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President's Message

by Bernadette Muisse

As another year draws to a close, I want to wish you and yours the very best of the holiday season. Take some time to reflect on the past year and set new goals for 2010.

I am very grateful for the opportunity I have had to represent the New Brunswick Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists. Over the past year, I have met with nurses, nurse practitioners, government officials, the Minister of Health, pharmacists, educators and other regulators and provided our perspective on many issues, such as point of care testing, pathology assistants, laboratory assistants and the impact these have on the laboratory. I represented the NBSMLT at the task force meetings regarding the Canadian Blood Services redevelopment project.

At the discussions with government officials and other regulators regarding the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), our position is consistent. The legislative committee has met several times to begin the process to comply with the new AIT regulations without compromising the safety of the public in New Brunswick. The required bylaw changes will be sent to the membership in the fall of 2010 to be voted on at the AGM at Maritech in Moncton, November 6th 2010. Rest assured that only qualified technologists will be allowed to practice in New Brunswick. The CSMLS certification exams have been the cornerstone since MLT regulation in NB and new grads will still be required to pass those exams. The amendment only affects technologists who have been licensed to practice in another regulated jurisdiction and are applying to work in NB. This is a complicated issue and will require thought, consideration and consultation with our lawyer in order to provide the best solution for our members and the public.

Internationally educated medical laboratory technologists are being recruited throughout Canada. The NBSMLT requires that these

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technologists are processed through the Prior Learning Assessment program of the CSMLS before they are considered eligible for membership in NBSMLT. Discussions with the community colleges regarding bridging programs have begun. These bridging programs would enable the internationally educated technologists to address any educational gaps, here, in NB, before writing the certification exams. With this option in place, it would be more likely that they would remain in NB to help alleviate the shortage of technologists we all know is coming.

The Moncton Hospital Laboratory has moved to its' new home...finally! It was worth the wait. It is clean and new and already crowded but we are learning to adapt.

I want to thank Janelle for all her hard work. She has been diligent in attending meetings and raising the profile of medical laboratory technologists at every opportunity. Janelle exemplifies the drive, ambition and work ethic we technologists embody. She is an asset to the NBSMLT.

I want to welcome the new Board members, Dorothy Harris, as Continuing Education director and Jim Sloan, as president elect 2010, both of whom are focused and will do a great job in their respective portfolios. I know incoming President Susan Findlater will have an impressive team in 2010. I am proud to have been part of a great Board of Directors and I urge you all to consider serving the society on the Board of Directors, you can learn so much!



From the Editor

Janelle B. Whitlock

As the holiday season approaches, I feel that it is important to highlight the contribution of our dedicated volunteers. Many Medical Laboratory Technologists spend countless hours helping our profession to move forward, even in these trying times of human resource shortage in the workplace. Their contribution and work does not go unnoticed.

In this issue, we congratulate a few dedicated technologists for their professionalism and achievements. Claudette Ptasznik who is working diligently to gather historical information on our profession in New Brunswick has sent a picture of the first graduating class of Medical Laboratory Technologists. You will have the pleasure to read the article on LABCON 2009 submitted by the two MLTs who were awarded the NBSMLT grants in the spring.

I am wishing everyone a healthy and safe holiday season.



**Next
submission
date:
Feb. 5th
2010**

Submit your texts or comments/questions to:

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Editorial policy

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a means of communication between the members of the NBSMLT and its Board of Directors. The opinions expressed in the MLT Analyzer are those of the contributors and do not constitute official policy of the NBSMLT. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions as required.

Christiane Simard Laviolette

Award Citation for A. R. Shearer Pride of the Profession Award

Christiane dedicated thirty-five plus years of service to the medical laboratory technology profession in northern New Brunswick. Christiane came to Campbellton, after she graduated from Institut de Technologie Laval de Montreal (1968) and after having worked for four years at the Institut de Recherche Clinique de Montreal in Neurology Department under Dr. André Barbeau.

1972 was the year that New Brunswick received this gifted lady who would raise the awareness of the public to what medical laboratory professional pride is about. At that time, the profession was almost unheard of. Christiane successfully wrote the R.T. in Chemistry in 1975 and then participated in academy, provincial and national affairs of the society.

At the Academy level, she was president and area director in 1980, chairperson for the NBSMLT Fall seminar in Campbellton in 1983 and in 1989 with Christiane as chairperson for Medical Laboratory Week; received CSLT Award of merit for Public Relations.

Provincially, from 1980 to 1988, Christiane served as Area Director for the North Shore Academy and as a board member. 1988 saw Christiane as provincial president for the first time. Christiane served as provincial P.R. director and representative on national P.R. committee from 1986 to 1991. Provincial presidency was again hers for the year of 1990. Christiane had another hat from 1996 to 1998: that of provincial POCT coordinator and in that role was a speaker at the CSMLS Congress in P.E.I. in 1997. Her third provincial presidency term was in 1999.

Nationally, Christiane was a P.R. committee member from 1986 to 1991. In 1991, she moved to Bilingual Director and board member and was on the Council of Presidents in 1988, 1990 and 1999.

Christiane has made other significant contributions to raising laboratory technology awareness by being on the hospital accreditation committee in 1996 and 1999, being a member of the Lion-



Christiane (left) receiving her award from Susan Atkinson (right)

ess Club from 1977 to 1988 (in that time, president twice), being a member of the Program Advisory Committee for the Medical Laboratory Program at NBCC Saint John from 1988. She spent from 2000 until after the Canada Winter Games of 2003 as Liaison between Athletes Village and Medical Services.

Although, Christiane “retired” in 2008 but continues to keep current with education and scientific advances in our field. Bernadette Muise, N.B. provincial president, presented Christiane with the provincial Anita Lindsay Award at the APSC, in Edmundston in October. In Bernadette’s introduction to the presentation she stated: “The nominee for 2008 has demonstrated commitment and excellence throughout her career and that it must be gratifying to know that this career has been recognized by her peers”.

Then is making the presentation, summed everything up nicely with: “ Christiane Laviolette has, for over 30 years, exemplified the highest standards of the profession of Medical Laboratory Technology. She has given selflessly of her time at the local, provincial and national level. She shared her knowledge and enthusiasm with many new grads over the years. She has presented at various conferences and she has represented her profession well.”

The Archie Shearer Pride of the Profession Award would be another fitting honor for Christiane to receive for all that she has done for the profession.



First Official Graduation Class- Regional Laboratories-1959

Back row (left to right): Barbara Bell, Elaine Colpitts, Joan Vermette, Rochelle Gagne, Myrna Robertson, Ethel Lyons, Marg Keley
 Front row(left to right): Kay Harrigan, Sheila Ryan, Pauline Colpitts, Gloria Colpitts, Barbara Creamer

This photo is of the first class of New Brunswick Medical Laboratory Technologists to graduate from a formal training program in 1959. Training before that time was by apprenticeship. Classroom instruction was given at the Central Laboratory Building on Castle Street in Saint John with practicum at both the Central Lab and Saint Joseph's Hospital Lab. The graduation ceremony was held in the gymnasium of the nurses residence in Saint John. White long sleeve uniforms were the formal graduation attire. Caps were not yet introduced.

This was 50 years ago!



Suzanne Turcotte, a 1990 graduate of the Medical Laboratory Technologist program at the Saint John Community College, began her career in the Haematology Department of the Saint John Regional Hospital that same year. Her areas of specialty in-

clude Senior Morphologist trained in bone marrows, and she is a key operator for Haemostasis. Suzanne has been an active member of the NBSMLT since 1996, and is currently President of the Saint John Academy.

Suzanne's commitment to continuing education lead her to enroll in Memorial University's Bachelor of Technology Degree (Health Sciences option) in 2002. While working fulltime she completed her degree, one course at a time. Suzanne describes this time as a "journey", with her destination reached on completion of her degree in May, 2009. Suzanne comments, "I had a fabulous time attending convocation in Newfoundland with family and friends; what a great trip!"

Sincere congratulations to Suzanne for her great achievement!

In Memory of Michael Pronk

The NBSMLT was saddened to learn the passing of Michael Pronk on August 6, 2009 at the age of 53. Michael spent 30 years in a multifaceted career he loved. He was very active both teaching and volunteering to improve the cytology branch of medical laboratory technology. His dedication and expertise will be missed.





Board Meeting Synopsis

The Board of directors held a face to face meeting on October 16, 2009. The following points were discussed:

- The president and registrar will be attending a two day conference on official languages held in Fredericton on November 24 and 25th.
- The Department of Health is drafting regulations to support the PHIPAA Bill 88, which was adopted in spring, 2009. A consultation process has begun to better understand what type of information is collected by health organizations.
- Kurt Davis has resigned from his position of Executive Director for CSMLS.
- The Registrar attended a meeting on internationally educated health professionals which was facilitated by representatives from Health Authority A. The professions which had representation around the table were Nurses, Physicians and **Medical Laboratory Technologists**.
- 2009 unaudited financial statement were presented to the board and approved.
- 2008 audited financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors.
- A bulk e-mail was sent to the membership for recruitment of public relations representatives. Display Boards are a priority for the NBSMLT and will be the first mandate of the public relations committee.
- It was decided by the Board of Directors that simultaneous interpretation will be available at the AGM beginning in 2010.
- Contracts between CSMLS and NBSMLT with regards to the Prior Learning Assessment and the national exam were revised by the Board of Directors. The revised contracts will be signed and sent to CSMLS.
- The Registrar's contract for 2010 was revised by the Board of Directors.
- With the current economic climate and the number of educational events on the rise, vendors are finding it difficult to attend all APSC's, some vendors mentioned that they felt events like Maritech and Congress were better value for their trade show dollars. Academies should consider that a trade show at smaller educational events such as APSC may no longer be a viable option.
- The next meeting will be a teleconference which will take place on December 2, 2009.



The following MLA candidates from The Moncton Hospital were successful in the CSMLS Certification examinations in 2009 :

*Janelle Deveau
Faye Smith
Collette Oxford
Kristine Eadie*

*Mandy Jones
Crystal Keays
Christine Best
Kalyn Cameron
Veronique Bourque*



Congratulations and welcome to life in the lab!

LABCON2009

By Mary Hamilton and Coral MacRae

It would not have been possible to “Discover Time” at LABCON2009, the CSMLS National Congress, without the financial assistance of the NBSMLT’s Congress Grant. Mary Hamilton & I were so very fortunate to have been chosen as grant recipients. We flew to St. John’s with great expectations. And as it turned out, we were not disappointed.

Congress Chair Terry Gulliver promised that we would learn from the best, see the very latest in lab equipment, enjoy a spectacular social program and have the opportunity to take in some extraordinary sightseeing. And that, we did!

We arrived on Friday evening, and settled into a lovely old bed & breakfast where the superb hospitality was undeniably down-home. Saturday morning we found ourselves back in time, when we walked through the streets of the old downtown.

There were reports of icebergs and whales in the area, so we set sail on that sunny warm Saturday afternoon from Bay Bulls. Our tour guide sang a few ditties and told stories as we enjoyed spectacular scenery, Bird Islands and 150,000 puffins, humpback whales and an iceberg. The afternoon was unforgettable.

After Saturday’s Workshops, the Congress Committee kicked off their social program with their Saturday Night Social Meet & Greet at Trapper Johns on the famous George Street. Needless to say, by 10 pm we could not muster the energy to continue and missed the screeching in ceremony.

The Opening Ceremonies on Sunday morning were very well attended, with all the pomp & circumstance of a true CSMLS Congress. The Mayor advised everyone in the audience that “if you follow Terry Gulliver this week, you’ll be sorry”. He knew that Terry would deliver on his promise that the committee would have us “hopping from dusk ‘til dawn”. Rex Murphy was the Keynote Speaker. What a character! What knowledge and vocabulary! And what wonderful stories of Newfoundland spirit & hospitality. We attended the pre-AGM Forum and luncheon, and stayed for the CSMLS AGM. Then we split up and attended sponsor symposiums.



Mary Hamilton and Coral MacRae in St. John’s, NF

The President’s Reception was at The Rooms, Newfoundland & Labrador’s Provincial Museum and Art Gallery. The delicious seafood was endless, the view of the sunset and harbor was spectacular and the art wasn’t bad either. We met both old and new acquaintances from across the country while enjoying good food and drink.

Monday – TA Loeffler’s “Discovering Your Own Everest” was an excellent plenary session where she inspired the audience to conquer their own Everest, whatever it might be. It was a good combination of humor, drama and inspiration.

Forty-seven vendors participated in the trade show, and we went to every booth at least once during LABCON2009. The Exhibitors’ Reception was well attended with lots of lab equipment and supplies, lots of people and oh yes, lots of good Newfoundland food.

The Monday night social event was called Discover Downtown St. John’s at Club One with The Masterless Men and Bic & The Ballpoints. Quite frankly, we can’t remember how many times we raised our glasses to the toast of “Sociable !”.

Tuesday morning, after another hardy breakfast, we found that we may have been suffering from the Club One Virus, coined by Terry Gulliver. But still, we attended excellent lectures all day, starting with the plenary session The Real Story (Dr. Simon Avis) inspired by the popular TV series CSI.

Tuesday night’s Spirit of Newfoundland consisted of a delicious dinner followed by Newfoundland music, stand-up comedy and audience participation.

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It's important to mention that we provided daily breakfast-table lively conversation at our B&B for the other patrons, recounting our previous day's events. Every morning we shared interesting tidbits of technical and medical information.

LABCON2009's last day again provided excellent educational sessions. Dr. Simon Kirby was inspirational in telling his story of dealing with life after surviving a CVA.

Sheila Williams was the Closing Speaker, and brought a humorous look at stress and how it takes joy away from our lives. Mary became famous when invited up on stage to take a picture of Sheila with the audience. It turned out to be a part of her act that she used at the end of her talk. It brought great gales of laughter from us all.

Our last sight-seeing excursion was the walk up Signal Hill. We invited Lucille Griffin (from the Provincial Vet Lab) to join us. We stopped at the

Johnson Geo Centre first. What an amazing place. We touched the Great Rock Wall which has existed for 550 million years and saw some excellent exhibits. Then we made our way up Signal Hill, on foot, to see the Cabot Tower. Mary was pretty sure we took the wrong way because the hill seemed very steep, and there really was no path to follow. When we arrived at the top, we were out of breath big time. But we finally made it to the spot where Marconi received his first transatlantic wireless signal in 1901.

Finally, all humor aside, every medical laboratory technologist should try to attend at least one CSMLS Congress in his or her career. It's guaranteed to be a fabulous week, full of opportunities to enrich your mind with scientific discovery. Once again we want to sincerely thank the NBSMLT for awarding us Congress Grants. We also want to thank Anne Galloway and River Valley Health for granting us the Education Leave.

NBSMLT Anita Lindsay Award

The Anita Lindsay Award is awarded annually to a technologist who exemplified exceptional professional service.

Applications for the 2010 award will be accepted until December 31, 2009.

Objective

The Anita Lindsay Award is presented to a member who is leaving the profession of Medical Laboratory Technology. The award will only be given when a suitable recipient is nominated.

Selection Committee

The Awards Committee shall select the recipient by reviewing the résumé of the nominees submitted on or before December 31st. The Award Committee will purchase the award.

Presentation

The recipient shall receive an expense paid trip to Annual General Meeting where the President will present the award at the AGM banquet.

Selection Criteria

Must be leaving the profession of Medical Laboratory Technology (retiring or changing careers), after least 20 years as a member of NBSMLT.

Must have demonstrated professionalism, integrity and a commitment to high personal standards throughout his/her career.

Must have significantly contributed to the professional society at the academy, provincial, national or international level for at least 5 years.

Must be nominated by an active member of NBSMLT.

Publicity

A résumé and picture of the recipient shall be made available for press releases and publication in the Analyzer.



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