



NBTA

news

NEW BRUNSWICK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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Principal's Authority to Suspend

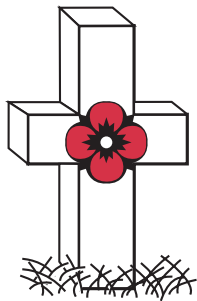
by

*Bob Fitzpatrick, NBTA Executive Director and
Robin Roe, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education*

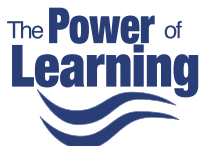
INSIDE:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| STU B.Ed. Program | 5 |
| Pre-Retirement Seminars | 7 |
| Certification Update | 11 |
| Canada Post Honours A Class Act | 20 |

Remembrance Day



November 11th



Introduction

We have been asked by two NBTA committees to clarify the positions of NBTA and the Department of Education related to the authority of principals to suspend students. Since there is no difference in position, we thought that the easiest way to do this is through a joint statement.

The Act

Principals have been given authority in **Section 24** of the *Education Act* to suspend students for "cause".

24(1) "A principal may for cause suspend

- a) a pupil from attendance at school
 - (i) for a fixed period of time not exceeding five consecutive days, or
 - (ii) pending a review of the matter and decision under subsection (2) by the superintendent concerned, or
- b) any other school privilege of a pupil
 - (i) for such period of time as is determined by the principal, or
 - (ii) pending a review of the matter and decision under subsection (2) by the superintendent concerned.

24(2) "The superintendent concerned may for cause suspend any or all school privileges of a pupil for such period of

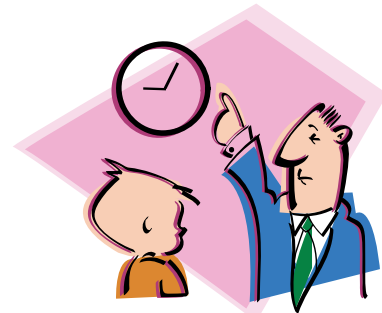
time as is determined by the superintendent.

The remaining subsections of Section 24 relate to other issues such as appeal from suspension and transfer of a suspended student. In the interests of space and time, we will paraphrase these sections but encourage the reader to refer to the complete text in the *Education Act*.

24(3) The principal shall immediately report, in writing, any suspension under 24(1)(a) to the superintendent.

24(4) The parent of a pupil or an independent pupil may, where the pupil has been suspended from school for more than five days in a school year, appeal the most recent suspension.

24(5) A pupil is required to provide assurance of his or her reform before being reinstated after suspension.



24(6) A principal may designate a vice-principal to act on behalf of the principal.

24(7) Where a pupil under suspension transfers to another school district, the superintendent of that school district may, on review of the circumstances, uphold, shorten the period, or waive the suspension.

Application

It is clear that the legislation intends principals to have two options at their disposal when suspending a student from school. A principal may either i) suspend for up to five days, or ii) suspend a student pending a review and decision by the superintendent. The *Act* does not impose upon the principal a duty to have the superintendent review the

suspension unless the suspension is levied under Section 24(1)(a)(ii) or (b)(ii) — this usually occurs when the principal is recommending a suspension of longer than five days for any specific incident.

The five consecutive day limit described in Section 24(1)(a)(i) is not cumulative when it comes to limiting the principal's authority to suspend for another incident by the same student. In other words, a principal may suspend a student for cause for up to five days for an incident this week and will have the same undiminished authority to suspend the same pupil for up to five days in a couple of weeks time if it is for a new incident.

The only situation where the cumulative number of days in a school year is an issue under this section of the *Act* relates to appeal. After a student has been suspended

for more than five cumulative days in a school year, the parent or independent pupil have a right to appeal in accordance with the regulations.

Summary

For each transgression by a pupil, the principal of a school has authority to suspend the student for up to five consecutive days "for cause". Where a principal feels that a suspension of a period longer than five consecutive days is warranted, the principal must then seek to have the suspension imposed by the superintendent. And, parents/guardians or independent pupils must be made aware of their right of appeal when any suspension takes them past five days in a school year.

Launch of Pension Calculators

During the past several months, the Public Service Employees Benefits Division (PSEBD) has developed two electronic calculators that can now be used by teachers.

In April 2002, a Purchase of Service (POS) Calculator was launched which will assist teachers get an estimate of the cost to purchase pensionable service (i.e., supply teaching days, unpaid maternity leave, unpaid leave of absence, refunded service). You are encouraged to use this calculator as a first estimate of the cost to purchase service, especially when exploring your options. If you are serious about purchasing service and are aware of the cost, a formal request can then be forwarded to PSEBD for processing through the District Office.

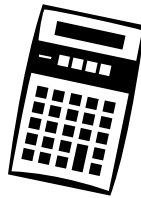
In early October, a Pension Estimate Calculator was launched which will allow teachers to get an estimate of the pension benefit available upon retirement.

These electronic calculator tools will enable teachers to perform their own calculations and assist them in

making better retirement and financial planning decisions. The tools can be accessed at the following addresses:

www.nbta.ca

www.gnb.ca/0163/pension-c.asp



As you become familiar with these tools and maximize their use, the demand for 'formal' pension estimates for those beyond five (5) years of retirement should be reduced considerably. These tools provide quick answers to questions, with significant staff-time savings in PSEBD being realized.

It is hoped that the availability of these tools, in combination with the yearly 'Employee Statements of Benefits' from PSEBD will provide teachers with adequate information to enable you to better plan for your future.

If you require additional information, please contact a Benefits Counsellor at Public Service Employees Benefits Division, 1-800-561-4012 or Larry Jamieson, NBTA Director of Teacher Welfare Services at (506) 452-1722, e-mail: jamiesonl@nbnet.nb.ca



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This and That



Mary Wilson

November already? The year is flying by, as usual. I hope in the hustle and bustle that is school, you are taking some time for yourself.

Discipline Update

I trust that you have all received a copy of the pamphlet *When Conflict Arises*. This pamphlet, which is directed at parents, is to be included in every report card in November and clearly states the roles of parents as explained in the *Education Act*. It also emphasizes how a parent should approach a school if they are unhappy about something. Yes, parents have rights as we all do, but they also have duties and responsibilities where their children as students are concerned and, in addition, they must treat school personnel with respect.

I believe that optimal conditions occur when teachers and parents work together, both respecting the other's views. Sadly, the occasional parent crosses a line, which teachers really should not tolerate. The parents I have dealt with over the years have been almost completely supportive, but a few have been contrary and confrontational and none of our university courses prepare us for that. Hopefully, the pamphlet *When Conflict Arises* will

help you deal with this challenge. I hope that you will discuss it at a staff meeting in your school. By talking about possible events and strategies, you will be more prepared to handle all situations.

Call for Submissions

I know, I know - it seems like we just settled our last Collective Agreement and here we are on the brink of developing our next asking package, but that's how the process works. First, we ask all our members (you) to submit any ideas that you would like considered by the committee, which puts the package together. That is the Federation Committee on Terms and Conditions of Employment (FCTCE), which meets during the week of December 9 to study the Collective Agreement and all the submissions received from around the province. At the end of the week, the committee turns over a new asking package to the Board of Directors. So... if you have had a concern in the past because you believe that something is missing or needs to be reviewed or revised in our Collective Agreement, please make a submission to the FCTCE.

100th Anniversary Celebrations

Branches are beginning to plan activities and events to celebrate NBTA turning 100. Do you have any ideas? Some of the possibilities include: ✓ A Suitcase Social (a winter dance with a draw for a trip south for two during March Break), ✓ News articles, ✓ Radio spots, ✓ Contests, ✓ Picnics, ✓ A New Year's event, ✓ Scavenger hunt, ✓ A fashion show focusing on teacher dress over the decades, ✓ Display school memorabilia. These are just a few ideas that committee members were considering. I hope that you will get involved in any festivities planned in your area.

Welcome to New Teachers

Our Welcome to New Teachers Workshop was extremely successful.

120 new teachers attended and regional workshops are still being held around the province. If you are a beginning teacher, I hope your first few months haven't overwhelmed you. As I mentioned last year, when I started teaching, I remember (yes, I really can remember that far back) thinking that if only I could make it to Christmas, I'd be OK.... then it was March Break and finally June. Thank goodness times have changed. Teaching is no longer seen as an isolated experience. We all know what those first few years are like and are ready, willing and able to help if you ask.... So ask!

I must share a true story about a beginning teacher in my school and you need to know that I do this with her permission (Thanks, M). A couple of years ago, she came to me (I was the principal) and asked me to deal with a student who had been swearing and this was not the first time that she had witnessed him behaving this way. So... I said: "How about we go into my office and since you have dealt with this issue before, you read him the riot act and I'll support you." She agreed, so we entered my office and the young man was seated there waiting for us. I walked to the other side of my desk and waited for the teacher to begin, but she didn't say anything. Instead, she seemed to be looking around on my desk. I waited and waited some more; the boy looked at both of us uncomfortably and she continued looking around on my desk. Finally, I said: "What are you looking for?" and she said "The Riot Act!"

Well... is it an age thing? This teacher told me recently that she uses the expression "The Riot Act" all the time now and she uses it correctly.

On that note, I hope things are going well with you, that you are finding ways to compliment your colleagues and that you laugh some every day! Needless to say, I send a special hello to my friends in Canterbury! Until next time... keep smilin'!



Jim Dysart

What Our Students Need and Deserve

by Jim Dysart
Deputy Executive Director
Director of Communications & Research

At what point do we look at the school system and ask, “How can we provide more teachers to give the services all our students deserve?” The question in recent memory has been, “How many teaching positions can we remove and still meet the minimum requirements of the collective agreement?”

The ratio between the number of teachers and the number of students, as a basis for staff reduction, while appearing logical, does not consider the increased complexity of instruction in the classrooms of our province.

Our students have educational, physical, and social needs. Because of our successes in inclusion and retention, teachers are faced with a wider range of needs in each classroom than ever before.

Many classes, while below the maximum class size, have very complex needs requiring additional instructional resources, including teachers, instructional materials and specialists.

We continue to need teacher assistants to help teachers meet the physical and emotional needs of students, *but* we need more teachers to meet the expanding educational needs of a more diverse student population.

Teachers will continue to do their best with the resources provided to them. They will continue to be innovative. Indeed, our teachers have been recognized nationally for innovation in virtually all aspects of education.

It is time to rethink our approach to funding teaching positions. We must respond to the educational needs of our students. We must stop removing teachers from our education system.

Bachelor of Education Degree Program

How Are We Meeting the Needs of the Teaching Profession?



by Jim Clowater

The St. Thomas University BEd is an intensive 60-credit hour programme delivered in an eleven-month schedule from September to July. This programme prepares students to be certified to teach in New Brunswick schools with a teacher certificate of level V.

The intensive nature of the programme simulates the kind of work expected of public school teachers. Close interaction and supervision by the faculty, and continual collaborative work with colleagues in the programme, have become hallmarks of the STU Education programme. Emphasis is placed upon the interpersonal relationships required of the effective teacher, because the teacher's personal growth is seen as necessary to professional growth. Prospective teachers are, therefore, provided with experiences, which permit them to examine their own beliefs and values. They are encouraged to consider the nature of the learner and the types of teacher behaviour, which can best help to optimize student growth. Prospective teachers are provided the opportunity to understand the nature of the pertinent subject matter and the various educational settings so that they can better use them to design meaningful learning experiences.

Reflective of the liberal arts focus at St. Thomas University and the goals set forth in the University's Mission Statement, the BEd programme is a *generalist approach* to teacher education. The education programme offered facilitates an interactive approach, which "engages the whole person", and with a limited enrollment of sixty (60) students has a "small, intimate academic community." The programme's philosophy encourages students to become part of a cohesive group, a group that is

composed of very divergent backgrounds. Students communicate with, relate to, and teach their peers as they prepare to make the transition from student role to educator role. Through a process focused on doing (integrating theory and practice), students are able to become engaged with the role of a teaching professional.

The specific goals of the programme are:

- The promotion of the integration of theory and practice in all courses offered by faculty
- The education of educators to be flexible, able to teach and learn in a variety of settings, and who are comfortable with change
- A preparation of educators for their role as change agents in classrooms and schools
- Encouragement of a *reflective practitioner* and the recognition that not all learning happens in the classrooms. This prompts a focus in learning in public school settings as well as service learning

A cooperative spirit of trust among St. Thomas University Bachelor of Education faculty and students is actively encouraged throughout the eleven-month programme. Evaluation is apparent on three levels: at the practica level, the course level, and at the faculty level. The intensity of the eleven-month sixty-credit hour programme requires that faculty and students are heavily involved with all aspects of student learning.

The total programme includes the equivalent of two full academic years (60 credit hours) of courses and student teaching. The programme is scheduled within an eleven-month period (September to July), thus enabling students to qualify for a teaching certificate within one calendar year.

Students graduate with a Bachelor of Education degree, which has been

preceded by a four-year undergraduate degree. The New Brunswick government certifies the students who follow the Elementary/Middle Level stream with a major in Elementary as well as a major in their *teachable* subject area. High School/Middle Level students receive no major in their stream but they receive a major in their *teachable*. All students graduating from St. Thomas University Education programme are certified to teach at any level in the public school system. Graduation takes place at a summer convocation that is held in the outdoor courtyard during the fourth week of July.

The internship component is a key element to the overall BEd programme. It is based on the following assumptions:

- That the interns are capable of directing, to some degree at least, their own professional development. The co-operating teacher in the classroom and the university supervisor help to coordinate and guide this development.
- That professional development is aided by encouragement, support, and constructive criticism. Evaluation is directed more towards achieving effective teaching than towards grading.
- That there is mutual respect between university and school. The theories advocated in the academic portion of the intern's education are ideals, which may never be perfectly translated into practice. We are jointly attempting to help interns to integrate their own values and learning into realities of school life.

The internship programme has been changed for the current year as a result of dialogue between faculty, teachers and interns. The fifteen weeks that are required will now be

assigned to the public school academic year. In the past, three weeks had been assigned to a July community-based setting. Courses will now be offered during this three-week July period.

For the current year, the first practicum is scheduled from January 6 to February 21, 2003 (7 weeks). The practicum will be preceded with pre-internship visits on November 27-29, 2002. This practicum will involve only elementary and middle schools. The second practicum will be April 22 to June 6, 2003 with pre-

internship visits April 8-10, 2003.

This practicum will involve elementary, middle and high schools. Students will visit schools for three days in October as well.

The success of the internship is dependent on the support from schools and teachers who offer to be co-operating teachers. Teachers who are interested in becoming co-operating teachers are asked to indicate interest to their school principal. The Internship Director, Mr. Paul Parker, will contact school principals in October and March to

arrange placements for our interns.

The Department of Education at STU is housed in the recently completed Professional Studies Building that was officially named Brian Mulroney Hall at a ceremony on August 28, 2002. The building is adjacent to Holy Cross House and is accessed off Montgomery Street in Fredericton.

Website: www.stthomasu.ca

Jim Clowater is a retired school principal who teaches in the Education Department at St. Thomas University.

News from the Science East Centre

If you've been to Science East with your class before, you'll know that several exhibits are everyone's favourites. The Shadow Wall and the Tug of War always get students talking, but now we're adding new exhibits that we expect to be popular, too.

Most of these have come via Saint John's Aitken Bicentennial Exhibition Centre, which, sadly, lost its fight to remain open this past summer. ABEC's ScienceScape gallery exhibits have found a new home at Science East where they will continue to be enjoyed by visitors. New to the exhibit floor from this group is George The Torso, an anatomical model just like a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle of the human body. New exhibits such as these provide even more reasons to bring your class to the Centre. Plus, our lively science shows always make a big impression on any grade.

Yet Science East is much more than just a fun place to visit. We offer schools and teachers many services that make it easier to turn students on to science. For instance, did you know that we could visit your school? For a special event such

as a Science Week or Family Fun Night we could put on a science show, complete with explosions, giant bubbles and other



Coordinator Michael Edwards gets ready to replace George The Torso's liver.

demonstrations to make the occasion memorable. Or, we can conduct workshops right in your school with individual classes using a variety of curriculum-related topics adjusted to grade level.

We also offer PD workshops for teachers to illustrate how hands-on science can be integrated into the classroom. These workshops can be

combined with a school visit or could be a completely separate event. Furthermore, Science East has created Science Kits for use in the

classroom. These include all the materials needed for a specific activity, plus worksheets to ensure students fully understand the experiment. Currently three kits are available, but we are looking for suggestions for topics for future kits. Please let us know if you have ideas for Science in a Kit.

Finally, we'd like to help. If you have a science-related query, give us a call or send e-mail and we'll do our best to give you the help you need. Science East is very aware of how important it is to have a strong working relationship with the teachers of New Brunswick, and we value any feedback, input or questions you might have.

Science East is located at 668 Brunswick Street in downtown Fredericton. For more information contact us at (506) 457-2340 or by e-mail at science@scienceeast.nb.ca. Visit the web site at www.scienceeast.nb.ca



2002-2003 Pre-retirement Seminars

Pre-retirement seminars will be held in the following locations:

- November 2 - Bathurst, Bathurst High School
- November 16 - Moncton, Riverview Middle School
- November 30 - Fredericton, Nashwaaksis Middle
- January 11 - Chatham, Dr. Losier Middle School
- January 25 - Bristol, Carleton North Senior High
- February 8 - Saint John, Simonds High

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

1. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. A registration fee of \$3.00 for each participant must accompany the application; however, cheques will not be cashed until after the workshop.
3. All participants must pre-register.
4. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the participant.
5. A nutrition break will be provided free of charge.
6. Questions relating to these seminars should be directed to:
 Larry Jamieson
 Director of Teacher Welfare Services
 New Brunswick Teachers' Association
 P.O. Box 752
 Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6 (Tel. 452-1722)
7. Any interested teachers are eligible to attend.
8. All workshops begin with registration at 8:30 am and sessions at 9:00 am. until 1:00 p.m.
9. Detach and return the registration form as soon as possible.

PROGRAM

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

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

REGISTRATION FORM - NBTA PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS

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

Date of Seminar

- November 2 - Bathurst, Bathurst High School
 November 16 - Moncton, Riverview Middle School
 November 30 - Fredericton, Nashwaaksis Middle
 January 11 - Chatham, Dr. Losier Middle School
 January 25 - Bristol, Carleton North Senior High
 February 8 - Saint John, Simonds High

Deadline for Registration

- October 25
 November 8
 November 22
 January 3
 January 17
 January 31

***PLEASE NOTE*
 CHANGES IN
 SAINT JOHN DATE
 AND
 FREDERICTON
 LOCATION**

Name of teacher: _____ S.I. No. _____

Mailing Address: _____ Dist. _____

_____ Name of Spouse (if attending) _____

No. of pension years you will have accumulated to June 2003 _____ Certificate Level: _____

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

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

I am enclosing a cheque in the amount of \$3.00 / \$6.00 (please circle one) to cover the cost of registration; nutrition break, and materials to be supplied. Please make cheque payable to **New Brunswick Teachers' Association**.

Signature: _____

The Only Skill Required To Be ACTIVE Is To Lace Up Your Sneakers!

There has always been some perception that in order to be active, one must have some degree or level of personal physical skill. The truth is, the only real skill required is to lace up your footwear and to get out there. Decide what activity is the one that you most enjoy. It could be as simple as walking around your community, enjoying the vast trail system our community has to offer or, to join up with friends and family for a planned activity.

Try some of the following backyard games, you will be surprised how fun they really are and the fitness benefits you and your children will receive. After you have participated in some of them, do a little research on games and activities that have been played over the years.

Badminton – yes badminton can be played outside. Use the shuttles with the rubber end, they seem to work best outdoors. Have a rally, create a personal record for successful rallies.

Remember baseball – how about a game of "Scrub" – everyone has a number. You only use one base and home plate, once someone is put out, they move to the field and everyone moves up a spot (outfield to infield, to pitcher, to catcher). How about "500 up" – a batter hits the ball to the group of fielders. Each successful catch is worth points (100 for a fly ball, 50 for a grounder, 25 for a roller, if you miss that amount is deducted from your score). Once you have accumulated 500 points, you are now the hitter. Only have 2 or 4 players, no problem, play "Screen Ball".

The hitters stand at second base and the fielders stand at the backstop. A ground ball that gets past the fielders and hits the screen is a single. A fly ball that is not touched and hits the screen is a home run, while a ball in the air that is touched and hits screen without being caught is a double. Any ball

that flies over the backstop is an automatic 3 out inning and the players change rolls. Any ball caught is an out. Play 3 outs per inning and 7 or 9 innings make a game.

If you have access to a basketball net, play some of these games: "One on one" with a friend. "Around the World" – each player takes turns shooting from spots around the key. They move to the next spot for each successful shot. On a miss they lose their turn. If someone passes you at the spot you are at, you go back to the start, like snakes and ladders. Finish the circuit and hit a foul shot



or 3 pointer and you win.

Remember "21" – It is a foul shooting contest – each foul shot is worth two. You also can move to get your rebound, a put back is worth one. Keep your score to add up to 21. You keep shooting until you miss. Then it is the next player's turn. Play the game like darts whereby you have to finish to get 21 on a foul shot, if you fail, your score begins at 1 and you start again. First to 21 wins.

"HORSE" – the first player shoots from a selected spot, if successful the other players must match that shoot or receive a letter, if the first player misses no letter, but losses turn to the next player who can now select a new spot to shoot from. Continue the game until someone collects all the letters to spell HORSE.

Start a new game. New backyard basketball games like NBA 2ball are

also fun to play. Players work with a partner to shoot alternately from various spots around the basket. Each spot is worth various points. The team of two has one minute to work together to score as many baskets to get the various points.

Finally, "Knock-out" is a fun game if you have a number of players (3 and up). Start at the foul line or 3 point line. You need two balls for this game. First player shoots, if successful – retrieve the ball and go to end of line, if unsuccessful, you must get the rebound and score before the next shooter puts the ball in the basket. If you do, great, go to the end of the line and continue to play, if not, you are out. If the above games are not to your liking, how about the following: •soccer type games •tetherball •volleyball type games •hopscotch •skipping •marbles •frisbee type games •4 square •croquet •kite flying •kick the can •hide and go seek

The key is to start! Once you begin, you then need to maintain time in your schedule to stay active. Many schools throughout the province run a Walk Across New Brunswick/Canada program each year. Why not begin one at home with your family and neighbors? Map out a route, select times of when you plan to walk/run and chart your progress over the next couple of months.

Do not allow the time of year, busy schedules and that feeling that you need some sort of skill to participate. I think that you will be pleased with the results. Remember, *no skill or minimal skill* required, for most of these. Give one a try.

Garth Wade
District #18

Physical Education Mentor



Mathieu Da Costa Challenge



The sixth Mathieu Da Costa Challenge is about to get underway. The

Challenge invites students in elementary and secondary schools across Canada to research, learn about, and celebrate the contributions of Blacks, Aboriginals and people of diverse ethnocultural origins to the building of Canada.

Students can submit an essay or drawing to present their research. The deadline for entries is December 6, 2002. A Selection Committee will choose the winning entries in January 2003 and the

winners will be invited to come to Ottawa accompanied by a chaperone to receive their awards and prizes in February 2003. Expenses will be paid by the Department of Canadian Heritage which funds the Challenge program.

The Challenge is organized by the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) in partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage and resulted from a declaration in the Canadian Parliament in December 1995 which designated February as Black History Month.

The Challenge is named after Mathieu Da Costa, the first recorded

Black person to set foot in Canada. He accompanied Samuel de Champlain in his explorations and acted as an interpreter for the French with the Mi'kmaq people.

Information packages with details are being mailed to all schools across Canada and should have arrived in early October. Check with the principal of your school. Details about the Challenge are also available on the CTF Web site at <http://www.ctf-fce.ca/bilingual/MDC/mdce.htm>.



New Art Education Association Holds First Meeting

On September 27, the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton hosted the first reception and meeting of the New Brunswick Art Education Association. Earlier this year Mary Blatherwick, an art educator at the University of New Brunswick and Suzanne Hill, a well-known Saint John artist and retired art specialist, decided to form an association to provide a means for art educators, teaching in a variety of venues, to communicate with each other and share their expertise. Hugh Kennedy, the New Fine Arts Consultant for the Province and Adda Mihailescu, Education Coordinator at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, were asked to act as advisors in getting this association off the ground.

Anyone teaching in elementary, middle and high schools, colleges, universities, art galleries, museums and privately, have been invited to join this association. At the first meeting and reception, over fifty educators from all over the province attended. Free resource and art

materials, posters, calendars of events from several galleries, colleges, and art centres were distributed. To welcome the new members, the four individuals who helped to launch this association each gave a short speech. It was mentioned that a newsletter listing upcoming workshops and special events would be the main vehicle for communicating and sharing ideas with other members. The collecting of information would be carried out by members from different areas of the province working in various art education venues. Other members have offered to create the newsletter and organize the next event.

The association intends to be largely funded by its membership and therefore hopes that this 'grassroots' approach will create an atmosphere of participation, amongst not only the members, but also the different institutions and organizations they represent. Art educators, like many people who work in the arts, often feel isolated



from one another. It is hoped, therefore, that this association will help to form a 'community' of like-minded individuals who share common ideas and experiences.

To become a member, please send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to jasuhill@nbnet.nb.ca



GALERIE D'ART
BEAVERBROOK
ART GALLERY

The Voices of our Students

"You love school when it makes you feel smart.

When you know that teachers care about you and your future...when they act like they think you'll be someone in life, not like you're dumb."

By Nancy Roach

Director of Professional Development
roachn@nbnet.nb.ca

Each month as I prepare for this column, I spend time reading many journals, looking both for articles that will be of interest to teachers and an inspiration to my opening remarks. This month the message seemed to jump from many pages.

'Listen to Student Voices' was the first article from the Journal of Staff Development, Fall 2002. It talks about a collection of interviews with high school students, one of whom is quoted above, who share their thoughts about teachers, teaching and schools. It is important for teachers to keep sight of what matters to our students, what makes school important and 'doable' for them.

The message was echoed on the pages of the September issue of Educational Leadership. In "What Urban Students Say about Good Teaching", the authors identify six traits that over 400 students used to describe good teachers. Good teachers, the kids said,

- made sure their students did their work
- controlled the classroom
- were willing to help students whenever and however the students wanted help
- explained assignments and content clearly
- varied the classroom routine
- took the time to get to know the students and their circumstances

If you want kids to care about learning, the kids said, make sure that the teachers act in ways that

demonstrate that they care.

Thirty pages later I read 'Lessons from Learners', a poignant and powerful article featuring at-risk students attending an alternative residential school. Their teacher, the author, asked them to write about



learning. What did they need to learn and how has this special school helped them. They talk about being scared of failing, about needing their learning to be personalized, and wanting to develop a relationship with their teachers. They recognize the value of a safe environment, but express in a thoughtful way:

"A safe environment means that I can be wrong and it is ok. It also means that if I don't understand something, I can feel comfortable to ask questions without being

attacked by my peers or teachers..."

The author closes with the reminder that we need to listen to the voices of these students, the unmotivated and high risk. But I would suggest that their words, and the voices of others in these writings, represent all students, not just the hard-to-serve.

I recently opened my email to find a message from a former student of one of my Grade 8 classes, more than two decades ago. Seeing my name and picture on a website (let's hope it was the NBTA site!), he decided to write me. He remembered me not for my scintillating Math classes, but for the kindness I had shown him when his house burned down, just before Christmas. "You taught me that compassion and understanding are a huge part of life and that we need to take the time to talk and listen to those in need." Now, I thought I taught him Math and English; I had no idea that the manner in which I interacted with him would have such a lasting impression and that at the age of 36 it would mean enough to him to have him take keyboard in hand and write me.

Teachers, I urge you to take the time to listen to the voices of your students. Ask questions about how they like to be taught and how they learn best. Talk and listen. They are our clientele and we can serve them better if we engage them in such conversations. It is not an easy thing for a teacher to do, but it can inform your practice, if you let it. (and ask me for these articles...they make good reading for all staff.)

Support for Second Language Teachers

FSL, ESL and Spanish teachers will appreciate the efforts of the UNB Second Language Education Centre. The Center is committed to providing support for language instruction through research, coursework and a great new website. Visit www.unb.ca/slec to find links to many other relevant sites, articles related to second language teaching and curriculum projects and teaching units. While the site is still under development, it is user friendly and impressive in its scope. I am confident that teachers will find it worthwhile to visit and revisit the site.

Mentors and Principals Need to Help Beginning Teachers

We know that the life of a beginning teacher is filled with challenges. The bottom line is they need all the help they can get if they are to weather that first year. Both mentors and administration need to be part of the process...in fact, the entire staff should be cognizant of their need for assistance. "*Sharing a Cup of Coffee is only the Beginning*" (JSD Fall 2002) and "*10 Things a*

Principal Can Do to Retain Teachers" (Principal Leadership September 2002) are two articles that offer ideas in this regard.

Improving Instruction

I believe that most teachers are always looking for ways to improve their instruction and ultimately, their students' learning. A Fall issue of Orbit Magazine, published by OISE, is full of practical ideas. Being a fan of Howard Gardner's work, I liked *Multiple Intelligence Theory, A Lens for Guiding Professional Practice*. It talks with real teachers who are trying to apply the concepts in their classrooms. We also know that active learning is much more meaningful than the chalk-and-talk lessons. Read '*The Power of Projects*' and '*Guiding the Innate Constructionist*' (bad title but good article), both from Educational Leadership, to gather some new insights in how to engage your students in learning.

Graphic Organizers: Visual Tools for Learning

In the article by the same name from Orbit (see also www.orbitmagazine.ca), a great

overview of ways to help your students learn to use graphic organizers is provided. I think we under-utilize this technique. We need to teach kids ways to organize material that will help them understand and retain. Diagrams, charts, mind maps, all help provide the kind of order the brain likes and needs to learn. This article will give you good ideas and strategies to put to work with your students.

Flat Stanley vs Geobear

Thanks to Barb Gebuhr, principal of Riverside Consolidated School in Alma, who shared the fun that her students had when they received a Geobear from a student in Colorado. The Geobear is much like Flat Stanley; in this case a flat felt bear. The students sent the Geobear on, as instructed, to contacts they had around the globe. Their Geobear went to England, the United Arab Emirates and Nunavit.

Barb writes: "All our primary kids got great geography lessons last spring. We are planning our own Flat Stanley/Geobear adventure this school year. You are right - great fun for all and lots of learning!"

Certification Update



Change in Regulations Stalled

Teachers in the province should be aware that the proposed changes to the regulations that govern teacher certification have not yet been approved. The changes, which would offer more flexible options for teachers moving from a Cert IV to V and Cert V to VI are still being studied by Senior Management. These changes are particularly important to teachers in more rural parts of the province who have difficulty accessing a full range of university courses.

NBTA continues to support these proposed changes and lobby for the approval of new regulations. We remain convinced that the changes offer improvements to the system without compromising the standards for certifying teachers, and we are hopeful that Senior Management will also recognize the benefits of the proposed changes.

NBTA Sponsored Courses

Because the regulations have not yet been approved as we had expected, the 97 teachers enrolled in NBTA-Sponsored Professional Courses are experiencing anxiety about receiving the course credit. I urge those teachers to be patient and be assured that the NBTA continues to communicate with officials on this matter.

The courses are being highly acclaimed by all those participating. "These are practical useful courses", one teacher said. "In fact, I think every teacher in the province would benefit from taking them," she enthused. This type of comment is echoed by teachers in each course.

Graduate Course Work On-line from UCCB

On-line learning is not for every one, but many teachers find it does work for them. The University

College of Cape Breton (UCCB) has just announced three new programs available on line: **Graduate Diplomas in Educational Technology, Education Counselling** and **Education Curriculum** are all available and approved for NB teachers towards Certificate VI. Visit www.uccb.ns.ca/eca/teacher/diploma.html for details.

Changes Planned

Both STU and UNB are discussing changes to their programs. Watch this column for details as they become available. Early information suggests that these changes will be well-received by teachers.



Elementary Council News



Hello Elementary Teachers,

It is hard to believe that we are already into the month of November. The time is going by very fast.

The Elementary Council has met and we have some exciting news about this year's Council Day. We have been listening to comments from teachers and as a result will be holding Council Day at Mount Allison University in Sackville. There will be lots of parking available, bigger rooms, and better service. We will also be able to use the residence rooms so that people do not have to travel in the morning.

We have some wonderful Keynote Speakers lined up. They include Charles Marcus from an Empowerment Group in Toronto, Carol Lesbirel from Nova Scotia on Time Management, Miriam Trehearne from Nelson on "Closing the literacy gap using a whole school approach to prevention and intervention", and Bill Howatt on Behaviour Management. His specific topic will be announced at a later date. This list of speakers may be added to in the future.

Please read future issues of the *NBTA News* for more information on keynote speakers as well as Council Day in general.

We are still looking for presenters. Elementary teachers in the province have many talents. If you would like



to make a presentation or know of someone who would be a good presenter, please contact Sandra Melanson at stevemel@nbnet.nb.ca or fax her at 357-6598 at Summerhill School in Oromocto.

All teachers should have received a copy of the Elementary Council Handbook. Please fill out the curriculum survey as soon as possible and send it to Lisa Kerr at the address on the form or fax it to her at Lincoln School at 446-9437. The Curriculum Committee will be meeting soon and would like as much input as possible from Elementary teachers. There is also a lot of useful information in the

handbook. Please let us know if there is anything that you would like to see added in the future.

The Web Site is always looking for input. This year Kim Carter will be working with Lisa Kerr on the Site. They will be meeting in November and welcome any suggestions that you may have as well as copies of student work. Lisa's email is kerrlisa@nbed.nb.ca and Kim's is cartekia@nbed.nb.ca.

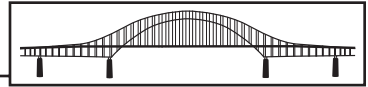
We hope that you have a terrific November and look forward to hearing from you on any of the above topics.

This month we are highlighting work from a teacher at John Caldwell School.

John Caldwell School Art Teacher Supports Literacy Focus

Art teacher Peggy Freake was wondering what she could do to support primary teachers in their literacy initiative as well as make it valuable and fun for her students, so she headed to the internet for some inspiration. She recommends www.CanTeach.ca where she got some great ideas. Peggy is helping these young learners make their own alphabet books and using art terms to start their thinking process. Students from Jennifer Rossignol's Kindergarten/Grade One class and Connie Kavanaugh's Kindergarten class are pictured working with Peggy.





A Lot with a Little: Providing Physical Education Opportunities for Every Child



It is no secret that Albert Street Middle School in Fredericton has one of the more inadequate gymnasium facilities in the province, but the school has not let that deter them from providing a complete physical education program to 650 students.

Physical education at Albert Street School is an all-inclusive program that attempts to have every student busy from morning 'til night! Falling under the physical education umbrella are four main components: in-class instruction, intramurals, special athletic initiatives, and interscholastic athletics.

A typical day in the Albert gym begins at 7:00 am with Rise 'N Shine sports. This is an opportunity for students to play sports and listen to music. The school has been getting over fifty kids who are regular participants in this program. At noon hour, the gym is always packed, and this is the time in the day when the majority of the student population takes part in intramural play. Intramurals can be a sport of some kind, a crazy activity such as *capture the flag* or *protect your pin*, or perhaps a theme sock hop. For the intramural sporting activities, students are given team lists and schedules, and attendance is always taken! The idea is to give the

students the feeling that they are on an interscholastic team.

The gymnasium comes alive after school as well. Albert School has a long tradition of active participation in interscholastic athletics. Once again, the school's philosophy is to get as many kids involved as possible. This is done by creating as many teams as possible for each of the major sports. It is not unusual for the school to have seven or eight teams for each of the major sports (basketball, badminton, and volleyball), and this usually means that there will be close to twenty coaches involved for each of these sports. Often the school is forced to rent out gym time at other schools and church halls to make it all work. With sports such as cross-country, track and field, and rugby, anyone who comes out automatically makes the team; there are no *cuts*. For this reason, each of these groups usually has over one hundred students involved! Even with the large numbers of students involved, Albert still manages to be competitive, winning district and provincial championships annually.

Another extension of the physical education program at Albert is the Special Athletic Initiatives. These are run by the physical education department and are major initiatives

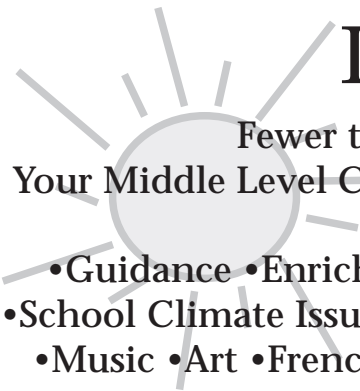
that involve the community. The goal is to promote civic responsibility and fitness with the students. This fall, Albert Street Middle School took part in the *Terry Fox Run*, the *International Walk to School Day*, and the *CIBC Run for the Cure*. They have winter and spring initiatives in the planning state as well!

Finally, Albert Street School has continued to show its commitment to physical education by arranging the school's schedule in such a way that students now have two full-time physical education teachers. Every student in the school receives a forty-five minute session in the gymnasium each week, as well as a forty-five minute session in the new "Outdoor Pursuits Program". In this program, kids get to experience fitness activities that are beyond the scope of the regular physical education syllabus. So far this year children have had the opportunity to try kayaking, ultimate frisbee, and lacrosse. This is the first program of its kind in the district and has been tremendously successful thus far.

It can sometimes be confusing keeping up with all of the activities at the school, but by making a lot happen with limited resources, all of the children at Albert are benefiting.

by Mike Gardner

Is your school involved in an exciting project or activity?
Interested in sharing with other Middle School teachers?
Contact Mike Gardner
(michael.gardner@nbed.nb.ca)



It's coming!!!

Fewer than 180 days until Council Day 2003

Your Middle Level Council Program Committee has already confirmed more than 50 sessions.

- Guidance •Enrichment •Wellness •Leadership Issues •Assessment
- School Climate Issues •Social Studies •Physical Education •Technology
- Music •Art •French •Methods and Resources ... and more to come.

Something for Everyone

Saint John, May 2, 2003 ✓

NBTA School-Based Learning Teams Grants

The Middle Level Council has contributed \$1000 to this fund. This money, which is in addition to that being offered by the NBTA, will enable one more teaching team to benefit from this initiative. The Middle Level Council funding has been specifically earmarked to be awarded to a Middle School team. Deadline for applications is November 8, 2002. The application form is available on the NBTA website (www.nbta.ca).

Meet Your Council Executive

Tanya Whitney — Born and raised in the Fredericton area, Tanya now lives in Woodman's Point outside Westfield with her two children, Laura and Hartley. Her busy schedule includes Middle Level Council duties



as Vice-President and Program Chair of the 2003 Council Day in Saint John, as well as being principal of two schools — Brown's Flat School and Morna Heights School. In spite

of this, Tanya finds time for gardening, canoeing, biking (the ones with motors!), running, reading, but definitely *not* watching television. Tanya has been teaching for twenty years. One of the highlights of her career so

far has been teaching grade 7 Language Arts at Princess Elizabeth School. Tanya's future plans include getting married next summer in her backyard.



To teach is to learn twice.

—Joseph Joubert (1754-1824)



• High School Council •

President's Message



Randy Hunter

Your High School Council met in Fredericton on September 27-28, 2002. A full agenda certainly kept us engaged in topics such as changes to by-laws,

amendments of policies, creation of committees, committee reports, etc.

Two members submitted their resignations from Council. Krista Hamilton, furthering her studies, and Jayne Bettle, accepted employment at a Middle School. We wish them all the best and thank them for their interest in Council. Margaret (Peggy) Kirkpatrick agreed to serve as one replacement. The High School Council is in the

process of minimizing the number of council members (which will be discussed further at our AGM); therefore, we have agreed to operate with fifteen members. Kim Douglass has volunteered, as Past President, to serve as chair of Professional Development. Jonathan Hunter, Secretary, has taken on the task of Curriculum Committee Chair, with Lynn Steeves and Malcolm Bowes agreeing to serve as members.

Please keep in mind that Council Day, May 2, 2003 will be held on the Miramichi. As I am sure many of you are planning on attending, please make the necessary arrangements for accommodations.

We have a number of possibilities in regard to a Keynote. Have you heard someone that really stands out as dynamic, humorous, well-versed? Please send along your

recommendation (with contact information) to Dorothy Firth, Program Chair at dorothy.firth@nbed.nb.ca or by calling (506) 789-2112.

Exciting things happening at your school? Please remember to share this with us. Send your information along to Brenda MacPherson, Communications, at macphbre@nbed.nb.ca or by fax at (506) 658-4641.

I will continue to keep in touch.

As teachers, you touch the lives of our future leaders each and every day. You are doing a fabulous job and very much appreciated. Keep well.

*Randy Hunter
Sugarloaf Senior High School
Randy.Hunter@nbed.nb.ca*

A Tribute — Ron MacDonald

A son, brother, teacher, colleague and friend. His passing has left a void in many lives, not the least of which, his students. The classrooms, staffrooms, and hallways of Dalhousie Regional High School echo the humor and wit he was so very well known for.

Council days will no longer be the same for those of us who made the annual trek south, and "Humor in the Classroom: or "Using Humor to Teach" will be noticeably absent from the Agenda.

Ron will be remembered as a Past President of the former English Council, as well as an annual contributor to the new High School Council. Ron was President of NBTA Branch 36 and had been heavily involved in NBTA business for many years, always looking to support and help the teachers.



Ron MacDonald

Ron was a "doer". He loved curling, so he coached high school curlers. He loved canoeing, so he took some hard-to-serve students on a Restigouche canoe trip. He loved bridge, so taught students to play.

Ron was a special person who became my friend. We taught together, canoed together, partied together and laughed together.

We miss you!

*Respectfully submitted,
K. Archibald, R. Hunter*



Introducing Our Executive

Each year we present a biographical review of each new member on the NBTA High School Council executive. In this issue we welcome a new member from Northern New Brunswick.

Nancy Vessie — Nancy was born in Chatham, N.B. and has spent most of her teaching career at Bathurst High School. She is a graduate of UNB Fredericton, having completed a B.Sc. majoring in Biochemistry with a Minor in Mathematics. Nancy completed her B.Ed. in Secondary Education and has a B.Ed. in administration. She presently teaches mathematics, but has also taught biology, physics, and chemistry.

Having two grown children allows her to pursue several academic and teacher interests, such



Nancy Vessie

as being Branch President for Bathurst (1542) and sitting on the NBTA High School Council Executive. She describes herself as an individual born to talk, laugh and joke. When not involved in academic interests, she enjoys walking, knitting, dance classes, travel and is an avid basketball fan. In fact, her favourite time of the year (other than summer) is the month of March, or *March Madness* as she describes as a sacred time for all basketball nuts! We welcome her determination and spirited personality to our Executive.

High School Council Awards

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

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

Teacher Grants

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

You can check out the NBTA High School Council web site at:
<http://www.geocities.com/athens/troy/4521/>

Program for Spring Conference

Our Program Committee is presently working on the task of selecting speakers and organizing workshops for our spring conference in the Miramichi on May 2, 2003.

Should you have any suggestions for possible presentations, workshops, etc., please forward them to Program Chair, Dorothy Firth, at Sugarloaf Senior High (dorothy.firth@nbed.nb.ca or fax 506-789-2108). We welcome our members' suggestions, as our spring conference is for you — our membership.

What's happening in your school?
Let us know.

Remember, should you have any information you wish to have passed on to our NBTA High School members, simply contact your Communications Chairperson.

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

Deadlines for submission of news to NBTA News

- November 15 • December 13 • February 7 • March 7
- April 4 • May 2 (Newsflash - 4p) • May 30



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

Thérèse Gallant, Districts 2, 15, 16

1-888-763-5050

School District 15 Wellness Cookbook

This recipe was submitted by Gary Branch,
Coronation Park School

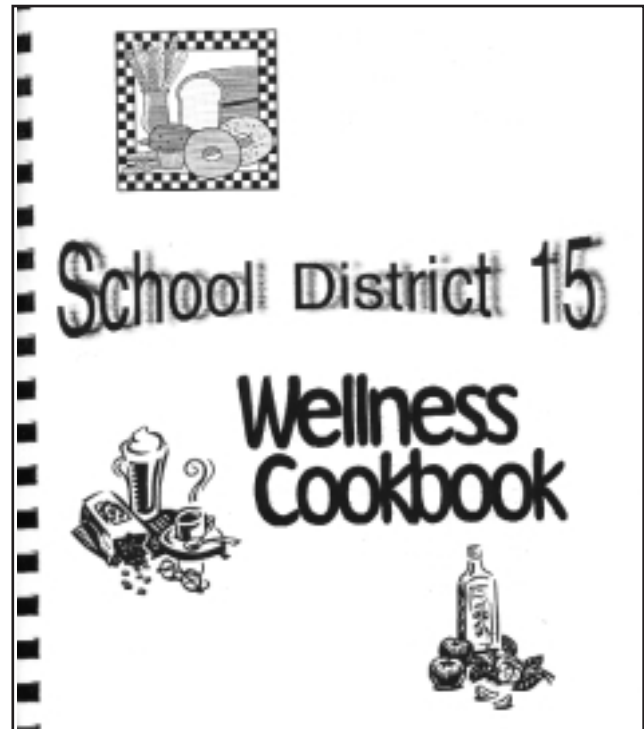
Cheese Bran Muffins

- 1 cup natural bran
- 1 1/2 cups sour milk or buttermilk
- 1/4 cup margarine
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup shredded old cheddar cheese

Soak bran in sour milk. Cream margarine and sugar. Beat in egg. Stir together dry ingredients and add to creamed mixture alternately with the bran, starting and ending with flour mixture. Stir in cheese.

Fill greased muffin cups and bake at 375 degrees for 20-30 minutes. Serve warm!

Yields 9-10 muffins



This activity from Nackawic High School was part of the District #14 Wellness Book 2001-2002:



Warm, freshly baked muffins and a glass of juice starts every morning off right at NHS. Custodians Pat Collett and Brenda Michaud prepare the food each morning so that when staff and students walk through the door, they are greeted with good food and great people to share it with. The program is funded by the staff "Friday dress-down" fees, as well as help from the local food bank.

"Survivor Series" at Caledonia Regional High



This was part of the wellness team-building exercise organized by Nathalie Colpitts. *Stay low - keep movin'* is the motto of the "Young Guns" tribe shown here: Nicole Pellerin, Abbey Keith, Chantal McIntyre, Richard Faulkner, Leo Sheehy, and on the floor - Bryce Betts.

Nashwaaksis Middle School Recognized For Innovation

Nashwaaksis Middle School is one of 30 schools countrywide to join the SchoolNet Network of Innovative Schools (NIS) this year. Federal Industry Minister Allan Rock recently named the northside Fredericton school one of the top innovative schools in the country.

Gary Gallant, a vice-principal and one of those spearheading the program at the school, said membership in the program does have its privileges — namely \$10,000 of funding per year for the three-year term of the school's involvement. "Some of those funds will go to pay off the school's new media lab, complete with 15 iMac computers and a big-screen television," he said.

"We're also looking at building an audio studio here at the school. That high-tech sound studio would enable students to develop an online radio station and to develop new skills," Gallant said.

But responsibilities come with the perks. Gallant said teachers and students must develop research projects with an eye toward

innovation. Final decisions on the nature of the research aren't imminent, but the ideas mentioned



Nashwaaksis Middle school educator Gary Gallant shows one of the web sites that links his students to the world. The school has been recognized nationally for innovation. (*The Daily Gleaner/Stephen MacGillivray photo*)

so far are projects that examine either salmon migration or population trends in Fredericton. Though technology would certainly be used in the projects, the innovation research need not dwell on information technology. "We're not interested in making technology a focal point," he said.

To be accepted into the NIS program, the school's application had to show that it was already an innovative learning environment. Among the projects was the New Brunswick Antarctica Educational Expedition, which saw Gallant travel to Antarctica in January.

Students — both from Nashwaaksis Middle School and from other participating schools — communicated with him and with leading experts in Antarctic studies over the World Wide Web. Gallant said it was much more than that innovative project that put Nashwaaksis Middle School's application over the top. The school also had a telephone conferencing program in place, whereby prominent guest speakers communicate with students via tele-conference calls.

The school also linked with a "twin school" in Holland, sparking communication with Dutch counterparts and a study of two different communities.

About 20 New Brunswick schools applied to join the educational innovation network last December. Only three — Nashwaaksis Middle, Saint John High and Grand Bay's River Valley Middle schools — made the grade.

Curriculum-linked Canadian Educational Resources Help Students Discover Engineering

Generation-E: A New Brand of Engineer features teaching and guidance material for Grades 9 to 12 that are designed to meet the standards of the science curricula of each province and territory.

The result of two years of effort

on the part of engineers, teachers, students, guidance counselors, engineers and career professionals, the *Generation-E* campaign encourages students to understand the link between items they see around them everyday and the

talent of Canadian engineers, and to then consider becoming an engineer themselves. Hockey helmets, pacemakers, walkie-talkies and wind turbines are just four examples of Canadian engineering ingenuity.

The *Generation-E* program

consists of three main components:

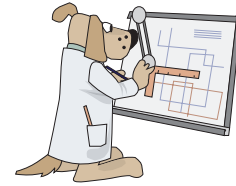
- *A teacher's kit* featuring four hands-on projects linking science and engineering
- *A guidance counsellor kit* to help them give students information about the variety and nature of engineering careers.
- *An internet site* www.generation-e.ca featuring on-line training for teachers and guidance counsellors,

but also a section just for students with a comprehensive range of interactive tools and resources.

To mark the launching of this major campaign, the www.generation-e.ca internet site, in conjunction with *MuchMusic/Musique Plus*, is running a nation-wide promotion, with \$40,000 of computer equipment in

prizes. Youth can enter by visiting the Generation-E internet site.

For further information, contact Marie-Claude Brossard, Tel. (514) 842-1433 ext. 369 or (514) 910-1433.



CTF News



Launch Of New Magazine As National Voice For The Teaching Profession In Canada

(CTF News Service - Ottawa- Oct. 4,2002)

To mark this year's World Teachers' Day, the President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) announced today the launch of *Horizons*, the federation's new official magazine for Canadian teachers who work in publicly-funded elementary and secondary schools across the country.

The magazine's inaugural issue was released today at a joint news conference held by Doug Willard, CTF President and the Honourable André Ouellet, President and Chief Executive Officer for Canada Post who released Canada Post's World Teachers' Day stamp to commemorate the day.

"*Horizons* magazine exists to stimulate the sharing of ideas, practices and news about learning and teaching in the public education system," says Willard. "We hope this national magazine will not only provide a national voice for the teaching profession in Canada, but will create a forum for discussion on various education-related issues."

The inaugural issue features a thought-provoking article by His Excellency John Ralston Saul who describes public education as a cornerstone of today's democracy. Also featured are Canada Post's commemorative World Teachers' Day stamp and its series of stamps for the International Year of Mountains.

"Every issue of *Horizons* will feature profiles of teachers who share the love of learning with children and youth from every walk of life, every language and culture and every religion. Readers can learn more about their contributions and teaching techniques that help to guide, inform and interact with children and youth," explains Willard.

The magazine also includes information on topics and issues of interest primarily to teachers. The 48-page bilingual magazine will be published bi-annually and is designed to be both a resource and lifestyle magazine for teachers across Canada. *Horizons* initial print run is 140,000, distributed to teachers and schools across the nation. *Horizons* complements the information currently being published by teacher federations and unions through



Doug Willard, CTF President, launches the "Horizons" magazine.

their own publications and magazines.

As the national umbrella organization of 14 provincial and territorial Member organizations representing 240,000 teachers across Canada, CTF is proud to launch this magazine which is a global tribute to teachers around the world.

Copies of this magazine are being mailed on a 10% basis to schools with this issue of "NBTA News".

Canada Post Honours A Class Act

Better than a thousand days of diligent study, is one day with a great teacher
— Japanese proverb

OTTAWA - On October 4th, Canada Post issued a 48¢ stamp in recognition of the indispensable, often-difficult and extremely important role played by our nation's teachers. Timed to coincide with World Teachers' Day, the Honourable André Ouellet, President and Chief Executive Officer for Canada Post, explained the stamp "will pay tribute to every teacher in Canada, who has undertaken to shape the great minds of tomorrow with passion and dedication."

World Teachers' Day was created in 1993 by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). More than 100 countries recognize World Teachers' Day, celebrating the importance and evolution of the profession. Education is the single largest sector of employment with over 55 million teachers worldwide and more than 1 billion students.

In Canada, more than five million students are guided through the learning process by 250,000 teachers. The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) represents many of them through 14 provincial and territorial member organizations. For over eighty years, the CTF has advanced the cause of children, defended the rights of teachers and promoted a strong public education system. Canada Post is also proud of its role in recognizing, every year, educators from across the country with the Educator category in the *Canada Post Literacy Awards*.

Canada Post has issued many education-themed stamps in the past thirty years, primarily to mark anniversaries of some of our country's most cherished homes of learning: Saint Mary's University (2002), Kingston's Royal Military College (2001), Frontier College (1999), Lunenburg Academy (1995) and Queen's University (1983). In addition, a number of stamps have recognized the contributions of individual teachers like Marshall

McLuhan, Northrup Frye, Hilda Neatby and Donald Creighton.

The stamp was designed by Mark Koudis of Koudis Design Office of Toronto. He also designed the five stamp Sporting

Heroes set for the 1996 Olympics and the Pablum stamp for the Millennium Collection. Koudis said

his challenge in the design of this stamp was to create a single image that would communicate the diversity and the history of the profession. He used well-known icons such as handwriting on chalkboard and flash cards, as well as the shadow of a teacher - perhaps your favourite - to illustrate the design.

The Official First Day Cover was cancelled in New Waterford NS, home of Mrs. Lorraine Sheppard, a member of Canada Post's



(l-r): David Collenette, Transport Minister who is also responsible for Canada Post; André Ouellet, CEO at Canada Post, and Doug Willard, CTF President.

Stamp Advisory Committee and a teacher by profession.

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The League Gives Poetic Licence to Canada's Young Writers



The League of Canadian Poets is proud to announce the fifth annual Poetic Licence Contest for Canadian Youth. This national celebration of young talent is open to all writers from grade 7 to 12 and invites submissions in English or in French. The deadline for submissions for the Poetic Licence Contest for Canadian Youth is December 1, 2002. Winners will be announced on April 7 and will be the stars of Young Poets' Week.

The Poetic Licence Contest for Canadian Youth offers prizes in both regional and national categories. First, second and third prize national winners in each language and age category will receive cash prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50 respectively. All winners (both national and regional) will receive poetic licence certificates

and will be granted one-year student membership in the League. In addition, all winning poems will be published in the League's bilingual poetry e-zine for youth (see www.youngpoets.ca) which is edited jointly by last year's English and French senior winners, Laura Ishiguro and Nina Holt. Last year's winning poets were featured in regional newspapers and on radio programs.

The winning poems from last year's contest can be found at www.youngpoets.ca. This site is also an excellent source of inspiration for this year's entrants. The Young Poets' site is also a valuable educational resource and features information lesson plans, reading lists, a digital history of Canadian poetry and an on-line discussion group. Young

writers are encouraged to browse feature articles, interview a poet on-line, or join a chat-room discussion.

Since 1965, the League of Canadian Poets, a national, not-for-profit charitable organization, has been committed to offering quality programmes and services designed to facilitate the teaching of Canadian poetry to youth. The Poetic Licence Contest is free to all entrants with no hidden fees for publication of the winners' work. Please visit the League of Canadian Poets' youth website at www.youngpoets.ca for official contest guidelines.



Riverside School Board is an English language school board located on the South Shore of Montreal, Quebec, serving approximately 11,200 students. It is noted for its traditions of academic excellence and learning opportunities for all.



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Requirements: Be a qualified teacher with an excellent knowledge of the mathematics and natural sciences programs in both elementary and secondary schools. Have a thorough understanding of the Quebec Education Program and of student evaluation. Proven skills in working as part of a multidisciplinary team.

For more detailed information on these job opportunities, visit our website at www.rsb.qc.ca

Please submit a letter of application as well as a curriculum vitae to Frances Weiser, Director of Human Resources, Riverside School Board, 299 Sir Wilfrid-Laurier Blvd., St. Lambert, QC J4R 2V7.
E-mail: ccasavant@rsb.qc.ca

We thank all candidates in advance, but will contact only those selected for an interview. RSB is an equal opportunity employer.

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Law Commission of Canada Contest

Does Age Matter?



The Law Commission of Canada is launching its second annual Roderick A. Macdonald Contest on the theme "Does Age Matter?" Through the contest, the Law

Commission wants to hear the perspectives of young people and of older adults regarding intergenerational issues, such as perceptions of older adults and young people, stereotypes, realities, support, sharing of knowledge, and comments and attitudes about their roles in society/community/family.

Students must be in their final two years of high school. Entries can be made in either of two categories: *Written* — collection of personal stories or interviews, diary,

short story, or research report; *Visual* — video, photo journal or visual art with captions/quotes, or poster. Where a teacher has submitted a first prize winning entry, the Law Commission of Canada will contribute a matching prize to that school. Students are encouraged to reflect on their own views, to go out and talk to other young people and older adults in their communities to find out what they think, and to tell us about it in creative ways.

Entries should be submitted electronically, if possible, to Info@lcc.gc.ca or by mail to the Law Commission of Canada, 11th floor, Trebla Building, 473 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8. The deadline is 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, 2003.

A poster announcing the contest is available through the Law Commission of Canada's website: www.info@lcc.gc.ca or call 819-779-4335.

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Announcements

Circle of Hope Conference

The New Brunswick Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effects Network will be holding a conference regarding fetal alcohol syndrome and effects. The conference will be held at the Fredericton Inn November 19-21, 2002.

There will be subsidies available to qualifying families, individuals and non-profit organizations who are interested in attending this worthwhile event. For more information please visit our website at: www.circle-of-hope.ca, contact our office at (506) 450-4242 or email us at safnbfas@nb.aibn.com.

Free Grade 6-8 Ecological Footprint Resource

EcoVoyageurs Reducing your Ecological Footprint is an award-winning grade 6-8 environmental resource. Free for the asking, the kit includes a newly-designed resource booklet and poster. Activities fit into arts, science, math, social studies, and language arts curriculum.

Register for a free copy at www.4edu.ca/tors/eco. For further information, Tel. 1-800-668-1023, Fax 416-955-0815, e-mail: cmail@sympatico.ca



Children's Book Award

The Nova Scotia Library Association is seeking nominations for the 13th annual *Ann Connor Brimer Award*, a \$1,000 prize for a children's book which makes an outstanding contribution to children's literature in Atlantic Canada. The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in writing.

The deadline for nominations is November 15, 2002. For further information, contact: Lara McAllister, Tel. (902) 490-5855, Fax (902) 490-5752.

Canadian Statistics in the Classroom

A special edition of *School Libraries in Canada* entitled *Canadian Statistics in the Classroom* features articles devoted to the practical use of Statistics Canada data as a teaching tool. Students learn about Canada and Canadian society through the use of data in a variety of subject areas including social studies, geography, mathematics, business education, home economics and more.

For further information or more resources, check out the website at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu>.

CTF's Hit the Books Literacy Program

Using baseball as the overall theme, CTF's *Hit the Books program* is designed to improve literacy skills by supplementing existing curriculum materials and challenging students to strengthen their reading, writing and communications skills. Educators are encouraged to become actively involved in this program by taking advantage of the materials produced by CTF. Teachers can place an order on-line at www.ctf-fce.ca/WHAT/HTB/htb.htm

Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award

The Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award starts its fourth year with a selection of 30 nominated Canadian books for young readers. The Hackmatack program encourages children to read and gives them a voice in choosing their favourites making them the jury in this award. Children in registered reading groups across Atlantic Canada will read the nominated books during the school year and vote for their favourite books in all three categories in May 2003.

For more information on the Hackmatack Award or to register a group: (902) 424-3774 or via e-mail at hackmatack@hackmatack.ca

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- Ernie Rogers, Bathurst

"I've been a member of the NBTA Credit Union for several years and have found their service to be fast and efficient. The staff members are knowledgeable, obliging and very friendly. If you're considering purchasing a computer, check out their loans!"

- Marianne Goodfellow, Miramichi

"I've never dealt with a financial institution that has treated me with the same degree of respect and professionalism as the Credit Union Staff. They are sincere, attentive, prompt, efficient and polite, whether we have invested or borrowed or just conducted daily business. We are very pleased with our decision to do our banking with the NBTA Credit Union."

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