

The Retired Teacher

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Volume 42, Number 1, September 2010



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The Retired Teacher is available online at www.rto.nstu.ca. To download Adobe Reader, go to www.adobe.com.

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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.

From the Editor

Fall is here... we thought and hoped the summer would never end.

Your RTO Executive and Committees are busy fulfilling their mandates and working arduously or your behalf. We are all volunteers and do our best in carrying out our responsibilities to keep you informed, to defend your rights as retired teachers and seniors, and to maintain and/or increase your benefits.



Please try to attend your Branch meetings and become involved. We need you. There are many experts in our ranks whose talents are untapped. Don't be shy. Step forward and lend a hand.

If you have something to contribute to the newsletter, or have comments/questions, email joanncuvelier@yahoo.ca or call 820-2443.

Enjoy the changing canvas of Autumn.



**A newsletter for the
retired teachers of
Nova Scotia
A MEMBER OF ACER/CART**

www.rto.nstu.ca

Retired teachers wishing to receive their upcoming newsletters (*The Retired Teacher* – in colour) by email as opposed to a paper copy are requested to contact Marcelle DeRoche (mderoche@staff.nstu.ca or 1-800-565-6788) at the NSTU and request an electronic subscription by leaving your email address. Your electronic subscription will begin in the Fall of 2010.

Retired Teachers Organization



RTO Executive 2010-2011

President: Randy Holmesdale.....	538-8173
Past-President: Phyllis Côté.....	625-2306
Vice-President: Jim Kavanaugh.....	862-3833
Treasurer: Pierre Belliveau.....	837-5966
Secretary: Theresa Zukauskas.....	423-2400
Member-at-Large: Fred Jeffery.....	923-2965
Member-at-Large: Bill Berryman.....	877-2612
Member-at-Large: Jo-Ann Cuvelier.....	820-2443
Member-at-Large: Steve Hogan.....	849-5341
Pension Com. Rep.: Albert Johnson.....	825-3062
NSTU RTO Liaison: Bruce Kelloway.....	477-5621
	1-800-565-6788 (Toll-free)

RTO Branch Presidents 2010-11

Annapolis: Neil MacNeil.....	825-4354
Antigonish: Phil Hughes.....	863-6185
AER-Baie Sainte-Marie: Andre J. Turbide.....	769-3006
Colchester: Marilyn Rodgers.....	893-4379
CPX: Mary Hammond.....	852-3146
Cumberland: Esther Boyd.....	667-5619
Dartmouth: Dorothy Smith.....	463-6511
Digby: Debby Trask Cushing.....	837-5936
Glace Bay & Area: Fred Courtney.....	742-3649
Halifax County: Colleen Putt.....	835-5417
Halifax Regional: Ann Noreen Norton.....	423-5663
Inverness: Al MacKinnon.....	678-5776
Kings: Bill Wagstaff.....	678-5776
Lunenburg: Brian Jobb.....	634-4432
New Waterford: John Donovan.....	862-7868
Northside-Victoria: Judith Whalen.....	736-9767
Pictou: Karen Sutherland.....	396-4060
Queens: Linda Delaney.....	354-4713
Richmond: Danny Madden.....	535-3366
Shelburne: Wayne Mullins.....	637-3262
Sydney & Area: Bernadette Hollohan.....	562-2724
West Hants: Bill Berryman.....	633-2211
Yarmouth/Argyle: Blair Boudreau.....	663-2633

What does the RTO Membership Committee do for its RTO members?

- 1/ We prepare packages for new retirees.
- 2/ We keep the database management information as up to date as possible and send out to each branch a copy of the present data for constant revision.
- 3/ We now have a Wall of RTO information at the NSTU building, second floor with updated information and would like the Branches to send us info that also could be included on our notice board and showcased to all teachers and retirees.
- 4/ Receive info from our RTO Executive concerning our members to be processed.

Did you know Mr. Wedderburn?

Did you teach with H.A.J. (Gus) Wedderburn? Or were you one of his students? If so, a local author would like to speak with you. Marie Riley is writing a book about Gus Wedderburn, who passed away in February of 2007. Gus Wedderburn was principal of Partridge River School in East Preston from 1957 to 1962. He then taught science and math to Grades 7 and 8 at Bloomfield School in Halifax from 1962 to 1967. Following that he went on to be the principal of the old Ardmore School on Oxford Street in Halifax from 1967 to 1970. If you knew him, taught with him, or were taught by him, please contact Mary Riley at 445-5413. She would love to hear from you.

From the Desk of the President...

Our summer has come and gone and with the fall comes an active year for the RTO Executive. Our 2010 AGM was held in Coldbrook, Kings County, hosted by the Kings, West Hants and Annapolis Branches in June. We had a great AGM because of the work done by these Branches.

As your new President, I have been working with my Executive on our priorities for this year. Our number one concern is that we provide good communication with all our members. Our Communications Committee, responsible for the Newsletter is working long and hard to improve its content by providing the information that our members have been asking for. We also have our website which is updated regularly and members should visit to get further information. www.rto.nstu.ca

Our Branch Presidents will meet on October 19th and 20th in

Bridgewater and will continue to work with the Provincial RTO Executive to take information back to their Branches for the members. We want to help each of our Branches so they are providing activities and informative meetings that encourage our membership to attend. We are only as strong as our membership is involved.

The RTO Executive continues to keep up-to-date on our pension plan, by having John Jordan, a member of the Pension Trustee Board report to our Pension and Benefits Committee and give a special update to our Branch Presidents.

Our Assessment Committee has worked many hours putting together our new Handbook for Executive members and each Branch President. This Handbook contains our Constitution and all Operational Procedures.



The Membership Committee is working to update our database with all new members' names, addresses and phone numbers. Please let us know if you change your address or phone number by calling the NSTU at 1-800-565-6788 or letting your Branch President know.

Enjoy the fall and all it has to offer. As your President, I look forward to working with, and for you, the members.

Randy Holmesdale



DELTA'S ...FALL GETAWAY

Celebrate the change of seasons with Delta Barrington or Delta Halifax.

You'll get away from it all right in the middle of everything.

**\$86* Now members of NSTU
can make reservations online.**

*NSTU ID must be presented at check-in for special rate; discounted parking rate of \$9.95. Reservations: www.deltahotels.com/nstu.

For reservations/information call 1-800-268-1133 (toll-free)

www.deltabarrington.com or www.deltahalifax.com

ACER/CART Annual Meeting

The 19th ACER/CART annual meeting was held on June 4-5 with thirteen of the fourteen member organizations taking part. The session was preceded by an informative lobbying presentation by John Staple. There were no changes in the structure of the Executive, and I remain the Atlantic Representative. Presentations on Communications, Policy Review, Health Services and one on the need for a National Securities Regulator highlighted the session. We continue to dialogue with the Congress of National Seniors Organization and support their efforts to re-establish themselves as a viable organization.

As your ACER/CART rep, and in my capacity as executive member, I will be attending the RTA meetings in Newfoundland and PEI. It remains my objective to see our member organizations become even more involved in matters that impact pensioners in general, and retired teachers in particular. The recent news about the tremendous savings that could be made in drug purchasing and rededicated to other areas is a good example.

I continue to enjoy working on behalf of retirees and I thank you for the opportunity.

—Tom Gaskell

WEBSITE:

www.acer-cart.org

Encouraging a Lifetime of Learning

“The programs are so interesting. I always learn something new and then at the coffee break I get to catch up on the news with my new friends in learning,” says Gwen Smith. Gwen is one of the many 50+ learners across Nova Scotia who are getting together to share the benefits of lifelong learning.

And what’s more, medical research supports their activities: a challenged and stimulated brain can be the key to a vibrant later life. Nancy Merz Nordstrom, author of *Learning Later, Living Greater*, has described lifelong learning as a

“health club for the brain”. Among the benefits she identifies are the capacity of lifelong learning to increase the wisdom of older learners, to help adapt to change, and to enable participants to keep involved as active contributors to society.

Taking part in a lifelong learning program opens the door to making new friends and sharing one’s own knowledge and expertise with like-minded people.

Nordstrom says “Through academic learning, educational travel, and a renewed sense of volunteerism we expand our awareness, and create an exciting multi-dimensional life. It doesn’t get any better than that!”

Seniors learning programs are offered in many communities and may be affiliated with a university near you. All have web sites that provide information about programs and activities for Fall 2010. Membership offers many benefits such as regular newsletters, reduced program fees. And many offer an opportunity for you to lead a program on a topic for which you have knowledge and a passionate interest.

Learning opportunities for folks 50+ can be found at:

Elder Learners (www.smu.ca/conted/elder_welcome.html)

Cindy Bishara, 902-420-5020

Seniors College Association of Nova Scotia (<http://adrp.dal.ca/SCANS>) Blanche Creighton, 902-454-5554

Tantramar Seniors College (<http://tantramarseniorscollege.ca>)

John Read, 506-364-2780

Acadia Lifelong Learning (www.openacadia.ca/index.php/en/all-membership) Debbie Kiely, 902-585-1434

Seniors College Cape Breton University (www.cbu.ca/community.seniors-college) Leanne Simmons, 902-563-1304

Mahone Bay Seniors Project (www.mahonebaycentre.com/seniors/)

Ted Hobson, 902-624-0890



*Make learning part of your life.....
it will change your mind.*

VOLUNTEER SOME TUTOR TIME?

SchoolsPlus is hoping there are retired teachers willing to volunteer as tutors to work with students who would benefit from the extra support. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Tara Moore, Schools Plus Coordinator at 424-7308 or visit www.ednet.ns.ca/schoolsplus.

SchoolsPlus is part of the *Our Kids Are Worth It: Strategy for Children and Youth* a comprehensive, multi-departmental response to the Report of the Nunn Commission.

SchoolsPlus supports Commissioner Nunn's recommendation for the need for improved co-ordination and collaboration among departments and agencies in the delivery of programs and services for children, youth, and families.

SchoolsPlus promotes an integrated service delivery model through the co-location and/or partnership of services within a school such as: Community Services, Justice, Mental Health, Addiction Services, Health, and other community organizations.

The vision of SchoolsPlus is for schools to become centres of service delivery enabling enhanced collaboration by bringing professionals and programs together to help children, youth, and families.

The SchoolsPlus model is being designed to:

- develop an array of programs and services offered at school sites;

- provide timely identification of and response to children and youth in need of additional support and services;
- co-ordinate community and agency activities and resources;
- reduce or eliminate gaps and

- duplication of service among professionals and programs;
- enhance the use of school facilities and service beyond the school day; and
- improve student engagement and school success.

There are four school boards with SchoolsPlus sites in Nova Scotia. These are:

Halifax Regional School Board:

- Nelson Whynder Elementary School
- Joseph Howe School
- Harbour View School

NOTE: HRSB is beginning to support the transition of students to their feeder schools

Strait Regional School Board:

- Chedabucto Education Centre
- Canso Academy
- Guysborough Academy
- Fanning Education Centre

South Shore Regional School Board:

- Forest Heights Community School and feeder schools (6)

Chignecto-Central Regional School Board:

- Amherst High School and feeder schools (6)



Each school board with SchoolsPlus has a facilitator who is the liaison and link between the school and the community. There are Schools Plus Community Outreach Workers as well. Their role is to advocate, coordinate, and expand services for students and families.

Each of the four school boards have established a SchoolsPlus Advisory Committee with representation from government departments (Health,

Education, Community Services, Justice, and Health Promotion and Protection), the Child and Youth Strategy, and non-government and community organizations. The purpose of the committee is to identify opportunities to enhance and expand the array of services and programs for children, youth, and their families.

Please contact Tara Moore, Schools Plus Coordinator



Photos from the RTO AGM & Dinner 2010



Photos from the RTO Annual General Meeting & Dinner 2010



A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

RTO Committees 2010-11



*RTO Assessment Committee:
Seated: Bill Wagstaff (Kings),
Bill Berryman, Chair, (West
Hants), and Dorothy Smith
(Dartmouth). Standing: George
Landry (Richmond) and Gary
Archibald (Yarmouth/Argyle).*

*RTO Membership Committee:
Peter Lewis (Cumberland), Cathy
Anderson (Northside-Victoria), Fred
Jeffery, Chair (Cumberland), Ann
Bottomley (Northside-Victoria), and
Robert Selfridge (Kings).*



*RTO Communications
Committee: Colin Campbell,
Webmaster (Metro), Jo-Ann
Cuvelier, Chair (Metro),
Betty Farrell, and Tom Gaskell
(Northside-Victoria).*

RTO Committees

2010-2011



*RTO Finance Committee:
Standing: Jim Kavanaugh,
Theresa Zukauskas, Phyllis
Côté, and Pierre Belliveau.
Seated is Randy Holmesdale.*

*RTO Pension & Benefits
Committee: John Jordan
(Shelburne), Vic Fleury
(Annapolis), Jack Boyd
(Cumberland) and Carl
Samson (Richmond). Seated
is Albert Johnson, Chair
(Annapolis).*



12th Annual Retired Teachers Golfing Tournament

September 15, 2010 at Truro Golf Club with 1:00 p.m. shotgun start

This was a very successful tournament with 112 retired teachers and 10 spouses/partners and/or special sponsor guests for a total of 122 golfers.

We congratulate our winners:

Low gross men's - Tom Ryan and Vincent McMaster

Low gross ladies - Brenda McKellar and Joyce Halverson

Low net men's - Robert Moore and Wayne Bhola

Low net ladies - Alanna McInnis and Judy Wesley

The major sponsor for this event was the Teachers Plus Credit Union. They provided goodie bags for all – a significant cash contribution and eight of their group (staff/directors) participated, led by General Manager Cameron MacDonald. A big thank you from all golfers and the RTO for this excellent help.



Other sponsor/ participants included Paul Sarty, Vice President of Johnson Inc. Insurance, Karen Casey, MLA (hole-in-one sponsor) and Scott Armstrong, MP along with our Local and Provincial RTO. Many other businesses and individuals also provided cash and prizes. Thanks to all.

Special guests of the tournament were Keld (retired teacher) and Esther Poulsen from Denmark.

Golfers participated in a putting contest sponsored by B.R.A.I.N. Child and raised \$500 for this group. The winner was Ron Chisholm.

Thanks to all who helped in so many ways from the Colchester East Hants RTO, the Committee and myself.

The 2011 tournament is planned for Dundee on September 14, 2011. Watch for further details.

—Chester Sabeau

PROJECT OVERSEAS

“Teachers Teaching Teachers”

VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS WITH CTF!

Would you like to assist teachers in a developing country?
Are you interested in learning more about global education issues?
Can you see yourself volunteering in Africa, Asia, or the Caribbean?

If yes, Project Overseas (PO) might be for you!

CTF needs English and French-speaking Canadian teachers who are interested in volunteering during July and August to offer in-services in a wide range of subjects and levels, in various developing countries.

Application criteria include:

- Membership in a provincial teacher organization that supports PO
- Valid teachers' certificate
- A least five years teaching in Canada by program start
- Canadian citizenship
- Excellent health and ability to work in developing country conditions
- Canadian passport valid for 6 months after the placement or proof of a passport application

PO is a volunteer experience. Administrative, travel, and living expenses are borne by CTF, provincial and territorial teachers' organizations (which are CTF members) and CIDA. No salaries or honoraria are paid.

Further information and application forms are available from Lillian Pottie, NSTU, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7; 902-477-5621, 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free) or www.ctf-fce.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 12, 2010

CTF'S INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS: *Together We Make a Difference!*



DEALS & DISCOUNTS 2010 / 2011

Simply show your RTO membership card whenever you are shopping to realize these savings.

MARITIME TRAVEL CLUB

Discover a World of Travel Benefits

Receive regular emails of best vacation buys, airfares and last-minute specials. RTO customized & special-interest tours to choose from. Sign up and receive a \$50 per-person Travel Card for use toward vacation packages and cruises. Access to exclusive savings for RTO members only. Convenience: Choose from 33 locations across N.S. to serve you, or 79 locations nationwide & toll-free calling. Receive Maritime Travel merchandise and RTO customized merchandise for groups. Travel First, Pay Later! 24/7 Emergency Worldwide Assistance for RTO members. And much more! Open to RTO members only. Please click here to go to the Maritime Travel Club site to register. www.maritimetravel.ca/RTO/rtoTravel.aspx

DIGBY PINES GOLF RESORT & SPA 1-800-667-4637 or www.digbypines.ca. Open mid May to Mid October. \$105/night plus tax, based on double occupancy, subject to availability. Please request the NSTU member rate at time of booking and provide your NSTU card upon check in. Rate is based on leisure travel only and is not applicable to group business.

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 email.

NATURAL PATH MASSAGE THERAPY, 75 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, NS (across from the Ferry Terminal) will offer NSTU members \$20 off their first massage and a free sauna. Contact 902-463-9351, natural-path@ns.sympatico.ca or visit www.mynaturalpath.ca.

BENJAMIN MOORE SACKVILLE DECORATING CENTRE & THE BENJAMIN MOORE BAYERS LAKE DECORATING CENTRE offers NSTU members the following discounts: \$5 off Benjamin Moore Interior and Exterior Collection paint, \$3 off Benjamin Moore Interior and Exterior MooreStyle paint, \$3 off all Benjamin Moore primers, 10% off all paint sundries and 15% off all in-stock decor merchandise. NSTU

identification is required. Sackville Location: 536 Sackville Drive, Unit 4, Lower Sackville; phone: 902-864-7042; website: www.sackville-decoratingcentre.ca. Bayers Lake Location: 120 Susie Lake Crescent, Halifax; phone: 902-446-3990.

BIG APPLE FASHIONS, Barrington Place Shop, 1903 Barrington Street, Suite #2050, Halifax is pleased to offer all NSTU members a 10% discount on all regular priced fashions. Contact 902-446-2442 or www.bigapplefashions.ca

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.

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.

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.

NEPTUNE THEATRE - NSTU members receive a 20% discount on single tickets for plays in the 2010-2011 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.

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

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

**For more Deals & Discounts
see website or contact your
Branch President!**

RTO Executive 2010-11



RTO Executive, back row, left to right: Bill Berryman Member-at-large (Valley), Jim Kavanaugh (Vice-President), Steve Hogan (Member-at-large (Cape Breton), Pierre Belliveau (Treasurer), Fred Jeffery Member-at-large (Cumberland), Albert Johnson (Pension Committee Rep.) and Theresa Zukauskas (Secretary). Front row, left to right: Jo-Ann Cuvellier (Member-at-large (Halifax), Randy Holmesdale (President) and Phyllis Côté (Past President).