



MLT

# Analyzer



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## President's Message

### SEASON'S GREETINGS AND ALL THE BEST TO YOU AND YOURS IN 2007

From my perspective, this year 2006 is quickly passing by, and it's no wonder. I want to sincerely thank the board members, our Executive Directors and those many volunteers of our various committees who have been so very generous in donating countless hours of their time and energy in their involvement with our Society. This teamwork, plainly stated, is incredibly significant. Our Society simply could not manage to fulfill its mandate without this joint effort.

This past spring, the NBSMLT produced two different 30 second commercial videos in both official languages designated for television. They were filmed in the Regional Laboratory in Saint John. Currently, they're on the website, and don't hesitate to

make use of them. Perhaps they may be useful when you're representing our profession at an information session such as a student career expo.

Another significant activity of the Board was the formation of an ad hoc committee. Its purpose was to make recommendations to the Board on updating the NBSMLT Strategic Plan of 1999 as well as to assess and make recommendations on present and future administrative necessities. The most urgent need at the time was to find a new Executive Director/Registrar upon Janet Kingston's retirement in August. And luckily, after conducting several interviews, the Board was very fortunate to find a suitable candidate for the job, Janelle Bourgeois Whitlock. It was a very busy summer for the Board, during this transition period, because the Board had to make important decisions not only with the search for a new Executive Director, but also on the relocation of its office

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and now visit us on the web at:  
<http://www.nbsmlt.nb.ca>

"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today.

It's already tomorrow in Australia."

-Charles Schultz

## President's Message

*(Continued from page 1)*

from Janet's home in Fredericton to the Moncton area. And so, with this transition, the Board acquired office space in Memramcook. This move is meant to facilitate the growing need for the administration of our Professional Development Program; and of course, the eventual establishment of regular business hours for our office.

The Legislative Committee has had discussions on the impending issue of Medical Laboratory Assistants in our province, considering inclusion of them under our Act. Think about this: a Stats Canada 2001 Census estimated that there were approximately 22,800 MLAs working in Canada. The CSMLS has stated that medical literature indicates pre-analytical errors account for 85% of errors in diagnostic testing and that MLAs are indeed a key factor in minimizing these errors. Currently, there is no job classification for the MLA in New Brunswick. But there is lobbying here to make the MLA a recognized job classification and there appears to be industry support for a certification process. There is a move nationally to accredit MLA programs and the NBSMLT supports the current process that the CSMLS has in place to certify MLAs in Canada. In addition, the CSMLS has applied to include this profession in the CMA conjoint accreditation process.

There has been an enormous amount of time and effort invested in this very valuable asset of ours - the Society's updated website. The Board is very excited. And I urge you make it one of your frequent sites of reference. It has been developed

in such a way as to allow our members and virtual guests to see the NBSMLT. To see who we are, to see what we're all about, to see what we stand for. And as we evolve, so shall our website. It's the window through which the world can see us and our profession.

And talking about evolving, I find it amazing to look at our Society today in comparison to what it was when I started to work, I'd like to think just a few years ago because the time has passed so quickly, but in reality, it's been thirty years. And I can truthfully say that I know the leaps and bounds our Society and profession has made, because I have been involved in this growth at various levels throughout the years. This involvement has contributed a huge part of what has made my career so very meaningful to me. Yes, I've worked with lots of amazing people, I've learned about science and technology, I've enjoyed the camaraderie in this profession, and will continue to do so, even though there have been many challenges to overcome. And I expect these challenges will be never ending. So what! I'm a medical laboratory technologist. This profession and everything that goes with it and everything that I put into it are those very things that have come to contribute to my fulfillment and faith.

Coral MacRae, MLT  
President NBSMLT 2006



### Please Note:

The designation “**RT**” in New Brunswick is a protected title for Respiratory Technologists and as such, cannot be used by registered Medical Laboratory Technologists. Although we were given the designation of registered technologists by CSMLS when we passed our certification examinations; the correct title for Medical Laboratory Technologists in NB to use is **MLT**.

## England Lab Exchange May 2006 Birmingham Women's Hospital

*Jennifer Enman B.Sc., MLT  
Sackville Memorial Hospital Laboratory*



I am a recent graduate of the NBCC Saint John MLT program. As part of our training, an opportunity to go on exchange to a lab in England was offered. I jumped at the opportunity. Thanks to the accommodating staff at the Moncton Hospital, I was able to finish my hospital practicum Competency Based Objectives (CBOs) in 6 weeks and thus spend the month of May in Britain.

The Birmingham Women's hospital is one of two hospitals in England specializing in women's health services. The services available at the hospital include; Gynaecology, Maternity, Fertility, Neonatal Intensive Care, and Genetics. The key statistics of the hospital are as follows:

- 6,200 births per year
- 5,185 Gynaecology patients
- 176 beds
- 14 Delivery Rooms
- 32 Neonatal cots
- 4 Operating Theatres
- 1,400 members of staff

The lab is essentially one long hallway broken up by fire doors. There is no central receiving area in the Women's Hospital lab. Each department is responsible for receiving and "booking in" their own specimens. Bar code stickers were placed on the specimen and the requisition (form) and then the numbers are matched up in the computer. The specimens arrive in the lab in a different manner from what I was used to. Instead of all the samples coming in a rack with accompanying requisitions, the requisitions have envelopes attached to them that contain the specimen. "Booking in" specimens was one task at which I became very accomplished.

I started my rotation in the Chemistry department. The main focus of Chemistry is genetic screening rather than routine chemistry. They screen and calculate a risk ratio for the development Down's syndrome and neural tube defect using hCG (human chorionic gonadotropin), AFP (alpha fetoprotein), and UE3. The instrument that performs the bulk of this testing is run in batches of 81 samples with an attempt to complete 4 runs each day. Gel electrophoresis is also used to help detect the possibility of neural tube defect. The clinical scientists (British- speak for MLT) decide which patients warrant having the electrophoresis and then have to make the gels themselves. Several of the instruments they use are from countries whose first language is not English (i.e. Finland, Japan) so the instrument manuals are a little frustrating to use; since they are a literal translation into English.

Next, I spent some time in the haematology department. Full Blood Counts (FBCs) makes up most of the work load of this department with a little bit of everything else thrown in for good measure. Baby bloods are always treated as STAT and always have a smear made for a differential (diff). Their computer system is not set up for adult bloods to reflex if a diff is needed. It is the scientists' job to decide if, and when, a diff is needed. Their diff microscope has a dual head which I found very convenient for learning purposes. In coagulation, the specimens are spun down in a refriger-

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ated centrifuge and then run on an ACL 1000. Manual Clauss fibrinogens are performed in a water bath, shaking the tubes and checking for clotting. They do not have fibrometers. Haemoglobinopathies are tested for using High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). It is important to know the ancestry of the parents since Birmingham has a very diverse population – I saw some haemoglobinopathies I had never heard of before because our population is not overly diverse.

Blood Bank was my next stop. They perform their ABO groupings using the tube method and screenings, panels, and DATs (direct antiglobulin tests) are done using gel cards. They reuse their blood testing tubes – emptying and washing them at the end of the day. One pipette is used for ABOs of patients – rinsed liberally in between each specimen with water and saline. Units of blood for transfusion are received from their blood service already split. The blood for transfusion to babies is not washed but is CMV negative. A very interesting feature of the blood bank lab is their double sided fridge – one door in the lab and the other in the hallway. In this fridge is stored the cross-matched blood. The clinical scientist places the blood in the fridge after all the appropriate testing and checks have been performed and when the blood is needed, the nurse can enter a code to open the fridge, retrieve the blood, sign off that the blood is the right unit for the right patient, and leave without interacting with the lab staff.

After blood bank, I went to Microbiology. Since this is a specialized women's hospital the bulk of the work is vaginal swabs. Some of the media they use is different from what we typically use in our labs therefore; some of the bacteria did not have what I would have considered a typical appearance. They plate specimens on the open bench – not in a biological safety cabinet. The staff was unaware of what a bactincinerator was; they use Bunsen burners, so I showed them a picture from the internet. Something I found interesting is their use of an anaerobic glove box instead of anaerobic jars. Urines are part of microbiology instead of chemistry since what they are usually looking for is *Trichomonas vaginalis*. Checking the pasteurization process in milk bank is another one of micro's responsibilities. The hospital accepts a donation of breast milk for the babies in the neonatal unit which is then pasteurized and cultured to ensure against contamination.

Histopathology was the last department in the lab that I visited. This department is not directly associated with the clinical laboratory. Some of the pathologists working there are world renowned, so there are a lot of "referred in" cases. This hospital is a reference center for autopsies of children under the age of 7. In histopathology, I mainly watched the trimming of specimens for processing. The specimen that left the biggest impression with me was an ovarian cyst measuring 230mm by 150mm by 1500mm. The microtomes are set up differently there than I was used to. Instead of the cutting wheel being to the side and pulling the ribbon towards oneself, they have it positioned so the cutting wheel is in the front and the ribbon is pulled off to the side. Very few special stains are performed in their lab. Instead, they rely on immuno-histochemistry, the bulk of which is performed at the Birmingham University Medical School just across the road.

There are quite a few areas I got to visit outside of the lab. I participated in the Glucose Tolerance Test (GTT) clinic held by the chemistry lab. Their GTT protocol involves capillary blood instead of

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venous blood and they dilute the glucose drink with water. Haematology also has a clinic for pregnant women on heparin therapy. Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) is a unit available for women up to 16 weeks pregnant. Often, these women come in with abdominal pain and/or spotting and are concerned about miscarriage. The youngest foetus ultrasound I saw was of a 7 week old. Day Assessment Unit (DAU) is for women with a high risk pregnancy. These women may come in once a day or a couple of times a week to be scanned just to make sure the babies are doing ok. Assisted Conception is just what it sounds like. While there, I got to witness egg harvesting, fertilization, sperm counts, and re-implantation. Immunology is done over at the medical school and is a mixture of clinical and research work. They are largely involved in multiple myeloma studies. Cytology is separate from the clinical lab and in a different part of the hospital. Cytogenetics was fascinating and I was allowed to try my hand at karyotyping already diagnosed patients.

Of course, on the week-ends I did as much sightseeing as I could squeeze in. I managed to get to Bath, Stonehenge, Avebury (Stonehenge preamble), Lacock, Oxford, Windsor Castle, and London. It was a fantastic experience and one I would highly recommend to all students in the MLT program.

## Up-coming Events... You won't want to miss:



**CSTM "On Track to the Future"**  
May 4-6, 2007 Calgary Alberta



**CSMLS Leadership Forum Be Inspired!**  
May 10-13 2007 Hamilton, Ontario

Watch for NBSMLT Congress Grant Applications  
in the next issue of the MLT Analyzer !



## Committees of the NBSMLT:



The **Advisory Committee on the Education of Medical Laboratory Technologists** (AC on ED of MLT) is responsible for monitoring the MLT training programs in New Brunswick and representing NBSMLT on the Program Advisory Committees (PACs) of same. The Committee shall consist of the Chair, the CNC representative, the PAC representatives plus the NBSMLT CE Director. Members shall serve a two-year term except for the CNC representative whose term is for three years (maximum 2 terms). Committee members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors (BOD). The Chair shall be elected by members of the Committee. At least two members shall be bilingual. PAC representatives shall be:

NBCC – President and CNC representative

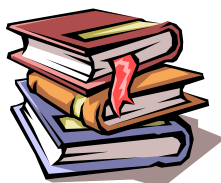
BMLS (UNB) – Registrar, President and CNC representative

CCNB & Université de Moncton – a bilingual Area Director and another bilingual member (CNC representative or an Officer of the BOD)

In addition, members of other associations and the public may be appointed.

The **Advisory Committee on Regulation and Professional Practice** is responsible for:

The development, the maintenance and the verification of compliance of the professional development programs and guidelines for practicing & non-practicing technologists. Providing support for the Point of Care Tests (POCT) Coordinator who shall also be a member of this committee. The Committee shall consist of a minimum of 5 members including the Chairperson and the POCT Coordinator. Members shall serve for a two-year term. (maximum 2 terms) The members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors (BOD). The Chairperson shall be elected by members of the committee. At least two members must be bilingual. In addition, members of other associations and the public may be appointed.



The **Continuing Education Committee** is responsible for promoting and providing information on educational material to members. The committee will consist of one representative from each Academy, one representative from the School of Medical Technology and the Chairperson, appointed by the Board, shall serve a two year term with a maximum of two terms. The Area Representatives will be appointed or elected by each Academy and the representative from the School of Medical Technology will be appointed by the CE

Chairperson. If an Academy should fail to elect a representative, the Area Director shall be the replacement for the Academy in the interim.

The **Legislation Committee** shall be responsible for reviewing the Bylaws, Rules, Standards of Practice and other official documents of the NBSMLT, under direction from the Board of Directors. The committee shall consist of: the Past President, the Executive Director, minimum of two other members (with Board experience) Members shall serve a two year term with a maximum of two terms. The Chair shall be appointed by the Board.



The **Public Relations Committee** is responsible for marketing and communicating Society values, vision, mission and goals to members and the public. The committee will consist of one representative from each Academy and the Chairperson, appointed by the Board, shall serve a two year term with a maximum of two terms. The Area Representatives will be appointed or elected by each Academy. If an Academy should fail to elect a representative, the Area Director shall be the replacement for the Academy in the interim.

The **Publications Committee** is responsible for the function, structure, format, printing and distribution of the newsletter and other publications as determined by the Board. The newsletter for the NBSMLT shall reflect the interests of the Society and shall be the primary route of communication from the Board to the members. The committee shall consist of the six Area Directors and the Editor of the newsletter. One Area Director shall be appointed Chair by the Board.



## Anita Lindsay Award - Jean Little, ART

I am pleased to announce that the recipient of the **2006 Anita Lindsay** award is **Jean Little, ART**, from Fredericton. Jean has been a technologist for more than twenty five years. She has risen through the ranks of the microbiology department to retire from position of clinical microbiologist at the Dr Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital. During her career, Jean has been committed to the training, supervision and mentoring of microbiology technologists. Always willing to share her expertise; Jean has presented lectures at Education Days, Maritechs; APSCs and Congress.

Jean has been instrumental in steering the course of the NBSMLT. Her roles on the various committees have helped to make our society the strong and focused entity that it is today. Without her tireless efforts during the initial discussion and lobbying for our right to self regulation; the society might not have been one of the pioneers in regulation of the profession of medical laboratory technology. Jean was chairman of the committee for legislation of MLTs and co-author of the NBSMLT standards of practice. As a member of the “rules” committee she helped draft the rules by which the business of the NBSMLT is carried out.

One of the goals Jean set, during her presidency of the NBSMLT in 1987; was the establishment of the Annual Provincial Scientific Convention which has evolved over the years to become the outstanding event we have come to expect. The other goal was licensing, which was achieved when “An Act Respecting the New Brunswick Society of Medical Laboratory Technology” was assented to in 1991.

Jean has been involved in quality assurance initiatives throughout her career and has had articles published in the Journal of Clinical Pathology as well as the CSMLS journal. She has remained committed to continuing education throughout her career and has demonstrated her belief in lifelong learning.

Jean truly exemplifies the spirit of exceptional professional service which is what the presentation of the Anita Lindsay Award recognizes. Congratulations Jean. Rest assured you are admired by members of the society and you will be missed by your colleagues. Enjoy your retirement.



Coral MacRae presents the Anita Lindsay Award to Jean Little at the NBSMLT 2006 AGM October 28.

## Joan Kennedy Memorial Award - Janet Reid

Joan Kennedy Memorial Award winner for 2006 is Janet A. Reid. This award was presented to Janet at the AGM in Saint John, by NBSMLT President Coral MacRae.

The Joan Kennedy award was established to recognize technologists for their service and support of the profession of Medical Laboratory Technology. It is only awarded every fifth year, with the first award being presented in 1979. Past recipients have included Ruth Bulmer, Charlotte Lovatt, Jean Little, and Denise Bushey.

Janet has been first and foremost a technologist; she has demonstrated a profound commitment to continuing education in her career aspirations and in the volunteer aspects which this award recognizes.

Janet has served on the CSMLS Council for National Certification, she has served her academies as Continuing Education and Public Relations representative, she has served the NBSMLT in the presidential chain and has been active in the planning of a Congress, a Maritech and two APSCs. In short, she has been a busy technologist who is also, at present, finishing her BMLS degree.

Janet has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues as the presentation of this award demonstrates. Congratulations, Janet.



Coral MacRae, NBSMLT President presents the Joan Kennedy Memorial Award to Janet Reid at the NBSMLT 2006 AGM October 28.

Maritech pictures are going to be made available on the Wal-Mart website. To access for viewing or purchase simply send an email to: [\*\*maritech2006@hotmail.com\*\*](mailto:maritech2006@hotmail.com) and request to be given access to the Maritech photo account. You will then be placed on the list of persons allowed access.

Any purchases made will then be billed through the website to the person ordering. Enjoy!





## *Congratulations !!!*

*These technologists have also completed the requirements for the NBSMLT Professional Development Program.*

*Brenda Domno  
Krista Quinn  
Peggy Martin  
Shirley MacDonald  
Janelle Bourgeois Whitlock  
Natalie Raymond  
Kelly Steele  
Therese LeBlanc  
Lyne Pelletier  
Cheryl Davis  
Elizabeth Garnett  
Theresa Clark*

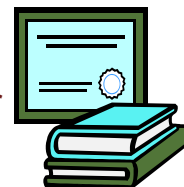
*Shari Parkhill  
Brenda Ferguson  
Andrew Toner  
Linda Cormier  
Norma Cormier  
Rania Elhalabi  
Joyce Moynagh  
Leola Truong  
Kathryn LeBlanc  
Johanne Moreau-Guidry  
Monique McIntyre  
Kim Larracy*



*Please remember to include all necessary documentation with your PDP applications; this will prevent any additional delay in the processing. If you wish original documents to be returned, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope.*

*Many thanks...your ACR&PP committee.*

The Professional Development Program will be reviewed at the next committee meeting in January. Please forward comments and suggestions to the ACRPP chair at [acrpp@nbsmlt.nb.ca](mailto:acrpp@nbsmlt.nb.ca) or to the registrar at [registrar@nbsmlt.nb.ca](mailto:registrar@nbsmlt.nb.ca)



## Maritech 2006-A Phenomenal Success!



Maritech mascot brought to life!

Maritech is only a few days behind us and the organizing committee is just beginning to realize what an accomplishment it was! The Saint John Academy had been working on Maritech for over a year and there were times when we wondered if we could bring it to fruition. Somehow, in the midst of planning, the team gelled and we began to fuel each other with enthusiasm. By the end we were referring to our meetings as 'electric'!

Registrations exceeded 330 and the number of exhibitors reached 38. A great program and the fact that professional development in NB is mandatory certainly accounted for the numbers.

Keynote speaker, Moira McLaughlin, was a big attraction as she has spoken to us on many occasions. We never seem to lose our fascination for her work and that of her 'Cold Squad'.

Worthy of note is that 10 of our lectures were given in whole or in part by MLTs or ARTs. Our program was very diverse and we did make effort to 'step outside the box' by inviting local UNBSJ professors to speak to us on such issues as 'Workplace Violence' and 'Effective Communicating'. One speaker of particular interest to me, was Dr Twohig of St Mary's University who has written a history of laboratory work in the Maritimes.

Not to be forgotten was our social program where technologists from throughout the Atlantic region got to experience our city's culture and character. Sometimes we don't see what we have because of it's nearness but others were amazed by our city. A walking tour through the burial ground in late October! How perfect! A fabulous show and dinner to top it off in style!

I'm certain that Maritech will be an important touchstone for the Saint John Academy to move forward. We have learned many lessons, not the least of which is teambuilding.

Submitted by,  
Claudette Ptasznik, Maritech Co-chair  
Saint John Area Director

Coral MacRae President NBSMLT; Dennis Knipps  
Town Crier Saint John; Claudette Ptasznik Maritech  
Co-chair





MAY THE LIGHT OF THE JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON  
SHINE ON YOU AND YOURS

BEST WISHES FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
NBSMLT

### NBSMLT Board of Directors 2007

Monique Collette	President	<i>president@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Coral MacRae	Past President	<i>pastpresident@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Bernadette Muise	President Elect	<i>presidentelect@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Rania Elhalabi	Treasurer	<i>monctondirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Richard Lafleur	Lay Representative	<i>layrepresentative@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Edmundston	Michelle Levesque	<i>edmundstondirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Fredericton		<i>frederictondirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Miramichi	Shelly Savoy	<i>miramichidirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Moncton	Rania Elhalabi	<i>monctondirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
North Shore	Lyne Pelletier	<i>northshoredirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Saint John	Claudette Ptasznik	<i>saintjohndirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Registrar	Janelle Bourgeois Whitlock	<i>registrar@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>



### NBSMLT Committee Chairpersons 2007

ACEdMLT	Janet Reid	<i>jareid@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
ACR&PP	Bernadette Muise	<i>acrpp@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Admissions	Janelle Bourgeois Whitlock	<i>registrar@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Continuing Education	Claudette Ptasznik	<i>ce@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Legislation	Bernadette Muise	<i>bernadette@muis.ca</i>
Public Relations	Michelle Levesque	<i>pr@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Publications	TBA	<i>publications@nbsmlt.nb.ca</i>
Point Of Care	Randi Hayes	<i>mhayes@nb.sympatico.ca</i>
Council on National Certification	Janet Reid	<i>jareid@nbnet.nb.ca</i>



## From the Editor:

### *Dates for submission in 2007*

- \* **Jan 27 2007**
- \* **TBA**

*As 2006 draws to a close we can be very proud of the new direction the NBSMLT will be pursuing. Under the direction of Janelle Bourgeois Whitlock, the MLT Analyzer will chart a new course. The annual report has proven to be a very costly endeavour and so the decision has been made to return to the type of reporting previously used. The committee annual reports will be included in the issue of the newsletter published prior to the AGM.*

**Email : [analyzer@nbsmlt.nb.ca](mailto:analyzer@nbsmlt.nb.ca)**

#### **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.

**[www.nbsmlt.nb.ca](http://www.nbsmlt.nb.ca)**



Visit the new NBSMLT website [www.nbsmlt.nb.ca](http://www.nbsmlt.nb.ca) Suggestions and comments can be sent to the Board of Directors through their new email addresses.

To access the “members only” section you will need the **email address** you submitted to the registrar on your renewal of registration form. The password is your seven digit **NBSMLT ID** number. Your ID has zeroes in front to make the ID 7 digits:

For example: if your number is 125 your password would be 0000125

If you have not supplied an email address, you cannot access the members only site at this time. You must contact the registrar to have your email address added to the database. We appreciate your patience as we update our web image.

The NBSMLT is going through many changes at present and there are bound to be some glitches as we streamline the various processes. Currently we are unable to accept PDP applications or renewal of registration forms online.

The NBSMLT welcomes constructive input from its members.