrating to the city, as are people from farther afield. Frederictonians are also aging. Our demographics are changing, and with them, our needs as residents. The city must foster communities that service these changing needs.

Also in the city, increasingly extreme weather, such as heavy rainfall and warmer than normal winters followed by flooding, means Fredericton needs to guarantee all safeguards against the fallout of these changing weather patterns. This means protecting the city's existing wetlands and natural watersheds, and minimizing non-porous asphalt covers. In practice, this means that our communities should be limiting the paving of green, undeveloped lands both within and without the city.

But, in light of all these issues, the city of Fredericton is continuing on its path of unsustainable development, pretending that it can proceed with business as usual. Faced with this inertia, Hayes believes that Fredericton needs a mayor that will act on these ignored and marginalized issues.

Fredericton has enormous potential to become a model for what a truly smart and sustainable city looks like. One that prioritizes the needs of its residents over the needs of commercial interests outside the city; one that values local quality of life over big box design; one that is prepared to meet a changing future.

Taeyon Kim is a volunteer with Matthew Hayes' mayoral campaign.

Saying goodbye to Florian Levesque

By TRACY GLYNN

Inka Milewski calls Florian Levesque a giant in New Brunswick's environmental and social justice wars. Florian, 53, died on March 23rd while jogging. "He was my friend and fellow strategist. He was a happy, creative and generous person that lived and breathed his commitment to the people around him and the community he lived in," said Milewski who worked with Florian on numerous files aimed at protecting the environment and people of northern New Brunswick. Florian was a driving force behind efforts to stop the Bennett toxic waste incinerator from operating in Belledune. He was also active on campaigns to protect the public forest of New Brunswick and make community forestry a viable option in the province.

Florian's environmental activism was rooted in principles of environmental justice, which led to the NB Media Co-op recruiting him as their founding environmental justice advisor. His wise and witty commentary graced many columns of newspapers, airwaves of radio stations and email inboxes of organizers in a variety of environmental and social movements. Recently, Environnement Vie, a co-operative that thrived with Florian's direction and dedication, held workshops throughout northern New Brunswick on how to live more sustainably. He wanted to start a school that imparted knowledge of the forest and how to protect and restore it.

Florian lived in Ontario for several years and returned to his native home of Balmoral, near Campbellton, in 1993. Florian's activism was not limited to New Brunswick. He was a member of Solidarité Acadie-Palestine and donated generously to the Canada Boat to Gaza campaign, which is determined to break Israel's blockade on Gaza and deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza. He believed in the power of stories, art and theater to change the world. He was a passionate speaker and storyteller. As the



Environmental activist, Florian Levesque, died on March 23rd. He was well-known for his efforts to stop the Bennett toxic waste incinerator from operating in Belledune, and for his theatrical political protests. Photo courtesy of Inka Milewski.

character, Monsieur Flo, he got children to open up their imaginations to a world of possibilities. His life story inspires all those fighting for environmental and social justice. Florian is survived by his partner Alexandra (Alex), his son Jeremy, his parents, siblings and in-laws. His family asks that donations in his name be made to Environnement Vie or Amnesty International.

Women's Work

(continued from page 1) ...legislation comes from Québec. Under this model, employers are required to bring female-dominated job classes up to par with male-dominated ones within their workplaces. Where there are no male-dominated classes to compare to, which is so often the case in child care agencies and many other social service agencies, there is a mechanism of comparison with like-jobs in the job market. However, as you have so correctly pointed out, pay equity legislation cannot correct the low wages which result from the privatization or contracting out of government-mandated services such as child care. That is one of many compelling reasons why we need publicly-run, publicly funded, universally available and accessible child care. The NB Child Care Coalition was formed to achieve this goal.

CW: How has the media covered your coalition's work on pay equity?
VS: We have much more difficulty getting covered by the major English-language newspapers compared to *L'Acadie Nouvelle*, *Radio-Canada*, etc., which are more willing to cover local and community news and events. We are glad that *The Brief* is willing to feature the Coalition and the issue of pay equity so that our message can reach the rest of the province.
CW: For someone who wanted to get more information on this topic, or get involved, what do you recommend?
VS: To get more information or get involved in the NB Coalition for Pay Equity, you can call our Moncton office at 855-0002 and ask for Johanne Perron, Executive Director, or you can visit our website at www.equitequity.com/home. It's people like you and me working together that can make a difference!

In Brief... Community Calendar

- The Harper government came under fire for allegedly making **robocalls** (automated calls) to Liberal voters in up to 18 ridings to falsely inform them of a change in location of their polling station. Elections Canada and the RCMP are investigating reports of these calls.
- According to leaked documents, the Harper government wants to **remove fish habitat protection** from legislation in order to "modernize" the legislation and speed up approvals for projects like pipelines and mines.
- Email evidence has surfaced to suggest Defense Minister **Peter MacKay** instructed military personnel to dig dirt on opposition MPs. These instructions allegedly came about after MacKay was found to have used a search-and-rescue helicopter during a fishing trip in 2010. MacKay responded to the allegations, saying he "would not comment on whether military personnel had been inappropriately used for political purposes or whether an investigation would be launched."
- According to recently released data, **Canadian arms companies** sold \$4 billion worth of military weapons and ammunition to Saudi Arabia, which is believed to have been used against government protesters in Bahrain last year. The 2011 sales were over 100 times higher than the 2010 amount of \$35 million. More than 30 protesters were killed in Bahrain, hundreds were wounded and nearly 3,000 were arrested.
- New information surfaced suggesting the federal government has been instructing **CSIS**, Canada's spy agency, to use information obtained through torture. Government policy states that CSIS discard any information that could be tainted through torture.
- **Bernardo Vasquez Sanchez**, a Zapotec activist, brother, son, and cousin, who dared to oppose a mining project in his community was murdered by gunmen on March 15th. He was aware that a paramilitary group was operating in San José Progreso, Oaxaca, and that it was organized to quash opposition to a gold mine, owned by Vancouver based Fortuna Silver. His cousin, Rosalinda Dionicio Sánchez, and his brother Andres Vásquez Sánchez, are in hospital with bullet wounds sustained in the same attack that killed Bernardo.

For details and updated event listings, visit nbmediacoop.org To list your event or to receive the community calendar by email once per week, email: community@nbmediacoop.org.

NB Community Harvest Gardens, a volunteer non-profit dedicated to creating accessible, inclusive, sustainable community gardens in Fredericton, invites you to Green Thumb Workshops. On April 12 at 7pm, learn about soil, manure, composts and teas, mulches, watering, weeding and harvesting at the St. Mary's Anglican Church, 780 McEvoy St. Each workshop is \$10 or included with an \$10 annual membership. On site child care is provided by Bubba Jane of WEE CAN TOO! For more information, visit: www.nbchg.org or call Madeleine at 506 292-7646.
May Day in Moncton. The Moncton District Labour Council will be holding their annual May Day Banquet to celebrate International Workers' Day at the Lions Community Centre on May 1st at 6pm. Tickets are now on sale at \$20 and must be purchased in advance.
Cinema Politica's documentaries take us to places like Afghanistan, Palestine, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, indigenous territories and prisons where dehumanization and destruction wreaked by capitalism and colonialism warrants our examination, analysis and action. In Fredericton, films are screened on Fridays at 7pm at Conserver House, 180 Saint John Street. In Sackville, films are screened at Wu Centre, Dunn Building at Mt. Allison University. Cinema Politica chapters also exist in Sussex, Bathurst, Moncton, Taymouth and Saint John. Check out film schedules here: www.cinemapolitica.org.

visit nbmediacoop.org!

Membership Options

- ☐ \$3/month ☐ \$10/month ☐ \$25/month
- ☐ \$10/year ☐ \$25/year ☐ \$50/year
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ I would like to be a member, but I cannot be a sustainer at this time.

Payment Options

- ☐ cash ☐ Please send me an application form to establish monthly pre-authorized payments from my bank account.
- ☐ cheque

Please mail application forms and cheques to the NB Media Co-op at 180 St. John Street, Fredericton, NB E3B 4A9. Thank you!