



Pembroke Diocesan Council
of the Catholic Women's League of Canada
Newsletter



The Blue and Gold

Spring 2020

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**PRESIDENT
Joan Lemay**

***“in the image of God, He created them,
male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)***

My dear sisters in the CWL

Who would have thought that slightly over three weeks ago, when I wrote my report, that we would be in the state of isolation that we are in today. How things can change so very quickly. But even though we are in a state of physical isolation, there is still so much that we can do to connect with people, family members and close friends. And there are also the people who we may barely know, but who are living alone and would benefit from a phone call. I think that it is no coincidence that our provincial theme is “Loneliness”. There will be much loneliness during this time of physical isolation, and there are many opportunities for CWL councils and members to connect with our brothers and sisters and let them know that they are not alone. I have spoken to several parish council presidents, and they have told me that this is already happening. As a matter of fact, I know that for many years, CWL members have been connecting with people who are alone. That is what we do – Service.

I was on a conference call on Monday evening with the Ontario provincial council executive. Wilma Vanderswaag, provincial chair of resolutions, suggested that while we are isolating at home, we can find the time to write those letters to our MPs and MPPs. A great idea!

With the cancellation of our meetings, it is so important that we try to find ways to keep connected to other levels of the league. Visit the national website (cwl.ca), the provincial website (cwl.on.ca) and our Pembroke diocesan website (Pembroke.cwl.on.ca)

In this extraordinary time, there is such an opportunity to see love and beauty, people helping people, doing good deeds for others. It is also an extraordinary time for prayer, collectively through praying the rosary at a specified time, watching a televised mass, or individual prayer and reflection. Our Lord will help us through this.

There are three things that last: faith, hope and love



**PRESIDENT-ELECT AND ORGANIZATION
Elaine Turner**

Annual Reports: Congratulations and thank you to everyone who completed electronic or written 2019 Annual Reports. It is unfortunate that not everyone who completed them was credited as doing so. We are still unsure of the cause but for now, please accept our apologies and pray that this never reoccurs.

Investigations into the cause have resulted in us receiving communiques and directives dealing with methods to improve communications and for now we hope that you comply and concentrate on these procedures.

- The President or Appointee for every CWL Parish Council must forward a list containing names of the president, treasurer, spiritual advisor and membership convenor. This may be done through emailing info@cwlc.ca, regular mail or online membership.
- In an election year, the President or Appointee must send notification advising **National Office** about newly elected/appointed executive positions.
- If there is a change during the term of contract or position, including the spiritual advisor, notify **National Office** as soon as possible.
- If a past president receives an email or package containing the parish council information, she should pass it on to the current parish council president immediately and ask her to advise national office of the change in position.
- Once Parish Council Presidents receive the “**Mailings**”, they should separate the information and pass them on to the respective officers and chairpersons to allow sharing date-sensitive information in a timely manner.

As we look forward to celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League, let us use that longevity and sustaining power as catalysts to personally invite a great influx of new members.

Watch the national website for needs of Working Group Members for our Strategic Plan. Please consider getting involved and volunteer to answer surveys.



**PAST-PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN
Carmel Rumleskie**

“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.” Mother St. Teresa

“Whoever is happy will make others happy.” Anne Frank

Hello to all Past Presidents / Historians: This position is very important and necessary. The history of each council is unique and special. By keeping good records and pictures of each year, we recognize what has been accomplished, celebrate our past and strive to make our future as bright and fulfilling. Let us value the service of past members as I welcome you now and encourage you to keep your council records complete. Seek help from sister members and make it fun to work together to build your archives. Bring any new material to Convention 2020 to add to your council history. I look forward to reading additional material from you. Thank you for all your efforts done in loving service. Call me with any concerns you have.

Every council needs to keep a current record of their activities, members, meetings, financial records, deceased members, spiritual advisors and photo albums (as much as possible). These can be displayed often during the year for enjoyment, to reminisce and to review with new members and potential members.

The “Book of Life” is a record of all deceased members and Spiritual Advisors. Some councils also have a one-page history along with a picture of each deceased member. It is very interesting to read about the members and all they had accomplished in their lifetime.

The Constitution and Bylaws 2013 Revised booklet is another important responsibility we must make all members aware of and review with them from different sections at each meeting. Copies can be purchased from National Office for \$3.50 each. Purchase some for your council and keep them in storage to be used at meetings. We belong to a group that is very well organized and structured to help us live out our core values of Faith, Service and Social Justice.

One of the fulfilling jobs of all past presidents is to share your knowledge and give support to the president in a consultative capacity as requested by her. You may be called upon by the president on occasion to chair a committee or oversee a project. Say YES! Continue to share with me your accomplishments. Every council has creative ideas to share.

“The way to get things started is to quit talking and begin doing.” Walt Disney



**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Donna Provost**

***“God has purpose for your life,
and no one can take your place”***

I wish each of you a good Lent. Lent offers us a time to welcome Jesus into our life in a new way. It is a time for prayer, fasting, and repenting.

I welcome any new Administrative Assistants/Secretaries and encourage you to have on hand a copy of the Handbook for Secretaries. It can be requested or downloaded from the national website at www.cwl.ca. Two other good resources are Robert’s Rules of Order and Participate with Ease.

In a Communique National Treasurer-Secretary, Janet Mclean makes the point that Administrative Assistants/Secretaries are the backbone of a council. I agree! Where would we be if we could not go back to our minutes for an accurate record of our meetings?

It is recommended that motions be kept in hard copy; signed by both the mover and the seconder. It is a history of the decisions made by our council and the source of the reference if any questions or disputes arise from these decisions.

If you have Chairs that would give a report at your meetings it would be handy to receive a copy of the report so your notes can be accurate.

If any council has had an election, changes in executive members or contact information please contact me as soon as possible so I can keep records up to date.

Remember our Core Values – Faith, Service, Social Justice. In our faith we give service and work for social justice for all.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel Bless You



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE Annette Chaplin

Euthanasia Prevention

The best way of letting both the federal and provincial governments know what you think is to approach members of parliament and provincial legislatures at local constituency offices, or by writing a letter to them. The League has a *Personal Letter Writing Guide* . <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/173-Personal-Letter-Writing-Guide.pdf> Letters to members of parliament are postage-free and are still the best way to communicate.

Cheryl Gallant, MP, Constituency Services, 84 Isabella St. Pembroke, ON, K8A 5S5 .
Email cheryl@gallant.ca
John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, 84 Isabella Street, Unit 6,
Pembroke, Ontario, K8A 5S5. Email john.yakabusko@pc.ola.org

National March for Life – Ottawa May 14, 2020

“We march to encourage our pro-life lawmakers.... We march to send a strong message to MPs seeking re-election and new candidates, that our vote matters, and on election day, we will not vote for them if they support abortion or are unwilling to change the status quo of abortion on demand” (marchforlife.ca). Encourage members to join the march. The Renfrew County Right to Life has a great Facebook page. Follow them and check them regularly for updates, buses to the march, etc. www.facebook.com/renfrewcountyrighttolife.

Vocations

A wonderful five-minute video produced by the Diocese of Arlington (Virginia) entitled What is my Vocation? can be viewed at [youtube.com/watch?v=mhh01plqxtQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhh01plqxtQ). This would be great to show at a general meeting. As Sister Mary Veronica Keller states in the video, “The best vocation is God’s will.”

Encourage your parish to join in the World Day of Prayer for Vocations on Sunday, May 3, 2020. The websites <https://www.worlddayofprayerforvocations.com> and www.invisiblemonastery.com have great ideas for praying for vocations in the priesthood, and for our own vocations

Considering that the Eucharist is the greatest gift our Lord gives to his Church, we must ask for priests since the priesthood is a gift for the Church. We must pray insistently for this gift. We must ask for it on our knees.” ~Pope Saint John Paul II



**COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTER Editor Webmaster
Bev Drouin**

"Happiness can only be achieved by looking inward and learning to enjoy whatever life has, and this requires transforming greed into gratitude." — St. John Chrysostom

Doreen Gowans, National Communication Chairperson shared this in her communique #8 and I thought it should be shared again. **"The Gift of Presence:** The true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus has been lost in many homes today. With all the hustle and bustle, it can be the busiest season of the year, as we rush out to purchase gifts, groceries and all the necessities we think are necessary to have everything perfect for our family and guests. However, sometimes we overlook the little ones (our children and grandchildren) and their needs. Take the time to be present with our loved ones, our families. Take the time to communicate your plans to your families so they don't become stressed unnecessarily. Where possible get them involved. Communication can be a big stress relief and it can be comforting if we handle it properly. Take the time to review Christmas plans with your families ensuring they understand your needs and expectations."

From Communique #9. **"Council Registers:** How does a council notify national office of a change to its executive listing? National office requires a complete list of names for all provincial and diocesan executive members and their contact information and, for parish councils, a list of the president, treasurer, spiritual advisor and membership convenor, including their contact information. This may be done through e-mail to info@cwl.ca, regular mail or, for parish councils, through the online membership process.

Mailings: An issue has come to light where some councils report not receiving council mailings along with other information sent from national office. The last mailing was sent via e-mail to parish council presidents on September 28, 2019. Encourage your diocesan counterpart to check if parish councils in their area received the fall mailing. The steps below indicate how the mailing should be dispersed to ensure a better flow of communication:

1. If a past president receives the e-mail or package containing the parish council information, she passes it on to the current parish council president as soon as possible and asks her to advise national office of the change in position.
2. Once the parish council president receives the information, it is her responsibility to separate the information and pass it on to the respective officers and chairpersons.
3. The officers or chairpersons, in turn, share the information in a short report with members at the next parish council meeting, or as soon as possible.
4. Date sensitive information is required to be shared in a timely manner as necessary."

Reminder: Mass on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel: The League is sponsoring a mass for its 100th anniversary for members, deceased members and spiritual advisors on Sunday, April 26, 2020, televised by *Daily TV Mass*. The taping will be held Monday, April 6th, at 5:00 p.m. at Loretto Abbey Chapel, located at 101 Mason Blvd., Toronto, Ontario. You are invited to attend if you are in the area. I encourage those attending to wear the League scarf or something identifying them as a member. Please sit together, preferably where you will be visible to those at home.



COMMUNITY LIFE
Pat Weller

Care of Our Common Home Year Two Focus **Drinking Water Well at Pieta Bhavan in India:** This involves financial support of a CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association) project in India for a drinking water well. Pieta Bavan (House of Mercy) is a Christian home for more than 60 women with intellectual disabilities. CNEWA is the Holy Father's special agency serving Christians in the Middle East. If donations reach the projected goal, extra funds will be given to a second CNEWA project **Feeding Support for Catholic Schools, Ethiopia**. For details on these projects, please refer to www.cwl.ca/communique-12-community-life from March 05, 2020 or page 20 in the Winter 2020 edition of *The Canadian League*.

The National executive has asked that all councils donate to this project if it is within their means. Although CNEWA is a recipient for National Voluntary Funds, it has been asked that cheques be made payable to Catholic Near East Welfare Association and sent directly to the attention of Melodie Gabriel, CNEWA Development Officer, 1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa Ontario K1H 6K9. "CWL India" should be written on the memo line of the cheque or in the comment box if giving online at cnewa.ca.

Councils, please notify me (paweller@nrtco.net) of donations made prior to August 01, 2020. I will forward this information to the Provincial CL chair who in turn will report to the National CL chair.

C.A.R.E. Connection Project: This project was initiated by the Provincial Community Life Chair, Mary Capobianco in response to the focus on Loneliness.

C.- Communicate A.-Act R.-Respect E.-Engage

All of our parish councils do an outstanding job of connecting with the lonely and isolated. I saw an interesting post on Matthew Kelly's online daily reflection. It asked if we had been mistaken for Jesus today? What a concept. We are the hands and feet of Jesus as we make our way through life. A gentle touch, a listening ear, being present and attentive in each encounter – these are the things that matter, that show our love for each person we meet.

May our patroness Our Lady of Good Counsel be a model for the care we offer each other.



EDUCATION & HEALTH

Sheila Bielawski

One of the tasks of the Education and Health Standing Committee is to study and promote ecologically sound practices. We must continue to educate ourselves in ways to protect and preserve the earth's resources. The focus in year one of the national theme "Care for Our Common Home" was water. We became more aware of this valuable resource and how it is being used or misused. Some communities in our own country do not have access to clean drinking water, millions of litres of water are being sold by large corporations and due to climate change water levels are rising especially along coastlines. Each of these issues has a profound effect on poor communities.

World Water Day is celebrated on March 22nd. It is about water and climate change and how the two are linked.

The focus for the second year of the national theme "Care for Our Common Home" is the League is partnering with Catholic Near East Welfare Association to support the Pieta Bhavan project. This is outlined on page 20 of the winter edition of The League magazine.

Another date to be aware of is April 22nd. This is Earth Day and the 2020 theme is Climate Action.

The first full week of May is known as National Hospice Palliative Care Week in Canada. Councils are encouraged to participate in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care to call on the power of prayer to make hospice and palliative care available to all Canadians.

"A Way of the Cross Today: Reflections on Suffering in Sickness and Dying" written by Sr. Nuala Kenny, Sisters of Charity, Medical Doctor, ethicist and author, can be found at [cwl.ca- Resources –Prayers-NEW 12 Hours of Palliative Care May 2018.](http://cwl.ca-Resources-Prayers-NEW-12-Hours-of-Palliative-Care-May-2018)



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LEGISLATION
Karen McKibbon

In January 2020, Canadians were invited to respond to a federal government **on-line consultation** regarding Medical Assistance in Dying, (MAID) from the Federal Justice Department. CWL members were encouraged to respond to the questions, albeit in a short time frame. These consultations are to inform the Government's next steps in responding to recent court rulings regarding the medical assistance in dying framework.

The Court's ruling **will** come into effect on **March 11, 2020**, unless an extension is granted by the Court. While this ruling only applies in the province of Quebec, the Government of Canada has accepted the ruling and has **committed to changing** the MAID law for the whole country and plans to launch the full review of the MAID law this summer. **Updating Canada's MAID law will expand eligibility for MAID beyond people who are nearing the end of life and could possibly result in other changes once the review is complete.** Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has expressed their dismay regarding C-7, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying). This C-7 Legislation seeks to expand the eligibility criteria for euthanasia and assisted suicide by removing the "reasonable foreseeability of natural death". If a person makes an advance directive to accept euthanasia, and later change their decision, they may not be able to communicate their refusal, making it difficult for medical practitioners and lawyers to decipher whether or not the patient still wishes to consent to the lethal procedure.

Let us continue to request from our government more palliative care and long-term care. We need to put more resources into other means of assisting people who are chronically ill or dying. Cardinal Thomas Collins on March 2, 2020 wrote an opinion article in the Toronto Star encouraging us to develop a culture of care. He also went on to say: "If all Canadians had access to quality palliative care, fewer would seek lethal injection. Instead of developing an overall culture of care, we are rushing towards death on demand. The same doctors who are trying to care for their patients will now be called on to approve euthanasia for them."

We should take time to be truly present to those who may feel that they are on the margins in our community. Those who feel that their life no longer has value must be assured by all of us that this is absolutely not the case — **there is dignity within each human life, not just when we are young, healthy and able, but even more so, when we are fragile and vulnerable.** The answer is not assisted death in its many forms; it is accompanying our family, our friends and even strangers to assist them in life, recognizing the inherent dignity of every person."

CWL Members are encouraged to be aware of this legislation, and we are fortunate to have a National and Provincial CWL Executive who will communicate to our Diocesan executive members, how to act and respond to legislation. I will be sharing these details with members.

For the Spirit God gave us, does not make us timid, but give us power, love and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7



RESOLUTIONS Karen McKibbon

Recently I had the pleasure of attending a Resolutions Workshop in Toronto to explore the background of writing resolutions.

Resolutions are a method and means to change a policy, express a concern about a piece of legislation or view regarding legislation. On the CWL National Website, going back as far as 1954, there are resolutions tabled for viewing. The Ontario CWL website, resolutions date back to 1982; both on a vast array of subjects.

It begins at the CWL parish level, when a member has an interest in a subject and chooses to share with her resolutions committee and progresses from that point. Thorough, reliable research must be performed. Canadian resources are necessary in our proven research. The resolution must be one page, as there is a short time frame to speak on it at the provincial and national conventions. We discovered that a current change to writing resolutions is: The whereas clause which was part of former resolutions will now become part of the brief. After the writing is completed by parish, there is a provincial review committee to “examine” the resolution.

It is important to share that CWL Members need only look to the government bills that relate to resolutions that have been approved and are posted on CWL websites. When writing to our governments regarding a resolution, members write on their own behalf.

I will be sharing with CWL members our letter writing plans on CWL resolutions listed below, that can help demonstrate the Catholic Women League, as a culture of “caring” individuals. I encourage your participation.

ON.19.03 Long Term Care Beds in Ontario

ON.16.01 Enhance the Canada Health Care Act to Include Home Care

2016.04 Amend the Canada Health Care Act to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service

***And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28 ESV***



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
Irene Perrault

“Each one of the faithful is, so to speak, the church in miniature”. St. Peter Damian

In the fall communique from National, Spiritual Development Chair Shari Guinta, informed us that Pope Francis named October 2019 Extraordinary Missionary Month. The League is aware that mission work is very important as missionaries proclaim the Word of God in the most remote and in-need areas. The Apostles were the first missionaries. In Canada, French missionaries accompanied the explorers and continued this action. Encouraged by Pope Francis “Canadian Home Missions” need our attention by either prayers or monetary donations. The League has a permanent national voluntary fund for Catholic Missions in Canada.

The national Council made a motion at the National Convention in Calgary in August 2019 to establish a Day of Prayer for Canadian Home Missions. At present we await these plans. (Since the report was filed Shari Guinta has posted a Communique 8 indicating October 1st as the League’s Day of Prayer for Canadian Home Missions and that information will be sent out in the Spring Parish Mailings.)

The Provincial Spiritual Development Chair, Emma Rose Rayburn, in her January communique informed the members that each diocese picks a different Diocesan Council each month as a prayer partner. In June, the Pembroke Diocese will pray for all our other Diocesan Sister Councils in Ontario.

In her February communique, Emma Rose Rayburn encourages all members to get ready for the coming of the Lord by preparing ourselves for the next 40 days (Lent) by giving of ourselves to each other. We can put down our phones, have a conversation with our parents, our children, our grandchildren and our neighbor. Another good way is to say the rosary together.



TREASURER
Nancy Guyea

One of the many challenges in accepting a new position, in my case as treasurer, is you must attempt to do the job you accepted well and in a timely manner.

Essentially the role of treasurer is:

Paying bills

Reporting financial information

Preparing a budget

Keeping track of banking information and cheque books

As treasurer, you play an important role in your council's ability to carry out service projects, fundraisers and support The Catholic Women's League.

The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved.
Saint Mother Teresa

The Provincial Theme is "**Loneliness**". It has been a challenge to marry the position of treasurer and this theme, but after a little prayer and reflection, I realize that in our very currency driven culture money (or lack of it) is a great influencer in people's lives. Lack of money can lead to restriction of movement, inaccessibility to sport and social clubs, the ability to take part in activities with friends and family and inability to meet with others outside the home.

These are all things that can led to loneliness and isolation. All members of the CWL must take this theme to heart as a challenge and make a difference as a group and individually in our own communities.

Thank you to the councils who submitted their Annual Parish Treasurer's Reports.

Pembroke Diocesan Executive Bios

Joan Lemay, Diocesan President

Joan (Lajoie) was raised in Marmora Ontario, in Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. She received her diploma as a Registered Nurse from St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Peterborough Ontario in 1969. She retired in 2016, after a fulfilling career in nursing. She has been married to Eugene for 50 years. Joan joined St. Francis Xavier Parish CWL in 2000. She has served as chair of several standing committees, and two terms as president, in 2011-2012, and 2016-2017. She joined the Pembroke Diocesan Council in 2015, and has served as Community Life Chair, and Organization Chair/President Elect, before becoming President in May 2019. Joan feels a deep commitment to CWL core values of **Faith, Service and Social Justice**. She has a deep sense of fulfillment in doing the work of the League.

Elaine Turner, President-Elect and Organization

Fifty-six years ago, I accepted an invitation from two women in our family's new neighbourhood to join St. Francis Xavier's CWL Council. During the past thirty plus years I have become increasingly active in SFX CWL Council. I have served as President-Elect, President, Past President, standing committee chair in Health & Education, Resolutions & Legislation, Parish Activities and Christian Family Life. I have assumed leadership positions in two of our major fund-raising events - Tea & Talent & rummage sale. For the past three years I have served on the Diocesan Executive as Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chair and Organization Chair and President-Elect. Being a member of CWL has helped me develop the abilities I hope to have in life - spiritual development, helping the less fortunate, making new friends, and helping to ignite a fire for our core values of Faith, Service & Social Justice.

Carmel Rumleskie, Past-President/Historian

Born Carmel Jane Kelly in Renfrew to Barclay Kelly and Veronica Laginski, Nov. 24, 1949. 2nd eldest of 11 children, 3 sisters and 7 brothers all living. Both parents deceased. Lived most of life to date in Barry's Bay with a year at OTC and four years teaching in Arnprior. Graduated with BA in 1991 with all my children attending the ceremony. Became an elementary teacher and ended career as a teaching principal in Combermere. Married David Rumleskie (an only child!) and had six children together. Now have eight grandchildren. CWL member for 46 years. Served on parish, diocesan and provincial level executives. Enjoys time with grandchildren, meeting with family and friends, attending meetings, old movies, reading mystery, romance and family saga novels, and travelling. Volunteer at Combermere Heritage Society, Member of Station Keepers ,Barry's Bay, delivers Meals on Wheels, prays the rosary once a month with students at St. John Bosco Catholic School, member of Opeongo Heritage Cup Hockey Tournament committee, currently TEAM member of St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish CWL council, and local calling committee member of RTO (Retired Teachers' of Ontario) Renfrew Unit 211 North.

Bev Drouin, Communications (Newsletter Editor)

I was born and raised in Timmins, Ontario the eldest of six children. Moved to Chalk River when my husband accepted a job with Atomic Energy of Canada in 1975. In 1977 I was asked to join the CWL by a friend and have since held many positions on parish and diocesan councils, currently President of my council, St. Anthony's in Chalk River and Communications Chair on diocesan council. I volunteered as a Leader for Scouts Canada for over 30 years. I volunteer with the St. Vincent de Paul Society at their soup kitchen and at St. Anthony's Catholic School. I feel truly blessed to have met so many wonderful women during my CWL journey and I hope to continue to do so for many years to come.

Annette Chaplin, Christian Family Life

Member of CWL since 2016. Shared presidency of Our Lady of Good Counsel CWL in 2017-18, and president since then. Christian Family Chair of the Diocesan executive.

Pat Weller, Community Life

President of St. Michael's Parish council in Douglas, Community Life Chair on diocesan council, Sub-committee member for Christian Family Life for the Ontario provincial council. CWL member since 1992; joined after a personal invitation to come and see; Have held various positions on the executive since 1993; a source of special friendships and opportunities to grow spiritually and personally. And like most members with family, have a husband and children who have come to know the importance of the CWL to me and support my involvement.

Karen McKibbin, Legislation/Resolutions

Semi Retired: Part time administrative position with St. Columbkille's Cathedral Catholic Church to compose and produce weekly bulletin. April 2001 to December 31, 2017: Constituency Assistant/Planner/Scheduler to Cheryl Gallant, Member of Parliament, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke November 1993 to September, 1997: Secretary/Receptionist to Renfrew County District Health Council, Pembroke, Ontario, 2011 to Present: President of Catholic Women's League of St. Columbkille's Cathedral, Pembroke.

Donna Provost, Administrative Assistant

Donna was born and raised in Pembroke, Ontario and now resides in Quyon, Quebec with her husband Eric. She is the mother of four, Todd, Christopher, Michel and Marie-Eve and the grandmother of three boys and one girl. She serves as a Director on the Board of Marionhill, a Seniors Retirement home in Pembroke. Donna has worked with the youth by giving teens a program called 'Jesus Invites Us to Love', coaching a baseball team, teaching the sacraments and the Faith First program. She has participated on a Cursillo team and the Baptism committee. She helps her parish by belonging to the church Choir, as a lector and Eucharistic minister. Since joining the Catholic Women's League in 1982 in her parish she has served her council as Legislation, Resolutions and Education and Health Chair and in the positions of secretary, President (three times) and Past President. On the Pembroke Diocesan Council she served as Secretary, Legislation, Resolutions, Education and Health and Organization Chairs, President and Past President/Historian. She served on the Provincial Resolutions Sub Committee and the Education and Health Sub Committee. She served as Provincial Life Member Liaison for the 2017-2019 term. It is through the League that she has met numerous faith-filled women working for God and Country that have inspired her spiritually.

Parish Council Presidents Bios

Lorraine Crain, Corbeil, Sacred Heart of Jesus

I joined the Catholic Women's League in Sept of 1969 at St Peter the Apostle in North Bay. I held various positions and became president for two terms. In the mid 70's I was on the Sault Ste Marie Diocesan executive as Christian Family Life. I remained a member of the Sault Diocese until Corbeil received their charter in December of 1998. I transferred to the Corbeil Catholic Women's League and this is my third term as President. I have always loved the League.

Mona Lacroix, LaPasse, Our Lady of Mount Carmel

I became a member in 1989 when I returned to the village of LaPasse, Ontario where I was born and raised. During this time, I have been president for 12 years and have held other positions. I recently became a widow after 50 years of marriage to a generous, gentle giant. We were blessed with four wonderful loving children and their spouses are as special. Our nine adorable fun-loving grandchildren are my greatest source of joy and I am so grateful for all these blessings as I try to adjust to life without Ralph. A heartfelt thank you to all my sisters in the League who continue to send encouraging and kind thoughts in cards, letters and notes. Within our Council each member has a voice that adds influence and support as we share our talents and views. With the help and guidance of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the grace of Our Lord may our Council continue to serve in our community as needed with understanding, kindness and love.

Julie Mallory, Petawawa, Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Women's League

Julie (Smits) was born in Sudbury, Ontario and was raised on a dairy farm, first in Chelmsford and then in Verner, Ontario. She is the seventh of eight children of Dutch immigrant parents. She attended Laurentian University in Sudbury receiving an Honours Degree in Commerce and Administration in 1984 and obtained her Certified Management Accountant designation in 1989. She retired from Atomic Energy of Canada in 2017 after a 33-year career. Julie is married to Robert Mallory and has one daughter Megan. She joined the CWL at Our Lady of Sorrows when she moved to Petawawa in 1988. She has served as chair of the Education & Health and Organization standing committee and is currently in her third term as President.

Margaret Maloney, Renfrew, Saint Francis Xavier

Margaret Maloney was born in Renfrew and lived the first five years of her life as a member of Saint Patrick's Parish at Mt. Saint Patrick, Ontario. A retired educator, she enjoys community activities, travelling, reading and spending time with her sister Teresa, brother-in-law Tom, family and friends. Margaret has been a thirty-year member of the CWL at Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Renfrew and has enjoyed working with other members at the committee, parish and diocesan levels. Currently she has completed a second term as Parish President 2018 and 2019 (first was 1995-1997) and serving as the Diocesan Life Member Liaison a position she has enjoyed for a number of terms. She served as Diocesan President 2001-2003. Each opportunity was a shared learning experience. She looks forward to continuing to work with other CWL members as the League continues to focus on faith, service and social justice.

CONVENTIONS

PROVINCIAL CONVENTION KINGSTON



Joan Lemay
Crowning of Mary



DIOCESAN CONVENTION





Carmel Rumleskie presenting anniversary certificate to Pat Weller for Douglas, Bev Drouin for Chalk River, and Joanne Jeffries for Petawawa



Provincial President Colleen Perry with Lynne Kelly

Council Activities



DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Fall Meeting
Our Lady of Lourdes, October 20, 2018



Joan Lemay



Anastasia Bowles, Life Canada gave us a wonderful presentation on **“Loneliness at End of Life”**.

**Day of Reflection
September 21, 2019**



Bev Drouin thanking Carol Sulpher and Betty Ross on the presentation on The Genius of Women



NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCILS

BARRY'S BAY – ST. LAWRENCE O'TOOLE



The Catholic Women's League at St. Lawrence O'Toole parish in Barry's Bay donated funds as prizes for the weekly bingo at Valley Manor Nursing Home and helped the residents play. It was a fun afternoon enjoyed by all.

School Community Celebrates: On Monday, Feb.3, the entire school community along with CWL members and guests celebrated the Patron Saint of the school: St. John Bosco. St. John Bosco was born in Piedmont, Italy in 1815, and died on Jan. 31, 1888. Don (Father) Bosco was canonized a saint in 1934. Throughout his lifetime, John was always interested in youth, especially the boys who lived in poverty on the streets. He became a priest and devoted his time to helping boys find jobs as apprentices and safe places to live. He formed the Salesian Society where boys were educated and trade schools were soon formed. He also helped to establish the Salesian Sisters to do similar work among girls. John's motto was: "You will not win friends over with blows, but with gentleness and kindness. So begin right now to show them that sin is ugly and virtue beautiful." With prayers, hymns, student-read story of St. John Bosco and a well-prepared visual presentation of the story of St. John Bosco, the students increased their knowledge of the school's Patron. Thank You to Mr. Afelskie and his Grade 7/8 class for all their



help in the celebration. A special surprise was the visit from Mr. Edwin Echavarry, a former teacher at the school and a juggler (like John Bosco was) who performed for the students. The students and adults were delighted with his performance.

The students enjoyed a treat in their classrooms. They were all reminded that St. John Bosco would say: "Run, jump, shout but don't sin!"



CHALK RIVER – ST. ANTHONY

Bev Drouin with Roxanne Blanchard, Coordinator of the Healthy Snack Program at St. Anthony's Catholic School in Chalk River. The CWL recently donated money towards this effort. Today, we made 200 muffins.

CALUMET ISLAND – ST. ANN'S



A few members of the Québec councils at the Diocesan Convention. Back row: Sophie Ringrose, Kay Ranger, Helen Laliberté, Lucienne LaSalle, Joan Derouin and Carmel Rumleskie, Diocesan Council. Front row: Theresa Dagenais, Susan St-Pierre, Georgena O'Connor, Bernadette Piché and Fidelis Ryan

DOUGLAS - ST. MICHAEL'S



Ave Maria Concert, St. Michael's Church, Dec. 13, 2019 performed by (from left to right) Christine, Catherine, Rachel, Emily, and Fr. Stephen Helferty and Raphael Fernandes.

St. Michael's CWL provided refreshments for a reception held in the sacristy after the concert.



St. Michael's CWL and Zion United Church Women take turns hosting a potluck and social evening each year. 2019 was St. Michael's turn. Our potluck was held in December and included making a Christmas craft. In the spirit of giving, everyone was asked to bring women's personal care items. These were delivered to and gratefully received by Bernadette McCann House in Pembroke.

COMBERMERE – HOLY CANADIAN MARTYRS



Combermere CWL initiative to help Bernadette McCann house for abused women and children in Pembroke. They collected these goods and money and held an evening with a guest speaker from the Bernadette McCann House.

DEEP RIVER – OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



Donation to North Renfrew Family Services, Spring, 2019. (Annette Chaplin, Jeff Juby)



Christmas Parade Angels



Reaffirmation of Officers and Welcome of new members February 2020

PEMBROKE - ST. COLUMBKILLE'S CATHEDRAL



Karen McKibbon, presenting Holy Name of Jesus Principal Melissa Carroll-Dubeau with a cheque to support their Breakfast Program for Children



Becky Chaput, Community Life Chairperson with Dan Connor of Operation Christmas Child, with the collection of gift boxes from Cathedral Parishioners



CWL Tourtière Team from left to right: Lucy Teeters-Walsh, Jeanette Boyle, Dolly Pick, Barbara Clouthier, Cathy Britton. There are many more volunteers to accompany these ladies, that prepared our annual tourtières, a Christmas Fundraiser



PETAWAWA OUR LADY OF SORROWS

Julie Mallory, President, visited Bernadette McCann House in Pembroke and delivered all of the items they collected in support of the CWL Project HUG Initiative. Most of these items were brought in at the June Dinner with some subsequently delivered to the Religious Article Store. The staff she met were most appreciative of their contributions.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in this effort.

QUYON - ST. MARY'S



Donna Provost with Spiritual Advisor Fr. Christian Kakule with basket for St. Mary's CWL fund raiser for Valentine's Day.

The beautiful basket was full of items around that theme.



RENFREW – ST FRANCIS XAVIER



Shirley Ann Holley with Lisa Oegema from Victim Services of Renfrew County



In May Jane Valiquette, Treasurer, presented a cheque to St. Thomas School for their Healthy Snack Program.



Shirley Ann Holley, Resolutions & Legislation Chair with Josee Rivert, Outreach Supervisor of Bernadette McCann House at June dinner

The CWL Scavenger Hunt on Homelessness led St Francis Xavier CWL to donate personal items for women in need to Renfrew County Victims Services and Bernadette McCann House.

St. Francis Council held a book study of the Pope's encyclical "The Joy of Love". An outreach to seniors and youth resulted. Council now helps support the St Thomas snack program and a visiting program to elders.

2019 Service Awards: New Members: Monika Sammon, Betty Ross, Ghosoun Alstah and Claudette Lockwood.

Mission Statement: The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

Envisioned Future: The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith. It is:
A vital participant in the church;
A valued partner for social justice;
A respected advocate at all government levels;
Connected to the world.