

RTANL AVALON EAST DIVISION

KEEPING IN TOUCH

August 2021

WELCOME BACK

Wow! What a year and a half it has been...lockdowns...travel bans...social distancing requirements...mask mandates...distance learning... and on and on and on! It is encouraging that Newfoundland and Labrador is at Alert Level 2 and at this alert level we are able to consider gathering together again following all Public Health Guidelines. It is our hope that this year we may be able to support some social gatherings for our membership.

Fellow retirees, let me take a minute to introduce myself. I am Mary Purchase. I retired in 2012 after 32 rewarding years in the classroom, in administration and at the District. Since my retirement, I have been involved with the RTANL and at our annual general meeting in June I accepted the challenge of becoming your president for the next two years. I would like to acknowledge and thank our past executive for their hard work, dedication and commitment to making the RTANL Avalon East Division the best association it can be. To Nina Beresford, Barbara Young, and Cynthia Fardy thank you. To our new executive members; Brian Whitty, Patsy Levesque, and Pam Bry, thank you for stepping forward to work with us.

I look forward to working with you over the next two years.

Mary D. Purchase
President

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We extend sincere appreciation to our Social Committee:

Co-Chairs: Elizabeth Hamlyn and Denise Barbour

Members: Judy Prim, Sandra Harnett, Carmel Strong, and Sue Wade

It's been a long 18 months since Covid 19 cancelled all social activities as we once knew them. Now that health restrictions are being lifted and members are vaccinated, everyone is anxious to reunite and gather with old friends. Your social committee has been working hard to plan a safe return to social interaction within our division.

Upcoming Events

Picnic in the Park – Sept.14, 2021

- Bowring Park Bungalow
- 10:00 AM
- Cost \$10.00 (members)
- Cost \$20.00 (guests)
- Aerial Performance by Olivia Goodridge
- Register by Mon. Sept.1, 2021

Christmas Luncheon - Tentative Date

- December 6, 2021
- Details to follow



If you are aware of any newly retired teachers who will not receive this first newsletter, please invite them to join us at our initial event for this year.

Picnic In The Park

Our fall event for this year is a departure from our usual Octoberfest due to the uncertainty of Covid 19. We have planned an outside event with the anticipation that most members will feel comfortable attending. Our picnic in the park will be held mid- September.

Come to relax and socialize in socially distanced small groups on the lawn of Bowring Park Bungalow while listening to background music from the 60s and 70s. Feel free to mingle, wander about, take a stroll, lie back or enjoy a change of scenery on the Bungalow verandah. At noon a bagged lunch will be served and we will be entertained by a local aerialist. In addition, there will be the usual prize draws.

To ensure your comfort, **bring your favourite lawn chair or blanket**, and be sure to dress for the weather. There is a minimum of 26 parking spaces on the Bungalow premises. These are reserved for members with mobility issues. Indicate your need on the registration form and you will be provided with a code to allow your vehicle access to the park. We encourage carpooling as both parking lots outside the park are also available to the public. The Bungalow provides us with use of the inside dining area and the patio verandah, both with limited numbers due to Covid 19 restrictions, as well as their bathroom facilities and the lawn area.

Should this event be cancelled due to inclement weather, our association will absorb the cost of the event and your cheques will not be cashed. For this reason, we can only accept cheques for this event. Please check your email the morning of the event. If we need to cancel, we will notify you via email that morning.

Let's hope we are blessed with a beautiful day!

Hope to see you all at the Picnic in the Park!

Christmas Luncheon

We realize that our members look forward to our Christmas Luncheon and that for many of us it signals the start of the Christmas Season. Please keep December 6, 2021 on your calendars as we are working with the Holiday Inn to plan a safe event. We know at this time that it is not advisable to have our traditional Craft Fair due to social distancing limitations. Watch for a mini newsletter in November for further details and registration forms should be able to proceed with the luncheon.

VISITATION COMMITTEE:

We regret to inform you that several members of our division have gone to their eternal rest since the circulation of our last newsletter. Members of the visitation committee, in communication with Clayton Rice of our provincial body, have made a concerted effort to keep in touch with the families of our deceased members. Once again, on your behalf, cards of sympathy have been mailed to family contacts. May our departed colleagues rest in peace.

Get well cards were sent to a few of our members who have had surgery or are undergoing medical treatments. Wishing you all a speedy recovery.

We wish to extend cheerful greetings to our colleagues who are presently living in retirement or longterm care homes. Once restrictions are lifted we plan to resume our visits.

Please make contact with a member of the executive if you know of a member who would welcome a visit.

Committee Members:

Gloria McDonald (CBS and surrounding areas)	email: gloriam9@eastlink.ca	229-7061
Sharon Reddy (St. John's)	email: sharon.reddy@nf.sympatico.ca	579-8169

OBITUARIES

We extend our Deepest Sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased colleagues who have passed away since our last newsletter.

Sister Cyprian Bouzanne
Sister Corona Wyse
Flora Boyd
Edna Harris
William Abraham
James Garland
Raymond Rose
Diane Hawco
Ruby Denney
David Bartlett
Sister Colette Ryan
Sister Chrysostom Brennan
Morley Whitt

Rest in Peace Colleagues

BUSINESS

AGM June 8, 2021

On June 8, 2021 we held our Annual General Meeting at the Sandman Hotel. Thank you to Nina Beresford, Past President of Avalon East, and Betty Lou Kennedy, At-Large Member of Avalon East, who assisted with our Election of Officers for 2021-2023.

We would like to introduce our new executive.

Executive

President	Mary Purchase	364-9287	marypurchase@nf.sympatico.ca
Past President	Wanda Hand	763-5281	wandahand64@gmail.com
Vice-President	Brian Whitty	219-5766	whittybrian@gmail.com
Treasurer	Pam Bry	739-5751	pambry@icloud.com
Secretary	Patsy Leveque	689-0724	patsyleveque@gmail.com

At-Large Members:

Visitations	Sharon Reddy	579-8169	sharon.reddy@nf.sympatico.ca
Social Co-Chair	Elizabeth Hamlyn	745-3537	ejhamlyn1@gmail.com
Social Co-Chair	Denise Barbour	364-6049	da.barbour@hotmail.com
Communications	Betty Lou Kennedy	754-0784	bettyloukennedy156@gmail.com

Plaisance Regional

Since 2007, Avalon East has supported the Plaisance Regional group under the direction of Carmelita Traverse who formed the group with fellow retired teachers in the Placentia and surrounding area. They could then plan their own activities without having to travel to St. John's. They usually have two social events per year. If you live in this area and would like more information, please contact Carmelita at carme_traverse@yahoo.ca.

Important Notice – Keeping in Touch

We can officially say that we are now an online edition. Print copies will be mailed by special request. Since 2017, we issue two newsletters –September and January. To receive them in your 'inbox' or your 'mailbox' you must let us know your choice, if you haven't already done so.

To receive our newsletters online, email your request to: **rtanl@nlta.nl.ca**.

In the subject line, type: RTANL- Avalon East Newsletter.

Include your full name, postal address for our records, and your email.

To receive print copies by mail, send your request including your full name and complete postal address to:

RTANL- Avalon East Newsletter
c/o 3 Kenmount Rd.
St. John's, NL
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Message for Newfoundland and Labrador Historical Society

One, two, three, four
History opens many a door.
Five, six, seven, eight
Teachers help to make it great.

Membership, at an annual fee of \$40.00 includes:

- Free subscription to NQ, A Cultural Journal of Newfoundland and Labrador (previously known as the Newfoundland Quarterly, established in 1901);
- The annual series of lectures on NL history subjects, currently through the ZOOM platform, but returning in 2022 to in-person presentations with Zoom connections for those too far from St. John's or otherwise unable to attend in person;
- Short conferences or colloquia, such as "Encounters with the Wolf" about Confederation (1999), " Captain Cook Symposium" (2012), and Beaumont Hamel & Beyond" (2016); and
- A collegial assembly of persons with an interest in Newfoundland and Labrador history including the general public, students, teachers in the longest established NL cultural organization (founded in 1905).

Visit www.nlhhistory.ca for application forms and further information.

Newfoundland and Labrador Historical Society
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