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TA News

New Brunswick Teachers' Association



INSIDE:

NBTA Professional Courses	4
Pre-Retirement Seminars 2005-2006	5
School-Based Learning Team Grants	8-9
Ten Steps to Financial Wellness	13
Skills for Administrators 2006	14
June 2006 Retirees – New Payroll Practices That Will Affect You	20

**Next Final Copy Deadline
For NBTA News:
Friday, December 9**



Class Composition Grants Awarded

by Melinda Cook, Director of Curriculum and Finance

On November 2nd, the Joint Action Committee on Classroom Composition met to consider the first applications for grants from the special fund established during the last round of contract negotiations.

This team of eight teachers studied each of the submitted applications,

and after some hours of discussion chose to award five grants.

The Committee is well aware that all members who complete applications are asking for help in bettering the classroom environment. A number of excellent applications were received for the \$353,000 worth of grant funding available this year.

Five grants were awarded initially, yet the funds for this year have not been entirely depleted. The Committee will meet again in early December to consider new applications, and to reconsider some of the applications received earlier. Just because applicants were not successful in the first round of grants, does not mean they were unsuccessful.

The successful applicants in this round of awards formed a diverse group. Grants were awarded in Districts 02, 06, 10, and 18. One grant was awarded to an elementary school, one to a K-8 school, one to a 6-12 school, one to a middle school, and one to a high school. Funding

was allocated for 1.5 contract E teachers – one to work as a literacy specialist in a high needs middle school, and one half-time teacher to allow grouping and regrouping of a combined 6/7 class containing 14

SEP students. Two schools received funding for supply teachers; one high school received 1.5 supply days

per week for 24 weeks so that small groups of 9/10 team members might

... several more grants can be awarded in December.



The President, Board of Directors, and staff of the NBTA wish all of our members a warm and happy holiday season!

Christmas Hours

The office will close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 23, 2005 and will re-open at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2006.



meet to prepare modified materials for the entire grade 9 and 10 students. An elementary school received a half time supply teacher from January to June to provide a third instructor for mathematics and language arts to a group of 61 children, 25% of whom have exceptional needs. Lastly, one school was awarded money to run a tutoring program for students struggling with mathematics and language arts in a high needs grade 6 class.

Once Districts are able to hire individuals to fill the newly created positions, they will provide the Committee with total costs for each one, and the money will be transferred to the District. Only then will the Committee know exactly how much money has been spent. (No Committee expenses are being

taken from the fund. The Department of Education is paying for its members, and all supply days required for committee meetings, and the NBTA is paying for its nominees.)

Just because applicants were not successful in the first round of grants, does not mean they were unsuccessful.

At this time, the Committee only has an estimate of how much money is remaining in the fund. However, they are confident that several more grants can be awarded in December, and that in the end, virtually every dollar of the \$353, 000 will be distributed to classrooms.

Please be assured that your Committee is working hard for you. They are constantly receiving and reviewing applications, and are doing their best to discern which situations are most dire, and which ones may best be improved by additional resources. Please be aware that all partners in this endeavor are carefully deliberating, knowing full well that the stakes are high for every applicant. The application process is designed to provide a careful and thoughtful progression to the distribution of funds.

Ultimately, this process should allow the Committee, on your behalf, to direct the distribution of the funds wisely. The Committee believes that the awarding of the first five grants has been an auspicious beginning.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

**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.



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Indu Varma

Indu Varma

Winston Churchill's quote is very befitting for the nature of giving associated with the teaching profession. For the community in general, Christmas time is the time for giving, but for us teachers, giving continues throughout the year.

The true spirit of Christmas, as we all know, is not in giving material gifts, but in caring, sharing, spending time, showing kindness, and spreading happiness in the lives we touch. This true spirit of giving is deeply ingrained in so many things we, as teachers, do voluntarily.

I recently had a conversation with a teacher following a staff meeting regarding a dozen non-teaching related things added on to his "To do" list. This prompted me to focus on how much we give of ourselves, and yet more is asked of us continually.

We volunteer because we strive to do the best for our children. To name a few things we do voluntarily — re-teach missed lessons, give extra help, provide guidance and support, plan trips, organize assemblies, coach for competitions academic or otherwise, supervise co and extra-curricular activities, fundraising, wave the flag by attending students' events, arrange social activities, chaperone dances, etc., etc. Though this is not an all-inclusive list, many of us do several of these, plus more on a regular basis.

During the Christmas season, one would be hard pressed to find a school in the province where teachers are not volunteering their time and services for some Christmas-related activity. This comes at the heels of Remembrance Day, when teachers just finished

preparing students for assemblies and various Remembrance Day related contests or projects.

The above voluntary activities are, of course, in addition to our main job of teaching, the long hours we spend after school and in the evenings, on weekends to plan lessons, complete all marking, prepare report cards, and conduct parent-teacher interviews.

The truth is that even our normal job requirements have become quite overwhelming. I can distinctly remember sacrificing sleep and family time continually, and yet not managing to keep pace with everything that was required of me. I know that I was not alone in feeling this way. A 2005 CTF (Canadian Teachers' Federation) survey states that teachers are spending 55.6 hours per week on teaching and related activities. This translates into nearly 11-hour workdays for five days a week!

Class composition is a major factor that has contributed to the increased workload. It means preparing multiple lesson plans, tests, documentation, and tracking of behaviors, etc. The Cudmore case has changed the nature of the delivery of Methods and Resource services in our province. If anything, the main outcome of this case should have been to add sufficient resources, programs and services to meet the needs of our children. Instead, greater emphasis placed on accountability has resulted in increased workload for us.

Yet another form of giving that teachers do is spending money out of their pockets to supplement classroom resources and the needs of their students. The October 2005 bulletin published by CTF states that teachers in Atlantic Canada spend an average of \$407.00 annually on classroom materials or class-related activities.

On your behalf, I have been giving this message repeatedly to various politicians, key individuals in the Dept. of Education, and the media. I have met with several key cabinet ministers (education, health, finance, business, etc.) to share our concerns with them. I have shared my discussions with the various ministers with our NBTA Board of Directors. I have summarized below the message I have been giving —

The Season for Giving ❄️

*"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give."*

— Winston Churchill ❄️

- Huge under-funding of our system, lack of sufficient resources, programs, and services;
- Out-of-pocket expenses incurred by teachers for supplementing classroom resources and their own professional development;
- PD days that ought to be integrated within the school year;
- Class composition causing very difficult and challenging teaching situations;
- The current model of delivery of resource services is not meeting the needs of our students adequately;
- Increased workload of teachers;
- Teachers need the tools, i.e., computers, to do the job they are asked to do increasingly on-line or electronically;
- The need for our students to have more hands-on programs, such as Phys. Ed, Fine Arts, Music and various vocational programs;
- The need for integration of various services – school-based social worker, school nurse, school counselor and school psychologist, etc., in each school.

It is my sincere hope that the MacKay Report would also focus on similar issues, as I have outlined above. All of the ministers I have met so far have assured me that education is a major priority of our government. I am hopeful that following the MacKay Study Report we will have the opportunity of working collaboratively with the government to improve the delivery of educational services to our students.

My final thought, though, is for you – the champions of giving. This Christmas please put yourself first and give yourself a gift of health. Take a complete break from school work. Rest, relax and enjoy the fellowship this wonderful season brings. I wish you and your families a restful holiday season and the best of everything in the New Year!

Our children are worth it!

NBTA Professional Courses

– Winter & Spring –

Below is a partial list of NBTA Professional Courses which will be available in the coming months.

- 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).

DM06WJKF — Designing Motivation for All Learners

Dates: Weekends, Friday (6-9); Saturday (9-4); Jan. 13/14, Jan. 27/28, Feb. 10/11, Feb. 24/25

Location: George Street Middle School, Fredericton

Instructor: Julie Kilcollins

Description: Design learning experiences and develop effective leadership strategies that promote motivation for all learners. Learn verbal encouragement techniques that reduce student risk and reinforce student effort. Discover how doing meaningful work and achieving goals supports all types of learners.

DM06WPSM — Designing Motivation for All Learners

Dates: Thursday evenings, Jan. 5 - Feb. 23 (5-8), plus 4 Saturday mornings - Jan. 7, Jan. 28, Feb. 11 & Feb. 25 (9-12 noon)

Location: Moncton High School

Instructor: Pam Sheridan

Description: Same as previous course description

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 evenings & Saturdays; April/May — Exact dates TBA

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.

NBTA Sponsored Professional Course Registration Form

Name: _____ Current Certificate Level: _____

Home Address: _____

School: _____

Phone Number(s): Home: _____ School: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Do you check e-mail daily? _____

Course details:

Course Title: _____

Course Number: _____ Location: _____ Course Instructor: _____

Will you be taking this course for:

Certification Credit _____ or Professional Development _____

Do you require any special considerations (access, visual/auditory support etc.)?

Please mail registration form with \$375 payment to:
Nancy Roach, Director of Professional Development, NBTA
PO Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6

2005-2006 NBTA PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS REGISTRATION FORM

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

DATE OF SEMINAR _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION _____

- _____ January 7 - Fredericton, NBTF Building
- _____ January 21 - Miramichi, Dr. Losier Middle School
- _____ February 4 - Sussex, Sussex High School

- December 16
- January 13
- January 27

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

Mailing Address: _____ Dist. _____

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

No. of pension years you will have accumulated to June 2006 _____ Certificate Level: _____

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

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

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

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

YES NO

Signature: _____

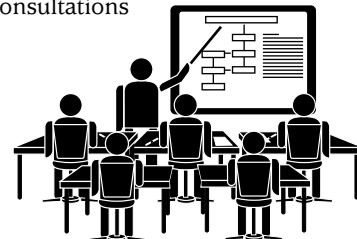
SEMINAR GUIDELINES

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

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

PROGRAM

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



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

Fanning the Flame

"We do not remember days, we remember moments."

—Cesar Pavese

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

Every job has 'moments'...those times that you know you are lucky to be doing something you love, and when it just feels right. Before taking this position with the NBTA, my 'moments' were always with my students. Now, these moments usually come during conversations or encounters with teachers.

The phone rang at my home last Sunday afternoon and an enthusiastic voice began, "Nancy, I am so pumped! I just got back from the National Middle Level Conference and I just had to tell you about it." My friend, a mid-career teacher, proceeded to share her excitement about the learning she had encountered and the plans she was making to implement some of the ideas she had been exposed to.

"I know one thing I am going to do immediately," she enthused. "Those kids are going to get up and move in my class...every twenty minutes young adolescents need to move and talk, even if its just a Think, Pair, Share. "You know," she went on, "I really didn't know much about the brain stuff, but now ..."

I loved listening to this teacher, already a strong passionate professional, as she talked eagerly about how she was planning to make her teaching more effective by building on her new knowledge base.

I had another moment when I had the good fortune to visit a class at a local high school where the teacher, this time an early career professional, had orchestrated a video conference with her on-line Spanish class (see the article in this issue for details of this project). I sat mesmerized as the teacher, wearing

her headset and seated in front of not one, not two, but three computer screens, facilitated the video conference between students in 6 different high schools in New Brunswick, a researcher in Scotland and a high school class in Bogota, Columbia. The students had worked via an on-line blog to prepare the program which they presented (in Spanish, of course) to their new friends in South America. The teacher communicated with them



through video, Instant Messenger and email, while the conference was taking place, as well as via IM on her third computer with the technical support people who were helping make the event happen.

For two hours, the students were totally engaged in their new language skills, and I observed a kind of teaching that was unlike anything I had ever experienced. The teacher, speaking after the 'lesson', shared her excitement about the format, and I later heard from her students who were equally enthusiastic. They certainly didn't need to ask why they were learning Spanish!

My final moment came at the end of a half-day workshop with a high school staff on *Assessment for*

Learning. I have been working with the staff and sharing some of the research about assessment strategies that encourage learning. That day's workshop dealt with the effective use of rubrics.

The teacher stayed behind to question me about something I had said related to group grades. (She was looking for ways to eliminate the group grade without eliminating the group work). Her thoughtful inquiry had no easy answer and I felt challenged to find more information for her. Her real excitement, however, came when she told me about a new method she was using to teach FSL. "It is amazing," she said, "how much these kids have learned using this method. The experts have finally learned how to teach French Second Language effectively, and I was fortunate enough to take the course to learn how to use this method. It is awesome to see how fast the kids are picking it up and gaining confidence. What I really hope to do is do my Masters with this sort of research..."

These three experiences were meaningful to me, not just because of the teachers' enthusiasm, but also because they speak about the evolution of teaching. It is not and can never be a static profession. These three teachers (and there are hundreds of you out there) are finding ways to hone their craft, to take advantage of the newest knowledge about teaching and learning and/or the technologies to support it. Then they are putting their own stamp on it. They are creating classrooms that are active, where students are engaged, where the learning is relevant and where kids are experiencing success, because of the efforts of their teachers.

Tomorrow's classrooms will hold

vestiges of the classrooms of yesterday...caring teachers who are passionate about their work, but we know that these classrooms need to be and will be vastly different. Whether it is new technology, or new teaching strategies, or new models of class compositions, or new approaches to assessment, we will teach more effectively because we know more about the research and we are not afraid to embrace change and take risks.

I get excited when teachers get excited and teachers get excited when they try new things. When teachers are excited about their work, everyone wins. Remember the old adage about the lamp and the flame... *A lamp cannot light another flame unless it continues to burn its own flame.* Find the fuel for your flame....and light mine by letting me know about it.

Teaming: How are We Doing?

Many schools are working towards developing effective teams and the challenge involves much more than just finding time for people to be together. **Tools For Schools** (Vol. 9 Nov/Dec 2005) is a resource supplement prepared by the National Staff Development Council. The author has created a great summary of some of the research around the formation of teams. An added bonus is a terrific questionnaire titled *What Stage is Your Team In?* Teams can score themselves and the ensuing discussion can only help with the communication of the members.

Literacy Projects

The ever-present challenge of creating meaningful ways for students to see the importance of literacy skills is dealt with in two interesting articles. Both reveal projects undertaken by real teachers. **Reading Stories to Change the World** (Principal Leadership October 2005) details the many benefits of a project that involved at-risk adolescents in reading to younger students. It even provides a list of the books used in the project titled *Violence Prevention Through Cooperative Learning*. **Students and**

Writing: Sharing Pieces of Themselves (Middle Ground October 2005) is another project where the teacher creates a real purpose for her students to write — the publication of their own stories. Easy ideas to copy in your classrooms.

Basics of Blogging

While you may not be familiar with the ins and outs of blogging, I am betting most of your students are. **Principal** (November/December 2005) has the low-down in the short article called *The Basics of Blogging*. It even provides links to websites that make it easy to set up blogs which can become effective communication tools.

Interventions

It seems that intervention has become one of the current buzz words of education ...early interventions, literacy interventions...getting the help to the kids who need it, when they need it. I enjoyed the ideas generated in two articles related to this theme. **Successful Intervention: It Takes Time** (Principal Nov/Dec 2005) offers outlines of a number of programs that school districts have put in place to intervene with students who are not experiencing academic success. These models are alternatives to retention and can provide food for thought for those schools/districts who are looking for ways to help the struggling learners.

Intervention Strategies for Students with ADHD (Principal, same issue) offers a nice summary of some of the characteristics, interventions and alternatives for working with these students. While not as detailed as teachers might like, this is a good overview piece and would be useful to share with parents as well.

Looping for Long-Term Success

The article bearing this title (**Middle Ground October 2005**) will be of interest to any teachers/schools who are using or considering using looping. The author shares her real school experience.

LGBT Youth

A very powerful article I read in the November **Middle School Journal** reminds teachers to *“Let Us Not Forget to Support LGBT Youth in the Middle School Years.”* The research indicates that many youth are struggling with their sexual orientation as early as Middle School and the caring and insightful actions of their teachers can make an enormous difference in how gay and lesbian youth cope with these years. I really think every teacher from grade 6 through 12 should read this article...I wish I could go back and do things differently for some of my former students based on what the author has to say. Kids’ lives may depend on how you, their teacher, handle the harassment they receive in the school setting.

Hands-On Science

Alas, I am not a Science person. I am in awe of those teachers who can make this subject come alive for students...maybe if I had been taught by some of you, I would have shared your love of the subject. I did love, however, the great article called **What K-8 Principals Should Know About Hands-On Science** (Principal Nov/Dec 2005). I would suggest it would make good reading for teachers and administrators alike.

Happy Holidays

It is a constant source of amazement to me that time can pass so quickly. I wish for each of you the happiest holiday season filled with laughter, rest, friends, family and peace.



Closing Quote:

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

— Henry Ford

School-Based Learning Teams Grants

In a true Learning Community, everyone learns.

⇒ **What is a School-Based Learning Team?**

A School-Based Learning Team (SBLT) is a team of 3-5 teachers from a school who decide to work together to examine some aspect of student learning with the goal of studying, collaborating, sharing and learning to improve instructional strategies that will lead to improved student achievement.

⇒ **Can you give me an example of what a SBLT might attempt to accomplish under this program?**

An Elementary Team might determine, by examining their school achievement data and their students' performance, that their students seem weak in the area of measurement. The team might work towards identifying/developing strategies to improve this area of student learning. The teachers might try various teaching techniques, learning from one another or experts, and continue to compare the progress of their students as a result of the efforts of the Learning Team. Likewise a Middle School Learning Team might recognize that their students are weak in poetry ; a High School Math Team might decide to focus on improving their students application of geometric principles.

⇒ **What is a School-Based Learning Team Grant?**

A SBLT Grant is a \$1000 grant that will be awarded to a school upon successful application to the NBTA Committee established to administer the grant fund. The focus must be student learning.

⇒ **What is the Purpose of the grant?**

The grant is intended to support the work of the Learning Team. Such support may include providing some release time for the team to meet, purchasing resources to support the efforts of the team, accessing

expertise in the form of resource people.

⇒ **How often should the team meet?**

The SBLT grant extends from the calendar year January to December 2006. The team is required to meet a minimum of 18 hours throughout the year for which the grant has been awarded. Team members determine when the meetings will take place.

\$1000 Grant for your School to Support Student and Teacher Learning

⇒ **How is a SBLT different from a study group?**

In many ways the SBLT has similarities to a study group in that teachers are working together to grow and learn. *However, the Learning Team must focus on an aspect of student achievement and work towards improving the achievement levels of their students in that area.* Actually examining student work is an important part of a Learning Team.

⇒ **Will there be any help for the SBLT to get started?**

Yes. Nancy Roach, Director of Professional Development for the NBTA will meet with each Learning Team to help them launch their work. A template for recording the work of the team will be provided and protocols for examining student work will be introduced. These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for both accountability and productivity but will not restrict the direction and creativity of the team.

⇒ **How many grants will be available?**

For the calendar year January '06 – December '06, there will be five \$1000 grants available.

⇒ **How does my school apply?**

Complete the application form accompanying this article or found on the NBTA website (www.nbta.ca). A school may submit more than one application provided the guidelines above are represented in each application. **Deadline for applications is December 10, 2005.** Successful applicants will be notified by January 10, 2006.

⇒ **Why should my school consider creating a School-Based Learning Team?**

All teachers strive to do their best, but so much more can be accomplished if teachers can work together, share strategies and improve their instructional techniques. Students and teachers all benefit. In a true learning community, everyone learns. A School-Based Learning Team is one more step toward the creation of such a learning community.

The guiding question of a School Based-Learning Team is:

"What is happening differently in our classrooms as a result of what we are doing and learning in our Team?"

See www.nbta.ca for an article highlighting previous years' results.



See application on following page.

NBTA School-Based Learning Team Grant Application Form

School _____

School Address _____

School Phone _____ Fax _____ Name of Team Contact Person _____

Title of Your Team's Project: _____

Please complete the following after carefully reading the information about School-Based Learning Teams that accompanies this form. Feel free to attach additional pages.

What aspect of student learning will be the focus of this Learning Team?

How and why did your team determine the need for this focus?

How will the team monitor the impact of your efforts on your students?

Who are the members of your School-Based Learning Team? Indicate their teaching assignment within the school?

Comment on the schedule your team will develop for completing the minimum 18 hours of meeting time for your team between January and December.

Please add any other comments which you feel are relevant to your application.

Send completed application form to: **Nancy Roach, Director of Professional Development, NBTA
PO Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6**

Deadline for applications: December 10, 2005

Successful schools will be notified by January 10, 2006. An NBTA Committee will base selection on factors including the thoughtful development of the application form, distribution of various levels (K-12) and geographic considerations.



December "Tidbits"



Wow! Can you believe December is upon us? Reports are done, parent teacher interviews are out of the way, and we are getting ready to enter the Christmas season. Next comes Christmas concerts and the growing excitement in our student's eyes as the holidays approach. I trust you all had a productive fall, and are looking forward to your much-deserved Christmas break!

Your Elementary Council met during the weekend of Dec. 2/3 in Sackville to plan and prepare for Council Day 2006. We were busy "checking our lists" to ensure things will be up and running smoothly for next May. We toured the Mount Allison campus and searched out the venues (once again) for our speakers, lunch, accommodations, and our social. The good news is we won't need as many buildings this time round because there are no small sessions (unlike the last time we were there). We look forward to this year's Council Day as we reflect upon favourite speakers of years past. Stay tuned for a list of presenters in the near future.

We are pleased to bring to you a report (boxed) from a group of teachers who attended a conference in May 2004. As promised earlier this year, we look forward to posting comments from members who have received funding from the Elementary Council to help with their conference in the *News*. There is nothing more rewarding than to hear from teachers who are excited about a worthwhile conference they were fortunate enough to attend, and sharing that with others is key. Remember, we have increased our budget to **twenty thousand dollars** this year (due to a surplus from last year's Combined Council Conference) for educational grants, so if there is a conference that sounds appealing, and you haven't applied for a grant in the past four years, it could be an opportunity for

you.

On behalf of myself and the entire Elementary Council Committee, we would like to extend our warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday. Take time to enjoy the

beauty of the season as you spend time with family and friends. Happy Holidays!

Kim Silliker
Elementary Council Committee

District 10 Teachers & Literacy Mentor Attend Annual "International Reading Association Convention"

Every teacher should have an opportunity to attend at least one of these conventions! The 49th Annual convention of the "International Reading Association" was held May 2-6, 2004 in Reno-Tahoe, Nevada. We were among 25,000 participants who attended and the experience was far richer than one can imagine. At this convention, multiple strands offered something of interest to everyone — sessions focusing on pre-school, early literacy, connecting reading and writing, family literacy, role of the reading specialist, standards and assessment, just to name a few.

Keynote guest speaker, **Henry Winkler**, television and film celebrity, award-winning producer and director of family and children's programming, and now a popular children's book author (Hank Zipzer: The World's Most Amazing Under-Achiever), presented a heart wrenching story of his own disability and the struggles to achieve. Some of the over 600 presentations we attended included: Miriam Trehearne and Christine Gordon (Phonological and Phonemic Awareness), Marie Clay (Reading Recovery), Joy Crowley (The Joy of Reading), Tony Stead (Is That a Fact?), Fountas and Pinnell

(Guided Reading with Struggling Readers), Karen Bromley (Rethinking Vocabulary Instruction), Carolyn Morgan (Using Fluency Activities to Improve Reading).

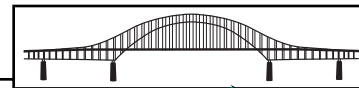
Two of the highlights of the convention were lunch with **Robert Munsch** and the Gala Night. On hand at the convention were over 1000 exhibitors, providing lots of information to bring back to the District. The overall organization was excellent. We were so encouraged as we heard presenters — it reaffirmed what was already being established in District 10.

Upon our return, we presented to District literacy teachers and classroom teachers at the 5-2 levels. We would like to take this opportunity to thank District 10, local NBTA, and NBTA/Department of Education Provincial Grant who provided us with some of the necessary funding. We encourage others to attend such conventions, which inspire and enrich your professional and personal life!

Colleen Winchester
St. Stephen Elementary School
Parry Smith
Milltown Elementary School
Mary Hooper
Literacy Mentor District 10



A teacher effects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.
— Henry Adams



Middle Level Council Update...



Superior Middle School staff is hosting the May 5, 2006 Middle Level Council Day in Bathurst. To date we have had many teachers and non-teaching speakers volunteer to present on this date. Those of you who did volunteer should have received a speaker registration form.

We are planning to have a keynote and three divided sessions so the day should be quite practical for all teachers.

For those interested in attending, there will be festivities on the evening of May 4 at the main hotel — Atlantic Host. If you are calling to

register, please let them know you are with the Council and you will get a discount. We have also booked a block of rooms at the Lakeview Inn and Suites.

Hope to see you there,

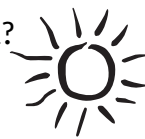
Kathy Grebenc
Middle Level Council Day Chair

NBTA Middle Level Council – Call for Presenters

Council Day, May 5, 2006 — Bathurst



- Do you have an idea or suggestion for a topic, speaker or a divided session?
- Would you like to present a session at our Council Day?



Contact: kathy.grebenc@nbed.nb.ca

High School Council News



• High School Council •

President's Message



Derek Taggart

December is here! Exams are just around the corner and this year's High School Council (May 5th at Bernice MacNaughton High School, Moncton) is

approaching rapidly. The requests to present at Council Day are really starting to pour in. Anybody who would like to share unique ideas from his or her classroom, school, or from a conference that he or she has attended is encouraged to contact me (derek.taggart@nbed.nb.ca), our Program Chair, Shane Hoyt, (shane.hoyt@nbed.nb.ca), or any other member of the Council Executive. Remember, it is never too early to think about booking your hotel room in Moncton!

By the time you read this article, your High School Council Executive will have met for the second time

this year. The agenda was packed with items concerning High School Council Day, teacher professional development and curriculum assistance. In my next article I will be providing details regarding High School Council registration (expect a positive change to be announced regarding registration), the Thursday evening social event, and how to register for upcoming institutes and professional development opportunities.

I would like to conclude this article by discussing a few reasons to visit the NBTA website, and especially the High School Council link on the NBTA website. First of

all, you will find valuable information such as the forms you need to nominate your fellow teachers for the High School Council Teacher Recognition Awards (10 Awards are presented each year at the May conference). Secondly, you will find the forms you need to apply for PD and High School Council grants to attend conferences in Canada and all over the world.

Finally, you will soon find all of the updated registration and program information for the upcoming May Council Day, as well as for upcoming institutes.

Your High School Council Executive will be having its third



meeting during the evening of Friday, February 3rd and the morning of Saturday, February 4th, to discuss new business and plan for May 5th and the upcoming institutes. If you ever have any items you would like to see included on an agenda for these meetings, please do not hesitate to contact any

of your High School Council Executive members.

I would also encourage all of you to take the opportunity to brag about the great things that are happening in your schools. If you have any item throughout the year that you think would be interesting for other Council members to read

about, contact Nancy Vessie (nancy.vessie@nbed.nb.ca) and she will make sure that it gets published in the *NBTA News*.

On behalf of the High School Council Executive, I wish you all of the best for the upcoming holiday season! Rest and relax with family and friends – you all deserve it!

Teacher Recognition Awards

In the series of Teacher Recognition Awards, we have two grade nine English teachers. **Jill Beaulieu** is presently teaching at Sussex Regional High School. She has taught there for the last nine years; previously she taught at Sussex Junior High where she taught Social Studies. Jill has been teaching for 31 years.

Jill says that she loves teaching 14 year-old students; I must say that she must be a very patient person. Jill has never sought to move from grade nine. Her social activities include Teacher Wellness Committee. Maybe this is the secret to Jill's calm demeanor when working with all those energetic

adolescents.

Jill has been the Director for NBTA Branch 0618. She is also an instructor for an NBTA sponsored course " Designing Motivation For All Learners ".

She says that she has always been passionate about Professional Development and working with new teachers. With Jill's positive attitude she would be a great mentor. Her hobbies include gardening, painting and travel.

Karen Currie is teaching English at the grade 9 level at Bernice MacNaughton High School in Moncton. She has taught for 24 years in both Dieppe and Riverview. Besides teaching English, she has

taught French and Social Studies at different levels and in different schools. Her favorite subjects are both English and Social Studies at the high school level. Her extracurricular activities include Reach For The Top, ISCF, and Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

Outside the school scene, Karen is involved in Operation Christmas Child and Drama. She is a Sunday School Teacher and Church Organist. Her interests/hobbies include her family, music, gardening, cross-stitching, and reading.

Karen is married with two adult children — James and Heather.

Submitted by Nancy K Vessie



Jill Beaulieu (l) and Karen Currie (r) receive their awards from Randy Hunter, 2004-2005 High School Council President.



Ten Steps to Financial Wellness

\$\$\$ (Financial Planning For Beginners) \$\$\$

Date of Seminar

January 17 - Miramichi
January 26 - Fredericton
January 31 - Sussex
February 21 - St. Stephen

Deadline for Registration

December 23
January 12
January 16
February 6

Topics Include:

* Debt Reduction * Insurance Needs * Teachers' Pension * Savings

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

1. All participants must pre-register.
2. A registration fee of \$5.00 for each participant must accompany the application; however, cheques will not be cashed until after the workshop.
3. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the participant.
4. Questions relating to these seminars should be directed to:

Melinda Cook
Director of Curriculum and Finance
New Brunswick Teachers' Association
P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6 (Tel. 452-1739)
E-mail: cookm@nb.aibn.com



5. Any interested teachers and guests are eligible to attend.
6. All workshops run from 6:30pm - 9:00pm.
7. Detach and return the registration form as soon as possible.

\$\$\$

REGISTRATION FORM

* Ten Steps to Financial Wellness *

\$\$\$

Please accept my application to attend the Ten Steps to Financial Wellness Seminar to be held on (check one):

Date of Seminar
----- January 17 - Miramichi
----- January 26 - Fredericton
----- January 31 - Sussex
----- February 21 - St. Stephen

Deadline for Registration
----- December 23
----- January 12
----- January 16
----- February 6

Location
----- Lakeview Inns (Newcastle)
----- NBTF Building
----- Amsterdam Inn
----- Board Office (St. Stephen)



Name of Teacher _____ District _____

Mailing Address _____

Name of Guest _____ Contact Number _____

I am enclosing a cheque (payable to NBTA) in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the cost of the nutrition break and materials.

Signature _____ Date _____

Exciting Teaching and Learning Opportunity for Spanish Students

On November 2, 2005, a unique learning opportunity was part of the Grade 12 Distance Education Spanish class taught by Fredericton High School teacher, Chantal Lafargue.

Using basic webcam and free software, Chantal facilitated a fascinating on-line video conference with students from schools throughout New Brunswick. Students participated from John Caldwell School (Grand Falls), Bernice MacNaughton School, (Moncton), Harvey High School, Leo Hayes High (Fredericton), James M. Hill (Miramichi), Caledonia High School (Hillsborough), Cambridge Narrows High and Bathurst High School.

Not only did these students engage in Spanish conversation with each other and their teacher, they also communicated with a class of students in Bogotá, Columbia as well as with a researcher from the University of Dundee, Scotland.

The conference was part of *The Story Telling Forum*, a research project where students use technology and storytelling to enhance their literacy skills. Currently more than 600 students are participating in the project. Students write, publish and read their stories to peers in other parts of the world by using the world-wide web as their forum. Password protected blogs provide a medium for reflective thinking, creative sharing, increased technology skills and in the case of the Spanish class, the chance to use

their newly acquired language skills for real communication.

Each student shared a story or a song in Spanish while their new friends in Columbia listened and then asked questions. The Columbian students performed several Spanish dances and songs, much to the delight of the students.

The teacher, using three dedicated computers, managed the video conference, communicated via Instant Messenger, emailed as required and responded with both encouragement and calm when the occasional technological glitch ensued. She gave new definition to the term 'multi tasking'.

Students reacted favorably after the event:

"It was a really good experience...the next best thing to visiting Columbia students in real life...I think that it all went extremely well."

"I enjoyed it very, very much and really hope this will happen again! In a



Chantal Lafargue, Fredericton High School teacher, facilitated an on-line video conference using a webcam and free software. Communication involved schools within the province, as well as in Columbia and Scotland.

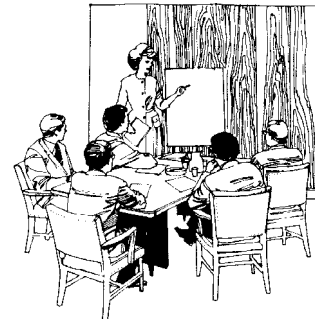
world of technologies like ours, there's nothing like somebody who loves to teach to make us love to learn; therefore, I want to thank Srt Lafargue for all the effort, phone calls and time she has put into this! Gracias por todos! Thanks also to the other students for making your participation and mine worth every second!"

Collaborators on the research project include New Brunswick Department of Education – E-Learning, University of New Brunswick - Faculty of Education, University of Dundee - Division of Applied Computing, University of Bogotá and the Dundee City Department of Education .

Skills For Administrators 2006

- **Assessment FOR Learning: What Instructional Leaders Need to Know** (January 31 & February 1, 2006)
- **Share the Wisdom: A Workshop for Early Career Administrators** (March 15 & 16, 2006)
- **Leadership at Work Revisited** (April 24, 2006)
- **Brain-Based Instruction: What Should It Look Like in YOUR School** (May 2 & 3, 2006)

To find out more information and to register, please see the **Skills for Administrators** brochure that accompanied this *NBTA News*, or go to the website www.nbta.ca



Sharon Rich Jumps into UNBF Dean of Education Role

Adaptability and a willingness to accept new challenges without wavering can describe today's student.

Those descriptions can also be applied to Sharon Rich.

The new dean of education at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton has not stopped learning, meeting challenges and figuring out just how to get around campus and the City of Fredericton since landing here.

Talk about a whirlwind introduction following her arrival at UNBF from the University of Western in London, ON.

"I was still teaching at Western up until Aug. 19 and I packed Aug. 20," said Dr. Rich. "On the 22nd, the truck left Ontario with all my furniture and I hit the road for Fredericton on the 23rd. When I got here, I didn't have any furniture in my house so I came right to work. I figured I may as well get started."

Thankfully the frenetic pace has slowed somewhat in terms of straightening out everyday life.

She's still adapting to her new role as dean, however.

"The learning curve has been steep, but the faculty and staff here have been fabulous," Dr. Rich said. "They're all willing to help me find which end is up."

How the former associate professor and chair of continuing education at Western's Faculty of Education arrived at UNBF is an interesting story.

Her husband, Michael, was a biology professor at Western who had been coming to New Brunswick since 1970, the bulk of his research at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in St. Andrews. In fact, the couple purchased vacation property in Charlotte County and was making a habit of spending summertime in New Brunswick.

"Our long-term plan was to stay in New Brunswick and then the dean's job came up at UNB," she said. "Michael is on administrative leave and retires at the end of June, so things couldn't have worked out

better. It was sooner than we anticipated, but the move was fast tracked after a successful application."

As the new dean of education, there's a lot at stake in the continuing evolution of educators.

Dr. Rich has an extensive background in building a team environment toward a common goal of enriching programs. She helped Western become a recognized Ontario leader in development and provision of online learning courses for teachers. She was also active within the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Ontario College of Teachers to lobby for programs teachers insisted were instrumental in learning.

She has already sat down with the New Brunswick Department of Education, the New Brunswick Teacher's Association and others with education at the forefront of their efforts.

"I am getting to know the education system in New Brunswick and it didn't take long to know the educators want bridges and partnerships built to make it better for all of us involved," Dr. Rich said. "We're in an exciting time for education, but it's also a difficult time. There are issues surrounding accountability and testing levels. New Brunswick has to pay attention to its students and keep them from leaving the province."

Dr. Rich has already been impressed with what she believes is an innovative faculty of education at UNBF.

The in-house day care centre, second language learning and depth of faculty research she has witnessed only enhances her desire to help UNBF evolve.

"My history shows I'm innovative, but I really do want the faculty of education to have a high profile," she said. "The role of an educator is to help young students, but it's not only teaching. If you only teach, you won't last or be effective. Teachers have to figure out how to learn and how to adapt to



Sharon Rich

become co-learners. How do we multi-task? How do we learn a new field? Those are some of the challenges for educators. As a teacher, we demonstrate and model all the time. Our graduates have to be models of learning. We want our teachers to be excited and that means they can't stop learning."

Changing with the times is something all universities are coping with in this highly technological world.

That's where Dr. Rich's strength in innovation will be put to a test as she continues to evolve the faculty of education to meet an ever-changing globe.

Certainly the research of professors is critical and can be an individualistic pursuit, but Dr. Rich's stamp is collaboration through innovation.

She doesn't mind saying she's a team player.

"In the academic world you're rewarded for being rugged and individualistic for all of your competitions," she said. "We're now finding out that funding for research isn't being considered unless there's collaboration. We need to develop collaborative skills to move the planet forward. How can we channel all those hopes and dreams? We have to listen to start."

UNB Fredericton News Release: D370

Bath Middle School Nursery Officially Opens

Thanks to one teacher at Bath Middle School, the school population has grown by 6 in recent weeks. Webster, Saulis, Evaca, Avaca, Annica, Veronica and Julia are dolls that closely resemble real babies. The teaching staff has been amazed at the frenzy these dolls have caused.

At the middle level we work with students caught between being a child and a teenager and where peers and media are most often the biggest influences. Too often our students are forced to grow up quickly and leave imaginative play, toys and dolls behind before they are psychologically ready. Thanks to teacher Marsha Cogle, our students have been brought back to the days of innocent play.

The phenomena she has caused, and the students most interested in the dolls, has provided us with daily laughs and surprises. After weeks of students rushing to the staff room door as soon as they got to school and asking for a baby to have for the day, it was decided a more equitable and less chaotic system needed to be put in place. The Bath Middle School nursery was officially opened on November 1st and a schedule posted in which students could sign up for a baby one half-day a week. Babies could only be picked up from the nursery (staff room) between 8:10 – 8:20 am and had to be returned by

11:30. After much needed rest for the dolls, the afternoon group was able to pick up their baby at 11:40am.

One teacher recounts the story of entering her classroom after nutrition break to find a grade 7 boy with his sweater spread neatly over his desk, the baby laying on top of it with its sleeper undone...he was changing Webster's diaper. Another day we were greatly amused to look out the window at noon and see a "cool", image conscious grade 8 boy holding a baby ever so carefully in one arm and playing basketball with the other.

Wanting to get in on the fun too, each teacher recently signed up to have a baby for a half-day. Many complaints of neglect and abuse were filed by students, and rightly so, as one teacher left his baby abandoned on his desk over the noon hour; another was seen carrying the baby improperly; and the administrator paid a student to baby-sit his baby.

The simple act of having one doll for students to hold while in



Marsha's class has snowballed into a learning experience for many students at BMS that none of us could have predicted. The caring nature of these students and the knowledge of how to hold and care for a baby are being taught amongst peers. Teachers appreciative of the need for these students to be "children" a little bit longer has led to bassinets being set up in classrooms for the babies to sleep in while "academic" learning is taking place.

No one can predict how long this will continue, but for now we are all thankful for the bit of childhood brought back to our 'stuck in the middle' students.

Katie Saunders
Bath Middle School

Science East School Programs

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.

Science East has three tours that travel around the province: an elementary tour, a middle school tour, and a high school tour. Each tour comprises numerous hands-on exhibits that develop problem-solving skills and an awareness of sciences. The tour can be borrowed free of charge for a 2-4 week period.

Pick up some tricks and treasures for teaching science in your class! Science East offers various professional development workshops for teachers, with an assortment of topics and durations available.



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



New Canadian Charitable Foundation Donates Funds for Extracurricular Activities in Elementary Schools

Based on the principle that having fun at school makes learning easier, the S'Cool Life Fund aims to turn the public non-tuition elementary school experience into a richer one for kids. The fund supports local initiatives in schools across Canada, allowing elementary students to enjoy activities beyond academics such as drama, recreational and extracurricular activities, arts, music and sports.

The S'Cool Life Fund is the innovation of John I. Bitove and is supported by Prizm Canadian Income Fund, Canadian Satellite

Radio, and Scott's Real Estate Investment Trust. Throughout 2006, the S'Cool Life Fund will be raising 1 million dollars to donate to public non-tuition elementary school student extracurricular activities across the country.

From now until December 31, 2005, public elementary school teachers, principals, and volunteer parent advisory groups across Canada can visit <http://www.scoollifefund.ca> and fill out an application form to request support for their DREAMS (Drama, Recreation, Extracurricular, Arts,

Music and Sports).

Whether a school is looking for support for sports equipment, musical instruments or art supplies, S'Cool Life Fund wants to help create an environment that fosters a well-rounded school life for all children.

For further information, contact: S'Cool Life Fund, Suite 2300, P.O. Box 222, 161 Bay St., TD Canada Trust Tower, Toronto, ON M5J 2S1, info@scoollifefund.ca, 1-866-362-4321.



26th Annual NBTA Men Teachers' Curling Bonspiel

**Carleton Curling Club,
Saint John, N.B.**

January 20, 21, 22, 2006

**Registration:
\$120.00 per team**

Not more than 24 teams will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Entries must include skip's name, address, telephone number, and team members.

(If you want to participate, but aren't on a team, contact Terry)

Send entries and cheque to:

Terry Kilfoil, Chairperson,
NBTA Men Teachers' Curling
Bonspiel,
21 Meadow Drive,
Rothesay, N.B. E2H 1K9,
Tel: 847-5429, Fax: 847-5424
email: kilfoilt@nbnet.nb.ca



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New Brunswick Immersion Educator Receives National Recognition

Dorothy White, French Second Language supervisor in School District 2 was one of only two recipients across Canada to receive the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers' Certificate of Excellence at the recent colloquium of immersion educators which took place in Moncton October 27-29, 2005.

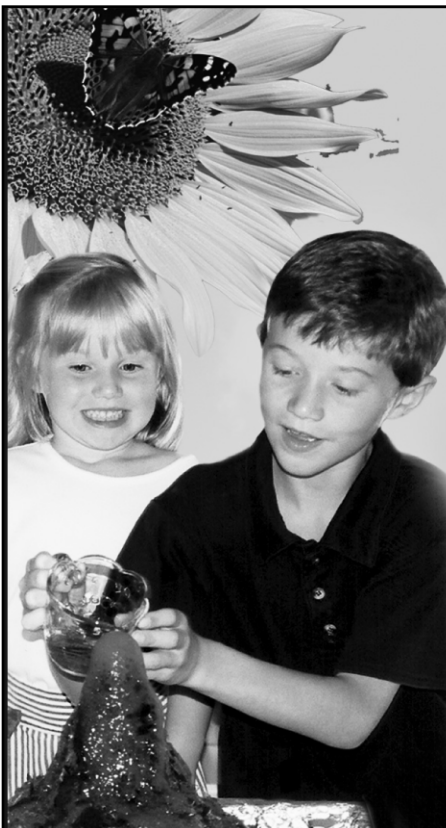
Dorothy was the Atlantic recipient of the "certificat d'excellence" which recognizes the professional contributions of an individual within immersion education. Madame White was nominated by a committee of her peers for her extraordinary teaching ability, her



Dorothy White is seen here receiving her "certificat d'excellence" from Daniel Fletcher, President of the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers

dedication and her leadership in immersion education. In addition to her numerous responsibilities in the administration of immersion programs in the district and the in-service training she provides for teachers, Dorothy has been involved in teaching at the Université de Moncton and has been involved in the summer immersion program at that institution for many years. Dorothy also served on the organizing committee for the recent colloquium of CAIT/ACPI.

Fiona Cogswell
Organizing Committee
CAIT/ACPI Colloquie 2005



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NB Teachers Attend CTF Inclusion Conference

More than a dozen New Brunswick educators, including members of the NBTA Committee on Inclusionary Practices, attended the Canadian Teachers' Federation's conference called *Building Inclusive Schools: A Search for Solutions*. Held in Ottawa, the conference drew close to 500 educators, parents, and community advocates who attended sessions related to creating safe and inclusive classrooms and schools for all children.

Stephen Lewis, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS, was given a standing ovation for his inspirational keynote. Carol Ann Tomlinson gave both a keynote and a practical divided session encouraging differentiated instruction to ensure success for all learners.

New Brunswick presenters at the conference were Richard Blaquiére from Woodstock High School and Melinda Cook from the NBTA staff.



(l-r) Dawn DeCoursey, Katharine Brooks, Ruth Donald, and Mary Ferris (front)



(l-r) Bonnie Shannon, Ruth Donald, and Bob Fitzpatrick



Keynote speaker Carol Ann Tomlinson

REMEMBER THESE DATES



Deadline Dates

Conference Grants — Five weeks prior to opening day

Certification Changes — March 31, 2006

Branch Nominations for NBTA Vice-President — February 1, 2006

Deferred Salary Leave Plan Application — January 31, 2006

Election Dates

- Ballots mailed to Branch Presidents - On or before April 15, 2006
- Voting to take place - April 24-28, 2006 inclusive
- Ballots returned to Central Office by 5:00 pm - May 5, 2006
- Counting of Ballots - May 10, 2006
- Candidates notified - May 10, 2006

NBTA/Beaverbrook/Hagerman Interest-free Loans — March 31, 2006

Centennial Award Nominations — April 1, 2006

Aliant Award Nominations — April 1, 2006

Branch Resolutions for A.G.M. — April 1, 2006

A.G.M. Registration of Delegates — April 1, 2006

Employment Insurance Rebate Report — June 1, 2006

Registration of Branches — June 1, 2006

Report of Branch Meetings — June 1, 2006

Names of Branch Committee Chairpersons — June 1, 2006

NBTA Council Annual Reports — June 15, 2006

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

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

NBTA AGM — May 26-27, 2006

Retiring Teachers' Luncheon — May 27, 2006

June 2006 Retirees – New Payroll Practices That Will Affect You

by Larry I. Jamieson, NBTA Director of Teacher Welfare Services

Earlier this fall, school districts and the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation were advised that a change would be made, effective with June 2006 retirees, in how the "summer money" and first pension payments will be handled.

In the past, when teachers retired at the end of a school year, June 30th, they continued to receive their "summer money" during the four (4) pay periods of the summer even though they had effectively terminated their employment with the school district. In addition, their pension income, although effective in July, was not received until September, when the first pension deposit arrived (around the 23rd or 24th of the month).

The Auditor General of the Province of New Brunswick has recommended that this practice be changed. The effect will be that when teachers retire and terminate their employment, they will receive all monies owed to them (their summer money) in the pay period in which their termination date falls. Likewise, their pension income will also start to be received in the month following their retirement (termination), as long as their retirement paperwork is completed on time.

Regular deductions (such as EI,

CPP, pension contributions, etc.) will continue to occur from the "summer money" since these deductions are spread out over the school year.

There are two (2) major implications of this change in practice:

- 1) Since Pensions Branch requires your completed retirement paperwork a minimum of 90 days prior to the first pension payroll, teachers retiring at the end of June 2006 will have to have this paperwork completed through

The effect will be that when teachers retire or terminate their employment, they will receive all monies owed to them (their summer money) in the pay period in which their termination date falls.

their district offices before the end of March 2006. In fact, since a significant number of teachers are anticipated to retire during the coming year and since many teachers also apply to purchase pension service as they retire, **I would strongly advise any teacher considering retirement at the end of June 2006 to have this paperwork**

completed by early to mid-February 2006.

- 2) Group insurance premiums for basic life, health and dental coverage are increased with the first pension cheque since retirees do not benefit from the subsidy through the Collective Agreement. This change means that these premiums will increase as of the July pension cheque.

Although some teachers may wonder if this change is really in their best interests, I believe it is.

Teachers will now receive all money owed to them (be it "summer money or pension income money) at the time they should receive it. After all, it is your money and you can decide to use it or invest some of it earlier than in previous years. In addition, the new practice outlined above is identical to the practice used when teachers decide to retire during the school year. From that

standpoint, everyone will now be treated in the same way.

If anyone has specific questions about this new payroll practice, please feel free to contact your district payroll office, Compensation & Employee Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources (Pensions Branch) at 453-2296 or 1-800-561-4012 or myself at 452-1722, jamiesonl@nbnet.nb.ca

Educational Improvement Grants Depleted

Funds for the Educational Improvement grants are depleted for PD events between now and December 31. Funds for PD taking place after January 1 can be applied for, beginning immediately. Teachers are encouraged to apply early.

The Begbie Canadian History Contest

The idea for this contest grew out of the desire of a group of active and retired BC Social Studies teachers to raise the profile of Social Studies and Canadian history in secondary schools. The aim of the competition is to provide students with an opportunity to test their skills in history against those of students from schools across Canada. The contest is not an examination, and there is no passing or failing grade. We believe that all students who have prepared for the contest will enjoy and benefit from the experience.

Students are provided with a rich variety of primary and secondary sources dealing with national issues and with questions which require them to use the critical thinking skills historians employ in analyzing such sources. The contest questions are based on major events in Canadian history from 1850 to the

present. The emphasis is on critical thinking skills using primary sources such as political cartoons, paintings, posters, graphs, maps, statistics, songs, speeches, diaries, letters, newspaper articles, and memoirs.

The contest is two hours in length and is normally written in the candidate's school under the supervision of a classroom teacher. It consists of 25 multiple choice questions, many of which require students to assess or interpret source documents, one paragraph response question and one essay which require students to develop a thesis regarding an issue in Canadian history based on their interpretation of a variety of source documents



presenting different points of view on the issue.

There are four award prizes of \$500 each. **Deadline for entries is March 9, 2006; the contest date is April 4, 2006.**

It is sponsored by the Begbie Contest Society which currently receives financial support from the BC Social Studies Teachers' Association, the Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Association, the Canadian Parents for French, Canada's National History Society and the Canadian Studies Program, Department of Canadian Heritage.

For more information about the contest, including how to enroll your students in the contest, how to receive a colour poster advertising the contest, and how to order a copy of a 300 page booklet containing the contest questions for the first ten years of the contest, visit <www.begbiecontestsociety.org>.

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Yvonne Vaughan

MA M.ED CCC

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or
1-506-461-8440
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Personal Goal: Learn to kayak

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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



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

Roles and Responsibilities

Counselling

Individual or group counselling for *personal* or *professional* issues

Crisis Response

Schools experiencing trauma, loss/grief, or any other crisis, upon request

Conduct Workshops

Respond to requests for specific topics of interest or need within a school

Co-ordinate School-Based Wellness Program

Responsible for training district facilitators and school wellness representatives to promote the program for all staff members.



Announcements

“Year of the Veteran” Teacher Resource Guide

The Historica Foundation of Canada and CN recently announced the launch of the Historica-CN Teacher Resource Guide designed to provide teachers with activities for their classrooms in commemoration of the Year of the Veteran. The Guide will be distributed through Historica’s network to 10,000 elementary and secondary school teachers across Canada and is available in a downloadable pdf at www.historica.ca.

Let’s Recycle It! is designed to help teachers deliver Civics curriculum using a concrete municipal issue — plastics recycling — in a real life decision-making context.

Let’s Recycle It! is a case study and municipal government simulation debate that places students in the position of a typical city council anywhere in Canada.

The kit involves students in the public process of making a decision that will satisfy the greatest number of citizens. In the debate, students take the roles of City Council Members, Expert Witnesses, Stakeholders and Concerned Citizens. This material is designed for activity. It is not a read and record kind of case study. Students are expected to respond verbally (in written and oral form) to the debate set before them. Teachers who want to satisfy their Civics curriculum outlines in a concrete and active manner will find *Let’s Recycle It!* a sequence of lessons that bring the daily workings of municipal government to life.

The kit can be downloaded in pdf format from www.plastics.ca/debate.

Canadians and their Government: A Resource Guide

The Government of Canada is pleased to provide Canadians with access to a new resource guide to assist in learning more about our system of government and its institutions. The guide is full of

information and includes a wide range of activities. It is intended primarily for youth aged 12 to 16 but can be adopted for use with other audiences.

The guide is contained in a binder and includes additional posters, booklets and a video. A CD-ROM version is available. To order this free guide, contact: CSP-PEC@pch.gc.ca, Fax (613) 998-9008, Tel (613) 998-9030.

Canada’s History and Environment Virtual Tours

Experience virtual tours of national historic sites and national parks of Canada, with 5 new tours scheduled for winter 2006. There are 8 themes to explore: Defence of Canada, Species at Risk, Technology and Engineering, Migration, Feeding the Nation, Women in History, Northern Parks, and Ethnocultural Communities. A free CD-ROM allows you to explore Parks Canada’s 3-D tours when you are offline, but contains only a portion of the 3-D tours available on the Internet site. To discover all tours, visit www.pc.gc.ca/3d. For more educational resources, visit: www.pc.gc.ca/education.

Attention Fish Friends Teachers and Volunteers!

Fish Friends 2006

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) is updating the database of schools involved in the program, but we need your help! If you have not received an e-mail or phone call from Debbie Perry, ASF’s Fish Friends Coordinator, please send an e-mail to keep us up to date. ASF needs to know whether you are participating again in the Fish Friends program, or the name and contact information of the teacher who will be taking over the project.

The ASF has developed a useful booklet for potential Fish Friends volunteers – individuals vitally important to the program’s delivery and future. Let us know the addresses, e-mail and phone numbers of potential volunteers and we will send them a copy of the booklet. Interested teachers can also receive one or more copies. Please contact Debbie Perry at 506-529-1384 or e-mail: asfcc@nb.aibn.com

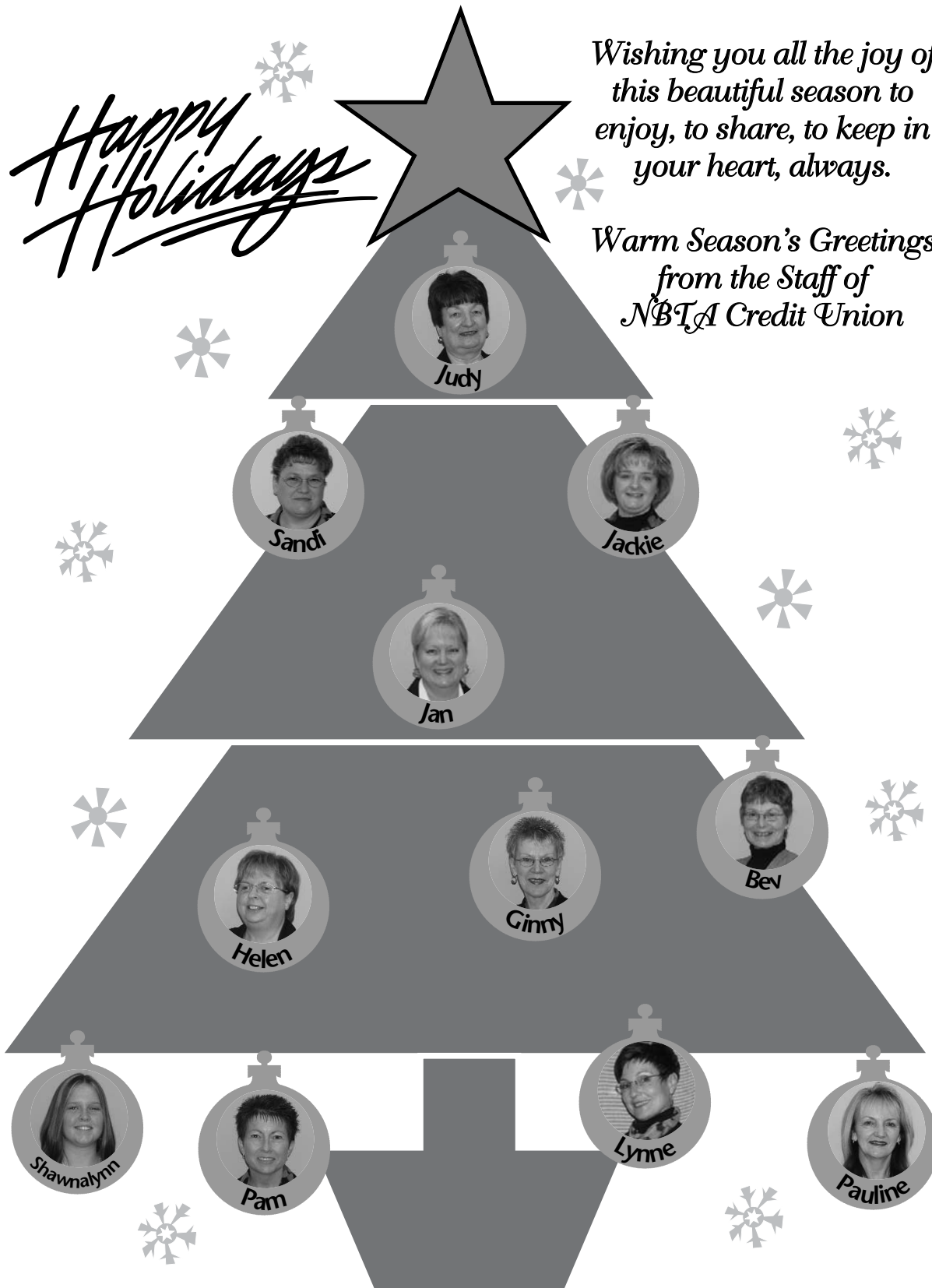
Fish Friends, an Atlantic Salmon Federation Program



Happy Holidays

*Wishing you all the joy of
this beautiful season to
enjoy, to share, to keep in
your heart, always.*

*Warm Season's Greetings
from the Staff of
NBTA Credit Union*



**CREDIT
UNION**

NBTA

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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