

INTRODUCING



Mary Hagen
Prince Edward Island Provincial President

Educated in a rural one-room school, Mary's career began when she became secretary to the administrator at the Charlottetown Hospital in 1961. Mary has been married to Doug for almost 40 years. They have four adult children: David is a high school teacher in Idaho and has one daughter; Dawna is a busy mother of three sons and is an esthetician; Laura is a labour analyst and an equally busy mother of two daughters and one son; Peter, the youngest, is still enjoying the single life and works as a restaurant server.

Mary joined Our Lady of Assumption Parish Council in Stratford 34 years ago to make new friends, learn and have some fun. The CWL met all her criteria! She was a stay-at-home mother at the time and the CWL meant a night out. In 1978, she relocated to Cornwall where she transferred her membership and joined St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council.

Serving as Eucharistic minister, catechism teacher and usher, Mary has also been involved in offering hospitality after funerals. She has taken part in adult formation groups including Renew and most recently, "What Makes Us Unique As Catholics?" The greatest joy of her week is when she visits a nursing home and socializes with her new found resident-friends as they celebrate mass or a prayer service together. She recently served as chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Family Service Bureau in Charlottetown. Mary is a life member of Women's Institute and has held executive positions in this organization as well.

Mary has served the League in most offices at the parish level and, with some trepidation, accepted an invitation from Life Member Marion Buote to complete a term on the provincial executive, never believing she would some day be provincial president. It is only with the prayers of many people and a hard working executive, along with supportive life members and her family, that she is able to be in this position. It is an exciting place for Mary to be at this time in her life. Her first real experience of the CWL, both nationally and provincially, was when she met so many wonderful women in 2000 when the provincial council hosted the annual national convention in Charlottetown.

Mary's hobbies include walking, playing with her

grandchildren, travelling and belonging to a productive craft group where she knits, crochets and socializes. She considers it a gift from God to be serving at the national table and representing Prince Edward Island Provincial Council as best as she can. †

COMMUNICATION ACCESS REALTIME TRANSLATION - CART

Fran Lucas
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Chairperson
of Education and Health

Who has difficulty hearing everything that is said at her council meeting, diocesan convention, or meetings in general? Do you know of others who have this difficulty? Do you know of a member who no longer comes to these events because she can't hear all that is being said? I can answer "yes" to all three of these questions, and I am confident I am not alone.

Two years ago when I was planning for the Edmonton archdiocesan convention, it was brought to my attention that Liz Kutcher, a member of the host council, Holy Trinity Parish Council in Spruce Grove, could not attend because she was unable to hear. She had approximately 17% hearing in each ear. In further discussion, and a lot of telephone calls later, a solution to this problem was found, but it came with a price tag. The solution was a system called Communication Access Realtime Translation, commonly referred to as CART. CART is similar to broadcast captioning seen on television except, instead of two lines at the bottom of the television, CART is displayed as a full screen of text on walls, screens or plasma monitors with no transmission delays. The realtime captioner writes everything being spoken on a computerized steno machine (the same machine used by court reporters). The steno strokes, written at speeds of 250 words per minute, are transmitted through a cable to a computer database and translated into English text within seconds of being spoken.

What a great way to serve our aging membership or those who end up in a seat that doesn't allow hearing a soft spoken speaker. †