

# Life Member's Newsletter- January 2014



## President Debbie Samson's New Year's Message - January 01, 2014

Greeting...I trust the Advent and Christmas season brought many blessings for you and your families. Hopefully you have arrived at 2014 renewed and recommitted to serve the Lord in whatever manner God is asking of you.

Pope Francis has been calling us to a life of loving and serving our neighbor. Let us find the neighbor who most needs our love and service and commit ourselves to that cause.

This is the time of the year for us to do reports and review the activities and service of the past year, so let us take this opportunity to "pat ourselves on the back" for all we have accomplished in 2013 and thank God for all that was and recommit ourselves to those things that still need to be done in 2014 with God's help. There are always so many directions into which we can focus our time and talents but we will make the right decisions if the focus is as Pope Francis directs us: "For God lives in us and in our hearts. When we spread love and kindness in the world, we touch our own divinity and recognize it." So my challenge to you is to spread as much love and kindness in your world and especially in all your CWL activities so that your divinity shines through all year long.

Many blessing for 2014 to you and your families,

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This is a pin I received for my birthday in November from my son, Peter. He purchased it on EBay from the Netherlands. It is vintage 40's and has a weird closure on the back. The colours are much brighter and clearer on the real thing.

I always appreciate how our families support our love of the League. I don't think he could have given me a more appropriate gift.

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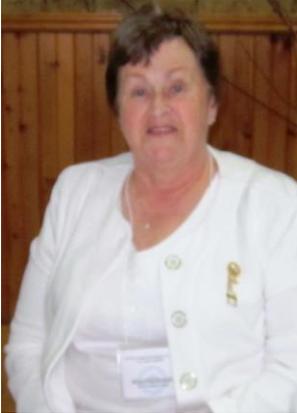
Many of our families have members who are experiencing illnesses and difficult times. May our new born Baby Jesus bring them good health and peace of mind.

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Peace.

Ann Bradbury, LML

## Journey with Life Member - Mary MacDonald



Mary MacDonald received her Life Membership at the June 2010 Nova Scotia Provincial CWL Convention. At the same convention she became the first President to be elected for that position in Nova Scotia. This was due to the death of President, Marian Hepditch-Littlepage who passed away in the middle of her term.

She joined the CWL in 1988 as a member of St. Joseph's Council in Halifax. During her time at St. Joseph's she held various executive positions including four terms as President. When her family moved, she became a member of St. Pius X council for two years before returning to Joseph's CWL. After St. Joseph's Church closed, she transferred her membership to St. Theresa's CWL where she served on a number of executive positions including a term as President.

On the Halifax Diocesan Council Mary served as Recording Secretary, Communications Chair, Education and Health Chair. In 2000 she was appointed to the Nova Scotia Provincial CWL as secretary where she carried out secretarial duties for a further three years in the absence of a secretary along with holding the following Chairs: Education and Health, Legislation; Resolutions and Organization and elected President at the 2010 Provincial Convention.

As Legislation Chair, she was successful in meeting with the Attorney General and Minister of Justice and his staff along with the Provincial President and Resolution Chair to discuss a resolution on outdated and disrespectful language in the *Incompetent Person's Act*. As a result, changes were made to the *Act*.

During her term as Organization Chair she revised the annual reports and provided guidelines to assist in answering questions included in the reports.

With the dissolution of the Halifax and Yarmouth dioceses, she chaired the meeting bringing together the new Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan CWL.

During her term as Provincial President a plaque in honor of the first National President from Nova Scotia, Marguerite M. Burns will be presented to the council or councils hosting the provincial convention was approved. This plaque will be displayed by the hosting council for the year and a keeper plaque will be presented at the following year's convention. Mary feels it is important to remember those women who made it possible to become the great organization we are so fortunate to belong to.

Also, during her term as Provincial President the Nova Scotia Provincial CWL Prize given to a catholic female graduate of the Atlantic School of Theology by the Nova Scotia Provincial Council in recognition of her commitment to her parish and community and chosen by the school, will now be referred to as the "Marian Hepditch-Littlepage Prize" in honor of our President who passed away while in office. The amount was changed from \$100 to \$200.

Marian was a graduate of AST and it is a fitting tribute. She presented a short bio depicting Marian's involvement and her work with CWL to AST and was happy to present this prize on three occasions to worthy recipients.

In the past year Mary worked for several months on our provincial archives and brought our archival material up to date. This material covered more than 35 years. All these records were delivered to the Nova Scotia Public Archives and can be viewed but not removed. We can continue to place our archival material with the Nova Scotia Public Archives.

With the closure of St. Joseph's Church in 2005 Mary is now a member of St. Agnes Church and attends St. Brendan's military chapel on weekends as often as possible. She notes the most difficult time as Provincial President was seeing so many churches across the province close and the loss felt by members but felt she could relate to their feelings having been there. To truly feel someone's pain, you have as the saying goes "walked a mile in their shoes,"