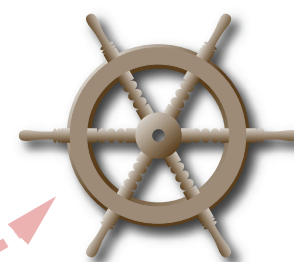


# Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## Building a better society: PEACE by PEACE

by Gérard Cormier

EXECUTIVE STAFF OFFICER, OUTREACH PROGRAMS & EQUITY SERVICES

Peace. Quiet. Tranquility. Serenity. Freedom from or the cessation of war. Societies strive for it. People want it. Remembrance Day commemorates it. But where does it begin? Peace Treaties? Peace Summits? Legislation? It all starts with the individual, learning to harmoniously coexist with others who are somehow different. They often meet in those little societies that exist in various forms throughout the world school.

Schools used to bring together people based on similar characteristics: Catholic schools, gendered schools, segregated schools based on one's race. We went through school with people who were more or less like ourselves. We learned with them; we played with them; we sometimes eventually fell in love with them. However,

everyone gets along, that peace reign in their classrooms and in their schools. And how does this come about? Are students to see it? Experience it? Live it? The answer is yes. All of these. If students are to appreciate the need for global peace, they first must appreciate the need for peace in our schools.

To that end, the NSTU will be offering an historical professional development event to be held April 7 to 9, 2011. A conference entitled *Peace...ing it Together* is being organized by the NSTU's equity and professional development committees in conjunction with the Sheonorail Foundation. Its goal is to bring together 250 educators and have them see and experience Peace through the lived realities of fellow NSTU members, following which they will be able to return to their respective schools with practical hands-on strategies that will bring peace to their classrooms.

The conference will begin with a keynote address by Dr. Samantha Nutt, the founder and executive director of War Child Canada. A medical physician, Dr. Nutt has more than 13 years of experience working in war zones. She is committed to peace, human rights and social justice, always with the goal

of helping war-affected women and children. Through War Child Canada, the United Nations and various non-governmental organizations, Dr. Nutt has worked in many of the world's most violent places, including Iraq, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Burundi, northern Uganda, Ethiopia and the Thai-Burmese border. She has written for Maclean's Magazine, is a published author and frequently appears on Canadian television and radio as an expert commentator on

these homogeneous societies are a thing of the past. Today's schools bring together those who are different from one another, and these differences are numerous. Race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, learning ability are just a few examples.

In recent years, we have seen much more emphasis placed on eradicating the negative effects of bullying. The second Thursday of September is *Stand Up Against Bullying Day*. Educators are asked to see to it that



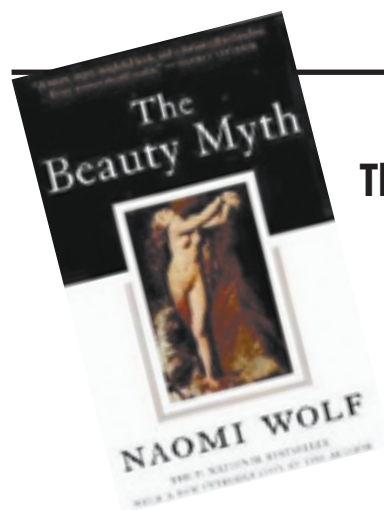
*The NSTU Equity and Professional Development Committees are meeting jointly this year to plan the April joint conference Peacing...it Together on April 7 to 9 in Halifax, which will focus on peace education and be the main fundraiser for the Sheonorail Foundation. Shown above seated: NSTU PD committee and Sheonorail liaison Betty-Jean Aucoin, and PD committee members Jaylene Chase (Lunenburg County Local) and Leon Swinkels (Halifax County). Standing: Krista Moore (Digby Local, PD committee), Mary McLeod (Cape Breton District, Equity committee), Angela Deagle (Inverness Local, PD Committee), Jill Burton (Richmond Local, PD committee), Chris Weeks (Cumberland Local, Equity committee), John MacKay (provincial executive Equity committee liaison), Bev Roy (Kings Local, Equity committee) Dan Stephenson (Colchester-East Hants Local, PD committee chair), Tanya DeViller (Yarmouth Local, Equity committee chair), NSTU Equity committee liaison Gérard Cormier, Daniel Blinn (Dartmouth Local, Equity committee) and Sue Hannem (provincial executive rep Equity committee). Missing: Jenn Laudadio (Antigonish Local, Equity committee).*

war and human rights issues. She has been awarded honorary degrees and is the recipient of a long list of titles and designations—including Canada's Top 40 under 40 Award (The Globe and Mail). She is also a highly sought after keynote speaker on the impact of war, human rights, social justice and on public engagement in global issues, inspiring others to make a difference.

Numerous conference workshops, many of which will be facilitated by NSTU members, will deal with the various areas where peace must exist: peace within yourself, peace with your identity, peace within your family, peace through restrictive

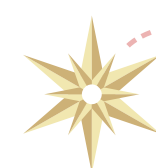
justice, peace on-line, peace through art and music and much more. Peaceful Schools International, a Canadian, non-profit, charitable organization which provides supports to schools around the world, will also be offering workshops. There will also be a number of organizations that will be setting up kiosks to highlight to NSTU members the resources that exist to help educators in this very important work.

Information regarding this important event will arrive in schools and campuses in early December. Mark your calendars. Join us at the Delta Hotels as NSTU members continue the journey of *Peace...ing it together*.

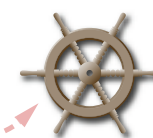


The October winner of the PD book

***The Beauty Myth* is  
LISA BAKER  
of Middleton**



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*Email your name, home address, and school or campus with PD-CHICKEN SOUP in the subject line to [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca) by January 10 to be eligible for the draw.*

The winner will receive *Chicken Soup for the Soul Teacher Tales: 101 Inspirational Stories from Great Teachers and Appreciative Students*, by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Amy Newmark. The book is about the heart and soul of teaching. It is filled with stories about new and experienced teachers, tough students, sweet students, funny and embarrassing moments, amazing connections and relationships and all the ups and downs of being a teacher today.

