

# GREETINGS FROM WICC



## Eleanor Arless

CCCB Appointee to the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada

It is astounding for me to realize that I have been part of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) for these past two years. It has been an enriching experience, and I now "wear a new hat" as chairperson of communications.

The fabric that makes up WICC has many parallels with that of the League; the only difference is that WICC is slightly more mature as it celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008/09. To launch the celebration, a lovely catered dinner was held at the Newman Centre in Toronto in October 2008.

At that time, the sisterhood of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) was holding its international conference in Toronto at the WICC offices. Because the timing coincided with the celebratory dinner, these ladies were invited. It was an honour for me to represent the League and share a meal with women from all over the world. We all share the same hope and aspirations for a more peaceful and just world.

Violence against women is just one of the social justice issues in which WICC is involved. A national prayer service is prepared annually to commemorate the slaying of the engineering students in Montreal in 1989. This year I was the guest speaker in my community at this event.

I invite you to visit WICC's website at [www.wicc.org](http://www.wicc.org) to learn more about WICC, the FLC and World Day of Prayer (WDP). Ready yourselves for WDP 2009; the service has been prepared by the women of Papua, New Guinea. Contact the WICC offices at (416) 929-5184 to receive a package of material regarding WDP.

At WICC we are endeavouring to "widen our circle." I would encourage you to join. As an anniversary gift, 90 free memberships are being offered to the first applicants who register. The annual fee is \$35.00.

Blessings to all my CWL sisters. ✚



Pictured are Ontario Treasurer Glenda Klein, Peterborough President-elect Anne McKinnon, Honorary Life Member Claire Heron, WDP Past Chairperson Sylvia Van Haverbeke and Eleanor Arless.

## LAPEL CROSSES

### Kingston Archdiocesan Council

At a meeting held before Lent 2008, members stitched purple wool onto a #7 plastic mesh cut in the shape of a cross, about 1 3/4" high by 1" wide. A safety pin was attached to the back.

On Ash Wednesday, each member wore this cross on her lapel to symbolize the bearing of her own cross. On the first Sunday of Lent, and at each consecutive Sunday until Palm Sunday, her cross was exchanged at the back of the church from a basket of other members' crosses that had been worn the previous week.



The name of that person was never made known. One simply prayed for the cross the other person had to bear.

On Palm Sunday, all crosses were returned to the basket at church; no crosses were worn during the Holy Week. Instead, members thought of Jesus during His passion and agony and, particularly, the cross He carried for us. This gesture put into action the spiritual bond between members. They literally carried one another's crosses!