

INTERVIEW



Allyson Jackson

EAL / WES instructor for Skills Launch NB



Q. Place of birth?

Saint John, New Brunswick



Photo: aerial view of Saint John, NB and Partridge Island

Q. You chose New Brunswick (NB) or it chose you?

I grew up in New Brunswick, moved away after high school for my education and then moved back.

I have a large extended family and the majority of them are in NB.

Q. Your passion?

One of my greatest passions is travel.



I want to travel as much of the world as I can.

I've visited a number of countries in Europe, Central America, and Africa.

I can't wait to see more of this beautiful planet!

Q. Preferred leisure activity?

Other than travel, I like to read, watch movies, downhill ski and swim.

Q. Which of our four seasons do you prefer & why?

I like all of our seasons but I think fall is my favourite. It's not as hot as the summer, the leaves are beautiful and I like wearing warm and cozy clothing.

Q. Best advice you ever received?

"Be yourself: everyone else is already taken."

- Oscar Wilde



Q. Your most enjoyable travel experience / voyage?



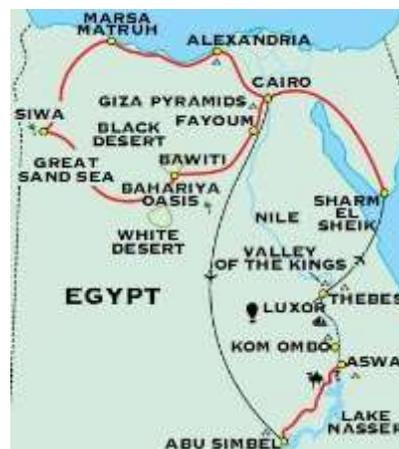
In 2019, my husband and I traveled to Egypt.

We visited the Pyramids, famous landmarks, and temples.

We cruised down the Nile on a *Dahabiya*:



We visited the famous tombs in the Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens.



It was amazing!!!

Q. Destination(s) yet to be discovered?

I would love to visit more of Africa. Going on a safari is on my bucket list.

Q. You can dine with anyone in history, who would you choose?



That's a tough question. I can't decide!

Q. Last book read?





Q. Favorite author?



Jane Austen

16 December 1775 – 18 July 1817 - was an English novelist known primarily for her six major novels, which interpret, critique and comment upon the British landed gentry at the end of the 18th century.

Austen's plots often explore the dependence of women on marriage in the pursuit of favourable social

standing and economic security.

Her works critique the novels of sensibility of the second half of the 18th century and are part of the transition to 19th-century literary realism.

Her use of biting irony, along with her realism, humour, and social commentary, have long earned her acclaim among critics, scholars, and popular audiences alike.

- Source: Wikipedia

Q. A book you would recommend and why?

I think it would depend on what kind of book the reader likes.

Q. What are you most proud of?

My family and friends.

Q. You win the lottery you do what with your new fortune?

I would invest some of it, give some to my family, donate a percentage to some of my favourite charities, take multiple trips, buy a new electric vehicle, maybe buy a new house?

Q. Favorite movie? Music preference?

I love many types of movies (comedy, drama, action, foreign, etc.) and many types of music, too.

One of my favourite movies is the French film **Amélie**.

I love going to see live music concerts and music festivals.



Q. Your advice to the newcomer to New Brunswick?

Be patient with yourself and others. It's difficult to adapt to a new place.

I would **greatly recommend exploring what New Brunswick has to offer.** There are lots of fun things to do outdoors if you are open to trying new activities.

Do your best to get involved in your community.

Networking is extremely important in Canadian culture.

Q. What one word best describes you?

Compassionate

- So says my husband.

Q. Your hero or mentor in youth? Today?

My high school English teacher, **Mr. Mitton**, was a great mentor for me.

He motivated me in my creative writing and encouraged me to share my ideas. I was a shy kid, so having his support helped motivate me to participate more in class.

Q. What are some barriers that newcomers face and must overcome to ensure a successful integration into their new Canadian community?

- Language and employment can be big barriers for newcomers but they can be overcome with hard work and training.
- I also know that many newcomers encounter "culture shock" when they move to a new country.

That's why it's so important to have organisations like the **Restigouche Multicultural Association** to help them integrate into their new communities.

Q. Favorite quote / expression?

"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light."

- Aristotle

"Wheresoever you go, go with all your heart."

- Confucius

Q. Pet peeves?

I can't stand when people litter. We have a beautiful planet, let's try to keep it that way.

Q. Share something people may not know about you!

I've always lived in Canada: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and British Columbia.

Q. What question would you have liked to have been asked?

What's your favourite thing about living in New Brunswick?

I'm incredibly proud to be Canadian. I love the diversity of our country but what I like most about living in NB is that I'm close to my family and friends. I really enjoy the natural beauty of our province. I love that I'm a short drive from the Atlantic Ocean.



Most of all, I appreciate the kindness of New Brunswickers.