

The History of MARTA

Miramichi Area Retired Teachers' Association

1976 – 1996

1976 – 1989

From Memories, Notes, and
Minutes by
Mrs M A MacLean

Ably assisted by
Helen Henderson, Dorothy
White, and Mary Gill

1989 – 1996

Summary notes credited to
Dorothy McCarthy, Bill Sweezey,
and Dorothy Gilliss

Edited by
Dorothy Creighton

Appendices A and B

REPORT ON THE "HISTORY OF MARTA" PROJECT

As Chairman of the 1995 committee that was appointed to look into producing a "History of MARTA", I wish to submit the following report.

The Committee consisted of Dorothy White, Helen Henderson, Mary Gill, Dorothy McCarthy, Dorothy Creighton, Bill Sweezey, Dorothy Gilliss, and myself.

I did the research, planning and typing of the first part, covering the years from MARTA's inception in 1976 to 1989, with the whole-hearted co-operation of Dorothy White and her sister, Helen Henderson, whose memory regarding the early years, proved invaluable, as all records had disappeared. Then, thanks to Mary Gill, I was able to flush out the period with copies of our original MARTA Newsletters for the years 1978, 1979, and 1980.

I then consulted our early Scrap Book to cover 1981 to 1986, as no written records were available. Next, with the written records for 1985 to 1989, I was able to detail the remaining years.

Then I handed the project over to Dorothy McCarthy, who did the research and writing for the years 1989 to 1991. Next in line, was Dorothy Creighton, who handled the research for the years 1991 to 1993, which was written up by Mr. Bill Sweezey, our first gentleman president. The final report from 1993 to the current year was the work of Dorothy Gilliss.

Incidentally, all these folks looked after the typing of their respective sections. I would also like to commend Dorothy Creighton on handling the editing of the whole edition, after which we were then able to decide on the final format. Dorothy also took care of the publication, printing and cost issues.

This is the completed edition at minimal cost, which I think is quite an accomplishment for our association. I can assure you that a lot of hard work went into this publication over the past year.

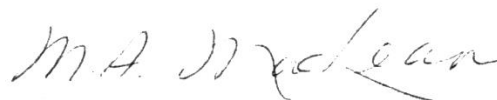
So, here it is--we are proud to present the "HISTORY OF MARTA", composed from the minutes and memories, as well as two appendices of the Constitution and a final appendix of deceased members, to which names can be added over the years.

Note the simple binding of the loose leaves, which allows for the incorporation of additional material over the coming years. In any event, we did not want to come up with an expensive item, so we propose to sell these copies for the cost price of \$3.00 each.

Actually, that is low, in comparison with the amount of work entailed, so if you feel you could contribute a little more, say \$5.00, the association will surely appreciate your generous gesture.

In any event, thank you for your attention.

Respectfully submitted,



(M.A. MacLean) Chairman

DISCLAIMER

This account of the *History of the Miramichi Area Retired Teachers' Association (1976-1996)* is intended solely to review the highlights of our origin and continuing existence.

The editor made little attempt to change the writing styles of those involved in the preparation of the material. Since few early accurate records were available, we trust the readers will appreciate what has been done to preserve our early history.

Dorothy Creighton (Editor)

CHAPTER ONE

In The Beginning

The Miramichi Area Retired teachers' Association came into being in 1976. In the summer of that year Miss Molly Martin, our very first president-to-be ran into Ray Tibbetts of Fredericton's New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers' group. He urged Molly to start a similar branch for retirees in the Northumberland area.

So Molly, ever socially conscious, got busy and circulated a letter inviting all retired teachers to come to a meeting at St Michael's Church Hall, Cunard Street, Chatham in the fall of 1976.

About 22 retirees responded to the challenge. In short order the Miramichi Area Retired Teachers' Association elected the first slate of officers as follows:

President – Molly Martin

Secretary – Nora Daigle

Treasurer – Irene Hogan

Vice President (& Social Convenor) – Sue Noonan

A few ground rules were laid down forming the basis of the First Constitution (1976) of which an amended copy is attached (Appendix A). In addition to the above named executive, chairmen of Pension, Social, Membership, and Telephone Committees were appointed.

In the early years, the guidelines were simple. It cost only three dollars to belong to MARTA, and just fifty cents for the New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers. In the meantime, our energetic president went after a *New Horizons* grant of \$75.00 for incidental expenses such as stamps and stationery.

Much to our surprise, *New Horizons* gave us \$2000.00 to publish five MARTA Newsletters in the years 1978-1980. The first two newsletters were prepared by Mary MacLean, while the remaining three were edited by Mary Gill. These latter ones were very well done and futuristic, including a section on the "home computer" even that far back in time. With the grant money, we also purchased a Smith-Corona typewriter. Since we had to spend the grant money in an allotted time, some of the money was allotted to help pay for the Annual Dinner and also for gas. This was to help members who brought others to the meetings in their cars.

The Annual Dinner was usually held at the conclusion of the spring meeting. A new slate of officers was elected as needed after the two years each person served in office. For this meeting, designated members brought sandwiches and small cakes for the Social Hour. This proved to be a very pleasant event indeed! Actually, the main purpose of MARTA in those days was a social get-together for all retired teachers in the county to attend and enjoy.

Since there are few written records extant for this time (1976-1979 inclusive) it is difficult to deal with this period. It would seem that much the same executive continued in office during these years as Molly was heard to protest in 1979 that a new president should be chosen as she had served long enough.

It would appear that St Michael's Hall (actually, the club rooms of the Knights of Columbus) served as a site for MARTA meetings in the spring, while the basement of St Mary's Church in Newcastle became the scene of our fall meetings. A small donation was made to the clubs concerned for the use of these rooms.

It is to be noted that the following were Charter Members of MARTA in addition to the executive:

Isabel Connors	Ruth Casey	Bessie Creamer
Margaret Gray	Margaret MacDonald	Annie MacDonald
Helen MacRae	Stella Skidd	Helen Henderson

At this point, I must say a sincere "thank you" to Mrs Henderson for providing from her keen memory much of the material I have written. To her sister, Mrs Dorothy White, another "thank you" for her kind assistance.

CHAPTER TWO

Gleanings From Newsletters

Most of the information re: 1979-1981 was gleaned from the MARTA Newsletter. For instance, the spring meeting of 1979 was held in the Father Morrissey Recreation Center in Bartibogue Bridge at which the following officers were elected:

President & Director – Anne McCoombs

Vice President – Kathryn Sullivan

Treasurer – Nora Daigle

Past President – Molly Martin

Secretary – Ruth Casey

Publ. Conv. – Mary MacLean

Miramichi Area Retired Teachers now boasted 60 paid-up members, and looked for more. Our members were encouraged to spread word by speech, phone, or other means that MARTA was a going and growing concern. Material for our newsletters was discussed and teachers were encouraged to write about their experiences teaching in one-room schools. Solicited also were obituaries for departed members and biographies of those who had made notable progress in the field of education. Then too, we were reminded of our responsibility to contribute items to *Reflections*, which was mainly the work of the Central Branch of the New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers. One member was appointed to take subscriptions and forward them to the Fredericton office.

In the fall of 1979 our meeting was held in the Byron Goodin Center, Nelson. Then in 1981 we kept on the move with meetings in the Lions' Club, Sunny Corner, in the spring, and St Mary's Auditorium in the Newcastle the following fall.

CHAPTER THREE

Memories From Our Scrapbook

Since no official records appear to have been preserved from 1981-1985, recourse had to be made to an early MARTA Scrapbook, later records, and memory.

These years contain information from 19080-1984 and more. Possibly the President's Chair between these years was occupied in the manner below:

1981-1983 by Margaret MacDonald, Mary Harriman, and Irene Bremner

1983-1985 by Marry Harriman

Despite the lack of official minutes it seems that MARTA was active on several fronts in regard to (a) updating pensions, (b) resolutions to the federal and provincial governments and (c) contributions to *Reflections*. We had a Director, accompanied by a Voting Delegate, who represented our concerns at the Annual Meeting of the NBSRT. Also discussed during these years was the idea of a book or a plaque to honor deceased members, which was to be placed in the last school served by them. MARTA also served as a rallying point for old friends in the teaching profession.

Oddly enough, what has survived of this period is an official record of the sites of meetings. In 1981, MARTA held its spring meeting in the Millerton Church Hall and its fall meeting in St Michael's Parish Hall, Chatham.

In 1982, the Carmel Church in Lower Napan provided the spring site, while the Recreation Center in Nordin was the host facility in the fall.

Again in 1983, St Michael's hosted the spring meeting, while the Knox Church Hall in Loggieville provided the setting for the fall meeting.

With the advent of spring, we ventured farther afield to St Raphael's Hall in Blackville, and to the Anglican Church Hall in Bay du Vin for the fall meeting.

Incidentally, on looking over the Scrapbook, the pictures suggest the following as the slate of officers from 1983-1984-1985:

President – Mary Harriman

Vice President – Dorothy White

Secretary – Mary Gill

Treasurer – Mary MacDonald

The final meeting of 1984 in St John the Evangelist Church in Bay du Vin was a festive occasion as the executive had dressed in the 1800's costumes to celebrate the Centennial Year and had their pictures taken. After the meeting, a gala time was had by all present.

CHAPTER FOUR

Back To Written Record (1985-1987)

During these two years, two general and two fall meetings, plus four executive meetings were held at various places. In 1985 the Nominating Committee brought in the following slate of officers for the years 1985-1987 inclusive:

President & Delegate to NBSRT – Dorothy White	Past President – Mary Harriman
Secretary & Delegate to NBSRT – Mary MacLean	Vice President – Lena Brace
Treasurer – Helen Henderson	Social Convenor – Sue Noonan
<i>Reflections</i> Representative – Noreen Drillen	

To obtain new members, it was suggested that lists of retirees be obtained from the School District Office, and that retiring teachers be invited to attend the next meeting of MARTA.

Members were also encouraged to visit retirees as well as to send “Get Well” cards to those in the hospital who would appreciate a personal visit as well.

The President then gave a report on the NBSRT Meeting which she and Noreen Drillen had attended. Mr Dawson Murray spoke at that time of updating pensions.

He also stated that teachers who had retired in 1983 and later would have the privilege of retaining their group insurance. It was also noted that students, through the medium of letters from the Department of Education and possibly also from the IODE, should be encouraged to be more patriotic in our schools.

The subject of “Memorials” for departed retirees came up for lengthy discussion during these years. In the first place, it was proposed that a book be placed in the library of the school in which the teacher had last taught as a fitting tribute. Now the question of purchasing a plaque, suitably engraved, would be a better idea. It was decided to appoint a committee of six members to look into the matter concerning cost, etc.

Some time later on, the Memorial Committee Report was presented by Dorothy Gilliss and Avilla Colford in the absence of the chairman, Pearl Bryenton. Both of these ladies displayed plaques (made by vocational students) that could be engraved with the names of the

departed members of MARTA in brass letters, the cost being for the brass fittings only. It was decided to adopt this idea, and to place plaques in District 8 and 10 offices, but individual schools may have their own plaques as well.

At this point, the question arose of expressing sympathy for departed members. It was moved by Pearl Bryenton and seconded by Kathryn Sullivan that a sympathy card be sent to any member who had lost a husband or wife, and that a donation of five dollars be made to the charity of the family's choice. This motion carried and it was also suggested that MARTA members attend in a body the funeral of the deceased member.

Mrs. Pearl Bryenton then gave a report on the Scholarship Committee, suggesting that we establish such a fund with contributions from members, or from "bring and buy" sales. She further suggested that only the interest derived from bequests in wills of departed members be used toward the Scholarship Fund.

Commenting on the opinion of some that MARTA was not a worthwhile organization, Mrs White related some of the contributions made by our little society. These include (1) promoting pensions and their updating, (2) increases in insurance coverage, and (3) contributing articles, obituaries, biographies, etc to the *Reflections* magazine. We also submitted resolutions to both federal and provincial governments, not the least of which concerned reduction of property tax for seniors.

CHAPTER FIVE

Continuing With The Records (1987-1989)

The spring meeting of MARTA was held in Tabusintac in 1987, and proved to be an excellent opportunity for members to tour the lovely new nursing home and enjoy the local hospitality.

After some routine reports, the President, Mrs White, read a copy of a letter she had sent to NBSRT with recommendations relating to insurance coverage for retirees travelling outside Canada, and also recommending the retention of the vocational program as a means of retaining third level students in school.

The President then called on Lena Brace and Helen Henderson who had been delegates to the last NBSRT meeting. Mrs Brace gave a comprehensive report on the subjects discussed, such as (1) the integration of problem children with normal students in the class, (2) government reform not based on educational needs, and (3) at what stage of school program English students should be inducted into bilingual classes.

In the absence of Mrs Bryenton, Dorothy Gilliss gave a report on the Memorial Committee and exhibited a plaque that the vocational students at Dr Losier Junior High, Chatham had made.

Next, Avilla Colford displayed another plaque, this one of mahogany, which was made by the Blackville High industrial students. In any event, only the brass lettering would have to be paid for. It was then moved by Helen Henderson, seconded by Molly Martin, that the plaques be placed in the District Offices, District 8 and 10. This motion was carried.

MARTA's fall meeting was held in the Nordin Recreational Center in October of 1987, with the following slate of officers presiding:

President – Pearl Bryenton	Vice President – Dorothy McCarthy
Past President – Dorothy White	Secretary – Lena Brace
Treasurer – Noreen Drillen	Director – Noreen Drillen
Reflections – Annie Bowie	Social Convenor – Dorothy Gilliss
Delegates to the next NBSRT meeting: Pearl Bryenton and Noreen Drillen	

The secretary reported on information from Mr Dawson Murray re applications for Canada Pension prior to age 65. The benefits and disadvantages of such a move were dealt with in detail from the information given.

Following the business meeting, the President conducted a “Chinese Auction”, the proceeds of which went to help out our expense accounts.

After a slide presentation by Dale MacRae about a motorcycle tour across Canada, a delicious turkey supper was served by the Nordin Ladies’ Association.

The spring meeting of MARTA was held May 12, 1988 in the FP Loggie Hall, Loggieville with 63 members present.

After the usual reports, The President displayed two plaques made under the supervision of Mr James Breau of the Industrial Department of Dr Losier Junior High, Chatham. As these were being donated to MARTA, the President directed that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Mr Breau for this kind gesture.

The sum of \$97.00 was realized from a “Bring and Buy” Sale. After some discussion, it was accepted that this money be set aside toward the establishment of a Scholarship Fund. Further suggestions for aiding this fund were made, such as (1) cards be placed in funeral homes for memorial donations, and (2) teachers be encouraged to leave bequests in their wills for this purpose. At this point, Mr Swezey pointed out that about \$2000 would be required to set up about two scholarships of \$200 each. It was then moved by Dorothy McCarthy, seconded by Louise Rigley, that such a fund be set up. Motion carried.

Mr Swezey then suggested that MARTA undertake the project of setting up a one-room rural school as a museum; for instance the Cameron School in Black River might be available. Also, school furnishings might be obtained from the school in Chatham Head which was now closed. Mr Swezey was then asked to look into these matters and members were encouraged to lend a hand in this fine endeavour. They were also asked to contribute artifacts, stories, and articles or photos re one-room schools which would be of interest.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, Noreen Drillen introduced Sgt Lawrence Burns of the Newcastle Police Squad, who gave an informative talk and very useful tips for seniors.

Our pleasant afternoon came to a close with a delicious roast pork and beef dinner served by the ladies of Knox Church, Loggieville.

In the fall of 1988, the meeting was held in the Byron Goodin Centre, Nelson, with the President in the chair. After the usual reports, the secretary reported that 54 members were present out of 84 paid-up members. Actually, at this time there were 109 names on our nominal roll.

Noreen Drillen reported on the last NBSRT meeting, which she and Pearl Bryenton had attended in Fredericton. It included a suggestion that New Brunswick Teachers' College in Fredericton establish a Museum of Educational Artifacts and an Honor Roll of New Brunswick educators. It was further agreed that a letter be written to the Minister of Education on expressing dissatisfaction with the policy of integrating special needs children with the ordinary students.

Regarding our memorial plaques, it was recommended that Mr George Berube be given the assignment of preparing such plaques. It was moved by Ruth Casey, seconded by Molly Martin, and carried that the names of all deceased members of MARTA from 1976 on be placed on the Memorials.

The President then conducted a "Chinese Auction", which netted \$60 for the Scholarship Fund, which now totals \$183. Another discussion ensued re monies to be allotted for Memorials. It was then moved by Helen Patterson, seconded by Ruth Casey, and carried that any money received from the sale of cards in funeral homes be allotted to our Scholarship Fund.

The Museum Report was then presented by Mr Sweezey. He noted that only five members reported having memorabilia that they were willing to donate. He again appealed for artifacts, biographies, and articles on one-room experiences. He then reminded the meeting of the possibility of obtaining the Cameron School, which might be in poor condition and that repairs, maintenance, and heating would also have to be considered. At this point he mentioned two alternatives that might be considered, viz: (1) a display cabinet could be placed in each of the district offices which would be much less costly, or (2) we could integrate our material with the Provincial School Days Museum. It was then moved and carried that Mr Sweezey be our representative on the Provincial Board. Helen Henderson

then made a pertinent observation, ie that Donald Donovan and Sadie Matchett were working on a similar small-scale project from the Rankin House in Douglstown. Their idea was to make the public aware that at one time this building was used as a school. Various possibilities were raised by this information.

After more routine business, it was moved and carried that Pearl Bryenton and Noreen Drillen be appointed delegates to the fall meeting of the NBSRT.

The meeting then adjourned to enjoy lunch and a social hour.

We should like to note at this time between the years of 1988 and 1989, three of our members were presented awards: (1) Edna Cameron, of Chatham, was awarded a Certificate of Merit from the UN Association for investing a great deal of time and effort in helping her community, and (2) Wm Sweezey who was honored by the Canadian School Superintendents' Association, as a retiring superintendent, was also made a *Paul Harris Fellow* in 1988, and (3) Anne McCoombs who was honored for her devoted volunteer work with the Canadian Cancer Society for the past 34 years. We are delighted to salute these members who received such prestigious awards!

The first meeting of 1989 was held May 4th in the Legion Hall, Chatham, with President Pearl Bryenton in the chair and 58 members present. The treasurer informed us that our funds were left in the custody of the Royal Bank, and that our total monies amounted to \$384.70 at this time.

Mr Sweezey reported on the Museum Committee, and regretted that more artifacts were not forthcoming, but said that some ladies had volunteered to obtain registers from the old days. Mr Sweezey reported that Jack Ullock had been contacted as to the availability of a room at the Rankin House. It was moved by Dorothy Creighton and seconded by Kathryn Sullivan, and carried that we make use of such a room in the Rankin House in preference to pursuing the acquisition of the Cameron School. Mr Sweezey agreed to discuss the matter further with members of the Historical Society. He then read an interesting article on the one-room school, written by the late Josephine King.

The sum of \$96.62, which was raised at the meeting through the medium of a White Elephant Sale and Chinese Auction, will be used to defray expenses. It was also suggested

that memorial Cards be placed in five funeral parlors and slumber rooms in the Miramichi area. Monies from cards would be used to augment our Scholarship Fund for which we now have a *Charitable Contribution Number*.

Two substantial gifts of \$ 100 each were received for the Scholarship Fund viz: one from the late Josephine King family in her memory, and a second from Helen Patterson which she had received for tutoring. We are grateful for such generous gifts.

A Scholarship Committee with Mr Sweezey as chairman, and Edna Cameron and Mary Gill as associates, was then set up to draw terms of reference for the Scholarship.

The Nominating Committee brought in the slate of officers for the years 1989-1991 as follows:

President – Dorothy McCarthy

Vice President – Wm Sweezey

Treasurer – Noreen Drillen

Secretary – Dorothy Creighton

Past President – Pearl Bryenton

The President and Treasurer were then appointed as delegates to the NBSRT meeting in St. Stephen. A social hour, followed by a delicious dinner, concluded the pleasant day.

The Millerton United Church was the setting for the fall meeting of MARTA, which was held on October 4, 1989 with the new President, Dorothy McCarthy presiding. Forty-one members were present. After the usual greetings, members were asked to write a profile on themselves re years of teaching, schools taught in, and interests or hobbies.

After the minutes were approved the matter of the missing original constitution was discussed. It was agreed that we draft a constitution on the provincial lines. Since the records from 1976-1985 are missing, members were urged to try to recall pertinent details from their memories of that time. Members were also asked to contribute articles, photos, etc to the MARTA Scrapbook which is now in the custody of Helen Patterson since it was given up by Mary MacLean.

Mrs Pearl Bryenton reported on the Memorial Cards and Plaques, but stated that although they have the names of deceased members from Napan and Nelson areas, it would be

appreciated if the names of other members from other areas could be added to bring the list up-to-date and enable the plaques to be completed. It was moved by Mrs Bryenton and seconded by Lenore Masterson and carried that the group purchase a stamp for the Memorial Card envelopes used for the Scholarship Fund. It was also decided that the Membership fees remain at three dollars.

Mr Sweezey reported on the Rankin Museum. The MARTA room is in order, with desks, some furnishings, a stove as well as with a teacher mannequin. All articles are to be catalogued and preserved. Mr Sweezey donated and mounted a plaque and encouraged others to contribute objects from school rooms of the past.

Alice Lynch presented the President's report on the last NBSRT meeting, which Dorothy McCarthy and Noreen Drillen had attended. The main concerns of the spring meeting seem to have been the subject of "integration" and the possibility of forming a National Association of Retired Teachers in the near future.

The Scholarship Committee Report was read by Mr Sweezey, who encouraged members to raise monies to establish a base for this fund. It was then moved by Noreen Drillen, seconded by Helen Patterson, and carried that we hold a Fall Craft and Food Sale in the Lions' Center in October, to augment the Scholarship Fund.

Helen Henderson then read a report on *Reflections* on which Annie Bowie is the contact person.

A delicious roast beef dinner served by the UCW ladies along with humorous readings by Alice Lynch concluded the social time.

CHAPTER SIX

Onward From 1989

We owe Mary MacLean a debt of gratitude for the “History of MARTA” from 1976-1989.

At the fall meeting in 1989, I, Dorothy McCarthy, became President.

The spring meeting of MARTA was held in the Chatham Pioneer Senior Citizens’ Hall, Upper Water Street, May 9, 1990. It was a new building and was very suitable for the seniors.

The meeting opened with the singing of “School Days”. A minute of silence was observed in tribute to Frances McGrath, Grace Williston, Stella Creamer, Muriel Flieger, Luella Firlotte, Gordon Sobey, and Dorothy MacEachern – our deceased members.

New members were welcomed. Lawrence Walsh was congratulated on receiving an award of excellence from JW McNutt for his valued service as an Industrial teacher.

A committee of Mary MacLean, Louise Rigley, Shirley Lynch, and Dorothy McCarthy was appointed to work on the constitution of MARTA.

Dues were raised to five dollars because provincial dues were raised to two dollars.

Hasti notes with a sketch of the Cameron School, done by Jim MacDonald, were printed and sold for two dollars a set.

Members were urged to promote and use Memoriam cards which are available in funeral parlors. All money raised to go to the Scholarship Fund.

Noreen Drillen gave a report on the meeting of NBSRT. This year, she became 3rd Vice President of this organization.

Bill Swezey suggested a fall sale – proceeds to be added to the Scholarship Fund, the sale to be held on the last Saturday of October. A committee of Lenore Masterson, Chairperson, Helen Patterson, Noreen Drillen, Dorothy Creighton, Ruth Casey, and Lorne Walsh appointed to organize the sale.

The secretary, Dorothy Creighton, was asked to send invitations to all teachers retiring in June 1990, to join MARTA. Members were invited to write articles or memoriams for *Reflections Magazine*.

Bill Sweezey reported on the Rankin House Project and the Scholarship Fund Books have been donated by Harry Dickson, Susan Noonan, Edna Cameron, Raymond Carroll, the late Alice Carroll, the late Harrison G Smith, Marion (Smith) Hamilton, Alvina (Smith) Read, Mary Gill, and Carmel Gill. He suggested that individual members of MARTA consider making a specific contribution in his/her will to the Scholarship Fund. He reported receiving a valuable collection of pictures prepared by the late Dr J Edward Carten, and the property of the late Dick Walsh.

Several members of MARTA are involved in the local Literacy group. They are Dorothy Creighton, Lucy Power, Edna Cameron, Mildred Campbell, Dorothy McCarthy, and Bill Sweezey.

The treasurer reported sixty-five paid up members – 53 are present at the meeting. Two former teachers were recognized for their long service: Ethel McKnight and Isabel Connors.

A delicious turkey dinner was served by the Seniors.

The fall meeting was held at the Chatham Pioneer Seniors' Building on October 11, 1990. The meeting opened with the singing of *O'Canada* with Bill Sweezey at the piano. One minute of silence was observed in tribute to the memory of Frances Gordon and Wayne Cameron.

A copy of the constitution of MARTA was found by Mrs Margaret Gray and passed on to the committee.

The date of the fall sale will be October 27th. It will be held in the Lions' Centre in Newcastle. Each member is asked to contribute.

The Scholarship Fund now stands at \$1272.41.

A profile on Dorothy MacEacheron was done by Maude Palmer. Stella Creamer's write-up was done by Sara Carter. Gordon Sobey's was done by Avilla Colford. All were sent to MARTA.

Dorothy McCarthy reported on the NBSRT meeting in Fredericton, which she attended with Noreen Drillen. Noreen was appointed a director and moved up to 2nd Vice President. Some items of interest and concern at this meeting were Kindergarten in NB schools, Discipline, and Teachers' Counselling Services.

Reflections has a total of 1200 subscribers. Regret was expressed that the Editor, Isobel Coburn, has resigned for health reasons. Teachers honored for service were Helen Donovan and Kathryn Sullivan. A delicious roast-beef supper was served. Next meeting will be held in Nelson in early May.

NBSRT Annual meeting will be hosted by MARTA on June 8, 1991 at the Lions' Centre, Newcastle.

A nominating Committee was appointed to bring in a new slate of officers in May 1991, Ruth Casey, Alice Lynch, and Lenore Masterson.

Officers for the past two years:

Past President – Pearl Bryenton
Vice President – Bill Sweezey
Treasurer – Noreen Drillen

President – Dorothy McCarthy
Secretary – Dorothy Creighton
Reflections – Annie Bowie & Eileen Lyons

The guest speaker, Earl English, talked about the satisfaction derived from doing Genealogy, and how important it is for each of us to write anecdotes and information for those who come after us. Information is available on the early families who settled in this area. The facilities of St Michael's Museum are available to us, as is help with our research.

Joyce Esson had a copy of the 1876 Teachers' Contract. She shared it with us. The yearly salary was \$172.

My two year term as President was coming to an end. Says Dorothy McCarthy, "I enjoyed the work, especially on the scrap book and the members' profiles. The profiles are wonderful!"

The information requested included:

Name:

Year attended PNS or Teachers' College:

Family: Spouse's Name
 Children
 Interests and hobbies
 Year retired

CHAPTER SEVEN

First Male President Takes office

In the fall of 1991 Bill Sweezey officially assumed office as the first male President of MARTA. As a matter of fact up to this point in time the Association was almost exclusively female, although we now have at least a dozen active male members.

With Dorothy Creighton as a very competent secretary and with an enthusiastic group of executive members the year was inaugurated on a very positive note.

Terms of reference were drafted and approved for various committees in order to get greater involvement. The revised constitution and by-laws were adopted. Mr Sweezey produced a "Newsletter" for the membership and the Scholarship Fund had reached the point where we were able to award the first two-hundred dollar scholarship to a student from Blackville High School in June of 1992.

At the fall meeting held at the Portage Restaurant in October, a birthday cake was enjoyed to honor those over eighty. Those honored were Helena Kingston, Anne McCoombs, Jennie Williston, Margaret MacDonald, and Vera MacMackin. Matilda Murdoch and Bob Murdoch entertained with lively fiddle music. School Supervisor, Richard Walsh, presented a comprehensive overview of the new kindergarten program.

Plans were made for the first Christmas Dinner and Social which was held at the Portage Restaurant in early December, 1991. Gifts were exchanged, carols were enjoyed and Jim MacDonald arrived decked out in his Santa Claus suit. The tradition continued in 1992 when an old-fashioned school closing was presented by various members at the Senior Citizens' Building (former Old Station School) at Nelson. A delicious pot-luck dinner was enjoyed, gifts were exchanged, and everyone seemed to have lots of fun. The Christmas Party has now been established as one of the social highlights of the group.

Various members donated items to enhance the Scholarship Fund. Anne McCoombs gave a beautifully framed needlepoint. Harry Dickson donated lovely hooked rugs and Lorne Walsh gave a beautiful hand-made lamp. These were all very much appreciated.

Each fall the teachers continued to enthusiastically support the Food and Craft Sale in support of the Scholarship Fund. Helen Patterson continued to sustain interest in our one-room school collection which has been moved to the Loggie House, a more suitable location.

An attempt was made to increase our contact with those members who are in hospital or unable to get out. Sick and visiting groups were established and older members were sent cards on special occasions.

During this period Bill Sweezey served as a Director of the Provincial Association and Noreen Drillen was elected to the Executive, so we were represented by two members. A petition was presented to the NBTA concerning the continuation of drug coverage for retired teachers, and changes were eventually made. A National Association of Retired teachers was initiated and New Brunswick decided to become a supporting member.

Several members of the Association contributed excellent articles to the "Reflections" Magazine and accounts of our group were always highlighted provincially.

Letters were sent out to all area retired teachers who had not joined the Association and as a result many decided to come on board. As a result of increased membership during this period, the conference room at the Portage could no longer accommodate our group so we had to move to community centers or church halls. However the noon meeting format was retained, and we continued to combine entertainment with guest speakers. Among our speakers were Robin Roe, superintendent of the newly created District 16, and Mr John Tucker, CEO of the Region 7 Hospital Corporation.

At our spring meeting in May 1993, plans were made for a summer yard sale as well as for the June Biennial Convention in Moncton. Twelve members of our group attended – the largest representation outside Moncton City.

To wrap up the spring meeting President Bill Sweezey presented a report for the past two years and noted, with pride the new focus and enthusiasm among the members. He also welcomed the new slate of officers:

President – Noreen Drillen	Vice-President – Dorothy Gilliss	
Secretary – Barbara Froment	Treasurer – Carmel Gill	Past President – Bill Sweezey

CHAPTER EIGHT

MARTA Moves On To Its 20th Anniversary

An executive meeting was called in September 1993 by President Noreen Drillen to plan for the fall meeting.

The meeting was held on October 6, 1993 at 12:00 noon at the Portage restaurant. A moment of silence was held to honor deceased members Annie MacDonald and Bruce Watt. Guest speaker from Nesbett-Thompson gave information on investments. Scholarship was presented in June to a James M Hill High School graduate. Membership was eighty-one. More books were donated to the museum.

Bill Sweezey attended the Provincial meeting, where one project was to try to bring about better drug coverage for retired teachers. Noreen Drillen was to be the next Provincial President.

Proceeds from the June yard sale amounted to one hundred and fifty-two dollars. Fall sale was planned for Douglastown Recreation Centre. Christmas social, a pot luck meal, was planned for Nelson Seniors' Hall.

Poetry of The Past, a book of poems in recent elementary texts, was shown by Pearl Bryenton, with a proposal that members submit copies of poems for a compilation of such.

An executive meeting, chaired by Noreen Drillen, was held on May 3, 1994 to plan for the Spring meeting.

Next meeting was held on May 11 at the Lions' Club Senior Citizens' room in Newcastle, chaired by Vice-President, Dorothy Gilliss. Moment of silence was held in memory of deceased members Anne McCoombs and Ruth Casey. Fifty-eight attended. Guest speaker, RCMP Constable Tinkham, spoke on security.

Treasurer reported \$4194.50 in the Scholarship Fund and \$792.47 in the regular account. There were ninety-one paid up members. Lenore Masterson reported that the fall sale brought in \$508.90. The Scholarship would go to a MVHS student. Hellen Patterson reported on the move of the Museum to the Loggie House in Chatham.

Bill Sweezey reported from the Provincial Meeting. A committee was assigned to study the details of joining the National Organization.

Discussion was held on the following: (a) encourage people to submit articles to *Reflections*, (b) have a member responsible for submitting write-ups on deceased members, (c) encourage more retired teachers to join our association, (d) honor members over age eighty with life memberships.

Bill Sweezey gave notice of motion as follows: that an addition to the present Constitution of MARTA be approved as follows: present article VII to become article VIII and article VII to be added as follows: Article VII – Honorary Life membership. (1) Honorary Life Membership may be conferred on senior members of the Association, or on other designated persons, as may be recommended by the Executive from time to time. (2) Honorary Life Members shall be exempt from paying membership dues, but shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Association with the exception of holding office. (The above to be voted on at the October meeting).

In other business several volunteers agreed to do write-ups on deceased members. Fall meeting was to be held at the Lions' Club in Newcastle on October 5. Having a Guard of Honor at funerals of deceased members was discussed. If the family so wishes, a request will be made with funeral announcement.

An executive meeting was held to plan for the fall meeting.

On October 5, 1994, the President, Noreen Drillen welcomed sixty-nine members to the meeting. A moment of silence was held in memory of deceased members.

Guest speaker, Donald Whitty, Department Head of the Learning Technologies Department of NBCC spoke about the new technology courses being developed.

Motions on Articles VII and VIII of the Constitution was made and passed. This concerned Honorary Life Membership as indicated in Minutes of May meeting.

Treasurer's report indicated that there were eighty-three paid up members. Regular account had \$986.40 while Scholarship Fund had \$4444.41. Lenore Masterson announced a craft sale for Nov 5.

Provincial report by Bill Swezey indicated that Provincial Association dues are \$5 per member. Therefore, notice of motion was given as follows: Dues of our local MARTA be increased to \$10. Motion to be voted on in May.

Nominating Committee with chairperson Dorothy Gilliss is to have a new executive ready for spring meeting.

Christmas Social was planned for December 6 at Nelson Seniors' Hall with pot-luck meal.

Spring meeting was planned for May 10.

An executive meeting was held on November 24, 1994 to plan for Christmas social.

On April 13, 1995 the President, Noreen Drillen, presided over an executive meeting to plan for the May meeting.

The Spring meeting was held on May 10, 1995 at the United Church basement, Chatham. Vice-President, Dorothy Gilliss, welcomed seventy-eight members. A moment's silence was held in memory of the following deceased members: Helena O'Brien, Earl Doherty, Kathleen Cory, and Harry Dickson.

Entertainment was provided by students from St Andrews School who sang and danced. Those from Ian Baillie provided a choral reading.

Honorary Life Membership certificates were presented to six members as follows: Helen Henderson, presented by Lena Brace, Mary Tozer bell by Pearl Bryenton, Helen Casy Donovan by Carmel Gill, Catherine MacDonald by Helen Patterson, Mary MacLean by Bill Swezey, and Helena Kingston by Dorothy Gilliss.

A motion to increase dues to \$10 was passed.

Lenore Masterson reported that a total of \$776.36 was raised at the sale, auction and raffle. Noreen Drillen volunteered to knit an afghan for the fall sale.

Museum artifacts have been moved to the Loggie House. Suggested topics for write-ups for “One Room School” were given to members by Helen Patterson.

Nominating committee report:

President – Dorothy Gilliss	Past President – Noreen Drillen
Vice President – Faye Brophy	Secretary – Marilyn Howard
Treasurer – Norma Sherrard	Social – Maureen LeBlanc
Provincial – Faye Brophy	Reflections – Eileen Lyons & Annie Bowie
Museum – Helen Patterson	Membership – Theresa Connell
Fund Raising – Lenore Masterson	

Bill Sweezey declared the executive elected.

President, Dorothy Gilliss, and five members of the executive met on September 13, 1995 to plan next meeting.

The Fall meeting was held on October 11, 1995 at the Lions’ Centre, Newcastle, with the President in the chair. Guest speaker, Bob Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of the NBTA gave an informative address.

Treasurer reported the regular fund to be \$947.72, Scholarship Fund \$1713.69 and investments \$5524.48. Recipient of scholarship in 1995 was from NSER and for 1996 it will go to MVHS.

A moment of silence was held in memory of deceased members Neva Williston and Stella Skidd.

Craft sale was held on November 4 in Douglstown.

Provincial report was given by Faye Brophy. Pewter pins for NBSRT were available for \$10. A donation of \$2000 was made to School Days Museum. President Robert penny reported that the medical prescription drug program through the NBTf was a better deal than the

Blue Cross. The President announced that he will attend the meeting of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers in Ottawa. This will be the first time NB will be represented.

Memorial plaques for deceased MARTA members are at the District 16 Board Office.

Christmas social was planned for December 5.

Shirley Tozer has agreed to do write-ups for *Reflections*.

Six of our members have agreed to write a history of MARTA. They are Mary MacLean, Chairperson, Dorothy McCarthy, Helen Henderson, Dorothy White, Dorothy Creighton, and Mary Gill.

Lucy Power and Shirley Lynch visit Mount St Joseph and the Senior Citizens' Home as the MARTA representatives. To keep up-to-date on sick, hospitalized or deceased teachers, members are asked to call the telephone committee.

An executive meeting was held on April 1, 1996 at the Portage Restaurant to plan for the May meeting. Seven members were present.

The spring meeting was held at St Raphael's Hall in Blackville. The President welcomed seventy-three members. A moment of silence was held in memory of deceased teachers Edith Fraser, Margaret Gray, Bernetta McKinnon, and Vera McMackin.

A delicious hot turkey dinner was served by the CWL ladies.

MARTA CONSTITUTION (1976)

ARTICLE I: NAME

Miramichi Area Retired Teachers' Association (MARTA)

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

1. To protect the interests of retired teachers.
2. To maintain a continued interest in education in New Brunswick.
3. To provide an organization for cultural and social activities.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. Any retired teacher in the Miramichi Area is eligible for membership. (Retired teacher means any teacher receiving a pension for full or partial service or disability.)
2. Any widow or widower of a retired teacher.

ARTICLE IV: DECISION-MAKING BODIES OF MARTA

1. The officers shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
2. The Executive shall consist of these four officers, plus the Past President, one or two Directors, and the Chairman of the Standing Committees. These officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting from a slate proposed by the Nominating Committee. Officers shall be eligible to serve for a period of two(2) years. The term of office for a Director shall be determined by that Director's local association.
3. The fiscal year for MARTA shall be from June 1st to May 31st of the following year.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

1. The Standing Committees of MARTA shall be: Pensions, Social, Membership and Telephone.
2. The Executive is to appoint or elect the Chairman of each committee, who will then select the other members of the committee.
3. The Nominating Committee shall select a slate of officers and shall accept additional nominations until April 1st. Nominations may then be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VI: MEETING AND DELEGATIONS

1. Annual Meeting- The place and date of the Annual Meeting shall be decided by the Executive.

MARTA CONSTITUTION (cont'd)

The Association should elect directors, appoint delegates, draft resolutions before May 31st of each year.

2. Semi-Annual Meeting- A second general meeting shall be held, usually in the fall.
3. Since MARTA has more than fifty (50) members, it is entitled to have, in addition to its Director, one voting delegate for each fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof in Excess of the basic fifty (50) members.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended at an Annual Meeting by a majority vote. A proposed amendment must be circulated no later than April 1st. By-Laws may be amended at any meeting by a majority vote.

BY-LAWS

1. Dues-All Associations are to be assessed annually one dollar per member, to be payable to N.B.S.R.T. not later than December 1st. Local dues are \$5.00 yearly to be paid at the Annual Meeting in May.
2. Petty Cash-The Treasurer shall be allowed the sum of \$25.00 for petty cash.
3. Expenses-The Director, or any member selected as a substitute for the Director, shall have his or her expenses paid by NBSRT re: travel, meals, etc. for attendance at its Annual Meeting. The expenses of a second voting delegate, where applicable, must be paid by MARTA.
4. Committees will report to each MARTA meeting, while Directors will report to each NBSRT Annual Meeting. A copy of NBSRT Meeting will be sent to member associations.
(COPIED SEPTMBER 25, 1995 FROM ORIGINAL)

CONSTITUTION MARTA

OCTOBER 1991

ARTICLE I: NAME

Miramichi Area Retired Teachers' Association (MARTA)

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

1. To protect the interests of retired teachers
2. To maintain a continued interest in education in New Brunswick
3. To provide an organization for cultural and social activities

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. Any retired teacher in the Miramichi Area ("**Retired teacher**" means any teacher receiving a pension for full or partial service or for disability.)
2. Any widow or widower of a retired teacher.

ARTICLE IV: DECISION-MAKING BODIES OF MARTA

1. The officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
2. The executive shall consist of the officers, the Past President, and the Chairman of the Standing Committees. These officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting from a slate proposed by the Nominating Committee.
3. Officers shall normally serve for a period of two years, but may agree to an extension of this term.
4. The term of office of the Director shall be determined by the Association.
5. The Executive shall conduct the business of the Association between meetings.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

1. The Standing Committees shall be Social, Membership and Telephone.
2. Other committees may be appointed by the Executive as deemed necessary.
3. The Executive is to appoint or elect the chairman of each committee, who will then select the other members of the committee.
4. A Nominating Committee, appointed by the Executive, shall select a slate of officers to be presented to the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations may then be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VI : MEETINGS AND DELEGATIONS

1. **ANNUAL MEETING:** The place and date of the Annual meeting shall be decided by the Executive. The Association shall elect directors, appoint delegates, and draft any resolutions by May 31st each year.
2. **SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING:** A second general meeting shall be held, usually in the fall.
3. Since MARTA has more than fifty paid-up members it is entitled to have, in addition to its Director, one voting delegate for each fifty members or major fraction thereof in excess of the basic fifty members.

ARTICLE VII : (1994) HONOURARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

1. Honourary Life Membership may be conferred on senior members of the Association or other designated individuals as may be recommended by the Executive from time to time.
2. Honourary Life Members shall be exempt from paying dues, but shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Association with the exception of holding office.

ARTICLE VIII : AMENDMENTS

1. The Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Association by a majority vote, providing Notice of Motion has been circulated to members at least two weeks in advance.
2. By-Laws may be amended at any meeting by a majority vote.

BY-LAWS:

1. **DUES** - Each member shall be assessed annually a membership fee to be determined by the Association at its annual meeting.
2. The Secretary and Treasurer shall each be allotted the sum of \$25.00 for petty cash.
3. The Director, or any member selected as an alternate for the Director who attends the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Association shall have his/her expenses paid by the New Brunswick Retired Teachers' Association. The expenses of a second voting delegate, where applicable, shall be paid by MARTA.
4. Committee Chairman and the Director shall report any pertinent information to each meeting of MARTA.
5. The Secretary shall be responsible for newspaper pictures and for issuing pertinent press releases on the activities and affairs of the Association and its membership.
6. The fiscal year shall be June 1 to May 31.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EXISTING COMMITTEES OF MARTA:

SOCIAL -- To plan social and/or cultural activities to enhance the interest and enjoyment of Association members.

MEMBERSHIP -- To keep the record of membership current, to contact new retirees, and to generally encourage support of the Association.

TELEPHONE -- To arrange for area telephone sub-committee chairpersons, to keep the listings current, and to notify sub-committee chairpersons when telephone contacts are necessary.

FUND-RAISING -- To plan, organize and oversee fund-raising activities in support of the Scholarship Fund or other Association activities.

NOMINATING -- As per constitution.

REFLECTIONS -- To collect and forward subscriptions for **REFLECTIONS** and to submit pertinent articles for publication.

MUSEUM -- To be the liaison with the Miramichi Historical Society, to oversee the ongoing layout and preservation of the museum collection, and to arrange for the acknowledgement and placement of contributed articles.

SCHOLARSHIP -- As outlined in the Terms of Reference for this Committee.

PUBLIC RELATIONS -- To issue press releases on the activities of the Association, to arrange for newspaper pictures, and to increase public awareness of the accomplishments and activities of the membership.

SICK AND VISITING -- To arrange for visits of members confined to area hospitals or nursing homes.

NOMINAL ROLL OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF MARTA

"Lest we forget" our departed members are remembered at each meeting by a Minute's Silence, after the singing of "O'Canada"

Nora Beaton	Sr M Hartery	Helena O'Brien
Wayne Cameron	Irene Hogan	Allie Savage
Ruth Casey	Debbie Hubbard	Stella Skidd
Agnes Cass	Genevieve Kerr	Annie Sobey
Sr Corcoran	Josephine King	Gordon Sobey
Kathleen Cory	Laura leslie	Mary J Sullivan
Bessie Creamer	Ruby Lockerbie	Rhoda Taylor
Stella Creamer	Celia Lordon	Dorothy Washburn
Nora Daigle	Annie MacDonald	Bruce Watt
Harry Dickson	Margaret MacDonald	Sr Whalen
Earl Doherty	Leola MacDonald	Elsie Williston
Ellen Dolan	Dorothy MacEachern	Emily Williston
Cecilia Donovan	Katie MacNaughton	Grace Williston
Frances Donovan	Anne McCoombs	Neva Williston
Muriel Flieger	Frances McGrath	Edith (MacKnight) Fraser
Louella Firlotte	Molly Martin	Margaret Gray
Frances Flynn	Merwena Murdoch	Jennie Williston
Frances Gordon	Mabel Nolais	Bernetta McKinnon
Irene Gilks	Sue Noonan	Vera McMackin
Mary Harriman	Ed O'Donnell	Helen Lawlor