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Institute of Island Studies International

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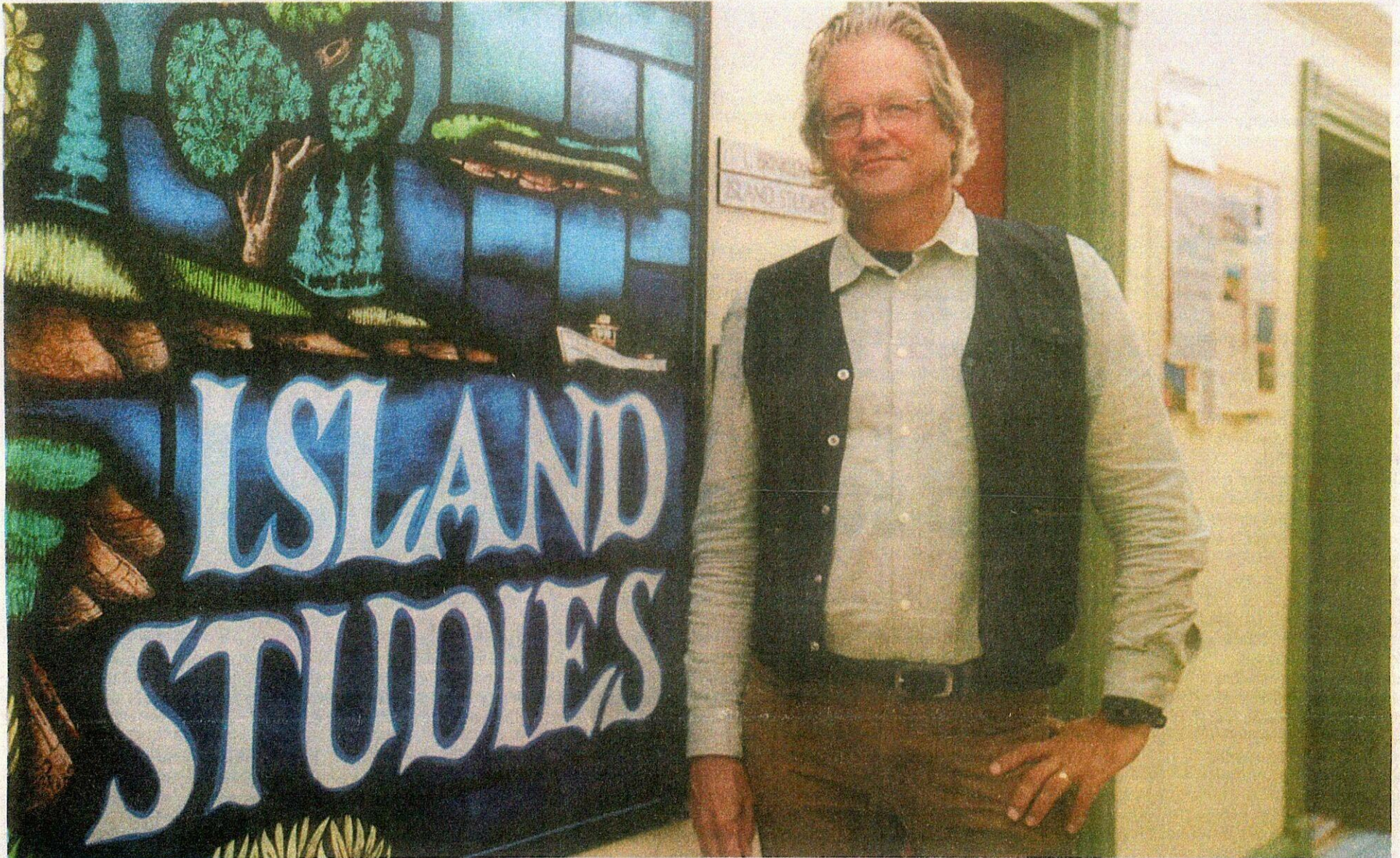


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CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

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Eric Mijts, who works at the University of Aruba, was a guest speaker at a recent Institute of Island Studies panel event to celebrate the organization's

CELEBRATION OF ISLAND STUDIES

Institute at UPEI marks 40 years of education, publishing and building partnerships

VIVIAN ULINWA

The University of P.E.I.'s Institute of Island Studies celebrated its 40th anniversary on Saturday with an international panel, reflections on its legacy, and a look ahead to the future of island research and collaboration.

The institute, which was started in 1985, has grown from a local centre focused on P.E.I. into a globally recognized hub for research on island life. Over the past four decades, it has helped shape public policy, hosted major conferences, published dozens of books, and built partnerships with island scholars from around the world.

At the anniversary celebration, Laurie Brinklow, chair of the Institute, said its mission to study and promote the unique identity of islands is just as important today as it was 40 years ago.

"Being an island, we're a special place. We've had this amazing history and so the Institute of Island Studies, in whatever way that it can promote that and keep it going, I think that's why I really love the way that we can provide evidence for policy making that can actually feed in to public policy and maybe make a difference here on Prince Edward Island."

Brinklow said the institute has



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had a hand in many projects that show how small jurisdictions like P.E.I. can use their independence to create their own solutions. She also spoke about the institute's long-standing commitment to publishing local stories.

'ISLANDNESS AS OUR SUPERPOWER'

Brinklow said one of the most important ideas that's emerged over the years is the idea of "islandness as our superpower"

which she described as the special sense of place, community and connection that comes from living on an island.

"If we can harness that 'islandness,' I think that and we already punch above our weight around the world, let's just keep telling that story back to us, so that we believe it and that we are self-determined and really vibrant and wonderful place, because this is why we're here."

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Council wants input on JET decision

LOGAN MACLEAN

Charlottetown's city council pressed frustration recently was left out of the decision to new provincial police unit, but police chief says it's not the

The P.E.I. government launched a joint enforcement unit, earlier this year with members of the Summerside police and

While Charlottetown didn't police Chief Brad MacConnery mayor and CAO sent a letter to the province outlining concern about the project's lack of planning and the city's funding agreement with the province.

But some councillors say they should have been part of the process.

Coun. Terry Bernard said the communication was between governments, which means it should have been a government response. But council members even know about the decision hadn't come up in the legislature during question period, he said at the June 10 regular council meeting.

"They're not asking staff to make the decision. They're asking council to make a decision."

Coun. Mitchell Tweel called on the police chief to draw up a report on what the province is offering, and what the city would need to get involved in a provincial team.

He also said if the issue had come to council, then he would have a better answer for residents asking why Charlottetown is involved.

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