

TESL NS Newsletter

Editorial

Hello everyone!

It is with mixed feelings that I bid farewell to the Newsletter. I have been its editor for four years. The first year of my editorial work, the Letter was still done on paper and we sent hard copies out to the members. The good thing about the paper newsletter was that we could put in big pictures. You couldn't miss them coz they were there glaring at you when you looked at an issue. Three years ago, we went "high-tech". The newsletter went into cyberspace to settle on our own web page.

It feels great to have the Newsletter up there but there are some drawbacks. For one, we have limited space for pictures; moreover, there is no guarantee that members will open their PCs to look for our Newsletter. When we sent it out by mail, the recipients could not possibly miss it.

In my rudimentary German I would say, "Ich geh mit einem lachenden und einem weinenden Auge" -- I leave with a smile in one eye and a tear in the other. The smile is prompted by memories of how, worried there would not be enough contributions, I went begging for them, how I burned the midnight oil trying to sort contributions, to edit them, and to compose an editorial. In spite of the best of intentions not to leave things till the last moment, things inevitably did not get done till the very last moment. At the time, panic was my ungracious prompter. Now that I have gained some distance, I chuckle.

The smile also connects with memories of gratifying feedback...

The tears -- well, I do feel sad letting go. But I must. It is simply time for me to move over, to let someone new -- Ms. Carol Derby -- have a go at

it. I have done it for four years. Congratulations, Ms. Derby, and all the best.

Another tear wells up when I think -- hind-sight thinking -- of all the wonderful things I did NOT do in and for the Newsletter. If only there were more hours in my day. :)

I loved the Newsletter. Bidding farewell to it is like saying good-bye to a loved person. Every farewell is sort of a foreshadowing of the last farewell. The years roll by so fast I can imagine that, when the moment of the last farewell has come, I won't so much be afraid to go as sad to leave behind dear, dear things, some of them dearer than myself. Luckily, this farewell is not really final. There is the consolation that I will still be reading the Newsletter and I will be serving TESL Nova Scotia as its vice president.

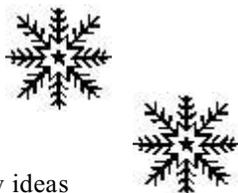
I can't sign off without thanking the following people, former executive officers, for their contributions to TESL Nova Scotia and their support -- Maureen Sargent, Norma MacSween, Jayne Geldart, Sheila Nunn, Derrick Hann.... And -- heartfelt congratulations to all the new executive members. I also want to thank Ellen for the contributions of her magic web-pen and for her unwavering technical support when the pressure was on.

Au revoir. So long. Auf Wiedersehen. Hasta luego. Hanggang mamaya....and a Happy Christmas to everyone.

Fe Leonor Baculi (SMU)



TESL NS – President's Report



Welcome to a new year with a new executive! The committee is energized with new ideas and hopes to provide you with what you want and need. Let me introduce your new executive to you. They are:

Sandee Thompson- President; works at ILI, previously Membership Secretary and TESL Canada Rep

Fe Baculi – Vice President; works at St. Mary's, previously Newsletter Editor and Member at Large

Ellen Pilon – TESL Canada Rep; works at ILI, previously Treasurer

Matthew Reesor- Membership Secretary; works at Acadia University, new member

Carol Derby – Newsletter Editor; works at HILC, previously Vice-President and Member at Large

Joanne Newton – Treasurer; works at ILI, new member

Jill Maclean - Recording Secretary; works at East Coast School of Languages, new member

Evelyn Jones- Member at Large; works at the YMCA, previously Member at Large

Darlene McInnis- Member at Large; works at MISA, previously Member at Large and Vice-President

Beth Vye - Member at Large; works at HILC; new member

Sandy Crocker- Member at Large; works at the Library, new member

We are a mix of old and new blood so we hope the diversity will speak to the needs of the membership. If you have any requests or queries, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Ok, on to the news!

The conference in October was a great success. Overall, participants were extremely happy with:
✓ the food

- ✓ the workshops
- ✓ the plenary speakers
- ✓ the venues
- ✓ having a choice regarding workshops and amount of time spent at the conference
- ✓ the publishers displays
- ✓ dinner at the Lord Nelson Hotel

Ninety-five percent of folks appreciated being able to pre-select their workshops and preferred spending money on food rather than space. The organizing committee was thrilled with the turnout and the diversity of the participants. We had members from all areas of the province (Cape Breton, HRM and the Valley) and from three provinces (NS, NB and PEI). We had students, volunteers, EFL/ESL teachers, elementary school teachers, French teachers and publishers participating in workshops. From the comments on the surveys, it is clear to us that most of you appreciated the changes we made to the conference, so we are going to do something similar in 2005. We have already found a presenter who is willing to do the plenary and a workshop on Saturday and we are looking for a venue where we can have a lovely meal in a relaxed atmosphere. If you have any ideas, feel free to email them in to us.

This winter/spring, we will be holding a Saturday workshop again. The theme is going to be "Methods and Approaches" and we will have four sessions as we did last winter. We will keep you posted regarding times, dates and venue.

The TESL New Brunswick conference is going to be held in Fredericton this year (April) and TESL Canada will follow in May, in Ottawa. Some of us will be car-pooling to the conference in New Brunswick so if you are interested in joining us, please do. Conferences are a great opportunity to share ideas, support colleagues and learn about up and coming ideas in the EFL/ESL world, so if you can get there, it is well worth your while.

In closing, I would like to thank the outgoing members for their dedication over the past year/s.

Jayne Geldart, Maureen Sargent, Sheila Nunn, Norma MacSween, David Juteau and Derrick Hann...thank you! We appreciate all that you have done with the committee and hope you stay involved.

Sandee Thompson (ILI)



Message from the Membership Secretary

Hello to all! My name is Matthew Reesor and I am honoured to serve as the TESL NS Membership Secretary for the upcoming year.

Originally from Barrie, Ontario, I came to Nova Scotia this past April from Japan. I had been working at a university in Nagoya for the past 3 years as an English language lecturer.

As a newcomer to Nova Scotia, I am grateful for the opportunity to join the local TESL community and, hopefully, contribute to its growth and success in this province and beyond. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all of you (especially Sandee and Ellen) for making me feel so welcome within the organization. I thoroughly enjoyed the conference in October, and was happy to meet many of you there. For those whom I did not meet, please say "hello" at our next gathering.

I am pleased to report that our current membership stands at 86 people. Please spread the word so we can quickly climb over 100 and better prepare for the exciting - though slightly daunting - prospect of hosting the TESL Canada conference in 2008!

In closing, please do not hesitate to contact me if there is something I can do to better meet your membership needs.

Season's Greetings!
Matthew Reesor (Acadia)

TESL Canada Representative's Report

As your new TESL Canada rep, I was delighted to attend the TESL Ontario Conference in Toronto on Friday November 19th and the TESL Canada Board meeting on Saturday November 20th. Both were memorable experiences.

On Friday we were entertained by Katherine Barber, editor-in-chief of the Canadian Oxford Dictionary. She talked about the uniquely Canadian words that are omitted from other dictionaries, words such as *toque*, *shovel* (snow), *plow* (snow), *bale* (of hay), *mitt* (short for mitten), and *bachelor* (one room apartment). Barber explained the difference between the Canadian Oxford Dictionary and an ESL dictionary, the latter (as we know) customized with clear definitions and examples plus additional information such as countable or uncountable, which no native English speaker would want to know. She was full of fascinating anecdotes that just flowed, one after the other. "Webster" is not a copyrighted name, so often adorns low-price dictionaries that are at least 40 years old and useless. There are 2,200 Canadianisms that are used in ordinary every-day speech.

The other informative workshop was on the new TOEFL. As of September 1, 2005, the new TOEFL test will take place and the old one will be history. It will be scored differently, will be administered differently, includes reading-writing-speaking-listening, and has no grammar section. The test is internet based, and will be available through authorized non-profit institutions with the appropriate computer equipment. Assessment will be done by ETS. Students use a microphone on the headset of their computer to complete the speaking sections of the new test. There are 6 sections to the speaking: 2 independent tasks about familiar topics, and 4 integrated tasks: 2



reading/listening/ speaking combinations, and 2 listening/ speaking tasks. In writing there are two tasks. Look for more details about the new [TOEFL to appear on the TESL NS website](#) www.teslins.ca , and check out the TOEFL website: www.ets.org/toefl.

The TESL Canada Board meeting was an exciting adventure, meeting new people and learning about the Canadian organization. The restructuring issue about which we were so concerned is now dead, and the basic organization remains the same. There are some organizational changes, but regions were not lumped together. The Code of Ethics will be uploaded to the TESL Canada website.

The next TESL Canada 2005 Conference will be in Ottawa May 26 - 28th. The registration is being mailed with the next TESL Canada Journal which you should receive very soon. TESL Canada 2006 Conference will be October 19 - 21 at The Delta Winnipeg.

There are several TESL Canada Board positions available starting at the 2005 Conference. If anyone is interested, they should contact Maureen Sargent (maureen.sargent@smu.ca)

Keep checking the TESL NS website www.teslins.ca for new information about TESL Canada and the activities of TESL NS. The website will change over Christmas vacation – so check it out in the New Year!

Ellen Pilon (ILI)

Project Opportunity

Reminder: TESL NS offers an opportunity in which we will fund up to \$1000.00 for a project that will benefit the ESL community. Previous successful projects have included an employment video for immigrants, a newcomer women's fundraising collective and a computer workbook for Excel. For more details on the project opportunity, please check our website www.teslins.ca. Application forms can be found there as well.

