

ECHO



**The New Brunswick Association of
Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Darrellyn Snider

Welcome to summer!! I know that most of us were wondering if we were ever going to have some nice weather but it is finally here. It has been very hot here in Sussex but you will not hear any complaining from me!! I remember the cold days of winter!!!

Our executive director, Danielle Arsenault and I, had the privilege of attending the CASLPA conference in April in Victoria, BC. What a wonderful opportunity it was to represent New Brunswick at the national level. Our time was spent primarily in meetings which were extremely productive. At the Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech Pathology Regulators (CAASPR) meeting, there was a lot of discussion about language competencies in order to practice. Being the only bilingual province in the country, this is of particular interest to us. Research will be conducted this summer regarding this issue. Thank you to all who volunteered to participate in this important project. We also attended the Pan-Canadian Alliance meeting and the Canadian Inter-organizational Steering Group (CISG) meeting. Attending the conference is an excellent way to network and discover what other provinces are doing. I would also like to send huge congratulations to NB's own Jennifer O'Donnell who was co-chair of this year's conference. A job very well done!! Next year is CASLPA's 50th anniversary and the conference will be held in Ottawa!! It's never too early to start planning your trip!! By the way, Jennifer is the chair of that conference as well!!

Here at home, lots of exciting things are happening as well. We are still in the process of revamping our website. It will be wonderful once this is completed. We will also be looking at our Bylaws and Rules to make necessary revisions. The AGM and conference is being held in Bathurst in the fall and planning is well underway for this. It promises to be worthwhile for both professions. Start making plans now!!

I know that the move of the S-LPs and rehab assistants from the Dept. of Health to the Dept. of Education is still a concern for many. I have been asked to participate in a group looking at professional standards for the province. There are a few other groups that may become active this summer, at the request of the government, and there will be representation from S-LPs on these groups as well. NBASLPA is continuing to do whatever it can to make sure that our voices are heard.

I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer! I am going to take a "staycation" and enjoy all that New Brunswick has to offer this year.

Inside this issue:

Regional Updates **3**

Executive Updates
and Reminders **4**

May Month in Bathurst **5**

Getting to Know Who? **6**



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PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Echo is a publication of the New Brunswick Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. Echo is published three times yearly. The newsletter is a benefit of membership distributed to all NBASLPA members. A yearly subscription may be purchased by non-members.

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**October 31, 2013**SUBMISSIONS / ENQUIRIES

Letters to the Editor, commentaries, and other submissions (including photos) are welcome. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Please forward submissions to:

Echo Editor (Lindsay Gilliss)
communicationnb@gmail.com

ADVERTISING IN ECHO

Employment and business advertisements will be published according to the fee schedule below. Educational opportunities are advertised free of charge. For more information, please contact Diane DeCoste at the NBASLPA office.

PROCEDURE:

- ❶ Advertisers will be charged as follows:

business card	\$25.00
quarter page	\$50.00
half page	\$100.00
full page	\$200.00
- ❷ Fees must be received prior to publication. A copy of the newsletter containing the advertisement will be sent to the advertising agency at their request.
- ❸ Employment advertisements should contain position title, duties, qualifications, salary, and contact information.
- ❹ All advertising submissions may be edited to conform to space purchased.
- ❺ Cheques made payable to:

NBASLPA
147 Ellerdale Avenue
Moncton, NB
E1A 3M8
- ❻ Advertising requests can be forwarded to:

NBASLPA (see above)
Echo Newsletter Editor (see above)

Regional Updates

Moncton Area

Anglophone East School District:

Congratulations to Shelly Leblanc who had a baby boy in the fall of 2012. Noah is a little brother to Emma. With the transition to Education it took longer to fill her maternity leave but we are happy to announce that Kandice Hachey joined us in May.

The School S-LPs have settled into the "Riverview Education Centre" and co-hosted an open house along with the Talk With Me S-LPs and Early Childhood Education Staff. It was great to have visitors from Extra-Mural!

Francophone South School District:

2 weddings : Mélanie Volpé is now Mélanie Volpé-O'Brien. She and her husband Pierre O'Brien wed in Shédiac on Saturday June 22. Also, Rebecca LeBlanc will be getting married to Michel LeBlanc, on July 19 in Bouctouche. Congrats, Mel and Rebecca!!

Jacynthe Aucoin has accepted a temporary position at the Centre scolaire communautaire Samuel-de-Champlain in St-John with the Francophone South School District. Good luck in your new position!

Chantal Robichaud is back from her maternity leave. Her second son Malik was born in May 2012. Welcome back!

Saint John, Fredericton, Upper River Valley, Campbellton, Edmundston, Bathurst and Miramichi Area

Hope to hear from you next time!

Moncton Area con't

The Moncton Hospital:

The Speech and Hearing department has been busy this summer! We hosted 5 student including audiology, speech-language pathology, and rehabilitation assistant program. We have enjoyed seeing each of our students grow as clinicians and wish them well in their continued education and future endeavours.

Audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and rehabilitation assistants across the Greater Moncton area enjoyed a social gathering this year to celebrate Speech and Hearing Awareness Month. We were excited to visit with colleagues from Department of Education and Early Childhood Services and Georges Dumont Hospital.

We welcome Tiffany Dixon, speech-language pathologist, as she will be joining our pediatric team on a temporary basis for the next year. She is joining us to replace Krista Kidd, speech-language pathologist, who recently delivered a beautiful baby girl, Ava Madelyn Kidd!

In addition, Linda Walsh received a research grant to determine the validity of the Stroke Swallowing Screening Test in use at various facilities within New Brunswick. Results to follow in the Fall 2013.

Hope everyone has enjoyed a wonderful summer in New Brunswick!



Executive Updates & Reminders

The members of NBASLPA Executive are a very hard working group of individuals. As you are all aware, anything that they do is all volunteer and often work at home on issues that affect the membership. It is sometimes difficult to get tasks completed in a timely manner given that we all work full-time and have families that we need to spend time with as well.

The Executive has been very active this year at the national level. We sit at the CAASPR (Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech Pathology Regulators) table with other provinces from across the country. The input that New Brunswick provides is often invaluable, given that we are the only official bilingual province in the country. The main project that we are currently a part of involves language competency standards as well as standards for registration in order to practice in the regulated provinces. Without these, people without the proper qualifications may attempt to work in Canada and do harm to the people that we are trying to protect. Thanks to those members who have volunteered to help with this project.

There are always projects that CASLPA is undertaking. NBASLPA has been involved in many of these over the past year. Our national association is there to help all their members and we want to do whatever we can to assist in this. There is a project coming up that involves AAC. We have several very knowledgeable people within our province that would be able to contribute greatly to this project. At the provincial level, we have several projects in the works including revamping the website, updating our Bylaws and Rules, as well as planning for the AGM in the fall.

NBASLPA is always available to all the members in New Brunswick. There have been several topics that have been brought to the attention of the Executive over the last few months. The transfer of the S-LPs from Extra-Mural to the Dept. of Education, the potential for the rehab assistants being grouped with the educational assistants and being subjected to the bumping process, the diagnosis and treatment of some disorders that not everyone feels qualified to do, and using FM systems within the classrooms in schools, just to name a few. Even though it may not appear that things are getting done, because they are not happening as quickly as some people would prefer, let me assure you that the Executive is working very hard on these and other projects to make things better and easier for the members.

One point that really needs to be made is that we do not have enough volunteers in the Association. The volunteers that are working now are very good and are working very hard. There are some committees within the Association that have not been active for quite some time. We realize that everyone is busy, but people are needed. Remember that this is YOUR Association. Without your involvement, there will be no Association. If you do not like what is going on, get involved! There is always a place for new people to join. It is essential that you do!! Remember, if you want things to change, you need to be involved with the Association. We are made stronger by joining together to share the work.

Another issue that has been noticed is the lack of participation at the AGM and conference. The committee for this works very hard and the lack of attendance has been very disappointing over the past several years. It is noted that it is often difficult for some people to travel to the conference. However, it is only once per year and the knowledge that you will gain from the speakers as well as the networking that can occur with our colleagues throughout the province is priceless. We need to support our own Association. This has not been the case over the past few years. Any suggestions that you have to improve this aspect (or any other) of our Association is welcome.

Please take some time to consider your involvement in NBASLPA. We know that all of the professionals who work in the province are extremely passionate about what they do. That is the nature of the personalities of the people that pursue these careers. Let's take some of that passion and bring it to our Association!

Back row (L to R): Michelle Lanteigne (President Elect); Annie Giasson (Treasurer); Debbie Maund (Secretary); Kari Clark (Registrar); Nadine Jacob (CASLPA Board representative)

Front row: (L to R): Darrelyn Snider (President) & Danielle Arsenault (Executive Director)



May Month in Bathurst

♪ It's the most wonderful time of the year... ♪ It's Speech & Hearing Month, lobster season, spring... Hospital SLPs had lots on the go! Jennifer O'Donnell hung the gigantic sign on the hallway wall with care, secretary Eva Arseneau placed labels on outgoing mail, and Estelle MacDonald and Karine Nadeau hung swallowing day signs in the elevators, on walls on inpatient floors, and in the department. We gave out bookmarks, designed by Noëlla Basque and made by rehabilitation assistant Lynn Roy, to



thank all the moms and grandmothers who brought children to appointments around Mother's Day. We also had an attendance draw (books for the winner) and hosted the 6th Annual May Month Lobster Extravaganza!!! (Yes, Chantale Gallant made her infamous garlic butter!) We were thrilled to be joined by Bernise Hachey, who is on maternity leave un-

til September, and our current (Hérica Matos) and former (Kelli deVries and Sophie Levesque) Extra-Mural colleagues, as well as Claudette Aloysius, Kelli's student from McGill. (She had no idea she'd learn clinical and lobster-cracking skills on this placement!) Until next year...



Getting to Know Who?

Theresa McVea

This month, we are getting to know Theresa McVea. Theresa, the chair of NBASLPA's Complaints Committee, decided to sway from the usual Q/A format by writing a story to help us "get to know" her a bit better. Enjoy!

In grade 8, I became interested in this field when I met Charlotte Polley at a Career Fair. She invited me to shadow her but I ended up in audiology. I was impressed with how much they enjoyed their work and that became my career goal.

The first day of the Dalhousie Master's program, I was a wreck! We had to stand up to say what our undergrad degree was and I was sure they were going to throw me out since I had none. Much to my surprise, relief, and fear, I had somehow made it through the cracks and got accepted into audiology before completing my degree.

The joke in my family was that I was the black sheep as my siblings are both pharmacists. However, since I occasionally helped family members with their hearing loss, my degree seemed to be of good use!

Then, the shock of 2011 came when my 14-year-old-son, Kyle, shadowed for "Take Your Kid to Work" day. Kyle is a musician and a mature, straight 'A' student. I tested his hearing and was unimpressed with him when he pretended to have a hearing loss. I was less impressed when I realized he was not pretending.

We switched booths. Surely the equipment was broken...but no. I blamed myself for not enforcing better use of hearing protection when in loud music and for missing what was happening to his hearing. On the drive home, I re-emphasized the importance of hearing protection but couldn't understand why he was so unresponsive. Then I realized he was quietly upset and I was too emotionally caught up. The drive home was a blur for both of us: me feeling like I dropped the ball, him fearing that he would no longer be able to do music.

Doctors surmised that his mild loss was from meningitis at 7 weeks old. He is now a successful, confident hearing aid wearer who has given me better insight into amplification, especially for musicians, as well as more respect for what parents may feel initially, denial, grief, and self-blame, regardless of the degree of loss.

Even though I have 19 years of experience in audiology, I still continue to learn. My sister is now in the midst of getting hearing aids. I reviewed my brothers' audiograms and then sat down in disbelief to compare these with my son's....and then all 3 of my aunts' audiograms. Family history is now an obvious factor here.

I am so grateful for having met Charlotte at the "Simond's Arena" in 1985. Little did either of us know how relevant my profession would, be in my family's lives. But not to worry. Each time I test my siblings hearing, in the privacy of the sound proof booth, I have them repeat the spondee list: "airplane, hotdog.....**blacksheep!**" and we burst out laughing!

