

# RTANL AVALON EAST DIVISION

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter 2024

Happy New Year to All!

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends and that the New Year brings you good health and happiness.

We were delighted to see so many of our members at our Octoberfest and Christmas Luncheon. Thank you to the planning committee for organizing these events. We look forward to seeing you at our Fun Day in March and at our Annual General Meeting in June of this year.

This year is an exciting one for our Division as we will be forming the volunteer board for the Retired Teachers' Foundation (RTF). Since its inception in 1987, the RTF has contributed an amazing total of \$461,750 to children's charities in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Foundation itself does not raise money. It is through the donations and support of the RTANL, each of the seven divisions, and all its members and friends who donate so generously to the Foundation that those contributions are made possible. We are looking forward to continuing this important work. At our Annual General Meeting in June, we will be proposing a five-person slate of officers for the board. If you are interested in serving, please contact a member of our executive.

Mary D. Purchase  
President

Our Executive:

<b>President:</b>	Mary Purchase
<b>Vice President:</b>	Brian Whitty
<b>Secretary:</b>	Marlene Audeau-Joyce
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Pam Bry
<b>Members At Large:</b>	Betty Lou Kennedy Sharon Reddy Paula Redmond Sandra Shepherd

### Upcoming Events

#### Fun Day

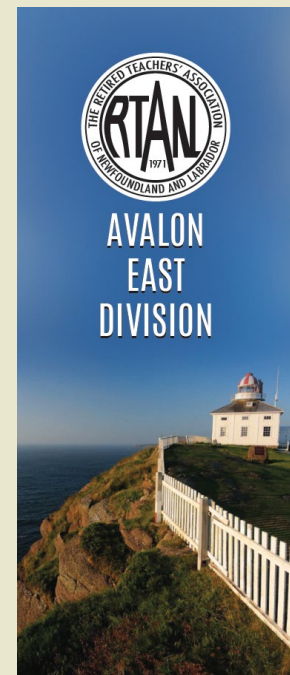
**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

- RCAF Club, Roosevelt Avenue
- 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Cost: \$20.00
- **Registration Cap - 100**
- Register by Tuesday, February 20, 2024

#### Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday, June 4, 2024**

- Sandman Hotel
- 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Complimentary
- **MEMBERS ONLY EVENT**
- Register by Thursday, May 23, 2024



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## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

This past Fall we managed to resume some of our all-time favourite activities. On October 13, 2023, we celebrated Fall with Octoberfest. 94 of our members and friends enjoyed a lovely lunch with a choice of turkey dinner or glazed salmon at Lester's Chalet. The food was delicious with wonderful freshly harvested vegetables from the farm.

Farmer Jim Lester gave a wonderful talk about the history of the Farm and talked about preparing your garden for fall and winter. He entertained questions as well about fall and winter planting and what plants are suitable to grow in our climate.

We had our usual prize draws and our 50/50 raffle. Anne Marie Smythe was the lucky winner of \$229 in the 50/50 draw. We also raised the same amount for our Retired Teacher's Foundation.

The Farm Chalet was a lovely venue, and many commented on how much they enjoyed the socializing, presentation and meal. A successful event for sure.

Our Christmas Luncheon and Craft Fair was held at Glendenning Golf Club on Monday, December 4, 2023, with 211 people registered. We enjoyed a delicious meal of stuffed chicken breast with all the trimmings and a slice of delectable cheesecake for dessert. In lieu of live entertainment, seasonal background music was provided thanks to Denise and Ernest Barbour, and the rental of a speaker from Long and McQuade by Glendenning, which added greatly to the festive atmosphere.

Six crafters displayed their wares for sale. Linda Patzold presented beaded jewellery and sealskin ornaments, Herb Hopkins and Donna McTavish featured books, fish flies were shown by Carol Guzzwell, Yvonne Manning exhibited crocheted items such as baskets and ornaments, and Donna Mitchell showcased wreaths, personalized items, and decorations.

Two invited guests joined in our merriment, Mona Rose, Chair of NL Retired Teachers' Foundation and Bill Bradford of the Mazol Shriners. Bill gratefully accepted a cheque from the RTF on behalf of the Mazol Shriners.

We were very fortunate to have 3 donations for ticket sales, an exquisite Christmas quilt from Paula Gramm, and 2 superb prints from Patricia Hayden-Ryan. Roxanne Daley was the joyful winner of the quilt. The print titled Chamber's Cove was won by a joyful Sue Emberley, and the other, Spring Break in Bowring Park, was taken home happily by Joyce Pritchett. Beulah Gruchy was the lucky winner of the 50/50 Draw which amounted to \$468. As a result of our ticket sales and 50/50 draw, a total of \$1,183 was raised for the RTF. Everyone also enjoyed the draws for prizes which included a scrumptious fruit cake donated by Barb Young.

This event certainly helped to instill the Christmas Spirit in all attendees. With the snow softly falling and easily observed from our venue, and everyone cozy and comfortable inside, a wonderful time was had by all.

### Upcoming Events:

#### Fun Day

We are pleased to announce that our Fun Day has been planned for Tuesday, March 5, 2024. This event will take place at the RCAF Club, Roosevelt Avenue, Pleasantville, which has been booked from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come join us for Bridge, other board games, or just come and socialize. Lunch will be served at Noon. Please see the attached registration form for further details. We hope to see you there!

#### Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at The Sandman Hotel on Kenmount Road. This event is complimentary and for **members only**. Please consider attending and learning more about the good work of the Avalon East Division. Please see the attached form for further details.

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## VISITATION COMMITTEE

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the list of our deceased teachers continues to grow much too quickly.

The names listed below are of those teachers who have passed away since our last newsletter which Avalon East members received in the Fall of 2023. If any names have been omitted, please let us know and they will be listed in our next newsletter.

Our loving thoughts have been extended to the families through sympathy cards and where possible, by visits to funeral homes.

Deepest sympathy to all families and friends of our deceased colleagues.

Get well wishes were sent on behalf of Avalon East to several retired teachers who have been dealing with various health issues. Wishing all a speedy recovery.

Unfortunately, we have lost track of many of our retired teachers who are residents of nursing homes and retirement homes. Over time the rules and regulations for visiting these homes have changed.

If you are aware of a member of Avalon East who would welcome a friendly visit, please contact a member of our visitation committee. If permitted to do so, we will try to pay a visit. These members are always in our thoughts.

The visitation committee would like to say a special thank you to Clayton Rice and Cynthia Fardy for their continued support.

### **Visitation Committee Members:**

Gloria McDonald (CBS and surrounding areas)  
gloriam9@eastlink.ca  
(709) 229-7061

Sharon Reddy (St. John's)  
sharon.reddy@nf.sympatico.ca  
(709) 579-8169

## OBITUARIES

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of our deceased members.

Judith Barry  
Pearl Batten  
Margaret Blyde  
Steadman Bowers  
Marion Bursey  
Thomas Compton  
William Dixon  
Muriel Felt  
Maureen Finlay  
Gerard Fitzgerald  
Reverend Trudy Gosse  
Sister Agnes Hutchings

Gwenda Jablonski  
Ruby Joliffe  
J. Colin Jones  
Sister Madeline Kehoe  
Millicent Doreen Lafosse  
James Lee  
David Lewis  
Noreen Lewis  
Kathleen MacDonald  
Sister Carmelita MacNeil  
Sister Angela McGrath  
Anne Marie Metcalfe

Thomas Mills  
Philip Patey  
Sister Barbara Phelan  
Rex Roberts  
Robert Smart  
Anna English Smith  
Douglas Spracklin  
Elizabeth Strong  
Kay Sudom  
Mike Sutton  
Joan Piercey Trahey  
Thomas White

**Rest in Peace Colleagues**

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## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

We have a membership of approximately 2100 retired teachers in our district. Since 2019 we have communicated to our membership through email or postal mail (if a member made a written request). Some members have indicated to us that they are not receiving our newsletters. If you know of any members who have not requested an electronic copy of our newsletters, please forward the following information. We would like to reach as many of you as possible and encourage you to participate in our upcoming events.

If a member is not receiving an electronic or print copy of our newsletters:

- Submit your request to [rtanl@nlta.ca](mailto:rtanl@nlta.ca)
- In the subject line, type: RTANL Avalon East Newsletter
- Be sure to include your name, your regular mailing address, as well as your email address.
- If you wish to receive a printed copy of our newsletters, please mail this request, including your full name and address to: Avalon East Newsletter c/o 3 Kenmount Road, St. John's, NL A1B 1W1

Please notify us if your email address or your personal mailing address changes at any time, so we can update your information in our database.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT THE ROOMS

Be an Education Volunteer at The Rooms!

Are you looking for hands-on experience working with students in an inquiry-based learning environment? Do you have a passion for sharing Newfoundland and Labrador's history, art, and culture? The Rooms Education Unit is looking for volunteers just like you! Training is provided.

Perks:

- Flexible Scheduling
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Rooms Family Membership after 30 hours of volunteer time

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [carlawatson@therooms.ca](mailto:carlawatson@therooms.ca).