

Teachers Make a Difference

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Teachers who make a difference

Dana Jewers



*NSTU president Shelley Morse presented Dana Jewers with his **Teachers Make a Difference** award and \$300 cheque at his school on May 5. They are shown with Fanning Education Centre/Academy principal Jeff George.*

"We all have that one teacher or two that has made a lasting impression on us. One that has a gentle manner to push students—sometimes without them even knowing it—to be at the top of their game, to think outside the box to expand their capabilities and knowledge or give them that extra boost of confidence they may need on that day. For my daughter and her friends, that teacher has been Dana Jewers. He is an exceptional teacher who is thought and spoken highly of, by his students, and their parents."

"I am honoured and blessed that I am one of 10,000 teachers that was selected," Jewers remarks. "There are a lot of great teachers here."

Jewers has also taught at Tamarac Education Centre, in Port Hawkesbury, St. Mary's Academy in Guysborough and St. Andrew's Junior School in Antigonish over his 10-year teaching career. He studied at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay where he received his BA and BEd and he also has a math certificate from StFX.

A Brookfield, Colchester-East Hants native, and currently living in Antigonish County, Jewers still feels at home teaching in Canso. "My Dad grew up in Guysborough County and we stayed in my grandfather's house when I first started teaching."

He loves teaching in rural Nova Scotia. "Not being from here, my students have always made me feel welcome," he comments. "There is a lot of parental support in this community." He says the strong home and school connection, "is a great way to make a positive impact for students. It's a testament to teaching and working in rural Nova Scotia."

He loves his school and the great teaching and school staff and administration he works with. "Students have real sense of home here and we continually try and build that throughout the curriculum and in extracurricular activities."

Jewers has given the \$300 cheque from his *Teachers Make a Difference* award to the school's breakfast program. "This initiative (*Teachers Make A Difference*) helps to build up the public perception of what teachers do—it's not only the curriculum but other things we do as well. We wear many hats and it's important for the public to have more awareness of that fact. I hope the program will continue."

Dana Jewers didn't know what to think when he was called out of an inservice to take a phone call last fall. The phone call let him know that he was a chosen recipient of this year's *Teachers Make a Difference* program. "I was in a math session and was kind of shocked when I was asked to leave the session to call the school—my mind started to race," he admits.

The Grade 4-5 classroom teacher and Grade 6-7 math teacher at Fanning Education Centre/Academy is married to Guysborough County Local's president, Deena Jewers. "Through my NSTU involvement I was well aware of the program, but some of my students kept asking about the campaign—it was clear that they knew about my nomination." He has been a NSTU rep for two years and is currently the vice president of professional development for the Guysborough County Local.

"I really think to get an award from students and parents is very meaningful, when it comes from the students you teach and their parents—that's special," he says. "The fact that they have to take the initiative to nominate you and it's not something imposed on them is really great."

Jewers' nominator has high praise for him.