

RTANL AVALON EAST DIVISION

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Warm Winter Wishes

Winter 2026

Happy New Year to all members of our Retired Teachers' community. While, weather-wise, Christmas Day was quite miserable, the Executive Committee hopes you and yours were able to enjoy a healthy and happy Christmas with your family and friends. Now that we are into a new year, may you experience good health and success in all you do.

The Executive held its winter planning meeting on January 7, 2026, at the NLTA Building on Kenmount Road. With the continued guidance from outgoing President, Mary Purchase, we have been busy organizing a social event for you on March 10, and our AGM will be held on June 8.

Current members of your Executive are:

President:	Shirley Sheppard
Past President	Mary Purchase
Vice President:	Susan Forward
Secretary:	Marlene Audeau-Joyce
Treasurer:	Pam Bry
Members At Large:	Sharon Reddy
	Giselle Benoit
	Linda Thistle
	Gloria Pynn

We hope to see you at our March Scoff and Scuff, and our AGM in June.

Shirley J. Sheppard
President
Avalon East Division, RTANL

Upcoming Events

St. Patrick's Day Scoff & Scuff **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

- Mazol Shriner's Club
- 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **Cost:**
 - \$20.00 Members
 - \$25.00 Non-Members
- Registration Cap - 150
- **Register by Friday, February 20, 2026**
- Entertainment:
Kilmainham



Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Monday, June 8, 2026

- The Sandman Hotel
- 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- **NO COST**
- **Register by Friday, May 22, 2026**

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The social committee for the Avalon East Division of the RTANL has had a busy first term in 2025. In the Fall, we had 128 guests get together for Oktoberfest. Lester's Farm Chalet catered a delicious turkey/salmon dinner that was a big hit. We had Karen Sherriffs, CEO of the Canada Games, speak about volunteerism. She was engaging and knowledgeable and spoke from her extensive experience about the huge impact volunteering can have in our communities. A generous donation was made to Rainbow Riders on behalf of the RTF.

In December, Glendenning Golf Course served 307 meals to our guests. The meal of stuffed chicken breast and all the fixings was a great start to the Christmas season. Many prizes were won, and the celebration continued with live music by the Boogie Babes. Representatives from Candlelighters accepted a generous donation from the RTF. Heather Peters spoke from personal experience about the positive impact such donations have on families of children dealing with a cancer diagnosis, such a poignant reminder about the true meaning of Christmas.

A huge thank you for the generous donations of prizes for the Christmas stocking and other draws throughout the Christmas Luncheon, making the day so merry. It is the generosity of so many of you which makes these events extra special. During the Christmas Luncheon, you helped us raise \$1,384.00. As always, everything raised through the ticket sales and 50/50 draws go to the Retired Teachers' Foundation of NL to support children's charities here in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Arrangements are under way for our upcoming March 10 event. You won't want to miss the Scoff & Scuff that will take place at the Mazol Shriner's Center on Topsail Road. Guests will be treated to a hot catered lunch by Wedgewood Cafe catering. We will have live Irish music, courtesy of Kilmainham, so feel free to sing and dance after the meal. Our venue can comfortably accommodate 150 people, so get your registration forms in early to guarantee your attendance. The Canada Post strike is over, so mailing your forms will not be a problem. Thank you for your understanding and patience during the strike as we navigated our first two events. All forms can now be submitted by mail.

I look forward to seeing you at the Mazol Shriner's Center on March 10th.

Social Committee Chair:

Giselle Benoit – gisellebenoit36@gmail.com



Oktoberfest

PICTURES



Karen Sherriffs presenting at
Octoberfest



Donation presented by Mary
Purchase (President of the RTF) to
Kelly from Rainbow Riders



The Boogie Babes



50/50 Winner Michelle Power



Quilt Winner Giselle Benoit

VISITATION COMMITTEE

The mandate of the visitation committee of the RTANL Avalon East Division, is to maintain contact with families of our deceased members, and also to communicate best wishes to our retired teachers who are facing health issues, and to those presently living in seniors and nursing homes.

Since last reporting to you in our September 2025 newsletter, we regret to inform you that 33 members of Avalon East Division have been laid to rest.

Where possible, visits were made to funeral homes and personal contact was made with a family member. Cards of sympathy were presented on your behalf.

If wakes could not be attended, then cards of sympathy were mailed to families expressing our sincere condolences.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the families of all deceased members.

Once again, some cards were returned as addresses had changed.

Also, when notified, get well cards were sent to colleagues who have been dealing with health concerns. Heartfelt wishes go out to all of you. We hope you feel better soon.

There are a number of retired colleagues from the Avalon East Division living in retirement and long-term care homes. If a family member wishes us to visit their loved one, please contact the executive.

Thinking of you all and sending lots of love.

With deep sadness, we pass on to you the following list of our deceased colleagues.

If you know of a name that has been omitted from the list below, please inform one of our Executive members and the name will be included in our next newsletter.

It would be remiss of our committee if we did not thank our Avalon East Executive, Clayton Rice, Treasurer of RTANL, and Cynthia Fardy, a former Avalon East Executive member, for their continuous assistance in keeping our list of deceased members up to date.

Sincerely, Visitation Committee:

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

In loving memory of:

Gladys Barrett
Mike Boland
Adrian Brennan
Ann Broderick
Ann Marie Butler
Sandra Butler
Harry Clarke
Joan Coish
John Connors
Florence Cowan
Sister Teresa Devine

Donna Fougere
Gordon Francis
Josephine Hammond
Barbara Hewlett
Bertha Hunt
Violet Hutchings
Sister Carmel Kelly
Rosemarie Kent
Sister Brendan Lynch
Madeline Meaney
Margaret Moore

Margaret O'Keefe
Sister Regina Quigley
Harvey Reynolds
Florence Samson
John Staple
Craig Tremblett
Josephine Tyler
Brother Edward Wakeham
Sister Alice Walsh
William Whelan
Sister Mary White

May our Deceased Members Rest in Peace

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communication Committee had 86 members update their contact information during the Fall (2025), of whom 23 recently joined the Avalon East Division. We welcome our new members, and hope that they will attend our future events.

If you know of any retirees who are not receiving the Avalon East Division newsletters, would you, please ask them to email lindathistle11@gmail.com with their name, surname, address (including community and postal code) and their email address? Our goal is to communicate to as many retirees as possible. We communicate to our membership through email or Canada Post (only upon request by the retiree).

If you are presently a member and changed your contact information, please email lindathistle11@gmail.com with your updated information.

Our Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1H3Kj4E4Z/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

It would be greatly appreciated if you could visit our Facebook page and spread the word.

Sincerely, Communication Committee:

Linda Thistle, Co-Chair
lindathistle11@gmail.com

Gloria Pynn
glopynn@gmail.com

Call for Kiwanis Music Festival 2026 Volunteers

This year's Kiwanis Music Festival is running from **February 17-26**. They are starting to work on organizing the volunteers. The festival organizers would like to know **if you are available this year. Please let them know whether you are available by contacting** Judy Bradley via email at judybradley07@gmail.com.

Last year, the festival had 281 sessions with 4 volunteers required for each session. This was a total of 1,124 volunteer slots. Any help that you can give will certainly be appreciated!

If you **are aware of anyone** who volunteered in the past but is perhaps not still on the festival's list, please let them know of this year's event. If you know of any potential volunteers, please encourage them to contact the festival via email judybradley07@gmail.com.

The venues this year are **St. David's church, St. James church, The Crossing, The Salvation Army Citadel, and the MUN School of Music.**

The festival organizers will be sending out **this year's schedule soon** and then they will start filling in the slots with those who are interested.

There will be a **coffee morning for volunteers in early February** to go over roles, answer questions and meet other volunteers. The festival organizers thank you for your help in the past and we look forward to seeing you this year.

For more information or to volunteer contact: Judy Bradley via email at judybradley07@gmail.com or by phone 709-693-5564.

Message from Stephanie McLean, Secretary of State (Seniors)

Below is a 2025 year-end message from The Honourable Stephanie McLean:

As 2025 comes to an end and the holiday season begins, it feels like a good time to pause and reflect on the past year and look ahead to the next with hope and confidence.

This season is also about gratitude. Seniors like you play such an important role in our communities—sharing your experience, your wisdom and your time. Thank you for all you have given and accomplished to help shape Canada into the country it is today—and for everything you continue to do every day to make our communities stronger and more vibrant.

Next year is the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. This United Nations initiative is a chance to highlight the dedication of seniors who devote their time and energy to their communities. I'm looking forward to hearing those stories in 2026.

In this year-end edition of the newsletter, you'll find practical tips for winter travel, resources to help quit smoking, and tools to better understand dementia and fight stigma around aging. You can also explore upcoming initiatives, such as the 2026 Census and webinars from the Canada Revenue Agency.

If you know someone who might find this newsletter helpful, feel free to share it with them. You can also subscribe to receive future editions (<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/seniors-newsletter-subscription.html>)

Thank you,
Stephanie McLean
Secretary of State (Seniors)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) AVALON EAST DIVISION

During our AGM, the Executive Committee reports to its members what went on during the past year. Each subcommittee details their projects and asks for input from those in attendance on how they think the projects affect the membership. We also want to know what members would like to see for the coming year. After the meeting, we do get a chance for more informal feedback during the luncheon of soup and sandwiches. We encourage members to come to the AGM as your feedback is invaluable to the planning and organization for the coming year.

RTANL Avalon East – Contact Information

President:	Shirley Sheppard (sisheppard@nf.sympatico.ca)
Past President	Mary Purchase (marypurchase@icloud.com)
Vice President:	Susan Forward (sforward@mun.ca)
Secretary:	Marlene Audeau-Joyce (marleneaj4@gmail.com)
Treasurer:	Pam Bry (pambry@icloud.com)
Members At Large:	Sharon Reddy (sharon.reddy@nf.sympatico.ca)
	Giselle Benoit (gisellebenoit36@gmail.com)
	Linda Thistle (lindathistle11@gmail.com)
	Gloria Pynn (glopynn@gmail.com)

