



March 2011
Election Supplement

NEW BRUNSWICK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Who will be the next NBTA Vice-President?

**Inside:
Candidates'
Statements**



This spring will see candidates visiting as many schools as possible, expressing their views and seeking input from teachers. Teachers should take advantage of opportunities to discuss issues with the candidates and/or listen to them speak if they are addressing school rep meetings in their area. We encourage teachers to access the NBTA website, which features links to detailed information about all candidates, including links to their websites.

Links to all candidate information at www.nbta.ca



Ronna Gauthier



Heather Ingalls



John Irvine



Adam McKim

**Voting for all members
electronically at
www.nbta.ca**

**Monday, April 25 at 6:00 am -
Friday, April 29 at 4:00 pm**

On Back:

**Voting Eligibility,
Procedures and
Confidentiality**



Ronna Gauthier — Statement



Ronna Gauthier

***“I will LISTEN,
UNDERSTAND
and ACT to
ensure your
concerns are
addressed.”***

Please contact me at
ronna.gauthier@nbed.nb.ca
(ph) **327-6564**, or
www.4gauthier.ca

***“Teachers are like candles, consuming themselves to light
the way for others”***

(Unknown)

This quote speaks volumes as to the life of today’s teacher. Despite the advances in technology, changes to curriculum and improvements to teaching methodologies, teachers are working harder now than ever before, often burning the candle at both ends. This is, of course, because of the desire we all share to inspire our students and affect positive change in their lives. We are doing great work and I believe that we are getting better and better at what we do each year.

There is a price to pay, however, for this “consumption of ourselves”. We give so much of our free time and energy, often at the expense of family-time and our own personal health & wellness. We attend meetings, offer extra help, coach, spend our own money on resources (or lunch for a hungry student), stay up late marking and planning, the list goes on and on, all because of our passion for teaching.

So what role does NBTA play in the lives of teachers and why am I offering my name as a candidate for NBTA Vice President? My experience with NBTA, dating back to local branch involvement early in my career, up to my current role as director and executive member of NBTA and NBTF, has taught me that indeed, our professional association (NBTA) is a strong and influential body. At the board and executive level, we have the opportunity to meet with government officials, direct the work of our staff to reflect the current issues facing teachers, work closely with the committees that do much of the work of our association and to voice the concerns of teachers to all our educational partners. This is all done with the goal of improving the WORKING CONDITIONS of teachers!

I thoroughly enjoy being part of this process. I have witnessed and experienced how positive change

can be achieved through the work of our association. However, there is still much work to do. The current political climate in NB is being driven by the economy. Cuts to education are happening in the name of fiscal restraint. We must take a stand against these cuts. Government must be continuously reminded that the education of our youth is an **obligation**, not an expense. In order to do our part in meeting this obligation, we need the respect of the employer, the resources necessary to support our students and reductions to our workload.

If elected VP, I would be working with a dynamic and talented team of elected officials and staff. I believe that there are many current issues that will guide the work of NBTA in the upcoming year. These issues include, but are not limited to: workload, negotiations, elementary prep time & report cards, safe facilities, supply teachers, pension security, certification improvements, support for new/early career teachers, class composition and coordination of services for students. A detailed statement of teacher issues can be viewed at my website www.4gauthier.ca. I would embrace the opportunity to work for you as a part of this team.

The work of NBTA is ultimately determined by you—the teacher in the classroom each day. Teachers communicate their issues and concerns to their reps and directors, and these issues are brought to the board table. I can assure you that, if I am elected, I will LISTEN, UNDERSTAND and ACT to ensure your concerns are addressed.

*I look forward to meeting many of you as I visit schools in the coming months. I’d appreciate hearing from you. Please contact me at **ronna.gauthier@nbed.nb.ca**, (ph) **327-6564**, or **www.4gauthier.ca***

Heather Ingalls — Statement



Heather Ingalls

Contact Information:
ingalhea@nbed.nb.ca
506 662 7000 (work)
506 662 4662 (cell)

For more information
during the campaign,
please check:
<http://heatheringalls.blogspot.com/>

Dedication
Commitment
Experience

I am excited and honoured to have been given this opportunity to offer myself in service to the teachers of New Brunswick as Vice President of the NBTA. I am eager to visit your schools and reconnect with friends and acquaintances and to form new relationships with my colleagues across the province.

Last summer, when trying to explain to a colleague from another country how it feels to be a teacher in New Brunswick today, I pointed to the scene on the small lake nearby. Jet skis were whipping about, crossing paths, narrowly missing each other and endangering a small group of swimmers who were valiantly trying to recapture a runaway beach ball. The wind was sufficiently brisk to keep the ball just far enough ahead of the swimmers to be out of reach. Noticing this, the jet skiers zoomed to the rescue, but succeeded only in directing the ball to the reedy area where it was unpleasant to swim, and drenching the swimmers in the process.

How does this relate to the reality of the education system in NB today? If we substitute “policy” for “jet skis”, “teachers” for “swimmers” and “students” for “beach ball”, parallels can be seen. As different governments attempt to intervene and alleviate the problems they identify in the system, often the ensuing policies work at cross purposes and interfere with progress or effectiveness. Subsequently, the ultimate goal of helping improve the education of our students is lost. Teachers are left in the wake, up to their necks and still trying to effect a ‘rescue’ with their insufficient supports in ever increasingly difficult circumstances.

A favourite term I have heard repeatedly from motivational speakers is “addition by subtraction”, i.e. for every additional burden or responsibility placed on the shoulders of

teachers, one (or more) should be removed. However, the reality of late has been addition by multiplication! New initiatives are pouring down from above constantly and while many of the ideas and motivations are laudable and meritorious, they lack the necessary scaffolding and supports to be effective on an already overburdened foundation. The more we try to do, the less we accomplish.

One example to illustrate this phenomenon is the recent decision to eliminate certain accommodations from under the umbrella of SEP and to mandate the practice of Universal Design for Teaching in their stead. I am not speaking against Universal Design, but rather this repeat of the trend of adopting an idea in theory and sending a directive to teachers that it be put in practice before any plan for instructional supports and training, or practical adjustments to the school’s organization are considered.

It seems of late, the more things change in NB education, the more things stay the same. Teachers are always a step behind policy makers, playing ‘catch up’ and ‘make do’. We have been told our educational leaders favour a PLC approach, but is this the case? Again, the theory of the grass roots movement to lead the way towards educational change seems to receive support—in theory; however, contrary to that, teachers are being told, not asked, what is best for their students.

If elected, I would be a strong voice for the membership, lobbying our policy makers to truly empower teachers and to seek real input into decision making, not superficial discussion designed to rubber stamp decisions that have already been made. Please consider my name when you mark your ballot for Vice President.

John Irvine — Statement



John Irvine

“Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus”

“There’s no place like home. There’s no place like home. There’s no place like home.”

“You’re not such a Blockhead, after all, Charlie Brown”

I believe educators in New Brunswick have worked very hard to give our children many reasons to believe dreams can come true. I know a positive teacher/student relationship often makes a life changing difference for a child struggling with harsh realities beyond the classroom. The teaching and learning that takes place in classrooms across our province, sets the stage for future generations to believe in the possibility of greatness.

What Do I Believe Teachers Need?

“Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.”

- 1) Teachers need their dreams fulfilled. The dream of reasonable class sizes, fewer mandates and meetings, appropriate professional development, and more resources. I’m sure you dream of “being heard”. What are the dreams that would convince you, “Yes, there is a Santa Claus”?

“There’s no place like home. There’s no place like home.”

- 2) Teachers need **balance**. Too often teachers spend their evenings preparing lessons and marking when members of their families need them. We need to be able to embrace life beyond the classroom, ‘Kiss the bricks Goodbye’ at the end of the day, and live the rest of our time knowing “there’s no place like home.” Just as teachers need balance in their workload, students need balance in their learning. Yes, numeracy and literacy are very important, but let’s not forget art, music, physical education and so many other areas that make up the whole child.

“You’re not such a Blockhead, after all, Charlie Brown”

- 3) Teachers need **recognition**. We need the acknowledgment of a job well done. Knowing that we are appreciated is valuable when the demands of our work become overwhelming. Educators deserve this. Like Charlie Brown, we just need to know our efforts are appreciated and that we are helping to make the world a better place.

“We have two ears and one mouth for a reason”

- 4) Most importantly, I believe no one person can speak for you unless you have given them permission to do so. I would like to have this privilege. The voice of the NBTA Vice President must speak on your behalf. Clear **communication** is vital to the success of any organization or endeavor. Effective communication in all directions is of prime importance.

Over the past thirty years, I have worked at all levels of teaching. I have been a classroom teacher, Resource and Methods teacher, Guidance teacher, Vice Principal and acting Principal.

I first became involved with the NBTA as a member of the Middle Level Council and co-chair of Council Day, in May of 2004, in Woodstock. I have served as president of the Middle Level Council and am currently finishing my term as Past President. I have served on the last Combined Council Day organization team and am a member of the NBTA 21st Century Committee, as well as a school rep on our local Branch 1429 council. Along with these duties, I also contribute an ongoing column, “Diary of a Middle School Teacher,” in the NBTA News. In each of these capacities, I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement within our association.

Words such as **balance**, **recognition**, and **communication** have been used before in campaigns, such as this. I suspect they will be used again as they represent significant areas of concern that continue to “raise their heads” year after year in the lives of teachers. These basic issues have been, and will continue to be, crucial to the hearts of educators in this province.

Those that know me personally know that I am sincere, supportive, energetic, and that I practice my beliefs by listening and trying to help solve problems in a collaborative manner. (In fairness, I must include my sense of humor and optimism as two more fundamental parts of who I am.)

Please consider voting for me, John Irvine, as Vice President of the New Brunswick Teachers’ Association. I’m anxious to hear from you in the coming weeks!

**Telephone: 325-4436(W)
or 272-2978 (H)**

**Email: irvinjod@nbed.nb.ca
or jdirvine@nbnet.nb.ca**

**Facebook.com - John Irvine for
NBTA Vice-President**

Web: <http://johnirvinefor-nbtavp.webs.com>

Adam McKim — Statement

Experience, Passion, Action



Adam McKim

Tom Trafford, NBTA president from 1969–1971, was once summarily thrown out of Louis Robichaud's office after a particularly heated exchange. By the time he returned to his office, the following message had been left by the Premier: "You can come back... not today... but you can come back." This favourite story of mine sums up the role I believe the NBTA should fill for overworked and underappreciated teachers in this province. It should channel your passion and do whatever is required to represent your wishes.

As a student of history and politics, it has been my pleasure to research and be mentored by past presidents. I cannot express in words how honoured I am to be nominated to run for an office once held by each of them. The past is important to me, and since being recruited to NBTA service seven years ago, mine has been one of action. With the

Review of Services Committee I lobbied successfully for green initiatives including a reduction in the paper copies of the NBTA News. On the Curriculum Committee we helped to transform a patently unfair ELPA. In my role as Director for the past five years (elected to the Executive for two) I have taken great pleasure in questioning Education Ministers and other politicians. To put it simply, I love working for teachers and am ready to take the next step.

My top priority has always been **WORKLOAD**. Teachers selflessly devote their evenings and weekends to coaching, planning, marking, parenting (three young daughters in my case), or to some combination of each of these and more. This reality needs to be **RESPECTED**. Cuts to prep time or the multiplication of meetings are not signs of respect and I will continue to speak against such measures.

Of course we do it all because we are committed to the most important job in the world. We do it because we are professionals who care - and we are succeeding! So when the Minister of Finance recently stated at a public meeting that money was being "thrown" at education but not producing results, I was compelled to approach one of the microphones. I told him that an 11.2% gain on grade two literacy assessments, coupled with significant PISA strides in the most inclusive province in the country - a province currently boasting a drop-out rate that is half a percentage point below the national average - deserves to be

celebrated, not slandered and sliced. Unbeknownst to me the CBC broadcasted most of my speech across the province. Those who know me may say that I am terrible with names and likely to get lost on my way to most of your schools this April; however, they will also tell you that I am a passionate, articulate, and informed spokesperson for teachers.

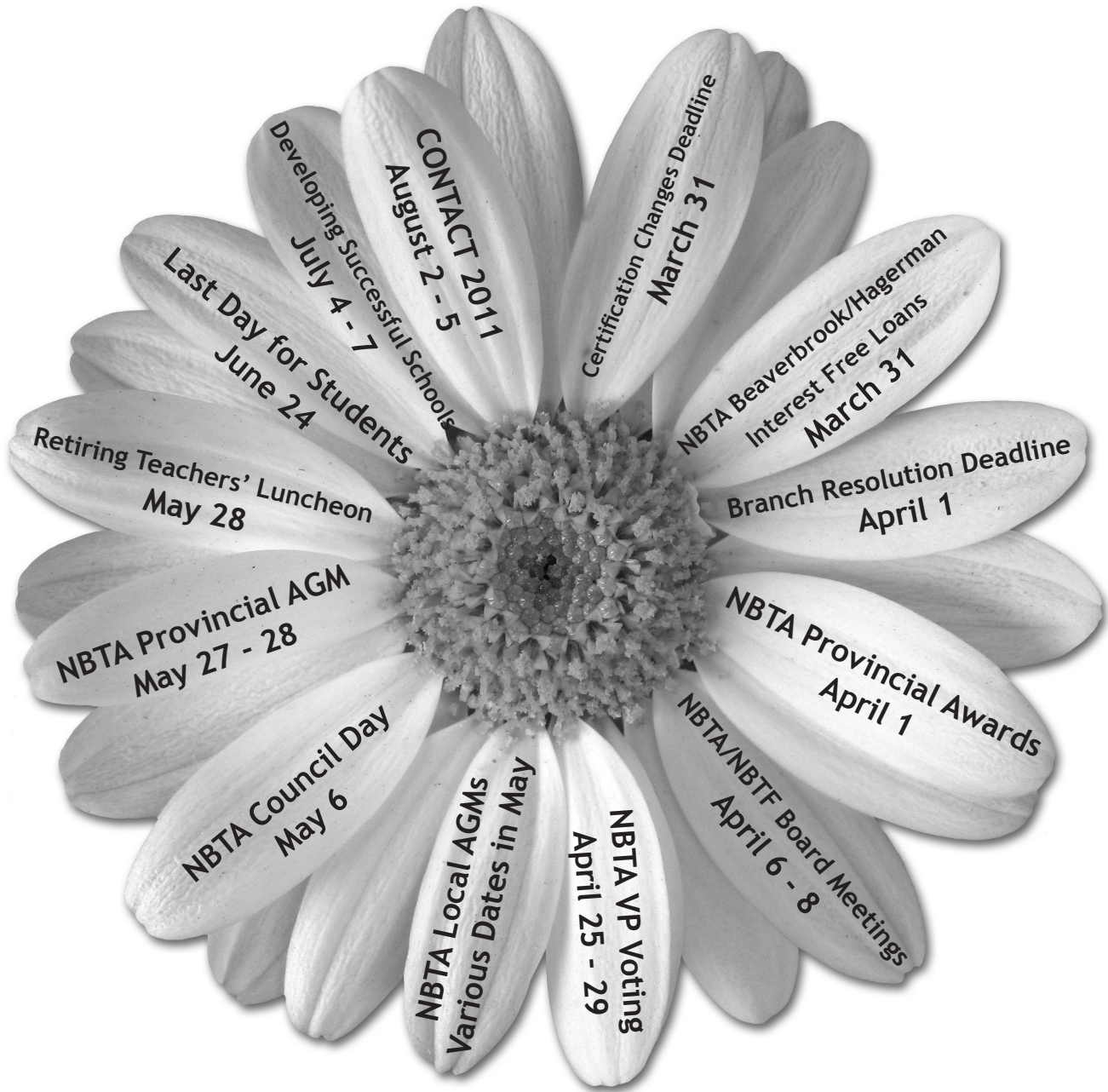
If you're like me, you want more than just talk from candidates, and you don't just want to know about past successes and present realities. You want a few specifics that will help you to decide which candidate is right for you. If you elect me I intend to:

- Throw everything I have into securing **K-8 report card days**. This is a winnable battle and it is time to pursue it.
- Use my mandate to seek an immediate **reduction in your dues**, which is completely affordable due to a roughly estimated and unbudgeted \$200,000 from supply teachers this year.
- Talk extensively about the employer's failure to **protect teachers** - at home, in the classroom, and online- from disruptive (and sometimes dangerous) students or harassing parents.

My fellow teachers, working for you these past seven years has been an absolute privilege and it would be my distinct honour to serve as your Vice President. I humbly ask for your support.

Adam McKim
www.timeforteachers.ca
(506) 721-1931 (c)
(506) 658-5909 (w)

A Busy Spring & Summer for NBTA Members



Interest-Free Loans

Up to \$1,500.00 in any one school year shall be made available to statutory NBTA members on leave who are improving their professional qualifications through educational programs. Application forms are available from:
Melinda Cook

New Brunswick Teachers' Association
PO Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6
Tel: (506) 452-8921 Email: melinda.cook@nbta.ca

**The application deadline for
2011 - 2012 is:
March 31, 2011**

REOFFERED FOR SUMMER 2011
SKILLS TO SUPPORT NEW TEACHERS: An Introductory Institute

The NBTA recognizes the importance of supporting new teachers as they develop their professional identity, reflect on their professional practice, and purposefully seek out formal & informal cultures of learning.

Target Audience

The *Skills to Support New Teachers* institute is open to NBTA members who are interested in gaining introductory skills and knowledge about supporting new teachers. Please note this is a repeat of the Summer 2010 sessions.

Session Description

This two-day summer institute will introduce participants to general skills such as:

- learning-focused interactions
- structured conversations to extend thinking
- recognizing and supporting the needs of new teachers
- orientation 101

The session will use a variety of print and electronic resources to engage participants in both interactive and reflective learning opportunities.

Facilitator: Kimberley McKay, NBTA Staff Officer

Session Dates & Locations

Fredericton	➔	July 12 and 13	➔	Maximum: 20 participants
St. Stephen	➔	July 18 and 19	➔	Maximum: 20 participants
Miramichi	➔	July 21 and 22	➔	Maximum: 20 participants
Grand Falls	➔	July 25 and 26	➔	Maximum: 20 participants

The two-day institute will be offered in 4 locations. The session will run 9:00am – 3:30pm on both days. Participants will receive further details about location closer to the institute date. Please note that we require a minimum of 10 participants at a location or the session will be cancelled.

There is no registration fee to attend this institute. Expenses for mileage, accommodations, and meals will be covered as per NBTA policies. Nutrition breaks and lunch will be provided.

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER ONLINE AT
www.nbta.ca

Registration opens April 11 and closes May 11. You will receive confirmation of participation and session details by e-mail. For further registration information, contact Denise McCoy (452-1828) or at denise.mccoy@nbta.ca.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY 11, 2011

Voting will Take Place Electronically

April 25-29, 2011

at www.nbta.ca

New Brunswick Teachers' Association
 650 Montgomery Street
 P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB
 E3B 5R6

Place Label Here



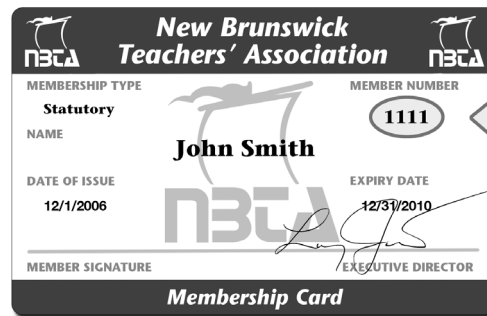
**Election
2011**

**Click here
to Vote**



**You will need your NBTA
Member Number to vote.
Please have it ready**

**Your member number is located on the
blue member card shown here:**




Who can Vote?

- NBTA Statutory (Contract) Members, including all those on maternity leave and any other teacher on leave who has paid at least 1 day of dues in the current school year.
 - NBTA Casual Members (Substitute teachers who are not on Local Permits) who have (paid dues) worked at least one day during the current school year.
- *Note:** Individuals must have appeared on a dues printout by April 15th.

- A screen will tell you that your vote has been submitted. ***The process, although explained in detail, should take less than two minutes to complete.**
- **Once a teacher has voted, their member # will be blocked out and they will be unable to vote again. However, a teacher can quit the voting process at any point prior to the "CAST YOUR VOTE" Step and start again at any point during voting week.**

Who Cannot Vote?

- **Teachers who have not updated their electronic NBTA membership this school year cannot vote.** To register click this icon at www.nbta.ca
- 
- NBTA Statutory (Contract) Members on leave, other than those on maternity leave, who have PAID NO DUES to the Association during this school year cannot vote.
 - All Substitute Teachers on Local Permits cannot vote.

Confidentiality of the Vote

All administration of the voting occurs off-site through an external service provider.

NO individual has access to the individual votes.

During voting week, the NBTA Executive Director will receive updates on the percentage of the membership that has voted, BUT no access to the amount of votes for each candidate.

How to Vote?

- Go to the website at www.nbta.ca
- Click the Election 2011 icon as shown above
- Click to: Learn more information about the candidates OR Proceed to the voting process
- If you proceed to vote, enter your NBTA member # and your birthdate.
- Confirm your identity.
- Choose a candidate.
- Confirm your vote.

Release of Voting Results

After 4pm on Friday, April 29, NBTA Executive Director Larry Jamieson will be informed by the off-site administrator of the vote totals. Mr. Jamieson will then call all candidates and inform them of the results. As soon as all candidates have been informed, an e-mail of the results will be sent to NBTA Branch Presidents and Directors for distribution to the membership through School Reps. An announcement will also be placed on the NBTA website at www.nbta.ca
 Election results by branch will be published in the June issue of the *NBTA News*

