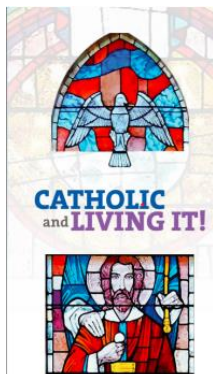


# PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER



**SPRING 2023**

**LAST NEWSLETTER OF THIS TERM IS MEANT AS A  
FAREWELL FROM THE CURRENT EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

**IT IS HOPED WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH  
SUPPORT, AND INFORMATION THROUGHOUT THIS TERM.**

**WE ARE AWARE OF THE NUMEROUS CHANGES ALL  
MEMBERS HAVE GONE THROUGH RECENTLY AND IT IS  
HOPED ALL OF US WILL BE ABLE TO PULL TOGETHER AND  
CONTINUE, IN A POSTIVE FASHION, WITH THIS GREAT  
ORGANIZATION.**

**CONTINUE TO REACH OUT TO THOSE YOU HAVE PUT YOUR  
FAITH IN, AND REMEMBER, YOU ARE THE BACKBONE OF  
THIS ORGANIZATION, WITH NUMEROUS SKILLS TO  
SHARE.**

**YOUR COUNCILS HAVE LOST MANY MEMBERS, WHO  
HELPED TO BUILD, AND GROW, YOUR COUNCILS. FOLLOW  
IN THERE FOOTSTEPS, AND CREATE YOUR OWN.**



## *President - Helena Lessard*

It is with great excitement to have spring 2023 arrive. Not only do we have the arrival of warmer weather, new life springs up. After the cold and snowy winter, we see birds returning to our yards, flowers and trees starting to bud, but more importantly, we have the time when Christ rose from the dead. We also have the resurrection of an in person CWL Annual Convention celebrating our 100th Anniversary. Although technically, in Peterborough Diocese, our CWL 100th Anniversary took place two years ago, we will celebrate 100 years just as many parish councils are marking this key point in time. One can find highlights of these anniversaries, along with other CWL events in Peterborough Diocese, in the upcoming Ontario Provincial Council CWL April newsletter.

Information about our upcoming convention can be found in the invitation 2023 Annual Convention Invitation - Google Docs. One can register for the convention and meals 2023 Annual Convention - Google Forms. If one registered early for the convention, and only needs to order meals, one can do so through 2023 Annual Convention Meals - Google Forms. Overall, the convention should be exciting. CWL Ontario Provincial President Linda Squarzolo will speak on Saturday about the "Go Make a Difference!" project and Indigenous Parishes. Father Peter Lukow will speak on Sunday "Be Encouraged. Be Renewed," as we all need encouragement and renewal from time to time. Council presidents, please remember to invite your Spiritual Advisor and priests to convention.

To celebrate our 100th anniversary, councils are invited to display pieces of their history in the form of a display board or photo album. Father Neil Pereira will speak at the banquet Saturday evening on the convention theme based on Micah 6:8 "Act Justly, Love mercy, Walk humbly with your God", related to our diocesan theme of "One Step, One Day, One Prayer at a Time." Councils are also invited to share their creativity and artistic talents at our banquet in the form of entertainment. We will also have some musical entertainment at our banquet as Bob Robertson will provide dinner music.

Within the Province of Ontario, CWL members, through their councils and diocese, were asked to carry out "Go Make a Difference!" projects. I am encouraging councils, within Peterborough Diocese, to have a deeper engagement with Indigenous Peoples in the Province of Ontario, in the form of action through corporal and/or spiritual works of mercy. These actions could include the following offerings that fit within the budgetary constraints of councils:

- a) donations of prayer shawls, lap quilts, knitted or crocheted items or supplies needed to make such items
- b) food items for baking or school snacks/lunches
- c) puzzles, games, arts and crafts items new or gently used children & #39;s
- d) clothing

- e) forms of prayer
- f) school supplies
- g) sports equipment
- h) other agreed upon suggestions.

I have confirmed contacts in Attawapiskat and Fort Hope, as well as other possible contacts in Peawanuck, Fort Albany, Manitoulin Island and Thunder Bay diocese. Our first batch of items collected for Go Make a Difference! by CWL Peterborough Diocese, will begin at convention. Onwards, I will be the contact point between Indigenous parishes participating with CWL councils in Peterborough Diocese until July 2024 when the project officially concludes. Hopefully, connections made can continue so that we can continue to make a difference.

Proceeds from our auction at convention will support our "Go Make a Difference!" project. Members and councils are encouraged to donate items towards the auction, coordinated by Anna Marie Bolin of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Otonabee/Keene. It would be appreciated if they could be dropped off to St. Peter's High School on Friday afternoon when the set up for convention will be happening. Please bring cash with you to convention to support the auction and to make a difference!

There will also be a collection at our closing mass on Sunday which will support Indigenous reconciliation. Funds will be forwarded to the Truth and Reconciliation Fund with Peterborough Diocese. One can also donate online to the Truth and Reconciliation Fund Donate Now - Diocese of Peterborough ([canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org)).

It has been an honour and a pleasure to represent Peterborough Diocesan Council of the CWL, and to serve on the Ontario Provincial Council as your president of Peterborough Diocese. While there has been much work to do, there has been a lot of fun and laughs shared. Every woman I know, or have met, within the diocese, and within the province, has talents generously shared, unique personalities appreciated, and love for the League.

Yours in Christ,  
Helena Lessard  
Stay strong. Stay safe. Stay well.  
One Step, One Day, One Prayer at a Time

*Past President/Historian – Paddy Fitzgerald-Nolan*

All Good things must come to an end, 40 of my 44 years as a league member have been with Peterborough Diocese. First round as Diocese officer was 2004 to 2014, second round 2016 to 2023.

It has been a real pleasure, and an eye opener, working under the different leadership at our diocesan and provincial level. Everyone has their own way of doing things. Thank goodness Helena was up to speed on tech and was able to give us zoom meetings, along with several zoom workshops.

Believe me, the time flies by way too fast, and every member should try to reach for the stars. How can you, as a member, make a difference today, tomorrow or this year?

I have several small projects on the go, from helping and supporting an Indigenous community in Fort Hope. In January my family and I sent over 70 lbs of supplies. Wendy from Wooler, along with Diane from St. John's in Kingston, gave funds towards the supplies we purchased.

Find something you are passion about. If it's making rosaries like Maria does with our school students, or volunteering in your local food banks like Glenda does. One small gesture can go a long way, even a smile given to everyone you meet on the streets, can make a difference.

I will be staying involved, at what level at this point is unsure. What I can say is, the C.W.L. is an amazing group of ladies across Canada, making each day a better place to live.

Past President

Paddy Fitzgerald Nolan

### *President-Elect/Organization – Maria Fitzgerald*

Congratulations to the councils who completed the annual parish report survey in December. In preparing a new survey for 2022, National responded to your concerns that reports were too long and confusing.

While many councils were apprehensive about completing this survey in a new format, once completed, everyone agreed that, they were more brief, specific and user friendly than past surveys. Councils appreciated completing them as an executive group as opposed to individual convenor submissions. Several were concerned that, since COVID had limited their activities, they had very little to report. However, national, aware of all your challenges, appreciated your honest responses. Diocesan Officers compiled your results and all were forwarded to the Ontario Organization Committee to prepare to forward to national. Thank you for your participation!

Thank you to the councils who submitted parish annual reports, a summary of pins presentations and a list of the organizations supported for inclusion in the Annual Report Book. This report book will be available to everyone at the 2023 Convention April 29-30 at St. Peter's Secondary School, Peterborough.

Thank you to councils for adjusting to the fee increase – the first since 2013. Through the process, as demonstrated in the new survey structure, all members in Canada witnessed their power in action. Each council, through an instructed vote, was invited to vote on the national proposal. At the Peterborough Diocesan 2022 convention, Peterborough Diocese councils, by one vote, voted to accept the increase. In response to the concerns voiced, a motion was passed at the Fall meeting, that the Peterborough Diocesan Council will waive the Diocesan fee (\$5.00) for each member in 2023 **only**, to assist those councils which cannot raise the funds to cover the increase.

As the five year strategic planning implementation continues, this year the main focus will be on the restructuring of council executives by 2024. Once each council has completed the 2022 -2023 elections, the new structure must be in place. The new structure- including our Diocesan Council after convention, will include

**Past President**  
**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**

and three **committee chairpersons**, one each for the core values of **Faith, Service** and **Social Justice**. The core committee chairpersons will form committees to combine each of the previous convenorships. This will address the overlap of activities in the former structure. Ladies, have no fear. Ladies, together we will achieve this goal in 2023 with the implementation of our theme *one prayer, one day, one step at a time!*

Thank you for your support during my term, and I look forward to my upcoming term.

Blessings to All,

Maria Fitzgerald

*Spiritual Development - Lynda Macpherson*







The season of Lent intertwines with the season of spring. We find ourselves throughout Lent praying, fasting and giving more than we may possibly do in other seasons. But as Anne Gorman wrote in the Spring 2015 edition of *The Canadian League*, we may experience interruptions. As some of you know, my husband is in a very fragile state and my coping is not easy. Nor is patience. I am sure many of you have gone through similar situations and as Anne quoted from St. Paul: "suffering produces hope and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (RM 5:3-) So now as we approach Easter and the Resurrection, let us cultivate our faith with hope!

I urge all councils to go to The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops website [Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops \(ccb.ca\)](http://www.cccb.ca) and utilize the Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit of Palliative Care and you may also wish to review "That We May Walk Together" which is a series of pastoral letters dealing reconciliation with our Indigenous peoples.

My journey with you since the summer of 2021 has been incredible and I thank you all for travelling with me through prayers, music, reflections, Masses, and gatherings. May I encourage all of you to consider volunteering on the committees either in your home council or on the Diocesan Council. Your spiritual growth will be cultivated, and friendships will abound.

*Since Lynda's submission her beloved husband Richard has passed away. Please find below the obituary.*

**Richard Phelps Macpherson**  
**December 23 1946 – March 30 2023**

It is with saddened hearts that the family of Richard Phelps Macpherson announce his passing at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Thursday, March 30th at the age of 76. Richard fought bravely through the month of March but sadly succumbed to his illness surrounded by his loving family. Richard was a very private man and a strong family man who was beloved by his wife, Lynda and two daughters Kari-Anne (Robert) and Michelle (Neil) as well as his two granddaughters Grace and Abigail. He was so proud of the ladies in his life and did all he could throughout his life to

motivate them to be their best. Predeceased by his parents George and Grace he will be sorely missed by his brothers Brant (Jacqueline) and Edward (Janice) and their families. The family would like to extend their sincerest thanks and gratitude to the ICU staff of both Northumberland Hills Hospital and the Peterborough Regional Health Centre for all their kindness and compassion. Many thanks also for all the prayers and wishes sent by members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada and Helping Hands Northumberland.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, July 29th at the family home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

### *Community Life – Lois Crider*

I was so please to be able to once again sit as an Officer of the Peterborough Diocese CWL. Community Life is an essential part of the CWL. We are always there helping out. As we all know, we have many issues within our world and within our organization. I truly enjoy working within the CWL, and hope to be able to continue to help, as long as I can.

### *Secretary – Lynne Donnelly*

As you are aware, the last few years have been stressful with my husband being so ill, and then passing away. I wish to extend my sincere thanks for all the prayers and extended duties my fellow sisters have done. This is a great organization and when you are down and out, you can rely on your faith and your sisters.

### *Treasurer – Ferrol O'Reilly*

Ladies, the task of treasurer has provided an interesting educational experience for me, learning on-line banking, e-transfers, and Zoom meetings improved my computer skills, just to name a few. Most of all, it has enhanced my spiritual growth, and helped me make many new friends at all levels of the league. Last spring my husband and I took a 1 day whirlwind trip to parts of our most northern Diocese, delivering Anniversary booklets. If you have never visited up that way



you should. The scenery is amazing, the welcoming of our priests, and the hospitality were wonderful. As this is the end of my term (five years altogether) as your diocesan treasurer, I would like to thank everyone for their kindness, support and guidance.

To your new treasurer, I am just a phone call away. Please don't hesitate to use it.

## *Resolutions/Legislation – Glenda Klein*

### **A Message of Hope and Encouragement**

It has been quite a challenge to serve with any of our positions at any level since the beginning of Covid-19. However, we have also received many blessings. We have learned new terms such as “virtual” and “hybrid” and how to participate in Zoom and GoTo meetings to keep in touch with each other and discuss pertinent business of the Catholic Women’s League. We have been reminded of the value of the human voice and the meaningful conversations and friendships that can develop when we call to mentor or just to keep in touch. The internet has been such a blessing to keep us up-to-date with resolutions and legislation all within the comfort of our homes. We grow to appreciate more the opportunities available now to reconnect with our League sisters as our ability to travel increases and the fear of disease decreases. With a brand new structure of the League in our diocese with our upcoming elections, I wish many blessings upon the women who step forward to meet the challenge.

### **BLESSED IS SHE WHO LEADS**

*by Glenda Klein*

Blessed is she who leads, guided by the Holy Spirit.  
Blessed is she who hears God’s word and says yes to his call.  
Blessed is she who offers her gifts to glorify God.  
Blessed is she who asks Jesus’ help and does what he says.  
Blessed is she who follows the Lord wherever she goes.  
Blessed is she who praises God for all his mighty works.  
Blessed is she who acts in the ways modeled by Mary.  
Blessed is she who prays through Our Lady of Good Counsel.  
Blessed is she who shares her knowledge, enabling others.  
Blessed is she who thanks God for each of her blessings.  
Blessed is she who serves for she shall be greater than none.  
Blessed is she who becomes a blessing for League members.  
Amen.

## *Education and Health – Pamela Bryson Weaver*

As the end of my term nears, I wish to Thank You, one and all, for your thoughts and prayers when my dearest husband suddenly passed in December. Myself, and my family truly appreciated it. Life is truly an educational learning curve, as we all follow the journey. Take care everyone.

## *Life Member Liaison – Anne McKinnon*

We have to say 'adieu' when it is time to go! My two years as Life Member Liaison for this diocese has been a busy time liaising with all levels of this great organization. The best part was keeping in touch with my peers at the diocesan level, however sadly, we had to say farewell to two lovely ladies who left us within the last few months to go to Eternal Life. We gave them a good send-off! It was a pleasure knowing them.

## *Membership/Mentorship Liaison – Madeline Pearson*

I Remember, by Madeline Pearson

In the last few months, we have lost two of our Life Members – Erica Perk and Elizabeth Condon. These ladies were true and strong CWL members.

Erica was born in Switzerland and came to Canada in her teens. She met and married Fred Perk, moved to a farm in Ida, and raised five children.

Erica joined the Millbrook Catholic Women's League and worked her way up through several positions to become the Parish President. In 1992, she became the Peterborough Diocesan President and held this office for 2 years. I recall going to the Provincial Convention in Sudbury with Erica. She packed her car with many of the necessities, for example an electric kettle and toaster☺. Erica was a proficient president and a pleasure to work and travel with. Erica excelled as a mentor to her fellow CWL sisters. She truly loved the League and her wishes for all ladies to enjoy it, and move through the different positions, was always front and centre. Even though Erica had limited access to attending meetings and such in her later years, she stayed in touch with the different activities and policies, always asking questions to keep herself up to date. Erica had two additional passions, the rosary and walking. She said the rosary several times a day. Even after her stroke, she

insisted in forcing herself to walk. If the weather was inclement, she walked in the halls of her apartment building. She spent her final years in a senior's home in Orangeville near her daughter. Erica loved her visits when we drove up to visit. During her final months, Erica was working on a CWL project she had been requested to do, and excited to do. She was true inspiration of what a CWL sister is, and should be. Erica passed away in August of 2022.




Elizabeth was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. There, she had deep roots in the Catholic Women's League. Her grandmother Hagen formed the first provincial C.W.L. in Nova Scotia and became its first president. Her grandmother was also a sculptor. She made and hand-painted a set of dishes, which she donated to the League as a fundraiser. Elizabeth was proud to have a cup and saucer from this set and spoke of it often.


Elizabeth came to Peterborough at a young age where she met her husband Leonard and lived for many years in St. Anne's Parish, raising her four children. She joined the Catholic Women's League and worked her way through several positions to become President. In 1994 Elizabeth became the Diocesan President. During this year, the Provincial Convention was held in Peterborough. She also was a wonderful mentor to less experienced members, always willing to help out and share your skills.

Because Elizabeth didn't drive, she and I did a fair bit of travelling together. During her two years in office, she and I also flew to Winnipeg to a National Convention. We were privileged to have Elizabeth as a member of St. Patrick's Kinmount C.W.L. when the St. Anne's Council became inactive and folded. Elizabeth passed away in February of 2023.

I strive to be a good mentor with all I do, especially with my CWL sisters. I hope you have found my involvement in the last two year helpful. I will continue to be available for whomever makes contact, and for whatever.

### *Communications – Wendy Tedford*

As we near the end of this term, and any term, it is important to remember that without good communication we allow the  to grow under our feet. We

need to keep this at a minimum so we have smooth === to follow, leading to a well  council. Communication can be done in many forms, however you must remember to make it inclusive for all. I hope I have shaken it up a little, and provided you with information from around our diocese. Remember, what works for your council, is the best way to go; but trying something new is always an adventure.

Keep chatting and sharing

Wendy

## *Parish News*

### **Kirkfield Celebrates 100 Years**

St. John The Evangelist and Missions Kirkfield, celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of St. Margaret Mary Mission church Coboconk, in October, 2022. Father Tom Lynch represented the Bishop Miehm, celebrated Mass, and gave an inspiring homily. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Grace and Loretta Jamieson, whose family lived in Coboconk and worshipped at St. Margaret Mary's for 75 plus years, and to Frank and Ferrol O'Reilly who have been active parishioners for 20 plus years.

After Mass, parishioners from our parish churches, and from area Christian churches, enjoyed a pot luck dinner. A hymn sing followed, facilitated by Grace and Loretta at the Coboconk Lion's Club Hall.





### **Lakefield's Spaghetti Dinner and Karaoke Night**

A joyful time was held on the evening of Friday February the 10<sup>th</sup> in the basement of St. Pauls' church. The CWL prepared the meal, and their consist companions, the Knights of Columbus, served the welcoming crowd.

Our very own CWL Diocesan President, Helena Lessard, won one of the 3 gift baskets. And, to finish off the Karaoke activities, President-Elect, Maria Fitzgerald, sang a few songs. It was delightful to see people up dancing and enjoying themselves throughout the evening.



### **Douro's Potluck Soup Warm UP**

The CWL again were pleased to provide their successful Potluck Soup night, with almost 20 pots of soup, buns/biscuits, cheese and treats. A perfect way to warm up the insides during a cold winter night. People are only required to bring their utensils and a bowl or cup and enjoy some friendly conversation. This is a great way to get together and so easy to do. We invite others to take up the idea on a cold winter's evening. For some added flavor, add some entertainment to top off your evening.

## Ennismore Celebrates

St. Martin's Church in Ennismore is celebrating 100 years of our Church building in 2023. We are also celebrating 102 years of our CWL. We held a soup social in March where we presented several service pins from 5 years to 65 years and we had six past presidents in attendance. Everyone enjoyed being able to get together again. Madeline Cadigan who has been part of our parish for almost 90 years delivered insight as to how things were when she was young. We also were pleased to welcome our new Parish Priest and Spiritual Advisor, Father Ante Market.

