

## Land use

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"In the late 1970s, we waded into district land use plans, and I wrote the plan for the Terrace Bay District," he says.

A "phenomenal" amount of research went into that document, Robinson says, and it was intended to provide the history of the area.

"We to give people some basis on which to comment," he says.

Public meetings began after that, and people were asked to give their opinions on what should go into the plan. A first draft was produced, and more public consultations were held.

"And people tore (the first draft) to shreds—which is exactly what we wanted them to do," Robinson says.

After second and third drafts were critiqued by the public, Robinson says the Terrace Bay District Land Use Guidelines was published in 1983.

"We divided the district into 13 separate areas, detailing what people had told us through the planning process what they would like to see happen in these areas, and what they would not," he says.

"We ended up with a workable compromise between citizen's desires and goals and government goals."

Robinson says the 1983 document also included a commitment to develop "a more detailed management plan" for the areas.

"One of the best scenarios—and I think the ultimate end of land use planning—is the Rosspoint Islands Group, where the government is willing to back right off and let local citizens do the planning," Robinson says.

"They are ground breakers—there's nobody like them in the province."

## New Horizons grant for Birchwood Terrace



Residents at Birchwood Terrace have received a cheque for \$3,060 from New Horizons Program of Health and Welfare Canada. The money will be used to purchase a video camera so the residents can videotape outings and show them to those who are unable to attend. New Horizon's Renée Lanthier helped Birchwood get the grant.

The money will also be used to refurbish their shuffleboard table.

### Northern Insights

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looking in.

Senior levels of government will still be able to "download" fiscal responsibility for services like welfare and education on to the property tax-based municipalities.

Municipal councils will be left with only the right to complain.

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