

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN THE NBSRT

### GAIL BROWN

The executives of both the New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers (NBSRT) and the King's County Association of Retired Teachers (KCRTA) nominate Gail Brown for Honorary Life Membership in the New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers. Gail retired from the New Brunswick Public Education system in 2003, and it was not long before she was approached to let her name stand for the position of recording secretary for the NBSRT. She agreed, and in 2004 she began a ten-year tenure as the NBSRT recording secretary. She has done an outstanding job for which we are appreciative – a job that today we as a group want to recognize and reward.

Anyone who has been secretary for any association or organization knows that there is much more involved to the position than simply attending a few meetings, taking notes, and writing up the minutes. Gail has looked after sending out notices and agendas, compiling and distributing minutes, receiving and responding to correspondence, booking a meeting room at the NBTF Building, arranging for a catered lunch, compiling and updating binders for the executive and directors, photocopying of materials, revising and updating the Constitution & By-Laws and the Terms of Reference upon approval of the NBSRT, making sure that everything is prepared for the presentation of Honourary Life Memberships, and on & on – all the minute details so essential to an association and its meetings running smoothly. Gail was a member of the 2013 Biennial Planning Committee, and she did a super job preparing materials and having everything ready for registration. At meetings, Gail was frequently the person to ask for advice on or knowledge of what was in the NBSRT Constitution and By-Laws. If she did not know exactly what the Constitution said, she knew where to find the precise information we needed. Gail was always willing to lend a hand in all activities that the NBSRT undertook. She was more than a table officer – she was a true friend to the executive and its directors, ready with a listening ear and a helping hand, and always acting with the best interests of the NBSRT in mind. It was rare for Gail to be absent from any meetings, even though for five and a half of those years she was employed full-time. Gail gave fully of herself to this position, and that dedication and commitment did not waiver during her ten years of service to the NBSRT.

Gail began teaching in 1967 at Hazen White-St. Francis School in Saint John and retired as principal of Fairvale Elementary School in School District #06 in 2003. In between, she taught in Cape Breton, in Halifax and in Algeria, taught English at NBCC in the Vietnamese program, and later coordinated the GED program for NBCC during the evenings while she was teaching full-time in District #06. During her career she was a classroom teacher, a Special Education teacher, a vice-principal and principal. She acquired three degrees: Bachelor of Teaching (1980's), a Master of Education (Curriculum and Instruction) in 1991 and a Master of Education (Educational Foundations) in 1993. If this was not enough, Gail was active in the NBTA (both locally and provincially), the NBTA Elementary Council, and in WEA-NB.

Once retired, Gail did not stop teaching. For five and a half years Gail taught landed immigrants to Canada through Settlement Services, using the LINC program (Language Instruction for New Comers)

which is one of the programs operated by the YMCA-YWCA. She developed a LINC brochure for teachers and substitute teachers, co-ordinated "Peace Week", "Multi-cultural Day" at the Saint John Free Public Library, and a "Day of Caring", plus she has co-developed a "Student Behaviour Handbook" and a program for "Boat People" at the Saint John Campus NBCC. She is a member of TESL-NB, (Teaching English as a Second Language) and was the registrar for its conference at the Wu Centre. Gail was also a volunteer on the "Y" International Committee (assisting with yard sales, Christmas sales, Peace Breakfast, etc).

Gail is also involved with the organization KV3C (Kennebecasis Valley Community Caring for Children), KV Outreach (which deals with troublesome relationships), and Beta Sigma Phi of which she has been a member for thirty-three years. Gail has worked as a volunteer with the Juvenile Diabetes Run, the VON Flu Clinic, the KV Access Centre and Meals on Wheels. As well, Gail has been actively involved with her church as a Sunday School teacher and a member of the Fundraising Committee.

A compassionate and caring person, Gail strives to make life better for others through her volunteerism. She has always taken a keen interest and been actively involved in her community, in her church and education. She has dedicated herself and volunteered numerous times to making and ensuring that life is better for others. Hopefully, Gail will have more time now to travel and visit with her children, Stephanie and Richard, and her grandchildren who live outside New Brunswick.

Thank you, Gail, for all that you have done and given to the New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers. We can never thank Gail enough for the many years of work that she did on our behalf. Even when she was ill, she did not want to delegate her duties or shirk her responsibilities. She will be missed! We wish you well in all your volunteering and community endeavours.