

MIRAMICHI AREA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (MARTA)

Fall General Meeting

Renous Recreation Centre

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Call to Order/Welcome

The meeting was called to Order at 11:05 by our President, Charlotte Casey.

Charlotte also welcomed new member Gina Matheson.

NBSRT Greetings/Guest Speaker: Rod Campbell; President NBSRT

Guest Speaker, Rod Campbell, NBSRT President, brought greetings from NBSRT. He mentioned NBTA thanking retired teachers for:

1. Helping with supply days
2. Supporting active teachers when they were in a strike position.

Rod also spoke about the NBTA controlling who runs our teachers pension plan and group insurance plan. Our pension is not 100% indexed like many other provincial civil service pension plans. Inflation is eating away at our pension because we are not fully indexed. This is a topic that needs to be looked at. We should be encouraging NBTA that retired teachers should have their pension 100% indexed.

He invited us to attend a presentation given by Dr. Bill Randall on November 14 hosted by NBSRT Wellness Committee. Topic: *Adventures of Later Life, Aging Reimagined*

Adoption of Agenda

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Patsy Kingston and seconded by Laureena Black.

Minutes MARTA Fall AGM & Dinner, May 29, 2024

Highlighted minutes were read and approved.

Business Arising from the Minutes

None

Correspondence

Thank-you cards were received from Astride Miousse on the loss of her brother and her mother; and a thank-you card was received from Maria Brown on the loss of her sister.

Reports - Finance—Patsy Kingston--As of November 6, 2024

Patsy submitted the financial report for audit. Complete details, as presented by Patsy, are available to

members under the password protected “members only” section of the MARTA website.

Provincial Committee Reports:

a. Group Insurance – Dale MacRae

Eight active teacher representatives on the committee, 2 retiree representatives, and 2 observers. The members of the committee represent the plan and make sure there is money to pay out claims. In December 2024, there will be increases to Health Insurance (+7.5%), Prescription Drugs (+10%), and Dental (+6%).

b. Membership – Rick Hayward

No report

c. NBSRT Membership Secretary – Barb Hondas

No report

d. NBSRT October 22, 2024 – Charlotte Casey

Membership is on the rise. Many ideas of how to attract new retirees and interest others were discussed. Province wide we have 3037 NBSRT members; MARTA has 285 members. NBSRT member, Barry Rigley, passed away in the Spring. He was in charge of circulation for our *Reflections* magazine. Robert Taylor has taken over that task. Keeping up with addresses and people moving is a daunting task. If you have moved, please let us know your new address. If you change your email, please let us know.

MARTA COMMITTEES:

A. Archives – Marjorie Sinclair—MARTA documents were delivered to the Provincial Archives this summer. The NBSRT History is getting closer to being completed. Marjorie and John Bosma are continuing to gather information. They are hoping to have 200 copies of the book available at the SPRING NBSRT AGM in Miramichi, May 13-14, 2025.

B. Communication – Eleanor Watt, Cynthia Russell—Eleanor reported on events and activities set for the year. Communication Committee called members about several of these events including Heart Breakfast at the Portage, trip to PEI to see play, Fall General Meeting in Renous, and pot luck luncheon at the Seaman's Hospital.

C. Courtesy – Maria Brown—Since our last General Meeting on May 29, 2024, 8 sympathy cards have been sent out to our MARTA members. One card was sent to the family of our deceased member, Margaret Barker, who died on May 31, 2024. A donation was made to the Scholarship Fund in Margaret's memory.

D. Membership Database – Andy Clark-- Andy reported since the MARTA 2024 Spring AGM, held on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, our branch had 1 member who passed away, 0 who withdrew his/her membership, and 0 who transferred his/her membership to another branch of NBSRT, or who transferred into the MARTA Branch. During this same period, our branch has gained 10 new members all of whom are new registrants. As of today, November 6, 2024, the current branch membership of MARTA stands at 285.

E. Online Media – Andy Clark--Andy reported the MARTA website has new information added year-round, according to the information for posts received or requested. Birthdays are posted on the first day of each month, and pertinent specifically to the 2024-2025 calendar year, all planned meetings, events, and activities have been posted in the MARTA calendar, for convenient, quick and easy access.

For the year ahead, all executive meetings, general meetings, and dinners, and any events or activities with finalized details which have been received or drafted have been scheduled as posts pending for release in a timely manner in advance of each one.

Finally, Andy would like to thank Lois and the MARTA Wellness Committee for making his job easy. Following their meeting in September, Andy received the minutes with all known dates and information of events, meetings, etc., for the 2024-2025 calendar year.

F. *Reflections* Correspondent – no report—some topics were suggested for future issues of *Reflections*.

G. Scholarship – Elizabeth Price—This year’s recipient of the \$1000 scholarship was MVHS student, Taylor Baglole, who will enter the BA program at STU. The students chosen to receive the \$300 bursaries at the 5 high schools are: Chantal (Shane) L’Huillier from MVHS, Jillian Mutch from NSER, Yechan Park from Bonar Law Memorial, Stephen Brophy from Blackville High and Sydney O’Brien from JMH. The pictures of all recipients were sent into the *Reflection* magazine.

H. Wellness – Lois Gilliss—Meetings for the Wellness Committee will continue to be held on the third Thursday of each month from 11:00 to 12:30 at the Fundy Line Meeting Room. Any MARTA member is welcome to attend. Lois prepared and distributed a Save-the-Date information slip for upcoming events.

Two special events were mentioned: Nov 14, Dr. Bill Randall’s presentation to be held at the Portage Restaurant, and Dec 12 MARTA Christmas Social at the Dirty Dog from 6:30 to 8:30.

There will be a cover charge of \$10 for this event.

New Events: The possibility of starting a guest speaker event. It is in the planning stages, so stay tuned for more info, as well as a Christmas Card campaign for members who are not able to attend our activities.

Lois also thanked the members of MARTA for their support.

I. Special Project/50th Anniversary NBSRT AGM 2025 – Dale MacRae—Plans are well underway for the Anniversary celebration to be held in Miramichi on May 13-14, 2025. Thirteen corporate sponsors have signed on. Registration will be \$50 and late registration \$60. Hotel reservations were reported as totaling 34 to date. Invitations for opening ceremonies were discussed.

A motion was made by Mike Butler, and seconded by Merle Milson to accept all Committee Reports. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Elizabeth to increase Bursaries from \$300 to \$500. Moved by John and seconded by Eugene. Motion carried

New Business:

If anyone has any feedback/concerns about BelAir Direct, please email: caseycharlottej@gmail.com

Other:

Teaching Opportunities in Brazil (on website)

Miramichi Literacy Council seeking volunteers (on website)

Please reach out to absent MARTA members. Check in on them to be sure everything is ok.

The winner of the 50/50 draw was Kevin Hubbard--\$201.50

Grace

Grace was said by Marjorie MacPhee, just prior to the adjournment of the meeting, and dinner being served. Meeting adjourned at 12:08, followed by a delicious turkey dinner served by the Renous Recreation Centre.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tozer, Secretary

November 7, 2024