

KINGS COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (KCRTA)

THE FORMATION OF THE KCRTA

The New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers was organized in 1975 and at that time it had four provincial branches. *The Kings County Branch was not one of the original four.* So, when did the KCRTA form, and when did it become a member branch of the NBSRT? If you speak to some long-standing and older members of the KCRTA who have been involved with the association, it is believed that the KCRTA was definitely in existence by 1979 but for how long is unknown.

The existing records of the KCRTA Minutes go back to October 9, 1985. Two binders of KCRTA minutes were taken to the NB Archives in the summer of 2011. At the back of the older binder there is a list of meetings (with dates and sites) from 1975 to 2008. According to this list, three meetings were held in 1975: March 13 in Hampton, May 29 in Roachville and October 8 in Berwick. Beginning in 1976 and from that year onward, two meetings were held yearly (May and October). *If we were not a member branch of the NBSRT in 1975, were these three meetings informal gatherings to determine interest in forming a branch and joining the NBSRT? Or was there a local group of retired teachers in existence at that time with no connection to the NBSRT? A third question: Does anyone know the location of the early minutes from 1975 to 1985?*

Inquiries have been made to the NB Archives and to Kaye Lister at the Schools Day Museum. K. Lister was able to speak with Robert Hawkes, the NBSRT historian who had worked on writing the history of the NBSRT. Mr. Hawkes informed Kaye Lister and Mildred Urquhart (in a subsequent telephone call) that ***at an NBSRT meeting in 1977 a report was given from the Kings Branch. KCRTA had a membership of 74 retirees. The executive for June 1976 -May 1977 was as follows: President – Evelyn Northrup; Secretary – Mildred Parlee; and the Delegate to the NBSRT – Theresa Fennell.*** It is also known that Margaret Cotter was President from 1977-1980 and then the Past President for 1980-1981.

Since there was an executive in place for the 1976-1977 year, we can assume that the Kings Branch was likely formed in the first part of 1976 and then became affiliated with the NBSRT. However, there may have been an informal group for retired teachers existing in Kings County as early as March 1975.

Written by Mildred J. Urquhart

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