



The CANADIAN MOTHERS' UNION NEWSLETTER

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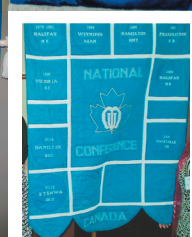
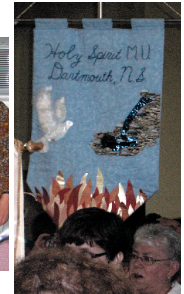
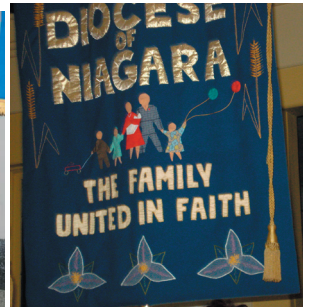
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Volume 4
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2012



CONFERENCE 2012

ABOVE IS A GROUP PHOTO FROM THE CONFERENCE.
BELOW ARE SOME OF THE BANNERS AT THE CONFERENCE.



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President's Message



I don't know about you, but I am still riding high from the National Conference 2012. What an exhilarating and stimulating experience it was to spend time with so many of you in our nation's capital! Our speakers and presenters met all our expectations. Rev. Cynthia Patterson and her team stirred us by their depiction of profound suffering in our northern dioceses and we will be discussing at our Council meetings how we can best respond to that need. Reg Bailey in his customary humorous way enlarged our vision of World Wide Mothers' Union and where it is heading. Sheran Harper with her visual presentation illustrated the spread of the Mothers' Union Parenting Program (now in more than

17 countries), so powerfully that before the end of the conference we acquired an additional participant for the workshop to raise our number to 11. I must express my appreciation for the huge efforts of a large team of members headed by our Conference Coordinator, Katharine Myers, who put on this most successful conference and I hope they are all now enjoying a well-deserved summer break.

I was privileged to attend my second Parenting Facilitators' Workshop under the skillful leadership of Sheran Harper. We started at 1:00 PM on Sunday with Reg Bailey in attendance and worked through till 6:30, when we broke for dinner at the Green Door restaurant near the University. We put Reg in his taxi for the airport at 8:30. The next three days we worked from 9:00 AM until 10:00 PM with breaks for snacks, lunch and dinner, which we ate on the premises, so you can well imagine the intensity of the training. Work entailed creating a biographical collage and presenting it to the group, participating in numerous energizers, ice-breakers and exercises, so valuable when facilitating groups of parents who don't know each other, and sharing our thoughts in groups of two, four or whole group in various situations to do with children and families – case studies, the family life cycle and spiral, the different forms of communication, both verbal and non verbal, and the barriers to communication. We learned the skills for facilitation; how to draw out the shy and control the dominant talkers, how to deal with "storming" in a group by interventions, how to move the discussion forwards while remaining impartial, how to summarize, debrief and evaluate and how to observe a group from the outside. The last day, Wednesday, was devoted to the preparation and presentation of a portion of a parenting group session from the manual. Each facilitator presented to a group of six participants, who were encouraged to act like typical parents, and three observers, who were instructed to look for specific behaviours in the group and responses by the facilitator. Naturally, each individual had to combat nerves, mental blocks, forgetting parts of their presentation or modifying it so as to stick to the rigid 15 minute time frame, but everyone passed with flying colours and was awarded a very classy certificate showing completion of training. The only thing left to do now is to facilitate a parenting course of six to eight weekly sessions in our own community within the next four months. Perhaps by the next newsletter we will have several success stories to tell. My job as coordinator is to keep the momentum going and give encouragement and help.

I close wishing you all a very relaxing and happy summer. May God be with you.

Celia

(The pictures are from the Parenting Facilitators' Workshop.)



Tangle exercise with arms



Trust walk - Sarah Usher and Alice Kennedy



Number squares - group



Balloon bursting exercise



Group picture



Wool exercise - group

Chaplain's Column



Dear Friends,

How wonderful and joyful it is to gather together in unity!

Jesus taught that gathering for a sacred meal, meeting and sharing fellowship, living lives of compassion which demonstrate God's love in the world is our calling. To follow Jesus Christ is to live a new life day by day, wherever we find ourselves, whomever we are with. And through God's grace and amazing generosity, we live, not in our own strength, but in the power and peace of God's Holy Spirit.

"Breathe new life in us" continues to be our heartfelt whisper.

As Mothers' Union members we are invited to put energy and real care into the lives of families. We are invited, and I believe we accept this focus as the heart of our Christian witness to God's Love for the World. Family life, in all its glorious shapes and sizes, is the heart of our human becoming. May we continue to pray for God's new life to be active and alive in our world.

Take time this summer to thank God for your family, and families you know and care for.

Take time this summer to praise God for children and young people whose lives touch yours.

Take time this summer to remember families you know who cry out for God's peace and hope.

Take time this summer to offer yourself as a channel for God's redeeming Love.

Take time this summer to rejoice that God's Spirit brings new life into our world.

May our prayers continue to rise like sweet incense and may God bring blessing in abundance.

Yours in Christ,

Christine



From the Editor

Thank you all so much for your Conference comments and pictures. I have included as much of the information as I could. I hope the type isn't too small!!! I received a lovely fund-raising idea from Celia. There is a small article on the News from the Dioceses page but if you wish to read the whole article please e-mail me and I will send it to you. I also received a few articles from Annette Graydon and two of her friends. Some is included in the conference comments and in Reflections on page 13 but if you wish to read all of the articles please e-mail me.

The deadline for the next issue is November 1, 2012.

Dawn dskene2@gmail.com



Celia, on behalf of the Canadian Mothers' Union, sent congratulations to the Queen on her 60th Anniversary. She received this lovely letter in return. Below is one of the jubilee pins that were on the tables at the conference banquet.



Financial Statement

THE	CANADIAN	MOTHERS'	UNION	FINANCIAL	ACTIVITIES	JANUARY 1 -	MAY. 3, 2012
Bank Balance	Jan. 1, 2012					\$58,600.45	
Receipts	Bank Interest				\$10.70		
	Literacy Fund				23.76		
	Dues 2012				8,550.00		
	HST / GST Rebate				0		
	Northern Clergy Families Fund				1,499.00		
	Travel Fund				669.12		
	Extra Newsletters Ordered				140.00		
	Dues 2012 (Mary Sumner House)				1,638.00		
	Lady Day (Mary Sumner House Overseas Development Fund)				862.70		
	Sale of Pens and Luggage Tags				0		
	Make A Mothers' Day Campaign				5,070.15		
	Parenting Program				749.17		
	2012 AGM Conference				50,575.98		
	Christmas Card Sales				259.50	\$70,048.08	
Subtotal						\$128,648.53	
Expenses	2012 Conference Travel Assistance				\$3,800.00		
	Bank Service Charges				28.25		
	Shipping and Postage				114.52		
	Office Stationary and Supplies				26.87		
	2011 Dues to Mary Sumner House				2,172.10		
	Overseas (Lady Day) Fund to Mary Sumner House				4,259.18		
	Newsletter				1,400.00		
	Travel				64.70		
	Parenting Program				1,078.96		
	Promotion and Marketing				137.00		
	2012 AGM Conference				12,304.26		
	Northern Clergy Families				0		
	Mary Sumner House - Make a Mother's Day Campaign				7,642.26		
	Chaplin's Pin				240.80		
	Parenting Workshop Accommodation Assistance				200.00		
	Arctic Fund				235.00	\$33,703.90	
Bank Balance	May. 3, 2012					\$94,944.63	
Allocation of	funds						
	Literacy Fund					\$529.26	
	Parenting Program					\$608.81	
	General Operations					\$70,114.02	
	Overseas (Lady Day) Fund					767.31	
	Dues Held-Mary Sumner House					1,994.90	
	Arctic Fund					221.52	
	General Travel					2,561.66	
	Northern Clergy Families Fund					12,979.49	
	Make A Mothers Day Campaign					5,167.66	
Bank Balance	May. 3, 2012					\$94,944.63	
Notes:	1. Number of members whose dues are paid up to May. 3, 2012 - 649						
	2. Sarah Marshall (NCFE) 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>						
	Cynthia P Green						

Please note that the Conference bills had not been paid at the time of this statement!

Make a Mother's Day Campaign for the year 2011

Diocese	Amount
Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island	\$5904.00
New Westminster	\$2152.00
British Columbia	\$720.00
Fredericton	\$656.66
Niagara	\$340.00
Ottawa	\$144.15
Toronto	\$45.00
Prairies	\$33.00
Total	\$9994.81



Thank You

To all conference attendees:

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! It was only when Hilary started a weekly prayer-for-the-conference time with 2 or 3 of us gathered together that I started putting things into perspective about the conference. Through those prayer sessions, I developed a confidence that all would be well as the Spirit would be present -- and what more was honestly needed? And what did we get? Thanks to all of you, I thought we got a time when the Spirit was not only present, but palpable!!! I was trying to describe it to others when I got back from Ottawa and I frequently used the expression "we rode the wave" as I did feel there was an underlying force carrying us along. I hope you all had that experience too and that new life was breathed into your spiritual life and your Mothers' Union branches.

When I agreed to organize the conference, I felt it was my duty. I had so enjoyed five previous conferences, I thought it was my time to do the humdrum stuff and let others have the fun time. But, as I have found out time and time again -- those who put the most in, get the most out -- and this was no exception. My prayer for myself before leaving for Ottawa was that I would have patience with those who didn't *immediately* understand what I was trying to communicate; that I would be honest and direct with any participants if an unpleasant situation arose; that I would treat all delegates and workers with respect and integrity. And upon reflection post-conference, I felt I had done quite well at this despite my inherent lack of patience. But more interestingly, I hadn't felt it to be an effort -- it was natural and I hadn't had to "try" to be patient!! Wow. What was that all about? It was that united sisterhood I'm sure. We preach regularly about acceptance of each other as we are -- and that seems to be so much easier when we are gathered together and we're all so alive to the Spirit that we create that wave to ride on.

So now my prayer is that I strive to keep breathing that idea: we are One in the Spirit. And if I'm getting impatient with someone that probably means that I'm out of the One. Great take-home message for me:)

Shalom, Katharine

The following was part of the prayers of the people from the closing service at the conference.

Breathe new life in us, O Holy Creator God.

Infect us with your love, your compassion and your dignity.

We give thanks Lord for the opportunities we have had during this conference to hear about Your love as shown through the worldwide Mothers' Union. Thank you for Reg and Sheran who brought us these stories. Help us to grow our compassion to be more like the 104 year old woman who organized the entire community to help the young prostitutes she could see out her window. Help us to be more like the women who volunteer in a prison with pedophiles. Help us

IMPC

INDOOR--because this is the special activity of the housebound and those who, for whatever reason, are unable to join regularly in the activities of their local branch.

MEMBERS INCLUDE--anyone willing to pray for the work of the Mothers' Union. This is an extra commitment to membership of the Mothers' Union.

PRAYER--unites members at home and overseas in a loving fellowship. Members make a valuable contribution to the life of the Mothers' Union. A prayer diary is sent twice a year.

OUR CIRCLE--of prayer encompasses the world. Diocesan Correspondents keep in touch with members and the overall work is co-ordinated by a National Coordinator.

I keep in touch by sending seasonal greeting cards and the bi-yearly Prayer Diary.

It is the duty of the branch to inform the IMPC (Indoor Members Prayer Circle) Coordinator of any members who wish to join, and those who have died.

Mary Hamilton, National IMPC Coordinator.

to be more like those in the parenting circle who were able to accept the drunkard into their midst thus changing his life and the life of his family.

Jesus, by your Spirit...breathe new life in us

Breathe new life in us, Jesus, Son of God.

May we model your love in the work and ministry of the Mothers' Union, in our Neighbourhood, throughout Canada and across the Globe.

Thank you for the fellowship we have shared with our National Mothers' Union sisters and brothers over the past several days. We give thanks for Celia and her Council who have worked to forward the Mothers' Union in Canada over the past 3 1/2 years and we lift up Margaret and her incoming council and give thanks for their willingness to serve you in this way. We pray for our own Mothers' Union branch -- giving thanks for each member and the gifts and allowable weaknesses that they bring to the group. Help us accept and love each and every member as they are.

Jesus, by your Spirit...breathe new life in us

Make us healers and hope givers as we build your Church.

We pray for our North, for the hopelessness apparent in the suicide rates we heard about from Cynthia. We sense that there may be some supportive role for Mothers' Union to play here and we ask for your help in our discernment of what that role might look like. Give us patience and respect to understand and honour their culture that is so different than our own.

Jesus, by your Spirit...breathe new life in us

Conference Comments

My decision to attend the Conference at the very last minute is one for which I am so grateful. I have attended every conference since my first one in 1973 when the decision was made to continue as the Mothers' Union within Canada, followed by the World Wide 100th anniversary, 1976, London, England, so I have been 'hooked' ever since!!

Conferences are not just for learning but to renew old acquaintances which happened daily – members who remembered me from Branch meetings across Canada, and some I remembered – all with hugs and warmth of memories, and to meet new members, to give us hope for the future.

The theme **'Breathe new life in us'** was so appropriate and all that took place reinforced this need. The presentations from Reg Bailey to revisit the vast outreach of Mothers' Union work and our need to support these ministries. Kathleen spoke of her involvement in the North, with others involved, and they all spoke to our need to see how we could be more active in some particular way. It is the World Wide connection that gives us strength, and in many ways, our reason to continue within Canada where we have struggled for years to be acknowledged in some way. However, it's up to each branch to be strong in their offerings of ministry, and we know this can be a challenge – just to continue as a branch is a challenge. Maybe renewed outreach will give us the momentum and the publicity (!!) to bring on board new and interested members.

The residence was wonderful; I loved the music, the entertainment night with the silent auction (not so silent). While the planning committee were concerned about the cafeteria issue, the meals were so well presented and all went so smoothly. It was fun to dress up for the Banquet and to hear Reg Bailey say he needed a GPS to get around the university – many of us felt the same.

All seemed well planned for our comfort and sent us away with the hope to share that enthusiasm with members at home to 'breathe new life' into all of us. With every blessing, Mary Wilkie

I was so blessed to make new friends- the care & compassion shown to me was so special. The music during worship touched my heart. Thank you for a wonderful time together. Cindy Derksen

Wanted to say how much I enjoyed the conference. It was my first one and it exceeded my expectations. The presentations were all interesting and motivating. Thanks to all for well organized days. I attended everything! Even learned how to make some prayer beads and how to use them! A fun hands on activity! Debbie Gascoigne

Our group from Trinity Memorial Church, Montreal, QC. enjoyed the weekend of our National Conference very much, the business meetings & workshops were very informative, we brought back with us much valuable information to share and work with. Thanks and praise go out to the co-ordinating committee. Sylvia Brathwaite

It was another great conference! I attended the Meditation and Dances for Universal Peace Workshops and both were excellent. I had taken a Mindfulness Course previously, but had never considered meditation as a form of prayer. Jacquie gave us a very good overview of various forms of meditation and we had an opportunity to practice. I really liked one quote from T.S. Eliot: "If we really want to pray we must first learn to listen, for in the silence of the heart God speaks." The session on meditative dances, was an amazing experience. In a little more than an hour a fairly large group of participants, learned several simple songs and circle dances,

allowing us to enjoy the quiet movement and become a part of the larger group. Plus we got some exercise! Blessings, Linda MacLachlan

My experience at the Mothers' Union conference is as follows. Motivation, Organization, Tolerance, Togetherness, Humorous, Harmony, Empathy, Exultation, Recognition, Sophistication. Understanding, New beginnings, Inspiration, Opportunity, Openmind, Nurture.

The Mothers' Union has no limitations in doing God's work.

Louise Jack

Attending the Mother's Union meeting in Ottawa, Ontario, was one of the highlights for me this year. It was very relaxing to not have any official duties for a few days, and to just be able to be. Aside from a few words of greeting, I was able to be a participant.

I did volunteer to sing in the choir, which was a great thing. I learned a few new songs (which I brought back with me), and learned a few new verses to hymns I knew already. For the first time in several years, I attended workshops. At first I was a little disappointed to find that I was in my 3rd choice, Peace Dancing. But after attending the workshop, I knew it was where I was supposed to be. Sometimes God has a better plan, and for me it was this workshop.

Everyone was very welcoming, and made me feel at home. Free time on Saturday was spent with two new friends from British Columbia, shopping and taking the canal tour. I can add two items to my culinary list, coffee at Tim Horton's and splurging on a beaver tail. The tour of the Byward Market also introduced me to a new veggie, fiddlehead, although I didn't get to have a taste.

Although in four more years I don't anticipate being in an official capacity with the Episcopal Church Women, I am keeping Nova Scotia in the back of my mind. I hope that I will be able to come and join all of you again. Thanks for everything.

Marcia Himes, President, Episcopal Church Women

I had a wonderful time at the conference, I enjoyed my workshop so much, I thought it was going to be a boring time but it was not so. Everyone was wonderful, cannot wait till the next time.

Quinda Sobers

Bravo and Kudos to Katharine Myers who did an exceptional job in getting us organized!! Also, thanks to Emma Myers for her help. Our St. Barnabas group wore blue name tags showing we were the ones to come to for help.

Reg Bailey (Chief Executive of Mothers' Union from London, England) spoke at the banquet on Saturday night. The cafeteria was beautifully decorated and a lovely meal was enjoyed by all.

I got to know people quickly and bonded with them until the goodbyes came on Sunday morning. The hymn "We are one in the bond of Love" comes to mind... UNITY!! I enjoyed meeting so many people from across Canada and the U.S.A.!

Breathe New Life In us... Take away our Fear... God truly takes away our fear!

A huge thank you goes to our St. Barnabas Church parish for their financial and prayer support.

Maryanne Butler

A common love and commitment that transcends all borders, races, and language barriers,...one look and one smile says, "hello my sister,...I luv you " Lynda Viau

I have attended the Canadian National Conference twice and both times I have been impressed with the professional way in which the conference was organised, the high level of interaction and participation of the members in the activities, and the fellowship and spirituality which reminded me that Mothers' Union is just the same wherever we go ...

Best Wishes

Sheran Harper Mothers' Union Worldwide Parenting Trainer

For me, highlights of the recent Mothers' Union conference included:

- The worship services were wonderful - including the prayers, the homilies, the singing, the exchange of the peace. Many thanks to Christine and her sidekick husband, Steven!*
- Those who spoke so eloquently and knowledgeably about the problems and experience of the north.*
- Reg Bailey convincing me Mothers' Union CAN make a difference for families around the world*
- The deep fellowship with my Mothers' Union sisters as we moved through the weekend. Thanks for doing this Newsletter! May you be blessed! Carole Judd St Barnabas, Deep River*

Thank you for a really good experience meeting new people and learning about Mothers' Union. It was a real blessing to me.

In Christ, Rev. Sarah Usher, Administrative Officer, Diocese of Yukon

It was a wonderful conference. I was struck by how well everyone worked together to ensure a successful conference. The friendly, caring and joyous atmosphere was quite tangible. Congratulations are due to the entire Ottawa contingent, including St. Mark's Church. Jenny Carter.

I arrived at this Conference from "not a great place in my life". I entered the workshop, "Dances of Universal Peace", and I was "connected in body, soul, spirit". I felt Joy from beginning to end. Thank you, those responsible, for taking the chance on a workshop that was a "bit out there"; it was what I really needed.

Blessings. Gail

'If I could just be a fly on the wall....' We've all said it or thought it many times during the course of our lives. Well, I was that fly on the wall for part of our recent National Conference in Ottawa. As the official roommate of the conference co-ordinator, Katharine Myers, I had a bird's eye view (or fly on the wall) to the inner workings of the organization. With the registrar, Cheryl Rhodes right next door, things were never quiet in our little hallway just beyond the main floor elevators!

Some things you may not have considered about your conference experience: -Over-booking by the university, not one or two rooms, but 20! And only 24 hours notice for Katharine to 'fix' it!

-Storing dozens of suitcases in our rooms for delegates relocated by above over-booking.

-How to convince the university that serving a formal banquet on paper plates and plastic cutlery might not give the right impression?

-All the lovely refreshments provided at the cocktail party on opening night being hand chopped/prepared in our tiny dorm kitchen that day?

-Trays of HOMEMADE cookies baked by Katharine's daughter and indispensable conference gofer, Emma?

-Trying (in vain) to convince breakfast room staff to make LOTS of coffee, it won't be wasted!

-Racing to Costco (again) to re-supply someone for something.....

-Staying up until 2 am transferring files to memory sticks

(Katharine) bought all around Ottawa (Emma)

-Items to side-step in the dorm: flower baskets, cases of wine, cases of glasses, banners, banner poles, banner bags, suitcases, sewing machine, iron (no board), boxes of cookies, boxes of vases, boxes of boxes, empty boxes, computer cords, whose laptop is this, where are my keys, I think housekeeping is afraid of us, when did they last come??

An amazing, fun, energetic, magic time! I wouldn't change a thing! Kudos to Katharine and her team!

Annette Graydon (Fly on the Wall)

I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the Mothers' Union and connect with many members at the Mothers' Union Conference. I had no idea what to expect but from the get-go it was a clear I was surrounded by a wonderful group of caring women. The strong bond the Mothers' Union members share is both admirable and inspiring as it stems from a passion for caring for others.

Crystal McNerney

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,

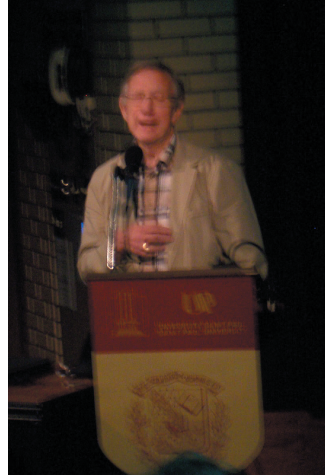
may we be united in prayer and worship,
and in love and service reach out
as your hands across the world.

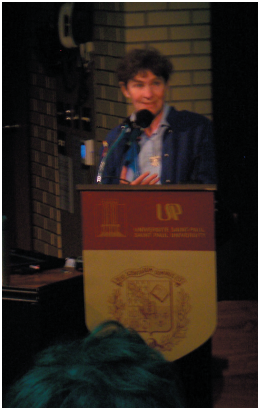
In Jesus' name.

Amen

Conference Pictures









The new council was elected



Enrolling a new member - Marion Saunders



The current and past Canadian Presidents

The Canadian Mothers' Union Banner - A History

My reasons for bringing the motion about the banner to the Conference were two-fold. First, and foremost, is the knowledge that all of the early structure of the Canadian Mothers' Union began in the Diocese of Rupert's Land: the first Diocesan Council (1909); the first Dominion Council (1928); the first Canadian conference (1928); and the issuance of the first Canadian newsletter (1950). My second reason is that the impetus for the planning and order of the banner came during the 11-year term of Mrs. Edith Stanley (1948 - 1958). She was the fifth Canadian President.

Any data I recite herewith has been gleaned from our own Diocesan Archives, as well as from archival material provided to me by a former member of St. Alban's Church in Winnipeg. Sadly, that church was closed a few years ago after 100 years of service. In addition, I also culled a few facts and figures from the 1988 Canadian Centenary book.

Beginning in 1903, there was an exchange of correspondence between Mrs. Mary Sumner, our founder, and Mrs. A. C. Frith of All Saints Church regarding the formation of a Mothers' Union branch in Winnipeg. On Lady Day, March 26, 1905, an enrolment service was held in the church. Mrs. C. C. Chipman, wife of the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, became the Enrolling Member and Mrs. Frith, Secretary-Treasurer. Thirteen members were enrolled. All Saints was the pioneer branch in Western Canada. Here also the first Diocesan Council in Canada was formed in 1909 with Mrs. Chipman as President.

In 1928, Mrs. S. P. Matheson, a member of All Saints Church, became the first Dominion President on the occasion of the first Canadian Conference which was held in Winnipeg that year. Her term of office was from 1928 to 1935. Her husband, Samuel Pritchard Matheson, was Primate of all Canada from 1909 to 1931. Mothers' Union met continuously in All Saints Church from 1905 to 1979. That branch closed after the death of Mrs. Gladys Tinsley, a most formidable leader.

The St. Alban's branch of the Mothers' Union was organized in the early days of 1912. The first meeting was held in the church in February, 1912, attended by 21 persons. By a strange coincidence, our Canadian banner was dedicated almost exactly 40 years later.

Members of the Canadian Mothers' Union were considering the matter of a banner over a period spanning many years. A note listed in a time-line document which highlights the many activities of St. Alban's Mothers' Union membership shows the following entry under year 1938:

"A mass meeting was held in St. Luke's parish hall to meet the then Dominion President, Mrs. Ward-Price. Many members attended. The Dominion banner was being considered and cards were distributed for 10¢ donations to be added to the various slots in the cards towards the cost of the banner. One year later this project was delayed on

account of war."

A new St. Alban's Church was completed in December of 1951 and, no doubt, dedication of the banner was delayed until after completion of the building. From a document entitled *Mothers' Union Banner* written by a former Enrolling Member, I quote a few pertinent facts: (The aforementioned document was neither dated nor signed.)

"His Grace, Archbishop R. L. Sherman, first saw the banner in June, 1951. It was on exhibition as part of the Festival of Britain and was on display in the 14th Century Hall of Lambeth Palace." Canadian members of the Mothers' Union "may be justly proud of their Dominion banner. It has been a source of great interest and admiration in the various parishes in Winnipeg and Ottawa...

It was a proud moment for those members of the Mothers' Union who were privileged to be present when the banner was dedicated, February, 1952, in the new St. Alban's Church, Winnipeg. The service was conducted by Archbishop Sherman... This occasion was the culmination of many years of planning", saving and collecting begun in 1936, and was a source of great joy, a torch held high to the vision especially of the older members of the Dominion Council who have looked forward for so long to the event. "Mrs. E. Stanley, enrolled in 1912 at Ightham, Kent, came to Canada in 1926, and formed a branch at Russell, Manitoba. At St. Alban's, she was Enrolling Member from 1939 to 1953 and then Dominion President from 1948 to 1959. Mrs. Stanley worked very hard to get this banner and St. Alban's members contributed much of the money for it as it is the largest branch. (I am told by Mrs. Mabb, by letter.)"

As a matter of interest, my records indicate that there were 19 Mothers' Union branches in Rupert's Land with a total membership of about 500 persons during the organization's heyday in the years 1930 to 1950 inclusive.

Members present at the 2012 National Conference in Ottawa were aware that the Canadian banner which accompanied President Celia Dodds to this event was not the original one. It was most perspicacious of former president, Kathleen Snow, together with members of the New Brunswick's Canadian Council (2005-2008) to create a new travel banner, and it was this handsome replica banner which was processed during our opening service. From the time of its dedication, in the ensuing 62 years and so long as it exists, the Canadian banner belongs to all Canadian Mothers' Union members. But the years have taken their toll and at the present time the banner is both faded and worn. It has been repaired twice, during Nova Scotia's and New Brunswick's terms of office.

And now we come to the matter of the future of our Canadian banner. After some discussion and debate, followed by a friendly amendment, the vote on the motion was called and was carried by a majority vote. The motion

read:

JENNY CARTER MOVES AND MARION LEPINSKY SECONDS THAT OUR ORIGINAL CANADIAN BANNER BE DISPLAYED IN ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, DIOCESE OF RUPERT'S LAND, FROM WHENCE IT ORIGINATED. THE COST OF PRESERVATION OF THE BANNER WILL BE BORNE BY MOTHERS' UNION MEMBERS OF THAT DIOCESE.

Before submitting my motion to Council I consulted with my Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Donald Phillips, and was granted his permission to place it in St. John's Cathedral should the motion be carried. Cost of restoration or repair of the banner will be considerable and Mothers' Union

members in this diocese will bear this expense.

When at the Mothers' Union World-wide Centenary celebration held in London, June 1976, I was asked by Elspeth Newton to carry our Canadian banner in the procession at the opening service in Westminster Abbey. Of course I was both thrilled and honoured to do so. In retrospect, exactly 36 years later, I have come to an interesting realization. It wasn't about me, nor was it about the banner. It was about what the banner stood for - the members of the Canadian Mothers' Union. May God bless them all!

Jenny Carter

Reflections

Voices for Change and Mothers' Union Niagara

It started with food, feeding, and what that means and does. 'One community should not make a project out of another.'

It's about asking, listening and doing. Not as a 'project' but as living one's life. If you have to plan good works into your life, perhaps some reflection is required. You wouldn't need to plan on loving your family, friends and neighbours. When your perception of family, friends and neighbours extends, naturally, to include humanity in general, the boundaries cease to exist and justice flows.

What started as a simple offering of food from one group to another has resulted in a bond. More than a partnership, these two groups have joined as community which brings with it all the joys and responsibilities of community (family), supporting each other in success and failure, good and bad. There is no specified width of life's path; it is wide enough to allow everyone to journey together, not single file with one ahead and one behind. Not everyone follows the same path, either, and some will sit and rest while others move forward. This is as is should be.

Justice becomes natural, even easy, once perceptions alter. 'If you do it for the least of my children, you do it for me.' What if the translation was 'if you do it WITH the least of my children, you do it WITH me.' Simple, really.

Respectfully submitted, Annette Graydon

One of the pleasures of summer is a good book. On many reading lists is Michael Ondaatje's *The Cat's Table*. I had the chance to read this book earlier this spring and to reflect on a journey that I have been on for the past year with two groups, *Voices for Change Halton* and the *Niagara Mothers' Union*.

The Cat's table on board a ship is the table furthest from the Captain's table, in the worst location in the least privileged place with the most insignificant people placed there. It is at the Cat's Table where the members of *Voices for Change* would expect to be seated.

Voices for Change is a group of people who have come together to act on their belief that poverty is not an inevitable and unalterable feature of our society. They strive for justice in order to build better, stronger and more inclusive communities to the benefit of all.

Voices and the *Niagara Mothers' Union* came together in partnership, pooling their resources, knowledge and skills and in doing so created something that has transformed them both even as they together have changed their slice of the world. Partnerships like that have the capacity to jolt those in power, even within the Church, out of their familiar rut and to help close the gap between justice rhetoric and action in solidarity with those most impacted by injustice.

Colleen Sym, Halton Community Legal Services, Sponsor of *Voices for Change Halton*

Motions from the Conference

As you recall, there were two motions that were discussed at the business meeting at the Conference.

MOTION #1

Jenny Carter moves and Marion Lipinski seconds that if and when our Canadian banner is retired, the banner is to be returned to Rupert's Land, the diocese from whence it originated.

As stated in the article above, there was a friendly amendment to this motion and the amended motion passed.

MOTION #2

That the money that Canadian Council sends to Mary Sumner House each year to assist with the general operation of Mothers' Union be increased from \$3.00 to \$6.00 to be paid out of our \$25.00 dues. Moved by Dawn Skene, seconded by Margaret de Carvalho for the Mothers' Union Diocesan Council of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

This motion also passed.



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

News from the Dioceses

Nine members of St. John the Evangelist Mothers' Union, Sackville, NS attended the National Conference, where we met up with Mothers' Union sisters - old friends and new.

We enjoyed the presentations and events, from Reg Bailey's Keynote Address and the beautiful Banner Parade, learning about the work being done in our Canadian North, workshops on a variety of topics, entertainment, a Silent Auction, a bus tour and a lovely banquet. Lots of talent and lots of good fun!

Thanks to all for organizing the conference, giving us three + full days packed with fellowship, worship, education, music, and the inspiration and opportunity to "Breathe New Life in Us"!

Below from Left to Right: Stella Holmes, Marsha Park, Dianne Cutler, Evelyn Perry, Ruth Gamble, Verona Jones, Jean MacDonald, Debbie Gascoigne and Karen Martin.

Below right: Banner Parade: St John the Evangelist Mothers' Union, Sackville, NS



St Paul's & St Thomas' Thunder Bay has enrolled four new members! On March 18, 2012, Mothering Sunday, we had Kathy Deguns, Linda Smout, Bev Gamble and Sandie Hastie make it official and join our group. We process up behind our banner and sit together as a group and we take part in many areas of the service. At the service 18 of us were in attendance and approx. 14 were not able to be there. Afterwards we served Simnel cookies, it was a recipe found by one of our members and it has become a hit! Lynda Viau



Report from New Westminster Diocese

The Mothers' Union branch at St. James' Church planned and hosted an Edwardian Strawberry Tea on Sunday, June 24, 2012. Plans were set in motion at the February meeting and members were assigned tasks – tickets, sandwiches, strawberry picking, publicity, flowers, and entertainment.

Everyone was encouraged to wear an Edwardian hat or full outfit. We charged \$10 per ticket which included sandwiches, strawberry short cake, whipping cream, tea and coffee. We approached the youth of our parish to be waitresses, waiters and ticket collectors and they were delighted to be used.

On Saturday morning six MU members made sandwiches, set the tables with old fashioned embroidered table cloths, napkins, the best church china, flower arrangements and cream & sugar sets. We had sold about 75 tickets but a few more were bought at the door so we filled 23 small square tables in the Parish Hall. The young people did a marvellous job serving while our members kept everything rolling in the kitchen. We had some musical entertainment while everyone was eating.

The whole event was received enthusiastically and enjoyed by everybody in attendance. We made a profit of approximately \$688, most of which will be donated as our yearly contribution to the Northern Clergy Families Fund.

Submitted by Celia Dodds

On April 21st 2012, St. Cuthbert's Branch of Mothers' Union in Delta, BC turned 30 years old.

There are two members who have been members from the beginning.

We celebrated by having a cake after the 10 am service a day later.

Submitted By: Gloria Kenny, Diocesan Representative



On May 5, 2012, Barb Haché from the branch of St. John's Halifax (Fairview), Nova Scotia received her Master in Divinity from the Atlantic School of Theology. She is congratulated by Branch Leader, Bernice Campbell (right) and Ann Borden (left) Branch Treasurer.

In Memoriam

Ivy Uzzell, a life long member of St. John the Baptist, Cobble Hill, BC has died. She was Treasurer for 20 or 30 years when Win Horton was Branch Leader for as many years.(Win died in 2007)



Ivy Uzzell

Ivy passed away Feb. 26, 2012 at the age of 91. Ivy was born in Darwen, Lancashire, England but, when 3 years old, moved to Ramsey in the Isle of Man.

Ivy met Canadian born, British Airman, Jack Uzzell, in May 1940. She became a War Bride when they married May 6th, 1945. Their first son was born in Ramsey before she came to Canada in 1947 on the Queen Mary. She landed in Halifax and took the train across Canada with her one year old son, John, to Vancouver, where Jack took her on to Duncan, Vancouver Island. They bought a house in Cobble Hill in 1955, where they lived for over 50 years, raising five sons. They had nine grand-daughters (no boys). Then ten great-grand-children with a good mixture of boys and girls.

Ivy had a positive outlook on life. She had a good sense of humour and enjoyed a good joke. She loved swimming.

Ivy and Jack enjoyed extensive travelling, and their church and faith were a big part of their lives.

Ivy attended three Mothers' Union conferences (Halifax, Winnipeg and Victoria) and often spoke about the many friends she had met in Mothers' Union.

We have all lost a dear friend.

Submitted by Jean Gilrairie



Margaret "Bunny"
Robbins

Margaret was born July 18, 1913 in South Devon- now Fredericton, New Brunswick. Her early years were spent skating/log rolling on the Saint John River and waiting for her Dad's arrival at the train station when he finished his "Run" as CNR Conductor. She graduated in 1931 from Edgehill School for Girls in Nova Scotia - that is where she got her nickname "Bunny" as there were 8 "Margarets" in her class so each was given a nickname. After Edgehill, Bunny moved to Montreal to Nursing School at the Montreal General Hospital where she finished second in her class. Then it was wartime when she became a Nursing Sister. Margaret married Ed in 1941 and they settled in Montreal where they had 2 daughters.

Margaret was active in the church and community in Montreal West. Summers were spent on the Noisy River in Dunedin with winter back in the city. After the loss of her husband in 1984, Margaret moved to Creemore-clean air, friends and a welcoming church. Margaret attended St. Luke's Anglican Church in Creemore where she maintained her interest in the Mothers' Union.

Over the years Margaret travelled extensively to England, Israel, Russia, Yugoslavia, Austria to name a few of the overseas destinations. In Canada she visited Baffin Island, the Yukon, Alberta, BC, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. She moved back to Toronto when her health started to decline and lived for almost 10 years at Midland Gardens in Scarborough. She died at the age of 99 on January 31st, 2012 and a memorial service took place on May 19th at St. Luke's Anglican Church. Submitted by Daphne Hinds

St James' Mothers' Union branch in Vancouver is saddened by the death of one of its long time members, Alison Marais. Alison died in hospital after an eight week stay in the Intensive Care Unit of Lion's Gate Hospital following a fall in her bathroom.

Alison was born in Wick, Caithness, Scotland, on March 29, 1931. She trained as a nurse and as a young woman she went to work in Africa, where she met and married Raymond Marais. They lived in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Zambia and Angola and brought up two children, Suzanne and Quinton. After the two children were grown up they left home, Suzanne to Canada and Quinton to Australia, where they each had two children, Ryan, Megan, Jason and Portia. When Alison's marriage fell apart, Suzanne sponsored her in 1987 to come to North Vancouver, where she has lived ever since. She was a regular parishioner at St. Catherine's Church, North Vancouver, Rev. Christine Rowe's parish, where she heard about our Mothers' Union branch.

She joined the branch in 1989 and attended our meetings faithfully until around 2006 when it became difficult for her to come out to evening meetings. She became an IMPC member and continued to pay dues and receive newsletters until her death on February 26, 2012, at the age of 80. Submitted by Celia Dodds

Canadian Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer

	<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
1st to 5th	Diocese of New Westminster St. Cuthbert's Delta, BC	Diocese of British Columbia St. John the Baptist Cobble Hill, BC	Diocese of Fredericton Saint John Carleton Saint John, NB	<i>All Diocesan Representatives</i>
6th to 10th	Diocese of Niagara Church of the Epiphany Oakville, ON	<i>All Diocesan Presidents</i>	Diocese of Niagara St. Matthew on the Plains Burlington, ON	Diocese of Fredericton Saint Anne Fredericton, NB
11th to 15th	<i>All Branch Leaders</i>	<i>Mary Sumner House</i>	<i>Canadian Lone Members' Coordinator Daphne Hinds</i>	Diocese of British Columbia Holy Trinity Sooke, BC
16th to 20th	Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Christ Church Lantz, NS	Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island St. James' Armdale, NS	Diocese of British Columbia St. Peter's Quamichan, BC	Diocese of Fredericton St. Michael & All Angels Minto, NB
21st to 25th	<i>Canadian Newsletter Editor Dawn Skene</i>	Diocese of Montreal St. Paul's Montreal, PQ	Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Parish of French Village Tantallon, NS	Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island St. Francis by the Lakes Lower Sackville, NS
26th to 31st	Diocese of New Westminster St. James' Vancouver, BC	Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Emmanuel Spryfield, NS	<i>All Diocesan Chaplains</i>	Diocese of Rupert's Land St. James the Assiniboine Winnipeg, MB

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