

A Message from the President

I hope everyone has had a good opportunity to recharge your batteries during the March break and adjust to the time change. This is an exceptionally busy time of year for teachers and administrators as we head down the so-called homestretch.

It is also a very busy time for NBTA activities: NBTA election for provincial Vice - President with voting the week of April 24 to April 28; Branch Annual Meetings and retiring teachers' functions are being planned by local branch leaders; and provincial Council Day is planned for May 5th.



These activities on behalf of teachers are all being planned by volunteer classroom teachers across the province with the assistance of our NBTA staff. I want to commend all of you for your dedication for what you do on behalf of New Brunswick teachers.

NBTA ELECTIONS

Two candidates are running for the position of NBTA Vice President - Rick Cumming, Branch 1450 and Wendy Peters, Branch 1826.

Thank you to both of you for putting your names forward and I wish you safe travels and good luck with your campaigns. I encourage all members to visit the candidates' websites, Facebook pages, and Twitter feeds to become more familiar with their viewpoints. There is a link on our website to both candidates' information.

Most important of all - please vote!

BRANCH AGMs

In the next few weeks Branch Annual General Meetings will be taking place. This is an opportunity for all members to learn more about your branch and the New Brunswick Teachers' Association. It is an opportunity for all members to have input into branch decisions, and ultimately to provide guidance for the provincial association's mandate. Elections will be held for various positions at the branch level, including the selection of delegates to the NBTA AGM. I urge you to consider offering for a position on your local executive or to serve on one of your branch committees. Teachers are professional leaders and all have something to contribute.

NBTA AGM

The NBTA AGM, the highest decision-making body of the Association, takes place in Fredericton at the end of May. Delegates will discuss and vote on the NBTA Budget, Branch Resolutions to the NBTA AGM, and will celebrate the achievements and careers of colleagues. The AGM helps set priorities for the Association to guide its operations and procedures for the coming year. The meeting also features reports from the NBTA Staff on major events and progress over the past year.

In conjunction with the AGM, NBTA also holds the Retiring Teachers' Luncheon. I hope that those of you coming to the end of your teaching careers consider attending the Luncheon on Saturday, May 27.

COUNCIL DAY

Council Day is May 5th this year. The Elementary Council sessions are being held in Fredericton, Middle Level Council in Saint John, and High School Council in Miramichi. Registration will commence on April 3rd at 4pm on our website.

Three specialist strands being offered this year are: K-12 Art at the elementary site (Fredericton), K -12 Music at the Middle Level site (Saint John), and K- 12 Physical Education at the High School site (Miramichi).

DAUGHTERS of the VOTE

The New Brunswick Teachers Association joined in an exciting partnership with Equal Voice and CTF to mark 100 years of women's formal political engagement in Canada as well as Canada's 150th birthday.

Daughters of the Vote was a historic event which brought together 338 emergent women leaders between the ages of 18 and 23, one from every federal riding in Canada, to participate in an innovative event March 6 to 8, 2017 in Ottawa.

The NBTA was a proud sponsor of the ten young women representing the 10 New Brunswick Federal Ridings, as well as our two teacher facilitators, Ardith Shirley, NBTA staff and Connie Keating, Branch 0216. More information about this event will be in our next issue.

SAD NEWS

In February, we learned of the passing of a former NBTA President Brian Bawn (2003-2005). Brian will be remembered for his professionalism, conviction and dedication in his service on behalf of New Brunswick teachers. I extend my sincere sympathies to Brian's family and many friends.

INCLUSION AWARDS

On February 9, I had the pleasure of attending the Canadian Association for Community Living Awards for New Brunswick, hosted at Government House in Fredericton. I would like to congratulate all of the recipients, especially our NBTA members: Maxine Brewer, Keswick Valley Memorial School; and the K-2 teaching team at Keswick Ridge School made up of Karen Howland, Melissa Chetwynd, Heidi LeBlanc, Michelle Boreland, and Celinda Crandall.

CANADA'S OUTSTANDING PRINCIPALS of 2017

The Learning Partnership recently announced 40 exceptional educators from across the country as Canada's Outstanding Principals of 2017. I would like to extend my congratulations to all who were named, especially to the three principals who were chosen from New Brunswick - Wayne Annis, Matthew Bedard, and Nancy Matthews.

I want to conclude by congratulating all of you who received Education Leaves and wish you much success in your continued quest for learning.

Please keep in touch!