

November 14, 1986

Providence pleases geographers

New England and eastern Canadian geographers recently held their 61st annual meeting at a hotel in downtown Providence. The 175 college and university faculty members, including some college students, were joined by 40 public school teachers for the two-day conference on urban revitalization.

The meeting, according to several sources, was deemed very successful but the real winner was the city of Providence.

The attendees left the city extolling its new developments, rehabbed buildings, improved waterfront, architectural beauty, historic attributes, fine restaurants and new spirit. And the common reaction to this brief glimpse of the

downtown where every part is accessible by foot was to "return to this exciting city to spend more time and see more of it."

This was not the case 10 years ago when one was almost embarrassed to show visitors a depressed and depressing downtown.

The cooperation of various groups to put our best foot forward to visitors is what helps account for revitalization in the city. In our case it was the Rhode Island Department of Economic Development, Providence Department of Planning and Development and the Providence Preservation Society together with a special effort by the Greater Providence Convention and Visitors Bureau that contributed to the success of the meeting, but it was the new Providence that provided the best attraction for our guests.

I was pleased and proud to make our capital city available to the members of the New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society.

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Providence