

Canadian planners have great stories to tell. This issue features a first person article that we can all take a lesson from. It's a great example of the formidable challenges we face in this wonderfully diverse and expansive country of ours.  
 Planned Creativity – Stories, Poems, Cartoons...send us your submission today.

# My First Planning Assignment

by Rob Roycroft

As a recent graduate, I was working with the Government of the Northwest Territories in Yellowknife when we received an urgent call for a subdivision plan from a remote community on the eastern shore of Baffin Island. Apparently houses were being delivered on that summer's barge, and there were no lots available for them.

No problem for the new planner. Despite never having been to Lake Harbour, and just having arrived from Southern Ontario, I knew it all! Springing to work, studying air photos and poring over maps revealed an empty flat area that had a few piles of rocks on it. Perfect spot, I concluded. Quick as a wink a subdivision was designed, plans sent off and I relaxed feeling very smug at having achieved an outstanding success on my very first try! The design even maximized southern exposure long before energy conservation was even heard of.

I was more than a little disappointed at the lack of thanks and recognition as we never even heard back from the community. Oh well, I surmised, welcome to the realm of the public servant. All work and no thanks. Get used to it, I thought.

A year later I had an opportunity to travel to the community and was quite surprised to see the houses still sitting on the beach where they had come off the barge. What was going on, I wondered? Why are they not sitting on that great new subdivision? Who's in charge here anyway?

Fortunately I did not identify myself as the author of this stunning piece of work, as later I found out the site on which I had planned the design was actually the location of the community's cemetery. This explains the scattered piles of rocks, as it was not possible to excavate into the frozen ground.

Red of face, I vowed then and there never to undertake a planning exercise without some form of consultation and site visitation... another lesson learned the hard way! ■

**Rob Roycroft, MCIP**, has held many planning and municipal administration roles across the country and in 2004 started his own firm, Roycroft Consulting Services, that provides services to local governments, First Nations and private sector clients. He can be reached at: [robroycroft@shaw.ca](mailto:robroycroft@shaw.ca)

*"If it works, it is an architectural wonder.  
 If it fails, it is a planning disaster."*

Dennis Peck, MCIP

## Editorial Submissions to Plan Canada

Plan Canada welcomes material of interest to its readership. Submit proposals, outlines, or drafts of articles to *Plan Canada*, by e-mail to:

Mark Seasons, PhD, MICP, RPP;  
 Editorial Board Chair  
[mseasons@fes.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mseasons@fes.uwaterloo.ca)

Contributors who want their material refereed should send an electronic copy (in Word or RTF format) to:

Richard Milgrom, PhD;  
 Editor for Peer-reviewed Articles;  
[milgrom@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:milgrom@cc.umanitoba.ca)

Submissions may not exceed 2000 words; shorter pieces are preferred.

For more detailed information, see the submission guidelines for contributors on the CIP web site at:  
[www.cip-icu.ca/English/planCanada/writers.htm#1](http://www.cip-icu.ca/English/planCanada/writers.htm#1)

## Soumissions d'articles pour Plan Canada

Plan Canada souhaite recevoir tout article pouvant intéresser ses lecteurs. Soumettez-nous vos propositions, résumés ou ébauches d'articles par courriel à :

Mark Seasons, PhD, MICU, RPP;  
 président du comité de rédaction  
[mseasons@fes.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mseasons@fes.uwaterloo.ca)

Les auteurs qui souhaitent faire réviser leurs documents par un comité de lecture sont priés d'en envoyer une copie électronique (en format Word ou RTF) à :

Richard Milgrom, PhD;  
 rédacteur responsable des articles révisés  
[milgrom@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:milgrom@cc.umanitoba.ca)

Les articles ne devraient pas dépasser 2 000 mots, les articles plus courts sont préférables.

Pour plus de détails, consultez le guide de soumission des articles sur le site de l'ICU à :  
[www.cip-icu.ca/French/planCanada/writers.htm#1](http://www.cip-icu.ca/French/planCanada/writers.htm#1)

**In order for you, as a member, to express your thoughts on the content of Plan Canada, we are dedicating this area to members' letters and opinions. We welcome all members' involvement. Please address your letters to Michelle Garneau, Publisher at: [garneau@vl.videotron.ca](mailto:garneau@vl.videotron.ca)**

**Afin que vous puissiez, en qualité de membre, exprimer votre avis au sujet du contenu de Plan Canada, nous réservons cette section aux lettres et aux opinions des membres. Nous vous encourageons fortement à vous en prévaloir. Veuillez acheminer votre correspondance à Michelle Garneau, rédactrice, à l'adresse : [garneau@vl.videotron.ca](mailto:garneau@vl.videotron.ca)**