

## JILL GRANT

When **Jill Grant** first came to Halifax in 1979, she didn't plan to stay for long. "I expected to spend a few years here and then move on to pursue international development planning activities." But Nova Scotia wooed her as it does so many. "Before I knew it, I was studying planning issues and practice in Nova Scotia, and this became my home."

Jill earned an MA in anthropology at McMaster University before turning to planning. Research stints in the Canadian Arctic and in Papua New Guinea convinced her that she wanted to develop skills to help remote communities deal with the problems they faced. She enrolled at the University of Waterloo where she obtained both an MA and a PhD, and became a planner.

In 1979 Jill joined the environmental planning faculty at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Through the last two decades her research has focused on many aspects of the culture of planning: the values of planners; the dynamics of land use disputes; the characteristics of urban environments; and the nature of practice. In recent years, she has received research funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and the Japan Foundation.

"The move to Dalhousie opens exciting new opportunities for us," Jill says. She welcomes the resources provided by a larger university, and the potential for developing new collaborations. "I feel very comfortable moving into the Faculty of Architecture and Planning – I think planning thrives in a

design context." She sees the enlarged planning school as having greater strength than the two groups could have apart. She welcomes the challenge of developing new programs, and reviewing the graduate program.

Jill is an active contributor to both professional planning and academic bodies. She publishes frequently in professional journals and is currently Chair of the Editorial Board of *Plan Canada*, the journal of the Canadian Institute of Planners. Jill is regularly invited to speak at conferences and symposia. Her recent presentations include: "From Sugar cookies to Gingerbread Men: Conformity in Suburban Design, Then and Now" at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Conference, Cleveland Ohio; "Canadian Experience in Planning for Sustainable Development" at the New Approaches to Land Management for Sustainable Urban Regions Workshop, Tokyo, Japan; and "Are we there yet? Prospects and Problems in Monitoring Progress on Sustainability" at the Canadian Institute of Planners Conference, Ottawa. Jill is Program Chair for the Institute's 2003 Conference, "Building Community" to be held in Halifax.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council is supporting her current work on the evaluation of the adoption of "new urbanism", with an overlay of sustainable development, as a model for community planning.

Jill can be contacted by calling the Faculty of Architecture and Planning at 902 494 3973 or by e-mail: [jill.grant@dal.ca](mailto:jill.grant@dal.ca)



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1. Jill Grant
2. "The Dark side of the Grid: Power and Urban Design"
3. "From Sugar Cookies to Gingerbread Men: Conformity in Suburban Design, Then and Now"