

# Teachers Make a Difference

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## Teachers who make a difference

Holly Alick



*Past president Shelley Morse presented Holly Alick with her Teachers Make a Difference Award presentation during an end of school year staff luncheon at River Hebert District High School on June 27. Left to right: River Hebert District High NSTU reps Gina MacGillivray and Karina Gagnon; Cumberland Local executive member Chris Weeks; Holly Alick; Shelley Morse; and school principal Vernon Taylor.*

Cumberland county native Holly Alick was taken aback when she was contacted last November to let her know she was being recognized for making a difference for her students, school and community. "I was not aware of the *Teachers Make A Difference* campaign beforehand," she says.

Alick was the randomly selected recipient for the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board among colleagues nominated through NSTU's fourth *Teachers Make a Difference* program. She was one of 10 recipients chosen last year representing the provinces' eight school boards, the Community College Local and APSEA. "I was very excited and very humbled. I work with some really amazing teachers, so to be singled out was quite surprising," she comments.

Alick has been teaching at River Hebert District High School for the last nine years. She is a math and art teacher at the school. "Although I teach mainly senior high math courses, over the years I have taught global geography, geology, food sciences, sociology and learning strategies," she says.

A BSc and BEd Mount Allison University grad, Alick spent a big chunk of her teaching career with the Halifax Regional

School Board. "I started out working in Springhill and Amherst but eventually moved to Cole Harbour where I substituted for a year, taught a year at Auburn Drive High, followed by a half dozen years at Cole Harbour High."

The student that nominated Alick says that she made a long-lasting positive impact. "The reason why I think Mrs. Alick should win this award is because she has stepped out of her way to help students in multiple ways. I personally do not have Mrs. Alick this year, but she has made a difference in my life this year, as well as previous years."

Alick was very touched by the nomination. "The recognition was made extra special when I realized that a student had nominated me for the award," she says. "Sometimes we don't think that students appreciate and support us, but they do."

Being recognized has made a difference for Alick as well. "Teaching is a very demanding profession where most teachers put their heart and soul into their jobs with very little praise or recognition," she comments. "It is wonderful to hear someone say, 'you make a difference.'"