

St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board

Annual Performance Report

April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008



Chairperson's Message

September 11, 2008

Honourable Kathy Dunderdale
Minister of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

In accordance with the provisions of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for category 3 public bodies, I am pleased to submit the Annual Performance Report for the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board based on its Activity Plan for the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board has a mandate to hear appeals of the decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. Through the appeals process, the Board ensures that plans for development within the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area conform with the provisions of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Development Area Regulations under the *Lands Act*.

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board was successful in fulfilling its goal for the fiscal year as identified through its Activity Plan. My signature below is on behalf of the Board and indicative of the Authority's accountability for the preparation of this Report and for the results reported on its activities for 2007-2008.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Jean Roberts

Mary Jean Roberts
Chairperson

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Overview

Section 7 of the St. John's Urban Region Agricultural Development Area Regulations under the *Lands Act* provides for the appointment of an appeal board to review decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. The Appeal Board, also known as the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board, is to be appointed by the Minister. The Board must have at least three people.

Board Members:

The Appeal Board membership includes: Ms. Mary Jean Roberts, Chairperson, Ms. Mary Bishop, Member and Mr. Peter Morris, Member.

Budget:

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board receives extensive operational support from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency. Employees of the Agency perform many day to day administrative functions. Budgetary support for operations is provided through the Agency, as well.

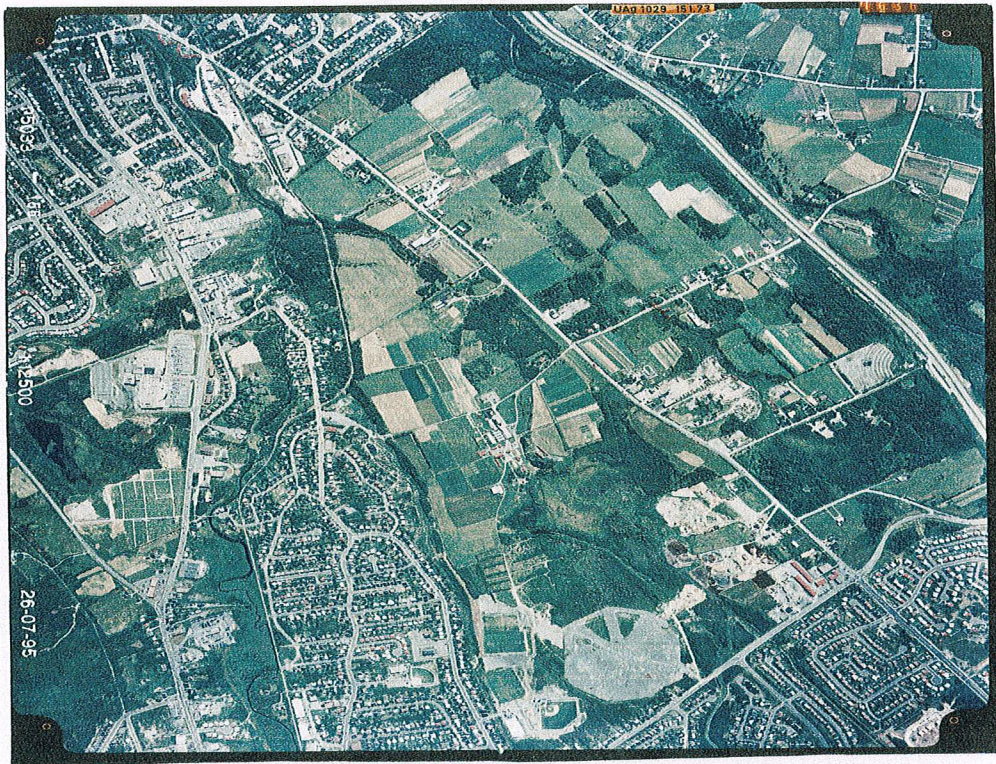
Contact:

For further information contact: Mr. Raymond Tucker, Development Control Officer, Brookfield Road. (T) 729-6599



Mandate:

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board was established to hear appeals of the decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority concerning applications for land development in the Agricultural Development Area of the St. John's Urban Region as defined by the *Lands Act*. The Board may recommend that the Minister of Natural Resources uphold, reverse or vary a decision of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority and record in a minute book the attendance and proceedings of the Board at all appeal hearings.



Vision:

Through assessment of appeals of the decisions of the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority to assess applications to develop land in the St. John's Urban Region Development Area in a manner consistent with agricultural purposes, the St. John's Urban Region Agricultural Appeal Board contributes to the vision of the Department of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, stated as follows:

"The vision of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency is of a province that is realizing the full benefit from its forestry and agrifoods resources in a sustainable manner."

Mission:

Whereas the purpose of the St. John's Agriculture Development Area is to protect agriculture land, the St. John's Urban Region Agricultural Appeal Board's review of development applications is consistent with the mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency for the reporting period as it relates to sustainable resource management. The following is an excerpt from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency Strategic Plan for 2006 to 2008:

"By March 31, 2011, the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency will have: implemented programs necessary to sustain the province's forest ecosystems; identified and facilitated further opportunities for sustainable agriculture and agrifoods resource development; and optimized the benefits received from these resources."

Through development of its Strategic Plan for 2008 to 2011, the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency amended aspects of its mission statement. A discussion of how the St. John's Urban Region Appeal Board contributes to the Agency's revised mission is contained in the Board's Activity Plan for 2008 to 2011. A complete statement of the Agency's mission is contained in its Strategic Plan.

Outcomes of Activities

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board reviews appeals of decisions made by the St. John's Land Development Advisory Authority. All Appeals are given due consideration under the regulations. The Board makes a recommendation to the Minister. The appellants are notified by the Minister of her decision in consideration of the recommendation of the Appeal Board.

The Activities of the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board are consistent with the Strategic Direction of the Minister of Natural Resources to sustain agriculture and agrifoods development.

Goal: By March 31, 2008, the St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board will have carried out its functions under the applicable *Acts* and Regulations.

Measure: Carried out responsibilities

Indicators:

- All appeal applications reviewed
- Minutes of proceedings recorded
- Recommendations made to the Minister of Natural Resources

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board reviewed all twelve applications for appeals (ten for residential developments, one for quarry development and one for commercial food processing development). Six of the appeals were refused and six were approved.

The Minutes of the meetings were recorded. The Board's recommendations were forwarded to the Minister in a reasonable timeframe for her decision.

Opportunities and Challenges

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board expects a similar level of appeals in future years; however, the implications of the St. John's Urban Region (Agriculture) Development Area Review Commission's recommendation on the review of the boundaries of the Agriculture Development Area of the St. John's Urban Region may have an impact on the number of development applications and as a consequence on the number of Appeals.

Conclusions

The St. John's Urban Region Agriculture Appeal Board is committed to fulfilling its mandate and will continue to do its part to further the vision and mission of the Department of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency.