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# LEADERS & LEARNERS

THE VOICE OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS / L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES ADMINISTRATEURS ET DES ADMINISTRATRICES SCOLAIRES

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| <b>Inside this issue:</b>  |    |
| Message From The Executive Director  | 2  |
| Farewell Tribute To Dr. Paul Houston   | 2  |
| Lighting The Way Through Literacy: Summer Leadership Academy 2008  | 3  |
| A Conversation With Children's Author Budge Wilson   | 8  |
| Experience The Magic Of Reading With Mr. J   | 9  |
| Faces In The Crowd   | 11 |
| EXL Award Info   | 12 |
| Contact CASA   | 12 |
| Our Mission and Our Beliefs  | 12 |
| <b>Upcoming CASA Events</b>  |    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2008 CASA Annual Conference is in Halifax this July.</li> </ul> |    |
| Details at <a href="http://www.casa-acas.ca">www.casa-acas.ca</a> .  |    |

## Message From The President: Light Up The World For Literacy

In place of my column's usual format, I'd like to tell our members about the Light Up The World project. I'll do this in part through a Q&A I had recently with our newsletter's editor.

Light Up The World was founded by University of Calgary professor **Dr. David Irvine-Halliday** to bring light to villages in third-world countries where there is no electricity. David has perfected the technology of using white light-emitting diodes to form a powerful light powered by a special battery pack that lasts for four years and is recharged by an 8 x 11-inch solar panel or a pedal charger. The whole unit costs \$200 and so far 14,000 homes have been lit up around the world.

This project was featured on CNN and in *National Geographic*. David received the prestigious Rolex Laureate Award and was named the *Readers' Digest* Canadian Hero for his work.

At this summer's annual conference, CASA will approach this subject from the standpoint of child and family literacy. These families generally live near the equator where the sun sets around 6pm; they only have the light of their fire or kerosene lamps by which to read.



Jim Gibbons  
CASA president

### What is the Light Up The World project?

Light Up The World (LUTW) is an international humanitarian organization dedicated to the provision of funding and the facilitation for the development of renewable energy and illumination for the world's poor and underserved.

Founded in 2002 by Dr. Dave Irvine-Halliday, a renowned global expert in fibre optics and an electrical engineering

professor at the University of Calgary, LUTW has lit up over 14,000 homes worldwide, using the technology of white light-emitting LED technology developed by Dr. Dave.

### When did you first become interested and involved in the LUTW project?

In 2006, a grade 9 student in one of our schools won a provincial award for her essay on how technology can change the world. In her research she discovered the early work that Dr. Dave was doing, and she wrote about the potential this would have for the world's children of poverty who can only read and study in the evening by the light of a kerosene lamp or a fire.

I was a guest at the ceremony where the minister of technology presented Callie

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Message From The Executive Director: A Review Of The Pan-Canadian Interactive Literacy Forum

Senior administrators of education districts participated in the April 14 Pan-Canadian Interactive Literacy Forum activities coordinated across Canada. This event, sponsored by CMEC (the Council of Ministers of Education in Canada), with CASA as an active supporter, provided a national forum on a theme of priority. Initial evaluation indicates very positive reception.

The agenda highlighted significant programs in several provinces and focused on the great variety of positive initiatives aimed at improving student achievement. As well, the program featured high-profile advocates of literacy from politics, business and journalism.

Supervisory officers, many of them CASA members, made presentations and featured programs developed in our school districts. Congratulations to those who participated in this

worthwhile event. Our students will benefit from this broad focus on literacy.

The CASA executive encourages national forums like this that bring together the perspectives of the provincial affiliates. Such a sharing celebrates the best of our programs and brings together some of the leading agents of change from across the country. We hope CMEC continues this initiative with a number of issues in the future.



Frank Kelly  
CASA executive director

## CASA's Farewell Tribute To Dr. Paul Houston

CASA's **Jim Gibbons** and **Frank Kelly** recently paid tribute to **Dr. Paul Houston**, who has served as the executive director of AASA (the American Association of School Administrators) from 1994 until 2008. Their presentation took place in front of 4,000 delegates at the AASA National Conference on Education in Florida this February. Dr. Houston was presented with an Inuit carving and an honorary lifetime membership in CASA. Here is an excerpt from their presentation.

It is a great pleasure and privilege for the Canadian Association of School Administrators to join you in this recognition ceremony. CASA has long enjoyed our relationship with AASA and the opportunities provided for educational leaders in our two countries to dialogue about important issues. We have had the pleasure of hosting many AASA presidents at our conferences and you, in turn, have made us feel outstandingly welcome at all of your events.

It is a special relationship and there is much we can learn from one another because, as much as governments and systems may differ, there is one constant: our children and our youth. The opportunities and challenges that they face, the dedication of our teachers and the advocacy of leaders such as you bring us ever closer together.

There is no one who exemplifies the dedication and commitment to relationship more than the one you honour this afternoon: **Dr. Paul Houston**. Today we have heard countless examples of his tireless work on behalf of educational improvement. His influence is equally as great north of the border and I don't think that a year has gone by when Paul

has missed one of our CASA conferences. One year he flew all night arriving in Winnipeg at 2am. He spoke at 9am only to fly out by noon for his next meeting. In his presentations, Paul would always provide an update on the US state of affairs in education, and throughout his addresses his passion for public education and his principle-centered leadership shone through.

Paul, CASA will always be indebted to you for your support for our organization and your tremendous leadership that knows no boundaries.



Dr. Paul Houston and Jim Gibbons.

**There is more  
treasure in books  
than in all the  
pirate's loot on  
Treasure Island.**  
—Walt Disney

## Lighting The Way Through Literacy: Summer Leadership Academy 2008 Preview

**W**hen CASA members gather for our annual conference each summer, what results is a mix of informative seminars and lively roundtables, memorable pre-conference adventures and rollicking good times during the evening social gatherings. This year's event promises to deliver this and more, seasoned with that famous east coast hospitality.

package, and family members are welcome to attend. The list of speakers includes CASA president **Jim Gibbons**, Nova Scotia Department of Education deputy minister **Denis Cochrane**, Halifax Regional School Board superintendent **Carole Olsen**, American Association of School Administrators (AASA) president **Randall Collins**, Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators (ANSEA)



Halifax lights up at night: fireworks reflected over the harbour, a tall ship, the Macdonald Bridge.

Photos by Jon Hutt

The centre of action will be the historic and beautiful Lord Nelson Hotel in downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Lord Nelson is just across the street from the lovely Victorian-style Halifax Public Gardens and within easy walking distance to the shops and restaurants of Spring Garden Road and Barrington Street (be sure to stroll down the many adjacent side streets—there are one-of-a-kind shops waiting to be discovered).

If you arrive wondering about dinner recommendations or where to buy that perfect Nova Scotia souvenir, pick up your free *Food & Drink Guide*, *Shop Halifax* or *Green Halifax City Guide*, published each year by the city's weekly newspaper *The Coast*. The paper itself comes out every Thursday, and has all the music and entertainment listings you'll need to have a fabulous and unforgettable time in Halifax.

But that's getting a little ahead of ourselves. First things first: the conference proper.

The CASA executive and affiliate council meeting gets underway on Thursday, July 10, at 1pm in Vanguard 2 at the Lord Nelson.

The opening ceremonies for the 2008 summer leadership academy start at 6pm in the Imperial Ballroom. Tickets are included with your registration

president **Norman Dray**, and **Mike Sproule** and **David Lapides**, representatives from two of our major conference sponsors Education Canada and SMART Technologies.


At 7pm, we'll hold the 7th annual Xerox EXL Awards. It's not too late to put forth your nomination for a CASA member who you feel exemplifies outstanding leadership. The CASA Distinguished Service and Life Membership awards will also be presented at this time. Information on submitting nominations can be found on the last page of this issue.

CASA president and Chinook's Edge School Division superintendent Jim Gibbons will deliver the conference's keynote address at 7:30pm. Jim will share

(Continued on page 4)



Halifax's Town Clock on Citadel Hill. Photo by Tara Wittchen



When I get a little money, I buy books; and if any is left, I buy food and clothes.

—Desiderius Erasmus



## Summer Leadership Academy 2008 Preview, continued



Just some of the colourful characters you can see in Halifax, including Theodore Too Tugboat (right).

Photos by Tara Wittchen



It's hard to imagine a more difficult experience in which an administrator has to lead than after the tragic, accidental death of students and staff, but that's what special guest **John McLaughlin** faced this January. The superintendent for School District 15 in New Brunswick will reflect on how important it is to develop resiliency in children as he relates how this district overcame their van accident tragedy and got kids refocused on learning.

Friday's first breakout sessions include Improving Literacy Achievement Through Profes-

sional Learning Communities (with **Sue LeBel** and **Cindy Hisler**), Finding a Balance: Improving Literacy Practice in Halifax Regional School Board (with **Lynn Landry**), Conseillère en français, littérature et en élaboration des programmes (avec **Margaret Gillespie deGoyer**) and One-to-One Laptop Program: Engaging Boys' Literacy (with **Catherine McCullough**).

Following lunch on your own (time to consult that *Food & Drink Guide!*), the Friday afternoon breakout sessions include Report Card for Student Success (with **Jim Grieve**, **Judith Nyman** and **Dr. James Norrie**), Making the Difference for Students with Special Needs by Improving Literacy in the Classroom (with **Leann Forsyth-Sells**), Building Capacity for a Comprehensive Literacy Program, Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 (with **Karen Rowe**, **Tricia Stefanic Wertz** and **Elizabeth Mulholland**), Leap to Literacy (with **Jodi Goodrick**, **Heather Henderson-Hill** and Jim Gibbons), School Success Planning Process and Website (with Jim Grieve and Judith Nyman), Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies in the Classroom: Raising the Bar and Closing the Gap in Reading (**Cathy Geml**, **Paul Picard**, **Dr. Erin Picard** and **Sharon O'Hagan-Wong**) and more.

When you think of Nova Scotia you can't help but think of lobster, and this year's conference includes the opportunity to experience The Ultimate Lobster Dinner. Tickets are \$55 each; dinner is at 6pm at the Lord Nelson Hotel.

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 3)

his experiences with the Light Up The World Foundation, started by University of Calgary professor **Dr. David Irvine-Halliday**, and how access to affordable, reliable light can increase child and family literacy in third-world nations. To learn more about the foundation's work and products, please visit [www.lutw.org](http://www.lutw.org).

And keeping with that positive, literacy-themed message, folks are sure to enjoy the Magic of Reading show presented by magician **Mr. J**, starting at 8:15pm. Read more about this hilarious and engaging entertainer on page 9. Head to the Regency Ballroom afterwards for a reception sponsored by ANSEA, CASA, Education Canada and SMART Technologies.

Jim Gibbons will once again get things started on Friday morning at 8:30 in the Imperial Ballroom, followed by "Raising Resilient Children: Literacy is the Key," a keynote address delivered by **Sandra Dean**.

When I discovered libraries, it was like having Christmas every day.

—Jean Fritz

## Summer Leadership Academy 2008 Preview, continued

*(Continued from page 4)*

Halifax has more than a few ghosts hanging around, and Friday night we're hoping to meet a few of them. The Halifax Ghost Walk, sponsored by Education Canada, gets underway at 8:30pm. Those who enjoy spirits of a different sort (think rum and whiskey), or perhaps want to sample a pint or two of one of Halifax's fine microbrews, should tag along on the Halifax Pub Crawl. Just remember this: Although many Halifax bars close rather late, conference sessions begin at 9am sharp on Saturday.

AASA president Randall Collins starts Saturday morning with information on his organization's mini-study on the state of the superintendency, as well as reflections on *No Child Left Behind*.

Following a coffee break sponsored by SMART Technologies, you'll be treated to a talk by noted children's author **Budge Wilson**. For more on Budge, see page 8.

Lunch is once again on your own. Consider inviting the folks you've met at past sessions and exploring the many cuisines available within walking distance: Lebanese, Greek, Japanese, Thai, Indian, Vietnamese, Italian, Turkish, seafood, vegetarian, fish and chips, pizza, the famous Halifax donair and so much more. Did we mention the award-winning gourmet gelato two blocks away?

Sessions pick up again at 1:30pm, including one on the Pan



The sunsets at the Peggy's Cove lighthouse are picture perfect.

*Photo by Tara Wittchen*

Canadian Literacy Initiative (with **Shelley Magnusson** and **Audrey Hobbs-Johnson**) and another focusing on the successes of the innovative partnership of the Ontario Literacy Secretariat (with **Ann Perron**).

At 2:30pm, listen in on a panel discussion about literacy initiatives across Canada with Jim Grieve, Norman Dray, Jim Gibbons, **Carol Gray** and others.

Jim Grieve, who will serve as CASA's



Halifax is a city with history around every corner: A stoic Winston Churchill (right) on watch in front of the library, the gates to the Old Burying Ground (left, bottom) and a bag-piper plays for visitors as they march into one of the city's many historic pubs (left, top).

*Photos by Tara Wittchen*

2008-2009 president, will deliver the conference's closing remarks at the end of this discussion.

Dinner is on your own that night but you'll want to wrap it up early to get on the bus to Peggy's Cove, departing at 6:30pm. What a wonderful way to end the day, watching the majestic waves on the rocks at the world-famous lighthouse. With luck, the weather will hold and we'll enjoy watching the sun set over the ocean. Bring your camera and be sure to try the amazing gingerbread cake at the Sou'Wester Restaurant.

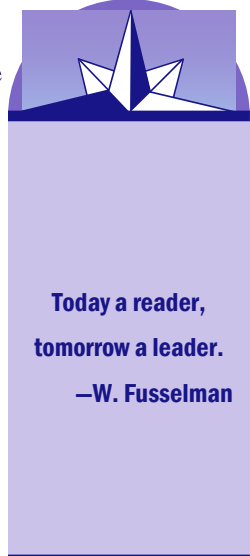
And then the rest of Saturday night is yours to enjoy!

Sunday is Experience Nova Scotia Day, where you will have your choice of four enjoyable tours.

For those wanting to see more of the city, there's the Historic Halifax Day Tour. This includes a harbour tour aboard the Tall Ship Mar, with stops at Pier 21, the Citadel, Keith's Brewery and the cemetery where victims from the Titanic were laid to rest. This tour costs \$100 and includes all transportation and fees. You are responsible for your own meal costs.

Photographers will want to sign up

*(Continued on page 6)*



Today a reader,  
tomorrow a leader.

—W. Fusselman



## Summer Leadership Academy 2008 Preview, continued

*(Continued from page 5)*

for the Bluenose Coast: Photographers' Delight Tour. You'll visit picturesque Mahone Bay with its lovely group of churches along the water's edge. There's a stop in Lunenburg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the *Bluenose II* and the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic. You'll even get to ride on a working lobster boat. The day also includes time at Peggy's Cove. Tickets are \$75 and include transportation and entrance fees; you're responsible for your own meal costs.

Those who love crafts and antiques will delight at the abundance in Nova Scotia. Learn about the variety of arts and crafts made in the province by downloading *The Guide to Craft & Art in Nova Scotia 2008* at [craft-design.ns.ca](http://craft-design.ns.ca).

*Photo by Tara Wittchen*



Interested in mixing history with wine? Join The Land of the Acadians, Orchards and Tides—Annapolis Valley Tour. You'll tour an award-winning winery, see the Bay of Fundy (home of the world's highest tides), visit one of Canada's best orchards and see the ancestral home of the Acadian people, including a stop at Grand-Pré National Historic Site. This tour costs \$75 and includes everything but individual meal costs.

Nova Scotia is an antique hunter's treasure chest, and a delight for those who appreciate beautiful arts and crafts. The Crafts and Antiques Tour will take participants to many of the fine antique and craft shops along either the Lighthouse Route or Marine Drive. A real bargain at only \$25, plus the cost of your individual meals.

Of course, there are always conference participants who want more than just a taste of their destination. That's what the pre-conference activities are all about: a chance to spend time with your family and colleagues as you get to know

more about the host location. This is always a fun and rewarding experience for participants.

On July 8 and 9, enjoy a two-day The Land of the Acadians, the Mi'kmaq, Orchards and Tides—Annapolis Valley Tour. You'll visit the ancestral home of the Mi'kmaq and the Acadians, tour an award-winning winery, see the world's highest tides at the Bay of Fundy and visit one of Canada's best orchards. Stops include Grand-Pré National Historic Site, Fort Anne and Port Royal. You are responsible for the cost of your own meals and accommodations but organizers will book accommodations for you. The price for this tour is \$125.

Or you may wish to choose from the various one-day activities available on July 8, 9 and 10.

Fans of Stanfield's (who remembers wearing their long underwear?) won't want to miss the Central Nova Day Trip, *(Continued on page 7)*




Above, lupins blooming in summer.

Right, Longfellow's Evangeline at Grand-Pré.

*Photo by Tara Wittchen*

*Submitted photo*

**I have always  
imagined that  
Paradise will be a  
kind of library.  
—Jorge Luis Borges**

## Summer Leadership Academy 2008 Preview, continued

(Continued from page 6)

which includes a tour of the famous Stanfield's factory in Truro. It's your chance to stock up on quality undergarments, yoga apparel, t-shirts, socks and athletic wear at the Stanfield's factory outlet. For lunch, you'll visit Sugar Moon Farm, a working maple sugar farm (with all-you-can-eat pancakes and an opportunity to purchase a variety of Nova Scotia maple products). Afterwards, your heart will stir to the beat of the Mi'kmaq drums at the Glooskap Heritage Centre in Millbrook First Nation. Back in Truro, as you stroll the old-fashioned downtown, you'll see some of the many historic figures carved out of stumps of old elm trees lost to Dutch Elm disease. This tour costs \$25 and includes transportation and entrance fees. You are responsible for your own meal fees.

If you want to explore the city on either July 8, 9 or 10, sign up for the Historic Halifax Day Tour, described on page 5.

The Bluenose Coast: Photographers' Delight Tour and the Crafts and Antiques Tour described on page 6 are also available for pre-conference participants on July 9.

Golfing! Nova Scotia is famous for its beautiful courses. Join colleagues for a friendly round of golf on one of the



Sugar Moon Farm pancakes and baked beans with delicious Nova Scotia maple syrup. Photo by Daniel MacDonald

Nova Scotia is Canada's Ocean Playground, as the provincial licence plate says. You'll find beautiful sandy and rocky beaches all along Nova Scotia's shores.

If you plan on taking a dip, however, take a cue from the surfers in these parts and consider a wetsuit. The waters on the Atlantic and Fundy sides of the province rarely get above 10 degrees Celsius, even in summer. Warmer waters (18 degrees or more) are on the Northumberland Strait shores, in August and early fall.

Of course, there is an abundance of sea creatures to be seen right from the sand and rocks on shore, too.

Photos by Tara Wittchen




Halifax-area courses on July 9. Participants are responsible for their own golf and cart fees and meals. Transportation is included in your \$20 ticket.

Spouses and family members will find plenty to do while you attend conference sessions. Hotel staff will be happy to offer suggestions, and *The Nova Scotia Doers and Dreamers Guide*, available by calling 1 (800) 565-0000 or visiting [www.destination-ns.com](http://www.destination-ns.com), can help your family plan activities in and around Halifax. They might start out close to "home" by visiting the Public Gardens or the historic Citadel, or exploring the Halifax Harbour on the Theodore Too Tugboat or Pier 21, Canada's Immigration Museum. Halifax's Metro Transit offers a free shuttle, called FRED (or Free Rides Everywhere Downtown) from 10:30am to 5:30pm.

For more information or to register for events, contact Marion Holmes from PD PROs at (403) 386-3860 or [holmes3@telusplanet.net](mailto:holmes3@telusplanet.net).

See you in Nova Scotia! *Slainte Mhath!* (Gaelic for "Good health!")



**What a school  
thinks about its  
library is a measure  
of what it feels  
about education.**

**—Harold Howe**



## Before And After *Green Gables*: A Conversation With Children's Author Budge Wilson

**Budge Wilson** was born in Halifax and attended Dalhousie University and the University of Toronto. A former teacher, she has published 32 books since 1984. Her many literary prizes include 19 Canadian Children's Book Centre "Our Choice" awards and the Canadian Library Association's Young Adult Canadian Book Award. Her collection of short stories *The Leaving* was included on the association's list of "The 75 Best Children's Books in the Last 25 Years." In 2004, she was made a Member of the Order of Canada.

It's hard to imagine a Canadian who doesn't know the story of **Anne Shirley**, the fictional red-haired orphan from Prince Edward Island. Before she arrived at *Green Gables*, Anne had a difficult early life. She was sent from one foster-home to the next, finding solace only in her own imagination. In Budge Wilson's fully authorized prequel to **LM Montgomery's** beloved *Anne* series, Anne fights to make a life for herself by seeking out kindred spirits, finding solace in her books and dreaming of the day she has a family of her own.

Budge Wilson will speak about her writing process, with reference to the crafting of *Before Green Gables*, at the Summer Leadership Academy on July 12. Conference attendants are encouraged to read the first five chapters of *Anne of Green Gables* to fully appreciate this presentation on one woman's love of writing, reading and a red-haired orphan girl.

### *In what subject areas and grade levels did you used to teach?*

I mainly taught in the areas of English Literature and Art, having worked for a while as a commercial artist as well as having had a fair amount of art education. But I only taught two years in a school, having been told in Ontario that my Nova Scotia licence would not qualify me to teach in Ontario (which was not true, but I didn't have the sense to double check, and I lived in Ontario for over 30 years). However, there was a strong Physical Education component in my Education class at Dalhousie University, and I ended up teaching fitness classes for over 20 years in Ontario, for which the usual teaching qualifications didn't apply.

### *You published your first book almost 25 years ago. At what stage did you switch from being a part-time writer to devoting most of your time to your craft?*

I switched from part-time writing to full-time writing after my first book was published in 1984. At that point I was already 56 years old, having started writing at 50.

### *What were some of your favourite childhood books?*

Some of my favourite children's books were **LM Montgomery's** *Anne of Green Gables* and her *Emily* books; *The Secret Garden*; all fairy tales; the Christopher Robin and Pooh books by **AA Milne**, both stories and poetry; and *A Girl of the Limberlost*.

### *How did you become involved with the Before Green Gables project?*



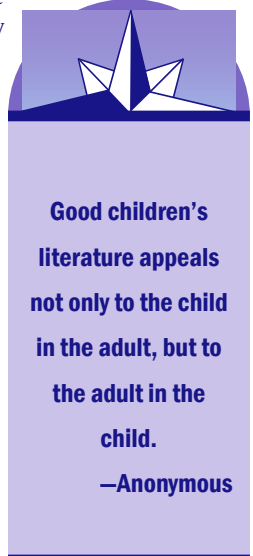
I became involved in the prequel to *Anne of Green Gables* because an editor at Penguin Canada phoned me and asked me to do it. It took me two months to decide whether or not to take on the project—a pretty daunting one.

### *What has been your favourite part of working on this project so far?*

My favourite part of the project was the writing of the first draft of the book, which became *Before Green Gables*. It came very quickly, but I usually enjoy the slow and relaxed editing process almost as much as doing the first draft of a piece of writing. But in this case, my deadline was made shorter by over a month, and therefore I couldn't enjoy that process in the way I usually do.

### *What advice can you offer to educators on developing a love of reading in students of today?*

I would say that a love of reading is often fostered by letting children read exactly what they want to read—books that may seem thin or of little literary worth, books that may seem either too old or too young for them, books that they choose for themselves in a school or public library. I tend to think that personal choice has a lot to do with a child's early love of reading.





## Experience The Magic Of Reading With Mr. J: CASA Conference Will Open With A Touch Of Mystique

A highlight of the upcoming annual conference's opening ceremonies will surely be the inspiring and hilarious magic show by Nova Scotia's own **Mr. J**. A former school teacher, Mr. J (also known as **David Johnston**) studied theatre and circus arts in Toronto. His shows feature colourful magic, off-the-wall comedy, amazing balloon animals, a beautiful live dove, fun audience interaction and volunteer participation. Be prepared to laugh out loud during this high-energy show!

Mr. J is a strong proponent of literacy and has toured his Magic of Reading show throughout the Maritimes, promoting the message that reading is magic and readers are leaders. In 2007, he received a literacy award from Constable **John Kennedy**, creator of the Adopt-A-Library program.

In addition to entertaining thousands of children, Mr. J has performed at numerous conferences, civic celebrations and corporate parties for clients such as Michelin, Scotiabank and A&W.

Mr. J has met and entertained personalities such as **Gene Hackman**, **Weird Al Yankovic**, **Gordon Jump**, **Rex Murphy**, **Rick Mercer** and even **The Amazing Kreskin** himself with his magic, comedy and balloon animal creations.

This one-hour magic show will take place at 8:15pm on Thursday, July 10, at the Lord Nelson Hotel Imperial Ballroom in Halifax. Visit Mr. J online at [www.misterj.ca](http://www.misterj.ca).



David returns to the classroom to visit **Laurie Miller**, a beloved grade 6 teacher from North River Elementary in central Nova Scotia known to students simply as "Miller." Miller retired in 2006. *Submitted photo*



Watch the pretty birdie!

Photo by Jon Hutt

### Rave reviews for Mr. J's magic:

"The entertainment you provided was THE highlight of our time together!"  
—**Ron Marks**, conference chair, Nova Scotia School Boards Association

"You do good magic...thanks for the entertainment, David!"  
—**Dan Akroyd**, actor

"Everyone had a really great time. Your show is high energy, interactive and fun—you really have a gift for entertaining!"

—**Nancy Sulis**, Nova Scotia Retired Teachers' Banquet

**It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own.**  
—**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

## Light Up The World For Literacy, continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

with the award and Dave provided a demonstration of the technology in a darkened gymnasium. I experienced the passion Dave held for this project and how he had influenced this young student to make a difference.

### **How did you find out about Dr. David Irvine-Halliday and his work?**

That same year, I was appointed to the Senate of the University of Calgary and had the opportunity to meet with Professor Irvine-Halliday on numerous occasions. He is truly a servant leader and spends all of his free time trekking through poor regions of the world, installing the LED lighting technology that he has perfected.

I believed that this would provide a wonderful project for students to be involved in as a global social justice project that could make a difference for children of their age. With the opportunity to light up a home in a safe and renewable fashion for only \$200, schools in Chinook's Edge School Division have raised thousands of dollars and some of our students have travelled to villages in Africa to install the technology.

### **Why did you decide to make this project the focus of your keynote address for this summer's conference?**

Our conference theme, literacy, is such an important topic. Research shows that early language acquisition and being able to read at grade level by the end of grade 3 will set a student on a path to success.

But consider what it might be like if we lived in poverty near the equator where the sun sets at 6:30pm and the only opportunity to read and study at home is by the dull yellow light of a kerosene lamp or fire.

To grasp the magnitude of this challenge, consider the country of Nepal, the site of the first LUTW project, where only 200,000 of 3.4 million homes have access to reliable electrical power. Literacy is the key to reducing worldwide poverty and light—something we take for granted—is the key to literacy.

### **Why is it important for CASA members to know about the Light Up The World project?**

I believe that if we can encourage our students to help those less fortunate, they will become better global citizens. LUTW is a wonderful Canadian organization and with a

host of volunteers, almost 100 per cent of funds raised go directly to projects, with the opportunity also for students to participate in field installation.

Chinook's Edge has established a fundraising chapter on behalf of LUTW that allows us to target money to specific

projects. The latest of these is the Light Up Papua New Guinea: The Captain **Nichola Goddard** Project. As you may

know, Captain Nichola was killed on May 17, 2006, in Afghanistan. In keeping her memory alive, LUTW is working toward lighting up 1,800 first aid and health posts in Papua New Guinea by 2011.

When **Muhammed Yunus** and **Grameen Bank** were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for their work in micro-credit funding for millions of poor, they wanted to

create a sustainable way to help families rise from poverty through home-based manufacturing. Those homes that are lit through LUTW

will be even further advantaged, as work can continue in the evening with proper white light.

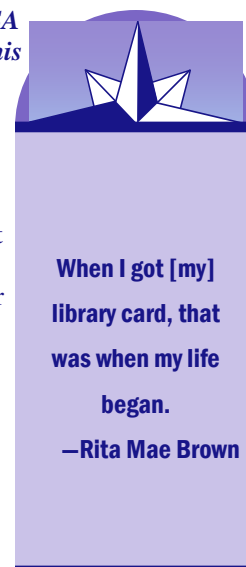
### **How can Canadians, including CASA members, contribute to make sure this work continues?**

CASA members and Canadians can learn more by visiting the Light Up The World website at [www.lutw.org](http://www.lutw.org). CASA members in particular may also bring the potential of this project to schools to consider as fundraising or field trip opportunities, or consider the establishment of their own LUTW Foundation Chapter.

As the world gets smaller, our children and youth need to recognize their roles as global citizens and this initiative will provide a venue to "be the change they wish to see."

## Literacy is the key to reducing worldwide poverty...

## ...and light—something we take for granted—is the key to literacy.





## CASA PEOPLE: Faces In The Crowd



**Jodi Goodrick**  
Alberta

Jodi is the departing director of student services for the Chinook's Edge School Division; she will move on to Red Deer Public this fall. Previously Jodi was the coordinator of student services for the Wild Rose School Division. She began her career as a special education teacher in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and Lacombe, Alberta. She has also taught English as a Second Language in Japan.

She is the recipient of a 2004 Central Alberta Council of School Administrators Leadership Award and a 2000 Exceptional Children, Special Education Council Leadership Award. Jodi is also a sessional instructor at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Education, and serves on many health and education committees.

Jodi is especially committed and passionate about her work with the special needs population.



**Norman Dray**  
Nova Scotia

Norman is the superintendent of schools for the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board in Berwick and the current president of the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators. Prior to this, he spent 26 years in Saskatchewan, starting as a school principal and ending as a director of education.

He was educated at the University of Waterloo, Laurentian University and the University of Saskatchewan, where in 2007 he received his Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration. He has contributed his time and knowledge of educational matters to numerous papers, workshops, committees and organizations.

Norm enjoys curling, fitness and reading. He is married to his best friend Marlene, with whom he is celebrating a 30th wedding anniversary. They have two grown sons.



**Ambrose White**  
Nova Scotia

Ambrose has devoted his entire career to education and sports in Cape Breton. In 2007, he became the director of operational services for the Cape Breton Victoria Regional School Board. He was the board's coordinator of school services from 2004 to 2007. Ambrose was a teacher for 20 years before he became a principal for the next 10.

He has coached kids' soccer, hockey, baseball and basketball teams, including the 1981 division one girls' provincial champion team. He has also served on many recreation, school board and union committees over the years. Ambrose has offered his time as the Nova Scotia delegate to both the National Summit on Sport and the Sustainable Environment Committee.

Ambrose is married to Marilyn, and they have two children in university.

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## Our Mission:

CASA will advance quality public education and excellence in system level leadership through advocacy and national collaboration.



## Our Beliefs:

CASA believes that:

- Cultural diversity is a unique strength that enriches our nation.
- Communication and collaboration with parents and other partners is integral to successful student learning.
- Quality public education provides the best opportunity for a nation to enhance the lives of all its citizens.
- Effective system, provincial and national level leadership enables and supports excellence in teaching and learning.
- A comprehensive education, equitable and accessible to all, is the key to meeting the diverse needs and securing a successful future for our youth.

Specific strategies to advance the mission:

- Establish position papers on specific topics as they relate to the beliefs and interests of the association.
- Recruit new people.
- Establish a national representation.
- Establish a three-tier public relations and publications strategy.
- Establish a funding team to create an operating budget.

## Recognize An Outstanding Colleague: Nominate Them For The 2008 EXL Award

**C**ASA members who show exemplary leadership ability and who enhance school administration are eligible for the EXL Award. The award, jointly sponsored by Xerox Canada Limited and CASA, has been presented since 2002. It includes an honorary life membership in CASA.

If you work with an outstanding CASA member or know a leader in our field who deserves to be recognized, why not nominate them this year? You can share your suggestion with the executive director of your provincial association.

What kind of qualities should an EXL Award nominee have?

They will have brought honour to themselves, their colleagues and their profession. They have given exemplary service to their provincial or national professional association. They have made significant contributions to the field of education through their service, writings or other activities. These are individuals who are recognized as role models and teachers to those around them.



Each provincial association of CASA elects a nominee to represent their province. The national award recipient, selected from these provincial nominations, is announced during the opening ceremonies at the CASA Annual Conference.

Previous winners include **John Darroch** (2002), **Roy Seidler** (2003), **Ed Wittchen** (2004), **Edie Wilde** (2005),

**Ron Canuel** (2006) and **Carol Gray** (2007).

The submissions from the provincial associations for this year are due at the CASA office by the end of June. Nomination forms can be found on the CASA website. Completed forms should be sent to the CASA office care of Leslea Wylie, by email care of [leslea@opsoa.org](mailto:leslea@opsoa.org) or by fax at (905) 845-2044.