



# The CANADIAN MOTHERS' UNION NEWSLETTER

Volume 8  
Issue 2  
Fall 2016

[www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org)

[www.mothersunioncanada.ca](http://www.mothersunioncanada.ca)



“Catch the Spirit,” the theme of the 2016 National Biennial Conference. I sensed that all present certainly did catch the spirit. What a spiritual, learning, and fun filled experience. Friendships were renewed and new ones kindled. The time went all too quickly. Lynne Tembey, our Worldwide President, as keynote speaker, workshop leader and banquet speaker, inspired and encouraged us to continue on our Mothers’ Union journey through support and outreach to those less fortunate, both in our community, country and throughout the world. Most importantly to do this through prayer and God’s guidance.

Anne-Marie Vickers, the Regional Development Officer, accompanied Lynne to the conference. She gave a presentation on what her position on the Worldwide Council entails. She works with the Mothers’ Union in 9 provinces, one of which is Canada. Having had this opportunity to get to know Lynne and Anne-Marie on a more personal level has created a very special bond. Remember to send photographs to Elizabeth Court, Canadian Newsletter Editor, and to Marilyn Scott, Canadian Historian.

The following motions were made and both were carried:

1. We, the Canadian Council, therefore move that the changes to the Constitution as presented be accepted.
2. We, the Canadian Council, therefore move the changes to the Handbook as presented be accepted.

The revised Constitution and Handbook will be available on the Canadian Mothers’ Union website as soon as possible.

The Inverary Resort in Baddeck, on the shore of the Bras D’or Lake, provided a comfortable and scenic venue. I hope that all who came to Cape Breton for the first time enjoyed the Scottish flavour, and the breathtaking scenery, and that your first impression will draw you back again to this Island.

In September the Mothers’ Union will be celebrating the 140th anniversary. A service will take place on September 22nd in Winchester Cathedral followed by a banquet that evening. I am looking forward to representing all of you, our Canadian members.

I trust that you all had a wonderful restful Summer and are refreshed and ready to continue the work of the Mothers’ Union again this Fall.

Love and blessings,  
Margaret



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# 140th Anniversary of Mothers' Union

## 140th Anniversary Prayer

*Life-giving God, on its 140th anniversary,  
We give you thanks for the Mothers' Union,  
For its dedication and faithful witness to  
Jesus Christ across the world,  
We praise you for its compassion, care and  
acts of justice for families and communities.  
Bless all its members in your mission to  
the world,  
Strengthen hearts, hands and voices in the  
years to come,  
As they continue to nurture, defend and  
deliver your children.  
Through their service bring great glory  
to Jesus and make known your kingdom.  
We ask this in the name of the Father,  
the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen*

THE MOST REV'D AND RIGHT HON. JUSTIN WELBY  
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY



“Together we are on a journey of change, which will ensure that we remain as relevant and valued in the future as we were 140 years ago.”

~ Bev Jullien, Chief Executive

Over 3,000 Mothers' Union members from around the world gathered to join the 140th Anniversary celebrations. Two services were held in Winchester Cathedral, with Bishop Nigel Stock preaching in the morning, and Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the afternoon. The General Meeting was held in Basingstoke the following day.

Our Canadian President, Margaret DeCarvalho, was able to attend. Along with a message of congratulations, she took a gift of maple syrup to carry in the procession into the cathedral.

The organization that Mary Sumner started in 1876 as a small parish-based support group has grown to the current Mothers' Union as we know it, with more than 4 million members in over 80 countries. Queen Elizabeth II, one of our patrons, wished continuing success in giving hope and strength to so many.

In our work to support women, bring positive change to society, work for women's rights and gender equality, and campaigning against violence against women and girls, the Mothers' Union helps to change the lives of over half a million people every year. Chief Executive Bev Jullien encouraged members to reach twice as many beneficiaries, with the goal of assisting 1 million people annually by 2021.



Mothers' Union "Mary Sumner Choir" from Zambia sing at the 140th anniversary service at Winchester Cathedral

A tweet from the Archbishop of Canterbury

Mothers' Union (@MothersUnion)  
2016-09-22, 11:00 AM

#MUis140 @JustinWelby The @MothersUnion is God-centred in a remarkable way, a place of prayer, laughter, spiritual life and fun

For more information, articles and photos, go to:  
<http://www.mothersunion.org/140th-anniversary-services-general-meeting-2016>

## **Parenting Facilitators' Training in Parenting Facilitators' Training in Halifax in April 2016**

Canadian Mothers' Union is delighted to report that a very successful Parenting Facilitators' Training took place April 21 – 24th, 2016. Eight participants from four parishes in Nova Scotia, gathered at St. Margaret's Church in the Parish of French Village for four full, intense, but fun and laughter-filled days of training under our two Canadian trainers, Kathleen Snow and Celia Dodds.

After two years of promotion and advertising, which included explaining to Canadian Council what the parenting program was all about and who would be eligible to become facilitators, a Steering Committee was formed in April 2015, whose job it was to suggest possible candidates. Several names were put forward and all expressed interest in taking the Facilitators' Training. However, finding a time when all would be available to attend proved more difficult, since it meant taking time off work as it extended over four days. Two attempts to hold the training in September and October 2015 were aborted because we could not meet the minimal number of eight participants. Finally, a time in April 2016, after Easter, spanning two weekdays and one weekend was decided upon and we got eight registrants.

As this was our first training Kathleen and I were very excited but quite nervous, but we couldn't have asked for a more talented, enthusiastic, already skillful group of people to work with and they succeeded beyond all our expectations. The training contains twelve very interactive sessions including a large number of ice-breakers and energizers, all of which play an important part in the formation of a parenting group. They learned how to make parents feel comfortable, how to monitor and guide discussions using appropriate interventions, without appearing to control the group. They became aware when to keep silent and listen, how to observe individuals to pick up on hidden agendas, and how to cope with disagreements or even potential aggression. Each participant practiced being the facilitator in a real discussion with a controversial question. (e.g. Should young children have cell phones?), where five were in the group and two were observers. The members in the class were encouraged to behave like real parents might and try to throw the facilitator off her guard. You can imagine the fun they had with that one. The last session was the day of practicums, when each prepared a fifteen minute segment of a session with a good beginning and satisfactory ending. Each new facilitator received a certificate of participation, the Canadian Parenting Resource Manual and suggestions for preparing for a parenting course in their own parish within six months.

We are indebted to Mary Stone who organized the whole training from contacting the candidates, arranging for their billets, the venue, the arranging of meals on site and provision of materials for the course. We are most grateful to Mothers' Union members who supplied us with delicious meals and snacks, and to St. Margaret's Church for allowing us to use their premises, especially their heat and water. We thank Nova Scotia for the beautiful sunny, brisk weather we enjoyed throughout the four days.

Branch members in the areas where a course is being held please support your new facilitators in any way you can – advertising the course, canvassing for participants, providing child care, observing and assisting in the sessions, supplying tea and refreshments and of course prayer.

When the new Canadian Council takes over in 2017 Maxine Simpkin will be the new Parenting Program Coordinator. Kathleen and I will continue as trainers.



The new trained facilitators are:

Debbie Fice and Nicki Hetherington – Cole Harbour

Debbie Gascoigne and Maxine Simpkin – Lower Sackville

Linda MacLachlan, Sandie MacKenzie, Naniya Trevors – Shelburne

Mary Stone – Parish of French Village

**Canadian Mothers' Union Financial Statement**

**September 20, 2016**

<b>Bank Balance</b>	May 24, 2016		\$54,373.34
<b>Receipts</b>	Make A Mother's Day	\$70.00	
	Northern Parenting	\$280.00	
	Rev. Debbie Strickland Fund	\$275.00	
	Overseas (Lady Day)	\$495.00	
	NCFF	\$614.00	
	Offering from Conference Services (NCFF)	\$1,396.35	
	Proceeds from Conference Silent Auction (Travel Fund)	\$1,698.15	
	Rebates from 4imprint for missing/broken items	\$8.30	
	5 Conference Bags sold	\$50.00	
	Conference Registration	\$425.00	
	Refund of Conference Travel Assistance	\$200.00	
			\$5,511.80
<b>Expenses</b>	Newsletter postage	\$279.01	
	Conference Booklets	\$807.45	
	Kathleen Snow - 35 Service Booklets	\$116.82	
	Doreen Wakely - Stamps	\$31.42	
	Inverary Resort - 2016 Conference	\$14,839.43	
	For Work on Lone Members Banner	\$100.00	
	Printing of NCFF and MU at a Glance Brochures	\$629.05	
	Mailing brochures to Alice Medcof for General Synod	\$21.42	
	Lynne Tembey's room and supper for May 31	\$159.37	
	Donation to Bags of Love for work on banner	\$25.00	
	Parenting Facilitators training expenses	\$94.51	
	Mary Sumner House – Dues(\$3660), MAMD(\$1272), Lady Day (Overseas Fund) (\$997.45),	\$5,929.45	
	Margaret's trip to 140th Anniversary celebration, London	\$1,209.72	
	Bank charge	\$1.20	
			\$24,243.85
<b>Bank Balance</b>	September 20, 2016		\$35,641.29
<b>Allocation of Funds</b>	General Acct	\$3,755.46	
	Dues held for MSH	\$0.00	
	Travel Fund	\$2,970.34	
	NCFF	\$629.72	
	MAMD	\$0.00	
	Rev. Debbie Strickland Fund	\$555.00	
	Northern Parenting	\$7,509.70	
	Parenting Program	\$1,095.46	
	Overseas Fund	\$100.00	\$35,641.29

The bank balance does not include the Sarah Marshall Trust Fund (NCFF) in the amount of \$4000.00. Term deposit matures October 17, 2018. Interest rate 3.00%.

Total number of paid up members for 2016: 608



## With God's Grace

Isabel Cutler is a Mothers' Union member in the Diocese of Fredericton, Christ Church Cathedral branch. She recently provided a Lenten reflection titled "The challenge is to be me, with God's grace – an ongoing life adventure" and this was shared with the New Brunswick Anglican.

Isabel Cutler is 69, and newly retired after 50 years of nursing. Her final assignment, for the past 10 years, has been as the parish nurse at Christ Church Cathedral. "The last part of my career was definitely the icing on the cake for me," she said. She is a wife, mother and grandmother, and recently diagnosed with a chronic disease that requires daily medication. Now, she told her audience, she has to do what she's pleaded with patients to do throughout her career — take her medication!

Born in Yorkshire, England, Isabel was raised in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. An only child, she always lived in a hospital setting, because her mother was an assistant matron and her father taught nurses' training. "It was a wonderful sense of community even though I didn't have siblings," she said. She told of the Scottish fishermen and their wives who would come to Norfolk to fish each year. The crowd would come to Isabel's home for prayer meetings, sharing their faith and their stories, while her mother and father served tea and sandwiches. "It was a real Christian community, even though I didn't realize what it was at the time," she said. Isabel went to boarding school at age 10, and when she finished her education she was absolutely sure of what she did not want to do. "I said I was never, never, never going to be a nurse," she said. "But all of a sudden, I changed my mind." Her mother sent her to St. George's Hospital in London for initial training, after which she chose midwifery and public health on which to focus. She was sent to Walton on Thames in Surrey for training in public health services to the poor of the community. In the town there was a couple with a new baby who had been born at home without any medical intervention whatsoever. The parents had refused to let anyone in their house, least of all anyone official. For whatever reason, it fell to Isabel to visit them as a public health nurse. Nervous and afraid as she approached the house, she prayed for guidance. What she found inside was a desperate couple needing help but afraid authorities would take their 6-month-old child, who had multiple disabilities. Isabel reassured them and gave them the help they needed.

Two years later, looking for adventure, Isabel applied for a new job. That brought her to the International Grenfell Association in St. Anthony, Newfoundland & Labrador. Her arrival was a real foretaste of the adventures to come. She was a passenger in a six-seater plane that skidded sideways down the runway before stopping at the terminal — a Nissen hut. "I was the public health nurse for the whole peninsula area," she said, adding she used snowmobiles, boats and a Jeep to get around.



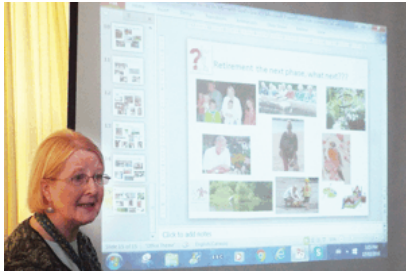
Isabel as a PHN

While in Newfoundland, she met the man she still calls the love of her life, Nathan Cutler. He was a student at Memorial University who eventually became an educational psychologist. They married the day after he graduated with a bachelor's degree. Working in various places in Newfoundland and eventually in New Brunswick, she was blessed with communities that welcomed her and demonstrated their great care of people and faith in God. In New Brunswick in the 1990s, she and Nathan began a business developing software to help special needs children. Isabel worked at both the hospital and the business. Throughout their careers and married lives, both Isabel and Nathan felt great stirrings to investigate further ministry — even the priesthood. Both were accepted by ACPO (Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination) at various points in their lives. Isabel even began studies at Atlantic School of Theology. Neither, however, pursued it, feeling it was not right for them, and have found other ways to serve God. "Parish nursing at the Cathedral has been a blessing for me," she said. "It's the joy of collegiality, not just with the parish nursing team, but with the congregation too. We've had a lot of support and care from a lot of people." (Cont'd. p. 6)



In St. Anthony, NL

## With God's Grace (cont'd)



Finally retired, Isabel devotes herself to her family, including her grandchildren. One recent bonus has been finding her half-sister, whose birth was the result of her father's lapse when Isabel was a teenager. Her sister is German. Not long ago, Isabel typed her sister's name into Facebook, found a woman with that name, sent a private message and got a prompt and positive reply. Her sister was living in Saskatchewan at the time but has since moved to Spain. They have talked on the phone. Isabel ended her reflection with an excerpt from the book, "In Age Reborn" by Sister Thelma Ann SSJD ... "Each of us walks a pathway through life and that pathway is unique. If I do not walk it in a way that makes me a channel of grace, no one ever will. My particular track, traced through my life events, my relationships, my unique mix of gifts and weaknesses... is becoming a channel of God's redeeming love, if I am willing to live through, with and in God.

Submitted by Lilian Ketch with permission from Isabel Cutler

(Note from Editor: This was originally submitted near Lent and lost in a computer crash. I hope you enjoy the message at this time of year as well.)

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### *In Memory*

**Barbara Ann Smith** July 16th, 1935 - November 29th, 2015 Sadly, we lost Barbara after a courageous battle with cancer. Formerly a member of St. John the Baptist Mothers' Union, Cobble Hill, B.C. Barbara joined the St. Peter's Quamichan branch after moving closer to us. Barbara emigrated from England in 1965. Working as a nurse in Victoria, she married Roger and raised a family. Barbara went on to be a Home Support Worker for the elderly, a teacher for special needs children and Hospice Society Volunteer. Her adventurous spirit, community and church commitment, as well as a sense of fun, made her a bright light in our midst. She was deeply loved and is missed by her family, friends and Mothers' Union Sisters.

**Jean Lillian Brockhurst** January 4th, 1939 - February 17th, 2016

After a short but difficult fight with cancer we lost a vibrant and beautiful member of St. Peter's Mothers' Union, Duncan, B.C. Jean and her husband George emigrated from England in 1974 with two sons and a daughter. Jean had so many abilities and talents but most of all she "got things done". Jean sewed robes for the Liturgical Assistants, catered lunches, teas and dinners on the Fellowship Team, volunteered at the Foot Clinic held for the needy, and delivered Meals on Wheels. Jean lead our ACW until its closure. Jean loved her church, celebrating as a member of the choir and serving as Liturgical Assistant. Her strong faith helped her to cope with the challenges the disease brought upon her. Sad as it is for all who loved her we had to let Jean go. She is no longer suffering and is at peace with her Lord.

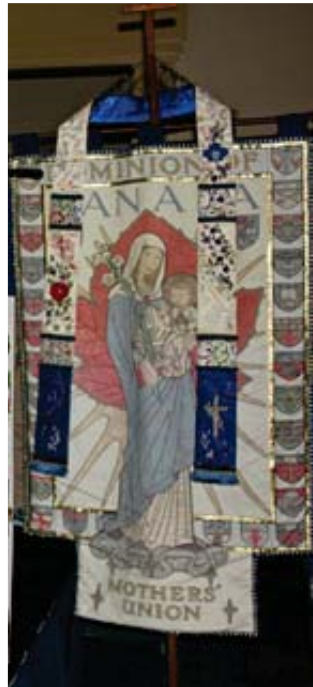
**Lila Cathleen Dobbin-Comeau** Middle Sackville, NS, passed away July 9, 2015. Born in Halifax, she worked at Sears for over 20 years and was a member of the Legion. A member of St. John the Evangelist Mothers' Union, Lila was married to George Comeau for 22 years, and predeceased by her first husband, Thomas Dobbin. She had 2 daughters, a son, and 3 grandchildren, and was a proud mother and grandmother. She enjoyed bowling, singing, square dancing, and caring for her two cats.

**Joan Myrtle Judge** Lower Sackville, NS, passed away peacefully on June 3, 2016 after a year-long battle with cancer. She worked for many years at Bedford Eye Care where she made numerous lasting friendships. Joan was a member of St. John the Evangelist Mothers' Union, and will be remembered for her devotion to her family, always putting them first. Joan's beloved husband of almost 50 years, Jack, as well as her daughter, son and 5 precious grandchildren, will miss her deeply.





# Memories of Conference 2016 Inverary Resort Baddeck, Nova Scotia, June 1 - 5











## *News from the Dioceses*

### Diocese of Montreal:

#### St. Paul's, Montreal

The Mothers' Union branch at St. Paul's, Montreal, celebrated their 35th Anniversary on September 18th, 2016. Below are photos of the branch members and the cake made for the event.



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### Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island:

#### St. James, Halifax

A bumper crop of tomatoes in 2015, made into green tomato chow which goes so well with baked beans, was the inspiration for a baked beans and soup lunch, held at St. James Anglican, Halifax, on January 24, 2016. For many years, the St. James' Mothers' Union held a successful Valentine Tea for a fundraiser. As our members have aged, the Tea is no longer feasible and we had been looking for other fundraisers that were less strenuous physically. The baked beans with chow, and hamburger soup, along with home-made bread and sweets made a hearty lunch on a winter's day, just between storms. Lunch was held right after our second service, and we had excellent attendance, great food and fellowship. And with the work distributed all across our membership, including lunch sales and takeout, we happily raised over \$400.



#### St. John the Baptist, North Sydney

#### Challenge Project Huge Success!

As those who attended Conference 2016 know, the St. John the Baptist branch reported that our "Challenge Project" was not a great success and the branch felt that we had failed at the project we picked for our "challenge project". We were not used to being unsuccessful! (cont'd. p. 11)



(cont'd) During the Summer Breakfast Program offered last year (2015), we did not have the opportunity to serve or feed many children, so we thought about how we could tweak it and offer it again in the summer of 2016. Instead of serving from 9-11 a.m., we decided to change and offer it slightly later from 10 a.m. to noon. Our 2nd change was to offer a continental type breakfast to all ages, not just children – anyone who wished to come and partake was welcomed. Some mornings we did offer pancakes which were a big hit.

This summer we lost count of the people we served, but it was approximately 427. The children that came enjoyed their breakfast & the “cheery smiles” of the volunteers and the adults that came enjoyed the fellowship and conversation as well as their breakfast.

So this year we feel our “challenge project” was a huge success and on the last morning the volunteers were making plans for next year, with regard to what needed to be changed up from this year!

Our “Challenge Project” will continue as long as the Lord provides us with our health and the provisions to do so. We have several volunteers from our parish in addition to our Mothers’ Union branch and we thank them, as well as the generous parishioners who have donated to our program. We thank them all for their generosity. A big thank you also goes to our Mothers’ Union member Phyllis Reno who has co-ordinated the program for both summers.

We hope we are making you proud of us Rev. Debbie – we miss you so much!

## Incoming Canadian Council Members

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chaplain	
Past President	Margaret de Carvalho
President	Alice Kennedy
Vice President	Shara Golden
Corresponding & Recording Secretary	Deanna Morrison
Treasurer	Elaine Robichaud
Historian	Debbie Fice
Link Coordinator	Ruth Corston
Literature & Marketing Coordinator	Ann Leland
Lone Members' Coordinator	Sandra Jorgenson
NCCF Coordinator	Ven Sarah Usher
Conference Coordinator	Lilian Ketch
Representative to the North	Kathleen Snow
Newsletter Editor	Bonnie Greenwood
Newsletter Editor	Susan Colpitts-Judd
Parenting Program	Maxine Simpkin
<b>Diocesan Presidents</b>	
British Columbia	Vacant
Fredericton	Joanne Ham
NS & PEI	
Rupert's Land	Bonnie Main
<b>Diocesan Representatives</b>	
Algoma	Vacant
Ottawa	Cynthia Greer
Toronto	Vacant
New Westminster	Gloria Kenny
Montreal	Verna Dottin
Prairies	Marion Lepinsky
Niagara	Doreen Wakely



St. John the Baptist, North Sydney

Breakfast Program Challenge Project

(Watch for more photos of Challenge Project Conference displays in the next issue!)