

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

T H E

bulletin

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Up Front from the President



*And the seasons they go 'round and 'round
And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on the carousel of time
We can't return we can only look behind
From where we came
And go round and round and round
In the circle game*

~ Joni Mitchell, *The Circle Game*

By the time everyone receives this edition of *The Bulletin* the normal routines of September will be established and the seasons will start anew. In my last *Upfront* when I told everyone to enjoy the “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer”, I had no idea that our summer weather would be so fantastic. As we now move into the fall, the weather is still splendid and oh, how our step is lighter when the weather is brighter.

As we settle into our routines and new beginnings for another school year we frequently don't take the time to reflect on from where we have come. This summer brought many opportunities for me to do just that. Though often sad, it is sometimes how life is and we should try not to get so caught up in the routines and busyness of life that we forget what matters most.

I did a lot of driving this past summer, which allowed me the time to listen to old CDs. I guess my age will be showing as the music of Joni Mitchell was my listening pleasure. I had many of her albums when I was in university and loved the themes of her music. When I started to listen to *The Circle Game*, it hit me that this is how life unfolds and we often forget that it is happening until major events occur to bring our focus back to what is important. One such event was my youngest son Tyler's marriage. Not only did he get married, but chose a Dreams Resort wedding in the Dominican in August. Call me old fashioned or inexperienced, but the idea of a wedding down south was not really what I had envisioned. But it was their wedding

after all so I went along with the plans. The event was wonderful and a great time for all of us to be together again. Another major event involved my step-daughter Heather. I wrote previously about her two brain surgeries and I am so pleased that she has obtained a teaching position in Cape Dorset, Nunavut. As Joni Mitchell wrote... *the painted ponies go up and down*. But while I may be sad that they are not in close proximity to me any longer and cannot attend things like our Monday night family dinners, I do realize that this is the way life is and should be.

While visiting my parents this past weekend in Baie Verte I accompanied my mom to church. Not an activity that I participate in frequently, but when I am in my hometown I always go with her. I do keep abreast of the events that occur in my hometown through the many conversations with my parents, but I often don't really comprehend the magnitude of what is changing there. As we drove to church Mom talked about the organist who has played in our church since I was a child. She has the beginnings of Alzheimer's and Mom, like the rest of the community, was concerned about her playing and that she would not be able to read the music. I walked into the church and once seated, started to take stock of the people seated in the pews who had been an influence in my life. As a result of the organist's condition, the songs chosen to be played were the ones she knew by heart and it was touching throughout the service to see the congregation sing a few bars of the hymns so she could recall the song and begin to play. This church held many of my life's monumental moments. I was married there, my children were christened in this church, my grandparents took me there as a child and we had our own pew (which was common in those days), my grandparents' funerals were there, as a teenager my first experi-

ence with death was in this church, and Christmas celebrations were always a wonderful experience. As I scanned the church, several of my high school teachers were there and also my elementary teachers who also taught my children. I still admire these pillars of the community who helped mold me into the person I am today. After the service they all came up to me and grinned with pride as they told me how proud they were of my accomplishments and how they listen to me on radio and always comment that I was such a good student. In that area I think some of their memories may be a little skewed. But they think of me as I once thought of them and the seasons go round and round.

As you start another exciting year, take the time to reflect on from where you have come. I know that you will do that in June with your students as you look at them with pride and reflect on how much they have grown in ten months with your support and guidance. As they come into your classes anew, the things that you will teach them as they go through the seasons will have lasting impressions on their lives. Thank you for the continued dedication to the students of this province. It is because of you that we have one of the best education systems in Canada. I want you to hold your head high the next time someone asks you what you do and say with pride, “I am a teacher”.

All the best for a fabulous year ahead.

Hilary B.

THE bulletin

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NLTA President Lily B. Cole elected as Vice-President of CTF

NLTA President Lily B. Cole was elected as a Vice-President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation at the CTF Annual General Meeting held in Halifax on July 13. Ms. Cole will work with her colleagues at the national level to continue to pursue the goals of CTF including the priorities established for 2012-13.

Ms. Cole assumed her duties as CTF Vice-President in July and will continue in her role as President of the NLTA until July 31, 2013.



2012-13 CTF Executive Members: Back row (l-r): James Ryan, CTF Vice-President (Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association); Paul Taillefer, CTF President (Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens); Calvin Fraser, CTF Secretary General; Front row (l-r): Mark Ramsankar, CTF Vice-President (Alberta Teachers' Association); Dianne Woloschuk, CTF President-designate (Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation); Lily B. Cole, CTF Vice-President (Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association) and Brent Shaw, CTF Vice-President (New Brunswick Teachers' Association).

PROVINCIAL/NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

NEWS

CLARENVILLE

Students spend memorable day with artist Christopher Pratt

This past May, the students of Clarenville High School (CHS) had the pleasure of meeting iconic Newfoundland artist Christopher Pratt and spent the afternoon listening to him speak. Christopher spoke to the Newfoundland and Labrador Studies classes first where he showed the students the process he worked through to design our provincial flag and shared intimate political details included in the process. He also shared many examples of his famous artwork with the students.

In his second session, Christopher met with Caroline Bungay's Art 2200/3200 students and talked with the students about how he paints (the students were awed to discover his typical canvas is ten feet in length), the creative process and "real life" as an artist. "It was truly a memorable Wednesday afternoon at Clarenville High School and one we will never forget," said Ian Davidson, CHS Assistant Principal. "Christopher Pratt will go down in the history books as a great Newfoundlander and today, for a short time, he opened doors into worlds few are privy to in life for us."

Mr. Davidson said Christopher enjoyed his afternoon at Clarenville High School and was impressed by the talent of the students and their natural level of curiosity about Newfoundland life in general. "Next year, our goal is to have Gerry Squires come speak to the students. Wish us luck!"



Christopher Pratt enjoys an afternoon with students at Clarenville High School.

BLAKETOWN

Crescent Collegiate dominates Military Remembrance Challenge

Last May, Crescent Collegiate in Blaketown won the 4th Annual Military Remembrance Challenge, hosted by District 2 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Newfoundland and Labrador in Spaniard's Bay.

Crescent Collegiate was one of three area high schools to take part in this year's competition, along with Ascension Collegiate of Bay Roberts and Carbonear Collegiate. The competition was set as a double round robin tournament, with all teams playing each other twice. After round robin play, Crescent Collegiate remained undefeated, winning each game with superior results. In the championship game, Crescent Collegiate demonstrated great knowledge and ability, soundly defeating Ascension Collegiate by a score of 255 to 140.



Crescent Collegiate students win 4th Annual Military Remembrance Challenge. (l-r): Comrade Whitfield Andrews (Royal Canadian Legion), Andrew Gallant (teacher), Steven Higdon, Julien Smith, Trevor Lidstone, David Clarke, Deanne Barrett (teacher), Cameron Reid

Legionnaire George Brown acted as narrator for the challenge while other members served as judges, scorekeepers and timekeepers for the competition. Eastlink provided television coverage for this event, with the competition being aired July 1 on the local channel. Crescent Collegiate would like to send a special thank you to Brian Dawe and his team at

Eastlink for their assistance during the competition as well as Subway restaurant in Bay Roberts who provided lunch for all those in attendance.

Organizers hope to extend next year's competition to include all high schools on the Avalon Peninsula.

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

ACT offers tobacco information class presentations

The Newfoundland and Labrador Alliance for the Control of Tobacco (ACT) has class presentations available upon request. Presentations include information on smoking and tobacco use, facts about the tobacco industry and tobacco industry marketing techniques as well as tips and techniques on how to say no to smoking and make positive, healthy life decisions. ACT encourages discussion, debate and sharing and even have a computer application that can show how tobacco may affect you! Designed for grades 5-12, these presentations can be given by ACT staff right to your school or they can provide presentations to local public health nurses/health providers so that they can visit your school. If as a teacher you would like to handle the presentation yourself, ACT would be happy to provide you with a presentation package for use with your students.

In addition, ACT is pleased to let you know that Dr. Shakti Chandra from the BioMedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine's Anatomy Outreach Program is available to come to your school for an interactive session on the harmful effects of tobacco and the benefits of healthy living and living tobacco free. Dr. Chandra is available to offer anatomy teaching sessions to the public including all school grades (K-12). Presentations are done using bones, anatomical specimens, artificial joints, basic medical tools and photos. Judgment and discretion is applied in deciding what is appropriate to show each group, according to their maturity and goals. This project is a way for Memorial University to share its resources with the province, and perhaps even to encourage more students to consider medicine as a career.

If you would like to arrange a presentation or to know more about what ACT can offer please email melissamoore@actnf.com or phone 709-753-0079. You can also visit ACT's website at www.actnl.com and view the tobacco effects app at www.trickyoursselfout.com. To view Dr. Chandra's website, please go to www.yaffle.ca/a/viewBERD/what/be/id/1047.

2012 Ella Manuel Award winners announced

The Ella Manuel Scholarship for 2012 has been awarded to Samantha Budden, a graduate of Stephenville High School. Samantha was selected from many excellent applications received from high schools around the province. An outstanding student and a leader in school and community affairs, she is heading for a career in teaching.

An Ella Manuel Bursary has been made to Victoria Walsh from St. Catherine's Academy in Mount Carmel. A talented writer, Victoria is an activist in environmental and social justice issues both locally and further afield.

This is the twenty-fifth year in which the award has been given in memory of Newfoundland writer, broadcaster, peace activist and feminist Ella Manuel. The awards are made to young women graduating from high schools around the province to assist in their further education.

Research Inspired Student Enrichment (RISE) Awards

In the years to come, the future of Research and Development (R&D) in Newfoundland and Labrador will be in the hands of a new generation of bright minds. To that end, the Research & Development Corporation (RDC) is excited to announce that the Research Inspired Student Enrichment (RISE) Awards will be returning for a second school year.

The RISE Awards are available to high achieving students completing Level II in Newfoundland and Labrador in June 2013. The goal is to provide these students with a unique opportunity to attend a recognized enrichment program at several locations across North America. The awards aim to increase students' knowledge of research-related education and career paths in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) prior to post-secondary education.

Last year, RDC received applications from school districts across the province, and presented 11 high school students with its inaugural RISE Awards. These future R&D leaders spent their summers attending research-focused enrichment programs throughout North America. In total, RDC invested more than \$72,000 in the program.

One of the many exciting success stories from last year's RISE Awards belongs to Ioana Dobre of St. John's. Ioana, who attends Gonzaga Regional High School, was sponsored to attend the renowned

Research Science Institute (RSI) in Boston, making her the first person from Newfoundland and Labrador – and Canada – to attend this prestigious program.

"I feel really grateful and honoured for this opportunity," she said this summer.

RDC is hoping to provide more opportunities to students this year. Teachers, principals and guidance counsellors are encouraged to tell eligible students throughout the province to apply for the RISE Awards. Doing so will help cultivate a new generation of Newfoundland and Labrador's R&D leaders.

Visit RDC's website – www.rdc.org – to learn more about this year's supported programs and award structure.

Specific eligibility requirements, additional information, guidelines and applications will also be available online. And, follow the RISE Awards on Twitter @RDC NL, #RISEAWARDS, as well as Like RDC's Facebook Page, RISE Awards (RDC).

Teachers, principals and guidance counsellors can also contact Paula Clarke, Manager, Non-commercial Programs, RDC, at 758-0913 or by e-mail at programs@rdc.org.

RDC is a provincial Crown corporation mandated to improve the focus, quantity, quality and relevance of research and development (R&D) for the long-term economic benefit of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Provincial Historic Commemorations Program school program

The Provincial Historic Commemorations Program (PHCP) enables citizens to nominate aspects of Newfoundland and Labrador's heritage and culture that they feel are significant to the province as a whole. Through this program people can submit nominations under one of the following five categories: historic person, place, event, cultural tradition or practice, or tradition bearer.

The Provincial Historic Commemorations Board has placed a strong focus on youth engagement in our province's heritage. In consultation with an education and Newfoundland and Labrador curriculum expert, the Board has developed a school program aimed at getting students involved in researching and understanding the importance of our collective heritage.

PHCP has developed programming for teachers and students of the Grade 8 Newfoundland and Labrador History and Newfoundland and Labrador Studies 2205 courses that can be used to help meet course outcomes while at the same time developing

research skills as well as fostering a positive attitude towards the heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is hoped that this programming will lead to a significant number of nominations from students.

For further information on the Provincial Historic Commemorations Program and their school program please visit their web site at www.seethesites.ca/commemorations-program.aspx or contact Chris Martin, Historic Sites Officer, Provincial Historic Sites, Tel: (709) 729-6901, christophercmartin@gov.nl.ca.

CANADA

Choose Your Voice/ Choisissez Votre Voix

Choose Your Voice (CYV) is a free teachers' resource that is curriculum-based and empowers students to speak out against racism, anti-Semitism and discrimination of all forms. Over 1.4 million students across Canada have participated in the program since it was first launched in Ontario. The program won the Award of Excellence 2010 from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

Developed by curriculum experts, CYV consists of the following:

- a Teacher's Guide with lesson plans, 28 Fact Sheets for research that profile many different minority groups that have faced discrimination in Canada; rubrics and graphic organizers;
- a 22-minute DVD with interviews of Rwandan genocide survivors, First Nations representatives, Holocaust survivors and others.

Further information about the program as well as Curriculum links for Newfoundland and Labrador, can be found on our website under the menu for *Choose Your Voice*: www.chooseyourvoice.ca

The impact of the program on students may be seen in a short clip: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_aah3-iG84.

To receive your free copy, please register at www.chooseyourvoice.ca and download the files for the Teacher's Guide and the video. If physical kits are preferred please contact Beverly Park at the NLTA (bpark@nlta.nl.ca).

NLTA Staff Changes



Jim Fox

In June 2012, **Jim Fox** retired from the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association after 28 years of service.

Jim began his employment with the NLTA in 1984 as Treasurer. In his position, Jim was responsible for administration of all funds of the Association. He was consultant to the Association's Finance and Property Committee and was responsible for making arrangements for all seminars, Joint Council meetings, Executive meetings and Conventions of the Association. Jim was also responsible for the preparation of the annual budget and its presentation to BGM.

We wish Jim much happiness in his retirement.

The Provincial Executive Council of the NLTA is pleased to announce the following staff appointments:

Wade Rogers

Wade Rogers has been appointed to the position of **Manager, Finance and Administration**.

Wade is a Certified General Accountant, a graduate of the Accounting Program from Central Newfoundland Regional College, and holds a Bachelor of Education from Memorial University. He was Chief Financial Officer with the YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon before joining the NLTA and has held the same or similar positions over the years with Fish Harvesters' Resource Centres, FGA Consulting Engineers Ltd. and Lakeside Homes Ltd.

Throughout his career Wade has been an active volunteer member of Certified General Accountants NL and has been their President, First Vice-President and Treasurer, a member of the Role and Responsibilities/Governance Task Force, the Board of Directors, the Competitive Analysis Task Force, and their International Committee, to name a few. In 2003 he was awarded Fellow CGA Designation. He currently serves as chair of the CGA Canada Audit Committee.

Rita Tee

Rita Tee has been appointed to the position of **Accountant, Finance and Administration**.

Rita holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Memorial University, a diploma in Business

Management Accounting from Cabot Institute of Applied Arts and Technology, and is currently completing the requirements for the Certificate of Achievement in Human Resource Development from the Gardiner Centre at Memorial.

Rita was Controller/Director of Finance with Ches's Snacks Limited before joining the NLTA and holds positions with Service Canada as EI Appeals Board/Employer Representative. She has also held the position of Controller/Account Manager with Martek Morgan Finch Inc.

Rita has been an active volunteer with the St. John's Board of Trade for many years and has been their Treasurer, a Director, and an Ambassador. She is experienced in numerous computer and accounting programs including AccPac Plus, AccPac Simply Accounting, Excel, Microsoft Office, e-commerce and network technologies.

Virtual Teacher Centre

At the June 2012 meeting of the NLTA's Provincial Executive, the decision was made to discontinue funding for the Virtual Teacher Centre (VTC) effective August 31, 2012.

We would like to extend thanks and appreciation to Jim Murphy, Coordinator of the VTC, and Brian Pittman, Programmer, for their work and dedication to the NLTA and the VTC over the last number of years. Best wishes to them both.

Any questions regarding the VTC can be forwarded to George Tucker at gtucker@nlta.nl.ca.



Wade Rogers



Rita Tee

ArtsSmarts launches ArtsSmarts Open

ArtsSmarts has launched *ArtsSmarts Open*, a new, free, open-source web platform that aims to bring the power of arts-infused inquiry-based learning to every student in Canada.

“*ArtsSmarts Open* grew creatively out of our attempts to answer a big question: How do we grow quickly enough to match the scale of our vision?” said ArtsSmarts’ Executive Director Jason van Eyk. “We’ve set out to influence the culture of learning and to serve as a collaborative leader in the transformation of public education, but we currently only reach 0.2% of Canadian children and youth. How do we expand this reach?”

ArtsSmarts Open is designed to answer this question through two important, interrelated hubs.

On one side, *ArtsSmarts Open* is an innovative learning environment that provides step-by-step toolkits and online resources for educators and artists who want to build their own ArtsSmarts projects; and for schools, organizations and funders who are interested in joining the current 16 ArtsSmarts partners across Canada in developing ArtsSmarts programs in their own communities.

On the other side, *ArtsSmarts Open* acts as a social networking site, providing a platform where anyone anywhere can build, share and celebrate the success of their ArtsSmarts projects. Each informative and rich project profile will house project descriptions, video images, as well as additional teacher resources. *ArtsSmarts Open* members from across Canada can create, share, comment, build a library of favourite projects, and earn badges for being successful contributors to the ArtsSmarts online learning community.

Jason van Eyk added, “*ArtsSmarts Open* is designed to harness the growing power of open business thinking and technology – expressed through the ArtsSmarts values of collaboration, inclusivity and engagement. But the core aim remains the same: to achieve greater gains in Canadian education for the benefit of future generations and the prosperity of our nation.”

As a result, *ArtsSmarts Open* is a membership-driven platform that is offered for free with just a click of the mouse. From posting photos and videos of projects in process to earning *ArtsSmarts Open* badges and prizes, this is the place where educators and participants can share, connect and get inspired by their collective work.

ArtsSmarts is a dynamic approach to teaching, learning, doing and thinking that has been changing

the lives of students, artists, educators, and entire schools and communities since 1998. In generating and sustaining innovative school partnerships centered around the arts to push the boundaries of learning, ArtsSmarts redefines the environment of schooling and re-imagines student success. Since its inception, ArtsSmarts has impacted the lives of over 475,000 students, 21,000 educators, 8,500 artists and 2,800 schools in 300 communities across Canada. In 2010-11, ArtsSmarts’ national network of 16 partners completed 282 projects involving 22,672 students in 148 rural and 138 urban schools, facilitated by 370 artists, 1,164 teachers and 737 volunteers.

Explore *ArtsSmarts Open* by visiting www.artssmartsopen.ca.

Media Literacy Week 2012

Young people today spend large amounts of time sharing parts of their personal lives online playing games, “checking in” with geolocation apps and posting photos and catching up with friends on

(cont’d.)

social media sites. Despite this openness, young people's privacy does indeed matter to them, especially as their online actions become increasingly monitored by parents, educators, and corporations.

Under the theme *Privacy Matters*, Media Literacy Week (November 5-9, 2012) encourages parents, teachers and community leaders across Canada to join together to help youth develop the knowledge and skills they need to better manage their personal information online.

Since 2006, the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and MediaSmarts have been hosting Media Literacy Week to promote media and digital literacy as key components in the education of young people. While the theme may change each year, the goal remains the same – to help young people develop the critical thinking skills necessary for active and informed engagement with media.

The Media Literacy Week website (www.medialiteracyweek.ca) is a great place to start if you are interested in organizing or participating in an activity in your community. For a list of events associated with the week, check out the Events Calendar. The site also profiles teachers and students who are doing extraordinary things with technology; if you know of someone we should profile, let us know at info@mlw.ca.

Celebrate 15 years of Family Literacy Day

On January 27, 2013, Family Literacy Day will celebrate its 15th anniversary by encouraging families to take "15 minutes of Fun" to learn together.

As a teacher, you can also celebrate! Teachers have an opportunity to remind parents about the benefits of learning at home *and* at school. To ensure children are getting valuable family literacy time at home, assign homework that involves the whole family to get parents involved in their child's learning. Ask children to write a story with a parent or guardian, or put a family tree together.

For more information on Family Literacy Day, including event ideas and free resources, visit www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca.

Veterans' Week Learning Resources



Order free, bilingual Veterans' Week learning resources (ages 5-11 and 12-18). The Teacher's Guide, which is available online, offers cross-curricular lesson plans, and is the perfect companion to the newspapers. To order visit veterans.gc.ca and click on the link for Veterans' Week.

CHRIS JENKINS

On May 8, 2012 the world changed when Chris Jenkins left this world to be among the heavenly stars. Chris died suddenly in a place that was dear to his heart – Cape Dorset, Nunavut. His passing has left a huge void with his family, friends and colleagues, both far and near.

Chris was born in St. John's to Rudolph and Jenny Jenkins and was the eldest of seven children. At an early age Chris and his family re-located to Western Bay and it was here that Chris graduated from Jackson Walsh Memorial High School. While in high school Chris met his best friend and soul mate, Leona Parsons of Ochre Pit Cove. Chris and Leona's union would see 43 years of marriage and the birth of two children, Norman (Darlene) and Lisa (Perry), and four precious grandchildren, Brady, Kaitlin, Haley and Blake. While working, raising a family and volunteering in his school and community, Chris would eventually earn his B.Sc. and B.Ed. from Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Chris began his teaching career at Broadway Elementary in Corner Brook and moved shortly thereafter to Ridgewood High, Green's Harbour. After teaching in these communities Chris was fortunate to move back home to Western Bay. It was here that he secured a teaching position in his beloved high school, Jackson Walsh Memorial High. Chris enjoyed each and every one of his teaching positions but being on staff at Jackson Walsh Memorial was especially rewarding. It was here that he was reunited with old friends and taught alongside his father, Mr. Rudolph Jenkins, in the Math department. In 1997 many changes were occurring in the educational system in Newfoundland and Labrador. These changes saw Jackson Walsh in Western Bay close and students/staff transfer to Corpus Christi High, which later became North Shore Collegiate High School, Northern Bay. Chris saw the reconfiguration of the school system as an opportunity to form new friendships, adventures and opportunities. He embraced these changes with renewed hope and optimism having a smile for all those he met. It was here that Chris retired from teaching in Newfoundland and Labrador. Not one to sit idle, Chris and Leona made a decision to move north to teach. Chris and Leona loved the north and everything about it. On their return visits home they would talk of the people, culture, places of interest and being a part of a much larger community that they both loved. The love they expressed for the north was returned to Chris and Leona from all they met on their journey in such a remote part of the

world. This was clearly evident from the outpouring of support to the family when Chris passed away.

As time passes so too will the pain of losing such a special person. Chris will be missed forever by people from the shores of Newfoundland to the rugged beauty of the north. In the messages of condolence, a former student of Chris Jenkins summed up his influences on teaching and life in general... "I count myself blessed and privileged to have known Chris as both a teacher and a friend. His kindness and guidance in my life exemplify who he was and because of that I will be forever grateful."

When you think of Chris, think of him as living in the hearts of all those he met along life's journey! (Submitted by Maureen Doyle-Gillingham, Baccalieu Branch NLTA.)

EUGENE MURPHY, 1950 – 2012

On April 1, 2012, our dear friend and colleague, Eugene, passed away after a short but brave battle with cancer.

Eugene grew up in Colliers, where he attended Immaculate Conception School until the opening of Roncalli Central High School, Avondale, in 1967. After graduating from Roncalli in 1968, he studied music at Mount Allison until 1971. He then transferred to Memorial University where he graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education.

Eugene began his teaching career at Our Lady of Peace School, Marysvale, in 1976 and moved on to St. Edward's, Brigus, in 1986. With the closure of this school, Eugene transferred to All Hallows, North River. He spent his teaching career dedicated to helping students with special needs. Within the classroom he was very conscious of the importance of building the students' self esteem to enable them to reach their full potential. His extracurricular activities included coaching girls' ball hockey at All Hallows. Eugene's enthusiasm and competitive nature resulted in their receiving the gold medal at the annual tournament every year that he coached. As a staff member, Eugene was appreciated for his dry sense of humor and his ability to entertain. Even though his slow demeanor could be trying in the hustle and bustle of school life, it made him a keen observer of human nature; something that many of us lost in the hectic pace of everyday life. At our staff parties, he could be depended upon to recall in great detail any humorous or embarrassing incidents that had happened throughout the year.

Eugene touched the lives of many, not only through his life-long commitment to teaching, but through his volunteer work in the community. He

was a devoted member of his Parish, serving on the Board of Administration and volunteering as the Church organist and choir director. In sports he not only played hockey and softball, but throughout the years he gave of his time to coach Senior Softball and Minor Hockey and served as President of the C.B.C. Softball League.

Eugene's pastimes included playing the piano and classical guitar, and cheering on his beloved Montreal Canadians.

Eugene lived his life on the North Side of Colliers surrounded by his loving family. He will be deeply missed by his brothers and sisters: Marge, Mary, John, Martin, Timothy, James, Dorothy, Virginia, and Elaine.

The song is ended, but the melody lingers on.

~ Loehner

(Submitted by Iris Dalton and Cecilia McDonald.)



Chris Jenkins



Eugene Murphy

In Memoriam Submission Guidelines

Submissions to In Memoriam should be a **maximum of 250 to 300 words** and may contain a photo of the deceased. In Memoriams should be submitted within a timely manner – normally within the same school year (if possible) of the death of the teacher. Information may be included on where the deceased lived and taught, their education, accomplishments, community involvement and family information.

It is preferred that all submissions be e-mailed to Lesley-Ann Browne, Editor of *The Bulletin*, at labrowne@nlta.nl.ca. If submitting by mail, please address to: Editor, *The Bulletin*, Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, 3 Kenmount Road, St. John's, NL, A1B 1W1. Submissions may also be faxed to 726-4302 or toll-free at 1-877-711-6582. Please be sure to include a contact name, school or business name, mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address.



National Family Week

Living Its Message All Year!

by JUDY BERANGER

What a life-giving way to start the school year – celebrating all that is good in families, setting goals that ensure we do our best in our own families while modelling the same values in our classrooms. Giving the best that we can in our sphere of influence goes much further than just saying the words – it is purposeful behaviour directed by affirmation, celebration and a desire to make a difference. The goal is to take good care of ourselves, and those in our care, whether at home or at school.

In 1985 the Government of Canada proclaimed National Family Week to be an official week to celebrate families in all their diversity and to recognize the critical role they play in our schools and in society. Family Service Canada (www.familyservicecanada.org) initiated and coordinated the celebration of National Family Week, to be held October 1-7 during the week before Thanksgiving. In 2007 the Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs (FRP Canada) assumed the coordination of this important work.

What is family? Families take many different forms and the definition of family is as unique as the family members themselves. When we celebrate all that is or can be the best of family we see it as our starting point in life, our first educational environment and, hopefully, our source of security and continuity. A family focus group I once facilitated generated these definitions of family:

- *For me, the family is made up of people that you can count on, that you can have faith in.* (13-year-old)
- *The family should be an environment for healthy growth, and learning, the best school of life for its members.* (36-year-old)
- *A family is that group of individuals who, either by choice or by relationships, give mutual support, work towards a common goal, and share with other members of the group.* (28-year-old)

Another definition I once came across on a reader board at a local car wash read, “A family is the place when you have to go there, they have to take you”. All of these definitions tell us something about what is meant by the term “family” in our society. Ultimately, family defines itself with more importance placed

on the functions carried out by the members than the particular form it takes. Using these criterions a “family” could be a single parent with children, two brothers living together, a gay couple with or without children, etc. A “family” does not always have to be a husband and wife with children and a dog.

Each year a different theme is selected for Family Week. Reflecting on past themes can stimulate awareness, ideas and opportunities for caring for our “families” – both at home and at school. Examples have included: *Building the Smallest Democracy at the Heart of Society*; *You’ve Got What it Takes – Building Better Family/Community Environments*; *Rediscovering Family Strengths* (even though there are times when family members wonder if they have any strengths!); *Family and Work: Seeking a Healthy Balance*; *Volunteering is a Family Affair*; *Strengthening Ties Through Family Traditions*; *Families Connecting Through Stories*; *Turning Your Family’s Values into Action*.

The theme for 2012 is *The Grandparent Connection*. At a time when the aging population in Canada is becoming larger and more diverse, it is especially fitting to highlight the range of experiences associated with grandparents and older people. National Family Week celebrates the role of the grandparent – as nurturer, caregiver, role model, historian and so much more. Encouraging contact between different age groups can build trust and strengthen families and communities. It can also reduce the ageist attitudes and behaviours that are rampant in our society. This week and beyond is a real opportunity to connect with kindness, highlighting intergenerational relationships, exploring the positive ways in which all generations can support, care for and enrich each other’s lives.

It is not age that is important but rather, it is how we show respect and care for others, regardless of age.

A four-year-old boy lived next door to an older man who had recently lost his wife. He asked his parents if he could go over and visit their sad friend. On seeing the man cry the little boy went into his neighbour’s yard, climbed on his lap and just sat there. When his Mom asked what he said to the neighbour, the little boy answered: “Nothing, I just helped him cry.”

National Family Week dispels any attempts at ageism, prejudice and racism by encouraging us to teach, share, and enjoy our uniqueness with each other. It is a time to reflect on what we believe is or can be a “healthy family”. Like all families, healthy families have many of the same challenges, problems and parenting issues as the next family – the only difference is – they are willing to learn new strategies of dealing and coping if the ones they have are not working.

Here are some ideas and suggestions for how we could integrate the values of this year’s National Family Week theme into our professional and personal lives.

For Schools

- Considering the theme for this year, promote short stories about grandparents or *Special Memories with My Grandparents*.
- Encourage students to write about their families.
- Consider a family sports event.
- Display children’s art about their families at a local mall or community centre.
- Hold a photo contest.
- Hold a parent/grandparent tea hosted by students.
- Have a family week essay or poetry contest, with winning essays to be published in a local paper.

For Teachers and their Families

- Create a family recipe book including favorite recipes.
- Plan and cook a meal together, with each person responsible for one dish or item.
- Start a family blog to keep friends and relatives up to date on your activities.
- Write a family Christmas letter for the year 2012.
- Initiate the planning stages of a family reunion.
- Create a family CD or playlist of favourite songs.
- Create a family scrapbook with a page for each family member.
- Do a physical activity together. Consider hiking the trails.
- Have a family game night.
- Go for a walk and discover your neighborhood.
- Do an art or craft project together.
- Arrange to do something special for a family you know in difficult circumstances: offer to babysit, take the children to a movie, or prepare a basket of fruit, muffins or other treats.
- Hold a family talent show or movie night.

FRP Canada provides downloadable resources (www.frp.ca/nfw) filled with helpful suggestions for fun activities that schools can integrate into their themes and families can do together. The BC Council for Families has created an excellent how-to guide for organizing events on its website (www.bccf.ca).

We would all agree that connecting to family, friends, pets, nature, and special colleagues is life giving. Spending less time on energy-draining relationships and more on the ones that bring meaning and peace to our lives make all the difference for us personally and those around us. Sometimes, in the absence or loss of our biological family, we may need to create a “family of choice”. This could include people in our lives who are not necessarily related by blood, but who support and care about us, are interested in our goals and achievements, are honest, genuine and assertive – who in short, provide much of the same functionality and meaning as a healthy, biological family.

The themes within National Family Week are ones we can incorporate into our lives with a goal of integrating their messages into actions all year – whether at home or at school. National Family Week focuses but on a week. Let’s live its message all year!

Judy Beranger is a wellness and employee assistance coordinator with the Employee Assistance Program for Teachers. For confidential assistance contact Judy at ext. 265.

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First Year— Frenzied and Fabulous!

by SANDRA QUIGLEY

From intern to replacement to substitute – all in less than a year! Kayla Best attended Queen of Peace Middle School as a student not that many years ago, and returning as an intern promised to be an exciting experience beginning in September 2011. Little did she know that she would find herself in a replacement contract by the beginning of 2012!

Kayla's mentor and supervising teacher, Marie MacDonald, put her through her paces, ensuring that she experienced every facet of teaching Grade 4. She planned lessons, cleaned out desks, hunted down homework and prepared for tests. She sat in on committee meetings and attended parent-teacher interviews. Always ready to offer an insight or a fresh take on the usual subjects, Marie's students became Kayla's as well. The trend toward team teaching synced very well with the Internship Program of Memorial University's Faculty of Education.



Kayla Best (left) pictured with Marie MacDonald. Marie, a Grade 4 teacher, is Kayla's mentor at Queen of Peace School in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

When a replacement position came up in December, Kayla was ready. The fact that it was a French Immersion replacement was somewhat challenging; but with the assistance of other teachers and the French Monitor, Zoe Desilets, Kayla took over for a four month stint that sent her on a quest to upgrade her own French credentials. She headed to Pointe-de-l'église for an all French summer session, a move that boosted her confidence and helped perfect her own language learning. She also embraced new learning opportunities and was fortunate enough to be selected as a delegate to CONTACT in August.

All of this PD has been a boon to Kayla in her first full year. She was delighted to return to Queen of Peace Middle School to continue teaching Grade 4 French Immersion for another year.

Kayla loves the interaction with children, the hands-on nature of teaching. That's why she switched from Commerce to Education – a move that was obviously an excellent choice for her.

Sandra Quigley is a member of the NLTA Provincial Executive Council, President of the Lake Melville Branch of the NLTA, and a teacher at Queen of Peace Middle School in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.



What Am I Paying Insurance For Anyway?

by JEFF HOWARD

I was in Johnson's Insurance recently and I overheard a woman at the front of the line saying, "What am I paying insurance for anyway?" Apparently the woman submitted a claim for special features on her prescription glasses but the claim was denied. She left in a huff before I could tell her the real purpose of paying insurance.

From 1999 to 2005 my wife, Darlene, fought a courageous battle against cancer. Over that six-year period we submitted roughly \$35,000 in prescription drug claims, of which \$17,000 were submitted in 2005. These prescriptions included a variety of medications and medical services that were vital to her quality of life. These claims covered anti-nausea medication that cost \$25 per pill over a six-month regimen of chemotherapy that amounted to about 100 pills. Although chemotherapy kills cancer cells, it also kills healthy cells. During many of Darlene's chemotherapy infusions her white and red blood cell counts dropped to dangerously low levels leaving her immune system defenceless against infection. There were two options open to building up her blood counts – one involved a series of blood transfusions. The blood transfusions required many hours of lying in a hospital bed hooked up to an IV. This was extremely uncomfortable and time consuming. Our insurance, however, offered another alternative. Neupogen injections were administered to increase the white blood cell count and Eprex injections raised the red blood cell count. These injections took seconds to administer but the cost would have been prohibitive without insurance. The Neupogen cost \$150 per injection and the Eprex cost \$650 per injection. Over a five-year period, Darlene had close to 50 Neupogen injections and 20 Eprex injections.

Besides the countless medications, the insurance covered the cost of an oxygenator (\$70 per month), a hospital bed for our house (\$110 per month), wigs, and the list went on. During this ordeal, Darlene

ran out of sick leave, and that's when salary continuance kicked in. A colleague of mine once said, "I heard you need a note from God to get salary continuance." That is not true. You need a note and a medical application filled out by your doctor. The information is then verified by the insurance company's doctor.

So, to the disgruntled woman who wondered why she was paying insurance premiums in the first place, it is not to save \$200 on eyeglass options; it is for an emergency. It is similar to house insurance – you pay the premiums and hope you never have to file a claim. When Darlene was ill we did not have to worry about medical bills or lost pay. We were able to focus our energy on treatments, family and the best quality of life we could hope for under the circumstances. So, that is why we pay insurance.

Jeff Howard is English Department Head at Bishops College in St. John's.

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2012 PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Mailing Address

Postal Code

Home Telephone

Social Insurance Number*

School Name

School Telephone

Email

*** By providing your SIN you are authorizing the NLTA to request your pension information from the NL Department of Finance. This information will be used for NLTA internal purposes only.**

Please check which session you will be attending:

☐ **Oct. 18-19** – Greenwood Inn & Suites, Corner Brook

☐ **Oct. 24-25** – Hotel Gander, Gander

☐ **Nov. 15-16** – Holiday Inn, St. John's

☐ **Nov. 29-30** – Holiday Inn, St. John's

☐ **Dec. 6-7** – Holiday Inn, St. John's

Will your spouse be attending? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name of spouse (if attending)

Earliest eligibility date for pension

Have you attended a previous pre-retirement seminar?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- Note:**
- Teachers within two years of retirement (on or before June 2015) are eligible to attend.
 - All participants must pre-register.
 - You will receive confirmation prior to seminar.
 - Travel costs will be paid according to policy and only to the nearest seminar.
 - Teachers are advised to bring a calculator.

Please submit registration form to:

Melanie Jaster

Benefits and Economic Services Division

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

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

Fax: 709-726-4302; 1-877-711-6582 (toll free)

or submit online at www.nlta.nl.ca. Go to Forms Online and click "P".

NOTE: As space is limited, registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Date Received	Confirmation Sent	Information Package Sent

2012 Financial Information Seminars

Registration Form

(please print)

Name:

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School Telephone:

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** By providing your SIN you are authorizing the NLTA to request your pension information from the NL Department of Finance. This information will be used for NLTA internal purposes only.*

Have you attended a previous financial information session on a Saturday? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please check which session you will be attending:

☐ Oct. 20 – Greenwood Inn & Suites, Corner Brook

☐ ~~Dec. 10 – Holiday Inn, St. John's~~

FULL

Please submit registration form to:

Melanie Jaster

Benefits and Economic Services Division

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

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

Fax: 709-726-4302; 1-877-711-6582 (toll free)

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NOTE: As space is limited, registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

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7 Habits of Highly Effective People NLTA Summer Workshop Project

by GEORGE TUCKER

The Professional Development and Benefits and Economic Services Divisions of the NLTA offered a 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Signature Certification Workshop from July 3-5, 2012 at the NLTA building. The workshop was conducted by George Tucker and Steve Brooks who are both certified 7 Habits Signature Program facilitators. This was the first time the Association offered teachers this particular personal development opportunity during the summer session. The 24 available slots were quickly booked. All areas of the island portion of the province were represented. The quick registration, coupled with the fact that teachers were asked to cover the cost of materials, indicates the high level of interest that exists for this certificate program. Participants agreed to pay the cost of workshop materials (\$150), which included a copy of *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, the 7 Habits workbook. It is worth noting that the usual cost of attending this certificate workshop is normally \$2,195 (USF). The NLTA is able to provide its members the workshop on a significantly lower cost-recovery basis as a result of having two trained facilitators on staff.

Participants were not given formal evaluation forms to complete. Instead, they were asked to voluntarily offer written comments. Representative samples of the comments collected are provided below. Participants wrote:

- Very likely a life changing session.
- This program offers through lessons and techniques, empowering abilities to live as an effective person, being productive, healthy and happy. Thanks.
- A truly enlightening experience which causes you to deeply reflect on the things that are important to you. Changes the way you interact in the world around you and in relationships. Highly recommended for anyone interested in improving their relationships and experiencing greater success and fulfillment in their personal and professional lives.
- This session helped me to reflect on many personal and professional needs. I feel stronger, more focused and more confident in my human spirit as a result of completing this course. I am inspired to follow the path that I have set out through this course. Thank you.
- George and Steve, Wow! Three very dynamic days. Very interesting and informative! A pleasure to be here.
- As a mom of young boys, this course provided me with the opportunity to spend time on myself and reflect on who I am as an individual, mother, wife and educator. I wasn't worried about laundry, juggling schedules or school planning; instead I was focused on the 7 Habits. Discovering who I was and how to be a highly effective person in all facets of my life. A powerful life-changing three days!
- This program has given me a clearer sense of direction as I prepare for a new school year, both professionally and personally. At first I believed, "7 Habits, that's a lot to try to pick up at one time." But they're really not as overwhelming as I anticipated. It's more a change of mindset and I look forward to it. George and Steve were phenomenal, highly engaging presenters. Stephen Covey should be proud to have such excellent representation!



7-Habits Signature Program participants under the Tree of Knowledge at the NLTA Building, St. John's.

- 7 Habits of Highly Effective People encourages you and challenges you to be a better human being, co-worker and family member. Thank you for the opportunity to learn valuable skills. Steve and George, excellent two and a half days! Job well done!
- A professional and effective approach to self-reflection and commitment to change. Completing the program with other teachers allowed for a common sense of purpose as well as personal growth. I realized that certain teeth in my saw were very sharp but others very dull.
- The most fascinating concept learned in the three day course: Striving to spend more time in Quadrant II. It must be the goal.
- An experience that creates and defines a clearer path to self-awareness and offers the possibility for greater professional engagement and satisfaction. Very timely at any point in life or career. Great confidence in the facilitators.
- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People is a wonderful experience. It makes us question our beliefs and values so that we can learn new ways of carrying our relationships throughout our lives. This course has given me a feeling of renewal, a new way to view myself and all of those around me. I feel the results will be plentiful.

Steve and George are planning to facilitate future 7 Habits workshops. If you are interested in being a participant, contact George at gtucker@nlta.nl.ca for details regarding 7 Habits Signature Program workshops.

Developing Successful Schools 2012 Strategic Approaches to Negotiations and Conflict Management

by GEORGE TUCKER

Once again this year, the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association partnered with the New Brunswick Department of Education, the New Brunswick Teachers' Association, the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union to sponsor the Developing Successful Schools (DSS) 2012 Institute. The event took place at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick on July 9-12, 2012.

Approximately sixty school administrators and teachers from the four Atlantic Provinces, including a delegation of twelve representing the NLTA, participated in a wonderful learning experience with three engaging and informative professors from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. The focus for the institute was *Strategic Approaches to Negotiations and Conflict Management*.

Workshop Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Through a series of hands-on exercises, guided discussions, and interactive presentations, the workshop facilitators, Robert Hickey, Ph.D., Glenda Fisk, Ph.D. and Brendan Sweeney, Ph.D., helped participants to



Mount Allison University Campus, Sackville, New Brunswick.

critically analyze their negotiating style and enhance their conflict management skills. The workshop was organized around three critical areas in the field of negotiations theory and practice: strategic negotiations, emotional intelligence, and effective conflict management. Linking research and evidence-based studies to the wealth of workshop participant experiences, the key objectives of the workshop included:

- Assessment of current practices and research on negotiations and conflict management in the education sector;
- Development of innovative approaches to negotiations and conflict resolution;
- Using emotional intelligence to solve real work-related problems.

According to the feedback from participants, DSS 2012 was once again a very successful initiative in all areas. Planning has already begun on DSS 2013; ensure to mark your calendar to apply.

Developing Successful Schools (DSS) is an annual event made possible through a partnership between the four Atlantic Teacher Associations (NLTA, NBTA, PEITU and NSTU) and the New Brunswick Department of Education. Information on DSS 2013 will be available in the new year. Contact George Tucker, Staff Officer in the PD Division (NLTA) at gtucker@nlta.nl.ca if you are interested in being a participant.



DSS 2012 delegates on the steps of Hesler Hall at Mount Allison University.

NL Administrators Attend CAP National Conference and Take on National Leadership Roles

by GEORGE TUCKER

The Canadian Association of Principals' National Conference was held at the Marriott in Montreal from May 24-26, 2012. The theme of the conference, *Leadership Under Construction*, was well received and the conference proved to be a very well organized event. Prior to the opening ceremonies, CAP President Elect, Bill Tucker, Principal of District School in the Eastern School District, as well as Robert Matthews, NL CAP Director and Principal of Herdman Collegiate in the Western NL School District, represented Newfoundland and Labrador at the CAP Board table. It was announced at the conference that CAP is nearing the completion of their *Role of the Principal* research project and the results will be published in late 2012 or early 2013. This research project is the first of its kind in North America and has Dr. Ben Levin as a critical friend to the project. This study will assist administrators across Canada in identifying critical issues of concern to them.

Newfoundland and Labrador was represented by fourteen CAP 2012 Conference participants and the group was made up of principals, vice principals and leadership candidates. Dr. Kevin Giles also attended and is the NLTA School Administrators' Council President Elect and will be the CAP NL Director for 2012-14.

The Canadian Association of Principals' National Conference boasted over 300+ participants and was officially opened by his Excellency the Governor General of Canada, David Johnson. Other key addresses were by such notable individuals as three-time Olympic gold medalist Marnie McBean. Marnie is a motivational speaker, quite often used by the Canadian Olympic team to motivate Canadian athletes prior to Olympic competitions. Marnie spoke on the nature of leadership and styles of leadership. Lyn Heward, the Director of Creation for Cirque du

Soleil, addressed the conference attendees and spoke on the creativity component of leadership. Finally, Lee Crockett who is a national award-winning designer, marketing consultant, entrepreneur, artist, author and international keynote speaker, also presented. He is an outstanding presenter and spoke on *21st Century Learning*. Mr. Crockett is the Director of Media for the InfoSavvy Group and the managing partner of the 21st Century Fluency Project. There were also some extremely valuable breakout sessions that supported the themes presented by the keynotes. Feedback from the Newfoundland and Labrador contingent was overwhelmingly positive and many of the conference ideas will soon be initiated into NL schools. It was announced that next year's CAP Conference in Banff, Alberta is already over 50 per cent filled. The conference registration to this event opened on June 1 and opened internationally one full week after that date, giving all CAP members a chance to register. The conference will be held at the Banff Springs Hotel and the President of CAP for that conference will be our own Eastern School Principal, Bill Tucker. Contact info: www.cap2013.com.

George Tucker is an Administrative Staff Officer in the Professional Development Division of the NLTA.



Back Row (l-r): Kyran Dwyer (Principal, St. Matthew's Elem.); Barb Morgan (Principal, Mary Queen of the World); Denise Coady (Principal, St. Mary's Elem.); Dr. Kevin Giles (President Elect SAC, NL CAP Director 2012-14, Principal – All Hollows School); Anne Marie Conway (Principal, Topsail Elem.); Dr. Sherry Cheema (Principal, St. Peter's Elem.); Bill Tucker (CAP National President Elect, Principal, District School); Wayne March (Former Administrator from NL); Rob Matthews (NL CAP Director 2010-12, SAC Provincial President, Principal, Humber Elem.)
Front Row (l-r): Trudy Buckle (VP, St. Edward's Elem.); Linda Pike (Principal, Paradise Elem.); Bonnie Oakley (Principal, St. Andrew's Elem.); Kelly Knott (VP, Cape St. Francis School); Lorraine Williams (Principal, Virginia Park Elem.)

Project Overseas 2012

Being Thankful

by DONNA GIBBONS

Imagine attending grade school until seventh grade, then taking a big exam to determine if you can proceed to the next grade levels. If you pass this exam, then you are allowed to advance to the next grade level; however, you must pay for your education. If you don't pass this exam, you do not continue on with schooling. For the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, this is something that one would only hear about. For the people of Uganda, and in many regions in Africa, this is a reality.

This past summer, I was given the wonderful privilege to travel to Uganda with a team of three Canadian teachers. This amazing experience was made possible through Project Overseas, an initiative sponsored by the Canadian Teachers' Federation and supported by the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. Each year, one teacher from our Association is given the opportunity to travel to South America, the Caribbean or Africa to work with local teachers to help expand their knowledge. At the same time we were also gaining valuable personal and professional development as we learned about Ugandan culture and teaching methodologies.

When I first heard that I would be going to Uganda, I pled ignorance as I did not know where this country was. I certainly did not know much about Africa, only from what I had seen in the media. Little did I know that Uganda was very much a sought after destination by Project Overseas participants. I soon realized that, yes, it was certainly a privilege to be able to travel and volunteer in this wonderful country.

Uganda is located in the eastern region of Africa. We stayed in Kampala, the capital of Uganda (week 1), and then in a small village called Hoima (weeks 2 and 3). It was in this village that the Bulera Teachers' College was located. One of the Canadian team members often referred to the purpose of Project Overseas as "a mission". It was at the Bulera Teachers' College where most of our "mission" took place.

Our mission as part of Project Overseas Uganda was to help "Train the Trainers". For the first week

in Kampala, we interacted and planned with four Ugandan co-tutor teachers. Working together, we prepared lessons on instruction in the identified areas of need. The goal was to deliver these prepared lessons, during the second and third week of our mission at the Bulera Teachers' College, to approximately 120 teachers. Basically, we helped to deliver professional development about teaching strategies to these teachers.

"These teachers must make do with what they have and be able to deliver a curriculum to classes which could reach as high as 300 students at a time."

The yearly job of the Ugandan Co-tutor teachers was to travel to different schools, to assess and provide curricular support to their own teachers. They were very much aware of what subject areas needed attention in their regions. The focus of the lesson preparation was in the areas of Math, Literacy, English Language, Physical Education, Teaching Strategies, and Classroom Management. The Canadian team members of Project Overseas were only too happy to contribute to this planning process.

The "Train the Trainers" approach proved to be very effective. After receiving the professional development training during week 2, five participants were held back to help deliver the professional development sessions to the second group of teacher participants (week 3). These five participants were very capable of taking over and doing most of the training in the last session. At that point, our role was to provide minimal support and let the Ugandan teachers lead the sessions during this third week. It was becoming evident that the purpose of our mission was turning out to be a real success.

In the media, it is often portrayed that the people of Africa do not have much. In working with the

Ugandan teachers, we learned that they have very few resources with which to teach. These teachers must make do with what they have and be able to deliver a curriculum to classes which could reach as high as 300 students at a time. At times, for us, it was a challenge as we, in North America, are so used to teaching with Technology. However, personally, I realized that sometimes the best lessons are often those for which you don't need much material. As well, the job of a teacher in Uganda does not get very much recognition. Teacher salaries start at \$1200 a year and rarely does this salary increase. As well, how much money one makes is often determined by the grade level being taught.

We were very fortunate to visit a local school. It was very run down. At the time of our visit, there was a music festival. The performances were very lively as students sang in their native languages, danced and wore traditional clothing. These children sang songs about education; the right to attend school, the consequences if not allowed and about the positive results if allowed to attend. It was very encouraging to see that the students were very aware of the importance of getting an education. In between performances, the mistress of ceremonies would continuously praise teachers and thank them for their wonderful contributions. The room was filled with Ugandan families, and they welcomed us to come in and see their children perform.

One of the things that really struck me about the people of Uganda is that they are wonderful dancers and singers. This is very much a part of their culture. Every person has the ability to carry a note and never hesitated to do so. Singing and dancing was used as a tool for curriculum delivery. It was during the professional development that this gift really shone through. Being musical myself, I reveled in the opportunity to use my own musical talents to help in delivering the lessons at the Bulera Teachers' College. In fact, most of the souvenirs that I purchased during my stay in Uganda were traditional African musical instruments. I have since used these in teaching my own classes at Bishops College High School.

The second thing that really struck me about Uganda, more so than the musical talents of its people, was that the people there were very happy and welcoming. Whenever we would enter a building or group, they would always say, "You are welcome". It very much reminded me of the warm generosity of the people back home. I found that anything you could do for the people of Uganda, they were very thankful. Despite the fact that they do not have a lot, overall, they are a very happy culture.

I don't feel that it has completely hit me yet... even though it has been a while since I was in this wonderful country. My Project Overseas colleagues feel the same way. This experience was definitely life changing for all of us. It has made me appreciate living in this province and in this country.



Donna Gibbons (top left) pictured with the African Co-Tutor teachers and her Canadian Project Overseas colleagues. Together, they planned and facilitated professional development sessions for approximately 120 Ugandan teachers.

Perhaps my greatest realization, from participating in Project Overseas, is my appreciation for being a teacher. At the end of the day, we are in this profession to educate the youth; to change lives, one child at a time. This is something that can often be forgotten in the day-to-day routine of teacher duties, as there are certainly many. We have it good as teachers in North America, in Canada, and particularly in Newfoundland and Labrador. Please be proud of what you do. No other profession embodies the true spirit of what it means to be compassionate, to be caring and to be helpful. Congratulations on having selected the profession of teaching. We are very lucky to be doing what we do.

Donna Gibbons is a Physical Education and Career Education teacher at Bishops College High School in St. John's, NL.



Being Part of CTF is Being Part of the World of Teaching

by CALVIN FRASER

It is natural for teachers to question the value of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) since the Federation is one step removed from direct service to teachers. So, what does CTF do for you as a teacher? Let's try to answer with reference to a few of the work areas of CTF and then a few of the tools used.

1. Coordination of knowledge and activities

CTF acts not only as a clearinghouse to share material among Member organizations (MO) but also provides both analysis and impact to MO work. Our research analysts draw out interactions that benefit all and through contacts with many, many national organizations spread teacher values and teacher based information in ways that will garner support and value for teachers.

2. Influence directions in education

Many bad ideas that originate outside of Canada or in powerful national organizations (e.g. Fraser Institute) affect education in every province and territory. CTF monitors and influences the impact of these ideas through its involvement with other groups (e.g. Conference Board of Canada). CTF also is pro-active in working with national groups around the world to head off or divert bad ideas. We currently are working directly with the National Education Association (3.2 million members) and the American Federation of Teachers (1.7 million members) to reverse the information flow from the United States to Canada by sharing the many strong positive practices of Canadian teachers. This work is beginning to show success.

3. Advocacy

CTF lobbies the federal government on matters of direct interest to teachers that are governed by federal influence, such as taxes, copyright and criminal allegations. One long-standing campaign has been to protect educational access to published information (especially from the Internet) for classroom use.

Despite strong lobbying from the corporate sector to cut free educational access off, every version of the Act to date has maintained the special status for education. Another success has been maintenance of the Section 43 protection for teachers in the Criminal Code of Canada. Other campaigns continue. We have been working this year to protect teachers from several current injustices in the criminal record check procedures.

4. Solidarity is priceless

There are many societal interest groups who choose to subvert public education to private interests; insert corporatism into pedagogy; restrict pensions, unemployment insurance and health benefits; control or profit from assessment; press for unfair evaluation practices, and a host of other goals contrary to teacher interests and values. Through CTF, Canadian teachers maintain common vocabulary, shared views and a joint focus to protect us all.

5. International representation

CTF gives Canadian teachers a strong voice on the world stage in opposing the spread of such things as Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), the creep of institutional assessment, and the influence of OECD, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. Canadian teachers are active and forceful in this forum. Canadian teachers outside CTF have no voice on the world stage and no ability to participate. In a global economy, the international voice is increasingly important.

6. International service

CTF Project Overseas is one of several international programs CTF does either jointly with a Member organization (Alberta has several) or directly. They create rewarding and life changing experiences both for the Canadian teachers involved and for the overseas partners. By working through CTF the impact of Member organization funds is maximized, redundancy is eliminated and value is enhanced.

CTF is a small organization. Direct service to members is provided by the provincial and territorial teacher organizations. CTF provides support and service to the Member organization based on priorities set by the CTF Board of Directors on a three-year basis. Key tools include:

1. Networking at the political and staff levels

Bringing the Presidents and General Secretaries from 16 Member teacher organizations together three times each year permits opportunities for planning, discussion, and coordination of action that benefits every teacher in Canada – yes, even the non-members. Bringing the staff from across Canada together permits operationalizing the shared goals. We are all familiar with the “tyranny of the immediate” and the intense work required within the province which makes these national meetings so important as a way to see how each situation is part of the larger picture and how actions in one province/territory can and do affect others. These meetings are supplemented with national seminars on pensions, employment insurance and other critical topics. This summer saw the fourth annual CTF President's Forum which explored the different perspectives on Quality Education.

2. CTF Research creates powerful national statements for MO use

Recent examples include a national teacher survey report on student mental health, class size and student diversity; the identification of teacher contributions to their classrooms (average \$453 per teacher per year) and how teachers use their summers for professional growth. This information is arrived at through polling, focus groups and other research tools. CTF also works with MOs to share their research and pulls together common threads and analysis that avoids duplication and redundancy. A “private members only” part of the CTF Web site provides every MO with instantaneous access to vast amounts of information from collective agreements, pension agreements, private research and countless professional interest topics as well as the ability to compare and contrast information locally, between provinces and/or nationally.

3. Lobbying

CTF provides briefs and makes appearances before numerous committees from such entities as the federal Justice Department, Heritage Canada, HRSDC, the House of Commons, and the Senate. Our direct

(cont'd on page 26)

contact with MPs provides opportunity for all of our provincial and territorial teacher organization members to influence thinking of Members of Parliament and the Senate. This is proving to be increasingly effective and CTF solidarity contributes heavily.

4. Relationships and partnerships with national organizations

CTF works with numerous national organizations including heritage related groups (Assembly of First Nations, Encounters with Canada, the Media Awareness Network, Canadian Museums Association, etc.); language related groups (Official Languages Commissioner, Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers, Canadian Parents for French, Canadian Association of Francophone School Boards, Canadian Association of Francophone Parents, etc.); health related groups (Public Health Canada, Canadian Mental Health Commission, etc.); lobby and special interest groups (Conference Board of Canada, Canadian Council on Learning, etc.). The complete list of partners is exhaustive. The reach of all our work is enhanced by being national – in one example, millions of dollars were spent on cyber-bullying in several different provinces/territories on efforts that were excellent but localized. CTF involvement in the issue created a national impact for local work.

5. Relationships and partnerships with global organizations

Education International (EI) is the global teacher union. CTF has representation on the EI Executive Board and is active and influential in virtually all key decision-making situations. The quadrennial World Congress will be held in Canada in 2015, thanks to the efforts of CTF. CTF is a strong part of the Commonwealth Teachers' Group (54 countries) and the Comité Syndical Francophone de l'Éducation et de la Formation (CSFEF – every major francophone country). We have strong working relationships with other teacher and education related unions, notably from the United States (NEA, AFT), United Kingdom (National Union of Teachers [NUT]) the Caribbean (Caribbean Union of Teachers) and many African countries (Uganda, Ghana, Guinée, Senegal etc.). These partnerships give Canadian teachers a strong international voice. Through the Public Education Network in Canada, three to four times each year we share information and updates with many other national education related labour groups.

6. Communications

CTF print and Web publications are popular and powerful at spreading teacher values. Our flagship publication, *CTF Perspectives*, is free to anyone who wishes to subscribe and provides the most recent information on educational research and events. CTF publications are used in university classes, with other national organizations, and to coordinate teacher values within MOs. Effective use of the CTF Web site has expanded the reach of publications as a way to share research such as the recent input from teachers in Aboriginal schools. Our social media reach is vast and growing. CTF publications are popular also for sensitive issues such as the GLBTT publications that continue to be strong sellers. Most publications are also available free of charge on our Web site.

7. Financial support to support social action projects

Teachers can receive grant money to engage their students in citizenship and social action activities in their communities through CTF's Imagineaction program. Recent examples include "Listen, I read" in cooperation with the Council for the Arts, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and Indigo; Digital citizenship in cooperation with the Media Awareness Network and the Aboriginal School Twinning Pilot Project in cooperation with the Assembly of First Nations set for the fall of 2012. Another initiative of this program is currently in the works that will focus on Defenders of Human Rights in Canada in cooperation with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, The Assembly of First Nations and the Robert F. Kennedy Centre for Justice and Human Rights. Teachers can find out more, register and apply for subsidies by visiting www.imagine-action.ca.

At a time when recognition of the special expertise of teachers and even the influence of teachers within the system are being challenged by powerful multinational organizations, it is critical that teacher organizations receive the support from each other through the Canadian Teachers' Federation. Teachers are getting great value from CTF at the current fee of little more than \$2 per month per teacher.

For more information visit www.ctf-fce.ca and subscribe to the *CTF Perspectives* or sign up to follow CTF on Twitter (@CanTeachersFed).

Calvin Fraser is Secretary General of the Canadian Teachers' Federation.



PROJECT OVERSEAS 2013 Teachers Teaching Teachers

Volunteer for Project Overseas with the Canadian Teachers' Federation!

*Would you like to assist teachers in a developing country?
Are you interested in learning more about global education issues?
Do you see yourself volunteering in Africa or the Caribbean during the summer?*

CTF seeks English and French-speaking Canadian teachers at the primary, elementary, and secondary levels who are interested in volunteering to offer in-services in a wide-range of subjects in countries throughout Africa and the Caribbean.

Each year about 50 Canadian teachers are chosen to volunteer on CTF's Project Overseas. On PO, Canadian teachers give their time and talent to offer professional development in-service programs in partnership with teacher organizations in developing countries. Based on requests from CTF's partners overseas, teams of Canadian teachers are formed in January and in-service projects take place in July and August.

Application criteria include:

- be a member of a provincial or territorial teacher organization that supports PO
- hold a valid teachers' certificate
- have completed at least five years of teaching in Canada by July 2013
- be a Canadian citizen
- be in excellent health and able to work in developing country conditions (a doctor's letter is required)
- show evidence of flexibility, mature judgment, professional representation and a strong willingness to put the team and project needs above personal needs

- hold a Canadian passport valid until at least **December 2013**, at the time of application (proof that a passport application has been made will be accepted)

PO is a volunteer experience. Administrative, travel, and living expenses are borne by CTF and provincial and territorial teachers' organizations (which are CTF members). No salaries or honoraria are paid to participants in PO, sponsors do not cover costs associated with substitute teachers or release time, and no family or friends are permitted during pre-departure orientation or overseas programs.

TO APPLY:

Further information and application forms are available from:

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association
Tel: 726-3223 or 1-800-563-3599
mail@nlta.nl.ca • www.nlta.nl.ca

Deadline for applications:

November 7, 2012

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Together We Make a Difference!

EDUCATION WEEK...

A recent decision of the NLTA's Provincial Executive Council will see a change in the date and timing for Education Week.

The next NLTA Education Week will take place in October 2013 (*date to be announced*).

There have been numerous comments and concerns from teachers (in a recent survey and focus group) about Education Week being held in March each year. These include issues with regards to weather, reporting, curriculum and exams. The change will give the planning committee time to review the activities associated with Education Week, make changes to enhance the week, and provide a new focus.

For further information contact:

Lesley-Ann Browne
NLTA Communications Officer
726-3223, ext. 228
labrowne@nlta.nl.ca



Skills Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Students Showcase Strength and Learn about Career Options

by MELISSA HALFORD

Skills Canada is a national not-for-profit organization that promotes careers in skilled trades and technologies to young Canadians. Skills Canada Newfoundland and Labrador first began encouraging the youth of our province to explore their options in these fields in 1998 and has since inspired and rewarded thousands of young people through its programming. Skills Canada Newfoundland and Labrador's key programs include in-school presentations, Skills Work for Women® Conferences and, most prominently, Skilled Trade and Technology Competitions.



Lesley Dawe, of Queen Elizabeth Regional High School, competed as a member of Team NL in the Baking category at the 2012 Skills Canada National Competition.

The 2012 Skills Canada Provincial Competition took place in St. John's on March 30 as part of Skills Canada Newfoundland and Labrador's biggest event of the year: Annual Skilled Career Day. Students from across the province took part in various aspects of Annual Skilled Career Day such as the Career Showcase, the Youth Leadership Forum, a Skills Work for Women® Conference and, of course, the Skills Canada Provincial Competition. Each year competitions are held in over 30 skill areas for secondary and post secondary students as well as registered apprentices. The gold medal winner in each skill area earns a position on Team Newfoundland and Labrador and gains the right to compete at the

Skills Canada National Competition.

The 2012 Skills Canada National Competition, held May 14-16 in Edmonton, Alberta, marked the 18th annual installation of the prestigious event. The nearly 100 competitors, technical experts and delegates who made up Team Newfoundland and Labrador were alongside representatives from every other province and territory. Competitors in the over 40 contest areas at the Skills Canada National Competition took advantage of the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities and worked under intense pressure while being observed by more than 10,000 spectators throughout the two days of competition.

"Skills Canada is proud to be a leader of the Skills Movement and provide young skilled tradespeople and technologists with an opportunity to showcase excellence in their fields," said Skills Canada Newfoundland and Labrador Executive Director, Carole Ann Ryan. "Team Newfoundland and Labrador showed Canada the strength of training in our province and proudly brought home 9 medals."

The nine medals earned by Team Newfoundland and Labrador are representative of a range of trade, technology and employability skill areas. Post-secondary students and apprentices earned medals in



Cody Diamond of Botwood Collegiate was one fourth of the NL Robotics Team at this year's competition. Here he is carrying the robot he built with his teammates to compete against machines created by groups from across the country.

IT Network Systems Administration (Brian Forward – Gold), Architectural Technology & Design (Michael Gravelle – Silver), Mechanical Computer Assisted Design & Drafting (Richard White – Silver), Aesthetics (Michelle Bunch – Bronze), Car Painting (Justin Codner – Bronze), and Offset Printing (Kathleen Dawe – Bronze).



Nine members of Team Newfoundland and Labrador earned spots on the medals podium at the 2012 Skills Canada National Competition: Justin Codner, Michelle Bunch, Richard White, Emma Power, Brian Forward, Kathleen Dawe, Michael Gravelle, Erica Badcock and Patrick Butler.

Nearly twenty students from intermediate and high schools across the province traveled to the Skills Canada National Competition as part of Team Newfoundland and Labrador to compete in categories such as Computer Animation, TV/Video Production, Public Speaking and IT Software Solutions. Three secondary students secured spots on the medals podium. Erica Badcock, a student at Ascension Collegiate in Bay Roberts, won a bronze medal in the Job Interview competition where she engaged in a mock-interview for a fictitious position and showed her professionalism and confidence in the job application process. Patrick Butler, a student at Queen Elizabeth Regional High School in Foxtrap, was awarded a bronze medal in the Job Skill Demonstration competition for his ability to communicate a step-by-step description of how to make pancakes to judges and audience members. Emma Power, also a student at Queen Elizabeth Regional High School, won a silver medal in the Graphic Design competition. Emma's trip to Edmonton marked her third time at the Skills Canada National Competition and her second time earning a silver medal for her talent as a Graphic Designer. This year, Emma's success was extra-sweet as she was also presented the Best in Region award which is given to the student or apprentice who achieves the highest score amongst all of his or her teammates, as determined by a z-score analysis.

Skills Canada competitions provide young people with a constructive and rewarding opportunity to showcase their excellence and explore career options

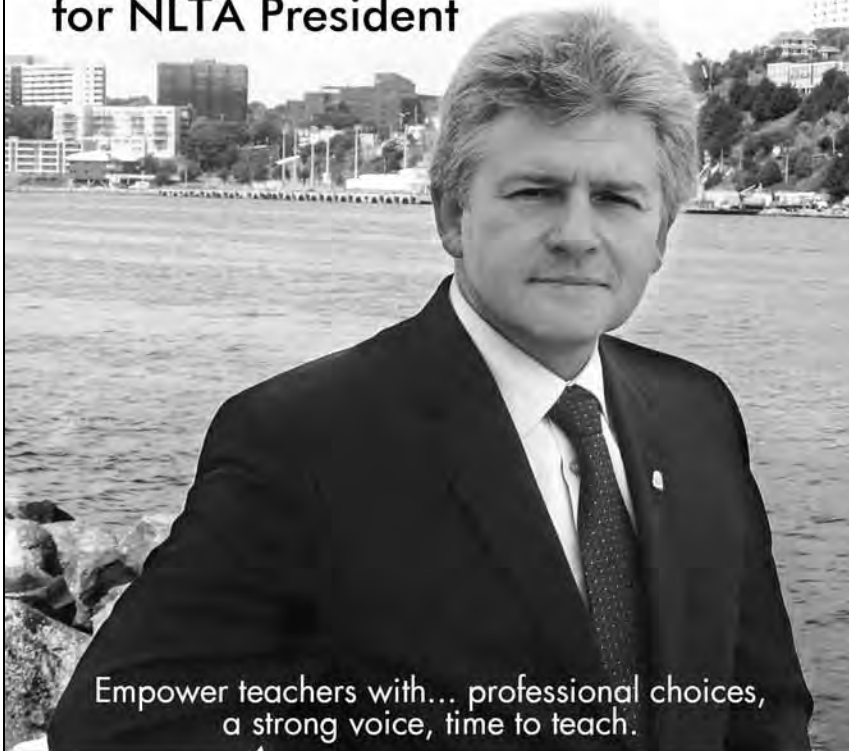
in skilled trades and technologies. Take it from Emma Power, who has seen the potential and excitement of Skills Canada competitions first-hand: "Skills Canada has made me realize how many career options are really out there. I now know that I could in fact pursue Graphic Design as a full-time career if I aspire to do so."

Throughout the upcoming school year, Skills Canada Newfoundland and Labrador will continue offering its well-known programs to the youth of our province. Students will be invited to take part in Skills Work for Women® Conferences, Youth Leadership Forums, and Skills Canada competitions. Skills Canada is also happy to provide in-school presentations upon request whenever possible. For more information on Skills Canada Newfoundland and Labrador and to learn how your students can become involved in Skills Canada programming, visit www.skillscanada-nfld.com or follow updates from Skills Canada Newfoundland and Labrador on Twitter (@Skills_NL) and Facebook (facebook.com/skillscanadanewfoundlandandlabrador).

Melissa Halford is Communications and Event Coordinator with Skills Canada Newfoundland and Labrador.

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This time Elect Jim Dinn for NLTA President



**Empower teachers with... professional choices,
a strong voice, time to teach.**

Follow Jim on Facebook or on Twitter through his website: www.jimdinn.com

Let's Talk Science

Bringing Science to Life for Students of All Ages

by DARLA O'REILLY

Do you find it difficult to engage students in the science curriculum? Do you look for outside sources to assist with lesson planning but have difficulty finding resources that are relevant, credible, free, or Canadian?

Let's Talk Science is an award-winning, national, charitable organization, and is currently expanding in Newfoundland and Labrador. With a newly opened regional office in St. John's, we are expanding our science learning programs and services to reach Newfoundland and Labrador educators.

At Let's Talk Science, our goal is to engage children and youth in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). We believe that a strong foundation in science helps students prepare for their futures. To build that foundation, Let's Talk Science offers programs and services to children and youth from preschool to Grade 12 and their educators. This includes our *Wings of Discovery*® early learning resources for preschool and Kindergarten students; our hands-on *Let's Talk Science Outreach* for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students through our national volunteer network; and our interactive website *ExploreCurioCity.org* for teens and educators.

For preschool and Kindergarten children, Let's Talk Science aims to develop their skills and knowledge as they “wonder, try and learn” through our *Wings of Discovery* program. *Wings of Discovery* is an innovative, award-winning, early science program designed to build on young children's natural interest in exploring the world around them. *Wings of Discovery* Kindergarten are curriculum-aligned resources that use science-based explorations to support student development of literacy, numeracy, problem-solving and communication skills.

Interested in testing out our Kindergarten resource kit? With generous funding from Hibernia Management and Development Company Inc., we are delighted to offer one complimentary unit to

every Kindergarten teacher in Newfoundland and Labrador. If you are a Kindergarten teacher who could benefit from a free *Wings of Discovery* curriculum-aligned resource kit, please register your interest online at nl.letstalkscience.ca to receive your kit.

Coming Soon: Let's Talk Science is developing a new Kindergarten to Grade 3 early learning online resource, initially for Kindergarten educators, which will support the development of students' critical thinking skills. We are looking for Kindergarten teachers to provide us with feedback on this initiative. Professional development opportunities are available for teachers who participate. If you are interested in learning more, please register your interest online at nl.letstalkscience.ca.

Looking for creative ways to engage students in science? For Kindergarten to Grade 12 students, Let's Talk Science offers our free science outreach program. *Let's Talk Science Outreach* engages a national network of more than 3,000 volunteers, who are students and faculty from 36 universities and colleges across Canada, as well as science engineering and technology professionals. *Let's Talk Science Outreach* at Memorial University has been in operation for over 15 years. Over 100 Let's Talk Science volunteers visit classrooms each year to do hands-on science activities with students, guide field trips and laboratory tours, and conduct many other science-related activities. These science outreach volunteers are trained to use real-world examples and deliver hands-on science activities in a range of disciplines, free of charge, to inspire youth and engage them in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The goal is to excite and inspire students while introducing them to role models who are working or studying in a variety of science disciplines. If you would like to schedule a *Let's Talk Science Outreach* volunteer from Memorial University to visit your classroom, or would like more information, please visit www.letstalkscience.ca/mun.

Want to challenge your Grade 6, 7 or 8 students with an extra-curricular science competition? *Let's Talk Science Outreach* at Memorial University offers a free science enrichment event for Grade 6, 7 and 8 students called the *All Science Challenge*. Starting in February, teams of 2 to 4 students study a hand-book of material to prepare for a one-day, on-campus competition in April or May. This on-campus competition begins with a question and answer round followed by a design challenge round. The team with the highest score from both rounds is named the *All Science Challenge* Champions. All the questions and design challenges are developed by our Educational Specialists and are created to test students' knowledge. Teachers and parents can register a team for the 2013 *All Science Challenge* beginning in December 2012 at www.letstalkscience.ca/challenge. Spaces are limited.

For Grades 8 to 12 students, Let's Talk Science has developed *CurioCity* (ExploreCurioCity.org), a free interactive, web-based program designed to interest students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Through *CurioCity*, students can explore how STEM is integral to their lives with access to hundreds of relevant, issues-based articles, videos and career profiles. *CurioCity* focuses on all areas of STEM including topics in biotechnology, earth science, architecture, mechanics and many more. Using the website, teens can discover that science knowledge can lead them to many interesting and rewarding careers.

Looking for free, relevant classroom-ready case studies? For educators, *CurioCity* includes an educator community where teachers can access learning strategies and case studies to engage students in relevant science-based content, free of charge. Through the Educator Community Centre, teachers can also:

- Have their own personalized space to compile *CurioCity* articles, videos and educator resources that are relevant to the courses that they teach;
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in *CurioCity* Youth Action Projects including the current radiation project in collaboration with the Canadian Space Agency;
- Participate in Discussion Forums dedicated to registered educators;
- Participate in a variety of discussion groups with other *CurioCity* members (e.g., educators, outreach volunteers – university and college science students, and science professionals).

Let's Talk Science is looking for educators from Grades 8 to 12 to provide us with feedback about using *CurioCity* and its impact on student engagement. Professional development opportunities are

available for teachers who participate. If you are a Grade 8 to 12 teacher who is interested in providing feedback during the 2012-13 school year, please register your interest online at nl.letstalkscience.ca or contact educators@letstalkscience.ca if you require more information.

As we expand in the province, we are looking forward to working with you and hearing about your experiences in science education. If you'd like to learn more about us, please visit www.letstalkscience.ca or drop by our new office at the Fluvarium.

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Darla O'Reilly is the Education Program Consultant with Let's Talk Science in the Newfoundland regional office. Prior to working with Let's Talk Science, Darla was a high school science teacher at Holy Trinity High, Torbay. To contact Darla, please email doreilly@letstalkscience.ca or phone 709-754-4330.

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**Re-think
Renew
Respect**

**Sandra Quigley
For
NLTA Vice-President**

www.sandraquigley.blogspot.com
www.sandraquigley3@gmail.com



SOUND TRADITIONS

October 11-14, 2012

Brother Brennan Environmental Education Centre, Salmonier Line. Sound Traditions is a new music retreat for adults. Learn to play traditional music in a relaxed setting with professional musicians. For further information visit soundbone.ca or contact Eric West, Soundbone Traditional Arts Foundation, Tel: 709-670-3377, info@soundbone.ca.

NLCPA 2012 CONFERENCE AND AGM

October 24-26, 2012

Capital Hotel, St. John's. Theme: *Everybody has a Story...* Information and registration form available on the NLTA website at www.nlta.nl.ca or contact Peggy Hann, NLCPA President, peggyhann@esdnl.ca.

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

November 8, 2012 & December 6, 2012

Providing students with different ways to learn, and developing teaching materials to assist all students within a classroom learn effectively, regardless of differences in ability. NL Association for Community Living (NLACL) will host two workshops with Patti Winsor: Deer Lake – November 8, 2012 and Gander – December 6, 2012, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Each session is limited to 50 participants. For more information contact: sherrygw@nlacl.ca or darlene.nash@nlacl.ca, Tel: 709-722 0790.

LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGING (CHALLENGING) TIMES

November 13, 2012

Holiday Inn, St. John's. Join internationally renowned author, consultant and presenter, Dr. Andy Hargreaves, as he describes his experiences studying schools from around the world to draw out what we can learn from existing practices of these inspirational schools. This topic is relevant to all educators interested in developing their leadership ability and fostering leadership in others. Presented by the Atlantic Canada Connected Community (ACCC) and the NLTA. Registration Fee: \$175. For more information contact cwhiteaccc@gmail.com.

2013 Convention and Province-Wide Vote Deadlines

October 4, 2012

- All nominations for Office of President/Vice-President must be postmarked by this date for publication in Election issue of *The Bulletin*.
- Photograph, biographical sketch and election statement of nominees for the Office of President/Vice-President must be postmarked by this date for publication in Election issue of *The Bulletin*.

October 30, 2012

Deadline for mailing election posters to schools.

November 4, 2012

Mailing of Election issue of *The Bulletin*.

November 4, 2012

Final deadline for receipt of nominations for offices of President and Vice-President.

December 4, 2012

Province-wide vote for the election of President and Vice-President.

December 18, 2012

Run-off ballot for the election of President and Vice-President (if required).

January 3, 2013

Proposed change, amendment or repeal of NLTA By-Laws to be actioned by Convention must be presented in writing to the NLTA.

February 3, 2013

- All nominations for Provincial Executive for publication in Convention issue of *The Bulletin* must be postmarked or hand delivered to NLTA Office.
- Names of elected delegates and alternates to Convention should be forwarded to NLTA Office for printing in Convention issue of *The Bulletin*.
- Resolutions to Convention must be received at the NLTA Office.

March 3, 2013

Mailing of Convention issue of *The Bulletin*.

April 3-5, 2013

Biennial General Meeting

April 4, 2013

Final deadline for receipt of nominations for Provincial Executive.

Dates to Remember

October 2012

- Oct 12-13 School Rep Seminar, St. John's
- Oct 18 **Deadline:** PD Fund applications
- Oct 18-19 Pre-Retirement Seminar, Corner Brook
- Oct 19-20 School Rep Seminar, Grand Falls-Windsor
- Oct 20 Financial Information Seminar, Corner Brook
- Oct 24-25 Pre-Retirement Seminar, Gander
- Oct 26-27 School Rep Seminar, Corner Brook

November 2012

- Nov 1 Provincial Executive Meeting
- Nov 2-3 Joint Council Meeting

- Nov 7 **Deadline:** Project Overseas Applications
- Nov 15 **Deadline:** PD Fund applications
- Nov 15-16 Pre-Retirement Seminar, St. John's
- Nov 29-30 Pre-Retirement Seminar, St. John's

December 2012

- Dec 1 Financial Information Seminar, St. John's
- Dec 6-7 Pre-Retirement Seminar, St. John's
- Dec 20 **Deadline:** PD Fund applications