

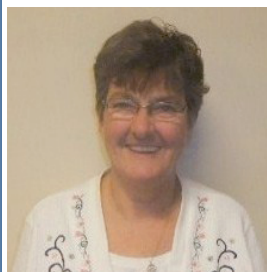


The CANADIAN MOTHERS' UNION NEWSLETTER

www.themothersunion.org

www.mothersunioncanada.ca

**Volume 7
Issue 1
Spring 2015**



Greetings to you all. Easter has passed and Christ has risen, Halleluiah!

I hope that some of you are enjoying spring weather, the bird songs, new leaves on the trees and flowers appearing from their winters rest. Unlike some of you, we are unable to work the gardens and lawns. Although the snow is disappearing from areas that get the sun there is still about a foot of snow on my lawn and the remains of the snow banks on the road sides.

The return of warmer weather brings a renewal of energy and with that the opportunity to catch up on what we have neglected during the dismal winter days. Think and pray about your life in the Mothers' Union. Are you doing your best to carry out the work of the Mothers' Union whilst fulfilling the Five Objects? Is there more that you are able to do? If physically unable, your prayers for those who are able will greatly help.

Again I am going to bring up the subject of the Parenting Program. Oh, not again, you may be thinking. As you are all aware, Celia Dodds and Kathleen Snow generously gave of their time and efforts, not forgetting the expense, to acquire the skills needed to become facilitator trainers here in Canada. They are both very dedicated and are eager to train facilitators. This excellent program cannot move forward and grow unless people come forward to be trained. Remember that although this program was developed by the Mothers' Union a facilitator does not have to be a Mothers' Union member and would not be expected to become a member.

I have just had the pleasure of attending and speaking at the Diocese of Fredericton Spring Rally. A wonderful group of dedicated members. I will be giving a power point presentation about the Mothers' Union Parenting Program at the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Synod to be held at the end of May. (continued on Page 5)

Let your alleluias rise!

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Fabulous ethical gifts from \$8 to \$180

Give a Mother's Day gift that
gives again.

Mums all over the world need your help and support. Each gift represents part of this year's work that Mothers' Union is funding.

We don't simply give handouts.

We empower people by enabling them to develop the skills they need to create a better life for themselves and their families.

This year you may notice that the brochure for the Make a Mother's Day campaign looks much the same as last year. The items will fund the same things as are in the UK brochure, just with different names and pictures. For example, the 'Stand up for Mums' gift is to help end violence against women and girls. That's the same as the 'Make it Stop' gift which we have had in 2014. The others seem to be similar as well.

I realize that sometimes you will want a card that says something other than You've Made a Mother's Day. You can have Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary, Have a Nice Day, Thank You, You're Special or another greeting that you'd like put on your card. Just indicate it on your order. You can give a gift any time of the year - to a friend, a co-worker, a speaker at one of your meetings, to your Secret Prayer Partner. Thanks for supporting the work of the Mothers' Union with these ethical gifts. If you have any questions or to pre-order, feel free to email me at any time. You can order by email and send the cheque to the Canadian Treasurer, Dawn Skene, at 109 Dorothea Drive, Dartmouth, NS B2W 2E7

Thanks,
Ethel Nelson genelson@ns.sympatico.ca

Save for the future



\$180 will enable a family to have the skills they need to overcome poverty

This gift will help us achieve a *huge* target - to bring financial and business education to 20,000 adults we have already made literate. By learning to save, calculate profit and run a business, our learners are taken to the next level.

Shine a Light



\$8 can provide basic emergency supplies at times of need

In times of disaster Mothers' Union members on the ground can quickly identify where help is most needed. We can never predict where or what will be required although often it is basics like food, water and fuel that can save lives.



Awaken

\$28 will give life-changing skills to impoverished communities in DR Congo

In DR Congo, one of the poorest countries of the world, Mothers' Union has begun an ambitious new project. *Awaken* will train facilitators to build the skills of Church-based groups enabling them to tackle education and food poverty simultaneously.

Make it Stop



\$15 will help us speak up for women and girls experiencing violence

We campaign tirelessly on issues like violence against women. We have a voice at the UN Commission on the Status of Women and speak out on issues that affect family life so that together we can create a better future for our communities.



Take them further

\$70 will help our facilitators reach isolated communities

Every year our Community Development Coordinators travel thousands of miles to support communities. They bring help and training to people who are otherwise isolated; improving health, hygiene, income and family relationships. Your gift helps us to keep them moving.

Parenting Course in Canada's North



\$10 will provide supplies for a woman to take a parenting course

Canadian Mothers' Union has a special interest in northern communities and the Inuit people. Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, is a central location and it would be a good place to hold a Parenting Course. This gift will provide supplies for a woman to participate in a course and improve her parenting skills.

Making it count



\$30 will help teach someone to read for the first time

Learning to read your first word is an exciting time for most children. Imagine how you would feel learning to read, write or count as an adult! With your help we'll make 15,000 adults literate and numerate in 2015.

Give Them Wings



\$25 can help women travel to a Parenting course

During part of the year flying is the only way to travel which makes it impossible for people to attend a course without help. Bringing people together for a Parenting Course is expensive. This gift will help with travelling costs enabling women to become part of a group learning how to improve their parenting skills.

**Give a gift anytime -
not just on Mother's Day.
You'll make their day!**

Card order form 2015 Canadian Mothers' Union	P R I C E	Q U A N T I 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					
Parenting Course in Canada's North	\$10					
Make it Stop	\$15					
Community Training	\$20					
Give Them Wings -Travel	\$25					
Speak our Language	\$28					
Make it Count -Literacy	\$30					
Take them Further	\$70					
Save for the Future	\$180					
Total						

Money from the 2 gifts in red go toward work in the North.

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

For an income tax receipt, please make cheques to the Canadian Mothers' Union and send with this completed form to Dawn Skene, 109 Dorothea Drive, Dartmouth, NS B2W 2E7

**By buying these gifts you are making a
difference and helping to change a life.**



We can Do This

\$20 can provide training that will help communities stand on their own two feet

We don't give hand outs. Instead we train our facilitators, who are local to the country, to lead communities to discover and identify the skills and resources they already have that will help them end poverty and build a positive future.

Canadian Mothers' Union Financial Statement			
January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014			
Bank Balance	January 1, 2014		\$52,006.27
Receipts	Dues (592 members)	\$10,884.50	
	Dues for 2015 (52 members)	\$1,090.75	
	Extra newsletters	\$150.00	
	Travel Fund	\$1,097.68	
	NCFF	\$3,220.15	
	Make A Mother's Day – England (MSH)	\$2,500.35	
	Northern Parenting (includes MAMD)	\$1,745.00	
	Parenting Program	\$1,225.00	
	Lady Day, Overseas	\$1,581.60	
	Biennial Conference Registration	\$9,485.00	
	Biennial Silent Auction	\$432.00	
	Donation towards TOT expenses	\$2,000.00	
	Government of Canada – GST/HST rebate	\$136.99	
	Cheques not cashed	\$100.00	
	Donation for Mary Sumner House (MSH)	\$276.13	
	General Donations	\$184.00	
	Vancity correction	\$10.00	
	Interest	\$1.66	
			\$36,120.81
Expenses	Adjustment of dues – Diocese of Niagara	\$35.00	
	President's Travel	\$2,626.97	
	Travel to CC meetings	\$495.00	
	Registration for ACW Conference and PP meeting	\$1,263.03	
	Coordinators' expenses	\$514.18	
	Newsletter printing and postage	\$5,984.57	
	NCFF – Transfer of funds	\$1,900.00	
	Mary Sumner House – Dues \$4074, MAMD \$3591.35		
	Overseas Fund \$1484.60, Donation \$176.13		
	Parenting Training Course (TOT) \$5917	\$15,243.08	
	Biennial expenses	\$13,746.90	
	Diocesan Representatives' allowance	\$200.00	
	2016 Conference Logo design	\$100.00	
	Meeting space honorarium	\$100.00	
	Parenting Program	\$343.39	
	Cheque returned	\$25.00	
	Bank charges	\$11.00	
			\$42,588.12
Bank Balance	December 31, 2014		\$45,538.96
Allocation of Funds	General Acct	\$36,180.92	
	Dues held for MSH	\$588.00	
	Travel Fund	\$1,721.62	
	NCFF	\$1,392.37	
	MAMD	\$339.00	
	MSH	\$100.00	
	Northern Parenting	\$2,420.00	
	Parenting Program	\$1,511.70	
	Overseas Fund	\$347.00	
	Arctic Fund	\$938.35	\$45,538.96
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%.			

(Continued from Page 1)

Most branches will be taking a hiatus over the summer months. Keep up the good work in both your churches and community. Stay in touch with each other and most of all enjoy the bounties that God provides.

*Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to seek for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do your will.*

Amen

(Ignatius of Loyola 1556)

Blessings, Margaret

Chaplain's Message



Officially, according to the calendar, Spring is here. Spring, a time of hope, a time of renewal, a time when after a period of dwelling in the frozen earth, new growth starts to appear. While, to most of us in Eastern Canada, this may seem to be a little hard to believe because of all the snow we have on the ground at the present time, it will happen. We often feel this way during the time of Lent but each year we know that Easter comes with the glory of the resurrection. This is who we are as Christians.

Another sign of life in the church and in Christ is during Baptism. In Paul's letter to the Romans it says *"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."*

Each time we celebrate the rite of Holy Baptism, it gives us hope for the future. Whether it is an infant, a young person or an adult, it is a sign of life, a sign of growth. So the words from the Baptismal service apply to everyone, the newly baptized, the congregation and all Mothers' Union members everywhere that *"we have an inquiring and discerning heart, a spirit to know and love Jesus, and the gift of joy and wonder in all of His works."* This is the message we need to remember not just at the Easter Season or Baptism but the whole of our lives.

The Reverend Marilyn Murphy
Canadian Chaplain



Conference 2016 - Catch the Spirit!

It's mid February as I write this, cold, windy, with lots of snow and ice here in Cape Breton. I know some of you are even worse off than we are, especially NB & PEI.

Just checking in- I am really interested in knowing how your **Challenge Project** is going....have you decided to "take one on"? If you've forgotten about it, or feel unsure, have your Branch Leader re-read the letter that was sent in the Fall, or check back in your previous newsletters. I believe it can be something that will help Mothers' Union to grow as people who can step out and maybe even take a bit of a risk. Our communities have many that need to be fed, clothed and welcomed (as strangers). It can be fairly easy to feed them, clothe them, but we sometimes hesitate a bit more to welcome strangers into our midst. I'd like to share with you scripture that may help.

What good is it, my brothers & sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. And I by my works will show you my faith. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

James 2:14-18

In upcoming newsletters there will be more information about sharing your projects at the Conference. This really excites me, so I hope you are up for the Challenge!

Plans are moving along very nicely for the Conference. In May, Canadian Council will be meeting with your host Branch of St. John the Baptist in Baddeck at the Inverary Resort, to finalize all the details. It's hard to believe that the Registration forms and details will be in the next Newsletter. Keep your eyes open.....it's going to be a fabulous 5 days that you don't want to miss. I know you are encouraging members who haven't attended a National Conference before to do so. It's how you really get the "feel" for Mothers' Union.

Although Cape Breton is a relatively small place, we have lots to show you. So trying to narrow down the tours will be a challenge as well....because we want all of you to enjoy at least one ...we have a few National Parks (Louisburg, Alexander Graham Bell, Gaelic College, Highland Village), hiking to falls, walking tour of Baddeck (which is really quite interesting), the famous Cabot Trail, Whale Watching, and one surprise.....there are many more, something for everyone, and you won't be disappointed.



**The Cape Breton
Highlands and the
Cabot Trail are truly
breathtaking!**



**The Fortress of Louisbourg
on the East Coast of Cape
Breton Island.**



FYI

As you consider making your plans I want to share with you a few things to keep in mind:

Hospital- Baddeck has a hospital... fully functional with 4 Doctors and a Nurse Practitioner on staff, an ER Dept., Lab & X-ray. There is also a Pharmacy in the Village. You will be well looked after if you need to access this facility.

Bring your bathing suits, there is an indoor heated swimming pool.

If you enjoy a Spa, there is one available at the Resort.

Depending on the weather, we can have Campfires at night...so start practicing those Campfire songs.

Transportation will be provided from the airport on your arrival/departure. I will have more information about the flights into Sydney by Air Canada and WestJet.



I think that may be it for now. God's peace as you enjoy the Spring!

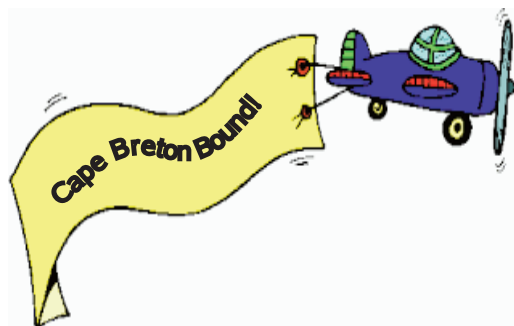
Your Sister in Christ

Debbie
Conference Coordinator, 2016
Catch the Spirit

Plan to attend the National Conference in 2016 in beautiful Cape Breton, Nova Scotia!

The photo above shows part of the Inverary Resort in Baddeck where the Conference will be held. The Coordinator and the rest of the Canadian Council are hard at work planning an exciting and memorable 5 day experience that will invigorate you with the spirit of the Mothers' Union. Come and meet members from across Canada, and the Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey! Be nourished with good food, friendship, workshops, worship, and a day tour!

The Conference will be held from June 1 - 5, 2016, and includes 10 meals, 4 nights' accommodation and all workshops. The prices are:



Single occupancy -- \$750
Double occupancy -- \$499
Triple occupancy -- \$425

The registration form, complete with workshop and day trip options from which you may choose, will be in the next newsletter. We hope you all

Catch the Spirit!



SEVEN REASONS TO PRAY

Even though God knows all of our needs, Scripture stresses the necessity of prayers. Here are seven reasons why we are encouraged to pray regularly.

- ☐ Prayer connects us to God and God's power. Changes take place when we pray. Sometimes the issue is transformed, at other times we are the ones changed. Either way, God's power is at work.
- ☐ Prayer is a way of sharing our burden. Some problems are difficult to share with another human being. The issue may involve deep guilt or shame, making it difficult to confide in a friend. In such cases, prayer can help ease the burden.
- ☐ Prayer puts into words what troubles us. No difficulty can be resolved until it is identified and articulated.
- ☐ Prayer reduces feelings of helplessness. Rather than feeling as though life is out of control, when we pray, we take the first step in reclaiming our lives and putting order into chaos.
- ☐ Prayer is a powerful reminder that we are not alone. Life's troubles often leave us feeling isolated, lonely, and vulnerable. Prayer reminds us that we are not facing difficulty alone.
- ☐ Prayer generates courage. We become strengthened, and more confident as a result of prayer.
- ☐ Prayer provides us with a sense of direction. Rather than merely being tossed about on life's sea, we receive insight, guidance, and direction from prayer.

Did you know...?

The three levels of Mothers' Union in Canada, Branch, Diocesan and Provincial (Canadian) should all have a Travel Fund that enable the Branch Leaders, Diocesan Presidents and Canadian President to travel to various conferences within Canada or internationally, depending on the type of conference. Some branches are able to subsidize other members who wish to attend conferences as well.

So how do we build our Travel Fund? Ideally, each branch will hold a fundraiser within their branch every year. One third of the money raised stays with the branch, one third goes to the Diocesan Travel Fund and one third goes to the Canadian Travel Fund. For those branches in areas without a Diocesan Council, the branch keeps two-thirds. In the year of the National Conference, all of the money stays with the branch. Fundraisers may be held outside the branch too, as long as those supporting it are aware that the money is for your travel fund. We hope to see everyone at the Conference in 2016!

MOTHERS' UNION LONE MEMBERS

I have been the coordinator of the Lone Members for the Canadian Council of Mothers' Union for the past two years. Lone Members are enrolled Mothers' Union members who wish to be connected to the Mothers' Union, but have no branch in their vicinity. Lone Members continue to pay dues through the coordinator; they receive newsletters, mailings, greeting cards, rally and conference information, and are encouraged to attend rallies and the National Biennial Conferences of Mothers' Union.

As of this writing there are 51 Lone Members in Canada. The largest number are in Ontario, with others in every province except Prince Edward Island. We have one Lone Member in Whitehorse, Yukon and one in Georgia, USA.

Recently, due to branches in abeyance or closing, the numbers of Lone Members have increased. If you know of anyone who is a member and does not have a branch to connect with, and wishes to stay connected, please have them contact me.

The Canadian Council has recently agreed to commission an artist to create a Lone Members' Banner for display at conferences and rallies. We will endeavour to maintain close contact with all Mothers' Union members near and far.

Blessings,

Sandra Lavers
108-347 Portland Hills Drive
Dartmouth, NS. B2W 0A7
902-477-8856
sandalavers@bellaliant.net



Blessings Mothers' Union Members during this Easter Season ...

Easter reminds us how God has been good to us. He gave His own son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins. Throughout our daily lives we often overlook some of the important things in life as we become occupied with other things in our daily lives.



The Easter season is a good time for recollection and the perfect time to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ. Easter Sunday brings promise of new hope, new joy and new aspirations. May you always be blessed with love, life and happiness.

This Easter season, I wish you and your loved ones abundance in all things possible and contentment for what you already have in your life. The true meaning of Easter ... Love ... Hope ... Giving. Happy Easter !!

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1-3

Lilian Ketch
Diocesan President
Diocese of Fredericton

Diocesan News

Diocese of New Westminster

The St. James' Vancouver Mothers' Union group hosted a parish Fellowship Lunch on April 26 for which we had to provide the lunch and the program. We planned to use it as a promotion and fundraiser as we were not offering a Strawberry tea this June. We also tried to keep it simple as our numbers are down considerably and we lack able-bodied members.

We purchased lasagna from Costco, garlic bread and vegetables for salad and we each brought a bowl of ready cut-up fruit for dessert. Three generous Women's Guild members also offered squares for dessert. Members supplied home-made cakes for the cake-walk which was the fundraising element. We sold tickets to enter the game, \$5 each or 5 for \$20. We had eight cakes and two lots of cupcakes.

Approximately 50 people came to the event which is average for these functions. While they were finishing lunch, I showed a power point presentation of Global Mothers' Union at Work which I had put together from Reg Bailey's presentations at our 2012 Conference. This seemed to go down very well as many parishioners really didn't know much about our global programs.



Then followed the Cake-walk. A circular plan was laid down on the floor consisting of ten country names along with their flags where Mothers' Union is strong. One of our members played the piano and ten participants walked around the floorplan. When the music stopped you stand on a country and the winning country card was drawn.

Everyone participated enthusiastically and there was great excitement when two of the priests won a cake. We played eight games in all and I tried to involve

everyone by inviting all those who were clergy members, wardens and trustees to play in one round, those under 50 in another and we even had a game for all those who walked with a device – cane, walker or wheelchair. We



We gave the last cake away to a deserving customer. We put out a donation basket for the lunch and people were generous. Altogether we raised \$475 from which we have to deduct expenses around \$60. So we did very well for a lot less time and effort than the Strawberry Tea.

We plan to have our wind-up potluck on our meeting night in May this year and not meet in June as it is not available for some members.

Submitted by Celia Dodds
Branch Secretary



Diocese of Niagara



A service and luncheon were held to celebrate 30 years of Mothers' Union at St. Alban's.

Mothers' Union members from St. Andrew's, St. Matthew's and Epiphany in the Diocese of Niagara joined Sandra Jorgensen and her branch in the celebrations.

Photo, right (L - R): Laurie Kondo, Annette Graydon and Sandra Jorgensen at the Mothers' Union 30th Anniversary Celebration at St. Alban's.



Diocese of Fredericton

April 02, 2015: I was informed this morning that our dear sister, Mama Alice (Moekena) passed away in Africa and went to be with her loving Saviour. It seems fitting that she has gone to join Him during this Easter season. She has been in hospital for the last month but other than that, I'm not certain of many details.

The daily devotional calendar on my desk spoke to me with today's verse ...

We are of such value to God that He came to live among us ... and to guide us home. He will go to any length to seek us, even to being lifted high upon the cross to draw us back to Himself. We can only respond by loving God for His love. Catherine of Siena

Lilian Ketch



Watch for an article about Mama Alice in the next newsletter.