



NBTA

news

NEW BRUNSWICK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

February 26, 2003

Vol . XLV, No. 6

Four Seek 2003-2004 Vice-Presidency

• **Vote set for April 21-25, 2003** •



Randy Hunter



Jocelyne Schwenger



Wes Tingley



Indu Varma

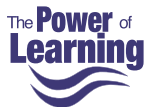
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The following is an excerpt from NBTA By-Law 6(b):


"Ballots with special addressed envelopes and a branch nominal roll shall be forwarded by Central Office to the president of each branch on or before the 15th of April each year. *The Branch President or designate, if the Branch President is a candidate, shall cause the voting to take place during the last full week of April. The ballots must be received properly sealed in the ballot envelope at Central Office not later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday of the following week.* The Nominating Committee shall meet within a week of the date fixed for the receipt of ballots and with the assistance of Central Office staff, check the names on the ballot envelopes against the appropriate nominal roll, tear off all the perforated flaps, place the envelope containing the ballot in a prepared ballot box, and on the completion of this, open the ballot box and tally the results. Candidates shall be notified of the results on counting day ..."

(Candidates' statements appear inside.)



NOTICE:

The application and payment for NBTA Sponsored Professional Courses are to be mailed to Nancy Roach, NBTA, P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5R6

★ The successful candidate will ★
 assume the office of ★
Vice-President
 on ★
 ★ *August 1st, 2003.* ★ 

Randy Hunter

- Statement -

“I am not afraid to admit mistakes. This is how I learn.”
—Anonymous

I continue to believe that teaching is inherently a high-stress profession. Large class sizes, limited resources, time constraints and frequent changes to curriculum contribute to a teacher’s daily diet of job-related stress. Eventually, they can wear down a teacher’s constitution, leaving him or her vulnerable to illness and poor physical health. There is an absolute need for Professional Development opportunities within the school calendar.

My involvement in High School Council, NBTA, my teaching experience, along with dialogue with my colleagues, has given me the opportunity to see that no classroom, school or district is any different from another in our province. One would have to work in total isolation not to recognize the discipline, class size, workload, job security and meagre resource issues that face our profession each and every day in each and every school. An added obligation is the newly-structured SEP’s. Teachers have always been accountable for their actions and responsible for a great number of individual needs, but media coverage, coupled with added pressure from the Department for documentation, has certainly taken its toll on a great number of our colleagues.

Teachers are doing a great job with **all** of our students, yet

accountability for reporting leaves us with a great deal of skepticism. The Government is liable for the direction teachers are taking in regard to reporting to parents; therefore, the Government must come forward at once with the necessary funding to support its commitment to helping teachers provide quality education to all students in their care.

This year, NBTA celebrates its 100th anniversary. We have a great deal to be proud of as New Brunswick educators.

Great strides have been made over the years to improve the quality of education in this province. The NBTA has consistently been in the forefront of positive change and has always been the champion of teachers’ and children’s rights and responsibilities in the classroom. NBTA has been the vanguard of quality education in New Brunswick and continues to strive to better the conditions under which we teach and learn. We, as teachers in 2003, continue to “stoke the fires” of learning in this province.

Who will lead the teachers of this province as we begin our journey into the next 100 years? I submit to you that the leadership of the NBTA, made up of the Branch Executives, Committee heads, Board of Directors, Provincial Executive, and Council Executives, is a well-oiled vehicle.

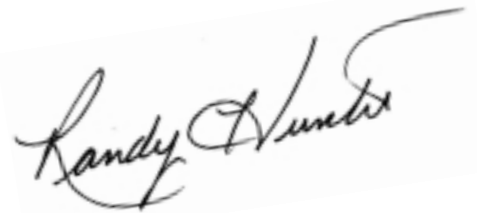
The positions of President and Vice-President of the organization is vital to the direction we choose to travel. They are the voice of teachers and must be ready at all times to speak to and for the teachers of this province.

I want to thank you for your interest in this campaign; I thank all those who supported me last year in the election as I solicit votes this year. I would be most honoured to

be elected Vice-President of NBTA and promise I would work hard for the teachers of this province.

Biography

- President, High School Council, NBTA
- 24 years teaching experience
- 2 years Middle School Principal
- 2 years District Technology Mentor
- 3 years M & R Teacher
- 4 years District Professional Development
- 2 years Branch Public Relations
- 6 years Branch Secretary/Treasurer
- 6 years NBTA Wellness Facilitator
- 1 term NBTF/NBTA FCTCE
- 3 years NBTA Provincial High School Council Executive



Jocelyne Schwenger

- Statement -

I was thrilled when Bob Fitzpatrick called to tell me that the *Provincial Nominating Committee* had submitted my name to run for Vice-President of the N.B.T.A. I immediately began organizing my outline for the campaign ... posters, pictures, speeches, letters, school visits, and this **Statement** for the *N.B.T.A. News*. I see this campaign as a job interview with approximately 5,200 teachers, so I decided to write a cover letter and a resume answering the following questions:

Who is Jocelyne Schwenger? Why should you vote for her?

M. Jocelyne Schwenger
1128 Van Tassel St.
Bathurst, N.B.
E2A 4C8
548-3793(H) 547-2766(W)
jocelyne.schwenger@nbed.nb.ca

February, 2003

Dear Fellow Members of the N.B.T.A.:

I am applying for the position of Vice-President of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association. Having graduated in 1978 from St. Thomas University with a Teacher's Licence and Certificate 5, and being an active member of the NBTA for 22 years — with 21 of those years spent filling various leadership roles within — I believe I am uniquely qualified to serve you in this capacity.

I embrace change, necessary change, and I am not afraid to step outside of my comfort zone. For example, I began my professional career in Stanley teaching Grades 1

through 6 Core French. Upon returning to District 15 in Belledune, I continued teaching Core French to Grades 1 through 9 for three years. Transferring to Parkwood Heights Elementary School in Bathurst, I spent 14 years teaching Immersion, Core French, and regular classroom subjects. I then moved to my present high school position teaching in the 9/10 program. As you can see, I have a multi-level teaching career with first-hand knowledge and a very good understanding of the complexities of each level — Elementary, Middle, and High School.

I am a **Teacher Advocate**. I know and understand the issues. Everything from events taking place in our classrooms, schools, and

environments, to our class sizes, discipline issues, teachers' working conditions and negotiations ... we each have our own concerns and priorities. **I have the experience, the dedication, the leadership skills, and the enthusiasm** necessary to represent you **provincially** ... to **address** the issues of schools with sealed windows and poor or non-working ventilation systems, mouldy ceiling tiles and unexplained smells, not enough desks, not enough textbooks, not enough in-service, unfair workloads, unequal prep time ... and the list goes on. **I have, can, and will continue** to work for you!

I want to know **your** priorities, **your** concerns, and **your** issues ... I hope you will consider giving me **your vote**.

I want to work for, and with, you!

Objective

Vice-President, New Brunswick Teachers' Association

Experience

2002-2003 Acting Grievance Officer & Group Insurance Trustee
2001-2002 Executive Member N.B.T.A. & N.B.T.F.
2000-2001 Executive Member NBTA
1996-2003 Provincial Wellness Facilitator, District 1542
1995-2002 NBTA Director, District 1542
1993-2002 NBTA Liaison

Committee Co-Chairperson, District 1542
1999-2000 NBTA Director attached to ad hoc Committee for French Second Language
1998-1999 NBTA Director attached to Professional Development committee
1997-1998 NBTA Director attached to Teaching Learning Conditions Committee
1993-1995 NBTA Representative Parkwood Heights—Gender Equity Committee
1990-1995 NBTA Alternate Director
1985-1987 NBTA Representative,

Parkwood Heights
1981-1984 NBTA Representative Belledune

Education

1977-1978 St. Thomas University, Fredericton, N.B., B.Ed.
1973-1977 St. Thomas University, Fredericton, N.B., B.A.

Work Experience

1981-2003 Teacher, School District 1542
1980-1981 Teacher, Stanley, N.B.
1978-1980 Program Director, NorthEast Cablevision

Wesley Tingley

- Statement -

Greetings to all members of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association! As I write, candidates who have accepted nomination for the office of Vice-President with the New Brunswick Teachers' Association will be in campaign mode.

Allow me to introduce myself ... I am a teaching vice-principal at Upper Miramichi Regional High School, Boiestown, N.B. My teaching experience over the past twenty-nine years has included classroom teacher, guidance counsellor, vice-principal and principal. As well, I have been actively involved with NBTA Local Branch 1809 over the past twelve years, having served as Branch Vice-President, President, and Wellness Facilitator. Currently, I am Branch Director and also serve as executive member for the New Brunswick Teachers' Association and the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation.

Without doubt, the upcoming year promises to be one of excitement and challenge. The Association is planning and preparing for NBTA Centennial Celebrations (1903-2003), and as well, will be hosting the Canadian Teachers' Federation gathering in early July, 2003. On the Federation side of things, you will remember submissions for the development of the "asking package" were called for in November, 2002 to assist

upcoming negotiations to begin in the early Fall of 2003.

Issues within the public system of education continue to make front page news. The recent release of the Scraba Report raises critical issues with respect to the future of the education system in this province. Not a total surprise to teachers! As highlighted to you in a letter from NBTA President Mary Wilson in early December, the Scraba Report described teachers as dedicated, professional, talented and hard-working. Other concerns by Scraba have to do with existing issues already known and identified by classroom teachers — class composition and class size, curriculum implementation, testing, evaluation, inflexibility of the system, learning behaviours and expectations, "inequities" created by French Immersion, standards and lack of vision.

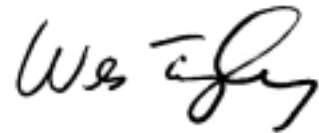
As classroom teachers, and through the New Brunswick Teachers' Association, we need to look positively to the future and have direct input into the restructuring and reshaping of the publicly-funded system. Those closest to the issues are the classroom teachers.

It is my belief that given the resources and adequate funding, classroom instructional support, training models which include professional development and in-

service and allowing the public system to stabilize, that teachers who meet students in their classrooms each day can make the most profound and dramatic changes. It is my belief that the voice of teachers is one of credibility. It is my belief that teachers want the best for students they teach. If the public system is to change, a serious commitment is therefore required by those who administer the publicly-funded system to include teachers in the process of restructuring and direction.

I ask for your support in the upcoming Spring Elections in April for the position of Vice-President of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association.

Keep a positive focus with respect to your career and well-being. You make a difference every day in the lives of your students — remember, each day you are touching and shaping the future.



Wesley Tingley

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E-mail: wes.tingley@nbed.nb.ca

***"Candidate for Vice-President
- Your first choice!"***



Indu Varma

- Statement -

Candidate for NBTA Vice-president, Hmm!

When I was asked by my Branch (0214) President, Douglas Stewart, if I would consider running for NBTA president, my immediate response was, "I would be delighted to work for the teachers of New Brunswick at the drop of a hat, however, my biggest challenge would be to teach for two more years." As I proceeded to explain that this happens to be the 33rd year of my teaching career and I could retire anytime, he said, "You really must love this job!" Yes, I do love teaching, but lately it has become increasingly difficult to do the job well for many reasons.

The more I thought about my conversation with Doug, the clearer it became that the challenges facing experienced teachers are identical to the ones encountered by beginning teachers. New Brunswick teachers are highly dedicated and trained professionals who are finding that despite their best efforts to meet the provincial, national and international standards in literacy and numeracy, the achievement results of their students are low. They lack the tools and support from the system to teach effectively. This is reaffirmed by Elana Scraba in her report to the Minister of Education in April 2002, "Sadly it is an education system that is not working despite talented, dedicated and hard working educators in all sectors of the system." It is ironic that we are continuously struggling to do the job we are trained to do and love to do - teach! "The job description of a teacher in New Brunswick is to maintain order, attendance records, and discipline," according to the Scraba report. Teachers would rather teach than spend time and energy on tasks other than teaching. It is time we made "Education" a priority and demanded the bare essentials that are crucial for educating our students.

Having worked as a classroom teacher for 32 years, I know and understand the difficulties you face

daily. I am concerned that over the years the teachers' working conditions have regressed. The demands on teachers from all sides have grown exponentially, while the support has dwindled substantially. Disruptive behaviour, the class composition (number of SEP students), lack of school supplies, inadequate classroom resources, insufficient M&R support to meet the needs of our students, and technology that doesn't work are real issues that teachers have to contend with daily. Added to the list are worries over job security and past insignificant salary gains. I am troubled by the above, and wish to give a strong voice to the teachers' concerns.

My personal philosophy is that if you are dissatisfied with the state of affairs, instead of complaining take charge and do something about it. I have demonstrated that through my involvement in the education of my students and with the NBTA at the local and provincial levels, as NBTA local branch president, NBTA director, liaison representative, PD representative, and president of the Elementary and Computer councils.

I am a known name and face to you due to my long-term involvement with the Elementary Council and Social Studies workshops, or perhaps you remember reading about me in connection with a teaching award I was fortunate enough to receive. Over the years I have worked with many of you, and those of you who know me well, know that teaching is a passion rather than a profession and a way of life for me.

I am seeking your support as NBTA Vice-president because I want to devote my energy, expertise, and professional experience of teaching and of having served on various boards or committees at the provincial, national and international levels to serving you. I will feel honoured to be your voice to lobby the NB government and work with you to bring about some positive changes in education.

Awards

- Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History, 1997.
- A&E Grand Prize for Teacher Grant Competition, 1995.
- Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in Science, Technology, and Mathematics, 1993.
- Hilroy Fellowship Award for Innovation in Education, 1992.
- Marshall McLuhan Awards (national & provincial) for Excellence in Education, 1991-92.
- Friends-Amis and Canada 125 Award for Impressions of Canada on CD-ROM, 1992.

Professional Experience

- 32 years teaching experience in NB school system (Elementary, Middle and High school levels)
- NBTA Experience (Branch 0214 Director, President, Vice-president, liaison rep, PD rep. 1990-2003)
- President, NBTA's Computer Services Council (1990-91)
- President, NBTA Elementary Council (1998-2000)
- Member, Elementary Council Steering Committee (1996-98)
- Treasurer Moncton Spring Workshops (1990-91)
- Chairperson, NBTA's ad hoc committee on Distance Education & Technology (1993-95)
- Member of the final selection committee for the Mathieu Da Costa Awards (1998-2002)
- Member of Historica's Advisory Council & Chair of Historica's Education/PD Committee (2000-03)
- Professional involvement (15 publications, 8 paper presentations at conferences in Europe and North America, 55 workshop presentations at the provincial, national and international level)

I 'nd U = The Perfect Team

For the



of teaching

Let's

D✓ it!



Mary Wilson

Does time actually speed up as we age? It certainly seems to from where I sit. It hardly seems possible, but here we are already at the election issue of *NBTA News*. The candidates' statements are here for you to read and I want to once again remind you about the process we have for electing our provincial politicians. Every year there is an election for Vice-President of NBTA. Every second year, that election is also for the next president. Brian Bawn is my Vice-President, but he is also President-Elect and will take office on August 1st. At that same time, I will become the Past President, and whoever wins this election will be Brian's Vice-President. Crystal clear? I hope so because you are the person who must decide who to vote for from the slate of very capable candidates.

This year, there are four contenders running for Vice-President. These are teachers, just like you, who have allowed their names to stand for election. As you can imagine, this is not an easy undertaking. Running in a provincial NBTA election is hard

Forget Uncle Sam, the NBTA Needs You!

work, both physically and emotionally. I ran in 2 elections to become President and found the experience thrilling, stimulating and grueling all at once. My goal in each of the 10 days I was allowed to campaign in both years was to get into at least 12 schools per day and shake as many teacher hands as I could. My reception in schools ranged from enthusiasm to minor disagreement to indifference and was definitely interesting. I entered schools where I had to work extremely hard just to get past the secretary and schools where the principal actually interrupted classes to announce my presence over the PA. I met teachers who had real questions and concerns about issues that troubled them, teachers who wanted to shake my hand and get right back to work, and teachers who wanted to argue. It was a unique experience to say the least and because of it, my request of you is to please welcome the candidates into your schools and classrooms. Sure, ask them tough questions, but remember that they are teachers, just like you who have left their classrooms to come out and ask for your vote. Please make them feel welcomed into your building. I also hope that you will put some effort into finding the best candidate and voting accordingly. This will be your Vice-President so it really is your responsibility to be informed.

These candidates truly want to make a difference in the lives of teachers. They have all participated in the NBTA both locally and provincially, which brings me to my next topic: member involvement.

I have attended several school rep meetings recently where the topic of getting teachers involved in our association has been discussed and I want to urge you to get involved. You know, I did not enter teaching with the goal of becoming NBTA President. I remember going to

meetings about NBTA and NBTF business, our Collective Agreement, Grievances or even Professional Development and I really didn't understand much. I credit a colleague with getting me involved. Judy Kaye, who now teaches at Hammond River Valley School, was the President of my NBTA Branch in Nackawic and she phoned me one time to ask if I would serve on a local committee. I admit that I did not jump at the offer. I resisted, but she persisted and pretty much "guilted" me into joining the committee. I am truly thankful to Judy for getting me involved, but had never said so until writing this article. I want to publicly thank Judy because it only took that one encounter with this wonderful Association and the rest, as they say, is history.

As teachers, we often encourage our students to get involved. We know the benefits of being a participant rather than a spectator. Well, the same can be said about your professional association. Involvement provides you with a better understanding of how NBTA and NBTF operate, both locally and provincially and allows you to gain deeper knowledge of emerging issues. In addition, you will have the opportunity to have greater input into NBTA business. So, I repeat: Please get involved. We need you!

The Minister has announced two additional Professional Development Days (Curriculum Implementation Days) for the remainder of this school year. This is on a trial basis only, but I am hopeful that the feedback will be so positive that the days will continue. We applaud the Minister for this forward-thinking initiative. Everyone in the system knows how important these days are for teachers and ultimately for our students.

Best wishes for a March Break filled with rest and laughter and, of course, I can't forget to send hugs to my Canterbury pals. Enjoy!

New Brunswick Student Launches Novel at Barnhill School, Saint John



Kali Brazier-Tompkins, sixteen years old, Grade 11 student at Canterbury High, launched her first novel, *A Wolf to Remember*, December 9, 2002.

Students from grades four to eight at Barnhill listened in awe as Kali read excerpts and made them participants in the book launch. Thirty students from Canterbury High and guests from Miramichi City joined them.

Mayor Shirley McAlary praised Kali's accomplishments, emphasizing the importance of developing a love for books and reading at an early age. Kali told the audience that she would beg anyone and everyone to "Read Me" as soon as she could say those two little words. She credits her grandfather,

Papa, for instilling in her a love of reading.

A Wolf to Remember began in a Grade 4 classroom at Harkins Elementary School in the Miramichi where Mr. Jack Duplessie was Kali's homeroom teacher.

Teaching "process writing", he introduced ideas for the story. He described Kali as creative, talented, and possessing a tremendous vocabulary; but also tenacious, determined to finish a project with perfection; but willing to accept criticism and to incorporate suggestions into her work.

A Wolf to Remember is the story of



Sixteen-year-old, Kali Brazier-Tompkins launches her first book, *A Wolf to Remember*.

a young wolf, Chihuahuan, who is captured, escapes, and gathers other wolves around her on her journey home. It is a journey of innocence to wisdom.

Kali has four sequels ready. She presented her next manuscript to her editor at the December 9th book launch.

For further information, contact Terry Mullin at (506) 633-0236.

Hurrah Historica ! A Recipe for Enrichment

Ingredients :

- 78 Canadian High School teachers
- 1 German visitor (Munchen) — Chris Heubner
- multi-gifted presenters
- 2 giant buses

Mix in :

- 1 week of strategies for teaching history.

Topping :

- A dash of Jazz
- A twist of Comedy Fest
- A dip of cruising among the Thousand Islands
- A gulp of Molson Madness

Bake at 35 degrees Celsius in dorms at U. of Montreal

Result:

A delicious delight for your stomach and soul !

Recommended by:

Nancy Hannay ((Bonar Law - Rexton) and Marilyn Matthews (Caledonia High - Hillsborough).

Watch the *NBTA News* for application information.

*Be a part
of the
2003 ingredients!*



Marilyn (top right) is shown here with other participants by the Statue of Édouard Montpetit on site at the Université de Montréal.

2003-2004 Educational Leaves

In a recent joint announcement, Education Minister Dennis Furlong and Federation Co-Presidents Mary Wilson and Pierre Paillard released the names of the educational leave recipients for the 2003-2004 school year. In all, forty-three (43) NBTA and seventeen (17) AEFNB members received leaves for the purpose of retraining, specialization or professional growth.

Educational leaves awarded to NBTA members amounted to approximately \$1,375,736. This year, because of the mix of full and part-time leaves, the Committee was able to grant 43 leaves. In the past few years, NBTA leaves were awarded as follows:

1994-95 - 43 leaves at \$1,255,000
 1995-96 - 43 leaves at \$1,238,601
 1996-97 - 45 leaves at \$1,237,912
 1997-98 - 45 leaves at \$1,226,745
 1998-99 - 50 leaves at \$1,227,385
 1999-2000 - 43 leaves at \$1,248,804
 2000-2001 - 45 leaves at \$1,271,000
 2001-2002 - 47 leaves at \$1,255,292
 2002-2003 - 37 leaves at \$1,336,054

Educational Leave Committee
 The Educational Leave Committee, established under Article 37 of the Collective Agreement, met on January 7, 2003 to complete the difficult task of selecting this year's educational leave recipients. The Agreement specifies that the Committee will be comprised of 8 members representing the Department of Education, the Superintendents, and the NBTA, AEFNB and NBTF. The composition of the Committee is as follows:

- Robin Roe - Dept. of Education (Chair)
- Guy Léveillé - Dept. of Education
- Alex Dingwall - Superintendent
- Maurice A. Picard - Superintendent
- Mary Wilson - NBTA
- Pierre Paillard - AEFNB
- Claudette Charest Chouinard - NBTF (Secretary)
- Bob Fitzpatrick - NBTF

Process

The full Committee met for a short time to discuss and confirm the criteria to be applied in the selection process and to verify the amount of money available pursuant to Article 37. The Committee then divided into two sub-committees to consider applications from NBTA and AEFNB members.

Criteria

Although an educational leave must fall into one of the three accepted purposes - retraining, specialization, or professional growth - the Committee receives comments and recommendations from principals, and Directors of Education.

In considering applications from NBTA members, the sub-committee must take into account the total funds available and the number of NBTA members in each district so that the funds can be allocated fairly throughout the province. This means that, while larger areas may be allocated multiple full and/or partial leaves, some smaller areas may get a leave every second or third year, and, in some cases, an even longer period of time might elapse between leaves. Although the Committee is not bound to award leaves on a direct total numbers/leaves available ratio, it is a factor that must be considered. Other factors considered are:

- program to be followed
- male/female distribution
- position distribution (teacher, S.P.R., vice-principal, principal)
- grade levels (elementary, middle school, high school)
- past professional involvement
- years of experience
- number of times teacher has applied
- benefit of leave to school and school district
- certificate level
- subject specialty

Leave Statistics for 2003-2004

- There were 124 applications from NBTA members.
- Funds available for educational leaves, determined by the formula in Article 37.03 of the Collective Agreement, were \$2,006,617; the AEFNB share was approximately \$630,880.
- Forty-three (43) leaves (full and part-time) were granted to NBTA members.
- Thirty-two (32) leaves were

granted to females and eleven (11) were granted to males.

Leaves Awarded	
Elementary	18
Middle	11
Senior High	14
CERT V	16
CERT VI	17
Ph.D	3
Other	7
Areas of Study	
Fine Arts	3
Counselling/Guidance	5
Special Needs/Exceptional	9
Literacy/Early Childhood	5
Administration	9
Physical Education	2
Other/Partnerships/Special	
Projects/Research	4
French	2
Technology	2
Curriculum/Math/ Language Arts/Etc.	2
Total	43
	<i>(26 Full-time and 17 Part-time)</i>

Conclusion

When all is said and done, forty-three (43) NBTA members will be happy to be receiving an educational leave, while eighty-one (81) members will be disappointed, and at least some of these eighty-one will feel frustrated by the process. The one thing that can be said is that the Committee did its best to weigh all of the criteria, consider all of the factors and award the leaves as fairly and equitably as possible.

To those teachers who received leaves for 2003-2004, the Committee extends its best wishes for a productive and successful year. And, to those applicants who were not successful this year, the Committee thanks you for your interest and encourages you to apply again next year.

The NBTA recipients for the 2003-2004 school year are listed below by district. The length of the leaves varies from four (4) months to a full academic year.

Dist.	Name	Period	08	Gary Vincent	6 Months
02	Rolene Betts	Year	10	Heather Ingalls	Year
02	Simone Curwin	4 Months	10	Janet MacDougall	Year
02	Gordon Hopkins	4 Months	14	Kathy Anderson	Year
02	Bruce McMillan	5 Months	14	Helen Crawford	Year
02	Faith Reid	Year	14	Kelly Gunter	Year
02	Jane Sherrard	Year	14	Diane Lunn	Year
02	Sandra Stockall	4 Months	15	Chipman Smith	4 Months
02	Barbara Sweezey	Year	15	Eric Smith	Year
02	Judy Vautour	6 Months	16	Carol Lister	Year
02	Angela Willaims	Year	16	Paul MacKinnon	6 Months
06	Tammy Feeney	6 Months	16	Gregory Theriault	6 Months
06	Karen Graham	Year	16	Paula Trueman	Year
06	Agathe Klingenberg	6 Months	17	Judy McPhail	Year
06	Lori-Ann Lauridsen	6 Months	17	Gary Nason	Year
06	Sheila Murray	Year	17	Michelle Trynor	6 Months
06	Carl Wolpin	6 Months	18	Kelly Bidlake-Jamieson	Year
08	Donald W. Britten	Year	18	Janice Gange	Year
08	Trudy Comeau-Roper	Year	18	Alvaretta Smith	Year
08	Ginette Fairweather	Year	18	Stephanie St. John Cleghorn	4 Months
08	Gordon Gray	Year	18	Laureen Stewart	6 Months
08	Shawna Spinks	4 Months	18	Nancy Ward	Year

Lee Walsh Recipient of a Minister of Education's Alpha Award

Literacy awards were recently presented to adults and educators from around the province. Lt.-Gov. Marilyn Trenholme Counsell, honorary patron of the awards, presented the Minister of Education's Alpha Award for Early Childhood Literacy to Lee Walsh from Bay du Vin.

Walsh, who dedicated countless hours to literacy and started the "Stork's Nest Concept", gave an emotional speech at the ceremony. *"As a teacher, I saw that small rural children needed work, so we turned to their parents, but their literacy levels were also low," Lee said. "Because of this program, we have changed many lives. I am a dreamer and this came from a dream and it is changing lives."*

Following is a brief description of Lee's award-winning program.

The Storks' Nest©

The Storks' Nest© is an early childhood literacy initiative. It is a vision, a concept that began in 1998 in Miramichi Rural, a small rural school in Bay du Vin, New Brunswick. Officially, this concept was created because of the necessity to improve the literacy levels and

skills of the pre-school students in the area. The intention was to create partnerships between education and as many outside agencies and disciplines as possible. This early intervention framework was unique in that it promoted early literacy by including and involving not only the children ages birth to four in the area, but parents, guardians, grandparents, caregivers and extended families. It empowered parents to take ownership in improving their own literacy levels if so desired.

Parents and children came weekly to the Storks' Nest© (which once was a vacant room in the school transformed into a cozy nest). Once a week throughout the school year, parents and children came to celebrate literacy and to work on literacy initiatives. Originally, it was comprised of seven components, but presently has been expanded to include many, many more. The intention was that the number of components be left open-ended so that more could be added when deemed necessary.

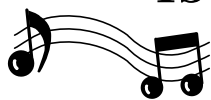
A few examples of the many components of the program follow:

Under Storks' Wing — Parents and children are brought together as a group. A library is utilized for a Storks' Book Club. Parents and children are involved in read alouds, shared reading, Reader's Theatre, Costume Parades, Choral Reading/Speaking, Phonological Awareness. 'Babies Borrowing Books' is a weekly part of this pre-school program. Literacy Teas are set up to celebrate literacy.

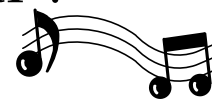
Storks' Flying Lessons — Children aged four (those entering kindergarten in the fall) stay without parent for half a day per week at the center where a facilitator works with children on pre-school literacy activities. A type of pre-school screening is initiated at this time.



Is Music Used to Its Full Potential ?



• A Look at Our Teaching Practices •



by Agnes Arsenault

The following article was written by Agnes Arsenault, Vice-Principal of Westfield Elementary School, who is on an educational leave for this school year. Due to space requirements, the article will be published in two parts.

Driving to Millidgeville North School one Wednesday morning, I stopped at a Convenience store. A lady approached me and started to talk about her daughter whom I taught many years ago. I always like to hear from my former students and was interested to know how she was doing. "After her practice teaching, she just quit because teaching was too difficult. She decided to continue her studies at the Law School and become a lawyer", the mother said.

Not surprised, but saddened by this news, I spent the rest of the time in the car reflecting on our profession. I remembered my own moments of disillusionment with my teaching. The increasing number of children with exceptional needs and the unending struggle to receive support left me sometimes feeling inadequate, alone and frustrated when I was trying to cope with the daily challenges in the classroom.

I realized I needed a boost, not only for myself as a teacher, but as Vice-Principal of Westfield Elementary School, also for the sake of my colleagues. I felt additional training was essential. This is why I am so grateful that my educational leave for this year was approved. Through the courses at U.N.B. Fredericton and the guided practicum with Mr. Paul Jean, the Methods and Resource Teacher at Millidgeville North School, I am benefiting from a unique experience that helps me not only refresh and learn new skills but also enrich my outlook on teaching practices and education in general.

During our class time in both Gifted and Talented as well as Learning Disabilities courses, we spent a considerable amount of time on understanding the basic

personality traits of these children. This is very valuable information for a classroom teacher, especially when trying to cope with teaching children with exceptional needs in the same class. Both courses were taught by Prof. Marie Cashion, a very strong and devoted advocate for better supports for these children.

Through our numerous discussions and sharing time, we learned a lot from each other and there were some comments I found



very striking. In both classes, music was mentioned several times as a valuable tool to motivate and teach children. Because of my personal interest in music, I was inspired by these comments and I decided to gather additional information on this topic and share it with all of you in this article.

Before taking a look at the various benefits of music for the education of all individuals, I would like to clarify that my article does not suggest in any way that music specialists are not needed in our system. Rather, this is a reflection on possibilities of more enhanced integration of music in our curricula. After reading through the *Music Education Curriculum - Kindergarten to Grade Five, Draft Pilot Document* dated July 2002, it is obvious that specialists are essential in order to teach the basic music concepts and

abilities in a sequential manner. Several sections in the document suggest interesting connections with other academic subjects, specially Language Arts, Social Studies (appreciation of cultures), and Visual Arts (fostering creativity).

It is my hope that I can help develop an awareness that by enhanced integration of music we can achieve better results in classroom management, behaviour modification and teaching in

general. I would like to examine the following areas:

1. The benefits of music in the classroom setting;
2. Music and its effects on brain development and intelligence;
3. The importance of a balance between the arts and other subject areas.

Music in the classroom setting

We all know how profoundly music can affect our emotions. By tradition, it plays an important part in all significant events of our lives: family gatherings, Christmas season, birthdays, Remembrance ceremonies, church services, etc. Each event calls for a special type of music. Songs and instrumental pieces can induce a variety of feelings such as sorrow, joy, peace, pride, and even violence. Some argue that music is an international language. When a beautiful piece of music is played, people naturally feel connected, regardless of their background, and can sense an atmosphere of belonging and understanding that such an experience provides.

Is there anything more important for a child in school than the feeling of belonging and acceptance by his/her peers? Those of us who taught for a while know what peer pressure can do. If properly used,

music can become a strong behavior modifier. Why not start the day with a soft welcoming music in the classroom? If it is possible to find a theme song for the unit we teach, this can be a highly effective way to set a relaxed and comfortable learning atmosphere. I never heard a child say he/she hated music.

For hyperactive children, music can be an excellent way to positively channel their surplus energy in the classroom setting. Music with rhythmic movements is highly enjoyable and can be used occasionally to refresh the whole group and help them focus again. Music can be played just about any time. It not only sets the atmosphere but also builds rapport and comfort levels so we can maximize the use of time.


Children can be taught a habit of doing certain "boring" tasks (i.e., cleaning the desks or the class..) every time a specific selection of music is played.

Instead of constant verbal reminders, music can give the message in a much more pleasant way that we expect them to do something at a given time. Establishing this kind of routine may take time, but it is extremely effective in minimizing resistance, arguments and conflicts.

In pursuit of more information on the topic of music in the regular classroom, I asked Professor Ruth Morrison (U.N.B. Fredericton) for a personal interview. We spent an hour discussing the ways we can use music in the classroom with a variety of possibilities in mind. Music is not only a great tool to establish a positive learning atmosphere but it can also enhance learning for children with a dominance in either one of the four learning styles: auditory, visual, tactile and kinesthetic. This is an extremely important fact to keep in mind for it respects everyone's unique contribution and gives a child a sense of value because we honor his/her natural gift — as explained by Professor Ruth Morrison during my interview with her. Schoolwork being mostly auditory and visual, it tends to disfavor children with tactile and kinesthetic preferences. If a child

loves to move or touch, as teachers we have no choice but create an opportunity for them to do so. Otherwise we end up with unnecessary trips to the washroom, to the pencil sharpener, or other discipline problems if their needs are not being met at least occasionally.

Professor Morrison added examples where music is an important tool to motivate children to be creative and express themselves. In any enrichment activity, music can be used for an ulterior purpose whereby every child can be challenged at his/her level and become an important contributor to the process of achieving a final product. We must always keep in mind that in creating a product, it is the process that is really the most important part of the activity. Whatever the song or the musical piece may sound like is

 ***If properly used, music can become a strong behavior modifier.***

secondary. What counts is what the child learned in the process, such as the satisfaction drawn from the achievement and the pleasure of sharing his/her product with others. Children can be led to create a theme song for a particular teaching unit in any subject. They can contribute to creating the melody, writing the lyrics, singing the song, playing the musical accompaniment (like recorders, xylophones, drums, piano or flute), making movements, dancing or creating their own visuals. Even a child in a wheelchair can feel very important when he/she becomes responsible for a regular beat on a drum. In this case, motion becomes a therapy and an uplift.

I am personally anxious to be part of Professor Morrison's class next term and learn more about how to proceed on these kinds of creative activities. She makes music sound very easy. "Children can create melodies with as little as five notes and enjoy doing it", she said.

Music can also enhance self-expression during a creative writing exercise, especially in higher grades. One of the graduate students in our

U.N.B. class shared with us that she selects a piece of music and the students are asked to write about the emotions they experienced while the music was playing. To be able to recognize how we feel and express our emotions verbally instead of acting them out is an important social skill that even adults need to practise. This ability is crucial if we want to maintain healthy relationships and prevent violent behaviors.

And now let us look at how music can help the children with learning difficulties. Among numerous research findings I would like to mention some of which were compiled by Jeanne Akin in her article on "*Music makes a difference*".

- a) Keyboard Training is beneficial for overall education. Students who had participated in keyboard lessons scored higher than others in math and history.
- b) Music education improved listening skills which are absolutely necessary for speech therapy and second language learning.
- c) Achievement in music allows developmentally-delayed children to achieve in other areas. Music education, performance and therapy help them develop self-confidence which helps for other achievements.
- d) Students achieve significantly through music education. It was proven that when basic skills are learned through music, a constant gain of achievement score points is made.
- e) Singing a lesson helps kindergarten children to learn. Jeanne Akin states an experiment reported by Blackburn in 1986. In teaching Kindergarten students a lesson in learning Dolch Sight Words, the teacher sang the words to group A students, but not to Group B. With the exception of singing, the lessons were exactly alike. Group A learned more words than group B.

I am sure many teachers have had this experience already. Kids love songs and enjoy playing with the lyrics. They enjoy to try new words and even create new melodies.

(to be continued next issue...)

The Teacher Who Laughs, Lasts

By Nancy Roach
Director of Professional Development
roachn@nbnet.nb.ca

I had occasion to telephone a school last week. After three rings, I heard the principal's voice, "And where's the body?....Sunny School, may I help you?" Of course, she had been multi-tasking, trying to solve the dilemma of a dead mouse and answering the phone for an absent secretary at the same time. We had a great laugh when I asked her where the body was, and explained that I had overheard her remark.

It reminded me of the funny things that happen in schools and how important it is for those who work in the front lines to acknowledge those funny moments and celebrate them.

I laughed out loud when the vice-principal of another elementary school told me about little Jeff, an exuberant kindergarten boy, racing down the corridor.

"Jeff," she called to him.
"Not now, miss," he shouted as he ran past. "I gotta p___ (rhymes with 'this')."

Then there was the middle school boy who asked the teacher. "D'ja get a new haircut?"

"Yes, I did," she replied, anticipating a compliment.

"Looks like a lamp shade," he said sincerely.

You just have to laugh. Schools where laughter is present in classrooms and staff rooms are happier and healthier places to teach and learn. Roland Barth, author of the inspirational *Learning By Heart*, wrote an article over a decade ago that still has relevance to teachers and school leaders. In *A Personal Vision of a Good School*, he talks about attributes of the perfect school community, and humour makes his list.

"Humour is strongly associated with learning, and the development of intelligence," he writes. **"Humour**

can be the glue that binds an assorted group of individuals into a community. People learn and grow and survive through humour."

By incorporating laughter in our classrooms, we contribute to that positive emotional environment that the brain needs to be free to learn. Of course, the laughter in classrooms must be truly with the students, not at them. Classrooms that are free from embarrassment and fear of mistakes are brain compatible and encourage learning.



Staff members too, can benefit from a school climate that shares a healthy dose of humour. I know of one school that regularly awards the Golden Crock (a tacky crocodile necklace, a remnant from a long ago Caribbean holiday) at the end-of-year staff luncheon. The recipient is chosen from a list of staff members who have been nominated for their spectacular 'goofs' throughout the year. The ceremony is hilarious, puts those embarrassing mistakes into their proper perspective and provides everyone with a good belly laugh. Indeed, in the midst of a blunder, teachers help reduce one another's stress by suggesting, "You will surely get nominated for the Golden Crock for this one!!"

So give it some thought during these final dark days of winter. Is there laughter in your classroom, your staff room, team meeting and school? Humour is healthy for everyone. Perhaps it's time to lighten up and laugh, because the teacher who laughs, lasts!

Reader Recommendation

We are constantly learning more about how our students learn. Harbour View High School Principal, Judy Comeau, recommends a great book by Dr. Mel Levine to provide insight about the many learning styles of students in your classrooms. **"A Mind at a Time"** (Simon and Schuster Press) would be useful for teachers of all levels. "As I am reading," Judy says, "I am thinking, this is so sensible. Now I understand what's up with this kid or that one.

The book is an easy read and really helpful."

That Gender Thing

I received many inquiries about several articles I recently recommended dealing with the differences in learning and teaching with boys and girls. It indicates the concerns many of you have for this topic. Two more articles from Educational Leadership, January 2003 will also be of interest. *"Helping Boys Succeed"* and *"Helping Girls Succeed"* both add more food for thought on this important topic.

It's about Learning, Not Just Teaching

It is interesting to me how the emphasis in our profession has changed from 'teaching' to helping our students learn. It is no longer good enough for teachers to say, "Well, I already taught that...it's too bad if they didn't get it!!" Instead, we are always looking for strategies that will enable our students, with their diverse learning needs, to understand and succeed. In *"Strategies that Close the Gap"*, author Larry Bell shares strategies that successful schools have used with at-risk students to raise achievement. *"Tell Your Stories and Never Forget"* (JSD, Winter 2003) focuses on the value of story telling, a brain compatible strategy that allows us to use our own stories to help us improve our craft.

Dealing With Difficult Parents

Who can't use an article with this title? Found in the January 2003 issue of *Principal Leadership*, this article is thoughtful and practical. The very real suggestions contained within it can be used by both administrators and classroom teachers!

School-Based Learning Teams

I must comment on the tremendous experience I had when visiting each of the 7 schools which were recipients of School-Based Learning Teams. Each team demonstrated an enthusiasm for their project, and a level of professional commitment that was truly inspiring. As always, I remain

awed by the dedicated teachers we have in New Brunswick. It is exciting to think of the professional growth that will undoubtedly occur as a result of these teams' efforts to study, examine student work and collaborate to improve both their own and their students' learning. Watch future *NBTA News* issues of updates from the teams.

Certification Update

Here are answers to some of the frequently asked questions related to Certification issues.

How many courses do I need to move from a Cert 4 to a Cert 5?

You must complete 36 credit hours, or the equivalent of 12 (3 credit hour) courses. Four of these may be at the 1000 level, the rest must be at the 3000-5000 level.

What are AICE courses?

The American Institute of Creative Education (AICE) is affiliated with a Maine university and markets courses in numerous locations throughout New Brunswick. The courses have been approved for certification toward Certificate 5.

How many AICE courses can be taken toward Certificate 5?

A maximum of 4 AICE courses can be taken. They are considered the equivalent of 1000 level courses. If you have other 1000 level courses from another university that you wish to apply to your Cert 5, that reduces the number of AICE courses allowed. The total of 1000 level or equivalents may not exceed 4 courses.

How many NBTA Sponsored Professional Courses can be applied to Cert 5?

The new regulations will state that a maximum of 4 approved non-university courses may be accepted toward Certificate 5. Only courses that are offered by pre-approved course providers are accepted. Since the NBTA is an approved course provider, you may take a maximum of 4 of these courses.

Does that mean I can use 4 AICE courses and 4 NBTA courses?

Yes. Theoretically this is possible. In actuality, it may be difficult for you to access this many.

What do I do first if I want to upgrade my certificate level?

You must inform Yves King, the registrar of Teacher Certification at the Department of Education, that you are beginning work on your next certificate. He will then open a file on you. You must get approval for each course you take, in writing, before you take it. Once completed, the transcript must be sent to him

and he enters it in your file. He can be contacted at yves.king@gnb.ca or by phoning 506-453-2785.

Can I do my Cert 6 through coursework?

At the present time, you must complete a Masters Degree to receive your Certificate 6. Last spring, the Minister's Advisory Committee on Teacher Licensing and Certification recommended that teachers be permitted to qualify for Cert 6 by completing ten 6000 level courses from any combination of universities. They accepted that this would allow for more meaningful learning and more equity of access to courses. However, this change has not been formally approved. Teachers can be assured that the NBTA will continue to work through the appropriate channels to help bring about this important change.

For more info on Certification, feel free to contact Nancy Roach at the NBTA, roachn@nbnet.nb.ca or 506-452-1740.

Council Day Conference 2003: Still a Bargain

*By Nancy Roach
Director of Professional Development*

When you return from your well-deserved March Break, the programs for the Elementary, Middle Level and High School Councils provincial conferences will be in your schools.

Spend a little time looking through the programs and you are

sure to be impressed with the quantity, variety and caliber of the sessions. For instance, the High School program features 2 keynote speakers and 119 divided sessions. The Elementary Council has chosen a university campus with hundreds of parking spaces and huge auditoriums to accommodate their 5 keynotes and the numbers of

teachers who will attend. The Middle Level Council sought sponsorship so their program could be delivered in a practical useful agenda format.

Highly-acclaimed and well-respected speakers, hundreds of teacher presenters willing to share their expertise with their colleagues, and great social functions combine

to make these conferences the equivalent of many national caliber events.

I know ... I see the brochures, the ads, the websites of conferences from all over North America as part of my job as your PD Director. I see the applications for teachers applying for grants to attend these events. Their registration fees range from a low of \$80 (the Alberta Teachers Association Subject Conferences) to \$335 for the OISE Links to Learning Conference (1 and 1/2 days) in Toronto and \$450 for a TW Branun conference.

Did you know that

- The surpluses which Councils have enjoyed since the amalgamation of the 19 subject councils are almost gone. They must now make the council days cost recoverable.
- A nutrition break for a council conference runs as high as \$5000?
- A keynote speaker can be paid in the thousands, plus expenses?
- Printing the conference program can cost close to \$2000?
- Council members spend their Friday nights and Saturdays doing the hundreds of hours of work to organize the annual conference?

- The raise in registration fee this year is the first increase in over a decade?
- Your Council day expenses may qualify for an Income Tax deduction (see Melinda Cook's article in January *NBTA News*)

Bottom line, your NBTA Council conferences are a real bargain at \$30!

(So start planning now. Get a group from your staff and join the over 80% of NB teachers who will be at Council Conference 2003!)



Celebrating Family Literacy Day We Love Books



On Monday, January 27, 2003, students and staff at Forest Glen in Moncton celebrated Family Literacy Day. Plans for the celebration were drawn up by the Family Literacy Day Committee – teachers Marielle LeBlanc and Robin Andersen, library assistant Christine Kukkonen and Principal, Karen Nelson.

The day's events were planned around literacy. All classes and grades (K-4) participated at an appropriate level. Classroom doors were decorated with a theme or scene from a book. Bulletin boards displayed art work inspired by another favorite book – *The Snow Day* by Ezra Jack Keats and *Penguins of all People* by Don Freeman, to name a couple. Art teacher Luticha Taylor (later as Mabel Murple) was responsible for the beautiful displays.

Individual and class books were written and displayed in the gym. Parents, grandparents, neighbours,



siblings and special guests read and signed students' books. Students discussed the writing process and strategies used to create a story. Staff was dressed in costumes depicting a wide variety of story characters. Miss Frizzle (Gisele Robichaud), Snow White (Christine Kukkonen), Mother Hubbard (Ella MacDonald), Chick-a-Chick a Boom Boom Tree (Mary Rogers), Jillian Jigs (Kim Carter), and a Wandering Minstrel (Brian Steeves) were a sample of staff's creativity.

Mrs. Diane Lord was present to officially open the refurbished library, now the Community Literacy Centre. The Superintendent of District 2, the Director and DEC Chairman, as well as the Mayor and invited classrooms and guest readers, aided in the celebrations. A gift of books by the PSSC was received and all appreciated the window artwork created by teacher, Michele Kovacs (dressed as the Balloon Tree). The choir, under the direction of Karyn Martin (as the music teacher from the Black Lagoon), chose a piece entitled *We are the Children of the World*.

The objectives of the Community Literacy Centre are to increase literacy in our area and to provide families with the opportunity to access the school library and its resources after school hours. We are looking forward to a Saturday story



time as well as a Summer Reading Program.

The support of the Home & School Association was appreciated at recess time as students were presented with a special 'book worm' treat. The day was completed with a magic show *Books are Magic*.

Students benefited from a concentrated school focus and the opportunity to share their love of reading and writing with peers, parents, staff and community. To quote a kindergarten student, "I like to read because it is funny and I learn new stuff."

The collaboration of a school community working together to increase, enhance and promote literacy skills and to develop lifelong readers is necessary when all students are immersed in literate activities and in a literate environment.

*Submitted by: Karen Nelson,
Principal*



Women in Educational Administration

✧ **W.E.A. - N.B.** ✧



Tenth Anniversary Celebration and Workshop

**Thursday Evening, April 10 & Friday, April 11
Fredericton Inn, Fredericton**



Agenda



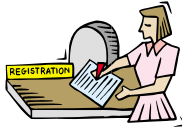
Thursday, April 10

7:00pm

On-site Registration

7:30pm

Remarks by New Brunswick's own **Sally Rehorick**,
Chef de Mission at 2002 Olympic Games



PLUS

Conversation Centres on current educational issues

9:00pm

Networking, refreshments and prize draws

Friday, April 11

8:30am

On-site Registration

9:00am

Workshop

12:00pm

Lunch (included in registration fee)

Annual General Meeting



1:30pm

Workshop resumes

3:00pm

Wrap-up



 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Leadership: Lessons from Literature</i> "Opening the Book on What Lies Inside Us" Facilitator: Beverley Park Director of Professional Development, Newfoundland/Labrador Teachers' Association</p> 
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**An opportunity to grow, be inspired, meet colleagues, and celebrate:
Professional Development At Its Best!**

**** A block of rooms has been reserved for April 10th at the Fredericton Inn at a special rate of \$72.00 plus HST. Please call 455-1430 to make your reservation before March 1st and get a \$15.00 rebate on the price of the room****

REGISTRATION

Early Bird registration on or before March 1:

\$20.00

Registration after March 1:

\$30.00



Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

To register, please make cheque or money order payable to W.E.A.-N.B. and send with registration form to:

✓
Terri MacLean
NBCEA
Faculty of Education
UNB Bag Service #45333
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 6E3

BRAIN CONNECTIONS:

Connecting Recent Research on the Brain to Teaching and Learning in Your Classroom

- An early career initiative sponsored by NBTA in conjunction with the Atlantic Canada teacher Organizations -



Learn about:

- Making Real Connections: How Learning Occurs •
- A basic understanding of brain anatomy and function •
 - The effects of emotions on learning •
 - Memory: Is the brain a sieve or a sponge? •
 - Creating classrooms that teach 'to the brain' •
- Applications for classroom management, climate and motivation •



- What: A practical two day workshop for early career teachers that will influence how you teach forever!
- When: April 8, 9, 2003 (two full days)
- Where: NBTF Building, Fredericton
- How many: 50 seats available
- Target Audience: preference will be given to NBTA members with 6 or fewer years of teaching experience (others may apply but will only be given a seat at the workshop if space is available)
- Registration Fee: \$25
- Facilitators: Staff officers from the Atlantic provinces' teacher organizations (NBTA, PEITF, NLTA, NSTU)

The NBTA will provide lunches both days and \$50 towards the cost of accommodations (with receipt). All other expenses will be the responsibility of the participant. You may apply for Branch and/or Provincial PD Educational Improvement Grants.

Participants are responsible for coordinating their own release time/supply teacher arrangements in conjunction with your principal and/or District office.

Registration Form For Brain Connections

Name: _____
School: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____
How many years have you been teaching (under contract)? _____

Please complete and forward with your \$25 registration fee to:
Nancy Roach, Director Professional Development, NBTA
PO Box 752, Fredericton, NB, E3B 5R6
Registration deadline: March 28, 2003
Confirmation and a workshop itinerary will be sent to you.



Elementary Council News



Council Day in Sackville Shaping Up Nicely!

We are now half way through our year. It's hard to believe but Council Day is only three months away as I write this and two months away as you read this.

We have a great location for you to visit in Sackville, N.B. at Mount Allison University. This historic campus is very beautiful during any season. Again this year we encourage you to carpool as Sackville is a small town with limited parking in the downtown area. It is quite easy to get around on foot. The campus is close to the stores, therefore it is simpler to park your car for the day and walk where you choose to go. Remember to wear comfortable shoes and bring an umbrella, just in case.

When you receive your program, be sure to retain it, as you will need to bring it with you. There will be a map of Sackville on the front cover and a Campus map on the back cover of the program. A list of sessions with their building and room numbers will be available upon registration.

Sackville is about twenty-five minutes away from Moncton on Route #2, TCH. You take Exit #541 and turn right on Main Street. This street takes you right to the campus. There is parking off Main Street to your right at the town Information Bureau on King Street before you reach the campus. Those of you staying in residence will probably arrive the night before and park behind Jennings Hall off Rector St. If this lot is full, you will continue on to the lights in the center of town where you will turn right onto York St. There is parking on this street (both sides). Turn left on Lansdowne St. and there you can park near the Athletic Center or in the lot behind it. There is also parking in the Curling Club lot and

along Park St. and Salem Street.

Many of you will choose to stay in residence as we have very good rates — single \$30.00 and shared double rooms \$26.50 each, taxes included. Be sure to submit your form before the deadline to Pamela Paynter at Mt. A. We do have a block of rooms at Coastal Inn which must be booked before April 5, 2003 at a cost of \$78.00 double and queen \$72.00. Marshlands is on the top ten places to eat and stay with a comparable rate. There are other accommodations to be found in motels or Bread and Breakfasts. Those of you who choose to stay in Moncton will have the option to book your rooms. Be sure to ask for the NBTA/Government rate.

Thursday night, registration will take place at the Athletic Centre on the corner of York and Lansdowne Streets from 7:00 to 9:00pm. The Social will feature Freefall, a local group who have toured the Maritimes and received warm welcomes wherever they go. They

like a good party, singing, and a variety of songs from the sixties through to the eighties. Join us at Tweedie Hall, Thursday night after registration, from 9:00 to midnight for a fun evening; bring your dancing shoes. There is a space on the registration form to indicate your attendance, so we can provide adequate space for everyone.

Friday will see a new format for the day. We have four large and small keynote sessions, block sessions with the smaller divided sessions arranged before and after lunchtime. We have selected this format to enable more of you to hear the keynotes in the comfort of Convocation Hall which seats 1500 people. We will also have a smaller keynote session in Crabtree Auditorium and this comfortably seats about 200 people. Many small sessions will hold 40 or more people so we feel this will enable most of you to take advantage of them as well.

Indoor Curling Enjoyed By Students



Grade three teacher, Laura Guilfoyle, has her class at Hubbard Avenue School in District 17 try indoor curling. They use duct tape to create handles on scooter boards to act as rocks. The brooms are real curling brooms and masking tape can create the "bulls eye" circles on the gym floor and hack marks. Students learn positions of curling and some terminology.

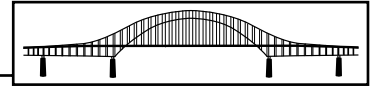
Lunch will be a 4 oz. Grilled Chicken Breast on a Bun with Garden Fresh Salad, served with juice, fruit for dessert and tea or coffee for \$6.00. We will subsidize the cost of lunch, keeping the price down for you. Remember to order your lunch with your early registration and those who are

planning to attend the business meeting at noon will check that off on your form so it will be delivered there for you. We'll have more about the business meeting in the next *NBTA News*.

We have need for new members on Council. Due to personal difficulties, we need two new

members who are willing to help us finish the year and begin next year. Please contact me at the following e-mail address if you can assist us. Looking forward to hearing from you. coatesha@nbed.nb.ca

Middle Level Council News



Middle Level Council T.E.A.M. Award Middle Level Council Teacher / Team Recognition Award

Nomination Form

A maximum of four awards presented annually to Middle Level Council members. Nominations may be made to recognize one teacher or a team of teachers from one school. All nominees must be members of the M.L.C. and have shown substantial contribution to any of the following areas: School Environment, School Spirit, and Student Learning Opportunities.

Name and School of person nominated: _____

Description of the contributions made (Attachments may be used)

Three people who support the nomination. (Students, co-workers, parents etc...)

Supporting documents encouraged. (Letters of support, press clippings, etc..)

Nominations to be faxed as follows:

Awards Committee
c/o Jay Colpitts
Florenceville Middle School
Fax # 392 - 5118 or e-mail ~ jay.colpitts@nbed.nb.ca
Due Date: On or before April 11, 2003

Distinguished Visitor At Devon Middle School

The grade eight class of Devon Middle School in Fredericton recently welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Stogran, the former Commander of the *Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry* Battle Group in Afghanistan.

Hosted by Principal Alfred Paul-Elias and coordinated by teacher Heather Palmer, the class listened as the distinguished soldier described working conditions for the PPCLI Battle Group as they worked with the people of Afghanistan after the downfall of the Taliban government there.

Describing Canadian soldiers as qualified to serve with the best armies in the world, Lieutenant-Colonel Stogran also related non-military activities such as building schools, digging wells to provide

villages with clean water, and donating clothing and footwear to children. The Canadians also



insisted that young girls be permitted to attend the schools, a practice that had been forbidden by the Taliban government which had previously controlled the country.

When LCol Stogran asked for questions he was bombarded with well-prepared and thoughtful queries about overseas army life as well as conditions for Afghans living in a war zone.

At the end of the presentation, the students presented their special guest with a number of origami cranes, now recognized as international symbols of peace and long life. This was accompanied by a huge greeting card signed by 125 grade eight students. In the company of two uniformed cadets, LCol Stogran was

conducted out of the gym, a fitting conclusion to a memorable visit at Devon Middle School.

— adapted from "The Northside News" (Fredericton)

Bayside To Host Council Day

Bayside Middle School will host the NBTA Middle Level Spring Conference to be held in Saint John on May 2. Bayside Middle School is located in East Saint John. It serves the needs of approximately 560 students among 19 classrooms. Approximately one-half of these

students are enrolled in the Late French Immersion program.

Bayside was built in 1949 and enlarged in 1960. It is the former Simonds High School. Facilities include science, computer and technology labs, a comprehensive library, a gymnasium and playing

field, a full service of cafeteria which seats 160, and an auditorium with a seating capacity in excess of 700. The students and staff of Bayside are proud to be your hosts for Middle Level Council Day 2003.

Submitted by: Eric Estabrooks



Pat Laskey, Vice-Principal of Bayside Middle School and a member of the Council Planning Committee, sits with Maggie Roy and Hoang Le of the Bayside Leadership Committee. This student group will assist with many of the organizational aspects of Council Day.



Front exterior of Bayside Middle School (Michael O'Leary photo)

It's coming!!!

Fewer than 65 days until Council Day 2003
Your Middle Level Council Program Committee
has confirmed more many exciting sessions.
•Guidance •Enrichment •Wellness •Leadership
Issues •Assessment •School Climate Issues
•Social Studies •Physical Education
•Technology •Music •Art •French •Methods
and Resources ... and more.

Something for Everyone
Plan to be there!



Bayside Middle School
Saint John, May 2, 2003

**Is your school involved in
an exciting project or
activity?**

**Interested in sharing with
other Middle School
teachers?**

Contact Mike Gardner
(michael.gardner@nbed.nb.ca)

Council Day, May 2, 2003, Saint John NB Bayside Middle School



**Keynote Speaker:
Lloyd Mallard**

Lloyd Mallard completed 35 years of service in the public education system of Prince Edward Island. He currently works as a consultant for "Improvement Through Learning". Mr. Mallard has delivered keynote addresses and workshops to a variety of audiences -- at the local, maritime, national and international levels. He also gives courses to teachers in PEI on Classroom Management, Learning Styles and Brain-Based Learning. His presentations have been characterised as being worthwhile, up to date with current theory, full of common sense, practical and humorous.

**Plenary Session Speaker:
Josh Beutel**



Josh Beutel was born in Montreal in 1945. Following Fine Arts and Education degrees, he taught Art in Ontario and Labrador high schools. Mr. Beutel began cartooning in 1972. After moving to his wife's home province in 1976, he became the editorial cartoonist at "The New Brunswick Telegraph Journal" where he worked for 19 of the next 24 years.

Mr. Beutel has syndicated editorial cartoons, been widely-published, and has participated in a variety of international cartoon festivals. He has produced five books of his own work. He currently works for Saint John's weekly newspaper, "Here", as well as "The King's County Record".

Submitted by: Tanya Whitney



**"Education is when you
read the fine print.
Experience is what you
get when you don't."**
—*Pete Seeger*

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

**The location of the May 2, 2003 Middle Level
Council Conference is Bayside Middle School and
NOT the Trade and Convention Centre as noted in the
February Newsflash.**



• High School Council •

President's Message



Randy Hunter

When all we do is work, even if it's satisfying, burnout will be the end result. We're too invested in one thing. We become stagnant, predictable, habitual, even boring. Think about it. What would happen if we only ate one food, over and over again, day after day, and year after year? It wouldn't matter if it was our favorite food or not--we'd get sick of it. Or what if we watched the same episode of our favourite television show again and again?

Boring!

Don't let this be you. Take advantage of Professional Development opportunities.

Your High School Council met on February 1 and 2 in Fredericton. Curriculum, On-site, Program and Finance Committees met on Friday night and the regular executive met on Saturday morning. A full agenda was once again in place.

Council Day is rapidly approaching and plans are advancing very well. This is your day; please do your utmost to be part of it. There are a varied number of sessions and as mentioned before there are two keynote addresses

(**Douglas Jones and Charlie MacDonald**). One keynote will be held during Session A, the other in Session D; refer to your program for further details.

I thank each and every one of your High School Council for working so diligently for you. These volunteers put in numerous hours and do a wonderful job. I also thank all presenters who take time out of their busy schedule to share with you their expertise in so many different areas.

March Break is here for some of us. Let the games begin. For those of you in your last week, have a wonderful, well-deserved holiday.

Introducing Our Executive

To better acquaint you with the High School Council Executive members, we continue to provide a biographical review section. This issue we welcome a new member from the Grand Falls region.

Lynn Steeves — Ms. Lynn Steeves is a ninth generation New Brunswick resident who spent the first 14 years of her life in Hillsborough, N.B. before moving to Grand Falls. She attended Acadia University where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in recreational with minors in Physical Education and French. After graduating from Acadia, Lynn entered UNB to complete her Bachelor of Education in Physical Education.

Lynn says she *endured* eight years of supply teaching before obtaining a "D" contract in 1986. In 1988 she was granted a permanent contract and has been teaching at Tobique Valley High School for the past 14 years. If ever one had total experience in teaching, it certainly is Lynn. She has taught English, math, science, Maritime Studies, physical



Lynn Steeves

education, law, entrepreneurship, computer literacy, broad-based technology and French. She has also served as coach of curling, basketball, badminton, volleyball and softball.

Last year, Lynn was granted a full-year educational leave and returned to UNB to complete her Masters in Educational Administration and received her N.B. Principal's Certificate.

Lynn has a long-haired red and white cat named Caesar, who she says "rules the house"; she enjoys snowmobiling and social gatherings. Lynn has one son, Neills, who is enrolled in his second year in Hospitality Management at Holland College in P.E.I.

In 1990, Ms. Steeves became involved with NBTA, beginning as branch PD chair, then branch president and has served a six-year term as branch director. She brings to our High School Council a wealth of knowledge, experience and good humour. A hearty welcome to Lynn Steeves.

High School Council Awards

Nominate a fellow colleague! Just a reminder that nominations are now being accepted for the possible nine High School Council Teacher Recognition Award Certificates, plus the High School Council Teacher of the Year Award. Deadline for submissions is March 14.

Simply check our website for information required and forward to the Awards Committee chairperson, Judy Comeau, at comeaujua@nbed.nb.ca



Nominations To The Executive

If you are interested in serving on our executive, simply access our website for an application form, then e-mail us your completed information.

Nominations will be voted on at our May 2 Spring Conference during our business meeting. Check it out! Get involved.



Teacher Grants

Did you know that your NBTA High School Council provides grants to help fund your professional development at workshops and special conferences. For further information re grants available, simply contact our web site for a full explanation and application forms.

You can check out the NBTA High School Council web site at:

<http://www.highschool.nbta.ca>

Deadlines for Submission of News to NBTA News

- March 7 • April 4
- May 2 (Newsflash - 4p) • May 30



Hopefully, we will all have an enjoyable and restful March Break!

Sincerely,
Brenda MacPherson
Communications Chairperson
Simonds High School
macphbre@nbed.nb.ca
or Fax (506) 658-4641

Council Day 2003 — Something for Everyone!

Your High School Council Program Committee has finished and sent to print the program for our Spring Conference, May 2, 2003. The on-site committee has also been busy as it finalizes plans for both the conference site in the Miramichi, for our May 2 Conference day, plus the social evening on Thursday, May 1, 2003.

This year we are providing our membership with a choice of 130

sessions, 2 keynote speakers, as well as continuing our networking sessions covering a wide range of subject disciplines. There appears to be "something for everyone", with a multiple of sessions such as the new curriculum in the sciences, math issues, various topics in the language arts and music areas, learning styles, French Immersion, automotive, technology, electronic portfolios, as well as hospitality and tourism.

Topics such as *Safe Schools, At-Risk Youth, Bullying, Positive Behaviour and Discipline* will also be provided. Several personal issues dealing with our youth will also be presented at our conference.

Programs are being mailed out to our membership and should arrive at your school in early March. **See you at Spring Conference, May 2, 2003 on the Miramichi.**

Beijing Concord College Students Arrive at Harbour View

Harbour View High in Saint John is one of four high schools in New Brunswick presently hosting students from China. The student body has welcomed the largest contingent of fourteen and a teacher with open arms. Each student is staying with a host family until the end of June.

Each student is enrolled in four grade eleven courses at Harbour



View and they take one Chinese course with their teacher. The students will be fully involved in the

school's extracurricular program and are already excited about the Annual East - West Challenge Basketball games with Simonds High Seebees.

The advantage for Harbour View students is exposure to a new culture and language and most important to make good friends. This is a wonderful program that really shows first-hand what a global community we are.



Teacher Education @UCCB
Offering New Brunswick Teachers
an Online Advantage!

Welcome New Brunswick Teachers

Are you interested in License Reclassification?

You can now upgrade your license Cost effectively and Conveniently!

For over a quarter century, University College of Cape Breton (UCCB) has been working with Teachers and School Boards developing and delivering programs to meet the challenges and changing needs in education. We are delighted to welcome **New Brunswick Teachers** to our community of learners.

The Advantage?

If you currently possess a Level 5 License, you can upgrade to a Level 6 by enrolling in one of University College of Cape Breton's (UCCB) Graduate Diplomas in Education (Counselling, Curriculum and Technology). Each Graduate Diploma is comprised of 30-credit hours (one 6-credit elective required for New Brunswick reclassification) delivered entirely over the World Wide Web (WWW).

Complete your program *from* your home, *on* your computer and *at* your convenience Applications are encouraged from all grade levels and subject areas; teachers, school administrators and those who have a general interest in education.

The Department of Education, Province of New Brunswick has certified all Graduate Diplomas in Education for Teacher License Reclassification

For more information contact:

**Susan Basso, Education Coordinator, Institute for Education,
University College of Cape Breton**

Phone: 902-563-1651

Fax: 902-563-1449

Email: Susan_Basso@uccb.ca

Web: <http://www.uccb.ns.ca/teachered/grad>

The educational field is becoming more and more competitive. The teacher with the most innovative educational credentials will find the greatest opportunities for advancement.

Get a Head Start!

Social Studies Pre-conference Workshop

May 1, 2003 (9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

Sponsored by NBTA Elementary Council

Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB

Avard Dixon Building

Registration Deadline - April 15, 2003

Presenters: **Prof. John Fielding**, and **Dr. Ellie Deir**, Queen's University
Authors of the resource kits "We are Canadians" and "Canadians in the Global Community"

Professor Fielding has authored History textbooks for Grades 7, 10, and 12 for Ontario curriculum. He is also the Project Manager (Education), Social Program Evaluation Group, for Queen's University and acts as a Canadian History Curriculum Consultant and Learning Resources Developer for Historica. Professor Deir has authored and co-authored many learning resources for students in Grades 6 to 12. She is co-author of history textbooks for Grades 7 and 8 in Ontario, and teaches Elementary Social Studies curriculum courses at Queen's University Faculty of Education. She has presented many workshops on cooperative small group learning using children's literature, and using a hands-on approach to social studies teaching and learning.

- ***Suitable for Social Studies teachers at the upper Elementary and Middle level***
- ***Interactive, hands-on workshop aimed at giving teachers a variety of teaching strategies and ideas***
- ***Discover the Heritage Project Resources "We Are Canadians ", "Nos Histoires du Canada" and "Heritage Minutes" / "Minutes du patrimoine"***
- ***Explore Connections between Social Studies and Canadian Children's Literature***
- ***No registration fee***
- ***Complimentary lunch and nutrition breaks provided on site***
- ***Registration deadline -April 15, 2003***

Please note that the Elementary Council is not responsible for covering supply teacher costs or travel costs for May 1, 2003. Please make your own arrangements for these.

Fax your registration form to:

Indu Varma (506-364-4735)

(Upon receipt of registration a confirmation letter will be faxed)

Social Studies Pre-conference Workshop

Registration Form

(Please Print)

Name: _____

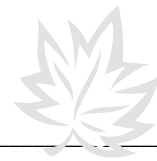
School: _____

Grade: _____ School District: _____

School Tel. _____ School Fax _____

E-mail address _____

Special Instructions: _____



Volunteers Needed for “At-Risk Youth”

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award fosters self-discipline, enterprise, perseverance, and community responsibility. The criteria for achieving an Award is based upon individual effort and improvement, taking into account the participant's initial capabilities.

The Fredericton Division is focusing special outreach efforts on "At-Risk Youth" in five communities: Inner-City Youth, Aboriginal Youth, Young Offenders, Young People with Disabilities, and Northern and Rural Youth.

We need you to invest a small portion of your time in introducing the program to schools and or organizations, within your community. Please help us ensure

our future by developing self-esteem, creativity, social responsibility, leadership, and self-confidence in our Youth today.

Please call 1800 520-3853 (DUKE) or 453-3662.

Operation Gitpu - Soaring High

Operation Gitpu (Eagle) is a project to introduce "The Duke of Edinburgh's Award" (Young Canadians Challenge) into Big Cove First Nation. The Award is being introduced simultaneously with a Sea Cadet Corps. Both programs are highly complementary. This is the first time in Canada that these two programs are being introduced jointly in a First Nation Community. The program was launched in May

2002, and since that time, suicide and crime rates have dropped. Youth have learned First Aid, Water Safety Training, Winter Camping, and are studying Native Cultures. We need your support in other At-Risk Projects. Please call 453-3662, or 1-800-520-3853.



The Fun of Reading Writing Contest for Children

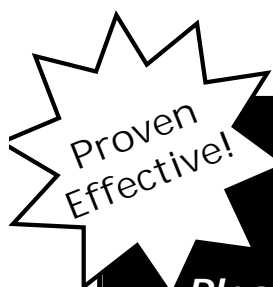
• Ages 8 to 12 •



The Library and Archives of Canada is pleased to announce the launch of *The Fun of Reading* writing contest for children. This contest is part of the International Forum on Canadian Children's Literature which will take place June 26-29, 2003.

Winning entries will be posted on the

Library and Archives of Canada web site: www.nlc-bnc.ca/forum. Deadline for entries is March 31, 2003. Complete details and contest rules are available at the above website. Submit entries by mail to; Forum Co-ordinator, Library and Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington St., Rm. 196, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N4 or submit by e-mail: forum@nlc-bnc.ca



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CALL:

Dr. Keith Jeffery (250) 468-9950

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Retiring in 2003? Are You Eligible?

Any teacher may retire:

- (a) at age 60 with 20 or more years of pensionable service.
- (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 65 with 5 or more years of pensionable service (no penalty)
- (d) after completing 35 years of pensionable service (no penalty)
- (e) when a combination of a teacher's age and service equals 87 (no penalty)
- (f) 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).

*By Larry Jamieson
NBTA Director,
Teacher Welfare Services*

The following list provides a checklist of things you should do when you have decided to stop teaching and receive your pension:

- ✓ Check with the Public Service Employees Benefits Division (Pension Branch) that you are indeed eligible for retirement.
- ✓ Make sure you include your Social Insurance number in any communication with the Pension Branch.
- ✓ Be sure to provide a copy of your birth certificate when you submit your application for pension.
- ✓ Notify your Superintendent, in writing, of your intent to retire as soon as possible (The Education Regulations now stipulate this date as February 1st):
 - (a) specify the date of retirement (always at end of the month - e.g. June 30, 2003);
 - (b) provide information to have your retirement allowance forwarded to the financial institution of your choice.*Note:* in the case of a disability pension, these steps would only occur when the teacher has received from the Public Service Employees Benefits Division approval for his/her disability pension.
- ✓ Make arrangements with a financial institution with regard to the placement of your retirement allowance in an RRSP or any other registered



Larry Jamieson

investment mechanism. The banking institution, trust company or credit union, etc. will then undertake the necessary steps so that the amount is deposited directly into an RRSP 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 the Canada Pension Plan.

Forms to fill out at District Office:

1. Termination Notice / Benefit Request — Claim for pension benefits
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 Public Services Employees Benefits Division to make the necessary deductions from your pension cheque

Note: It is important that the Public Service Employees 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. Pension cheques are received on the 23rd / 24th of each month, except December. The School District will look after sending these forms where appropriate.

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

Write to the NBTA as soon as possible if you have decided to retire. Include: name, district, years of service in New Brunswick and total years of service.

Get Those Fish Friends Tanks Ready

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) reminds teachers participating in our *Fish Friends* program to get their tanks ready. Danny Bird, ASF's Regional Director for New Brunswick, in collaboration with numerous volunteers, will begin delivering salmon eggs after the March break.

Fish Friends, with its teacher-developed curriculum, designed to enhance science and environmental studies programs, became an immediate and phenomenal success when it was introduced in the early 90s. Currently, more than 700 teachers from Labrador to Connecticut are using this hands-on program to teach children in grades three to six about the wild Atlantic salmon's life cycle, its fresh and salt water habitats, the threats it encounters, the social and economic benefits of the recreational fishery, and the importance of conserving



A teacher works with students as they prepare to release their young Atlantic salmon.

- Photo by: Frank McFarlane

and enhancing wild fish populations. To keep teachers updated, special resources on the life and issues of Atlantic salmon are available online at www.asf.ca/fishfriends/onlineresources.html

Over the winter months, *Fish Friends* students observe salmon eggs, water quality and temperature in classroom incubators. Once the

eggs hatch, they feed the fry, clean waste from aquariums, and participate in a number of learning activities revolving around the young fish. In late spring, students release their fry into local streams to continue their life cycles, hopeful that they will one day return as large salmon.

Fish Friends is teacher, student, and fish-friendly. Each year, ASF hosts regional workshops for new teachers and help is as near as the telephone. For more information on the program,

please contact Debbie Perry, ASF Education Coordinator, at 506 529-1384, fax 506 529-1079, or e-mail at asfcc@nb.aibn.com

The Atlantic Salmon Federation is an international, non-profit organization that promotes the conservation and wise management of the wild Atlantic salmon and its environment.

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- Get an insider's view of Canada's parliamentary system.
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- Explore key issues in parliamentary democracy.
- Develop resources for teaching about Parliament, governance, democracy and citizenship.
- To be eligible, you must teach social studies or a related subject to students between grades 4 and 12, or CÉGEP (Québec).
- 70 applicants will be selected by a committee of educators from across the country.
- A registration fee of \$300 is payable upon selection.
- The program covers travel costs, accommodation and most meals.

For more information or an application form, please visit the Parliamentary internet site at www.parl.gc.ca (About Parliament) or call the Library of Parliament's Information Service at (613) 992-4793 within the national capital region or toll free at 1-866-599-4999.

Completed applications must be post-marked no later than 30 April 2003.

Renseignements disponibles en français.



IMPORTANT NOTICES

The *March Break* for schools in 2004 will be *March 1st-5th* & The dates for *January to June, 2004* on the back cover of the 2002-2003 pocket calendar are **incorrect**.



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- The level of classroom equality is raised significantly.
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Over the summer we deliver school supplies packaged in a labeled "briefcase" so that on day one, you have a prepared classroom.

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MONEY MATTERS

• *A Seminar on Basic Financial Advice
for Early Career Teachers* •



April 26, 2003 10:00am – 2:00pm NBTF Building, Fredericton

- Topics being discussed include debt reduction & management, pensions, insurance, and savings
- Seats are limited
- Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis
- Lunch is provided
- Travel costs are the responsibility of the participant
- A confirmation letter will be sent
- Application deadline: April 11th

Name:

Home Address:

School:

Send to NBTA (Karen Vautour):
P.O. Box 752,
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5R6

Wellness Highlights



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1-800-563-3938
Thérèse Gallant, Districts 2, 15, 16
1-888-763-5050



Employees of Dist. 17 participating in massage therapy at a Wellness Fair held in November 2002.

You Deserve a Little Lift!

And remember, we all stumble, every one of us.

That's why it's a comfort to go hand in hand.

- E.K. Brough



Sometimes it's hard to ask for help.



Thinking we should be able to handle anything ourselves, we pull away when we really need a shoulder to cry on or an understanding ear. But seeking advice and comfort is actually a sign of strength — and don't forget that letting others help us makes them feel good too!



Rick Demmings, Dist. 17 Supervisor of Achievement, chats with presenter Jody Ann Ketchum, at the Wellness Fair.



Marilyn Ball, Dist. 17 Superintendent and Jean MacIntyre, Hubbard Ave. School, taking part in Body-Age Testing at the Wellness Fair.



District 18 school wellness representatives met in November at the NBTF Building to share and discuss wellness programs.



2003 Elementary Regional Drama Festival

Drama 2002 at the Elementary Level involved over 1200 children from six districts in our Province. Regional Festivals were held last year in Moncton, Sussex and Minto. Plans are underway for Drama 2003 at the Elementary Level. Regional Festivals will be held at the following locations:

Fredericton - April 23-25
District #14-17-18
Chairperson - Mrs. Pat Kennedy

Moncton - April 28-30
District #02-15-16
Snow Day - May 1st
Chairperson - Ms. Ginny Dernier



St. George - April 30-May 1
District # 06-08-10
Chairperson - Mr. Keith Pierce

Entry Forms "A" and "B", along with a form for the Logo Contest, have been sent to School Principals and Drama Advisors. *Form A*, to be returned by February 24, is used to indicate interest in taking part. *Form B*, to be returned by March 14, is for your use to state the particulars of your play.

A handbook outlining the criteria for the festival will be sent to each school that shows an interest. If you have any questions concerning the festival before you receive the Information Handbook, please do not hesitate to contact *Gary DiPaolo*, *Elementary Drama Co-ordinator*, #327-3736, *gdipaolo@nb.sympatico.ca*

UMRHS Produces a Poetry Book

"Several years ago at UMRHS (Upper Miramichi Regional High School) in Boiestown, we started an emphasis on poetry in the Grade 9 and 10 English courses," said Hazen Webb, teacher and instructor of the project. "We were pleasantly surprised. The level of enthusiasm and interest in poetry were such positive responses that we decided to begin a collection of poems written by students at our school," remarks Webb. "The elevated quality of work, together with an increased awareness and appreciation for poetry, gave impetus to undertake an enrichment project. With enough poems collected to form a basis, I decided to offer the Grade 10 English class of 2002-2003 an opportunity to assemble and produce a book which would bring together poetry contributed over the past several years, as well as current work written by all grade levels at UMRHS," said Webb.

The grade 10 English class chose to do an enrichment project on poetry. This project will later

become part of their English mark. It is the intent of the students to produce a compilation of students'



Grade 10 students at UMRHS participate in the making of a poetry book.

works from Grade 6-12. The collection will also include selections of students' poetry from years past, even though many have since graduated.

The class identified tasks and jobs such as typing, cover design, pictures (taken by students locally and from the internet), format, selection, categorizing, and editing. Then

members of the class volunteered to do one or more of the tasks.

The class also decided to have a poetry contest, where all members of the student body were invited to write and submit poetry. There were two contests; one for seniors (grade 9-12) and one for juniors (grade 6-8). A first prize will be awarded to the writer of the best poem following completion of the book.

Students extend a thank-you to all the students who submitted poetry, school secretary Irma O'Donnell for her help and support, also Jim Leonard (teacher) for his technical support.

Students involved were: LeAnne Arbeau, Christian Bubar, Neil Burke, Alison Carson, Ben Carvell, Josh Carvell, Scott Davis, Robert Ginson, Wade Gullison, Kyle Howe, Lynsey Hunter, Mark Lyons, Valene Lyons, Nikki MacLellan, Mike McCloskey, Christopher Munn, Larry Munn, Wayne Narvey, Tyler Norrad, Catlin O'Donnell, Patrick Wilson

\$30,000 
Awarded To
Public Libraries

Money used to buy books in French on Sports and Fitness.

This fall French and bilingual libraries across New Brunswick were delighted to share a \$30,000 grant from the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs which enabled them to greatly enhance their French-language physical activity and wellness book collections.

The grant was given for the development and improvement of sports collections in libraries, and the acquisition of these documents is in support of the 2003 Canada Winter Games which got underway in northern New Brunswick February 22.

Teachers presenting classes on fitness or any sports discipline will find the new information now available in the province's public libraries an invaluable resource.

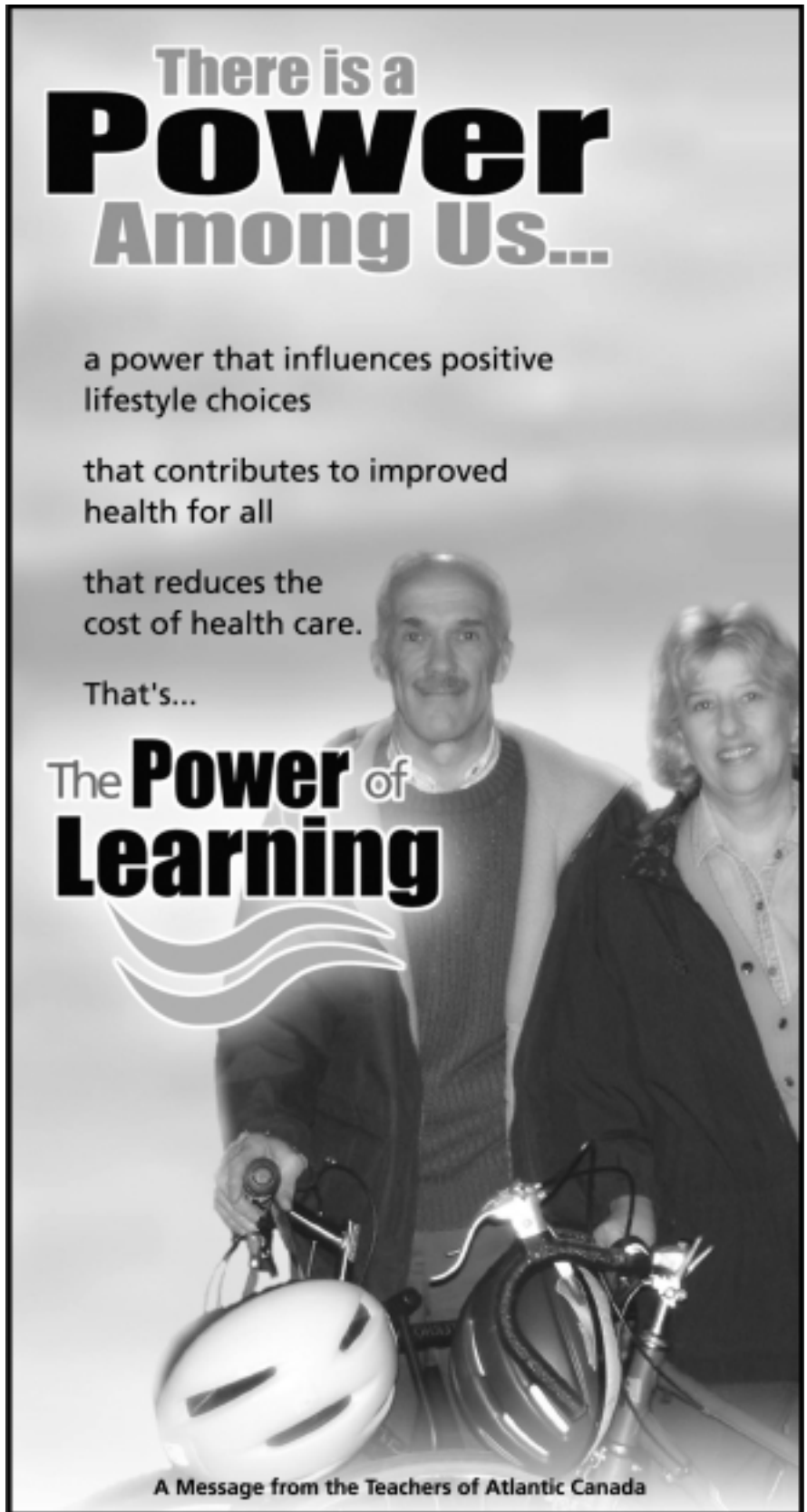
The enhanced collections now include books on the sports that are part of the Canada Winter Games - hockey, judo, fencing, alpine and cross country skiing, boxing, badminton and table tennis, among others - as well as books on soccer, karate, rugby, golf, volleyball, fitness and health.

Books on nutrition for young people involved in sports, for teenagers learning to eat right, and for adults interested in making dietary changes for improved health are also included.

Guidance counselors will be glad to know that the collections also include individual titles on jobs in the sports field such as sports medicine, sports reporting, coaching, training, physiotherapy and physical education.



Everyone is invited to drop in to their local public library to check out the new, up-to-the-minute sports and fitness collections made possible by the grant.



There is a
Power
Among Us...

a power that influences positive lifestyle choices

that contributes to improved health for all

that reduces the cost of health care.

That's...

The **Power** of
Learning

A Message from the Teachers of Atlantic Canada

STEM Program at UNB Promotes Engineering, Math and Science to Schools

With three children of his own attending elementary school, Jared McGinn knows the importance of education.

The new co-ordinator for Imperial Oil's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton says he sees solutions to tomorrow's problems in the imagination and ideas of young students.

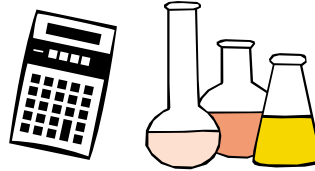
"Children need to develop science, engineering and math skills to convert good ideas into problem-solving designs," said McGinn, a 1990 UNBF graduate in geological engineering.

The STEM program, a five-year, \$250,000 initiative, was launched in 1998 with support from Imperial Oil's Charitable Foundation through Esso Kids Programs.

To date, STEM has built a successful bridge between UNBF and

the community in both official languages, stirring an interest among school children in the four subjects.

The STEM program's community



involvement over the four years has featured activities such as junior high math competitions, robotics, science fairs, classroom visits and the introduction of technology.

It supports engineering and science workshops throughout the year including the popular summer Worlds UNBound/L'Univers sans limites program and the Science and Engineering Girls Club.

"The children learn that the school they're in, the roads and

buildings of their community and the physical environment around them are planned and designed by engineers and scientists and that each design solved some problem," McGinn said. "The possibilities seem endless to young people when they realize solving problems is something they can do well."

Last year, the STEM program and UNBF engineering and science students reached more than 9,000 young people from New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada through activities. The goals of the STEM program include inspiring children to follow their interests in STEM subjects and providing role models for them to emulate, McGinn said.

For information on the STEM program, contact McGinn at 452-6176 or by e-mail at stem@unb.ca.

DEADLINE DATES

- Centennial Award Nominations•
- Branch Resolutions for AGM•
- Registration of AGM Delegates•
- Aliant Telecom Award for Excellence in Teaching•



APRIL 1, 2003

Interest-free Loans

Up to \$1,200.00 in any one school year shall be made available to active members of the Association wishing to take a year off from teaching to improve their professional qualifications. These loans are available only to those teachers who are improving their professional qualifications on leaves of absence or educational leaves.

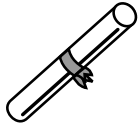
Application forms are available from:

Melinda Cook
Director of Administration and Finance
New Brunswick Teachers' Association
P.O. Box 752
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6
Tel: (506) 452-8921

The deadline for applications is



Margaret Sophia (Fraser) Cox Scholarship Frank Hazen Rouse Scholarship Belle McLeod Rouse Scholarship



These scholarships are awarded by the "Teacher Education Trust" set up by the late Dr. Irvine B. Rouse. The awards amount to: Margaret Sophia (Fraser) Cox Scholarship - \$200; Frank Hazen Rouse Scholarship - \$200; Belle McLeod Rouse Scholarship - \$200.

Scholarships are offered to enable the recipients to enrich their background through travel and/or study. The award must be used either during the summer of 2003 or within the academic year following. Applicants, including teachers, principals and vice-principals, must be currently serving as co-operating teachers for the Faculty of Education.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants on a continuing teacher's contract in the Province of New Brunswick. A condition of the award is that the recipients continue to accept student teachers upon request, and teach in New Brunswick during the year in which they receive the scholarship (education leaves excepted).

While applications are considered from those intending to obtain further academic qualifications, there is no requirement to follow specific courses. The Committee will judge applicants on the value of the projected travel and/or study to their work.

Send applications to "The Margaret Sophia (Fraser) Cox, Frank Hazen Rouse, and Belle McLeod Rouse Scholarships," c/o Associate Dean, Faculty of Education, University of New Brunswick, Bag Service #45333, Fredericton, NB E3B 6E3, before May 15, 2003.

Letters should include a brief statement of the applicant's experience, qualifications and involvement as a co-operating teacher, an outline of the purpose for which the Scholarship would be used, with details of location, duration and estimated costs, where possible. Please include your address and telephone number.



Remembrance Week Activities At Sussex Middle School - District 6



Remembrance Week was observed at Sussex Middle School by having grade level assemblies where local Legion members were in attendance. Through readings, poems, choir selections, and the laying of wreaths by students, team leaders and administration, we remembered those who fought and lost their lives in the World Wars, the Korean Conflict, the Gulf War, as well as those who have served or are serving in Peacekeeping duties around the world.

The students in the Grade 6 English classes sent postcards and boxes of treats to our Canadian Peacekeepers serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Within a couple of weeks, we started receiving back answers. To date, approximately 100 postcards and letters have been received by individual students and teachers. Many of



these contained beautiful pictures of Bosnia and heart-warming messages from our Canadians in Camp Maple Leaf, Zgon, Bosnia-Herzegovina. The students were told just how much the interest they showed was truly appreciated and how being away from home at Christmas was made just a little bit

easier by the interest they showed.

A letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. King, containing a computerized map of OP PALLADIUM, surrounded by pictures of local sites, expressed thanks and best wishes for the remainder of the school year.

The students have written replies and also prepared and sent treat boxes for Valentine's.




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School District #18 Teams Up With UNB Varsity REDS

A strong partnership has been developed between School District #18 and the University of New Brunswick Athletics program. "Heads Up With The REDS" – a program created by two Varsity athletes (Calvin and Emily Watson – men's and women's hockey) has student-athletes visit local schools giving presentations to students grades 4-8, encouraging them to develop attitudes and skills to contribute towards a positive lifestyle and to raise self-confidence.

The program, now in its second year, is a huge success. At each presentation, four student-athletes visit the schools sharing their experiences and knowledge on topics such as: goal setting, motivation, fitness, healthy choices, the importance of being physically active, and maintaining a balanced lifestyle. Each Varsity RED student-athlete spoke on a letter of the Varsity REDS:

- **R** – Respect and Responsibility
- **E** – Energy and Enthusiasm
- **D** – Discipline and Dedication
- **S** – Success and Satisfaction

Garth Wade, Physical Education Mentor, provided training sessions for the athletes, providing speaking



Heads Up student-athletes with a grade 6 student from Nashwaaksis Middle School. Left to right: Kate Betts-Wilmott, Lindsay Davis, Calvin Watson, Sonya Comeau, and in front, Adam Peabody - Grade 6 student - Nashwaaksis Middle School.

notes on each of the four letters and tips on presenting to students. The 2002-03 Heads Up program began in November and runs to March 2003. Over 30 presentations to approximately 2500 District #18 students have been scheduled, having the UNB athletes visit 27 of District #18's schools. At each

presentation, all students are left with a pamphlet that includes the Heads Up information and a number of activities for them to complete. The school is also given a Heads Up poster to display within the school as a reminder of the Heads Up visit. The feedback received from the program has been very positive. As a follow-up to the Heads Up visits, participating schools were given the opportunity to select students to represent their school at a varsity basketball game held on February 9th at the Aitken University Centre. The students who are selected have exhibited the values of REDS within their respective schools.

It is the hope of both UNB Varsity Athletics and District #18 that this partnership continues to grow. The creation of a positive foundation and image of the University of New Brunswick, its athletes, and the community has been certainly developed by the Heads Up With The REDS program.

*Submitted by: Garth Wade
Physical Education Mentor
District #18*

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SINCE 1997, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE CONCORD COLLEGE OF SINO-CANADA ORGANIZATION ON VARIOUS EDUCATION INITIATIVES. OPPORTUNITIES EXIST IN 3 SCHOOLS IN SHENZHEN AND BEIJING, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 2003.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
LANA TAYLOR
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK
LANA.TAYLOR@GNB.CA
506-856-3046

NBTA Men Teachers' Curling Bonspiel



Section A Winners: Skip - George Burchill, Mate - Mike Graham, 2nd - Terry Dickson, Lead - Bob Lee



Section B Winners: Skip - Frank Belyea, Mate - Phil Bartlett, 2nd - Kevin Robertson, Lead - Joe Keleher



Section C Winners: Skip - Terry Kilfoil, Mate - Art MacFarlane, 2nd - Wayne Manuel, Lead - Ernie McNeill



Section D Winners: Skip - Hermel Mazerolle, Mate - Louis-Emile Daigle, 2nd - Maurice Roy, Lead - Louis-Rene Comeau



Section E Winners: Skip - Dave Bowen, Mate - Chris Stanton (absent), 2nd - Denis Nadeau, Lead - Bob Peters



Section A Runners-up: Bev Tozer - Skip, Tom Gillett - Mate, Norm Bowen - 2nd, Mark Holland, Lead



Section B Runners-up: Dave Ross - Skip, Steve Porter - Mate, Jeff Nelson - 2nd, Francis LeBlanc - Lead (absent)



Section C Runners-up: Norm Richard - Skip, Maurice Richard - Mate, Paul Robichaud - 2nd, Frank MacPhee - Lead



Section D Runners-up: Mark McAuliffe - Skip, Bruce Dunsmore - Mate, Levite Paradis - 2nd, Laurie Roberts - Lead



Section E Runners-up: Murray McGowan - Skip, Ernie Doucet - Mate, Lorne McGuigan - 2nd, Ray Coholan - Lead

Head of the class.

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Rick Hansen Lesson Plans Available On-Line



Eight innovative lesson plans based on the story of Rick Hansen, Canada's Man In Motion, are now available on-line as part of the Rick Hansen School Program.

For the past 20 years, Rick Hansen has been encouraging and supporting youth by creating specialized programs, participating in community initiatives, and speaking to groups of young people. The philosophy and values embodied in Rick Hansen's story have been incorporated into these lesson plans.

Created by a classroom teacher for Grades 4-8, they are teacher-friendly, creative and designed to motivate students. All eight plans include teaching tips and lesson materials and may be downloaded

free of charge.

The vision of the Rick Hansen School Program is a world in which youth are motivated and capable of making a difference in their communities. The lesson plans form a complete unit of work related to Rick Hansen's Man In Motion World Tour, his commitment to improve quality of life for people with spinal cord injury and the ongoing search for a cure. They help students understand key messages the Rick Hansen story has for youth such as determination, courage, social responsibility, leadership and the importance of teamwork.

"We want to bring Rick's story to a whole new generation of Canadians," said Amanda Hansen, Director of the Rick Hansen School Program. "We hope these lesson

plans will help teachers inspire their students to reach for their dreams and see the value of making a difference in the lives of others."

The lesson plans are practical and curriculum-linked in the areas of math, science, technology, physical education, social studies, drama, language arts and personal planning and are easily adaptable for use as complete thematic units or stand-alone lessons. They will also appeal to parents interested in individual study by students at home. The lesson plans are available at www.rickhansen.com in the Rick Hansen School Program section.

Rick Hansen School Program contact: Nathalie Earley, Special Projects Coordinator, nearley@rick-hansen.ubc.ca, 604-822-9715

Twenty-Second Annual New Brunswick Mathematics Competition (for Grades 7, 8, 9)

Friday, May 23, 2003

Forms will be sent to the principals by the beginning of February.

Preliminary application forms should be returned by

March 28, 2003 and final application forms should be returned by **April 25,**

2003. Forms can also be submitted electronically by accessing:

<http://www.math.unb.ca/mathcomp/forms>

For further information contact:

Fredericton (UNB) — Dr. Bob McKellar
(506-453-4768), bob@math.unb.ca

Moncton (U de M) — Prof. Samuel Gaudet
(506-858-4488), gaudets@umoncton.ca



Attention High School Teachers

An exciting six-week summer camp experience at the Deep River Science Academy offers scientifically inclined students an opportunity to perform original scientific research, under the supervision of a research scientist and a university student tutor. High school credits are awarded on completion of a successful term.

Scholarships Available

Have any of your students (Grades 9-11) done outstandingly well in a recent provincial or national science or math competition? If so, they may be eligible for one of the prestigious scholarships now available.

Please notify us of student interest by: March 10th, 2003

Phone: 1-800-760-3772

Email: info@drsa.ca

Website: www.drsa.ca



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Announcements



Study Opportunities at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre

The Centre offers field courses which are both university accredited and for high schools and teachers. Scholarships and internships are available.

For further information, check out their website at: www.huntsmanmarine.ca, or contact the Centre at (506) 529-1200, e-mail: huntsman@huntsmanmarine.ca

16th Annual Racism. Stop It! Campaign

To encourage students aged 12 through 18 to become involved, the 7th annual Racism. Stop It! National Video Competition is announced. This competition encourages young people to create teams of up to five people to produce 60 to 90 second videos expressing their ideas on eliminating racial discrimination.

Posters and other materials to promote this program are free of charge and may be ordered on-line at www.march21.gc.ca. For more information, call the toll free number at 1-888-MARCH21.

National Poetry Month April 2003

Established in Canada in April 1999 by the League of Canadian Poets, National Poetry Month brings together schools, publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, and poets across the country to celebrate poetry and its

vital place in Canada's culture. Communities and businesses participate through readings, festivals, book displays, and other events.

For more information, contact: Anna Humphrey, marketing@poets.ca or websites: www.poets.ca, www.youngpoets.ca

CAP Conference

The Canadian Association of Principals Conference will be held May 14-16, 2003 in Toronto. This year's conference has the theme of *Communication*. The program features renowned keynote speakers and a variety of excellent workshops focusing on communications.

Registration can be done on-line at www.principals.on.ca. For further information, contact: Ontario Principals' Council, (416) 322-6600, E-mail: centreforleadership@principals.on.ca

Earth Science for the Global Community Conference

Science teachers and earth scientists from around the world will meet at GeoSciEd IV, a conference of the International Geoscience Education Organization, Calgary, Alberta, August 10-14, 2003.

Teachers from elementary to university level and earth scientists meet to share ideas on how to teach about our planet. The conference features workshops, keynote addresses, oral and poster sessions plus field trips on mountains, dinosaurs, climate change, geohazards, archeology and the Burgess Shale. Visit www.geosciied.org for details and register soon or contact Conference Chairman Godfrey Nowlan at 403-292-7079, gnowlan@nrcan.gc.ca

Overseas Job Opportunity

The World University Service of Canada is currently collecting CVs/Letters from ESL/EFL teachers who are interested in becoming Development Workers in Vietnam for a period of 2 years. Departures are for early August 2003 and

teachers should be selected by May 2003.

Interested candidates should forward their resume and statement of interest to the Recruitment Section at recruit@wusc.ca.

Teacher Exchange

Primary teacher in British Columbia looking for a teacher exchange with primary teacher in New Brunswick. I have 10 years of teaching experience and live in a 3-bedroom house on 5 acres in Valemount B.C. (foothills of the Rocky Mountains).

Please contact Dan or Lynn at (250) 566-9808 or dlawless@valemount.com.

Once interest has been established, this exchange would proceed through regular channels of the Canadian Education Exchange Foundation.



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