

Phyllis Caplin

Restigouche Branch



Seems that Christmas is launched by the music of the season. Fortunately for many people on the North Shore, NBSRT member Phyllis Caplin adds to the season with her music, her goodwill and her joy. Just three of the reasons we have decided to feature Phyllis this month.

Phyllis Snider moved to the North Shore from Shediac 50 years ago to teach first in Jacquet River and then in Dalhousie where she taught for the rest of her teaching career. As Phyllis says, “I

stayed put but the district changed four times.” Upon her marriage to her husband Walter, a Native of Eel River Bar, Phyllis became Phyllis Caplin and a community member of the Eel River Bar First Nation. Although her husband has long since passed away she still lives there today, and her son Jude “lives just down the road”.

While teaching at L E Reinsborough when there was no longer a music teacher in the school, Phyllis used her natural musical ability to direct various school choirs. As a community member of Eel River Bar First Nation, she learned to drum and she became the adoptive grandmother of Xander, a young boy, born on her birthday, and whose family she helped through tough times.

Phyllis retired in the spring of 2002. In the fall she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Eight months later she was declared cancer free. To this day, Phyllis walks with the survivors every year in the *Relay For Life*.



Her love of music led her to become a member of the *Chaleur Echoes* for whom she became assistant director and where she apparently launched her comedic career entertaining as Mini Pearl while the choir made costume changes. Today, Phyllis directs the *St John Bosco Church Choir*. There is joy in the choir room!

In her community she delivers Meals on Wheels every day to the Elders and the housebound. She drums at community events and is proud to say that she made her own drumming skirt. Her friends tell of her helping and volunteering in many ways she seldom mentions. Her fellow retirees talk about the fun she created in her school for them and their students.



Phyllis is fluently bilingual and is a member of both the NBSRT and SERF NB. She was among *Les Jubilaires* honoured by SERF NB in Grand Falls where she received her 50 year pin marking her graduation from *L'École Normale/Université de Moncton*.

At meetings and events in the Restigouche Branch she spreads her humour and joy through her laughter and her stories.

And . . . **EVERYWHERE PHYLLIS GOES** she spreads **GOODWILL** in all the seasons.



If you have an idea for a *SPOT LIGHT Feature*, contact Larry Farrell: farell@rogers.com