

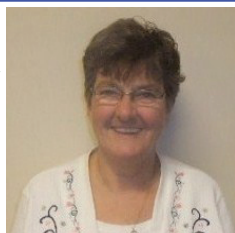
# The CANADIAN MOTHERS' UNION NEWSLETTER

www.themothersunion.org

www.mothersunioncanada.ca

**Volume 5  
Issue 1  
April  
2013**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I write this report snow flakes are blowing around in the air and I am thinking, will spring ever arrive? By the time you receive this Newsletter the weather will have warmed up the soil and our thoughts will be turning to the planting of flowers, shrubs and vegetables. The trees will be forming their new leaves and the birds will be singing. How grateful to nature and the fact that we enjoy the freedom of this great country of Canada

125 years ago, in 1888 at Bishop Cronyn Memorial Church, London, Ontario, Harriet Ann Boomer held the very first meeting of the Mothers' Union in Canada. Let us all celebrate and pray that the Christian based work of the Mothers' Union continues on for many years to come.

May 11th will be an exciting and busy day. The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Mothers' Union Spring Rally and the Canadian Council Installation is to be a joint event, to which you are all invited. This will take place at St. James' Church, Armdale, Halifax beginning at 1 p.m with registration. There will be three short programs, one of which will be a presentation by Kathleen Snow about the North. As a result of what we heard at the past conference, and how Reg Bailey referred to the North as "Our Africa," we felt that we needed to have someone as our contact. A position was then formed on the Council and Kathleen Snow was invited to be the Representative to the North. This she accepted. The Council held meetings on January 19th and March 23rd. Plans for the Biennial Conference to be held in Halifax on November 7th & 8th 2014 are underway, also plans are being made for the 2016 Canadian Mothers' Union Conference to be held in June 2016. Start saving. Due to inflation, costs are likely to be higher than at previous conferences.

I am very honoured to have been asked to be your president for the next four years, and trust that I will be able, with God's help, to fulfill my duties to the best of my ability. I am so very appreciative of the support and help of the members of the Council, some having previously served on the Canadian Council.

God bless you all as you continue to serve and carry on the work that Mary Sumner began.

Margaret de Carvalho

## Make a Mother's Day

*This Mother's Day Help Change a Life*

Mothers' Union works through a grassroots membership of over 4 million people to support families and communities around the world. This Make a Mother's Day campaign really makes a difference in a mother's life.

When you join this support by buying a gift you receive a card telling about it. You can give it for Mother's Day, a birthday or anniversary or as a thank you gift. Some people keep a few cards on hand to use throughout the year. You can also make a donation in memory of a loving mother.

Also, there have been requests for cards that can be given to a family in memory of a friend at the time of a death. It seems like a good idea to make a donation to one of the Mothers' Union programs as a charity of your

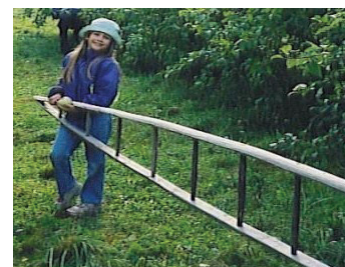
choice, so if you would like to have a card that you can personalize just check the IN MEMORY box on the order form.

For those who have helped support the Literacy and Financial Education Program, here is a comment from a mother who benefitted from it.

*"When I became sick and went to the hospital I couldn't read the prescription. Whenever I received a letter I could not read it. Now I can read and write, I am able to read the Bible. I can do all of this after one year of joining a group. I can also give the right change."* Agnes, Sudan

**You can buy a gift  
any time through the year.**

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# Make a Mother's Day



## Shine a Light

**\$8.00** can buy clean water, food and shelter to save lives.

Mothers' Union's Relief Fund offers emergency support to families who have been affected by natural or man-made disaster. Our members on the ground are able to identify those worst affected within their communities and then help provide life saving provisions.

Now that people have the poultry, they are learning how to improve their methods of all kinds of poultry raising and to build suitable houses. As well as providing food, they are a sustainable form of income.

## Ducks, Chicks and Geese

**\$10.00** Back by popular demand!



## Give Them a Voice

**\$10.00** can help give a voice to those not being heard.

Mothers' Union campaigns tirelessly on issues such as child sexualisation and parenting rights. We work to speak out on issues that affect families and together we can create a better future for everyone.

85% of people in Uganda live in conditions barely adequate to support their life. Our facilitators encourage communities to come together and share the skills they need for a better life. These skills teach them how to keep healthy, work in harmony with the land, promote family life and much more.

## Family Life Potential

**\$15.00** can start a family on a new path



## Offer Guidance and Support

**\$20.00** can increase HIV awareness and reduce stigma.

An estimated 2.7 million people become infected with HIV every year. Education is the only way to stop this growing number but for those already affected we can help make their lives better. Taking the stigma out of HIV and bringing people together to stop the isolation is just the start.

## This campaign is not just for Mother's Day!

There are lots of times through the year to purchase a gift that can change a life. Here are some examples

- \* Birthday, Anniversary, Christmas and Easter gifts, or a gift for your Secret Prayer Friend
- \* What to do when the invitation says "Best wishes only" but you want to give something? This is the perfect gift!
- \* End of the year gift for teachers.
- \* Give a gift in memory of a loved one.
- \* This is also a long-distance gift that won't have high shipping costs!

# Make a Mother's Day

*This Mother's Day Help Change a Life*

## Expand a Mind

**\$22.00** can help bring a family out of poverty.



Mothers' Union's Literacy & Financial Education Program gives people skills and confidence to start their own businesses. Currently running in Sudan, South Sudan, Burundi and Malawi, saving groups are set up so people can save as a community and help each other invest in small businesses such as selling the vegetables they grow.

## Start a Literacy Journey

**\$25.00** can help someone to write their name and read for the first time.



Learning to write your name is an exciting time for most children, imagine the feeling you would get learning to read and write as an adult. Something as simple as reading a prescription can save a life.



## Fly Me to the Moon

**\$60.00** can help our coordinators reach isolated communities.

Over the last year our Community Development Coordinators have travelled all the way to the moon and back five times! They're putting their best foot forward so that they can bring help and training to people who are otherwise isolated. Please help them to keep on moving.

## Welcome a New Life

**\$170.00** can help a mother bring a new life into the world.



In Zambia the maternal mortality rate is very high. As part of Mothers' Union's upcoming work we will be training people in prenatal and post-natal care. Teaching basic midwifery skills to help make the birth of a child the miraculous moment it should be is the expected outcome of this training.

Card order form 2013  Canadian Mothers' Union	P R I C E	Q T Y	C A R D  yes	C A R D  no	I N M E M O R Y	TOTAL
Shine a Light	\$8					
Ducks, Chicks and Geese	\$10					
Give Them a Voice	\$10					
Family Life Potential	\$15					
Offer Guidance and Support	\$20					
Expand a Mind	\$22					
Start a Literacy Journey	\$25					
Help Bring Families Together	\$30					
Fly Me to the Moon	\$60					
Welcome a New Life	\$170					
TOTAL						

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

For an income tax receipt, please make cheques to the Canadian Mothers' Union and send with this completed form to your Diocesan President for forwarding to Ethel Nelson, 8 Pauline Crescent, Dartmouth, NS B2W 2A6



# Financial Statement

THE	CANADIAN	MOTHERS'	UNION	FINANCIAL	ACTIVITIES	YEAR ENDED	DEC.31,2012
Bank Balance	Jan. 1, 2012					\$58,600.45	
Receipts	Bank Interest				\$55.92		
	Literacy Fund				23.76		
	Dues 2012				8,729.50		
	HST / GST Rebate				687.05		
	Northern Clergy Families Fund				16,943.99		
	Travel Fund				1,795.70		
	Extra Newsletters Ordered				140.00		
	Dues 2012 (Mary Sumner House)				1,668.00		
	Lady Day (Mary Sumner House Overseas Development Fund)				1,919.26		
	Marketing and Literature				1,664.46		
	Make A Mothers' Day Campaign				9,060.71		
	Parenting Program				949.17		
	2012 AGM Conference				60,350.05		
	Christmas Card Sales				259.50	\$104,247.07	
Subtotal						\$162,847.52	
Expenses	2012 Conference Travel Assistance				\$3,600.00		
	Bank Service Charges				82.00		
	Postage and Office Supplies				882.25		
	Conference Expenses - President				1,078.09		
	2011 Dues to Mary Sumner House				4,190.99		
	Overseas (Lady Day) Fund to Mary Sumner House				5,885.65		
	Newsletter				4,600.00		
	Travel				1,411.48		
	Parenting Program				1,784.68		
	Promotion and Marketing				460.42		
	2012 AGM Conference				50,289.98		
	Northern Clergy Families				20,900.00		
	Mary Sumner House - Make a Mother's Day Campaign				14,455.92		
	Chaplin's Pin				240.80		
	Parenting Workshop Expenses				1,292.42		
	Arctic fund (includes \$1,500.00 for Suicide Prevention)				1,735.00		
	Literacy Fund - Mary Sumner House				529.25		
	Relief & Development Fund - Mary Sumner House				1242.08		
	Families Worldwide Magazine				122.43		
	Diocesan Representatives Allowance				200.00	\$114,983.44	
Bank Balance	Dec. 31, 2012					\$47,864.08	
Allocation of	Dues held - Mary Sumner House					\$6.01	
Funds	Parenting Program					\$103.09	
	General Operations					33,669.72	
	Make a Mothers' Day Campaign					2,344.56	
	Arctic Fund					221.52	
	General Travel					2,769.96	
	Northern Clergy Families Fund					7,524.48	
	Silent Auction - AGM Conference(Parenting Prog. \$527 & Arctic Fund \$500.33)					1,027.33	
	Overseas (Lady Day) Fund to Mary Sumner House					197.41	
Bank Balance	Dec. 31, 2012					47864.08	
Notes:	1. Number of	members whose dues are paid	up to Dec. 31,	2012 - 658			
	2. Sarah Marshall (NCOFF) Trust Fund of \$4,000.00 is not included in above balance.						
	Term deposit matures August 7, 2013. Interest rate 1.7%						
			Respectfully submitted,				
			<i>Cynthia P Green</i>				

## Chaplain's Message



By the time you receive this issue of the Newsletter, we will be into spring. Spring is a time when we start to look for new growth in our gardens after the resting time of winter. In many parts of our country the crocus and daffodils will be starting to emerge, followed by tulips. The flowers are being resurrected after a period of cold and darkness.

It is also the Easter season in our church year. We have travelled through Lent, we have travelled with Jesus through his arrest and crucifixion. At the Great Vigil of Easter, we as Christians come out of the darkness into the light with the lighting of the Pascal Candle from the new fire. The light of Christ is returned to his church.

In John 20:16 Jesus called Mary's name. Last year I was honored to baptise an infant at the Easter Vigil service. God was calling his name, just as he calls ours when we renew our Baptismal Vows at the same service every year.

We as members of the Mothers' Union respond to God calling our name when we support each other and those around us by our prayers, and as it says, in love and service reach out as God's hands across the world.

Rev. Marilyn Murphy  
Canadian Chaplain



**THIS JOYFUL  
EASTERTIDE!**

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Our **aim** and **purpose** is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of family in its many forms.

Mothers' Union members do this by working towards five **objectives**;

- Promoting and supporting marriage
- Encouraging parents in their role to develop the faith of their children
- Maintaining a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service
- Promoting conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- Helping those whose family life has met with adversity

# Meet the Council



**President,  
Margaret  
de Carvalho**

I believe that I was born with Mothers' Union blood in my veins. In 1943, in England, when my older sister was born, my maternal grandmother, a Mothers' Union member, said to my mother, "Now is your time to become a Mothers' Union member. I will stay home and care for the baby so that you can attend the meetings." 1½ years later I made my appearance. My mother was a devoted member for 55 years. I was enrolled into the Parish of French Village branch in 1991. I have held the positions of Branch Leader, Diocesan President for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and now have the honour of being the Canadian President. I enjoy singing in the Parish choir; have served as warden of my church, on the vestry and the Parish Council. My husband, Carlos and I will be celebrating our 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. We have 1 daughter & 1 grandson. My hobbies include knitting blankets for the less fortunate, I am a chapter leader for Blankets for Canada, camping and traveling.



**VicePresident,  
Janice Jackson**

I joined Mothers' Union when my daughter was three. She is now twenty seven and I am still going strong! I have held various positions in our branch including Enrolling Member, literature secretary and Baptism preparation. Mothers' Union has been and continues to be a very special and important part of my life.



**Recording &  
Corresponding  
Secretary,  
Mary Stone**

I have been secretary for only a short time, but I already feel much closer to members from across the country. I am enjoying receiving the letters and emails and getting a picture of the membership from coast to coast. My experience with Mothers' Union began with my parents. My dad, as the rector of St Mark's Church in Halifax, started a Mothers' Union branch there in 1957. When he retired to our community of Boutiliers Point he urged a few of us on to form a branch in our Parish of French Village. That was in 1985 - twenty six years ago. I started as a young mother and now as a grandmother I still feel MU is as relevant and important in my life now as it was then.

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***The installation of the Canadian Council will take place on May 11, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. after the Diocesan Rally which starts at 1:00. There will be a cold potluck supper after the service.***

***St. James' Church,  
2668 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax***



**Treasurer,  
Dawn Skene**

I have been a member of Mothers' Union for 23 years. I have held the positions of Branch Leader, Branch Treasurer, Diocesan Treasurer and, for the last four years, Canadian Newsletter Editor. I have been married to Dave for 25 years and we have two sons, Paul and Brian.

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**Literature &  
Marketing  
Coordinator,  
Dawn Snyder**

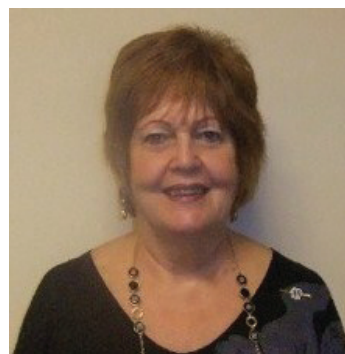
I live in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia and I'm a member of the Saint Francis by the Lakes branch of the Mothers' Union. I am married to Lloyd Snyder, a serving member of the RCAF and we have one teenage son, Johnathon. Besides being a Mothers' Union member, I am active in the Anglican Church Women, a Senior Leader in the Junior Auxiliary program, and the Mothers' Union Baptism Banner Rep. I enjoy volunteer work at our local elementary school and at various church events, and sing in the Saint Francis Senior Choir. I am looking forward to my term as the Canadian Mothers' Union Literature and Marketing Coordinator.



**NCFE Coordinator,  
Linda MacLachlan**

I grew up in Halifax, NS, but moved to Shelburne in 1977 after I got married, as both my husband, Allan, and I found employment there. I am retired after 35 years as a Registered Nurse. I am a member of Christ Church in Shelburne and I am involved in almost every aspect of church life - especially as Branch Leader for Mothers' Union, member of Parish Council and Choir. We have two adult children Janna and Mark, who both live in Ottawa. Mark & his wife Sarah are expecting our first grandchild in July this year. So, there is lots of excitement in our family, as we prepare to welcome the new addition to our family. My daughter worked as an Occupational Therapist in Iqaluit, NU for 4 years and I had opportunity to visit her twice during that time. I have learned a bit about the many challenges that face those who live in the isolated communities of the Canadian North. I look forward to learning more over the next four years in my position as Northern Clergy Families Fund Co-ordinator and would like to seek opportunities to increase awareness of the fund and the valuable role it plays in the lives of northern clergy families.

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**Historian,  
Marilyn Scott**

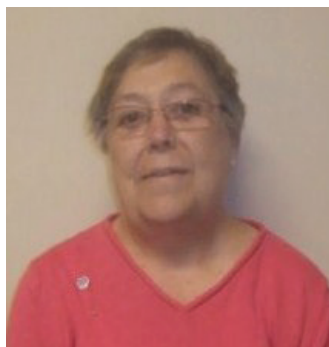




**Lone Members  
Coordinator,  
Sandra Lavers**

I've been a Mothers' Union member for over 35 years and worship at Church of the Holy Spirit in Dartmouth where I am branch secretary/treasurer. I've also been Diocesan Council Secretary as well as Canadian Council Secretary. I enjoy knitting which I do with the European way of holding the needles. I also like to do jigsaw puzzles during the winter, try new recipes, go to hockey games, skate and exercise regularly. I volunteer in the parish food bank, sit on the parish council as a Synod delegate, and am a member of the projects committee. I am looking forward to keeping in touch with the Lone Members, helping to bridge communication between them and the national members. I live in Dartmouth, and I'm married to Eric. We have two adult children, Paul (wife Debbie) and Jennifer (husband Mark), and three grandchildren.

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**Link Coordinator,  
Shirley Leitch**

I have been a member of Mothers' Union since 1965 having joined at St. John's, Fairview. Due to moving around I belonged to a few branches. I also started the branch at St. Francis By The Lakes and All Saints in Bedford. I was branch leader in a number of branches, and now I am the Link Coordinator on the Canadian Council. When this term is up I will likely step down and enjoy my time as my own. I enjoy being a Mothers' Union member, having attended most of the conferences and enjoyed all the fellowship, the programs, etc.

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**Indoor Members'  
Prayer Circle  
Co-ordinator,  
Ethel Nelson**

I have been a member of Mothers' Union for 29 years, married to Gerry for 52 years, have three daughters, Dawn, Elizabeth and Anne, and seven grandchildren. I have served as Canadian President, Diocesan President and Branch Leader and am a member of the Faith and Policy Unit Committee for the Worldwide Mothers' Union. I am pleased to be the coordinator for the Indoor Members' Prayer Circle and hope to make many friends over the next four years.



**Representative  
to the North,  
Kathleen Snow**



## Conference Coordinator, Debbie Strickland

I've been a member for more than 30 years, and have held the position of Enrolling Member at Emmanuel in Spryfield, as well as Branch Leader in North Sydney at St. John the Baptist. Mothers' Union allowed me to grow into these roles, and provided me with the leadership skills and confidence to do it....my best friends are Mothers' Union members. I have 2 sons, Russell & Spencer, a daughter, Katie, son-in-law Gary, and a most precious grandson, Gavin. I'm Priest Assistant at St. John the Baptist in North Sydney.



## Newsletter Editor, Elizabeth Court

I've been a Mothers' Union member at Church of the Holy Spirit in Dartmouth for 16 years. My husband, Steve, and I have been married for 21 years and we have two children, Charlotte (18) and Evan, (16). I've held the positions of co-Branch Leader, Nursery Coordinator, Branch Secretary, and I made the Baptism Banners for a few years. When I'm not working, I enjoy singing/listening to music, cooking, reading, camping, walking, biking, spending time with friends and card-making. I've also enjoyed meeting other Mothers' Union members at rallies and conferences, and look forward to meeting many more.

## Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name.

Amen

### *From the Editor:*

*Finally, you have your newsletter! Like Dawn, I've had to learn how to work with the newsletter software. That could be my biggest challenge, because I know you are all going to provide me with plenty of content for future editions!*

*Thank you to everyone who sent me your Newsletter Shipping Information. There are a few outstanding, so if you haven't sent yours yet, please send it as soon as possible to ensure that your members receive their newsletters.*

*If you prefer to e-mail the information, send it to [secourt@bellaliant.net](mailto:secourt@bellaliant.net) or mail it to me at*

**12 Langley Ave.  
Dartmouth, NS  
B2W 2Y6**

*Please continue to send pictures, stories from your branch, other newsletter items and suggestions. **The deadline for the next newsletter is July 1, 2013.***

*Elizabeth*

# News from the Dioceses

## Mothers' Union alive at Trinity Memorial Church, Montreal, Q C.

Our Mothers' Union members took part in the "Black History Celebrations" at our church on February 17th, 2013, during the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. We were honoured to have Mrs. Penny Noel, representative for the Diocese of Montreal, as our guest speaker. She is also the Chairperson of the Diocesan "Partners in Mission" Committee.

On many occasions she has travelled to Masasi, South Tanzania, and has seen first hand the work of the Mothers' Union members. She reported on their dedication in caring for the poor and the less fortunate. In addition, we were very privileged to view some slides and pictures of the country, and many lifestyles of some people who live there.

Following her visit, we thanked her and asked her to convey our best wishes to the Mothers' Union members of Masasi.



In the picture is (L to R) Canon Joyce Sanchez, our Priest; Penny Noel; Sylvia Braithwaite (Branch Leader Trinity Memorial Branch) and Sheila Layne (Branch Leader of St. Pauls Branch)

Sylvia Braithwaite

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The March meeting of the Diocesan Council of Mothers' Union for the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island entertained several very special guests.

Our guest speaker was the Rev. Paul Mbishi from Kenya, who is studying at the Atlantic School of Theology. He shared with us some of the projects and day-to-day work of the Mothers' Union branches in his diocese. He explained that because of their work, they are the lifeblood of the church.

Our other special guests included the President of the Nova Scotia Board of the Anglican Church Women, Cynthia Pilichos, and several members of the Anglican Church Women Nova Scotia Board.

We hope that this will be the first of many joint meetings with the two groups.



Picture, L to R: Cynthia Pilichos, Debbie Fice (Diocesan President) , Rev. Paul Mbishi, and Margaret de Carvalho (Canadian President)

# Niagara Mothers' Union Fall Retreat, November 2012

## 'Working Together for Justice & Peace, Charity & Advocacy'

Joan Turbitt, a member of Voices for Change-Halton and a participant in the workshop development for the Mothers' Union Fall retreat, shared the goal of moving beyond a charity model of care and exploring how we can seek justice together using the Parable of the Persistent Widow as a starting point for our discussions and reflections.

### **Who is the persistent widow of today?**

Anyone who is rendered impoverished or oppressed by the deliberate and systemic disempowerment manipulated by the Government and corporate elites.

### **Who is the equivalent of the Judge from whom she sought justice?**

Everyone, when it is within their power and indeed when it is their job to make the changes required to prevent conditions of poverty, hunger, homelessness and illness but who choose greed over peoples' needs, or who wilfully maintain their ignorance of the suffering of those around them and do not act.

### **What is possible when those who experience injustice organize to seek justice together?**

We could bring about realistic change if we had enough allies of like mind.

If we wish to make change to end poverty, then we must vote for candidates who pledge to act and not vote for those who cause poverty to continue and maintain the status quo.

To live the life of the widow is to be willing to challenge injustice where ever it exists in our contemporary situation.'

### **The entire workshop is available in electronic form.**

It would suit a branch as a monthly program resource as it divides into 7 separate and related sessions. It was developed for use by both secular and faith based groups. To download the PDF of the workshop, to learn more or to contact Voices for Change Halton go to: [www.voicesforchange.ca](http://www.voicesforchange.ca)

Submitted by Annette Graydon  
Diocesan President  
Niagara Mothers' Union



Pictured L to R:  
Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain, Rev. Sharyn Hall; Voices of Change members Joan Turbitt, Barb Sheehan and Cath Stokes; Niagara Diocesan President Annette Graydon, Voices of Change member Diane Fyfe, and Mothers' Union member Barb Gibson

