

The Retired Teacher

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Volume 38, Number 2, November 2005

The Retired Teacher is available online at www.nstu.ca

Forging a New Relationship

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The Retired Teacher, a newsletter for retired teachers, is published by the Retired Teachers Organization of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

The opinions expressed in stories or articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Retired Teachers Organization or the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, its professional staff or elected provincial representatives.

We assume no responsibility for the loss or damage of any unsolicited photographs or articles.

Submissions should be directed to the editorial staff c/o RTO Newsletter, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7.

During our 2004 AGM in Bridgewater, the membership of the Retired Teachers Association was presented with a new relationship document for the first time. That meeting gave unanimous support to the approval in principle of that document after its presentation, and with one exception, gave unanimous support to approve the principles of automatic universal membership with a write-out option. That new document presented a vision of what the new Retired Teachers Organization of the NSTU would become.

During the remaining months of '04 and early '05, revisions, presentations, re-examinations helped to shape the document that went to the '05 AGM. While the document will remain a "work in progress", we will work within its parameters to improve our working relationship with the parent body, the NSTU. It is our objective to reach a collaborative partnership where we will have input that matters when it comes to retired teachers.

We agree with the NSTU Structure Review Committee that we could not "do it all" in one year. There are important avenues to be pursued. The appointment of an RTO Executive member to the new Joint Trustee Board is a positive sign as we continue to work toward representation on various NSTU/Government Committees and Boards.

We are in a formative process. The forging of a new relationship takes time – and should – if it is to be successful. We want the RTO to be successful in its efforts on behalf of retired teachers.



A magazine for the retired teachers of Nova Scotia

A MEMBER OF ACER/CART

RETIRED TEACHERS ORGANIZATION



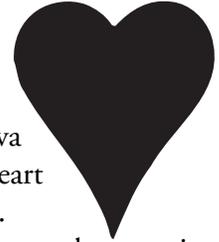
RTO EXECUTIVE 2005-2006

President	Tom Gaskell	736-1267
Past President	Phil Hughes	863-6185
Vice President	Earl Muise	648-2200
Secretary	Carol Samson	345-2502
Treasurer	Walter Farmer	883-7343
Member-at-Large	Dave Pottie	543-6141
Member-at-Large	Dorothy Smith	463-6511
Pension Committee Rep.	Jim Kavanaugh	862-3833
Newsletter Editor	Doug Manzer	667-9344
NSTU-RTO Liaison	Earle Tubrett	477-5621
	1-800-565-6788 (Toll-free)	

Regional Branch Presidents

Annapolis	S. Albert Johnson ...	825-3062
Antigonish	Bill Timmons	863-5269
Clare	Lloyd LeBlanc	769-2190
Colchester-East Hants	Jon Davison	893-3890
CPX	Mary Hammond	852-3146
Cumberland	Jack Boyd	667-8341
Dartmouth	Dorothy Smith	463-6511
Glace Bay and Area	Fabian MacNeil	849-7431
Halifax Regional	Theresa Zukauskas .	423-2400
Inverness	Emile Chiasson	224-2348
Kings	Bill Wagstaff	678-5776
Lunenburg	Bill Whalen	543-6141
New Waterford	Karl Hicks	849-9480
Northside-Victoria	Jim Prince	736-6998
Pictou	Gary Burley	893-7682
Queens	Owen Hamlin	354-5092
Richmond	George J. Landry ...	535-3248
Shelburne	Margaret A. Dawe ...	656-3276
Sydney & Area	Peter Mombourquette..	564-9706
West Hants	Arthur Benedict	798-3385
Yarmouth-Argyle	Norbert LeBlanc	742-7973

February is Heart Month — Remarkable Volunteers Needed!



During the month of February, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia is unlocking the secrets of heart disease and stroke one door at a time.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation extends an invitation to all members of the Retired Teachers Organization of Nova Scotia to volunteer in the roles of Canvasser or Captain in your local communities across the Province. “We are in desperate need of volunteers to help organize the campaign and/or to canvass their neighbours—the difference volunteers can make is remarkable,” says Mary Smith-Marquis, Director of Volunteer Development for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Last year, thanks to the commitment of over 4,000 caring volunteers, we raised over \$500,000 for heart and stroke research, education and prevention programs in your communities. This year our goal is \$505,000.

Heart disease and stroke, the leading cause of death in Nova Scotia, claim the lives of close to 3000 people each year. Many others’ lives have been permanently changed by some form of heart disease or stroke. The door-to-door campaign would not be successful without the much-needed support of volunteers. With constantly growing family demands and an aging population, it is increasingly more challenging for us to find this type of support, and we truly depend upon volunteers to raise these critically needed funds. This is an opportunity for the retired teachers in the province to make a significant contribution to the community while at the same time making a huge difference in health promotion for all Nova Scotians.

“We are extremely grateful for the support of our volunteers and the donors who give so generously. Please consider volunteering for this fundraising effort and help the Heart and Stroke Foundation work towards a healthier Nova Scotia - a healthier future for you and those close to you” says Smith-Marquis. To find out how to help make a difference please contact Mary Smith-Marquis at 1-800-423-4432 or 902-423-7682, ext. 304 or e-mail msmith-marquis@heartandstroke.ns.ca. Please visit the Heart and Stroke Foundation website www.heartandstroke.ca for complete volunteer position descriptions.

FROM the PRESIDENT of RTO

Thank you for allowing me to continue as your President. Wow! What a great Annual Meeting. Having been around for a few years, and to a few AGMs, it is indeed gratifying to see how we have progressed. Not too many years ago, we had little, if any, discussion on Constitution, benefits and so on. We appeared to be content to allow “others” to look after us. But times have changed.

Only seven or eight years ago, universal/automatic membership was introduced. I must say that Betty Miller, RTA President, was indeed gracious and did not have me thrown out for introducing such a concept. But we, as Branch Presidents, were informed after consultation, that it was not possible. During our AGM, we as a group felt it was necessary and beyond question.

Throughout this process, we have had excellent Executives who have taken a new vision to the point where we are now. During this time, we have had the support of Branch Presidents and the cooperation of the NSTU. Our

liaison personnel from the NSTU have also been extremely cooperative. They have indeed encouraged us to expand those horizons that may impact on retired teachers. As well, we have received assistance from the NSTU re mail-outs, grants, secretarial assistance, meeting rooms and so on. They have all helped us grow.

To the “2005 Pension” proposal: this proposal will see retired teachers being given an option to remain as they are, CPI -1%, or to opt for the “new” proposal. Meetings for retirees will be held with NSTU representatives in various areas across the province to explain these options. Please make every effort to be there.

Much discussion centered around the “guarantee” of our pension. In the past, the Minister of Finance was the sole trustee and the government guaranteed the plan. For the past number of years, the NSTU, as was indicated by members in attendance who were supportive at the time, wanted equal representation. The new proposal will give us what we



as teachers asked for. And understandably, in my view, the Government’s agreement was given with the understanding that with equal representation came equal responsibility for the fiscal health of the Plan, and hence, the removal of their sole guarantee. While this may not be palatable to many of us who are retired, the old adage of being careful of what you ask for appears all too true.

—Tom Gaskell

RTO MEMBERSHIP CARDS & PAYMENT RECEIPTS

Your 2005-2006 RTO membership card is enclosed with this mailing of the Retired Teacher. Please note that the expiry date is December 31, 2006. The Department of Finance has recently undergone changes within their payroll department. The changes have resulted in a different date upon which the RTO member fees will be deducted. Membership fee deductions will be reflected in the members’ November cheque statements. **PLEASE RETAIN THIS NOVEMBER CHEQUE STATEMENT AS AN OFFICIAL RECEIPT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE PAYMENT.**

Retired Teachers Foundation

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

**For the Period
May 1, 2004 to April 30, 2005**

Balance with NSTU May 1, 2004		\$23,371.21
Receipts		
Donations	\$1,195.00	
Interest	1,010.90	
Share/Dividends	<u>5.10</u>	<u>2,211.00</u>
Total Receipts and Beginning Balance		\$25,582.21
Disbursements		
Foundation Awards	1,026.44	<u>1,026.44</u>
Balance NSTCU – April 30, 2005		<u>\$24,555.77</u>

Statement of Assets – April 30, 2005

NSTCU	Plan 24	\$1,994.59	
	Share/Dividends	<u>11.18</u>	\$2,005.77
Deposit Certificates:			
	Dec 1, 2005 @ 5.75%	4,000.00	
	Aug 20, 2006 @ 4.75%	2,000.00	
	May 10, 2007 @ 3.35%	1,500.00	
	May 13, 2007 @ 4.50%	3,500.00	
	Dec 5, 2007 @ 4.50%	1,500.00	
	Feb 25, 2008 @ 4.50%	6,500.00	
	June 10, 2008 @ 4.50%	1,500.00	
	May 25, 2009 @ 2.70%	<u>2,050.00</u>	<u>\$22,550.00</u>
Funds Available April 30, 2005			<u>\$24,555.77</u>

Prepared by: Margaret Coultts, RTA Treasurer, May 17, 2005;

Signature: Margaret Coultts

Audited by: Michael Wall, Retired NSTCU Gen. Mgr, May 22, 2005;

Signature: Michael Wall

Ski Atlantic Seniors' Club



Recipient of an RTO Legacy Foundation Award for her Special Needs Learning Centre is Joanne Redgrave, a teacher at Westmount School in Halifax. Pictured with her is RTO Executive, Member-at-large Dorothy Smith

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Assessment Committee Members 2005-2006 - Dave Pottie (Chair); (Lunenburg); Pierre Belliveau (Clare); Dorothy Smith (Dartmouth); John Currie (Northside-Victoria); and Phyllis Coté (Inverness).

Pension & Benefits Committee Members 2005-2006 - Jim Kavanaugh, Chair (New Waterford), George Landry (Richmond), Margaret Coutts (Colchester-East Hants), Earl Muise (Yarmouth) and Vic Fleury (Kings).



Sydney & Area Branch Dinner/AGM - Entertainment: Jim MacNeil, Bunny Baillieu, President Roberta MacIntyre, Roma Kehoe, Doreen MacDonnell, Gerald Boutilier, and Jean MacDougall.

The Ski Atlantic Seniors' Club was formed in 1998 to make it easy for retired seniors to enjoy a sport that makes winter a joyous experience in our wondrous outdoors. In cooperation with ski areas in the Maritimes, an annual ski pass, available through the Club, is accepted throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, making it possible for members to try any or all of our fine hills wherever and whenever the spirit moves us. In addition to the ski pass arrangement, a number of ski instructors, who are volunteers that have retained their certification in the Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance, are available at most ski areas to conduct weekly ski clinics and to help seniors attempting to ski for the first time. This arrangement enables even the most cautious senior to be introduced to the sport in a safe and friendly manner.

The Club also organizes special outings to ski in the region, as well as tours to major destinations in North America and Europe. While the focus is on seniors, our club is dedicated to supporting the development of skiing for young and old alike.

Anyone of any age may join the Club by paying an annual membership fee of \$15.00. The season pass to use ski area facilities, at an additional cost of \$150.00, is limited to the age of 65 years, or who are 55 or older and have retired from regular employment. Those interested in joining the Club or requiring additional information can contact Mary Drake at 902-826-9199 or visit the Club website at sasc.chebucto.org/index.html.

DEALS & DISCOUNTS

FOR NSTU MEMBERS ONLY!!

Subject to change without notice. Updated October 3, 2005. Check our website [www.nstu.ca] for updates.

The **CAMBRIDGE SUITES SYDNEY** offer a special rate of \$99 a night for NSTU members from July to December 2005.

The **Delta Halifax** and **Delta Barrington** have been selected as the NSTU contract hotels for 2005-2006 and offers NSTU members a rate of \$84. For members on NSTU business, valet parking is included. For leisure travel, a special parking rate of \$9.95 per day (self parking) is offered. The NSTU rate is for one room booking per NSTU membership card. The Delta Barrington is located at 1875 Barrington Street. Contract ends June 30, 2006. The Delta Halifax can be reached at 425-6700/1-888-423-3582. The Delta Barrington can be reached at 429-7410. For more information, check the Delta Halifax website at www.deltahotels.com/corporate/cor/nstu.html. Guests must provide NSTU membership identification.

THE WESTIN NOVA SCOTIAN offers a rate of \$84* per night, single or double occupancy, complimentary self-parking and free local calls. *Some restrictions apply. Not applicable with any other promotional offer. Rate not applicable to groups. The NSTU awards program has been introduced - After your 5th stay, receive one guestroom night free including local calls and self parking. Ask us about the NSTU Awards Program card at your next visit. Contact the Westin at 902-421-1000, toll-free 1-877-993-7846, fax 902-422-9465 (1181 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS B3H 2P6).

The LORD NELSON offers NSTU members a rate of \$105.00 per night rate for a traditional guest room from July 1, 2005 to December 30, 2005. This rate is based on a single or double occupancy and apply to individual travel only. Phone 902-423-6331 or toll free 1-800-565-2020. Guests must provide NSTU membership identification.

WAVERLEY INN, Halifax offers a 10% discount to NSTU Members.

BELGRAVIA BED & BREAKFAST in Truro offers a 15% discount to NSTU members. For more information call 902-893-7100 or 1-866-877-9900.

The **FARMHOUSE INN** in Canning, just outside Wolfville in the Annapolis Valley, offers an additional 15% off winter rates to NSTU members. **The discount will apply from November to April each year, excluding packages, New**

Year's Eve, Valentine's weekend & special events weekends.

ROBERT WALLACE, Certified Reflexologist offers a 20% discount to NSTU members. Phone 488-9806.

CURATIVE MASSAGE THERAPY offers a 15% discount on their massage prices for all NSTU members. Contact - Curative Massage Therapy, 6820 Chebucto Road, Halifax; phone 902-453-0056; e-mail info@curativemassage.com; website www.curativemassage.com

MARITIME MASSAGE HEALTH CLINIC, Halifax gives a 15% discount for the first visit and then 10% to NSTU members. Phone: 902-423-2455

NATURAL PATH MASSAGE THERAPY, 59B Portland Street, Dartmouth, NS will offer NSTU members \$20 off their first massage and \$5 off additional treatments. Contact Taylor Bernard, R.M.T. & Associates or visit their website at www.mynaturalpath.ca

TATTLETALES, Penhorn Mall, Dartmouth offers a 20% discount to NSTU members.

WOOZLES, Halifax offers a 20% discount on classroom purchases to NSTU members.

CHAPTERS, Halifax and Dartmouth offers 25% off the purchase of a discount card that gives 10% off books. The iREWARDS card is accepted at Chapters, Indigo, Coles, SmithBooks, The Book Company, and the World's Biggest Bookstore for an extra 10% off all books in-store. In-store best-selling titles, which now correspond to the Globe and Mail bestseller's list, are available to iREWARDS rewards members at 40% off. EXTRA DISCOUNT EVERY DAY - Members now save an extra 5% on all books online, including our wide variety of already discounted sale items. By not limiting the discount to "regularly-priced" books, members always get the best price for books online! MEMBER BONUS REWARDS? Enjoy exclusive member-only offers, discounts and event invites sent to you directly by e-mail.

BUDGET RENT A CAR MARITIMES offers a discount to NSTU members at the following locations ONLY: Halifax/Dartmouth, Sydney, Port Hawkesbury, Yarmouth, Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton, and Charlottetown. For more information, contact Budget Rent A Car in your area (in Halifax dial 902-492-7500 and press 1) or call 1-888-492-4888.

NEPTUNE THEATRE - NSTU members receive a 20% discount on single tickets for plays in the 05/06 season in the A & B seating only. Phone the box office at 902-429-7070 or 1-800-565-7345 or visit www.neptunetheatre.com and identify yourself as an NSTU member to receive the discount.

PRIMROSE LANE GIFTS - offers a 15% discount to NSTU members on all occasion giftware, Christmas ornaments and locally handmade Santas, locally handmade quilts, custom-made tartan capes, locally handcrafted jewellery and much more located on the lower level. They are located in Old Mader's Wharf at 643 Main Street, Mahone Bay, Monday to Saturday (10 - 5 pm) and Sunday (11 - 5 pm).

FRAME EXPRESS - Custom Framing, Plakmounting and Prints offers a 30% discount on all custom framing and plakmounting (also guarantees their price is the best in the city and beats all written quotes by 10%) to NSTU members upon presentation of their ID card. Dartmouth Location, 100 Ilsley Ave.; phone: 902-468-5600.

TALL SHIP SILVA (Halifax) is happy to offer harbour tours at two for one to teachers. Just show your NSTU ID at the dock when purchasing tickets. Contact them at info@tallshipsilva.com or 902-429-9463.

MIDAS - Total Car Care - All locations in Nova Scotia. Offers 10% off parts. www.midas.ca.

GCR TIRE CENTRES (formerly Crown Tire) offer NSTU Members a 15% discount off regular selling price of Bridgestone and Firestone Passenger/Light Truck tires. Also, a 10% discount off current retail price on any car service (brakes, alignment, oil changes). GCR Tire Centres are located in Antigonish, Bridgewater, Dartmouth, New Glasgow, New Minas and Truro.

TAE KWON DO - WONG's Tae Kwon Do in Lower Sackville offers 20% OFF monthly and yearly fees for NSTU members and their families. Call 902-478-1326 or e-mail bwong@ns.sympatico.ca

WINSBY'S, Halifax offers a 10% discount on regular priced merchandise purchased for the classroom setting.

BIG APPLE FASHIONS, 1526 Dresden Row, Halifax is pleased to offer all NSTU members a 10% discount on all regular priced fashions. Contact 446-2442 or visit our website at www.bigapplefashions.ca

EVENT SYSTEM RENTALS - Package discounts are available for NSTU members for booking Winter Carnivals and Safe Grads. For more information, call 902-538-0194.

METRO SELF STORAGE offers 10% to NSTU members for new accounts only. Contact 902-450-5656.

ULTRAMAR REFINERY offers a 4 cent discount on posted oil prices to NSTU members in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

GRAND & TOY - Working with teachers so students can be their best! Take advantage of Grand & Toy's low pricing. Contact Mickie Bowe, Account Manager, School Supplies. Toll-free: 1-888-456-1258 ext. 271 or e-mail bowem@grandtoy.com

STAPLES / BUSINESS DEPOT offers Dividend \$ for Education. It is free to join, just show a piece of teacher identification and receive a welcome package, special discounts and offers. Visit a Staples / Business Depot for an application.

GLIDDEN PAINTS offers 40% off all Glidden Paint products and 20% off all supplies and other products at the following locations: Grand Lake Road, Sydney; Robie St., Truro; Kaye St., Halifax; Wyse Road and Akerley Blvd., Dartmouth.

DON SCHELEW DRYCLEANERS, Halifax and Dartmouth offers 10% to NSTU members.

CHRISTINE RITCHIE offers 10% discount and no tax for NSTU members. She teaches beginner and intermediate watercolour painters in small groups (under 12). The cost is \$50 per day and the workshops are one, three and five days. Beginner kits are \$10 per day, which includes all the supplies needed for the workshop. Private lessons are available for \$15 per hour. For details, visit www.christineritchie.com.

CURVES FOR WOMEN FITNESS CENTRES offer a discount on their service fee to NSTU members who wish to join and get fit! They have a number of locations in Nova Scotia. Details: www.curvesforwomen.ca.

MR. ROMANCE, Lower Level, Barrington Place Shops, 1903 Barrington Street, Halifax, offers a 10% discount to NSTU members. Phone 902-425-5683 or www.mrromance.ca.

THE THIRSTY DUCK, Spring Garden Road, Halifax, offers a 10% discount on food/meal purchases to all NSTU members. NSTU ID required.

PAPA MARIO'S PIZZA, 6954 Mumford Rd., Halifax (Halifax Shopping Centre Annex) will offer a 10% discount on **food orders only** (not on delivery). Phone 902-421-2121.

QUALITY FOOTWEAR & MAHONE BAY TRADING COMPANY offers a 10% discount to members. Locations include 201 Chain Lake Drive, Halifax and 544 Main Street, Mahone Bay. Phone 902-444-4229 (Halifax) and 902-624-8425 (Mahone Bay). Check out comfort, fashion and selection in a wide range of sizes for men and women.



A Retired Teachers Foundation Grant was presented to Lori MacDonald, Executive Director of the Society for Treatment of Autism. The presentation was made on June 7, 2005 by Jim Kavanaugh, RTO Member.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

INSURANCE TRUSTEES - **Ed Donnelly**, Halifax City (2006); **Frances MacEachern**, Inverness (2006); **Fraser Green**, Pictou (2007); **Glynda Wimmer**, Lunenburg (2007); **Lionel Jessome**, Northside-Victoria (2008); **Betty Anne McGinnis**, Hants West (2008); **Joe MacEachern**, Department of Education; **Bill Redden**, NSTU Staff Liaison

PENSION COMMITTEE - **Ambrose White**, Chair, Cape Breton (2006); **Barbara Flynn**, Yarmouth (2006); **Michael Mattocks**, Colchester-East Hants (2007); **Bill Sidney**, Cape Breton (2007); **Jim Kavanaugh**, RTO Representative; **Scott McKellar**, Pension Board Liaison; **Hope Lemoine**, Executive Member; **Bill Redden**, NSTU Staff Liaison

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

RTO President 736-1267
 NSTU Switchboard 477-5621
 OR 1-800-565-6788
 RTO Liaison Earle Tubrett
 Secretary Debbie Savoie
 Pension Joan Ling
 E-mail centraloffice@nstu.ca
 OR specassoc@nstu.ca
 NSTU website www.nstu.ca
 Pension Services Group 424-5070
 OR 1-800-774-5070
 Johnson Inc. 1-800-453-9543
 OR Halifax 453-9543
 OR Sydney 562-2645
 Atlantic Blue Cross Care -
 a division of Medavie 496-6624
 MSI Health Card 468-9700
 Teachers *Plus* Credit Union 477-5664
 OR 1-800-565-3103

RETIRED TEACHERS ORGANIZATION

ADS PLACED IN THE RETIRED TEACHER

Ads will be accepted at the discretion of the Editors and the Executive.

Prices:	1/8 page	\$40.00
	1/4 page	\$80.00
	1/2 page	\$125.00
	1 page	\$200.00

Short Want Ads or For Sale/Rent ads:
 \$5.00 for 20 words and 15 cents for each
 additional word.



Payment to: RTO, Treasurer of RTO, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7

HIGHLIGHTS

PRESIDENTS MEETING - MAY 31, 2005

- Reviewed AGM reports
- Set October 25 as the date of the Antigonish president's meeting
- Passed a motion that metrage be the same for all attending presidents' meeting
- Discussed notices of motion at AGM
- Reviewed new relationship document

AGM - JUNE 1, 2005

- Received and adopted committee reports
- Approved 05/06 budget
- Appointed Mike Wall as auditor
- Approved election of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Pension Committee Representative at AGM
- Approved an increase in Executive to allow representation of Member-at-Large from four geographic areas
- Referred election of Member-at-Large to Executive
- Amended Constitution Article II, 1 (d)
- Approved Constitution until AGM 2006 with name change to Retired Teachers' Organization
- Conducted election of Executive
- Passed motion to inform NSTU that RTO disagrees with the joint trusteeship and the loss of the guarantee as provided in the Teachers Pension Act and cease efforts to release Government

from the guarantee unless a vote is held by retirees

- Passed motion to establish a legal fund

POST AGM MEETING - JUNE 1/05

- Set meeting schedule for 05/06
- Appointed signing officers
- Appointed Committee members for 05/06

FOUNDATION MEETING - JUNE 1, 2005

- Approved financial report
- Awarded three Foundation grants

EXECUTIVE - SEPT. 24, 2005

- Referred Branch rebates and Presidents' expenses to Assessment Committee
- Accepted draft proposal re election of Member-at-Large as the operative proposal for this year
- Agreed that the RTO meetings remain at the NSTU building
- Approved changes to the RTO pin
- Received guidelines for Presidents' meetings
- Approved financial report
- Referred brochure updating to the Publication Committee
- Referred Constitution Article II, #2 (d) to Liaison Executive Committee
- Announced Cape Breton as the site of AGM 2006
- Approved the creation of an RTO website on the NSTU server

EXECUTIVE OCT. 24, 2005

- Discussed bulk purchase of get well cards
- Confirmed members of ad hoc Finance Committee
- Reviewed letter to NSTU re disagreement of pension guarantee and trust proposal
- Reviewed letter re NSTU provided services
- Received committee reports
- Approved ACER/CART fee payment
- Approved RTO committee participants for the Lieutenant Governor's teaching award

BRANCH PRESIDENTS'

MEETING - OCTOBER 25, 2005

- Received Liaison Committee report
- Received an update on automatic membership and Department of Finance cooperation
- Decided on the method of selecting the Member-at-Large delegate at AGM 2006
- Received report on legal fund
- Received information re disagreement relating to the loss of guarantee of Pension Fund
- Received report on the removal of Constitution Article II (d)
- Received standing committee reports
- Set North Sydney as the site of the 2006 AGM
- Initiated Halifax AGM 2007 planning

TEACHERS' PENSION PLAN VALUATION

Each year it is required that our pension plan undergo an evaluation to determine the status of the plan funding. Below is a summary of the plan as at the end of 2004 in comparison to end of the previous year 2003.

Financial Position — Going-Concern Basis		
	31.12.2004	31.12.2003
Actuarial value of assets	\$3,900,396,000	\$3,719,809,000
Actuarial liability		
Present value of accrued benefits for:		
▪ active teachers	\$2,047,207,000	\$2,059,247,000
▪ pensioners and survivors	\$2,686,978,000	\$2,490,241,000
▪ inactive teachers	\$40,225,000	\$41,557,000
Total liability	\$4,774,410,000	\$4,591,045,000
Funding excess (unfunded liability)	(\$874,014,000)	(\$871,236,000)
Funded Ratio	81.7%	81.0%

RTO PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

DOUG MANZER (CHAIR)

CAROL SAMPSON

EARL MUISE

NOTICE TO RETIRED TEACHERS

If you would like to receive or continue to receive **The Teacher** for the 2005-2006 school year, please fill out the form below and send it to **The Teacher**, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4L7 or fax it to 902-477-3517. You may also e-mail a note with your name and complete mailing address to theteacher@nstu.ca.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

_____ Postal Code _____

Member of RTO? Yes No

Someone Said...

- ❖ Logic is the systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence.
- ❖ It's a known fact - cross-eyed teachers cannot control their pupils.
- ❖ Not all the faculty has their faculties.
- ❖ The trouble with resisting temptation is it may never come again.
- ❖ You can not sink someone else's end of the boat and still keep your own afloat.
- ❖ College is a fountain of knowledge where students come to drink.
- ❖ No wonder the world is in a mess - half the people are below median intelligence.
- ❖ We should have gone metric every inch of the way.
- ❖ Nothing is so annoying as to have someone go on talking when you are interrupting.
- ❖ The only trouble with doing nothing is that you never know when you are finished.
- ❖ I am not young enough to know everything.
- ❖ Those who think they know it all upset those of us who do.

[continued on page 12]

Retired Teachers Delivering Positive Messages to Elementary Students

Three Retired teachers from the Northside-Victoria Branch of the RTO are involved in a unique program offered to elementary students. Bob Winship, Mike MacNeil and Jim Prince are members of a band called the TC5. Active teachers Mike MacIssac and Henry Dipersio from Memorial High School are also part of the band that deliver a program called "Good Vibrations". The Band uses Rock and Roll music as a means of getting positive messages across to the students in an hour and fifteen minute time period. Important topics such as self-esteem, drugs and alcohol, bullying and friendships are covered in such a way that the messages are short but powerful and then reinforced with songs that are geared to the message presented. The program is a high intensity interactive one where children help out in the singing and dancing. The different dances are taught to the grade six students at the performance in their school. This allows the senior students of the school to be an integral part of the program. Role play and puppets, Peter and Gordon, are also used in the delivery of some of the positive messages, especially those concerning anti-bullying. The puppets, performed by Mike MacNeil and Bob Winship, have proven to be very popular with the student population. The TC5 performed Good Vibrations for thirty schools in a three year period and have been given very positive comments about the way the entire performance is delivered. They have received funding from different sources to offer their program for schools in the Cape Breton Regional School Board. The School Board has provided excellent support for the program by supplying substitute teachers for the active teachers and by endorsing it as a worthwhile, educational presentation. If possible, the band would be interested in taking their program to other areas of the province. More information about the TC5 Band and the Good Vibrations Program can be found on the website, www.tc5goodvibrations.ca.

Membership Application 200__ - 200__ RETIRED TEACHERS ORGANIZATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Professional Number: _____

NSTU Local Area: _____

RTO Branch: _____

THE RTO MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30 OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR. MEMBERSHIP FOR THE CURRENT YEAR MAY BE ACTIVATED BY INCLUDING A TEN DOLLAR (\$10.00) CHEQUE WITH THIS FORM.

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

1. PRE-AUTHORIZED DEDUCTION:

I AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE TO DEDUCT MY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES OF TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) FROM EACH OCTOBER PENSION PAYMENT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS I REVOKE THIS AUTHORITY TO THE RTO.

SIN (optional): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

****THIS FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE RETIRED TEACHERS ORGANIZATION BY AUGUST 30TH TO ENABLE THE DEDUCTION TO BE MADE IN OCTOBER.**

2. ANNUAL REMITTANCE METHOD:

My annual membership fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) is enclosed.

**Make cheque payable to:
Nova Scotia Retired Teachers Organization**

- ❖ Don't believe in superstition; it brings bad luck.
- ❖ Apathy is becoming a major problem - but who cares?
- ❖ It is hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.
- ❖ Family reunions are all relative.

ATTENTION RETIRED TEACHERS!!

Activate your *free* account today and explore what the *new* www.nstu.ca has to offer you!!

Retired NSTU members in receipt of a pension (through work in the Nova Scotia public school system, Community College or APSEA) are eligible to receive an NSTU webmail account.

This webmail account gives retired members:

- *A 10 mb webmail account*
- *Access to NSTU Members-Only website, featuring the most recent version of NSTU publications*
- *An opportunity to share years of experience with early career colleagues through the NSTU messageboard system.*

TO ACCESS THIS ACCOUNT AN INTERNET CONNECTION IS NEEDED

**CONTACT LIANE DESLAURIERS AT CENTRAL OFFICE:
LDESLAURIERS@NSTU.CA**

The Retired Teachers' Legacy

The Retired Teachers Legacy Foundation was created:

- to honour the life and work of Nova Scotia teachers
- to assist institutions that provide medical treatment and/or educational training for sick and/or challenged children on a not-for-profit basis.

The Board of Directors (the RTO Executive and one NSTU Director) invests monies which have been donated, presents an annual audited statement, and awards funds. Retired Teachers' Legacy fund application forms can be requested at the address below.

Contribution to the Nova Scotia Retired Teachers Foundation

AMOUNT _____ DATE _____

NAME OF DONOR:

ADDRESS

POSTAL CODE _____

If donation is in memory of a deceased person, please give the name and any details you wish, including address of next of kin, if you wish a card sent.

Please make cheque/money order payable to **The Retired Teachers Foundation** and mail to:
**RTO Treasurer, NSTU,
3106 Joseph Howe Drive,
Halifax, NS B3L 4L7**