

CANADIAN SHIELD REGION



FALL / CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2019

From the President's Desk 

There just seems to be sooooo much happening right now that his newsletter might be a bit long.

Our AGM was held May 6 & 7 at St Peter's Church in Sudbury. There were about 29 ladies in attendance. This is about the same number as last year so our AGM attendance is stable. During the business section of the meeting we officially changed our name from Manitou Conference UCW to Canadian Shield UCW. Former



Manitou UCW President Tina Hanson and current President Dawn Monroe took down the Manitou UCW Banner to symbolize the name change. The AGM gathering also included guest speakers Aiden Legault, who gave us insight and hope of the younger generation and Rita OLink who told us about Rainbow Camp and gave suggestions to raise funds to help the camp. There was entertainment too...the Parkside Group provided a lively evening of sing-a-long music from the 50's and 60's, an sing-a-long we did!!! I conducted the NOT SO silent auction with over \$500.00 raised being split between Camp McDougal and Rainbow Camp. A big thank you goes to everyone for donating items to this fun and important fund raising event. A big hand of applause was given to Judy Biondi who has stood up to become

our treasurer. Judy will work with Dawn Monroe President, and Wendy Whalen, Secretary. Other executive member will come from future meetings of Presbyterials of Clusters.

The National UCW meeting was held in Toronto September 15-20 and I attended as your President. We put forth our the motion to have individual membership and it was passed. The National UCW Survey was presented. More about this further down in this newsletter.

On my way home from NUCW Mississauga I visited with cousins and was welcomed at Sunday Service at Fenelon Falls United Church who were celebrating with a UCW service.

Your Canadian Shield Regional UCW executive gathered at the home of Judy Biondi in North Bay. We are working on putting together the Spring 2020 AGM. Stay tuned as we announce the place and date of the 2020 AGM meeting.

September 26, 2019 I attended the Near North District (formerly North Bay Presbyterial) meetings. The great news from this meeting is that the ladies have decided to keep this organization going!! The group is excited about the future and want to keep getting together to share and enjoy themselves in service to church and community.

RAINBOW CAMP

Rita OLINK spoke to us at our AGM about Rainbow Camp. A camp for LGBTQ2 children and their siblings is a place where youth can be themselves perhaps for the very first time. Where a child born a male but is female in her heart and soul can wear a girl's bathing suit without fear of being harassed. Where kids can be kids and enjoy themselves. The camp started out with only one week with kids but has now expanded to three weeks! Rita passed out empty coffee cups with lids. She suggested that we punch a hole in the lids to create a coin slot where we could drop a loonie a month into the cup and at the end of the year return the cup and 12 coins to one of our UCW units. If we all work together we can raise the \$330.00 camp fee to send a child to camp for a week. Children from across the country come to Rainbow camp. Passing out Timmies cups for Rainbow Camp might just become a tradition for Canadian Shield Region UCW!



SHARING NEWS FROM OUT AND ABOUT ...

Notes for this section depends entirely on folks sending me information from their church. Thank you to one and all who provided information

Near North District (formerly North Bay Presbyterial). On May 15 I attended their meeting. The group officially changed their name and deferred the question of continuing as a group until the fall Meeting. September 26, 2019 I attended the fall meeting at Trinity UC, North Bay. The good news is that the Near North Division, which now covers from North Bay up Highway 11 to Cochrane, will continue to meet together. They are already planning their spring meeting!

Sudbury Presbyterial. On May 21 33 ladies attended their AGM in Mindemoya on Manitoulin Island. Friendships were renewed, skits were performed to the delight of one and all and camaraderie reigned supreme. There The Local Fire Chief was a surprise guest speaker who helped us learn about fire extinguishers and smoke alarms. He had free handouts for a few lucky ladies as well. Lunch was shared and oh the deserts!!! The afternoon guest speaker spoke to us about therapeutic horses. No riding at these therapeutic times as that changes the relationship between people and horses, just real time to have a beneficial relationship time of horse and human. Sadly at this meeting, since no one was willing to step forward to lead the group, the Sudbury Presbyterial began the procedure for closing. It is hoped that St Peter's UC in Sudbury will continue to be a gathering place for individual city UCW's and that Manitoulin groups will get together to form a "cluster/district" to continue to share and serve in their communities.

Some of the ladies visiting the Sudbury Presbyterial were able to visit the Manitoulin Island Memorial dedicated to the women of Canada who have served in Canadian Wars. The four pillars on either sides of the flag pole represent the (L-R) the Nursing Sisters of WW1, the women of the Air Force, the Army and the Navy. This Memorial is one of only three such memorials in Canada



Kirkland Lake Trinity UC they have a non affiliated women's group that reports that they continue to meet for lunch one a month and raise funds for worthy causes in the community.

Gore Bay Lyons Memorial UC At the Spring meeting their guest speaker was horticulturist, Jean Narozanski, from Pepper Point Garden in Sheguiandah, Manitoulin Island. Jean discussed the soil's structure – various

components, what we can do to improve the earth and better nurture our plants. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed her information and expertise. TIP: If you have to reseed your spring lawn, be sure you are not buying an annual grass seed. Jean says to get a rye grass seed.

At the first fall meeting the group discussed the possibility of supporting the NUCW project "Women of Change: Zambia". The guest speaker was local soap and lotions maker, Wendy Hietkamp. Her presentation outlined the benefits of various components of her product and was well received by all. Devotions were held with a reading from the United Church magazine "Mandate" - about the need for a drastic reduction in plastic production, the use of fossil fuels and our fresh water supply. It takes 1.3 liters of water to produce a 1 litre bottle of water. If we would stop making plastic bottles, carbon gases could be reduced annually by an equivalent amount of 1 million cars on the road. Refillable water containers and tap/well water is the quick answer to some of these issues. A lively discussion followed.

Iroquois Falls Trinity UC UCW continues to meet regularly to enjoy sharing and service to the community. Their October meeting will be the planning of the annual Bazaar.

Cochrane St Paul's UCW have decided that they will host a table at a local Christmas show rather than host their own Christmas Bazaar. The Cochrane ladies feel their own bazaar is just too much for the small aging group to support at this time. The ladies continue to share and provide service their church and community.

North Bay Trinity UCW have held their 1st fall meeting and continue to serve their church and community. The ladies donated the monies raised for the North Bay District meeting luncheon to Women for Change in Zambia. This group is also helping the church to raise funds to "raise the roof" which need roofing.

North Bay Emmanuel UC continues to meet for now, and will be giving out some life membership pins at an upcoming meeting.

Port Loring St Andrew's UC. The UCW has a 'Travelling Box' which goes from home to home of women in the community... when it arrives at a your home you may remove something you like from the box but do not forget to add a little something to the box. What a great way of saying you are remembered!

Wawa UCW keeps busy with sales, bazaars and charity giving.

Trout Creek UCW. Fundraisers in the form of apple and turkey pies as well as bazaars keep the ladies busy. They also have local and international outreach projects. In addition they have a joint Christmas Pot Luck with Chalmers UCW.

St Andrew's UC Port Loring. Pancake suppers, bake and plant sales and of course the Christmas Bazaar are seen annually in Port Loring. As well the ladies take part in the Farmer's Market with a Baked and Loaded Potato booth. Yummy. The ladies are helping their church with the cost of replacing all the building windows and doors.

St Stephens-On-The-Hill UC, Sudbury will be holding one of their famous TEAS in November. Be sure to send us photos ladies.

Note: Thank you to all who have provided information for 'Sharing news... please do not be shy and send along information. We can also post your events on the Canadian Shield UCW facebook page so that people who may be visiting your area can also attend your event. Photos of events are also welcome.

NOTES FROM THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL.

Dawn Monroe attended this inaugural meeting representing at the same time her home church, St Paul's UC Cochrane and as President of CSUCW. There was no proposal presented with regard to UCW being on the CS executive as time to submit a proposal passed before it could be submitted. Dawn was granted permission to present 'Greetings' to the gathering on behalf of the newly named CSUCW.

Over 180 people gathered at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre in Sault Ste Marie for the inaugural meeting of the Canadian Shield Regional Council. The theme was *Moving Forward with the Spirit*. The participants worshiped, connected, learned and did the business of the new region.

Proposals

CSRC Proposal 2019-01 – Strengthen the procedures in the Manual from Little Current – approved and sent onto the General Council

CSRC Proposal 2019 02 – Allow for flexibility for timing of Celebrations of ordination /

Commissioning/Recognition/Admissions/Readmissions - from Pastoral Relations Commission – approved

CRSC Proposal 2019 – 03 – Single Use Water bottles from North Bay and area Mission Cluster - approved

CRSC Proposal 2019 -04 – 2020 Regional Council meeting be held electronically – from George & Joy Bott – defeated

CSRC Proposal 2019-05 – start the Affirming Process – from the Affirming ministry resource team – approved.

NATIONAL UCW MEETING

The NUCW meeting was held at the Queen of the Apostles Retreat, Mississauga from September 15 through September 20. Each year the presidents and Vice presidents or their appointees from the regions across the country gather for this annual meeting. Sleeping accommodations, meeting rooms, and meals are all under one roof. National UCW President Beulah Hayley from Newfoundland aptly chaired this year's meetings. We had an indoor labyrinth and were drummed into morning services at the labyrinth. Meditation Labyrinths are ancient, concentric walking paths that promote contemplation and well-being. The winding paths of a labyrinth are symbolic of life's journey, rebirth and so much more.

Our 1st guest speaker was the Reverend Japhet Ndhlovu, a Zambian, he has served in Newfoundland and now serves at Church house. He provided a visual and informative presentation on Women for Change in Zambia.

A second guest speaker was Reverend Dorinda Vollmer author of her second book, *Without Reserve*, which is



the second and last part of her memoir. Phyllis Buchner came to update us on the happenings of WICC The Women's Inter-church Council of Canada. This is the group that organizes the World Day of Prayer that we in Cochrane celebrate in March. This year we had a full day dedicated to the business of the UCW and we broke into three groups to discuss communications, financial concerns and being UCW. It was felt that there was much we could do to improve our communications with specific suggestions for improvement of the NUCW web pages and Facebook page. Finances with the help of treasurer Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle are more

understandable and numerous motions set spending standards for NUCW Spending. We discussed the unequal representation of UCW sitting at the table of Regional Council Executives. The results of the National UCW Survey that was sent out this spring were presented and it was moved that these results be forwarded to each Regional Conference Executive for information (results of the NUCW survey are presented later in this newsletter).

We also moved that individual membership be accepted for those women who do not have a local UCW unit provided that they pay their assessment (which includes \$1.00 for National UCW) to their Regional UCW. Each Day of the meeting we were asked to wear, if possible, clothing of a specific colour and each day it was explained what the colour meant.

On Thursday, we wore black, speaking out against all forms of sexual and violence around the world.

A group photo was taken of the group that day.

The last night we were at the meeting we had a fantastic pajama party with our own members providing entertainment with skits and funny stories. There was also a sharing of wine and goodies that evening.

Amy Palmer and the Rev Michael Blair provided our last worship service with Communion.

NUCW SURVEY

In the spring a NUCW survey was sent to all Regional Presidents. I sent it out to the UCW unit contacts I have and the asked Susan Whitehead to send it out to all churches in the hope of getting the survey out to as many UCW as possible. Sadly I have learned that many UCW Units in Canadian Shield Region UCW did not receive the survey. I will continue to gain contacts at units so our own Canadian Shield Region UCW to improve its communications. Please be sure to ask the person at your church if there are any emails from Canadian Shield UCW for your local UCW units!

The purpose of the survey was to gather information on how individual UCW units across Canada support their churches and community, living the UCW Purpose as Disciples of Christ. The information will be useful in opening dialogue and conversation with in the UCW and the United Church of Canada. ***The information gathered was for the year 2018. The survey does not include the work UCW ladies do as "service in kind", (i.e. collecting hygiene items for people in mission centres, school supplies, visiting shut-ins etc.*** In 2018 there were 1026 UCW units across Canada and 574 , 56% responded to the survey.

The survey said:

In 2018 total membership of UCW across Canada was 17, 280

In 2018 108 UCW women have answered the call to become Licence Lay Worship Leaders and serve their Region.

In 2018 3,802 UCW women also serve by sitting on other committees and boards of their individual churches.

In 2018 507 UCW units across Canada donated \$779,415.00 to community outreach.

In 2018 519 UCW units across Canada donated \$2,240,085.00 to their churches.

in addition in 2018 UCW women across Canada donated \$1,133,000.00 to Mission and Service.

Canadian Shield Region UCW had 11 units respond (we have over 30 UCW Units in Canadian Shield Region)

The survey said:

11 Canadian Shield Region UCW unites in 2018 donated \$43,780.00 to their church

5 Canadian Shield Region UCW unites donated \$11, 551.00 to community outreach

83 Canadian Shield Region UCW ladies sit on other committees and boards within their church

9 Canadian Shield Region UCW ladies serve their Region as Licence Lay Worship Leaders.

"Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice, and belonging is having the voice

be heard.”

THE MMIWG REPORT

The final report from the national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls contains 231 calls for justice. Here’s how regular citizens can effect change

“Denounce and speak out against violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people”

The report states that, among the root causes of the disappearances and deaths are the socioeconomic conditions in which Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA (two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual) people live and their lack of political influence.

“Develop knowledge and read the final report”

The final report is 1,200 pages long, but there is a 121-page executive summary available, too. The website also features a number of resources, such as video clips highlighting key pieces of testimony, multimedia galleries from several of the hearings, and a “Gallery of Artistic Expressions” that exhibits MMIWG-related creative works.

“Using what you have learned and some of the resources suggested, become a strong ally”

The calls to justice encourage Canadians to get involved — to stand up for and amplify the voices of MMIWG, survivors, and their families. The report suggests accessing such resources as Amnesty International’s [10 Ways to Be a Genuine Ally to Indigenous Communities](#), Lynn Gehl’s [Ally Bill of Responsibilities](#), and the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy Networks’ [Indigenous Ally Toolkit](#).

“Help hold all governments accountable to act on the calls for justice”

The MMIWG report states that it is the responsibility of all Canadians to hold the government accountable with regards to implementing its calls for justice. “Governments are not required to implement these recommendations. However, public attention and education, particularly through the ongoing legacy work of the public inquiry, help put pressure on governments wherever possible.”

If you find yourself in need of emotional assistance, please call 1-844-413-6649. It’s a national, toll-free, 24/7 support line that’s available to anyone requiring emotional assistance related to the subject of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

DID YOU KNOW ...just in case you do not have enough to do at this time of year...

The month of October covers numerous representations besides fall, Thanksgiving and Hallowe’en?

October in Canada is:

Agricultural awareness Month – October 15 is International Rural Women’s Day

Library Awareness Month



Canadian Women’s History Month. – October 18 is Persons Day ..when the British high court overturned a Canadian court decision allowing women to become “Persons’ and to become members of the Canadian Senate.

Health and Safety in the Workplace Month

Breast Cancer Month – be sure to give yourself a breast exam

Pregnancy and Infant loss Awareness Month. National Stamp Collecting Month –

yes postage stamps are still being produced and collected!

Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Anti-bullying Awareness Month

November in Canada is...

CPR Awareness Month

Diabetes Awareness Month: The Canadian Diabetes Association was founded in 1953

November 11, Remembrance Day

Huntington's Awareness Month

November 20 Universal Children's Day

Pancreatic Cancer Mont.



December in Canada is ...

December 1: World AIDS Day; International; Canadian AIDS Society

December 2: United Nations International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

December 3: United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons

December 5: International Volunteer Day

December 6: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

December 10: Human Rights Day

December 17: Anti-Bullying Day



WHAT THE UCW MEANS TO ME...

When I first arrived in Canada from Europe I had no intention of attending the United Church in my new small town in northern Ontario. I knew nothing about Canadian churches. I soon met some women who reached out to me and made me feel welcome. These ladies belonged to the UCW and I enjoyed their company and they made this newcomer feel mighty welcome. I soon found myself attending the local United Church. I am now a life member of UCW and still enjoy the company of UCW ladies. I enjoy attending area meetings with them. If it were not for the UCW I would not have known about the United Church in Canada, now my Canadian church. Betty Schachow, St Paul's , Cochrane.

BIRTHDAY / ANNIVERSARY CORNER...



Happy 80th birthday to
Ruth Trottier
Emmanuel UC, North Bay

Congratulations to :

Dawn and Jerry Monroe, St Paul's Cochrane on 45 years of marriage.

Val and Gordon Flanagan Lyon's Memorial, Gore Bay on 46 years of marriage

Please send us your birthday and anniversary milestones celebrated in your UCW.W



WOMEN FOR CHANGE IN ZAMBIA

Girl babies are not really celebrated at birth. Girls often are not registered for school. Families perhaps cannot afford shoes to send girls to school. Families can perhaps not afford uniforms to send girls to school. Child marriages and child pregnancies are still common. If girls of Zambia become educated, child marriages and child pregnancies are delayed. Families are healthier when a girl learns hygiene at school. Educated girls

demand that villages have clean water wells. There is less violence against girls and women. The general economy is improved when girls are educated.

Women for change in Zambia is a partner organization of the United Church of Canada and is the NUCW Charity for the next few years. As of September 2019 over \$18000.00 had been raised for this project through the UCW. UCW unit are asked to continue to raise funds for Women for Change in Zambia. Small goals would be to raise funds for shoes for girls or a school uniform for a girl. All donations help. Make cheques out to the United Church Of Canada Foundation and in the memo line of the Cheque write UCW -Women for Change – Zambia.



SMILE TO SHARE...

Harmony UC Thunder Bay, Ontario



I am certain that I have forgotten some things that people are uncertain about with our future. Please feel free to message questions on our Canadian Shield UCW facebook page or you my email me at: dawnmonroe05@gmail.com

Until next time I want to wish everyone a blessed Advent season and a blessed Christmas. May 2020 be a year of many blessings with good health, camaraderie and peace for all UCW units family and friends.



Remember to join us... Canadian Shield UCW on facebook!



For national news: www.unitedchurchwomen.com