

around every bend you will find a piece of heaven, a delightful sight and a playful breeze that will help your journey.

Please pray for members and their families who are sick or have lost loved ones. The provincial council especially remembers Provincial Secretary Lenora Furey, her two boys and her family. Lenora's husband, Pat, passed away Tuesday night.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to shower her blessings upon League members as they work "For God and Canada". †

## NOVA SCOTIA



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It is my privilege to present my first report on behalf of the 5,000 plus members in Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia Provincial

Council has been successful in keeping its membership in good standing despite the amalgamating and disbanding of parish councils. We live in a world that is constantly facing changes and challenges, and the League, as part of this changing world, must expect changes and challenges as well.

The question is what can be done about these challenges? Give up and say it is a sign of the times? Or, look for new ways and ideas to make the League more relevant in today's society. Of course, it is the latter course of action and it begins by reaching out to grassroots members.

This year, grassroots members were invited to an annual provincial workshop. When this annual workshop began five years ago the idea was to open the lines of communication between provincial and diocesan counterparts. In the past three years, invitations were extended to parish council presidents and, this year, all members were invited. The response has been amazing. The goal is to provide a day of professional development and enrichment for members. The provincial executive will focus on planning for the future of the League. There is no registration fee; meals and accommodations for those travelling long distances will be provided.

The day will be divided into three sessions. The first session will begin with National President Danielle McNeil-Hessian, who will speak about her vision for the League and how members can engage and assist others in this initiative.

The second session will be a panel discussion led by life members on Promoting the League. The sessions will close with question and answer periods.

The final session will deal with the Importance of Annual Reports, Leadership and a round table discussion led by chairpersons of the various standing committees. I am very excited about this workshop because it really involves grassroots members. My goal as provincial president for the next two years is a very simple one – to personally contact and reach out to as many members as possible. I believe the way to maintain membership is by personal contact. The provincial executive's goal is to create an atmosphere of inclusion and action and to awaken the spirit within members' hearts so that their response to the social needs of others will be attractive to all Catholic women seeking fulfillment in serving in a ministry for others.

Social action is alive and well. Members are involved in all social facets – food banks, providing breakfast for children at their school and meals for the poor, supporting children in poor countries, MaterCare International and so on. The Halifax Diocesan Council raised \$2,500 during the past year to build a home for a family of five in Bangladesh. This family was living in a one room mud hut with very little food and no means of earning a living. This home will give them a whole new quality of life.

The year was filled with anticipation of the provincial council's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrated in Sydney. The celebration began on Friday evening with entertainment which included a slide show depicting bygone days, a kit and a tribute in word and song to past provincial presidents. Those members, who through the passage of time with faith and generosity led to the celebration of this milestone, were recognized. Everyone was invited to dress in 40s/50s/60s attire – dresses, gowns, hats and anything else they could find. It was a great deal of fun and everyone enjoyed it.

A provincial resolution entitled Revision to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* was adopted at the annual provincial convention and forwarded to the national resolutions committee.

At the annual diocesan conventions the Bellelle Guerin Award was presented to members, and this award was also presented to Donna Whitehead at the nursing home by the Halifax diocesan president. Donna was dedicated to the League. She was diagnosed in January 2007 with brain cancer.

In closing, it is so very important to always have a positive attitude toward the League and the wonderful work that is done. It is so easy to look at the negatives but, if members are to encourage other women to join, focus must be kept on the positive aspects of the League. †