

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc. NEWSLETTER



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September, 2008

Empowering women to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and society

Honourary Patroness - Her Honour Ms Lenore Berscheid

President's Message

Here it is early September already and our summer is slipping away ever so discreetly. The cool breezes, the odd leaf falling on the grass, and the shorter evenings mark the change in season. Once again PCWM is looking forward with anticipation to a full slate of events for this fall, and I hope you will get a glimpse of the upcoming highlights for this fall of 2008 in the remaining pages.

Shortly into the summer of 2008 was our very enjoyable and successful 2nd Annual Celebrating Women Gala on July 9th. A big thank you goes out to Arlene Draffin Jones and the CW committee, the generous donors, the volunteers, and to all of you who came out in support of the Honourees and the PCWM. The new venue proved to be a hit as was the spectacular food.

Earlier in the summer I had the pleasure of being welcomed at the Reseau Femmes Annual General Meeting and the Consumer's Association of Canada Annual General Meeting. Also, Arlene Draffin Jones and I attended the Manitoba Provincial Organization of Business and Professional Women's Club FASD Panel "Connecting the Dots" moderated by Judy Wasylycia-Leis, and featured Holly Gamon from Healthy Child Manitoba, Maria Linklater a foster mother to over 350 children, and Dr. Amy Salmon, Co-leader of the Canada Northwest FASD Research Network Team on FASD Prevention from a Women's Health Determinants Perspective. It was an interesting and informative morning.

Although our board has opted for a virtual office for six months, a meeting on July 21, with Elizabeth Fleming and Monica Singh (IWAM), and correspondingly with Rita Emerson of MORN and Betty Hopkins (LEAF), all interested in finding office space, we were able to flush out the requirements of each organization and combine them to give a real estate agent a picture of our needs. Throughout July and August Elizabeth Fleming, Betty Hopkins, myself and other members of the office space committee as well as the other organizations have been kept busy checking out possibilities.

Thanks to the help of Mary Scott, Elizabeth Fleming, Karen and Al Hoeft, and John Balbon we moved the office files and furnishings on August 26th to the Salvation Army building on Martha Street for storage.

On July 30th I attended the vigil at the Legislative grounds for the disappearance of the young Catchaway woman. While there I was made aware of the "Walk for Hope" that arrived on that day in recognition of the Aboriginal Women that are dead or missing.

Leonore Saunders, Elizabeth Fleming and I attended a reception to welcome the Manitoba-Israel Water Experts Symposium at the Asper Centre. The Minister of Water Stewardship, Christine Melnick, Mel Lazareck, President of the Jewish National Fund, Prairie Division, and Mr. Jonathon Kroft, President of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg hosted the event. Elizabeth and Leonore attended the workshops on Thursday, August 14th.

I hope to see many of you at our General Meeting on September 18, 2008, with Bev Suek speaking on "Housing for Seniors". Please see the poster included with this newsletter.

Maxine Balbon, President

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Photocopying of this newsletter has been made possible through the courtesy of the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council.

Empowering women to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and society

The Following Resolution is distributed now, for review and a vote at the semi annual meeting of Provincial Council. Questions or amendments? Contact Muriel Smith at muriel_smith@shaw.ca.

LOBBYISTS REGISTRATION LEGISLATION AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOBBYISTS IN MANITOBA AND WINNIPEG

WHEREAS open and unfettered access to government is a vital aspect of democracy;
 WHEREAS lobbying public office holders is a legitimate activity;
 WHEREAS public office holders and the public should be able to know who is attempting to influence government;
 WHEREAS public disclosure of the identities, causes and conduct of lobbyists is important to the integrity of government decision-making;
 WHEREAS recent high profile incidents of secret lobbying that abused the right of access to governments across the country have been reported;
 WHEREAS Manitoba has enacted conflict of interest legislation that applies to elected officials in Manitoba and Winnipeg;
 WHEREAS there is no legislation that applies to lobbyists in Manitoba;
 WHEREAS the Governments of Canada; six provinces (Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Alberta); and the City of Toronto have enacted Lobbyists Registration Legislation; and
 WHEREAS the Governments of Canada, Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador have each included a Code of Conduct for Lobbyists under their legislation; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba adopt as policy the enactment of a Manitoba Lobbyists Registration Act including a Code of Conduct for Lobbyists; and further be it
 RESOLVED that the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba urge the Government of Manitoba to enact a Manitoba Lobbyists Registration Act including a Code of Conduct for Lobbyists; and further be it
 RESOLVED that the Council of Women of Winnipeg adopt as policy the enactment by the City of Winnipeg Lobbyists Registration legislation including a Code of Conduct for Lobbyists; and further be it
 RESOLVED that the Council of Women of Winnipeg urge the City of Winnipeg to enact Winnipeg Lobbyists Registration legislation including a Code of Conduct for Lobbyists.

BACKGROUND

The original definition of "lobbyist" is one who frequents the lobby of a legislative assembly for the purpose of influencing members' votes, to solicit the votes of members. (The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary)

The federal Act does not define the word "lobbyist". It defines two types of individuals - consulting lobbyists and in-house lobbyists - in respect of whom reporting obligations apply. An essential condition of lobbyist status is some form of remuneration. An individual acting in a volunteer capacity is not a lobbyist under the federal Act.

Quebec's lobbyist legislation covers an organization lobbyist for whom lobbying on behalf of an association or other non-profit is a significant part of the job or function. Toronto is unique in Canadian lobbyist regulation and laws as it covers unpaid, voluntary lobbyists.

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 Democracy Watch, Government Accountability and Ethics Campaign web-site: <http://www.dwatch.ca/camp/ethicdir.html>

Celebrating Women 2nd Annual Fundraiser

PCWM hosts another successful evening.

By Arlene Draffin Jones, chair, Celebrating Women Gala and Fundraiser.

A wonderful evening of celebration and fellowship attended by some 150 people, at the 2nd Annual Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba *Celebrating Women Gala and Fundraiser* was held at Khartum Shrine House, Winnipeg on July 9, 2008. Beautiful burgundy and white table decorations with a sparkling punch fountain set the stage for the festivities, along with music, entertainment, displays and refreshments. A hardworking Celebrating Women Committee of volunteers planned and organized the Gala. The delicious food from Wayne's Specialty Foods was served by Girl Guides. Honourees were led into the reception by Piper Hilda Towerzey. The delightful Emcee for the evening was Beverley Watson host of the Weekend Show on CBC Radio One. Background music by pianist Donna Greaves and vocal selections by Rebekah Jones entertained the guests. Following the event we received excellent media coverage. The evening was highlighted with the acknowledgement of the work and dedication of four individual members and two federate organizations, who are making a positive difference in their community.

The individual honourees were:

ELAINE LOUISE ADAM

Elaine came to the provincial council as the representative from the Manitoba Home Economics Association, was soon elected president of PCWM and hosting the NCWC Conference in 1980 in Winnipeg. She brought focus to the issue of "Violence Toward Women" and organized 31 workshops for council members and federates with a \$12,000 grant from the Secretary of State. Elaine says "Being involved in Council is a lifetime commitment". With her university teaching, volunteer activities with LEAF, her para-legal services for an immigration family and as President of the Councils of Women Life members she continues to work on the Councils' goal of empowering women and families.

PEGGY BARKER

Peggy began her work with PCWM through her activities with the Women's Institute and later became the federate representative from Consumers Association Canada (MB) where she serves as the current president. Her varied career in teaching and home economics also included positions as Textile Specialist with the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation and the Western Agricultural Agri-Food Corporation. Peggy continues to serve on the PCWM Board as well as putting in many hours volunteering for her church and maintaining an active role in local theatre productions.

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MURDINA BROWNLEE

A Registered Laboratory Technician, Murdina returned to her home town of Winnipeg after 24 years in Montreal with her husband and sons, and was immediately recruited to fill in for the secretary of the PCWM council by Elizabeth McEwan, council President at the time. Her interest in local issues led her to the Council of Women of Winnipeg where she soon became President during their centennial year in 1994. She served as Arts and Letters Convenor for NCWC and continues her council activities as a member at large on the Councils of Women Life Members Association.

DONNA MAE YEO

Donna Mae has a long and illustrious career both in her professional role as a well known and respected Interior designer and in the field of municipal affairs.

She has chaired advisory, planning and executive committees, organized exhibitions, directed trade shows in her involvement with the Professional Interior Designers Institute and is recognized for her work on the Ronald McDonald House project. As a founding member of the Altrusa Club of Winnipeg she was instrumental in coordinating the TOTS (Take-Out-Toy-Service) a toy lending library for children with physical and mental disabilities. For over 30 years Donna Mae was an active force on the Assiniboine Park-Fort Garry Residents Advisory Group and in 1989 was one of the 12 founding members of W.I.N. (Winnipeg in the Nineties) – a non partisan citizens group to provide informed leadership and set new directions for municipal policy.

With the Councils of Women Donna Mae has shared her time and talent as President of the CWW for two terms, chair of Public Relations, Membership committees for the PCWM and for the past 8 years co-chaired the Archives Committee for both councils. She was a worthy recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal. Donna Mae is a member and past President of the Councils of Women Life Members Association.

Federate Honourees:

UKRAINIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (MB Executive) (U.W.A.C.)

Organized in Saskatoon in 1926 there are now approximately 2,500 members in 100 branches across Canada with 5 Provincial Executives. The MB Executive was established in 1934 and in 1951 became one of the first federates in PCWM and remain one of the Councils most dedicated volunteer group. Their interests and efforts include: women's issues related to equality, living conditions, shelters, housing (Habit for Humanity), orphanages in the Ukraine and trafficking. Over the years, they have provided leadership and support for projects (cont'd page 4)

Celebrating Women - 2008

and programs in particular the Celebrating Women Art Exhibit Project.

WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC

In 1973, a group of volunteers formed Pregnancy Information Service, Inc. (P.I.S.), a pro-choice birth control and pregnancy counseling service operating out of the Clinic Community Health Centre. As demand for a wider range of health services and information grew over time, the board of P.I.S. put forward their vision of a health clinic for women that would provide women-centered care.

With the assistance of a federal government grant, individual donations and lots of community support The Women's Health Clinic opened its doors in 1981. The clinic has continued to evolve over the years, offering a wide range of services to women of all ages and advocating with women on leading edge issues of concern to women's health including health reform and midwifery.

As a federate member of PCWM the clinic remains true to its mission of "empowerment, choice and action" encouraging women to learn all they can about their health and well-being so they can participate in an informed way in their health decisions.

SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

Generous corporate sponsorship, individual contributions, a Rainbow Auction, and the Celebrating Women suitcase sale were once again the major fundraising initiatives for the event. Monies raised will go toward supporting the work of the PCWM and funding programs to improve the quality of life for women, their families and their community such as mental health issues, housing and energy.



THANK YOU to our sponsors, donors and friends for your support



Platinum:

Manitoba Government – Status of Women
Assiniboine Credit Union

Silver:

Steinbach Credit Union
Life Members Association Councils of Women of Manitoba
Alyssa Stevenson Eating Disorder Memorial Trust – Elaine Stevenson
Bob Jones Mary Scott Victoria Lehman

Bronze

Carpathia Credit Union
Ukrainian Women’s Association of Canada (MB Executive)
Monica Singh Morris Financial Group

Pearl

Wolseley Family Place

Flowers: Donated by Sonja Rockall at Karen’s Flowers

Rainbow Raffle Donors:

Canada Safeway (Luxton & Main Branch)	Sanders Family
Hotel Fort Garry – Sherraine Christopherson	Helen Garrity
Templeton Investments	Barney Gargles Restaurant, Selkirk
Manitoba Hydro	All About Chocolate
Yorke’s Ukrainian Kitchen	Leanne Rowat MLA, Portage
Rick & Maryanne Jones	Maxine Balbon
Laurie & Cathy Fischer	Elaine Stevenson
Bob Jones (Pollock’s Hardware Co-op Ltd.)	Ukrainian Women’s Association of Canada
Erica McLaughlin	(MB Executive)
Hilary Druzman Design Jeweler	Granny’s Poultry

Special thanks to:

Maryanne Jones
Khartum Shrine House
Audrey Grant
Val Noseworthy
Joanne Yurkin
McNally Robinson Booksellers
Girl Guides (Rangers Alexi Hadder & Jessica Egan)

Celebrating Women Planning Committee:

Chair: Arlene Draffin Jones	
Maxine Balbon	Bonnie Siemens
Maj. Karen Hoeft	Mary Scott
Leonore Saunders	Melissa McCaig-Pike
Karen Sharma	Shirley Walker

Mental Health Education for Families

Are you coping with a mental illness of a family member?

Do you struggle with how to support your loved one?

Do you want to know how to support yourself as a family member?

CMHA Winnipeg Region is now offering an eight week course for families and friends who are dealing with these and related issues.

In this course, you will learn:

- o An overview on mental illness including types, risk factors and myths about mental illness.
- o Practical skills to improve your ability to communicate with your family member.
- o Setting limits and boundaries with family members.
- o Stress-busting tips and coping skills to enhance your own mental wellness.
- o Rights and responsibilities of persons living with a mental illness, family members and professionals.
- o How to support your family member through their personal recovery journey and how to get support for yourself, as a family member.

Course Schedule Fall 2008 Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 pm, September 17 - November 5, 2008
 Free, To register call 982-6100 or register online at www.cmhawpg.mb.ca

WOW – Our Newsletter is a Winner!

Congratulations to Karen Sharma, the Editor for the Provincial Council Newsletter.

The 20th Annual APEX Awards for Publication Excellence -- is an international competition that recognizes outstanding publications from newsletters and magazines to annual reports, brochures and Web sites. And the Provincial Council Newsletter won in the 1 to 2 person produced newsletter category! Well done Karen! And thank you!

Walk To Honour And Protect Our Children

Grandmothers Protecting Our Children Walk

2nd Annual
 Sun.Sept.21.08

Start: 10 Am: Circle Of Life Thunderbird House (715 Main St. @ Higgins Ave.)

End: Forks Market (At The Odena)
 Kookum Gaa Na Da Maa Waad

Abinoojig Council Presents
 Pipe Ceremony: 6:30 Am: Forks Market (At The Odena)

For Further Information, Please Contact:
 204.942.6676



New Mental Health Stamp now available



The Winnipeg Arts Council and the Women's Health Clinic
 invite you to the opening of
THE BIRTHING PROJECT
 a collaborative artwork created by glass artist Judy Jennings



and the Manitoba Maternity Care Action Network
 through the WITH ART program

Tuesday, September 30, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Women's Health Clinic
419 Graham Avenue

Join us as the Honourable Theresa Oswald, Minister of Health and
 Winnipeg Councillor, Ms. Jenny Gerbasi open this new and innovative artwork.
 "The Birthing Project" art work is the result of a year long collaborative project
 with the Manitoba Maternity Care Action Network, birthing women, their families
 and midwives and Ms Jennings. The art pieces will ultimately be hung at the Birth Centre.

Besides providing a vision of normal pregnancy and birth from many cultural
 perspectives, it is also will be used as focal points while women are in labour.
 While awaiting completion of the birth centre, it will be hung in the street level
 windows at the Women's Health Clinic on Graham. This is a project of the Winnipeg Arts Council's WITH ART program,
 funded by the City of Winnipeg.

Watch for events in your community –

Active Aging Week "Choose an Active Life"

Goal:

Active Aging Week promotes the benefits of a healthy lifestyle through out Manitoba by giving
 older adults the opportunity to experience activities and exercise in a safe, friendly and fun
 atmosphere.

When:

Monday, October 6 through Sunday, October 12, 2008. This is the launch year of an annual
 event in Manitoba to be held during Seniors and Elders month.

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE
Right to Know Week: September 29 - October 3

Across Canada, it's Right to Know Week, a week to raise awareness about government information that is readily available and that which is accessible by application.

Access to information laws help you find out what your government is doing and how it's spending your money. Rules that required governments to reveal information that is not always flattering, have helped uncover all kinds of stories in Canada in recent years.

- Monday, September 29 - 3:30 to 4:30 - University of Winnipeg, Eckhardt-Grammate Hall
Public presentation by Dr. Alasdair Roberts, Professor of Law and Public Policy, Suffolk University, Boston, titled: "Blacked Out: Government Secrecy in the Information Age".
- Wednesday, October 1 - noon to 1:00 - Portage Place, Edmonton Court
Public information event, "Know Your Right to Know", with participants from the media, other experienced access to information seekers and access to information professionals sharing their experiences and addressing questions.
- Friday, October 3 - noon to 1:00 - St Boniface College, Room 1531
Public presentation, in French, by Suzanne Legault, Associate Information Commissioner of Canada on access to information, including details on the many varied careers in this area.

MORE DETAILS ON THESE EVENTS, SPONSORED BY THE MANITOBA RIGHT TO KNOW COMMITTEE, TO BE POSTED AT www.ombudsman.mb.ca

PCWM Calendar of Meetings and Events

Please note, PCWM is adjusting to a Virtual Office, and our locations for Board and General Meetings will be changing. Our September meeting is at Success Skills, Room 510-500 Portage Ave. Questions? Please call 992 2751, or e-mail pcwm@mts.net or check our web site at <http://www.mts.net/~pcwm/>

- *September 18th, General Meeting, 7-9 pm Success Skills 510-500 Portage Ave.*
- *October 2nd Board meeting Room 401, 400 York St. 6:30 pm*
- *THERE IS NO GENERAL MEETING IN OCTOBER – PLEASE SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO KNOW EVENTS (PCWM is a sponsor), and watch for political forums in your area*
- *Newsletter deadline November 6th*
- *November 6 Board Meeting Location to be announced*
- *Semi Annual Meeting Location and date to be announced*

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

Guest Editor
Mary Scott

Deadline for submission for next issue: November 6

The Provincial Council of Women of
Manitoba, Inc.

**Housing for the 55+
Woman: Do We Have a
Choice?**



With

Bev Suek

(Co-Chair for Retirement Alternatives)

Thursday, September 18, 2008

7 - 9 pm

Success Skills - Room 510 - 500 Portage Avenue
(note change in meeting location)

Please join us and reconnect with Council
friends. All are welcome.

For further information, call 992 2751 or e-mail

pcwm@mts.net