

NEWSLETTER

NCWC NEWS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Message From the President

Karen Dempsey

This is an extremely pivotal time in history for women in our country. NCWC has advanced the status of women in many important ways over the past 115 years, and a look back in my last column reinforced just how much has been accomplished. *However, this past year has illustrated quite clearly that there is much more work to be done. And just as importantly, we have to be ever vigilant to ensure that what we have accomplished is not "undone."*

One of the best ways to do that is to exercise our hard-won right to vote.

On October 2, 1758, the Nova Scotia House of Assembly met for the first time; it was the first elected assembly of its kind in what later became Canada. The N.S. Legislature has passed the Democracy 250 Act to "commemorate and celebrate" 250 years of parliamentary democracy in this country, and it has established a "body corporate" to manage the commemoration of this major milestone. The organizing committee is being co-chaired by two former premiers, the Honorable Dr. John Hamm and the Honorable Russell MacLellan, QC, who have developed a comprehensive program of events, legacy projects, and activities to take place throughout 2008. The Democracy 250 website states that:

"As the birthplace of parliamentary democracy, as well as the birthplace of freedom of the press and responsible government in our country, Nova Scotia's pioneering role in shaping our nation's democratic institutions has helped secure the rights and freedoms Canadians today embrace."

I recently attended a dinner at which Dr. John Hamm, co-chair of Democracy 250, spoke to the issue of democracy and freedom. One of the questions that Dr. Hamm's speech raised was: Do people in this country really value democracy? Do they really understand what democracy means to their lives? One of the best ways to evaluate and *VALUE* what we have and enjoy in this country is to visit or hear first hand about a country which does not have these freedoms.



Karen Dempsey

Most of us truly have no idea what it would be like to not live in a *FREE* society unless we have been exposed to one.

Dr. Hamm stated that fewer and fewer people these days are exercising their right to vote. One constantly hears about voter turnout on election night – sometimes getting 44% of the electorate out is touted as a great success. Often it is less, and many of those not voting are those under 25 years of age. So we have to ask ourselves why. Dr. Hamm said that this age group is certainly very vocal as evidenced by their participation on blogs, Facebook, YouTube, etc. So he asked the question, are young people aware of the process – of their history as a democratic nation.

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Currently, Nova Scotia is only one of four provinces that makes it mandatory to have taken at least one Canadian history course in order to graduate high school.

Are young people aware of the sacrifices made by whole generations who fought in WWII and WWI so that we may enjoy the freedoms we do today.

The Democracy 250 organization will be holding celebrations and activities all this year to mark the 250th anniversary of parliamentary democracy. Perhaps more importantly, they also state: *"Beyond the celebrations, however, is the need to generate a robust discussion about democracy and all its warts, in the hope of discovering ways to make it more relevant to Canadians. To that end, we invite parents, politicians, community, religious and business leaders from across Canada to learn more about why so many young Canadians chose not to vote by reading the Canadian Policy Research Network's Lost in Translation: (Mis)Understanding Youth engagement www.cprn.org. We also invite you to visit the Democracy 250 website www.democracy250.ca to learn more about an important part of Canada's history and why it is so important we honour our veterans' memories by participating in the democratic process."*

As members of the National Council of Women, we know that women are and always have been their own best agents of change. The best ways to advance the changes we want in our country are to:

- 1) Run for elected office.
- 2) Encourage women in your community to run for office.
- 3) Vote for those who will enact the changes you want.
- 4) Vote and encourage everyone to vote.
- 5) Host election forums where candidates for different parties can come and answer your questions.
- 6) Ask the hard questions of those who want your vote.

NCWC's 115th Annual General Meeting will be held from May 30th to June 1st inclusive in Ottawa.

Registration packages have been sent out and the information is also on the website. I would like to encourage all Councils and our NOS's to send at least one representative.

If you can't attend the whole meeting, come for at least a day.

Participating in the process by which our resolutions become policy is an education in itself.

A wonderful reception at the Senate hosted by Senator Lucie Pepin will take place on the evening of May 30th, and on Saturday evening we will be hosted at a dinner by the Ottawa Council of Women. In addition to the Development Organization luncheon on Saturday, the Education Fund will be holding a Luncheon on Friday with a guest speaker addressing our Green Energy/water theme.

I have heard members say that it is only after they have attended an Annual General Meeting do they truly realize the scope of our national organization and the power we have to advocate for the changes we want.

I look forward to seeing you in May in Ottawa.

From Your Editor

by Elizabeth Hutchinson

Greetings to all members and friends of NCWC, and many thanks to all those who have sent in articles and suggestions for our Newsletter. It is always interesting to hear what is going on in different parts of the country – please continue to keep us informed. This issue is rather later than we had hoped, for which we apologize, but it is somewhat fuller than previous issues so I hope the extra articles will make up for the delay!

Those of you who were in Regina last summer will remember we discussed the importance of not losing our history - here we have several articles to help us remember our past and to celebrate some notable women who are fortunately very much still with us. I was very pleased with the number of articles on a variety of topics which came in from LCWs, PCWs, and Federates, as well as from the Board and Conveners – keep up the good work!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM in Ottawa at the end of May.

Please remember to send in your news for the next issue by September 1, 2008 – we look forward to hearing from you.

Letter from the President

March 22, 2008

Mr. Lyndon Murdock, Acting Director

Firearms and Operational Policing Policy Division

Policing, Law Enforcement and Interoperability Branch

269, Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, ON K1A 0P8

Dear Mr. Murdock:

Re: Canada Gazette, Part 1, Vol. 42, no. 9 – March 1, 2008

It has come to the attention of the National Council of Women of Canada that the Conservative government has filed, in the Parliamentary Gazette, their intention to renew the amnesty for failure to renew licences or to register rifles and shotguns for one year.

The National Council of Women of Canada is strongly in favour of gun control and any amnesty such as that currently in effect and being proposed for an additional year is just another step toward eliminating the requirement to register rifles and shotguns and the renewal process for licences. The Conservative government, by first introducing amnesty in 2006, has seemingly found an effective way to accomplish their aims by continually renewing this amnesty.

We, along with the police, believe that the gun registry is an important tool to prevent crime and to support criminal investigations, in addition to getting guns away from those who should not have them. It is equally important to have licences renewed to ensure that the data in the Registry is as up to date as possible. An amnesty encourages people not to renew their licences which puts the integrity of the data on file at risk.

We believe that the existing controls over rifles and shotguns have contributed to public safety. Compliance with the law has been estimated at over 90% (2 million gun owners, 7 million guns are in the system.) Since 1995, 333 fewer Canadians die annually from gunshots. Homicides with firearms are down, suicides with firearms are down, and domestic violence with firearms has gone down drastically (although murders by other means have not.)

The Coalition for Gun Control shows that the current system works, stating that 9000 licences were revoked from potentially dangerous persons.

Those who support the Gun Control Registry include the Canadian Association of Police Chiefs, the Canadian Police Association, the Centre for Suicide Prevention, the Canadian Paediatric Society, the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, and more than 40 women's organizations.

The National Council of Women of Canada firmly believes that all firearms should be strictly controlled. Unrestricted rifles and shotguns are most often used in domestic violence, suicide, and police killings. They include the powerful semi-automatics such as that used at the École Polytechnique and the "elephant gun" used to kill Constable Gignac in Laval. These guns are also frequently found in caches recovered from gangs and organized crime.

We believe that the licence renewal process is essential to allow for re-screening on a regular basis of risk factors for violence and suicide that are NOT currently in police databases reducing the chances that dangerous persons will obtain access to guns. The amnesty is being used to circumvent parliamentary process. It is leading to deterioration of the data currently available to police in the registry.

We, the National Council of Women of Canada, call for the Government of Canada not to renew this amnesty and to call for all Canadian gun owners to achieve compliance with the Gun Control Laws and Gun Control Registry.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect or represent the views of the National Council of Women of Canada, its members or federates.

Editor Elizabeth Hutchinson

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Publisher and Printer Bonanza Printing & Copying Centre Inc.

Articles may be emailed to the Editor at editor@ncwc.ca

**Deadline for submission for next issue:
September 1, 2008**

Women In Action: Gender Equality and Taxation Primer

By VP Economics, Muriel Smith

The **family, the marketplace and the community** all affect the economic security of women. They do so in both formal and informal ways.

Family Law affects the rights and responsibilities of women in formal ways – spousal support and child custody after separation or divorce, pension and inheritance rights – and in informal ways – power relationships between spouses, culturally influenced roles and customs, particularly relating to care-giving and housework.

The **marketplace** has its formal rules relating to access to job training, type of employment and benefits, and informal practices reflected in job segregation and role hierarchy.

The **community** offers formal entitlements in the form of health care, education and other social services. It also has informal practices that fail to recognize situational differences relating to gender, or that practice outright discrimination based on irrelevant factors.

Taxation policies cut across all three areas and, like household budgets, have different economic security impacts on men and women, and on different groups of women. These policies stem from choices rooted, consciously or unconsciously, in assumptions about constitutional frameworks, what goals a good society should have, appropriate roles for women, and the role of the state. These assumptions may enhance the economic security and autonomy of women or diminish it.

Historically, taxation has not been a major preoccupation of women or men:

Women are profoundly affected by tax policies and the expenditure policies which flow from them. It is time for women and men to become more conversant with the gender dimension of tax policy. Because for so many, taxation is an incomprehensible jumble, a **“Primer on Taxation”** may help to inform individual opinion based on personal values.

Each choice may target goals that are:

Economic

Grow the economy, promote global competitiveness - fund R&D, promote or inhibit trade/ investment ; encourage personal savings: insufficient to ensure all benefit from prosperity; *tax shelters for*

RRSPs, RESPs and employment insurance benefit higher/middle income people more than lower income and non-tax-paying people where more women are found; men earn more, save more and are more likely to have private pensions.

Social

Initiate, expand or weaken programs and tax supports (credits or deductions) to meet health, education, social security, social wellbeing, special needs: *universal social programs are of particular value to women because of their care-giving roles; tax credits redistribute wealth, tax deductions favour the wealthier; public income supports (OAS, GIS) provide a safety net for neediest; CPP helps but depends on income earned and therefore favours higher earners, more of whom are men.*

Ecological

Fund environmental programs and/or tax supports (credits or deductions) for quality enhancement or threat mitigation; *women generally favour these, particularly because of concerns for reproductive health.*

Global

Support, maintain or weaken defence, AID (0.7% GDP), multilateral institutions: *women generally prefer peaceful development and multilateral solutions to military ones.*

Federal-Provincial Tax Sharing may:

Increase/decrease Horizontal Equity:

Social transfers to support social programs, enable all jurisdictions to deliver comparable levels of service: *increasing transfers and equalization grants and varying provincial amounts based on revenue capacity of provinces rather than per capita formula helps lower income women more.*

Increase/decrease Vertical Equity:

progressive taxation that redistributes income, setting enforceable standards for transfers benefits women more, particularly the most needy.

Taxes may generate a surplus:

Enables debt reduction, new programs, tax cuts, or a mix – *new or enriched social programs benefit more women than tax cuts; debt reduction can reduce long-term interest charges if not done at expense of needed programs, too rapidly or excessively – debt ratio of 25% to GDP is manageable through future growth and represents investment in people.*

Deficit

Can stabilize economy when growth is slow/negative, increase interest repayment costs; expenditures may be in econ., soc., ecol., glob., programmatic or fed.-prov. Transfers: *using the power*

of the state to stabilize finances of citizens is of particular immediate benefit to more women with lower earnings of whom many lack savings cushions.

Balanced Budget

/ Status quo, with limited additional spending when economy grows, cuts during slowdowns: *most vulnerable people including many women get no relief for real hardship.*

Taxes may be perceived as:

too high

State role should be reduced – overall ratio of public expenditure to GDP and of debt to GDP to be reduced – *most women tend to lose because they need state programs more; public goods and services may be starved.*

too low

State role should be increased – additional taxes levied to cover new or expanded programs – *as total wealth grows more is needed for public goods and services like affordable housing, public transport, culture, community assets, environmental health.*

just right

Status quo is OK; tax loads keep pace with growth of economy and state revenues – *reduces state power to change structural inequality so gender wealth and power imbalances remain.*

Taxes may be:

Progressive

Redistribute wealth generated by market through new or expanded social universal or targeted programs to meet unmet needs, sliding scale of tax rates set to result in a narrowing of the gap between upper and lower incomes: *lower taxes for lower income, higher for upper income, refundable tax credits/benefits e.g. for childcare, other care-giving, worker income tax benefits that are payable to lowest income people who do not pay tax; many women benefit more.*

Regressive

Reinforce market tendency to enlarge rich-poor gap, sliding scale of tax rates set to result in expanding of rich-poor gap: *income splitting benefits two person single middle and upper income earning families the most, hurts single parents and single earners most.*

Neutral

Maintain status quo to ensure after-tax income gap is unchanged: *neither relief for low income earners nor benefit to high income earners.*

Taxes may:

Promote gender equality

Vary tax regimes to take into account the different situations of

women and men, and of different groups of women, so the end results narrow the gender income gap although the treatment of individuals may vary – *the total effect of all the tax changes narrows the gender gap.*

Reduce gender equality

Continue tax regimes that affect women and men differently, resulting in widening the gaps rather than narrowing them; delivering programs and tax regimes that do not take into account prevailing power inequalities (decision making, access to funds) within households – *taken in total, current tax regimes widen the gender income gap; individual changes may appear to benefit the lower income partner more, but may be cancelled out by other larger changes that widen the gap.*

Maintain current gender relationships

Do nothing to remedy current inequities within households between men and women – *tax credits aimed at households rarely take into account power imbalances unless credits are paid directly to lower income partner, usually the woman.*

Tax policies most likely to benefit women's equality and economic security:

1. Goals that balance economic, social, ecological and global.
2. Fed.-prov. revenue sharing that improves equitable services within provinces regardless of tax capacity rather than rigid adherence to jurisdictional responsibilities set in 1867.
3. Choice between surplus, deficit and balanced budgets should be based on state of economy, redirecting surplus funds to unmet needs and a 'rainy day fund' during prosperity, stabilizing citizen incomes in recession, balancing budgets when there is neither "boom" nor "bust".
4. Higher taxes, if spent on needed goods and services, can benefit women more, but must be kept in check so health of the economy is sustainable.
5. Progressive taxes benefit more women.
6. An active state that balances social, economic, environmental and international interests and that produces, in general, greater equality, and in particular, greater gender equality benefits women more.

The current Government has:

Introduced few Bills
Reduced debt and taxes extensively
Increased transfer payments but has based them on more regressive formula
Avoided introducing national social programs and standards
Cut progressive programs (Court Challenges, funding for research and advocacy)
Reduced commitments to Aboriginal Peoples
Diluted ecological initiatives
Increased spending on Defence
Done little to meet the Aid target of 0.7% GDP

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Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 2008

By Mary Scott, Vice-president Legislation

What an amazing opportunity for me to attend the 52nd meeting of the CSW, held in New York at the United Nations between February 25th to March 7th 2008. I will try and give you some of the highlights here, and will have a full report posted on the web site soon.

First of all, it was a lot of work – reading, collaborating, meeting with others, listening, learning and sharing, for at least 10 hours a day. At the end of the day, you were exhausted! Secondly, learning how to navigate the UN system was sometimes a challenge – even the language is new and certainly it is spatially very large. Thirdly, one can't help but be impressed with the women from all parts of the globe who come together to urge the governments of the world to make changes to support their lives. They come with stories to share, research results from global projects, and a passion that can and does influence the decision makers. Words aren't good enough – Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) want action. There were 2,000 NGOs attending, and 145 countries represented with official delegations. Many UN agencies were there including UNIFEM, UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, ILO as well as leading world experts on the various topics discussed during the meeting.

NCWC has ECOSOC status, and can therefore register individuals to attend the CSW meetings. We were well represented this year – Muriel Smith, Rashmi Bhat, Rosemary Mallory, and 3 Law students from McGill University joined me and attended many of the sessions, even if there only for a few days. We met several from other National Councils, and ICW. FAFIA (Feminist Alliance for International Action) had delegates and sponsored a listserv which was useful to all of us, including some who remained in Canada. We heard about the federal budget for example, which was announced while we were away, through the listserv. There is an official Canadian Delegation, who work with other official delegations to come up with final resolutions and a document called the "agreed conclusions". The Canadian Delegation has historically held daily briefings for the NGOs and this year was no different. Clare Beckton, Coordinator for Status of Women Canada, was the Head of the Canadian Delegation, joined by Gail Bradshaw, Director General, Policy, as the Alternate Head of Delegation. There were two NGO representatives on the official delegation, Kate McInturff, Coordinator, Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group, and Mirland Demers, from l'Action des Femmes handicapées. The role of the NGO reps on the Official Delegation is important as they have the inside scoop as to what the actual discussions are on certain key points that may or may not be included in the outcome documents.

The priority theme this year for the CSW was Financing For Gender Equality And The Empowerment Of Women. The emerging issue was Gender Perspectives on Climate Change. The review theme was Women's Equal Participation In Conflict Prevention,

Management And Conflict Resolution And In Post-Conflict Peacebuilding. There were workshops and interactive panels on these three topics, plus many more. The Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, came twice – once to announce the Launch of the Secretary-General's Campaign to End Violence Against Women, and the other to speak at a special open meeting for International Women's Day on Investing in Women and Girls.

Much of the information on the CSW meetings, 2008 is available on the web. If you look at the Bits and Bytes column in this issue, you can find sources for the presentations and supporting documentation. If you want to see some pictures of all of us in action, go to <http://tinyurl.com/34ze2m> <http://tinyurl.com/34ze2m>.

One topic that was discussed, formally and informally, and that many of the NGOs lobbied for, was speeding up the UN Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR). This relates back to the report from the High Level Panel on System-wide Coherence, November 9, 2006, which made recommendations to strengthen the Gender Equality Architecture. Canada had a representative on that panel, and seems supportive. The intent is to raise the profile of women throughout the UN, by having a consolidation of the various agencies (UNIFEM, INSTRAW, DAW etc), led by an Under Secretary General, and increasing resources for the new entity. This did seem to reach the final version of the agreed conclusions, but will need to be approved by the General Assembly.

By the way, next year's theme is "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS."

Women in Action Continued from page 5

Action:

Individuals can :

Determine their preferences among the choices
Assess current tax regimes and tax changes as to their effectiveness in promoting gender equality, and make their opinion known to their MP – by letter, fax, email or, better yet, a visit to the constituency office to talk about taxes and gender equality.

Groups can:

Hold educational forums
Encourage Club discussion about taxes, and where there is consensus, write, email, fax or visit their local MPs, or, better yet, invite them to speak at a group event.

National Organizations can:

Present Budget Proposal Briefs to the Minister of Finance
After they have been tabled in the House, critique Budgets through the media, by letters to, and meetings with, the Minister of Finance.

'Eau Canada' : The Future of Canada's Water,

Edited by Karen Bakker

Book Report by Gracia Janes, VP Environment

Despite its weighty index, listing a broad range of water issues, written in essay form by experts in multiple disciplines, the title 'Eau Canada', reflects what one finds out over the days spent reading - that this is a book that one can hardly put down! It is a must read for those who care about the "Future of Canada's Water" and want the ammunition to raise the alarm bells. It is also a very good tool for educators and others who care about this vital life element and wish to make a difference.

From the 'get go', editor Karen Bakker's foreword compels the reader to dig right into the water issue, as she emphatically states ***"Canadian's relationship with water is rife with contradictions. We are fiercely protective of our water, yet hugely wasteful with it, using more water per capita than any nation in the world, except the United States (Boyd 2001). Images of pristine water are Canadian icons, yet we are one of the very few developed countries not to have legally enforceable water quality standards. Canadians are highly resistant to the notion of exporting water, yet Canada is one of the largest diverters of water in the world for hydro power (Day and Quinn 1992)"***

In her brief but cogent and powerful introduction to 'Eau Canada', Bakker not only invites readers to investigate the "contradictions" of our attitudes about water, but challenges them to be open to changing their opinions, under the weight of the carefully researched and clearly presented arguments of the book's 24 essay authors. In turn, these experts clearly and succinctly attack, illuminate, and suggest solutions to a variety of water problems in five broad categories i.e.

1. MUDDY WATERS: HOW WELL ARE WE GOVERNING CANADA'S WATERS?
2. WHOSE WATER? - JURISDICTIONAL FRAGMENTATION AND TRANS-BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT.
3. BLUE GOLD: PRIVATIZATION, WATER RIGHTS, AND WATER MARKETS
4. WATER WISE: PATHWAYS TO BETTER WATER MANAGEMENT
5. WATER WORLD-VIEWS: POLITICS, CULTURE AND ETHICS

Within each of these sections, there are from three to four essays, with equally catchy titles, that raise the issue/problem and engage the reader. To give only a few titles here would do an injustice to the rest, so a list is a must (along with the authors) as follows:

- Great Wet North? Canada's Myth of Water Abundance. John B. Sprague
- On Guard for Thee? Water (Ab)uses and Management in Canada. Dan Shrubsole, Diane Draper
- Out of Sight, Out of Mind? Taking Canada's Groundwater

- for Granted. Linda Nowlan
- Challenging the Status Quo: The Evolution of Water Governance in Canada. Rob Deloe, Reid Kreutwser
- Is Canada's Water Safe?- a Photo Essay (a variety of photographers and Sources, interspersed with cartoons)
- Whose Water? Canadian Water Management and the Challenges of Jurisdictional Fragmentation. Owen Saunders and Michael M. Wang
- Drawers of Water: Water Diversions in Canada and Beyond. Frederic Lasserre
- Thirsty Neighbors: A Century of Canada-US Transboundary Water Governance. Ralph Pentland, Adele Hurley
- Commons or Commodity? The Debate Over Private Sector Involvement in Water Supply. Karen Bakker
- Liquid gold: Water Markets in Canada. Theodore M. Horbulyk
- Trading our Common Heritage? The Debate over Water Rights Transfers in Canada. Randy Christensen, Anastasia Lintner
- A Tangled Web: Reworking Canada's Water Laws. Paul Muldoon, Theresa McClenaghan
- Are the Prices Right? Balancing Efficiency, Equity and Sustainable Water Pricing. Steven Renzitti
- Moving Water Conservation to Centre Stage. Oliver Branddes. David Brooks. Michael M'Gonigle
- The Land is Dry: Indigenous Peoples, Culture and Environmental Justice, Ardith Walkem
- Half Empty or Half Full? Water Politics and the Canadian National Imaginary. Andrew Biro
- Rising Waves, Old Charts, Nervous Passengers: Navigating Toward a New Water Ethic. Cushla Matthews, Robert B. Gibson, Bruce Mitchell
- Conclusion: Governing Canada's Waters Wisely. Karen Bakker

With such a diversity of authors and subjects there is bound to be some overlap, as in the areas of law and governance - and some divergence of view e.g. Theodore M. Horbulyk's opinion in his essay, Liquid Gold, Water Markets in Canada. Here, he notes that, ***"Greater integration within and across Canada and American markets is applying additional market pressure, both directly and indirectly on the allocation and management of water resources"***, but that there may be a silver lining in this increased integration of markets as they ***"may also provide an opportunity for increased cooperation in the management of transboundary water resources as well as an opportunity to share experiences in such areas as improving governance and community participation."*** This view, which draws upon the development in the US of many small environmental groups who are using easily accessed and very good information re stream flow and hydrology data (unlike in Canada) to protect water sheds, seems to be countered by several other contributors, who argue strongly that the provinces, territories and the federal government must take lead roles, in cooperation with individual states and the US Government where cross boundary waters are involved, to protect this vital resource. Where all views meet, is in the recognition that if water is to be protected there must be complete and easily accessible information for all to use better to inform the public, the regulators and the policy makers, so they may do a far better job of protecting water resources.

Again, this book is a must read for those who care about this vital resource - Canada's water - and want to make a difference!

Saving our Past, a Means to Saving Our Future

*By Sandra Cohen-Rose
Heritage and Culture Convener, NCWC
President, Montreal Council of Women*

In October Edmonton hosted the Heritage Canada Foundation Annual Conference. Here a variety of stakeholders grappled with a wide range of issues, which went far beyond the cultural significance of our historic architecture. The three-day conference encompassed the over-all importance of saving our past as a means of saving our culture, communities and environment – our future.

From the moment I arrived at the conference hotel, the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald, named after Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, I was impressed by the care taken in the renovation of this 1915 hotel designed by Ross and Macdonald. I was particularly delighted to see prominently displayed in the main lounge photos of The Famous Five, women who made a difference in the lives of all Canadian women. In 1988 when the Canadian Pacific Hotels (CP) bought the hotel (now merged with Fairmont Hotel) it was in a dilapidated state. CP made a total commitment to restore the Hotel Macdonald to its former elegance and to re-establish its importance in the community. It re-opened its doors to the public on May 15, 1991. The hotel boasted every modern convenience while preserving its heritage detailing. Unlike many historic buildings the Hotel Macdonald had a happy ending. In 1983 after a half a century of glamour it fell into a state of disrepair and closed its doors. On January 08, 1985, the City of Edmonton had the foresight and wisdom to designate the hotel a Municipal Heritage Resource, the first building in Edmonton to receive this designation, but in the final analysis it was the developer, CP, whose appreciation of the value of saving this cultural icon determined its outcome.

We can easily appreciate that the problem of our disappearing heritage is a national concern, as buildings continue to be demolished to make way for newer city plans that accommodate our car ridden cities and lust for new, often high-rise structures. These changes often, when done with lack of sensitivity, destroy street life and community. Demolishing usable structures to make way for newer, bigger buildings is symbolic of our fast society, where anything new is cherished over anything old, and results in a great deal of wasted energy. The by-products of demolished buildings cannot be as efficiently recycled as a soft drink can.

Demolition of a recyclable building is a tremendous waste of natural resources and energy. In keeping with the NCWC's theme, energy, I urge Councils across Canada to rally to save historic buildings and communities by working towards giving them a heritage designation, and promoting the advantages of giving a new lease on life to older buildings. We must also work towards 'Green' standards, and the government granting of financial incentives aimed at encouraging Heritage Building conversions.

In Montreal Ben's Restaurant-Deli building, a classic example of Streamlined Modern architecture, designed in 1950 by Charles Davis Goodman, sits abandoned with an uncertain future while a recent exhibition at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts called American Streamlined Design: The World of Tomorrow is praised. The MCW and the NCWC have written letters to officials asking to have Ben's Restaurant-Deli building given heritage status, to protect it from demolition. For further information and photos, go to, www.artdecomontreal.com/pages/news.htm. What buildings in your city sit neglected? What is being done to preserve them? Which buildings should be given heritage status before they are demolished? Let the NCWC know, perhaps we can help you by writing to officials.

Across Canada often the first step to rescuing a building from demolition and recycling is to give it heritage status. Awareness and education of and about built heritage are imperative to show that adaptive reuse of buildings not only saves our heritage, our environment, and energy, but can also be profitable to the developer, the government, and the community. Heritage buildings attract residents, tourists and film production companies in search of unique locations.

We should all protect our heritage for future generations. Heritage buildings once demolished are not renewable resources. They are gone forever.

Report on the NATIONAL SENIORS COUNCIL

By Thelma McGillivray, Convener Seniors' Issues

The first national roundtable of the National Seniors' Council took place at the Delta Chelsea Hotel on Monday, September 17th, 2007. It was chaired by Jean-Guy Soulière and co-chaired by member The Rev Canon Derwyn Shea and their staff. Invited by appointment only were 10 others:

Debbie B. Alzheimer Society of Canada, Joan Hill, Expert on Elder Abuse, Teri Kay, E.D. ONPEA, Lisa Manuel, Manager -Seniors & Caregivers Support Services, Family Service Assoc. Toronto, Prof. Lynn McDonald, Director, Institute for Life Course & Aging, U of T., Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks, V.P. International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Deborah Tagarnak, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Judith Wahl, E.D. Advocacy Centre for the Elderly, and Detective Christina Wolf, Ottawa Police Service Elder Abuse Unit, and one no-show, Susan Qamaniq, Director Community Programs, Dept. Culture, Language, Elders, and Youth, Nunavut.

After lengthy introductions, including the latest research on Elder Abuse, Group Discussion took place over the rest of the day. We addressed questions:

- (1) How does the issue of elder abuse come up in your work with seniors?
- (2) What activities have you or your organization undertaken to address issues of elder abuse?
- (3) Good practices for enhancing awareness of elder abuse.
- (4) Good practices for preventing elder abuse.

There will be a summary report when they have synthesized the input, which was very dynamic and informative. Briefly, I will hit the highlights without credit to any speaker individually as that is the style in which the National Seniors' Council will also report.

Education and awareness are still needed. Abandonment issues have surfaced as family members put their elders into nursing homes, do not visit, and sometimes move away. Spiritual needs are not fulfilled. Marginalization is an issue not only of senior immigrants but also GLBT issues are not addressed in terms of housing. The LTC Act was discussed regarding the lack of adequate staff, hours of care, food nutrition, assessment of those with dementia.

Ethnicity and aging – the position of elders among new immigrants needs more study. Family class immigrants wait 10 years while a spouse waits 3 years to be accepted into Canada. The children grow up and leave their elders; break their sponsorships; elders cannot access ESL courses due to income constraints and child-care responsibilities of their grandchildren.

Police response: it is impossible to keep up with the thousands of calls as the staff is small, although better than previously. One-person staff works on education and awareness as preventative measures and is then overwhelmed by calls. The majority of complaints concern financial abuse. For example; out of 331 investigations, 176 involved family, 76 long-term

care facilities, 71 private retirement homes, 28 personal home support worker fraud. 47 charges were laid after investigation, one reason is that personal service workers move around and no criminal checks are done.

There is a waiting list for senior women who have been abused – they use the Triage model. Many need language translations at \$90 an hour for which the agency has no funding.

There is a legal clinic funded by the Ontario Attorney General but many cases require legal council. Sometimes people are told to open a joint bank account instead of having a Power of Attorney.

LTC dementia cases are very difficult - what tools are really needed? Alzheimer prevention services are needed. 550,000 Canadians are affected and the odds of developing this is doubled every 5 years from age 65+. Abuse by caregivers happens frequently due to lack of stretched resources for respite.

ONPEA volunteers do the training of elder abuse volunteers on their own time. There are 55 networks across the province who operate on grants. The 7 consultants across Ontario are a drop in the bucket of the need. Calls for help are high, there are no resources do referral, and homelessness has gone from 3% when they started to 40%. There is concern about older adults working in back-straining jobs to supplement their income.

Lack of services; banking, there are no banks at all for the Inuit population. RCMP services stretch over a large territory. There is no knowledge of the level of elder abuse as grandparents, children, & grandchildren all live in one accommodation. Housing does not exist for elders and the cost of living is very high. The challenge right now is to deal with financial abuse issues as many receive money from the Residential Schools compensation package.

A package has been prepared of the signs, symptoms of exploitation and sexual abuse. However definitions are not necessary - use the simple definition of “any harm done to an older person”. The hospitals need to train nurses better to care for older adults and do better consultation on their needs while in hospital and not be totally occupied with discharging patients because of the high need of beds. Nurses do not take patients to the chapel when requested due to the extra time it takes to do so.

Getting the education and awareness across to groups through vignettes or visual demonstrations works very well without frightening people.

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Aging Creatively: Calgary Writer and Historian,

By Lynn Gaudet – President, Calgary Local Council of Women

2007 was a very good year for Calgary writer and historian Marjorie Norris. As many readers will know, Marjorie was a 1977 recipient of the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Medal for her contributions to the Calgary Local Council throughout the 1970's and was honoured with a life membership in the National Council of Women in 1994. Happily, Marjorie is still going strong!

In 2007, she published her third book, another original contribution to Calgary's history,

Medicine and Duty: The World War 1 Memoir of Captain Harold McGill, Medical Officer, 31st Battalion C.E.F. It chronicles the experiences of a Calgary physician who enlisted in 1914. Some years, after his return from overseas in 1919, he commenced writing a detailed account of the mobilization of the war effort in Calgary and his service with the 31st Battalion which ended in September 1917 upon his transfer to the 5th Canadian Field Ambulance. In 1935, he submitted his 22-chapter memoir to Macmillan of Canada who declined, mainly for economic reasons. It was the nadir of the Great Depression, with publishing costs unlikely to be recovered.

Decades later, it was chanced upon by “history hobbyist” Marjorie Norris while researching her own book about Calgarian nurses in WW1.

With the blessing of McGill's family, *Medicine and Duty* was brought to publication – a four-year labour of love by Norris in editing the manuscript and enriching its content with painstaking archival research, extensive footnotes, detailed maps and some of McGill's more recent correspondence to flesh out his personal memoirs so passionately captured through the lens of retrospect.

The book was launched on September 17th in front of an appreciative audience of history buffs at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. Erudite folks from the University of Calgary and from the Glenbow Museum, both of which had encouraged and supported the publication, spoke glowingly of the expert research, editing skill and contextual material Norris had lent to McGill's text so generously donated to posterity many decades ago.

Her work was professionally and recognized with a positive review of the book by Jack Granatstein which was published in the December issue of “The Legion”. He praised *Medicine and Duty* for its contribution to the WW1 historical record.



Marjorie Norris

Marjorie Norris

The McGill memoir is Norris' third book. Her second, published in 2002, is *Sister Heroines: The Roseate Glow of Wartime Nursing 1914-1918*. It is also a gem – another original contribution which documents the history of nurses serving in WW1, focusing on those with a Calgary connection. Marjorie's own mother was one such nurse who had trained at the Calgary General Hospital and served in the Great War. It was her mother's mementos from that war that first sparked her daughter's desire to dig deeper.

Marjorie's first book, published in 1995, is *Leaven of Ladies: A History of the Calgary Local Council of Women*. This too is an original slice of Calgary life with a focus on women's contributions to the quality of life in Calgary from the time of the formation of the Council in 1895 through to the 1970s. She presents first-rate tales of prominent women, their projects and challenges and the responses of the establishment to the "leaven of ladies" active in Calgary. Organized women's groups (and there were many of them) were a vibrant and authoritative voice to be contended with. Perhaps the CLCW's finest hour was the instrumental role the Council played in making the banks of the Bow River an inner-city green space for all citizens rather than a CPR railroad track.

For her original historical writing, Marjorie was honoured as one of Alberta's most accomplished seniors on November 2, 2007 at the National Seniors Assembly held in Calgary, Alberta. Fourteen Albertan artists and writers were recognized and appreciated as models of the fine art of "Aging Creatively" for their talents and ongoing contributions to the enrichment of Albertans.

As she turns 85 in February, the ever-feisty, astute and most knowledgeable Marjorie Norris continues to make us all proud. Her own training and career as an educator has found full blossom with her attention to detail and penchant for pouring over archival sources first learned from her husband, Professor Stanley Norris, helping him research the emergence of science courses within Canada's public school system.

As Calgary activists, we are beneficiaries of the legacy of the women who travelled before us, and are delighted that Marjorie's expertise has so finely and creatively focused on own piece of the sky. *Three* significant and unique historical contributions in one post retirement.....Thank-you Marjorie, this is an indomitable legacy indeed.



Persons' Day Awards



Muriel Smith recipient of the Governor Generals Award



Mildred Burns recipient of the Governor Generals Award

Montreal Council of Women Woman of the Year Award: 21st Year Recognizing Outstanding Community Service

by Bonnie Lee Smith

It was a lovely event again this year. A tasty lunch and an opportunity to meet so many other women involved in terrific initiatives and projects to improve the lives of women and families in Montreal. I am talking about the Woman of the Year Award Luncheon held in the Hotel Marriott Chateau Champlain on 28 November 2007.

This year's winner of the Woman of the Year Award was Dr Eleanor Beattie for her exemplary work in improving the quality of life for many people with severe and persistent mental illness.

Dr Beattie was applauded for her creation of L'Abri en Ville, an organization that provides permanent, supportive housing for men and women whose illnesses prevent them from living completely independently. L' Abri en Ville works like this. It has found ten good, low-rent apartments, each

of which is shared by three residents. Residents pay rent and other expenses with their disability pensions and look after their own apartments. Each resident is supported by a professional co-ordinator and a team of volunteers who assist with the activities and skills required for independent daily living: budgeting, paying bills, grocery shopping, cooking, room-mate relations, use of leisure time and so on.

Dr Beattie stressed that L'Abri en Ville's success is related to the development of "community". Strong ties with faith communities, co-ordinators, volunteers and others have created an environment where men and women with particular disabilities can live with dignity and contribute to society as citizens.

Dr Beattie also spearheaded the creation of a bilingual guidebook : Creating Community-Supported Housing-- the L'Abri en Ville Model.

I found this year's event inspiring--I always do. I am inspired by the power of one woman who sees that something "is not right" and who then rallies the resources and the team to address the problem. To me it's an indication of the best that we can do for each other in this world.

Congratulations to Dr Beattie and to all the other women dedicated to helping others.

**Sandra Cohen
and Dr Eleanor
Beattie**



Laura Ross, Past President of Regina Council of Women, Elected to the Saskatchewan Legislature

by Louise Hornung, Co-President, Regina Council of Women

Laura Ross, Past President of The Regina Council of Women, running as a candidate for the Saskatchewan Party for the Regina Qu'Appelle Valley riding in the November 7, 2007 Saskatchewan election, defeated the incumbent NDP candidate Mark Wartman by a count of 4,324 votes to 4,125.

MLA Laura Ross will be assisting Don McMorris in his role as health minister. She has been named his legislative secretary responsible for nurse recruitment and retention.

Regina Council of Women is proud of Laura's accomplishments and wishes her well in her important role as an MLA as she works on the many issues that affect the lives of Saskatchewan people.

"I have come to the conclusion that politics are too serious a matter to be left to the politicians."

Charles De Gaulle
French general & politician
(1890 - 1970)



HERSTORY features Mary Pankiw

From the Newsletter of the Council of Women of Winnipeg

Dr. Mary Pankiw, Past President of CWW, is featured in HERSTORY 2008, the Canadian Women's Calendar, which depicts the lives of Canadian women with inspiring stories. HERSTORY demonstrates that Canadian Women continue to make a difference.

At the June 2007 Bi-Annual General Meeting of the Canadian College of Teachers, Mary was elected by the Western Region as their representative on the National Council. In November, 2007, at the National Council meeting in Ottawa, Mary was appointed Vice-president of the Canadian College of Teachers for 2007-2009.

In July 2007, she attended the Writer's Summer Workshop at Humber College, Toronto.

Mary was appointed to the City of Winnipeg's Senior Advisory committee, composed of 12 individuals, whose mandate is "to address municipal issues that are faced by senior citizens in our city." This was officially announced by Mayor Katz at a media meeting, held at the St. James Assiniboia Senior Centre, on October 23rd.

Mary researched and compiled the history of Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church (1932-2007) Brooklands, Winnipeg on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary. She was the keynote speaker at the Jubilee Banquet celebrated at Canada Inn, Polo Park on October 28th.

NATIONAL SENIORS COUNCIL continued from page 9

The Bank Act needs to address the problem of emails to senior citizens which overwhelm them through false bank messages.

In conclusion, laws can be a helpful tool in a positive way, or can be too negative. Mandatory reporting is not helpful. Do not change the Criminal Code. Legal Aid should be funded more fully by the Attorneys General across Canada.

Personal Service Workers must be trained better and certified and criminally checked out before hiring, as also should Safety and Security workers.

Public housing needs are reaching a crisis stage and should be funded by all governments who should

also enforce a % of units for low-income seniors before granting the money to builders.

Education and awareness of the stages of aging should be taught in the primary grades of school.

Research is needed and we must utilize what has been done already. It is unfortunate that the research done by the National Aging Council (NACA) has been removed from the website and is now only obtainable through Interlibrary access. We all believe this is wrong and want the National Seniors' Council to build on this research as well as on that of the organizations who have completed very relevant studies.

We support the appointment of the full complement of members since there are still 3 vacancies - also someone is needed from the NWT.

SHOULD “ALDERMEN” JUST BE FORGOT?

Language and elected representatives

By Lynn Gaudet – President, Calgary Local Council of Women

Of the 16 major cities in Canada, only Calgary persists in using the sexist term “Aldermen” for its ward representatives.

The Calgary Local Council has stepped up to the plate to support the cause long fought by a determined group of citizens in Calgary to scuttle this archaic term in favour of the modern term for elected city officials, namely “Councillor”.

During the municipal election last October, we surveyed candidates asking who would support this change if elected. There were 23 responses, and not a single one opposed. Two were non-committal, and 21 would support the change. The dominant theme was “Seems like a no-brainer to me”.

With fresh faces on Council after the election, we published an Open Letter to City Council in the Calgary Herald on Nov. 21 calling on the new Council to do the right thing by women in Calgary and fix this historic wrong. We admitted it may not be the most burning issue on the agenda, but some things just have to be done on principle. In sticking with “aldermen”, we’re a national embarrassment, we told them. The press took up the cause and gave wide publicity to the issue over several days.

Since 1977, citizens of Calgary have tried to persuade Council to make the change. Four times since then, the issue had come before Council, only to be defeated, most recently in 2003. So now, in late 2007, a motion to make the change was again brought forth, this time by a political heavyweight on Council, the influential and longest-serving alderman, Dale Hodges. He had previously voted against it, but now said times had changed, and he had changed his own mind accordingly and could support this now. We appreciated that.

The vote came before City Council on Dec. 3, 2007. Six men on council supported the motion. But, to our dismay, all three women on Council opposed it! So, the motion was defeated 8-6. One prominent female member, sometimes known for her progressive stance on issues, spoke eloquently to her reasons for rejecting the change, stating she was proud

to be an “alderman”, there were more important issues to deal with (mentioning, ironically, the lack of female representation on the most powerful committees). She called the title “traditional” and a unique Calgary moniker – a bit quirky, maybe, but she fancied it.

Suffice it to say that “tradition” is a bit of a non-starter for advancing the equality of women. It was traditional to deny civil rights to all women at the time the title originated in 800 C.E. The term literally means the “elder man”, i.e. the fellow appointed (later elected) as the head of the village or shire.

To include “man” or “woman” in any job title today implies that gender is relevant to the job, a holdover from the old days when indeed it was since women were not permitted to run for public office. As long as we retain gender in the title, we make it relevant - which is why it must be changed.

Ironically, in 1992, the City Council adopted a set of Guidelines on communication, language and gender equity. It required all job titles at the City of Calgary to be gender neutral. “Communication Reflects Who You Are” the City said then, and “The gender of an individual should not be identified unless it is relevant to the matter at hand”. Hear, hear.

Fast forward to 2006 when, in response to a human rights complaint brought by citizens, the City’s lawyers argued that aldermen are not employees, and therefore not caught by the gender equity policy. The citizens’ group had filed an official complaint with the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission in 2004 against the Mayor and City Council asserting that “Alderman” is discriminatory. They said the title misrepresents the women on Council and reinforces cultural barriers for females who aspire to public office. Plus, the gender equity guidelines require inclusive language.

But the city’s legal talent mounted an aggressive defence to the citizens. They said there was no discrimination in providing public goods or services due to this term. Moreover, since the elected officials are not technically employees under the governing statute, discrimination in employment does not apply to them. The investigator upheld the City’s arguments and dismissed the case without a hearing. An appeal was also dismissed by the Chief Commissioner in July 2007.

So, back to the political arena. Encouragingly, during this round, more citizens and most of Calgary’s media rallied around the cause.

It received considerable attention in all newspapers, several radio stations, numerous television channels and on media websites.

The media, along with many Calgarians, especially those who have moved here recently from places where civic representatives are councillors, seemed shocked to see such resistance to correcting an obvious injustice.

So, the issue remains on our plate. We will prevail, one day. As the Herald editorial opined after the defeat: "If our civic representatives can't show courage in dealing with an issue such as using precise language, it will simply come back to haunt them – or some future council – until it is satisfactorily dealt with and resolved." Amen to that.



Bits & Bytes

By Mary Scott

The meetings in New York at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) were very full indeed.



These annual meetings are one way for the global women's community to come together, to advocate, to network, to share stories, and to urge the governments of the world to take action.

Although I had connected to them before, via the internet, nothing beats being there. But the World Wide Web has an amazing ability to keep us together, to provide an incredible amount of information and resource material, and a way of reaching out to many more groups and individual women (and men), and staying connected. I'll try and highlight some of the sources that might interest you to find out what happened this year at the CSW.

The best general source (and the official one) is from the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW). DAW has the responsibility of organizing the Non governmental Organizations (NGOs) at the annual CSW meetings. From that site for example, delegates from organizations like NCWC, with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) status are registered. NCWC has status, and we registered not only myself, but members Muriel Smith, Rashmi Bhat, and Rosemary Mallory, plus delegates from McGill University and the Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA). All this was done online, and without a glitch. From the DAW site, you can check out Canada's statement.

You can also see the various papers and reports on the different themes: Financing for Women's Equality and Empowerment of Women (main theme); Gender Perspectives and Climate Change (emerging theme) and Women's Equal Participation In Conflict Prevention, Management And Conflict Resolution And In Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (Review Theme) So this is the best overall source of information at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/52sess.htm>

The International Women's Tribune Centre is a good source, particularly on Peace and Security at:

<http://www.iwtc.org/>

A hot topic at the UN this year was discussion about "gender architecture" – no, not women architects, but how the UN could be organized to consolidate programs serving women, and increase resources to make a difference for all women. Stephen Lewis brought this issue to light. For more information on the Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR), go to the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) site at

<http://www.wedo.org/>.

You will also find a link to Gender and Climate change.

Finally, for those that might want to see pictures of the NCWC team at work, other delegates at workshops and meetings, New York and the United Nations (including the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon), check out

<http://tinyurl.com/3cu6nd>.

There's even some music to enjoy!
Till the next time.

1853: A Woman's Right

This year marks the 125th anniversary of The Salvation Army in Canada. To celebrate, Faith & Friends is publishing snapshots of defining moments in the Army's history.

It is hard to imagine today how women were regarded in 19th-century Victorian society. Despite the fact that a queen reigned over the British Empire, women were denied the right to vote and their voices were rarely heard in the fields of science, religion or education. Indeed, it was generally regarded that a woman had "a fibre more in her heart and a cell less in her brain."

Catherine Mumford, soon to become the wife of William Booth and co-Founder of The Salvation Army, took exception to this complacent view. Though lacking a traditional schooling, young Catherine's voracious reading and her avid study of the Bible reinforced her passionate belief in the equality of the sexes in all areas of life.



Catherine Booth

While attending a neighbouring

church, Catherine heard the minister, Dr. David Thomas, utter derogatory statements about women. While intimidated by his stature in the community, Catherine could not let his comments pass unremarked, and put pen to paper:

In your discourse on Sunday morning, your remarks appeared to imply that doctrine of women's intellectual and even moral inferiority to man. Permit me, my dear sir, to ask whether you have ever made the subject of women's equality as a being the matter of calm investigation and thought? If not, I would, with all deference, suggest it as a subject worth the exercise of your brain.

Though nothing came of this communication, Catherine's thoughts and convictions did much to influence her husband-to-be, William Booth, as well as the future direction of The Christian Mission. "The position of women became one of the early defining distinctions of the new movement," remarks historian Allan Satterlee. "For the first time in Church history, the role of women in ministry was outlined as integral to mission."

When The Christian Mission later became The Salvation Army, the resulting growth would have been impossible without women officers. By 1878, 41 of 91 Army evangelists in the field were women. Female Army officers were at the forefront of the advance into the United States and France, to name just two examples, and women officers have served with distinction at every level, including the office of General. As Satterlee concludes, "Not only did women make a mark on The Salvation Army, in a very real sense they *made* The Salvation Army."

Saskatoon LCW & the Elizabeth Fry Society help women in prison

A recent partnership between the Saskatoon Council of Women and the Elizabeth Fry Society will bring a much-needed element of "something special" to women's prisons across Saskatchewan. The 'Caring for You Kit' project started on the premise that many women arriving in prison have nothing with them but the clothes on their back. Even when they do receive their personal effects some toiletries are simply too expensive to buy while in prison. Women's underwear is particularly scarce and many women end up having to sew their own while in prison.

The partnership with the Saskatoon Council of Women has allowed E-Fry to tackle a project that they alone could not have facilitated. 70 kits were collected which were to be distributed in the New Year. The average cost of a kit is \$25, making it a small gift to give that will make a huge difference for a woman living in prison. (The kits contain 1 toothbrush, 1 toothpaste, 1 wide tooth comb, 1 shampoo, 1 conditioner, 1 deodorant stick, \$1.00 in quarters, 1 Liberty Calling Card, 1 small box of tampons, 1 small box of Kotex pads, 1 pair panties – all sizes needed, 1 journal note book (without coil bindings) and some stamps.)

The Elizabeth Fry Society sent special thanks to Saskatoon LCW Executive Committee members Marilyn Boechler, Carol Knock, Lynda Newson, Ruth Robinson & Laurie Shaw for their assistance in organizing the programme launch in November 2007. Thanks also went to 6 Saskatoon LCW Federates for their support as well as to the Council as a whole.

Council member and former NCWC V-P Marilyn Boechler was also one of several "Rebels with a Cause" honoured at the 5th annual fundraising event held by the Elizabeth Fry Society in May 2007 – Rebels with a Cause: Honouring women in the community who have made unique and effective contributions. Congratulations to all!

Human trafficking Conference in Toronto

By Annette Graydon – IAWN - Canada

It is interesting to note that the definition of ‘traffic’ which most of us think of first, ‘the coming and going of persons, vehicles or goods’, isn’t the primary definition in the Oxford dictionary but the secondary one. The first definition refers to ‘traffic’ as ‘trade, especially what should not be bought or sold’. This, of course, is what the term **human trafficking** refers to. Yet this term is largely unused in our daily life and for many of us, this may be the first time you have heard of it. Everyone is familiar, I think, with the term **drug trafficking** and understands that this is an illegal activity. The trafficking of humans has been around for much longer, also called serfdom, involuntary servitude or slavery, terms we may recognize more readily.

The United Nations has called human trafficking ‘the world’s fastest growing international organized crime’ and defines it as *“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”*—The Palermo Protocol to the UN Convention Against Transnational Crime, 2000. Former UN Secretary General Koffi Annan made the fight against human trafficking one of his most important areas of concern, globally.

It is believed that between 700,000 and two million women and children are trafficked across an international border somewhere in the world every year, feeding an industry with profits estimated at somewhere between \$12 billion and \$17 billion per year. According to the United Nations, there are currently 127 “source countries” that provide large numbers of prostitutes, mainly in Asia and Eastern Europe, and 137 “destination countries.” Not all of the victims are women, some 20 % are men, and not all are for the sex trade. Many ‘nannies’ have been trafficked into their positions. Exact figures are impossible to obtain, just as any exact figure on organized, international crime would be impossible to estimate. The globalization of our world is a 2-edged sword, simultaneously improving and destroying lives. Human trafficking is a human rights issue, not just a feminist issue.

As is often the case with issues of this magnitude, individuals find themselves saddened, angered and wanting to do something to help. But, the enormity of the job leaves us feeling helpless and so we end up doing nothing. The purpose of the day-long workshop, sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Waterdown, Ontario, was to promote awareness of the human trafficking epidemic and to provide some practical advice in how to help.

The workshop leader, Sr. Mary Ellen Dougherty, works with the US Council of Catholic Bishops on their anti-trafficking program.

They work closely with various US government agencies and law enforcement agencies. Sr. Mary Ellen is a published expert in the field of human trafficking. Her opening story served to bring this global issue right into our back yard. She told us of a young man she had known for years in her circle of family and friends. He was of Native American descent and had been a foster child. This, along with the fact that she knew him to be a good citizen, was all the personal knowledge she had. He had contact with his birth mother but had never lived with her.

About a year following the death of his birth mother at 76 years of age in 2003, he contacted Sr. Mary Ellen to ‘unburden’ himself. His mother had, for the last few years of her life, been driving north into Ontario from her home in upstate New York on a regular basis. She would cross the border in Mohawk territory and drive to Toronto where she would load Asian women into her trunk and transport them back to Albany, New York

They were then transferred to someone else and taken to New York City, presumably for the sex trade. She received \$800 a head. The story was substantiated and Sr. Mary Ellen relayed the information to proper authorities and arrests were made. Could this get any more real for us now? I probably drive the same roads that this grandmother took with her cargo of women in her trunk. I remain shocked by the story.

The workshop was attended by some 80 people, including 2 Conservative MP’s; David Sweet - Ancaster and Mike Wallace - Burlington. Awareness of the issue is in its infancy in our area and events such as this are an effective way to get information out there. There was little in the way of practical advice since there had not been any indication of immediate need. However, having the correct information on the pervasive nature of the issue is the first step. Attendees were given case studies to consider as well as an overview of various definitions and laws. For example: the difference between **smuggling** and **trafficking** was laid out. Smuggling is defined as consensual, usually involving a fee to cross an international border to gain illegal entry. The relationship with the smuggler ends when completed. It is considered a crime against the state. Trafficking involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to harbour, transport or obtain a person for the purpose of commercial sex or forced labour. It is considered a crime against the person.

Sr. Mary Ellen stressed her 3-step formula to helping.

Education of front line workers (in health or law enforcement agencies)

Advocacy for legislation

Outreach for victims

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Climate Change: It's not going away, and we're going after it! KAIROS to launch "Re-Energize" Campaign in Fall 2007

Climate change is just one expression of how our addiction to oil is killing people and the planet. Our dependence on fossil fuels also deepens human rights abuses, creates conflict, and causes economic inequality.

It doesn't have to be this way. There are alternatives. We can build a just and sustainable energy policy, beginning with our own lives. In Fall 2007, KAIROS launched "Re-Energize: Time For A Carbon Sabbath", a three-year campaign for personal, community, and political change. We'll have loads of fun, engaging, and practical things to do as we strive together to change ourselves, change our churches, change our communities and change our world.

KAIROS: Ecumenical Justice Initiatives / Initiatives oecuméniques canadiennes pour la justice is engaged in many ongoing campaigns which also reflect NCWC policy and concerns, such as water and environmental policy, human rights abuses, refugee policy and the behaviour of Canadian mining companies outside Canada.

See <http://www.kairoscanada.org> for further details.

In Memoriam

Donna Margaret Louise Blight
(née Crosland) – (1936 – 2008)
Past President PCWM

Donna died at home, suddenly and unexpectedly, on Tuesday, February 5th, 2008. She was born, raised and began her education in Calgary and graduated from the Calgary General Hospital, Queen's University (BNS) and University of Manitoba (MA). While nursing in Saskatoon, she met her husband, moving soon after to Winnipeg where she worked briefly for the VON prior to raising her family. She returned to work as a nursing instructor and registrar at the St. Boniface Hospital School of Nursing and as registrar with the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses.

Donna greatly enjoyed the outdoors. She was a longtime member of the Alpine Club of Canada and introduced her boys to the joys of camping, snowshoeing and skiing. She served for a time as a member of the Manitoba Environmental Council.

Donna was actively involved in the community especially with the University Women's Club of Winnipeg and the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, serving on a variety of committees and as president of both organizations. PCWM honoured her in 2007 at its first Celebration of Women. She was particularly proud of celebrating the history of Manitoba by producing the Métis Suite during her term as president of the University Women's Club.

Excerpted from her obituary notice

Human Trafficking continued from page 17

This is a profit-driven industry, one of the top 3 global criminal trades; the other two being drugs and arms.

It was a very disturbing but interesting workshop. It is never easy to sit and listen to the stories but it is through the stories that we gain the ability to empathize with the plight of our fellow human beings and perhaps to take steps to stop the crimes being committed. 'For everyone practising evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest their deeds be exposed.' John 3:20. Education is critical in shedding light on this dark subject. Read what you can and talk to anyone who will listen! Human trafficking is an economic phenomenon. We certainly experience moral outrage when learning of it but effective action could be blurred by emotional responses. Sr. Mary Ellen advised us to view the issue in its global context and to be alert to this contemporary form of slavery.

Annette Graydon is a member of the Toronto Coordinating Committee for the International Anglican Women's Network and also serves as Representative Member on the Mothers' Union Worldwide Council.

News from Provincial Councils

Visiting Our Past, Building Our Future: Chronicling the History of the Councils of Women of Manitoba

By Mary Scott, Past President, PCWM & CWW

The Council of Women of Winnipeg, one of the oldest Councils in Canada, was formed in 1894. The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba was organized in 1949. There is an amazing amount of history with these 2 Councils, and both Councils needed to sort through personal and office archives to make an official deposit to the Manitoba Archives. Many of our long time members were relocating, and we needed to save their records. And so started our journey to preserve both the written and oral history of both Councils.

Our first project was called the *Babs Friesen Councils of Women Archival Project*, and we received funding from the Winnipeg Foundation, facilitated by the YM-YWCA. We needed the Y as neither Council has a charitable number, a requirement of any Foundation, and the Y agreed to manage the financial arrangements for us. The purpose of this project was to arrange and describe the latest accrual of the provincial and local Councils of Women so that they would be readily accessible at the Archives of Manitoba. The grant from the Winnipeg Foundation allowed the hiring of a student from the Archival Studies MA program at the University of Manitoba to undertake the project.

Records dating from 1894-1984 created by the Council of Women of Winnipeg, and from 1949-1980 by the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba had already been deposited at the Archives of Manitoba. The latest accrual adds more than two decades worth of records documenting the activities of the local and provincial councils and represented a key part of the history of Manitoba women. The completed arrangement of records amounts to 15 boxes consisting of textual files, with some photographs and bound scrapbooks. They follow the Councils through a time of great political and social change, and thus represent an important resource for study of women's activities during this time. These records are particularly interesting because they present both the public face of the Councils of Women as well as illuminating the private faces that made the work of the Councils possible.

With the paper taken care of, we decided that it would be special to have oral tapes done of some of our long time

members. We identified a total of 13 women, some Council of Women of Winnipeg members, some Provincial Council, and some both. It is interesting to note, since her tape was done, one of the interviewees has since died.

Funds were received from the Margaret Laurence Community Grants program. Tapes were prepared by a person with knowledge of oral history who contracted to do the interviews and tape summaries and a complete archival-ready compilation of the entire project. A professional company was selected to produce the written transcripts of the taped interviews. Interviews were recorded from June 2007 to February 2008.

Summaries for the interviews, written transcripts of the tapes, tape copies for the interviewees and the finished project will be completed by April 2008.

The Councils of Women have a rich history in actions for women, for families, for the environment, and for other marginalized groups in all contexts, historical, personal, political, social, sexual, economic and institutional over the past many decades and have accomplished a great many changes and improvements in numerous areas. These would include marital and property law, family law, health, education, day care, pay equity, penal reform, domestic violence, pornography, reproductive choice, abortion, poverty, playgrounds and parks and many other concerns.

The persons involved in this project believe the voices of these women's stories, memories and experiences to be invaluable to the history of the Councils of Women of Manitoba, to women's history, to Manitoba history and indeed, to history in general. We further believe that future generations will benefit from this archival documentation of their knowledge and experience.

DAYS TO REMEMBER: ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSES in the EASTERN TOWNSHIPS of QUEBEC

by Bev Taber Smith

On Saturday, November 24th, 2007, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Sherbrooke & District club launched a book called Days to Remember: One-room Schoolhouses in the Eastern Townships of Quebec.

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This book is the culmination of an oral history project that the club began in the mid 1990's. Members of the CFUW Sherbrooke & District set off on a mission to record the memories of one-room schoolteachers from various parts of the Eastern Townships. They interviewed former teachers and students, and one inspector; approximately sixty oral histories were recorded. Several people responded to publicity and provided written material. Important memorabilia such as teachers' contracts, report cards and photographs have also been included. Club members have donated countless volunteer hours towards this project.

During the first few decades of the 1900's, one-room schoolhouses dotted the rural landscape of the Eastern Townships. Functional in style and constructed of local materials, such as wood, fieldstone, or brick, schoolhouses sprang up wherever pockets of school-aged children lived. It was not unusual to come across a school building every three or four miles because most teachers and students were expected to walk to school. Most of the teachers in these one-room schools were young women in their late teens or early twenties. Many had attended Macdonald College in Montreal, but some had stepped directly from high school into the role of teacher. Nevertheless, they assumed sole responsibility for educating all children from grades 1 to 7 within their school. Often other duties such as cleaning the schoolhouse, organizing events, and stoking the wood-stove were also required of them. For further information on one-room schools, visit www.townshipsheritage.com/tours-schools.html

With the publication of a permanent keepsake, there will be a lasting tribute to the courageous and resourceful women who taught in our one-room schoolhouses. The experiences and memories

ITEM	COST	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
Subscription	\$15.00		
Yearbook	\$25.00		
A Splendid Vision	\$35.00		
*Donation	Amount		
*Donations to the NCWC are not tax deductible at this time.			Total:
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recorded are fascinating and we are pleased as a CFUW group to be preserving and celebrating this important piece of educational and local history. Transcripts, summaries, memorabilia and photographs have been preserved at the Eastern Townships Research Centre at Bishop's University. Days to Remember: One-room Schoolhouses in the Eastern Townships of Quebec has been getting great reviews!

"The texts are lively, informative and filled with personal experiences and anecdotes. The photographs, many of them action shots of school children and their teachers, complement the stories beautifully."

"The writing of this book presents to the citizens of this community, and to others across Canada who will read the book, a legacy that will strike a chord in all who either attended a one-room schoolhouse or who wonder what it must have been like to do so."

Thanks to the wonderful support given by the Eastern Townships community, Days to Remember; One-room Schoolhouses in the Eastern Townships of Quebec will be a special keepsake to honour those who have shared their one-room schoolhouse experiences.



Looking to the Future

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