

NBTA News



March 29, 2006
Vol. XLVIII, No. 7

New Brunswick Teachers' Association

*Voting for Vice-President/President-Elect
set for April 24-28, 2006*

NBTA Releases Inclusionary Practices Report to Media

The following is the text of the introductory remarks made by NBTA President, Indu Varma, to the news conference held on February 16, 2006

Teachers in New Brunswick believe in inclusion, that each child needs to be provided with an educational program that will ensure lifelong learning to the best of the child's ability.

Class composition is a complex matter comprised of three main components: a wide spectrum of academic needs within a given classroom, a variety of medical needs, and behavioral challenges causing discipline problems. Insufficient resources, programs and services compound the issue.

In a research project conducted by the NBTA last year, teachers in New Brunswick described their

A View from the Front Line



A Report of the NBTA
Ad Hoc Committee on Inclusionary Practices
October 2005



INSIDE:

- Are You Eligible to Retire? 5
- Disability Awareness 6
- DSS 2006 7
- NBTA Professional Courses 8
- CONTACT 2006 13
- CSCC/CCLC NB 2006 21
- Cox/Rouse Scholarships 23

**Next Final Copy Deadline
For NBTA News:
Friday, April 7**

The Power of Learning



plight in detail. The responses from the survey and focus groups have been analyzed and are presented in our report entitled, "A View from the Front Line". Based on teachers' responses, the report states that our system is in crisis and requires serious interventions to ensure a 'quality education' that meets QLA goals.

Class composition issues were brought to public attention during the last round of negotiations. As a result of negotiations, the NB Government did put some measures in place as a starting point towards addressing this issue. However, teachers continue to face class composition-related challenges on a daily basis.

Teachers are working harder and longer hours to meet the needs of the children in their care, yet despite their best efforts, they are unable to adequately meet the needs of all children. The high concentration of diverse needs in many of our classes, in combination with the absence of financial and human resources to address those needs, is negatively impacting the classroom environments to the point of compromising the learning of our



NBTA President Indu Varma and Director of Curriculum and Finance, Melinda Cook, speak with the media about the inclusionary practices report entitled, "A View from the Front Line."

children.

NBTA presented these very findings to Prof. Wayne MacKay, an independent consultant hired by the Department of Education to look into the issue of inclusive education in New Brunswick. We trust that many of our recommendations will be addressed in the MacKay report.

We eagerly await the opportunity to assist in the development and implementation of suitable measures designed to meet the needs of our children appropriately. We want this to happen as soon as possible.

At the end of the day our goals are common - to have improved learning conditions for our children.

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

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



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

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



NBTA NEWS

ISSN 0317-5227

NBTA News is published ten times a year. Opinions expressed are those of the authors, not necessarily the NBTA.

Editor: Jim Dysart

Editorial Assistant: Loretta Clarke

Graphic Artist: Christy Price 35

Printed By: NBTF Printing Services

Member: CEPA

Address all correspondence to:

The Editor

P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, N.B.

E3B 5R6

Telephone: (506) 452-8921

FAX: (506) 453-9795

E-mail: nbtanews@nbnet.nb.ca

Web: www.nbta.ca



Indu Varma

In the above mentioned article, Sharon Cromwell proceeds to list the necessary provisions, listed by Utah Education Association, that must be in place in order to make inclusion work best. These range from adequate supports and services for students, to professional development for teachers, and sufficient funding for programs based on students' needs.

The NBTA report entitled, "A View from the Front Line", makes similar recommendations.

The Report clearly states that as teachers we believe in inclusion, support it, and strive hard to provide for the needs of all children under our care. However, in the absence of the provisions mentioned above, it has become virtually impossible for us to make the inclusive education model work effectively. The NBTA Report makes three broad and several specific recommendations.

Recommendation #1: "The government must recognize the system is in crisis and address class composition issues immediately."

The government has been proactive in hiring an independent consultant, Prof. Wayne MacKay of Dalhousie University, to do its own study on inclusive education in New Brunswick. Professor MacKay has spent more than eleven months extensively studying inclusive education. I sincerely hope the government quickly acts upon the recommendations from the MacKay Report.

Our government has acknowledged the difficulties we face daily due to class composition by allocating a small sum of money to address some of the most serious class composition related situations. This is a good

A View from the Front Line

Major Recommendations from NBTA Report
Released on February 16, 2006

"Even the staunchest backers of inclusion recognize that it requires support services and changes in the traditional classroom."

Sharon Cromwell, Education World, 2004.

beginning, which must now be followed by further concrete measures.

Recommendation #2 - "Government must provide adequate resources to meet the needs of the children in New Brunswick." Our classes today are composed of students with such diverse needs that we cannot effectively meet all the needs. We need human, financial, and material resources.

We need additional human resources such as teachers, methods and resource teachers, guidance counselors, specialists to offer hands-on programs, more education specialists such as psychologists, speech and language pathologists, behavior interventionists, teachers' assistants, and social workers, etc. These would benefit the children of New Brunswick immensely, who must be our top priority.

Adequate financial resources are needed to support the inclusive education model. New Brunswick has been the lowest in per pupil spending (operating expenditures) according to Statistics Canada figures of 2003 (the latest available figures), and falls far short of Canadian per pupil spending average (\$6275.00 NB versus \$7313.00 Canadian average). In the face of growing needs of our children and reduced funding, teachers have been attempting to do more with less, even to the point of making up for the short fall by spending money out of their pockets to buy classroom supplies and various other things. A 2005 national poll of teachers conducted by Canadian Teachers' Federation says that teachers in Atlantic Canada spend more than \$400.00/year for school-related things, nearly 90% of which goes towards school supplies. Let's hope this year's budget will provide adequately for classroom resources.

Apart from human and financial resources, we need material resources. The wide spectrum of academic levels

in our classes leaves us hard pressed to find suitable text books and other materials to teach the prescribed curriculum outcomes at those multiple levels.

Recommendation #3: "Government must immediately redefine its expectations of the level of service that can be provided to our children by teachers currently within the education system, given the existing class composition and resources." The expectations of government are not realistic, given the current level of staffing of the teacher component, education specialists and support workers, services to students, and the textbooks and other resources available to do the job.

My recent conversation with a university Physics professor regarding class composition explains this point further. I asked him to imagine teaching the same physics lesson at levels from grade six to university, have lecture or notes structured to accommodate all these levels, make up assignments and tests with the same in mind and do it day after day for five or six different subjects/classes each day. His one word quick answer was, "Impossible!" As yet I had not even mentioned students with medical needs and those with behavioral challenges which add yet another dimension to our difficulties.

On your behalf I have communicated the above messages to the media and various politicians. I must share my sense of optimism with you, though. Each and every cabinet minister that I have met so far has assured me that education is a top priority of our government. Hence, I am very hopeful that in the upcoming budget, the government will show its true commitment to the education of our children by providing a significant increase in the amount of available funding to address class composition and related issues.

Our children are worth it!

National Media Education Week to be Held November 2006



**Ottawa,
February 6,
2006** – The
Canadian
Teachers'
Federation
(CTF) and the

Media Awareness Network (MNet) are pleased to announce a partnership to launch and promote National Media Education Week to be held the week of November 19-24, 2006. The first of its kind in Canada, this week will highlight the importance of media literacy and Web literacy as key learning areas in the information age.

"According to our 2003 Kids' Take on Media survey, media are a powerful force in the lives of youth," says CTF President Winston Carter. "To be media literate in this environment, young people need to develop knowledge, values and a range of critical thinking, communication and information management skills. Teachers play a critical role in this process but require carefully developed tools, resources and professional

development opportunities. This is where MNet's valuable insight, knowledge and state-of-the-art resources come into play."

For her part, MNet Executive Director Michelle Scarborough believes that media education is an essential tool to help young people acquire these skills. "Our studies show that young people are immersed in media – especially when it comes to digital culture. Our most recent findings from our 2005 Young Canadians in a Wired World found that today's students are connected, active and going online at younger than ever ages."

Thanks to federal funding provided by the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, MNet and CTF are currently working with provincial and territorial teacher organizations, the Canadian Association of Media Education Organizations (CAMEO), the Association for Media Literacy (AML) and Concerned Children's Advertisers (CCA) to develop and promote a wide range of media

education programs and professional development opportunities.

"I encourage every Canadian teacher to mark their 2006 calendar and to visit the CTF Web site to obtain more information on how they can take part in National Media Education Week," concludes Carter.

CTF is the national voice of over 215,000 teachers across Canada. MNet is a Canadian not-for-profit centre of expertise and excellence in media education.

Related links:

Portal Page of the National Media Education Week
<http://www.ctf-fce.ca/nationalmediaeducationweek/default.htm>

MNet's Young Canadians in a Wired World survey

<http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/research/YCWW/index.cfm>

CTF's Kids' Take on Media survey conducted in 2003

<http://www.ctf-fce.ca/en/side/media.htm>

— Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)— From Cariboo to 'Karibu!' and back again

VSO Canada is proud to be the Canadian partner of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO). VSO is an international development agency that works through volunteers. VSO volunteers work in partnership with people in more than 30 developing countries, contributing to development goals in Education, HIV and AIDS, Disability, Health and Social Well-being, Secure Livelihoods and Participation and Governance. VSO Canada also contributes to innovative volunteering initiatives such as Youth Volunteering, National Volunteering and Business Partnerships.

Wybo Born and his wife Glenna left their home in Regina, Saskatchewan in 2000 to start a new life half a world away in Rwanda. Wybo was a recent education graduate with some substitute teaching under his belt. Glenna was a physiotherapist.

They decided to volunteer with VSO because the placements offered were appropriate to their skills sets and they wanted to learn more about development issues.



Whilst in Rwanda, Glenna trained university students in physiotherapy and Wybo taught English language

and literature in a Francophone high school. Wybo also supported the English club and helped organize the Kivu Writers' Workshop for students from all around Rwanda. In addition, he trained elementary school English teachers and helped sustain the national Teacher Resource Centre by running workshops in how to create teacher materials. He modestly describes these activities as "nothing much".

(...continued on page 6)

Are You Eligible to Retire?

By Larry Jamieson, NBTA Director, Teacher Welfare Services

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

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



Larry Jamieson

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

- If you are unsure of your pension service, check with the Public Service Employees Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources (Pensions Branch) to make sure that you are indeed eligible for retirement. Include your Social Insurance Number (SIN) and birth certificate in any communication with the Pensions Branch.
- Notify your Superintendent, in writing, of your intention to retire (the Regulations of the *Education Act* now stipulate this notification be communicated as of February 1st):
 - (a) specify the date of retirement (always at end of the month - e.g., June 30, 2006);
 - (b) provide information so that your retirement allowance can be forwarded to the financial institution of your choice.

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

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

Forms to fill out at District Office:

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

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

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

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

OR

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

Please notify NBTA Central Office as soon as possible if you have decided to retire. This will help us prepare for the provincial Retiring Teachers' Luncheon, which will be held at the Aitken Centre, University of New Brunswick campus on Saturday, May 27th.

(...continued from page 4)

Wybo and Glenna returned to Canada in 2002 where Wybo now teaches grade 1 French immersion, is a representative of the local teachers association of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and is the President of the Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of French. Wybo and Glenna are now the proud parents of Petra Aisha and live in 'Karibu House', named for the Cariboo of Canada and 'Karibu' meaning 'welcome' in Swahili.

Reminiscing on his time in

Rwanda, Wybo comments "It was neat having the opportunities to lead and do projects that seem to be so out of reach. I learned a lot about the central African region with its history and politics. I came in contact with great people from Rwanda and around the world. Finally, I have taken the experiences back to Canada, realizing that I can make a difference here, too".

If this story makes you wonder if you'd like to become an international volunteer, please

contact VSO Canada in Ottawa at 1-888-876-2911 or visit the website at www.vsocan.org.

There is always a need for experienced, dedicated teachers and currently a particular need for bilingual educators to work in Rwanda, which is rebuilding its education system 12 years after the 1994 genocide.

To learn more visit <http://www.vsocan.org/> and click on 'volunteer sending program'.

Contest Promotes Best Practices in Inclusive Education

The organizing committee for New Brunswick Disability Awareness Week (DAW) is pleased to announce the *Best Practices in Inclusive Education Contest*.

"Since school inclusion began in New Brunswick in the 1980's, many educators across the province have been strong advocates for including students with disabilities in their classrooms," said Gary Comeau, Disability Awareness Week Co-Chairperson. "While the goal of Disability Awareness Week 2006 is to promote the inclusion of students with disabilities, we felt it equally important to reward the contributions of those who are already strong supporters of inclusion."

The contest is open to all New Brunswick educators and educational support staff at all levels of schools, colleges and universities. Contest participants can enter by sending a short written description of something they are doing in their classroom or school to promote inclusion.

For example: students were paired with a "buddy" to help each other learn their lessons; FM systems were installed in the school; a wheelchair ramp was built leading to the stage in the gym; staff at the school were provided with disability awareness training; students were supported with adapted computers or other technical aids as needed; all students are encouraged to participate in

extracurricular school activities.

The grand prize is a DELL Inspiron 6000 Notebook computer which will be selected in a random draw from eligible entries. The second prize winner will receive \$100 with a variety of DAW promotional items. Other finalists will also be awarded a variety of promotional items.

"This contest is a way to showcase the good things that are happening in our schools, colleges and

universities," said Randy Dickinson, Disability Awareness Week Co-Chairperson. "With the chance of winning such an attractive prize, it is hoped educators and educational support staff will be encouraged to think more inclusively."

Entries can be e-mailed to pcsd@gnb.ca. The contest deadline is May 12, 2006. More information about Disability Awareness Week is available online at www.gnb.ca/0048/.

Disability Awareness Week Award Program

The organizing committee for New Brunswick Disability Awareness Week (May 28 - June 3) is pleased to announce the Disability Awareness Week Award Program.

The Disability Awareness Week organizing committee will be offering the possibility of special recognition awards that are unique to New Brunswick.

These awards will honour those who have made significant efforts to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate more fully in meaningful and independent lives. A maximum of three awards will be given out. The New Brunswick Awards were first established in 1988 and are considered very prestigious by the disability community.

The three categories are individual, municipality and group/organization/ company. Judging will be done by the Executive Committee of Disability Awareness Week from nominations received in writing prior to April 30.

Nomination forms are available by calling the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons at 1-800-442-4412 or online at www.gnb.ca/0048.



Developing Successful Schools (DSS)

July 3-6, 2006

Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB

Leading Sustainable 'Assessment for Learning' in Your School

An Instructional Leadership Institute for Atlantic Canada Administrators

Program Overview

Leading sustainable improvement in learning and teaching is a complex, challenging and rewarding goal for any school leader.

Our goals for this four-day seminar are:

- to explore the principles and implications of 'Assessment for Learning', from its powerful research base to practical implementation in today's Canadian schools
- to examine the leadership styles, skills and approaches that generate sustainable successful change in the way schools do business
- to reflect on our experience of change, and develop strategies that work
- to draw on the shared experience and support of the group to see our way forward
- to develop strategic and operational plans for our own schools for the coming year

Institute Resource Person - Ruth Sutton

Ruth Sutton is a highly experienced educator from Manchester, England with strong communication and interpersonal skills. She has a deep-rooted understanding of schools, teachers and teaching. Ruth also has considerable expertise in helping schools and teachers maximize the development opportunities arising from implementation of national, state or provincial standards and assessment.

Registration/Fees

Educators who are members of the sponsoring organizations (NBTA, NLTA, NSTU & PEITF) - registration fee \$300.00. All others \$400.00. (Preference will be given to members of the sponsoring organizations.) All participants must pre-register.

On-site check-in: Monday, July 3 (3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.) in the Foyer of Tweedie Hall.

NBTA members please note:

Please indicate if you are paying the total costs to attend this Institute **OR** partial costs and the district partial costs **OR** if the district is paying the total costs and if so, who should the NBTA invoice.

The following guidelines will influence the selection for DSS in the event that there are more NB applicants than seats (Limit 24 seats for NBTA):

- Representation by District with consideration to District size.
- Years in administration (a balance of early, mid and late).
- First-time attendees.
- Maximum of six (6) seats may be allocated for principal/vice-principal teams (no more than one team/District)

DSS 2006 Application Form

Name: _____ School District: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: (Office) _____ (Home) _____ (Fax) _____

(E-mail) _____

Position: District Office () School Administrator () Other () Specify: _____

Registration Fee: () Educators from sponsoring organizations \$300.00 \$ _____

() Others \$400.00 \$ _____

Accommodations: _____ nights @ () \$50.00 (single) \$ _____

(All accommodations are singles) Dates Accommodations Required: _____

Meals: Meal Plan () Yes () No () \$80.00 \$ _____

Lobster & Steak Banquet: Lobster? Yes ___ No ___ TOTAL \$ _____

Method of payment: () cheque and/or () invoice _____

T-shirt size _____ (Whom should the NBTA invoice?)

NBTA members may register on-line at www.nbta.ca (Credit Card only)

Registration Deadline - June 2, 2006

Attach cheque for the total amount payable to the New Brunswick Teachers' Association

Mail to: Nancy Roach, Director of Professional Development, P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6

Tel. No. (506) 452-1740 Fax No. (506) 453-9795

NBTA Professional Courses – Spring –

- All courses are applicable to a Certificate 5 (or if you already hold a Masters degree, the courses may be used towards a Certificate 6). Courses may be taken also for professional or personal interest.
- Fee for all courses is \$375 payable by cheque dated the first day of the course. Make all cheques payable to NBTA.
- All courses require 36 hours of instruction.
- Full description of each course is available at www.plsweb.com. Click Graduate Courses.
- Maximum seats per course: 24 (minimum numbers are required for a course to run).

MAGIC06SDOF — Meaningful Activities to Generate Interesting Classrooms

Dates: Weekends, Friday (6-9); Saturday (8:30-3:00); Apr. 7/8, Apr. 21/22, Apr. 28/29, May 12/13

Location: George Street Middle School, Fredericton
Instructor: Derek O'Brien

Description: This is an exciting hands-on course that offers teachers opportunities to learn about and acquire a multitude of engaging activities that go beyond the textbook and worksheet. Participation in over 60 activities will give you practise in creating, evaluating and adapting ideas to your own specific curriculum needs.

LR06SKPR — Learning to Read: Beginning Reading Instruction

Dates: Weekends, Friday (5-9); Saturday (8-5); May 5/6, May 12/13, May 26/27, June 2/3.

Location: Kennebecasis Valley High School, Rothesay
Instructor: Kathy Prosser

Description: Improve student reading achievement by using a balanced and integrated approach. Explore the latest reading research and connect it to practical strategies to help struggling readers. Learn strategies for both decoding and comprehension. This course will give teachers of all grades a better understand of how reading can be taught.

Educational Improvement Grant = Funds Depleted =

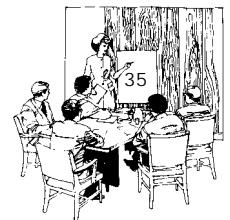
The funds for both the Provincial and Council Educational Improvement Grants (i.e., for conferences and other professional development) have been depleted for the activities taking place between now and June 30, 2006.

Skills For Administrators 2006

Space Still Available!

Brain-Based Instruction:
What Should It Look Like
in YOUR School
(May 2 & 3, 2006)

To find out more information and to register, please go to the website www.nbta.ca



Everyone Counts in the 2006 Census!

On Tuesday, May 16, more than 32.5 million people in Canada will “count themselves in” when they complete and return their 2006 Census questionnaire either online at www.census2006.ca or by mail.

So why take a census? Because governments of all levels use census data to make policy decisions about Canada’s economic and social programs. In fact, census data are used by numerous federal-provincial programs including transfer payments, Old Age Security, official languages and Veterans’ Pensions and War Veterans’ Allowance.

Business, industry, associations, institutions, academia and the media depend on census data as a valuable decision-making tool. Census data are also used to plan important community services such as: health care, education, transportation, day care, fire and police protection, employment and training programs,



subsidized housing

Statistics Canada is bound by law to protect the confidentiality and identity of individuals in all data.

Data are screened to ensure anonymity; data are randomly rounded to the nearest multiple of five or ten; and no details are released for areas with populations below a certain size.

All employees who work with census forms are sworn to secrecy. The Statistics Act contains penalties

in the form of a fine of up to \$1,000 or a jail term of six months, or both, if an employee releases personal census information. Also, only employees who need to use completed census forms for their work will see individual forms.

Census-taking is recognized worldwide for its important contribution in planning for the future. The majority of countries take a census on a regular basis. In Canada, the census tradition goes back more than 300 years to when Intendant Jean Talon conducted the first census of the colony of New France.

On Tuesday May 16, take part in a new Canadian tradition and “count yourself in!” online at www.census2006.ca.

Census materials such as bookmarks, posters, brochures, fact sheets, newsletters, etc. are available free of charge. Contact: Daniel Roy, Tel. 902-244-4000, Fax 902-426-8709

Crystal Forum: Networking Professionals — Science, Technology, Mathematics



CRYSTAL Atlantique announces the first annual *Crystal Forum: Networking Professionals* to be held from July 31 - August 4, 2006.

Each year will have a specific theme – “Fueling the Future” is this year’s theme. We will explore four aspects of the energy situation at both the introductory and more advanced levels — energy sources, new technologies, modelling and energy, climate change. We invite teachers and other educators interested in science, technology and mathematics to participate.

The Crystal Forum is an innovative model of professional development designed to connect interests in science and mathematics education across the Atlantic Provinces and New England States. The Forum is designed to be a crossroads, a gathering place, an

opportunity for elementary, middle, and high school teachers to:

- strengthen and update their backgrounds in science and mathematics;
- share ideas about teaching and learning;
- interact with scientists, mathematicians, and engineers;
- establish Teacher-Action Groups;
- participate in teacher-initiated change in the classroom;
- apply for a \$1000 implementation grant.

Besides a look at the issues surrounding energy, the Forum will address pedagogical issues such as: How to address the different needs of learners? How to create virtual learning communities? What is the role of students in conducting field research with scientists? What are the barriers that can make science difficult to understand? and What are effective ways to extend the science and mathematics classroom to the community?

Do you have a question or area of

interest you would like to see highlighted? Let us know – contact us through the website at www.CRYSTALatlantique.ca.

Scientists and educators from the University of New Brunswick, Université de Moncton, Science East, Huntsman Marine Science Centre, and St. Francis Xavier University, among others, will provide sessions and work with teachers as they develop ideas to implement in their classrooms. The week is full -- major speakers, vendors’ display, stand-alone and multiple sessions, fireside chats, discussion groups, virtual problem solving, informal events, field trips, and a closing banquet.

The Crystal Forum addresses the need for grassroots professional development in the areas of science and mathematics education. If you and colleagues in your school or district are interested, visit www.CRYSTALatlantique.ca for more details. 35

Walk a Mile

***“There once was a teacher named Small
Who taught Middle School Science to all,
He often lamented
In a voice so tormented,
They learned nothing in Elementary
at all!”***

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

We are all familiar with variations on this little ditty, wherein one segment of the teaching population decries the lack of effort, ability, results (you name it) of some other segment of the teaching population. While the ‘poetry’ is sadly lacking, the sentiment behind the little rhyme is all too real within many schools and among teachers in the system as a whole.

I would suggest that if we truly aspire to become professional learning communities, we need to face the challenge, head on, of peeling away the many layers of the onion of distrust and misunderstanding that seem to permeate school life.

I can clearly recall, when after fourteen years of teaching, I was considering applying for a vice-principal position. I can actually remember wondering to myself, “What will I do all day? How will I fill in the time?” You see, I knew and understood the reality of the Grade 8 teaching classroom, because I had lived it, experienced it from every angle, but because I had not ever been a VP, I really had no understanding of what the job actually involved. I had observed snippets of it, from the outside (and this is the key), but had never really seen it ‘up close and personal’, so how could I possibly know what I was in for?

Not knowing is one thing, but it has been my observation that many teachers move from ‘not knowing’ to ‘judging’ those positions in the school or system that are different from their own. It goes something like this: “Boy, those Guidance Counselors have it pretty easy...no home rooms, no marking. What a slack job”. (They do not know the haunting nights spent worrying that a child may commit

suicide, nor have they had to make that call to Family and Community Services after a child has disclosed sexual abuse, nor have they felt the wrath of the angry father who comes in pursuit after the fact....)

Or here’s another one: “The M and R teacher at my school does nothing! I haven’t even seen her for a week.” Contrast this with the pleading remarks from M and R teachers in focus groups who told of the hundreds of hours they spend on SEP write-ups, and the frustration they feel with the demands from District Office to “get the paperwork right or face potential law suits”.

As in the little rhyme, teachers at any level of the system will look either up or down and feel free to comment on how easy the others have it, or how poorly they are doing their jobs, but the bottom line is until we have walked a mile (or more) in another teacher’s shoes, we really cannot and should not attempt to denigrate what they do. (Of course the Code of Ethics is very clear on the inappropriateness of making public statements to that effect, but even the fact that teachers might think this way has detrimental effects on the school climate and culture!)

Until one has lived with a kindergarten class for a year, one can’t possibly know the demands (we may only see the shorter instructional time and jump to a conclusion.) Until one has lived the frenzied pace of most middle schools, one cannot even imagine what each whirling, spinning day and week is like. No one can truly know the unique pressure of preparing students for life after high school without experiencing it.

Much has been written about the positive impact of relational trust. In his newest article, **Improving Relationships Within the Schoolhouse** (*Educational Leadership*,

***A new High School teacher named Bob
Said, “I just feel as if I should sob!
Those teachers in the Middle
Just teach kids so little,
That I cannot now do MY job!”***

March 2006), author Roland Barth, emphatically states, “In short, the relationships among the educators in a school define all relationships within that school’s culture.”

It *matters* what teachers think and say about each other. Structures in most schools make it difficult for teachers to know and understand the realities of another’s job. I would suggest that school staffs spend some time at a staff meeting or PD afternoon sharing the challenges and rewards of your respective positions. Try completing these stems:

The most challenging thing about being a _____ teacher is _____.

The most rewarding thing about being a _____ teacher is _____.

Something I wish that other teachers knew and understood about my job is _____.

Even this much sharing would go a long way to helping break down the isolation and misunderstanding that is inherent in busy schools.

Barth goes on to suggest that relationships of four types occur in schools:

- Parallel Play relationships where teachers work side by side but never interact (he uses the analogy of two three-year-olds busily playing in the sand box, each so self-absorbed in their own activity that they really aren’t aware of the other)
- Adversarial relationships (these may be blatant or undercurrents)
- Congenial relationships (personal and friendly interactions which may have little or nothing to do with teaching)
- Collegial relationships where teachers actually work collaboratively, share ideas, talk

about their craft and encourage one another's success.

Can you identify these relationships in your school community?

It is a long and arduous road to reach true collegiality in a school, but, Barth says, and I concur, we must begin this process by holding discussions about teaching and learning in our staff rooms and not in the back parking lot.

I would suggest that we must also begin by making an effort to know and understand our colleagues and their varied roles. Nothing is served by being critical of the others in our system. Shadow the Grade 2 teacher, or the Music teacher, or the Vice-principal. Invite the High School Science teacher to your next seventh grade Science lesson. Spend an hour with the resource teacher. Let us break down the barriers of suspicion and blame and acknowledge that everyone has a vital and equally important role to play in helping kids reach their potential. No one in the education system has an easy job.....it may be different than yours, but different doesn't necessarily mean easier.

If you can't actually walk a mile in another teacher's shoes, at the very least acknowledge that his/her feet probably hurt as much as yours do!

Conferences on the Website

You may not have visited or even realize that the NBTA website has a special section for listing conferences that are taking place in New Brunswick and beyond. On the homepage (www.nbta.ca) click the Conferences tab at the top of the page. Organizations from across the country are adding their own conferences to our site. This makes it a spot you can go to often to find out about some great PD opportunities.

Interventions

This is a word that is coming to the fore of discussions about teaching and learning. I hear teachers often talking about the interventions that they use or are needed to help individual students succeed. This has been a theme of a number of journals in the past two years. **Creating a Failure Free School** (Principal Sept/Oct 2004) highlights a Pyramid Of Interventions for struggling learners. In the same issue, **Motivating Reluctant Learners** outlines reasons why students may feel

that they cannot succeed and discusses ways of helping them set realistic goals.

Educational Leadership February 2006 highlights the same theme and several articles stood out for me. "**They Can Because They Think They Can**" ties the research around motivation, self efficacy and reading together to give teachers' ideas. **Helping Writers Find Power** is a look at that age-old dilemma of helping kids value both the content and the editing process of their writing.

"It is a long and arduous road to reach true collegiality in a school... we must begin this process by holding discussions about teaching and learning in our staff rooms and not in the back parking lot."

Homework and Tests

The topic of homework is perennially on teachers' minds when they discuss the challenges of the job. In **If Only They'd Do Their Work** (*Educational Leadership February 2006*), the authors provide reasons why students don't do assigned homework, then offer suggestions that may alleviate some of the problem. There is lots to think about in the article.

Tests are another element of effective classroom teaching...or are they? Middle School teacher, Beth Kloos, shares the results of her efforts in **Teaching Away from the Test** (*Middle Ground February 2006*). You might be surprised at the impact her approach had on student learning.

Creative Writing in the Science Classroom

The article by the same name (*Middle Ground February 2006*) is filled with this Science teacher's real ideas for combining the outcomes of both the Language Arts and Science curriculum. Easily adapted for many levels and lots of fun.

Professional Inquiry: Examining Student Work

I am always drawn to this topic

because I believe it is an underutilized form of professional development in most schools. **More Than Paper Load: What Does All the Student Work Tell Us?** reexamines the approach to having a team of teachers collaborate on examining student work with a goal of informing and improving their own instruction. The author states: "Examining student work is a valuable process that benefits everyone." Learn more by reading the article and/or borrowing the Video resource kit available at the NBTF resource center.

Enrich With Harry Potter

The *Middle School Journal January 2006* offers a really interesting article titled **Harry Potter Casts his Spell in the Classroom**. In it, the author, Christopher Witschonke, shares a detailed discussion of an enrichment unit built around the Harry Potter novels. As a former English teacher, I was amazed at the depth of the work he garnered from his students, who were already motivated by the book, but who became involved in incredibly complex themes and discussion around the novels. Teachers from Grades 6 to senior high could use his ideas to create meaningful enrichment for students.

Council Day Programs

By now, the NBTA Elementary, Middle and High School Council programs have been in your schools for several weeks. In fact, the registration deadline of April 3 is not far off. Each year I am awed by the incredible amount of work that these volunteer Council members put into preparing a meaningful and varied program of professional development for you. Take advantage of easy registration either on-line (credit card only) or using the Courier bag at your school.

In no time the May sunshine will be with us and we will all be benefiting from a shared learning opportunity. See you in Sackville...or Bathurst ...or Moncton!!

Closing Quote:

"A pre-condition for doing anything to strengthen our practice and improve a school is the existence of a collegial culture in which professionals talk about practice, share their craft knowledge, and observe and root for the success of one another."

Roland S. Barth

Classroom Composition Update

by Melinda Cook, Director of Curriculum and Finance



In the last issue of the *NBTA News*, the announcement was made that all of the funding for classroom composition grants for the 2005-2006 school year had been allocated. The Committee was able to announce at that time that 21 grants had been distributed.

Subsequently, as final costs for the various resources have come in from the Districts, the Committee was able to move several applications from the waiting list to approved status. In all, 10 additional applicants were notified that their grants had been approved. Many of these applications had relatively small costs attached, but all will make a significant difference in the lives of teachers and students in the successful schools.

School personnel are reporting to the Classroom Composition Committee that the flexibility provided by the funding allocation is a key factor in achieving success within their schools. Within this program, schools have been able to

identify classes, areas, or individuals requiring additional resources, and to target them with the required resources. This flexibility is much needed within our schools.

In all, 10 additional applicants were notified that their grants had been approved.

"It is amazing what a half teaching position can do for a small school," said one principal. He indicated that the 0.5 FTE allowed several classes to be re-configured so that language arts and mathematics could be taught to single grades, rather than as combined classes. It also allowed the redistribution of teaching assignments to permit specialists to teach some classes, and for additional resource support to be provided to several high needs

students.

In another school, the administrator reported tremendous positive differences in the learning environment. "... the students are certainly learning at a more comfortable pace. We are now spending our time and energy focusing on instruction rather than on discipline and non-teaching concerns."

During the coming months, the Committee will continue to collect information from the recipient schools, and in June will develop a report on the application and approval process, and on the initiatives employed. At that time, the Committee will be able to assess the success of the model used for the distribution of the classroom composition funds; but in the meantime, testimonials such as those above certainly serve as preliminary indicators that teaching and learning environments are being positively impacted by class composition funds.

Lunch, Listen and Learn Board of Directors Visit Science East

On February 8, 2006, members of the NBTA Board of Directors combined lunch with a tour of the Science East Centre, located in the former York County Jail, Fredericton.

The Science Centre is home to more than 100 interactive exhibits. Each exhibit has a bilingual label which provides brief directions and descriptions. All programs are aligned with the specific curriculum outcomes of the New Brunswick Science Curriculum.

Since 1994, Science East has been transporting its touring exhibits to libraries, schools, museums and exhibition centres in many New Brunswick communities. By the completion of their eleventh annual tour in 2006, the Science East "tours"



35

will have visited nearly 200 schools, museums or libraries in communities across New Brunswick.

For further information, contact:

Science East, 668 Brunswick St.,
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 1H6,
Tel. 457-2340,
science@scienceeast.nb.ca



CONTACT

2006

• *A Professional Development Opportunity for Atlantic Canada Teachers* •

“Images of Our Profession”

August 6-9, 2006

Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
Corner Brook, Newfoundland

A practical and energizing conference which
will feature keynotes and sessions on:

- Examining the Profession from the Inside and Out • Keeping Students Engaged
- The Effective Teacher • Instructional Strategies That Make A Difference
- Cerveau, enseignement et apprentissage

- **Only 30 spaces available to New Brunswick teachers. Apply early!**
- **Consideration given to Branch representation and first-time applicants.**

Interested? Complete the application form below and send to Nancy Roach, NBTA Director of Professional Development, P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6 (Fax) 506-453-9795

CONTACT 2006

Application Form

Name: _____

School: _____

Branch: _____ Contacts: (tel:) _____

(e-mail) _____

Have you attended CONTACT before? Yes () No ()

If yes, when and where? _____

- Registration fee: \$190.00 Meal Plan: \$125.00 Accommodations: Approx. \$110.00
- Details for accommodations (in residence) and meals will be forwarded to successful applicants.
- \$300.00 grant available from NBTA. Applicants should also apply to Councils or local Branches for other available funding.

DO NOT send any fees. Successful applicants will be contacted.
Registration deadline: May 1, 2006.



The Countdown Is On!

May 5, 2006 is quickly approaching and it is shaping up to be a fantastic conference! **Looking Back** ↔ **Moving Forward** will have something for everyone. We are also excited about the fact this year is a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Elementary Council. Highlights of the day include speakers such as **David Bouchard, John Van de Walle, Lloyd Mallard, Linda Millar, and Steve Brinder**. As well, another exciting feature we are pleased to provide to our members this year is a *complimentary* lunch. Be sure to check out the social the night before the conference, which will include a live band (*Doghouse* from Moncton) performing all the biggest hits from the sixties onward. It promises to be a great time!

Another important thing to consider before the conference is registering on time. The Council can't stress enough the importance of **early** registration. And with two options to choose from this year, it should assist you with this process. Firstly, mailbags were sent to each school for registration, or secondly, you can use an on-line option with the use of a credit card. Afterwards, a name tag and receipt will then be mailed to your school, and it is imperative that you bring your name tag with you on Council day (it will prevent long line-ups)!

Have you ever considered becoming a member of the Elementary Council? This would be the year to put your name forward as there are six outgoing members whose terms are ending. If you are interested, or would like further information, please feel free to contact a member of the Council at any time.

Cheers!

Kim Silliker
Elementary Council Committee



Recipients for Educational Improvement Grants from the Elementary Council July - November 2005

July

Lisa Francis-Mawhinney — *Teaching the Qualities of Writing*
Tanya Manuel — *National Conference on Differentiated Instruction*
Sarah Lowe — *Getting It "Write" with Ralph Fletcher*
Moira Armstrong — *Getting It "Write" with Ralph Fletcher*
Shannon Atherton — *National Conference on Differentiated Instruction*
Yvette Seeley-Jones — *National Conference on Differentiated Instruction*
John Higgins — *London Organ Festival*
Jane Donaldson-Bowes — *3rd National Summer Institute for French as a Second Language Using AIM*
Susan Williams — *New England Conference for Kindergarten Teachers*
Karen Rogers — *Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing*
Sally Wright — *Boxwood Festival*

August

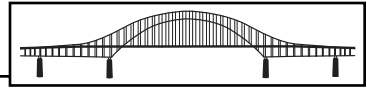
Sharon Davidson — *Four Blocks Literacy Model Workshop*
Paula Moore — *Four Blocks Literacy Model Workshop*
Denise Titus — *Cape Breton Fiddling and Step Dancing*
Lily Adams — *Gaelic College of Celtic Arts*
Sharon Watt — *Four Blocks Literacy Model Workshop*
Cynthia Martinello — *CONTACT 2005*
Barbara Bourque — *CONTACT 2005*
Karen Kelly — *CONTACT 2005*
Heidi Horsman — *CONTACT 2005*
Stephanie Prosser — *Onsite 2005 Parks Canada National Historic Sites*
Christine Stevens — *CONTACT 2005*
Tami Mutch-Ketch — *Reality Therapy Level 5 Certification*
Joanne Hughson — *Four Blocks Literacy Model Workshop*

October

Patricia LeBlanc, JoyAnn Couture, Solange Leger, Anne LeBlanc, Joanne Mazerolle, Doreen Bonsant, Chantal Bourque, Barbara de Niverville, France Roman — *Annual Conference On Canadian Association Of French Immersion Teachers*

November

Kathlyn Hunter — *Building Inclusive Schools: A Search for Solutions*



Middle Level Exceptional Learners Conference

Calling all teachers of Exceptional Learners to come join us on April 20 (evening) and all day April 21 for a jam-packed conference addressing Middle School Exceptional Learners needs.

When: Thursday, April 20, 2006 6:30 pm
 Friday, April 21, 2006 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Thursday, April 20
 6:30-7:15 pm Registration
 7:15-8:30 pm Guest Speaker: Ellen Bubar
 (Fredericton)

Where: Best Western, Woodstock, NB

Who: Middle School Teachers

What: Whole-group and Divided Sessions
 Topics including:
 • Differentiation
 • ESEP's
 • ODD
 • FAS - parent perspective
 • FAS - professional perspective
 • and more!

Friday, April 21
 8:45 am Welcome
 9:00 - 10:15 am Divided Session A
 10:15 - 10:45 pm Morning Break
 10:45am - 12:00 pm Divided Session B
 12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch (Provided)
 1:00 - 2:15 pm Divided Session C
 2:15 - 2:30 pm Wrap-Up & Goodbye

Cost: \$30 per participant (Meal included)

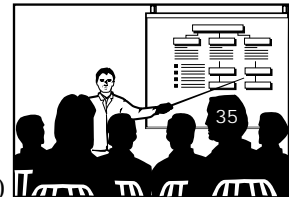
**Small group sessions
 There will be three divided sessions.

Apply for grants locally.

Rooms will be set aside at the Best Western until April 1.

Registration deadline is April 12.

Any questions, please direct them to John Irvine (irvinjod@nbed.nb.ca),
 Tanya Whitney (Tanya.whitney@nbed.nb.ca) or Marsha Cogle (cougmars@nbed.nb.ca)
 Registrations forwarded to Cindy Crowhurst at Bath Middle School.



Middle Level Exceptional Learners Conference Registration Form - April 20 & 21, 2006

Name _____

School _____

Home Address _____

Tel: (H) _____ (S) _____ Email: _____

Please send form along with cheque, payable to Middle Level Council, to:

Cindy Crowhurst
 c/o Bath Middle School
 118 School Street, Unit 1
 Bath, NB E7J 1C4

Further information will be forwarded upon receipt of application.

Middle Level Council Teacher Recognition Awards Nomination Form

Each year, the Middle Level Council recognizes teachers who put that extra initiative into their profession, benefiting and enriching the lives of our students. The award recognizes excellence in teaching. It salutes the time and effort that initiative and commitment involve. These contributions could be in the areas of classroom teaching, school environment, school spirit, student learning or in any other of the multitude of ways that teachers touch the lives of their students. These awards can go to an individual teacher or a team of teachers. Spend a few minutes and complete the nomination form below. Provide as much information as you can to support your nomination.

Award nominations must be in to Linda Maxwell by April 17, 2006. Awards will be presented on Council Day in Bathurst, May 5, 2006.

To nominate one or more of your colleagues, fill in the form below and forward to: Linda Maxwell, Queen Elizabeth School, 31 Lynch Street, Moncton, N.B. E1C 3L5, Fax 856-2192, e-mail: maxwelil@nbed.nb.ca

Nominee's Name: _____

School: _____

Nominee's Email: _____

Nominated by: _____


Contact Number: _____ (w) _____ (h)




**Please answer on a separate sheet of paper and include any supporting documentation
(photos, letters, work samples would be great!)**

1. What happens in your nominee's classroom/school that makes learning seem interesting and exciting?
2. What creative teaching strategies or innovative teaching practices does your nominee demonstrate?
3. If you could get in the head of a middle school student, how would he/she describe this teacher? (Quotes from students would be great!)
4. Describe how your nominee inspires and supports other teachers.
5. What contributions does your nominee make to our profession?

Administrator's Signature: _____



Summer Institute
set for July 10-12, 2006
Mactaquac Holiday Inn



Revisiting the Middle School Model
What have we accomplished? Where do we need to go?

This institute will focus on the organization and teaching of middle school students and promises to be a fantastic, informative, and reenergizing event for our teachers.

Discuss having a whole team attend—and administrators will benefit from this as well. There will be more information to come in the next *NBTA News* and on our website (<http://middle.nbta.ca>), so keep watching. Space will be limited to 100 participants.

This institute is **ONLY** made possible through the partnership of the Department of Education, the Anglophone superintendencies, and the Middle Level Council.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend! For more information or to provide us with ideas/possible sessions, PLEASE contact: Tanya Whitney at Tanya.whitney@nbed.nb.ca.

Teacher/Team Recognition Award Recipients

The recognition award for 2004-2005 was given to the team of Alvin Gallant and Cathi Poplar from Magnetic Hill School in Moncton. These two teachers are integral members of the Explorer Team. Their initiatives have strengthened the delivery of math, science and technology at the Middle level. They introduced a Math Olympics which included all students with special needs and different abilities, science expositions, Junk Yard Wars and changes to the way technology is used and integrated into the classroom. They are creating a school-wide web team and act as tech champs, assisting the staff with technical difficulties with equipment.



Mr. Gallant and Mrs. Poplar have greatly contributed to staff and student wellness, in the form of organizing many activities. For staff, they have banquets and socials.

Both teachers are enthusiastic, positive and actively engaged in promoting best practices to enhance the learning of all students.

We congratulate both winners and look forward to seeing them in Bathurst in May.

District 18 Teachers Attend National Middle School Association Conference

Imagine having a discussion on differentiation with Carol Ann Tomlinson and Diane Heacox, spending an evening on assessment for learning with Rick Stiggins, witnessing Rick Wormeli perform and compare differentiation to classical hits from 'The Sound of Music', experiencing techniques of co-operative learning from Dr. Spencer Kagan and his crew, being able to browse through hundreds of booths filled with freebies and the latest in educational resources, and having lunch with Roland Barth. All of this occurring during four beautiful 25^o C sun-filled days. A teacher's dream? Yes! Imaginary? No. In fact, the preceding list is just a few of the highlights shared by us, a group of five educators from District 18, who attended the National Middle School Association's 32nd Annual Conference in Philadelphia, November 2005.

Our group, consisting of two school teams – Francis Bennett and Eleanor Carroll from McAdam High and Sally Richards and Lise Martin-Keilty from George Street Middle School – and Pierre Plourde (District 18 Secondary Education Supervisor), had to write a proposal on how

attending this conference would help obtain objectives within our school communities and assist teachers and school personnel with school improvement planning. Whether it was to learn more about differentiation techniques and literacy strategies to meet the needs of all learners or using data and assessment to address school improvement, each of us had over 600 sessions and keynotes to choose from during the four-day conference. The vast selection made it easy for everyone to find topics of interest geared towards meeting the objectives of their proposals.

It was a unique chance to chat with some of the over 10,000 other middle level educators from across the globe. It became evident that we all shared common ideas and themes on middle school education regardless of where we taught. It was refreshing to hear, and discuss, some



Francis Bennett, Eleanor Carroll, Pierre Plourde, Lise Martin-Keilty. Team member Sally Richards is taking the picture.

of the different points of view. Whether individuals were from upstate New York or rural Dakota, they brought insights that became valuable when analyzing our own circumstances from an objective viewpoint. Whether formally (in session) or informally (during the many other activities that were made available to attendees), valuable learning took place. By all accounts, the National Middle School Association offers much to any educator. All we can say on behalf of next year's attendees (33rd Annual is in Memphis, Tennessee) is enjoy the experience. We plan to be there!

NBTA Middle Level Council Day

As everyone is preparing the report cards and preparing to meet the parents, most of the Superior Middle School staff is finalizing plans for May 5th. Our guest speaker, Katherine Brooks, will kick off the day with a humorous look at life in the Middle, followed by many choices among three sessions or various business tours. The pamphlet should be in your hands now and choices should be made by April 3. A reminder that you can pay on line but you still have to register by sending your choices to Cindy Crowhurst at Bath Middle School via the courier bags or by mailing the form yourself.

Of interest to everyone is the idea of recognizing your peers and again this year on May 5th, the Middle Level Council Awards will be given.

If you know of someone on your staff or in your District, please check the Middle Level site on the NBTA website www.nbta.ca for the application form.

If you plan to be in Bathurst, we hope you make plans to attend the AGM and social gathering at the Atlantic Host on Thursday, May 4. Come enjoy, meet colleagues for the first time or friends from afar.

– *Kathy Grebenc,*
Chair



Committee Members (l-r) front row: Janice Hache, Rachael Guidry, Patti Jo Cormier; second row: Kathy Grebenc, Lynne Melanson, Chris Aube, Manon Leblanc, John Mann; third row: Donna MacKay, Alfred Arseneau, David Chaisson
Missing from the photo are: Scott Ferguson, Cindy Fortune, Marlene Arseneau, Sharon Walsh, John Cleland, Sandra Cleland, and Elaine Good



• High School Council • President's Message



Derek Taggart

As I write this article I am wondering what all of you are wondering: Is spring really here? Did we really manage to escape winter? Is High School Council

Day really less than two months away? Though I cannot yet answer the first two questions with any great degree of certainty, I can definitely reply in the affirmative to question number three!

The program for Friday, May 5 at Bernice MacNaughton High School in Moncton should be in your schools now (remember, it is never too early to book your hotel room)! Also look for the program on the High School Council website (<http://highschool.nbta.ca>). **The early registration deadline for this year's Council will be April 3.** Remember that you will have two options to make the registration process simpler this year: (1) register the old-fashioned way using the paper registration form at the back of your program booklet, or (2) register online through a link on the

High School Council website using your Visa or MasterCard. Whichever method of registration you choose this year, make sure you register early to avoid increased fees (\$30 to \$40) and line-ups on Council Day. Members who register early will receive registration materials in the mail, enabling you to avoid the long waits traditionally associated with on-site registration!

The High School Council Professional Development Committee recently offered two very successful Automotive Institutes and is planning on offering an institute dealing with Smart Boards in the near future. Look for further details about the Automotive Institutes and how to register for the upcoming professional development opportunity in this section of the *NBTA News*.

We are always looking for new ideas for institutes and teacher professional development. If you would like to offer an institute in your specialty area or you know someone who would be interested, please contact any member of your High School Council Executive and they will explain how you can make it happen! We are more than happy

to assist you with the financial and organizational elements of your institute.

I would like to conclude this article by again encouraging you all to check out our High School Council website. It is located in a link on the NBTA website (www.nbta.ca). It is here that you will find application forms for Educational Improvement Grants and Teacher Recognition Awards (please take note that the deadline for these awards is March 31, 2006). It is also here where updates regarding the High School Council Day Program and Electronic Registration will be posted. Please check back frequently!

Your High School Council Executive will be having its fourth meeting Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8 to discuss new business and plan for May 5 and the upcoming institute. If you have any items you would like to see included on an agenda for these meetings, please do not hesitate to contact me (derek.taggart@nbed.nb.ca) or any of your other High School Executive members.

I look forward to seeing you all at Council Day!
- Derek

Cylinder Head Rebuilding Sparks Interest

On February 17 and 24, Automotive teachers from all corners of the province attended an NBTA High School Council sponsored institute entitled "Affordable Cylinder Head Rebuilding". This professional development institute was originally planned for 1 day only, but due to an overwhelming interest, it was offered again the following Friday to accommodate all interested parties.

The 19 participants met at Francis Levangie's private shop in Jewett's Mills just outside of Mactaquac for the chance to learn from him and from each other. Not only were cylinder head related topics covered, but participants had the chance to

learn about new automotive technologies, an area well-covered by Mr. Levangie. The participants were encouraged to use Mr. Levangie's equipment, coupled with his knowledge, to learn about sheet metal shaping techniques, cooling system diagnosis, and TIG welding, to mention a few.

Over lunch at the Holiday Inn, teachers had the chance to network about past and present projects, safety and curricular issues, and ideas for future PD. Many say they have felt overlooked in the past few years and were very happy to once again be active in PD in their particular subject area.

A large **thank-you** is extended to



Francis Levangie, an automotive instructor from Fredericton High School, for hosting this event. A good time was had by all.

Woodstock Centennial Elementary School/District #14 presents:

**“Peaceful Schools Workshop”
with Hetty Van Gorp**

(Founder of Peaceful Schools International)

April 27-28, 2006

Woodstock Centennial Elementary School

The Journey to a Peaceful School

Every school can become a place where people want to be. In this workshop, we will look at some practical strategies to achieve this goal. The philosophical framework that forms the basis of this workshop is rooted in the belief that the only effective, long-term means to reduce discipline problems and improve the atmosphere of schools is to implement school-wide, proactive programs, policies and initiatives. Participants will receive a comprehensive handbook filled with practical ideas.

Thursday, April 27

5:00 - 6:30 pm Registration and Refreshments — WCES Gymnasium
6:30 - 8:00 pm Welcome and Opening Session

Friday, April 28

8:00 am Registration
9:00 am Session 2 — Hetty Van Gorp
10:15 - 10:30 am Nutrition Break
10:30 - 11:30 am Session 3 — Centennial’s Journey to a Peaceful School
(Presentation and Classroom Visitations)
11:30 - 12 Noon Session 4 — Hetty Van Gorp
12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch Provided
1:00 - 1:40 pm School Assembly — Presentation of Peaceful School
Designation to WCES
1:45 - 2:15 pm Session 5 — Hetty Van Gorp
2:15 - 3:00 pm Closing Remarks and Question Period



For more information on Peaceful Schools International:

<http://www.peacefulschoolsinternational.org/>

**Registration Form
WCES/District #14 — Peaceful Schools Workshop**

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Tel: _____ Fax _____

School/Organization _____

Workshop fee: \$90 until April 18; \$100 after April 18

Also available at Workshop: Peace@School Toolkit - \$99 (no tax)



Please send completed registration to:
Woodstock Centennial Elementary School
11 Helen St., Woodstock, N.B. E7M 1W6



(Please make cheques payable to: Woodstock Centennial Elementary School)

Inquiries: Mary Ellen Kilfillen — kilfima@nbed.nb.ca

Canadian School Program: Learning to Play, Playing to Learn

Right To Play*, in partnership with Silken's Active Kids Movement, launches its first-ever Canadian School Program, *Learning to Play, Playing to Learn*. This free grades 4-6 resource integrates curriculum-based social studies lesson plans with creative play from Silken Laumann on how to increase activity levels in your school and community. Content covers social studies, character education and supports balanced literacy in the classroom.

All activities are classroom-friendly and are woven together with an engaging (and optional) mystery story, leading students on an exploration of children around the world, the countries they live in and a study of our rights and responsibilities in the world community.

Kick-start your day with the active learning offered in this

innovative kit. The kit includes:

- a teacher's guide with lesson plans and blackline masters on 11 African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries
- 30 *Start your Day with Right to Play* physical activities for the classroom
- a CD featuring background information on each country, colour photographs, a mystery story and a short video
- a *Right To Play* Red Ball for physical activities in the classroom
- a *Right To Play* classroom poster

This free kit and workshop provides social studies, language arts and physical education teachers a way to integrate their subjects and explore the world with their students. The workshop will feature an overview of the program,

curriculum fits, a sample of some of the activities and some suggestions for implementing the kit



throughout the year. Kits will be distributed free of charge to teachers attending a training workshop. With additional training, interested participants may earn the distinction of being certified *Right to Play* Trainers.

For assistance organizing a workshop in your area, get on the ball and call 1-877-808-PLAY (7529)

* If workshops are not available within your area, or within a suitable time frame, copies of *Learning to Play, Playing to Learn* will be sent to you with a training CD.

Supplementary Resource for French Second Language Programs Approved

The N.B. Department of Education has recently approved a new Canadian supplementary resource for French Second Language Programs (Core and Immersion) to help students with difficult structures in French! *Veux-tu Jouer? The Prevention and Correction of Errors in French: A Systematic Approach* is recommended for elementary and secondary students ages 9-16+.

The systematic approach is based on the memorization of 8 easy to learn contemporary songs that motivate students to master difficult structures such as *J'ai seize ans, J'ai fini*, and *Je suis allé*. Memorization of the songs leads to reading, guided conversations, and a variety of activities based on multiple intelligences. It is supported by 240 laminated language activity cards to reinforce and extend vocabulary, and 8 classroom posters. The extensive Teacher's Guide provides 100 pages of black line masters and a well-researched and well-documented rationale for the purpose of the resource. There is an emphasis on Canadian content including the use of Canadian artists, musicians, researchers and educators.

Consultants: Special offers for board-wide implementation

Published by Sound Language Solutions 1.866.262.7777.
Website: www.soundlanguagesolutions.com

Karen: Teaching in the U.S.A.

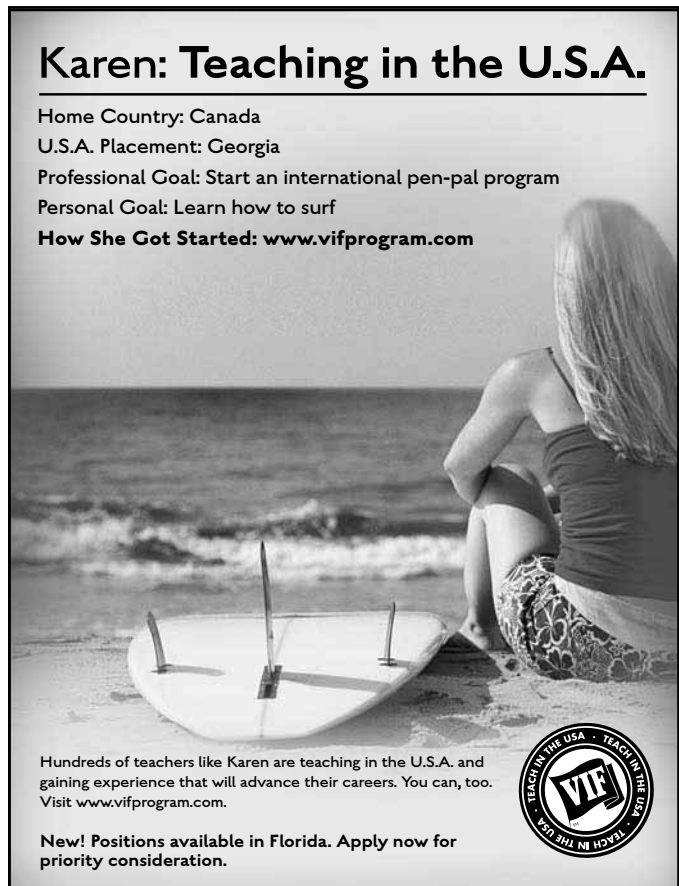
Home Country: Canada

U.S.A. Placement: Georgia

Professional Goal: Start an international pen-pal program

Personal Goal: Learn how to surf

How She Got Started: www.vifprogram.com



Hundreds of teachers like Karen are teaching in the U.S.A. and gaining experience that will advance their careers. You can, too. Visit www.vifprogram.com.

New! Positions available in Florida. Apply now for priority consideration.



Paid Advertisement

CSLC/CCLE NB 2006

Ordinary Youth Doing Extraordinary Things

Des jeunes ordinaires accomplissant des choses extraordinaires

New Brunswick is proud to host the Canadian Student Leadership Conference on September 19 to 23, 2006 at Fredericton High School. We truly believe that the youth of our nation have the potential to achieve great things when provided the opportunities and necessary skills. During the 22nd CSLC, we hope to unleash the "extraordinary" in each and every one of the attendees.

For this conference, we are looking for presenters who would be willing to offer a session to either students, advisors or both. We know that the teachers of this province have great knowledge, expertise and experience that could benefit our participants. The sessions could be on a variety of topics related directly

or indirectly to student life, leadership, lifestyle choices, volunteerism in the community and the school, community/school relationship, fitness, outdoor pursuit, healthy living, school spirit, social issues such as bullying, racism, etc. Your school might be involved in a special program that you would like to share with the delegates.

In accordance with our conference theme, we are also looking for student presenters as we are sure that amongst our New Brunswick young leaders, we would have some ordinary youth doing extraordinary things who could easily offer a session and what better way to showcase our students. Please note that sessions can be activity-based and take the form of a

workshop.

We are looking forward to hearing from you and we thank you for the support you will give us in helping us make the CSLC 2006 the best one ever. If you know of someone from your community who could assist us, please pass on this information. The call for presenters form is also available on our website at www.cslc2006.ca.

If you have any questions, please contact Francine Levesque at 847-6204 or e-mail francine.levesque@nbed.nb.ca.



Call for Presenters

CSLC/CCLE NB 2006

Ordinary Youth Doing Extraordinary Things

Des jeunes ordinaires accomplissant des choses extraordinaires

Name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Tel: _____ Fax _____

Name of Session: _____

Teacher or Student (Circle one)

Description of Session: _____

Maximum Number of Attendees: _____

Facilities – A/V requirements (specify): _____

Fax to Francine Levesque (506) 847-6244



Teaching Excellence National Award Program

The BIOTECANADA- Biogen Idec Teaching Excellence Award is a unique national award program dedicated to promoting and recognizing teaching or biotechnology at the secondary school level in Canada. It includes three annual cash awards, one for \$5,000 and two for \$2,500. The cash award would be divided equally between the winning teacher and his/her school. The school can use their portion to purchase scientific equipment or resource materials.

In partnership with the Canadian biotechnology Resource Centre, this program invites secondary school teachers to participate in this annual award.

Who Can Apply?

Full-time teachers currently presenting biotechnology curriculum in Canadian schools at the secondary school level or in grades 7 to 12 may apply.

Criteria

Competition criteria are based on the following principles:

- demonstrated level of excellence and leadership of the teacher within his/her school board/district in delivering a biotechnology program,

- creativity and innovation of teaching methods used to deliver curriculum,
- information and relevance of scientific knowledge being offered,
- evaluation criteria for student assessment.

Deadline for Submissions

All submissions must be received no later than **May 31, 2006** to BIOTECANADA at 130 Albert Street, Suite 420, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5G4.

The three winners will be announced during National Biotechnology Week 2006, September 23-30.

All inquiries can be sent to:

info@biotech.ca;
subject line -

Teaching Excellence Awards or call 613-230-5585.

For more details about the award visit www.biotech.ca.



NEW TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING BIOSCIENCE EDUCATORS

BIOTECANADA-BIOGEN IDEC

**TEACHING
EXCELLENCE AWARD**



BIOTECANADA-BIOGEN IDEC

**PRIX D'EXCELLENCE DANS
L'ENSEIGNEMENT**

The BIOTECANADA - Biogen Idec Teaching Excellence Award is a unique national award program dedicated to promoting and recognizing teaching of biotechnology at the secondary school level in Canada. The award includes three annual cash awards, one for \$5,000 and two for \$2,500.

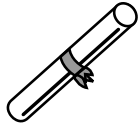
In partnership with the Canadian Biotechnology Education Resource Centre.

Details and application form at

www.biotech.ca

All submissions for the award must be received by May 31, 2006

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 2005 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, P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3, before June 15, 2006.

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.

**The Prevention and Correction of Errors in French
A Systematic Approach**

An exciting new resource that increases student proficiency in French

Recommended by Curriculum Services Canada as a supplementary resource for elementary and secondary students in Core, Extended, and Immersion classes

The systematic approach consists of:

- A CD of 8 contemporary songs targeting difficult structures such as J'ai fini, Je suis allé, and J'ai seize ans
- A 235 page Teacher's Guide (100 reproducible pages in French)
- 8 colourful posters
- 240 laminated language activity cards

\$124.95

For group orders or library rates call 1-866-262-7777

To order, view product and to listen to songs, visit our website at:
www.soundlanguagesolutions.com

Paid Advertisement

Ready for a New Home?

Whatever your real estate needs, we can help!

**Ron Buck
260-3461 (cell)
Claire Buck
260-6273 (cell)**

"Double Your Service"

Call us and we will show you what your property is worth in today's market place.

Serving the greater Fredericton and Oromocto areas.

Paid Advertisement

STU Teacher Institutes for Educators

St. Thomas University is pleased to announce the expansion of their summer institute program offered to teachers of the province. During the summer of 2006 we will be offering three new courses in addition to our longstanding course on human rights. While each of these 3 credit hour courses are designed to meet teacher certification standards, teachers pursuing specific programs are advised to check with certification branch before enrolling. Permission to use graduate courses toward a Masters degree should be obtained from the university at which you are taking that degree.

EDUC 5503/6503 – Teaching for and about Human Rights (3 cr. hrs)
Faculty Coordinators – Dr. Heather Richmond and Dr. Michael McGowan, July 23 to 28

This course is a summer institute designed for pre-service teachers, practicing teachers, and professionals in related fields. The course introduces participants to the various rights, instruments, and issues relevant to the classroom and provides opportunities for teachers and others to increase their knowledge base in the human rights field. For more details please log on to <http://www.stthomasu.ca/~ahrc/institute.html>.

EDUC 6113 – Introduction to Classroom Action Research (3 cr. hrs)
Instructor – Dr. Sharon Murray (murray@stu.ca), Brian Mulroney Hall – 6:30 to 9:30, Thursdays, July 6 & 20 AND 8:30 to 5:00, July 7 & 21 AND 8:30 to 3:00, July 8 & 22.

In this course teachers will study applications of action research to their work. They will describe personal classroom-based concerns, reflect upon them, and using action

research methodology and theory, devise an action plan.

EDUC 6133 – Shared Leadership (3 cr. hrs)
Instructor- Dr. Ray Williams (RayWilliams@stu.ca), Brian Mulroney Hall – 9:00 to 12:00 Wednesday, July 5 AND 9:00 to 5:30 Thursday, July 6 AND 9:00 to 2:30 July 10 to 14

This course is designed for teacher leaders but may also be used to fulfill an administration requirement for certification. Topics that will be covered focus on building leadership capacity among teachers and include: change process, peer conflict resolution, building professional teams and designing collaborative meetings.

EDUC 3403 – Contemporary Mathematics Concepts (3 cr. hrs)
Instructor – Janice Moore (jmoore@stu.ca or Janice.moore@nbed.nb.ca) Brian Mulroney Hall – 9:00 to 4:30 - July 3 to 7

This course is directed toward practicing teachers who have an interest in Mathematics and may be changing level and/or assignment as

well as undergraduate students who may wish to apply to a B. Ed. programme. It is, however, not part of and cannot be used for credit for the limited-enrollment St. Thomas University Bachelor of Education programme.

Registration, Admissions & Accommodations

Tuition for each course is \$444.00 and must be paid by the end of the day of the opening class. In order to expedite applications (and save a few dollars) we ask you to clearly indicate in all communications with the university that you are applying to the STU Teacher Institute for Educators. For further information regarding either registration or admissions, please contact the appropriate office.

Registrars Office: Karen Preston - 452-0538 / preston@stu.ca
Admissions Office: Kathryn Monti - 452-0603 / monti@stu.ca

Information regarding summer accommodations at our Forest Hills residence is available from Nancy Collett at 460-0329 or collett@stu.ca.

Teacher Exchange Opportunities in British Columbia

A teacher exchange is a rewarding professional and personal experience. Exchanges for New Brunswick teachers are coordinated through the Canadian Education Exchange Foundation (www.ceef.ca), but occasionally a teacher will seek out an exchange partner privately, then work with CEEF to formalize the arrangements. Two such opportunities are available at this time :

Primary teacher in BC - Single, mature, primary teacher, Kitimat, BC, looking for 2006-07 exchange to eastern Canada. Large three bedroom house to offer. Please contact sknowles@uniserve.com

Check the website at www.ceef.ca for many details regarding the ins and outs of teacher exchanges. The NB Department of Education supports the program by covering the exchange fees mentioned in the site information.



Grade 1 Immersion teacher - from Prince George, BC would like to teach in NB somewhere where her children could attend a francophone school. (She mentions the Bathurst area but would consider any region in the province). A 4-bedroom home on a tranquil lake is part of the exchange for 2006-7. Contact the exchange coordinator at cwilk@ceef.ca

www.ceef.ca

Online Safety Week Contest

Win a Toshiba Computer Lab for your School

In support of AOL® Online Safety Week, Toshiba of Canada Ltd. is helping to sponsor a contest for one very lucky elementary school to win a Toshiba computer lab. Win 6 Toshiba Satellite M40X laptop computers by having fun and learning about online safety at the same time. We encourage elementary schools across Canada to run your own online safety week/day to teach online safety education to your school, parents, and community.

Step #1: Let us know that you are planning to participate. Visit the Online Safety Week Web site for more information at www.aol.ca/onlinesafetyweek and email us at safetyweekinfo@aol.com.

Step #2: Utilize our resources from the Online Safety Week Web site.

Step #3: Be creative. Have fun while you educate. While the contest entry only requires a 250-word overview of your own in-school Online Safety Week, we want to see pictures, video, etc. to bring it to life!

Step #4: Please don't be late. Be sure that your submission will be received by AOL Canada in time. Check website for submissions deadline.



Step #5: We will report back to all participating schools to notify you of the winner. The winner will be announced at the beginning of the next school year, along with a press release and photographers at the official presentation of the Toshiba computer lab.

Counselling Services

- Anger and Stress Management
- Family Counselling
- Mediation

Yvonne Vaughan

MA M.ED CCC

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

* Insurance Coverage *



A relationship you can trust.

At Johnson Inc., our service staff offer "best friend" advice on all of your home and auto insurance inquiries.

For a home and/or auto insurance quote, call or visit us online today.

When requesting your quote, please identify yourself as a NBTF Member and provide your Group ID Code: 63.

1.800.563.0677 or www.johnson.ca/nbtf



Wellness Highlights

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING SERVICE
FOR TEACHERS



TEACHER COUNSELLING SERVICES

Ann Kennedy, Districts 14, 17, 18

1-800-561-1727

Betsy Colwell-Burley, Districts 6, 8, 10

1-800-563-3938

Niel Cameron, Districts 2, 15, 16

1-888-763-5050

Riverview High School Wellness Program

Staff Wellness Activities for 2005-2006

- Pilates
- Weight training/fitness
- Yoga
- Kickboxing
- Drawing/Painting
- Photography
- Gardening

Wellness Committee Members

Charlotte Love, Connie Kavanaugh, Anne
Bernard-Bourgeois, Kim Gallant-Nowlan

Teachers' Working Conditions Committee Members

Kate Duffy, Mike Flinn, Elizabeth Davis,
Donna Dealy, Laura Lamey

These members work together to fund and
promote wellness at Riverview High
School.



Ann Kennedy
Districts 14, 17, 18
1-800-561-1727
462-0208



Betsy Colwell-Burley
Districts 6, 8, 10
1-800-563-3938
634-2901



Niel Cameron
Districts 2, 15, 16
1-888-763-5050
855-5243

Announcements 35

Learning Disabilities Conference

This conference will be held in Halifax, N.S. on May 12 & 13, 2006. The cost is \$275.00 (includes 2006 membership to the Learning Disabilities Association of Nova Scotia, lunch on Friday and nutritional breaks on Saturday). The speaker on Friday is Dr. Edward Hallowell, a Child and Adult Psychiatrist and top expert in the field of AD/HD. His talk is called "Changing Behaviour - Addressing Children's Emotional and Cognitive Health". Saturday is a choice of one of four speakers, all excellent half-day sessions on Learning Disabilities.

For further information, Tel. (902) 423-2850, Fax (902) 423-2834, Email sclarke.ldans@ns.sympatico.ca Web Site <http://ldans.nsnet.org>

Educational Resource

EcoVoyageurs is an educational resource designed for intermediate grades to help students learn how to measure their Ecological Footprint and about ways they can live within the earth's limits.

The teaching materials include a four panel giant poster, 6' by 4' total size, and a 32-page booklet with geography and environmental studies curriculum-based lesson plans and student worksheets that can be photocopied. The free kit can be ordered online at www.4edu.ca.

International Tuba Fest 2006

The third annual tuba-euphonium workshop will be held at the University of New Brunswick Centre for Musical Arts in Fredericton, NB, May 12 and 13. This year's clinicians include Lance Nagels (Tuba), L'Orchestre Symphonique de Quebec; John Griffiths (Tuba), Regina Symphony Orchestra; Larry Shields (euphonium), Toronto freelance musician; Jean Sutherland (Piano), Conservatoire de musique de Quebec; and Richard Hornsby (conductor), Director UNB Centre for Musical Arts. The weekend is designed to give tuba and euphonium musicians of all ages

and levels of playing ability a chance to participate in clinics and master classes in a relaxed atmosphere. All participants get to play in small ensembles coached by the clinicians and play with the clinicians in the large ensemble. Join us for two days of music at its best. For further information contact Richard Riding at rriding@unb.ca or fax 506-453-3583.

National Human Rights Conference

The New Brunswick Human Rights Commission and the Atlantic Human Rights Centre at St Thomas University invite you to attend the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies. *The Next Wave: The Future of Human Rights in Canada* will be held June 14-16, 2006 in Fredericton.

The CASHRA 2006 conference will examine the roots of human rights in Canada, celebrate our achievements, and look toward the challenges of the future.

Also, do not miss a separate one-day workshop on accommodating persons with a disability in the workplace on June 14.

For more information and to register, visit www.cashra.ca. **Please register before May 31, 2006.**

2006 CEA-Whitworth Award for Education Research

Each year CEA honours an individual or group who has made a noteworthy contribution to education research in our country. Through this award, CEA celebrates the important contribution of research in increasing our knowledge and understanding of Canadian education. Information on the nomination procedure and criteria is available at <http://www.ceace.ca/res.cfm?subsection=whi>.

All nomination forms and supporting documentation must be returned to the CEA office by **May 19, 2006**, Attention: Karine Rainville, Program Development Officer, Canadian Education Association, 317 Adelaide Street

West, Suite 300, Toronto, Ontario M5V 1P9

Program for Teaching Blind & Visually Impaired Students

Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) and the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA) work collaboratively to provide the essential qualifications for teachers of students who are blind or visually impaired and for teachers of students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Students can complete the majority of their coursework through part-time, online study combined with summer courses and an individually arranged practicum.

For more information on this program, visit MSVU's website (www.msvu.ca) or contact: Dana Bennett, Graduate Secretary, dana.bennett@msvu.ca, (902) 457-6341, 877-433-2889 (toll free).

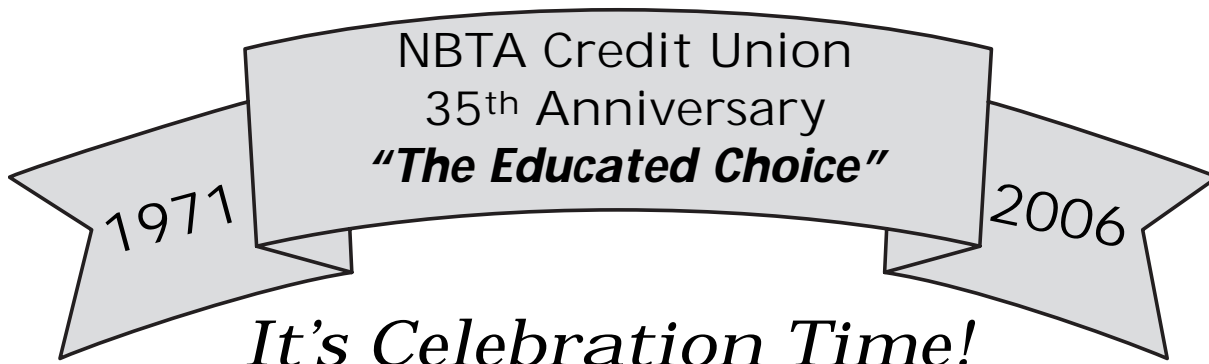
Science Educators Conference

The Atlantic Canada Association of Science Educators invites you to the 2006 Conference at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton from July 6-8.

Abstracts are welcome on any topic in education with a science theme at any level: part of the appeal of previous ACASE/AEESA conferences has been the breadth of topics covered. The ACASE/AEESA Conference is a unique opportunity to discuss science education in the broadest sense, in many forms and contexts, with many different audiences and educators.

To submit an abstract or for further details, please visit <http://www.acase.ca>





2006 marks NBTA Credit Union's 35th Anniversary

It was in 1971 that NBTA Credit Union first opened its doors to member-owners! NBTA Credit Union only had one type of savings account and it simply offered \$500.00 loans which had to be paid back within one year. Last year NBTA Credit Union loaned more than \$8 million to its member-owners for homes, education, automobiles and other purposes.

Over the past thirty five years, NBTA Credit Union's membership has grown to over 3800 providing them with a full family of products and services. NBTA Credit Union is excited to announce that we have expanded our bond to include all employees of Universities and Colleges within New Brunswick (and their families). Another exciting announcement is that our member-owners who live in the parts of New Brunswick that do not have a local Credit Union can now make deposits and take withdrawals from ATMs at the National Bank, and HSBC Bank with no charge as well as at participating Credit Union machines.

Last year, we returned profits to our members amounting in \$252,141.00. We returned a patronage rebate of 16.5% based on the amount of interest you paid or were paid. As well, just recently, our Board of Directors lowered the requirement for surplus share accounts from \$1500 to \$800. This resulted in cheques being sent to our members the first week in December in the amount of \$614,358.98.

The Board of Directors and Staff of NBTA Credit Union want to thank all of the member-owners who are and have been a part of this financial services cooperative and to those who have made our success possible. Thank You!

Please look carefully through this edition of the *NBTA News* as there are 15 number 35's hidden throughout the pages (not including this page).

The first five member-owners to correctly identify where they are hidden will receive a prize.

Please mail in your answers to the address below

Attn: Shawnalynn Swain or email to sswain@nbtacu.creditu.net and be sure to include your name and phone number.

Good Luck!



**CREDIT
UNION**

NBTA

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