



Newsletter

Retired Teachers' Association

Vol 15 No 2 • April 2005

President's Message and Executive Update

Gladys Costella

Greetings from your Provincial Executive! We hope that the early months of 2005 have brought health and happiness to you and yours, even if they haven't brought ideal weather conditions. Hopefully, by the time this reaches you, you will be basking in sunshine.

Although you have not received a Newsletter from us since the BGM, we have been very busy on your behalf. We held a brief Executive Meeting immediately following the close of the BGM and Reunion, and a second Meeting in St. John's on November 25-26 (with Division Presidents attending an afternoon session on the 25th, to express any concerns they might wish addressed and to receive information to take back to their Division members). On the evening of November 24, your Provincial Executive attended a "liaison" meeting with the NLTA Executive, after which we were guests of the NLTA at a social hour. Both the meeting and the social hour gave us a chance to get our message across as we exchanged ideas and information. We felt that there was a lot of support for our position on the Pension issue, as well as a growing respect for the way our Association is striving to improve benefits for all retired teachers in this Province.

At the November Executive Meeting, we also discussed the possibility of applying for a Grant under the newly reinstated **New Horizons Program for Seniors**, in response to the information which had been sent to us prior to the meeting. Since the deadline for receipt of application could not be met, we are hoping to apply when the second call comes out for applications (expected to be sometime in June). We are endeavouring to define a project that will be of benefit to our membership and will fall within the guidelines of the New Horizons Program.

At that meeting also, your Executive responded to an invitation from the *Honourable John Ottenheimer* by nominating your President to serve on the **Seniors Advisory Council** to be set up by Government. Some 200 invitations for nominees were sent out, but the Council was to be made up of only 12 persons. Our



RTANL Provincial Executive 2004-06

- (F) Treasurer Clayton Rice, President Gladys Costella, Vice-President Don Case, Secretary Emily Mullett
(B) Past President Bill Day, Members-at-Large: George Evans, Ada Hollett, Phil Patey, and Jim Dobson

nominee is not one of the 12, but I am pleased to note that two members of the Advisory Council are, in fact, retired teachers and members of this Association: *Graham Mercer* (Carbonear) and *Marina Simon* (Cape St. George).

On February 12, 2005, I represented our Association at the **Aging Issues Forum** hosted in St. John's by the Seniors' Resource Centre, through the Atlantic Seniors' Health Promotion Network with funding from Health Canada. The purpose of the project (which is ongoing into 2006) is to identify aging-related issues, and to facilitate a process to develop a structure that will unify seniors' voices to address health policy issues. The Forum gave the 42 participants the opportunity to: consider the **value** of coming together to influence public policy; exchange ideas; try to understand the differences that tend to separate the various organizations representing seniors; and increase participants' knowledge of current Government and Community institutions that affect seniors.

Further Forum meetings are to be called later in the year, possibly in late spring and again in the fall. The original Steering Committee for the Forum is to continue to develop materials to help in the formation of a seniors' coalition/network. Feedback from the

continued on page 3 ...

Provincial Executive 2004-06

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EDITING POLICY

Items accepted for publication reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily express RTANL policy or imply endorsement by RTANL. We reserve the right to edit material for publication.

Provincial Executive Standing Committees 2004-06

Table Officers.....President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Benefits.....Bill Day (Chairperson)
Jim Dobson & George Evans

Finance.....Clayton Rice (Chairperson)
Don Case, Jim Dobson, George Evans

Liaison.....President (Gladys)
Vice-President (Don)
(Treasurer Clayton is alternate)

Newsletter.....Pres. Gladys Costella (Editor)
Secretary Emily Mullett (Assistant Editor)
Treasurer Clayton Rice (Business Manager)

RTANL Biennial Award.....Don Case
(Chairperson)
Ada Hollett & Philip Patey

Reunion 2006.....President Gladys &
Vice-President Don (Co-Chairs)
Bill Day, Emily Mullett & Clayton Rice

Political Action

Provincial Executive as Steering Committee
Co-chaired by President and Vice-President.
Note: Representation from Divisions will continue.
See Political Action Report.

ACER/CART.....President Gladys (Director)
Vice-President Don (Alternate)



ADVERTISING POLICY

We accept ads to be printed in our Newsletter. However, we reserve the right to refuse all ads, or to edit them after consultation with the advertiser. The RTANL does not endorse or promote any product, service, or event presented in paid advertisements or in free public service announcements, unless so specified. Cost of ads will be determined by size and purpose. Please contact: Clayton Rice, 709-753-3920; email: clayton@warp.nfld.net; fax: 709-579-5099.

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NLTA Website

To receive information that may become available between Newsletters, please go to the NLTA website: www.nlta.nl.ca and click on RTANL. Please share any information with fellow RTANL members who do not have access to the Web. (Once again, we thank the NLTA for letting us avail of this website.)

Forum has been received and will be discussed at our next Provincial Executive Meeting. (Other retired teachers participating in the Forum were *Mary Holloway* and *Doreen Noseworthy* – President and Vice-President of Avalon East Division, and *Clayton Rice*, Provincial Treasurer.)

For an update on our Political Action activity since BGM 2004, please see the **Political Action Update** (page 4), as well as my letters to Premier Williams (February 8 and April 9, 2005) and Finance Minister Sullivan's response (February 22, 2005). Despite the continuing negative response from the Finance Minister, and the lack of response from the Premier himself, your Executive will press on. **But**, so must you, if we are to have any hope of a resolution.

I had a note recently from a member of our Association (who, by the way, does his share to pressure Government on our pension issue by writing letters, making submissions, etc.) asking me, "*What is the RTANL going to do (about the pension issue)?*" I hope I have answered that in the **Political Action Update**, but I will emphasize it here also: Your Provincial Executive, as Steering Committee for our Political Action, will continue to explore every appropriate avenue to the utmost of our ability – with the help of our individual members, for you are the RTANL. For something positive to happen, every member of our Association must want it badly enough to do his/her part to make Government understand just how important the pension increase issue is to every retired teacher in this Province. We must make the phones of our MHA's ring repeatedly. (Leave messages if you do not reach your particular MHA.) Keep the e-mails and letters flowing into the Government Building mailbox. (If you do not get a reply, e-mail or write again, just a short letter insisting on a response.) They are your elected representatives and, as such, they have an obligation to work for you; also, it is your right to hold them accountable for failing to live up to their promises.

We are considering the best approach to make through the media, and a decision on that will be made at our May 17-18/05, Executive Meeting in Grand Falls-Windsor. Ever the optimist, despite setbacks, I hope that the Premier will have responded to the April 9/05, letter by then, agreeing to meet with us to find a way to alleviate the untenable situation facing retired teachers. However, we are exploring all options that might possibly bring us closer to a resolution of the pension issue.

There are many other issues that impact on the welfare of our retired teachers – issues that have a more adverse effect because there has been no cost of living increase since January 1989. There is the increased cost

of health and other insurance, the higher cost of gas and oil, the ever-increasing cost of Government services (such as drivers' licences, car registration, etc.), the higher price of food and clothing – the list goes on, including everything needed for survival in our society. We have to lobby against those increases, at the same time that we are lobbying for a very necessary increase in pension benefits to offset the negative impact that inflation has had on our fixed pension income over the last 15 years.

And yet, we have to find time and effort to be concerned about issues such as the failure of our Federal Government to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Future of Canada's Healthcare; the scandal surrounding mishandling of millions of dollars of our Tax money; the increasing erosion of health and education services affecting the well-being of our seniors and the future of our children and grandchildren; the lack of adequate affordable long-term care – this list also goes on and on. As retired teachers in society, we can do only so much; however, if we each, as individuals, pick the issue where we feel we can have the most effect, then we will be doing our part.

On behalf of all members of our Association, I extend a special, warm **welcome to those recent retirees** who have joined RTANL. I encourage you all to participate in Division activities and to "get involved". You will be glad you did.

ADVANCE NOTICE

**Ninth Reunion of Retired Teachers
and RTANL BGM 2006
at Holiday Inn, St. John's, NL
October 3-5, 2006**

All activities (except Church Service) will take place at Holiday Inn. When booking your reservation, be sure to say you are attending the Retired Teachers' Reunion. **Registration forms will be included in the next mailout to Members.**

Political Action Update

Gladys Costella

1. At November 24-26/04, Executive Meeting, Provincial Executive decided to await results of Atlantic Accord Talks before deciding what form further political action might take re the pension issue.
2. After Premier's success with Accord, President Gladys wrote letter to Premier Williams (see Feb 8/05 letter).
3. There was no response from the Premier, but another negative response from the Finance Minister (see Feb 22/05).
4. Your President drafted another letter to the Premier, once again asking him to keep his promise (see April 9/05 letter).
5. Political Action has been reorganized, with Provincial Executive as Steering Committee, co-chaired by President Gladys and Vice-President Don.
6. Representation from Divisions will continue, and those who have agreed to serve thus far are as follows:
 - Tomi Cleal* (Seal Cove) & *Mary Holloway* (CBS)–Avalon East Division
 - Duncan Ford* (Bonavista)–Bonavista Division
 - Albert Dober* (Marystown) & *Lewis Payne* (Grand Bank)–Burin Division
 - Jim Warren* (Gander)–Central Division
 - Lenus Lawrence* (English Harbour West)–Coast of Bays Division
 - Harold Dawe* (Coley's Point South)–Con-Tri Division
 (Western Division replacements to be determined)
7. Last week in March, message was left on your President's answering machine from someone in the Office of NDP Leader Jack Harris, in response to receipt of copy of February 8/05 letter to Premier Williams: "Mr. Harris certainly supports the Retired Teachers' Association receiving increase in pension benefits, and he has been talking about that in Budget speeches." Message went on to say that something was being mailed to me, and that if I had any questions, I could call Mr. Harris' office at any time. *(It is interesting to note that there has been no response from the Leader of the Opposition.)*
8. Call to Mr. Harris' office on April 8/05, confirmed his support for us on the pension issue. The material being mailed to me is a copy of Mr. Harris' response to the Throne Speech and the Budget, noting in particular his remarks in connection with the fact that retired teachers were again ignored and that an increase in pension benefits is necessary. *(Note: Nothing received by April 21/05.)*
9. Division Presidents are being asked to try setting up Political Action Committees or Sub-Committees within their Divisions, to "brainstorm" re this issue and send any conclusions they reach to the Provincial Executive. Remember, we are all in this battle; the Association's position will be only as strong as its individual member is willing to be.
10. Individual letters or e-mails will carry much more weight than a form letter, no matter how many people sign and send in that same letter. (Remember our "letter blitz" of spring and summer 2002? The response was far from positive, although almost 2,500 letters were delivered to all Members of the House.)

At the end of this Update (in response to a request/suggestion at BGM 2004) are some suggested points, comments, etc., you may wish to use in your letter (to the Premier, with copies to the Finance Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the NDP Leader, and your MHA). Please use what you wish, rewording/adding as you see fit; the more you make the letter "yours", the better. A phone call to your MHA is also suggested: let him/her know that you expect help on this issue from your representative. *(Please feel free to write your own letter on this issue; the suggestions here are intended for those who have indicated that they would like some "guidelines" when writing to our Government to protest the lack of positive response on the pension issue.)*
11. Our next Provincial Executive Meeting will be held in Grand Falls-Windsor on May 17-18, 2005. We encourage each and every one of you to contact President Gladys, or some other Member of Provincial Executive *(all e-mail, phone, fax, and regular mail information is on page 2 of this Newsletter)* to relay any ideas re political action that you may wish us to consider at that time.
12. President Gladys is still awaiting an answer from message left at the Premier's Office in Corner Brook. She is trying to get a meeting with the Premier's Executive Assistant there before our May Executive Meeting.
13. On April 8/05, President Gladys spoke with someone in the Opposition Office and requested that our concerns be passed along to Peter Whittle, Director of Policy and Operations for the Official Opposition. The President expressed disappointment at not receiving any response from the Opposition Leader to the February 8/05, letter, and was assured that Mr. Whittle would be in touch as soon as possible. *(No word yet.)*
14. Between our Executive Meetings, we have been communicating with one another and with members of the Association in an effort to determine the most effective next steps.

Some Suggested Guidelines for Writing “Individual” Letters re the Pension Issue

We recommend that you send your letters to Premier Danny Williams, Finance Minister Loyola Sullivan, Opposition Leader Roger Grimes, NDP Leader Jack Harris, and your particular MHA. All letters can be sent to the same address: PO Box 8700, St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6.

Some possible wordings:

1. *As a retired teacher, I am extremely disappointed that, once again, there was no mention in the Budget of an increase in the pension benefits of retired teachers. I cannot understand how you, Mr. Premier, and your Government can continue to ignore the critical situation being faced by so many of your retired constituents.*

We have had absolutely no cost of living increase since January 1989, but the cost of everything has continued to escalate. Surely people who devoted their lives to teaching and caring for the children of this Province, at times under very trying circumstances and for a very low wage, deserve better.

I respectfully request, Premier Williams, that you respond to this letter and tell me what you are going to do about this problem, which is growing worse every day.

2. *I am a retired teacher, living on a fixed income without any cost of living increase since January 1989. I want you, Mr. Premier, to tell me, “How much longer do I have to endure this intolerable situation?”*

The Executive of our Retired Teachers' Association presented a Brief to the previous Government and to all MHAs on the need for increased pension benefits—nothing happened. Before your election to office, you promised, in writing, to try to do something to “at least partly offset the impact of inflation for low-income pensioners”. (Your letter was printed in our Newsletter so that all retired teachers might know of this positive response.) However, after you became Premier, things obviously changed, for there has been no attempt on your part, Mr. Premier, to do anything for us.

Please do for us what you asked Premier Minister Martin to do for this Province: “Keep your promise”. I was very proud to be a Newfoundlander when you were successful in the Atlantic Accord Talks. Make me proud again: in your response to this letter, tell me that you will find a way to arrange a cost of living increase for retired teachers.

3. *As a retired teacher myself, and on behalf of all my fellow retirees, I ask you to give us a cost of living increase on our pensions. I have been without any increase to make up for the constant increase in all the things I need to survive, since my retirement in [retirement year here], and there are some retired teachers who have been on an even lower fixed income than mine for a longer period than I have.*

Mr. Premier, you promised to do something about this situation. Was that just a pre-election promise that you had no intention of keeping? I do not want to believe that is the case, but what else can I, and all those other retired teachers who voted for you, think, after all this time with not even an attempt to come up with some relief for our pension situation?

There are retired teachers living on a pension income that is at, or, in some cases, below, the poverty level. They need your help right now.

I will be eagerly waiting for a positive reply to my letter.

Whether you use all or part of one of the above wordings, or write your own letter, it is important to identify yourself as a retired teacher, to remind the Premier that retired teachers are his Government's constituents, and to ask for a reply to your letter. Our elected representatives in Government should be willing to account for their action, or non-action.

I thank you all in advance for the letters you will write on behalf of yourself and all your fellow retirees. We are in this together, and everyone has to make an effort to help get a cost of living increase for all retired teachers.

We will keep you updated through Division Presidents, Division Political Action Representatives, and, where appropriate, the NLTA website RTANL link. (See page 2.)

ADDRESSES, ADDRESSES, ADDRESSES

It has come to our attention that we may not be receiving address updates from the Pensions Division in the future. This change is due to the New Privacy Legislation.

Please advise your Divisional President, and also the Provincial Treasurer, Clayton Rice (29 Diana Road, St. John's, NL, A1B 1H7), if you have a change of address.

When mail is returned to RTANL because of a change of address, the name is removed from the mailing list. We would really like to keep our mailing list up to date so that we do not have mail returned.

Your cooperation in this matter would be much appreciated.



93 Caribou Road
Corner Brook , NL
A2H 4X2

February 8 , 2005

Hon . Danny Williams
Premier of Newfoundland & Labrador
P. O. Box 8700
St . John's , NL A1B 4J6

Dear Premier Williams:

Please allow me, on behalf of the over 5,000 Members of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, to extend congratulations to you and your Government on the outcome of the latest round of talks related to the Atlantic Accord.

In your efforts to make the Prime Minister and the Federal Government understand the mathematics involved (**100% equals 100%!**), you have had our wholehearted support, and we join all our fellow Newfoundlanders and Labradorians in applauding your success. We feel sure that the positive out-come of this hard-fought battle with the Federal negotiators will translate into a new respect for this Province and its people, as your Government continues to negotiate on other issues that are of the utmost importance, not only to our way of life, but to our very survival.

At such a time, it would be remiss of me, as President of the RTANL, the Association whose mandate is to achieve improved benefits for the retired teachers of this Province, were I not to express the hope that the change in the economic picture of the Province will also bring a change in the economic picture for our retired teachers, who have had no increase in pension benefits since January, 1989.

We respectfully request that the case we presented to you and your Government be reconsidered, and that you make an effort to fulfill your written promise (in your letter of October 16, 2003) that, if elected, your Government would discuss with us "some form of retroactive indexation to partly offset the impact of inflation for low-income pensioners or for pensioners aged sixty-five or older" and "to work out a process for further discussions on this matter". Those older retired teachers who are living at or below the poverty level are facing a situation that becomes more critical every day, as costs continue to escalate and the value of their dollar continues to decline. They need your help now.

Again, our sincere congratulations on a victory over which, as constituents of this Province, we can all rejoice, even as we express the hope that our retired teachers get to share in the benefits of that victory through some tangible increase in their pension benefits.

We shall be eagerly awaiting your response.

Yours sincerely,

Gladys M. Costella , President

cc: Minister of Finance
Leader of the Opposition
Leader of the NDP



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Department of Finance
Office of the Minister

February 22, 2005

Ms. Gladys M. Costella, President
Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland
and Labrador
93 Caribou Road
Corner Brook, NL
A2H 4X2

Dear Ms. Costella

I am responding to your letter of February 8, 2005 to Premier Williams concerning pension increases for retired teachers. As the Minister responsible for pensions, your letter was forwarded to me for reply.

As indicated during our previous discussions on this issue, the Teachers' Pension Plan is less than 30% funded and Government's primary focus is to ensure that funds are available to meet teacher pension payments as they become due. While the funds generated by the modifications to the Atlantic Accord will ease some of Government's fiscal pressures over the medium term, Government must continue to maintain overall financial discipline. Government, in the past, has taken measures to address the long term viability of the TPP and any increase in the benefits payable from the plan will only compromise these efforts to stabilize the TPP on a long term basis.

Consequently, I am not prepared to recommend to my colleagues that they should provide for "ad hoc" increases in Teachers' pensions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Loyola Sullivan".

LOYOLA SULLIVAN, MHA
Ferryland District
Minister of Finance

cc. Premier Danny Williams



93 Caribou Road
Corner Brook, NL
A2H 4X2

April 9, 2005

Hon. Danny Williams
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
PO Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Premier Williams:

It was with extreme disappointment that I read the letter of February 22, 2005, from Finance Minister Loyola Sullivan in response to my letter of February 8, 2005, to you, Mr. Premier.

My letter, first of all, conveyed to you, Mr. Premier, on behalf of the over 5,000 members of the Retired Teachers' Association, our sincere congratulations on your success in the Atlantic Accord Talks. Secondly, I expressed the hope that "the change in the economic picture for the Province" might translate into "a change in the economic picture for our retired teachers".

Finally, I respectfully requested that you, Mr. Premier, make an effort to fulfill your written promise to us (October 16, 2003) to discuss with us "some form of retroactive indexation to partly offset the impact of inflation for low-income pensioners or for pensioners aged sixty-five or older" and "to work out a process for further discussions".

We are particularly worried about those older retired teachers who are living at, and even below, the poverty level. We ask you, Mr. Premier, to intervene, at least on behalf of the approximately 300 retired teachers whose situation becomes more critical every day. They cannot wait until some distant future; without help in the present, they may have no future. (Mr. Sullivan told us last year that no increase is possible before 2040!)

Once again, I ask you, Mr. Premier, to address this situation personally. You have told us that Prime Minister Martin did not keep his promise to this Province. Please show us that you, our Premier, can be relied upon to keep yours.

On behalf of all our retired teachers, your constituents, I respectfully request, Mr. Premier, that you respond to this letter, and that you agree to meet with us to discuss a solution to the critical situation facing our retired teachers.

Yours sincerely,

Gladys M. Costella
RTANL President

NEWS & VIEWS

Divisions/Regionals

Avalon East Division

Mary Holloway (834-8377)

Have you thawed out yet from the long, cold winter? No? Well, let me bring you WARM wishes from the members of the Avalon East Division!

Our Division seems to be growing in leaps and bounds. As of November, we have 1,924 members. Our retired teachers are a very active group, so we try to provide activities that appeal to a wide variety of ages and interests. We had planned a hike along the East Coast Trail for the first day of fall, but we unfortunately got rained out. Given the interest in this event, we will try again at a later date.

In early October, three of our Executive, along with many others from our Division, went to Gander for BGM 2004. We had a great time and want to congratulate the Reunion 2004 Committee for their organization of this event, and Central Division for their Committee's smooth handling of the Registration. Congratulations, also, to those who were re-elected/elected to the RTANL Provincial Executive for 2004-06. Avalon East was delighted to learn that BGM 2006 will be held in St. John's. We encourage you all to make plans to attend and enjoy some east coast hospitality.



Avalon East - Octoberfest 2004

Now we know how sardines feel!

Our Octoberfest luncheon on October 25th was held at the Clovelly Golf Club. We were bursting at the seams with 292 members in attendance. Peter Halley and Shelley Neville of "Spirit of Newfoundland" provided the entertainment. Gerry Colbert of the School Lunch Program accepted our annual \$2,000 donation to that worthy cause.



Avalon East - Christmas 2004

Cousins, Rosemary Burke & Marilyn Howard chat with NLTA President, Fred Douglas

The new Capital Hotel was the site of our Christmas get-together on December 8th. 234 members came to hear Don Ash of NLTA give a presentation on Post 65 benefits for retired teachers. He also explained the integration of pensions with the Canada Pension Plan for those who retired after 1998. Michael Goodridge, a senior Group Insurance Consultant with Johnson Insurance, did a session on the new Long Term Care Insurance Plan. Then we got to the fun stuff! We ate and chatted, chatted and ate, and then chatted some more. With everyone in Christmas vests, ties, and sweaters, it was a very festive and enjoyable event. We were delighted that our Provincial President, *Gladys Costella*, was able to attend and bring greetings. NLTA President *Fred Douglas* and Executive Director *Ed Hancock* managed to drop by at the end of their workday to mingle with the "young crowd".

Our annual Fun Day was held March 1, 2004, at the St. John's Curling Club. 139 of our retirees came out to curl, play cards or board games, and generally enjoy themselves. Everyone got the chance to win a prize in one of our 61 draws, and member *Bill Abraham* won the Door Prize, a \$50 gift certificate from the Capitol Hotel. Special thanks to *Pat Ryan*, one of our gifted artists, who once again donated a print for some lucky member to win. This time that lucky winner was member *Beverley Gardner*. Over lunch – always a major feature of our day – members got the chance to renew acquaintances and catch up on one another's lives. We're all looking forward to the next "fun" day!

We have already made plans for our year-end Dinner and Dance, which will be held on Friday, May 27, 2005, at the Capital Hotel. *Cheri and Sean Carroll* will entertain us, and retired teacher *Bob Smart* will provide the taped music for our dancing. It should be another great time!

Before closing, I would be very remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank *Anne Pennell* for her many



Avalon East - Christmas 2004

Kezia Locke and Ellaline Smith cuddle up to Santa



Avalon East - Christmas 2004

Provincial President Gladys hopes to win a prize!



Avalon East - Christmas 2004

Donna Shugarue mans the prize table



years of dedicated work and service to Avalon East Division. Anne has completed six years on executive – two of which she served as president – and devoted much time and energy on our behalf. Anne, the tireless worker, was elected as treasurer to the Retired Teachers' Foundation in October. Good luck and thank you, Anne!

From all of us at Avalon East, to all of you across the island and Labrador, continued best wishes for a great year in 2005!

Bonavista Division

John Snow (468-7737)

Our first meeting for the 2004-05 year was held on November 5th at King's Cove. This was a business meeting at which items of interest were discussed and decisions made; also, a report of BGM 2004 was given. Following the meeting, we were treated to a delicious roast beef dinner, served by the Knights of Columbus.

Our Christmas Party was also held at King's Cove, where we were again catered to by the Knights of Columbus. During the Banquet, tickets were drawn and prizes were given to the lucky winners. We are grateful to Division Members *Clarence Dewling* and *Duncan Ford* for wine and preserves that they donated for prizes. Following the dinner, we were entertained with Christmas music.

On February 24th, we met at the Seaport Inn in Port Union. Our guest was *Mrs. Mollie Gallagher*, Manager of the Coastal Credit Union in Catalina. She spoke to us about Income Tax and services offered by Coastal Credit. A good discussion followed. After the meeting, we had lunch at the Inn's Restaurant.

Best wishes to all from Bonavista Division.

Burin Division

Ada Hollett (832-2921)

Greetings to everyone from Burin Division. We hope that 2005 will be a healthy and happy year for all of you.

Our September 28/04, meeting was held at Jamieson Academy in Salt Pond. We were pleased to have *Mr. Don Holloway*, Provincial President of the Pensioners and Senior Citizens Organization, as our guest speaker. Other business included information on ACER-CART, and a discussion of the changes to the Post 65 Life Insurance program and the Long-Term Care package. It was decided to invite someone from the NLTA to speak on those two Insurance issues at our next meeting.

We were finally successful in forming a Benefits Committee for our Division. After the meeting, our members socialized over coffee/tea and sandwiches.

The last meeting of Burin Division for 2004 was the Christmas luncheon held at Wong's Palace Restaurant in Marystown on November 30, 2004, with 56 members present. The meeting opened with our usual welcome and prayer, followed by a minute of silence for deceased member *Sister Cecilia Lambe*.

We welcomed two invited guests, NLTA President *Fred Douglas* and Executive Director *Ed Hancock*. After our luncheon of Chinese food, President Fred spoke about his early involvement with local NLTA Branches. He also gave a message of motivation to retired teachers, reminding them of their role as lobbyists and as community leaders.

Mr. Hancock spoke about changes to the Post 65 Paid-up Life Insurance, the Group Insurance Plan, and the Long-Term Care Plan. He gave a detailed presentation followed by a question and answer session.

We presented both guest speakers with a copy of Tales Told by Teachers, Vol. I, to show our appreciation.

Copies of Tales Told by Teachers, Vol. I, were also purchased by some members, making a total of 40 books sold by Burin Division. A special thank-you to everyone who has bought a copy of the book.

Our regular business was deferred until the next meeting. With the draw of Christmas prizes by *Sarah Edwards* and *Susie Grandy*, our meeting adjourned.

We continue to send sympathy, get-well, and 50th wedding anniversary cards to members of our Division. (We encourage our members to keep us informed.)

Our last meeting of 2004-05 was held in April. Our end-of-year banquet will take place on May 31, 2005. We rotate the location for our luncheons and banquets; this year we are planning to have the end-of-year banquet in the Lamaline area. As usual, we extend a special welcome to all new members.

Central Division

Philip Patey (535-2569)

Our 2004-05 year got off to a fine start with our Annual General Meeting in September. After a focus session on Long Term Health Care in the afternoon, we elected our Executive. Our new President is *Philip Patey*; our new Vice-President, *Tom Kendell*; our new Secretary, *Jim Warren*; our new Treasurer, *Malba Butt*. Our new Gander Representative is *Don Carter*. *Jim Dobson*, who is now our Past President, assumed the role of Editor of the Books of Remembrance. We acknowledge the excellent leadership of the outgoing Executive over the past several years.

The October 2004 RTANL Biennial General Meeting held in Gander gave us an opportunity to assist at the Registration Desk, and many of our members attended the sessions and social events of this Eighth BGM and Reunion.

The Central Division Executive held its first Executive Meeting in Clarendville in October. It was a time for those new to Division procedures and practices to become acquainted with their new offices. In the afternoon there was an Open House for retired teachers in that part of our Division to come and meet the new Executive.

The President represented retired teachers at the NLTA Pre-Retirement Seminars in Gander and Grand Falls-Windsor in October. He spoke about the kinds of activities we do in Central Division.

The Annual Sale and Auction was bumped by weather from its scheduled date to November 23/04. This change may have affected the attendance, but it did not diminish the interest in and support for the purpose of the event; namely, our contribution to the Retired Teachers Foundation and its program of donations on behalf of children's health. We acknowledge the contribution of everyone, especially that of *Peter Hall* and other retired teachers in the New-West-Valley area.

The Division Executive met on March 22/05, and made arrangements for the next three meetings. On Friday, April 15th, there was a luncheon meeting at Hotel Gander. The meeting began, as usual, at 11:00 a.m., with lunch being served at noon, and any remaining business being dealt with after lunch.

On May 18th, our luncheon meeting will be held in Grand Falls-Windsor, at the Mount Peyton Hotel. Again, we will start the business part of our meeting at 11:00 a.m. The RTANL Provincial Executive Members, who will be meeting in Grand Falls-Windsor on May 17-18/05, will join us for this luncheon meeting, and we have asked President Gladys to address our members. This occasion will give our members a good opportunity to mingle with the Executive and to express any concerns they may wish to have addressed.

Our Annual Banquet and Dance will take place on Wednesday, June 8th, at Hotel Gander, beginning with the Banquet at 6:30 p.m., followed by entertainment and dancing. We are hoping for the usual large turnout at this final event of the 2004-05 year for our Division.

From all of us in Central, have a great summer, everyone!

Coast of Bays Division

Patrick Pittman (538-3719)

Greetings from the Coast of Bays! Our Division has had one meeting since the last Newsletter report. This meeting was held on November 22/04, at 11:30 a.m., at the Chung King Restaurant in St. Alban's, with 17 members in attendance. The main purpose of the meeting was to elect an Executive for 2004-06. The following were elected: President – *Patrick Pittman*; Treasurer – *Clarence Sutton* (re-elected); Secretary – *Susan Dunphy*.

Thanks were expressed to outgoing President *Edith Organ* and Secretary *Margaret Willcott* for the excellent job they did while serving on the Coast of Bays Division Executive. Our meeting was followed by a buffet luncheon at the Chung King Restaurant.

Members of this Division wish all members of the Association a long and warm summer.

Con-Tri Division

Joyce Roberts (786-1307)

Con-Tri Division, representing approximately 500 retired teachers, is enjoying another successful year. At our Annual Meeting in October, the following were elected: President – *Joyce Roberts*; Vice-President – *Eldred Warren*; Secretary – *Jennifer Babb*; and Treasurer – *Jim Reid*.

At the RTANL Biennial General Meeting in October 2004, Con-Tri member *Don Case* was re-elected as Provincial Vice-President. Our Division was well represented at the Reunion, and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to gather with friends and discuss common concerns.

Con-Tri continues to be very involved in the community. At our Christmas Banquet, Academic scholarships for 2004 were awarded to *Rebecca Sheppard* of Ascension Collegiate and *Samantha Woodrow* of Baccalieu Collegiate. We continue to support the Kiwanis Music Festival, and this year, on behalf of our members, we donated \$1,000.00 toward the Dialysis Unit at the Carbonear Hospital. Our division also supports the Retired Teachers' Foundation by having a "Loonie" collection at our special events and by making In Memoriam contributions in the name of deceased members.

Spring events began with our luncheon meeting at Fong's restaurant on March 30th. Another luncheon meeting at Fong's is also planned for May 4th. Then comes our Spring Banquet, which is scheduled for May 31/05, at the Lion's Club in Carbonear. We expect another full house at our Banquet.

Con-Tri Executive thanks Division members for their continued involvement and support. Our Division extends best wishes to all members of our Retired Teachers' Association.

Western Division

Lily Critch (639-7212)

Greetings from your fellow retirees in Western Division! We are now well into 2005, and I sincerely hope that it is a happy year for all of you.

In June 2004, we made our Annual Donation of \$200.00 to the School Breakfast Program; this year it went to the Cow Head School Complex. We also gave a donation of \$800.00 to the Western Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Our Annual Meeting, which was well attended, was held in September. The following Officers and Committee Chairs were elected/re-elected for 2004-05: President – *Lily Critch*; Vice-President – *Geraldine Wall*; Secretary – *Elizabeth Thomey*; Treasurer – *Roberta Pafford*; Communications Officer – *Emily Mullett*; Phoning – *Selina Pieroway*; Sick-Visiting – *Agnes Hughes*; Newsletter – *John Murphy*; Membership – *Gladys Costella*.

Geraldine Wall, who had been our Division President for the past six years, resigned from that position. She did a fantastic job as President, and we were sorry to see her step down. Fortunately for us, she remains on our Executive, and I will rely on her advice and assistance.

At an Executive Meeting, we decided to make a donation to the children of Hopedale, since they had lost so much because of the fire in their school. Subsequently, we sent a cheque for \$500.00 to the Amos Comenius School – \$200.00 of which is our annual donation (for



Western - Telethon 2004

Western Division members collecting pledges at Rogers Cable after Telethon 2004. (L-R) Gladys Costella, Lil Critch, Emily Mullett

2004-05) to the School Breakfast Program, while the extra \$300.00 is to be used at the discretion of the Principal.

Several Members of our Division attended the Eighth BGM & Reunion of our Association in Gander in October 2004. Everyone seemed to enjoy the gathering. The meetings were interesting and informative, and the socials were superb. At the Annual Meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation, held during one session of the BGM, I presented Foundation Chairperson *Anita Finn* with a cheque for \$500.00, Western Division's Annual Donation to the Foundation. *Geraldine Wall* was re-elected to the Foundation's Board of Directors.

Prior to Christmas, we attempted to contact all of our Members who are sick and shut-in at home or in an institution, and also those who reside in Seniors' Homes. Several of our Members visited them and brought gifts of fruit or flowers. Those visits were very much appreciated, and we received favourable feedback for our efforts. I thank everyone who helped out in this worthwhile endeavour.

Our Christmas Social was another successful event. Eighty-six people attended, a number that was great for such a blustery day and evening. Bennett Hall provided a delicious roast beef dinner, which was followed by dancing, with lots of prizes! Also, member *Winnie Guy* once again donated a Christmas Wreath as a means of

raising money for our Annual Christmas Donation to the Foundation. It was a great evening and a good time was had by all.

Western Division continues to circulate two Newsletters a year. Dr. John Murphy and his Committee have taken on this project. Because our Division is so large, physically, we find that this is the most effective method of keeping in contact with all of our Members.

There is usually a lull in our activities during January and February; however, we always look forward to seeing our Members come out to our Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon Meeting. This event, which marks our unofficial end to winter and a prelude to spring, was thoroughly enjoyed by the approximately 30 people who attended on March 17/05.

On May 7/05, Western Division will hold its spring social, with a dinner, entertainment, and dancing. We are anticipating the usual large turnout for this annual event.

Labrador West Regional

Marcheta Gallant (944-5778)

Greetings from the retired teachers of Labrador West! At our October meeting, the following were elected to our Regional Executive for 2004-05: President – *Brendan Connolly*; Vice-President – *Marcheta Gallant*; Secretary-Treasurer – *Elva Areny*; Communications/Social – *Jean Kelly & Angela Saville*; Pastoral Care – *Rosemarie Murphy*.

We continue to meet once a month, on the first Thursday, alternating this year between a breakfast and a luncheon meeting. We usually bring food items for the Food Bank, and in December we plan to donate toiletries and personal items to the local Women's Shelter. We also distribute our own Regional Newsletter each month. This is still being compiled by *Paul McLean*, a former member of this Regional now living in Paradise, NL. We all thoroughly enjoy reading the latest news on our fellow retirees.

Some of our retired teachers are also busy doing volunteer work in the area's schools, as well as at the various churches. In June 2004, a group of our retirees painted the corridor of the Heritage Wing of Smallwood Collegiate Middle School in Wabush. This wing will house memorabilia from the Labrador West schools that are now closed.

Kay Whelan, who was President of this Regional for several years, is no longer residing in Labrador West. She and her husband have moved to Nova Scotia to be closer to their daughter and grand-children. We are very thankful to her for her years of service, and we shall miss her. However, we know that she will keep in touch with us and will be back to visit whenever she can. We wish her well and look forward to her visits.

Labrador West



Labrador West Regional retired teachers painting the Heritage Wing Corridor at JRS Middle School, Wabush

(Note: In the new year, *Brendan Connolly* took up a teaching position in Pangnirtung, Nunavut; *Marcheta Gallant* was then elected President, *Marg Rumbolt* became Vice-President, and *Jo Keeping* again accepted the position of Liaison to the NLTA Labrador West Branch.)

Port aux Basques Regional

Randy Smith (695-3859)

This Regional of Western Division, which encompasses communities from Codroy to Port Aux Basques and area, met in mid-November 2004 for a soup-and-sandwich lunch at Cabot Masonic Lodge in Channel. The 36 members in attendance decided not to elect our Executive for 2004-05 at that time, but to put it off until the spring. We had a discussion around the aims and purposes of the RTANL, and made plans to get together for a few lunch-time casual meetings in the new year. All those in attendance enjoyed the meal and the opportunity to see old friends and former colleagues.

Our spring meeting and election will also feature entertainment, as well as a pot-luck meal. As is our usual custom, the proceeds will be donated to a charity in the area.

REUNION

The BGM — Our Biennial General Meeting (A Summary)

Gladys Costella

Mayor *Claude Elliott* brought Greetings from the town of Gander and wished us all a successful BGM and Reunion.

The Treasurer's audited Financial Statement and the President's Executive Report to BGM 2004 are printed in this Newsletter for the information of those members of our Association who could not be present at the BGM. The Minutes of BGM 2004 will be presented for adoption at BGM 2006. (See the ***Advance Notice for BGM and Reunion 2006*** in this Newsletter.)

All members of Provincial Executive 2002-04 who ran for office were re-elected to the 2004-06 Executive. One new member, *Jim Dobson* (Central) was elected to replace outgoing member *Tomi Cleal*, who chose not to run for a second term. We thank Tomi for her two years of service on Provincial Executive (and also for agreeing to continue to serve on the Political Action Committee), and we welcome Jim (who has also been on PAC for the past two years).

Information on Auto Insurance Reform was given to the membership by Johnson Inc. representative *Sharon Hedd*, who assured us that Johnson Inc. will stay with present customers, will accept new members, and **will not withdraw from auto insurance in this Province.**

NLTA Executive Director *Ed Hancock* explained the situation with the Post-75 Paid-Up Life Insurance and answered questions from members (see *Article in this Newsletter*).

Doug Munn and *Michael Goodridge*, both representatives from Johnson Inc., gave details about the Long-Term Care Plan being offered by Johnson Inc. at the request of NLTA (see *Article in this Newsletter*).

After the Retired Teachers' Foundation held its AGM (see ***RTF Report*** elsewhere in this Newsletter), Vice-President Don Case, Chairperson of the Biennial Awards Committee, presented the Award for 2002-04 to *Anita Finn*, thanking her for her long and dedicated service to RTANL at both the Division and Provincial levels, and on the Retired Teachers' Foundation. President Gladys congratulated Anita on winning the Award, adding her appreciation on behalf of the Association. Those present gave Anita a well deserved standing ovation.

President Gladys expressed special thanks to all who had helped in any way to make the BGM and Reunion a success (Please see the *Special Thanks* section



RTANL Biennial Award Winner 2002-04

President Gladys and Awards Committee Chairman Don Case present Award Winner Anita Finn with a plaque



BGM 2004

Provincial Executive Members preparing items for BGM 2004



Members discussing issues at BGM 2004

of the ***President's Executive Report to BGM 2004*** for details), and expressed the hope that everyone would come together for Reunion 2006 in St. John's.

President's Executive Report to BGM 2004

Gladys Costella

This Report will attempt to give you a broad overview of Provincial Executive activities during 2002-04, touch on some highlights of our term of office, and make some recommendations for the future.

Executive Meetings (8) and Teleconferences (2):

2002: October 2nd (Gander); November 14-15th (St. John's), with Division Presidents' Session on November 15th.

2003: March 13-14th (St. John's); April 25th (Teleconference); June 12-13th (Gander); September 26-27th (Marystown); November 26-27th (Gander).

2004: February 17th (Teleconference); May 27-29th (Corner Brook); October 4th (Gander).

Note: Teleconferences originated from NLTA Board Room

Visits to Divisions:

Executive managed to attend Division Social Functions in Central (June 11/03), Burin (September 27/03), and Western (May 29/04). President Gladys had the opportunity to take in events in Con-Tri (accompanied by Past President Bill and Treasurer Clayton) and Avalon East, as well as her home Division of Western, while Member-at-Large Philip Patey made two visits to Coast-of-Bays. It is very important for Provincial Executive to interact with the membership at the Division level.

Newsletters Published:

Regular Newsletters were published in January/03, November/03, and September/04; *Summer News Flyers* were mailed out in August/03 and August /04. Our aim is to have improved two-way communication, and members have been encouraged to write Letters to the Editor, and to phone or e-mail suggestions and information. Our communications also appear on the RTANL link of the NLTA website.

Membership:

We now have a **Membership of 5,024**. The continuing increase in Membership bodes well for the success of our Association, but means an increased workload at both the Provincial and Division level. On your behalf, I thank all those who have given so generously of their time and effort over the past two years.

Benefits on the Card:

Members report that use of the Membership Card is paying off financially. The Benefits Committee

continues to pursue every possible avenue to secure discounts and other benefits for our members. We have also encouraged each Division to have its own Benefits Committee to seek benefits at the local level.

Biennial Award for Service:

Revised guidelines for this RTANL Award were sent to each Division along with the Nomination Forms. Four nominations were received, and the recipient chosen by the Awards Selection Committee will receive the Award at this BGM.

Financial Policy:

A Finance Committee, set up at the beginning of our term of office, has been busy developing a Financial Policy for RTANL. The recommendations made by the Committee thus far have been ratified by Executive, and we are well on the way to having a sound Financial Policy. (This also includes an advertising Policy for the Newsletter and any other publications.)

Liaison with NLTA:

NLTA-RTANL Liaison Committee meetings have been held twice during 2002-04, and the Executive also attended a "Meet-and-Greet" as guests of the NLTA Executive. Lines of communication are kept open by phone, also. NLTA continues to support our Association by encouraging retirees to become Members of RTANL, and the Division Presidents are invited to participate at Pre-Retirement Seminars. This year, a copy of our current Newsletter will be passed out to each teacher at the Seminars.

NLTA Health Insurance Trustees:

We continue to have a member of Executive representing our Association on the NLTA Health Insurance Board of Trustees to address our concerns and keep us informed of any proposed changes, etc.

Political Action:

All efforts have resulted in only one response: **NO**. Our "letter blitz", our Brief, the Resolution and Petition from BGM 2002, our meetings with two Finance Ministers, our letters and phone calls to two Premiers, the pre-election promises, the Press Releases, etc.—they all seem to have been exercises in futility. However, we are **not** giving up; with your help, we will come up with new strategies. Increases to pension benefits are absolutely necessary ... **now**.

Retired Teachers' Foundation:

Our Association is proud to be sponsoring the Retired Teachers' Foundation. On your behalf, the Executive extends thanks to the seven retired teachers who serve

as the Foundation's Board of Directors and give so unselfishly of their time and effort. We are also grateful to all who have donated so generously to the Foundation.

ACER-CART:

We have made progress at ACER-CART, and we feel that continued membership in this national organization of retired teachers is essential if we are to be part of a strong lobbying force on matters that affect us as seniors in the Canadian society. Also, ACER-CART and its member organizations from other provinces have become increasingly supportive of our struggle to improve the pension benefits of this Province's retired teachers.

Tales Told by Teachers:

The long-awaited second printing of Volume I can be purchased at this BGM, and many people have already pre-ordered their copies. Also, Volume II will be published before the next BGM, **if** enough members send in their "tales"; we still need more of you to share your memories. (*See the September 2004 Newsletter for details.*)

Recommendations for 2004-06:

1. Continued Political Action, particularly on an individual basis: we urge all retired teachers to write their Member in the House of Assembly, the Finance Minister, and the Premier to express your dissatisfaction over the negative response to our request for an increase to pension benefits.
2. Increased communication **from** the members to the Provincial Executive: your comments, suggestions, and criticisms will make it easier for your executive to respond to your concerns.
3. Drafting and publication of a Retired Teachers' Association Handbook: all Members of the Association should have a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws, Policies, Regulations, Committee Structure, a brief History of the Association, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Retired Teachers' Foundation and its History, along with information about our relationship with NLTA, ACER-CART, Retired Teachers' Associations in other provinces, other Seniors' Organizations, and a list of Benefits and Services available to us as members of RTANL and as retirees/seniors — readily accessible in one such Handbook.

Special Thanks:

We thank all Division and Regional Presidents; all those who have served on Division and Regional Executives and Committees; the Chairperson and Members of the Board of Directors of the Retired Teachers' Foundation; members of our Political Action Committee, our Nominating Committee for this BGM, and our Biennial Award Selection Committee; NLTA Office and Printing Services Staff for their cooperation and support; our friends at Johnson Insurance for helping to sponsor this Reunion; and, also, all of **you**, who have come to this BGM and Reunion to share your ideas and friendship with us and with one another.

Finally, on behalf of the 5,024 members of our Association, I thank the members of the 2002-04 Provincial Executive for their hard work, dedication, patience, and support over the past two years.

Thank
You



Enjoying the first evening meal at Reunion 2004



Western - At the Buffet, Reunion 2004

Western Division President Lil Critch and Newsletter Committee Member Jane Murphy in the forefront.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

September 2000-August 2002 AND September 2002-August 2004

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	<u>Sept-Aug 2000-02</u>	<u>Sept-Aug 2002-04</u>	<u>Budget 2004-06</u>
Advertising	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,263.35	\$ 1,200.00
Craft Sale	408.75	—	—
Donation from Johnson	135.86	829.21	—
Donation from Divisions	—	250.00	—
Fees from Divisions	92.11	366.25	—
Interest	142.07	126.47	—
NLTA Operational Grant for RTF	2,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
NLTA - ASA Credit	—	26,525.34	20,000.00
Payroll Deductions	82,813.84	145,095.06	180,000.00
Registration Fees (02)	9,646.00	2,461.00	—
Registration Fees (04)	—	5,760.00	—
Sale of Membership cards	814.80	—	—
TOTAL	\$ 96,653.43	\$186,676.68	\$205,200.00
 <u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>			
Advertising	—	\$ 1,717.55	—
Audit	\$ 149.50	230.00	230.00
Benefits Committee	2,162.84	257.64	2,500.00
CART Fees	600.00	1,247.20	1,000.00
CART Expenses	4,570.45	3,740.15	3,500.00
Executive Meetings	22,364.06	30 257.07	30,000.00
Committee's	553.71	675.75	1,000.00
Membership Cards	460.00	171.93	—
Paper/Cards/Office Supplies	638.61	1,113.84	1,200.00
Payments to Divisions	49,116.00	80,083.17	90,000.00
Photocopying/Printing/Postage	5,225.76	23,129.44	25,000.00
Miscellaneous	—	168.13	300.00
Political Action	308.28	1,744.06	2,000.00
President/Vice-President	643.97	1,310.56	1,500.00
Refund of Registration Fees	1,330.00	640.00	—
Reunion '00 - 02	12,360.63	12,360.63	12,159.29 ('02)
Reunion '04	—	164.36	3,000.00
RTF (Expenses)	1,855.68	1,856.54	2,000.00
RTF (Donation & Craft Sale)	1,233.75	1,000.00	250.00
Service Charge	209.66	186.80	250.00
Telephone	433.21	621.04	600.00
Visits to Divisions	—	344.88	—
TOTAL	\$104,216.11	\$162,819.40	\$164,330.00

Homily Delivered by Father Al Caga at Reunion 2004 Church Service

My Dear Friends :

Here you are, a group of retired teachers in assorted sizes, weights, and colours. No doubt you have various interests, hobbies, religions, and beliefs. I am sure, however, that you all shared one creed, that you all worked to help each child you taught to reach the highest possible degree of personal development.

"Your reward shall be great in Heaven!!"

I remember a story of a boy on his first day in school – crying loudly! Finally, the teacher came down to him and said, "Juan, what is wrong?" Through his tears, the boy said, "Well, Miss, I don't care much for school, and I know I have to stay with it until I'm sixteen!!"

"Don't let that worry you," said the teacher. "I have to stick with it until I'm sixty-five!!"

You have all, no doubt, reached that glorious time when you can say, "For the last thirty or forty years, I've been a spark plug rather than a fuel pipe. I did more than impart knowledge to the people I taught. I awakened their interest in it so that they would be eager to pursue it for themselves." Congratulations! You have done a good job. You did more than merely "stick with it until you were 'retirement age'".

You know better than anyone that a teacher needs: *the education of a college president, the hope of an optimist, the courage of a hero, the gentleness of a dove, the patience of Job, and the grace of God.*

In the gospel just proclaimed, Jesus possessed all those virtues. What a display of courage, gentleness, patience, and grace! The authorities certainly were not out to support him, but Jesus was doing what he was sent to do for God's children, and he forged ahead, fully aware of the consequences.

I'm sure there were times when you, like the Lord, had to be courageous and aware of the harm that could come to the children in your care if you didn't stand up for the truth. I am sure there are people in our midst today who are contributing greatly to our society because of your care, concern, and generosity.

Keep up the good work; keep your batteries charged. Enjoy a well deserved retirement, and may God bless each of you with His choicest blessings.

(Note: Father Al's words were so inspiring that we wanted to share them with those members of our Association who were not at Reunion 2004. The Church Service continues to be a major highlight of our Reunions.)

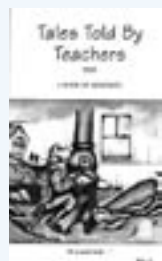
Tales Told by Teachers Vol I

**Feeling homesick for Newfoundland?
Here's the answer!**

**Need a great gift idea (birthday,
Christmas, retirement)? This is it!**

And what a bargain: **only \$12.95!**

(plus postage where applicable)



Published by the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1998, the first printing of 2,000 copies sold out in just over three months.

Contains 131 stories, poems, amusing anecdotes – recalled by 98 retired teachers: "tales out of school" to make you laugh or cry – nostalgia at its best!

Order by phone, e-mail, post, or fax from: Gladys Costella, Emily Mullett, or Clayton Rice (see page 2 for contact information).

RTANL, 3 Kenmount Road, St. John's, NL, A1B 1W1

Need for Updated Addresses

Members should notify RTANL (Gladys, Clayton or Emily) or their Division President of any change of address. We have had many Newsletters come back marked "Moved", with no new address provided. Also, if you hear of any member not receiving newsletters, please let us know, so that all members can be kept informed on RTANL activities and benefits.

Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation Report

Anita Finn, Chairperson, RTF Board of Directors

The Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers was held on October 7, 2004, at Hotel Gander, Gander, NL.

A brief History of the Foundation was given for newly retired teachers in attendance. Members were informed that two of the three books of "Remembrance" were completed, and that the new Memorabilia was completed to date.

From 1987 to 2004, a total of \$54,850.00 had been donated to Children's Charities. The recipients for 2004 donations were:

The Janeway Hospital Foundation	\$3,000.00
The Shriners' Transportation Fund (Corner Brook).....	\$3,000.00
The Candlelighters' Association of NL.....	\$1,500.00
The Diabetes Association Children's Services.....	\$1,500.00
The NL Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.....	\$1,000.00

Proposed Amendments to the Foundation's Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, with the approval of RTANL, the Sponsoring Body. The new reading of the items changed by those Amendments is as follows:

Constitution, Article V, 4: Maintain the value of the Foundation's invested funds at a minimum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00), and disburse and distribute accrued interest plus a percentage of current annual donations that is in accordance with the Canada Revenue Agency Guidelines.

By-Laws, Article VI, 3: The Fiscal Year of the Foundation shall be from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of December of the same year.

By-Laws, Article 7, 1: The official seal of the Foundation shall be kept in the Foundation's filing cabinet at the Foundation's Official Address (3 Kenmount Road, St. John's, NL) except when required for use as stated in Item 2 of this Article.

The Foundation's Biennial Fund Raiser achieved a total of \$3,700.00 for the Foundation. Mr. Ed Hancock, Executive Director of the NLTA, did the drawing for the prizes, with the following results:

First Prize, a framed print by *Lloyd Pretty*, was **donated by Johnson Inc.** and won by *George Short* (Port Aux Basques).

Second Prize, a double-bed quilt, was **donated by Anita Finn** and won by *Linda Babstock* (St. John's).

Third Prize, a lap rug/single-bed quilt, was **donated by Myrtle Dunham** and won by *Dolores Bennett* (St. Jude's).

Fourth Prize, a set of woven place mats, was **donated by Mabel Manuel** and won by *Carrie Dobbins* (Wabush).

The five gallons of partridge berries **donated by Bonavista Division** were won by *Mabel Manuel* (Gander).



Outgoing Treasurer Stewart Ralph presenting Foundation's donation to Fred Wall of Corner Brook for the Shriners' Transportation Fund.



Lil Critch presenting the Western Division's annual donation to Foundation Chairperson Anita Finn



Anne Pennell, Treasurer of the RTF, accepts a cheque from Avalon East's Past President, Tomi Cleal

continued next page ...

Lily Critch, President of Western Division, presented the Foundation with Western's Annual Donation to the Foundation, a cheque for \$500.00.

The Election of Officers and Members of the RTF Board for 2004-06 resulted as follows:

Chairperson – *Anita Finn*, re-elected by Acclamation.

Vice-Chairperson – *William Day*, re-elected by Acclamation.

Secretary – *Joyce Roberts*, re-elected by Acclamation.

Treasurer – *Anne Pennell*, elected by Acclamation.

Board Members: *Geraldine Wall* (re-elected), *Jamie Hollett* (re-elected), and *Don Carter*.

NLTA Representative on the Board is *James Fox*.

Since there was no further business, the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Foundation came to a close.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation, a sincere **"THANKS!"** for your support. Together we are honouring the life and work of former colleagues and making a valuable contribution to Children's Charities.

REUNION SONGS

AT REUNION THIS WEEK

(To the tune of "In Your Easter Bonnet")

In our latest outfit,
Without chalk dust upon it,
We're all relaxed and happy
At Reunion this week.

We may not be in clover,
But when we think it over,
We'll see reasons for "crowing"
At Reunion this week.

On the dance floor, at our card games,
Some photographer may spot us,
And our joy will be
Captured for posterity!

Some day we'll reflect upon it –
We might even write a sonnet –.
And be very glad we came here
For Reunion '04!

Enjoy Reunion '04!

THIS TIME IS OUR TIME

(To the tune of "This Land Is Your Land")

These days are your days these days are my days –
No bells to signal class has begun.
From early morning to the setting sun,
These days belong to you and me!

This time is your time, this time is my time;
And we can use it any way we please:
Fly off to Paris, sail the Seven Seas –
This time is here for you and me!

As we consider what lies before us,
Let's count our blessings instead of sorrows;
Let's fill each day with what makes us happy:
This time is meant for you and me!

OUR PENSION PLIGHT

(To the tune of "My Little Rooster")

We went to the Liberals: no help did we find;
They said they were in a financial bind!

Chorus:

And my little rooster goes cock-a-dee-doo,
dee doodle dee doodle dee doodle dee doo!

We went to the PC's they promised to meet
But on getting elected, beat a hasty retreat

Chorus

Loyola says nothing can happen before
The Pension Plan's stable, and that's for sure

Chorus

Since they say that can't happen till two-O-four-,
There's thirty-six long years still left to go!

Chorus

Now I cherish my life and each day that I see,
But two thousand forty's too long for me!

Chorus

So we say to the Premier, and Government, too,
Give an increase right now – it's the right thing to do!

Chorus:

And give us good reason to cock-a-dee-doo ,
Dee doodle dee doodle dee doodle dee doo!