

Michael Hart

Michael is in Dalhousie's masters of planning program going into his second year. Planning is multidisciplinary and Michael enjoys the range of subjects such as geography, sustainability, architecture, and economics. Planning combines all of those things into one profession, and it allows him to make a meaningful--and hopefully positive--impact on the places he lives.

Michael is from Indianapolis, Indiana. He moved to Canada to live with his now wife. During his time at The Village on Main Michael became a permanent resident. He and his wife live in the North End of Halifax.

This summer he worked with a property owner from the district to explore the development potential of their property. This involved analyzing the Land Use By-Laws, modeling the development possibilities, and presenting his findings to the developer. This project allowed him to develop his computer modeling skills as well as extend his knowledge of zoning laws and policies. His goal for the summer was to understand what it's actually like to be a practicing planner beyond academic research. He feels that he has accomplished that and now has greater confidence heading into the final year of his program.

Michael worked at The Village on Main during their campaign "Is This The Year" where they anticipated future development and began tracking past activity since the Land Use Bylaw changes of 2014. Michael took initiative and studied each property in the Village on Main district to determine its activity since 2014 and then created a map of this activity with projections of future development. This presented a visual of the trends and the verge of future development!

During community events that The Village on Main hosted or participated in Michael was networking and sharing his knowledge of the bylaws and the development possibilities within the district.

In addition to the work experience Michael had with Village on Main in the summer of 2019 he also had the opportunity to attend the Canadian Institute of Traffic Engineers Complete Streets Workshop where he learned about street design, traffic calming measures, and active transportation. He also attended the Work Nova Scotia Employability Skills Training and reviewed and practiced soft skills for the workplace.

Outside of work Michael's interests lie in hiking, running, and cycling. He rode his bike to work almost everyday. Being from Indianapolis he had no choice but to be a fan of racing and went home to attend the Indy 500. He was also part of an intramural softball team with fellow planning students in Halifax.

Later this summer Michael plans on hiking the New Hampshire section of the Appalachian Trail. After he graduates, he hopes to remain in Halifax and find a job within the field of planning. The Village on Main helped him reach that future by connecting him with people in the industry.