



NEW BRUNSWICK SOCIETY OF RETIRED TEACHERS

MEMBER REPORT to the 2025 ACER-CART AGM

President's Report

NBSRT had a busy year and celebrated its 50th Anniversary, May 13-14, 2025. We worked on growing our membership as a high priority with each of the 10 branches having a membership chair. We gained 110 members but we lost 78 members over the course of the year. We are currently at 3023 members, and hope to add to that number early as we are sending 10 ambassadors to the NBTA Retiring Teachers Luncheon May 24, 2025.

The 50th Anniversary prompted celebratory activities in virtually every Branch. Some set goals for their scholarship funds. 50 donations of \$20. Others set goals for membership, 50 new members by the end of 2025. Some had special dinners or walks to celebrate the special year. At the annual meeting, every delegate was given a copy of a history written for the AGM by a member, Marjorie Sinclair. Entitled "The Bell Rang Fifty Years Ago", A brief history of NBSRT. It is copyrighted and its ISBN number is 978-1-77835-550-9. It was a limited print run but the Branch will make it available at \$20. Canadian or \$25. American, an elbows up sale price. Another Branch recovered a rare edition of a book telling the story of every one room school in Kings County, NB. Titled, "Early Schools in Kings County", it was digitized by a few teachers and now is available on the NBSRT Website.

We had a wonderful series of sessions viewing "Aging as an Adventure" led by Dr. Bill Randall, a Professor Emeritus from St. Thomas University, in Fredericton. A gifted speaker he has devoted his academic career to learning more the process of aging. He offered sessions in several branches but the biggest event was hosted by Central Branch, where 63 retired teachers assembled and branches were invited to join the gathering by ZOOM. Only one branch joined the session, partly because they were already arranging to have Dr. Randall come to their branch but a few members joined the session as individuals. The group discussed looking at aging as an adventure by looking Outward [travel for example, by looking Inward, [memoir for example], looking Backward, [ancestry as an example] and looking Forward, [creating a wellness plan as an example.] The room was abuzz with the small group discussions as Dr. Randall's stimulating ideas of the four ways to see aging as an adventure prompted many more many more thoughts from the participants. It was a memorable afternoon.

We participated in the ACER/CART letter writing campaigns for Pharmacare, Dental Plan and Aging in Place to the Federal Governments. NBSRT and SERFNB collaborated to plan the ECRTO regional meeting with a program examining all aspects of Aging in Place. We are excited to Co-host the meeting June 9-11 and we have good representation from every organization who comprise ECRTO. NBSRT is sending its full Executive to the conference.

We really appreciated ACER/CART's work on the Federal Election. The suggestions of questions were put to many candidates, although with the threat of tariffs and the threat to Canada's sovereignty. being top of mind to both candidates and voters, we will need to keep up the pressure going down the road. We also found that President Bill Berryman's efforts to inform the CRTC of senior's issues and the inability of the CRTC to meet its obligations, pointed to more work to be done in serving seniors well. Next year is filled with uncertainty but we have learned over the years that by cooperating and collaborating, we can serve our members well. I look forward to the new challenges.

Rod Campbell, President
NBSRT