

violence against women and children, abuse and neglect. The kit includes brochures from Women's Shelter and Support Services, shelters, fact sheets including description of kinds of violence and abuse, and a complete fact-giving workshop called *Let's Stop The Violence*. The kit was given to each executive member at the pre-convention meeting in July. Diocesan presidents can take this back to their dioceses and tailor it to their area.

Chairperson of Communications Marylou Watson continued to work on the Web site making it very attractive and up-to-date. Chairperson of Resolutions Marlene Pavletic prepared a pamphlet entitled *Building a Relationship with your MPP* for the diocesan councils. This pamphlet offered tips on how to approach and develop a relationship with your member of parliament.

A delegation met with government to discuss our resolutions. Attending were Senior Policy Advisor Kathleen Murphy for the attorney general, Minister of Children and Youth Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues The Hon. Deborah Matthews, and Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry The Hon. Michael Gravelle. Our meetings were very courteous, interesting and fruitful.

In an effort to attract members to attend provincial convention, a travel subsidy was offered to members travelling over 1,000 km. Criteria and an application form were designed and this year we had more members attending convention for the first time than ever before.

In addition to this, provincial council wanted to entice and encourage members to attend national convention and so a \$2,000 subsidy per diocese was established for this purpose. It was interesting to see how dioceses used this tool to invite women to come to national convention.

Provincial council continues to support seminarians with the Bishop Bernard J. Pappin Memorial Bursary of \$1,000, given to any seminarian fulfilling the criteria and planning to serve the church in Ontario. A \$100.00 seed money gift was given to seven parish councils that organized a Catholic Girl's League.

Treasurer Glenda Klein not only was the keeper of the books but also worked diligently to be a good steward for investments as well as offering inventive ways to assist dioceses with the above-mentioned incentives.

The focus of the provincial convention was Catholic education in Ontario. There is a dark threat to this gift in Ontario and we have tried to get the message out to members that we need to protect Catholic schools. Bishop Paul Andre Durocher, of Alexandria-Cornwall, was the keynote speaker and spoke on the challenges we as a community face in protecting and keeping Catholic schools in Ontario. As well, we had a panel which included Sr. Joan Cronin, executive director for the Institute of Catholic Education, Mr. Michael O'Keefe, director of education, Pat Bullock, high school chaplain and Rebecca Ryall, youth panellist. The treasure of Catholic education in Ontario will remain a focus for members during this coming year.

Members in Ontario are dedicated, committed Catholic women who love the church and hunger for spiritual development and enrichment; the provincial council is committed to a vision that offers direction and assistance to fulfill their hunger. Cooperation, prayerful thought and concern for each other binds our team as never before. ✚

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



Marion Marshall
Cornwall,
Prince Edward Island

The past year has been an exciting one for parish councils in Prince Edward Island. There have been many anniversary celebrations marking 50, 60,

65, 75, and even an 86th anniversary. Our history is rich, and it is evident we have much to celebrate.

Our new theme, *Women of Peace and Hope*, is an exciting one. Councils have celebrated at masses and social gatherings inviting their whole parish to participate. Some have developed prayer programs. The *CWL Day of Peace & Hope Activities Kit*, prepared by national officers, was well received and many are using those ideas in their parish councils.

Membership is a challenge. Membership is down slightly from 2,509 to 2,449. There were 51 deaths last year. However, 14 of 44 councils reported an increase in membership in 2008. It is *hoped* that through our visibility, enthusiasm, and reaching out by personal invitation this will result in an increase in membership in 2009.

Deanery meetings were held in March. Councils from all over the Island were invited to attend the meeting in their area. These meetings provide an opportunity to open lines of communication between the provincial council and grassroots members. This year, short workshops were given on leadership roles. Members are very enthusiastic about these meetings, knowing they are not alone with their challenges. They learn so much from ideas shared with other councils. As with all gatherings, the fun and fellowship is a bonus.

The highlight of our year was having National President Danielle McNeil-Hessian attend our 87th provincial convention. She presented a workshop on *Women of Peace and Hope*. We were challenged to be instruments of *peace* and to be a beacon of *hope* for others. There was an increase in attendance at this year's convention and, even more exciting, we had 27 members attending their first ever convention. We also had the pleasure of presenting certificates to recognize the 14 councils that increased membership during the year. We said goodbye to Fr. Gerry Tingley

who served as our spiritual advisor for the last ten years and welcomed our new spiritual advisor, Fr. Paul Batchilder.

The amalgamation of churches in Prince Edward Island continues to present challenges for councils. Some churches have amalgamated, but at this time only one of our parish councils has disbanded. We have learned a lot through the process. Taking time to meet, discuss options, and discern what is best for the council is a challenge. The provincial council has offered to put on workshops with those councils who are facing the challenge of disbanding or amalgamating.

We are blessed to have 14 life members who serve as mentors. We are grateful for their support and encouragement, and the knowledge and experience they share with us.

In May, I met with P.E.I. Right to Life and the Knights of Columbus to organize the annual March for Life. Attendance was up at the march this year. Priests for Life, P.E.I. Right to Life, the Knights of Columbus and the provincial council all spoke about the sanctity of life and the protection of the unborn, the innocent victims of abortion. Provincial politicians were also present and they were supportive.

Workshops and leadership training will continue to be a priority this year. We *hope* this training will encourage those who are hesitant to take on leadership roles, to step up and say “Yes” when they are approached. We are planning workshops for our fall conferences on hospice palliative care. Members from the Hospice Palliative Care Association of PEI will give a presentation, share ideas, provide information, answer questions and address concerns that are shared by many. We *hope* this information will show us how we can reach out to and support families and friends who are struggling and also show us how our councils can assist the association here on Prince Edward Island.

I have been blessed as I travelled across the Island meeting with grassroots members in parishes, at workshops, anniversary celebrations, fall conferences and the provincial convention. The gifts and talents shared by so many have enriched our lives. We are proud to be members of the League. May we go forth as *Women of Peace and Hope* and continue to share those gifts and talents with everyone we meet. †

WEAR YOUR LEAGUE IDENTITY WITH PRIDE.

New permanent bevelled name tags are available for order through national office.

These gold-coloured, durable plastic tags, measuring 1" x 3", will incorporate the enameled CWL crest and will be engraved with your name. The weight is light enough to grace a variety of fabrics. The name tags come with a standard lockable broach pin backing with the option of a magnet backing for a slight additional cost. These new tags will be a dignified way to identify yourself as a League sister as you offer parish ministry or greet others at convention. These permanent pins are offered at a cost of \$7.85 for the broach pin and \$9.50 for the magnet backing. Taxes and shipping are extra.

QUEBEC



Diane Lemay
Longueuil, Quebec

Last year, Quebec provincial council was challenged to recruit 100 new members. Many parish councils met the challenge and recruited new members,

some recruiting as many as seven. Unfortunately it just wasn't enough to make that 100 mark. But, because we are women of *hope*, we believe that next year we will break that 100 mark.

Our provincial convention was held at the end of May with over 100 members present from various parts of the province. The special guest was National President Danielle McNeil-Hessian who conducted a workshop using the *CWL Day of Peace & Hope Activities Kit*. Members participated with great enthusiasm, and it gave them ideas on how they could use the kit in their own councils. Four councils celebrating significant anniversaries received certificates. One member was presented with the Bellelle Guerin award for her outstanding service to the League. Two resolutions were adopted, one on monosodium glutamate which was forwarded to the national resolutions committee and one on home care workers who are not covered under workers' compensation if they are injured on the job. This resolution will be presented to the provincial government. A new provincial executive was installed at the closing mass and Spiritual Advisor Fr. John Torrance was installed at the same time.

With the appointment of Fr. Torrance to provincial level, we lost him as a diocesan spiritual advisor. This particular diocesan council has a shortage of priests and so, based on recommendations from the diocesan council, the bishop appointed a laywoman to the position of diocesan spiritual advisor. This same diocesan council also has two laywomen appointed as parish spiritual advisors.

Members continue to be very active in their respective parishes and in their communities. They provide strong support to their parish councils but are reluctant to take executive positions. We have identified this as a major problem and *hope* that in the next two years we can provide these members with the necessary tools and skills to give them the confidence to become leaders. Our life members will be the backbone of this endeavour, facilitating workshops and acting as mentors. They are very generous with their time and talents and we are so fortunate to have them.

A long term project that will commence in the fall will be to study the possibility of eliminating the diocesan level