

Local teacher honoured by peers

For 36 years, Sandra Crowley has been teaching in the Campbellton area and last weekend was honoured by the New Brunswick Teachers Association with Bell Aliant Award for Excellence in Teaching at an annual gala dinner in Fredericton.

The Bell Aliant Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented each year to a member of the NBTA recognized by peers and the community as a teacher who exhibits excellence through an ongoing commitment to students and pedagogical approaches.

“This is a wonderful, yet surreal experience and I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude to all my friends, colleagues as well as to my wonderful administrators at LBS, Principal Lori Henderson and Vice-principal Norma Court,” said a humbled Crowley on May 29. “I am also very grateful to Norma Court and Tanya Geraghty who put forth my name as a candidate and to everyone who was part of this nomination process.”

Crowley was the only winner of the annual award. She’s been teaching for 33 years at LBS, prior to that she was at the Tide Head School and the Campbellton Middle School after a brief stay in New Richmond in the early years.

Crowley is originally from Mann’s Settlement near Matapedia but has been in Tide Head since around the birth of her 31 year old son Ryan. She is the Education Support Teacher/Methods and Resource Teacher for the school, the main person in charge of making sure children with special needs get the education they deserve.

“I would like to say that I have been extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to work in such a rewarding and exciting profession for so many years. I owe it all to the remarkable support staff at the district and school level and to the many students who I have supported. Thank you to Bell Aliant for the recognition and the prestigious award and I accept it on behalf of all the great teachers and educational assistants I have known and all the wonderful students I had the honor of supporting. All children are “special” and I have been very blessed to have been part of their learning.”

Crowley got her education degree at the University of New Brunswick and upgraded to certificate 5 specializing in special needs children. She’s been doing that for the last 31 years.

“As an Education Support Teacher/Methods and Resource Teacher for so many years, I’ll leave you with this thought: I hope that my achievements in teaching were these – that I have fought for what was right and fair, that I had risked for that which mattered, and that I had given help to those who were in need and that I leave the teaching profession a better place for what I’ve done, who I’ve touched and who I’ve been.”

Her efforts as a teacher for more than 30 years will be missed by Henderson.

“It has truly been a pleasure working with Sandra over the past several years. She comes to school each day ready to give 110 per cent to her students and this has made a significant difference in the lives of many children. As she retires, her presence in the building will be missed by all students and staff. We wish her all the best in her retirement,” she said.

Crowley will retire at the end of the current school year after more than 35 years as a teacher.