

## Life Member's Newsletter – May 25, 2014

Congratulations to Life Member, Rita May Munro, who will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in June.

+++++

As this is my last Newsletter, I want to thank all of you for your kind comments and support. I am including the stories of Marie O'Malley, a member of my own parish of Blessed Mother Teresa, and of the late Gladys Pineau of New Glasgow.

While researching some of the members, I found four more Life Members that were not on the list I received from National, Gladys Pineau being one of them. Thankfully, through the diligence of Claire MacDonnell, I was able to get some of Gladys story. This has meant all of our deceased members are included in the project.

+++++

### Journey with a Life Member – Gladys Marguerite Pineau

Gladys was a member of St. John the Baptist Parish of New Glasgow, N. S. She served in several capacities including captaining the 5<sup>th</sup> New Glasgow CWL Co-op Girl Guides and Rangers culminating in becoming President of her CWL council.

After serving as treasurer, she became President of the Antigonish Diocesan Council for the years 1955 to 1957

Early in 1956, Bishop MacDonald asked the CWL members to promote the circulation of "The Casket" into catholic homes. Under the chairmanship of Gladys Pineau, committees were formed in all parishes where there was a Council with gratifying results.

One of the convenorships she held on the Provincial Council was Education. She became Provincial President for the years 1958 1960.

**She was presented with Life Membership in 1962 at the Provincial Convention held in Kentville that year.**

In 1962 she was named "Pictou County Woman of the Year" by the Festival of Tartans.

Gladys and her husband Ulric had 6 children, 33 grandchildren and 63 great-grandchildren.

She was educated at Notre Dame Convent (1909), Prince of Wales College (1917), Mt. St. Vincent (1918-1920) and UPEI (1980-85).

Gladys was involved with the Girl Guides for 65 years and a member of the following: Charlottetown Orchestra (violin), Ross memorial Hospital Aux., Founding member/Secretary Pictou Co. Mental Health Assoc., Founding member of Pictou Co. Family Services, Treasurer New Glasgow Hospital Aux., Council of Women, International Reading Assoc., and PEI Council of Girl Guides & Rangers.

Gladys retired to PEI, where in 1987; the Gladys Pineau award in Guiding was established in her name. Because of her untiring volunteering she was the recipient of many other awards.

Gladys died in 1994.

## THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE – COMMITMENT THROUGH LOVE

By Life Member Marie E. O'Malley



**PARISH** – My first commitment to the The Catholic Women's League of Canada began when I joined the League as a member of Saint Joseph's Parish Council, Halifax, in 1958. I was privileged to serve as Recording Secretary of that Council for two years.

When my own parish of Saint Stephen's, Halifax, formed a Parish Council in 1962, I transferred and became a Charter Member. Again, I was privileged to serve as Recording Secretary from 1962-64. Since then I have had continuing service on the Executive of this Council including two terms as President from 1966-68 and again from 1978-80. At the present time, I am Legislation Convener for our Council, now known as Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish Council.

**DIOCESAN** – It was not until 1980 that I felt I could make a commitment to the Halifax Diocesan Council while at the same time be committed to a teaching career and a family of five children. My stewardship on the Diocesan level included the positions of Corresponding Secretary, Vice President with the Spiritual Development Convenership and Diocesan President from 1984-86. At this time, the League had taken on greater meaning for me and I felt a call to continue to serve.

**PROVINCIAL** – I was elected to the office of President-Elect for the term 1986-88 and found the Organization Convenership to be one of challenge. During my term as Provincial President from 1988-90, I considered it a great privilege to attend National Executive Meetings where I met women of many talents and all having such a tremendous love for the League.

Reflecting over the years of League involvement, many projects were undertaken such as convening teas, sales and bridge parties, charring panels, giving workshops, organizing new councils, convening our Council's twenty-fifth Anniversary, acting as nominating and elections chairperson for our Council, visiting other councils who were observing special events and participating in numerous activities on all levels of the League. The opportunity to Co-Chair the 1991 National Convention in Halifax was indeed both challenging and pleasurable. It was a good feeling to be able to reciprocate some of the great hospitality I had experienced at National Conventions over the years.

Certainly the honour of receiving a Life Membership in the League from the Provincial Council in 1990 was an occasion I shall always cherish. Not knowing what was ahead for me in the League, I simply said on that evening "Here I am Lord".

**NATIONAL** – I thoroughly enjoyed my two terms as Secretary-Treasurer on the National level of the League. The opportunity to serve as National First Vice President with the responsibility of Communications was a special time I shall always appreciate.

**OTHER ENDEAVORS** – Graduate, Mount Saint Vincent College

Teacher, Halifax Vocational School and Queen Elizabeth High School

Past President, Mount Saint Vincent Alumnae Association

Past Member, Board of Governors, Mount Saint Vincent University

Past Chairperson, Diocesan Pastoral Council

Alderman, City of Halifax – served two terms (six years)

Deputy Mayor, City of Halifax – one year

Past Member, Board of Directors, World Trade Centre

Past Member, Board of Directors, Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission

Past Chairperson, Northwoodcare, Inc. and Northwood Homecare Ltd.

Past Member, Advisory Board, Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank

Past Executive Member, Board of Directors, The Home of The Guardian Angel

Parish Eucharistic Minister

Married to Gerald (Gerry), mother of Daniel, Thomas, Elizabeth-Ann, Carolyn and Gregory. We are the proud Grandparents to nine and Great-Grandparents to one child.

The League, over fifty years as a member, has a very deep meaning for me—one that is difficult to express in words. It is a way of life, a source of wonderful friends and certainly it has brought me closer to Our Lord and given me the strength to achieve things that I did not believe to be possible. I look forward to a continuation of service to God and Canada.

+++++

There are many names that run through the books of records like the fine gold threads in a tapestry, threads that give and bring into bold relief the magic of its pictures. Many have gone to their eternal reward but in doing so have left us a heritage of rich and good works. Motivated by a deep love of God and compassion and charity for others, they lighted a torch and held it high to illuminate the path for those who were to come after.”

“May we prove ourselves worthy to follow in their steps, carry on the work for which they laid such strong foundations and keep before our hearts and minds, as they ever did, our motto with its sublime significance – FOR GOD AND CANADA” (from “Always Giving” by Pat O’Toole)

+++++

Peace.

*Ann Bradbury, Life Member Liaison*