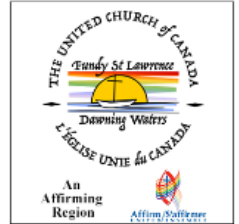




Maritime UCW News

Summer 2026



President (2026-2028) and Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Rep (2024-present)

Ann Piper 20 Bayview Dr. Amherst NS
B4H 4E7 Ph: 902-614-4066
apiperrpn@outlook.com

President-elect - VACANT

Past President (2026-2028)
Betty Ann Watts 7368 Highway 341,
Port Howe NS B0K 1K0
Ph: 431-335-6998
bettyannwatts6@gmail.com

Recording/Media Secretary (2026-2028) and Eastern NS Contact

Krista Stott-Jones 48 Raven Rd., Valley, NS
B6L 2P5 902 899-9999
scouterkrista@gmail.com

Treasurer (2026)

Myra Thiemann PO Box 335
697 Lower Main Street, Oxford NS
B0M 1P0 Ph: 902-891-0120
mlthiemann@mail.com

Social Secretary: (2024-2028)

Michèle Ashby 11172 Highway 4
Havre Boucher NS B0H 1P0
Ph 902-232-3473
timich@ns.sympatico.ca

Archives/Alumni: Sharon Moyse
154 Spring Street Summerside PE
C1N 3G3 Ph: 902-436-5157
moysegirl3@gmail.com

Nominating: (past president)

Newsletter Editor: VACANT

Temporary Editor: Ann Piper

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Rep (2022-2026) and PEI contact

Elaine Burrows
309 – 55 Roy Boates Drive Summerside PE
C1N 6V2 Ph: 902-436-1443
elaineb@pei.sympatico.ca

Christian Life and Growth:

Jocelyn Langille
1322 Hwy 2 Brentwood NS
B0N 1C0 Ph: 902-956-0212
jalangille55@gmail.com

President's Greeting

Blessings to each of you. I hope by the time you read this message that summer has finally arrived and settled in. It has taken me the last few years to get used to the slight shift in seasons in the Maritimes compared to Ontario, but I must say my move to the Maritimes is the best decision I ever made.

UCW and the United Church have been my constant, solid support throughout my life, no matter where I have lived. It was UCW at Dunrobin United Church in the old Ottawa Presbytery that encouraged me to become a Licensed Lay Worship Leader. It was UCW at Ebenezer United Church who were my support team when my infant son passed away. It was UCW at Manor Road United Church in Toronto that welcomed me home when I returned to Toronto to look after my elderly mother. And it was the UCW of Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church in Amherst NS that welcomed me with open arms when I arrived in town 4 years ago.

At the end of May I attended the Bermuda Nova Scotia Regional Council Annual Meeting at Acadia University. I had the pleasure to present thank you cards to the new Ministers to thank them for answering their call. The Maritime UCW gives a donation to the Mission and Service fund in honour of the ordinands for each of the regions. Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters had their annual meeting online this year. There was one ordinand and his card was given to him at the Sunday morning service in Sackville NB.

After being installed as President at our annual meeting at Nashwaaksis U.C. (see AGM report in this issue) the UCW at Trinity-St. Stephen's hosted a wonderful celebration luncheon in my honour. This was a beautiful way of showing me that they support not only me in my role as your president, but it also showed me how much love and support they have shown to each other and to all the women who have served before me. The luncheon was on May 5th, Red Dress Day in honour of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. I did not want this day to go unnoticed, so I purchased 40 little pins shaped like red dresses. I sold these pins for a donation and am pleased to say that more than \$200 was donated and sent to the Healing Fund, our 5 year NUCW mission and service project. So many people have asked me what do you get out of all the time you spend on UCW "things". And the only answer I can think of is JOY. I get so much joy from all "things" UCW. J is for Jesus that leads all of us. O is for opportunity, opportunity to share the individual gifts that God gives to each of us. Y is for youth, and I am sure you are all thinking YOUTH??? We are not young anymore, and that is true but all this thinking we must do is keeping our brains youthful and useful to build a better world for tomorrow.

Blessings – Ann Piper

Berwick Camp:

Joan Fraser P.O. Box 1496 174
Faulkland St Pictou NS B0K 1H0 Ph:
902-485-4771

joanfraser9@gmail.com

Chignecto District:

Lois Budd – President
8 Smith Rd. Colpitts Settlement NB
E4J 1J3 Ph: 506 372-4357

loisethelbudd@gmail.com

Halifax District

Joann Chapman - President
50 Glendale Drive, Westphal, NS B2Z 1J1
902 877-9430

joann.chapman7@gmail.com

Members at Large FSLDW region

Anna Peters 1118-190 Carson Drive
Moncton NB E1C 0S4

Ph: 506-383-1479

arpeters460@gmail.com

Pauline Luker 167 Holyoke Lane
Keswick Ridge NB E6L 1V7

Ph: 506-363-2533

paulineluker1@gmail.com

Susan McBeath

47 Sunset Dr. Rexton, NB E4W 2E7
(506)850-2476

gmcbeath@nb.sympatico.ca

Members at Large BNS region

Heather MacDonald
Box 522, Oxford NS B0M 1P0
902 669-1853

heatherblackadar1@gmail.com

Phyllis Munroe 104 Olympiad Av.
Bridgewater NS B4V 3P7

Ph: 902-543-9339

billphyl@icloud.com

Western NB Contact

Marilyn Bubar 654 Rte 104,
Burtts Corner NB E6L 2B8
Ph: 506-363-2553

jnmbubar@gmail.com

Miramichi contact:

Elaine Stewart
1384 Route425, Boom Road. NB
E9E 1G4 506 625-4158

Elainedstewart1@gmail.com

South Shore/Valley: Contact Vacant

Cape Breton: Contact vacant

Executive update

We had our executive meeting on June15, at the United Church office in Sackville NB. We welcomed some new members to the Executive. Joann Chapman is the new President of Halifax District. Krista Stott-Jones from Valley Nova Scotia and Sue McBeath from Rexton NB arrived as new members at large.

During the meeting we discussed the vacant positions on our executive. The Treasurer position was the most urgent position to fill. The Recording Secretary had an enormous job with meeting agendas and minutes, collecting statistics, gathering annual reports, receiving all the registrations for annual meeting, and putting the annual meeting booklet together. It was decided that this was simply too much for any one person to do. Just as Ruth Kennedy doesn't know how she got it all done we don't know how she accomplished it all either. Thanks to all past secretaries. After much discussion Myra Thiemann has resigned as recording secretary and will take on the Treasurer's position. Krista-Stott Jones agreed to get to work right away and become the new recording secretary with some changes to the job description.

Elaine Burrows has agreed to be editor and producer of the annual report booklet. Phyllis Munroe, our recently retired Treasurer, has agreed to stay on the executive as a Member-at-Large. We are so thankful that she will continue to share her years of knowledge with those of us that are new to the executive.

Our Executive currently sits at 18 members. There are still some vacancies. Please give it some prayerful thought and consideration.

President Elect - Do you know of someone that would make a great leader? Perhaps you would be willing or know someone you would like to work with and share the position. Our new President Ann says, "Don't miss out on all the fun, come join us."

Maritime UCW Newsletter Editor – We are still looking for an editor. We are very grateful to those who stepped in to make sure the news got out in 2025. Continuing into 2026 the executive will ensure that the news gets out, but we need your help. Do you know of someone that would make a good editor?

Members at Large are needed; it is a great way to introduce someone (maybe a travel companion) to the committee and "get their feet wet" and **Contacts** are still needed to collect and share news from Cape Breton, and South Shore/Valley.

If you have any questions, would like to volunteer or nominate someone for any of these positions, please contact any one of us. We called for volunteers and nominations during our MUCW Annual meeting in April. Now we are calling on everyone to give this prayerful consideration.

Currently the Nominating Committee consists of past president Betty Ann Watts (NS) and Sharon Moyse (PEI). In an effort to have wide representation on the committee we are still seeking another member ideally from New Brunswick.

Please prayerfully discern where you might serve on your Maritime UCW.

News from Keswick Ridge UCW



Coasters made by Ralph Stephenson
Keswick Ridge UC

Ralph Stephenson, (Back Row, 3rd from Rt.) of the Keswick Ridge UC paid tribute to the UCW members at their meeting in April. Ralph hand painted a special coaster for each of us in recognition and thanks for our many contributions to this Community of Faith here on Keswick Ridge. Members in attendance above, (Back) Marj Price, Kathy Anderson (guest), Donna Bubar, Pauline Luker, Kaye McAleenan, Ralph, Charlotte Sheppard, Susan Fearon, (Front) Marilyn Bubar and Joyce Lawrence. Those of you who attended this year's AGM in Fredericton, might recall that Ralph is the Leader of the Group *Golden Club Singers*, who provided the entertainment on Saturday evening.

Berwick Camp – Come for a visit – Come Hug a tree



Berwick United Church Camp, in the beautiful Annapolis Valley, has a long tradition beginning in the 1870's as a Methodist Camp. The multi-generational camp has welcomed thousands over the years to its beautiful site under the hemlocks. Accommodation includes tents, trailers, dormitories, basic cottages, and fully outfitted cottages. One of the many wonderful traditions is Berwick Camp UCW Day, always held on Wednesday in the middle of camp week. UCW members (and guests) from across the region are invited to experience this amazing camp for themselves. This year, set aside **Wednesday, July 29th** to enjoy a noon meal at the dining hall, followed by a program at the covered pavilion, completed by a trip afterwards over to the UCW Cookie Cottage for tea, coffee, and cookies. We are honoured this year to have as our guest speaker the camp's minister in residence and speaker for the week the Reverend Doctor Bev Brazier who will speak to us briefly on the camp theme "covenant". Ordained to the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care by Maritime Conference in May of 1984, she has served the Church in Hunter River PEI, Parrsboro Nova Scotia, New Richmond / Grande Cascapedia Quebec, Miramichi NB, Canterbury / Debec / McKenzie Corner NB, Pool's Cove NL, Yellowknife

NWT, and in Whitehorse YK. She has a passion for ministry in small communities - and for the scriptures. Hopefully we will get to hear about some of her adventures in Northern Canada.

This year as part of the day we will be remembering and honouring longtime UCW member and camper Anne Lake. We will have a name plate engraved to add to the memorial plaque that hangs at the Cookie Cottage. In the past, UCW members from across the region have supported the Cookie Cottage's function in camp life by donating homemade cookies and sending them to the camp. While the delicious cookies provided are much appreciated, if it is no longer possible, a monetary donation in lieu of cookies can be used to supplement the cookie supply as needed. Please consider a donation from your unit. Checks should be made payable to Maritime UCW clearly marked "**For Cookies**". We have arranged for some help from a youth group who is willing to bake cookies for us but they need the supplies, and supplies cost money. Hoping to see as many of you as possible here to experience and enjoy the wonderful day at camp under the Hemlocks.

Jocelyn Langille Christian Life and Growth.

**From the NUCW Finance Committee
Planning for the 65th Anniversary celebration in
Ottawa, Ontario**

The anniversary is being held July 19 - 23, 2027. The deadline for the **Dorothy Amos Grant** application for **United Church Women** attending is **July 2, 2026 this year**. Applying July of 2027 is too late!

On Page 3 section of the application:

Expenses: Course fee/registration approximately \$500.00

Travel: estimate your travel

Accommodation is set \$195.00 plus taxes per night double/single occupancy

Meals not included breakfast and Wednesday lunch

Other tours estimate \$135.00

It was moved at the National UCW Annual meeting last September that each United Church Woman who applies will receive \$300.00. You do not have to submit two written recommendations/references with this application.

Special Note: Please apply this year, if you can not attend in July of 2027 you will need to return the \$300.00. If you have any questions you can contact Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, Treasurer National UCW by phone 343-571-7780 or at dallasarbucklecarolle@gmail.com
See you at the 65th Anniversary.

https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2021-01/form_dorothy-amos-fund_2021.pdf

Healing Fund Update

Hi Everyone,

We started The Healing Fund as our Special Project in September of 2022. To date from 2022 to December 29, 2025 we have donated **\$107,726.88** to The Healing Fund.

Thank you to all who have donated and let us all keep up donating to the Healing Fund. Blessings, Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle

"I know UCW are strong supporters to the Healing Fund and I want to give my sincere apologies for lacking communication. As for update on 2026 UCW initiative, this year's Spring 2026 review, the healing program working group did not identify a UCW initiative within the healing fund submissions. The working group will discern and select 1-2 initiatives in the fall review as supported by UCW.

I know 2027 is coming and UCW will be selecting a new initiative. I want to ensure we have a good final report of the last 5 years 😊

Thank you so very much for understanding."
Joni Shawana

News from Halifax District:

We are writing to you with the intention of UCW, Saint Andrew's United Church disbanding. This is due to Saint Andrew's United Church, Fort Massey United Church, and Saint Matthew's United Church amalgamating to form "Halifax United Church," effective July 1, 2026.

On May 11th, Saint Andrew's UCW met and had an open and excellent discussion regarding the amalgamation of our 3 churches and the requirement of UCW, Saint Andrew's United Church to disband. The following motion was presented, seconded and members voted unanimously to approve.

THAT- UCW Saint Andrew's United Church will disband, due to the amalgamation of Saint Mathew's United Church, Saint Andrew's United Church and Fort Massey United Church, by the amalgamation agreement date of July 1, 2026. With the intention of forming "UCW, Halifax United Church" in the fall of 2026.

MUCW looks forward to hearing from this "NEW" UCW executive. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help with your reorganizing. Your work is important and we all thank you for finding a way to continue that work.



Small churches shape lives in extraordinary ways. They baptize, comfort, celebrate, mourn, feed, visit and quietly hold communities together. This September/October, *Broadview's* Small Church special issue will celebrate the strength, creativity and impact of small

churches across Canada.

You can be part of it: order copies for yourself, your congregation or honour a small church or leader who made a difference in your life through our special Honour Roll.

Pre-order and Honour Roll deadline: July 10.

Learn more, order or donate for Honour Roll

at: broadview.org/small-churches

Pre-publication special rates: 1 or 2 copies \$7.00 each, 2 to 9 copies \$6 each, 10+ copies \$5 each. Taxes and shipping are included in the prices.

A Blast from the Past – Alumni Reflections

In this new section in the Newsletter, we hope to share stories here from our UCW Alumni and we are happy to report that our first submission is from **Ruth Kennedy**.

Trials, Tribulations, Joy and Junketing

Romans 12: 6-13 Speaks to me and what I think UCW is about. *“⁶ In His grace, God has given us certain gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ if your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. ⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ when God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.”*

As I look back on my years of service in Maritime UCW, I really don't know how I did what I did. From 2017 – 2025 I worked!

Spring 2017 I agreed to become President elect for Maritime Conference UCW. I attended my local UCW but knew precious little beyond that level of UCW. It was to be a learning year. Oh I learned! I went to one meeting in June then we did not meet again until October. **Trial 1** Our President had some serious health issues and you know the line “the Vice President performs the duties if the President is unable, yup, throw me in the deep end. I tried to read about UCW, pick people's brains, I did get my hands on the UCW manual and the book “Ordinary Heros”, that helped.

Fall 2017 Junket 1 Oh, by the way, there is a National Annual meeting for NUCW we have to go to Toronto, what now? **Trial II** okay Catherine MacLean will hold my hand; Sarah already wrote the worship. I can do this. I thought, well we probably have the evenings off, I'll just hit the store, get some munchies and relax, come again? There is no store, the priest's picture on the wall kept following me with his eyes, and these ladies work from dawn to dark forget rest, forget your diet-Pepsi withdrawal, there's work to be done.

At the meeting, Nancy Sutherland, our incoming President leaned over and said I hear Bermuda (Maritime Conference UCW) is interested in hosting the 60th Anniversary celebration.

What now? Celebration? Bermuda?

Trial III. Junket 2... Sarah unfortunately could not go to Bermuda for health reasons, so I was “forced”, to spend a week in Bermuda sight seeing, meeting people, dining, visiting and gathering information. This was a **Joy**. I spent a week with Mary Sumpter my hostess. It was like visiting with my mom. I met ladies that would have never crossed my path and found a pure group of devout ladies who had lost touch with MCUCW as they were older and could not travel to meetings abroad.

Back at home in Fredericton then, we were in the planning stages of a move to PEI. A trial, tribulation, many junkets and joy all rolled into one.

I attended my first Annual meeting and was installed as President. **Trial IV** as fresh eyes coming into Maritime UCW I noticed a disconnect. We had a webpage, but it wasn't up to date. We had a newsletter which only some subscribed to. We had quite a few units that were not counted in the statistics and I noticed as Presbyterians closed their doors, the local units thought they were on their own. I set out to change that with phone calls, guideline updates, emails and information sharing. I tried to connect.

Junket 3 and Joy. I again visited Bermuda as part of my tenure. I attended the most wonderful Spring rally where I felt spirit filled, with 30 like minded women and not all were United Church women.

Junkets 4-12 and Joy: I visited St Stephen NB and met Diana who was, I thought, a woman who cared about the planet and renewal long before it was kosher. I visited Chatham NB and worshipped with old friends. Halifax, Glace Bay, Woodstock, Truro, Oxford, White Point Beach Lodge for great meals, fellowship and worship. Camp Abby with the PEI ladies where I met more people and enjoyed the programs and fellowship. All the time trying to get the word out “*do what you are able, share your talents, keep connected, send in your STATS, and fellowship with each other.*” I met many women who worked for their church and community, wonderful works.

Trial V the church restructured. Oh No! What now? Maritime Conference UCW was split. We now had half our units in one region and half in another. People were confused. Units thought because Presbytery was removed, they were on their own. We became Maritime UCW. Double the pleasure double the fun we now had two regional council executives to attend. Our Presbyterians became Districts, One Regional Council welcomed UCW as a member of executive with open arms, one had to vote to see if they would allow us. We continue to have a seat and a voice, a **tribulation!**

Continued....

Alumni Reflections – Continued

Trial VI our secretary died suddenly, on the way to a meeting. I was now president and secretary. She was my right arm. I had to learn another job that is integral to keeping things rolling. She did the statistics, the emails, the notice of meetings, and told me what to do when.

Junket 13, 14 Another NUCW Annual meeting more work and joy, trials and tribulation. It seems we were considered “Great money generators”, and a group that the UCC did not want to “Piss off” however not all UCW’s are considered equal. Not all regions are given a voice at the regional council table a privilege in the East group, silenced in the West for the most part.

Trial VII was a little thing called the Covid 19 Pandemic perhaps you remember it. In March 2020 the iron curtain went down. I was isolated in my home, on an Island with the borders patrolled by people with nose swabs. We learned to ZOOM; we couldn’t fellowship or fundraise. We planned a 60th Anniversary by email and ZOOM. Some pivoted better than others. We did church on-line or in parking lots or not at all. **Tribulation:** after an extra 6 months, the new President was installed. The borders opened. We were back to business as usual, kind of. We were afraid to meet. After the hiatus many UCW’s changed. They couldn’t fundraise or didn’t adjust to the new regulations post covid, so they didn’t seem to see their worth. I took on the secretary role and continued my mission to connect, to inform and to have the best darn 60th Anniversary party we could have.

Trial VIII, Junket 15 The 60th Anniversary, late planes, some women came down with covid, busses with engine trouble, restaurants that couldn’t get their mojo going to serve tourists, and a week of little sleep and lots of work. The planning committee was a joy. The 200+ attendees had a wonderful time.

As time has continued the Junkets slowed down, receiving STATS in on time was a **tribulation** as was those stepping up to take on executive positions. As the trials in UCW have waned for me, the trials in life have increased. I studied, I listened, I learned, I tried to get us, as UCW, more connected, at least in the Maritimes/Bermuda. I find **joy** in hearing the successes of the UCW’s that continue, that have found new ways of being together and offering their talents to others. I feel **tribulation** when I hear the United Church does acknowledge that we are a force that held/hold many churches together. Restructuring loosened the glue; covid loosened it further. I am saddened as units decide it is time to close. I find **joy** in hearing about the small unit that still wants to meet and support each other and donates a few dollars if they can.

I am now a member of the alumni. Getting to be on that list of very talented, articulate, faith filled and faithful women is an honour. I can tell you it was A LOT of hard work, and I didn’t have all the components mentioned in Romans 12, but by the cracky I gave it my all. Through trials, tribulations, joys and junkets, UCW **is a blessing** to the church and community, do not ever forget your worth.

Ruth Kennedy: Jack of all trades; master of none!



The Keswick Ridge United Church Community of Faith is celebrating 200 years of Faith this year. Several special events are taking place throughout the year, but two weekends are planned for September when on Sunday, Sept. 13th, Moderator Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath will be our guest. And on Sunday, Sept. 20th, Tri Regional Executive Minister, Rev. Faith March-MacCuish plans to join us. On Saturday evening, September 19th, a special musical evening is planned.

*“Rooted in the past, Reaching
for the future.”*

Keswick Ridge United UCW has been busy with the planning for the 200th anniversary celebrations set for September. We will be organizing and supplying the food for two luncheons following the services on September 13th and September 20th, as well refreshments for a *Music Night* on the 19th. The end of May we again had a very successful Plant Sale offering over 300 potted perennials, trees and shrubs

It was so successful WE SOLD OUT



Chignecto News HOPE CONTINUES TO BLOOM

The long-awaited Chignecto's UCW Spring Rally, "Hope Continues to Bloom" is in the rearview mirror now. For the near twenty who attended, it proved to be a wonderful day away. It started out with a time of worship, when our devotional leader Anna brought a reading about spring hope from The Circle of Life, included several verses from scripture on 'hope'. Two musical selections "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope" and "As Long as We Follow", were sung joyfully by all. Amazingly she found a poem by Joyce Rupp entitled "Hope Continues to Bloom" that she offered. We were instructed in a body prayer to get us stretched, and ready, and sang the chosen theme song "May the God of Hope Go with Us Everyday". Maritime UCW President Ann Piper shared her hope for our organization as she begins her term in this leadership. And the day of hope blooming got started. Abbi Ryder, a Community HIFIS (Homeless Individuals & Families Information System) Specialist with the Human Development Council in Moncton, shared stories, information and hope she sees in her outreach counselling work. The women were asked to contribute their thoughts to "The Hopes and Dreams" Jar capsule to be opened in March 2027. The shared lunch was abundant, and good fellowship enjoyed. Afternoon brought us "An hour of hope" filled with gospel music and recitations by Pastor Phil Williams of Riverview, NB. Thank you to Chignecto UCW President Lois Budd for arranging this joyful away day for us.



Anna Peters led a beautiful devotional



Lois Budd with rally presenter, Pastor Phil Williams.



Abbi Ryder Guest Speaker with her Grandmother Lois Budd.



Musicians Ann Piper and Sue McBeath

"There's nothing more beautiful than the way the ocean refuses to stop kissing the shoreline, no matter how many times it's sent away."
~ Sarah Kay



Mary Carolyn Dickeson 1939 - 2026

From Mary's Obituary:

"Mary worked at Waldale manufacturing for over 30 years. She was a charter member of the UCW, having been a member of both the Lorneville United Church and later Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church. She volunteered at the IODE thrift shop and helped with anything and everything at the church. She was an avid knitter, donating endless knitted items to hospitals, as well as heading up the Prayer Shawl ministry, giving out over 230 shawls to people in need over the years. She also spent a lot of time rug hooking with the Northport rug hookers. She loved the beach, clamming, or just sitting and listening to the waves. Every Sunday supper with the family was a highlight to her week."

Pictured above are prayer shawls made by Mary and given to members of the unit over the years. At the last meeting before summer break, we brought our shawls in to make a display of remembrance for Mary. May her shawls continue to comfort for years to come.

News from Western NB contact - Marilyn Bubar

The spring has been a busy time for many of us UCW members here in this area as we prepared for and hosted the AGM the last weekend of April at Nashwaaksis United Church in Fredericton. It was very exciting for us, as part of the former *Woolastook Region* which opted out of Maritime UCW many years ago, to see the Maritime UCW AGM held in our hometown. The attendance from Western NB and Saint John area was very good and according to the Evaluation statements, they were pleased with the event. A big thank you to the folks from Nashwaaksis United for hosting the weekend and also for providing the catering services for the three meals required. Everything was delicious and the banquet was so professionally done, we felt like very special guests.



80 attendees at MUCW Annual Meeting in Nashwaaksis United Church, Fredericton NB.

Continuing with Annual General Meeting



National UCW President Barbara Dejeet with 2026 MUCW Executive

The annual meeting of Maritime UCW took place on April 24th to 26th 2026 at Nashwaaksis United Church in Fredericton NB. 80 women from across the Maritime provinces gathered to conduct the business of MUCW, worship, sing, laugh, pray, learn, and share tables of food. The theme of this year's gathering was Creator, Creation and I. We heard a wonderful presentation from Alice Finnamore on the topic of creation and nature and how to engage with nature in our prayers. Nick Hawkins, a nature videographer, presented his work on the life cycle of the Atlantic Salmon. This was fascinating and his videos were amazing.

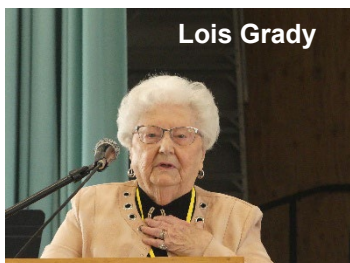
We had four creative workshops to choose from. Lynda-Jean Coffin gave us an introduction to the new hymnbook Then Let Us Sing, which was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Betty Ann Watts led a workshop that included breaking pottery and putting it back together in a way that decorates and beautifies the original piece. Elaine Burrows led a workshop on creating quilt blocks for our Banner for the 65th Anniversary of UCW that will take place in Ottawa in July 2027. Anna Peters led a workshop on creating beautiful bookmarks. On Saturday evening, entertainment was provided by the Golden Club Singers. The weekend ended with Sunday morning worship at our host church where we were welcomed and processed in and filled 4 or 5 pews of the sanctuary. It was a joyous service with music provided by Lynda Jean Coffin, Sue McBeath and Ann Piper. Our new executive was installed by our guest, Barbara Dejeet, National UCW president. Barb also presented us with her thoughts on Creation. Lois Grady – charter member – 100 years young, joined us for Lunch on Saturday. She is still the president of her unit.



Alice Finnamore



Nick Hawkins



Lois Grady

Lynda-Jean Coffin
Then Let Us Sing



Bookmarks



Quilt Blocks



Pottery

Western NB is Busy!

Nashwaaksis: The *Bridge Luncheons* were served again. In May we served 23 tables of players. Their group's, *Bring & Buy Auction* – items were brought wrapped which could be baked goods, candles, napkins etc. These are auctioned sight unseen. No one knows what they are bidding on until they get it and unwrap it. Many surprises! – **Joan McGee**

Harvey United Church had a wonderful project celebrating the 11 members who are over 90. They were interviewed by Janet Watson and Martha Willett who "gathered" their stories. A celebration service was held to honor these women with families and community attending. The group took part in *World Day of Prayer* service hosted by St. Clements Anglican Church. The group continues to support the *Lakeland Food Bank* which serves Harvey and McAdam. With one of the UCW members "championing" this cause, the church and church friends food and cash donations represent over \$17,000. Wow Great Work! **Janet Blair**

Westfield United is holding a Strawberry Shortcake, cold plate supper on July 9th at a cost of \$18...tickets at the local Home Hardware. (**Grand Bay-Westfield**) **Linda McCullough & Pam Smith**

Kingsley United: Members assembled cosmetic bags filled with personal items to be given to *Transition House*, along with a monetary donation. - **Helen Banks**

Wilmot United in Fredericton had another successful Rummage Sale in April. They were delighted to have eight members attend the Maritime AGM the following weekend. They had a good experience, and they learned a lot about the Maritime UCW meeting many new friends and reacquainted with some old friends. "What a small world it is", when new friends have connections to others they knew. Their closing dinner at Gibson Memorial United Church was enjoyed by the 36 members in attendance. Nancy Chase and Linda Gough were surprised when they were presented with **Life Membership Pins** and flowers in appreciation for all they have done for the group over the years. **Linda Gough**

St. Marks United, Saint John report that in the past they have held many events as fund raisers and have been "worker bees" most of the time. This past March, April and May the group took a breather and did some fun activities at their meetings. In March they played multiple board and card games; in April they joined in the fun of Mexican Train Dominoes and in May, a member supplied the materials to make greeting cards. In June they had a Chinese Takeaway, no work and a great way to begin their summer. **Lynn Kearns**

Photos from 2026 MUCW AGM at Nashwaaksis United Church.



Anna Peters presented past president Betty Ann Watts with a Life Membership



Betty Ann Watts thanking our treasurer Phyllis Munroe for 13 years of service.



Our Wonderful Musicians
(back) Lynda Jean Coffin,
(front) Sue McBeath, Ann Piper



Popular singing workshop
Then Let Us Sing



Betty Ann Watts receiving a Prayer Shawl thankyou.