

look forward to sitting with them in future years: Mary Matthews, who was resolutions chairpersons when the League first started presenting the annual resolutions to the federal government; Dorothy Brocklehurst, who can still out-sing anyone; Jean Mahoney, who has taught me that a retired person can share her talents and abilities with other organizations; Irene Lefort, who organized the first WUCWO General Assembly in Canada; Ardis Beaudry, who convinced me to be chairperson of a very enlightening theme day in Victoria, British Columbia, when I was a scared diocesan president; Lucille Cullen, whose archival skills are still being used on the national archives committee; Heather Kolla, who initiated many organizational manuals and workshops which are still being used; Claire Heron, who has an ability to speak so eloquently on issues which face Christians today; Joan Chesser, who made us think and envision the future of the League; and, Vivian Bosch, who wrote all those interesting booklets of prayers and workshops which are still being used.

Three honorary life members no longer with us, but whom I knew and also were mentors to me, were Betty Aitken, Ruth Cooney and Sheilah Pellerin.

All of you are my sisters in the League. I challenge each one of you to be mentors to new members, to support members who are already on parish, diocesan, provincial or national executives, and to encourage Catholic women in your own parish to join this wonderful organization we call the League.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you on the national executive.

are international in scope. The committee consists of the national chairperson of community life, the national chairperson of resolutions, the national chairperson of legislation or her designate, the Canadian board member of WUCWO and the appointed participants of the annual Foreign Affairs Canada Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Human Rights Consultations, as well as the executive director as an ex officio member. Life members Anida Simurda and Diane Curley have looked after our presence at the annual consultations, and they prepared the United Nations resolutions display table.

I felt that this committee would enable the national executive to better discuss and look after international issues. For a long time, human rights have been handled all over the world through a commission. A commission doesn't hold as much weight as a council. This year, the United Nations established the Human Rights Council – it has been changed to have more clout. The League participates at the Human Rights Consultations with NGO status and we will continue doing that.

For many years, Honorary Life Member Claire Heron has been the League's voice at WUCWO. When I was at the General Assembly in Arlington, Virginia, it was wonderful because so many Canadian women were there. How important it is for us to be there. For many years, Claire was our representative to WUCWO and we supported her as much as we could. We appreciate the work she has done in her position as North American vice-president and Canadian board member. Claire has been a mentor to me and to everyone else who dares to ask her questions. Thank you from all the women of Canada for being our proud presence at WUCWO.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



**Agnes Bedard**

As international relations chairperson, the president is responsible for activity that is international in scope. That means she is responsible for CCODP, MaterCare, the Catholic Near East Welfare

Association, the National Council of Catholic Women (our American counterpart), and WUCWO. Although some of these organizations fall under other standing committees (e.g., CCODP), the president oversees them all.

To assist the national president, it was decided that an international relations committee should be established and on that committee would be those people whose portfolios

## ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



**Ella Eil**

Once again, it is my privilege to bring a report of the activities of your League sisters in Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. Our mid-

winter meeting was held in February. David Bouchard, a fieldworker for the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC), gave an excellent presentation on the trafficking of women and children. The CRC is hoping to present "Lost in Traffic," a play about trafficking, in communities across Canada.

Several of our executive members attended conferences, some reporting directly to the national executive. These conferences included the Catholic Conference 2006, Catholic

Health Association of Canada Annual Convention, Cooperation of Church and State Conference and the CCBI conference.

It was a great privilege for me to attend the WUCWO General Assembly in Arlington, Virginia. We live in a wonderful environment where poverty and war are something we only hear about. For some of the women present, poverty and war are a part of their every day existence. We, who have so much, must learn to share with those who have so little. A message was read from Pope Benedict XVI, who stated, "Wherever and whenever people set out in the splendour of holiness, they are on the pathway to peace." For me, the highlight of the event was the sessions where women shared their concerns. The theme of the assembly was *Women Peacemakers – United in Faith and Action*. All the women present felt that the true road to peace is through education. They want to educate the women and children in their countries. They need our help and we can help them.

Judy Look, a diocesan president-elect, gave me a wonderful idea. A penny is a nuisance, but to the poor in developing countries, a penny is a blessing. My challenge to all members is to save your pennies, collect them at meetings, and then send the money to a country of your choice to further the education of their women and children. You won't miss the pennies but, together, they will make a tremendous difference for the poor.

Our provincial convention was held in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, on June 16-18. Our guest presenters were National President Agnes Bedard, National President-elect Lorette Noble and Julie French of the National Council of Catholic Women. All three gave wonderful, much appreciated workshops for the 127 women present in the Great North.

We are currently working on membership awards to be presented for the first time at our annual provincial convention in June 2007. Awards will be given to the council with the biggest increase in membership and one to the council with the biggest percentage increase in membership. The awards will be named after Father Walter Krewski who served as diocesan and then provincial spiritual advisor for many years and is one of the CWLs biggest supporters.

We will continue our program to promote Christ in Christmas as well as promoting Christianity in the public sector. We hope to meet with the provincial government this fall to discuss resolutions adopted at this convention.

In 2007, Alberta Mackenzie will be celebrating 60 years of service "For God and Canada." Our convention will take place June 1-3 in Fort McMurray. We are very pleased to have National Spiritual Advisor Bishop Richard Smith and Bishop Frederick Henry from Calgary Diocese participating with us. You are all welcome to join us for this great anniversary.

God be with you all and thank you so much for your friendship and prayers.

## B.C. & YUKON PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



**Barb Dowding**

What a pleasure it is to report to you on behalf of nearly 9,000 members in B.C. & Yukon. We are six dioceses ranging in size from the largest with 49 parishes to the smallest with only two. Distance, travel

time and weather play a big part in how we meet and communicate. Our challenges are similar to those across this great country, but today I want to focus on the wonderful things going on out west.

The CWL is alive and well. For at least the fifth straight year, our membership has increased and we are inching ever closer to our short-term goal of 10,000 members. The provincial convention in Whitehorse had an outstanding attendance, especially since it was so far away and very expensive to get to. We believe this is a direct result of the enthusiasm generated from the national convention held last year.

We offer subsidies for travel to a provincial convention and, again this year, we were overwhelmed with applications. We hope to find more money to assist our members to attend conventions, particularly accredited delegates.

Building on the legacy of kindness, we are committed as a new executive to focus this term on TEAM: **t**each, **e**vangelize, **a**nimate and **m**otivate our diocesan councils and one another. One of my goals is to take ownership of the teaching role of the provincial level.

We continue to honour our declaration to raise awareness about trafficking. Thanks to a grant from the National Development Fund, we were able to bring Sr. Pierette Boise, CND, to Whitehorse where she gave an excellent workshop. The diocesan councils are still passing the video *Sisters and Daughters Betrayed* to parish councils and, most importantly, all diocesan councils have agreed to try to bring the play "Lost in Trafficking" to their area.

Like last year, we presented all diocesan councils with the same workshop. The topic of discernment was perfect as we had been focusing on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We wanted to encourage members to recognize, not only the gifts and charisms of others, but of themselves too. Members like to be affirmed and this workshop certainly made that easy to do.

We dedicated our convention to asking graces through the intercession of the servant of God, Pope John Paul II, for the healing of our League sister Jackie Lenarduzzi. Members were asked to pray for her every day. Jackie continues to battle, and is cheerful as always and confident that God will hear our prayers.

The motion to increase the provincial per capita fee by