

Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
Spring Meeting, Mar 4, 2023, Oral Report
Joan Lemay, Past President

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under Heaven." (Eccles. 3:1)

Those of you who were past presidents in 2022 and completed the Annual Report Survey, will remember that there were several questions pertaining to your history documentation and how you archive this information. The work that your council does is important and keeping accurate and permanent historical records is equally important. We learn from our history. Please read National Past President, Anne Marie Gorman's Communique #6 at cwl.ca/communiques. Just three years ago when CWL National celebrated its 100th anniversary, I found it amazing and intriguing to read the CWL's documented history. Most of you have probably read it, but if you have not, I encourage you to do so. You will find it on the CWL website: Spring 2020, *The Canadian League*, and also under Manuals, 1920-2005, Supplement to League History.

From your 2022 Annual Survey responses, I believe that some councils are diligent about documenting their history, and the proper storage of this information. National Council has produced an excellent resource for us, *Archive Guidelines for League History*, and it is available on cwl.ca. It recommends what information should be kept for five years and what should be filed indefinitely. The guidelines recommend information be written on acid free paper. Today most commercially produced paper is acid free. *Archives Guidelines* recommend storage of information be locked and kept on parish property. Two councils in Pembroke diocese indicated in their 2022 annual reports that their archives were stored in a fire proof container. This is an added insurance for preservation.

Some people have a more enthusiastic attitude about preserving history than others. A past president would be well served to identify one or two members with these gifts and ask them to work with her on the project. I ask all councils to make documentation of their histories and proper archiving of this material an ongoing goal for your council.

Respectively Submitted