



NEWS RELEASE

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

3 KENMOUNT ROAD • ST. JOHN'S, NL • A1B 1W1

TEL: 709-726-3223 • FAX: 709-726-4302 • MAIL@NLTA.NL.CA • WWW.NLTA.NL.CA

For Immediate Release
Thursday, April 9, 2015

NINE INDIVIDUALS TO RECEIVE AWARDS AT THE NLTA CONVENTION

THE BANCROFT AWARD

The Bancroft Award, named in honour of James Frederick Bancroft, the first President of the NLTA, was established in 1980 to mark the 90th anniversary of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. The award recognizes outstanding service at the branch level of the NLTA.

Alice Bridgeman of Bay Roberts Branch is a recipient of the Bancroft Award for 2014.

Alice has been teaching for over 30 years and has held numerous offices at the branch level of the NLTA since early in her career. She served as treasurer, president and past president with the Lower Trinity South Branch, was secretary and treasurer with the Carbonear Branch, and was political action officer, member at large, new teacher rep, and is currently treasurer of the Bay Roberts Branch.

She served as a member of the NLTA Provincial Curriculum Committee, the NLTA Provincial Electoral Committee, the Professional Issues in Teaching Committee, Group Insurance Committee, and was vice-president of the Program Specialists Special Interest Council. From 1993-94 she was a member of the Provincial Negotiating Team and has attended the NLTA Convention several times in her capacity as president of Lower Trinity South Branch and as a member of the Program Specialists Special Interest Council.

Alice has been involved in Education Week activities, branch retirement banquets, local heritage fairs, District Arts Council and the Arts Alive Project.

She is currently a Program Specialist for Literacy/Numeracy with the NL English School District.

Linda Chaisson of Humber Branch is a recipient of the Bancroft Award for 2014.

Linda has been teaching for over 20 years and has been president of the Humber Branch since 2010. Throughout the years she has served as vice-president, secretary and member at large for the branch. She has been a member of the Scholarship Committee, Social Committee, Substitute Teacher Registration Committee, CONTACT Selection Committee, Retirement Committee, Resolutions to BGM Committee, School Board-Teacher Liaison Committee, CONTACT Host/Organizing Committee, BGM Resolutions Committee, and BGM Scrutineers Committee.

She has been a school representative, part of the World Teachers' Day/Teacher Appreciation Committee, Janeway Day Committee, and has been a member of the Group Insurance Trustees since 2007.

Linda has organized financial wellness seminars, participated in focus groups on inclusive education, organized information sessions for substitute teachers, initiated sessions for colleagues on teacher rights and responsibilities, as well as on redundancy and reassignments. She has initiated activities around World Literacy Day, been a guest speaker at events for the Retired Teachers' Association, and has initiated branch visitations by NLTA presidents.

Linda is a strong advocate for teachers' rights, for improving the working conditions of teachers and coordinating teacher professional development. She currently works at the District Office in Corner Brook.

NINE INDIVIDUALS TO RECEIVE AWARDS AT THE NLTA CONVENTION (PAGE 2 OF 4)

Tina Matthews of Table Mountain Branch is a recipient of the Bancroft Award for 2014.

Since her first year of teaching Tina has been involved at the branch level of the NLTA. She has served positions as secretary-treasurer, communications officer, political action officer, and president of the Table Mountain Branch. As well, Tina has been school representative, lead organizer for Education Week activities, Janeway Day in the Schools, Teacher Wellness Committee, and helped organize numerous year end retirement dinners to promote the branch.

Tina has been part of branch political action committees, branch scholarship committees, professional development committees, as well as the provincial Member Benefits and Services Committee, Pensions Committee, Finance and Property Committee, and Professional Issues Committee.

Tina was a delegate to five conventions of the NLTA, represented the branch at CONTACT on three occasions, and served on the School Board-Teacher Liaison Committee, the Group Insurance Trustees, as well as the NLTA Negotiating Team. She also served two terms on the NLTA Provincial Executive Council.

Throughout her years, Tina has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues for her genuine interest and dedication in improving the personal and professional lives of teachers.

Tina is currently a principal at Jakeman All-Grade in Trout River.

Richard (Rick) Duffy of Grand Falls-Windsor is a recipient of the 2015 Bancroft Award.

A teacher for over 30 years, Rick has been president of the Exploits Valley Branch since 2003. He served terms as president and vice-president of the Fogo Island Branch and was communications officer for the Mount St. Margaret Branch. He was a member of the Provincial Gender Equity Committee, the Planning Committee for Retirement Celebrations and the Exploits Valley Funspiel.

Rick has been the driving force behind the Exploits Valley Branch. He chaired the Branch Scholarship Committee for numerous years and was instrumental in keeping the scholarship alive. He was also the leader in ensuring that every retiree was contacted and informed about the branch retirement dinners. He is considered the heart and soul of the Exploits Valley Branch and was a great knowledge base with regards to teacher contracts and assisting teachers in navigating the way through contract issues and questions.

Rick was also a delegate to Convention for 24 years. He missed the 2007 Convention when he chose to celebrate his 50th birthday in New York City.

Rick is also the recipient of the NLTA President's Award for 2015 which was presented at the President's Banquet at the NLTA Biennial General Meeting on Wednesday, April 8.

Rick is currently a teacher at Leo Burke Academy in Bishops Falls and will be retiring at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Jean Murphy of Cow Head is a recipient of the 2015 Bancroft Award.

A teacher for over 32 years, Jean has served many roles in both the Bremco and Long Range branches. She was President of the Long Range Branch where she was elected to serve as a member of the NLTA's Provincial Executive Council, a position she still holds today. As a member of the branch she organized retirement banquets/socials that included retired teachers, helped organize Education Week activities, was chair of the School Board-Teacher Liaison Committee, mentored new members, and many other activities to promote the branch and the NLTA.

Jean is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Substitute Teachers and was a member of the Teacher Certification, Pooled Investment and Deferred Salary Leave Committees. She chaired Equity Issues, Membership Benefits and Services, Finance and Property, Professional Issues, and Curriculum Committees. She was a delegate to Convention for ten years and represented her branch at CONTACT on three separate occasions.

Jean is very enthusiastic and passionate and dedicated to the Association. She has been a great ambassador for the NLTA and to promoting the work of the NLTA, especially to young teachers starting their careers. She has been a wealth of knowledge and encouragement for any teachers who have had the privilege to work with her.

Jean currently teaches at Long Range Academy in Cow Head and will be retiring at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

NINE INDIVIDUALS TO RECEIVE AWARDS AT THE NLTA CONVENTION (PAGE 3 OF 4)

THE BARNES AWARD

The Barnes Award, named in honour of Dr. Arthur Barnes, the first Minister of Education in the province who, in 1928, initiated a number of teacher conferences to promote excellence in education, was established in 1987 to recognize outstanding professional development services provided by teachers at the special interest council level.

Bruce King of Deer Lake is recipient of the 2014 Barnes Award.

A teacher for over 30 years, Bruce became involved with the NLTA special interest councils very early in his career and was instrumental in the success of numerous professional development initiatives. He co-developed the Industry Canada Grass Roots Project and Community Access Program, provided technical expertise for the Developing Schools Intranets Project and the Computers Across the Curriculum Project.

Bruce has been on the Executive of TESIC for several years as well as the Science SIC. He has attended numerous conferences and AGMs with TESIC and numerous other professional development courses, institutes and training throughout his career. He has been mentor/teacher sponsor for the Elwood Underwater ROV Team, Elwood Intermediate Girls Volleyball Team, Safe Grad Committee, Elwood Tribune, and Computer Club. He has coached basketball, judged science fairs, been a member of the Education Week Planning Committee, as well as the Technology Plan, Fundraising, computer advisory, science fair host, and regional science fair committees. He was also Network Administrator for Elwood Regional High as well as teacher representative in the school council, he prepared and moderated on-line professional development forums on computer networking, planned and delivered Windows NT Service PD sessions as well as many other inservice opportunities for the school district and individuals throughout the district and province.

Bruce has also been a course instructor at the Sir Wilfred Grenfell Campus, Curriculum Developer for CDLI, and has made numerous contributions through provincial curriculum committees in revising and developing curriculum. His community involvement encompasses a wide range of interests including volunteering with the Humber Valley Provincial Winter Games, the Board of St. Paul's United Church, member of the Deer Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Deer Lake Beautification Committee, and a councillor with the town of Deer Lake, to name a few.

Bruce is a Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies at MUN, was nominated in 1999 for the MUN Thesis of the Year, was nominated for the Prime Minister's Teaching Award in Educational Leadership, and is a recipient of the Celebrate '88 Award for outstanding contribution to the community of Deer Lake.

Bruce is presently retired from the teaching profession.

David Gill of Bay Roberts is recipient of the 2015 Barnes Award.

A teacher for over 10 years, David has been involved in technology integration since the beginning of his career. He has been a facilitator for web development for teachers, technology integration in intermediate science, MOODLE basics, podcasting using modern mobile devices, WIKI Management, online testing, as well as others. He has been involved with the NLTA Technology Education Special Interest Council (TESIC) for many years and was instrumental in re-establishing TESIC's Internet presence. He set up and is maintaining tesic.org, which allows TESIC to maintain a consolidated membership platform, email for TESIC members, online synchronous and asynchronous professional development opportunities, blogging and a host of standard 2.0 technologies.

David has been involved with or has facilitated numerous professional development offerings over the years in partnership with TESIC, the school district and Memorial University's Faculty of Education. The most recent partnership resulted in TESIC's SITI@MUN Conference, which started in 2014 and will occur again in 2015.

During the 2013-14 school year David suggested that TESIC develop an awards program for its members. The result is TESIC's Technology Innovators Spotlight, a monthly award that highlights the good work of TESIC's members.

David continues to be active in many curriculum areas and has been a presenter at numerous conferences. He is currently a member at large with TESIC as well as the Bay Roberts Branch of the NLTA. David writes and has published articles concerning education, professional development and technology integration. In the summer of 2014 David started his Doctors of Education at the University of Calgary. One of the focuses of his studies will be professional development and its impact on teachers' creation and implementation of technology-rich learning environments.

David currently teaches at Amalgamated Academy in Bay Roberts.

NINE INDIVIDUALS TO RECEIVE AWARDS AT THE NLTA CONVENTION (PAGE 4 OF 4)

THE SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

The Special Recognition Award was instituted in 1990 by Johnson Inc. to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. The award is presented annually to an active member of the NLTA who has made a major contribution to the cultural, social and/or community life of Newfoundland and Labrador.

John Adams of Landfall Branch is the 2014 Special Recognition Award winner.

John has been involved in his community on an ongoing basis for many years. He has been a Eucharistic Minister with Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in King's Cove since 1983, a member of the Parish Council from 1990-2000 and was Council Chairperson from 1993-99. He has designed and hand crafted Ambry Cabinets for Sts. Peter and Paul Church and St. Patrick's Parish in Plate Cove.

He has been involved extensively in the King's Cove and Area Fire Department since 1983. He was an executive member for the past 20 years, served as Assistant Fire Chief since 2004 and was Acting Chief numerous times. John was a member of the new fire hall building committee, part of the Igor Emergency Response Team, is a Basic Firefighting Instructor, and designed the Emergency Response Plan for the Town of King's Cove.

As part of the King's Cove playground restoration he worked relentlessly with the Town of King's Cove to replace and build a new playground after Hurricane Igor.

John received the Principal's Award of Excellence from the Eastern School District for 2010-11. His nomination stated that he was a champion of inclusion through dynamic scheduling that allowed for co-teaching collaboration and inclusion.

From 1987-91 John was Branch President of the Landfall Branch of the NLTA. He retired from teaching in June 2013 and currently resides in Bay Bulls.

Jordan Stringer of Deer Lake is recipient of the 2015 NLTA Special Recognition Award.

A teacher for over 10 years, Jordan began working with youth theatre during his teaching internship at Herdman Collegiate. In his first year teaching he and his students from Croque won the Regional Drama Festival and he has continued to lead groups of students in theatre and drama.

Jordan has been successful in developing a fully-funded, optimal theatre space for young performers at Elwood Regional High School. He not only continues to teach theatre in the classroom, but founded and continues to direct Elwood's Drama Club, well known as "No Stage Theatre".

Over the years Jordan has been involved with the Off-Broadway Players and the Corner Brook community theatre troupe. He volunteers with theatre festivals, directs theatrical productions, Christmas concerts, community special events, etc. He spends countless hours working with young thespians, be it in "marathon" rehearsals, helping them prepare auditions, creating short films, travelling to special events, or simply painting the theatre and washing cars to raise money to do it all over again.

Jordan is also a volunteer for the 2016 Canada Special Olympics in Corner Brook, founder and teacher sponsor for the Elwood Regional High School Gay-Straight Alliance/Safe Space "Safe Haven", has received numerous awards at various regional and provincial drama festivals.

Jordan demonstrates to young artists the dedication, passion and energy it takes to fully commit to a life involved in the performing arts. He aims to teach them discipline, a sense of self growth and awareness, as well as how to set realistic goals and expectations for themselves and how to strive for personal excellence, both on and off stage.

Jordan presently teaches at Elwood Regional High School in Deer Lake.

For further information contact:

Lesley-Ann Browne, NLTA Communications
682-3751 (cellular); labrowne@nlta.nl.ca
c/o The Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland, St. John's