

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Past President Report
Provincial Convention
Whitecourt, June 2, 2012

Madame President:

History of the CWL certainly has been at the forefront this year. With the Edmonton Diocese celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first CWL council starting in Edmonton, a very comprehensive history has been compiled by the Archives & Display Committee of the 100th Anniversary Committee. That history was shared at the Edmonton Diocesan Convention. The Provincial Archives of Alberta is hosting an exhibit which has been co-produced by the Edmonton Heritage Council and the Edmonton anniversary committee. Please make an effort to see the entire exhibit by visiting the Provincial Archives in Edmonton to better acquaint yourself more deeply with the roots of the CWL.

From the annual reports, the other Dioceses also indicate having worked diligently on their archives and all identified the need to stay current with this work or it easily becomes boxes of items and the cry of “I don’t know where to start” is heard. My recommendation to you is have a subcommittee of various-aged members help with this task at least twice a year. Not only will you have your collection of items and you will receive “gifts” of archive material from members who have dutifully kept articles and photos of events.

For the archives display board I had asked the five diocesan past presidents for a short item on a significant project from their diocese which took place this past year. My request to each past president is to pick one project or event that took place in 2012 and archive the details by December 1.

At the supplies table the last copies of the Elsie Yanik DVD produced last year are available for sale. When the last one is sold the DVD will indeed become history.

As Dorothy filled in as President it was a pleasure to meet with Sheila and Dorothy on several occasions to help in a consultative capacity, which is one of the roles of the past president.

On May 25 I met with one of the archivists at the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton to see the historical material we currently have on file. It led to an opportunity to become more familiar with what is kept, how it is kept and the importance of following certain protocols when retaining history. There are handouts on my display table speaking to the process of archiving. There is also a photo/document storage kit on the table that can be purchased at the Provincial Archives. It contains some of the basics that are required: 10 acid free folders, a 16B pencil, 1 pair gloves, 1 magic rub eraser and the acid free storage box. Since tht visit I have been sorting and filing provincial archive material with a new interest.

Co-chairing the 100 Anniversary Gala in February truly gave me the feeling of history-in-the-making for the entire province – especially when so many members from across the province were in attendance to celebrate our collective service. I have submitted an article on the Gala for consideration for *The Canadian League Magazine*.

Since January I have continued to work on the National Ad Hoc Committee of Leadership Development in developing the program and training that will be kicked off at National Convention.

I have been in collaboration with the Catholic School Board in Edmonton, looking at offering current CWL training material on their website for their students. We are still at the talking stage but it certainly shows that there are opportunities for us to share our CWL initiatives with others.

This concludes my report,

Fran L.

Past President
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council