

TAPHE Conference: Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Dorothy G. Walker Award Presentation

**RESPONSE by: Bev Johnstone**

I knew in junior high, **I WANTED TO BE A PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER!!!!**

**WHY.....** It was because of the amazing physical education teachers I had, that I got turned on to physical activity!!!! It was through their exciting physical education classes and extracurricular activities that I was given opportunities to participate in, that I would most likely NOT have ever been introduced to, **THAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE FOR ME AT A MOST IMPORTANT TIME IN MY LIFE.**

Their **PASSION FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, *IGNITED A PASSION IN ME!!!!***

Thus, my career **JOURNEY** began.

**INTERESTING NOTE:** I was so busy participating, I did not have time to get into trouble or to give anyone trouble (aka: Bullying or being bullied!!!!)

When I graduated from Dalhousie with my BPE in 1976, I got my first teaching position in Halifax. It was during that first year of teaching, I went to my first **TAPHE** conference. It was there that I met Dorothy Walker. **WOW**, what a cracker jack!!!!. Whenever Dorothy walked into a room the entire place became electric. I always noticed, she consistently demonstrated the:

**3 P's: Pleasant      Professional    and most of all... "PASSIONATE"**

Before long, I was a member of the TAPHE executive and I was trying to **FOLLOW** Dorothy's good example. So..... between TAPHE and DOROTHY's lead, my **CAREER JOURNEY** shifted into turbo boost!

Now, I not only had the **OPPORTUNITY.....**, but more importantly, the **RESPONSIBILITY.....** to **"EQUIP"** and **"EMPOWER"** every student I taught, with the **"KNOWledge"** as well as the ability to **"DO"** what they were being taught, but most importantly to **"VALUE"** this knowledge and these skills enough..... to include them..... as part of their lives, for the rest of their lives.

This was a **HUGE RESPONSIBILITY.....** and all I could do was **FOLLOW** THE LEAD OF THE LEADERS BEFORE ME..... AND **LEAD** TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY IN MY OWN DAILY TEACHING. This means.....**I COULD PASS ON "MY" PASSION!!!!!!**

**"YOU " chose the career of physical education because of "YOUR" PASSION**

The best part is..... every single child has to go to school in this province, which means..... if each physical education teacher takes advantage of this opportunity to "PASS ON THEIR PASSION" .....to every child they teach, EVERY CHILD could experience your passion. ***WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN!!!!!!***

***There is no other venue where this OPPORTUNITY is possible!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***

There is no greater honor than to be chosen for an award by your own colleagues. To have been given the Dorothy Walker Award is not only humbling but greatly appreciated. It will be displayed, with great pride, in my office at home.

Finally, I offer each of you, no matter where you are in your career journey, the following challenge:

1. Follow and lead by example
2. Pass on your passion

Who knows, perhaps one day, it could be YOU who is up here, receiving the Dorothy Walker Award..... it is up to "YOU".

**ENJOY THE JOURNEY!!!**

Thank you