



Special Anniversary Edition Celebrating 50 Years



NEWSLETTER

The NTA Pensions' Committee wanted to see pensioned teachers organized as a strong arm of the Association. The specific purpose of such an organization would be to promote the welfare and concerns of this group (retired teachers).



On November 12, 1971, representatives of the Newfoundland Teachers' Association (NTA) met with thirty-nine pensioned teachers at St. Andrew's School in St. John's to consider a proposal to organize a Retired Teachers' Association (RTA). The meeting was chaired by C. Lloyd Buffett.



Members of the Provincial Executive of the proposed Retired Teachers' Association (1971):
(l-r) Mr. Walter Moore, Miss Sophie Edgecombe, Mrs. Annie Noel, Mr Walter Hudson

Provincial Executive 2021-22

PRESIDENT

Sharon Penney

PO Box 226, Victoria A0A 4G0
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President@rtanl.ca

VICE-PRESIDENT

Joseph Lafitte

10 Topsail View Park, CBS A1W 2J1
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Provincial Executive Standing Committees 2021-22

Table Officers
President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer

Benefits and Wellness
..... Beverly Fisher (Chair)

Finance Clayton Rice (Chair)
Sharon Penney, Don White

Liaison . . . Sharon Penney (Chair), Joseph Lafitte

Newsletter Don White (Chair)
Clayton Rice, Joseph Lafitte

Biennial Award Eric Ayers (Chair)
Thomas Kendell, Joseph Lafitte

Provincial Executive Ad Hoc Committees 2021-22

BGM/Reunion: Beverly Fisher (Chair)
Patricia Parsons (50th Anniversary Committee)
Sharon Penney & Eric Ayers (Liaison)
Clayton Rice & Don White (Co-Chairs of BGM)

Political Action (Coalition)
Patricia Parsons (Chair), Sharon Penney

Boundaries Beverly Fisher

50th Anniversary Celebrations
Beverly Fisher (Chair), Patricia Parsons (Co-Chair)

**NLTA Group Insurance Managers RTANL
Representative** Sharon Penney

ACER-CART Sharon Penney (Director)
Joseph Lafitte (Observer)

Tales Told by Teachers Thomas Kendell

Divisions Liaison Thomas Kendell

Foundation Liaison Eric Ayers

Provincial Executive Handbook
Don White (Chair), Clayton Rice

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From the Editor's Desk

I spent considerable time on and off throughout this most beautiful summer putting together this Anniversary Newsletter (mostly after sunset so I did get to enjoy much of the great outdoors and my garden). I sincerely thank President Sharon for her support, Treasurer Clayton for supplying me with every Newsletter published since 1971 among other tidbits, and all Division leaders who provided their historical profiles. My thanks go also to the staff at the NLTA who are always ready with support and advice. I wish to especially thank Michelle, John and Elliott, without whose help, understanding and patience, this project could not have happened. I hope you enjoy the read.




Provincial Executive: Front (l-r): Joseph Lafitte, Sharon Penney, Beverly Fisher, Patricia Parsons
Back (l-r): Albert Legge, Clayton Rice, Thomas Kendell, Don White, Eric Ayers

President's Message

Sharon Penney

Fifty years is a milestone. It is an occasion to celebrate. It is not only a time to look back, but also a time to look forward. One of the questions posed at our BGM was, "where were you 50 years ago?" I was in Grade 5; however, some of our more forward thinking retired teachers were embarking on a plan that would see the formation of the Retired Teachers' Association (RTANL). Imagine taking on the task of forming an organization to represent all retired teachers in the province. Just think of the dedication to retired teachers that would have taken and the sheer number of hours required to make it successful. I can only marvel at the pride they would feel if they could see the fruits of their labours from their initial first small steps to the organization we are today. Wow! We've gone from 30 members in 1971 to over 5500 members in 2022. My, how we have grown!

The RTANL was formed, and continues to this day to hold three philosophies as its core. They are to provide a social outlet for teachers, to advocate for retired teachers, and to provide service to the next generation. Our commitment to social engagement is manifested in our continued interactions at social events such as Christmas celebrations, Not Back to School Walk, sporting events, guest speakers, Division meetings, Executive meetings, and BGMs. Our advocacy role is advanced on many fronts. We maintain an active membership with the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers, the East Coast Retired Teachers' Organization, and the Coalition of Seniors, Retirees and Pensioners. Through our membership in these organizations, we are able to be the voice of retired teachers in interactions with government and

policy making agencies. We have a position on the Group Insurance Managers' Committee. This allows us to have direct contact with all elements of our insurance plan and to advocate for ourselves. From the seeds of a fledgling organization, we have become a mighty force. We provide service to the next generation through our Retired Teachers' Foundation for Children's Charities (RTF). Over the course of the RTF tenure, we have contributed nearly \$500,000 to children's charities in this province.

As the founders of the RTANL looked beyond themselves and saw an organization for all of us, let us move forward and make them proud of our efforts as we keep our organization working for all of us.

From the current Executive to the first Executive, and all the ones in between, we sincerely thank you for the dedication and direction you have provided to the retired teachers of this province. While we may be fifty years old, we are still a vibrant and vital element on the landscape of this province.



Retired teachers attend MUN's 100th Anniversary Celebrations at The Rooms, May 4 & 5, 2022.

Greetings from ACER-CART



Congratulations to the RTANL as you celebrate a half century of service to retired educators in Newfoundland and Labrador. Your organization is a vital and valued member of ACER-CART and we look forward to continuing our association with you as we work together to protect and enhance the lives of our members and all older adults in Newfoundland and Labrador and across this great country. The years ahead will be filled with challenges and opportunities and I'm sure that RTANL will embrace both with the skill and dedication you have shown over the last fifty years.

Martin Higgs, ACER-CART President

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Congratulations on behalf of ACER-CART to all the members of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador on reaching your 50th Anniversary. Our National Association, only 30 years old, is strong and effective because of the involvement of Provincial Members like RTANL.

I had the pleasure of attending one of your Biennial General Meetings so I have seen you in action; I would describe it as important work on behalf of your membership, accomplished in a fun, collaborative way. I left the meeting thinking that I would join that group if I didn't live on the opposite coast of Canada. You have a bright future ahead of you.

*Gerry Tiede
(Previous) President ACER-CART*

Greetings from NLPSPA



The Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors, Pensioners, and Retirees Coalition and the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Sector Pensioners Association (NLPSPA) extend sincere congratulations to the RTANL on the occasion of your 50th anniversary. The Coalition has had membership from the RTANL since the beginning, bringing wise advice, sound reasoning, and strategic thinking to all discussions and advocacy actions that are directed to achieving a positive impact on the quality of life for all retirees. The NLPSPA and RTANL have shared a mutual bond for years, are closely aligned in mission and values, are collaborative supporters to each other, and share many cross-association memberships.

We extend best wishes to RTANL for your anniversary celebrations and wish you every success in the future as you continue to represent the interests of all teachers in their retirement years.

*Doreen Noseworthy
President, NLPSPA*

*Sharron Callahan
Chair, NLPSPA*

Greetings from the NLTA



I am pleased to share this message as you come together for the RTANL's BGM 2022.

Our individual and collective experiences have been significantly impacted by the global pandemic and I am sure that you are all quite glad to be finally coming together again in-person.

Teachers have a reputation of being strong and steadfast in the face of pressure and uncertainty and, moving forward, we have a responsibility to continue our efforts for the protection and betterment of our publicly funded public education system and all who are engaged in it. The retired teachers of Newfoundland and Labrador, most of whom would have been former active members of the NLTA, are an important partner in education.

Recently, we have seen RTANL members play vital roles in our schools as many of you have chosen to step-up (out of a well-deserved retirement) to rejoin and reinforce the ranks of active NLTA members, entering into 'hard-to-fill' positions and helping to address the shortage of substitute teachers. Though the system remains greatly taxed and overburdened, these contributions have been essential

in helping to keep school doors open in this province with qualified professionals in our classrooms. Your expertise and experience have been a 'stabilizer' during challenging and uncertain times.

The NLTA has a long history of mutual respect and collaboration with the RTANL and we will make every effort to ensure this relationship continues. We see you all as community leaders who are uniquely positioned to advocate for a properly resourced education system, in solidarity with active NLTA members whose ability to engage in public discourse can be limited by the realities of the employment relationship.

We thank you for that.

I wish you all the best as you convene your formal meetings as well as take time for reconnecting, networking, and the nurturing of friendships.

Respectfully Yours in Education,

Trent Langdon, M.Ed., C.C.C.
President, NLTA



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

Our teaching professionals play an integral role in the development of our youth in Newfoundland and Labrador and it is important to celebrate your past contributions to our province.

I extend the warmest congratulations to the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador on its 50th anniversary. You all have demonstrated your dedication to providing learning tools, advice and support to shape young minds in our province. This was especially evident through your increased contributions to teaching throughout the pandemic over the past two years.

As well, I would like to thank you for the continued work, through the Retired Teachers' Foundation which has provided funding from divisions and individuals to charities throughout

Newfoundland and Labrador since the Foundation began in 1987.

I wish all retired teachers the very best for a wonderful 17th Biennial General Meeting over the next few days. Your service to the province is valued and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey

Premier



History of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (RTANL)

On **November 12, 1971**, representatives of the Newfoundland Teachers' Association (NTA) met with thirty pensioned teachers at St. Andrew's School, St. John's, to consider a proposal to organize a Retired Teachers' Association (RTA). The meeting was chaired by C. Lloyd Buffett. The following motions were put forth:

(a) MOTION: (Walter Moore/Jesse Blackmore) "That this group organize into a Retired Teachers' Association." **CARRIED**

(b) MOTION: (Cyril Bull/Ray Mercer "That Walter Moore, Walter Hudson, Annie Noel and Sophie Edgecombe be the Interim Executive of the Association." **CARRIED.**

On **November 19, 1972**, a Western Division of Retired Teachers was similarly organized in Corner Brook.

On **June 13, 1980**, a Central Division was organized in the Grand Falls-Gander area.

By the **mid 1980s**, the RTA was comprised of three Divisions (Central, Eastern and Western) plus a Provincial Council. In **March 1989**, with financial assistance from the NTA, members from the Divisions held an Organizational Meeting in Gander to reactivate the RTA. At that meeting, an Executive was elected and plans were made to hold a Reunion of Retired Teachers in **October 1990** to coincide with what would be the First Biennial General Meeting (BGM) of the reactivated RTA.

At the first BGM, the Executive Committee outlined the objectives of the RTA, explained why all retired teachers should become Members, presented a set of By-Laws for approval and urged those present to carry the information back to their Divisions. The success of this gathering was evident from a motion passed unanimously "that a Second Reunion be held to coincide with the next BGM".

Burin initially was a Regional under the Eastern Division. The first meeting of the Burin Division was held on **June 11, 1997**.

The first meeting of the Bonavista Division was held on **June 10, 1997**.

Con-Tri held its first meetings in **1991** as a Regional under the Eastern Division but became a Division in **1996**.

Coast-of-Bays held its first meeting as a Regional on **December 1, 1997** and became a Division on **June 17, 1998**.

Labrador West became a Regional under Western Division in **1998**.

Plaisance became a Regional under the Avalon East Division on **April 5, 2005**.

Tri-Bay became a Division in **May 2019**.

Stephenville became a Regional under Western Division in **October 2019**.

Historical Highlights

Membership Fees

Started at \$3.00 per year and soon increased to \$5.00 per year and at BGM 2018 a motion was passed to increase the Membership Fee to \$1.00 per pay period or \$24.00 per year.

Membership

In 1992, a Motion was passed at BGM requesting that Government make automatic deductions of \$10.00 per year from all retired teachers. This began in 1993. Any teacher who wished could "**opt out**". Membership increased dramatically. However, automatic deductions were later discontinued and retired teachers, wishing to become members of RTANL, must "**opt in**" through a Membership Request Form available at Pre-Retirement Seminars and from Provincial Executive or online: www.nlta.ca/rtanl

Name Change

In 1994, to reflect the fact that our membership included retired teachers who had taught in or belonged to the Labrador portion of our Province, the RTA became the RTANL.

Structure

The RTANL is comprised of Provincial Executive, plus a number of Divisions. As per Article VII of the Constitution, a Division may form one or more Regionals, and

such Regionals, **after one year, and with the approval of Provincial Executive**, may become Divisions.

Communication

There are at least **two** Provincial Newsletters annually to members. Between Newsletters, members are encouraged to check out new information presented on our website: www.nlta.ca/rtanl and also register with RTANL their email address(s) in order to receive any special information in a timely fashion.

Publications

A suggestion at BGM 1996 resulted in a Motion to establish a “book of memories”. The result was *Tales Told By Teachers, Volume I*, published in 1998. This is a collection of “experiences” of 98 retired teachers. It was so successful, there was a second printing, and a second volume was requested. In October 2010 at the BGM *Tales Told By Teachers, Volume II* was launched.

Political Action

This Committee was established in 2001 to lobby Government for improved benefits for retired teachers. More recently the Provincial Executive decided to join forces by providing two representatives on the Newfoundland and Labrador Coalition of Pensioners, Retirees, and Seniors’ Organization (more commonly called **The Coalition**) to advocate for all seniors.

Biennial General Meeting (BGM)

The meeting place and date of the RTANL BGM is decided by the Provincial Executive at the first meeting of its term of office. From 1990 to 2004 these BGMs were held in Gander. The ninth was held in St. John’s in 2006. Presently, BGMs rotate: Corner Brook, Gander and St. John’s.

Reunions

The practice has been to hold a RTANL Reunion to coincide with the BGM. However, the decision to hold a Reunion is decided by a vote at conclusion of each BGM.

Retired Teachers’ Foundation

The Foundation was conceived by the late C. Lloyd Buffett in 1982 and created with the assistance of the RTANL Central Division, who provided sponsorship for many years. It was incorporated in 1985 and received official status as a charitable organization in 1987. The RTANL during BGM 1994 voted unanimously to assume responsibility for sponsorship. All Divisions support the Foundation by undertaking various fundraisers (i.e. bake-

less bake sales, auctions, ticket sales on various paintings and craft items, socials, donations in memory of individual deceased members, donations) plus “lump sum” donations from Divisions in memory of all deceased teachers passing away during each year. The Sisters of Mercy also donate money upon the death of a member. Thus, each year the Foundation is able to donate approximately \$30,000 to Children’s Charities **to bring our Grand Total so far (2021) to approximately \$462,250**. Contributions may be made to the Foundation from anyone who wishes to honor the memory of deceased teachers:

Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers’ Foundation 3 Kenmount Road St. John’s NL A1B 1W1

RTANL Executives (1971 - 2021)

1971 – 1972

President – Walter Moore; Vice President – Walter C. Hudson; Members: Sophie Edgecombe; Annie Noel

1972 – 1989

President – Walter C. Hudson; Treasurer – Raymond Mercer

1989 – 1990

President – Leslie Coombs; Vice President – C. Lloyd Buffett; Immediate Past President – Walter C. Hudson; Secretary Emily Mullett; Treasurer – Maxwell Mullett; Central Division Rep – James Warren; Eastern Division Rep – Clarence Button; Western Division Rep – Jean Skanes; Member-At-Large – George W. Evans

1990 – 1992

President – C. Lloyd Buffett; Vice President – Clarence Button; Immediate Past President – Leslie Coombs; Secretary – Faye Eveleigh; Treasurer – Gertrude Thorne; Central Division Rep – Audrey Goodyear; Eastern Division Rep – George W. Evans; Western Division Rep – Gladys Costella; Member-At-Large – Maxwell Mullett

1992 – 1994

President – C. Lloyd Buffett; Vice President – Maxwell Mullett; Immediate Past President – Leslie Coombs; Secretary – George W. Evans; Treasurer – James Warren; Central Division Rep – Faye Eveleigh; Eastern Division Rep – Clarence Button; Western Division Rep – Gladys Costella; Member-At-Large – Emily Mullett

1994 – 1996

President – Maxwell Mullett; Vice President – Anita Finn; Immediate Past President – C. Lloyd Buffett; Secretary – George W. Evans; Treasurer – James Warren;

Central Division Rep – Faye Eveleigh; Eastern Division Rep – Clarence Button; Western Division Rep – Gladys Costella; Member-At-Large – William Day

1996 – 1998

President – Anita Finn; Vice President – William Day; Immediate Past President – Maxwell Mullett; Secretary – George W. Evans; Treasurer – James Warren; Members-At-Large – Gladys Costella, L. Joyce Roberts, John R. Snow, Wilson Vincent

1998 – 2000

President – Anita Finn; Vice President – William Day; Immediate Past President – Maxwell Mullett; Secretary – George W. Evans; Treasurer – Clayton H. Rice; Members-At-Large – Gladys Costella, L. Joyce Roberts, Wilson Vincent, James Warren

2000 – 2002

President – William Day; Vice President – Gladys Costella; Immediate Past President – Anita Finn; Secretary – Chris Ford; Treasurer – Clayton H. Rice; Members-At-Large – Donald G. Case, George W. Evans, Ada Hollett, Wilson Vincent

2002 – 2004

President – Gladys Costella; Vice President – Donald G. Case; Immediate Past President – William Day; Secretary – Emily Mullett; Treasurer – Clayton H. Rice; Members-At-Large – Thomasina Cleal, George W. Evans, Ada Hollett, Philip Patey

2004 – 2006

President – Gladys Costella; Vice President – Donald G. Case; Immediate Past President – William Day; Secretary – Emily Mullett; Treasurer – Clayton H. Rice; Members-At-Large – James Dobson, George W. Evans, Ada Hollett, Philip Patey

2006 – 2008

President – Donald G. Case; Vice President – James Dobson; Immediate Past President – Gladys Costella; Secretary – Don White; Treasurer – Clayton H. Rice; Members-At-Large – Emily Mullett, George W. Evans, Ada Hollett, Philip Patey

2008 – 2010

President – James Dobson; Vice President – Geraldine Wall; Immediate Past President – Donald G. Case; Secretary – Don White; Treasurer – Clayton H. Rice; Members-At-Large – Gladys Costella, Doreen Noseworthy, Ada Hollett, Philip Patey

2010 – 2012

President – Geraldine Wall; Vice President – Thomas Kendell; Immediate Past President – James Dobson; Secretary – Don White; Treasurer – Clayton H. Rice; Members-At-Large – Donald G. Case, Lil Critch, Doreen Noseworthy, Philip Patey

2012 – 2014

President – Thomas Kendell; Vice President – Doreen Noseworthy; Immediate Past President – Geraldine Wall; Secretary – Don White; Treasurer – Clayton H. Rice; Members-At-Large – Donald G. Case, Lil Critch, James Dobson, Philip Patey

2014 – 2016

President – Thomas Kendell; Vice President – Doreen Noseworthy; Immediate Past President – Geraldine Wall; Secretary – Don White; Treasurer – Clayton H. Rice; Members-At-Large – Donald G. Case, Lil Critch, Beverly Fisher, Debbie Lewis-Clarke

2016 – 2018

President – Doreen Noseworthy; Vice President – Albert Legge; Immediate Past President – Thomas Kendell; Secretary – Don White; Treasurer – Clayton H. Rice; Members-At-Large – Sharon Penney, Donald Carter, Beverly Fisher, Debbie Lewis-Clarke

2018 – 2020

President – Albert Legge; Vice President – Sharon Penney; Immediate Past President – Doreen Noseworthy*; Secretary – Don White; Treasurer – Clayton H. Rice; Members-At-Large – Eric Ayers, Beverly Fisher, Thomas Kendell, Geraldine Wall (**October 2019 Alternate Patricia Parsons became Member-At-Large when Doreen Noseworthy retired.*)

(BGM 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

2021 – 2022 (Virtual BGM)

President – Sharon Penney; Vice President – Joseph Lafitte; Immediate Past President – Albert Legge*; Secretary – Don White; Treasurer – Clayton H. Rice; Members-At-Large – Eric Ayers, Beverly Fisher, Thomas Kendell, Patricia Parsons (**May 2021 Alternate Richard Duffy became Member-At-Large when Albert Legge retired*)

The RTANL Newsletter is Now Electronic

The June 2017 issue (Vol. 28, No. 2) of the RTANL Newsletter marked a monumental shift for our newsletter as it was the last printed edition of our publication. Starting in December 2017, the RTANL Newsletter became an electronic publication. The decision to stop producing a printed copy was not an easy one; however, like many other organizations, we were faced with the reality of ever-increasing print and postage costs.

If you are currently receiving the newsletter electronically, you don't have to do a thing. If we don't have your e-mail address, please send an email to rtanl@nlta.ca. Be sure to type **RTANL Newsletter** in the subject line and include your name, mailing address and email address in your message. (You will receive a confirmation email.)

By providing your email address we can also ensure that you receive important information between newsletters (i.e. Group Insurance, Pensions, etc.)

Don't have an email address? No worries! Our newsletter is also available on our link on the NLTA website at www.nlta.ca/rtanl. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may continue to receive a printed copy by contacting: **Treasurer, RTANL, c/o 3 Kenmount Road, St. John's, NL, A1B 1W1.**

We hope you feel as good as we do about our decision to go green and we invite you, if you haven't already done so, to join us in the digital age!

Biennial Award

The Biennial Award is presented at each Biennial General Meeting through a general membership nomination process. The anonymous nominations then proceed through a Selection Committee consisting of three retired teachers from a specific Division. The award is announced at the Biennial Banquet which occurs every even year to the retired teacher: "in recognition and appreciation of many years of outstanding and selfless dedication to the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador".

Over the years, the award has been presented to the following:

2002	Eldred Warren	Con-Tri Division	2014	Geraldine Wall	Western Division
2004	Anita Finn	Avalon East Division	2016	Lily Critch	Western Division
2006	George Evans	Avalon East Division	2018	Thomas Kendell	Central Division
2008	Emily Mullett	Western Division	2020	Donald White	Avalon East Division
2008	James Warren	Central Division	2022	To Be Announced	
2010	Gladys Costella	Western Division			
2010	Clayton Rice	Avalon East Division			
2012	James Dobson	Central Division			

HISTORY OF DIVISIONS

Avalon East Division

Mary Purchase, President

Wow! Fifty years ago, a small group of dedicated retired teachers sparked an organization that is as vibrant today as it was in its inaugural year.

In November 1971 thirty retired teachers and representatives of the NTA (NLTA) met in St. John's at St. Andrew's School. At that meeting, the group organized the Retired Teachers' Association, which later became the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. The group became known as the Eastern Division of the Retired Teachers' Association. In 1972 a Western Division was formed and in 1980 a Central Division was organized. Regionals were organized as part of the Eastern Division in the Conception Bay North area and the Burin Peninsula area. After these two Regionals became Divisions, the name of Eastern Division was changed to Avalon East Division, as per Provincial Executive Minutes of June 16-17, 1998, with Clayton Rice as the first President.

The Avalon East Division runs from Colliers in Conception Bay, including Bell Island, around the southern Avalon and Placentia Bay to Long Harbour. While we have 2,097 members, we communicate with 1,044 of these, through newsletters, twice a year. In 2007, our Division sponsored the establishment of Plaisance Regional on behalf of the members in the area of Placentia. The Plaisance Regional has 74 members.

Our Executive consists of nine individuals. Our at-large members chair the visitation, social and communications sub-committees. The primary purpose of our division is to provide opportunities for members to gather together and spend time connecting in social settings.

Prior to COVID, we held at least three events each year in addition to our AGM in June. Our Fall event usually draws around 100 to 180 members; our Winter Fun Day about 100 people. Our largest gathering is our Christmas Luncheon and Craft Fair where we can see about 350



members in attendance. While we charge a fee for events to cover some of the cost, all events are free of charge to members who are 80 years of age or older.

The Division endeavours to reach out to the members of our association who are sick. We do this through cards and visits. In the event of a death of a member, we send condolences to the family when possible.

In support of the children of our province each year we donate \$3,000 to the NL Retired Teachers' Foundation for Children's Charities and \$1,000 to the School Lunch Association.

The Avalon East Division is active and vibrant and we hope to reinstate all social events in the Fall of 2022. We encourage all retired teachers within our region to consider joining the association. We look forward to the next 50 years!

Bonavista Division

Beverly Fisher, President

Bonavista Division began in 1995 as a Regional within Central Division. Our group covers the top half of the Bonavista Peninsula, from the Cape to Charleston, taking in all communities around both Bonavista and Trinity Bays.

The earliest membership records available show that in 1998 we had 56 members. In 2013 membership peaked at 102 members, but due to passings and low retirement numbers we have been holding steady around the mid 90s. At present we have 93 members, who range from the newly retired to a 94-year-old. Some members who have moved away still retain their membership and often return for meetings and/or events.

Having a small membership has its good and bad points. Fewer members means having to operate on a small budget (less than \$1000 a year), since remuneration



Ice fishing and boil-up at Clarke's Pond, 2017.

from the provincial coffers is directly related to this. However, we feel that having lower numbers and a smaller area to cover are positive factors because they allow for easier communication and familiarity with our members, and travel for events is more feasible and allows more people to attend. All our members pay their own way when events necessitate it; we use Division money to pay for entertainment at socials and rental fees for venues when needed.



Christmas Social, Skipper's Restaurant, 2017.

From 1995 to 2006, Mr. John R. Snow led the Division as President. At an annual meeting in the spring of 2006, under the guidance of Mr. Snow and then Treasurer, Mr. Edward (Ned) Mifflin, the Division elected a new, seven-person executive. Mr. Mifflin, now 94, was still an active member up to his 90th birthday. Although he has moved to a retirement home out of the area and cannot attend our activities, he is still a proud member of our Division.

2010 was a very important year for our Division. During that year we worked on, and passed, our own Division Constitution and By-laws, taking our direction from those of several other divisions and the provincial document. We also developed a new banner, the first freestanding one for any Division, which we proudly displayed at the 2010 BGM in Gander.

Our priorities as a Division are to provide a social connection for our members, to be a source of information, to provide recreational activities, and to create opportunities for community exploration and awareness/involvement. We provide learning experiences to our members by inviting speakers into our meetings or going out to explore venues in the communities for meetings. We are also a support group for our members; we send get well and sympathy cards, as well as cards for special birthdays, anniversaries, and other special events, and we form a honour guard at a member's funeral. We

encourage two-way communication between the general membership and our executive directly, or through our seven-person committee responsible for this. We also try to show our support to our school communities; we have sent cakes to the staffs of the five schools in our area for Teacher Appreciation Week, and we have donated money in lieu of venue rental to schools that have offered their rooms for meeting sites. As well, Bonavista Division contributes each year to the Retired Teachers' Foundation in memory of members who have passed away. We take the money from our funds since we have elected not to fundraise.

Our Division has a seven-member elected executive, consisting of the four table officers and three members-at-large. We have several meetings a year to plan our general meetings and activities for our membership; these meetings are held in members' homes or at a local restaurant. We also have three appointed committees, one that deals with social events (arranging for the venue and catering for our two social events each year), another that works on recreational activities (such as hikes, curling, bowling, field trips and games afternoons), and one that contacts our membership with information re activities or happenings in our Division. Our present executive and committees have remained in place during the pandemic since we have had no BGMs in which to have an election. Our present Executive consists of: President, Beverly Fisher; Vice President, Theresa White; Secretary, Sandra Carpenter; Treasurer, Frank Burt; Members-at-Large, Barbara Duffett, Peggy Duffett, and Linda Hicks.

We pattern our 'year' after the school year that we were all used to following. In the past few years, we have been trying to keep to a schedule, with an activity, social, or meeting each month. Here is an example of a 'normal' year: September – 'not back to school' hike; October – general meeting; November – bowling; December – Christmas social; January – board games/cards/darts afternoon; February – winter outing (snowshoeing/skiing/ice fishing/boil-up); March – general meeting; April – bowling; May – general meeting; June – end-of-year social. Even though we might skip some of these activities, or rearrange them, this gives us a guideline for planning our year. We try to offer a variety of activities that can cater to our various age categories, and the abilities and interests of members.

Even though it would take less than an hour to travel from one end of our Division to the other, we try to make

travel fair for our members and vary the communities and sites/venues for our activities. Most of our meetings are held in the Bonavista-Catalina area, since that is where the bulk of our members live, but we have had them in Elliston, Port Rexton, Port Union, and Upper Amherst Cove. We have held socials in King's Cove, Port Union and Bonavista. We have gone to Princeton Pond, King's Cove, Champney's West, Port Rexton, Trinity, Port Union, Tickle Cove, and Bonavista for outings, and to Clarenville for bowling, since we don't have a bowling alley in the area. Our meeting venues range from school libraries and music rooms to restaurants to hotel boardrooms to CNA to The Commons – the space housing the Regional Chamber of Commerce. Guest speakers attending our meetings have spoken on a wide range of topics that affect our membership. These include: health and safety (optometrist, pharmacist, physiotherapist, chiropractor, massage therapist, dietician, public health nurses, mental health team, dialysis committee, RCMP re safety and security for seniors); finances (financial advisor, credit union manager, bank manager, pensions and group benefits department, TPPC, lawyer – re wills, power of attorney, etc.); leisure (travel agent, author, Road Scholar representative, herb gardening expert); community (services offered at CNA, First School development, 50+ club, election candidates, UNESCO Geopark Committee, MMSB, Community Support Social Worker). Our meetings are usually held in the morning so we can have lunch together afterwards, either onsite or at a nearby restaurant. We have had hikes on many of the trails in the area, visited Geopark sites led by a guide, and walked around communities exploring their offerings. We've had 'Try Computers' nights, games/cards/darts afternoons, BBQs, winter boil-ups, skiing/snowshoeing adventures and ice-fishing trips, bowling/shopping excursions, and picnics. We

also have a group of about a dozen members who curl at the stadium on Thursday mornings, and for many years we have iced three teams in the local Funspiel.

Our Division is a community-oriented one. Over the years we have partnered with various community groups who have attended our meetings to inform us of their activities. We are recognized as a group of importance and influence in our communities and are often approached for assistance in sharing information and/or supporting a group or cause. Some of these groups are: Tip-a-Vista Wellness Foundation (taken part in their walks for mental health and addictions, and had a representative on their First School committee – Bonavista is known as having the first school in Newfoundland); Bonavista Peninsula Dialysis Committee (supported their work to get a dialysis unit in Bonavista); Garrick Theatre (we contributed \$500 to their Capital Fund when the theatre was renovating and 'rebuilding' the Theatre – the money 'purchased' a seat in memory of departed members. There is a commemorative nameplate on the seat recognizing us as patrons of the theatre. Half of the money was donated by members, other half taken from our funds); Pensioners Coalition (assisted in organizing and conducting two meetings in our area).

Since the inception of the RTANL we have had two of our members serve on the Provincial Executive – John R. Snow, member-at-large from 1996-1998 and Beverly Fisher – member-at-large from 2014 to present. In 2015 our Division was privileged to host the Provincial Executive, in Bonavista, for their spring meeting. We decided to make it a special event and planned our spring social to coincide with their visit. The social gave our members the opportunity to meet the executive and, in return, gave the Provincial Executive a chance to see our Division in action. In addition to the social, we took them on a bus tour of the town, stopping at various spots along the way to explore. It was a very successful two days and we look forward to hosting our provincial counterparts again, in the not-too-distant future.

Until recently we shared a boundary with Central Division. In 2019 retired teachers in the Clarenville area requested that we meet with them to share our experience and ideas with them as they began the process of forming a Regional within Central Division, with the ultimate goal of becoming RTANL's eighth division. Our executive travelled to Clarenville to meet with the group. At that meeting we discussed the advantages of having their own division, highlighting



Proud unveiling of our new banner, BGM, Gander 2010
l-r: Harold Tremblett, Linda Hicks, Madeline Adams, Beverly Fisher, Theresa White



Current Executive (l-r): Frank Burt, Treasurer; Linda Hicks, Member at Large; Theresa White, Vice President; Barbara Duffett, Member at Large; Peggy Duffett, Member at Large; Sandra Carpenter, Secretary; Beverly Fisher, President

the importance of the smaller membership numbers and the proximity of communities. Each of our executive members explained their role and we shared with them some of the activities that our Division has undertaken. Following our presentation, the group held their election of officers. In the spring of that year, they became Tri-Bay Division.

Since the pandemic began, we have not carried out any activities that have involved indoor gatherings or big numbers. We have had several executive meetings when it was safe to do so, and we had one hike. We have stayed in contact with our membership through emails, phone calls, and our Facebook page. We also sent out our annual report at the end of each year. We look forward to getting back to our activities once the COVID threat has passed. For now, we are ‘holding fast’, not wanting to plan activities that would put our members at risk.

Burin Division

Ada Hollett & Don White

On June 11, 1991 a group of retired teachers met and under the leadership of their first President, Lewis Payne, elected an Executive and formed a Regional under governance of the Eastern Division. The mandate of this group was to provide socialization activities for interested retired teachers in the area and to keep the group informed re any information which might be forthcoming from the Provincial Executive of the RTANL regarding pensions, Group Insurance, and other topics of interest. At a meeting of Burin Regional at St. Lawrence on November 26, 1996, a Motion was passed unanimously that we would contact the Eastern Division

requesting Divisional status. This request was forwarded to the Provincial Executive and on April 28, 1997, we were officially granted Divisional status.

The first regular meeting of the Burin Division for 1997-98 was held at the Grand Bank Lion’s Den on September 30, 1997 and the following were elected as the new Executive: President – Jamie Hollett; Vice President – Ada Hollett; Secretary/Treasurer – Neil Edwards; Past President – Ben Brushett; Sick Committee – George Brushett.

Throughout the years from 1991 to the present (2022), the following held the office of President:

- First President: Lewis Payne (1991)
- Second President: Ben Brushett (1996)
- Third President: Jamie Hollett (1997)
- Fourth President: Ada Hollett (2001)
- Fifth President: Nadine Croucher (2015)
- Sixth President: Debbie Lewis-Clarke (2016)
- Seventh President: Donna Mary Walsh (2022)

The Provincial Executive met with the Burin Division for the first time on September 17, 2003.

Throughout its 31-year history, Burin Division held several meetings each year. These meetings were held in various communities around “the Burin Boot” in order to give as many members as possible the opportunity to be present. These meetings usually included a guest speaker on topics of interest to retirees and always ended with a lunch. Various social activities were planned throughout the year such as the Heritage Walk followed by a “home cooked dinner”, the Christmas luncheon, and a year-end banquet including entertainment and a dance. Although some of our meetings sometimes had few members in attendance, social gatherings were always well attended and appreciated.

Burin Division also donated, as funds could permit, to the Retired Teachers’ Foundation in memory of deceased members. Donations were made also to schools in the area towards their Breakfast Programs.

Special efforts were made to keep in touch with retired members who might be in hospital or ill at home. Such efforts were always gratefully appreciated.

Central Division

William Kelly, President

Central Division RTANL was formed at a meeting held at Holiday Inn Gander on June 13, 1980. Two earlier attempts at formation were unsuccessful. Twenty-three members attended (there were only 30 retired teachers in the area at

that time). Mr. Walter Hudson and Mr. Myrle Vokey acted as Chairperson and Secretary at the founding meeting. Members elected from the assembled group were:

Mr. C. Lloyd Buffett, President

Mr. Roland Abbott, Vice President

Ms. Geraldine Hodder, Secretary

Ms. Faye Eveleigh, Treasurer

Membership fees were collected at meetings and would increase as expenses increased. Minutes of meetings and the President's Newsletter were sent to those who did not attend. Membership fees were later deducted at source by the Finance Department.

The Retired Teachers' Foundation (RTF) was a major undertaking of the Division. RTF, an idea of Mr. Cyril Bull, was brought to fruition by the determination and persistence of Mr. C. Lloyd Buffett. The Foundation was established and incorporated as a charitable organization and registered with Revenue Canada.

The two main objectives of the Foundation were:

- 1) To remember and honor the life and work of former teachers.
- 2) To assist institutions and groups that provide medical treatment, educational training, and social interaction for sick and disabled children.

Central Division were the sole operators of RTF for six years. All expenses were paid by Central Division. Other divisions joined after six years. The success of the RTF during its formative years was due in large part to the tenacity and commitment of C. Lloyd Buffett and the financial expertise of N. Ray Wight.

Central Division continues to support the RTF. Each year we make a donation on behalf of deceased teachers in our Division. The November meeting auction, which began in 1988, has continued until COVID-19 cancelled our auctions for 2020 and 2021.

In 1986, Mr. Frank Evans suggested we keep a Book of Remembrance as a record of our deceased teachers. Stella Gosse completed a hard cover version of the first volume. Mr. Jim Dobson and his committee completed a second edition. These volumes were placed in several libraries in the Central Division area. For several years, Mr. Calvin Wheeler has 'authored' the Book. The number of obituaries completed so far is nearing 900. Recent copies of the Book of Remembrance have been placed in the Public Libraries at Gander and Grand Falls-Windsor.

Central Division covers a large geographical area. Its boundaries once reached from Chance Cove in the East

to the Baie Verte Peninsula in the West. A few years ago, teachers in the Clarenville area formed their own division (Tri-Bay Division). Central now extends from Terra Nova National Park to the Baie Verte Peninsula (Eastport to Westport).

Coast of Bays Division

Bridget Kelly, Division Treasurer

Greetings from the Coast of Bays Retired Teachers' Association. Our current Executive includes: President Margaret Power, Secretary Georgina Meade and Treasurer Bridget Kelly. Like all Divisions, we had two years of the pandemic so there were no meetings, but we did keep in touch through messaging and emails. Like everyone else, we survived and are looking forward to seeing our colleagues.

Our Division has approximately 80 registered retired teachers and they all are in the Coast of Bays region: Bay d'Espoir (34); English Harbour (16); Harbour Breton (12); Hermitage and Sandyville (6); Pool's Cove (2); with Boxey, Seal Cove, English Harbour West and Conne River having one teacher each. Some of our teachers have relocated to other places but are still registered with our Division.

The following is some of the history of our Division which had its first luncheon meeting on December 1, 1997 with over 20 teachers in attendance and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Day. Bill was Provincial Vice President at the time. Our first Executive consisted of: President – Bridget Kelly; Vice President – Monica Willcott; Treasurer – Gord Kearley; and Secretary – Melita Barnes. I am pleased to say all four of these teachers attended our recent get together.

Over the last 25 years we tried to switch our meetings to different towns in our region but found that did not work well, so for now all meetings are now held in the Bay d'Espoir area.

We have endeavoured to remain active and involved with guest speakers attending our meetings to inform us of current updates on RTANL policies. We had the full Provincial Executive attend a local luncheon here and were finally able to match the faces to the names. We support the In Memoriam program and send a donation every year to the Janeway Foundation.

We have developed our own Book of Remembrance with our contact person, Mark Courtney, who resides in English Harbour West. Copies of this special book were

placed in town museums or libraries or Town Council offices so people in the communities could read of teachers who had taught there. This book was launched on October 7, 2008 and is updated as needed.

This is an overview of our 25 years as a retired teachers' group. We are still small in numbers, but try to remain active.

Con-Tri Division

Pauline Welsh, Secretary

Our journey to become an independent Division of the RTA (now RTANL) began in 1991. At that time, there were only three Divisions for the entire province: Eastern Division, Central Division and Western Division. We were originally included within the Eastern Division but were looking to branch out on our own. On September 25, 1991, 38 members of our area gathered at Fong's Restaurant, Carbonear for a meeting, hoping to become our own Division. Lloyd Buffett, Provincial President at the time, chaired this meeting and Clarence Button, President of Eastern Division, also attended.

Mr. Buffett informed us that the current by-laws of the RTA did not make provision for a formation of a Division within a Division but that we could form a Region within the Division. We were assured that at the BGM on October 1-3, 1992, the by-laws would be looked at closely and may be amended accordingly to allow us to form our own Division. It was then moved by Oscar Parsons and seconded by Roy Moores that we become a Region within the Eastern Division to include retired teachers from Brigus to Whitbourne via Bay de Verde. This motion was carried unanimously. The RTA agreed to give us a cheque of \$25 to cover costs of setting up our Region.



(Early Picture) l-r: Harold Dawe, Treasurer; Alex Crocker, VP; Brendan White, President; Joyce Roberts, Secretary

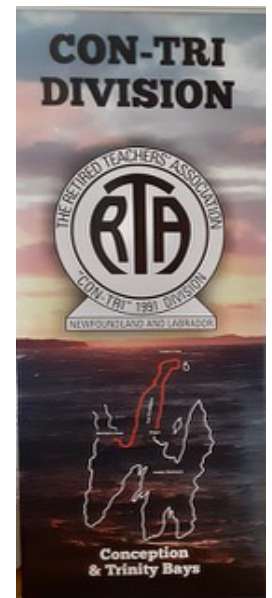


St. Clare's School, Carbonear in early 1990s

By acclamation, the executive was formed: President – Joyce Roberts; Vice President – Oscar Parsons; Secretary – Sister Josephine Kennedy; and Treasurer – Harold Dawe. The first general meeting as a Region was held on November 12, 1991, at St. Clare's High School, Carbonear with 16 members in attendance. The name Con-Tri had been decided as a suitable name for our Region since the membership extends from Brigus to Bay de Verde to Whitbourne. It was decided at that meeting that we would hold two Spring general meetings, two Fall general meetings and a closing banquet in May or June.

In November of 1994, at a general meeting, a motion was passed that our Region would petition for separation from Eastern Division and a request be made that the RTA be organized along the lines of the NLTA. A letter was written to Mr. Max Mullett, Provincial President, to present this motion. At the BGM on October 3, 1996, we were finally granted Division status by Provincial President Anita Finn and we officially became Con-Tri Division as we are known today.

Like all our divisions, Con-Tri has seen many changes over the years, but our executive continues to work diligently for the retired teachers in our division. The pandemic has greatly affected our ability to socialize and gather as a group but thanks to technology, we have been able to regularly communicate with many of our members. We look forward to brighter days and are hoping to have our first 'social' event in the coming weeks.



Con-Tri Banner

Tri-Bay Division

Cathy Bailey-Reid, President

Tri-Bay Division is the newest division of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador and therefore has a very short history. In November 2018 a meeting was held with a group of retired teachers in the Clarenville area with the Division Parameters Committee, an ad hoc committee of members of the RTANL executive. The following January this initial group held another meeting for interested retired teachers in the Chance Cove to Swift Current to Terra Nova to Lethbridge areas. Bonavista Division executive attended this meeting as well and gave a thorough overview of their operations as a division and the expectations of each of the executive roles. Elections were held and an executive was formed. The new executive met a week or so later and drafted a letter to Central Division requesting that Tri-Bay be granted regional status, which was approved shortly thereafter. The next step was to request approval to become a Division. On April 11, 2019, members of the provincial executive met with Tri-Bay executive to review important policies and procedures relating to divisional and provincial operations. On May 1, 2019, the provincial executive approved our request and Tri-Bay Division became a reality. The inaugural executive consists of Cathy Bailey-Reid (president); William Reynolds (vice-president); Colette Oldford-Short (treasurer); Pearl Martin (secretary); and Linda Thistle, Sandra Blackmore and Gail Burry (members at large). We celebrated in June 2019 with a gathering where the participants chose between hiking and bowling, followed by a social time.

In the fall of 2019, the executive was excited to get things moving with various activities for our members. We worked on increasing our active membership – creating a Facebook page and email group list to contact



Gathering June 2019

current and potential members. On November 28, we had an early Christmas Luncheon with members and some partners in attendance at the Clarenville Inn. A snowshoeing/social time gathering was scheduled in February 2020 but had to be re-scheduled to March 13 due to inclement weather. On March 13, our snowshoeing activity went ahead at Rotary Trail/Bill Davis Chalet. Later that afternoon, the town of Clarenville closed all town facilities due to the increasing concerns of COVID-19. Group gatherings have yet to resume.

The executive has kept in contact with each other and with our members via email and our Facebook page throughout the pandemic. We resumed face-to-face executive meetings in November 2021 and have made plans for group gatherings at several times. However, each time, COVID has “reared its ugly head” and we’ve chosen to err on the side of caution. This spring, we did a virtual spring activity in which members were invited to submit by email a list of activities that they have engaged in over the past months to keep themselves active physically/mentally/socially/emotionally during these trying times. We did a random draw for three prizes of \$25 gas gift cards.



Snowshoeing March 2020



Executive Members spreading the news about our new Division at Wellness Fair in Clarenville, October 2020

We are currently finalizing our Constitution/By-laws and are designing our division banner. We have invited members to submit photographs which represent each of our three bays which we will use in a collage on our banner.

Western Division

Geraldine Wall, President

Western Division covers the largest geographical area in the province. Its boundaries extend from Deer Lake West to Port aux Basques, Southwest to Ramea, the entire Northern Peninsula as far Northeast as White Bay, and all of Labrador. The Division was founded at Corner Brook on November 19, 1972. The founding President was C.M. Taylor. Records from that era are unavailable. Members who were involved during that time have long since passed on. The information available to us is from the early 1980s to present.

Origins

During the mid 1980s Western Division of the RTA was part of a Special Interest Council's group under the umbrella of the NTA, with financing coming from the NTA. Western received a grant of \$200 at that time. This was later revised based on membership numbers and Western Division then received \$250. Active Members paid an annual membership fee of \$2.00 to the Division. Members were advised that these fees were voluntary and that no member would be excluded for not paying the fee. We have come a long way since then. Following the organization of the Provincial Executive of the RTANL, the Division receives annual funding from the Provincial Body which is based on membership numbers. In 1987 the Membership was 188 and presently we have 1211. Having such a large membership has its advantages

financially; however, it is much more difficult to keep in touch with the membership.

Western Division has always been a very active group. The main focus has been the welfare of our members. In the early years, meetings were held at various locations free of charge. Locations have included First United Church Parlour and various schools throughout the city. Dinner meetings were usually held at Holiday Inn. During the early years each General Meeting was often followed by a sing-along with a member providing the accompaniment. Guest speakers were frequently invited to do presentations on topics of interest or concern to the membership such as: pension indexing, increase in pension for older members, power rate increases, services available to all seniors, Political Action, etc. Opportunity was also provided for members to mingle and make new acquaintances, as well as connect with old friends.

Activities of the Division

In recent years Executive Meetings are usually called three times a year, or at the call of the President if an issue arises needing attention. These meetings have been held in the Community Room of Sobeys, free of charge. General Meetings are held twice a year, Spring and Fall. These meetings have been preceded by a luncheon or meal. Locations for these meetings vary from time to time. Locations that have been used are Glynmill Inn, Holiday Inn, Bennett Hall, St. Micheal's Church Hall, Corner Brook, Anglican Church Hall at Deer Lake, and Anglican Church Hall at Stephenville.

Socials

Two social events are usually held each year, Spring and Christmas. From the 1990s onward, socials have included a luncheon held on St. Patrick's Day with Irish music; another luncheon was followed by entertainment by a local musician. The Christmas Dinner and Dance has been our most popular event for many years. A meet and greet time is scheduled prior to the meal. A hot meal is served, often the traditional turkey dinner, which is followed by a dance. In recent years Disco music has been provided at a very reasonable cost. This event receives high praise from the Membership. It is held either the last Saturday in November or a Saturday in early December. It sets the stage for the Christmas Season.

Visitations

A member of the Sick Visiting Committee will visit members in the immediate area who are in hospital or shut in at home. A fruit basket, a floral arrangement or a gift card will be delivered during that visit. We



Present Executive (l-r): Shirley Dawe, Libby Alexander, Theresa Dollimont, Roberta Pafford, Geraldine Wall, Maxine Reardon, Selina Pieroway, Lil Critch

ask that our members advise us of any member who is sick or shut in so they can receive a visit. Just prior to the Christmas season, members of the Committee or an Executive Member will visit our long-term care homes and retirement homes to deliver a poinsettia to the member as well as stay and chat. This is one of the most rewarding activities. It is always a pleasure to meet these people. On our most recent visit one of the newest members burst into tears when she saw us and repeated over and over that she could not believe her Association would do that for her. Her joy made it all worthwhile.

Newsletter

During the 1980-90s Western Division published a Newsletter Spring and Fall. Communication was much more difficult prior to the electronic era so the Newsletter was a much appreciated form of communication for all members. It was especially appreciated by members who lived outside the immediate area. Content of the Newsletter included Division News, committee reports, dates of future meetings, social activities, copies of Meeting Minutes, and articles submitted by members. In 1991 the Constitution for Western Division was drawn up based on the Provincial Constitution. Copies were mailed out to each member with the Newsletter. During 2016-17 our Division completed an update of our Constitution which was accepted at our annual meeting on October 10, 2018.

Communications

Often the first communication that a member will have from the Retired Teachers' Association will be when they attend their Pre-retirement Seminar. Division Presidents are given the opportunity to speak to members at the seminar to provide information about our goals and activities. Retirees are invited to join and encouraged to complete the application form included in their retirement package. President George Rose was the first President of Western Division to be invited to speak. In 1990 Emily Mullett took the responsibility of communicating to members in our vast Division. She divided our Division into 18 areas with two contact people in every region. Contacts were asked to visit any member who was sick or shut in and bring an appropriate gift. Receipts are submitted and the Division will send a cheque for the cost incurred. If a member is in hospital outside the area, that contact could notify the Division and a visit would be arranged. This Committee also makes contact with the Division when a member passes. A sympathy card will be sent from the Division, and the Executive will arrange a visit to the funeral home. Following the death of a

member, we contact the family of the deceased member to receive approval for us to provide an Honour Guard as a sign of respect for the deceased member and the family. Christmas cards are sent to contact persons at Christmas time. Western Division was the forerunner on this method of communication. The thoughtfulness of this gesture has been very well received. Members of other Divisions have complimented this method as an excellent way to be inclusive of all members. Emily remained Chairperson of communications until her passing in 2014. She attended her last meeting on Monday and passed away on Saturday of that week. Emily was a dedicated Member, indeed.

Donations

During the Annual Radiothon for Western Memorial Hospital, a donation of \$500 is presented to be used for Pediatric needs. The first donation was made in 2000. The first donation to the School Breakfast Program was made in 2001. Recipient schools are chosen from a different region of the Division each year. Six schools have been chosen for the past two years of COVID-19 restrictions. This gave the Division an opportunity to spread some cheer during these trying times and at the same time help the children. Each school received \$300, which was gratefully received.

School Donations for 2020:

Belanger Memorial, Doyles
Canon Richards Memorial Academy, Flower's Cove
J.J Curling, Corner Brook

School Donations for 2021:

St. Peter's Academy, Benoit's Cove
Jens Haven Memorial, Nain
Labrador Straits Academy, L'Anse Au Loop



Donation to Lourdes School (l-r): Mernie Meiwald, Glenda Belbin, Lorraine Gillingham, Lil Critch, Roberta Pafford, Geraldine Wall, and local teacher who attended the presentation



Donation to RTF (l-r): Lil Critch, Geraldine Wall (Foundation Chairperson), Wayne Park, (Western Division President)
Back Row (l-r): Selena Pieroway, Roberta Pafford

Each year our Division makes a donation to the Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation. Since 2019 the Division has increased the donation from \$3000 to \$5000. Of course, the amount of the donation is determined by funds available that year. The donation this year, 2022 will be \$5000.

The Annual Bakeless Bake Sale has been our greatest Fundraiser since it started in 2000. It was so well received that another Division asked if they could use the idea. It is a Western Division idea that provides funds which are donated to the Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation. That project raised approximately \$7300 in 2020. The 2022 Bakeless Bake Sale is ongoing again this year and promises to be another great success. All funds received go directly to the Foundation.

In the Fall of 2018 a Member from Hopedale, Henry Jensen and his wife Sarah, donated hand crafted slippers and mittens to be used as a fundraiser. This project was carried over to 2019 just before the beginning of the Pandemic. Tickets, 2000 of them, had already been printed. This was a Western Division Project and the Foundation Board of Directors was based in Western Division. The decision was made that we would continue as planned within COVID-19 restrictions. We were assisted in ticket sales by the other Divisions, family and friends. Many tickets were mailed to friends who were quite willing to assist. All tickets were sold and we added that \$4000 to the Foundation donations for 2020 also.

Western Division has been a stalwart supporter of the Foundation for the past twenty years. Assisting such a worthy cause has given much satisfaction to our members who have made this possible. We have received very positive comments and financial support

from our members. During the COVID-19 lockdown we were unable to get together to prepare for our Bakeless Bake sale. Members were asking when we would be starting again.

Regionals

Western Division has two active Regionals at this time:

Labrador West Regional was founded in 1998 and has continued to be active. Sadly, our president, Jean Kelly, recently passed away. We are hoping to find a member to fill that position. This has been a vibrant Regional for many years. In April 2000 the RTANL Provincial President at that time had the opportunity to drop in on a regular monthly breakfast meeting while she was in town to attend the funeral of a family member. It was wonderful to meet the members in person.

Port aux Basques Regional was founded in 2003. This Regional became inactive because they were unable to find a replacement when the president moved out of the area. We were sad to lose that connection.

Stephenville Regional was founded in 2019. Theresa Dollimont is president. This new Regional had just begun and was excited to get started when restrictions were imposed because of COVID-19. They had already sold tickets for a planned social. They are eager to get started again. We look forward to attending their events.

Outreach Activities

It is very rewarding to meet with members outside the immediate area. Our first meeting was held outside the immediate Corner Brook area. A luncheon meeting was held at Stephenville in 1991. Since that time we have met twice with these members. We have met several times with members in the Deer Lake area for a delicious luncheon planned by members of that area. An evening Meet and Greet was held in Cow Head. Executive Members had an overnight stay.

Luncheon meetings were also held at Rocky Harbour and Port aux Basques. President Francis Reardon toured Costal Labrador to meet up with Members of that area.

Tales Told By Teachers, Volume I

The seed was planted for this project during a General Meeting of Western Division in the mid 1990s on a motion from Amy Nicolle, a member from Rocky Harbour. It was compiled by members of Western Division. Gladys Costella was editor. The other team members were: Max Mullett, Emily Mullett, Doreen Spencer, Lil Critch, and Wilson Vincent. This was a very successful venture and sold out very quickly. A

second edition was printed and sold out as well. It is still in demand but no copies of Volume I are available. The project was supported by the Provincial Executive who supplied funding.

Division Presidents

Eric Fisher (1982)
Christopher Stratton (1983)
Leslie Coombs (1987)
George Rose (1989)
Gladys Costella (1992)
Wilson Vincent (1996)
Geraldine Wall (1998)
Lil Critch (2005)
Francis Reardon (2009)
Wayne Park (2015)

Provincial RTANL Presidents from Western

Leslie Coombs (1989-90)
Maxwell Mullett (1994-96)
Gladys Costella (2002-04, 2004-06)
Geraldine Wall (2010-12)

National Association ACER-CART

Maxwell Mullett, President (1992-94)

Other RTANL Provincial Executive Positions

Geraldine Wall, Vice President (2008-10), Past President (2012-14, 2014-16), Member at Large (2018-20)
Gladys Costella, Member at Large (1998-2000), Vice President (2000-02), Past President
Wilson Vincent, Member at Large (1996-98, 2000-02)
Lil Critch, Member at Large (2010-12, 2012-14, 2014-16)
Emily Mullett, Secretary (2002-06), Member at Large (2006-08)

Awards

The Order of Canada Award was presented to Mrs. Eugenie Fillier in 1983 for outstanding service to the teaching profession. Mrs. Fillier was a member of Western Division from Roddickton.

RTANL Biennial Award

This Award is presented to a member in recognition and appreciation for many years of outstanding and unselfish dedication to the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. Members of Western Division receiving this award:

Emily Mullett (2008)
Gladys Costella (2010)
Geraldine Wall (2014)
Lily Critch (2016)

Division Award for Dedicated Service

This award was presented by Western Division to members who have given years of dedicated service to Western Division.

Emily Mullett (2004)
Gladys Costella (2005)
Geraldine Wall (2007)
Lily Critch (2010)
Roberta Pafford (2022)

Western Division has always been a vibrant and active organization. Unfortunately, in recent years participation in our activities has declined. Also, we are unable to access the names of new retirees because of privacy. Prior to this, we always contacted teachers after they retired inviting them to join the Retired Teachers' Association. Moreover, this is a different generation, and now when people retire, they have different priorities. Then we were hit with COVID-19, and everything was put on hold. It will probably be difficult to "get back in the swing of things" when this is over. However, with the gradual lifting of restrictions, we expect many of our members are looking forward to getting back to some form of normality. We are planning our annual fall meeting in September and hoping to elect a new slate of officers which, we hope, will revitalize our Division. We expect Western Division will soon revert to its former status as a strong component of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.

We look forward to being the Host Division for the Biennial General Meeting of Provincial RTANL, October 4-6, 2022 at Corner Brook. We have hosted previously in 2008 and 2014. We welcome all members who will attend. We hope this event will be as successful as the two previous.



President Geraldine Wall presents Roberta Pafford with the Western Division's award for unselfish and dedicated service to the Division

Retired Teachers' Foundation

by *Bev Fisher*

I'm sure most of you are aware that the RTANL has its own charity – the Retired Teachers' Foundation. You've seen its reports in Newsletters and you've heard members talk about it in meetings and maybe in conversations, but how much do you really know about 'the Foundation'?

The RTF was set up in 1983 by the Central Division to honour the life and work of all retired teachers. It is a Canada Revenue Agency regulated children's charity with funds raised being given to institutions and groups that provide medical treatment and/or educational training for children who are incapacitated. The funds are generated by annual lump sum donations from our Provincial RTANL and its eight Divisions, individual donations from members and friends, and In Memoriam donations for deceased members. Some Divisions fundraise and donate the proceeds to the Foundation, others have elected to donate money from their share of member fees and some do both.

Since the 1994 BGM the RTANL has been sponsoring the Foundation, and all Divisions play an active role in supporting its mandate. The provincial body covers any expenses incurred by the Foundation (stationary, postage, travel for meetings, etc.), since all funds raised by the RTF are given to charities. The Foundation is run by a volunteer board of retired teachers. Prior to 2018 the board was elected at each BGM, with members coming from all over the province. At the 2018 BGM, it was proposed that the board be made up of volunteers from a particular Division, to make it easier for members to get together for meetings and, as well, to save on travel costs. Western Division volunteered to take the reins, followed by Con-Tri Division in 2021. At the 2022 BGM we will be looking for another Division to take over the running of the RTF. If anyone in your Division would be interested in taking on such a role, please let President Sharon Penney know and she can get you the information you would need to form such a committee. Five people would be needed for the board.

Since 1987 the Foundation has donated approximately \$462,250 to children's charities in our province. Our recipients are registered charities, and the Foundation assists them in reaching their goals. To avail of these donations the charities must apply to the Foundation and meet the selection criteria that are in place. Some of the charities that have benefited from our donations in recent years are the War Amps CHAMPS program, Down Syndrome Society, Canadian Diabetes Camp Douwanna, CNIB Youth Orientation Program, Mazol Shriners for the Patient Transportation Fund, Rainbow Riders, and the Candlelighters Camp Delight.

If you wish to make a donation in memory of a retired teacher, or anyone for that matter, you will be given a tax receipt and, if you wish, the family of the deceased will be advised of your donation. Donation cards should be available at funeral homes; your Division President should also have some on hand, or can arrange to get some, if you wish to donate.

The RTF has another role, that of managing the **Books of Remembrance**. The Books of Remembrance were made to commemorate the lives of deceased retired teachers. A memorial page is dedicated to each teacher and contains biographical information, and a photo, provided to the Foundation by the family of the deceased teacher. At present there are six of these books, which are arranged chronologically by year of death. Book One (1986-1998), Book Two (1992-2000), Book Three (2001-2006), Book Four (2000-2010), Book Five (2005-2010) and Book Six (2018-2021). The Books are housed at The Rooms in St. John's, in the Provincial Archives Division. If some time you are visiting The Rooms you can have a look. Since 2018, all submissions have been recorded for online viewing as well. For more information on the Books of Remembrance, to submit a biography of a deceased teacher, or to view the online book, go to www.nlta.ca/rtfrooms/ or www.nlta.ca/rtf-remembrancebook/

Retired Teachers' Foundation Contributions to Children's Charities 1987-2021

(Compiled by Clayton Rice and Don White)

Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount
1987	\$300	1996	\$2500	2005	\$9000	2014	\$24,000
1988	\$600	1997	\$3000	2006	\$19,500	2015	\$28,000
1989	\$1200	1998	\$3000	2007	\$15,500	2016	\$28,000
1990	\$1500	1999	\$4000	2008	\$19,000	2017	\$28,000
1991	\$1500	2000	\$4000	2009	\$19,000	2018	\$30,000
1992	\$2000	2001	\$4600	2010	\$20,800	2019	\$37,500
1993	\$2500	2002	\$5000	2011	\$24,000	2020	\$30,000
1994	\$2500	2003	\$5250	2012	\$22,000	2021	\$28,000
1995	\$2500	2004	\$10,000	2013	\$24,000	GRAND TOTAL: \$462,250	



It was both heartwarming and emotional to be part of the appreciation expressed on behalf of the recipient groups and their children. It indicates to all members the impact that their Foundation has on these children. To quote one of our recipients: **"I'm just like everyone else when I'm riding a horse, because it takes me places that my wheelchair could never do."** Donations from our Foundation continue to help provide this type of experience.

The Section which follows contains reprints from a booklet "*Reflections 1890 – 1990 Pride in the Past*" printed by the Retired Teachers' Association (RTA) in 1990. Many of these trail blazers have passed to their rest; however, during this our 50th Anniversary Year, we wish to honour their leadership and their legacy.

Those of us who know the history of the NTA fully appreciate the service rendered by those who went before us; we can proudly wave our banner and proclaim: *Pride in the Past, Strength in the Present, Faith in the Future*. In this booklet, the retired teachers – all of whom are Life Members of the NTA – wish to salute those members who, in our opinion, made significant contributions to the teaching profession and the NTA during their long careers. We record the contribution of both those who have passed on as well as some who are still with us and have a lasting interest in both the NTA and the RTA. We have not been able to mention everyone by name, however, because it has been difficult to obtain complete records. We are sure there are many who made tremendous contributions of time, energy and ideas to the growth and progress of our Association. In fact, we are certain if they were all listed and their contributions recorded, much more space would be required to contain the information.

Brief History of the RTA (RTANL) The First Twenty Years

The record shows that the first attempt at organizing the Retired Teachers' Association was made on November 12, 1971. On that date, 30 retired teachers met at St. Andrew's School in St. John's to consider a proposal for organization. The presence of several retirees from outside St. John's was proof that there was a widespread interest in this proposal. Miss Christina Bradley and Mrs. Sadie Stoodly (now deceased) from Grand Bank, Cyril Bull from Eastport and Ray Mercer of Bay Roberts were among those present.

In his Foreword to the first edition of "A Handbook for Retired Teachers in Newfoundland and Labrador (1984)", Bill O'Driscoll, a former Executive Director of the NTA, had this to say: "When Lloyd Buffett and I returned from a National Pensions Conference in 1970, we were confident that the idea of an organization for our retired members was a good one. While growth was slow and it took us almost 10 years to cover the major portion of the Island part of our Province, those of us who were present when Walter Moore made the initial motion were convinced that this Association would grow and prosper. This has happened and over the years our Retired Teachers' Association, through its three divisions, has served our retired members well through ongoing efforts to improve the financial status of retired teachers and by assisting in the fostering of social relationships."

The initial meeting was also attended by Gilbert Pike (President of the NTA), C. Lloyd Buffett (Chairperson of the NTA Pensions Committee), William O'Driscoll (Chief Executive Officer of the NTA) and Ms. Lillian

Bouzanne (NTA Communications Officer). The meeting was chaired by C. Lloyd Buffett. Following the introductions and a discussion on the purposes and objectives of a Retired Teachers' Association, the following motions were put forth:

(a) MOTION: (Walter Moore/Jesse Blackmore)

"That this group organize into a Retired Teachers' Association." **Motion Carried.**

(b) MOTION: (Cyril Bull/Ray Mercer) "That Walter Moore, Walter Hudson, Mrs. Annie Noel and Miss. Sophie Edgecombe be the Interim Executive of the Association." **Motion Carried.**

This group went on to become what is now the Eastern Division. Shortly after the formation of the above group, Mr. Gilbert Pike and Mr. Lloyd Buffett went to Corner Brook and organized what is now the Western Division. Having two groups of retired teachers organized in the East and West, it was considered necessary to form a Provincial Executive body that would coordinate the work of both groups. This happened and Walter Hudson became its first Chairperson and Ray Mercer its first Secretary-Treasurer. Both remained in these offices until March 1989, when the Provincial Executive Committee was reorganized by a delegation of 30 delegates.

The Central Division was not formed until June 13, 1980. At least three attempts had been made to organize the retired teachers in Central Newfoundland. The first attempt took place in Grand Falls with only three retired teachers present: Leslie Duffett, Tom Blackmore and

Hayward Burden. The second attempt was made on September 17, 1975 with no better success. Myrle Vokey, Director of Professional Development of the NTA and Walter Hudson, President of the Retired Teachers' Association, were present for this meeting. Retired teachers attending were Mssrs. Everett Whiteway and Abe Gillett and Mrs. Ruby Boone. It should be noted that at that time there were only 30 retired teachers residing in Central Newfoundland from Grand Falls to Buchans. The third attempt to organize in Central Newfoundland was also spearheaded by Myrle Vokey and Walter Hudson. This time a survey of retirees had been made prior to the meeting. As a result, 23 retired teachers met in Holiday Inn in Gander on June 13, 1980. Following some discussion, the following Executive Committee was elected:

C. Lloyd Buffett, President; Roland Abbott, Vice-President; Geraldine Hodder, Secretary and Fay Eveleigh, Treasurer.

The Provincial Executive of the RTA is now looking at the possibility of forming a third Division on the Burin Peninsula.

The objectives of the Association are:

- (a) To maintain and increase professional and social contacts.
- (b) To keep informed on developments in education.
- (c) To maintain a liaison with the Newfoundland Teachers' Association.
- (d) To furnish recommendations and advice to the Provincial Executive and other committees of the Newfoundland Teachers' Association on matters affecting welfare of retired teachers.
- (e) To speak for retired teachers on matters that affect them by virtue of the fact that they are retirees in society. Positions that may be developed on such matters (e.g. Medicare, drug costs) need not be granted approval by Newfoundland Teachers' Association.
- (f) To improve the financial status of teachers retired under the Newfoundland Teachers' Pension Act.
- (g) To encourage our members to be concerned with and become involved with social issues which affect our society.

Walter C. Hudson **(First President of the Provincial Council of the RTA)**

Walter C. Hudson, a former President of the NTA and the first President of the Provincial Council of the RTA, has had a long and remarkable career as a teacher in

Newfoundland. Being born at Blackhead, Conception Bay, November 15, 1908, Walter received his early education at the Blackhead High School but had to go to the United Church College, St. John's in order to get Junior Matriculation - the equivalent of Grade XI. He began teaching at Coley's Point in January 1930 after completing a semester of Teacher Training at the Normal School.

Like many other sons of fishermen, Walter had considerable experience in harvesting and curing the codfish when he worked with his father and others during the summer months after school and between his stints at university. In this way, like others, he financed himself through university, attending Memorial College for a couple of years and then on to Acadia University to eventually obtain both a B.A. and a B.Ed.

His teaching career took him to Bay Roberts and Carbonear where he was principal of the Elementary School, St. John's as principal of Parkin's Academy and also as high school subject teacher at Prince of Wales College, St. John's. In order to broaden his teaching experience, he spent a few years as subject teacher at Horton District High School, King's County, Nova Scotia.

Demonstrating outstanding qualities of leadership, he became President of the Students' Representative Council (SRC) while at Memorial University College in 1938. In 1951 he was elected President of the Newfoundland Teachers' Association for a two-year period. This was just after Newfoundland entered into Confederation with Canada and the advent of a Provincial Government which was anxious to raise the standards of education in this Province. The first Minister of Education, Samuel J. Hefferton, had been President of the NTA from 1943 to 1949 and had great sympathy for the struggling Association. Soon after entering office, the new government, prompted by Mr. Hefferton, granted statutory membership to the NTA and began deducting NTA fees by payroll check off. This meant more money for administration than the NTA had ever seen. And more money meant more responsibility and the urgency of better service to teachers right across the Province. It also meant that Walter Hudson's term of office was a very busy one when innovation and new services were the order of the day.

In 1976 the NTA honoured Walter C. Hudson by making him an Honorary Member of the Association. He is also a Life Member of the Canadian College of Teachers.

In addition to teaching as his profession, Walter has served on many community and church boards. One of which he can speak with great pride is the Newfoundland Public Libraries Board on which he served for 30 years, five and one-half as Chairperson. In December 1980 Walter was honoured by the Public Libraries Board for his years of service and was presented with a scroll, the first ever to be presented by the Board. In paying tribute to him at the presentation,

Anne Hart, then Chairperson of the Board, said: "...on the occasion of your completing 30 years of service to libraries in this Province, your colleagues on the Newfoundland Libraries Board wish to acknowledge this significant contribution and to record the deep appreciation of members of the Board as well as library staff and patrons throughout our Island home."

Yes, Walter has served his professional association and his fellow man exceedingly well. No one who knows him well will dispute that. Since retiring, and as President of the RTA for a number of years, his greatest concern was about the welfare of retired teachers who retired when salaries were low and consequently received small pensions compared to those received nowadays - pensions that have been eroded by inflation during the past 20 years and more. This is still one of his greatest concerns and he feels that neither the NTA nor the government is doing justice to the senior retired teachers of this Province.

Having recently attained the age of 80 years, he lives with his wife in an apartment in St. John's. They were blessed with one daughter and four granddaughters. We wish Walter and his wife continued good health and happiness for years to come.

C. Lloyd Buffett (President)

Born at Fortune, Fortune Bay, Lloyd got his early education there in a one-room school but went on to do Summer School Courses and then four years at Memorial University from which he graduated with a B.A. (Ed.) (1956) and a B.A. (1970). He taught at Moreton's Harbour, Deer Lake, Corner Brook, St. Anthony and Grand Falls. In June 1978 he retired from teaching spending nearly 40 years in the profession. During his teaching years he was active in NTA as Secretary of the Humber Valley Branch for several years, President of the Exploits Valley Branch for three consecutive years and Secretary for another couple of years. He was a delegate to NTA Convention

15 times and served on the Provincial Executive for nine years. While on the Executive he served on Table Officers, Finance Committee, Pensions Committee, attended three CTF AGMs and eight Inter-Provincial Conferences on Teachers' Pensions. Since retirement he has been President of the Central Division for 10 years and during that time was a representative on the RTA Provincial Executive Committee.

Clarence B. Button (Vice-President)

Clarence was born and educated in John's. After further studies he obtained a Diploma of Education from Memorial University College, a B.A. from Dalhousie and an M.A. from Columbia University, New York. He was a classroom teacher, a guidance director and principal of Prince of Wales College, later United Junior High. He is the President of the Eastern Division of the RTA, Vice-President of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland, President Newfoundland Hearing Association, Past President - Cabot Chapter Canadian College of Teachers, presently the Newfoundland and Nova Scotia Representative on the Canadian College of Teachers' Council, Past President of Kiwanis Golden "K" of St. John's, a Fellow of the Canadian College of Teachers and a Past President of V.O.N. St. John's.

Leslie Coombs (President)

Leslie was born at Shoal Cove West, Strait of Belle Isle and completed his early education there to Grade XI. This was followed by Summer School and Teacher Training at Memorial University College. After teaching for a while, he did another three years of study at Memorial which, with summer sessions at Acadia and Mt. Allison, qualified him for a B.A. (Ed.) in 1952. Having been awarded a St. George's Lodge Fellowship by McGill University, he studied at that university for a year and continued studies at Toronto University from which he graduated with an M.A.(Ed.) in 1955. Leslie began teaching in 1941 in the one-room school in which he received his early education and stayed there for three years. He also taught at Long Pond, Manuels, Curling, Park St. School, Corner Brook. In 1956 when the Regional High School (now Herdman Collegiate) opened he became the vice-principal. Later he became principal, District Superintendent of the Amalgamated System in Corner Brook and eventually Superintendent of the Bay of Islands Integrated School System. He retired on June 30, 1981 after completing

41 years in the teaching profession. Since retirement Leslie has served as Treasurer and President of the Western Division of the RTA and President of the Provincial RTA from March 1989 to October 1990.

George W. Evans (Western Division Representative)

George began teaching at Grand Bay West in 1944 where he taught for two years and then on to Plum Point for another two years before going to Memorial University for two years, 1948-50. Prior to that, George had done Summer School Courses at Memorial College. In 1950 he went to Channel-Port aux Basques where he taught for two years before returning to Memorial University for another two years and a B.A. (Ed.) degree in 1954. Then it was back to Channel Port aux Basques for another two years. Between 1958 and 1963 he acquired a B.A. degree from MUN and an Ed.M. from Boston University. In the meantime, he was vice-principal and then principal of Queen Elizabeth High School in Foxtrap and Supervising Principal of the CBS Integrated School System until 1971 when he became vice-principal of Elizabeth High until his retirement in 1983. In addition to the usual extra-curricular activities in school and out, George served with the Army Cadets for 22 years and for his outstanding service was awarded a CD.

George has been on the Provincial Executive of the RTA since March 1989.

Gladys (Burton) Costella

Gladys retired in June 1989 after teaching high school for 33 years, the last 20 being at Herdman Collegiate, Corner Brook. Her involvement in the NTA began at MUN when she became the Publicity Officer of the newly formed NSTU. She was Secretary of the Humber Branch for five terms and President for four, founding President of Appalachia and Labrador West Branches and member of the NTA Provincial Executive for five terms. In 1988 Gladys was a recipient of the Bancroft Award which was in recognition of her work as a teacher and a member of the NTA. Since retirement she has been actively involved in NTA affairs by being Vice-President and Professional Development Officer of the Humber Valley Branch, Chairperson of the Branch Founder's Day Committee for Centennial Year and Vice-President of the Western Division of the RTA. Also active in community organizations, Gladys has been a member of the Corner Brook Playmakers, one of the founding members of Carol Players, a founding member and former President of the Corner Brook

Chapter of University Women, a founding member and once Vice-President of Corner Brook Status of Women, for two years one of the two Newfoundland Representatives to the National Anti-Poverty Organization, and a member of the Board of Directors of Theatre Newfoundland for three years. Gladys has a daughter Natalia, a son Bill and one granddaughter Kayla – all currently residing in Corner Brook.

Maxwell Mullett

Maxwell Mullett, B.A (Ed.), B.A. (Mt. Allison and, M.Ed., (MUN). Max lives in Corner Brook, and retired in June 1985 after 36 years of teaching service, both as classroom teacher and principal of high school grades, 21 of which were spent at Corner Brook. In March 1989 he was elected as Treasurer of the Provincial RTA, which position he held until the first Bi-Annual AGM of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador in October 1990. He was then elected as Member-at-Large for the Provincial RTA. During his teaching career, Max served as Secretary of the Greenspond-Deadman's Bay NTA Branch from 1951-55 and as President of that Branch for 1957-58. He was also President of the Clarenbridge Branch of NTA from 1961-62 and Vice-President of Humber Branch from 1968-69.

Max served in World War II with the 166th (NFLD) Field Regt. From 1942-45 and with the Herdman Collegiate Army Cadets, 2590 from 1968-88. He was born and received his high school education at Wesleyville, Bonavista Bay. Max is married to Emily (Wicks) Mullett.

Fay Eveleigh (Secretary)

Fay was born at Joe Batt's Arm where she attended school up to Grade XI. She then went to Summer School and later to Memorial University College for Teacher Training in 1944. In between teaching appointments, she continued studies until she attained a Grade IV Teaching Certificate. After teaching for 32 years, Fay retired in 1977.

Since retirement she has travelled extensively in USA, Jamaica, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, the Mediterranean, Spain, Norway, Sweden, and British Isles. She wrote the "History of St. Martins Church" (Gander). Being a charter member of the Central Division of the RTA, she served as its Treasurer for the first seven years. She is also a volunteer worker with several community and church organizations. In her spare time she paints, writes and does a lot of needle work.

Gertrude (Baker) Thorne

(Treasurer)

A native of Corner Brook, Mrs. Thorne got her early education there and in St. John's. She began teaching at Botwood in 1948. The remaining years of her teaching career were spent at St. John's and at Grand Falls Academy (Primary Division) from where she retired in 1986.

Mrs. Thorne has been active in both church and community affairs by holding offices in the Canadian Bible Society, the Carmelite House Board of Directors where she is presently the Pastoral Chairperson, and the Hospital Auxiliary of which she is a Past President. She is also the founder of Privatrim – a spiritual weight loss community support group. In October 1990, she was elected to the office of Treasurer of the RTA.

Married to Stanley Thorne, she and her husband now reside in Grand Falls-Windsor.

Audrey L. Goodyear

(Central Division Representative)

Audrey represents the retired teachers of the Central Division on the RTA Provincial Executive. She is also the Secretary of the Central Division of the RTA. She began her teaching career in the Anglican sole-charge school in Port au Port with pupils from Grade I to Grade XI. She has taught at Lark Harbour, Curling, Windsor, Corner Brook, Stephenville and Grand Falls. In the latter place she taught for 13 years before retiring in June 1984. She is very busy in her retirement but spends a lot of time reading and travelling. She says that the highlight of her retirement years was the Retired Teachers' Reunion held October 1990 where she met former teachers and friends she had not seen for 30 years.

Normal School Training

Prior to 1920 and in many cases after that date, the majority of teachers in Newfoundland had little if any training before taking charge of a classroom. The major denominations conducted schools of a very high calibre in St. John's around the turn of the century but many of the teachers came from abroad. In the outports, the classrooms were, in many cases, makeshift and contained very few facilities other than a chalkboard, slate and pencil. The lack of an adequate supply of teachers meant that many communities had no schools and it was not uncommon for a teacher to teach in one community for a few months and then

move on to another for the remainder of the year so that the children could at least get the opportunity to read, write and do some ciphering. The authorities of the denominations were always on the lookout for bright children who had some promise of acquiring an education if given a chance. Consequently, many a young person was encouraged to come to St. John's to attend school for a few months in order to be able to go to some isolated community and take charge of a school. As can be imagined the standard of education at that time was very low. It was, therefore, agreed to set up a Normal School so that teachers of all denominations should have some common standard of training.

The first Normal School classes were held in the Synod Building in St. John's. There were two semesters each year. Those who attended from the first of September up to Christmas went teaching, usually in some isolated outport, for the balance of the school year. The second semester, with a new class of prospective teachers, was held from early January until about the last of April. The graduates were then sent off to other outport communities to teach from May up to the end of August.

When Memorial University College on Parade Street was opened in 1925, the Normal School classes were held in that building. It was not until several years later that teacher-training classes were conducted for a full university year from September to May. In addition to these Normal School classes, Summer School sessions were held so that teachers could upgrade their education. The first Summer School sessions were held in 1917.

First Retired Teachers' Reunion October 1990

On the evening of Tuesday, October 2, 1990, almost 300 persons – retired teachers, their spouses and guests – converged on Hotel Gander for the First Reunion of Retired Teachers in Newfoundland and Labrador. Organized by the Central Division of the RTA with the approval and blessing of the Retired Teachers' Executive Committee, this reunion, which had been advertised in the NTA Bulletin four times beginning with the December 1989 issue, brought together retired teachers of all ages and from all parts of the Province. There were also some, we are glad to say, from outside this Province. It was good to see a good number who had been retired for 20 years or more. They were just as enthusiastic as those who have been retired for only a couple of years.

Following registration and supper, a get-acquainted social was held with a wine and cheese party. Following that, there was an unrehearsed variety concert consisting of recitations, readings, music, singing, skits and dancing - quite a variety indeed. It was a great time, thanks to all those who came prepared to have fun.

One of the highlights of Wednesday morning, October 3, was the keynote address by Sister Dr. Mary Nolasco Mulcahy. Sister Nolasco, as most of us fondly refer to her, is a Newfoundlander who has achieved many levels of education and inspired many teachers who have been her students at Memorial University and the University of Ottawa. As usual her address was inspirational and well received, especially by those who had not previously come under her influence.

The second speaker of the morning and following coffee break was Mr. Keith Coombs, President of the NTA. Mr. Coombs brought greetings and also gave us an update on the state of the NTA Pension Plan. Following his opening remarks, he answered several questions from the floor. In his address, he had relieved many of our concerns. It appears that those teachers who are already retired will not lose any of the benefits that they presently enjoy. Our main concern is that there may not be any more ad hoc increases to offset the cost of living. The first half of the afternoon session was devoted to a discussion centered around questions relative to our changing society. Despite the inadequate facilities for group discussions, there was a lot of enthusiasm for the subject. It proved that, even though we may be retired from the classroom, we are still very much a part of our society and the communities in which we reside. Retired teachers are very much concerned about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations.

In the second half of that afternoon, about 300 persons congregated in St. Martin's Pro-Cathedral for a worship service of thanksgiving. This was a very appropriate part of our agenda since we were, indeed, commemorating the Centenary of the Newfoundland Teachers' Association.

The guest speaker at the banquet, which took place in Hotel Gander that night, was Mr. Edward Smith, principal of the Springdale Campus of Central Newfoundland Memorial College. Ed, a former classroom teacher and high school principal, is a well-known columnist, author and after dinner entertainer. His speech was very humorous and was enjoyed by all.

Following the after-dinner speech, there was a dance with music provided by Derm Coady. Coady knows how to select the music for us oldsters and tone it to our aging ears. It was just marvellous. Thursday morning, October 4th, was given over to the bi-annual meeting of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. Here the usual reports of an annual (in this case a bi-annual) meeting were presented and duly received. Three resolutions were proposed, debated and carried. They are as follows:

Resolution No.1: That we, the RTA, strongly urge the Provincial Government to pay back the millions of dollars that it owes the Teachers' Pension Fund;

Resolution No.2: That the Retired Teachers' Association request the Premier and the Provincial Government to oppose actively the proposed Goods and Services Tax;

Resolution No.3: That this Association have another reunion in two years' time to coincide with the next bi-annual meeting.

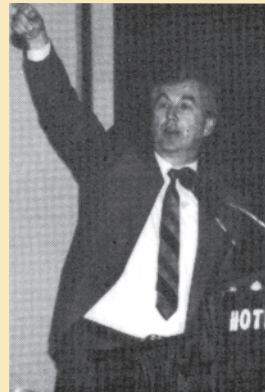
All retired teachers who attended this reunion had the opportunity to participate in this meeting by proposing motions, debating the issues and voting. In other words, it was an open meeting to all retired teachers and not controlled by delegates. This proved to be quite satisfactory, especially since we shall meet in this way only every second year. Moreover, our funds are limited and we cannot very well afford a designated number of delegates from each of the Divisions. We are all retired teachers who are interested in our Association and the welfare of each other regardless of where we reside.

The evaluation sheet collected at the end of the reunion gave us several good suggestions for improving the agenda and streamlining the procedures. We shall put your suggestions into effect when we plan the next reunion and bi-annual meeting of the RTA. The Executive Committee members elected at this bi-annual meeting for the next two years are shown in the picture at right.

We are very grateful to the Central Division for planning and organizing this reunion. A great deal of work went into it and they are to be commended. Without the help of the NTA, and especially the staff of the NTA Print Plant, this reunion could not have been as successful as it was. Most of the printing for the three-day sessions was done at the Print Plant and free of charge. We say thanks to all who helped us in any way.



A scene from the variety show.



Ed Smith, the after-dinner speaker, spots some of his former colleagues.



A skit: Max remembers his old girl friends in the back.



Lloyd Buffett proposes a toast to the NTA.



Sister Nolasco delivering the keynote address at the Retired Teachers' First Reunion, October 3, 1990.



The RTA Executive Committee for 1990-1992:

Front row (l-r): Clarence B. Button, Vice-President; C. Lloyd Buffett, President; Audrey L. Goodyear, Central Representative; Gertrude Thorne, Treasurer.

Back row (l-r): Leslie Coombs, Past President; Gladys Costella, Western Representative; George W. Evans, Eastern Representative; Fay Eveleigh, Secretary; Maxwell Mullett, Member-at-Large.



Keith Coombs, President of the NTA addresses the Retired Teachers' First Reunion.

Teaching in Rural Labrador in the Recent Past

by Matthew Pike

Editorial Note: The following article by Matthew R. Pike gives us an understanding of what things were like in small schools and small communities of Labrador and parts of Northern Newfoundland only a few decades ago.

In the 1940s there were very few well qualified teachers on the coast of Labrador. Lance au Loup, however, where I grew up, was fortunate enough to have two excellent male teachers from Newfoundland. With their help, I finished Grade X in June 1948 and received my diploma in October of that year.

Because there was no one qualified to teach Grade XI at Lance au Loup in 1948-49, and because there was a need for a teacher in the lower grades, I started teaching that year at Lance au Loup without Grade XI or any teacher training. This gave me the opportunity to earn some money so that I might go to St. Bon's in St. John's for Grade XI.

My first charge was a one-room school with classes from Beginners to Grade VIII with an enrolment of about 20 students. The room was heated by a pot-belly stove fuelled by wood supplied by the parents who took turns in keeping the supply in adequate amounts. On Friday afternoons classes were dismissed early. Why? Because that was cleaning day! Students copied down their homework from the blackboard and the ladies then came with buckets, scrub-brush and a bar of Sunlight soap to clean the well-worn wooden floor - not hardwood but Spruce or Fir. This did not require a full afternoon, so classes were dismissed only half an hour earlier than on other days.

The pay during my first year of teaching was only \$40 a month, but at that time it was a large sum. Others were not making nearly as much. I was thrifty, however, and

saved enough money to take me to St. John's and St. Bon's for Grade XI the following year.

Having successfully completed Grade XI, I spent the summer of 1950 teaching at Black Tickle, Labrador. That was quite an experience. It was not uncommon in those days for isolated communities to have schools open during the summer months, especially if they had not had a teacher for the regular teaching months from September to June.

My "chool at Black Tickle was a small building of about 12 feet wide and 20 feet long. There were no desks as we know them in a well-furnished classroom. The improvised desks were merely board shelves fastened to the wall. The pupils sat on a long bench which was fastened to the floor. As you can no doubt visualize, the pupils all faced the wall except when standing as a class before the teacher or copying work from the blackboard. A far cry from the modern schools of today.

My second notable experience was in the spring and summer of 1957 when, after university, I undertook to teach at St. Paul's, Newfoundland from May to August. The conditions were very much better here than at Black Tickle.

Most of my teaching career took place at West. St. Modeste, Pinware and Lance au Loup. May 24th, Queen Victoria's birthday, was always observed with a holiday. This was not just a "day off". Celebrations were organized with the big feature being a parade through the village flying the Union Jack and singing the "Three Cheers". Times have really changed a great deal in the past 20 years or so.

Those earlier years, despite the hardships and lack of adequate facilities, were most certainly enjoyed. My experience has taught me that no difference what your vocation in life, there are always bright days and some not so bright.

In my early years of teaching, although somewhat isolated from the mainstream of activities, I became interested in the Newfoundland Teachers' Association; and when the opportunity knocked at my door, I became involved in that professional organization. In October 1969 I helped form the Northern Light Branch of the NTA here in Southern Labrador and in the following spring of 1970, I represented that Branch at the NTA Convention held in Gander. That was my

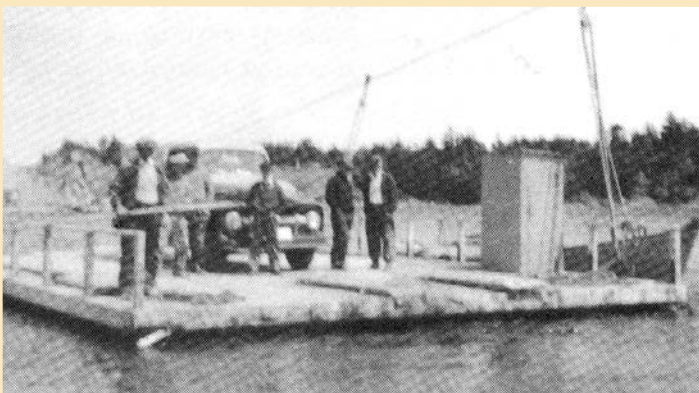


St. Paul's, Newfoundland, 1957.

first opportunity to attend an annual convention and for me it was a memorable time.

Back at Lance au Loup, Labrador I initiated the off-campus courses for my fellow teachers. I still do some substitute teaching, but during the past three years I have been involved in the Marine Institute giving a three-week course to fishermen in “Managing Your Fishing Enterprise”. This has taken me up and down the coast as far as Rigolet.

Remembering that this is the 100th anniversary of our great Association, I salute the NTA and all my colleagues. Best wishes to all retired teachers for a fulfilling retirement and many happy years to come.



Mode of transportation across St. Paul's Inlet



Pupils, West St. Modeste, mid 1950s

Matthew R. Pike was born in West. St. Modeste, Labrador in 1930. He got his early education as far as Grade X at West. St. Modeste and Lance au Loup and, after teaching for a year, went to St. Bon's for his Grade XI in the late 1940s. In between teaching appointments, he attended Memorial University and eventually attained a B.A.Ed. For his outstanding performance as a teacher under difficult conditions and for his great interest in the NTA he was awarded the Bancroft Award in 1985, the year in which he retired.

Life in Newfoundland 100 Years Ago

Excerpts from a diary kept by Justinian Dowell while teaching at Change Islands

APRIL 1890

Wed. 2 - No seals! Mail dispatched for St. John's. I issued my first order for Poor Relief.

Sat. 5 - Raining the whole day. I have no wood. I managed to get a little for Sunday by beating up an old punt.

Thurs. 17 - Very rough and unpleasant. A good share of snow fell during the past night. The schooner “British Lion” left Fogo for Belle Isle to secure trap berths. I was shoe mending after school.

Mon. 21 - Sharp frost the past night. Relieving cases of distress is a rather troublesome affair at this time.

Wed. 23 - Ice broken up as far as Ragged Rock. The S.S. Neptune leaves St. John's for North with mail today. Received mail from Fogo about 5:00 p.m.

Thurs. 24 - Strong breeze from S.W. Bight getting clear of ice. Mailmen went on for Twillingate this morning.

Fri. 25 - Hard frost the past night. F.C. Earle gone to Fogo in punt. I paid E.E. Hyde \$1.00 as my subscription to the Family Herald for the ensuing year.

Mon. 28 - Mail received 7 p.m. King brought it from Fogo. It came by S.S. Neptune.

MAY

Thurs. 1 - Dave Hoffe gave me a bit of an exhortation in the evening concerning the payment of school fees. S.S. Neptune passed by going South. I received Northern mail.

Mon. 5 - The boys are trying to make things unpleasant for me. They made an attack on John Torraville today, accusing him of locking the church door at the time of service. Of course, it is a false charge.

Sun. 11 - Rev. Chamberlain got down from Herring Neck last evening. Conducted services today.

Mon. 12 - The first fleet of schooners and boats left for the bays this morning. Mr. Chamberlain gone home.

Thurs. 15 - Ascension Day. Morning service at the church. Shem Oake and I had a bit of a stand back about school affairs. Some garden seeds sent me by Mr. Rolls, MHA. Reached me by Mr. Dalton.

(cont'd.)

Sat. 17 - The Schr. British Lion returned from Belle Isle. They left this a month ago.

Mon. 19 - I have been bothered all day giving out garden seeds. I wish Mr. Rolls would give it to some other person.

Tues. 20 - Jesse Troke and others are here from Dog Bay. They took the garden seeds. A schr. Belonging to Twillingate bound up the bay was capsized by a squall near Ragged Rock. She did not sink so she was towed to this place and righted.

Fri 30 - Received mail about 8:30 a.m. I had a few lines from Mr. LeMessurier and from the Postmaster General, both on mail business. The Board of Education held a meeting in the evening concerning some school matters.

JUNE

Tues. 10 - I sowed some oats and barley before school. The latter part of the day was cold and unpleasant and some snow fell. The women scrubbed up the church and schoolroom, but they had a very unpleasant time for it.

Sun. 15 - Quite a number of icebergs in sight. I had Sunday School both morning and afternoon. Service at church as usual. A deacon named Godden left this for Gander Bay today. He is to stay there a few days to prepare the children for the Bishop's visit.

Tues. 24 - I baptized Andrew Elliott's child (only a few hours old); name - Edmund. I sent some mail matter to Gander Bay by John Squires. Just after Squires took it, one of the sawmill hands called for it.

Thurs. 26 - Andrew Elliott's little child died about midnight. I had a suit of serge clothes at Hodge's, \$3.00.

Mon. 30 - I was gardening before school. George Chaffey left for Labrador 1 p.m. but it was too moderate for him to get anywhere - he dropped his anchor on Sculpin Rock. (The wind came from N.E. in the evening and the schooners that left came back.)

JULY

Tues. 1 - Schooners left for northward. Thomas Elliott had 3 qtls, of fish out of his trap.

Mon. 7 - There is a report today that there is a case of diptheria in Eli Hoffe's family. I hope it is not true. I was at work in the garden before school. Making out some quarterly returns in the evening to be sent to Mr. Lockyer.

Sun. 13 - I was called up early this morning to baptize two infants of Jonas Peckford's - names Phoebe and Henry. One of them, Phoebe, died today. Service at church conducted by Mr. Chamberlain.

Tues. 15 - Lucy Elliott was taken very ill the past night. Dr. Malcolm is up here from Fogo to see her and others. I had a Prayer Book of Rev. Chamberlain's from Walter Torrville. Paid him for it, 30q.

Sat. 19 - Mary Louisa, daughter of Henry Gatehouse, died last evening of consumption. The poor girl has been ill for some time. Tom Duder came here in a small steam launch. She went again and left him here.

Mon. 21 - Rain during past night made crops look quite fresh. The schr. Lady Agnes left this for Fogo. Arch Elliott is at North End taking in some things of Joe's to take to Quirpon. Steam launch called here and took in Tom Duder for Seldom-Corne-By. Robert Cave's wife at our house, going to Pилley's Island via Fogo.

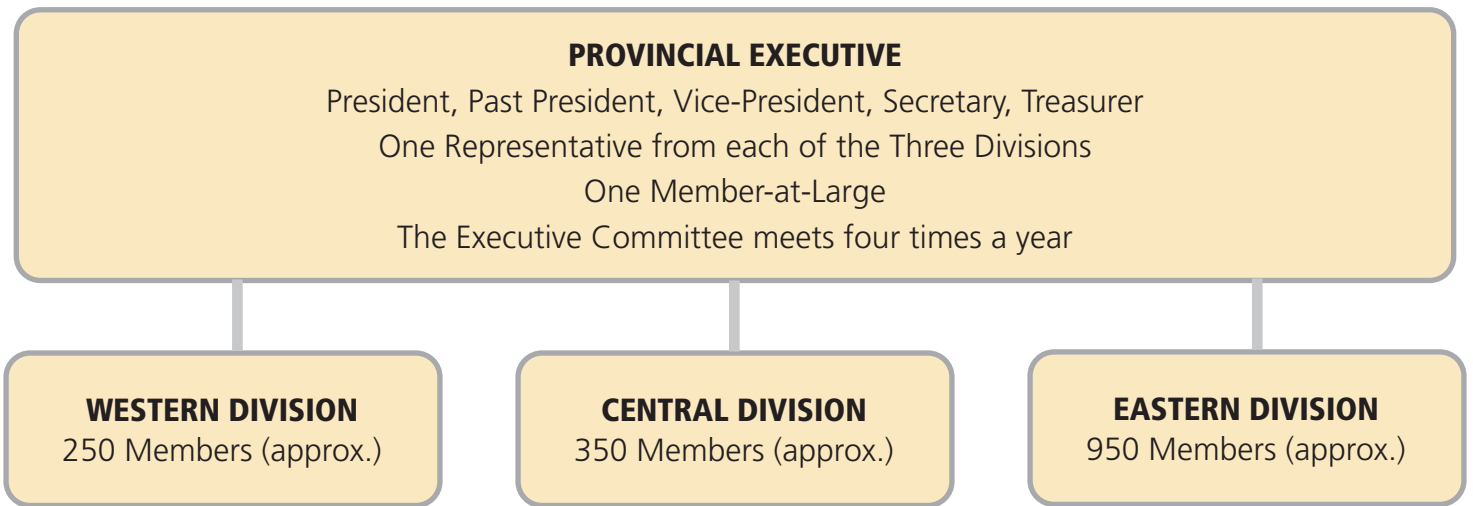
Mon. 28 - Earle's steamer left this for Comfort Cove. King took the mail at about 8 p.m. John Newell, school teacher is here on a visit. He called at our house in the evening. Webb, the lobster man owes me 40¢ postage and does not seem inclined to pay it. Thomas Scammell arrived from Labrador well fished. He reports others as having done well.

Tues. 29 - Benjamin Torrville's schooner arrived in the evening. He did not do very well - was only on the upper part of Labrador and did not strike the fish well.

Submitted by Jean Seaward, Great-Granddaughter

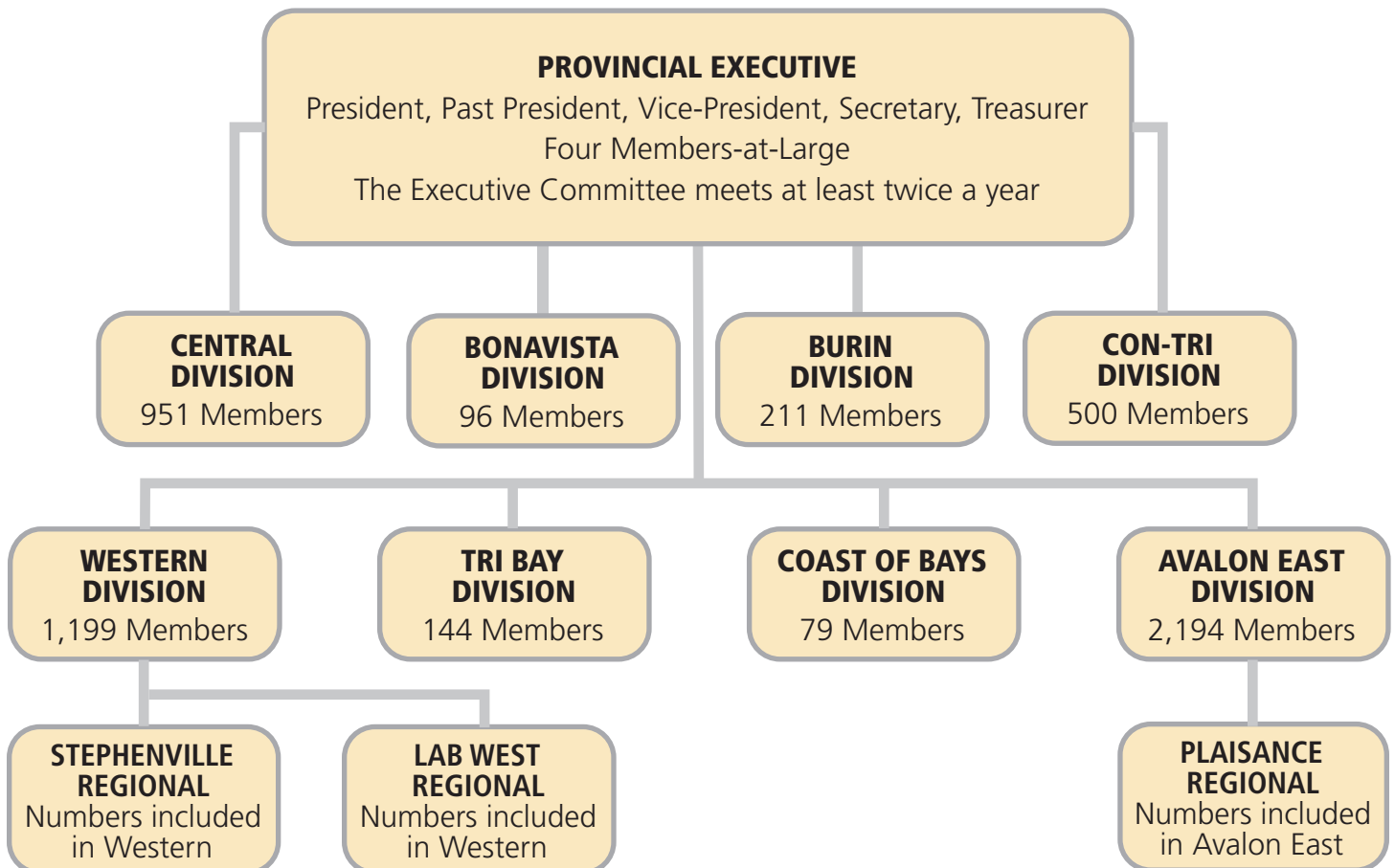
Organizational Structure of the RTA (RTANL) 1971–1992

Total Membership: 1,550



Organizational Structure of the RTANL 1992 to Present

Total Membership: 5,374 (as of July 2022)

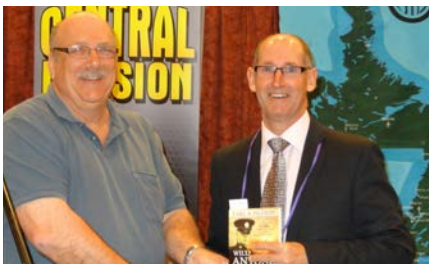


BGM & REUNION ST. JOHN'S OCT. 2-4, 2012





**BGM & Reunion
Corner Brook
Sept. 30 -
Oct. 2, 2014**



BGM & REUNION, ST. JOHN'S, OCT. 2-4, 2018

