



Historic conference focuses on sexual minority rights for students and teachers

NSTU's 2009 Equity Conference, *Educators: Taking Pride in Equity* focused on sexual minority rights and provided important professional development for some 165 teachers and school support staff across Nova Scotia who attended.

"This is the first time a teacher organization in Atlantic Canada has sponsored a conference on sexual minority issues in schools," says NSTU president Alexis Allen.

According to Egale Canada, three quarters of self-identified lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and questioning (LGBTQ) students who participated in a recent survey feel unsafe at school. "Results of this survey already tell us what we know students have been feeling in classrooms across Nova Scotia," says Allen. "We

need to ensure that tackling homophobia, heterosexism and transphobia are priorities in schools and Community College campuses across the province."

Organized by NSTU's Equity Committee, the conference came out of recommendations of an ad hoc NSTU committee, struck in 2006, that worked on GBLTT issues in education. The GBLTT ad hoc committee surveyed NSTU members and results indicated there was a need for professional development in this area. "Making our schools more welcoming was the rationale," continues Allen. "This is an issue that affects safety—not just for students but teachers as well."

The conference, which took place April 24 and 25 at the Delta Halifax, kicked off with a keynote address by The Honourable

Scott Brison, MP Kings-Hants. Brison, who is openly gay and was first elected in 1997, had never before been asked to speak on the issue.

"Being gay has made me a better politician because I understand the pain of prejudice and the power of diversity," he says. "I don't take my rights and others for granted." He says that for him the adolescent world was a very painful world, and instead of pursuing girls like many of his friends, he pursued politics.

Brison told the packed audience that Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms is central to education. "It's where diversity and social programs evolved from." He says it defines freedom, equality and diversity for all.

"As educators, the effects you have and the capacity for you to change things is immense. You take a tough issue and make it unifying and positive. You're shaping citizens in your classrooms every day."

"I take pride in my country that has changed and progressed so much to enable me to be who I am—it's an immense gift," he continues. "My pride is in Canada."

He urged the audience to encourage students to get involved in their communities, their province and their country. "By encouraging young people to get involved you'll be making a huge difference. You need to build a citizenry that understands our history and sees the diversity of minorities."

"I'm amazed you're doing this conference," he concludes. "This has been a wonderful experience for me."

The conference featured workshops on diversity, homophobia, transphobia, Gay-straight Alliances (GSAs), and included two panel discussions: *Overcoming Challenges* and *Youth in Crisis*.



The Honourable Scott Brison

Workshops included *Reconciling Religion with LGBT Equality in the Classroom* with Kevin Kindred, lawyer and LGBT rights advocate; *That's So Gay: Addressing Homophobia at School* with teacher Lee Anne Arsenault; *Gendered Classrooms: Transgender Students* with Leighann Wichman and Kris Figueroa from the Youth Project; plus workshops from Trans Family Nova Scotia and the Canadian Centre for Diversity.

Lieutenant Governor's Teaching Award recipient and Avon View High School teacher Dr. Steven Van Zoost provided the closing address. Another highlight of the conference was an arts show, *One World: The Faces of Diversity Project* featuring artwork from Heather Horsfall's art students at Halifax West High School.

Members of NSTU's Equity Committee also unveiled a series of posters produced by the NSTU that showcase educational issues that arise around this topic. The posters will be distributed to schools across the province through NSTU reps this month.



NSTU's Equity Committee, organizers of *Educators: Taking Pride in Equity Conference* with NSTU president Alexis Allen. From left to right are: Belinda Josephson (Lunenburg County), Laura McCulley (Kings), committee chair Mark MacPhee (Halifax County), Scott Murchison (Cape Breton), provincial executive member Deborah Mitchell, NSTU staff liaison Gérard Cormier and Kathy-Lee Brickenden (Halifax City).

NSTU seeks conciliator for Community College negotiations

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union has requested the Minister of Labour appoint a conciliation officer to assist with Community College negotiations for some 900 faculty and professional support staff members.

The Nova Scotia Community College and the NSTU have held 12 negotiating sessions since contract talks opened on June 5, 2008.

"Our negotiating committee believes no further progress towards a collective agreement can be made without the services of a conciliation officer," says NSTU president Alexis Allen, citing equity issues as the major stumbling block between the Union and College which receives its funding from the Department of Education.

"We find it beyond comprehension that government would choose to single out one group of employees to penalize after reaching agreements with virtually every other bargaining unit in the public service," says Allen.

In early April, the NSTU and Minister of Education signed an agreement that saw raises of 2.9 per cent in each of the two years of the Teachers' Provincial Agreement. The College has advised the NSTU that there is no commitment from the Province to support economic increases of 2.9 per cent beyond August 31, 2009.

"At heart, the over-riding issue in the current impasse is one of fairness," continues Allen. "It seems that government has decided to make an example of our community college members."

inside



NSTU NOW

Highlights of Education Week 2009 are found on page 3 and 15.

Shelburne Regional High School students honoured for anti-racism video. See the story on page 11.

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Communications Conference 2009



This year's Communications Conference, which took place at the Delta Barrington on April 17 and 18, featured a panel discussion with education partner representatives who addressed their own perspectives on education funding as outlined during the "Public Education – Our Best Investment" campaign. Panellists

discussed the need for funding in the public education system and the potential effects should sufficient funding not be included in the upcoming provincial budget.

Joining Alexis Allen, NSTU president, on the panel were Guy LeBlanc (left), executive director of the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators, and president of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, Ron Marks. Sharon Findlay-MacPhee, NSSBA communications manager, moderated the panel.

The NSTU Communications Conference is an annual event that brings together Local vice-presidents of public affairs, public relations and communications for professional development in the areas of communications, lobbying and political action.

In Volume 47, Number 8 of *The Teacher*, April 2009 issue, page 2, Vince Gillis was incorrectly identified as Vince MacLean in the spring 2009 Huntley Internship article. We apologize for this error and for any inconvenience this may have caused.

—The staff of *The Teacher*

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The Big Read



Equity Conference 2009

The Honourable Scott Brison, MP Kings-Hants, was the keynote speaker at NSTU's *Educators: Taking Pride in Equity* Conference on April 24. He is shown with NSTU first vice-president Shelley Morse and NSTU president Alexis Allen.



Hill Day 2009

The Canadian Teachers' Federation held its third annual "Hill Day" in Ottawa on April 21. "Hill Day provides a powerful opportunity for teacher leaders across Canada to discuss critical issues affecting education with federally elected officials and senior government advisors," explains CTF President Emily Noble.

On April 21 members of the CTF Board of Directors were involved in meetings with MPs, Senators and senior government officials to voice their concerns and discuss recommendations on issues that affect teaching and learning in Canadian classrooms. One of the key issues discussed this year was child poverty. NSTU president Alexis Allen met with NDP MPs Megan Leslie (Halifax) and Libby Davies (Vancouver East). NSTU executive director Bill Redden met with Liberal MPs Gerard Kennedy (Parkdale-High Park) who is also Federal Intergovernmental Affairs Critic, and Michael Savage (Dartmouth-Cole Harbour).



From left to right are: Carol Henderson, incoming president of the Alberta Teachers' Association, Alexis Allen, Bill Redden, Mary-Lou Donnelly, CTF president designate, and Carol Moar, a teacher from Winnipeg, Manitoba and member of CTF's Diversity and Human Rights Committee.

Basinview Drive elementary resource teacher Kimberley Burstall and Grade 5 student Carlie Belong participated in The Big Read as part of Global Action Week. Burstall and Belong read an excerpt from a story, joining other teachers and students across Canada. Their reading was incorporated into a video clip shown at an annual breakfast with MPs, senators and senior government officials organized by CTF on April 21. The Big Read was the Global Campaign for Education's activity for Action Week, which took place April 20 to 26. The campaign saw 10 million people around the world read stories to demand urgent action for the one in four women who are illiterate. Nelson Mandela, Natalie Portman, Desmond Tutu and Alice Walker and others contributed stories to The Big Read—a book aimed at challenging the global education crisis.

Education Week 2009 Bringing Arts to Life!

Music, drama, visual arts, and dance: the four pillars of the arts were front and centre during Education Week, April 19 to 25, as Nova Scotia celebrated the week and this year's theme *Bringing Arts to Life! / Les Arts Vivant!* Premier Rodney MacDonald officially proclaimed the week on April 20 at the annual Education Week Awards Ceremony.

Celebrated annually since 1935, Education Week honours the commitment of teachers and other education partners to their students and subjects.

"Nova Scotia's teachers work tirelessly," said Premier Rodney MacDonald. "They are responsible for inspiring the province's young minds and shaping Nova Scotia's future leaders."

This year 23 teachers and five partners were presented with Education Week awards. Activities took place across the province during the week to mark the *Bringing Arts to Life!* theme. Schools hosted art shows, concerts, coffee houses, and plays. Students and teachers were involved in the Viewfinders' International Film Festival for Youth, learning about the art of film.

"Arts education teaches students to think creatively and critically, and to be innovative problem solvers," said Education Minister Judy Streach. "These are the skills required to become well-rounded 21st-century citizens."

While arts education contributes to the wellness and success of Nova Scotia's students, it also improves the cultural and the creative economy. A report released earlier this year by the Nova Scotia Cultural Action Network says that despite the current economic upheaval the province's cultural and creative sector continues to grow.

"Nova Scotia has a rich heritage steeped in arts and culture," said Premier MacDonald. "Arts educators go on to inspire great artists, actors, dancers and musicians. They're not just shaping minds, but are continuing to build a traditional and vital sector of the province's economy."



Actor Stewart Legere was the guest speaker at the 2009 Education Week Awards Ceremony.

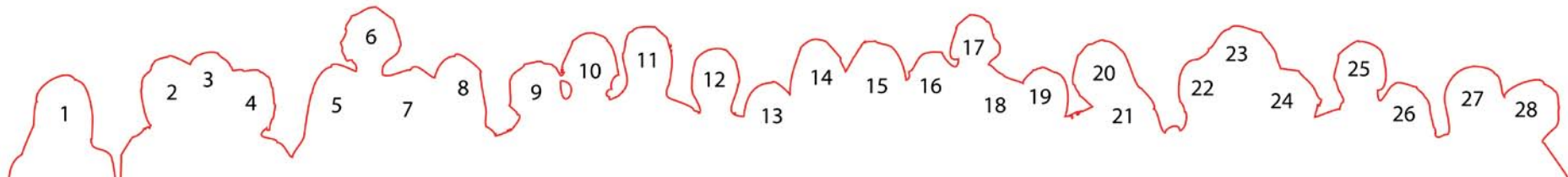


Citadel High drama teacher Steve Coates is shown with students from *The Music Man* who performed during the 2009 Education Week Awards Ceremony.

During this year's Education Week Awards Ceremony, which took place at the beautiful NSCC Waterfront Campus, recipients, dignitaries and invited guests were able to witness the fruits of arts education first-hand. Student musicians from the jazz quintet Full House performed at the ceremony, Citadel High School students treated the audience to a scene from their high school musical, *The Music Man*, and local actor and writer Stewart Legere, an associate artist with Zuppa Theatre, was the featured guest speaker. Artwork is from young artists in the pre-primary program, De Garthe scholarship applicants, and students from Northeast Kings Education Centre, Eastern Shore District High School, and Cornwallis Junior High School.

Education Week 2009 was sponsored for the seventh year in a row by the Teachers *Plus* Credit Union. The venue was provided by NSCC Waterfront Campus and the food for the reception was provided by Chartwells.

Education Week is a co-operative effort of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA), the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. (NSFHSA), la Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FPANE), the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators (ANSEA), and the Nova Scotia Department of Education (DOE).



Above are this year's Education Week Award recipients with Premier Rodney MacDonald, Education Minister Judy Streach, and NSTU first vice-president Shelley Morse. 1. Maureen MacMullin, Lakeview Consolidated Elementary (Halifax County Local), 2. Harriet Deinstadt, Drumlin Heights Consolidated (Yarmouth Local) 3. Deborah Fleming, New Germany Rural High School (Lunenburg County Local), 4. Céline Bougie, École du Carrefour /Bois-Joli (FPANE partner award), 5. Ursula Ryan, Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy (Guysborough County Local), 6. Elizabeth Broadbent, Liverpool Regional High (Queens Local), 7. Louise Cloutier, Pugwash District High (Cumberland Local), 8. Jackie Dunn-MacIsaac, St. Andrew's Consolidated/Rev. H. J. MacDonald, (Antigonish Local) 9. Susan Spence-Campbell, Brooklyn District Elementary (Hants West Local), 10. Joël Arsenault, École du Carrefour (CSANE Local), 11. Premier Rodney MacDonald, 12. Paula Jane Francis, Seton Elementary School (Northside-Victoria Local) 13. Susan Robinson-Burnie, Annapolis West Education Centre (Annapolis Local) 14. Janice Holden, Lockeport Elementary (Shelburne Local), 15. Education Minister Judy Streach, 16. Kathy Shee, Digby Elementary (Digby Local), 17. David Zinck, Dartmouth High School (Dartmouth Local), 18. Nancy McLean, Sydney River Elementary (Cape Breton Local), 19. Faye Haley, Chairperson, Tri-County Regional School Board (NSSBA Partner Award), 20. Sabine Fels, J. L. Isley Family of Schools (Halifax City Local), 21. Yvette d'Entremont, École Secondaire de Par-en-Bas (CSANE Local), 22. Johanne Jobin-McInnis, Aldershot Elementary School (Kings Local), 23. Mary Walker-Hope, West Kings District High PTSA (NSFHSA partner award) 24. Shelley Morse, NSTU first vice-president, 25. Steve Hartlen, New Glasgow Junior High (Pictou Local), 26. Lisa McNamara, Richmond Academy (Richmond Local) 27. Ann Blackwood (DOE), 28. Sandra Gillis, Whycocomagh Education Centre (Inverness Local).

Missing from the photo: Audrey Boudreau (CSANE Local,) Manon Daneau, Cobequid Education Centre (Colchester-East Hants Local) and Ed Davis, Superintendent of the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board, who received the ANSEA partner award.



Alex

from the nstu president

Making a difference in the global community

"I must do something" will always solve more problems than "Something must be done."
— Anonymous

As we listen to the daily news we constantly hear about the economic downturn, health care crises, under funding in education, and crime rates. All serious issues, but sometimes just too much to absorb! I must say, however, that as I visit schools/campuses or read about events occurring in Nova Scotia public schools and community college campuses I am reminded that there are many good news stories. In fact, schools/campuses are doing incredible things: fundraising for Feed Nova Scotia, the Terry Fox Run, or the IWK; read-a-thons to raise money and encourage literacy; Earth Day events; inventing robots that can solve the Rubik's Cube; and so much more. Our education system is truly blessed with talented public school teachers, and Community College faculty and professional support staff who help students reach their potential.

Here is a small sample of some of the positive things that have been happening in Nova Scotia this school year.

To encourage young people to keep active Caudle Park Elementary school started the *Healthy Heart Project* where teams of Grades 4 to 6 students wore pedometers and kept logs of their daily activity. Each month they painted their collective kilometers on the mural of a map of Canada to create a visual representation of healthy active living.

Brenda Morrison, a Grade 5 teacher at Sydney River Elementary, was selected to be the first Atlantic Canadian to carry the Olympic torch.

Sydney Academy Grade 12 student Melanie Brister organized the *Helping Haiti Initiative* where she collaborated with 25 other schools to raise \$40,000 to rebuild a school.

Ryan Hutt, a student at Hammonds Plains Consolidated, discovered a 350-million-year-old horseshoe crab fossil at Blue Beach.

An annual *Free the Children Concert*, organized by Auburn Drive High School teacher Melanie Kennedy and involving Halifax Regional School Board elementary school choirs, is now in its sixth year and has been able to raise enough money to build three schools in China and one in Kenya.

Mount Carmel Elementary art teacher Diane Lewis has created an "artcycle" program that reuses garbage in her art class to teach about environmental issues.

John McGowan, a phys ed teacher at Springvale Elementary, won this year's Physical Education Teaching Excellence Award for Nova Scotia.

Students from seven high schools in the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board participated in a creative collaborative art making, presenting and trading event in celebration of Education Week 2009 *Bringing Arts to Life*, led by Pugwash District High art teacher Louise Cloutier and Amherst Regional High School art teacher Cynthia McCarthy.

Barrington Municipal High School saw an outpouring of support by students, staff, and the community for Grade 8 student Shannon Knowles who passed away after a 14-month battle with cancer. On March 28 the Halifax Rainmen basketball team (a favorite of Shannon's) invited everyone to a game, courtesy of the team owner, to help celebrate the life of a young lady who had so much courage.

Morgan Harlow, a Grade 12 student at Lockeport Regional High, won the prestigious 2009 *Youth Volunteer of the Year* award.

Madeline Shanks, a student at Falmouth District School, came 2nd in the RRFB contest and received \$200 for her school to do something "Green."

Arcadia Elementary in Yarmouth placed 2nd (3rd time in a row) for their Discovery Centre Science Video.

Richmond Academy art teacher Lisa McNamara has had students in the art club develop a multicultural mural at a local elementary school.

Dartmouth Local administrator Andy MacNeil and teacher Ellen Louth won *Big Sisters Big Brothers Community Mentoring Awards*.

Annapolis East Elementary School is the only school east of Ontario taking part in the "Schools and Scouting" program which offers outdoor education experience. It is also the first school in Eastern Canada to take part in "pennies for patients" to raise money for research into leukemia and lymphoma.

Haley Richardson, a student at Canso Academy, embarked on the Cape Farwell 2008 Youth Expedition along with 14 other Canadian students from across Canada. The 13-day expedition started in Iceland and travelled by ship around the tip of Greenland to Baffin Island to participate in scientific study and to examine climate change first-hand.

Grade 6 students from Tantallon Elementary are the only Maritime students to participate in the National Research Council's hands-on project Marsville. Through blogs the students communicate with other Canadian students on the building of their imaginary colony on Mars.

Community College faculty member Crystal McManus, a Graphic Design instructor is participating in Leave for Change in Vietnam in July. She'll be volunteering with the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and facilitating three five-day workshops on graphic design related software.

Community College member Kurt Lanigan, from the business faculty, and his students set up a Computer Service and Support Centre so fellow students and staff can get their computers repaired for free. The entire project is a reflection of real-life experiences encountered in the business world.

These are but a small sample of some of the successes, contributions, innovative ideas and accomplishments that our schools and campuses, students and members have achieved this year. Clearly, NSTU members take a very active role in encouraging our students to "do something" to make a difference in our global community.

Agir en faveur de la collectivité mondiale

« Je dois faire quelque chose » : cette approche résout toujours plus de problèmes que « Quelque chose doit être fait » (anonyme).

Lorsque nous écoutons les actualités quotidiennes, nous entendons constamment parler de la récession économique, de la crise des soins de santé, du manque de financement de l'éducation et des taux de criminalité.

Ces problèmes sont sérieux, mais il est parfois difficile d'absorber tout cela. Je dois toutefois dire que, lorsque je visite les écoles et les campus et que j'apprends ce qui se passe dans les écoles publiques et les campus de la Nouvelle-Écosse, je me rends compte qu'il y a également beaucoup de bonnes nouvelles. Les écoles et les campus font souvent des choses extraordinaires :

Ils collectent des fonds pour *Feed Nova Scotia*, la course Terry Fox ou l'hôpital IWK; ils font des marathons de lecture pour collecter de l'argent et favoriser l'alphabétisation; ils organisent des activités pour le Jour de la Terre; ils inventent des robots capables de résoudre le cube Rubik; et bien d'autres choses encore. Notre système d'éducation a l'énorme chance de disposer d'écoles publiques et d'un Collège communautaire dotés d'enseignants, de professeurs et de personnel de soutien talentueux qui aident les élèves à réaliser pleinement leur potentiel.

Voici quelques exemples d'activités concrètes qui ont été réalisées en Nouvelle-Écosse durant cette année scolaire.

Pour encourager les jeunes à rester actifs, l'école élémentaire Caudle Park a lancé le projet Cœur en santé où des équipes d'élèves de 4^e à 6^e année portaient des pedomètres et notaient leur activité quotidienne dans un journal. Chaque mois, ils peignaient leurs kilomètres collectifs sur un mural représentant la carte du Canada afin d'illustrer visuellement un mode de vie actif et sain.

Brenda Morrison, enseignante de 5^e année à l'école élémentaire Sydney River, a été sélectionnée pour être la première personne du Canada atlantique à porter la flamme olympique.

Melanie Brister, élève de 12^e année à la Sydney Academy, a organisé une initiative d'aide à Haïti pour laquelle elle a collaboré avec 25 autres écoles en vue de réunir 40 000 \$ pour reconstruire une école détruite en novembre dernier.

Ryan Hutt, élève de l'école Hammonds Plains Consolidated, a découvert un fossile de crabe des Moluques datant de 350 millions d'années à Blue Beach.

Un concert annuel Enfants Entraide, organisé par Melanie Kennedy, professeure à l'école secondaire Auburn Drive, avec la participation des chorales des écoles élémentaires du Conseil scolaire régional d'Halifax, est maintenant dans sa sixième année et a permis de construire trois écoles en Chine et une école au Kenya.

Cassidy Megan, élève de l'école Atlantic Memorial Terence Bay, s'est efforcé de sensibiliser le public au sujet de l'épilepsie en lançant la campagne nationale et internationale *Purple Day*.

Diane Lewis, enseignante d'art à l'école élémentaire Mount Carmel, a créé un programme intitulé *Artcycle* qui réutilise des « ordures » dans sa classe d'art pour sensibiliser les élèves aux questions environnementales.

John McGowan, professeur d'éducation physique à l'école élémentaire Springvale, a remporté cette année le Prix d'excellence de l'enseignement de l'éducation physique pour la Nouvelle-Écosse.

Des élèves de sept écoles secondaires du Conseil scolaire régional Chignecto-Central ont participé à une activité de création collective, de présentation et d'échange de travaux artistiques, en l'honneur de la Semaine de l'éducation 2009. Cet événement, intitulé *Bringing Arts to Life*, était organisé par Louise Cloutier, professeur d'art à l'école secondaire Pugwash District, et Cynthia McCarthy, professeur d'art à l'école secondaire Amherst Regional.

À l'école secondaire Barrington Municipal, les élèves, le personnel et la communauté ont manifesté leur soutien à Shannon Knowles, élève de 8^e année, qui est décédée à l'issue d'une lutte de 14 mois contre le cancer. Le 28 mars, l'équipe de basket-ball Halifax Rainmen (l'équipe préférée de Shannon) a invité tout le monde à assister à un match, offert gracieusement par le propriétaire de l'équipe, pour rendre hommage à cette jeune fille qui avait fait preuve de tant de courage.

Morgan Harlow, élève de 12^e année à l'école secondaire Lockeport Regional, s'est vue décerner le prix prestigieux du Jeune bénévole de l'année 2009.

Madeline Shanks, élève de l'école Falmouth District, a remporté la deuxième place au concours RRFB et a reçu 200 \$ pour aider son école à organiser une activité « écologique ».

L'école élémentaire Arcadia de Yarmouth a remporté la deuxième place (pour la troisième fois consécutive) pour sa vidéo de sciences du Centre des découvertes.

Lisa McNamara, professeure d'art à la Richmond Academy, a aidé les élèves du club d'art à créer un mural multiculturel à l'école élémentaire de la région.

Andy MacNeil, administrateur, et Ellen Louth, enseignante, appartenant tous deux à la section locale de Dartmouth, ont remporté le Prix du mentorat communautaire Grandes Sœurs et Grands Frères.

(President's message continued on page 9)

TIP OF THE MONTH

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- 2 Applications for Post-Secondary and Teacher Training Educational Awards have been sent out. The deadline for the Post-Secondary Educational Award is May 15, 2009 and the deadline for the Teacher Training Award is May 29, 2009. Please contact our office or visit our web site for more details.
- 3 Teachers Plus Credit Union enjoyed attending the Education Week ceremony on April 20, 2009. "Bringing the Arts to Life"
- 4 Teachers Plus raised \$500.00 for Big Brothers and Big Sisters when they went bowling on March 29, 2009
- 5 Please visit our branch or web site www.teachersplus.ca to obtain information on the new tax free savings accounts that are currently available to members.
- 6 Teachers Plus Credit Union is now offering Travel Insurance to our members. Please visit branch for details on our excellent rates.
- 7 Do you have Spring Fever and are looking for a new home, contact one of our Financial Services Officers for more details.
- 8 Teachers Plus Credit Union has more ABM's in Nova Scotia than any other Financial Institutions. Need to find an ABM? We now have an ABM locator available on our web site.

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Early Intervention programs provide assistance and support to families who have an infant or young child with developmental challenges.



The images on the 12 note cards were created by children whose families receive services from one of the 18 Early Intervention Programs in Nova Scotia. The packages are \$10 each.



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One third of all Canadians over 65 have a hearing loss. This is not, however, just an issue with the senior population; younger people are affected too. In fact, 10 per cent of all Canadians have some type of hearing loss. Could you be at risk? Some of the most common causes for hearing loss are outlined below.

NOISE EXPOSURE

In our world of technology, everyday life is comprised of hazardous noise levels. At home we are exposed to noise from lawn mowers, traffic, and construction. At work noise is generated by the chatter of students and colleagues, music or physical education activities, office or industrial equipment, power tools or other machinery. Even our leisure activities can be noisy, including hunting, sporting events, snowmobiling and listening to loud music.

The loudness of sound is measured in decibels. The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety recommends ear protection for people exposed to sounds of 85dB or higher. Otherwise you risk permanent hearing loss. Some of the activities you engage in daily may be noisier than you think. Take a look at these decibel ratings for some common sounds:

- Ambulance siren: 120 dB
- Nightclub: 120 dB
- Movie Theatre: up to 117 dB
- Rock Concert: 110-125 dB
- Listening to music with headphones: 105-120 dB if the volume is cranked up to maximum setting.
- Motorcycle: 95dB

Warning signs of damage due to noise exposure include ringing or buzzing in the ears (tinnitus), slight muffling of sounds, difficulty understanding speech, and difficulty understanding conversations in groups or with background noise. If you experience any of these warning signs, do not wait: see an audiologist for a complete hearing test.

AGING

Although people of all ages can be affected by hearing loss, the risk increases with age. The cause for age-related hearing loss is not always clear. Sometimes it is related to a life time of noise exposure while other times a genetic component is involved.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS /INJURIES

Hearing loss can be the result of a medical condition, i.e. ear infections, damaged ear drums, certain tumours (such as those that grow on the nerves responsible for hearing) and Meniere's disease (a condition that damages the inner ear leading to hearing loss and vertigo). Other possible causes for hearing loss include the build up of ear wax, certain medications (such as antibiotics and cancer treatments), and head injuries or trauma to the ear.

TIPS TO PREVENT HEARING LOSS

Protect your hearing because it is irreplaceable. Once hearing is damaged it often can't be restored. Some tips to protect you from noise induced hearing loss include:

- Watch your decibels!!! Avoid exposure to noise when you can.
- Wear ear plugs, noise filters, or ear muffs if you are in an environment with noise over 85 dB. If you have to shout to be heard or if speech sounds muffled after



leaving a noisy environment, then the sound level is too high.

- Wear the recommended ear protection if you work in a noisy environment and if you are exposed to noisy situations at home, or during leisure activities (such as discos, sporting events, or rock concerts).
- Follow the 60-60 rule for when using your personal music device (MP3 or CD player): listen 60 per cent of the maximum volume for up to 60 minutes per day. Any more than this can lead to permanent hearing loss.

Other suggestions on reducing your risk for hearing loss include:

- Don't try to clean your ears by poking anything into the ear canals...this may

result in injury to the delicate skin or impacting the ear wax.

- Reduce the risk of ear infections by treating upper respiratory tract infections promptly.
- Avoid swimming in dirty water.
- Dry your ears after bathing.

If you are concerned that you may be at risk, talk to your doctor. Some medical conditions can be treated to improve hearing. Have regular medical checkups to find health conditions and nip them in the bud. Talk to your doctor about booking a hearing test. The Canadian Hearing Society recommends a hearing test every two years or more often if you have concerns about your hearing.

did you KNOW?

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) invites NSTU members to sign up for our Wellness email list at **Be_Well@nstu.ca**.

Please contact Erin at ekeefe@nstu.ca to provide her with your NSTU email address. The **Be_Well@nstu.ca** list will provide information about the EIP and other wellness topics.



A Halifax landmark since 1876 the Waverley Inn is situated downtown close to all the city has to offer. Gracious guest rooms featuring modern amenities include on-site free parking, a bountiful hot breakfast and wireless Internet.

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Starting Out With Yoga at the Yoga Loft

Starting Out With Yoga is a once a week, three week program for people who are completely new to yoga. It caters to those who might feel a bit intimidated about trying yoga. The classes are small, the program is not too long, and it is taught by experienced and certified teachers.

Starting Out With Yoga provides a full introduction to yoga postures, gentle breathing exercises, meditation, body awareness, stress reduction, and relaxation. A new program starts in the first week of every month so it's very easy to start out.

The normal cost of the program is \$39 plus HST (\$44.07) but as a member of the NSTU you'll receive a 10% discount so that you only pay \$35.00 plus HST. If you'd like to register, please call the Yoga Loft at 902-429-3330.

To find out more, please visit:
<http://www.theyogaloft.ca/starting.html>
The Yoga Loft
Suite 301, 5663 Cornwallis Street,
Halifax, NS B3K 1B6

Yoga now being offered in schools

by Jenny Kierstead, founder of Breathing Space Yoga Studio

There are ten teachers in the province looking just as forward to their fall as they are to their summer. Why? They are bringing yoga to their schools as part of the physical education program. Having recently been approved to support the writing of the PSP Grade 11 Yoga Curriculum, I am filled with excitement and hope at the new possibilities available to our children.

One parent who is raising two teenagers is thrilled with the idea: “I cannot adequately express my joy in discovering that yoga will soon be an option for those fulfilling their physical credit. For many kids, gym class is a painful experience, especially for girls, wrought with feelings of inadequacy,” says Debra Wells-Hopey. “Girls are significantly less active than boys, from Grade 6 onward. A shift must be made in how we think as a community—about our worth, our bodies and our relationships. A great step has been taken.”

Breathing Space Yoga studio has been offering a training program for teachers. Graduate Karen Berezowski has seen amazing things come out of the pilot program that she and Sue Stevenson designed two years ago. Yoga not only targets today’s physical health concerns but addresses something very deep within all of us that no subject currently addresses: our inner world of thoughts, feelings and senses of connection. Yoga operates on the premise that we all have qualities of kindness and love, and it shows us that life is not a ‘Me against them’ battlefield but a ‘Celebration of each other’s experience.

The vast nature of yoga allows the curriculum to cover topics from proper nutrition, self-esteem, ethical living, healthy relationships, and inner peace.

Lindsay Corbin, Public Health Nutritionist, is writing the portion of the curriculum that includes the yogic diet, mindful eating and The Canada’s Food Guide.

Teachers who have attended the program have experienced transformative effects on very personal levels. One teacher had an extremely difficult year and claimed that the program virtually saved her life. Another teacher has made astounding life choices that support her happiness, which she otherwise would not have had the courage to make.

Graduates of the Breathing Space 200-hour Training Program will be given a detailed manual and a Phys. Ed Grade 11 curriculum package with lesson plans. Teachers will be able to teach yoga in the system as well as bring this content to their colleagues, offering much needed stress management techniques.

And for those who wish to continue the journey? Blair Abbass is helping to develop the proposed Advanced Yoga Grade 12 Pilot program.

For more information on the upcoming Department of Education’s Yoga Summer Institute, contact Natalie Flinn, Active Healthy Living Consultant at (902) 424-6134, at flinnnj@gov.ns.ca, Carol Tanner, Administrative Assistant at 902-424-2292, tannerca@gov.ns.ca or Jenny Kierstead at www.BreathingSpaceYogaStudio.ca.



Above are some of the teachers who attended the Breathing Space yoga training program. From left to right Paula Chisholm (North Nova Education Centre), Peggy Ray (Auburn Drive High School), Eva Farmakoulas (Gorsebrook Junior High School), Sara MacInnes (Millwood High School), Emily Wickwire Foster (Youth Pathways & Transition program teacher), Sarah Morley (River Hebert Elementary School) with yoga instructor Jenny Kierstead.

The Teacher deadline for the final issue of the 2009-2010 school year is May 22!

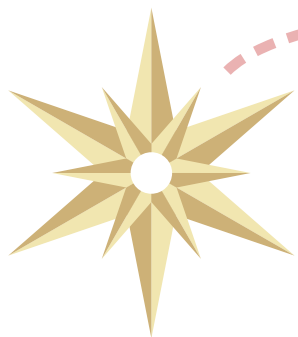
Contact theteacher@nstu.ca or 1-800-565-6788 for more information/advertising.

Make Canada Your Classroom

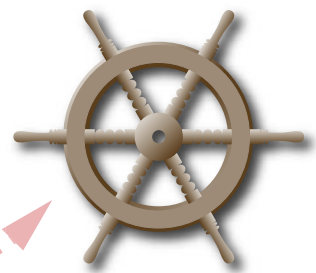
With YMCA Youth Exchanges Canada, your school group can explore Canada while learning leadership, communication and teamwork skills. Youth connect with new friends from another community and discover the history, geography and diversity of another part of the country.

10 to 30 participants between the ages of 12 and 17 are matched with a group from another part of Canada.

We're now accepting applications for the 2009/10 school year, so call 1-877-639-9987 or visit www.ymcaexchanges.org today for more info.



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



School administrators, professional development and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union

by Danny Eddy

EXECUTIVE STAFF OFFICER, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
& COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Every program area, specific grade level, particular course or specialized educational area (such as Guidance) require professional development targeted to the unique needs of members with these assignments. Each of these areas requires considerable knowledge and skill and ongoing professional development as curriculum changes, as pedagogical advancements are made, and as the ever-changing needs of students become part of the daily reality of schools. Teachers are constantly seeking professional development opportunities that meet their unique circumstances allowing them to enhance instruction that positively impacts student learning.

School administrators have unique professional development requirements relative to their specific duties. Over the years the Nova Scotia Teachers Union has provided or partnered to provide professional development for school administrators. NSTU intermediate and executive staff have an array of PD offerings to support school administrators. Some

of the recent offerings have included Gerard Cormier's presentation to all Halifax Regional School Board administrators *Battling Homophobia in Schools*, and Ron Brunton's workshop on *Cyberbullying*. Betty-Jean Aucoin and Ron teamed on a recent *Authentic Assessment* session and Betty-Jean, Ron and myself have offered several sessions on *Strategies for Engaging the Millennials*, our newest generation of teachers, and *Strategies for New Administrators*.

Member Services staff officers have also provided sessions on *Duties of Teachers*, *Parental Harassment*, *Occupational Health and Safety*, and *Violence in the Workplace Regulations*, to name but a few of the offerings.

A quick review of the NSTU brochure—Charting Your Course for Professional Development—will reveal more than 50 professional development sessions, many of which would support school administrators in their roles.

Recently PD staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin has assisted the Metro locals of the NSTU



PD staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin joins administrators from four Halifax Regional School Board schools to assist in organizing an upcoming in-service on *Differentiation of Instruction and Assessment for Grades Primary to 9*. Clockwise from the bottom are: Joe Morrison, principal of Oxford School; Betty-Jean Aucoin; Kelly MacLeod, principal of Clayton Park Junior High; Lisa Radimer, Highland Park Junior High principal; Gary Adams Sackville Heights Junior High principal; and Karyn Cooling, Sackville Heights Junior High vice-principal.

in developing a *New Administrators Program* (NAP) designed to support members new to administration roles.

Any of these sessions are available at no charge by contacting the NSTU and asking for Professional Development Services.

Developing Successful Schools

For over a decade the NSTU has partnered with the New Brunswick Teachers' Association, The Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation and the New Brunswick Department of Education in hosting Developing Successful Schools (DSS). This professional development opportunity is held annually in July at Mount Allison University and is limited to 64 administrators from Atlantic Canada. It is an opportunity for administrators from the department head level to that of superintendent to engage in three days of collaborative, interactive, high-end professional development addressing some of the most current, critical and influential issues in education administration. Not lost in the value of this session is the opportunity to network both formally and informally with administrators from across Atlantic Canada.

Each year DSS focuses on one specific topic in an in-depth format aimed at improving skills and knowledge. Some of the topics over the years have included: *School Centered Leadership—Collaboration For Excellence*, *Leading a Learning Organization*, *What Great Leaders*

Do Differently, and last year Bruce Wellman offered *Data Driven Dialogue*.

Evaluation comments provided by last year's participants for Wellman's offering were impressive and we are delighted to have him back again this year. He has collaborated with Laura Lipton in writing the book *Mentoring Matters—A Practical Guide to Learning-Focused Relationships* and this work will be a central theme of this summer's session.

School administrators interested in mentoring programs for new teachers will find this to be an extraordinary and relevant professional development opportunity. The NSTU has a block of 12 spots reserved and all schools and central office sites have been mailed an information and application form. Funding may be available through regional Article 60 Professional Development Committees. Seats will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis and applications are now being accepted. Please note the change in dates from recent years for this year's DSS institute.

DSS 2009: Tuesday, July 21

Registration begins at 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 23

DSS ends at noon

The NSTU strives to meet the unique professional development needs of all members to foster and enhance professional growth. Information on PD sessions is readily available through the PD Department at the NSTU.

Institute Resource Person BRUCE WELLMAN



Bruce's experience includes being a classroom teacher, curriculum coordinator, and staff developer in public schools in the United States.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Leading Groups: Effective Strategies for Building Professional Community

Educational leaders wear many hats at once as they bring positional responsibility, technical knowledge and information to meetings and work sessions. Knowing when and how to integrate oneself with the group is often a delicate balancing act for mindful leaders. Skillful leaders are able to manage three simultaneous agendas with and for their groups; task focus; process skill development; and relational development.

This presentation explores a leadership repertoire that flexes between the stances of presenting, collaborating and facilitating when communicating important information and to support groups in generating and processing information. Knowing when and how to flex between these stances allows skilled leaders to productively and confidently influence positive outcomes for groups and manage difficult topics and conversations. Flexibility in stance also allows the group leader to preserve a place at the table so his or her voice as a colleague has a space for participation.

This session includes:

- principles and formats for designing effective group work;
- developing flexibility with three leadership stances: presenting-collaborating-facilitating;
- concepts and skills for framing group purposes, tasks and processes;
- repertoire of strategies for energizing groups and supporting information processing;

DEVELOPING SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS



Learning Focused Conversation: Practical Strategies for Collaborative Inquiry

Mount Allison University
Sackville, NB

July 20-23, 2009

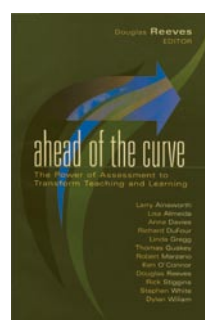
An Instructional Leadership Institute

Sponsored by:
New Brunswick Department of Education
New Brunswick Teachers' Association
Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation
Nova Scotia Teachers Union
Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

- a toolkit of verbal and nonverbal skills and moves; and
- ways to increase confidence when dealing with difficult topics and difficult groups.

This Institute is intended for School/District and other educational administrators from Atlantic Canada. A total of 60 participants will be accepted. (Twelve seats are reserved for Nova Scotia.)

Educators who are members of the sponsoring organizations - registration fee is \$300. For registration information, contact Gail Doucette at the NSTU, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7; 902-477-5621, 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free in NS) or email gdoucette@nstu.ca.



The winner of the April
PD book giveaway *Ahead of the Curve*
is Sarah Umlah,
a substitute teacher with the
South Shore Regional School Board.

EQUITY BOOK REVIEW

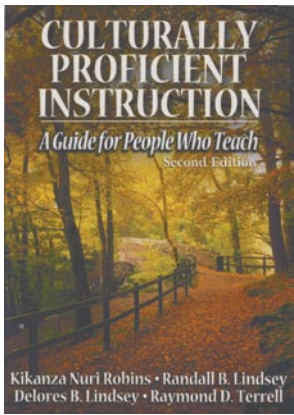
Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by May 27 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's equity book giveaway is entitled *Culturally Proficient Instruction: A Guide for People Who Teach* is written by Kikanza Nuri Robins et al. and published by Corwin Press, this book serves as an excellent tool to guide and promote an open discussion and examination of the diversity challenges facing our schools and communities.

This resource is an invitation for educators to reflect on culture, value diversity, and manage the dynamics of difference. This resource will allow educators to reflect on who they are, who their learners are, and the unique perspectives they each bring to the classroom. This edition includes:

- A chapter on instructional standards
- A restructured and simplified case study
- Improved exercises and reflective activities



fresh

Putting new members in the KNOW!

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with FRESH in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by May 27 to be eligible for the draw.

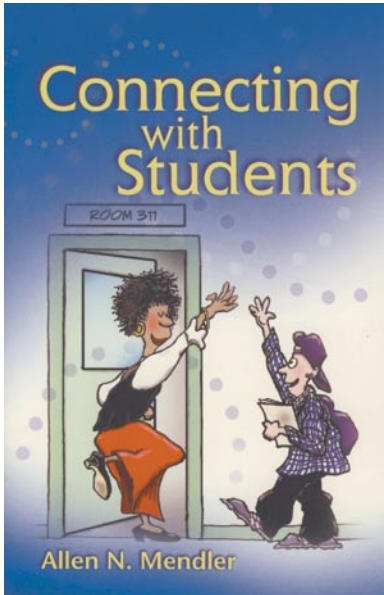
This month's FRESH giveaway is entitled *Connecting with Students*. It is written by Allen N. Mendler and published by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

When early career teachers begin in the teaching profession one of their concerns is whether or not they will be able to connect with students. By connecting with students teachers prevent school violence, support school safety, improve school climate, and promote learning.

This resource contains many positive strategies for bridging the gap between teacher and student and provides educators with activities and guidelines that they can use in their classrooms. The following parts are included:

- Identifying disconnected students
- Strategies for developing personal connection
- Strategies for developing academic connection
- Strategies for developing social connection

Educators will learn to listen to students and accommodate their needs, resulting in lasting relationships and growth for educators and students alike.



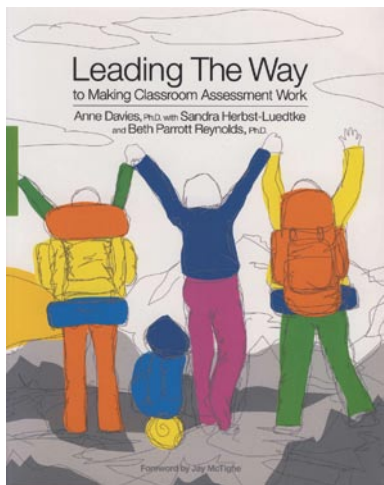
Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by May 27 to be eligible for the draw.

This PD book giveaway is *Leading the Way to Making Classroom Assessment Work*. It features Anne Davies who will be part of NSELC's 2009 Assessment Summit.

Based on the second edition of *Making Classroom Assessment Work*—the popular guidebook for teachers—*Leading the Way* is designed to help school administrators, senior staff, and superintendents support educators and students in the assessment process. This guide describes indicators of successful assessment practice and ways of supporting teachers in the classroom and provides examples of how leaders have modeled assessment for learning to colleagues and students in their school communities.

Find out more about the NSELC 2009 Assessment Summit in the ad on this page.



(President's message continued from page 4)

L'école élémentaire Annapolis East est la seule école à l'est de l'Ontario à participer au programme *Schools and Scouting* qui propose des expériences éducatives de plein air. C'est également la première école de l'Est du Canada à participer à la campagne *Pennies for patients* qui vise à réunir de l'argent destiné à la recherche sur la leucémie et le lymphome.

Haley Richardson, élève à Canso Academy, a participé à l'expédition des jeunes 2008 au Cap Farwell en compagnie de 14 autres élèves canadiens venus de l'ensemble du pays. Cette expédition de 13 jours a démarré en Islande et s'est poursuivie par bateau autour de la pointe du Groenland jusqu'à l'île de Baffin pour participer à une étude scientifique et examiner de près le changement climatique.

Les élèves de 6^e année de l'école élémentaire Tantallon sont les seules élèves des provinces Maritimes à participer au projet Marsville du Conseil national de recherches. Par l'intermédiaire de blogues, les élèves communiquent avec d'autres élèves canadiens au sujet de la construction de leur colonie imaginaire sur Mars.

Crystal McManus, membre de la faculté du Collège communautaire et professeure de dessin graphique, participera au projet *Leave for Change* au Vietnam en juillet. Elle travaillera à titre bénévole avec le ministère de l'Éducation du Vietnam et organisera trois ateliers de cinq jours sur les logiciels de conception graphique.

Kurt Lanigan, membre de la faculté du commerce du Collège communautaire, et ses élèves ont mis sur pied un centre de soutien et de service informatiques afin que les élèves et le personnel puissent faire réparer gratuitement leur ordinateur. L'ensemble du projet reflète des expériences réelles rencontrées dans le monde des affaires.

Ceci n'est qu'un petit aperçu des réussites, des contributions, des innovations et des réalisations accomplies cette année par nos écoles et nos campus ainsi que par nos élèves et nos membres. Il est clair que les membres du NSTU jouent un rôle très actif pour encourager leurs élèves à « faire quelque chose » en vue d'agir en faveur de la collectivité mondiale.

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2009 ASSESSMENT SUMMIT

AUGUST 20 AND 21, 2009
 HALIFAX, N. S.

Use the power of assessment to drive instruction and improve learning. Hear five of the most distinguished assessment experts in North America illustrate why the fundamental purpose of assessment is not to rate, rank, and sort students, but rather to provide meaningful feedback that leads to improved student learning.

Keynote Speakers

Anne Davies	Damian Cooper	Cassandra Erkens
Ken O'Connor		Rick Stiggins

Registration Fees Include:

- 2 full days of professional learning
- Sessions with every keynote speaker
- Breakfast and lunch every day
- Evening reception with fabulous door prizes including a chance to win dinner with the keynote speakers.

Registration Fees:

Regular Price—\$549.99 + HST
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Special Group Pricing: for registration fees paid by boards, schools etc. (organization must pay for all registered in the group with one payment). For every 15 registered receive one free registration (buy 15 get the 16th free).

Register on-line at www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca or call 422-3270 for more information.
 Registration deadline: May 31 2009

NS Teachers' Pension releases results



NSTU members are shown attending the biennial Pension Symposium which took place at the Dr. Tom Parker Building in Halifax on April 17 and 18.

Results for 2008 indicate that the Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension Plan performed as well as, or better than, other large Canadian pension plans. The Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension Plan had an investment return of -16.8 per cent for the year ended December 31, 2008, while some of the biggest Canadian pension plans had average investment returns of -18.4 per cent for 2008.*

"We have experienced the worst equity markets in more than 30 years, which have affected the plan's performance. But the investments are diversified and have always been managed in a disciplined fashion with a long term focus," said Pat O'Neil, Chair of the Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension Trustee Inc., the board that oversees investment of the Plan's assets. "We closely monitor the funds to minimize risk and ensure the investments are positioned to take advantage of a market rebound when it happens."

The funding level of the Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension Plan has decreased to 70.8 per cent, meaning those who retired after August 1, 2006 will not receive indexing this year. These retirees will continue to receive the same regular pension payments from the Teachers' Pension Fund.

Except for the pre-August 1, 2006 pensioners who chose the variable pension option, teachers who retired prior to August 1, 2006 are not affected by the change in the funding level. These pensioners will receive indexing on July 1, 2009 at a rate of Consumer Price Index (CPI) minus one per cent.

"According to the 2005 agreement between the Province and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, pensioners who retired after August 1, 2006 can not receive indexing when the plan's funding level drops below 90 per cent," said O'Neil. "The Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the provincial government have an agreement to only offer indexing when the plan is at least 90 per cent funded."

As part of the 2005 agreement, the Province will make a contribution to the Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension Fund equal to the actuarial value of indexing not paid. This amount is estimated to be \$3.5 million.

"In the context of large pension plans, this contribution is relatively small," said Alexis Allen, President of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. "We do remain confident with how the plan's investments are managed and believe returns on investment will improve as the economy begins to recover."

The Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension Trustee Inc. received its actuarial valuation results on April 15 and will publish its financial statements and annual report in May. More information about the Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension is available at www.novascotia-pension.ca/teachersplan.

The Teachers' Pension Plan Trustee Inc. is a board of representatives who act as trustee of the fund and are responsible for directing and monitoring investment of fund assets. The Nova Scotia Pension Agency administers and invests the pension assets at the direction of the Trustee. There are currently nearly 14,000 active members of the plan and approximately 11,000 pensioners.

*RBC Dexia DB Plans with assets over \$1 billion.

Candidate for NSTU First Vice-President 2009

Shelley Morse

LEADERSHIP, EXPERIENCE, COMMITMENT

Provincial Positions

- NSTU 1st Vice-President
- Provincial Executive Table Officer
- Chair, Member Services Committee
- Provincial Bargaining Team
- NSTU Mentorship Program – Member Services
- Provincial Executive Member (2002-06)
- Finance and Property Committee
- Legal Services ad hoc Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Structure Review ad hoc Committee
- Nominating Committee
- New Member Committee
- Discipline Committee

Regional Positions - Annapolis Valley Regional Representative Council (AVRRC)

- Chair, AVRRC
- Chair, AVRRC Grievance Committee
- Co-chair, Management - Teacher Committee
- Time to Learn, Time to Teach Regional Coordinator
- Regional Economic Welfare Committee
- Regional Asking Package Committee
- Regional Negotiating Team
- Regional Returning Officer
- NSTU Provincial Presidential Election
- Time to Learn, Time to Teach Committee
- Regional Elections Committee
- Regional Public Affairs/Relations Committee
- Regional Constitutional Review Committee
- AVRRC - Kings Local rep

Local Positions - Kings

- Local President
- VP – Economic Welfare
- VP - Professional Development
- Kings Local Table Officer
- Past President
- Chair, Resolutions Committee
- Chair, Nominating Committee
- Chair, Substitute Teacher Committee
- Chair, New Teacher Committee
- Chair, Education Committee
- Constitutional Review Committee
- Finance Committee
- Economic Welfare Committee
- Staffing Committee
- Professional Development Committee
- NSTU/KCDSB Joint Budget Committee
- Communications Committee
- Chair, Kings Local Annual Retirement Banquet Committee



- School Representative (7 years)
- Annual Council Delegate (13 years)

National Positions

- Canadian Teachers' Federation Delegate

Professional Information

- Associate in Education (NSTC);
- Bachelor of Education, Diploma in Special Education, Master of Education (Acadia);
- 24 years teaching experience including 5 years in Administration

Leadership Development

- Local President's October and April Conferences (99-08)
- August Leadership (00-08)
- CAPSLE Conference 2008
- NSTU Executive Planning (02-06; 08-09)
- NSTU "Taking Pride in Equity" Conference 2009

Annapolis Valley Regional School Board

- Library Services Committee
- Emergency Management Committee
- Leadership Development Committee - Administrative Training
- Leadership Development Committee - New Teacher Support
- Guidance Teachers' Lead Team

Leadership Modules

- Working with People
- Leadership for Teaching and Learning
- Nurturing a Learning Environment
- The Administrator and the Law
- Leadership for School Improvement
- Social Justice

I began my involvement with the union as a school rep in my first year of teaching and I have continued to volunteer in many capacities over the last 24 years. Through my positions as 1st Vice-President, Provincial Executive Table Officer, Member Services Committee Chair, RRC Chair, Local President, and Provincial Executive member for the Valley region, I have gained a vast understanding of every level of this organization, as well as valuable leadership experience. In turn, these roles have afforded me the opportunity to work on behalf of all members of the NSTU. For the duration of my career I have assisted in the fight to protect the rights of members and enhance our benefits.

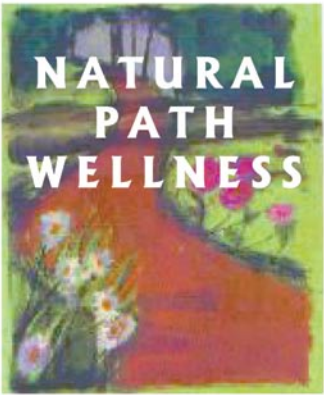
It has been a pleasure to work at the provincial level this year and the learning curve has been substantial, but there's always more to learn! The position of NSTU First Vice President has been a great opportunity for me to increase my union knowledge base and augment my skill set.

I would consider it an honour to serve all NSTU members in 2009-2010. I have the experience, the leadership skills and the commitment necessary to continue in the position of First Vice-president of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. Again this year, I ask for your support at Annual Council 2009. Thank you.

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- CranioSacral Therapy
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Shelburne Regional High students top in Canada with anti-racism video

A team of Shelburne Regional High School students was among 11 teams of students from across Canada honoured for their video, *Reveal Your Disguise*, for the *Racism. Stop It!* National Video Competition, part of Canada's March 21 campaign against racial discrimination.

The five Grade 12 students—Kayla Boyd, Alex Buchanan, Nick Dexter, Judilee King and Federico Sella—were the only team of students from Atlantic Canada earning top honours and the only team of students from a small town or rural area.

"This has been so exciting for a small, rural school," says principal Mary Manning. "We are so proud of these students. Their video was chosen from over 500 entries across Canada."

"There's a lot of power in the voice of students," adds Manning.

The 60-second video features live action, stop motion and special effects. "We wanted a clean message, very simple, with music in the background," says Alex Buchanan, who also composed the background music. The concept is simple, but effective. Five people stand in a line in front of a white backdrop while paint (which is actually goop made from

food colouring, water and flour) is poured over their heads.

Five different colours are used—purple, yellow, blue, green and red. "The colours signify all races, cultures and stereotypes," says Buchanan.

The "special effect" of the video is that the pouring of the paint is shown in reverse. "When the paint goes off in reverse it's so neat to see the faces and facial expressions revealed," adds Manning.

The ending slogan is *Many colours. One mankind*. The words to the song in the video are: *Wake up to colour. Show it in your eyes. See one another. Reveal your disguise*. "Revealing your disguise is taking off the judgment," adds Buchanan.

Buchanan wrote the music and lyrics and the whole group of students (called Pi Productions in homage to their physics teacher) performed the song.

Manning says that while the judges loved the song, the only glitch in the whole process came when the folks at Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Federal Government department who organizes the competition,



A screen shot from *Reveal your Disguise*, Shelburne Regional High School's winning entry into Citizenship and Immigration's *Racism. Stop It!* video contest.

were waiting for a release for the music. "When I told them that the students wrote and recorded the music themselves, they were amazed and quickly realized there was no issue."

Yarmouth's Parnell-Phinney productions' Sandra Phinney and Don Parnell assisted the students in shooting and editing the video. Two additional student actors, Jorge Betancur and Blake Perry, were in the video, which was shot at Shelburne's Osprey Arts Centre.

The Shelburne students travelled to Ottawa (all expenses paid) during their March Break to be there for a special awards ceremony on March 24. Citizenship and Immigration Canada conducted workshops and provided tours of famous Ottawa landmarks, including the Museum of Civilization. "It was great to meet the other students from across Canada," says Kayla Boyd. "And teach them a thing or two about Nova Scotia." The Nova Scotia students brought gift bags for the other students, which included items of interest

like Nova Scotia flags and Shauntay Grant's children's book *Up Home*, a portrayal of one of Nova Scotia's historic Black communities.

The students also had lunch with their local MP Gerald Keddy and the school received a video camera.

Students throughout Canada between 12 and 20 years-old are eligible to enter the *Racism. Stop It!* competition. The goal is to create a video about thoughts on eliminating racism. Each five-member team is responsible for coming up with a concept, creating a story board and coming up with cast, crew, costumes, director, and editor.

A 30-second version of *Reveal Your Disguise* will be broadcast on national television. The winning videos were chosen for their originality, audiovisual quality and the effectiveness of the *Racism. Stop It!* message. For more information on the *Racism. Stop It!* video competition visit the Citizenship and Immigration website at www.cic.gc.ca/march-21-mars/index-eng.asp.



Principal Mary Manning with students Alex Buchanan, Federico Sella, Nichols Dexter, Judilee King and Kayla Boyd.

NSTU Course Offering INTRODUCTION TO PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Purpose

- To train a cadre of NSTU active members to serve as parliamentarians for regional and provincial NSTU events.

Parameters and Time Frame

- A thirty (30) hour course over a period of six days; August 18 & 19; October 15 & 16; February 25 & 26.
- An open-book exam consisting of 100 multiple-choice, true/false and short answer questions. Successful course completion (i.e. certificate) based on 80% pass rate in examination.
- A class size of 7 participants.
- Course site - Dr. Tom Parker Building.

Eligibility

- Active NSTU members who agree to allow their names to be considered for parliamentarian services for Annual Council 2010, 2011, and 2012.
- Active NSTU members who agree to allow their names to be considered for parliamentarian services for Locals and Regional Representative Councils in the parliamentarian's geographic location.

Participant Selection

- By the NSTU Provincial Nominating Committee with the approval of the Provincial Executive.
- One participant will be selected from each of the following regions.
 - Annapolis Valley
 - Cape Breton-Victoria
 - Chignecto-Central
 - Halifax
 - South Shore
 - Strait
 - Tri-County
- Preference will be given to bilingual applicants.
- Names to be submitted to NSTU Central Office by May 29, 2009**

Course Content

Topics to be addressed are as follows: parliamentary terminology, rules of debate, handling motions, voting methods and presiding tips.

Note

All approved expenses and work-related arrangements will be the responsibility of the NSTU.

Application Form

Available on the NSTU website www.nstu.ca or by contacting Lillian Pottie at lpottie@nstu.ca



740 Bedford Highway
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1 877 490 3282 (data)



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Retired Teachers' Showcase and Sale a Huge Success !



received and comments from both the exhibitors and those who attended the show were very positive. A common thread among the comments received referred to the “high quality” of the goods and the “reasonable” prices.

Many thanks to the organizing committee: Ernestine MacDonald (chair), Yvonne Bennett, Geri Flemming, Guislaine Fecteau, Judy Reynolds and Linda Cody. Thanks also go out to the staff and members of Bethany United Church, members of the media and The RTO for their support and assistance.

Plans are already underway for this year’s event to be held on September 26, 2009. Watch for more details to follow. Questions and requests may be directed to emacd@ns.sympatico.ca

CONGRATS TO:

Grade 9 and 10 Lockview High School art teacher **John Malone** was honoured when a painting of his was recognized by a jury of his peers and was purchased by the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage for their provincial art bank collection. The painting is to the right.



Antigonish native **Kim Crawford**, a teacher at Fanning Education Centre/Canso Academy, ran the Boston Marathon on April 20, 2009 in a time of 3:42:03. Congratulations Kim!



Grosvenor Wentworth Park School Grade 5 teacher **Andrew Stickings** (left) and four of his students recently returned from Toronto to collect some awards for their films *Titanic Halifax* and an anti-racism film titled *Left-Out*. The event is part of Panasonic Canada’s Kid Witness News Program.

The very first Retired Teachers’ Showcase and Sale was held in late September, 2008 at Bethany United Church Hall, Halifax. The concept arose from the notion that teachers are multi-talented and although they demonstrate an enormous dedication to their profession, many also have other creative facets to their busy lives. Being retired can be splendid and provide opportunities for more family time, traveling and well deserved rests. However, teachers are well adapted to being busy and, once retired, many find the time to indulge in other hobbies and talents.

The notion of showcasing these diverse fortes started with an idea created by Ernestine MacDonald; it was then cultivated by a newly formed committee of the Halifax Branch of the RTO. The result was a unique showcase of talents from approximately twenty-five retired teachers. Articles on display and for sale ranged from paintings, hooked rugs, various sewn items and holiday crafts to scrumptious baked goods, to name a few. The show was very well



What do Nova Scotia's Teachers do after retirement?
Come and See...

Visit our Second

Retired Teachers' Showcase and Sale

A wide selection of the results of our Retired Teachers' Talents
Arts & Crafts, Paintings, Baked Goods, Quilts, Photographic Prints and lots more!

Saturday, September 26, 2009
Bethany United Fellowship Hall
2669 Joseph Howe Dr. Halifax
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Admission \$1.00

Sponsored by :
The Halifax Branch of
of the Retired Teachers Organization





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For further information contact coveyfp@gov.ns.ca

NOTICES

Free invitation to all NS Educators to attend Ron Clark's Keynote at Family Expo

Renowned Educator Ron Clark is coming to Halifax and Offspring Productions is offering teachers the opportunity to see him during Atlantic Canada's 5th Family Expo.

Offspring Productions presents Ron Clark on Saturday May 30, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Exhibition Park, Halifax. NSTU members need only present their NSTU membership card at the door for complimentary and VIP seating at this event!

Ron Clark is a New York Times best selling author and has been featured on The Today Show, CNN, and Oprah, who named him her first "Phenomenal Man." A teacher since 1995, Clark has taught in some of the most challenging schools in the United States. He was named to People Magazine's "Heroes Among Us" and has received Disney's American Teacher of the Year Award four times.

Clark uses unconventional teaching techniques with a traditional classroom management style. He brings charisma, energy, devotion and "a touch of magic" to the education profession. Clark's work in turning around kids in inner cities to believe in themselves is renowned, but more importantly he encourages community to support teachers. "We want these great, bright minds to stay in education for more than four years (the American national average). In order to make that happen, they need the community support. They need to know they are respected and cared about."

Following his address, Clark will be available for a Q and A.

Ron Clark's presentation is part of Atlantic Canada's 5th Family Expo. *We Love Our Children Family Expo* is two days of education and entertainment for the entire family, educators and caregivers. Offspring Productions is offering all members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union free access pass to the entire weekend! For full program, visit www.familyexpo.ca. For additional information contact info@familyexpo.ca.

MusiCounts opens call for grant applications

MusiCounts, Canada's music education charity, is keeping music alive in schools by providing grants for their music programs. Applications for 2009-2010 Band Aid grants are now open and schools nationwide are invited to apply. Schools can find more information on application criteria, including downloadable application forms for Band Aid grants, at www.musiccounts.ca. Applications will be accepted from May 1 to August 4, 2009.

Each year MusiCounts provides dozens of Canadian elementary, secondary and separate schools with a \$10,000 grant towards enhancing their musical education programs. This year MusiCounts will add a \$5,000 grant level to expand the reach and impact of the program.

Past recipients have used grants to increase their inventory and enhance the quality of the instruments available to their students. Recipients consider one of the greatest benefits of the program to be the shift in focus from instrument repair to instrument instruction.

The grants have impacted hundreds of thousands of Canadian students by allowing them to experience diverse musical programs, from jazz bands to African drumming and guitar ensembles. For more information, please visit www.musiccounts.ca

Duck® brand duct tape Stuck at Prom® Scholarship Contest enters ninth year

Countless memorable outfits showcasing vibrant colors, outrageous fabrics and over-the-top accessories have passed down Hollywood's red carpet. Many of these trends and styles have even found their way to an equally important high-fashion event—the high school prom. But, for those prom-goers who really want to stick out and make a statement (and perhaps win money for doing it!) there's always duct tape.

Entering its ninth year, the Duck® brand duct tape Stuck at Prom® Scholarship Contest is putting high school students from the United States and Canada to the test, challenging couples to create and accessorize prom outfits that are unique, beautiful and made out of duct tape.

It's easy enough to walk into a store to buy a prom dress and rent a tux, but making it and saving hundreds of dollars in the process has been the most appealing aspect of the contest for the thousands of students who have entered over the last eight years. And what's better than saving money? Winning it, of course! The first place couple with the highest number of online votes will win \$6,000—that's \$3,000 for each person—in scholarship dollars! The school that hosts the prom of the winning couple will also receive \$3,000.

Students who are interested can go to www.stuckatprom.com for official contest rules and a registration form. Participants are required to submit a photo of themselves wearing their duct tape prom formalwear and completed forms by June 8, 2009.

Call for volunteers for MANS

The Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia is looking for volunteers for its 25th Anniversary Multicultural Festival. The Festival will take place on June 23 to 28 at the Alderney Landing on the Dartmouth Waterfront. Volunteer application forms are available at the MANS website (www.multifet.ca). Questions? Please contact volunteer coordinator Amy Barce at volunteers@mans.ns.ca.

Camp fYrefly accepting applications for 2009 summer camps

Camp fYrefly is Canada's only national leadership retreat for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, two-spirited, intersexed, queer, questioning, and allied youth. The camp, which was founded in 2004 by Dr. André P. Grace and Kristopher Wells, is designed to help youth develop the leadership skills and resiliency necessary for them to become change agents in their schools, families, and communities.

Camp fYrefly participants vow to help fight against discrimination, prejudice, and oppression in all of its many forms, and to help others in their time of greatest need.

Camp fYrefly is the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services' award-winning primary community service project.

Applications are now being accepted for youth leader, adult volunteer, and workshops for its 2009 summer camps. Please visit www.fyrefly.ualberta.ca for further information.

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- Annual return airfare to Abu Dhabi, returning end of June.
- An opportunity to teach in a Canadian school in a foreign environment in one of the most beautiful and modern cities in the Middle East.

We require:

- A University degree. (Degrees must be authenticated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Ottawa if applicant is selected).
- A Valid Teacher's License – N.S. – TC5 and up (or equivalent).
- A Minimum of 3 years of actual continued teaching experience.
- A Current Canadian Passport.

Abu Dhabi, the capital city of the United Arab Emirates is highly developed with extensive facilities in terms of Schooling, medical support, shopping, etc. The U.A.E. remains one of the most understanding countries in the Middle East in terms of harmonizing western needs with the preservation of its own culture.

Interested persons are asked to email a C.V., a cover letter and copies of degrees and passports to agsadmin@agsgmmr.sch.ae or fax the same to: The Principal, on 011 - 9712 - 645 - 4703.

Only selected candidates will be called for interviews.



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Tall Ship Silva (Halifax)
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Subject to change without notice. Updated April 2009.

FOR DETAILS ON EACH OF THE BUSINESSES
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Breathing Space Yoga Studio is offering a modular program leading to a 200-hour Yoga Teaching Certificate. Graduates will be given a Phys. Ed Yoga 11 curriculum package with lesson plans. This program is open to all teachers.

This program has had transformative effects on the many people who have experienced this work. This is as much of a personal empowerment program as it is a teacher training course.

Leaders:

- Jenny Kierstead, B. Phys. Ed, B.Ed., Founder of National Award Winning Breathing Space Yoga Studios. She is currently supporting the development of the PSP Phys. Ed Yoga 11 curriculum and has provided lesson plans for the pilot yoga programs in the HRSB.
- Blair Abbass, Phys. Ed. Yoga 11 Teacher, Millwood High School

Date: This course will be divided into several modules, the first being August 11th to August 14th. Alternative start date September 18th. Visit www.BreathingSpaceYogaStudio.ca for details.

Location: Breathing Space Yoga Studio

Fee: \$500.00 (contact your board for funding opportunities).

NSTU supports Zimbabwe teachers

At the April 30 provincial executive meeting, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union became one of several unions around the world to support an urgent action appeal for colleagues in Zimbabwe. They pledged \$5,000 through Education International (EI), which has been encouraging member organizations for support to save the Zimbabwe Teachers' Association (ZIMTA) from extinction and has established a process to get money in from offshore.

The desperate situation of teachers in Zimbabwe has been deteriorating by the minute. With a monthly minimum salary of 26 trillion Zimbabwean Dollars (\$2 US), teachers are among the lowest paid professionals in the country.

According to the Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ), parents have even started to buy groceries and clothing for teachers to supplement their poor salaries and to keep them in schools.

Raging hyperinflation is at the root of the crisis. Independent estimates put the annual inflation rate at 516 quintillion per cent. The alarming economic downturn and the government's failure to respond to teachers' salary demands have put the education sector and indeed the entire society under severe pressure, creating an educational and humanitarian disaster.

ZIMTA, EI's largest member organization in the country, fears the situation threatens a total breakdown of the school system because thousands of teachers are leaving. Zimbabwe's teaching force has shrunk from 150,000 teachers in 1995 to 70,000 in 2008. Of the remaining teachers, 40 per cent only have temporary positions.

Government delayed opening the first term in 2009 by two weeks due to the cholera epidemic and food crisis in the country. However, when the new term officially began on January 27 few teachers were in classrooms. Teachers had opted to stay at home until the government met their demands of a monthly base salary of \$2,200 US. But when the government presented its 2009 budget, it only provided for salaries to be paid in Zimbabwean dollars, propped up by vouchers for basic commodities. Both ZIMTA and PTUZ rejected the government's decision.

The unions are trying their utmost to support their members, but they too face extreme economic hardship, and as a result their union capacities and activities are limited. All possible help is needed to support teachers in Zimbabwe in these trying times and to help maintain the work of their unions. Education International has set up a special Solidarity Fund for this purpose and urges all members and concerned individuals to contribute.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation has been able to provide \$5,000 and the Australian Education Union provided \$15,000.

For further information visit the EI website at www.ei.org. Donations can be sent to Education International's solidarity account at: Account No.: 310-100 6170-75 B (IBAN: BE05 3101 0061 7075)

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Congratulations to our MARCH WINNERS of the FRESH & EQUITY giveaways!

FRESH: Jeff Lynds, Principal, Elmsdale District School in Elmsdale

EQUITY: Christine Wilson, Brooklyn District Elementary School
in Newport

TEACHERS NEED A BREAK TOO



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CSANE Rep Retreat

NSTU representatives from the Conseil syndical acadien de la Nouvelle Écosse (CSANE) participated in their spring rep retreat which took place April 17 and 18 at the Delta Halifax. The CSANE Local was pleased to have their reps meet for the second time this school year—a first for the Local. NSTU staff officers Betty-Jean Aucoin and Gérard Cormier provided the Friday evening session *L'ABC de la foundation d'équipe*, NSTU's supervisor of Counselling Services Fran Reddy Chisholm provided a workshop on Teacher Wellness, and member services staff officer Janine Kerr provided a workshop on the New Teachers' Provincial Agreement and the CSANE's Local tentative agreement with the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP). At press time, more than 300 teachers of the CSANE Local were scheduled to vote electronically on their tentative agreement on May 5.



CSANE Local president Linda Samson (far right) is shown with CSANE NSTU representatives (left to right) Tonia Vautour, Étoile el l'Acadie; Stéphanie Moreau and Virginie LaTour, École du Carrefour; and Denise Gasse, École de Rive Sud.

The deadline for the September issue of The Teacher is August 7. Please contact Sonia Matheson at theteacher@nstu.ca or call 902-477-5621.

CONTACT 2009

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Chignecto schools' art trading project

Pugwash District High School art teacher Louise Cloutier (and Education Week 2009 award recipient) and Amherst Regional High School art teacher Cynthia McCarthy planned an elaborate artist trading card event and travelling art exhibit in celebration of Education Week 2009 and this year's theme Bringing Arts to Life. Cloutier and McCarthy successfully applied for PD funding for the project that involved seven high schools in the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board. Recognizing that not all the schools have art programs, they prepared and mailed out art kits to five of the seven schools involved. Artist Trading Cards (2 ½" X 3 ½") original artworks (the size of sports trading cards) were made to be traded between artists. Students and staff of the following schools were involved in this collaborate art making, presenting and trading event: Advocate District, Amherst Regional High, Oxford Regional High, Parrsboro Regional High, Pugwash District High, River Hebert High, and Springhill High.



McCarthy is shown with Department of Education Arts Consultant Ardith Haley and the travelling exhibit while it was on display at Amherst Regional High School.

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* Rate based on double occupancy, subject to availability. Please request the NSTU rate at time of booking and provide current NSTU ID at check in. Rate is based on leisure travel only and is not applicable to group business.

Park West pep rally features High School Musical cast

The gym at Park West School in Halifax was transformed into one huge pep rally on April 3 as the 750 + students and staff welcomed some very special guests to their Primary to 9 school.

Neptune Theatre used the school as the launch site of its spring musical Disney's High School Musical. The production is directed and choreographed by David Connolly, who was the choreographer for the television show *How do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?* and director of Doodlebops. The show features: Aaron Kyte as Troy, who was last seen at Neptune in *Plaid Tidings*; Canadian Idol Season II finalist Elena Juatco as Gabriella; Doodlebop members Lisa Lennox (Dee Dee Doodle) as Sharpay, Chad McNamara (Rooney Doodle) as Ryan and Jonathan Wexler (Moe Doodle) as Chad; Toronto Raptors cheerleader Alana Randall as Taylor and Dunnery Bond (recently crowned YTV's *The Next Star*) as Kratnoff.



Students in Park West's production of *Mulan* perform a number from the show.

The Neptune Theatre School's Pep Squad was on hand to rev up the crowd and Park West students performed a number from their own spring musical, *Mulan*.

High School Musical is on Neptune's stage until May 31. For ticket information visit www.neptunetheatre.com or phone the box office at 902-429-7070. NSTU members receive a 20 per cent discount off tickets for all Neptune productions.



Director David Connolly (foreground) with HSM cast members Dunnery Bond, Alana Randall, Chad McNamara, Jonathan Wexler, Elena Juatco, and Aaron Kyte.



The Neptune Theatre Pep Squad got the crowd rolling.

executive highlights

April, 30, 2009

- Filed table officers' report;
- Approved a revision to the operational procedures regarding receiving information for internal financial reviews;
- Approved the field-testing of an audience response pad system at Council 2009;
- Approved applicants for Out-of-Province Grants, Full-Time Study Grants, and Summer Travel Fellowships;
- Approved the NSTU Position Paper on Inclusion;
- Approved a new business resolution for Council 2009 on Early Human Development;
- Amended an operational procedure regarding resolutions proposing edits to existing policies;
- Approved a new business resolution for Council 2009 revising current Policy #20 Anti-Homophobia and Anti-Heterosexism;
- Approved four Local Service Awards be granted at Council 2009;
- Approved the attendance of two St. F.X. B.Ed students at Council 2009 as observers;
- Approved monetary support for the teachers of Zimbabwe in the amount of \$5,000 from the special projects budget line.

AVISO

THE MAGAZINE FOR NOVA SCOTIA'S TEACHING PROFESSION
LA REVUE DE LA PROFESSION ENSEIGNANTE DE LA NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

DEMANDE DE MANUSCRITS

Nous encourageons des soumissions des enseignants des écoles publiques et du personnel enseignant et de soutien des collèges communautaires. Veuillez envoyer vos soumissions à :

AVISO, 3106 chemin Joseph Howe
Halifax, NS, B3L 4L7

Ou bien envoyez vos soumissions par courrier électronique à : aviso@nstu.ca

Les manuscrits soumis devraient refléter la mission d'AVISO en tant que revue professionnelle des enseignants de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Les manuscrits ne seront pas retournés. Les manuscrits sélectionnés pour la publication dans AVISO pourront être édités pour ce qui est de la clarté, du style, de la longueur et de la cohérence.

Les directives relatives aux collaborateurs sont disponibles en consultant le site Web du NSTU — www.nstu.ca

Les manuscrits envoyés par voie électronique doivent être en format *Microsoft Word*, *Rich Text Format* ou *Texte seulement*.

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Submissions are encouraged from Nova Scotia's public school teachers and community college faculty and professional support staff. Please mail to:

AVISO, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive
Halifax, NS, B3L 4L7

Or e-mail submissions to aviso@nstu.ca

Manuscripts submitted should reflect AVISO's mandate as a professional journal for Nova Scotia's teaching profession. Manuscripts will not be returned. Any manuscript chosen to appear in AVISO may be edited for clarity, style, length and consistency.

Contributor guidelines are available to interested writers on the NSTU website — www.nstu.ca

Please ensure e-mail attachments are *Microsoft Word*, *Rich Text Format* or *Text Only*.

BOOKS TO GIVE AWAY!

The Teacher has two sets of three books to give away appropriate for ages 12 and up.

Giveaway1 includes: *Action!* by Carol Matas; *There you are* by Joanne Taylor; and *The Turning* by Gillian Chan.

Giveaway2 includes: *Lake Rules* by Maureen Garvie; *Past Crimes* by Carol Matas; and *Walking with the Dead* by L.M. Falcone.

Please email your name, home address, and school or campus name with "Giveaway1" or "Giveaway2" in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by **May 24**, to be eligible for the draws.



coming events

May is...

Asian Heritage Month (www.asian-heritagemonth.org/index.html), Allergy Awareness Month (www.nslung.ca), Speech and Hearing Awareness Month (www.sdhhs.org), Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month (www.mssociety.ca), MedicAlert Awareness Month (www.medicalert.ca), Huntington Disease Awareness Month (www.hsc-ca.org)

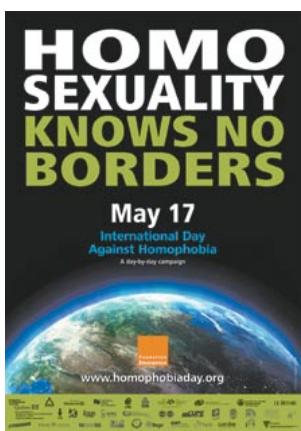
Asian Heritage Month

May is Asian Heritage Month and acknowledges the long and rich history of Asian Canadians and their contributions to Canada. Asian Heritage Month is an ideal occasion for all to celebrate various Asian cultures. Cities across Canada, including Halifax, hold events to recognize Asian Heritage Month. Find out more about the festivities and events taking place. Visit the Canadian Heritage website at www.asianheritagemonth.org/index.html.

MAY 17

International Day Against Homophobia

The International Day Against Homophobia, held on May 17 every year, is a rallying event offering an opportunity for people to get together and reach out to one another. Fondation Émergence promotes, mainly on a pan-Canadian level, the International Day Against Homophobia and encourages organizations and individuals to highlight this event in their environment. The theme for this year is *Homosexuality Knows No Borders*. The goal for this year's theme is to make the general population and, more specifically, ethno-cultural communities



of all backgrounds more aware of gay and lesbian issues and sexual diversity. Educational material for the campaign provides a large quantity of information on sexual orientation. Teachers will also find a list of resources and educational tools. The posters and pamphlets, in English and in French, are being distributed in communities and can also be ordered free of charge from the website www.homophobiaday.org/.

MAY 21 TO 23

Languages Without Borders: Conference for Second Language Educators

Languages Without Borders: A National Conference for Second Language Educators will take place in Edmonton, Alberta from May 21 to 23. CASLT, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, and the Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education at Edmonton Public Schools are organizing this conference.

Languages without Borders will provide an exciting opportunity for second language educators to connect with colleagues from across Canada and around the world. Conference participants will be able to explore new frontiers in language and culture education. The conference will welcome up to 1,000 delegates, publishers, exhibitors, educators and dignitaries from across Canada and from abroad. For more information visit CASLT's website at www.caslt.org.

MAY 27 TO 29

Teaching for Social Justice Conference

A Teaching for Social Justice Conference will take place May 27 to 29 at Membertou Trade and Convention Centre in Sydney. The conference will feature award-winning author-Deborah Ellis, Holocaust survivor Izzy Unger and St. F.X. professor Joanne Tompkins. Registration is \$240 (plus item for food bank). The conference package includes: dinner, lunch, refreshment, breaks, all workshops, conference bag and giveaways. To register email sjconference@staff.ednet.ns.ca or fax 902-794-6206. For further information visit www.cbv.ns.ca and follow conference links.

MAY, JUNE & JULY

Dalhousie School of Social Work Continuing Education Program

The Dalhousie School of Social Work Continuing Education Program has a number of workshops and certificate programs available for late spring and summer. They include: *Treating Co-Morbid Anxiety and Depression: The Role of Experiential Processes in Conducting Strategic Therapies* (May 27 – 29); *The Impact of Traumatic Loss – A Workshop for Loss and Bereavement Caregivers* (June 1 – 2); *Bodily Self-Harm: Eating Disorders, Self-Mutilation and Traumatic Attachments* (June 4 – 5); *Being in the Moment: 5-day Mindfulness for Clinicians Training Program* (June 8 – 12); *Counselling Skills Level 1, 2 and 3* (June 15 – 19, July 6 – 10, July 15 – 17 respectively). All courses will be held in Halifax. Register on-line at <http://continuingeducation.socialwork.dal.ca>. For more information please contact Louise Ghiz at 423-1353 or Monika Kramer at 949-2249.

JUNE 21

National Aboriginal Day

Celebrate National Aboriginal Day on June 21. This special day highlights the contributions and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Canada. The summer solstice date of June 21 holds special significance for many Aboriginal groups who celebrate their culture and heritage on that day. June 21 kickstarts the 11 days of Celebrate Canada! which includes National Aboriginal Day (June 21), Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day (June 24), Multiculturalism Day (June 27) and concludes with Canada Day on July 1.

For more information visit the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada website at www.aicn-cac.gc.ca/nad/index-eng.asp or the Celebrate Canada! website at www.pch.gc.ca/canada/index_e.cfm.

JULY 6 TO 10 AND JULY 13 TO 17

Level 1 Orff Teacher Training Summer 2009

From July 6 to 10 and July 13 to 17, ten day-long sessions the Nova Scotia Chapter of Carl Orff Canada is offering an intensive course in the principles and techniques of Carl Orff's Music for Children, which leads to Level 2 Orff and Orff Specialist certification (Level 3 Orff). The Orff philosophy of music education is an internationally recognized approach to teaching music in schools or group classes and is fully aligned with the Nova Scotia's music curriculum. In this course teachers learn to foster student performance skills, literacy, and creativity through carefully sequenced musical experiences using songs, games, rhythms, poems, dances, and stories from around the world. Participants receive training from specialists in recorder playing, choral techniques, movement, percussion instrument technique, curriculum design, assessment, instructional strategies and more. Participants complete one level in the two-week period. The prerequisites are Level 1 – Introduction to Orff (RCM), or theory equivalent to RCM Grade II Rudiments, and performance ability on an instrument or permission of the course director. The fee is \$650 plus \$30 registration fee. To enquire about registration please contact 902-463-7433 or email pmarshal@staff.ednet.ns.ca. For further details check conservatoryschool@rcmusic.ca. Registration is now open and available online at rcmusic.ca.



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update

THE ROLE OF THE NSTU GROUP INSURANCE TRUSTEES, JOHNSON INC. AND THE UNDERWRITERS

In 1965 the NSTU set up a Board of Trustees, in accordance with a Trust Deed, to oversee the benefits gained through negotiations and to operate the plans in the best interest of the Members. As Insurance Trustees, we establish policies, determine eligibility, make investments, enter into contracts, monitor the plans and hire professionals to help us exercise our fiduciary responsibility. Each Insurance Trustee is appointed by the Provincial Executive of the NSTU. The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees meet on a regular basis to review the plans.

Johnson Inc. **does not** insure our Members. Johnson Inc. is the Consultant to the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees and the Administrator of the plan. As Consultant, they review and update programs and go to market looking for Underwriters to service the account. As Administrators, they handle Member enquiries, perform Accounting (Deduction Reconciliation) procedures, provide Client Systems, yearly benefit statements, and day-to-day services to Members under the direction of the Trustees. They administer all plans including Total Care/Medical, Total Care/Dental, Provincial Master Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment, Optional Life Insurance, Spousal Optional Life, Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment and Long Term Disability. Johnson Inc. also offer other plans such as MEDOC® Travel, MEDOC® Trip

Cancellation / Trip Interruption, and Home and Auto Insurance.

Members are not insured by Johnsons but by Underwriters (individual Insurance Companies) who have quoted on our business to provide coverage for Members. They also review applications and set the criteria for insurability, process claims, issue cheques and recommend changes as a result of new legislation. In short, the Underwriting Companies provide the insurance to Members.

In conclusion—

- ◆ The Insurance Trustees monitor Trust Funds and make policy decisions,
- ◆ Johnson Inc. provide all necessary Administration and Consulting advice to the Members and the Group Insurance Trustees for the proper and complete Administration of the Plans, and
- ◆ The Underwriters provide the actual coverages listed below:

Provincial Master Life/Accidental Death & Dismemberment—
Manulife Financial.
Optional Life – Manulife Financial.
Spousal Optional Life – Manulife Financial.
Voluntary AD&D – AXA Assurances Inc.
Total Care / Medical – Medavie Blue Cross.
Total Care / Dental – Medavie Blue Cross.
Long Term Disability – Manulife Financial.
MEDOC® Travel – ETFS.
MEDOC® Trip Cancellation / Trip Interruption – ETFS.
Home and Auto Insurance – Unifund Assurance Company.

As a reminder, the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees **do not** oversee the Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension Plan.

If you have any questions with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact Johnson Inc. at 453-9543 (local) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).



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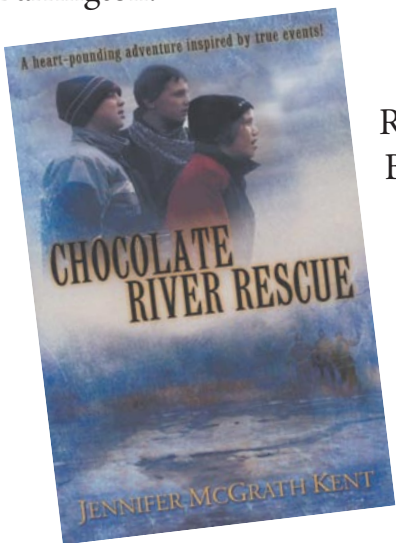
Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance agency. Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company. Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. AIR MILES® reward miles awarded on regular home and auto insurance policies underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company. At the time the premium is paid, one AIR MILES reward mile is awarded for each \$20 in premium. Contest runs from March 1, 2009 to December 1, 2009. No purchase necessary. Those already insured through the NSTU Johnson Inc. Home and/or auto program are also entered. Chances of winning depend on the number of entries received. Winner must correctly answer a skill-testing question. Certain conditions may apply. For full contest details visit www.johnson.ca/nstu. **Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and Johnson Inc. (for Unifund Assurance Company).

A.E. 02.09

WINNERS OF THE BOOK GIVEAWAY!

The three winners of the book *Chocolate River Rescue* are:

Dawn Smith, Forest Ridge Academy, Barrington.



Gwen MacLeod-Farquhar, Ridgecliff Middle School in Beechville.

Joy Brown, NSCC Annapolis Valley Campus in Lawrencetown.

THANKS TO ALL WHO ENTERED THE DRAW!

resources

Physical Education Loan Titles from Learning Resources and Technology Services

Learning Resources and Technology Services ships multimedia curriculum resources to schools anywhere in the province. Dubbing programs become a part of your school’s collection; we charge only for the price of the blank media used. Read the Public Schools Branch newsletter *Branching Out* available online at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>.

Order pre-made titles from our lists online: visit http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media_library/express/Video_Express.shtml.

EBSCO Periodical database (<http://search.epnet.com>) EBSCO provides a series of online bibliographic and full text databases so that you and your students can find information, pictures and citations on curriculum related topics.

EBSCO offers access to a wide variety of professional databases like ERIC and to a highly specialized collection of over 450 full text journals, designed for professional educators. EBSCO is available to all students and teachers in Nova Scotia through computers connected to Ednet, or at home with passwords that can be obtained from your school.

ImagesProject (<http://imagesproject.ednet.ns.ca>) Need a photo to use in a school project? Visit the ImagesProject, a web-based collection of images for Nova Scotia public school program use. Nova Scotia students and teachers who are on Ednet may freely download, use and modify images from the ImagesProject website for curriculum purposes.

The following is a selected list of new titles that are available from the Media Library’s loan collection. These titles, and all loan titles, may be borrowed for up to two weeks.

Get Strong 101 (call number 23757) Fitness Leadership 11/12; Physical Education 10

Judy Notte Howard introduces 101 innovative strength and conditioning games and activities that will help your students get strong, look good, and feel great. Each activity has been adapted for participation in any setting and is presented with a clear demonstration and description of how to perform the moves correctly, safely, and efficiently. The “Get strong” games combine the components of strength training that drives the message that fitness can be fun. (2006; 92 min.)

Fit For Life: Eat Smart and Exercise (call number 23755) Physical Education 10; Healthy Living 9

In this program, four diverse teen reporters point out the dangers of an unhealthy lifestyle and help viewers make smart choices. They give easy-to-use information about reading food labels; exercising at home; eating well at fast food restaurants; changing family habits; and much more. Through humor, surprising facts and compelling personal stories, teens and parents see how they can also have more energy and self-esteem through a healthy lifestyle. (2005; 30 min.)

The Champions’ Zone (call number 23762) Fitness Leadership 11/12; Physical Education 10

The Champions’ zone is a unique state of balance between body and mind that is experienced by a tiny minority of athletes and elevates them to the rank of super athletes. Through accounts gathered from a selection of contemporary sports, including boxing, high jump and skate boarding, this documentary will enable the viewer to relive historic moments in the history of sport and hear athletes describing their state of mind on the day of their athletic achievement. (2005; 52 min.)

Rene Bibaud’s Complete Fundamentals of Rope Jumping (call number 23763) Fitness Leadership 11/12; Teacher PD

This program will help teachers use jump ropes - and help students ages 7 through 11 have fun while being active. The program presents eight sets of skill breakdowns, including single-rope skills, long-rope activities, group routines, build-ups for double dutch, and fun games. Instructor Rene Bibaud provides personal stories, inspiring messages and motivational tools that can be used in your classes. (2008; 110 min.)

Sports Performance Series Fitness Leadership 11/12; Physical Education 10

This four-part video series provides all the tools to build a program for your needs, your sport, and your goals. Through a series of self-assessments, you will identify areas of improvement and establish a baseline for training regimens. Each video may be borrowed separately.

Power For Sports Performance (call number 23761) Discover the exercises that are best for enhancing power in sport-specific movement, starting with base-building exercises, for developing basic strength and postural control, and advancing to complex power program that combines resistance training and plyometrics. (2007; 39 min.)

Speed For Sports Performance (call number 23759) Improve key areas such as reaction time, technique, stride, mobility, and first-step explosiveness with variable, resisted, and assisted speed training exercises. Alternative training methods are included to aid in rehabilitation and help prevent future injuries. (2007; 55 min.)

RESOURCES

The Democratic Process: Two New Resources for Teachers and Parents

Seventy-five percent of Canadians between 18 and 25 years of age didn’t vote in the 2006 Federal election. That statistic is startling and, for many, of great concern.

“Many young people do not understand the political process. It’s not a question of whether they are apathetic; it is whether they find voting a relevant way of expressing their opinions.”

The recent Nova Scotia initiative D250 involved and engaged young people across the province in discussions about issues of concern to them. By sharing their views and participating in peer-to-peer discussions, students and young people entering the workplace across the province were introduced to a range of divergent political views and obtained an appreciation for the challenges facing today’s political leaders.



One of the lessons of D250 and the many other initiatives launched by public policy organizations in western democracies is that traditional ways of political engagement are outdated and turn young people off.

Elections Nova Scotia, tasked with removing obstacles to citizen participation in provincial elections in the province, has launched two youth-friendly strategies to help address the issue.

The first is aimed at children in Grades P-6 and, it is hoped, may have a dual effect of addressing “pre-voters” as well as their parents. *Growing Great Citizens* is a modest campaign that invites parents to bring their children with them when they vote. The simple message of the program is that citizens are made, not born. Parents have the power to teach and guide their children. Using attractive posters, stickers and an engaging website with ideas of how parents—and teachers—can involve kids in the electoral process, the program tackles the most common question children ask about elections and voting: “Why do you vote?”

For students who are closer to voting age—middle school and high school students—Elections Nova Scotia has created an on-line game that gives players the choice of two perspectives: as candidate or voter. In *Run/Vote/Win* gamers follow the elements of an election including candidate platforms, debates, news coverage, websites, and polling leading to the final “poll” on Election Day. The issues are those important to the players since they get to choose them. *Growing Great Citizens* and *Run/Vote/Win* are timely, useful and appealing resources.

Moreover, they are Nova Scotia oriented with information and examples relevant to Nova Scotia students—and their teachers. Resources: electionsnovascotia.ca; electionsnovascotia.ns.ca/growinggreatcitizens; or www.runvotewin.ca.

That All May Read

A unique multi-media learning and awareness tool that encourages a love of reading for all through the spoken word and music was released on April 23. What began as an inspirational song, written by singer songwriter Terry Kelly and John Meir and performed by Kelly at the 2006 Canadian Library Association (CLA) Conference, has evolved into a music video and documentary that inspires children of all ages to read and inspires adults who are having challenges learning to read to find the courage to seek assistance. That All May Read provides librarians, teachers, parents and others with the tools to enable people of all ages to learn to read and to love to read. The project was officially launched on Canada Book Day, April 23. That All May Read will be distributed through Terry Kelly’s website: www.terry-kelly.com as well as through www.cla.ca. A preview of the video and documentary is available at: www.terry-kelly.com/tamr. For more information on Kelly and his work visit: www.terry-kelly.com.

NSTU SECONDMENT RESOURCE FILE

Secondment application forms are available on the NSTU “Members-Only” website.

To obtain the secondment application form:

- Enter the NSTU members-only website
- Select “Union Affairs” from the menu
- Select “Secondments” from the drop-down menu

Flexibility For Sports Performance (call number 23758) Science based exercise techniques to avoid injury and optimize muscle function on the court, field, course, track, mat or in the water are presented. Static, dynamic, and functional stretches may also be customized to your sports seasonal workout schedule. (2007; 51 min.)

Strength For Sports Performance (call number 23760) Incorporate functional strength exercises designed for the movement patterns, muscle contractions, and energy demand of a variety of sports. Learn to include nonstandard equipment exercises, using items such as chains and tires to complement your program with variable and dynamic resistance training. (2007; 25 min.)

Education Media Library, Brunswick Place, 2nd floor, 2021 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS B3K 2V5; (902) 424-2440; (902) 428-3176 (fax), Email us at mediacir@ednet.ns.ca. Visit our website at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>.

classifieds

Classified rates are \$2.00 for the first 15 words; 25¢ per additional word upon presentation of a professional number. Non-teachers pay \$6.00 for the first 15 words and 25¢ per additional word. To book, call Sonia Matheson at 1-800-565-6788 or email theteacher@nstu.ca.

MASSAGETHERAPY - Registered Massage Therapy...**\$5.00 donation to Relay for Life** for every therapeutic massage covered by Blue Cross at **Allure**. Located up the street from Alderney Landing at 115 Portland St., Dartmouth. CHRIS BAGNELL RMT - 10 years experience. Direct billing for Blue Cross coverage - Teachers are entitled to 20 massages per year - no referral required. Excellent for relieving stress, anxiety and muscle tension. To contact Chris, call 902-464-0606 to book an appointment. **Making a Difference feels good!**

AVAILABLE - Genny Locke Magical Entertainer presents "THE NO BULLY ZONE PRESENTATION" ideal for school assemblies. Telephone 902-567-0825.

HISTORIC HALIFAX ACCOMMODATIONS - HINS Halifax Heritage House. Enjoy holiday shopping downtown Halifax; waterfront trail, and live theatre. Private, family, or dormitory rooms. Kitchen use available. Please phone 902-422-3863 to book today. 10% discount when you mention this advertisement.

WENTWORTH COUNTRY HOSTEL - Experience nature, snowshoeing and nearby Wentworth skiing, star gazing, and open space. Private, family, or dormitory rooms. Kitchen use available. Please phone 902-548-2379 or email wentworthhostel@ns.sympatico.ca to book today. 10% discount when you mention this advertisement.

JOB SHARE - Gorsebrook School 2009/2010. Qualified resource teacher to take 40% of my job. If interested, contact wallacej@staff.ednet.ns.ca or call 902-454-6640.

JOB SHARE - Substitute teacher (eight years) looking for job share (any percentage) in HRM. Melissa 902-865-2223; pyattmelissa@hotmail.com.

JOB-SHARE - Elementary teacher looking to job share in the HRSB for fall 2009 (40% - 60%) in any position. Kerry 902-455-0966; kwoodley@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

JOB EXCHANGE - Teacher in Truro area looking to move to and teach in Halifax area and for someone to switch positions. Contact Sean at 902-895-9004.

JOB EXCHANGE - Halifax Regional School Board Senior High Teacher looking for job exchange with a teacher from the CBVRSB for the 2009-2010 school year. Looking to make this change permanent if possible. If interested contact jaharris@staff.ednet.ns.ca or phone 902-489-9080 or 902-733-8080.

INCOME HOUSE FOR SALE - Chester, bright two levels private entrances, audited NS Energy Saving upgraded, fully insulated, air exchanger, energy stars windows, engineered flooring, heat sources oil forced air and electric, neighboring Chester Golf Course. Upper level: master bedroom, bathroom, living room, dining room, eat-in Pine kitchen, deck islands view. Lower level: Oak kitchen, three large bedrooms, living room, bathroom, laundry room, garden, shed: 902-237-4771.

FOR SALE - 100 year+ home, view, near beach & surfing, kitchen/livingroom/den/4-piece bath, summer kitchen, three bedrooms, 45 minutes from Dartmouth, 2228 West Jeddore Road, \$158,000. Call 902-469-1016.

HOUSE FOR RENT - Summer 2009. By Lake Banook in Dartmouth. Walking distance to ferry and Mic Mac Mall. \$800/week. Non-smokers and no pets. Call 902-466-4104.

FOR RENT - Halifax, Westmount Street. Pleasant one-bedroom upper flat with parking. Non-smoking, no pets, includes utilities. Available July 1. Phone 902-422-0516 or email allan.mcdiarmid@gmail.com.

HOUSE FOR RENT - Visiting Halifax for a few weeks? Tastefully-furnished and impeccably clean townhouse, Sheffield-in-the-Park, fully equipped for living, TV, phone, Internet. www.vacationrentals.com/listing4906.

PEI VACATION - Farmhouse in a quiet, private location in PEI, near Cavendish beach. Four bedrooms, two baths, fireplace, Bar-B-Q, spectacular view. \$1,000/week. Call 902-827-2821. One week still available July 4-11.

SUMMER RENTAL - Luxury 2 bedroom furnished apartment in Wolfville. Quiet downtown location, short

walk to Acadia and main street. Close to park and dykeland walking trails. Roman bathtub, 2 decks, lots of natural light. Contact bnick@eastlink.ca.

SUMMER RENTAL - For July & August 2009 - 2-3 bedroom furnished home in a quiet downtown Dartmouth area. Also available for rent is a one-bedroom ground floor apartment at the same location. Call 902-463-5547 or email mcphersons@accesswave.ca for details.

FOR RENT - 2009-10 school year (minimum 6 months) new 3-bedroom, 2 1/2 bath furnished home 15 minutes from New Glasgow. Heat, lights, phone, hi-speed internet, monthly cleaning included in rent. Contact: mmmom1@hotmail.com.

FOR RENT - Chester large 1 bedroom suite for rent, audited energy saving, bathroom, dining room, living room, equipped kitchen, deck, garden, parking 902-2374-771.

FOR RENT - Beautiful late-Victorian home on the banks of the Avon River, Hantsport. Available July or August. irvine@eastlink.ca.

FOR RENT - Seaside cottage, mid August to end of September. All amenities, beautiful, water view and beach. Sleeps 5. Three km from Northumberland Golf Course. Located on Gulf Shore Rd., Pugwash, NS. Please call 780-838-5767, or after June 20, 902-243-3401.

FOR SALE - Brand new (unused) pine glider rocking chair with matching ottoman. Both chair and ottoman are covered in light blue fabric. \$150. Picture available upon request. Call: 902-445-9237.

FOR SALE - Wedding Dress - "Signature", size 12, satin, ivory, optional spaghetti straps, tie-up back, sheer shawl, train, drycleaned, excellent condition. Asking \$500. Call 902-756-3180.

WANTED - BABY ITEMS - crib, change table, stroller, infant car seat, high chair, exersaucer, etc. Call 902-756-3180.

YOUR OPINION IS NEEDED!

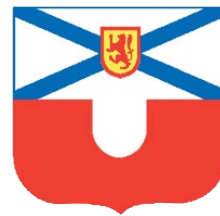
The NSTU is conducting a Communications Survey for *The Teacher* and the Member Diary and we need your opinion.

Please go to <http://input.nstu.ca/web?service=page/ViewForm&ID=28> to fill out a survey about these publications.

All information is confidential and will be used to help improve our communication services to members.

Thank you in advance for your participation and input.

The deadline for input is June 12, 2009



NSTU branded clothing available at Annual Council!



North End Techno Lite Jackets
Polyester outer shell with water-resistant finish. Upper back mesh lining. Mid-length. Attached lined hood can be rolled into collar. Crossover style.
Men's sizes L and XL.
Available in Putty and Glacier Blue.
\$28.00, taxes included.

Microfleece Contrast Full Zip
100% polyester microfleece, zipper side pockets, double-stitched throughout.
Men's sizes L, XL and XXL.
Cobalt blue with black trim or red with black trim.
\$40.00, taxes included.

Men's Bamboo T-shirts
Bamboo, cotton and spandex fabric is naturally antifungal, antibacterial and eco-friendly with twice the absorbency of regular cotton.
Men's sizes L and XL.
Available in Chocolate or Navy.
\$22.00, taxes included.



Women's Bamboo T-shirts
Bamboo, cotton and spandex fabric is naturally antifungal, antibacterial and eco-friendly with twice the absorbency of regular cotton.
Women's sizes M, L and XL. Available in Bud Green or Eggplant.
\$19.00, taxes included.

Women's Open Bottom Crew
Solid crew with rib-knit neckline and cuffs. Open hem bottom with side slits.
Women's sizes M, L, XL and XXL. Available in Tangerine, Violet or Celery.
\$34.00, taxes included.

Many items are labour and environment friendly!

To denote compliance with NSTU policy that merchandise be acquired from local and/or unionized businesses, we have introduced three symbols with this year's collection:



Made in Canada or the USA.



Made by a unionized workforce.



Made with bamboo fibre. Bamboo is grown without pesticides or chemicals, is 100% biodegradable and naturally regenerates to reach maturity in four years, releasing 35% more oxygen than equivalent stands of trees.

Visit us at the NSTU Annual Council Store, coat check room on the conference level.

Hours of operation: Friday, May 15, 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 16, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.