

Grouard-McLennan Diocesan CWL Newsletter

Newsletter #1 September 2015

Communications Chairperson



Donna P.

gmcwlcommunications@gmail.com

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1. Upcoming Dates

1. *Fall Executive Meeting to be held in McLennan, Saturday September 26, 2015, 10:00 am at the Golden Age Club. Light lunch provided.*
2. *Fall Education Workshop Saturday October 17, 2015 in Sexsmith. Theme: Mental Health Wellness*

2. Profiles of new executive

Irene B., President

I was born Irene Marie L. in Brandon, Manitoba.

My parents returned from Shilo, Manitoba at end of WW11 and resettled in McLennan in 1946.

I was the oldest of 7 siblings. I attended École Providence School except for grade 10 where I was privileged to attend Spirit River Catholic School and reside at the Grey Nun's Convent. In McLennan, I received the Sacraments and joined the Catholic Action club. After graduation in 1964, I attended the Misericordia School of Nursing and graduated in 1967. I moved to Peace River, worked, married Richard B. in 1968 and started a family there. I joined the CWL, then transferred to McLennan in 1975. We moved to the farm and raised 4 children.

I remain a loyal CWL member and receive much from its members – spiritual support, friendship and the smiles that sustain me.

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Lauri F., Resolutions and Legislation
I live in Grande Prairie and work as Executive Assistant to the Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan. I grew up in Peace River, moved to Edmonton to go to college and lived and worked there for about 20 years. I also lived in Sapporo, Japan, where I taught English conversation. After completing a degree in law, I did not become a lawyer but, instead, joined the Foreign Service. In that job, I lived and worked in Ottawa; Seoul, South Korea; and Damascus, Syria.

I have been a CWL member since 2010.

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Diann R., Treasurer

I joined in 1997. I have served 3 terms as president at parish level and was also on Community Life

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and Communications committees for a number of years. On Diocesan level, I was Treasurer for 3 terms a few years back and am on my second term now.

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Lucille P., Spiritual Development
I joined the CWL in 1972 in Houston, British Columbia, and currently am President of Sexsmith Council and Diocesan Spiritual Development chairperson. I have served on all levels of the League including Vice President at the National Level.

I received Life Membership following my years as Provincial President and received the provincial Elsie Yanik Award in 2014, as well as the Maple Leaf Service Pin 14 years earlier.

I am involved with sacramental preparation in my parish and teach Sunday school. Most summers I am out and about in communities with no Catholic schools teaching a program called Grandmothers teaching faith.

Since some of our children do not pass on faith or attend church, faith has skipped a generation and this program encourages grandparents to pass on the faith.

I help local immigrants and am currently working with a group helping refugees from Syria.

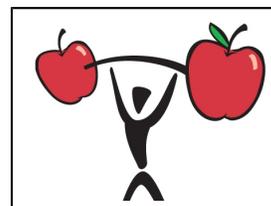
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Donna P., Communications
I was born and raised in Wanham where I attended all my school days except for Grade 12 which I did in Spirit River. After graduation, I went to Notre Dame University of Nelson, B.C. for an education degree. After a few years of teaching in various places, I married and

settled in Fairview. There I taught and raised 4 girls. I have been a member of the CWL since 1970s. I have held various positions at local, diocesan and provincial levels. I enjoy the friendship of the CWL members, the challenge of learning new things, and the common purpose of the CWL across Canada.

Monica B., Education and Health
I have lived in McLennan since 1979, arrived with husband and 5 children, now sadly a widow since 2007, and all family members moved to southern Alberta. I had the privilege of working as an RN in the area for 31 years. I have many friends here, particularly through CWL affiliation. At present, I feel very strongly about CWL's original mandate to help immigrant women to settle into Canada because it is so relevant with foreign workers in all our communities, some who are mistreated by their employers etc., misled by government changes in requirements, and lack of understanding and friendship from those they come in contact with everyday.
Love living here!

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3. Provincial Convention News and Notes

The following came from the evaluations of the **Provincial** Convention held in Yellowknife in June 2015.

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➤ **What did you enjoy most about the Convention?**

- Connection with other members of the League from other places, fellowship, meeting new ladies
- Well organized, hospitality
- Presentations,
- Spacious room
- The “Sisterhood”
- Meeting Barb D., [National President] and her presentation
- The exchange and dialogue among the ladies
- Wine and Cheese catered by the KofC. It was over the top.
- Bishop Mark H.’s presentation
- *(I thought that you would enjoy these and perhaps spur some of you on to attend provincial conventions. Donna.)*

4. Elsie Yanik Winner

The Elsie Yanik Provincial Award recipient this year was from our own Grouard-McLennan Diocese. Not only that, she is from Whitelaw!

Alice M. of St. Theresa CWL, Whitelaw, has been a member of the Catholic Women’s League for over 40 years. She is a housewife and helps runs the family farm with her husband Hans. They have 3 daughters and 7 grandchildren. She also cares for her aging mother.

Alice has kept the parish church functioning for the past 25 years. She has been the Sacristan, altar server, Eucharistic Minister and lector, assists the priest with the funeral masses, organizes the cleaning of the church and the decorating for special occasions and now has, out of necessity, organized the music for services as the music leader has moved away. She serves as a member of the parish council and has been the driving force in keeping the CWL going in this parish. As part of the CWL, she has organized the donation to the local Festival

of Trees for Palliative Care, some years sewing or quilting the a wall hanging herself.

Yellowknife, NWT CWL Provincial Convention June 5-6, 2015

This great event was attended by 7 of the Grouard-McLennan members.

Father Albert S. (Spiritual advisor), Irene B. (Diocesan President); Sister Marie-Jean D. (member); Lauraine G. (Grande Prairie President); Juliette L. (McLennan President), Donna P. (member), Alice M. (Whitelaw member and recipient of Elsie Yanik Award).

The air was clear, it was sunny and all the ladies were excited to be together.

➤ *Cathy B., our Provincial President, mentioned in her post=-onvention report:*

- Pope’s new encyclical on Environment, LAUDATO SI’ (praised be),
- Review TRC recommendations,
- Pope’s meeting of World Families in Philadelphia in September,
- Jubilee Year of Mercy from Dec. 8, 2015 to Nov. 20, 2016
- Refocus on Catch the Fire
 - *Our Motion to adopt Resolution 2015.02 “A Just Settlement for the Lubicon Lake Nation” was accepted at this level but not represented at CWL National convention.*
 - *The mass collection went to the Catholic Youth Rally, called Spirit Alive.*

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All reports were interesting and there is so much work we could/should do, so, let's carry on and keep - ONE HEART ONE VOICE ONE MISSION- as our guiding light.

**See you Sept 26, 2015 in
McLennan-Golden Age Club-10:00am-**
For God and Canada
Irene B., Diocesan President

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5. Update from National Convention

On Monday, August 24, 2015, Cathy B. (prov pres) wrote:

- 1) Here is my report for the provincial newsletter.

According to policy, all voluntary funds are distributed at or immediately following convention.

Financial update:

CMIC: \$35,197.65 (Catholic Missions In Canada)

Coady Institute: \$28,971.75

CCODP: \$64,691.48 (Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace)

Velma's Dream (CNEWA): \$24,028.57

The mass collection was for Our Lady of Good Counsel Domestic Abuse Services: \$4370.75.

It was noted that National received 11 resolutions. Two resolutions were forwarded back to their Province as it pertained only to them and four were not accepted to be presented at this convention.

A delegation from Nova Scotia was on hand to invite the ladies to the 2016 CWL National Convention that will be held in

Halifax from August 14-17. Of note, the North American Conference of WUWCO will have their convention in conjunction with next year's CWL National convention in Halifax.

The attendance for this year's convention was 882 members.

Presidents please share this newsletter with your council members. Rip it apart and pass it around. Share it and discuss it. Remember that all presidents are part of the diocesan executive and are welcomed at the executive meetings and are needed. Also, bring along your president-elect. Next meeting is September 26 in McLennan at the seniors centre, The Golden Age Club, at 10:00 am.

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