

MLT

# Analyzer

Bulletin of the New Brunswick Society Of Medical Laboratory Technologists



Winter Issue  
Volume 39 Issue 3

## Contents:



### President's Message

*Bernadette Muise*

### From the Editor

*Janelle B. Whitlock*

### APSC 2008

### MLT Accomplishments

### CLMA- Atlantic Canada

### AABB Conference

*Bernadette Muise*

### NBCC SJ Raising Funds

*Claire Wright*

### Congress in Kelowna

*Francine Ouelette-Thériault*

### NBSMLT Office :

Janelle B. Whitlock  
Executive Director  
E-mail: registrar@nbsmlt.nb.ca

Alva Morrison  
Administrative Assistant  
E-mail: office@nbsmlt.nb.ca

P.O. Box 1812  
Moncton, N.B. E1C 9X6  
Ph: (506) 758-9956  
Fax: (506) 758-9963  
Website : <http://www.nbsmlt.nb.ca>

## President's Message

**By Bernadette Muise**

I find it hard to believe as I am writing this that October is nearly over. I have been pleased to have been your president this year. It has been a VERY busy but fulfilling year.

First, I would like to mention that as of the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, 97% of the technologists in NB eligible for renewal of registration have completed their PDP requirement. CONGRATULATIONS!!! I knew you would come through!

I had the opportunity to represent NB at national meetings in Hamilton and Kelowna. We should be very proud of the many ways in which we are leaders in our profession. For many regulatory issues, we are consulted because we have been doing this longer than anyone, except Quebec. We have, through the use of the NB service provider program, one of the most comprehensive registration forms for MLTs, so when the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) was looking for a model to capture data nationally, they relied heavily on our form. We are per capita, leaders in continuing education program participation. We have instituted blood product conservation initiatives through our Blood Bank QA group. This group performs many of the same functions as Blood Coordinating offices in other provinces, at a fraction of the cost. Our provincial laboratory QA groups are effective in standardizing how things are done across the province and now that there are only two (2) regional health authorities this will help the integration and provision of laboratory services.

We have developed position statements regarding Medical Laboratory Assistants; recognizing that they are our partners in the laboratory and can enable us to work more effectively with the MLT shortages we will experience in the coming years.

The strategic planning sessions which were held in May, with

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

committee representation from around the province, has provided the Board with action items to focus on over the next three (3) years. Communication is a priority and investment in the website is required to make it a more interactive tool for the members. We will be focusing on partnerships with other health care professionals to ensure our patients get the best possible care. There is much to do and volunteers are essential, everyone can offer something, if something interests you speak up! We are trying to do more things with “ad hoc” committees which are formed for a specific task and disband when they have completed that task. It seems to be working, since we used this method for the “entry to practice” consultation and the Medical Laboratory Assistant duties review and everyone seemed to have felt it to be a positive experience.

The APSC in Edmundston was great. The organizing committee should be very proud of the work they did. The sessions were informative and well attended. The opening wine and cheese gave everyone a chance to mingle with colleagues they don't see very often. It was unfortunate that the event coincided with the annual general meeting for the NBU in Fredericton but both are worthy meetings and I have heard there was a respectable turn out of technologists in Fredericton as well.

I want to take this opportunity to mention our incoming presidential chain;

*Marielle Lagacé from Bathurst as President 2009*

*Susan Findlater from Saint John as President-elect 2009*

I know the commitment and dedication both of these technologists will serve the society's members well in 2009. Please give them your support if they ask. It takes many, many volunteer hours to keep the business of the NBSMLT running smoothly. Janelle B. Whitlock, as registrar, has enabled the NBSMLT to become more visible by attending many regulatory meetings.

All in all, the NBSMLT is moving forward. There are many issues which will need to be addressed in the future, aging MLT workforce, MLAs, Point of care testing, education of MLTs and MLAs, post diploma educational opportunities, delivery of educational events, raising the profile of the medical laboratory professionals in the eyes of the public and our peers in health care. All of these initiatives need time and money to be addressed effectively. The NBSMLT Board is committed to fiscal responsibility and I hope that you, the members will accept the challenge to be part of the solutions to these issues we face together.

As this will reach you close to the holiday season, I want to take the opportunity to wish for you health and prosperity. Take some time to enjoy your friends and family. May you find 2009 rewarding challenging and invigorating.



## **In Memory of Paul Green**

After a courageous battle with cancer, Paul Green of Perth-Andover passed away on October 9, 2008. Paul was chief technologist at Hotel Dieu of St. Joseph Hospital in Perth-Andover. He had 30 years of service and was a member of the NBSMLT during this time. Paul was also awarded the CSMLS David Ball Award recognizing volunteerism for the community in 2004. The Board of Directors wish to extend their deepest sympathy to his friends and colleagues.



As I sit here to write to you, it is hard to believe that Christmas is around the corner. This last issue focuses primarily on professional development. You will read articles submitted by your colleagues who share their experiences attending conferences and symposiums in New-Brunswick and across Canada. Professional development has proven to be a priority for technologists in the province which clearly demonstrates excellence and pride among our profession. What a wonderful way to end the year by having an issue outlining accomplishments and participation in PD activities, as well as promoting other educational activities such as CSMLS Congress 2009 in Newfoundland.

*Merry Christmas to you and yours!*



Next  
submission date:  
Jan. 23  
2009

Submit your texts or comments/questions to:

P.O. Box 1812  
Moncton, NB  
E1C 9X6  
[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.

## NBSMLT Anita Lindsay Award

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

Applications for the 2009 award will be accepted until December 31, 2008.



### 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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.

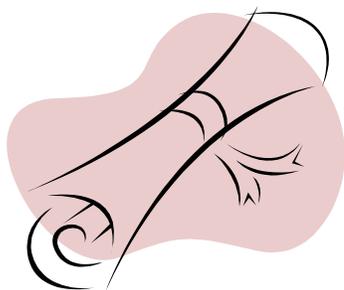
Must have significantly contributed to the professional society at the academy, provincial, national or international level for at least 5 years.

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.

## Congratulations to Saint John Academy graduate



The Saint John Academy would like to congratulate Susan Findlater, who received her ART in Management in June 2008, following the Oral examination in Hamilton, Ontario.



*Susan Findlater and her husband Dwayne at the Spring Convocation in Newfoundland*

She is pictured with her husband Dwayne at Spring Convocation May 2007, Memorial University of Newfoundland, where she received her Bachelor of Technology Degree (HSc).

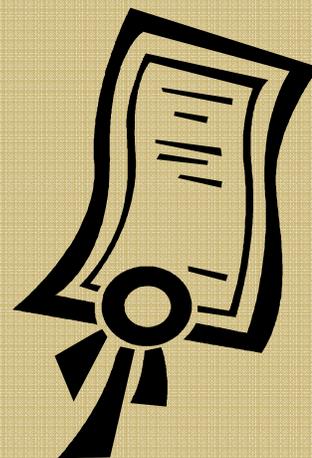
Susan is presently employed in the Hematology Department of the Saint John Regional Hospital. She is an active member of the NBSMLT, serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the Saint John Academy for many years. She is presently working on her Masters of Health Study Degree (Leadership) from Athabasca University, and plans to graduate in June 2009.

***Congratulations Susan, on your accomplishments!***

## Certificate of Professional Studies

Congratulations to Janet Reid, MLT and employee of the Saint John Regional Hospital, who recently obtained a CPS in management.

Completion of the CPS certificate requires a great deal of motivation and hard work. Fulfillment of the CPS program requires the completion of 15 credits continuing education courses, representing many dedicated hours of advanced level study.



***Good Job Janet!***

# Atlantic Canada Chapter



THE RESOURCE FOR LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS

## **Dear Fellow Lab Managers, Directors and Leaders:**

The Atlantic Chapter of the Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA ACC) invites you to join us in a unique group of regional lab leaders. We have just formed our own Atlantic Chapter of the CLMA. The CLMA is an international association of 5300 clinical laboratory professionals, founded in 1976 to support and develop leadership within the lab and enhance the image and visibility we so desperately desire and need.

**Our Vision:** The CLMA ACC will be a leader and catalyst in providing quality health care by promoting and participating in personal and professional development in Health Care Management and as a resource in positively impacting quality clinical services.

**Our Mission:** The CLMA ACC is a professional association dedicated to excellence in clinical services; to enhance professional, managerial and leadership skills, to promote efficient, productive and high quality operations; and to be an advocate on behalf of quality patient care and our membership.

Through membership with CLMA, you will have access to publications, such as a monthly e-newsletter and Clinical Leadership & Management Review journal which provides articles from colleagues and experts on challenges that you face daily. CLMA offers audio conferences on subjects identified as key issues by its members. The CLMA website offers a member's chatline where you can ask specific questions to lab managers and leaders across North America and beyond; it also has an archive function where you can review previously CLMR published topics by entering a keyword or phrase. Each year CLMA organizes "Thinklab Conference and Exhibition" which is

packed with presentations on everyday management issues, technical advances, combined with a very large exhibition from vendors of lab equipment and software.

CLMA educates, advocates, and motivates. Through membership you can forge meaningful networking with other professionals from all levels and various locations, some similar and some diverse. Most importantly, it is an organization for LAB LEADERS, which makes this organization uniquely tuned to your needs.

CLMA membership is prerequisite to membership in the Atlantic Chapter. The Atlantic Chapter held its inaugural meeting June 1, 2005 and currently have 30 members from all the Atlantic Provinces. We have sponsored lectures at Maritech 2006 and held a day long Lean Session in Oct 2007. We are supporting a day long session on patient safety and a session on multi generations in the workplace at the upcoming Maritech 2008 in Charlottetown.

If you are interested in becoming part of a dynamic career-oriented organization, please visit the ACC CLMA website at [www.acclma.org](http://www.acclma.org) or the CLMA website at [www.clma.org](http://www.clma.org) or contact an executive member (see below) in your area.

### **President**

Dan Leger, Campbellton Regional Hospital,  
189 Lily Lake Rd., Campbellton, NB E3N 3H3  
506-789-5326(w) 506-753-0083(h) 506-789-5156(f)  
[dleger@acclma.org](mailto:dleger@acclma.org)

### **Director-New Brunswick**

Valerie MacDonald Duguay, Chaleur Regional Hospital,  
1750 Sunset Dr., Bathurst, NB E2A 4L7  
506-544-2413(w) 506-548-3738(h) 506-544-2442(f)  
[vduguay@acclma.org](mailto:vduguay@acclma.org)

### **Director-Bilingual /Treasurer**

Pauline Cyr, Region Health Authority 4,  
275 Hebert Blvd., Edmondston, NB E3V 4E4,  
506-739-2471(w) 506-263-5483(h)  
[pcyr@acclma.org](mailto:pcyr@acclma.org)

# American Association of Blood Banks Conference

By Bernadette Muisse

*“Since its inception in 1947, AABB — formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks — has continued to support the highest standards of medical, technical and administrative performance; scientific investigation; and clinical application through standard setting, accreditation, education, advocacy and other activities. The association also is dedicated to increasing public awareness of the importance of voluntary blood donation.”*



#### AABB delegates

Seated left to right;

Claire McWilliam, Louise Castonguay; Angèle Emond; Line Daigle; Diane MacLeod

Rear: Claire Turcotte, Monique Desjardins Levesque, Heather Grant, Anne Robinson

The American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) marked an historical moment on October 4<sup>th</sup> when they opened the first internationally held scientific conference and trade show. Montréal, Canada was the host to this event, and what an event it was!

In New Brunswick, the Blood Bank Quality Assurance group has, without a lot of fanfare, managed to institute some very effective initiatives which resulted in dollar savings to the provincial department of health. They are a group of very dedicated individuals for whom blood banking is

*(Continued on page 7)*



AABB Trade Show



**Immuncor gala**

*(Continued from page 6)*

a passion. As a result of their hard work over the past 6 years, the department of health funded the registration costs for the committee members to attend the conference.

What an opportunity! Many members had not attended AABB conferences before and those who had were unanimous in praise for a truly awe inspiring event. The scientific program was varied and up to date, with results of new protocols offered, discussion of new products available, and some old practices gaining favour with newer surgeons. The most difficult part of the event was choosing between sessions.

The trade show was HUGE and, apart from a glitch with the lunch the first day, it was fantastic. Many of the exhibitors from the US provided donor center related products which of course

were of only academic interest to us but it was interesting to see how things are done south of the border.

Since this opportunity to attend AABB in Canada may not come around again, pretty well every blood banker who could be spared tried to attend.

Many took the advantage of the customer appreciation events, one of which was the Immucor gala which was a wonderful dinner in the old Windsor Train Station and entertainment by Cirque Fantastique with a dance following the sumptuous meal.

The AABB event was tiring, informative, exhausting and fun. I highly recommend anyone who gets the chance to attend to do so, you won't regret it!

**Conference attendees were:**

Tim Lea  
(Fredericton)

Mary Wong Hamilton  
(Campbellton)

Marielle Lagacé  
(Bathurst)

Heather Grant  
(Miramichi)

Diane MacLeod and Dr. Lakshmi R  
(Saint John)

Teresa Clark  
(Canadian Blood Services, Saint John Center)

Angèle Emond, Louise Castonguay,  
Claire Turcotte, Monique Desjardins Levesque  
(Edmundston)

Claire MacWilliam, Anne Robinson,  
Line Daigle and Bernadette Muise  
(Moncton)

# NBCC – SJ Raising Funds for Malaria Nets

Claire Wright, SJ Area director

The first year Medical Laboratory Technology class from New Brunswick Community College raised funds through a Penny Drive and 50/50 draw to raise money to purchase malaria nets for the Canadian program Buy-a-Net ([www.buyanet.ca](http://www.buyanet.ca) <<http://www.buyanet.ca/>> ) during Medical Laboratory Technology Week. Their purpose was to highlight our profession to

others within the Community College as well as raise awareness of the problem of malaria in the developing world. The SJRH Techs raised \$160.00 and an additional donation by the Saint John MLT Academy of \$100 was given.

***The total raised was \$1016.71***

CSMLS NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE 2009 CONGRÈS NATIONAL DE SCIENCE  
DE LABORATOIRE MÉDICAL DE LA NESLH  
**LABCON & CONGRÈS LAB**



**CSMLS National Congress is back in Newfoundland!**

***Discover Time at LABCON09***

*June 21-24, 2009*

***Featuring Rex Murphy - Opening Speaker!***

Rex describes himself as a Newfoundlander biting at the heels of Canadian conservatism. His oratory brings audiences to their feet at events from coast to coast.

Don't miss our complete lineup of Sessions and Workshops, including something for everyone: Scientific, Management, Education and Personal Development!

Round out your St. John's experience with the President's Reception at The Rooms.

Add in a traditional "Newfoundland Night" with entertainment, the pubs of George Street, and more!

***Join us in Newfoundland for LABCON09 Discover Time,  
and have an unforgettable time!***

# CSA Standards -

## *now available to view before purchase*

On October 1, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) launched a pilot program that will provide users with broader and easier access to the occupational health and safety standards referenced in Canadian legislation.

The two-year pilot program provides view access to the CSA's standards referenced in the occupational health and safety legislation of all Canadian jurisdictions. This represents about 259 CSA standards in Canada, and 40 in New Brunswick.

Users can now see the standards before buying them. The standards will be in a read-only PDF format, and users will not be able to cut, paste, print or download the standards.

"We're very excited to partner with the CSA in this program," said Richard Blais, WorkSafeNB's chief compliance officer. "We believe this will benefit all our stakeholders, from small and medium sized businesses, large corporations, labour unions, and industry associations. By making the standards more accessible, we hope it will increase their adoption in the workplace and, ultimately, improve worker safety," Blais said.

To access the standards, go to: <http://ohs.csa.ca> and log in (it's fast and easy). Then click on the jurisdiction you want (New Brunswick, for example) to see the list of standards, then click on the standard. For more information, please contact Richard Blais at 738-4107, or e-mail at [richard.blais@ws-ts.nb.ca](mailto:richard.blais@ws-ts.nb.ca).



WHEN IT COMES TO SAFETY, WE DEMAND HIGH STANDARDS.

AND SO SHOULD YOU.

That's why we're working with the Canadian Standards Association on a pilot program that will provide Canadian workers and employers with easier and broader access to the CSA standards referenced in their occupational health and safety legislation. We hope this will increase use of the standards and ultimately improve workplace safety.

The regulations under New Brunswick's *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act* reference 40 CSA standards. You will now have read-only access to these standards, as well as

those referenced in the legislation of other Canadian jurisdictions.

To view the CSA standards go to [ohs.csa.ca](http://ohs.csa.ca) and register. Then select the name of the jurisdiction from the drop-down menu; you'll then see a list of available standards. Just click on the one you want, and view. You will not be able to cut and paste, print or download the standard—this can only be done once purchased.

Aim for high standards. And use them. Visit [ohs.csa.ca](http://ohs.csa.ca) today!

# APSC 2008 Edmundston



Some attendees of the 2008 APSC



Janelle Bourgeois Whitlock, Bernadette Muise and Christianne Laviolette, recipient of the Anita Lindsay Award



Janelle Levesque, Chair APSC



## Happy Holidays!

NBSMLT would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas, and a New Year filled with peace and prosperity!

# CSMLS Congress in Kelowna

By Francine Ouellette-Thériault



Lef to right: : Danielle LeBlanc and Francine Ouellette-Thériault

- Other half of HPV (male)
- Fungus Antibiograms

Every good congress should have a social event, and what a tremendous site had been reserved for us in this beautiful valley known for its good wines. We visited the Summerhill Pyramid Winery where the wine is stored on site in a pyramid. After visiting the winery, we had a wine tasting session and a delicious supper on the banks of the Okanagan Lake. This was followed by a dance with a very entertaining group who had us dancing until the end. It was wonderful to see all those work colleagues as well as some new faces. And all of this was enjoyed with wine of course!

The vendor show was interesting and allowed us to meet vendors and to get information about new products on the market, etc. The meals, the congress organization and the accommodations were wonderful! A big thank you to the organizers!

Finally, I would like to thank the NBSMLT for allowing me to enjoy this rewarding experience thanks to their financial contribution. I really think that this type of activity allows us to redirect our perspectives on ourselves, on our work and in our life.



I'm happy to write to you about my adventure at the National Congress of Medical Laboratory Science which was held this year in the beautiful Okanagan Valley in British Columbia. My adventure began with a wonderful flight which allowed me to see the Rockies from the sky. What a marvelous start for this week which was to be quite busy.

I enjoyed very much the informative opening and closing conferences by world-famous speakers such as Mrs. Linda Edgecombe and Mr. Dave Hepburn, who entertained us and reduced our stress with their stories.

The science program allowed me to attend several very interesting sessions for my professional benefit, namely the following:

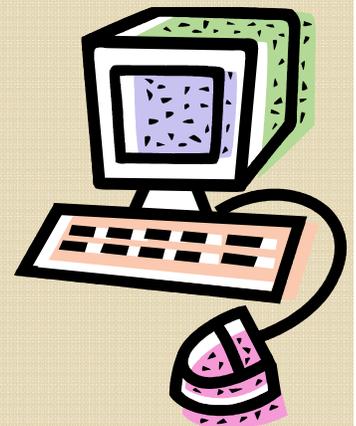
- Resistance mechanisms of gram-negative bacilli (ESBL)
- *Corynebacterium* sp. (contaminant or pathogenic)
- Clinical Vignettes (Case study – very interesting)
- Efficient training of new employees

**Note from the Editor:** This article was to be published in the previous issue of the Analyser, but was lost in e-mail correspondence. The article was too good not to be published, hope you enjoy it!

# 2009 NBSMLT Board of Directors

Name	Function	E-mail
Marielle Lagacé	President	president@nbsmlt.nb.ca
Bernadette Muise	Past-President	pastpresident@nbsmlt.nb.ca
Susan Findlater	President Elect	presidentelect@nbsmlt.nb.ca
Rania Elhalabi	Treasurer/Moncton Area Director	monctondirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca
Janelle B. Whitlock	Registrar/Executive Director	registrar@nbsmlt.nb.ca
Claire Wright	Saint John Area Director	saintjohndirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca
TBA	Edmundston Area Director	edmundstondirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca
Carlene McCaffery	North Shore Area Director	northshoredirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca
TBA	Miramichi Area Director	miramichidirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca
Jan Graham	Fredericton Area Director	frederictondirector@nbsmlt.nb.ca
Richard Lafleur	Lay Representative	layrepresentative@nbsmlt.nb.ca

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



Don't forget to check out our Website regularly to receive up to date information on continuing education, publications and updated NBSMLT business!

*Please note that in order to have access to the membership only section, you must submit your e-mail address to the Registrar at [registrar@nbsmlt.nb.ca](mailto:registrar@nbsmlt.nb.ca). Your password is the 7 digit CSMLS number.*