

# NB

January 10, 2007  
Vol. XLIX, No. 5

# TA News



*New Brunswick Teachers' Association*

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**Next Final Copy Deadline  
For NBTA News:  
Friday, February 2**

The Power of  
**Learning**

**NBTA**

## Welcome

**Michael Ketchum** has been named the new Teacher Counsellor for Districts 14, 17 and 18. Michael has spent the last 18 years as a science teacher, guidance counsellor, and currently as Vice-Principal at Fredericton High School.



**Michael Ketchum**

In 2000, he received his Masters of Education in Counselling from the University of New Brunswick.

In the spring of 2001, as a requirement for his Masters degree, Mike completed a practicum with Ann Kennedy in the Teacher Counselling Program, counselling teachers as a part of that experience.

NBTA has a new Director of Professional Development. She is **Ardith Shirley**. Ardith began her teaching career at Cambridge Narrows School in District 17, and moved to Chipman Forest Avenue School



**Ardith Shirley**

where she served as classroom teacher/vice-principal. In 2000, she was named principal there, a position she held until June of 2004.

In the summer of 2004, Ardith became a Facilitator of the Future to Discover Program Pilot, an initiative of the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

Ardith holds a Bachelor of Arts

## Salary Deferred Leave Plan 2006-2007

Application forms will be available from District Offices in early January 2007.

**Application Deadline is  
February 28, 2007.  
(FOR THIS YEAR ONLY)**

*(Michael Ketchum continued...)*

He has sustained his love for counselling by teaching courses at UNB. As well, he works with post-graduate students, reviewing practice tapes, and providing instruction on recommended counselling procedures.

In addition to counselling individual teachers, the Teacher Counselling Program assists in the development and delivery of numerous other services, including district and school wellness programs. Michael has been a Wellness Facilitator for District 18 for a number of years. He was instrumental in organizing and implementing the Pedometer Walking Program which was held in the fall of 2005 in District 18.

In the fall of 2004, District 18 sponsored a Wellness Day for teachers. Michael and the other District 18 facilitators organized and contributed to individual sessions which produced a very successful day.

Michael's portfolio contains a quote by Steven Covey — "For effective communication to occur, there must be a relationship of mutual trust and respect." This quote is a clear and concise representation of the role of the Teacher Counselling Program in New Brunswick. It is a collaboration of employer and employee representatives and is highly respected by all. Michael's experience will serve him well in his position.

*(Ardith Shirley continued...)*

(English and History) and a Bachelor of Education (Elementary Education) from Saint Thomas University, and a Masters in Education (Educational Foundations - Administration) from the University of New Brunswick.

In addition to her teaching and tutoring experiences at all three levels in the New Brunswick school system, she has also served as a lecturer and internship supervisor in the Education Department of Saint Thomas University, including teaching a course in "Technology Issues and Instructional Design".

As NBTA Director of Professional Development, Ardith's responsibilities include issues related to all aspects of professional development programming for NBTA, including workshops at the school, district, and provincial level, liaison with councils, as well as providing advice and assistance to individual teachers.

Externally, Ardith will be responsible for coordination of activities with the Department of Education, districts, and universities on such matters as licensing and certification, the Beginning Teachers Induction Program, and the pre-service of teachers.

Ardith took over the responsibilities as Director on January 2, replacing Nancy Roach who retired in December.

## Educational Improvement Grant Funds Depleted

Applications can be made at any time for NBTA/DOE Provincial funding for activities taking place after January 1, 2007.

\* Please note the **Middle Level Council** funds have been depleted until June 30, 2007.

### Moving? Name Change? Not Getting Your NBTA News? LET US KNOW!

In order to keep our NBTA members' database as accurate as possible, it is important that you advise the NBTA Communications Department (Carlene Merrick, 452-1833) of any changes such as marital status, home address, school location, phone number, etc., as soon as possible. This is necessary to ensure that all mailings reach our members and that our nominal roll is up to date for voting purposes. Initial information is collected on the green registration forms, but changes occur. Many of these changes occur during the summer months.



**We do not receive this updated information through any other source, so please keep us informed of any changes.**

Thank you for your assistance in helping us serve you better.

## NBTA NEWS

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Indu Varma

**W**elcome back and a Happy New Year! Starting of the New Year brings with it new dreams, hopes, and goals. It is also a time for reflection on the year gone by while looking ahead. We had a very good year last year with all teachers receiving laptops and significant class size reductions announced. As we look ahead, with the campaign promise of the new Liberal government to create the best education system in New Brunswick, we can anticipate an equally good year, if not better. Teachers will play a pivotal role in creating that best education system.

As teachers we strive hard to assist our students in obtaining high standards. Led by that same strong desire to achieve high standards, assessment results often formulate an important part of the province, district and school's improvement agenda within the accountability framework. Much credence is given to scores obtained on standardized tests written once a year.

While standardized tests may be desirable in obtaining some benchmarks and setting standards, greater emphasis must be placed on teacher-generated tests focusing on day-to-day learning needs of the child.

Part of the difficulty with standardized tests is the fact that not everything that is taught is measurable. Moreover, rarely do these tests take into account the

# Assessment for Learning: A Step Towards Being the Best

*"In the name of "raising standards" and "accountability," I fear that we're squeezing the intellectual life out of classrooms and turning schools into giant test-prep centers."*

'Carrots or Sticks?'— Alfie Kohn on Rewards and Punishment

[http://www.education-world.com/a\\_issues/chat/chat031.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_issues/chat/chat031.shtml)

diversity of needs, learning styles, backgrounds, learning environments, skill levels and abilities of all learners. Hence, there is a real disconnect between the actual teaching practices of teachers which take into account all of these differences, and the test, which is based on the premise of 'one size fits all'.

Consequently, as stated by Alfie Kohn in the quote above, the real purpose of learning is overshadowed by the overriding expectation to achieve or surpass the set standards.

Realistically speaking, the fear of failing to attain the set standards causes immense pressure on teachers and students, almost to the point of warranting classroom instruction to be tailored to the test.

At that juncture, one must question what is being assessed and for what purpose? Is the objective to assess the child's ability to memorize and retain information pertaining to the content or to assess the child's ability to process information, think creatively, analyze and synthesize information to construct new knowledge? In other words, is the focus on assessment OF learning or assessment FOR learning?

Assessment 'of' learning doesn't always portray an accurate picture. It further complicates matters when it is used for comparing and ranking schools' and students' performance or when it becomes the underlying reason for the learning activities structured within the classroom.

If the purpose is to assist the learner in progressing forward and becoming a lifelong learner, the assessment must be 'for' learning, with the learner's involvement. The idea is to assist the learner in reflecting on his/her performance, formulating new goals based on past performance, and for the teacher to adjust teaching strategies accordingly.

Assessment 'for' learning takes

place in the classroom where "students and their teachers become partners in the classroom assessment process, relying on student-involved assessment, record keeping, and communication to help students understand what success looks like, see where they are now, and learn to close the gap between the two," state Rick Stiggins and Jan Chappuis. "The good news is that research has shown for years that consistently applying principles of assessment for learning has yielded remarkable, if not unprecedented, gains in student achievement, especially for low achievers (Black & William, 1998). Results verify positive impacts across grade levels and school subjects." ('What a difference a word makes - Assessment FOR learning rather than assessment OF learning helps students succeed' - Journal of Staff Development, Winter 2006, Vol. 27, No. 1)

Clearly, assessment 'for' learning is a crucial factor in helping children succeed. This being the case, assessment 'for' learning certainly has merit in propelling us towards that coveted first spot Premier Graham and our Minister of Education, Hon. Kelly Lamrock, want us to attain. Premier Graham had stated in an open letter to teachers that during the election campaign that 'Being first in education isn't just about test scores. It's about being the leader in giving our children the best start in life.' I agree. It is about giving each child the chance to develop to his/her fullest potential. It is about supporting teachers in their efforts to enable them to provide the best possible education to our children.

Let's work collaboratively to attain that fine balance between standardized tests and teacher-initiated assessment, which will allow us to focus on the needs of our children.

**Our children are worth it!**

# 2006-2007 NBTA PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS REGISTRATION FORM

Please accept my application to attend the NBTA Pre-Retirement Seminar to be held on (check one):

DATE OF SEMINAR \_\_\_\_\_

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ January 27- Miramichi, Dr. Losier Middle School  
 \_\_\_\_ February 10 - Sussex, Sussex High School

January 19  
 February 2

Name of Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ S.I. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Name of Spouse (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (If spouse is a teacher, please fill out a separate form)

No. of pension years you will have accumulated to June 2007 \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you planning to buy back time? \_\_\_\_\_ If "yes", how much time? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have Responsibility Allowance? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (If "yes", contact your payroll officer at your District Office and have your last 5 years' salary history faxed to Karen Vautour, 453-9795)

I am enclosing a cheque in the amount of \$5.00 / \$10.00 (please circle one) to cover the cost of registration; nutrition break, and materials to be supplied. Please make cheque payable to **New Brunswick Teachers' Association**.

***I hereby authorize the NBTA to obtain information from the Public Service Employee Benefits Division pertaining specifically to my pensionable service records. This information will be utilized to prepare my individual pension estimates for retirement purpose only.***

YES  NO

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

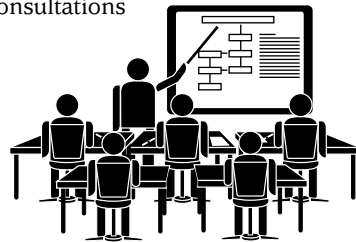
## SEMINAR GUIDELINES

The following guidelines should be noted for participation in these seminars:

1. All participants must pre-register.
2. A registration fee of \$5.00 for each participant must accompany the application; however, cheques will not be cashed until after the workshop.
3. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the participant.
4. A nutrition break will be provided.
5. Questions relating to these seminars should be directed to: **Larry Jamieson**  
 Director of Teacher Welfare Services  
 New Brunswick Teachers' Association  
 P.O. Box 752  
 Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6 (Tel. 452-1722)
6. Any interested teachers are eligible to attend.
7. All workshops begin with registration at 8:30 am and sessions at 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. *(Except Bristol, where registration will begin at 5:00pm -- Seminar at 5:30pm)*
8. Detach and return the registration form as soon as possible.

### PROGRAM \_\_\_\_\_

- Teachers' Pension Act
- The Canada Pension Plan
- Pension Records (will be available at meeting if possible)
- Pension Calculations
- Old Age Security
- Retirement Allowance
- Pre-retirement Vacations
- Deferred Salary Leave Plans
- Financial Planning for Retirement:
  - RRSPs
  - Annuities
  - Registered Retirement Income Funds
- Individual Consultations



**PLEASE NOTE: YOU WILL RECEIVE CONFIRMATION WITHIN ONE WEEK OF CONFERENCE.**

# Are You Eligible to Retire?

By Larry Jamieson, NBTA Director, Teacher Welfare Services

The New Brunswick Teachers' Pension Act (TPA) provides that a teacher becomes eligible to retire on an immediate pension:

- (a) at age 65 with 5 or more years of pensionable service (no reduction)
- (b) at age 60 with 5 or more years of pensionable service. (Pension reduced 5 per cent per year for each year under age 65)
- (c) at age 60 with 20 or more years of pensionable service. (no reduction)
- (d) when the combination of a teacher's age and service reaches 80 (reduced pension). (Reduction will be 2.5% for each index year that retirement precedes age/service index of 87).
- (e) when a combination of a teacher's age and service equals 87 (no reduction)
- (f) after completing 35 years of pensionable service (full pension)



Larry Jamieson

## Below is a checklist of things you should do when you have decided to stop teaching and receive your pension:

- If you are unsure of your pension service, check with the Public Service Employees Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources (Pensions Branch) to make sure that you are indeed eligible for retirement. Include your Social Insurance Number (SIN) and birth certificate in any communication with the Pensions Branch.
- Notify your Superintendent, in writing, of your intention to retire (the Regulations of the *Education Act* now stipulate this notification be communicated as of February 1st):
  - (a) specify the date of retirement (always at end of the month - e.g., June 30, 2007);
  - (b) provide information so that your retirement allowance can be forwarded to the financial institution of your choice.

**Note:** In the case of a disability pension, these steps will only occur once the teacher has received approval for his/her disability pension from the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources.

- Make arrangements with a financial institution to have your retirement allowance placed in a RRSP account or any other registered investment mechanism. The banking institution, trust company or credit union, etc. will then undertake the necessary steps (complete TD2 form) so that the amount is deposited directly into a RRSP account without going through your hands. Otherwise you might end up paying tax at a high rate on that amount.
- If you are age 60 or over, do not forget to apply for the Canada Pension (CPP).

### Forms to fill out at District Office:

1. Termination Notice / Benefit Request — Claim for pension benefits (copy of birth certificate(s) required)
2. TD1 — Personal exemptions for income tax purposes after retirement
3. Direct Deposit form.
4. NBTF Group Insurance form indicating what you plan to do regarding your group insurance coverage. This will allow the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division to make the necessary deductions from your pension cheque.

**Note:** It is important that the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division receive the necessary forms properly filled out (notice of termination and TD1) at least 90 days prior to the month you expect to receive your pension. The School District will look after sending these forms where appropriate.

## Pension cheques are received on the 23rd/24th of each month, except December. For any additional information on the above process, please contact:

Larry Jamieson  
New Brunswick Teachers'  
Association  
P.O. Box 752  
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6  
Tel. 452-1722

OR

Compensation & Employee  
Benefits Division  
Office of Human Resources  
P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H1  
Tel. 453-2296 or 1-800-561-4012

**Please notify NBTA Central Office as soon as possible if you have decided to retire. This will help us prepare for the provincial Retiring Teachers' Luncheon, which will be held on Saturday, May 26th.**

# NBTA Councils to Pilot Specialist Strands at May Conference

For over a decade now, the NBTA Elementary, Middle Level and High School Councils have worked diligently to provide quality professional development for New Brunswick teachers. The three-council model, while not perfect, has strengths that the previous model of nineteen councils did not have. The most important of these strengths is that the three councils have been able to grow and develop into strong vibrant bodies, recognized by all teachers as an important part of the PD landscape. Under the previous system, many small councils struggled to survive and/or to deliver programs in a meaningful or sustainable manner.

As the three councils have worked to find ways to deliver programs that meet the needs of teachers, they have come to realize that there are small groups of teachers who are in need of more specific services. These groups are referred to as 'specialist' teachers.

**A 'specialist' is defined as a teacher who probably is the only person (or one of two) who teachers that particular subject in his/her school. The teacher may be teaching across many grades (i.e. K-12) and often has no network of colleagues with whom to share ideas or resources.** Finally, a specialist is often not able to access meaningful PD from district or department sources because they do not fall under the literacy/numeracy umbrella. We typically think of music, art, phys ed, guidance and resource as specialist teachers.

For the NBTA Council Conference 2007 (May 4) the councils will **pilot** a model which will attempt to serve some of our specialist teachers more effectively.

Each council will host a 'strand' of program for K-12 teachers of a

specific specialty subject. The Elementary Council (Saint John) will offer a K-12 Art strand targeted at Art specialists. The Middle Level Council (Fredericton) will offer a K-12 Music strand, while the High School Council will host a K-12 Student Services strand.

The full programs for these strands will be posted on the Conference websites in March when the conference brochures are sent to your schools. Specialist teachers are encouraged to peruse the program

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***Each council will host a 'strand' of program for K-12 teachers of a specific specialty subject. The Elementary Council (Saint John) will offer a K-12 Art strand targeted at Art specialists. The Middle Level Council (Fredericton) will offer a K-12 Music strand, while the High School Council will host a K-12 Student Services strand.***

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strand, then register for the council that is the host. For example, a Middle Level art teacher who believes the Art strand would be a meaningful PD experience for him/her should register for the Elementary Council. Full details about registration and sessions selection will be on the websites and are specific to each program.

A few questions which teachers may have:

*Does this mean that councils will be dividing up all subjects and offering strands in the future?*

Definitely not. The NBTA Board of Directors fully endorses the three-council model. We can maintain the infrastructure to support three groups ... we cannot do so for more. The strand model, though, is a

response to expressed needs of some of our members.

*Will this model be used every year?*

This is a one-year pilot model. We will evaluate it carefully after the conference to determine if it was successful. Councils will then make decisions about whether this model works, about what ways it might be adapted to be more effective or sustainable. Feedback will be sought from participants.

*Why isn't Phys Ed included in this year's model?*

Physical Education is one of the most clearly delineated specialist areas, to be sure. The Councils felt that three strands was the most that they could handle attached to programs for this year. Since New Brunswick is the site of a National Physical Educators' conference in May, they made a decision to pilot the model using Music, Art and Student Services for this year. This is not in any way a reflection on how Phys Ed teachers are valued!

*Is there any additional fee for the Specialist strand programs?*

Teachers registering for specialist strands will pay the same registration fee (\$30) as all teachers. They can also register on-line as per the regular process. It is important that specialist teachers read the special program details for further instructions about the registration process. These will be found on the NBTA website Council Conference section (live in March).

*What if we build it and no one comes?*

Then we will know that this is not what specialist teachers want! It is hoped that specialist teachers will find the programs valuable and will choose to attend them rather than their regular council program. If this doesn't happen, then Councils will know that this is not a model we should include in the future.

# National Inclusive Education Achievement Awards

## NB Association for Community Living Announces Winners

(Fredericton) The Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL), a Canada-wide association of family members and others, which works on behalf of persons of all ages who have an intellectual disability, announced the New Brunswick recipients of the National Inclusive Education Achievement Awards at a ceremony held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Fredericton.

The Inclusive Education Achievement Awards are presented to an individual or teams who have made a positive contribution to inclusive education in their province or territory. Winners for each province were selected by provincial and territorial Associations for Community Living.

Michael Bach, CACL Executive Vice-President and NBACL President, Clarence Box, presented the awards to the New Brunswick recipients. Nackawic High School from District 14 received the award for becoming a "model school" for best practices in inclusive education.

From District 18, Connaught Street School and the Extra Mural team received the Partnership for Inclusion Award. Each year, this award is presented to two groups whose partnership has made a positive impact on their school or community by promoting inclusive education.

"NBACL owes a debt of gratitude to the parents, professionals and others who challenged the accepted practices and values of the past," says Mr. Box.

The ceremonies were held on Sunday, November 26th as a part of National Inclusive Education Week kick-off.

*NBACL/ANBIC is a non-profit organization which works on behalf of children and adults with an intellectual disability and their families.*

*NBACL/ANBIC was formed in 1957 and has 16 local branches throughout the province of New Brunswick.*



Pictured from left to right; Michael Bach, Executive Vice-President, CACL with recipients of the Partnership for Inclusion Award, Melanie Wood, teacher, Donna Price, teacher, Sherry Morrison and Lisa Monteith, Extra Mural Team members with NBACL Vice President, Marlene Munn and NBACL President, Clarence Box.



Pictured from left to right; Michael Bach, Executive Vice-President CACL with recipients of the Inclusive Education Achievement Award, Berna Glenn, Methods and Resource Teacher, Donna Seymour, School Principal, Cora Morrison, Teacher Assistant and Clarence Box, President, NBACL.



## Transition and New Beginnings

*"The Times They are A-Changin'" – Bob Dylan*

By Ardith Shirley  
Director of Professional Development  
ardith.shirley@nb.aibn.com

As I am writing this article, it is the end of November and I am anxiously anticipating the beginning of my new position with the NBTA. By the time you are reading this entry, it is already January and that transition is complete. A new calendar year will have begun and students and teachers around our province have come back to school ready for the second half of the school year, renewed and ready to face the forward drive to March Break.

Perhaps it is the fact that I am facing a transition myself that I seem

to be hypersensitive to all of the change and new beginnings we are currently surrounded with in New Brunswick Education. A new government means a new Minister of Education. A new Assistant Deputy Minister will soon be appointed. Our largest university is completely revamping their education program under the direction of a relatively new Dean. Almost 350 new teachers in our province are experiencing all of the firsts that come with their first year of teaching. Nearly one thousand of our members are in a position to be able to begin considering retirement.

Countless teachers will soon fill in the "Request for Transfer" or "Applications for Educational Leave"

forms as they begin to think about where they would like to begin the next school year. Administrators are anxiously anticipating that fateful "staffing meeting" for 2007- 2008 with their District Office. This year, children will start kindergarten, prepare for graduation and sadly, others may quit. This year, new schools will open, others will be restructured, and others will prepare to close.

In light of all this change, I decided to do a bit of research on the theme of transition in education. Following are some quotes found during that search. Perhaps one of the themes will resonate with a transition you, your students, or your school may be facing...

*"As grade span configuration increases so does achievement. The more grade levels that a school serves, the better the students perform. The more transitions a student makes, the worse the student performs. The longer a student stays in a given school, the better the student performs."*

Stephanie D. Wren, "The Effects of Grade Span Configuration and School-to-School Transition on Student Achievement," The Journal of At-Risk Issues (Clemson, SC: National Dropout Prevention Center/Network), Winter 2004, p.9.



*"Ensuring that children start school ready to learn requires that attention be paid to one of the most complex and significant changes they will experience- transition to kindergarten. Increasingly, however, the traditional construct of school readiness is being criticized for its disproportionate focus on a child's skill alone (Ramey & Ramey, 1999). Much of the research on school readiness has not recognized the contextual factors that impact this multi-year period of time for a child. A transition to school framework that incorporates these contextual factors is now viewed as a more accurate portrayal of how children become ready to learn. Such a framework acknowledges not only the importance of a child's skill, but also how important 'ready' schools and 'ready' communities are to the transition process."*

Marielle Bohan-Baker and Priscilla M. D. Little, Harvard Family Research Project April 2002. Available online: <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/fine/resources/research/bohan.html>



*"If you are under 30, chances are your job hasn't even been invented yet."*

Futurist, Jennifer James



*"What's special about retirement? It's a time of your life that is a major transition. It's a time to move from one way of being, to another. So many people have their identity very tied up with their work/profession/job identity. 'What do you do?' is one of the first questions people ask you when they first meet you. 'Saying 'I'm a .....' identifies 'who' you are. It suggests the level of your income, the sort of lifestyle you may have, where you might live, where you might send your children to school, what sort of clothes you might wear. And when you are retired you have to find out who you are behind the job identity. And that can be scary!" – Susan Kersley – life coach and retired medical doctor Blog site:*

<http://susankersley.blogspot.com/2006/09/time-of-transition.html>

*(continued on following page...)*



*"Schools regularly face daunting shifts: They adopt programs, change assessments, reorganize schedules, revise curriculum, reinvigorate instruction, or change personnel. Some schools encounter multifaceted change, others singular. The challenges are similar."*  
Robert J. Garmston, "Group Wise: Anticipate Change: Design a Transition Meeting," JSD, Fall 2004 (Vol. 25, No. 4).



*"After years of dreaming about being a teacher, Mary Cunningham enters the classroom full of ideals and enthusiasm, only to have her travails soon begin. At the first parent-teacher conference, she encounters opposition (based on a television commercial) to whole-language learning that results in a mandate to use phonics as the primary method of reading instruction. Her situation worsens when administration tells her to learn to deal with these things and allows a student with discipline problems to remain a disrupting force in the classroom. Receiving little sympathy from cynical veteran teachers ("Why in the world would you want to become a teacher in this day and age?"), Mary's enthusiasm slowly drains away. After two years, she resigns her position and leaves teaching, a transition that thousands of teachers make each June."* – Donald H. Parkerson and Jo Ann Parkerson, "Transitions in American Education: A Social History of Teaching," New York: Routledge-Falmer, 2001.



*"Leadership continues to be recognized as a complex enterprise, and as recent studies assert, effective leaders are more than managers. They have vision, develop a shared vision, and value the contributions and efforts of their co-workers in the organization. Transformational leadership holds promise to further an understanding of effective leadership, especially the leadership needed for changing organizations. The review of leadership literature has led to an initial identification of the six characteristics of leaders of educational change which are: • having vision, • believing that the schools are for learning, • valuing human resources, • being a skilled communicator and listener, • acting proactively, and • taking risks."*  
Sylvia Méndez-Morse, "Leadership Characteristics that Facilitate School Change," 1992.  
Text available on line at:  
<http://www.sedl.org/pubs/catalog/items/cha02.html>

*"The term 'school-to-work' (STW) suggests that peoples' lives are divided into distinct sectors of education and training in preparation for the work world. In reality, of course, people mix school and work from early adolescence through adulthood. More and more data suggest that the present structure of education may be out of sync with the needs of employers and the necessary skills graduates need to succeed."*  
ASCD Infobrief: Current Status of School-to-Work, School-to-Work Transition (November 1994, Number 1)




Transition can be defined as a process or period in which something undergoes a change and passes from one state, stage, form, or activity to another. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge another person who is also experiencing a transition. Nancy Roach created this column when she took over the position of Director of PD. Each month, for the past six years, her "PD Potpourri" kept teachers across this province informed of the latest research and trends in education. Her thoughtful insights and unique perspectives challenged each of us to look inside ourselves and question our core values and beliefs about teaching

and learning. Through her monthly submissions, Nancy Roach made me a better teacher long before I ever had the pleasure of meeting her. From speaking to teachers across this province over the last few months, I know I am not alone.

As I face my "new beginning" as Director of Professional Development, I look forward to serving you. Have an item worth sharing with your colleagues? Have a question regarding teacher certification, or your

own quest for professional development? I'd love to hear from you!

All the best to everyone as we transition to 2007!

 **Ardith Shirley**  
Director of Professional Development  
New Brunswick Teachers' Association  
P.O. Box 752  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6  
Office (506) 452-1740 Fax (506) 453-9795  
Email [ardith.shirley@nb.aibn.com](mailto:ardith.shirley@nb.aibn.com)

# Eastern Canada SMART Board Interactive Whiteboard Users Conference

Saturday, March 31, 2007

Miramichi Valley High School, 345 McKenna Avenue  
Miramichi, NB E1V 3S9

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Dear teachers, principals, superintendents and friends,

Miramichi Valley High School and SMART Technologies Inc. invite you to the first **Eastern Canada SMART Board Interactive Whiteboard Users Conference**. This Conference will improve your proficiency, effectiveness and comfort level with SMART products.

## Conference Agenda

### 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

Check-in and meet and greet

### 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Welcome session

### 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Breakout session 1 – Learn the latest in features, tools and tips for the SMART Board interactive whiteboard

### 10:30 - 10:45 a.m.

Break

### 10:45 a.m. - noon

Breakout session 2 – Demonstration of resources, SMART's online resources, Gallery, software, sample lessons, etc.

### Noon - 12:45 pm

Complimentary lunch (on site).

### 12:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Breakout session 3 – An interactive hands-on activity to create lessons in small groups.

### 2:45 - 3:15 pm

Keynote and prizes

### 3:15 - 4:00 pm

Networking session and hands-on product time.

**Note: Breakout sessions will be offered for both beginner and advanced users and in specified subject areas.**

## Conference Highlights

- Learn how New Brunswick School District 16 has become the first SMART Showcase District in the world
- Attend sessions led by SMART exemplary educators, and learn how to further engage your students and improve learning outcomes
- Meet other teachers who use SMART products
- Discuss products with representatives from SMART Technologies
- Receive easy-to-follow resources and tips
- Win SMART prizes
- Receive complimentary lunch



**SMART**  
Technologies

Space is limited. Please register early to reserve your spot and to take advantage of the early registration rate.

For more information, please visit our website: <http://mvhs.nbed.nb.ca>  
or call Scott Jamieson at (506)-627-4083.

# Eastern Canada SMART Board Interactive Whiteboard Users Conference

Saturday, March 31, 2007

## SMART Registration Form

(please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

School & District \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade level of interest** (please circle one)

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

**Proficiency with SMART products** (please check)

\_\_\_\_\_ Beginner

\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced (previous knowledge)



**Please indicate your preferred breakout session**

\_\_\_\_\_ Language Arts    \_\_\_\_\_ Science    \_\_\_\_\_ Math    \_\_\_\_\_ Social Studies    \_\_\_\_\_ Fine Arts

**Cost & Registration Dates**

\$120 if registered by January 31, 2007

\$150 if registered after January 31, 2007

### Registration forms can be faxed to:

Miramichi Valley High School at (506) 622-2977, OR mailed with cheque to  
Miramichi Valley High School, 345 McKenna Avenue, Miramichi, NB E1V 3S9  
(Make cheques payable to: Miramichi Valley High School)

For more information, please visit our website:

<http://mvhs.nbed.nb.ca> or call Scott Jamieson at (506)-627-4083.

Email: [scott.jamieson@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:scott.jamieson@nbed.nb.ca)



### Motel Information:

Please visit website.



## Middle Level Council News



**Plan to be in Fredericton on May 4th. You won't be disappointed!**

*Middle Level Council is pleased to offer*  
**New and Exciting Practices  
 for the Music Classroom**



**Ken Shorley**

Canadian percussionist and composer specializing in hand drumming from around the world.



**Dr. Ruth Morrison**

Hands on session introducing the use of Orff in the classroom.



**Dr. Lynn Randall** joins Ruth in a session on children's literature as a springboard for composition and dance.

**Alan Edwards**

Recording engineer/musician demonstrates digital recording techniques suitable for classroom and personal use.



As a bonus, Ken, Ruth, and Lynn will team up to workshop an original composition integrating African storytelling, dance, song, and drama.



### The "Middle School Code"

Follow the clues in this and upcoming issues of the NBTA News to solve the Code. Once you have all of the clues, bring them with you to Leo Hayes on May 4th. If you are the first to open the lock, you will find a prize inside.



**Clue #2**

The second number in the combination can only be obtained if you look for Iron's number, PERIODICally.

The Ramada Fredericton is taking reservations today. Check out their website at: [www.ramadafredericton.com](http://www.ramadafredericton.com)

### Wellness – Sudoku Puzzle

		9		1		5	2	
		8	9		2		1	7
				6		4		
				5			8	
		7	2	4	1	9		
	9			8				
		3		2				
9	6		3		8	1		
	8	5		9		7		

Brought to you by Middle Level Council



*"Where to be in May!"*

## Mark Your Calendars – Council Day, May 4, 2007!

- Elementary – Saint John
- Middle Level – Fredericton
- High School – Miramichi



## “Making Sense of Adolescence” — Dr. Gordon Neufeld —



Wednesday and Thursday,  
May 2 and 3, 2007  
Fredericton Motor Inn, Fredericton, NB

Check out his website:  
[www.gordonneufeld.com](http://www.gordonneufeld.com)

Full brochure and registration form available  
on our website: <http://middle.nbta.ca>

Intended for Middle & High school educators, parents, and  
helping professionals

Registration fee for teachers: \$120 (\$145 after April 4)

For more info, contact:  
[Tanya.whitney@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:Tanya.whitney@nbed.nb.ca)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Middle School Summer Institute — July 2007, Mactaquac, NB —

Call for teachers/teams/  
schools to share their expertise  
and knowledge at our second  
annual Middle School Summer  
Institute.



We will be hosting a  
“Learning Fair”. Anyone who  
has an inkling of sharing at this 2-day conference,  
please contact [Tanya.whitney@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:Tanya.whitney@nbed.nb.ca)  
with your ideas!

Looking particularly for smaller schools who  
have risen to the challenge of making the model  
work within their limits. Also, schedule  
wizards/inclusionary practitioners/assessment for  
learning specialists -- and more!

Don't be shy about sharing.

## High School Council News



• High School Council •

### President's Message



**Derek Taggart**

It seems hard to believe, but here we are approaching exam time! Before you know it winter will be over, the sun will be shining, and we will all be attending the greatest High School Council Day yet! Your High School Council Executive has been working in conjunction with the extremely dedicated and helpful staffs at James M. Hill High School and Dr. Losier Middle School to bring you a day to remember on Friday May 4th, 2007. Your Program Committee is now pouring through the requests to present at Council Day and the On-site Committee is busily preparing for the province to descend upon the Miramichi. Remember, it is never too early to think about booking your hotel room!

Your High School Council Executive met in Fredericton on Saturday November 25th. The

agenda was packed with items concerning High School Council Day, teacher professional development and curriculum assistance. At this meeting, a number of important decisions were made including the continued use of electronic registration for Council Day. We are also looking to modernize our program. A paper copy of the program will still be sent out to schools, but detailed session descriptions will only be available online. In the near future, links will be available on the NBTA Website that allow you to register using a credit card and view our program online. You will still be able to register the old-fashioned way using a cheque and paper registration form if you prefer. Just like last year, all registration materials will be mailed out prior to the Conference. All members will receive a nametag and receipt in their school mailbox. This nametag will be your ticket into the Council Day. Please do not forget to bring it with you on May 5th! Also, to avoid long line-ups on Council

Day, please make sure you pre-register for the conference! Look for more information regarding electronic registration in future issues of the *NBTA News*.

I would also like to draw your attention to a pilot project that will take place at Council Day in May. In an attempt to better serve some of our specialist teachers, a Specialist Services Committee was struck. This committee decided to create a model whereby all sessions relating to art will be offered at the Elementary Council in Saint John, all sessions relating to music will be offered at the Middle Council in Fredericton, and all sessions relating to guidance or Methods and Resource will be offered at the High School Council in Miramichi. Further details regarding this new pilot project will be available in future editions of the *NBTA News* and on our website under the program link.

The Professional Development Committee has been busy preparing several institutes that were and will be of interest to many of our

members. In December, two very successful institutes were provided on the topic of Math Make and Take Games in Moncton. The Council Executive also provided funding for a wonderful Music Conference held in Fredericton from November 17th to 19th. We are also sponsoring the upcoming National Physical Education Conference (CAHPERD) which is set to take place from May 9th to 12th at Université de Moncton. The High School Council is also co-sponsoring an institute with Middle School Council on Making Sense of Adolescence. This institute is set to take place in Fredericton on May 2nd and 3rd. Information on how to apply for these conferences should now be in

your schools. Look for updates and application forms for these and other conferences on our website or in upcoming issues of the *NBTA News*.

I would like to conclude this article by again encouraging you all to check out our High School Council website (<http://highschool.nbta.ca>). It is located in a link on the NBTA website. It is here that you will find application forms for the Teacher Recognition Awards (deadline is March 31st, 2007). It is also here where updates regarding the High School Council Day Program and Electronic Registration will be posted. Check back frequently!

Your High School Council

Executive will be having its third meeting during the evening of Friday February 2nd and the morning of Saturday February 3rd to discuss new business and plan for May 4th and the upcoming institutes. If you ever have any items you would like to see included on an agenda for these meetings or if you have any questions regarding any of the items mentioned in this article, please do not hesitate to contact me ([derek.taggart@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:derek.taggart@nbed.nb.ca)) or any of your other High School Executive members. I hope you all have a wonderful exam period and I look forward to seeing you all at Council Day!

Derek

## And the Audience says....

**T**eachers are constantly developing teaching strategies to reach students in their classrooms. Each year brings new challenges. Today's students are known as the MTV or Instant-Gratification Generation. They want everything and they want everything NOW.

School District 16 is actively involved with introducing new technology as a way of teaching this generation. One of the newest technologies being used at North & South Esk Regional High School is called a "Clicker".

The system is called a Student Response System or SRS for short. It polls the audience much like you see on the popular game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire". Clickers have been around for about 10 years and are used in many Canadian universities; however, thanks to the declining costs, they are making their way into high schools.

One of the most important factors of a Student Response System is the ability to have all students

active in classroom learning. Clickers take away the "embarrassment" or the "un-cool" factor. Student's names are not revealed and all



students can participate in answering the question.

Mr. Hendry's grade 10 Science class actively participates in a review

of what they have just learned. As the students are punching in their answers on their keypad, a chart is displayed on the SmartBoard™

showing the variety of answers from the students. Mr. Hendry instantly knows whether the students understood what he has just taught. He can also now access each student's record of responses individually to determine the best response to his/her needs.

When it comes to testing or quizzes, student response systems eliminate vast amounts of paper. Teachers program the test on their computer and students respond to each question by pressing the correct letter or number on the keypad. When the test is done, the teacher can look at his/her computer screen and see how each student performed. With some systems, the student's mark is automatically uploaded into the electronic gradebook.

The new technology is exciting and easy to use and certain to have an impact on student learning and achievement.

# Skills for Administrator Series: A Workshop for School-Based Administrators

Sponsored by the NBTA, School Districts and the Department of Education

## Share the Wisdom: A Workshop for Early Career Administrators

*(repeat of program from 2006)*

**Date:** Wednesday & Thursday, March 21-22, 2007

**Location:** NBTF Building, Fredericton

**Facilitators:** Veteran Administrators TBA

**Participants:** Open registration – Max. 40

**Registration Deadline: March 14, 2007**

If you are an early career principal or vice-principal, you will appreciate the opportunity to learn from those who have walked in your shoes for many years. A series of veteran administrators will facilitate this workshop, sharing their experiences and expertise in areas such as school improvement, staff relations, parent communication, organization hints and other topics related to the challenges, polices and people that fill your day. *(preference will be given to administrators who have been in administrative positions for fewer than 7 years)*



## Grading For Learning: What Should It Look Like in YOUR School? *(Middle & High School Administrators)*

**Date:** Tuesday & Wednesday, May 8-9, 2007

**Location:** NBTF Building, Fredericton

**Facilitator:** Ken O'Connor, author of *How to Grade for Learning*. (Ken O'Connor is one of the leading experts in this field and has presented workshops throughout the world. He works closely with Rick Stiggins and other experts in the field of Assessment FOR Learning. This is his first visit to eastern Canada.)

**Participants:** Participants selected by District Office (Max 6. seats/district)

**Registration Deadline: May 1, 2007**

Teachers are using an increasingly broad range of assessment approaches in their classrooms to improve learning. In many schools there has, however, been very little change in grading and reporting practices. The session will focus on eight guidelines for grading which emphasize learning, make grades and report cards more meaningful, and really make a difference to student achievement and attitude when applied in classrooms. The target audience is Middle and High School administrators.

*– Registration will be co-ordinated through your District Office.*



**Please fax the registration form to:**

**Ardith Shirley,**  
**NBTA Director of Professional Development**  
**506-453-9795.**

## Skills for Administrator 2006-2007

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to register for *(check)*:

\_\_\_ **Share the Wisdom: A Workshop for Early Career Administrators** (March 21–22, 2007)

\_\_\_ **Grading For Learning: What Should It Look Like in Your School?** (May 8–9, 2007)

– Registration will be co-ordinated through your District Office.

**You will be emailed with a confirmation of your seat.**



# Contests for Students

*Sponsored by the Department of Canadian Heritage*

Canadian Heritage is responsible for national policies and programs that promote Canadian content, foster cultural participation, active citizenship and participation in Canada's civic life, and strengthen connections among Canadians.

## Mathieu Da Costa Challenge —

The Mathieu Da Costa Challenge is an annual writing and artwork contest launched in 1996 by the Department of Canadian Heritage. The Challenge encourages youth to discover how diversity has shaped Canada's history and the important role that multiculturalism plays in Canadian society.

If you're between the ages of 9 and 18, you can participate in the Challenge. You'll get to use your creative talents and discover how people from different ethnocultural backgrounds have helped make Canada what it is today.

Each year, three winners are selected from each age group (9-12, 13-15 and 16-18). The winners, accompanied by a parent/guardian, receive a three-day all-expenses paid trip to Canada's Capital Region where they take part in an Awards Ceremony, hosted by the Minister of Canadian Heritage.

The deadline to participate is **February 23, 2007**.

More information is available from the website:

[www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/mathieudacosta](http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/mathieudacosta)

## Canada Day Poster Challenge—

Each year, students 18 years of age and under are invited to take part in the Canada Day Poster Challenge by designing a poster that illustrates their pride in Canada and in being Canadian. This year's theme is

A Portrait of Canada: Celebrating 140 Years.

The 13 provincial and territorial finalists will win a trip to Ottawa to celebrate Canada Day on Parliament Hill. In addition, the winning entry will become the official poster of Celebrate Canada!

The deadline for submitting a poster, along with an entry form, is **February 28, 2007**.

Further information is available from the website:

[www.pch.gc.ca/special/canada/affiche-poster](http://www.pch.gc.ca/special/canada/affiche-poster).



## School of Graduate Studies Award The G. Forbes Elliot Award for Educational Leadership

Value: \$5,000 in 2007

Duration: One year

### Description

The award is to encourage experienced teachers who have demonstrated leadership qualities related to their educational field to return to university to undertake postgraduate studies at the Master's or Doctoral level at the University of New Brunswick.

It is funded from the estate of the late Dr. G. Forbes Elliot, first Vice-President of the Saint John Campus.

### Eligibility

Recipients must have taught for a minimum of five years in the public schools of New Brunswick. They must have been accepted unconditionally into the graduate program in

education and normally be in full-time attendance at the time of receipt of the award. If in any year, in the opinion of the Selection Committee, there are no full-time graduate studies candidates who satisfy the eligibility criteria, all or part of the award may be granted to one or more suitably qualified part-time graduate studies candidates.

### Application Deadline

February 15 of the year in which the studies are expected to commence.

### Awarding Agency

The University of New Brunswick, upon the recommendation of the Selection Committee.

### Application forms available from:

The Elliot Award Selection  
Committee Coordinator  
P.O. Box 5050  
Saint John, N.B. E2L 4L5  
E-mail: [pchiasso@unbsj.ca](mailto:pchiasso@unbsj.ca)

# Ann Kennedy Reflects on Her Career

**A**s I write for *NBTA News* for the last time as a member of the Teacher Counselling Program team, I would like to reflect briefly on my work as a teacher counsellor of students, a principal, and a professional counsellor of teachers.

I rejoice in the calibre of people who mold our children. In no other profession would I have felt the pride and satisfaction I have known in my work. To have worked with the quality of people has been a gift.

Throughout my years, the theme I have heard repeatedly is "What is good for kids?" What is good for kids is certainly dependent on their teachers. I have had the privilege to work with so many teachers in very difficult circumstances. Observations of the professional responses of teachers in times of crisis have touched me deeply.

One only has to attend a debriefing after a child has died to marvel at the energy teachers muster to cope with the little souls who do not understand what is happening. I will remember your compassion and rejoice that you love children so deeply.

I am amazed at the tenacity of teachers who, in their grief for a colleague, inundate them with enough meals for a month, and enough support to feed their empty souls. I will remember your organization and kindness.

I respect your sense of what is right and your pursuit of justice. I will

remember your assertiveness mingled with integrity, your search for fairness in an often unfair world.

I will remember your joy in learning a loved one is cancer-free, a child passed a test, a colleague got engaged, a baby was born.

I will always remember your kindness and hospitality as you opened your schools, your homes and your hearts to me. To have been able to share with you over the past 11 years has been a privilege and an honour.

I do want to recognize the outstanding support I have received from countless friends and colleagues throughout my career, and particularly during my time as a professional teacher counsellor.

Betsy and Niel have made a great team. They are outstanding in their counselling skills and in the integrity and energy they bring to this job. I will miss them.

The staff at NBTA, both the executive and support staff, including my secretary Karen, are the dearest and kindest people I know. The NBTA executive staff — Bob, Jim, Melinda, Nancy, and Larry — work hours beyond what anyone would believe, but still make sure they are always there for one another in times of crisis. Believe me, I have cried on a number of their shoulders. The Credit Union, Johnson Inc., Group Insurance, the Federation folks, add an even deeper dimension to this work. Countless times I have had to seek out Kevin, Robert or Marilyn for

help. Similarly, Ernie and Mike in the print room are always so obliging when you need a "last minute" print of something, and Sheila, the receptionist at the building is quick to fax something late. I will miss the custodians — Cyril's dedication to his work and Walter's teasing comments.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Edouard Allain who rescued me from the elevator on a Saturday afternoon, and has been an incredible support to our Wellness Program.

It is not fair to single out names, but the above people represent qualities found in all those I met in all the places I worked. I learned so much as I grew as a teacher and I moved from Restigouche Senior High School, to Oromocto High School, to Chatham Junior High, to Dalhousie Middle/High School, to Forest Avenue School in Chipman, and at last to the NBTA and the Department of Education.

I have developed friendships with the superintendents and directors of my three districts, as well as close connections to principals. I have loved the opportunities this job has allowed me in working with teachers, their families and administrators.

It is with a sense of relief and final closure I pass the job to Michael as I feel he embraces it with the same passion.

Michael begins officially on January 2, 2007. His office numbers will be the same as mine: 1-800-561-1727, 506-462-0208

## ***IT'S NOT OKAY...***



**... to treat same sex relationships differently from heterosexual relationships (i.e., compassionate leave, social functions, parent meetings, etc.)**

**If this is happening in your school, you have a professional obligation to address it.**

**If you have concerns or need help, contact your employer and/or the NBTA.**

*- Inserted by NBTA Equity in Education Committee*

# REMEMBER THESE DATES



## Deadline Dates

**Conference Grants** — Five weeks prior to opening day

**Certification Changes** — March 31, 2007

**Branch Nominations for NBTA Vice-President** — February 1, 2007

**Deferred Salary Leave Plan Application** — January 31, 2007

## Election Dates

- (a) Ballots mailed to Branch Presidents - On or before April 15, 2007
- (b) Voting to take place - April 23-27, 2007 inclusive
- (c) Ballots returned to Central Office by 5:00 pm - May 4, 2007
- (d) Counting of Ballots - May 9, 2007
- (e) Candidates notified - May 9, 2007

**NBTA/Beaverbrook/Hagerman Interest-free Loans** — March 31, 2007

**Centennial Award Nominations** — April 1, 2007

**Aliant Award Nominations** — April 1, 2007

**Outstanding Educational Leadership** — April 1, 2007

**Branch Resolutions for A.G.M.** — April 1, 2007

**A.G.M. Registration of Delegates** — April 1, 2007

**Employment Insurance Rebate Report** — June 1, 2007

**Registration of Branches** — June 1, 2007

**Report of Branch Meetings** — June 1, 2007

**Names of Branch Committee Chairpersons** — June 1, 2007

**NBTA Council Annual Reports** — June 15, 2007

**NOTE: Check with NBTA Personal Calendar for key activities within NBTA, NBTF and CTF.**

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

**NBTA AGM** — May 25-26, 2007

**Retiring Teachers' Luncheon** — May 26, 2007

## CAHPERD-ACSEPLD NATIONAL CONFERENCE • CONFÉRENCE NATIONALE



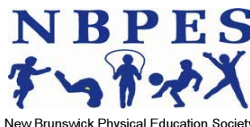
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**AJUSTER LES VOILES VERS UNE VIE SAINE ET ACTIVE**



**Moncton, New Brunswick**  
**Université de Moncton, Campus de Moncton**  
**May 9-12, 2007 9 au 12 mai 2007**

Presenter information packages available on CAHPERD website:  
[www.cahperd.ca](http://www.cahperd.ca) or contact Keith McAlpine: [keith.mcalpine@gnb.ca](mailto:keith.mcalpine@gnb.ca)

Renseignements concernant l'appel de présentations sont disponibles sur le site web de l'ACSEPLD: [www.cahperd.ca](http://www.cahperd.ca) ou en communiquant avec Rachel Schofield Martin à: [schorach@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:schorach@nbed.nb.ca)



# Free Resources Teach Literacy Through Art and Career Development

(Toronto) — The Curriculum Foundation (TCF) is pleased to release two new and innovative teaching resources, *Exploring Aboriginal Art in Canada* by educators Larry Maenpaa and Clarice Kloezeman, and *Life Skills Literacy: Career, Employment, and Volunteer Development* by educator Janet Hopkins. These resources were made possible through TCF teachers' grants. Teachers can download for FREE, *Exploring Canadian Native Art*, *Life Skills Literacy*, and many other quality resources on our Teacher-Developed Resources page at our website [www.curriculum.org](http://www.curriculum.org). Simply go to 'For Educators' on the tool bar, click 'Resource Centre', and then click on 'Free Teacher-Developed Resources'.

*Exploring Aboriginal Art* is designed to help students Grades 9-12 build literacy skills through Visual Arts. The resource combines reading and writing with the artistic process and encourages students in their research skills. Through Art students gain confidence in their abilities and experience self-directed exploration and learning.

*Life Skills Literacy* creates a solid groundwork and introduction to the job market, enabling students to connect skills learned in the classroom with the workplace. In addition, this project will raise awareness on how to skillfully balance work and life. The resource is available as a multi-unit workbook



for students Grades 4-12. Students discover how to research a range of career options and learn about the workplace, volunteering, and career planning. All the skills learned through *Life Skills Literacy* will not only prepare young people for success in the workplace, but also in school and all aspects of life.

Each year The Curriculum Foundation awards \$2,000 grants to

Canadian educators' for their unique and critically-needed curriculum resource proposals. In addition, grant recipients are teamed with knowledgeable and experienced mentors who collaborate to deliver projects that meet our high standards. TCF is the charitable arm of Curriculum Services Canada, the Pan-Canadian standards agency for the accreditation of educational products and programs. TCF is a registered charity that accepts donations to provide teachers with the necessary funding to develop critically needed learning resources that enrich learning for students.

For more information, contact: Kathryn McFarlane, Executive Director, (416) 591-1576 ext. 222 [kmcfarlane@curriculum.org](mailto:kmcfarlane@curriculum.org)

[www.scienceeast.nb.ca](http://www.scienceeast.nb.ca)

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[science@scienceeast.nb.ca](mailto:science@scienceeast.nb.ca)

## Counselling Services

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- Family Counselling
- Mediation

**Yvonne Vaughan**

MA M.ED CCC

Phone:  
1-506-454-2216  
or  
1-506-461-8440  
(cell)

\* Insurance Coverage \*

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# “Fame” is Dramatically Different

**T**raditionally, schools in District 2 (which encompasses the greater Moncton area) spend the school year competing with each other. This year, six high schools are trying something new: co-operating. Students from Moncton High, Riverview High, Harrison Trimble High, JMA Armstrong High, Tantramar Regional High, and Bernice McNaughton High have joined together to produce “Fame: The Musical”. It will run from January 10-13 in Moncton’s Capitol Theatre.

“Fame” is the perfect choice of musical for this diverse group of students. It is set in the New York School of the Performing Arts, and follows student musicians, dancers, and actors through their four years of school. They learn about friendship, love, ambition, the cost of success, and the value of failure through over fifteen show-stopping song and dance numbers. The result is a high-energy show with incredible visual and emotional impact.

It has had a great impact with students too. Erin Sullivan (HTHS), who plays Serena, says: “I like meeting new people and working with different teachers. You get a lot of different perspectives and meet new friends.” Cody Matchett (MHS), who plays Nick Piazza, agrees. “Working with different teachers and students makes you realize that people in other schools all understand what you’re trying to accomplish in drama. It’s really cool to bring all these people together.” The students also appreciate the chance to develop new and different skills. “It’s been a great learning experience,” says Caitlin Davidson, a

chorus member from Tantramar Regional High. “My favorite part is learning to dance. Before “Fame”, I danced like Bill Cosby.”

The students aren’t the only ones who think that “Fame” is a huge learning opportunity. The large team of professionals who are working together to lead the students through this production are

Bill MacGillivray, Technical Director, is from Harrison Trimble, and Angela Ranson, Production Manager, is from Tantramar Regional High.

“It’s wonderful to pool our talent, resources and brain power to work for a common goal,” says Sue Arsenault. They are also pleased by the contribution made by other talented people in Moncton. Misty

Gallant, a District Two music teacher, and former students Leslie Muir and Jill Summers are assisting with the musical aspect of the show. Members of the Pit Band come from most of the high schools involved, as well as Mount Allison University and the local music community.

Choreography has been expertly designed and taught by professional ballerina Yulia Shevchenko, and breakdancing has been incorporated by local breakdancers Matt Frenette and Paul McGinnis. Teams of parents are working on sewing costumes, constructing sets, finding props, and helping with dozens of other production details. Members of the Capitol Theatre are assisting with publicity, tickets sales, and technical work.

With so many people from the greater Moncton area joining forces to make this production a success, it looks like co-



(Photo by Tantramar Regional High School teacher, Paul Lynch)

operation is working for the production of “Fame: the Musical”. It’s a truly unique opportunity for the people of Moncton to see the best of our local student performers showcase their considerable talents. Tickets are available at the box office at the Capitol Theatre, and through the Greater Moncton Ticketing Network, at a cost of \$15.00 for adult tickets and \$10.00 for student tickets.



# Make This Year's Class Trip Unforgettable

**S**earching for a fun and educational end-of-year class experience?

Mount Allison University has launched a new program called **Explore**. Designed to motivate students in grades 5 through 9, Explore combines a series of educational courses with interaction and adventure. It's a 24-hour experience that will stimulate young minds and leave them wanting more – not to mention that someone else does the teaching and you get a well deserved break! It's fun for everyone!

**Explore** is available during the months of May and June. A series of

courses have been designed; you choose four that best suit the interests of your class. The options are: Archaeology, Athletics, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Fine Arts, Geography, Music, Theatre, and Psychology.

It's not just work – students also take part in activities such as tours of the Waterfowl Park, the university campus, and fun and games in the Athletic facilities. The program fee includes all costs for accommodation, meals, snacks, materials and a t-shirt. Class teacher and two chaperones are free.

Because the program takes place on a university campus, students

benefit by having access to science and computer labs in addition to theatre, art gallery, music, residence and dining facilities. For many students, university is a mystery and this early introduction will help expose them to the possibilities for post secondary education in the future. Better yet, Explore makes learning fun!

Centrally located, Mount Allison is only 126 km from Charlottetown, 278 km from Fredericton, and 197 km from Halifax. The perfect distance for an overnight trip!

More information is available on the Mount Allison University website at [www.mta.ca/conference/explore](http://www.mta.ca/conference/explore). or email: [summer@mta.ca](mailto:summer@mta.ca).



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## Work as a teacher in the U.S.A.

Teacher: David  
Home Country: Canada  
U.S.A. Placement: Georgia  
Professional Goal: Broaden my overall teaching experience  
Personal Goal: Go whitewater rafting on the Chattooga River  
**How He Got Started:** [www.vifprogram.com](http://www.vifprogram.com)



Hundreds of teachers like David are teaching in the U.S.A. and gaining experience that will advance their careers. You can, too. Visit [www.vifprogram.com](http://www.vifprogram.com).



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# Wellness Highlights

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING SERVICE  
FOR TEACHERS



## TEACHER COUNSELLING SERVICES

Michael Ketchum, Districts 14, 17, 18  
1-800-561-1727  
Betsy Colwell-Burley, Districts 6, 8, 10  
1-800-563-3938  
Niel Cameron, Districts 2, 15, 16  
1-888-763-5050

## January – Winter Activities “New Beginnings”

### Did You Know?

New Brunswick is known world-wide for its variety of outdoor winter activities.

Have you considered:

- Curling
- Cross-country skiing
- Ice-Fishing
- Skating
- Snow-shoeing



### Suggested Activity from the Binder

Start a Yoga, Pilates or Tai Chi class.



### Suggested Website from the Binder

Yoga Magazine – [www.yogajournal.com](http://www.yogajournal.com)  
Credit Counselling of Canada – [www.solveyourdebts.com](http://www.solveyourdebts.com)



### A Touch of Humour



#### Mike’s Fun at Work Tip

Hold a contest for the most creative or humorous slogan for your workplace. For example, the slogan for the company Dave’s Drilling and Blasting is, “We Don’t Stand Behind Our Work – We Stand Behind a Tree”. Or the slogan for an optometrist’s office in California, “If You Can’t Read This, You’ve Come To The Right Place.”

– [www.mikekerr.com](http://www.mikekerr.com)

**Note: Additional information is found in your School-Based Wellness Program Monthly Themes Binder.**



# Announcements

## Essay Contest for High School Students

The Global Stewardship Program at Capilano College is again running a \$250 essay contest for high school students interested in Social Justice/Global Education. This year's topic is "What message would Lester B. Pearson have for young people today?" The \$250 cash prize is awarded directly to the student, and the student may be from any country. This year the contest is being co-sponsored with the United Nations Association Vancouver Branch in honour of the 50th anniversary of Pearson's Nobel Prize.

Details for the contest can be found at the website: [www.capcollege.bc.ca/globalstewardship](http://www.capcollege.bc.ca/globalstewardship)

## Program Helps Educate Parents About Children's Online Activities

Media Awareness Network and the Canadian Home and School Federation recently announced a

partnership to present a national school-based internet literacy and safety program designed to help parents deal with their children's online activities. The program, *Parenting the Net Generation*, addresses issues that arise when young people go online and provides tools and solutions to help parents positively manage internet use in the home. *Parenting the Net Generation* workshops will be presented by Home and School Associations across the country until July 2007.

For more information on organizing a workshop, contact Canadian Home & School Federation listed at: [www.canadianhomeandschool.com/federation/members.htm](http://www.canadianhomeandschool.com/federation/members.htm)

## 5th International Conference on Imagination and Education

The Imaginative Education Research Group (IERG), of the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser

University is pleased to announce this conference scheduled for July 18-21, 2007 in Vancouver. Its aim is to stimulate discussion of imaginative education and its application in classrooms, and to ensure that educational experiences are imaginatively engaging for both teachers and learners.

Proposals are invited related to the conference theme of "Imaginative Education: Provoking Excellence Across the Curriculum".

Further information is available from the website: [www.ierg.net](http://www.ierg.net)

## Banff National Leadership Conference 2007

*New Ideas for Leadership in Schools*, with Dr. Andrew Hargreaves, Dr. James Stronge and Stephanie Staples will take place February 21, 22 & 23, 2007 in Banff, Alberta.

For more information and to register, go to [www.creedseminars.com](http://www.creedseminars.com) or call Toll free 1-866-882-7333.



## Interest-Free Loans

Up to \$1,200.00 in any one school year shall be made available to active members of the Association on leave to improve their professional qualifications through educational programs.

\$\$\$ \$ \$ \$

Application forms are available from:

### Melinda Cook

Director of Finance  
New Brunswick  
Teachers' Association  
PO Box 752  
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6  
Tel: (506) 452-8921

**The deadline for applications is**

**MARCH  
31  
2007**



## Happy Retirement Lynne!

On January 31, 2007, Lynne Horsnell-Shanks will be retiring from NBTA Credit Union. For the past 35 years, Lynne has put the interests of our Credit Union and its owner-members first and foremost. On behalf of the Board members and Staff of NBTA Credit Union, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Lynne for her years of dedicated service.

Lynne's newspaper article on Credit Union Day asks: "Have you ever felt like you are on the outside, looking in? At NBTA Credit Union, our door is always open to our current owner-members and those of you who haven't yet made the decision to own their financial future."



**At NBTA Credit Union we offer a full range of services, so as Lynne would say, "We thought we had it all, now all we're missing is you!"**

### RRSP Deadline – March 1, 2007 —

It's that time of year again. Call us. We have RRSP products and a great financial planner to serve you.

### Skip A Loan Payment —

At your request, you may defer your January or February loan payment and free up some much needed cash! Please phone for further details.

### Surplus Shares —

At NBTA Credit Union, we take great pride in returning profits to our owner-members. In November we paid a **patronage rebate of 18%**, amounting in **\$292,651.36** returned to our owner-members.



650 Montgomery St., P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6  
506-452-1724 • 1-800-565-5626 • 506-452-1732 (fax)  
E-mail: [nbtacu@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:nbtacu@nbnet.nb.ca) • Web: <http://www.nbtacu.nb.ca>  
Hours: Monday to Friday, Telephone Service 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
In-Branch Service: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

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