



Newsletter

Retired Teachers' Association Vol. 13 No. 1 January 2003

President's Message

Gladys Costella

Greetings and best wishes to all members of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador from your newly elected Provincial Executive!

In the flurry of activity that abounded over the "Surprise Draws" heralding the close of BGM and Reunion 2002, there was no opportunity for the new Executive to say "Thank You" to those present for the confidence placed in us. On behalf of all of us (Don, Clayton, Emily, Ada, George, Phil, Tomi, Bill, and Gladys), I now extend our sincere appreciation to those who voted for us, and promise all members of our Association that Provincial Executive (2002-04) will not only strive to uphold the standard of commitment and service maintained by previous Executives, but will also endeavour to build on past achievements whenever and wherever possible.

One of the most important things for us to remember, as members of RTANL, is that the Association needs the support of every single member if we are to accomplish our most difficult mandate: "to improve the financial status of the retired teachers" in this Province. The Political Action Committee formed by the previous Executive in October 2001 has kept that RTANL objective in mind throughout its preparation of the BRIEF to Government requesting regular Ad Hoc Increases to the pensions of retired teachers, as well as during the letter-writing campaign it

orchestrated from May to October, 2002. As Chairperson of PAC, I would like to thank the Committee Members for their input on the BRIEF, the members of Divisions for distributing letters for signing, and, of course, all those members of our Association who signed the letters. Thanks to your help, some 2,300 letters were sent to the Premier and Members of the House of Assembly prior to the submission of our BRIEF (which was mailed to the Government on November 1, 2002, along with the Petition that was signed in support of the BRIEF by those members present at BGM 2002).

I am pleased to report that we **succeeded in having that Petition presented in the House of Assembly** by the Opposition Education Critic, Mr. Tom Hedderson, on Monday, December 2, 2002. Unfortunately, we did not get adequate advance notice to have any of our members in the Gallery for this presentation, as we had intended. However, the important thing is that it was presented, along with reference to our BRIEF, which had been received by each of the 47 Members of the House of Assembly prior to the presentation. There has been no immediate response from the Premier or any other Member of Government, but we remain confident and determined to get results! Your Executive and the Political Action Committee will continue the effort to get

improvements in the pension benefits of retired teachers in this Province, and to impress upon Government the need for this issue to be addressed immediately.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see information on some of our current issues and on the composition of the Committees that were set up (at our November 14-15, 2002, Executive Meeting in St. John's) to deal with those issues. As the need arises, other Committees will be formed, with representation from outside the Provincial Executive whenever deemed beneficial. Also, we will try to keep the membership updated on our progress as often as possible. However, I feel that it is important to remind our members of the need to let your Provincial Executive know whenever you wish us to speak out on a particular issue; otherwise, because our members are scattered over such a broad geographical area, it is not possible to ascertain the wishes of our membership quickly enough to make a timely response to an issue. **Communication from the membership to the Executive is essential if our Association is to function effectively.** Please keep the letters/e-mails/phone calls coming: we need to know what you think of what we are doing and what else you think we should be doing.

I'll end this first message of 2002-04 with a WARM WELCOME to all those members who have joined our Association since the April 2002 newsletter and a SINCERE WISH that all our members have a long and enjoyable retirement!

Provincial Executive 2002-04

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93 Caribou Road
Corner Brook, NL
(634-2136) A2H 4X2

Vice-President Don Case
P.O. Box 28
Salmon Cove, NL
(596-5428) AOA 3SO

Past President William Day
P.O. Box 186
Clareville, NL
(466-2887) AOE 1JO

Secretary Emily Mullett
99 Brookfield Ave
Corner Brook, NL
(634-4611) A2H 2R5

Treasurer Clayton Rice
29 Diana Road
St. John's, NL
(753-3920) A1B 1H7

Members-at-Large:
Thomasina Cleal
12 Indian Pond Road
Conception Bay South, NL
A1X 6R4

George Evans
368 Conception Bay Hwy
Conception Bay South, NL
A1X 7A4

Ada Hollett Philip Patey
P.O.Box 666 P.O. Box 87
Grand Bank, NL Lewisporte, NL
AOE 1W0 AOG 3A0

Member Alert Re Fee Increase

Article on page 5 of this
newsletter re Increase in
Membership Fees. Important
information for Members.

Provincial Executive Committees 2002-04

*(As set up at November 14-15, 2002, Provincial
Executive meeting)*

Benefits Bill Day (*Chairperson*)
Tomi Cleal & George Evans

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

Newsletter . . . Gladys Costella (*Editor*)
Emily Mullett (*Assistant Editor*)
Clayton Rice (*Business Manager*)

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

ACER/CART . Gladys Costella (*Director*)
Clayton Rice (*Observer*)
(*Others to be appointed by President*)

Political Action
(*Continuing as structured during 2001-02*)

Chairperson Gladys Costella
(*Corner Brook*)

Core group (in Western Division):
Agnes Hughes & Emily Mullett
(*Corner Brook*)
Alvin Cassell & Ada Norris
(*Deer Lake*)

Representation from other Divisions:

Avalon East . . . Tomi Cleal (*Seal Cove*)
Ann Pennell (*St. John's*)

Bonavista Duncan Ford (*Bonavista*)

Burin Albert Dober (*Marystown*)
Lewis Payne (*Grand Bank*)

Central Bill Day (*Clareville*)
James Dobson (*Grand Falls-Windsor*)

Coast of Bays Lenus Lawrence
(*English Harbour West*)

Con-Tri Harold Dawe
(*Coley's Point South*)

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Association of Retired Teachers

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In Memoriam

NLTA Website

In the near future you may
go to the NLTA Website—
www.nlta.nf.ca—and click on
RTANL to receive information
that your Provincial Executive
will make available there for
you. We thank NLTA for
allowing us to make use of
their website.



Don



Clayton



George



Gladys



Emily



Bill



Ada



Tomi



Phil

GREETINGS

from your

**RTANL PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE
2002-2004**

Presidents of Divisions and Regionals

AVALON EAST DIVISION

Thomasina Cleal
12 Indian Pond Road
Conception Bay South NL
A1X 6R4

BONAVISTA DIVISION

John Snow
PO Box 749
Bonavista NL
AOC 1B0

BURIN DIVISION

Ada Hollett
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Grand Bank NL
AOE 1W0

CENTRAL DIVISION

James Dobson
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Grand Falls-Windsor NL
A2A 2P3

COAST OF BAYS DIVISION

Edith Organ
PO Box 272
St. Alban's NL
AOE 2E0

CON-TRI DIVISION

James Reid
PO Box 257
South River NL
AOA 3W0

WESTERN DIVISION

Geraldine Wall
252 O'Connell Drive
Corner Brook NL
A2H 5N5

Labrador West Regional

Catherine Whelan
307 Dineen Crescent
Labrador City NL
A2V 1E3

Port aux Basques Regional

Don Crewe
PO Box 463
Port aux Basques NL
AOM 1C0

Note: Both Regionals are in Western Division.

RTANL Constitution Amendments

As a result of three Resolutions passed by the required $\frac{2}{3}$ majority at BGM 2002, Amendments were made to Article 3. Subsection Associate and to Article 5. Fees of the RTANL Constitution. Consequently, those Articles now read as follows:

Article 3. Subsection Associate

The following persons are eligible for Associate Membership in this Association:

(a) *A retired teacher in receipt of a teachers' Pension from outside Newfoundland;*

(b) *A retired teacher's spouse receiving pension pursuant to the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Pension Act;*

(c) *For the interim period, retired teachers on deferred pension, who will be eligible to receive a teachers' pension from age fifty-five years onward;*

(d) *Former teachers, and substitute teachers, who have ceased teaching, who have to their credit the equivalent of five or more full years of teaching service.*

Article 5. Fees:

(a) [No change]

(b) *Fees received shall be divided 50-50 between Provincial Executive and the Divisions, the 50% that goes to Divisions being shared on a per capita basis.*

(c) [No change]

For Your Information:

The RTANL Constitution (officially approved at the October 4, 2000, BGM) can be found on pages 12-13 of the April 2002 Provincial Newsletter, if you wish to make the necessary changes on your copy of the Constitution.

MEMBERSHIP



CARD BENEFITS

The Provincial Executive Benefits Committee and the Division counterparts are pursuing every avenue possible to obtain "Benefits on the Card" for our members. To date, the only province-wide discounts available to members who show the card are those from **Ultramar** (3 cents off a liter of heating fuel and 10% off services) and **The Paint Shop** (10% off all regularly priced items except floor coverings).

The Benefits Committee of Western Division has also obtained discounts for all members of our Association at the following businesses in the Corner Brook area:



Advance Notice

RTANL BGM 2004

BGM & 8th Reunion
October 5-7, 2004
in Gander

Plan to join us there!



1. **Jennifer's of Newfoundland**, 10% off all evening meals and 10% off all regularly priced items in the gift shop;
2. **Notre Dame Castle Building Centre**, 10% off regularly priced items, and 5% off lumber.

We will add to this list as we obtain benefits. Also, we would like the Divisions to help in the quest and let us know of any discounts you obtain, so that we may inform all our Members.

Please Note:

Membership Cards cannot be printed "one at a time". However, as soon as they are printed, they are sent to the appropriate Divisions. The next lot should go out to Divisions by mid-February. If you do not receive your Card when you think you should, please contact your Division Presidents for information.

Membership Fee Increase

The Increase:

On April 1, 2003, the fee for membership in the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador will increase from 42 cents per pension pay period to 75 cents per pay period (for a total annual membership fee of \$18).

The Necessity:

This increase, recommended by RTANL Executive 2000-02, was endorsed by the October 2002 BGM, in recognition of the increasing costs facing the Association. Treasurer Clayton Rice, in presenting his Financial Statement for 2000-02 (see page 14) and a proposed Budget for 2002-04, showed very clearly that a substantial increase in fees is needed in order for RTANL to improve (or even maintain) its standard of service to our members. Gladys Costella, Chairperson of the Political Action Committee, pointed out that the continuing effort required to achieve regular Ad Hoc Increases to our

pension benefits is one example of an Association project that requires funding if it is to be effective.

Also, a great many of our members, who cannot get to all Division meetings (or to the BGM), tell us that they would like to receive at least two newsletters a year, in order to keep informed. Lack of funds to meet the rising costs of printing and postage has limited RTANL to one Provincial Newsletter in each of the past two years. The increase in fees—accompanied by some appropriate advertising that we are actively pursuing—will enable us once again to produce two newsletters a year, and, hopefully, to improve our communications with all Members of our Association.

In order to work effectively, Provincial Executive Members (who usually reside at great distances from one another) need to meet at least three times a year. The costs of transportation, hotel accommodations, and meals have increased considerably since the fee of \$10 a year was approved ten years ago, at BGM 1992. Although our Executive and Committee Members endeavour to keep a careful eye on expenses and to get the greatest value for the dollar, there is no denying that the dollar does not buy what it used to.

Retired teachers in several of the other provincial retired teachers' associations pay from \$25 to \$36 a year (even more in one or two provinces). For example, the STS (Superannuated

Teachers of Saskatchewan), which has under 6,000 members compared to our just over 4,400 members, recently increased its yearly fee to \$27.

The Implementation Date:

Although the increase is needed now, it was decided to delay its effective date to April 1, 2003. Your Provincial Executive feels that it is important to allow time for all members to be aware of the increase before increased deductions begin, because, starting with the April 15, 2003, pension pay period, the amount deducted each pay period from all members will be 75 cents, rather than the current 42 cents—unless any member chooses to opt out of the Association before that time.

However, we do not believe that our members will feel that 75 cents a pay period is too much to pay for the benefits of Membership in RTANL, the only organization in this province that can, and does, speak out on issues that affect retired teachers as members of society, and *work to safeguard the welfare of retired teachers*. Also, we feel that our members realize that if we are to be a strong lobby group, seeking regular increases in pension benefits and actively pursuing other benefits for our members, then every retired teacher in the province should belong to the Association and should participate as actively as possible.

Your Association is confident that it can count on your continued support.



PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER

Next Issue
Deadline

Articles you would like to have included in the next newsletter should reach Gladys or Emily (addresses on page 2) not later than March 10, 2003.

Highlights of 2002 RTANL BGM and the Seventh Reunion

Bill Day

The seventh RTANL Biennial General Meeting and Reunion of retired teachers was held at Hotel Gander, October 1-3, 2002. Of the 188 Members and guests in attendance: 50 were from Avalon East Division, 9 from Bonavista Division, 5 from Burin Division, 70 from Central, 38 from Con-Tri, and 16 from Western. (Unfortunately, no Members from Coast of Bays Division attended.) We were pleased to see that 23 of those registered were "80 plus"!

Registration took place on the afternoon of October 1st. Fellowship was evident as friends greeted each other and talked of university days and time spent in summer schools, or recalled "residence experiences", and places taught together. Laughter could be heard throughout the registration area, and it was quite clear that everyone was in the mood for three great days.

The evening of October 1st saw the first of two Buffet Dinners, as well as a few surprises! The food was great, and so was the entertainment. Mr. Wayne Hurley brought students from Gander Collegiate to entertain us, and entertain they did, with great singing and step dancing! It was a performance that proved to be a highlight of the Reunion.

NLTA President, Mr. Winston Carter, brought greetings on behalf of NLTA and spoke of the close relationship between NLTA and the Retired Teachers' Association. Our

Vice-President responded with a toast to the NLTA in recognition of its support for all our endeavours. Other guests included Messrs. Don Ash and Edward Hancock from NLTA, as well as Mr. Wayne Russell and Ms. Sharon Hedd from Johnson Inc.



Enjoying the BGM! Western Division Members at BGM 2002

Standing: Geraldine Wall, Gladys Costella, Emily Mullett, and Louise Payne. Sitting: Amy Nicolle, Florence Critch, Catherine Critch

A Mystery Draw was also held on "Opening Night", with the winner delighted to get a "car kit" donated by Johnson Inc. Many groups gathered throughout the Hotel to talk, play cards, or catch up on "the news".

Our Business session, the Biennial General Meeting, began at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 2nd, with the President in the Chair and Mr. Ed Hancock acting as our Parliamentarian. After the general business of Minutes, the Financial Report, and Reports on ACER/CART and Political Action, several Resolutions were presented, discussed, and voted on. Also, the new Provincial Executive for 2002-04 was elected. This was an important session, as it looked toward the future and set out clear guidelines for the incoming Executive, many of whom

had served on previous Executives. *[Information on issues discussed at BGM is found elsewhere in this Newsletter.]*

The Annual General Meeting of the Retired Teachers' Foundation was held on Wednesday afternoon. Anita Finn, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of this RTANL-sponsored Foundation, gave a report on the latest charitable donations made by RTF to charities that operate solely for the benefit of children who are in any way incapacitated. The Board of Directors of the Foundation for the next two years was elected during this session, with many of the previous Members being returned to office. *[RTF Report included in this newsletter.]*

Following the Wednesday afternoon session, our Reunion Service of Worship was held at Fraser Road United Church. Rev. Bruce Rideout gave a very appropriate sermon for the occasion, and this time for fellowship and for remembering Members no longer with us was, as usual, a very special part of our Reunion.

Wednesday evening began with a "sing-for-your-supper" singalong, after which everyone proceeded to enjoy our second delicious Buffet Dinner. Our after-dinner speaker, Mr. Ross Goldsworthy, once again regaled us with his humour and wit, leaving many of us with aching sides from laughing so much. A social time

... continued on page 19

Political Action Update

Gladys Costella

1. Letter campaign orchestrated by PAC from May to October 2002.
2. Over 2,300 letters delivered to Premier and Members of the House.
3. Responses in form of phone calls from office of NDP leader Jack Harris and some MHA's to President Bill, PAC Chairperson Gladys, and constituents who had sent letters.
4. Work on BRIEF completed.
5. PAC Report, Highlights from BRIEF (see page 8), Petition, and Resolution to the Premier presented to RTANL BGM 2002.
6. BGM supports BRIEF by signing Petition and passing Resolution re letter to Premier.
7. On October 9, 2002, letter with Resolution sent to Premier, with copies going to PC and NDP Leaders.
8. Letter of acknowledgement received from PC Leader Williams.
9. On November 1, 2002, the BRIEF, along with the Petition from BGM, mailed to Premier and all Members of the House.
10. November 8, 2002, request made to Danny Williams' Corner Brook Assistant re having BRIEF presented in the House.
11. About mid-November, letter received from Mr. Williams re his having received the BRIEF and having passed a copy along to PC Education Critic Tom Hedderson (who, as an MHA, had, of course, already received a copy from PAC).
12. November 27, 2002, call received by Gladys from Mr. Hedderson, saying that he would probably present the Petition in the House on Thursday, November 28, 2002, or on Monday, December 2, 2002.
13. BRIEF not presented on Thursday, and attempts to reach Mr. Hedderson on Thursday and Friday re definite time of presentation were unsuccessful.
14. At 9:10 a.m. on Dec. 2nd, PAC Chairperson called Mr. Hedderson's office and left message with his Assistant.
15. No call returned until 12:10 p.m., when Mr. Hedderson's Assistant called to say that the Petition would be presented that afternoon. Some rewording had to be done to meet the House format for Petitions. (Some of the wording from our BRIEF was used.)
16. Insufficient time to have RTANL members present in the Gallery for the presentation of our BRIEF, which took place about 2:30 p.m., Dec 2nd.
17. Copies of BRIEF sent to PAC Members in each Division and to NLTA, CTF, ACER/CART, CARP, NPSA. [Letter from John Staple, CTF, enclosed with this Newsletter.]
18. Since still no response from Government after 2 1/2 months, President Gladys sent letter (Jan. 21/03) to Premier Grimes asking "WHY?", and requesting that Premier meet with RTANL Table Officers to

Tales Told by Teachers

Volume II



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Articles urgently needed if the second volume of "Tales" is to be published! To date, only 25 items have been received, **not** nearly enough for our book! With a membership of **over 4,400**, there have to be at least that many **memories** and **experiences** out there just "begging" to be told! P-L-E-A-S-E, get your submissions to:

Anne Pennell

Memory Book Committee

16 Ferryland Street East

St. John's, NL

A1E 2L2

immediately, or call Anne at 368-2769.



discuss the urgent need for increases to our pensions.

19. If no response to letter, President will phone Premier about Feb 4/03.

20. Please keep up the letter campaign, this time to ask why we have had no response from the Premier on this vital issue!

NEWSLETTER INSERT

Look for letter to RTANL President from CTF's John Staple (re the RTANL Brief) which is included as an "Insert" with this Newsletter.

RTANL Brief: *Losing the Race*

Highlights

From the Introduction:

“The Retired Teachers’ Association agrees with pension experts that a retired person should be able to maintain a standard of living reasonably close to that enjoyed at the time of retirement.”

*“...we feel that Government must initiate **immediate action** to deal with the very real problem facing our members.”*

*“...annual **Ad Hoc Increases** are not only **justified**, but indeed, **necessary!**”*

From Page 3—The Past Twenty-five Years:

- 1. The original pension for many retired teachers was a mere **pit-tance**;*
- 2. Often, the **increase** granted was **less than the Consumer Price Index** for the year; and*
- 3. There was **no increase** in 1984 and 1985, **nor** in any year **after 1989.**“*

*“It should be noted that the **last increase (2.5%)** was granted in **January of 1989**, a year in which the **Consumer Price Index increased by 3.6%.**”*

From Page 5—Impact of Escalating CPI on Stagnant Pension:

*“...when we take into consideration the **cumulative effect** over this twenty-five*

*year period [1978-2002], the gap widens...alarmingly, revealing that **retired teachers’ pensions are really 59.6% behind the CPI.**”*

*“...**Only the immediate granting of a special Ad Hoc Increase** will enable retired teachers to feel there is any hope of achieving parity with the cost of living!”*

From Page 9—Other Provinces:

“In all other provinces...., the retirement benefits of all retired teachers are automatically increased each year by pre-determined formulas”

*“...in no other province do the retired teachers *have to wait until age sixty-five to receive...indexing.*”*

*“In those Provinces [the Maritimes], there has been a continuing effort to have pensions keep pace with the cost of living. In **this Province, ...over thirteen years without any increase...**”*

“Only regular Ad Hoc Increases can keep pensions on a par with the cost of living!”

From Page 10—RECOMMENDATIONS:

*“Based on the information in this Brief, we are asking the Government of this Province to **act immediately** to improve the economic situation of our pensioned teachers by adopting and putting into effect the following recommendations:*

- 1. That the pensions of retired teachers **be increased immediately** by an amount sufficient to **compensate** for the losses over the past twenty-five years.*
- 2. That **special consideration** be given to those pensioned teachers at the lower end of the scale. (Their situation is such that extra monetary relief is essential for those constituents.)*
- 3. That Government **increase the minimum pension** now payable to a retired teacher. (The current minimum pension of \$2,700 is insufficient to maintain a decent standard of living.)*
- 4. That Government **reinstate the policy of granting regular (annual) Ad Hoc Increases** to retired teachers, so that they can maintain some semblance of parity with the cost of living.”*

Fernie Ski/Relax R E T R E A T

Lovely 2 bedroom suite, large living room with gas fireplace, full kitchen and bath, laundry facilities and private entrance. Smoke and pet free. Backs onto park and creek. 10 minutes to ski hill. Shuttle pick-up.

Contact: Lorraine Kneier, phone 403-276-6158, cell 403-861-1942, e-mail lkneier@shaw.ca

Web: www.members.shaw.ca/fernieretreat

News and Views from the Divisions

AVALON EAST

Thomasina Cleal (744-2790)

Greetings to all RTANL members from Avalon East Division! The new Avalon East Executive 2002-04 is pleased to have the opportunity to work on behalf of our division members for the next two years. It is interesting to note that our Executive members hail from Conception Bay Centre, Conception Bay South, Paradise, and St. John's!



President Tomi Cleal (right) presents outgoing President Anne Pennell (left) with a thank-you gift at the Avalon East Division's **June Dinner and Dance**.

This year will see us involved in many activities as we strive to provide opportunities for all of us to address important issues (such as pensions) and also to enjoy one another's company.

At our **Annual General Meeting** in April, we listened to an informative talk by our guest speaker from MUN, Dr. Gordon Hancock, who spoke on his student visitation program to Portugal. The highlight of our meeting was the sharing of our **75+ Years Birthday Cake**, our annual recognition of all our division members

who have had a 75+ birthday during the preceding year. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!!**

This past June, we held a very successful **Dinner and Dance** at St. Teresa's Parish Hall in St. John's, where we were entertained by the CBS NTA Centennial Choir under the direction of Verna Parsons. Many of that choir's members are also members of RTANL. At that time, also, we presented the out-going President, Anne Pennell, with a small gift in appreciation of all her work for Avalon East Division. We all danced to and enjoyed the music provided by the live band.

Bill Day, then President of RTANL, spoke at our September 2002 meeting. He mentioned the fact that by 2005, the number of retired teachers will be equal to the number of active teachers in this Province. This year, Avalon East Division has just over 1,700 members across the Avalon as far as Whitbourne.

October 1-3/02, 44 Avalon East Members, plus their guests, attended the 7th **RTANL BGM and Reunion** in Gander. We are pleased to report that our Resolution to amend Section III of the *RTANL Constitution* was passed by those voting at the BGM. We may now welcome as an Associate Member, any person who has taught

for a total of five years and is not now teaching, even if that person will never be in receipt of a teacher's pension.

[Editor's Note: The amended section of the Constitution can be found on page 4 of this Newsletter.]

I am very pleased to have been elected to the 2002-04 Provincial Executive, and I would like to thank all of you who voted for me at the BGM.

At our annual **Octoberfest Luncheon**, on October 22nd, approximately 150 members and guests enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner at St. Teresa's Parish Hall. Myrle Vokey, Executive Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Trustees' Association — and himself soon to be a retiree — entertained us with lively songs and humorous stories. A great time was had by all!!

At the Octoberfest also, we were pleased to have Gerry Baird from the School Lunch Association present to accept our annual donation to that



Avalon East Division members, Gertrude Fleming, Sr. Angela Fowler and Harold Dale accept the Division's new banner from Judith Peckham (left) at **Octoberfest 2002**.



Avalon East Division, **Fun Day 2002**, Bally Hally Curling
President Tomi Cleal, Treasurer Dianne Squarey

worthy organization. As well, we presented Anita Finn, a past President of both Avalon East Division and the RTANL, with a small token of appreciation for her many hours of dedicated service to the Association. Currently Chairperson of the Retired Teachers' Foundation, Anita is continuing her involvement on our behalf. Thank you, Anita!

Three gift baskets, put together by Mary Holloway, our Social Convenor, were won by Denise Dodd, Marina Holwell, and Fred Butler. An added thrill at the Octoberfest was the unveiling of our new Avalon East Division Banner, which was designed and handcrafted by Judith Peckham, a past President of our Division. This splendid work of art depicts the beautiful coastline of our Avalon area, and it will serve us well for many years to come. Well done, Judy!

Another annual event, our **Learn Something New Day**, took place on November 19/02, at St. Teresa's Parish Hall, where we have many of our functions. Over 100 people were in attendance to learn something new from the 12 presenters, who gave information on everything from wine-making to painting. This all-day event included a delicious lunch

and time to catch up on one another's news.

Mark Monday, **February 24/03**, on your calendars so that you'll remember to attend yet another annual event — our **All Day Fun Day** — at the St. John's Curling Club (curling, cards, board games, and lunch). We

usually see nearly 200 members there, so we are anticipating a large crowd and a good time again in 2003. Don't forget, the ever popular free "draws" will occur throughout the day!

Best wishes to all RTANL members and their families for a happy and healthy year ahead!

BONAVISTA

John Snow (468-7737)

Bonavista Division held its first meeting of 2002-03 on October 23/02 in King's Cove, with 14 members in attendance. A report of the **RTANL Biennial General Meeting** held in Gander was given, and this was followed by a good discussion on some of the items. We also made some plans for future meetings. We hope, in the near future, to have a lawyer attend a division meeting to give us some information on wills. [This occurred at the November Meeting and the session was very informative.] Also, we intend to have some discussion on the possibility of having the division present a **scholarship** to one of the schools in the area encompassed by Bonavista Division.

We are delighted that a large number of the 72 members in our Division turned out to enjoy our Christmas Social, held at the Baie Vista Restaurant on Dec 3/02..

At the time of our October meeting, several of our members and/or spouses were ill at home or in hospital. We wish them all a very speedy return to good health, and we wish all members of the Association continued happiness and good health throughout 2003.

BURIN

Ada Hollett (832-2921)

Warm greetings to all RTANL members from members of Burin Division!

A report of the business conducted at our **Christmas Luncheon** on November 27/01 was given in the April 2002 Newsletter, along with the names of Executive Members for 2002-03 and the winners of our Volunteer Plaques.

At our spring meeting, held at Jamieson Academy in Salt Pond-Burin, a questionnaire was distributed. The purpose of this questionnaire was to poll our membership on the possible increase in the RTANL membership fee. The result was overwhelmingly in favour of a fee increase. Other business included plans for the end-of-the-year banquet, a reminder that articles are still needed for Vol. II of Tales Told by Teachers, and the setting up of a committee of three people (Ben Brushett, Ken Penney, and Mary Moriarity) to look at the finances of our Burin Division. Also, members were informed that the printing of obituaries in the newsletter

is proving to be too costly; instead, an In Memoriam list of deceased members will be printed. We are thankful to Thomas Grandy who is in the process of putting all our previous minutes of meetings on a computer disc.

Our **End-of-the-Year Banquet** was held in St. Lawrence on June 5/02. We were served a delicious turkey dinner at the Oceanview Motel, and everyone enjoyed our fun and games afterwards.

We were also entertained by Black Ice, a local St. Lawrence band. Lewis Payne and Albert Dober, our representatives on PAC, took advantage of the opportunity to get those present to sign letters to be sent to the Government requesting an increase in pension benefits.

Our last meeting for 2002 was held at Jamieson Academy in October, and a full account of what transpired at the **RTANL BGM** in Gander was given to our Division membership. Also, a member of our Division, Ron Noseworthy, who has spent two years teaching in the sub-tropical Cheju Island of South Korea, was home for a short period of time "between contracts". During our social time of tea, coffee, and sandwiches, Ron gave us a detailed and interesting account of what life is like when one is teaching in Korea. We wish him well as he returns to Korea in November.

We welcomed several new members to the division at this meeting, (our membership total is 162 and we hope they will become regular attendees at our various functions.

Our **Christmas Luncheon** meeting on November 26/02, at Wong's

Palace Restaurant in Marystown, had the largest turnout of Members ever for our Christmas Luncheon meetings. Guest speaker was Don Ash from NLTA Group Insurance Trustees. Tom Baker, representing Johnson Insurance, was also present. Best wishes for 2003.

CENTRAL

James Dobson (489-5243)

Central Division was very active in 2001-02, and a detailed account of activities up to the end of 2001, was carried in the April 2002 *RTANL Newsletter*. In March, we continued our year with a meeting that included a presentation by Gordon Shears of Grand Falls-Windsor on the need for vigilance in home security, for both safety and protection reasons. This presentation was both interesting and informative. Then, in May/02, we were entertained by Ed Smith, who, while promoting his latest book, brought some thought-provoking information on how we relate to our fellow human beings. He made his points through a mixture of humour and real-life experiences.

Our **June banquet**, attended by over 100 Members and guests, was quite a success. The enjoyable buffet was followed by presentations to Division members Evelyn Butt, Dorothy Manuel, and Cyril Bull (*now deceased - see In Memoriam, back cover*), for their contributions as volunteers, both within the RTANL and in their communities. At this event also, a write-in campaign in support of our Association's political action efforts to obtain Ad Hoc increases to our pension benefits was announced. Members were asked to write the Premier, Ministers of Finance and

SICK-VISITATION

All Divisions have Sick-Visiting Committees.

Please notify your Division as soon as you hear that any member is ailing at home or in hospital, so that visitation can be arranged. Members from other Divisions sent to hospital in St. John's will be visited by Avalon East members, if requested by those Divisions. Early notification is essential.

Education, Opposition Leaders, and their local MHAs expressing concern over the ever-shrinking value of our pension dollar.

Several new names of deceased members were added to our *Book of Remembrance*, a second volume of which will be published when the number of entries warrants it. Our members are reminded also to submit the names of any deceased members, along with personal and professional information. The Division makes a donation of \$25 to the Retired Teachers' Foundation in memory of each deceased member of Central Division.

Our Hospital Visitation Committee continues to visit ailing members, with words of encouragement and appropriate gifts, and we remind our members to let us know of anyone who is in hospital. The *Cornucopia*, our annual publication, was distributed in December 2001, and our thanks go to Chris Ford, last year's editor, as well as to

this year's editor, Calvin Wheeler. We are always seeking material for publications, including the RTANL's proposed Vol. II of Tales Told by Teachers. **Your "tales" are needed!**

As president of Central, I have spoken at both NLTA pre-retirement seminars and end-of-the-year NLTA branch banquets over the past year. On such occasions, I encourage prospective retirees to participate in RTANL, which is the only organization that speaks for retired teachers, and which is the fastest growing teachers' organization in this Province.

Three years ago, in Grand Falls-Windsor, Central Division started a program of "outreach", by holding meetings in various parts of the division. Last year we met in New West Valley, and this year we will be in Glovertown. We hold Open House sessions to encourage people to voice their concerns and become active in RTANL. We get wholehearted support from our members for our worthy causes, but we would like to see more members at our various functions. We have about 950 members stretching from Clarenville to Baie Verte, but we get less than 50 at our monthly meetings, with members from Gander representing the majority at each and every meeting. The members who do come to our functions, however, are faithful and attend as many of them as they can, for which we on the Executive are very thankful and look forward to their continued support.

From all of us in Central to all Association members across this province, happiness and good health for the coming season and the year ahead!

COAST OF BAYS

Edith Organ (538-3813)

Our division has held two meetings since our report in the April 2002 newsletter. On June 3, 2002, our Luncheon Meeting was held at the Motel Bay D'Espoir in Head-Bay D'Espoir, and in early fall, we moved to St. Alban's for a Luncheon Meeting at the St. Alban's Inn. Our meetings are always luncheon meetings, and we try to change the location as often as possible to make it easier for more of our 63 members to have the opportunity to attend and participate in Division activities.

Our meeting of September 10, 2002, in St. Alban's was our **Annual Meeting and Election of Officers**. The following were elected to the Executive:

President

Edith Organ (*St. Alban's*)

Secretary

Margaret Wilcox (*St. Alban's*)

Treasurer

Clarence Sutton (*St. Alban's*)

Telephone Convenor

Mary Diamond (*Milltown-Head of Bay*)

Telephone Convenor

Ellie Young (*St. Alban's*)

Lenus Lawrence (*English Harbour West*) is our Immediate Past President.

Unfortunately, no one from this division attended the BGM in Gander, but we have been in touch with the newly elected Executive, and we are hoping to have a Member of the

Provincial Executive attend our next meeting.

Members of our Division extend to all Members of our Association every good wish for the year ahead and continued happiness in retirement!

CON-TRI

James Reid (786-3236)

There are approximately 450 members in Con-Tri Division, but our April 22, 2002, meeting saw only 14 members in attendance, partly because the meeting had been postponed because of inclement weather the previous day. At our meetings of May 22/02 and October 23/02, however, there were only 23 and 21 in attendance, respectively, so weather cannot be blamed for all low turnouts at regular meetings. At the **RTANL BGM** in Gander, we saw approximately 45 members and their "significant others" in attendance and thoroughly enjoying the Reunion. Also, our spring and fall "banquets/dances/singalongs" are always well attended, usually by close to 200 Members and guests.

At our banquets, we usually collect a "toonie" from each person present, for inclusion with our annual contribution to the **Retired Teachers' Foundation**. Also, the scholarship that we donate each year to a deserving student in our division area is presented at a banquet. This year's winner is Marisa Chard of Carbonear Collegiate.

Our meetings often feature a guest speaker from NLTA, as well as health care representatives to bring us information, and each meeting has a "social time" for chatting with old friends and exchanging ideas.

We were especially pleased this year that our own **ELDRED WARREN** was named the winner of the **RTANL Biennial Award** for volunteerism. Eldred was presented with the Award at the Seventh Reunion and RTANL BGM in Gander this past October.



Volunteer of the Year, Eldred Warren

Our sincere congratulations to you, Eldred! We extend congratulations, also, to Pauline Snow and Don Case, who were this year named Citizen of the Year for Harbour Grace and Salmon Cove, respectively.

Our Con-Tri **Election of Officers** began at our meeting of October 23/02 and was completed at our November 19/02 meeting (which was postponed from November 18 because of inclement weather!).

Our Executive for the next two years is as follows:

President
Jim Reid

Vice-President
Eldred Warren

Secretary
Catherine Legge

Treasurer
Louise Reid

Harold Dawe is our Immediate Past President.

On November 26, 2002, we welcomed members of the RTANL Executive for 2002-04 — President Gladys Costella, Treasurer Clayton Rice, and Immediate Past President Bill Day — to our **Christmas Banquet**. Gladys brought greetings from the Provincial Executive; then Bill presented Eldred with his RTANL Biennial Award plaque. Gladys showed us the RTANL “mother” plaque that will be used to keep a permanent record of future winners of this award, with Eldred’s name already engraved on it as the first winner. [Editor’s Note: The NLTA has agreed to display this permanent plaque in the NLTA bldg.]

Since Marisa Chard could not be present (She is in university), Mr. Ash, the Principal of Carbonear Collegiate, accepted the **scholarship** on her behalf from Eldred Warren, who wished Marisa every success.

There were 185 members and guests at this very successful Banquet and Dance, held at the Lions’ Club in Carbonear.

From all of us in Con-Tri, best wishes to members of all RTANL divisions and Regionals for a happy, healthy, and successful year in 2003!

WESTERN

Geraldine Wall (634-4965)

Western Division extends greetings to all RTANL members. We are an active division and our membership is now 935.

Our year began on September 9, 2002, with a luncheon followed by the Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers for 2002-03.

Elected were:

President

Geraldine Wall (*re-elected*)

Vice-President

Lil Critch (*re-elected*)

Secretary

Elizabeth Thomey

Treasurer

Roberta Pafford (*re-elected*)

Membership Chairperson

Gladys Costella (*re-elected*)

Communications Officer

Emily Mullett (*re-elected*)

Assistant Communications Officer

Lil Critch (*re-elected*)

Telephone Committee Chairperson

Louise Payne (*re-elected*)

Sick Visiting Committee Chairperson

Lorraine Penney (*re-elected*)

Western Division Representative to Humber Branch NLTA

Norma Hoddinott

Newsletter Chairperson

Selena Pieroway

Wilson Vincent is our Immediate Past President

(We are pleased that this year three of our Executive members are from out-

side the immediate Corner Brook area — from Steady Brook, Pasadena, and even as far away as Deer Lake.)

Congratulations to Gladys Costella on being elected Provincial President of RTANL and to Emily Mullett, who was elected as Provincial Secretary.

Yours truly is proud to serve as the first member from Western Division on the Executive of the Retired Teachers' Foundation as Member-at-Large.

Western Division is, once again, sponsoring its **Annual Bakeless Bake Sale** in support of the Retired Teachers' Foundation. We encourage all our members to support this worthwhile cause. (All donations are tax deductible.)

Western Division also participated in the local **Children's Wish Foundation Telethon** again this year. Executive Members manned the telephones for an hour and then alphabetized all pledges after the Telethon. For the week following the Telethon, Members set up office at Rogers Cable and collected the money for the pledges that had been called in. A special "Thank You" to all members who helped.

At our 2001 **annual St. Patrick's**



Western Division members, spouses and friends.

(L-R) Marlene Burton, Lorraine Penney, Juanita Tibbo, Fred Wall, Louise Payne, and Sam Payne

Day Luncheon Meeting, guest speaker Jane Jesseau spoke on "Fitness" and outlined the various options available to members in the immediate area. Many Members of Western Division participate in a twice weekly activity known as Dusty Sneakers, which Jane instructs.

The Western Division **Spring Social** took a different format this year. Since attendance has been low of late at spring socials, this year we decided to have a hot meal at noon followed by entertainment. "Thank You" to Patricia Gregory and her singing group for providing wonderful entertainment!

Donations:

Our annual donation to a **school breakfast program** was made this year to St. James Elementary School in Port aux Basques. We are delighted with the participation of members in our Port aux Basques Regional, and felt that this was a good choice for this year. We encourage members to let us know of any school in a particular area that participates in the breakfast pro-

gram, so that all areas of our division may be considered.

A donation of \$500 was made to the **Western Memorial Regional Hospital Foundation Radiothon** again this year. The Foundation is very appreciative of our continued support.

Our annual donation of \$200 in memory of deceased members was made to the **Retired Teachers' Foundation** at their Annual General Meeting in Gander, during the **RTANL Seventh Reunion and BGM**.

Western Division's Benefits Committee, under the leadership of Emily Mullett and Lil Critch, continues to work on behalf of our Members, and, indeed, on behalf of all Association Members. If there is a benefit you would like them to pursue, please contact Emily or Lil.

Presentations were made by the President and the Vice-President at NLTA Pre-retirement Seminars and

NEXT PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

The next Executive Meeting will be held in St. John's, **March 13-14, 2003**. Our Executive will be meeting with the NLTA Executive on the evening of March 13th. If you have concerns you wish your Executive to address, please contact President Gladys before February 28, 2003.

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.

Branch Retirement Banquets. This gives us a great opportunity to encourage new retirees to become Members of RTANL.

Two Mini-Newsletters were sent out to Members in the past year. It is our hope that, with the election of Selena Pieroway as Newsletter Chairperson, we will once again publish a regular Western Division Newsletter. If you have an article (poem, anecdote, etc.) to contribute, please send it to us by February 15, 2003.

Our best wishes and congratulations go to both the Labrador West Regional and the Port aux Basques Regional. These two Regionals within our Division are quite active and meet on a regular basis.

Congratulations also to the organizers of Reunion 2002 and the RTANL BGM held at Gander in October. Members attending from Western Division thoroughly enjoyed the event, but hope to see more of our members at the next Reunion in 2004.

Western Division's Christmas Social was held at Bennett Hall on December 14/02. The Social Hour began at 7:00 p.m., followed by a hot roast beef dinner at 8:00 p.m. Dance music was provided by The Captain's Sound System. Members who did not wish to participate in the dance enjoyed a game of cards in the downstairs club room.

On behalf of Western Division, I would like to wish all RTANL Members good health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year!!

Statement of Receipts & Disbursements (RTANL)

Clayton Rice, Provincial Treasurer

September 1, 2000, to August 31, 2002

| | <u>Sept.-Aug. 2000-01</u> | <u>Sept.-Aug. 2001-02</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | |
| Advertising | - | \$ 600.00 |
| Craft Sale | \$ 408.75 | - |
| Donation | 135.86 | - |
| Fees from Divisions | 82.03 | 10.08 |
| Interest | 142.07 | - |
| NLTA Grant | 2,000.00 | - |
| Payroll Deductions | 40,281.02 | 42,532.82 |
| Registration Fees | 3,150.00 | 6,496.00 |
| Sale of Membership Cards | - | 814.80 |
| Total | \$46,199.73 | \$50,453.70 |

DISBURSEMENTS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Audit | 149.50 | - |
| Benefits Committee | 1,166.45 | 996.39 |
| CART Fees | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| CART Attendance | 2,242.25 | 2,328.20 |
| Executive Meetings | 13,721.97 | 8,642.09 |
| Liaison | 553.71 | - |
| Membership Cards | - | 460.00 |
| Paper/Cards/Office Supplies | 507.93 | 130.68 |
| Payments to Divisions | 23,949.07 | 25,166.93 |
| Photocopying/Printing | 31.15 | 5,194.61 |
| Political Action Committee | - | 308.28 |
| Postage/Telephone | 229.20 | 204.01 |
| President/Vice-President | 491.99 | 151.98 |
| Refund of Registration Fees | 1,330.00 | - |
| Reunion '00 | 12,107.88 | 252.75 |
| RTF (Expenses) | 686.07 | 1,169.61 |
| RTF (Donation & Craft Sale) | 1,233.75 | - |
| Service Charge | 119.29 | 90.38 |
| Total | \$58,820.20 | \$45,395.91 |

RTF Report— Together We Have Made a Difference in Children's Lives

Anita Finn



The 16th Annual Meeting, Financial Report and Election of Officers for the Retired Teachers' Foundation was held on October 2, 2002, during the RTANL BGM and Reunion.

For the year 2002, \$5,275 was donated to the following charities:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| <i>The Janeway Foundation</i> | \$1,500 |
| <i>Shriners'</i> | 1,500 |
| <i>Candlelighters</i> | 500 |
| <i>Diabetic Association</i> | 750 |
| <i>Spina Bifida and</i> | |
| <i>Hydrocephalus Association</i> | 500 |
| <i>CNIB</i> | 500 |

The Foundation has received grateful acknowledgements for the donations received from the Retired Teachers' Foundation for Children's Charities.

The **Janeway Children's Hospital Foundation** uses the funds for equipment and to aid in research toward our children's health care.

The **Shriners'** organization in Newfoundland and Labrador is dedicated to helping children with orthopedic and burn problems. In 2002, 194 active patients received an opportunity to receive the care they needed to live a much fuller life because of the service provided by the Shriners. At present five are going to the burn unit in Boston, three are travelling to the spinal cord unit in Philadelphia, and the remaining 186 are being treated at the orthopedic hospital in

Montreal. All of these patients receive a highly specialized level of treatment.

\$500 to the **Candlelighters** allows a child to attend Camp Delight, a camp whose purpose is to help to improve the quality of life for a child experiencing the effects of childhood cancer.

\$750 to the **Diabetic Association** goes toward the cost of one child to attend summer camp for diabetic children. The child associates with his/her peers in the same situation, learning to deal with diabetes and have fun at the same time.

Our donation to the **Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus** is used for a scholarship to enable a student with Spina Bifida to further his/her education.

The **CNIB** services for children also uses our donation for educational aids for children who are visually handicapped.

The generosity of retired teachers and their friends has made the donations to the children's charities possible. The Retired Teachers' Foundation is very appreciative of the many donations made to the Foundation. For the period 2000 to 2002 there were approximately 528 donations made to the Foundation in memory of loved ones.

Our thanks to all who donated crafts for the BGM craft sale (proceeds amounted to \$340); to Johnson Inc. for their donation of a Lloyd Pretty print (proceeds amounted to \$366); and to Calvin Wheeler for donating his painting (proceeds amounted to \$719). Thanks again for your generosity.

The newly elected Directors for 2002-04 are:

Chairperson

Anita Finn

Vice-Chairperson

William Day

Secretary

Joyce Roberts

Treasurer

Stewart Ralph

Directors

Jamie Hollett

Ray Smith

Geraldine Wall



Western Division donation to RTF

Geraldine Wall (R), President of Western Division, presenting Western's annual donation to Foundation Chairperson Anita Finn (L) and Treasurer, Stewart Ralph (C).

ACER/CART—The Canadian Association of Retired Teachers

Gladys Costella

For the second time, Treasurer Clayton Rice (as Observer) and yours truly (as Director) went to the ACER/CART AGM, held this year on June 14-15.

As was the case at the June 2001 AGM, we made Directors from the other member organizations of ACER/CART aware of RTANL's opposition to the motion to increase the ACER/CART membership fee to 15 cents per capita, for two reasons:

1. We feel that the increase is unwarranted at this time.
2. The proposed increase would more than triple the fee for RTANL, thus possibly putting membership in ACER/CART out of our reach.

We also informed those present that we opposed the motion to hire a part-time Executive Director, at a cost of \$5,000 for 50 work hours.

Although the Executive Committee's motion to increase fees as of the 2002 AGM was defeated (because several other Directors also felt unable to agree without being given time to bring the proposal back to their associations), the AGM passed a Notice of Motion that "a fee increase of not less than 20 cents per capita be proposed for 2003-04" at the next ACER/CART AGM, in June 2003. From the discussion that took place at AGM 2002, it seems very likely that the motion will be passed, unless we can somehow convince enough of the other Member organizations that such an increase is not a good idea.

Re the other motion, a part-time Executive Director was appointed, with only your Director and one other voting against the motion. This Executive Director is to be paid in 2002-03 by a contribution of \$5,000 from RTO (Retired Teachers of Ontario), which contribution prompted the following Motion to be passed:

"That the ACER/CART Executive Committee request each Member organization to consider an extraordinary contribution to ACER/CART for 2002-03 in support of the work plan."

Since RTANL is not in a position to accede to this request, your Director could not vote in favour of this motion.

All of this, we reported to RTANL Executive and then to the October 2002 BGM. I also presented, for the BGM's consideration, the benefits of belonging to a national organization like ACER/CART as well as misgivings about our position in ACER/CART, particularly relating to costs involved. After much discussion — including the suggestion from some RTANL members that we should get out of ACER/CART immediately, as the benefits of membership did not seem to be worth the costs incurred — I presented recommendations for a course of action, as follows:

1. That we remain in ACER/CART for the 2002-03 year and pay our fee by the deadline;
2. That the incoming Provincial Executive set up a committee to

work with the Director to examine ACER/CART (its Vision for the Future as presented at AGM 2002; the latest Executive-proposed changes to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Regulations; its working structure, etc.) and to determine whether the costs of membership in ACER/CART constitutes a wise expenditure of our limited funds;

3. That we try again at AGM 2003 to have the motion re increase in the ACER/CART membership fee defeated;
4. That we consider whether the benefits of sending an Observer (who may speak but not vote at AGM) warrant the expenditure which results, even though we feel that having two representatives at the AGM is worthwhile; and, finally,
5. That BGM 2002 give the incoming Provincial Executive the authority to decide, immediately after AGM 2003, whether to remain a member of ACER/CART or to opt out.
Note: Since the decision to join ACER/CART was made at a BGM, then the decision to opt out would have required a 2/3 majority decision at a BGM. More than the required 2/3 majority at BGM 2002 voted to give the Provincial Executive the authority to make the decision without waiting for BGM 2004.

... continued next page

The ACER/CART Committee was set up at the October 2002 Executive Meeting, and all members of the Executive are presently examining ACER/CART By-Laws and Regulations. A progress report will be made at the March 13-14, 2003, Executive Meeting.

For now, we remain a member of ACER/CART, and the ACER/CART Executive Director has been made aware of what transpired at our October 2002 BGM, so that our position may be considered at the February meeting of ACER/CART's Executive Committee. This information has been sent to all ACER/CART Directors, also.

On a lighter note in our relationship with ACER/CART, this Director was asked to represent the President of ACER/CART at the CTF (Canadian Teachers' Federation) Annual General Meeting, which this year was held in St. John's, NL, from July 11-13. It gave me enormous pleasure to bring Greetings from ACER/CART to CTF — from the retired teachers of Canada to the CTF delegates representing all the active teachers of Canada. I even dared to give them one piece of advice, namely that they should join the retired teachers' association in their respective provinces immediately upon retirement!



Confused Over the Indexing at 65 Issue?

In the last round of Collective Bargaining, the Government and NLTA "agreed to apply a modest indexing formula" for ONLY those retired teachers whose pensions are reduced when they receive their Canada Pension Plan benefits. Those retirees who retired when "stacking" was still in effect (before the NLTA agreed to "integration" of teachers' pensions with CPP) are not part of this new agreement and therefore do not receive this "indexing at 65" increase. RTANL does not support this approach.

Live Life

...and let us take care of the details



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and dance followed, with music provided by Derm Coady. There was also a second "Surprise", in the form of a Draw for another "car kit".

On Thursday morning, there was an "Information Forum" with Mr. Don Ash. Don gave a very interesting and informative presentation relating to health insurance. Everyone came away with a better understanding of the causes of increases in insurance premiums, especially in terms of drug costs. Also, Mr. Wayne Russell and Ms. Sharon Hedd spoke briefly on insurance issues and gave an opportunity for questions. This session was very helpful, as it enabled many of us to gain a new perspective on problems facing the NLTA Health Insurance Trustees.

The RTANL Biennial Award for Volunteerism was presented to the first winner, Mr. Eldred Warren of Con-Tri Division, for his many, many years of volunteer work both within the Association and in the community at large.

As our Seventh Reunion came to a close (with the 50 people whose names had been drawn in the Foundation's "Surprise Prize" fundraiser rushing off to collect their prize and see what they had won!), it was obvious to all of us that everyone had had a wonderful time and would be looking forward to doing it all again in 2004. If you have not attended one of our Reunions, you should join us for the next one, for these Reunions come highly recommended, especially by **those many Members who have attended all seven!**

Everything I Need to Know about Life, I Learned from Noah's Ark:

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark!
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage: the snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. Remember: the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic, by professionals!
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a Rainbow waiting.

*[The above "advice" was previously printed in **Outreach** (newsletter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan), Volume 24, Number 5, May/June 2002. It is reprinted here with permission.]*

THANK YOU

Special thanks to all those who took the time to fill in the Evaluation Sheets at Reunion 2002. Your comments/suggestions will help us to prepare for an even better Reunion in 2004!

REUNION 2004 SUGGESTIONS

Additional comments re Reunion 2004 (place, date, activities) are invited from all our RTANL members. The consensus on the sheets was for October 2004 in Gander, but we welcome any and all ideas!

Where would you like the reunion to be held? Let us know.

NONOGENARIANS

If you know of any members in your area who are age 90 years or over, please forward the name(s), with the address, to President Gladys or Secretary Emily (by phone or e-mail, if possible).

In Memoriam

We mourn the passing of the retired teachers named below, and we extend sincere condolences to their families and friends.

Lewis Andrew
Hubert Barnes
Jean Barrett
Rose (Gates) Barron
Clifton Batten
Gordon Billard
Miles Blanchard
Cyril Bull
Dorothy Button
Isabel Churchill
Eugene Coombs
Hilda Cramm
Sarah (Sadie) Crocker
Mark Dollimount

Raymond Downer
Herbert Feltham
Edward Flynn
Clarence Greenland
Sr. Eulalie Harding
Margaret Hatch
Malcolm Kennedy
Ella Kettle
Jennifer Kitchen
Ethel G. MacDonald
Roy Moores
Ena Necho
Frazer Oakley
Norman Paddock

Ronald Parsons
Gertrude Payne
Howard Perry
Marie Pittman
Mary Ann (Manning) Power
Elizabeth Rowsell
Ernest Sheppard
Stella Sheppard
Florence S. Carnell Sparkes
John Strowbridge
Curtis Thorne
Norman Troke
Cynthia I. Vavasour
Betty (Murphy) Wells

May They Rest in Peace



Reminder re Deceased Members

Please notify your Division President if you hear that any Member in your area has passed away. All Divisions make an annual donation to the Retired Teachers' Foundation in memory of their deceased members. Also, your Provincial Executive extends sympathy to their families and friends through our **In Memoriam** column, and honours their memory as we read their names from the **Honour Roll** during the Church Service portion of our Biennial Reunions. We need your help to make sure that every name is included in the **In Memoriam** column and on the **Honour Roll**.