

NBSRT Honorary Life Membership Award 2019

Betty Smith

Where do we begin to pay tribute to a retired teacher who has been as dedicated to her various positions within the NBSRT since her retirement in June of 2001 as she was during her NBTA days! The words “ no “ or “ I can’t” seemed never to be in her vocabulary list! She was always a positive force and cheerful worker during her years at our GMART Branch. For this we take pride and fully endorse Betty for this award!

Following her 1968 graduation from Teachers’ College in Fredericton, her teaching career began that Fall at Edith Cavell School in Moncton, followed by years at Victoria, Birchmount, Bessborough, Claude D. Taylor and finished at Frank L. Bowser School in 2001. She also completed her B.T (UNB), B.Ed (UNB), and her M.Ed (Administration) (U de M) through many Summer Schools, Intersessions, a Sabbatical and Deferred Leaves! It was quite a journey!! Throughout her career, she was involved in NBTA Committee Projects, was President of the Elementary Teachers’ Council and spent many hours helping to organize the Subject Council Day programs.

Betty was an active member of GMART(Moncton) from 2001-11 rarely missing a meeting or activity. Being an avid cross stitcher, she organized the “ stitching / crafts group in 2002 which continues to this day in Moncton. Each Spring, this group joins the “ Birder’s” for a noon luncheon at a chosen restaurant for lunch and laughter!! When a Secretary was needed in 2005, she volunteered and continued until 2008 when she became the Provincial Alternate Director/ Director. It was often difficult for the calling committee

members to reach all of the retirees on their lengthy lists to notify them of meetings and /or special events, so, it was Betty and her trusty computer (2005-2011) that came to the rescue and as more and more members were now “online”, e-mail was used to continually shorten the calling list and timely information delivery was very beneficial and appreciated. She also assisted with the GMART Scholarship selection committee, as needed, and enjoyed the competitive spirit of the applications that were reviewed. Betty loves to “come back” for GMART activities and we keep her on our “member e-mail list”! She will always be welcome!!

Following the untimely death of her Mom in 2000 and her Dad needing assistance at the family home in Silverwood, Betty decided to retire from the only career she ever had and loved in June 2001. She travelled back and forth from Dieppe to Fredericton several times each month, as needed, so when Sharpe retired, they made the difficult decision to find, buy, and move to their new home in Charters Settlement, N.B, a small community just outside of Fredericton in September 2011. Knowing some of the retired teachers in Central Branch, she decided to join this Branch to enjoy their friendship and activities. She volunteered to be their secretary in 2013- a great way to meet their members.

Before moving to Fredericton, Betty was asked to let her name stand for the position of NBSRT Provincial 1st Vice President. She was selected and held this position from May, 2008 to May 2014. She became the Provincial President in May 2014 and completed her term of Office in May 2016. She enjoyed her position as Past President during 2016-2018. Little did she realize there would be a “ real” election with several great candidates offering for the various positions available on the Provincial Executive! She certainly appreciated and was thankful for the much needed help she received throughout the process.

One of her duties as NBSRT's 1st V-P was to be the "secretary" for the Liaison Committee (SERFNB- NBSRT) when NBSRT was the host. There were two main meetings (Spring & Fall), plus other meetings held when needed. As President, she was the "Chairperson" for either the Spring or Fall meeting. She was asked to bring greetings from NBSRT at several Congres de SERFNB et AGA (en Francais) while being 1st V-P and as President, much to the appreciation of those in attendance! Having "Rioux" for her maiden name and being originally from Grand Falls / Grand Sault, NB (1947-59), and teaching FSL earlier in her career, made this task less daunting. Her picture often appeared in their publication "Entre Nous" !

Included among her various "Provincial President" duties were visitations to as many Branches as possible to bring greetings to members and encouraging membership in NBSRT, guided the Victoria-Tobique Branch to a very successful Provincial AGM in Grand Falls, was an observer/reporter for the Provincial Pension Coalition meetings, the ACER-CART AGM's in Ottawa and at the Provincial NBTA AGM's as well as the Retiring Teachers' Banquet where she invited the new retirees to join NBSRT, represented NBSRT at ECRTO (East Coast Retired Teachers Organization) in Halifax and Moncton and presented Merit Certificates to deserving members at various Provincial Branches.

Following the completion of her lengthy term of office, she was appointed to be a committee member on the Provincial Constitution Review Committee, continues to help the Reflections Committee to attach mailing tags (peel and stick) three times per year to the magazines and continues to be a representative of Central Branch for the Online Media Committee.

Thank you, Betty, for everything you have done for NBSRT ! We know you will enjoy your "retirement" again, have more time to be an ELF, to travel, and to create more of those beautiful fur teddy bears!! You have certainly made us proud!

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU for a job well done!!

