

RTANL AVALON EAST DIVISION

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Fall 2026

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

A heartfelt welcome back to our many retirees with an extra special welcome to our new retirees. We hope you all enjoyed your summer.

We thank all who attended our AGM in June. As we move into the pumpkin spice and everything nice season, your Avalon Executive has been hard at work organizing our next two events: Octoberfest and Christmas Luncheon.

On June 8, 2025, we held our Annual General Meeting at the Sandman Hotel. The weather was lovely, allowing nearly everyone who registered to attend and participate in the AGM. We were extremely pleased that a number of the attendees were newly retired teachers. At this meeting we thanked Mary Purchase for her many years of service to the Avalon Division of the RTANL Executive and wished her well as she is leaving the Executive to concentrate on her role as the President of the Board of the Retired Teachers' Foundation. Thank you, Mary, for all the ways that you continue to support the RTANL.

At our first division meeting for the 2026-27 year on September 11, the Executive were able to coordinate and organize two upcoming events for your enjoyment. The first event is our Fall Octoberfest on October 19 at the Shriner's Club on Topsail Road (registration form attached). Register as soon as possible for this event as seating is limited to 200. Our second event is the Traditional Christmas Luncheon on December 7 (registration form attached). We are pleased to announce that the Christmas Luncheon will be held at the larger venue of the Holiday Inn Convention Center on Portugal Cove Road. The Holiday Inn Convention Center can hold over 350 attendees. Come one, come all, and bring a friend! We especially enjoy seeing new members and those who want to become members!

Happy Fall everyone!

Members of your executive are:

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

Shirley J. Sheppard
President

Upcoming Events

Octoberfest

Monday, October 19, 2026

- Mazol Shriners Center
530 Topsail Rd, St. John's
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Lunch served at noon
Doors open **promptly** at **11:15 a.m.**
- **Cost:**
\$20.00 Members
\$25.00 Non-Members
- **Registration Cap** - 200
- Please register via email to Giselle Benoit (gisellebenoit36@gmail.com) by **Thursday, October 8, 2026, FIRM** – cheques to be sent separately

Please Note: We are **NOT** set up for EMT. No cheque is deposited until after the Octoberfest. If the event is canceled cheques are shredded.

Christmas Luncheon

Monday, December 7, 2026

- Holiday Inn Conference Centre
180 Portugal Cove Rd, St. John's
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Lunch served at noon
- **Cost:**
\$30.00 Members
\$35.00 Non-Members
- **Registration Cap** - 300
- **Register by Friday, November 20, 2026 – FIRM**

Please Note: We are **NOT** set up for EMT. No cheque is deposited until after the Christmas Luncheon. If the event is canceled cheques are shredded.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The social committee for the Avalon East Division of the RTANL had a busy first term in 2025. In the Fall, we had 128 guests get together for Octoberfest. Lester's Farm Chalet catered a delicious turkey/salmon dinner that was a big hit. We had Karen Sheriffs, CEO of the Canada Games, speak about volunteerism. She 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 was a great start to the Christmas season. Many very special prizes were donated and won, and the celebration continued with live music by the Boogie Babes. A merry good time was had by all. Heather Peters, from Candlelighters accepted a generous donation from the RTF and spoke from personal experience about the positive impact such donations have on families of children dealing with a cancer diagnosis. It was a poignant reminder about the true meaning of Christmas. During the Christmas Luncheon ticket sales and 50/50 draws yielded \$1,384.00. As always, everything raised goes to the Retired Teachers' Foundation of NL to support children's charities here in Newfoundland and Labrador.



Our St. Patrick's Day luncheon on March 10 was a roaring success. The Scoff & Scuff that took place at the Mazol Shriners Center on Topsail Road was catered by Wedgwood Cafe. Guests numbering 137 were treated to a fabulous meal, prizes and live Irish music, courtesy of Kilmainham. Our venue and catering were new to us, but we could not have been more pleased with the quality and level of service. We definitely will be keeping them posted for future events.



Social Committee Chair:

Giselle Benoit – gisellebenoit36@gmail.com

VISITATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of all members of the Avalon East Division, we extend our deepest sympathy to the families, colleagues and friends of 27 of our members who have been laid to rest since our last report in January 2026.

In support of our deceased members, cards of sympathy were sent to families and where possible wakes and services were attended.

The names of our deceased retired teachers are listed below. They will forever remain in our hearts.

Committee members also visited retirees who have been recovering at home and those living in nursing and seniors' homes. Sending you all our best wishes for good health and happiness.

On a happy note, several executive members visited with one of our retirees, Effie Parsons, as she celebrated her 100th birthday. Congratulations and best wishes were brought on behalf of Avalon East. Truly a memorable occasion!



We will continue to support our retirees in any way possible.

Please reach out to a committee member if you know of a colleague who would like us to visit or if we have missed the name of a member who has passed away.

Special thanks to Clayton Rice and Cynthia Fardy for their ongoing 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

Remembered in love:

*John Basha
Genevieve Best
Don Blackmore
Patrick Boland
Wilbur (Bill) Carroll
Patricia Colbert
Sister Monica Fagan
Brother Harry French
Frances Gibbons
Christine Gosse-Greene
William Hogan
Ronald Joy
Catherine Kerr
Geraldine Maloney*

*Sister Elizabeth Marrie
Florence Milley
John Noseworthy
Louise Nugent-Pike
Rita Penton
Eileen Rideout
Ronald Robbins
Sister Marie Ryan
Sister Mary Taylor
Gilbert Thomas
Marilyn Tulk
Muriel Webber
Sheila Whitten*

May our Deceased Members Rest in Peace

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Avalon East Division has approximately 2,100 members. If you know of retirees who are not receiving the newsletters, could you please ask them to email us? We communicate with our members through email, Canada Post (if the member makes a written request), and through our Facebook page. If you have changed your contact information (email address, and/or personal mailing address), please contact us, so we can update your information in our database.

During September 2025 to June 2026, we updated 101 members' contact information. We welcome our new members, and hope that they will attend our future events. We look forward to working with you again this year.

Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1H3Kj4kE4Z/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Communications Committee Co-Chairs:

Linda Thistle (lindathistle11@gmail.com)

Gloria Pynn (glopynn@gmail.com)

A Message from Rainbow Riders

Hello,

My name is Olivia and I am one of the assistant volunteer coordinators here at Rainbow Riders. We are always looking for volunteers to help in the barn, with program lessons, and at our special events. More information about volunteering can be found here: <https://www.rainbowridersnl.com/volunteer>

I look forward to hearing from you!

All the best,

Olivia Robinson (she/her)

Assistant Volunteer Coordinator – Recruitment

Treat People With Kindness

Rainbow Riders
Therapeutic Riding-Newfoundland and Labrador Inc.
103 Mount Scio Road
P.O. Box 23199
St. John's, NL, A1B 4J9
(709) 738-1055