



Newsletter

Retired Teachers' Association

Vol 18 No 1 • March 2009

President's Message

- *Jim Dobson*

Ever wonder how you journeyed from that first day in the classroom to where you are now? Did you travel a deliberate path or did it occur by "happen chance", "serendipity" good fortune or bad luck? Looking back at my career path, a lot of my choices occurred by a combination of "right place" and good fortune. After 28 active years I reached that critical moment when I said to myself "You can retire! Why are you cutting yourself on an ice pick in the janitor's closet looking for a mop to clean up the mess in a classroom left by students who were my charges while doing lunch duty."

So retire I did and this year is the 10th anniversary. I got out just in time to keep my "stacking." A statistic of note from Pensions Division: To date (November 2008) 95 teachers have had their pension benefits reduced because of clawback. I am fortunate that I am not one of them. I would like to know the monetary difference between dollar value of reduction and the amount gained by the marginal "cost of living benefit" at age 65. Are you one of those teachers? Why not let the Provincial Executive know about your experience?

Along my career path I was fortunate to associate with teachers who made a difference. They made a difference in the lives of students and in the work ethic of fellow colleagues. I went to Stephenville Amalgamated in 1962, greener than grass, and that is where Gerald Renouf showed me the benefit of being well prepared, even if it meant returning to the school to make sure I had a sound plan for next day's classes. I followed his example for the rest of my career, something my wife and family had to get used to over the years. The principal of the time, Gil Pike, gave me a learning opportunity on the operation of a school. Treat your staff with respect and you get good results in return.

My next teaching assignment was Deer Lake Amalgamated, Poplar Road School. We were across the road from the Catholic school and had to work out an agreement to stagger recess and closing time in order

to prevent snowball fights between the rival students. The principal was Wallace House, while not the most organized teacher I have met, but who had strong views on the operation of a school and how to encourage students to achieve. He was supported by Fred Freake with whom I boarded. Fred was a very organized man and from him I learned the benefits of good organization and firm discipline.

After a hiatus from teaching, I worked in Labrador on a blasting crew with five other men with the first name Jim. By "happen chance" it snowed in the mine the first week of August and that is when I realized that this life was not for me so I headed back to University. I returned to Deer Lake again and this time as Vice Principal of the Junior High School. Cecil Smith was the supervising principal and he was a man all teachers and students looked up to – knowledgeable, well organized and always expected the best in both teachers and students. He encouraged me to start up an Army Cadet Corp. This was an area where no shade of green could show how inept I was. Without the help of Henry Hounsell, the corp would have foundered in its first year. But from Henry I learned the benefit of dedication to a cause.

After one year in Deer Lake, it was back to University again. This seems to have been the universal practice of the time – teach for a while to earn enough money to go back to university, do night courses when and where you could, try to do a couple of summer school courses and eventually you would get a bachelor's degree or, with persistence a master's degree. Like many other young people of the early 1960s, I chose teaching because there was a \$600 bonus to do Education at MUN. I did not even have the benefit of standing before a class until I went to Stephenville. I escaped being chosen to do an "in class" session with Professor William Rowe and did not have the opportunity of going out to one of the schools in St. John's to mentor with a real, live classroom teacher. Oh how things have changed!

(cont'd on page 3)

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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 2008-10

Table Officers President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Benefits Philip Patey (Chairperson)
Ada Hollett

Finance Clayton Rice (Chairperson)
Jim Dobson, Doreen Noseworthy

Liaison Jim Dobson (Chairperson)
Clayton Rice (Alternate)
Don Case

Newsletter . President Jim Dobson (Editor)
Clayton Rice (Business Manager)
Don White (Assistant Editor)

RTANL Biennial Award . Geraldine Wall
(Chairperson)
Ada Hollett, Phil Patey

Reunion and BGM Jim Dobson
(Chairperson)
Geraldine Wall Gladys Costella & Clayton Rice

Political Action
Provincial Executive as Steering Committee
Co-chaired by President and Gladys Costella

Note: Representation from Divisions will
continue.

ACER/CART Jim Dobson (Director)
Geraldine Wall (Alternate)



ACER/CART website: www.acer-cart.org

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, 709-782-8914; email: clayton@warp.nfld.net; fax: 709-579-5099.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	Cover
Robert Langdon Presentation	4
RTF Report.....	5
Incapacitated Children Report.....	5
RTF Annual Meeting.....	6
News & Views	
Divisions/Regionals	8
Avalon East.....	8
Bonavista.....	10
Burin	11
Central	13
Coast of Bays	13
Con-Tri.....	14
Western	15
Aging Issues Network	17
RTANL Executive and Divisional Presidents Meeting Report.....	18
BGM 2008 Report	19
President's Executive Report.....	20
Financial Statement.....	23
BGM Photo Gallery.....	24
A Pound of Cure.....	25
In Memoriam.....	Back Cover

ADVANCE NOTICE

**11th Reunion of
Retired Teachers
and RTANL
BGM 2010
Gander
October 5-7, 2010**

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 on the LINKS page. 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.)

President's Message *cont'd from cover...*

The opportunity to try another vocation came along in 1968 when I started work as an Insurance Inspector. This was an interesting experience and taught me a lot about the world of business, insurance and finance. The working environment was mixed, out in all kinds of weather, meeting all kinds of people and working with a fine team of workers. But with impending marriage and more responsibilities, I returned to University and thus back to the teaching profession.

The route to Grand Falls came through accepting a position in Botwood for a year in 1971. It was a year of movement, loss of a family member, new community and father to a one-year-old daughter. Fellow staff members were great but I felt that students had changed. They were more independent, and less accepting of the kind of discipline I was used to. So I changed to suit the "client". I had no problem learning from students and felt I accomplished something when at the last day of school one of my average female students gave me a big hug, a card and a big THANK YOU! Not sure if all of them felt that way and not sure if one would get away with that kind of heart felt intimacy today.

A phone call from Walter Cull in the middle of one of my English classes invited me to go to Grand Falls Academy High School to teach Social Studies. It was here that I spent the bulk of my career, enjoying the camaraderie of a great staff, exceptional students mixed with other more interesting ones. With Principal Roy Stoodley, Vice Principal Howard Barnes, Social Studies Coordinator Roy Oldford, Assistant Superintendent Jasper Lake and all the others, the 1970s and 1980s were the great times in Education. Inservice sessions, cooperation of the NLTA, the Department of Education, and Board Personnel saw vast improvements in education throughout the province. I was fortunate in being able to participate in a whole variety of programs: travel across Canada with the Canadian Studies Foundation; a trip to Europe to visit NATO stations as part of teacher involvement; a trip to Japan to observe a quite different education system and take a group of students on an ocean voyage throughout the Mediterranean.

Combine all those experiences and I feel it has helped me to accept the position as President of the 5500 member Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. I joined and was active in the Association immediately after retirement. Encouraged

by the work of Lloyd Buffett and the words of Bill Day, I served on the Central Division Executive as Vice President then President for four years. Four years after being elected to the Provincial Executive, I feel honoured to serve all retired teachers in whatever way I am able. We have a great Executive, many years of experience and a variety of expertise. We welcome your inquiries and suggestions.

I told the Provincial Executive at our first meeting that I would be kept in check by two past presidents (Gladys Costella and Don Case). My objectives would be to serve the membership, communicate with them, work for financial remuneration for pensioners through whatever means possible and encourage social interaction among members.

One of the main ways we are combining service and seeking financial remuneration from government is our important role in the coalition. More information on the coalition is provided in the report on the talk Robert Langdon gave to the Corner Brook BGM. We have had two meetings with Pensions Division in November and December. We are attempting to get information on pension issues and we are making suggestions as to other ways public pensioners can achieve improvements in their financial situation (i.e. improvements to the Income Tax benefits, lump sum payment to all pensioners, indexation and elimination of clawback in Canada Pension). Further meetings between the coalition and government officials are planned.

In addition, the coalition presented to the Pre-Budget hearings held in mid-winter. Another project in the planning stage is a Town Hall meeting on the topic of Public Pensions to be held in St. John's in March. Further information will be forthcoming. We would also encourage Divisions and individual members to make their voices heard at the Pre-Budget hearings and submit their ideas to the Provincial Executive.

In closing I would like to welcome all newly retired teachers. If this is your first newsletter I would encourage you to get involved in your local Division or Regional. Attend regular meetings of the Division. Run for Office. Enjoy yourself at the various social functions. It is a great time to meet old friends, enjoy great food, learn new skills and make new friends.

I wish you well in the New Year.

Robert Langdon's Presentation to the BGM in Corner Brook, October 2, 2008

Robert Langdon is the Chairperson of the Newfoundland & Labrador Public Service Pensioners' Association and Chairperson of the Public Service Pensioners' coalition. He is a career Civil Servant, finishing as a Deputy Minister. His previous experience was in the Trades sector working the AND Company mill in Grand Falls and Principal of the Grand Falls Trades School.

Mr. Langdon gave a stimulating and informative presentation. He outlined the progress made over the years to unite the public pensioners groups in a common front to approach government with their grievance over the lack of any increase in pensions since 1989. This was a need for new direction, a departure from previous attempts when the same thing was tried over and over with little success. This spring a renewed effort was made and a professionally organized press conference and media release was made on May 15, 2008. The seven associations which receive pensions from the provincial government purse are: The Retired Teachers' Association, St. John's Firefighters Association, NAPE Locals, MUN Pensioners, Correction Officers and the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Pensioners. From the united efforts the Public Pensioners' Coalition was formed.

The purpose of the coalition is to leverage the collective voice, influence and power of Public Pensioner Association Groups in Newfoundland and Labrador who receive public sector pension benefits to advantage common interests. One objective of the coalition is to provide a collective forum to pursue pension and health benefit related issues with Government through lobbying, media action, legal action, education and other means as determined by the represented Associations/Groups. The coalition groups have been meeting regularly. On September 30th a decision was made to meet with Government on November 7th and it is hoped this will be the beginning of quarterly meetings with Government. This should improve the attitude of the Government whose response for any financial remuneration is: "Look what we have done for seniors." Pensioners

got the pension they bargained for" and "We can't do for one group and not for another."

Mr. Langdon made reference to the comment of Minister Marshall when he addressed the NSPA conference delegate as a group of "seniors". His comment met with a negative reaction from the assembled group which proves that pensioners consider themselves "pensioners" first and not necessarily "seniors".

Mr. Langdon stated that the focus of the Public Pensioners' Association coalition in an attempt to get the Government to admit they deserve a cost of living benefit and arrange a meeting with the Premier and continued dialogue with Government.

There are about 17,000 public pensioners in this province and the coalition is the best opportunity to obtain improvements in pensions. All pensioners must decide if they wish to be leaders, followers or get out of the way.

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WELCOME TO OUR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:

At our BGM held in Corner Brook in October 2008, the following motion was passed: Jim Dobson/George Evans "that the Executive of the RTANL be authorized to hire a part time Executive Assistant to assist the Executive with ongoing activities". **Carried**

At this time, it is with great pleasure that the Provincial Executive announce our new Executive Assistant in the person of Mr. Kevin Foley. Kevin is no stranger to most of you since he is a not only a retired teacher but an Immediate Past-President of the NLTA. We, the Executive, welcome Kevin and hope that his time with us will be rewarding for him and us. **Welcome aboard, Kevin!**



Report of the Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation

by Geraldine Wall, Chairperson

The Retired Teachers' Foundation was founded as a charitable organization to assist institutions and groups in the promotion and advancement of the education, mental health, physical health, and well-being of children who are incapacitated. Retired teachers were encouraged to make donations to the Foundation to honour the life and work of former colleagues.

We are most grateful to all Divisions, individual members and groups who make donations to our Foundation each year. Through these donations, we can continue our legacy of caring for children. A Book of Remembrance has been established for the purpose of documenting names and biographical information on deceased teachers in whose honor donations were made. Each Division can assist the foundation by submitting names and biographical information of members from your area.

During the next two years the Board of Directors will focus on:

- (1) increasing the awareness of the foundation among its members
- (2) gather information on deceased members since March 2006 so we can begin Volume 4 of the Book of Remembrance
- (3) distribute In Memoriam Cards to all Funeral Homes throughout the province
- (4) increase awareness of the Foundation among newly retired members.

The Board of Directors will meet in Gander on April 21, and Anita Finn, former Chairperson will offer us advice in setting up the next Volume of the Book of Remembrance. A meeting with the Provincial Executive will also take place. We also anticipate that the Executive Assistant of RTANL will be available to help in this project.

On behalf of the children in Newfoundland and Labrador, we thank all who have supported our Foundation. Thank you for making it your charity of choice. We are making a difference in the lives of many children.

Donations to the Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation may be sent to:
3 Kenmount Road, St. John's, NL, A1B 1W1

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Report To AGM 2008 On The Newfoundland And Labrador Teachers' Foundation For The Benefit Of Incapacitated Children

by Bill Day, Chairman

May I, as we begin this session, express the Foundations's thanks to the Provincial Executive of the RTANL for their continued support of the Foundation. Also a Thank-You to Western Division; it is nice to be back on the West Coast. Back in May of 1999 the 12th Annual Meeting was held in Corner Brook, and sponsored by Western Division. Hopefully, we can be back again before ten years have passed.

Two charter members of the Foundation had a special connection to the West Coast, namely N. Ray Wight who was Treasurer for many years and was born at Rocky Harbour in Bonne Bay; also Heber Walters, who spent most of his career in the Bonne Bay area and was chair of the Foundation at the 12th Annual Meeting of the Foundation held here in Corner Brook in May 1999.

The purposes of the Foundation are two: (a) to honour the life and work of former teachers of the province; and (b) to assist institutions (and groups) that provide medical treatment and/or educational training for sick and/or disabled children on a non profit basis. Often recipients of our help are registered charities as well, so we are complementary in helping them reach their goals, for example, in providing specific equipment that meets a child's special need.

The Foundation is unique in that (a) no part of the principal fund is used except to produce interest (b) the Board of Directors are volunteers and have absolutely no expense account from Foundation funds; (c) the interest earned annually is disbursed by contributions to other charitable organizations; and

(cont'd on page 6)

(d) expenses incurred for postage, stationary and other office supplies are paid by the sponsoring group which is the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Foundation was conceived by the late C. Lloyd Buffett and created with the help of Central Division, which provided the sponsorship for many years, until the Provincial Association Executive assumed responsibility for sponsorship. Central Division still has in place the practice of donating \$50.00 on the death of a member. The Sisters of Mercy also donate on the death of a member.

Speaking of Central Division, we are pleased today to have with us Violet Seymour, from Eastport. Violet is an active member of Central Division and was one of the original members that made up the founding executive.

I am convinced that we can attain new goals both in giving and awareness within our Retired Teachers'



Violet Seymour - a Founding Member of the RTF Association. Our many thanks go out to the following; the RTANL, the NLTA, and the Print Plant for continued printing services. Special thanks to my colleagues on the Foundation Board Executive for their dedication to the Foundation these past two years. I do wish the new Foundation Board a successful year ahead and hope the new Provincial Executive will be very, very generous in giving to the Foundation. Thank you.

Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation 20th Annual Meeting, Glynmill Inn, Corner Brook, NL, October 3, 2008

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chairperson Bill Day called the meeting to order, welcomed those present and gave an overview of the mandate of the RTF and the mission statement.

Agenda

In the absence of a formal agenda, Chairperson Bill announced the general outline of the 19th annual meeting would be followed. Bill called for any additions to the agenda.

Geraldine Wall presented the topic of "Memory Books" to be added.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for 2006 to 2008 had been distributed.

Treasurer Ann Pennell gave an explanation of the report:
Revenues for 2007 \$16,378
Contributions to children's charities 2007 . . . \$15,500
Balance as of Sept. 5, 2008 \$16,175.98
Donations to children's charities Oct. 2008 . . . \$15,000
Bank balance Sept. 24, 2008 \$1,175.98

Anne moved the adoption of the report.
Seconded by Dianne Squarey. Carried.

Minutes

The minutes of the 19th annual meeting of the Retired Teacher's Foundation, Oct. 5, 2006 had been distributed.

Gladys Costella moved the minutes be adopted.
Seconded by Doreen Noseworthy. Carried.

Chairperson's Report

Bill in his report, focused on two main issues:

- the efforts by his administration to further publicize the work of the Foundation among RTANL members and the need for the new administration to address this issue with the view of increasing involvement and funds.
- the amount of and variety of materials received to be published in Memory Books.

Discussion

Bill asked for input, from the meeting, of ideas for the incoming RTF executive to aid in the publicizing of the Foundation and the start of the needed new *Memory Book*.

Division presidents from Avalon East, Central, Western and Burin reported on their various ways of keeping RTF in their communications and at functions, and their activities to raise funds.

Suggestions brought forward included means to raise awareness in the active teachers' members such as in the NLTA "Bulletin", making families of retired teachers aware of the existence of RTF, and informing new retirees at Retirement Seminars.

Memory Books

Geraldine Wall, incoming Chair of RTF, gave a brief explanation of Memory Books. These are books with the obituaries and career histories of teachers in NL. When the books are completed they are housed in the archives at "The Rooms".

With the mandate in mind that RTF exists to "honor the lives of teachers of NL" as well as to contribute to charities, Geraldine proposed that the RTANL should take responsibility for continuing to record, in a new book, the many accumulated items to which Bill had earlier referred, perhaps providing remuneration for the task.

It was suggested by Clayton Rice that if an executive assistant is hired, that work could be one of the responsibilities of the job.

Election of Executive for 2008-10

Bill conducted the election with the list provided by the nominating committee. Results were:

- Chair. . . . Geraldine Wall, by acclamation (Western)
- Vice Chair Dianne Squarey, by acclamation
(Avalon East)
- Secretary Lily Critch, by acclamation (Western)
- Treasurer Anne Pennell, returning (Avalon East)
- Directors . . . Agnes Hughes, by acclamation (Western)
Joyce Roberts, returning (Con-Tri)
Don Carter, returning (Central)

Presentation of Funds to Charities for Children

Before the presentation, Bill asked Violet Seymore to be the presenter and to speak as a surviving founding member of RTF. Violet gave a brief history of the inception and organization of the Foundation. Presentations were made by Violet as follows:

- Mazol Temple Shriners** \$3,000
accepted by John Hiscock who gave an overview of Shriners work for children in burn treatment, cleft palate, and orthopedics. This donation will assist with transportation.
- Spina Bifida Association** \$2,000
accepted by Craig Pike

Canadian Diabetes Association \$2,000
accepted by Rita Stone who spoke on behalf of Camp Duwanna, a camp for children with diabetes. The camp is designed to help these children deal with injections, diet and exercise. This donation will be used for the camp.

Candlelighters Association \$2,000
accepted by Gail Stevens who reported the donation would be used for a camp for children with cancer and a camp for bereaved siblings.

Lion Max Simms Camp \$2,000
accepted by Frank Bonnell who described the camp and its special facilities for children who are incapacitated.

Tourette's Syndrome \$2,000
will be forwarded as no person was present to accept.

Down Syndrome \$2,000
will be forwarded as no person was present to accept.

Donations to RTF

- From Western Division presented by Lily Critch \$1,000
- From RTANL presented by Clayton Rice. \$2,000

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn proposed by Gladys Costella. **Carried.** Helen Evans, Secretary; Bill Day, Chair

Winners:

Jean Seward of Botwood was the winner of the painting donated to the RTANL FOUNDATION by Calvin Wheeler of Central Division. Tickets for the painting were sold throughout Central Division and at the BGM/ Reunion held in Corner Brook. The Foundation realized \$700 from this activity.

Calvin was also a winner at the BGM/Reunion. He was the winner of the painting donated by Johnson Insurance.

Calvin's wife Lurley found just the place to display the painting, above their fireplace.



Shriners Accept Donation From RTF

NEWS & VIEWS

Divisions

Avalon East Division

Doreen Noseworthy (229-6274)

Hello, again, to all you wonderful educators out there in retirement land. Congratulations and best wishes to those new retirees who are only beginning to discover this new lease on life. It is my distinct pleasure to bring warm greetings to all of you, on behalf of Avalon East Division, and to bring you up-to-date on our most recent activities.



We've been very busy since my last report to you. Last year concluded with a very successful BBQ and Social at Bally Haly Golf and Curling Club, on May 31, 2008. There was a sold-out crowd in attendance, the meal and service were superb, the music, supplied by Dennis O'Reilly, kept us on our feet and it made for a great evening of fun and fellowship.

On June 5, 2008, we held our AGM at Clovelly Golf and Country Club. While this was a more business-like affair, we did manage to fit in a lovely luncheon, prepared and catered by the wonderful staff at Clovelly. Along with this, we were also delightfully entertained by the incomparable Sheila Williams whose talent, charm and wit would captivate any audience. Then it was on to the business at hand.

The main order of business for this AGM was the election of officers for 2008 – 2010. We had a wonderful slate of candidates for each of the positions and I am very pleased and proud to introduce to you the new Avalon East Executive:

President. Doreen Noseworthy
Past President. Mary Holloway
Vice President Veronica Mahoney
Secretary Bernadette Power
Treasurer Dianne Squarey
Visitation Convener. Sharon Reddy
Social Conveners. Gloria MacDonald
and Judy Prim
Members-at-Large Sandra Harnett
and Lena Fewer

Along with a full slate of such wonderful candidates, we were also fortunate enough to be able to form a Social Committee, thanks to the interest and enthusiasm of its members: Susan Wade, Carmel Strong, and Anne Marie Smythe. We've already begun to see great results from this committee and are looking forward to better things to come.

The first event for this year was our Octoberfest Luncheon, held at Glendenning Golf, in Southlands, St. John's. This relatively new facility was absolutely beautiful and the food and service were second-to-none. We had a full house and were wonderfully entertained by the Celtic Fiddlers who kept our toes tapping and our hands clapping. Anne Pennell, Treasurer of the Retired Teachers' Foundation, was presented with a cheque for \$500 on behalf of the retired teachers in Avalon East Division. There were the usual draws for some beautiful prizes and, needless to say, a marvellous time was had by all.

Next was our Christmas Social, held at Holiday Inn, with a total of 388 members registered for this event. Everyone had dressed for the occasion, with an array of Christmas colours from one end of the banquet room to the other. The festive mood was certainly enhanced by the beautiful decorations





throughout. We enjoyed a most delicious meal, prepared and served by the wonderful staff....no small feat for such a large group. Several invited guests were in attendance at this particular function. They included: Sean Noah, President of NLTA, who brought greetings to our members on behalf of the Association; Ed Hancock, Executive Director of NLTA; Anne Pennell, representing RTF; and Cyril Hayden, from the School Lunch Program, who was presented with Avalon East Division's annual donation of \$2000 in support of this very worthwhile cause. Greetings were extended, in absentia, from the president of RTANL, Jim Dobson, with a commitment that he would be in attendance for next year's celebration. Following the formalities, we broke into song. I donned my guitar and led the gathering in a delightful variety of traditional Christmas carols. Everyone was in great voice and we even had a couple of brave souls who decided to have a "scuff" as well as a "scoff". Of course, no activity would be complete without a draw for some fabulous prizes. Once again, our prize shopper, Sue Wade, outdid herself and, those who were lucky enough to have won, went home with a beautiful gift and an extra big smile. We are also very grateful to several of our members who donated gifts for the draws as well. Barb Young donated two of her famous Christmas cakes – soaked in rum and wrapped beautifully; Patricia (Pat) Walsh donated a beautiful, handmade Christmas decoration; and Clarissa and George Hiscock donated \$25 toward the purchase of prizes for the draws.

Now, one might think, from reading this report that, all we do is socialize. I will not deny that it is our main focus, in terms of reaching out to our members, but

we are busily engaged in looking after the affairs of the Division as well. In fact, on September 29-30/08, Bernadette Power and I attended the 18th Convention and General Meeting of the NL Public Sector Pensioners' Association, held at Holiday Inn, St. John's. We thought that, as members of the coalition, and as members of the Political Action Committee of RTANL, it might be of some interest and benefit to us to see where other groups are on many of the issues facing pensioners in this province today. We found it to be a very interesting and enlightening experience. As a result of that, we have recently become members of the NLPSPA and are taking a more active role within that Association.

In early October, several of our Executive members attended the 10th BGM/Reunion of RTANL, held in Corner Brook. While there is a social aspect to the Reunion portion of this event, the BGM is all business and is the forum for looking after the affairs of the Association and the Foundation as well as electing the people deemed to be most capable of guiding us in these matters. I'm sure there will be a report from BGM in this newsletter, so I won't get into details here. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank George and Helen Evans, on behalf of Avalon East, for their years of dedicated service to the Provincial Executive (George) and the Foundation (Helen). They have decided that it is time to really retire and we wish them well in their future endeavours, i.e. lots more time for golfing. Congratulations, also, to Dianne Squarey, treasurer of Avalon East Division, on being elected Vice President of RTF.

Bernadette and I, as representatives of Avalon East Division, are also members of the Aging Issues Provincial Network. In that capacity, we attended their 6th Annual Meeting, held at Comfort Inn in St. John's, October 30-31/08. Again, a report on this meeting will be included in this newsletter, so there is no need for me to elaborate further.

As newly elected Member-at-Large on the Provincial Executive of RTANL, I attended my first executive meetings at Holiday Inn, St. John's, November 5-6/08. I found these to be very organized, well run, interesting and informative. I look forward to working with the new executive on your behalf. They are an excellent group of individuals who have the

best interests of the retired teachers of this province at heart.

Apart from these things, we have been busy making plans for the remainder of the events for this year. Coming up on February 9/09, we have our annual Fun Day at Bally Haly – a day filled with curling, card games, board games, chitchat, food, fun and fellowship. This will be followed by Learn Something New Day, at St. Bon's School, St. John's, April 14/09, which will afford an opportunity for some of our members to experience things they may not otherwise have had the good fortune to do or learn. Then it will be on to our year-end events – the BBQ & Social and our AGM 2009 – details to be announced. Suffice it to say, we have had an extremely busy fall and the winter and spring are shaping up to be busy ones as well.

On behalf of the Executive and members of Avalon East, may I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Healthy, Happy and Prosperous 2009.

Yours in Retirement
Doreen Noseworthy

Bonavista Division

Harold Tremblett (468-2236)

Greetings from the Bonavista Division.



Our division has been quite active since my last report. We have held several executive meetings and several general meetings. Our executive members are also in constant contact by e-mail, and much of our brainstorming, planning, and discussions take place in this way.

Our executive met on May 29 at the residence of Linda Hicks in Catalina, on October 30 at the



residence of Beverly Fisher in Bonavista, and on December 2 at the residence of Calvin Boyce in Bonavista. Some of our ongoing work at the executive level include: a new banner for our division, a set of bylaws for our division, and the planning of meetings and activities for our members. Also, we have begun involving more retirees in sub-committee work in an attempt to get more people actively working for our division. To this end, we have established three sub-committees: a communication committee, a recreation committee, and a social committee.

Since my last report, we have also held three general meetings plus a dinner. On April 29, we gathered at the new Dean Little Room at the Bonavista Stadium, on June 12 at Catalina Elementary School, and on November 12 at Walkham's Gate Pub in Bonavista. Our Christmas Dinner was held at Hotel Bonavista on December 4.

At our April 29 meeting, two of our executive members, Duncan Ford and Beverly Fisher, volunteered to serve on the First School Committee, whose objective is to re-create the first Newfoundland School, which was opened in Bonavista in 1725. Also, two of our regular members, Bramwell Moulant and Ned Mifflin, volunteered to work with the Bonavista 2010 Come Home Year Committee to help compile a list of all teachers who once taught in Bonavista, with an objective of inviting back all those who are living, and are able to visit during July, 2010.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Eliza Swyers, a member of the First School Committee. In appreciation of her efforts, she was presented with a gift of *Tales Told by Teachers*.



Following this meeting, we attended a delicious buffet lunch at the Cabot Diner Restaurant.

During our June 12 general meeting in Catalina, we discussed various issues of concern to retired teachers: group insurance, members who need assistance, the upcoming BGM in Corner Brook, and the work of the Provincial Political Action Committee. Duncan Ford, who has been attending the PAC meetings, reported on the various issues now being dealt with by the committee, the most important of which is our pensions. After an election of officers for two year terms, many of the attendees stayed for lunch at the nearby Victorian Tea Room.

On November 12 at Walkham's Gate Pub, local author Johanna Ryan Guy attended to discuss her new book, *Ryan's Commander, The Boat That Should Not Have Sailed*. Fourteen of our members listened as Johanna revealed insights into her life experiences since the loss of her two brothers and fishing boat, *The Ryan's Commander*. In publishing the book, Johanna hopes that everyone who reads it will understand the very real dangers facing those on fishing boats and other ocean vessels off the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the need for improvements such as round-the-clock readiness and a maximum response time of thirty minutes by aircraft from Gander and Greenwood. The book is a good read for anyone interested in the details of this sea tragedy. Johanna's presence and her willingness to discuss her work was a very worthwhile experience for our members. In appreciation of her talk to the retired teachers, Duncan presented her with a gift of *Tales Told by Teachers*. During the business portion of this meeting, Clarence Dewling gave a report on the BGM in Corner Brook,

and our President updated members on our plans for the upcoming year.

Our Christmas Dinner on December 4 was a delicious meal prepared by the kitchen staff at Hotel Bonavista. Fifty people attended this event, after which we were graciously entertained by our own Gordon Fudge, who with guitar in hand, sang many country and Christmas favorites. Oftentimes during his performance, our members joined in with toe-tapping and singing as Gordon delighted all of us with his excellent rendition of many wonderful songs.

In the new year, we are planning to resume our Thursday morning curling sessions, and encourage more of our members to attend the adult skating sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Bonavista stadium. We hope to visit more retired teachers who are sick and in need of help, and we are examining ways by which we can encourage retired teachers who are not members to join RTANL. If our three new sub-committees succeed, as we hope they will, our division should become stronger with more members actively engaged.

Our current executive, elected at our June 12 general meeting: President, Duncan Ford; Vice-President, Madeline Adams; Secretary, Theresa White; Treasurer, Calvin Boyce; Directors-at-Large, Harold Tremblett, Beverly Fisher, and Linda Hicks.

Burin Division

Ada Hollett (832-2921)

Happy New Year to all RTANL members from Burin Division.

Our division has been a little busier this fall. We have had three activities as opposed to our usual two. In October 2008 a luncheon meeting was held at Wong's Palace Restaurant in Marystown. This meeting was well attended with some 31 people present. During the meeting a minute of silence was observed for a recently deceased member, Keith Lake and the other 117 deceased members remembered at our BGM church service in Corner Brook. Members were informed of the business at the Corner Brook BGM and Reunion. They were notified of the newly elected executives for both the RTANL and RTF and the charities receiving donations to help incapacitated

children were identified. After everyone had enjoyed a delicious meal of Chinese food, RCMP Constable Seeley spoke to the members on senior safety/senior abuse. Constable Seeley gave some important tips for seniors who live in their own homes. She warned of different scams that are on the increase. Various materials were distributed regarding telemarketers and crime stoppers.

An anniversary card had been sent to Lewis and Violet Payne who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary during the summer. A get well card had been sent to Nora Cheesman who was house bound with a broken foot.

It was decided at this meeting that we would take a nature walk at the eco-museum in Winterland on November 14th, weather permitting. Well November 14th dawned a beautiful day - calm, cold and ponds like mirrors. The weather was made for a nature walk and 25 members and guests gathered at the eco-museum in Winterland at 11:00. Everyone was dressed warmly for the weather. However, with the hot sun and the great exercise from walking many of us had to remove some of our heavy outerwear.

After the walk, we all met at the bungalow where five ladies and two men from Winterland had cooked up a feed of jiggs dinner on a wood stove. What a meal – pease pudding and all freshly grown Winterland cream, partridge cheesecake, bakeapple tarts as well as lemon squares were awesome! For entertainment we had the wonderful music of local entertainer, Con Fitzpatrick. Anne Coady also played Con’s guitar and sang the “Retirement” song she composed after she retired. Ben and Jean Brushett were presented with a 50th anniversary card. They were then serenaded by Con with the beautiful song “Can I Have This Dance for the Rest of my Life”. Albert Dober was also presented with a birthday card. We were appreciative of the fact that the Winterland volunteers opened up the bungalow just for us, having been closed for the winter.

On December 3, 2008 we all gathered at St. Patrick’s Social Center for our annual Christmas Social. We met at 11:30 a.m. to socialize before the meal of hot turkey and all the trimmings served at 12 noon. We were fortunate to have our newly elected provincial president, Jim Dobson, and his wife Beulah, in attendance. Jim took a few minutes to speak to the members about the Foundation, the coalition and



political action, plus our next book, *Tales Told By Teachers, Volume II*. He reminded the members that the deadline for submissions to Volume Two is March 31, 2009 and encouraged all of them to write a story of their teaching experience.

At the December meeting a motion was made to make an annual donation of \$50 to each of thirteen schools in our Division. The \$50 has to be awarded to a special needs child. Entertainment for this event was provided by George Grandy and Con Fitzpatrick. We even had a visit from Elvis Presley who sang “Blue Christmas”. While they sang the “Mummers” song, six appropriately attired mummers appeared with humps on their back, mitts on their feet, with one wearing combination underwear with a trap door undone! Granny was there along with one pretty mummer but the other faces were too ugly to mention.

To add to the December festivities we had a few draws for prizes. Congratulations to the girls from Lamaline area who were fortunate enough to win most of the prizes. Again, we were all very



appreciative of the service provided by the Ways and Means committee of St. Patrick's Church for their wonderful food and hospitality.

Hopefully our next meeting will be sometime during the winter for a fun day at the Curling Club in St. Lawrence.

On behalf of Burin Division, a happy and healthy 2009 to all.

Central Division

Philip Patey

Since our last report in April we have had three meetings each of which has been different from that of previous years.

The September meeting was not an Annual Meeting. It marked the beginning of the second year of the two year term for the present executive, something new for us. Members were brought up to date on plans for the BGM in Corner Brook. They received reports from the Provincial Executive, the Retired Teachers' Foundation, the status of our Book of Remembrance and the progress of political action.

The October meeting was not like the usual event. In previous years we held an executive meeting in some remote part of the division so that retired teachers in that area might meet with us. Participation has been so low we decided to discontinue the practice. So at the October meeting we received reports of the Corner Brook meetings and held our Annual Auction and Sale, which for as long as most of us remember was usually held in November.

The November meeting, our last until the spring, focused on the usual business of the division and

established committees to plan the afternoon program for our meetings in April and May.

Now we go into winter quarters but not before wishing all a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Coast of Bays Division

Lenus Lawrence (881-3331)

Allow me to say from a personal perspective the year 2008 was certainly not one of our most enlightening years. Never the less, I am extremely happy to extend to you and yours the Associations's sincere best wishes for 2009 and hopefully it will be filled with the most pleasant memories and rewarding experiences.

After much delay and some disappointments, the much anticipated launching of our *Book of Remembrance* finally occurred. On Tuesday, October 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the Vancor Hotel, amidst a somewhat disappointing guest list, the Coast of Bays retired teachers realized its main objective for the past two years – presentation to the general public of its memoirs in regards to *Yester-Year's Teachers*

These memoirs are not only a tribute to our South Coast deceased teachers, but also our "honorarium" to them. These stories serve not only as a tribute to these courageous teachers, but express our sincere thanks to those who challenged the unique and distinct features of coastal and rural Newfoundland to fulfill their aims and objectives of educating the students whom they encountered in those remote rural outports.



Not only were they willing to challenge the ruggedness and uniqueness of our overbearing geographical landscape, but use it to mold their individual character in regards to endurance and persistence. Their courage, bravery and endurance were so imbedded into our character and traits, we have become world famous for our hospitality, our way of life, and our positive personality. Our pioneer teachers displayed an array of morals and ethics that were distinctive mannerisms and ones of which we can be proud.

These earlier teachers were the epitome of good will, caring and stewardship. Their daily chores did not end with the closing of the school doors in the afternoon or evening. The role of “teacher” was their “daytime job” or responsibility. With the role of teaching he/she was saddled with many other chores or tasks. The ending of the school day meant the beginning of the teacher’s outreach aspect to his/her community. Society of that day shouldered them with the responsibility of clerical duties: christenings, funerals, lay-readers, Sunday school teaching, etc.

In addition to these line of duties, many acted in the capacity of magistrates, Justice of the Peace, swearers of oaths, will brokers, etc. They were the Lords and Ladies of their respective communities and they did so without any sense of recompense or remuneration. They were the pace-makers, the trend setters, the fashion bearers and the elitist distinguished class, not as a matter of choosing, but from the assumed role placed upon them by the society of their time.

Within the covers of the *Book of Remembrance* you will encounter your friends, your neighbors, your relatives and indeed your loved ones. These memoirs will not reveal the underlying qualities and traits that were the heart and soul of their conquest in their quest to educate the children of their time. The Book however, is a legacy of their life and endurance. It is the least we can do to portray these remarkable people. They have left us with a legacy we can be proud of and we sincerely thank them for the overall contributions they have given to us.

The Book was a labour of love by retired teachers Bridget Kelly, Mark Courtney, Margaret Power and Eileen Colbourne. Ms Kelly said she saw a similar book in Grand Falls-Windsor published by Central Division, and she brought the idea back to Coast of Bays. At the launching, she told Clayton Hunt of *The*

Coaster “This project was very enjoyable for me and I thoroughly enjoyed working with the other three teachers involved. This project was a complete team effort and all worked hard, especially Mark Courtney.”

The book will be available to the general public in Coast of Bays at public libraries or town council offices if a community does not have a public library. The book is in binder form and very flexible. If someone has more information on a teacher currently included in the book, they can have it added. If someone wants a page of the book, or the entire book copied they can have it done at their public library and pay applicable fees to the librarian.

The Coast of Bays Retired Teachers are very proud of its *Book of Memories*. It is a piece of historical literature and a literary art piece.

Con-Tri Division

Jennifer Babb

Happy New Year to everyone from the Con-Tri Retired Teachers. There are now more than 550 members in this Division and we are certainly getting busier and busier.



Mrs. Enid Jerrett and Con-Tri Past President Joyce Roberts.

At our Spring banquet, we presented an Honorary 90+ Certificate to Retired Teacher Enid Jerrett from Clarke’s Beach. Mrs. Jerrett is now living in St. John’s so Joyce Roberts visited her at Chancellor Park for the special presentation.

During the summer, some of our Executive members met with Manuel Ball, coordinator Health and Wellness Pilot Program at the NLTA. With his assistance, we plan to convene a Wellness Committee of Retired Teachers to consider issues of importance to us in this area of the province. We didn’t know it

at the time, but it was the last time our long standing Vice-President, Eldred Warren would be with us. He was such a committed member of our Division and rarely missed any meeting or event. Eldred passed away July 16, and he will be greatly missed.



Front - Albert Legge, Eldred Warren, Manuel Ball (NLTA).
Back - Joyce Roberts, Jennifer Babb.

On September 3, 2008 we enjoyed our second annual "Not Back to School Walk". It was a perfect day and the walk along the Bay Roberts Heritage Trail was indeed a special activity to share with friends. Our goal was to have more participants than last year. We achieved that goal and now we plan to increase that number in 2009. Lunch at the Mad Rock Café was delightful. Their fishcakes are famous. All Con-Tri members are reminded to mark September 9, 2009 on their calendars for the 3rd annual walk.

Later in September we had our Biennial Meeting and a new executive was elected. Congratulations and best wishes to those who have agreed to serve for the next two years.



Left to right: Darrell Yetman (Secretary), Albert Legge (Vice-President and Communications), Jennifer Babb (President), Joyce Roberts (Past President), Ruth Davidge (Treasurer) and Isabelle Cole (Communications).



Con-Tri member Cecil Smith chats with Jim and Beulah Dobson.

On November 25, we enjoyed another successful Christmas banquet that was well attended and enjoyed by all. We were delighted that Jim Dobson, our new Provincial President, and his wife Beulah were able to be with us. Jim brought greetings from the Provincial Executive and addressed the gathering about current concerns. Once again, Howard Sooley, Chris Snelgrove and Doug Card entertained us with their music. Thanks to the members attending, we raised nearly \$200 for the Foundation and we collected a carload of non-perishable food items for a local food bank. It was a great evening.

An Honorary 90+ Certificate was presented to Mr. Henry Morris and we were thrilled that he was able to be with us.

It was wonderful to see so many colleagues and friends enjoying their time together. We certainly hope that we can arrange another social event for the Spring.

This is also a special time of the year for Con-Tri members as we award four \$200 Scholarships to students from our local high schools. This year's winners are: Kayla Bishop, Ascension Collegiate; Jenelle Penney, Carbonear Collegiate; T.J. Tuck, Baccalieu Collegiate; and Samantha Jones, Crescent Collegiate. Congratulations to the winners. We wish them all the best as they continue their education.

The Con-Tri Executive, on behalf of their members, wish all provincial members blessings and happiness in 2009.

Western Division Report

Lily Critch (639-7212)

We have had a busy Fall at Western Division. The highlight was having the Biennial General Meeting and Re-



union take place in Corner Brook in early October. Prior to that we collected items for loot bags. The evening before the registration several of us met the Provincial Executive in the Glynmill Inn and prepared the information kits, including favours, for members and guests. On October 1 we took care of the registration. The BGM was informative and interesting; the Reunion was a lot of fun. The people to whom I spoke had a wonderful time.

On October 21 we held a general luncheon meeting at Bennett Hall, Corner Brook. We had a good turn out for this. The Ladies Auxiliary served a delicious soup and sandwich lunch with a variety of scrumptious desserts. The main event of the meeting was the presentation of our annual award for dedicated service to this Association. This year it was awarded to Gladys Costella who has been a member of the Western Division ever since she retired in 1989 and served as president of this Division for five years. Gladys has been a member of the Provincial Executive since she attended her first BGM, and served as president for four years. The end of her present term on Provincial Executive will mark twenty years! Gladys has gone "above and beyond the call of duty" for the RTANL. The award is certainly well-deserved.

Early in November we published our Fall Newsletter thanks to John and Elizabeth Murphy. A lot of work is required for this project, and several of our members helped stuff envelopes and mail them. A big "thank you" goes out to them.

Our annual \$200 donation to a breakfast/lunch program in our Division was given to St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary School in Port au Port. We made a donation of \$500 to the Western Memorial Hospital Foundation. We feel this is a worthy cause because people from our entire area have to avail of this hospital's services.

When the Retired Teachers' Foundation (RTF) held its

annual meeting on October 1 in Corner Brook, the Western Division presented them with a cheque for \$1,000 in memory of deceased members. We are currently conducting our "Bakeless Bake Sale" campaign for the RTF. If you have not made a donation and would like to do so, it is not too late.

Every year in December we attempt to contact members who are in seniors' homes, long-term care facilities, or ill at home or in a hospital. Our contact people in outlying areas and sick-visiting committee in Corner Brook make a Christmas visit and take them a fruit basket or flower. Regrettably, we can only visit people we know about; so, if we missed someone, please let me know.

I received an invitation to speak at the NLTA Retirement Seminars in Stephenville and Corner Brook. I attended the Corner Brook session and made a pitch on behalf of the RTANL. Unfortunately, I was unable to go to the Stephenville meeting and no one else was available. At that time I was attending the Division Presidents' meeting in St. John's at the request of the Provincial Executive. Each president gives a report on his/her Division's activities and how it serves its membership, and we get a better idea of what the Provincial Executive expects from us. We had a good discussion, and I felt the meeting was beneficial.

We recently held our annual Christmas dinner and dance. As usual, it was well attended. We were pleased to have Provincial Executive President Jim Dobson and his wife, Beulah, join us. Jim brought greetings on behalf of his Executive and mentioned the current talks on political action. Humber Branch NLTA president, Glenn MacArthur, was also present. He brought greetings from his Association and reminded us of our close liaison with the NLTA. Dancing followed the dinner with lots of prizes given out during the night. It was a great time.



Geraldine Wall (left) presents Gladys Costella with award for dedicated service.

Prior to the dinner, we sold tickets on a Christmas wreath which had been made and donated by Winnie Guy. This has been an annual project for her, and we thank her sincerely. All proceeds from this raffle (\$142) go to the RTF.

As you are well aware, we are into the New Year. The Executive of Western Division wishes all of you a joyous and healthy 2009.

Aging Issues Network (AIN) Update

Gladys Costella (representing RTANL on AIN)

On October 30-31, 2008, the Aging Issues Network (AIN) held its Sixth Annual Provincial Meeting at Airport Inn, St. John's. Over sixty Members of the Network participated, along with Provincial Government representatives and other business and organizational representatives. The Honorable Tom Hedderson, Minister responsible for the volunteer and non-profit sector, brought greetings and spoke about the important work being done by the Network with regard to the needs of seniors across the province.

The meeting's focus was to identify one burning issue to move forward and to present formally to Government in 2009. The issue identified was Home Supportive Services.

Members were also given an update on the progress made regarding the Homelessness Partnership Project. Some AIN members are now involved with community development boards in Mount Pearl, Gander-Grand Falls, Marystown, and Corner Brook. (RTANL Executive Member Gladys Costella is the AIN contact of the Corner Brook Board.) AIN representation of such boards will ensure that seniors' needs are being addressed and included in the municipalities' development plans. The next step will be the finalization of such plans to the municipal governments for final approval.

On October 29/08, those AIN representatives were taken on a tour of some of the facilities made possible through funds from the Homelessness Partnership Projects of the past: Stella Burry House, Choices for Youth, Carew Lodge, the Tommy Sexton Centre, and another project (still under construction) on Bond Street. Talking to

the people involved in those projects provided invaluable information on how to get such projects built in communities where there is a recognized need.

The Provincial Meeting was deemed a great success, positive and enlightening. It is obvious that the work and progress of the Network is being recognized across the province and by Government.

Members of the AIN Coordinating Committee are now heading up sub-committees to prepare a presentation to Government on the identified burning issue and a presentation to Rotary Clubs and other non-profit organizations to try to organize a community building project for seniors' housing in the future. Iwona Moore from the Public Health Agency of Canada was so impressed with the work done so far by the Network members and the plans in place for the future that extra funding from the Agency has been provided to the AIN until March 2009. Consequently, the AIN has been able to plan for another Provincial Network Meeting to be held in St. John's, March 26-27, 2009. (Any group that would like to send someone to this Meeting should get in touch with Provincial Coordinator Alicia Cox by email: aliciacox@seniorsresource.ca or by phone: 1-800-563-5599.

For those unfamiliar with the Network's purpose, its mandate is as follows: "*To **enhance communication** between seniors, seniors' organizations, and relevant Government departments about policy issues affecting an aging population; to serve as a vehicle **to partner** seniors and their organizations and relevant Government departments in the policy development process; to **identify priority policy issues** based on the needs of the diverse population of seniors in Newfoundland and Labrador; to prepare working papers, collect background research and documentation, and **identify best policy practices** regarding priority issues through the work of the working groups; and to **increase public knowledge and understanding** of the aging process and its implication for all age groups in Newfoundland and Labrador.*"

The Aging Issues Network maintains external communication with Government's Aging and Seniors Division, the Provincial Advisory Council

on Aging and Seniors, and the Ministerial Advisory Council, as well as the Public Health Agency of Canada.

RTANL has been one of the organizations involved with the Network from the first meeting of representatives from organizations throughout the province (February 12, 2005). Provincial Executive members Clayton Rice and Gladys Costella, and Avalon East Division members Doreen Noseworthy and Bernadette Power have attended each Provincial Meeting of AIN since that time, and were involved in several teleconferences as members of the Network's Social Inclusion working group.

Further information may be obtained by visiting the Seniors Resource Centre website (www.seniorsresource.ca), or by calling Alicia Cox or the SRC's Executive Director at 1-800-563-5599.

Report of the RTANL Executive Meeting With Divisional Presidents

Don White

A meeting of the RTANL Executive and Divisional Presidents took place on the morning of November 6, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in St. John's. The following Executive Members were present: Jim Dobson (President); Geraldine Wall (Vice-President); Don Case (Immediate Past President); Gladys Costella (Member-at-Large); Ada Hollett (Member-at-Large and also Divisional President); Doreen Noseworthy (Member-at-Large and also Division President); Clayton Rice (Treasurer); Don White (Secretary)

Regrets were received from Philip Patey (Member-at Large).

The following Divisional Presidents were present:

Lily Critch	Western
Jennifer Babb	Con-Tri
Duncan Ford	Bonavista
Ada Hollett	Burin
Pat Pittman	representing Division
Lenus Lawrence	Coast of Bays
Doreen Noseworthy	Avalon East

At 9:30 a.m. President Jim Dobson welcomed everyone with a gentle reminder that we are all volunteers – the core group – which holds our Association together. Following introductions around the table, the Agenda was adopted, minutes of the Meeting of November 30, 2006 were adopted and we settled down to three hours of discussions.

A discussion of BGM 2008 indicated that all who attended had an enjoyable time and all comments were very favourable. Mailing, telephone and e-mailing addresses were exchanged and would be distributed to all present in order to facilitate communications.

President Jim reminded Division Presidents to provide Division Reports in time for the next Newsletter – the deadline being December 15, 2008. All correspondence related to Divisions to be included in the Newsletter is to be forwarded by that date. All financial reports are to be forwarded to Clayton as soon as possible as they are needed for audit purposes.

A copy of the ad re hiring of an Executive Assistant was distributed and Division Presidents were asked to distribute this information at their respective Divisions.

The remaining portion of the meeting was given over to each Divisional President to describe Divisional Activities during the past year. No doubt each Divisional President will elaborate in detail on these activities elsewhere in this Newsletter. Suffice it to say that every Division has been quite busy keeping its membership involved, informed and entertained.

BGM 2008 Report: WOW, What a Great Reunion!

For the 5000 plus of you who were not there, you missed a great two days and nights of great food, dancing, skits, singing, stimulating discussion, prizes and charitable donations. Our slogan "Ten is Great - Let's Celebrate!!!" was certainly confirmed.

Of course I am talking about the 10th RTANL BGM and Reunion held in Corner Brook from October 1st to 3rd. The event got underway on Wednesday afternoon with registration, organized under the capable direction of the Western Division Executive. The first night was highlighted by a dinner prepared by the chefs of the Glynmill Inn. Several "give-aways" and door prizes were presented as members associated with former colleagues and met new friends. Callista Burrige, Executive Member of the NLTA, brought greetings on behalf of the active teachers. Mayor Charles Pender, an active teacher, brought greetings on behalf of the City of Corner Brook.

Entertainment for Wednesday evening was provided by the Elementary Choir from C.C. Loughlin School, Corner Brook. All in attendance were delighted with the beautiful music. Congratulations to choir director Ms. Monica Sampson and her choir for a job well done! We also glimpsed the "multi-talents" of the Provincial Executive as they entertained us with songs and skits and three "special guests - "Joey", "Tiny Tim", and "Sir Elton John".

Thursday marked the official opening of the BGM. Greetings from the Provincial Government were brought by Darrell Kelly, MHA for Humber Valley. Routine business of the President's report from Don Case and financial statements from Clayton Rice showed we had an active two years and are in a stable financial position. Election of the Provincial Executive resulted in the new alignment of your leadership as shown on page two of this newsletter. I would like to welcome two new members to the Executive - Geraldine Wall was elected the new Vice President, and Doreen Noseworthy was elected as one of the four members-at-large. Special thanks go to two outgoing members of the Executive, George Evans and Emily Mullett. After many years of dedicated service, these two dedicated volunteers have nearly 50 years of exemplary service to the RTANL membership. George

was recognized for his service by receiving the 2006 Biennial Award. Emily was recognized this year as a joint winner of the 2008 Biennial Award.

A highlight of our opening session was a presentation by Robert Langdon. Robert is the Chairperson of the Newfoundland & Labrador Public Service Pensioners' Association and Chairperson of the Public Service Pensioners' Coalition. He explained the purpose of the coalition is to leverage the collective voice, influence and power of Public Pensioner Association Groups in Newfoundland and Labrador who receive public sector pension benefits to advantage common interests. One objective of the coalition is to provide a collective forum to pursue pension and health benefit related issues with government through lobbying, media action, legal action, education and other means as determined by the represented Associations/Groups. More information from Mr. Langdon is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

One significant resolution was passed at our Thursday BGM authorizing the Executive to hire a part-time Executive Assistant to assist the Executive with ongoing activities. Background information shows that Retired Teacher Associations in provinces of similar population have made arrangements to either hire full time personnel or pay for an arrangement through their active teacher organizations. Clayton Rice spoke to the motion indicating that the number of members in the RTANL have doubled in ten years. Every new member requires correspondence. Keeping up with "change of address" requests is a fundamental task. Add that to the increasing contact with other public pensioners associations and doing business on a "dining room table" of a volunteer does not cut it anymore.

Thursday afternoon we had our Service of Worship at First United Church under the direction of Dr. Wayne Cole. Rev. Cole gave a thought-provoking sermon entitled "Blessed is the Teacher Who Taught with a Punctuation Theology." The Choir was under the capable direction of Mr. Gary Graham. One hundred and sixteen names of deceased teachers were read from the Honour Roll.

Our formal Reunion Banquet was held on Thursday night. After an excellent meal we were entertained by the humor of Dr. Ken Jacobson of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. Jim Warren and Emily Mullett were

presented with the Biennial Award for Service. Draw prizes, dancing and music along with board games concluded the evening. Calvin Wheeler was the winner of the print donated by Johnsons Inc. I would like to thank Johnson Inc. for their participation in the BGM/Reunion and express the appreciation of the membership for their financial contribution and donation of the print.

Friday morning began with the Annual General Meeting of the Retired Teachers' Foundation. While a more complete summary of the activity of the Foundation will appear in the Foundation Report elsewhere in this newsletter, I would like to recognize the contribution made to the Foundation by outgoing President Bill Day. Bill has been an advocate of the Association for many years and for the past two years has led the Foundation, making sure that the guiding principle of acting for the benefit of children with disabilities was adhered to. Well done Bill, the membership owes you a big "Thank You" for all your volunteer work over the years.

Our 10th Reunion and Biennial General Meeting ended with the installation of the new President and Executive and "thank you" expressed by the outgoing President, Don Case. Evaluations returned by those in attendance gave rave reviews for the organization of the events, and the hospitality extended by the Glynmill Inn. The only regret was that there were not more people in attendance. The new executive will make a concerted effort to increase the numbers attending the next BGM which will be held in Gander in October 5-7, 2010.

President's Executive Report to BGM 2008

by Don Case

This report will attempt to give a broad overview of Provincial Executive activities during 2006-08, touch on some highlights of our term of office and suggest some recommendations for the new executive.

2006-08 Provincial Executive:

President: Don Case; **Vice-President:** Jim Dobson;

Treasurer: Clayton Rice; **Secretary:** Don White

Members-at-Large: George Evans; Emily Mullett; Ada Hollett; Philip Patey

Immediate Past President: Gladys Costella

Executive Meetings

2006: October 5 - St. John's; November 28/29 - Corner Brook with a Division Presidents' Session

2007: April 18/19 - Gander with a Political Action Committee Session; June 5/6 - St. John's; October 31/November 1 - St. John's

2008: April 22/23 - Gander; June 16/17 - Corner Brook; October 1st - Corner Brook

Visits to Divisions:

Provincial Executive was pleased to attend Western Division function, November 2006.

President Don also visited Central Division meeting and Avalon East Octoberfest 2007. He also attended a number of Con-Tri meetings and Banquets. Interacting with members across the province is very important.

Newsletters Published :

Regular newsletters were published and circulated in February 2007, December 2007 and June 2008 with a mail out of the Summer News Flyers August 2007. Our thanks to the staff of NLTA Printing Services for their assistance. Our Treasurer recently negotiated a deal with Canada Post, considerably reducing the cost of mailing our newsletters. The newsletter can also be found on the NLTA website.

Membership:

Our membership continues to increase. We now have a total of 5427 members. The workload for the Executive and Divisions has increased. Please check the recommendations.

Benefits on the Card:

Members are reporting the use of our Cards is financially rewarding. The Benefits' Committee continues to seek possible reduction in the cost of purchases for our members.

Biennial Award for Service :

The guidelines for this award were sent to each Division. The recipient for 2008 will receive the award at the BGM banquet.

Liaison With NLTA :

Liaison Committee meetings were held with NLTA President Sean Noah, and our Executive also attended

(cont'd on page 21)



a “Meet-and- Greet” as guests of NLTA Executive. The members of the NLTA continue to support our Association. Life Membership Cards were given by the NLTA to all retirees who have 20 years or more of service. The cooperation and assistance from NLTA is very much appreciated.

NLTA Health Insurance Trustees:

Our Association has an executive representative on the NLTA Group Health Insurance Board of Trustees to address our concerns. We are kept up to date on any proposed changes.

Political Action:

We have had a number of meetings with Finance Minister Tom Marshall seeking better benefits for our members... especially an increase to our pension. Unfortunately, efforts to date have shown few results. At the last Political Action Committee meeting, it was decided to try some new strategies... one being to join the “Pensioners’ Coalition 2008”, which we have done. Through our newsletters we will keep you informed of our progress. The Executive is committed to keep up the struggle for increased benefits for our members.

Pensioners’ Coalition 2008:

We first began meeting with the coalition when an invitation was sent on March 27, 2008 by Robert Langdon, President of NPSPA. Meetings with the group have been ongoing. Representatives from RTANL have been attending and participating in all activities, e.g. the News Conference called May 15, 2008. As long as it’s the wish of this Association, we will remain part of the coalition.

Retired Teachers’ Foundation:

The RTANL is very proud to be sponsoring the Retired Teachers’ Foundation.

The seven retired teachers (Directors) have done a remarkable job of serving and investing. To all those who so generously donate, a big thank-you.

ACER-CART:

The Executive feel it is important to be part of this national organization since it gives us the opportunity to be part of a strong lobbying force on matters that affect retired persons. ACER-CART along with other groups lobbied the Federal Government on “Pension Income Splitting”. This benefited many of our members. ACER-CART has always been supportive of our Association in its efforts to improve pensions.

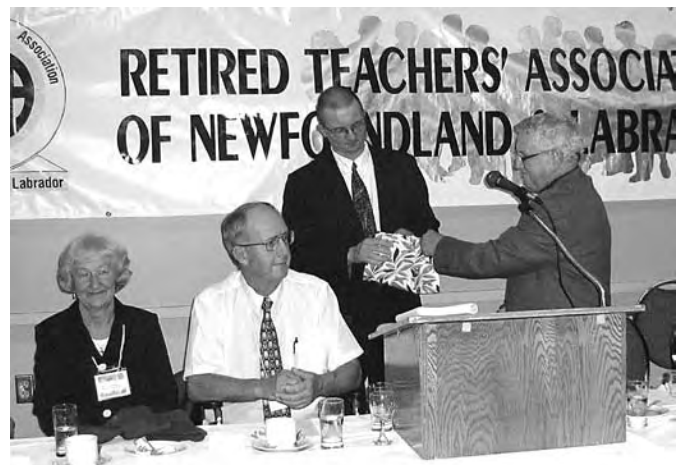
Tales Told by Teachers:

There are still copies of Volume I available that can be purchased from an executive member for \$10. However, at a store it will cost \$12.95. Volume II is very close to publication... just a few more stories are needed.

Handbooks:

The Policy Handbook has been completed and is now distributed to all newly retired teachers.

It contains the History, Constitution and By-Laws and other relevant information that will help all



Dr. Ken Jacobson receives his thank you gift for his presentation.

Next ACER-CART AGM:

June 5-6, 2009, in Ottawa

new members better understand our Association. The Executive Handbook has been completed. This Handbook will be given to newly elected members of the Provincial Executive.

Recommendations for 2008-10:

1. To hire a part-time Executive Assistant.
2. Continued Political Action on the part of the Executive as well as the membership.

Special Thanks: *To all the Divisions and Regional Presidents... the Directors of Retired Teachers' Foundation... Members of the Political Action Committee... Our Nominating Committee... NLTA Office and Print Plant Staff... Biennial Award Selection Committee... Our Johnson Inc. friends for their help to sponsor this reunion and all of you for coming, a sincere thank-you.*

Finally, on behalf of all 5427 members I want to thank the 2006-08 Provincial Executive for their patience, dedication, hard work, and support within the last two years. I have been especially fortunate to have worked with such a supportive group of individuals.



Darryl Kelly, MHA for Humber Valley.

Division and Regional Presidents

Avalon East Division:

Doreen Noseworthy

37 Salmonier Line Holyrood NL, A0A 2R0
(709) 229-6274, dgnoseworthy@nf.sympatico.ca

Plaisance Regional (Avalon East Division):

Carmelita Traverse

P.O. Box 41, Jerseyville, NL, A0B 2G0
carne_traverse@yahoo.ca

Bonavista Division:

Duncan Ford

P.O. Box 1385, Bonavista NL, A0C 1B0
(709) 468-7490, duncanford1@nf.sympatico.ca

Burin Division:

Ada Hollett

1 Corkum Place, Grand Bank NL, A0E 1W0
(709) 832-2921, ajhollett@nf.sympatico.ca

Central Division:

Philip Patey

P.O. Box 87, Lewisporte, NL, A0G 3A0
(709) 535-2569, philippatey@persona.ca

Coast of Bays Division:

Lenus Lawrence

Box 6, RR 1, Site 1A, English Harbour West, NL, A0H 1M0 (709) 881-3331, (No e-mail)

Con-Tri Division:

Jennifer Babb

P.O. Box 39, Harbour Grace NL, A0A 2M0
(709) 596-3019, the.babbs@personainternet.com

Western Division:

Lily Critch

P.O. Box 124, Steady Brook NL, A2H 2N2
(709) 639-7212, l.g.critch@nf.sympatico.ca

Lab-West Regional (Western Division):

Marcheta Gallant

516-500 Bartlett Drive, Labrador City, NL, A2V 1G4 (709) 944-5778, mgallant@nf.sympatico.ca

Port Aux Basques Regional (Western Division):

Randy Smith

P.O. Box 1464, Port aux Basques, NL, A0M 1C0
(709) 695-3849, randy.smith@nf.sympatico.ca

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Sept.'04 - Aug.'06 AND Sept.'06 - August.'08

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	Sept. - Aug 04 - 06	Sept - August 06 - 08	Budget 2008-2010
Advertising	2,765.00	1,725.00	2,500.00
Donation from Johnson Inc	1,146.07	3,094.69	3,100.00
Donation from Divisions	375.00	450.00	-----
Fees from Divisions	498.00	766.50	-----
Interest	1,022.05	2,316.99	3,100.00
NLTA Operational Grant for RTF	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
NLTA - ASA Credit	20,000.00	21,003.26	20,000.00
Payroll Deductions	184,357.50	193,731.00	199,000.00
Registration Fees (04)	1,485.00	---	-----
Registration Fees (06)	5,400.00	3,520.00	-----
Registration Fees (08)		4,440.00	5,000.00
Tales Told By Teachers	<u>5,622.79</u>	<u>6,118.99</u>	3,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 226,671.41	\$ 241,166.43	\$ 239,700.00
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
Advertising	----	-----	
Audit	230.00	\$ 230.00	230.00
BGM 2004	4,390.00	---	----
BGM 2006	147.54	4,368.26	
BGM 2008		63.17	3,000.00
Cart Fees	2,052.80	2,434.75	2,500.00
Cart Expenses	4,396.74	5,409.05	4,000.00
Committee's	150.97	292.06	3,500.00
Computers		2,199.58	
Divisional Presidents (Provincial)	-----	1,122.48	-----
Executive Meetings	34,327.33	26,700.99	35,000.00
Liaison		139.60	
Miscellaneous	196.96	218.42	300.00
Paper/Office Supplies	980.60	1,588.43	1,200.00
Payments to Divisions	90,463.63	95,467.38	96,000.00
Photocopying/ Printing/Postage	28,210.95	37,283.80	30,000.00
Political Action	6,639.56	14,716.86	5,000.00
President/Vice President (Executive work)	596.18	324.06	1,500.00
Reunion	9,001.48 (04)	14,680.98 (06)	-----
Reunion '08		799.91	
RTF (Expenses)	8,447.02	2,337.05	2,000.00
RTF Donation	1,250.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Service Charge	170.60	168.00	350.00
Tales Told By Teachers	11,430.51	-----	-----
Telephone	492.69	360.42	600.00
Visits to Divisions	<u>455.54</u>	<u>769.27</u>	<u>500.00</u>
	<u>204,031.10</u>	<u>212,674.52</u>	<u>\$ 187,680.00</u>

BGM



Registration BGM 2008.



Members from Con-Tri.



Past President Don (l) Presents Gavel to President Jim.



"Joey" Directs Executive "Choir".

PICS



C.C. Loughlin School Choir Performs.



"The Clothesline".



"Tiny Tim" a.k.a President Don.

"Joey" a.k.a Treasurer Clayton.



Robert Langdon Addresses BGM 2008.



Emily Mullett (l) Receives Biennial Award.



"Sir Elton John" a.k.a Secretary Don.



Jim Warren (l) Receives Biennial Award.



Presentation to Retiring Executive Member George Evans (l) By Don White.



A Pound of Cure

Manuel Ball, BPE, MSc.

Coordinator, Teacher Health and Wellness Pilot Program Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

We've all heard the saying "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." There is, perhaps, no other area in which this is more applicable than when dealing with our own health and wellness. The problem is, in far too many cases, people seem to forget this little bit of advice and wait until AFTER some sort of a health problem arises and then react to it, rather than being proactive, and preventing the problem from showing up in the first place.

Think of your car, and the work that goes into keeping it running. We all go through the list of things that need to be done to keep our vehicles running in good condition. We put in gas, change the oil, take it for regular maintenance, and, if something does seem to be wrong, we take it to a mechanic to have it checked out. Our bodies are much like our cars, except for the fact that they are much more complex machines, and they don't come with a manufacturer's warranty – the responsibility for them is all ours.

Proper nutrition, exercise, regular medical check-ups, as well as maintaining a positive mental outlook are all key components of maintaining our

own health and wellness. Rather than waiting until something "goes wrong", make a conscious effort to be proactive in terms of your own health.

When planning ways to be more consciously involved in our own health and wellness, it is often beneficial to set goals for ourselves. When setting these goals, think of the SMART principle for goal-setting. Your own individual goals should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Tangible. For many people, it can even be beneficial to write down their goals to help keep them focused on what it is they are trying to accomplish. For example, rather than saying that my goal is "to be more physically active", I might say that my own goal is "to take part in some sort of moderate physical activity for at least 45 minutes, three times a week for the next three months." Once you set your goal, check regularly to make sure that you are meeting the criteria that you set for yourself. Much like report cards in school give an assessment of how students are doing in terms of achieving the goals set out for them, you can also assess how you are doing in terms of meeting your own health and wellness goals, and make adjustments as necessary.

Keeping in mind some of these ideas, clichés and all, can certainly pay dividends in terms of maintaining a level of health that will allow you to experience the most possible from life after retirement.



Provincial Executive **Front Row** (L to R) Geraldine Wall, Gladys Costella, Ada Hollett, Don Case. **Back Row** (L to R) Clayton Rice, Jim Dobson, Don White, Doreen Noseworthy (**Insert**) Philip Patey



Division Presidents: **Front Row** (L to R) Jennifer Babb (Con-Tri), Lily Critch (Western), Ada Hollett (Burin), Doreen Noseworthy (Avalon East). **Back Row** (L to R) Pat Pittman (Representing Coast of Bays), Duncan Ford (Bonavista).

Teacher's Paradise

(To the tune of Fiddler's Green)

Author: Gord Pike and Friends

As I walked by a schoolhouse one morning quite fair,
To watch the small children as they played full of cheer,

I spied a school teacher a singin' a song,
"If I don't soon retire my time won't be long"

REFRAIN:

Wrap me up in art paper and scotch tape
For so many years it was nice,
But I'll tell my old colleagues,
I'm through with these follies,
I'll see you some day in Teacher's Paradise.

Teacher's Paradise is a place I hear tell,
Where good teachers go if they don't go to hell,
Where there are no desks and no maps on the wall,
You never have any lunch duty at all.

REFRAIN:

Don't want no alarm clocks, no deadlines, no phone
But just a recliner to relax in at home,
Listen to Open Line, and think of you all
Sufferin' bus duties while I have a ball

REFRAIN:

My bus has arrived now, the PA's turned off,
There's nothing to do but relax and to scoff,
I can put up me feet, I can whistle or hum,
I can go where I like and come back when I come.

REFRAIN:

Tales Told by Teachers Vol. II

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Articles are still needed for the second volume of Tales Told by Teachers. Many articles have been received so far — still not enough for our book. Please continue to send material to:

**Philip Patey
Memory Book Committee
PO Box 87, Lewisporte, NL, A0G 3A0**

**Or call Philip at 535-2569 or
Email philippatey@persona.ca**

No publishing date can be set until we have enough material. We know you have the "tales" to tell, so P-L-E-A-S-E get them written for others to share and enjoy! Deadline for submission is April 15, 2009.

MEMBERSHIP CARD BENEFITS

1. At Ultramar Home Heating Centres: 3 cents off a liter of home heating fuel and 10% off the furnace insurance plan.
2. At The Paint Shop: 10% off all regularly priced items, except floor coverings.
3. At Jennifer's of Newfoundland in Corner Brook: 10% off all evening meals and 10% off all regularly priced items in the gift shop.
4. At the Notre Dame Castle Building Centre in Corner Brook: 10% off all regularly priced items and 5% off lumber.
5. At Roberts' Artistic Electronic Creations in Bareneed: 10% off all regularly priced items.
6. At Roberts' Sleepy Hollow B&B in Clarkes Beach: 10% discount.
7. At Movies and Music Plus in Carbonear and Music Plus in Bay Roberts: 10% discount.
8. Fine Things Jewelry and The Salt Box (Crafts) in Clarenville: 10% discount of regularly priced items.

(You must show your RTANL Membership Card to "reap the benefits".)



ADDRESSES • ADDRESSES • ADDRESSES

If you have a change of address or know of a retired colleague not receiving correspondence from the RTANL, please advise your Division President, and also the Executive Assistant, Kevin Foley, (10 Skippers Landing, Torbay, AIK INI) kevinfoley@nl.rogers.com.

We would really like to keep our mailing list up to date so that members are informed and we avoid mail returns.

Your cooperation in this matter would be much appreciated.

VISITATION

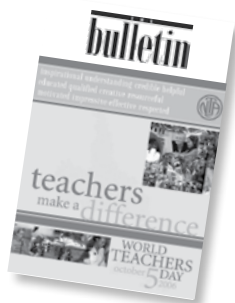
All Divisions have Sick-Visiting Committees. Please notify your Division as soon as you hear that any member is ailing at home or in the hospital, so that visitations can be arranged. Members from other Divisions sent to hospital in St. John's will be visited by Avalon East members, if requested by those Divisions. Early notification is essential. Contact person in St. John's: Clayton Rice at 782-8914.

Welcome to All New Retirees

We extend a warm welcome to all new members of our Association and encourage you to get involved. You'll find participating in Division activities is an enjoyable way to begin your retirement, especially since so many of your friends are already members.

The Bulletin

To receive the NLTA Bulletin for 2008-09, send your name and mailing address, along with a cheque or money order for \$16.00 (made payable to the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association) to: Louise King, NLTA Printing Services, 3 Kenmount Road, St. John's, NL, A1B 1W1.



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In Memoriam

We mourn the passing of the following retired teachers and extend sincere sympathy to their families and friends:

<i>Kathleen Abbott, (Corner Brook)</i>	<i>Flaviano Mangabang, (Port Saunders)</i>
<i>Rudy Abbott, (Ellison)</i>	<i>Mary McGrath, (St. John's)</i>
<i>Barbara Andrews, (Salmonier)</i>	<i>Mahalla Moores, (Molly), St. John's</i>
<i>Arthur Blagdon, (Seal Cove, CBS)</i>	<i>Michael Moss, (Pasadena)</i>
<i>Teresa Bowen, (St. John's)</i>	<i>John Noseworthy, (Mount Pearl)</i>
<i>Annie Bourne, (St. John's)</i>	<i>Joseph Nurse, (Glenwood)</i>
<i>Esther Burke, (St. John's)</i>	<i>Dennis O'Leary, (Carbonear)</i>
<i>Robert Butler, (St. John's)</i>	<i>Mary O'Neill, (St. John's)</i>
<i>Mabel Colbourne (Brown), (Corner Brook)</i>	<i>Pierce Power, (Bishop's Falls)</i>
<i>Robert Joseph Cove, (St. John's)</i>	<i>Bernadette Shea, (Gander)</i>
<i>Josephine Davis, (Colinet)</i>	<i>Clifford Smith, (Dildo)</i>
<i>Frank Deacy, (CBS)</i>	<i>Alfred Snow, (Victoria, CBS)</i>
<i>Anna Marie Dicks, (Rushoon)</i>	<i>Gladys Snow, (Rocky Harbour)</i>
<i>Sylvia Foley, (Norris Arm South)</i>	<i>Ronald Spurrell, (Lewisporte)</i>
<i>Leslie Forde, (England)</i>	<i>Russell Steele, (Carbonear)</i>
<i>Elizabeth Kelsey, (Clarke's Beach)</i>	<i>Iona Grace Stuckless, (Botwood)</i>
<i>Keith Lake, (Burin Bay Arm)</i>	<i>Leah Taylor, (Belleoram)</i>
<i>Bernice LaVallee, (Flower's Cove)</i>	<i>Allan Thorne, (Brownsdale)</i>
<i>Eleanor Lawton, (St. John's)</i>	<i>Anita Veitch, (Colliers)</i>
<i>Sarah Legge, (Robinsons)</i>	<i>Eldred Warren, (Heart's Delight-Islington)</i>



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**.

