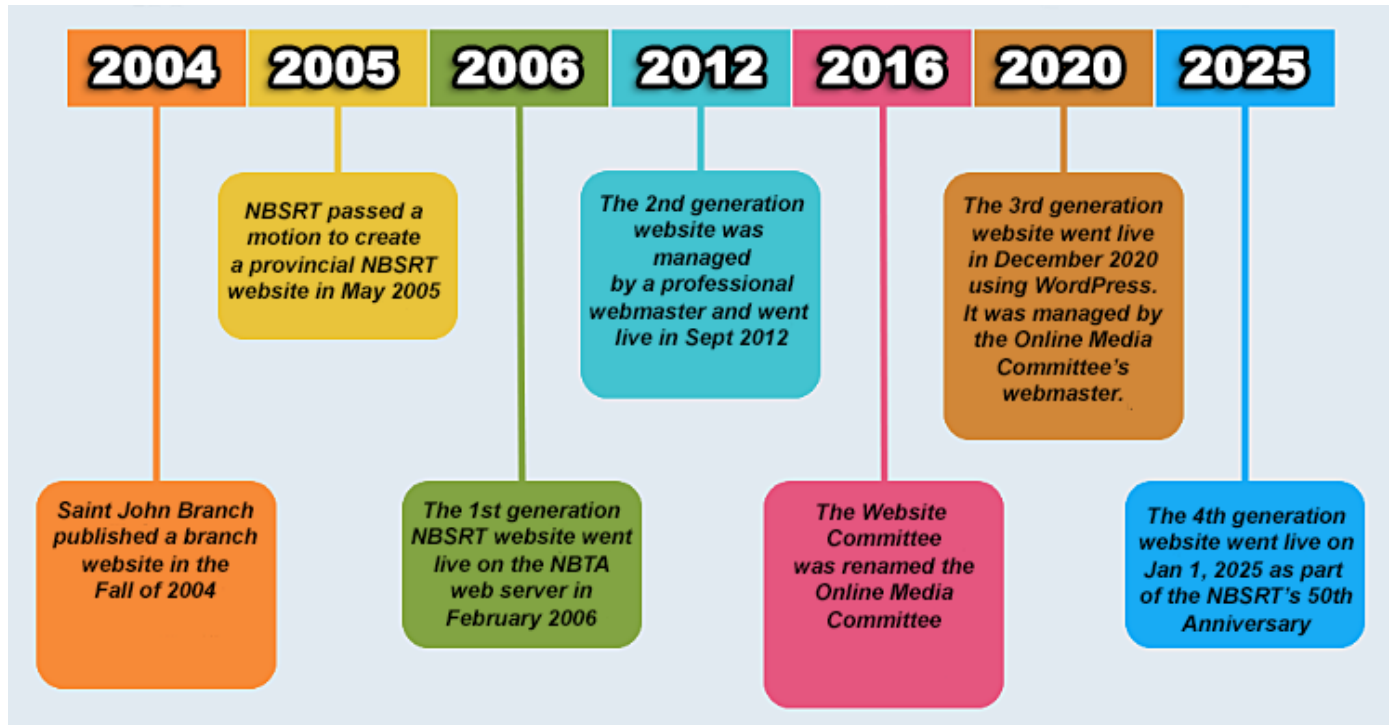


## The NBSRT Website (A Brief History)



The Saint John Branch of the NBSRT led the way in the fall of **2004** when it was the first to introduce a branch website in the days when not every retired teacher had an internet connection or even a computer. Those members who were “connected” could read the branch’s minutes and reports, check the constitution, get contact information for the branch executive, and much more. Suddenly, branch information was at a member’s fingertips – quite literally.

The future was clear, and six months later in **May 2005** at the NBSRT Biennial Meeting in Sussex, a motion was passed to create a provincial website committee whose task it was to create a provincial website. Members from the Bathurst, Carleton-North York, Restigouche, Moncton, and Saint John branches made up the original committee. Larry McPhee of the Saint John Branch was the first chair of the NBSRT Website Committee, and Kathy Dalling of the Saint John Branch was asked to be the webmaster since she had experience setting up the NBSRTSJ website. Less than a year later, on **February 14, 2006**, the first generation NBSRT provincial website was launched on the NBTA web server.

Committee Chair, Larry McPhee, gave the Website Committee report to the Board of Directors in September 2006, but by the AGM in May 2007, Marian Humphrey had succeeded Larry as the chair and reported on behalf of the committee.

By 2012 it had been six years since the website’s inception, a long time in the world of technology. The Website Committee made the decision to investigate using a professional website developer for an upgrade to the site. Eventually Gary Nightingale at *IBS Ltd* was selected to design and manage the website. The second generation website was launched on **September 25, 2012** when Website Committee Chair, Marian Humphrey, introduced the upgraded site to the Board of Directors at their fall meeting.

It wasn't long before the Website Committee members found themselves responsible for not only the provincial website, but also for an NBSRT Closed *Facebook* account and an NBSRT *Twitter* account. After extensive discussions among committee members, it was decided at a meeting in **October 2016** to recommend to the NBSRT Executive that the *Website Committee* be renamed the **Online Media Committee**. The Executive approved the recommendation.

In early 2018, the Online Media Committee began to think about upgrading the website to a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation edition. Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation website had been launched in 2012, members of the committee had gradually taken over more and more of the responsibility for updating the content on the website; however, there were still areas that had to be updated by the website manager. During this period, the committee also became aware of interactive website platforms that would enable more online participation by the committee members as well as the general membership.

Dale MacRae (MARTA) became the Online Media Committee Chair in June 2020. During the summer of 2020, and with support from the Provincial Executive, the committee contacted three website developers, including *IBS Ltd*, about creating a new provincial website. The Online Media Committee's recommendation to accept *CBT Technologies* website re-development proposal was accepted in a motion passed by the Executive at the September 2020 meeting.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> generation NBSRT provincial website was launched on **December 1, 2020**, using *WordPress* as the authoring software. Unlike the previous 2<sup>nd</sup> generation website that was managed by a professional webmaster, the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation website was managed entirely by an in-house webmaster who was a member of the Online Media Committee. This reduced the time between updates to the website, and reduced costs significantly.

In the Fall of 2023, the Online Media Committee decided to initiate a new version of the website. There were two motivating factors that lead to this decision: (1) It had been almost three years since the website had last been upgraded. With a year for development and implementation, it would be four years before a new website could go live and that was generally an accepted lifespan for a website design, and (2) The NBSRT would turn 50 years old in 2025, and it was thought that a fresh website design would contribute to a fresh start on the next 50 years.

The Online Media Committee sought bids from four developers and received Executive approval in December 2023 to award the contract a second time to *CBT Technologies*.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Generation NBSRT website went live on **January 1, 2025**, and became the first 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration event.

Sources:

Larry McPhee (NBSRTSJ)  
Marian Humphrey (RSRT)  
Dale MacRae (MARTA)  
Reflections – 2005-v03 Fall (Members-Only)  
Reflections – 2006-v02 Spring (Members-Only)  
Online Media Committee Minutes – October 2016 (Members-Only)  
Executive Committee Minutes – September 2020 (Members-Only)