

50th anniversary of THE teacher



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NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION

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Starting September 2012 The Teacher will become an **ONLINE** publication. Please look for it in your inbox and online at nstu.ca. Please keep sending us stories and pictures at theteacher@nstu.ca. Thanks for reading!

Allen's Final Council Condemns NDP



NSTU's 91st Annual Council saw delegates vote almost unanimously to condemn the NDP government for its cuts to education for the second year in a row.

Another 392 teaching positions are being removed from the classroom but only 111 of those can be attributed to declining enrollment. The resolution to condemn came after dozens of others demanding lower class sizes, class cap reductions, more Professional Development, less paperwork for members and a halt to the school accreditation process. The New Business resolution read:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Nova Scotia Teachers Union condemn the provincial government for its failure to understand the increasingly complex and diverse nature of today's classrooms as well as its failure to recognize the progressive and professional contribution to education in Nova Scotia provided by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

It passed with 99 percent approval, as many members reinforced their vote by holding up yellow voting cards along with making an electronic vote.

This Council session was one of the longest in recent memory with debate lasting into the early evening on Sunday as delegates considered more than 100 resolutions. Chair Brian Forbes moderated an intense two-day session that had several timed items including Presidential speeches and question period, the budget presentation, the vote for First Vice-President and the annual Executive Director's report from Bill Redden.

The 2013 budget passed with little debate about a change that will affect

this publication, *The Teacher*. Starting in September it will become a bi-monthly electronic only publication.

Council opened Friday night with the year's overview from outgoing NSTU president Alexis Allen. The opening session also included a presentation by former Communications Staff Officer Paul McCormick who launched his book *Conflict and Collegiality, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, 1984 - 2012*. After attending Council for several decades as staff, he quipped that he only made it to the podium upon retirement.

Special guests at this year's council included representatives from CTF and two affiliates, past presidents, honorary members and Education Partners.

Saturday morning, Brent Shaw, CTF VP presented three Queens Diamond Jubilee Medals to Sister Dorothy Moore, Dr. Steven Van Zoost, and NSTU & CTF Past President, Mary-Lou Donnelly.

Saturday evening's Awards Dinner provided a few surprises this year. Mary-Lou Donnelly received a Local Service award from her Halifax City Local, along with a Life Membership certificate and pin. Only one other member has received this award since the 1970s. Donnelly was met with a standing ovation, as was Alexis Allen, who was surprised with her very own Local Service Award from the Halifax County Local. Two separate programs were produced to ensure the award remained a surprise for Allen.

The 91st Annual Council also featured a new seating arrangement, which allowed all delegates to face front. Many said this contributed to a more business-like atmosphere at the event.

Shelley Morse Elected President of NSTU

A teacher and vice-principal from the New Minas Elementary School will take office August 1 as the 43rd president of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

Shelley Morse has been a classroom teacher for 28 years and a teaching vice-principal for the past eight years. She has volunteered with the NSTU her entire career and held numerous positions at the local, regional and provincial levels. Notably, she has been the president of the Kings Local on two occasions; AVRRC Chair; and was the NSTU First Vice-President from 2008-2010.

"Members are facing turbulent times and numerous challenges. We must continue to address these issues and concerns by supporting the needs of everyone in the NSTU," says Morse.

She champions for the NSTU saying that the strength we possess is in our members. She looks to support salary increases that will reflect the cost of living, properly funded education and improved working conditions. Additional platforms include reduced class sizes and lower caps, job security, decreased workload, support for inclusion and action regarding violence towards members. Her campaign slogan was 'putting members first and getting results'.

"We are one union - Community College Faculty and Professional Support Staff, CSANE, APSEA, and Public School teachers - members connected by a common cause," she says.

Morse envisions a union that supports transparency, honesty and full disclosure on issues and actions. She will lead a union that encourages and welcomes the participation and commitment of all members; locally, regionally, and provincially.

Morse has completed most of her professional schooling at Acadia University, obtaining a Bachelor of Education degree, Diploma in Special Education, and Master of Education degree. She also holds an Associate in Education from the Nova Scotia Teachers College and is currently completing courses for a Diploma in Business Administration from the Nova Scotia Community College.

To win the presidency, Morse defeated former First Vice-President Eric Boutilier on the second ballot. The third candidate, former provincial executive member Damian Hall, competed on the first ballot.



Marlene Boyd Elected First VP



Marlene Boyd was elected First Vice-President of Nova Scotia Teachers Union during Annual Council in May. Boyd lives in Port Hawkesbury, is from the Richmond Local and is currently a guidance counsellor at West Richmond and Felix Marchand Education Centres. She has held NSTU positions including President of the Richmond Local, Provincial Executive Member and chair of the Strait Regional Representative Council. She has also been a past Member of the Council of the Atlantic Province's Teacher Organizations (CAPTO) and a past member of the Canadian Teachers' Federation Board of Directors (CTF). Boyd looks to be a strong voice in continuing the fight against education cuts, addressing workload issues and protecting union benefits. She defeated Alison MacPherson from Pictou to win the position.

NSTU Summer Hours

The NSTU Central Office will be closed on June 20 for Professional Development for Staff.

The NSTU Central Office will be closed on Monday, July 2 in lieu of Canada Day.

NSTU Summer Hours will be Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

These hours will be in effect from Tuesday, July 3 through to and including Friday, August 31. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, September 4.

The NSTU office summer shutdown will be July 23 to August 6 inclusive.



people

Bad Kitty!



NSTU School Rep and Grade 3 teacher, Cheryl LeBlanc-Weldon, poses with Nick Bruel, author of the popular "Bad Kitty" series. LeBlanc-Weldon met up with Bruel while attending the 57th Annual International Reading Association Convention in Chicago in May 2012.

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You may find past issues posted on
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Cheryl LeBlanc-Weldon poses with Bad Kitty from Nick Bruel's "Bad Kitty" book series.

International Dance Day Celebrated Ceilidh Style!

On Friday April 27th, students and staff from St. Andrews Consolidated School participated in a Mabou 3 Figure Square Set to celebrate International Dance Day. Special guests arrived to help entertain, with Rodney MacDonald, Glen Graham on the fiddle and Mac Morin at the piano. Mrs. D-Mac called the sets and then belted out some tunes on the fiddle before showing us some of her fine dance steps. Joining her on the stage were Rodney, Glen and Mac, followed by a long line of students who demonstrated their step dance and highland dances footwork. Thank you to everyone who helped out, showed up and worked the floor!

John Huntleys visit NSTU



Six members from across the province visited NSTU May 10 and 11 as part of the John Huntley Memorial Scholarship. Pictured left to right (Back row): Fran Reddy Chisholm, Supervisor of Counselling Services, Professional Services Staff; Nadine Arnold, Colchester-East Hants Local; Stacy Thorburn, Queens Local; Shauna Ley, Cape Breton District Local and Kim Myers-Stewart, Halifax County Local. Seated are Alex Oickle, Lunenburg County Local and Stephanie Galliot-Conway, Kings.

HRSB Music Teachers Attend Orff Conference

Music teachers from Nova Scotia were excited to attend "re:Play", the *National Carl Orff Canada Conference* in Vancouver, BC, April 19 - 22nd with 300 attendees from across Canada, USA, and China.

This biennial conference will come to Halifax when the Orff Chapters from Nova Scotia, Ottawa, and Quebec will co-host "Ensemble 2014". The photo below was taken after a promotional presentation to delegates and includes music teachers from the Halifax Regional School Board.



Halifax Regional School Board Music teachers (l-r) Christa Colpitts, Maureen MacMillan, Fiona McIntosh Robar, Patti Marshall-Casavechia, and Charlotte Myers pose after the re:Play banquet in Vancouver, BC.



Local Service Award Recipients 2012



The recipients of the 2012 Local Service Awards from left to right: Gayle Noah, Yarmouth; Marcia Webb, Halifax City; Gwen MacLeod Farquar, Halifax County; Mary-Lou Donnelly, Halifax City; Dianne Raoul, Guysborough County; Pat Twast, Community College; Joseph Salah, Community College; Dan Morrison, Shelburne; Blair Lafford, Cape Breton District; Garland Standing, Northside-Victoria and Alexis Allen, Halifax County.

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July 2, 2012 - Canada Day
August 6, 2012 - Civic Holiday
September 3, 2012 - Labour Day

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- 1 Teachers Plus Credit Union is very excited to announce the launching of our New Website.
- 2 When is the last time your financial institution sent you a cheque thanking you for your business??? Isn't it time you switched? Visit our website to calculate your rebate.
- 3 Summer is here and so is our Skip a Payment program, which will be running for June and July.

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3 year Mortgage @3.33%*

*OAC Offers expires June 30, 2012

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Alexis

from the nstu president

A Final Message

As this is my last article for *The Teacher* as president, I would like to take the time to thank each and every one of you for what you do on a daily basis within our schools and campuses. You have the unique opportunity to have a long-lasting, positive impact on students in Nova Scotia and as educators we all know we make a difference. While the past four years serving as your president hasn't always been easy for the NSTU, as we faced numerous challenges, it has been such a pleasure to represent a group of professionals that are second to none in my humble opinion. As a group you never cease to amaze me. No matter what adversity we face, no matter what government is in power, you are willing to go above and beyond for your students. For this I thank you.

If it appears to most of you that every year we MUST convince one government or another of the value of public education, that is indeed the case. Since 2008 we have organized four public relations campaigns centering on the underfunding of public education in Nova Scotia. In 2008/09 it was called *Education Our Best Investment*; 2009/10: *Save Grade 2*; 2010/11: *Kids Not Cuts* and this year *Cut to the Core*. The difference in the four years is that in 2008 and 2009, we were able to convince the government to provide additional funding to help us maintain what we had. However, the last two years under the NDP government have been devastating for public education in Nova Scotia. We have seen the education budget cut by \$65 million and lost over 700 teachers. If you feel as if you are doing more with less – you are and you will continue to have to do so, UNLESS the Dexter government re-invests in education. This year we also saw the Community College hit with a \$5-million shortfall and consequently the loss of the College Prep coordinators within the Professional Support Staff bargaining unit.

Not only has the NSTU faced cuts to education during the last four years but we have also witnessed one of the worst global economic crises. This has resulted in numerous challenges for us that played into negotiations for the Community College contract (one day away from a strike) and for public school negotiations. It also had a negative effect on our pension plan.

However as members of the NSTU, now more than ever we must continue united as a group, as a union WE MUST STAY STRONG, to protect what we have. We must also continue to fight for an education system in Nova Scotia that supports all students and their future and seek contracts for all our members that have adequate salary increases and address workload. United as one, standing together we will make a difference for all!

Since I am in my final months as president, I'd like to thank you for the support you've shown me throughout this time. I have been so proud to represent such an incredible group of professionals who care so much for our students. I am indeed humbled by having had the honour to serve as president and thank you for this opportunity.

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union is recognized as one of the most powerful unions in Nova Scotia and will continue to be because of all of you. The NSTU will continue to advocate for education at all levels and to provide support for our members. We have been successful with this in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

—Alexis

We want your News and Pictures!

We love getting content from NSTU members across Nova Scotia so please keep your cameras handy anytime your Local has a meeting or an event.

We also love to celebrate accomplishments in the classroom, PD events, awards and retirements. So send along your write-ups and photos (and tell us who is in the photo as well as who took it!)



Send your photos to: **The Teacher**
ATTENTION: Mary Jane Webber
and/or Sonia Matheson
3106 Joseph Howe Drive,
Halifax, N.S. B3L 4L7
or email: theteacher@nstu.ca

All pictures must be in jpeg format with a high resolution (300 dpi). Please do not use Blackberries, iPhones or other smart devices to take photographs for *The Teacher*. The quality is not sufficient for our printing process. Any questions? Call Mary Jane Webber anytime at 479-4708.

Un dernier message

Puisqu'il s'agit de mon dernier article pour le magazine *The Teacher* en tant que présidente, je voudrais prendre le temps de remercier chacun d'entre vous pour tout ce que vous faites quotidiennement au sein de nos écoles et de nos campus. Vous avez l'opportunité unique d'avoir un impact positif et durable sur les élèves de la Nouvelle-Écosse et, en tant qu'éducateurs, nous savons tous que notre travail fait toute la différence. Bien que mes quatre dernières années au poste de présidente n'ont pas toujours été faciles pour le NSTU, car nous avons affronté de nombreux défis, cela a été un réel plaisir pour moi de représenter un groupe de professionnels qui sont à mon humble avis sans égal. En tant que groupe, vous ne cessez jamais de me surprendre. Quelle que soit l'adversité que nous affrontons, quel que soit le gouvernement qui est au pouvoir, vous êtes toujours disposés à faire encore et plus pour vos élèves. Pour cela, je vous remercie.

S'il semble à la plupart d'entre eux que nous DEVONS chaque année convaincre un gouvernement ou un autre de l'importance de l'enseignement public, c'est parce que c'est effectivement le cas. Depuis 2008, nous avons organisé quatre campagnes de relations publiques axées sur l'insuffisance du financement de l'enseignement public en Nouvelle-Écosse. En 2008-2009, elle s'appelait *Education Our Best Investment* (l'éducation : notre meilleur investissement); en 2009-2010 : *Save Grade 2* (sauvegarder la deuxième année); en 2010-2011: *Kids Not Cuts* (les enfants ont priorité sur les coupures budgétaires) et cette année *Cut to the Core* (coupée au cœur). La différence entre ces quatre années est qu'en 2008 et 2009, nous avons été capables de convaincre le gouvernement de fournir un financement supplémentaire pour nous aider à maintenir ce que nous avons. Toutefois, les deux dernières années sous le gouvernement du PND ont été dévastatrices pour l'enseignement public en Nouvelle-Écosse. Nous avons vu le budget de l'éducation réduit de 65 millions de \$ et nous avons perdu plus de 700 enseignants. Si vous avez le sentiment que vous en faites plus avec moins – c'est effectivement le cas et cela va se poursuivre, À MOINS QUE le gouvernement Dexter ne recommence à investir dans l'éducation. Cette année, nous avons également vu le Collège communautaire subir un manque à gagner de 5 millions de \$ et, en conséquence, la perte des coordinateurs du programme précollégial au sein de l'unité de négociation du personnel de soutien professionnel.

Durant les quatre dernières années, le NSTU a non seulement affronté des compressions budgétaires en éducation mais nous avons également assisté à l'une des pires crises économiques mondiales. Cela a créé pour nous de nombreux défis qui ont joué un rôle dans les négociations de la convention du Collège communautaire (nous avons été à une journée de la grève) et dans les négociations des écoles publiques. Cela a également eu un effet négatif sur notre régime de pension.

Toutefois, en tant que membres du NSTU, et aujourd'hui plus que jamais, nous devons rester unis en tant que groupe et NOUS DEVONS RESTER PUISSANTS en tant que syndicat, pour protéger ensemble ce que nous avons. Nous devons également continuer à lutter en faveur d'un système d'éducation en Nouvelle-Écosse qui soutient tous les élèves et leur avenir et chercher, pour tous nos membres, à négocier des conventions qui contiennent des augmentations de salaires adéquates et abordent la question de la charge de travail. Tous unis, tous ensemble, nous pouvons changer les choses pour tous!

Puisque je suis maintenant dans les derniers mois de ma présidence, je voudrais vous remercier pour le soutien que vous m'avez apporté tout au long de cette période. J'ai été extrêmement fière de représenter un groupe aussi extraordinaire de professionnels qui se préoccupent autant de leurs élèves. Avoir eu l'honneur de vous servir à titre de présidente a été pour moi une grande leçon d'humilité et je vous remercie de m'avoir donné cette chance.

Le Nova Scotia Teachers Union est reconnu comme l'un des syndicats les plus puissants en Nouvelle-Écosse et il continuera à l'être grâce à vous tous. Le NSTU continuera à défendre les intérêts de l'éducation à tous les niveaux et à apporter un soutien à ses membres. Nous avons réussi à le faire par le passé et nous continuerons à le faire à l'avenir.

—Alexis

Check out the complete list of
Deals & Discounts
on the NSTU Website at
www.nstu.ca

Making the Most Out of Your Summer Holiday

by Jennifer Finlayson, O.T. Reg. (N.S.), CEES
Early Intervention Program Manager, NSTU

It's that time of year when teachers are starting to count down the weeks and days until summer holidays! It's time to start winding down, but the work still piles up and seems to increase as the end of the school year approaches, leaving little time for anything else. In our work with teachers through the Early Intervention Program, it is more common than not to see teachers burn the candle at both ends during the final weeks of school knowing the end is near and time for some much needed R & R is approaching.

The two months of summer holidays may be a perk of teaching. The high workload and time demands between September and June, however, means that teachers likely do 12 months worth of work in only 10 months. Teachers therefore need that time to recover in preparation for the next school year. How you spend those two precious months is therefore very important. How well you take care of yourself, your family and your health during this time is imperative to success during the remainder of the year. Having said that however, every teacher should strive to maintain a healthy work-life balance throughout the entire year, not just during the summer!

...so how do you get the most out of your summer holidays?

First, ask yourself what is important to you. Do you value family? Friends? Rest? Travel? Gardening? Renovations? Exercise? Determine what your priorities are for the summer. Evaluate each thing on that list and decide if it is a 'have to' or 'want to'. Just like the rest of the year, you will not get the benefits of a positive and healthy summer holiday if you don't have balance in your life.

Consider the following suggestions in preparation for having a well-balanced summer holiday:

- **Stay in shape:** Whether it's long walks on the beach, going to the gym or playing with your kids, make sure you get lots of fresh air and activity during your time off! Summer is a great time to sign up for a class or get outdoors.
- **Slow the pace:** Get into the habit of finding private time to unwind and enjoy the silence! With more free time during July and August, this may be a great way to establish a routine



of relaxation before the hectic school year begins.

- **Learn something new or do something you enjoy:** Time is a precious commodity during the school year. With some extra free time in the summer, take the opportunity to do something you've always wanted to try or have missed during the school year.
- **Spend time with friends and family:** Talking and enjoying the company of others is important. Try not to talk about work!
- **Indulge yourself:** Have a massage or give yourself a manicure because you can, not because you have to! Taking care of yourself often falls by the wayside during the school year, so use this time to indulge!
- **Be flexible:** Don't over schedule yourself or your family! This is a rare time of year when you are not on someone else's time table. You can get up without an alarm, or go for a picnic, or just stay home. You can decide what you do, so take advantage of that time.

- **Be realistic:** So many teachers make big plans to cram everything into two months, but that is not always possible. Be realistic with your plans. Although you may not be able to get everything in that you wanted to, focus on those things you did accomplish and be proud of yourself!

- **Be organized:** Preparation for the upcoming school year is important and often a priority in August. Be organized throughout the summer to ensure you don't waste time while preparing. Good time management skills are as important at home as they are during the school year!

Unfortunately, before you know it, the summer will be over and you'll be back in the full swing of teaching. Do what you have to in the summer to prepare for September; that will certainly ease in the transition back to work. BUT, make sure to pace yourself and maintain a good healthy balance between work and play even during the summer! Developing good habits during your time off will set you up for a successful and healthy school year.



Yoga in Schools

5th Annual Summer Institute Teacher Training

Four days that can transform your life and your teaching career!

Be one of the growing number of teachers bringing this transformational yoga experience to their students; a course that inspires growth, connection and inner peace.

This program will provide teachers with module 1 & 2: an introduction to Yoga, Yoga II, Special Needs and Yoga for Autism, with physical practice and experiential activities.

These hours are part of the optional 200hr certification, which is required to teach Yoga II in schools. Graduates of the 200hr certification program will receive all yoga programs designed by Jenny.

"My husband has undergone a transformation in this program. His experience has been extremely positive, physically, mentally and emotionally. Yoga has given him new strategies to handle stress and a new approach to life." —Teacher Training Applicant 2012

"Joy and gratitude is palpable throughout the journey. This course is changing many lives, having lasting effects within the education system." —Sue Stevenson, Phys. Ed Consultant

This PD workshop will leave you feeling refreshed, renewed and inspired.

Leader(s): **Jenny Kierstead** is a former Phys. Ed teacher and the founder of Breathing Space Yoga Studios. She was the contributing designer of the Yoga II, co-author of Yoga for Autism and Special Needs. She created the Yoga Posters for Elementary and Secondary levels published through Thompson Publications and has trained and mentored the many teachers introducing yoga to their schools.

Blair Abbass has been teaching meditation within his classroom for 25 years and was the first teacher to bring Yoga II to the HRSB. He is a contributing designer of the Yoga II curriculums in the area of meditation.

Date(s): July 23-26th, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Chocolate Lake Hotel, Halifax

Fee: \$ 500.00 + HST (check local PD for funding)

Register early to secure your spot!

Contact: Jenny Kierstead and Blair Abbass 444-YOGA (9642)
info@BreathingSpaceYogaStudio.ca

executive highlights

May 20, 2012

■ Elected 2nd Vice-President: Allister Wadden; Elected Secretary-Treasurer: John Helle

Nominating Committee: Bill Bruhm, Chair, Tammy Landry, Mark Savoury, Cindy MacKinnon, Paul Boudreau

■ Appointed the Governance & Policy Committee

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@staff.nstu.ca to provide your NSTU email address. The Be_Well@nstu.ca list will provide information about the EIP and other wellness topics.





from the nstu executive director

Council Remarks 2012

(excerpt from Bill Redden's Address to Council 2012)

At previous Councils I have commented on my concerns about where our society is headed. The events of the past year have added greatly to those concerns. I don't have to convince any of you of the utmost importance of a good education system to ensure future prosperity, our well-being and meaningful lives for the citizens of this province. Yet, we have a government that seems to find money to prop up businesses whenever it is needed. Let me add quickly that I believe governments have a role in stimulating economic growth, but what I don't understand is how taking money from education to do this, is in anyone's best long-term interest.

Government spending is a matter of priorities. If it is a priority – there is always money. Is the priority giving 260 million dollars to a large, profitable company, or is the priority providing needed supports to help all kids develop to their full potential? Is the priority giving multi-million dollar bailouts to failing businesses owned by huge corporations, or providing that same money to help families learn new skills to adapt to new employment opportunities? Is the priority buying land for conservation or is the priority providing a rich selection of options to meet the diverse needs of all our students?

If I were forced to find just one word to describe the events of the past year, it would be 'frustration'. Frustration because, despite our best efforts to try to convince our Nova Scotia Government that their accelerated pace to balance the provincial budget by 2014 is wrong and causing irreparable harm to our successful education system, they have not listened. It is obvious that they have bought into the myth that fewer students cost less. Every educator knows this is not true. To justify cutting over 65 million dollars from school board budgets, they trot out the misleading X graph: the one that shows the number of students going down while the number of educators has risen. It is somewhat ironic that a former Deputy Minister of Education used that same graph to brag that government was investing new money in education. The rising line meant that we were adding more services such as guidance, psychologist, speech-language pathologist, O² teachers, mentors, coaches, and so on. Now, the current government uses the same graph to say we are spending too much on education. No wonder the public is confused. And no wonder that educators are disappointed and angry. My great fear is that there will be an erosion of the public's confidence in our schools as we absorb these cuts. You cannot build a just and democratic society without public confidence in and support for education. Democracies only exist and flourish in countries with an educated population.

Unfortunately, in education, the real impact of all the cuts will only be felt in the long term.

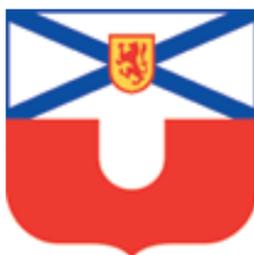
Our Minister of Education should be defending our successes and defending her portfolio against these cuts, but she is actually trashing the system she should be supporting. Her constant references to poor test scores (which in itself is both inaccurate and misleading), her references to unqualified math teachers (another fallacy), and her statements that "we have been spending more money and it is not working" – are undermining public confidence. They are hurtful to educators and hurtful to students who must wonder if they are getting the good education they deserve.

One has to question how negative comments about education are helping to encourage businesses to come to Nova Scotia. Our Minister is making these comments to justify her cuts. She talks about creating efficiencies. However, Sir Ken Robinson reminds us that what we do in the name of efficiency often works counter to what creates success – it stifles what we do and how we do it. It causes us to focus on accountability through testing, data collection and reporting, when we should be focused on what we can do to excite learning.

The real problem with all this testing, other than the colossal waste of time and money, is the use made of the test results by groups out to destroy public education who use the results to rank schools. If you have ever studied stats, you know that when you can't find a statistical difference between two things, you can always rank to make one look better than another. Even miniscule differences put one above the other.

The role of OUR Union is to assist you, as educators, to do your jobs effectively. The NSTU does that in two ways – by protecting your economic welfare interest and by assisting with your professional growth. We also make numerous presentations to government to try to influence education decision-making. The Union is a diverse and complex organization and one of the best teacher organizations in Canada. We can beat ourselves up over the fact that we have not been able to stop the carnage as we watch this government reduce positions, but we should realize that we haven't made it easy for them and we now have a public awareness that this can't go on next year.

While the year ahead will be a challenging one, with member support and unity, we will gain the public support to stop the devastation that is happening to our great educational system.



Remarques destinées à l'AGA

Lors des précédentes AGA, j'ai parlé de mes préoccupations au sujet de la direction que prenait notre société. Les événements de l'année écoulée ont beaucoup ajouté à ces préoccupations. Je n'ai besoin de convaincre aucun d'entre vous de l'extrême importance d'un bon système d'éducation pour assurer la prospérité future, le bien-être et une vie enrichissante pour les citoyens de cette province. Pourtant, nous avons un gouvernement qui semble toujours trouver de l'argent pour renflouer les entreprises quand c'est nécessaire. Permettez-moi d'ajouter immédiatement que je pense que les gouvernements ont un rôle à jouer pour stimuler la croissance économique, mais je ne comprends pas comment le fait de retirer de l'argent à l'éducation pour le faire pourrait être dans l'intérêt à long terme de chacun.

Les dépenses publiques sont une affaire de priorité. Si une chose a priorité – il y a toujours de l'argent. La priorité est-elle de donner 260 millions de dollars à une grande entreprise lucrative ou la priorité est-elle de fournir les soutiens nécessaires pour aider tous les enfants à réaliser leur plein potentiel? La priorité est-elle de renflouer de plusieurs millions de dollars des entreprises en difficulté appartenant à d'énormes sociétés ou de fournir cet argent à des familles pour leur permettre d'acquérir de nouvelles compétences en vue de s'adapter aux nouvelles perspectives d'emploi? La priorité est-elle d'acheter des terres pour la conservation ou la priorité est-elle de fournir une riche sélection d'options pour répondre aux besoins divers de tous nos élèves?

Si je devais trouver un seul mot pour décrire les événements de l'année écoulée, je choisirais le mot « frustration ». Frustration car, en dépit de tous nos efforts pour tenter de convaincre le gouvernement de la Nouvelle-Écosse que le rythme accéléré qu'il a adopté en vue d'équilibrer le budget provincial d'ici à 2014 est une erreur et cause un préjudice irréparable à notre excellent système d'enseignement, il ne nous a pas écoutés. Il est évident qu'il a cru au mythe selon lequel moins d'élèves coûtent moins d'argent. Tous les éducateurs savent que ce n'est pas le cas. Pour justifier une réduction de plus de 65 millions de dollars des budgets des conseils scolaires, le gouvernement met en avant le graphique X : celui qui montre que le nombre d'élèves est en baisse alors que le nombre d'éducateurs est en hausse. Il est quelque peu ironique qu'un ancien sous-ministre de l'Éducation ait utilisé ce même graphique pour se vanter du fait que le gouvernement investissait de l'argent nouveau dans l'éducation. La courbe ascendante signifiait que nous ajoutions davantage de services comme des conseillers d'orientation, des psychologues, des orthophonistes, des enseignants O², des mentors, des moniteurs et ainsi de suite. Aujourd'hui, le gouvernement actuel utilise ce même graphique pour dire que nous dépensons trop pour l'éducation. Il ne faut pas s'étonner que le public soit perplexe. Et il ne faut pas s'étonner que les éducateurs soient déçus et en colère. Ma pire crainte est d'observer une érosion de la confiance du public dans nos écoles tandis que nous tentons d'absorber ces réductions budgétaires. Vous ne pouvez pas construire une société juste et démocratique sans la confiance et l'appui du public à l'égard de l'éducation. Les démocraties existent et prospèrent uniquement dans les pays qui ont une population instruite.

Malheureusement, en éducation, l'impact réel de toutes les réductions budgétaires se feront sentir uniquement à long terme.

Notre ministre de l'Éducation devrait protéger nos réussites et défendre son portefeuille contre ces coupures budgétaires mais elle saccage en fait le système qu'elle devrait soutenir. Ses allusions constantes à des résultats médiocres aux tests (qui sont en soi à la fois inexacts et trompeuses), ses allusions à des enseignants de mathématiques non qualifiés (autre tromperie) et ses déclarations selon lesquelles « nous avons dépensé plus d'argent et cela ne sert à rien » – ces commentaires ébranlent la confiance du public. Ils sont blessants pour les éducateurs et blessants pour les élèves qui doivent se demander s'ils reçoivent l'enseignement de qualité qu'il mérite.

On ne peut pas s'empêcher de se demander comment des commentaires négatifs au sujet de l'éducation peuvent encourager les entreprises à s'installer en Nouvelle-Écosse. Notre ministre fait ces commentaires pour justifier ses compressions budgétaires. Elle parle de réaliser des économies. Toutefois, Sir Ken Robinson nous rappelle que ce que nous faisons au nom du rendement va souvent à l'encontre de ce qui engendre la réussite – cela asphyxie ce que nous faisons et la manière dont nous le faisons. Cela nous oblige à mettre l'accent sur la reddition de comptes par le biais de tests, de collectes de données et de rapports scolaires, alors que nous devrions mettre l'accent sur ce que nous pouvons faire pour stimuler l'apprentissage.

Le réel problème avec tous ces tests, mis à part la perte colossale de temps et d'argent, est l'utilisation qui est faite de leurs résultats par des groupes qui sont déterminés à détruire l'enseignement public et qui utilisent ces résultats pour classer les écoles. Si vous avez déjà étudié les statistiques, vous savez que quand vous ne pouvez pas trouver de différence statistique entre deux éléments, vous pouvez toujours les classer pour que l'un paraisse meilleur que l'autre. Même de minuscules différences peuvent placer l'un au-dessus de l'autre.

Le rôle de NOTRE syndicat est de vous aider, en tant qu'éducateurs, à faire votre travail plus efficacement. Le NSTU fait cela de deux manières – en protégeant vos intérêts en matière de bien-être économique et en favorisant votre épanouissement professionnel. Nous faisons également de nombreuses présentations au gouvernement pour tenter d'influencer les prises de décision en éducation. Notre syndicat est une organisation diverse et complexe et c'est l'une des meilleures organisations d'enseignants au Canada. Nous pouvons nous reprocher de n'avoir pas été en mesure d'arrêter le carnage lorsque nous voyons le gouvernement réduire des postes, mais nous devrions prendre conscience du fait que nous ne leur avons pas rendu la tâche facile et que nous avons maintenant sensibilisé le public à l'idée que cela ne pouvait pas se poursuivre l'an prochain.

Bien que l'année qui s'en vient s'annonce difficile, grâce au soutien et à l'unité de nos membres, nous gagnerons le soutien du public pour faire cesser la dévastation qui détruit notre fantastique système d'enseignement.

NSTU Annual Council 2012



Denim was the order of the day for the Colchester-Hants Local. Back row: (L-R) Eric Boutilier, Kerry Doucette, Sarah Deveau, Mark Hingley, Lori MacIntosh, Dan Stephenson, Nadine Arnold, Cathy Doucet, Michelle DeCoff and Stephanie George. Third row: Tammy Fox, Ashley Kwakernaak, Cherie Abriel, Debbie Davis-Maybee and Kathy Fougere. Second row: Christine Caudle, Brenda Morrisey, Sara Rendell and Kaelin Gillis. And first row is Robert George (president) and Gerry Alley (Provincial Executive member).



The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was created to recognize 60,000 outstanding Canadians who have built and continue to build this caring society and country through their service contributions and achievements. NSTU was honoured to award three of these medals to Steven Van Zoost, Sister Dorothy Moore, and Mary-Lou Donnelly. Special guest Brent Shaw, Vice-President, CTF, made the presentations.



Halifax County Local president Meg Ferguson, Gertrude Jennex and Susan Noiles enjoy the President's Reception.



Members of the Inverness Local take time from the Local Service Awards banquet to pose for a photograph. Back Row: Marlene Boyd, Ann Marie Lelievre, Robert Lelievre and Stephen Rankin. Front Row: Jackie Rankin, Michelle LaPointe, Lynnette Rankin, Angela Deagle, Sheila Hawley and Stanley Cameron.



Members of the Cumberland Local sport their matching NSTU shirts. Left to right are Karen Burgoyne, Steve Wells, Sharon Midwinter, Wade VanSnick, Lindsay Crossman-Wheaton, Andrew Gaskin, Hope Lemoine and Chris Weeks.



The Pictou Local dressed in bright blue for the opening of Council. Pictured left to right (Back row): Cheryl Corbin, Cindy MacKinnon and Lisa MacKinnon. Front row: Cheryl Chabassol, Ann Slater and Myla Borden.

NSTU Annual Council 2012



Norhtside-Victoria chose to dress in yellow and black. Left to right are Peter Murphy, Charmaine MacDonald, Jacinta Gracie, Chris MacInnis, Susan Spurrell, Chad Hanrahan, Garland Standing and Chris Nickelson.



Three of the many former NSTU presidents in attendance at this year's council were Greg O'Keefe, Karen Willis-Duerden and Donnie MacIntyre.



Members of the Yarmouth Local voting delegates pose for a picture. Back row: Gayle Noah (First Vice-President), Glenys Fraser (Vice-President, Professional Development), Judy Rogers (School Rep), Wally Fiander (Provincial Executive Member) and Rollie Hannem (Vice-President, Communications). Front row: Trudy Comeau (Vice-President, Public Affairs, Public Relations), Tanya DeViller (Secretary), and Lori MacKinnon (President).



NSTU president Alexis Allen receiving the first of many standing ovations as she finished her opening speech Friday night.



The small but mighty Richmond delegation at Council included executive members Phil Samson, Marlene Boyd, Bernie LeBlanc, Shawn Kennedy and Donna Machin.



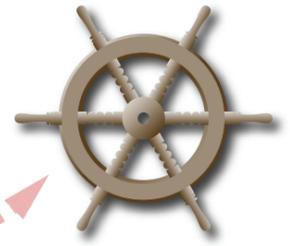
Annual Council Coordinator Audrey Cuvilier relaxes after another successful Local Service Awards ceremony with outgoing Halifax County president Tim MacLeod, Former NSTU president and Local Service Award recipient Mary-Lou Donnelly, incoming Halifax County president Meg Ferguson and NSTU president and Local Service Award recipient Alexis Allen.



Halifax City member Liette Doucet speaks to CBC TV about the effect government cuts are having in the classroom.



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



CONTACT and DSS—Two Summer PD Opportunities for NSTU Members

CONTACT—by Gérard Cormier, NSTU Executive Staff Officer, Professional Development

DSS—by Danny Eddy, NSTU Executive Staff Officer, Professional Development

CONTACT

Every summer, CONTACT (Conference on New Techniques and Classroom Teaching) is held in one of the four Atlantic provinces. It is a regional conference hosted by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the New Brunswick Teachers' Association, the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association on a rotating basis. The conference provides teachers the opportunity to remain current in their profession and make contact with their colleagues from the Atlantic region.

Each CONTACT is organized by an interprovincial committee comprised of a PD staff officer from each of the Anglophone Atlantic provinces teacher associations as well as a local planning committee comprised of teachers residing in the area where CONTACT is hosted. The interprovincial committee chooses the yearly theme and the presenters/keynote speakers. The host province provides the opening and closing keynote speakers and all of the provinces choose one presenter for the concurrent sessions. All sessions are focused on providing classroom teachers with practical ideas and strategies that they can use in their classroom right away.

In Nova Scotia delegates are chosen in the following manner. Each Local can send a delegate whose expenses are borne by the Local. There are a number of spaces reserved for Professional Associations to send their own delegate. There are also a limited number of spaces for NSTU members who are interested in attending using Article 60 monies.

This year's theme is **Cirque du School Eh!** It is being hosted by the NSTU on August 7-10 at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. Its keynote speakers will address how schools and classrooms have become more and more of a circus with educators being asked to juggle more and more balls. A circus can be viewed both positively and negatively and the sessions have been tailored to address specific issues such as the classroom environment, the engaging classroom, dealing with other adults in the classroom, and cyber bullying and digital citizenship.

If you have never seen **Cirque du School Eh!** now's your chance! For more information please contact your Local president, your Professional Association, or Lise Meunier at the NSTU Central Office.

DSS

In the mid 1990s, The Council of Atlantic Province Teacher Organizations – CAPTO - Professional Development staff officers saw the need for in depth structured PD for school administrators at a time of the year when schools were closed. The thought was that those in administrative positions would welcome this type of offering when they were not dealing with the day to day issues that consume many hours of school administrators' time both during and after school. The idea evolved to be a PD offering three to four days in length, intensive in nature and relevant to cutting edge education related issues. Furthermore it was decided that the maximum group size should be kept small to enhance the quality of the offering coupled with increased one on one contact time with each summer's presenters. The Department of Education

of the Province of New Brunswick also recognized the need for this type of PD and became an equal funding partner along with the NBTA, NFLTA, NSTU and PEITE.

As a result DSS (Developing Successful Schools) was created. Since New Brunswick was in effect a double partner they were provided with double the yearly seats available to each of the other provinces. Each province has 12 seats while New Brunswick has 24.

Over the years DSS has provided sessions on a variety of topics offered by respected and renowned education authors, researchers and presenters. In many instances there is a sole presenter for the annual July offering.

Topics over the years have included, "Leading A Learning Organization" in 1998, "Collaboration For Excellence" in 1997, "Canadian Public Schools: Our People, Our Purpose" in 2002, "What Great Principals Do Differently" in 2004 and "Learning Focused Conversation, Practical Strategies For Collaborative Inquiry" in 2009.

In addition to the excellent professional development opportunities, there is the chance to network closely with other school administrators from within the Atlantic Region.

From superintendents to central office administrators to school-based administrators, DSS continues to attract a diverse crowd, many being repeat attendees.

Costs are kept reasonable with this year's fees being \$300. Attendees can opt to stay onsite in the new dorm accommodations at

Mount Allison University with all sessions being located on campus.

This years offering is called "Strategic Approaches to Conflict Management and Negotiations" and will enable all participants to learn firsthand from three highly recognized presenters of Queens University, a national leader in this field.

Robert Hickey, PhD teaches the core courses on unions and collective bargaining in the Master of Industrial Relations program at Queen's University. Robert's research interests focus on labour management relations in the context of industrial restructuring and public sector reform.

Glenda Fisk, PhD joined the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University in 2006 after completing her PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at The Pennsylvania State University. Her research interests focus on how emotional experience impacts work performance, stress, and resilience.

Brendan Sweeney, PhD works as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Queen's University Industrial Relations Centre. Dr. Sweeney is the lead researcher on a multiyear project that examines labour relations in Ontario's K-12 education sector, where he has helped develop workshops for school administrators and school board labour relations personnel.

Although the registration deadline is June 1 interested administrators can contact Gail Doucette at the NSTU up until Friday, June 15 to inquire if any seats remain available.



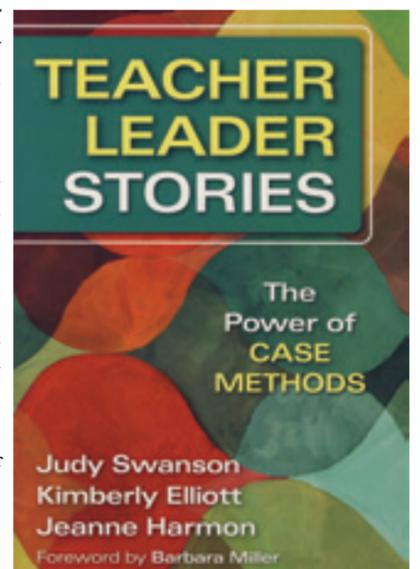
Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD Giveaway in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by June 25 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's PD giveaway is *Teacher Leader Stories: The Power of Case Methods* by Judy Swanson, Kimberly Elliot and Jeanne Harmon, a publication of Corwin, a SAGE company. Swanson, Elliot and Harmon provide insight and guided learning to help teachers strengthen their leadership skills, optimize student learning, and enhance the profession. Research confirms that the best way to become an effective teacher leader is through case study and that is exactly what this book provides. With 16 real and compelling case studies, teachers have the opportunity to relate to a variety of leadership dilemmas from diverse settings.

"Teaching and learning go hand in hand. We do not learn to teach, we learn from our teaching. This book offers a coherent, constructivist approach to do just that. It makes the daily life of classrooms accessible for thoughtful exploration and powerful learning." – Laura Lipton, Co-Director MiraVia, LLC, Sherman, CT.



The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

The deadlines for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2012-2013 school year are September 15, November 15, February 15 and April 15.

Applications for active NSTU members are available through your NSTU rep, on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca or at Central Office 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788.

The internship provides members with an opportunity to learn more about the NSTU.

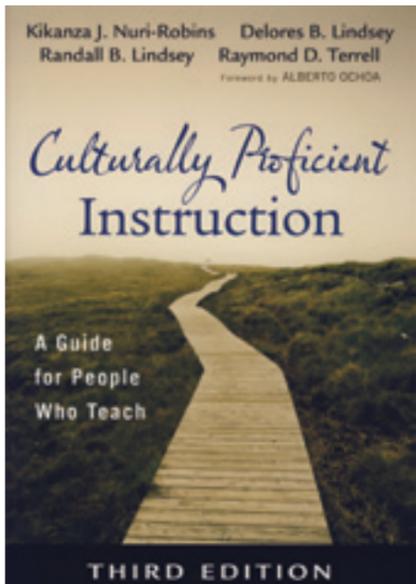
Nova Scotia Teachers Union

EQUITY BOOK REVIEW

COMMITTEE

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by June 25 to be eligible for the draw.



This month's equity giveaway is *Culturally Proficient Instruction: A Guide for People Who Teach* (third edition) by Kikanza J. Nuri-Robins, Randall B. Lindsey, Delores B. Lindsey and Raymond D. Terrell, a publication of Corwin, a SAGE company. This book raises the question 'are you doing all you can to improve teaching and learning?' and encourages readers to reflect on how they engage their students and colleagues as a community of learners. Culturally proficient instruction begins with exploring the reader's own values and behaviours while on a journey of teaching and learning. Combined with evaluating the policies and practices of their workplace readers will deepen their understanding of themselves and their community of practice. This book is perfect for anyone committed

to fostering an environment where all learners can achieve.

The third edition includes:

- A case study to show cultural proficiency in practices
- An updated discussion of standards-based education guidelines
- A conceptual framework for the tools of cultural proficiency
- New language for understanding the microaggressions of dominant cultures
- An integrated guide for use with study groups

Congratulations to our May Book Winners!

The First-Year Teacher's Survival Guide
TRACY TRENHOLM a Substitute with CCRSB

EQUITY: Gifted to Learn
SUSAN WHITTY of Cabot High School

PD: Awakening the Sleeping Giant
RUTH CLARKE of Riverside Elementary

fresh

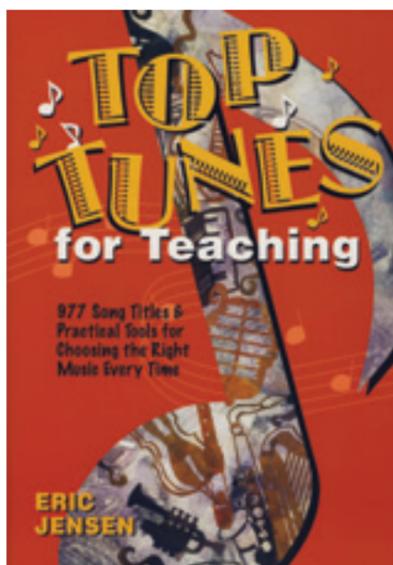
Putting new members in the KNOW!

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with FRESH in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by June 25 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's FRESH giveaway is Eric Jensen's *Top Tunes for Teaching*, a publication of Corwin Press. This book is a great resource for beginning and experienced teachers to learn when and how to use music and what to play, to influence the learning atmosphere in their classroom, add fun to a lesson and raise achievement. All suggestions are supported by scientific research about the beneficial effects of music on the brain and learning. The guide also provides a catalogue of the best songs for use in different learning situations, all personally tested by author, former teacher and pioneer in brain-based approaches, Eric Jensen.

Sample of tips, suggestions, and song lists in the guide:

- 17 albums to calm the mind and soothe the body
- Four ways music can influence cognition
- 18 instruments for brainstorming, solving problems and creativity
- 10 great reasons to use music



DEVELOPING SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS

Strategic Approaches to Conflict Management and Negotiations

**Mount Allison University
Sackville, NB**

July 9-12, 2012

Institute Resource People
ROBERT HICKEY, GLENDA FISK & BRENDAN SWEENEY

Robert Hickey, PhD

teaches the core courses on unions and collective bargaining in the Master of Industrial Relations program at Queen's University. An experienced negotiator, Robert spent 10 years as a union organizer and representative in the US. Robert's research interests focus on how labour management relations in the context of industrial restructuring and public sector reform.



Glenda Fisk, PhD

joined the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University in 2006 after completing her PhD in Industrial/



Organizational Psychology at The Pennsylvania State University. Her research interests focus on how emotional experience impacts work performance, stress, and resilience. In addition to research Glenda teaches graduate-level classes in Human Resource Management, Organizational Behaviour, statistics, and research methods.



Brendan Sweeney, PhD works as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Queen's University Industrial Relations Centre. He is the lead researcher on a multi-year project that examines labour relations in Ontario's K-12 education sector, where he has helped develop workshops for school administrators and school board labour relations personnel. He also has experience coaching high-performance athletics at Queen's, the University of Washington, and McMaster.

Strategic Approaches to Conflict Management and Negotiations

We negotiate all the time. Working with colleagues, resolving disagreements, and engaging with other stakeholders all involves negotiations. The ability to negotiate effectively is a learned skill and one that can be developed and improved over time. This conference is designed to improve negotiations skills through critical analysis and self-reflective learning.

Through a series of hands-on exercises, guided discussions, and interactive presentations, the workshop will help participants to critically analyse their negotiating style and enhance conflict management skills. The workshop is organized around three critical areas in the field of negotiations theory and practice: strategic negotiations, emotional intelligence, and effective conflict management.

Linking research and evidence-based studies to the wealth of workshop participant experiences, participants will gain practical tools and approaches to better prepare for negotiations and effectively manage the emotional dimension of dispute resolution procedures.

We will:

- Assess current practices and research on negotiations and conflict management in the education sector
- Develop innovative approaches to negotiations and conflict resolution
- Use our emotional intelligence to solve real work-related problems

This Institute is intended for School/District and other educational administrators from Atlantic Canada. A total of 60 participants will be accepted.

Educators who are members of the sponsoring organizations - registration fee is \$300. All others \$400. For registration information, contact Gail Doucette at the NSTU, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, N.S. B3L 4L7; Phone: 902-477-5621, 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free in N.S.).

For a complete list of Deals & Discounts visit www.nstu.ca or call 1-800-565-6788 or email theteacher@nstu.ca

If you know of anyone who offers NSTU members a discount, please let us know.

Second Volume on NSTU History Launched at Annual Council

Former NSTU Communications Staff Officer Paul McCormick was invited back to Annual Council in 2012 as the author of a second volume of the union's history: *Conflict and Collegiality, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, 1984 – 2012*.

McCormick has been working on the book for two and a half years, taking it on as a retirement project after leaving the union officially in November 2009. He was a natural choice to author the book as he worked at the NSTU during the entire time period covered in the text.

"You would think that would make it easier to write rather than harder," said McCormick. "But it was a case of having almost too much information instead of having too little."

The book takes the reader through the spending decisions of eight provincial governments. It paints a picture of a modern public sector union recognizing and trying to cope with the political pendulum swings that have both marred and nourished the capacity of our



Provincial Executive members Gerry Alley and Tammy Landry chat with author Paul McCormick.



International Programs Teaching & Administrative Opportunities

A number of positions are available at the following locations for the 2012-13 school year:

Affiliated School of Hebei Normal University, Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province

Position 1: Advanced Mathematics 11, Advanced Mathematics 12, Physics 11
For further information contact Eileen English (Eileen.English@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

Guiyang No.1 High School, Guizhou Province

Position 1: Mathematics 10, Science 10, Physics 11
For further information contact Gilles LeBlanc (ggleblanc@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

Henan Experimental High School, Zhengzhou, Henan Province

Position 1: Advanced Mathematics 12, Pre-Calculus
Position 2: Drama 10
For further information contact Bernie MacIntyre (Bernie.Macintyre1@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

Karamay Project (4 schools), Xinjiang Autonomous Region

Positions 1 and 2: Elementary English
Position 3: Middle School English, High School ESL Support
Position 4: English 10/10+, Drama 10, Drama 11
Position 5: Science 10, Mathematics 10, Chemistry 11, Mathematics 11
For further information contact Lea Pelletier (pelletl@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

Louyang No.1 High School, Henan Province

Position 1: Mathematics 10, Advanced Mathematics 11, Advanced Mathematics 12/
Physics 11/12
Position 2: Science 10, Chemistry 11, Biology 11
For further information contact Bernie MacIntyre (Bernie.Macintyre1@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

Ma'anshan No. 2 High School, Anhui Province

Position 1: Mathematics 10, Science 10
Position 2: English 10+, Drama 10
For further information contact David White (David.White@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

Nanchang No. 2 High School, Jiangxi Province

Position 1: Mathematics 12, Pre-Calculus Mathematics, Calculus 12
Position 2: Physics 11, Physics 12
For further information contact Gilles LeBlanc (ggleblanc@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

Soochow University High School, Jiangsu Province

Position 1: Physics 12, Chemistry 12
Position 2: Mathematics
Position 3: English 12
Position 4: Principal and Program Support
For further information contact David Wang (cecm23@gmail.com)

Tangshan No. 1 High School, Tangshan, Hebei province

Position 1: Advanced Mathematics 11, Advanced Mathematics 12
For further information contact Eileen English (Eileen.English@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

Tonghuan No. 1 Middle School, Shaanxi Province

Position 1: Mathematics 10, Mathematics 11, Science 10, Chemistry 11, Biology 11,
Physics 11
For further information contact Bernie MacIntyre (Bernie.Macintyre1@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

Tsinghua Experimental High School – Shenzhen

Position 1: English 11, Drama 10/11
For further information contact David Brennick (dbrennick@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

If you are interested in being considered for any of these positions, please send a completed application form (found here: http://internationalprograms.ednet.ns.ca/sites/default/files/Teaching%20%26%20Administration%20Application_0.pdf), letter of introduction, CV and references to the contact listed, and copied to internationalprograms@gov.ns.ca



society to educate young Nova Scotians.

"Savage days, the Cameron era, massive protests around Province House....this book will bring memories to life for members who fought and struggled for rights and fair wages through close to three decades of tumult, change and largesse," the author told *The Teacher*. "Perhaps as importantly, the stories recorded will vividly illustrate to newer members how much a union can accomplish when its members unite under a common cause."

McCormick rounded out Council's opening session Friday night with a 15-minute presentation taking the audience through the political history of the past three decades.

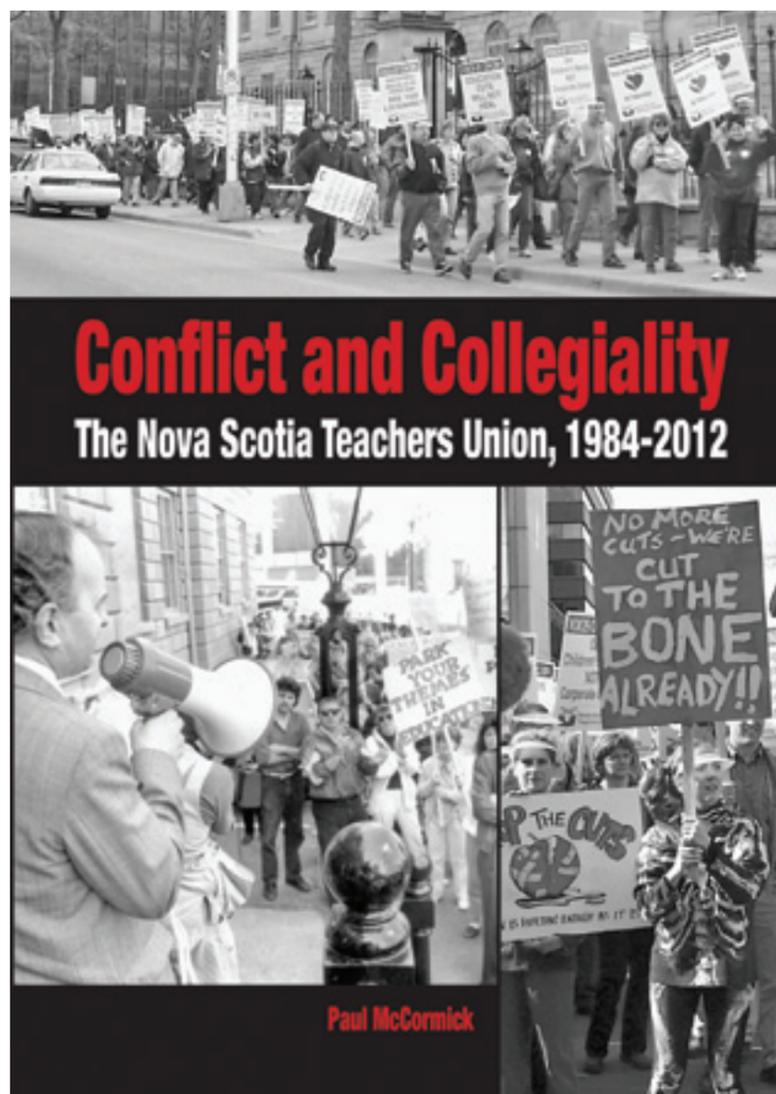
"I spent more than 30 years behind the camera with a notebook witnessing the deliberations of Council. To actually address the union's top decision-making body, to see heads nodding in remembrance of some of our battles was no small thrill for me."

Each Council delegate received a copy of the book, and McCormick was overwhelmed to be greeted by a lineup of NSTU members Saturday afternoon asking for his signature.

"It felt great to have my 15 minutes of fame," McCormick admitted, "but it can't compare to the almost daily satisfaction of helping such an amazing group of professionals as teachers achieve their goals over the years."

The history's forward was written by Executive Director Bill Redden who commissioned the work. It follows Dr. Norman Fergusson's book, *The Story of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union From the Formation of the Old Union in 1895 to the 1980s*.

"I owe such a debt to Norm Fergusson," said McCormick. "So many times, over so many years, I looked to his account trying to figure out where we had been. Only when I had did the road to the future appear more clearly. I can only hope this sequel is as useful to those who work to advance teaching and learning in the future." It is 205 pages, and is available for purchase at \$20 per volume. You can get your own copy by calling Marcia Hirtle at 479-4711 or emailing mhirtle@staff.nstu.ca





Acadia University can provide you with the tools you need to grow as an educator and advance in your career. Our programs are built to work for practicing educators through options including on-site, online, and summer session courses.

Summer Conference Day

Join us on Friday, July 6, at Acadia's Fountain Learning Commons for a day of informative, engaging workshops and presentations. The conference is focused on the theme of Schooling, Families, and Community, with an Inclusive Education infusion.

- Keynote address: "Circles, Squares, and Triangles: The Geometry of Family/Professional Relationships" by Dr. Phil Ferguson and Dr. Dianne Ferguson, Chapman University.
- Workshops by Shaughney Aston, Cynthia Bruce, Karen Dyke, Ken Fells, and Mike Ouellette: details available on our website.
- Conference fee of \$75 includes lunch and parking.

Certificate in French Proficiency

Upgrade French skills for personal or professional development with this 30-credit-hour certificate. Courses are offered in a two-week summer session on campus, and select courses are available online.

- Begin at a skill level that fits your learning needs, from beginner to advanced.
- Qualify for an Advanced Teacher's Certificate 1 (ATC 1), upon approval from the Department of Education.

Register by: June 22

Master of Education in Inclusive Education – HRSB 2012 Cohort

Acadia's Master of Education in Inclusive Education provides teachers with opportunities to explore aspects of inclusive education, equity, and social justice within a diverse cultural framework. The program will start in the upcoming Fall term with a course in the Halifax area, and the cohort will take scheduled courses together toward completion of the degree in the Summer of 2014.

- Offered in partnership with the Halifax Regional School Board.
- For an application to the HRSB 2012 Master of Education Inclusive Cohort, please contact us.

Application deadline: June 21

Master of Education in Curriculum Studies with a Focus in Creativity

Acadia's new Creativity program is designed to engage teachers and other educators in thinking that positions creativity at the centre of the curriculum. To foster a creative learning environment for today's students, teachers need to think creatively in planning, in classroom design, and in navigating provincial standards.

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- The program will begin in Fall 2012.

Application deadline: June 28



educ.openacadia.ca
1.800.565.6568

Gifted Summit Shares Practical Tips for Teachers of Gifted Students

As a resource teacher at École Du Carrefour Virginie LaTour has access to a lot of material for students with learning disabilities. But when it comes to helping gifted students, it's a different story.

"There are just not as many ready-made resources out there," says LaTour, who works primarily with students in Grades 7-9. "When I heard about this conference I grabbed the chance to get any new information I could."

The Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development, held May 23-25 was designed to provide educators with an overview of strategies, resources and evidence-based practices through differentiated instruction.

A steering committee with representatives from the Nova Scotia Teacher's Union, the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium, Mount Saint Vincent University, and the Nova Scotia Department of Education began planning for the summit over 2 years ago. The schedule offered an incredible program of 13 keynotes and 36 breakout sessions including presentations by six internationally renowned speakers from the famed CONFRATUTE. Confratute is a summer institute on enrichment-based differentiated teaching held yearly at the University of Connecticut. It is a combined CONFERENCE, FRATERNITY and INSTITUTE.

Dr. Joseph Renzulli and his wife, Dr. Sally Reis opened and closed the summit with overviews of their ground-breaking work.

At first glance, their talks seemed full of

incomprehensible gibberish, with phrases like TDO, GFAK and the three E's. But the two doctors broke their theories down into easily understandable chunks.

"Think of Talent Development Opportunities, (TDO)," explained Dr. Renzulli. "Gifted kids need extra stimulation and challenges or else they will become under-achievers. So you want something that is GFAK, or Good For All Kids. And it all has to be based on the three e's which are..."

Renzulli would pause and within

minutes had the entire audience reciting with him, "Enrichment, Enjoyment and Enthusiasm."

"This is really just common sense," elaborated Renzulli. "We all know intuitively that we need to treat each child differently. This is the way we'd all be teaching if we weren't overwhelmed with outcomes."

"This was such a great confirmation that we are already doing the right thing," said Virginie LaTour who was excited after the Summit to get back in her classroom and start trying new methods out. "We just

need to go more in depth."

Here are a few tips on engaging your gifted students from Dr. Joe Renzulli and Dr. Sally Reis:

- Do something to engage and inspire your students
- Make sure that your student understand and appreciate effort
- Discuss talents and future plans: teach kids to dream
- Build an environment that fosters creative productivity
- Do something to reverse student underachievement
- Don't give up!



Summit presenters and members of the Steering Committee include: Dr. Joseph Renzulli, Presenter, (University of Connecticut); Dr. Rebecca D. Eckert, Presenter, (University of Connecticut); Gérard Cormier, (NSTU); Dr. Angela M. Housand, Presenter, (University of North Carolina); Dr. Sally M. Reis, Presenter, (University of Connecticut); Dr. Rachel McAnallen, Presenter, (University of Connecticut); Dr. Brian C. Housand, Presenter, (East Carolina University); Dr. Meredith Greene Burton, (AVRSB); Daniel Demers, (DOE); Cindy Tully, (HRSB); Caroline Jobin, (CSAP) and Tony Stewart, (NSELC).

SPECIAL COURSE OFFERING



Peace, Education and Development: Theory and Practice"
(IDST 6648 / EDUC 6648)

Field School at Thinkers' Lodge, Pugwash NS
Mon July 30th – Sat August 4th, 2012

Saint Mary's University is offering a unique, one-week course at the Thinkers' Lodge National Historic Site of Canada, located on the beautiful Northumberland Strait. Cross-listed between *Education* and *International Development Studies (IDS)*, the course is for graduate-level students. Explore critically our educational systems, classrooms and communities and their relation to world conflict, and imagine the role of schools and teachers in bringing about peace and positive social change.

Who should take this course?

- IDS Graduate students
- Graduate students in Education
- Teachers doing graduate-level coursework for upgrading purposes

Instructor: Sherida (Sherry) Hassanali, Ph.D (Candidate, OISE/UT)

sheridasherry@hotmail.com

You pay tuition for ½ credit @ SMU + \$375 for food + on-site accommodation at Thinkers Lodge (Pugwash, NS).

Two/room = 2 single beds + private bathroom). You will make your transportation arrangements to/from the Lodge. Space is limited. Register NOW! Thinker's Lodge (Pugwash, NS)

REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Provincial Negotiations Asking Package 2012

DATE	TIME	LOCAL	PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE	NSTU STAFF OFFICER	LOCATION
June 12, 2012	7:30 – 9:15 pm	Dartmouth	Mark Savoury	Janine Kerr	Prince Andrew High School AV Room
June 12, 2012	4:00 – 5:45 pm	Halifax City	Angela Gillis Shawn Hanifen	Bruce Kelloway	NSTU Building
June 12, 2012	7:00 – 8:45 pm	Halifax County	Kathy Kerr Paul Boudreau	Bruce Kelloway	Lockview High
June 12, 2012	4:00 – 5:45 pm	Lunenburg	Bill Bruhm	Janine Kerr	Bridgewater Elementary Cafeteria
June 12, 2012	4:00 – 5:45 pm	Annapolis	Allister Wadden Kim Frank	Allan MacLean	Bridgetown Elementary
June 12, 2012	7:30 – 9:15 pm	Hants West - Kings	Allister Wadden Kim Frank	Allan MacLean	Wolfville School Library
June 12, 2012	4:00 – 5:45 pm	Pictou	Cynthia MacKinnon	Joan Ling	Pictou Local Office Westville
June 12, 2012	7:30 – 9:15 pm	Colchester-East Hants	Gerry Alley	Joan Ling	Cobequid Educational Centre – Center 2
June 12, 2012	4:00 – 5:45 pm	Yarmouth	Wally Fiander	Grant MacLean	Yarmouth High School
June 12, 2012	7:00 – 8:45 pm	Digby	Wally Fiander	Grant MacLean	Digby Elementary
June 13, 2012	4:00 – 5:45 pm	Antigonish – Guysborough	Tammy Landry	Allan MacLean	Antigonish Education Center (Performing Arts Room)
June 13, 2012	7:00 – 8:45 pm	Inverness – Richmond	Sheila Hawley	Allan MacLean	Community College Nautical School Auditorium
June 13, 2012	4:15 – 6:00 pm	Cumberland	Pat Hillier	Joan Ling	Amherst Regional High Room 129
June 13, 2012	4:00 – 5:45 pm	Cape Breton	John Helle Sally Capstick	Bruce Kelloway	Malcolm Munroe Jr. High
June 13, 2012	7:30 – 9:15 pm	Northside-Victoria	Jacinta Gracie	Bruce Kelloway	Memorial High School Lecture Theater
June 13, 2012	4:00 – 5:45 pm	Shelburne	John MacKay	Janine Kerr	Hillcrest Academy
June 13, 2012	7:00 – 8:45 pm	Queens	John MacKay	Janine Kerr	Liverpool Regional High School

APSEA Forms NSTU's 23rd Local

As of August 1, 2012, the teachers of the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA) will form the NSTU's 23rd Local. There are 120 members in the Local spread among the four Atlantic provinces. Until now, APSEA members have been a sub-local of Halifax City.

Interim president will be Andrew McCarra.

APSEA is an interprovincial cooperative agency established in 1975 and provides educational services, programs, and opportunities for persons from birth to 21 years of age with low incidence sensory impairments. This includes children and youth who are deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, blind, or visually impaired and who are residents of Atlantic Canada.

Public School Negotiations Open

The parties have agreed to open negotiations on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at 9 a.m. at the NSTU building. The purpose of this meeting is to exchange packages and to establish the ground rules. The asking package will be shared with members at the meetings listed above.

The previous provincial agreement expires July 31, 2012.





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Halifax West Principal Recognized with National Award



by Danielle Cyr

Cracking jokes in the cafeteria, being on the volleyball court and chatting on the school grounds are places you'd expect to see an average student at Halifax West. This is exactly where you'll find Gary Walker only he's no average student. He's the principal - and he loves to be wherever his students are.

"If kids are in the cafeteria, I'm in the cafeteria. If kids are outside, I'm outside," says Walker.

His favourite part of being a principal is the interaction with students and staff. He never spends lunch hour in his office

and admits he usually finds himself having the lunch he packed that morning at 4:30 p.m. when his day is done. It is this passion to connect with staff and students that sets him apart and is one of the many reasons he was recognized by the Learning Partnership as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals of 2012.

"It was very humbling to be recognized," says Walker. "You go through life as a teacher and get great joy out of your students and what you do. I have a set of responsibilities but I don't feel they are any different than anyone else's. I don't

feel like what I do is any more special than what anyone else does."

Walker is coming into his 33rd year as an educator and has been the principal of Halifax West for the past eight years. With almost 1500 students and over 80 staff, it is the largest high school in HRM. Since starting his teaching career in 1978 Walker has worked in junior and senior high. He has been a math teacher, vice principal and principal. He is currently a member of the Nova Scotia Administrators' Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Development Council. He has also served as the VP of PD for his Local for the NSTU, which comes as no surprise considering his interest in people and fostering their successes. His involvement extends from inside the school as he has been a member of the Board of Governors and Chair of the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation, has held the role of Vice-President of the Canadian School Sport Federation and was the co-chair of the Venue Leaders of the 2011 Canada Winter Games.

Walker was nominated for the award by members of the school community including staff, students and parents at Halifax West and the Halifax Regional School Board. Nominators noted Walker as, 'the most well-rounded principal we have ever known', 'truly a champion of public funded education', and, 'a hard working, dedicated and committed administrator who goes to work every day for all of the right reasons: to see kids succeed'.

As part of being recognized as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals, Walker attended a five-day executive leadership training program at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. There, he was able to speak with other awardees and renowned leaders about issues, experiences and theories in the field of leadership.

"I was able to learn from distinguished leaders. How often do you find yourself in the same room as the president of CIBC?" said Walker. "I kind of wish this opportunity would have come at the beginning of my career so I could implement what I learned a little earlier. It was very valuable and an incredible experience."

Walker puts a tremendous amount of effort into his job and when he reflects on his time as a principal, he says he honestly feels like the position requires a lot of time and people skills to make it an enjoyable career.

"If you think of it as a job then it is just going to be any other job. There are people who think teachers are just civil servants, and then there are people who think we can make a difference. I believe we can make a difference and I am a firm believer that this is more than just a job," he says. "My six kids go to school and my wife is a teacher. When we get up we all go to school. For the past 32 years I don't go to work, I go to school and that is pretty neat to say."

Walker believes leadership is about making a connection and doing something good for the students. Within five minutes of talking to Walker you quickly realize he has a brilliant ability to connect with people and truly values each individual he meets. It is this approachability and passion for people that makes him an extraordinary leader in his school and community.

Walker says he doesn't have too many years left before he retires, and if he could give one piece of advice to up and coming teachers and aspiring principals, it would be to make sure to love what they do.

"When I started teaching I was so eager to be able to do all of these things in the school, like coach the ball team or coach the volleyball team. I was so excited to do what I did," says Walker. "Know why you're in the profession - keep that a focus all of the time. The reason you go into teaching and become a principal is the students. That can be tough to hold on to, but it is important that you do."

Ask students and staff of Halifax West and they would be quick to point out that is something Walker has held onto and is evident in everything he does. From greeting students outside in the morning and leading his staff with respect and confidence to volunteering his expertise in the community, he goes above and beyond his role as an educator and principal. As one of his nominators rightfully said, Walker is 'a natural choice for the Canada's Outstanding Principal Award'.

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Elementary Resource Teacher Puts Imagination to Paper

by Danielle Cyr

Cynthia d'Entremont's office, surrounded by elementary classrooms, is filled with books. But this shouldn't come as a surprise - she has been an avid reader and lover of novels since she was a young girl. There is one particular novel in d'Entremont's office that stands out from the rest. It sits on a grey stand and is called *Oak Island Revenge*. With this book, d'Entremont finds herself outside of her role as a devoted reader. With this book, she is the one crafting the story.

d'Entremont is a resource teacher at École Grovesnor Wentworth Park, an elementary school in Halifax. *Oak Island Revenge: a Jonah Morgan Mystery* is the second novel she has had published, and accompanies *Unlocked*, which was released in 2010. She also has had a short story published in *A Maritime Christmas* from 2008. d'Entremont says she finds value in creative writing, especially for students.

"Everybody has certain strengths, whatever they may be. Some students who have difficulties in specific academic areas may find creative writing to be a strength of theirs and that is really wonderful to see," she says. "Writing a story that has impact whether it is published or not, I believe is attainable for everyone if that is something they want to do."

Oak Island Revenge is a historical fiction for youth 12 and up, that finds itself in 1958 rural Nova Scotia in the Western Shore. The main character, Jonah Morgan, ventures with his best friend Beaz to search for the notorious treasure on forbidden Oak Island. On their adventure, the boys discover information that could be key pieces in a disappearance in their community. However, telling these secrets could have significant consequences for Jonah and especially his best friend. Themes of justice and truth surface throughout the novel, but d'Entremont lets the reader discover the message they want to walk away with.

"Finding truth is important in our lives. We could be people who have a set of values and we think our values are going to apply to every situation we face, but we might face a situation that challenges that," says d'Entremont. "Who you really are is how you act when no one is looking. I like to explore tough questions. I think what it is readers decide to explore will be what they will take from the novel."

With *Oak Island Revenge* being her third publication, one might assume d'Entremont was born a writer. However, she is quick to point out this wasn't the case.

"I wasn't a person who thought I would be a writer as a child," said d'Entremont. "But I always did have a vivid imagination. As an adult and teaching, I thought if I could learn how to get that down on paper then maybe I could write a story."

d'Entremont took a writing correspondence course from the Institute of Children's Literature and was not only able to let her imagination flow on to paper - she was able to do it exceptionally well. d'Entremont was named the 2009 Fiction Winner for Word Alive Press Free Publishing Contest. She was also the first place winner for the Joyce Barkhouse Writing for Children Award in the 2006 Atlantic Writing Competition and was the winner of the Nova Scotia Talent Trust Scholarship in Literary Arts in 2006. Currently, *Oak Island Revenge* is one of 62 books competing in Wozzles' Teen Battle of the Books 2013. Other nominated books include George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*.

Looking to her future, d'Entremont says she is happiest when she can immerse herself in her writing and says she has a couple of more manuscripts in the works. In addition to her novels, she will continue to host workshops for youth in Nova Scotia through the *Writers In The Schools* program.

"I grew up loving the power of a story in my life. Every time I opened a book I went on a vacation," she says. "To be able to create that for someone else is fun and it is an accomplishable dream. Anybody can be a writer and their writing can have meaning if it is important to them."

For d'Entremont, the experience may look like something out of a Narnia novel from her favourite author, C.S. Lewis; living in a world as a reader then venturing through a mysterious door into a world as a writer that has even more possibilities for adventure than the one before. d'Entremont encourages students and teachers to take the chance and to open that door.



We have one copy of
Oak Island Revenge* and *Unlocked
to give away.

To be eligible for the draw,
send an email to theteacher@nstu.ca
with the subject line **d'Entremont novels**
by June 25.



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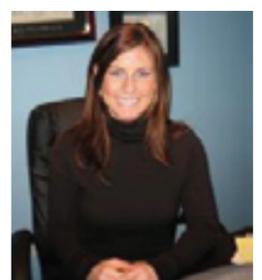
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2012 NSTU Professional Associations Conferences

Association of Adult Educators (AAE)

Theme: Looking Forward as Educators
Location: NSCC Marconi Campus, Sydney
Date: October 26
Keynote: Corrine McIsaac, President/CEO Health Outcomes Worldwide
Fee: \$75
Contacts: Kevin Wilson
 NSCC Marconi Campus
 (W) 902.563.8074
 kdwilson@nstu.ca
 Debbie McVeigh
 NSCC Marconi Campus
 (W) 902.563.8030
 damcveigh@nstu.ca

Association des Enseignants Acadiens (AEA)

Theme: La culture avec toutes ses couleurs
Locations: École du Carrefour, Dartmouth (Des ateliers seront aussi offerts à l'École secondaire de Clare dans la région de la Baie-Sainte-Marie)
Date: le 26 octobre
Keynote: Mathieu Gingras
Fee: 50 \$
Contact: Patrick Poupart
 719 Broughton Road,
 Broughton, NS B1B 1N6
 902.322.2731
 ppatrik@nstu.ca

Association of Science Teachers (AST)

Theme: Time for Science
Location: Halifax West High School, Halifax
Date: October 26
Fees: \$82 Teachers; \$40 Substitutes; \$20 Students & Retired Teachers
Contact: Chris West
 27 Green Street, Guysborough, NS
 (W) 902.533.4006 (F) 902.533.3554
 cawest@nstu.ca

Art Teachers Association (ATA)

Theme: HeArt & Soul
Location: J.L. Ilsley High School
 35 Sylvia Avenue, Halifax
Date: October 26
Keynote: Dr. Stan Kutcher
Fees: \$85 Teacher; \$45 Retired Teachers and Substitutes (lunch included)
Contact: Mary Beth Osburn
 Madeline Symonds Middle School
 290 White Hills Run,
 Hammonds Plains
 902.832.2300 ext. 108
 mosburn@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Association of Teachers of Exceptional Children (ATEC)

Theme: Class Action
Location: Empire Theatres, Dartmouth Crossing
Date: October 26
Fee: \$100
Contact: Cathy Cotton
 59 Colin Dr.,
 Little Judique, NS B0E 1P0
 (H) 902.797.2356
 cathy.cotton@srsb.ca

Association of Teachers of English of Nova Scotia (ATENS)

Theme: Leveling the Learning Field
Location: Ramada Plaza Park Place Hotel, Dartmouth
Date: October 26
Keynote: This year, ATENS is offering three master classes in place of a keynote in order to better meet the needs of our members.
Fees: \$110 (includes membership, lunch & copy of *Kimberlins*); \$80 Students/Substitutes/Retired Teachers (includes lunch)
Contacts: Krystle-Rae Peckford
 krpeckford@nstu.ca
 902.840.0525
 Trudy Megeney
 tmegeney@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Association of Teachers of Young Adolescents (ATYA)

Theme: Taming the Turbulent Teen Brain
Location: Riverside Education Centre
Date: October 26
Keynote: Erica Baker
Fees: \$80 Teachers
 \$40 Substitutes & Student Teachers
Contact: Starr Pettipas,
 RR#2, Pictou, NS B0K 1H0
 902.485.7211
 sapettipas@nstu.ca

Business Education Teachers Association (BETA)

Theme: Business on the Move: The Entertainment Industry
Location: TBA
Date: October 26
Keynote: Tara Thorne
Fee: \$250
Contact: Dan Sider
 dcsider@nstu.ca

Educational Drama Association of Nova Scotia (EDANS)

Theme: HeArt & Soul
Location: J.L. Ilsley High, 35 Sylvia Ave., Halifax
Date: October 26
Keynote: Dr. Stan Kutcher
Fee: \$85 (includes a complimentary 2012/13 membership)
Contact: Melanie Kennedy
 79 Hardisty Court, Dartmouth;
 (H) 902.466.0037
 (W) 902.462.6900 / 902.462.6950
 mkennedy@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Family Studies Teachers Association (FSTA)

Theme: Recipe for Success
Location: Avon View High School, Windsor
Date: October 26
Fees: \$85 Members; \$50 Substitutes/Retired; \$35 Student Teachers; \$10 Hot Lunch (optional & on-site)
Contact: Karen DesRoches
 632 Wentworth Road,
 RR#1, Windsor, NS B0N 2T0
 (H) 902.798.8689 (W) 902.792.6740
 (C) 902.791.1401 / krdesroches@nstu.ca

Mathematics Teachers Association (MTA)

Theme: Still f(50)... Functioning at 50!
Location: Cole Harbour District High School, Cole Harbour, NS
Dates: October 25-26
Keynote: Marian Small
Fees: \$80 Teachers; \$40 Substitutes & Retired Teachers; \$20 Student Teachers
Contacts: Ann Pentecost
 Malcolm Munroe Junior High
 125 Kenwood Dr., Sydney, NS B1S 1T8
 (W) 902.564-4587 / adgrenier@nstu.ca
 Joe MacDonald
 Site 4, Comp. 29, RR#2
 Mahone Bay, NS B0J 2E0
 (H) 902.275.2700 (W) 902.275.2710
 jamacdonald@nstu.ca

Nova Scotia Language Teachers Association/ Association des enseignant(e)s de Langues de la Nouvelle Écosse (NSLTA/AELNE)

Theme: Talking Technology/Communiquons avec la technologie
Location: Ridgecliff Middle School
 35 Beech Tree Run, Beechville
Date: October 26
Keynotes: Barbara MacDonald Moore & Simon Wilkin
Fees: \$85 \$ (l'inscription inclus: cotisations aux (AELNE et ACPLS) pause santé, repas du midi, maison d'éditions et salon d'exposants. Après 6 12 Octobre le frais d'inscription augmente à 90.00 \$. Tous les reçus, les documents pertinent et les certificats de participation
Contacts: Carla Elliott
 235 Melrose Crescent, Eastern Passage, NS B3G 1P5; celliott@nstu.ca
 Colin Landry
 43 Argyle Street, Sydney, N.S. B1S 2T8
 (H) 902.567.6843 (W) 902.562.0768
 candb.landry@ns.sympatico.ca
 clandry@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Nova Scotia Music Educators' Association (NSMEA)

Theme: Riding the Waves
Location: South Colchester Academy
Dates: October 25-26
Keynote: Doug Goodkin
Fees: \$90 Active Teachers
 \$75 Retired/Substitutes
 \$29.50 University Students
Contact: Tammy Landry
 171 Meadow Green Road,
 St. Andrews, NS B0H 1X0
 (H) 902.863.6325
 (W) 902.867.8800 (C) 902.870.2268
 (Summer Residence) 902.783.2302
 tammylandry@nstu.ca

Nova Scotia School Counsellors Association (NSSCA)

Theme: B.R.E.A.T.H.E. – Bringing Restorative Energy & Transformative Healing to Education
Location: Amherst Regional High School, Amherst
Date: October 26
Keynote: Dr. Jennifer Llewellyn
 Professor at Schulich School of Law & Director of the N.S. Restorative Justice Community University Research Alliance
Fee: \$85 (includes NSSCA Membership & onsite lunch)
Contact: Wade Van Snick
 190 Willow Street
 Amherst, NS B4H 3W5
 902.661.2540 ext 151
 wtvansnick@nstu.ca

Nova Scotia Teachers Association for Literacy and Learning (NSTALL)

Theme: Pathways in Developing Literacy P-12
Location: Sir John A. Macdonald High School, Tantallon
Date: October 26
Fees: \$85 Teachers (includes membership & on-site lunch), \$70 Substitute Teachers (includes on-site lunch), \$25 Student Teachers (includes on-site lunch)
Contact: Ann Hulford
 7448 Route 329, RR#1,
 Hubbards, NS B0J 1T0
 902.275.4234
 eahulford@nstu.ca
 ahulford@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Nova Scotia Technology Education Association (NSTEA)

Theme: Get Your Hands On Technology
Location: West Kings District High School, Auburn
Dates: October 25-26
Keynotes: Win & Tim Naugler
Fees: \$80 Member / \$20 Retired
Contact: Cameron Hartley
 West Kings District High School
 902.847.4440
 chartley@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Primary Elementary Teachers Association (PETA)

Theme: Understanding Children/ Children Understanding
Location: Auburn Drive High School, Dartmouth
Date: October 26
Keynote: Dr. Ross Greene
Fee: \$90 (includes lunch, newsletters, grant opportunities, door prizes, books)
Contact: Cathy Townsend
 35 Pine Street, RR#2, Wolfville, NS B4P 2R2
 (H) 902.542.4277
 ctownsend-fuller@nstu.ca

Psychologists in Schools Association (PISA)

Theme: Anxiety & Selective Mutism
Location: Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax
Date: October 26
Keynote: Dr. Melanie Vanier
Fees: \$100 Members (includes membership, parking & on-site lunch)
 \$70 Substitutes & Students (includes on-site lunch & parking)
Contact: Ashley Monk
 (H) 446.5670
 admonk@nstu.ca

School Administrators Association (SAA)

Theme: Leadership: Opening the Door, Unlocking the Potential
Location: Holiday Inn, Sydney (Formerly the Delta Hotel)
Dates: October 25-26
Keynote: Laurie Graham, CBC National Reporter
Fee: \$100 + \$30 (membership)
Contact: Chris Nicholson
 c/o Memorial High School
 80 Memorial Drive,
 Sydney, NS B1V 2Y5
 (W) 902.736.6233
 csnicholson@nstu.ca

Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)

Theme: Holding Stories in the Palm of Your Hand: Developing Language and Literacy with the Story Grammar Marker
Location: Fountain Commons, Acadia University, Wolfville
Date: October 26
Keynote: Maryellen Rooney Moreau, M.Ed. CCC-SLP
Fees: \$100 Members
 \$50 Students/Parents
Contacts: Colleen Roland
 colleen.roland@avrsb.ca
 Nichole Eveleigh
 nichole.eveleigh@avrsb.ca

Social Studies Teachers Association (SSTA)

Theme: The "New" Teacher Today
 Practical Approaches for Teachers in Today's Challenging Classroom
Location: Lockview High School, Fall River
Date: October 26
Fees: \$90 Teachers
 \$35 Students & Substitutes
Contact: Ken Langille
 31 Carleton Street,
 Yarmouth, NS B5A 4B3
 902.742.8700
 kenlangille@eastlink.ca

Teachers Association for Physical and Health Education (TAPHE)

Theme: Moving Forward — Fit for the Future
Location: Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School, Yarmouth
Dates: October 26-27
Keynote: Dr. John Ratey
Fees: \$75 Friday only
 \$85 Friday & Saturday
Contacts: Conference Chair
 Lori Sigfridson
 Lori-sigfridson@tcrsb.ca
 Conference Registrar
 Steve Ranni
 902.563-4520
 shranni@nstu.ca

There will be
NO ON-SITE
 Registration!

On-line registration
 will be available!



2012 FAPSC Has Largest Turnout Ever



The organizing committee members of the 2012 FAPSC are all from the Community College Local. Left to right are: Ernie Parkes, Vice-President, Professional Development; Debbie Nickerson, Aine Tan, Vaughn Bullerwell, Margo Eaton and Rosemary Davis.

The Faculty and Professional Support Conference (FAPSC) for community college members was held May 31 - June 2 and had the largest number of delegates in its history with a registration of 168. This year's theme was 'A World of Change'.

"Between technology, changing populations, financial pressures and our diverse students we thought this topic was very fitting," said Ernie Parkes, Vice-President of Professional Development and chair of this year's event.

The event kicked off Thursday night with a food and beverage tasting that took participants around the world. Friday morning the conference was officially opened by Community College Local outgoing President Louis Robitaille, NSCC President Don Bureaux and Truro principal Dr. Kevin Quinlan. Humourist Bill Carr then took to the stage for a keynote address that kept the crowd laughing as he shared many thought provoking ideas.

One of this year's workshops included 'The Changing Ethnic Composition of our Society' with James Lai, NSCC Faculty. It focused on preparing college staff for an expected influx of immigrants from diverse cultural backgrounds who will enroll in NSCC in order to improve their employment opportunities in Nova Scotia. The provincial government plans to increase the numbers of new immigrants to an extent of 5,000 annually and 7,200 by 2020. This workshop talked about ways to improve communication skills with students from other cultures and how to broaden a global vision and understand the concept of internationalization of education.

Other workshops covered topics including 'Battling Homophobia in the Classroom'; 'Workplace Bullying'; 'Africentricity 101'; 'Dealing with Difficult People' and 'Effective Use of Assistive Technology'.

Saturday morning wrapped up with workshops focused on achieving work-life balance. Attendees had a choice of yoga, hiking, golf, African Dancing and Holistic ways to say goodbye to stress.

"We wanted this conference to have something that appeals to everyone, whether they are faculty and in the classroom every day, or professional support in an office. The demands are the same and the changing dynamics are the same," said Parkes.

FAPSC has been held every spring at the Truro NSCC campus since 1999. Under Article 20 of the Professional Development agreement the college provides the location, accommodation, food and travel. Community college members organize the speakers, the workshops and the hospitality.

Faculty and professional support members facilitate sessions as well as guest presenters and NSTU Executive Staff. FAPSC draws Community College Local members from the 13 campuses and satellite sites for professional development, networking, and social opportunities.



Delegates enjoy humourist Bill Carr's keynote.

coming events

June is...

ALS Month (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis—Lou Gehrig's Disease, www.als.ca); Stroke Awareness Month (www.heartandstroke.ns.ca); Brain Injury Awareness Month (www3.ns.sympatico.ca/bians1); Recreation Month (www.recreations.ns.ca)

JUNE 21

National Aboriginal Day

On June 21, Canadians are invited to participate in the many National Aboriginal Day events that will be taking place from coast to coast to coast. National Aboriginal Day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the unique achievements of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in fields as diverse as agriculture, the environment, business and the arts

June 21 kick starts 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 (July 1).

JULY 9 TO 11

2nd Academy in School Mental Health

The 2nd Academy in School Mental Health will take place July 9-11 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Halifax West High school.

The workshop includes sessions conducted by leading Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists, Educators and Mental Health professionals. The Academy is designed for junior high and high school educators. Topics include anxiety disorder, ADHD medication, dealing with substance abuse and learning the signs of depression.

Cost is \$300. To register visit: teenmentalhealth.org. For more information contact: amy.mackay@iwk.nshealth.ca or call 902-470-6598.

JULY 22 TO 29

Halifax Pride Week

Pride Week celebrates our diverse sexual and gender identities, histories, cultures, creativities, families, friends and lives. The Halifax Pride Committee, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers produces a Pride Week that is: accessible to all; fiscally responsible; rewarding for all who participate, and reflective and celebratory of the best of the LGBTQ community and culture in Halifax and throughout Nova Scotia. To find out more about Halifax Pride Week visit www.halifaxpride.com.

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www.kingswoodchiropractic.ca

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www.halifaxchiro.com



**Most NSTU insurance holders are eligible for 80% coverage. Contact Blue Cross for details.*

**Direct billing available at both locations.*



Exciting New Discount Program from the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees!!

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees are pleased to announce that effective July 1, 2012, active and retired NSTU members will have access to Managed Health Care Service Inc.'s (MHCSI) Supplementary Pharmacy Benefit Program.

This program provides a discount of \$3.00 on your prescription drug co-pay at any Lawtons Drugs or Sobeys Pharmacy. In addition, all plan members and spouses, if you have family coverage, will receive a Lawtons Drugs Preferred Discount Card which will provide a wide range of discounts on front store purchases at any Lawtons Drugs in Atlantic Canada.

Later in June you will receive information in the mail from Managed Health Care Services Inc. This mailing will include additional information on the program along with your MHCSI Preferred Pharmacy Provider Program drug card. Two cards will be issued if you have family coverage. Please note, you must continue to present your Medavie Blue Cross (MBC) subscriber card at the pharmacy. The MHCSI program does not replace the MBC card.

Your Lawtons Drugs Preferred Discount Card will follow in the mail at a later date.

In summary, the MHCSI Supplementary Pharmacy Benefit Program will become effective July 1, 2012. Later in June, you will receive information from MHCSI and included will be your MHCSI Preferred Pharmacy Provider Program drug card. Your Lawtons Drug Preferred Discount Card will follow sometime in July. Finally, participation in this program is voluntary.

update

The 2012 NSTU Member Diary and the 2012 Provincial Professional Development Day — Program Offerings booklet

will be available in schools the beginning of September.

If your school does not receive its copies by September 12th, please contact the NSTU at 1-800-565-6788 or smatheson@staff.nstu.ca

\$40

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PLEASE NOTE: The NSTU rate for the Delta Barrington/ Delta Halifax will increase to \$96 on July 1, 2012.

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Now members of NSTU can make reservations online.

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www.deltahotels.com/nstu

www.deltabarrington.com www.deltahalifax.com
For reservations and information call 1-888-423-3582 (toll free)



resources

Fitness and Nutrition Titles Available 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.

Share.EDnet (<http://Share.EDnet.ns.ca> [English] <http://Ensemble.Ednet.ns.ca> [French]) Launched February 6, 2011, Share.EDnet is positioned as the key resource-sharing arm of the Nova Scotia Virtual School. It hosts 21st Century learning resources and professional materials designed and created by the Nova Scotia education community and mapped to Nova Scotia learning outcomes. Join us!

Eating Well With Canada's Food Guide (22 min.) Physical Education 10; Food & Nutrition 10; Physically Active Living 11

This Canadian production gives you information about what each of the arcs in the rainbow represent, information on healthy eating habits and food labelling. Our two hosts, Steve and Tara take students through a comprehensive and informative review of what today's students should know about nutrition and staying healthy.

Exercise for Life (21 min.) Health 7-9; Physical Education

This video looks at why regular physical activity is so important, in terms of physical, social, emotional and intellectual health. This program examines the amount of exercise required per day, per week, and the different types of physical activities and organizations that individuals can participate in.

Fitness for Every Lifestyle (29 min.) Health 10-12; Physical Education

Part of the Journey to Health series, this video relates the importance of fitness to one's quality of life and ability to cope with the demands of everyday living. It also demonstrates new techniques for encouraging the development of physical fitness early in life and explores the components of fitness and a fitness program.

Nutrition and You (83 min.) Health 5/6; Healthy Living 7

This four-part series includes the following titles: Nutrition Basics, Balanced Diet, Healthy Eating Habits, and A Healthy Body.

Portion Control (23 min.) Healthy Living 9; Food and Nutrition 10/12; Physically Active Living 11

Using the power of video to its best advantage this program teaches teens how to choose the right food portions for their body type and metabolism and to visualize these portions in memorable ways. The goal of this program is to teach teens how to correctly measure food portions using everyday, easy-to-understand analogies.

Portion Distortion (19 min.) Healthy Living 7/8

Using video to visualize portions, this program teaches viewers the difference between supersized portions and nutritionally correct portions. Once children understand the right food portions for their body and metabolism, they can make healthy judgments about food portions at every meal, everyday, for long-term health.

Rainy Day Recess – Primary Grades (11 min.) Health P-3; Physical Education

Enjoy the perfect indoor recess. This exercise program is designed especially for the recess break. This creative workout is divided into three equal parts—“Alphabet Boogie” warm-up, “Recess Rumble” aerobic workout, and “Follow the Leader” cool down. Features rhythmic activities utilizing all muscle groups. These easy-to-use routines are designed to be performed at students' desks.

Rainy Day Recess – Intermediate Grades (12 min.) Health 3-5; Physical Education

Maximize classroom space and have fun with this invigorating program. Students will look forward to bad weather once they've experienced the Geography Jam and other new moves. Get heart rates up to refresh students and prepare them for more learning.

Rainy Day PE (26 min.) Health P-3; Physical Education

Features aerobics to music staying in personal space with “boogie” warm-ups featuring arm movements (clapping, stretching, circling, patty cake, and swimming), body movements (arms moving with hips, trunk twisting, neck twisting), and leg movements (marching, jumping, slow jogging, double jumps, grapevine step, celebration hand jive dance). Also features rhythm activity using lummi sticks to music.

Roll Play (208 min.) Health P-3; Physical Education

Kids love to pretend, they love stories and they love getting physical. This 13-part series will engage your students in really fun physical education without having to resort to hard to understand, rule laden games. The time length of the individual segments makes them perfectly adaptable to a Quality Daily Fitness program. Although Roll Play is intended primarily as a tool for use in Phys. Ed. classes, there is a Language Arts component to it as well which could easily be incorporated into cross curricular activities. --- **NOTE: Each 16 minute episode bundles 4 x 4 minute segments.**

Education Media Library, PO Box 578, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2S9; 902-424-2440 (phone); 428-3176 (fax), email mediacir@ednet.ns.ca / website at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>.

NOTICE

Annual Discovery Awards for Science and Technology Nominations

Discovery Centre is now accepting nominations for the 10th Annual Discovery Awards for Science and Technology. **Nominations will be accepted until Tuesday, June 15th, 2012.**

The awards recognize people from universities, corporations, government and the local community whose exemplary work has helped make Nova Scotia a leader in science and technology innovation.

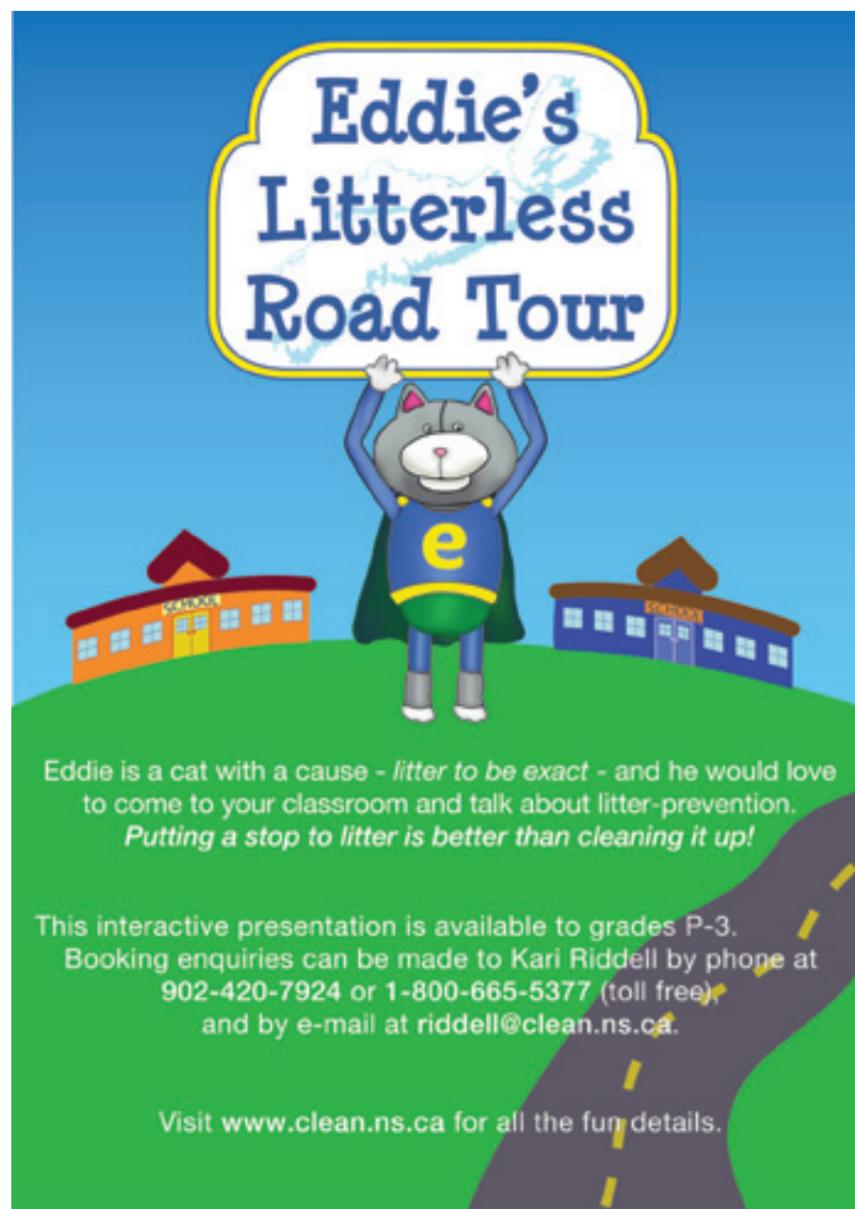
There are four award categories – Science Champion, Professional of Distinction, Innovation, and Emerging Professional. Criteria for each category can be found at <http://www.discoverycentre.ns.ca/wp-content/uploads/Criteria.pdf>.

Whether it is a new invention, an innovative study, a life-long dedication to science, or commitment to the promotion of science and technology, if you think someone made a major impact in these areas and deserves recognition the Discovery Centre wants to hear about them.

Nominations can be completed for a colleague or a personal contact. You can download the nomination form at <http://www.discoverycentre.ns.ca/wp-content/uploads/nomination-form.pdf>. Completed forms can be submitted to nominations@discoverycentre.ns.ca.

Discovery Centre is a not-for-profit charitable organization whose mandate is to stimulate interest, enjoyment and understanding of science and technology through innovative, exciting, hands-on experiences for all Nova Scotians. The Discovery Awards for Science and Technology 2012 will be held on **Thursday, November 15, 2012** at **The Marriott Harbourfront, Halifax**. You can purchase tickets for this event by calling Linda Laurence at (902) 492-4422 ext 237.

Check out the complete list of
Deals & Discounts on the NSTU Website at
www.nstu.ca



Eddie's Litterless Road Tour

Eddie is a cat with a cause - litter to be exact - and he would love to come to your classroom and talk about litter-prevention.
Putting a stop to litter is better than cleaning it up!

This interactive presentation is available to grades P-3.
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Non-members 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 smatheson@staff.nstu.ca.

NOVA SCOTIA HONOUR JAZZ helps student musicians 14-19 to the next playing level. Three weekends: professional jazz instruction, fun and friendship. One low fee. October-April 2012-13. For more info www.sangsara.com/jazz or 902.430.2635

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WENTWORTH COUNTRY HOSTEL - Experience nature; bird watching, hiking trails, snow shoeing, 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.

FOR RENT - Charming Cottage on Ingram River for Rent Fully furnished cottage, two bedrooms and screened-in porch overlooking river. Walk to Rails to Trails in minutes! Available weekly during summer or long term from September to June 2013 for \$850 per month, plus utilities. Please contact Seabright Cottage Rentals at contact@cottagesbythesea.ca

BEACH RENTAL - Beautiful 3-bedroom beach front cottage on warm Northumberland Strait, 30 min from Antigonish and New Glasgow. \$840 weekly contact for monthly rate. Steps from sandy beach. Contact Joanie 902-758-1414 or woodjo@staff.ednet.ns.ca The stunning sunsets are waiting for you!

FOR RENT - Summer cottage rental. One bedroom. Located 100 m from main residence. 12 minutes from Mahone Bay. If interested call 902-627-1777.

FOR RENT - Summer House Rental for July and August 2012. 12 minutes from Wolfville, if interested please reply to johannem@staff.ednet.ns.ca

FOR RENT - Oceanstone Resort: picturesque and tranquil retreat, 3 kms from Peggy's Cove on the beautiful shoreline of St. Margaret's Bay, NS. Full package weddings, weekend or midweek breaks, conferences large/small, meetings, bridge, art clubs etc. Accommodation and renowned restaurant 'Rhubarb' onsite. Contact: Lizzie Moore at 823-2160.

FOR RENT - Dartmouth - Summer Rental in Brightwood area, 2 bedroom home on quiet cul-de-sac available June through October 2012 - for details please email hollyj12@gmail.com

For Rent SW Florida Condominium - Tropical location! Temperatures above 23 degrees year round! Close to beaches, golf included, 2 pools, tennis, fitness centre, shopping. For details email pmccallum@hfx.eastlink.ca. Not available February 10 to May 5, 2013.

JOB SHARE - Permanent Teachers- Are you looking for a job share partner? I am an experienced, mature substitute teacher looking to share an elementary position on the Halifax Peninsula (any percentage). I have had my own classroom in the past and enjoy working with others. Please contact me at jackiesteeves@eastlink.ca and we can speak further.

JOB SHARE - 20% Sackville Junior High Resource Job Share applicant wanted. Must have resource qualifications. If interested: chartnet@staff.ednet.ns.ca

JOB SHARE - Still looking for a teaching partner? Recent mature graduate looking to job share. Please email Donna Ainslie at ainsliedonna@gmail.com

COUNSELLOR EXCHANGE? Guidance Counsellor in Cape Breton is looking to exchange positions with a counsellor in HRM for the 2012-2013 school year. A permanent exchange is possible. Counsellor must be French-speaking. If interested, please contact me at dcb222@hotmail.com.

TEACHER EXCHANGE - A permanent junior/senior high core French teacher with the CBVRSB is looking to exchange positions with a teacher from the HRSB for the 2012-2013 school year. A permanent exchange may be possible. If interested, please email erin@staff.ednet.ns.ca

TEACHER EXCHANGE - A permanent Jr.High Physical Education /Healthy Living/Science Teacher in HRSB is looking to exchange positions with a similar teacher from the CCRSB for the 2013-2014 school year. A permanent exchange is possible. If interested, please contact: cbarr@staff.ednet.ns.ca

TEACHER EXCHANGE - Permanent junior/senior high learning center/resource teacher with the HRSB is looking to exchange positions with a teacher from CCRSB for the 2012-2013 school year. A permanent exchange is possible. If interested, please contact me at burtonch@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

TEACHER EXCHANGE - An elementary resource teacher with the HRSB is looking for the same with the CBVRSB for the 2013-2014 school year. A permanent exchange is also possible. If interested, please email dl@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPY - ALLURE, 115 Portland St., Dartmouth, just up the street from Alderney Landing. Teachers are entitled to 20 massages per year per family member with Blue Cross, no referral required. Excellent for relieving stress, anxiety, muscle tension, fibromyalgia, improving sleep. Chris Bagnell RMT, 10-years experience. To contact Chris for an appointment, call 902-464-0606.



Retired Teachers Organization of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union

www.rto.nstu.ca

MEMBERSHIP / AUTHORIZATION FORM

Member Information [please print, to be shared with Branch Presidents]:

Name: _____
 Professional #: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____ Postal/Area Code: _____
 Phone #: () _____ Email: _____

Please check this box if you prefer to receive *The Retired Teacher* newsletter by email instead of regular mail.

Payment:

I hereby authorize the monthly approved RTO membership fee deduction from my Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension [presently \$3/month. I can stop this deduction at anytime by returning my membership card to the RTO. *A temporary card may be issued with the permanent card to follow.]

⇒ **Authorization Given:**

Signature _____ Date _____

Branch to which I prefer to belong [please circle only one]:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
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| Antigonish/Guysborough | Halifax [City] | Queens |
| AER-Baie Sainte-Marie [Clare] | Halifax [County] | Richmond |
| Colchester-East Hants | Inverness | Shelburne |
| Cumberland | Kings | Sydney & Area |
| Dartmouth | Lunenburg | West Hants |
| Digby | New Waterford | Yarmouth/Argyle |
| Glace Bay & Area | Northside-Victoria | Out-of-Province |

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