

P.E.I Right to Life News ***“Life Sanctuary”***

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The following upcoming events are very special happenings in our area. Renew your commitment to “Right to Life” by attending one or all of them. Any one of these activities could present an excellent opportunity to strengthen your resolve and to become united in the cause.

The 16th Annual P.E.I. Right to Life Association “Life Chain” takes place on Sunday, September 30th from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. beginning at the Cenotaph and chaining out University Avenue.

For details see page 3

The National Pro-life Conference is in Moncton, NB from October 25-27 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

See page 3 for details

“Priests for Life” 8th Annual National Symposium on “Life and Family” is on Saturday October 13 from 9 – 5 p.m. at the Delta Prince Edward Hotel in Charlottetown

see page 3 for details

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The President's Message – Hemke VanderZwaag

The year 2007 has been a very busy one and is passing quickly. The Board of Directors meets monthly with the Executive Committee meeting on a regular basis.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our strong perennial supporters: The C.W.L. and The Knights of Columbus. Through the year we have invited each of these organizations to have an official representative attend our Board meetings to further enhance our common efforts in the fight for Life. We are pleased to welcome Maureen Goodrick as the representative from the Provincial Council C.W.L.

In recent years we have seen numerous Pro-Life signs erected in rural P.E.I. by our Chapters and we are now making a concerted effort to have the same happen in the Charlottetown area. If your group or church would like to participate in the cause please contact the office or myself.

Sometimes I feel we have a fear to show ourselves as Christians to the world. We hear and read and see that Canadians are changing their moral values against family and Christian values. Is it not time that we

begin to speak out and show who we are and what we believe?

I would like now to challenge all our members to live the will of God for ourselves and also to be an example to the next generation and show what it means to serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you to all our Board members for your efforts and your continued support shown to me your President.

**Please note our new email address:
life.sanctuary@pei.aibn.com**

Education Report

Euthanasia Video: Turning the Tide – Dignity, Compassion and Euthanasia

This video deals with “the vulnerability of the person when one experiences disability, depression or symptoms related to degenerative and/or end of life conditions. The video also focuses on issues related to pain and symptom management and proper end-of-life care.” According to their press release, this video has been viewed and considered very good by a member of the Executive. We do not have a copy in the office as yet but will be ordering a few copies in the near future. If interested in getting a loan of a copy please contact us.

The video “Preview of a Birth” has been shown as part of a respect for life segment in the Grades 7 & 8 Sunday School classes at The Christian Reformed church and St. Pius X. This pilot project has been well received. Any other groups interested in implementing this project please contact the office or feel free to contact the Sunday School coordinators in either of the above-mentioned Churches.

In Memoriam

On May 26, 2007, a long serving Board member passed away in the Souris Hospital. Anita Beaton was a dedicated and committed person who worked hard in promoting the value of life especially of the elderly and the unborn. She believed that life was a gift and should be valued and respected above all else. We will miss Anita's friendly smile and pleasant manner. She always listened, heard and often came up with some very sage advice.

Life Chain

Please come and participate in the annual international Life Chain – a peaceful, prayerful and silent public witness, standing for one hour, praying for our nation, our parents, our politicians and for the end of abortion. On Sunday September 30, 2007 (please note change in date – changed by national organization because the first Sunday of October was on the Thanksgiving weekend) will form up from the Cenotaph on University and Grafton and chain out University Avenue. Signs may be picked up at the Cenotaph, corner of Euston and University (Betty Brite) or the Royal Bank corner on University Avenue. **Reception** will be held at Murphy's Community Centre on Richmond Street in Room 205 following the "Life Chain". Join us for refreshments and friendship.

National Pro-Life Conference

The National 2007 Pro-Life Conference will be held in Moncton this year. This is the first time it has been this close since the P.E.I. Right to Life Association hosted it in 1997. The conference this year is being hosted by the N.B. Right to Life Association. Peter Ryan and his committee have put together a very stimulating program with the theme being, "From sea unto sea - for life". All of the programs take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The opening session is 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 25th and concludes with a banquet on Saturday night.

For information contact our office at 894-5473. We have information on the conference program, accommodations and transportation possibilities. Also registration forms are available from the office or you can contact directly to: N.B. Right to Life, P.O. Box 113, Stn. A, Fredericton, NB. E3B 4Y2. Fax 506 454-8093.

Website: www.dvmrl.knows.it and www.nbrighttolife.ca

"Priests for Life"

The 8th Annual National Symposium on "Life and Family" will be held in Charlottetown on October 13, 2007. The conference begins with a Mass celebrated by His Eminence Marc Cardinal Ouellet at 9 a.m. at the Basilica. Following this service Cardinal Ouellet will be the introductory speaker at the conference at 10:45 a.m. A banquet will be held at Fox Meadows in Stratford.

To register -

email: priestsforlifecanada.com,
P.O. Box 43, Cumberland, ON K4C 1E5 or
fax 613 834-2007.

Fee for the day is \$30.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members. The banquet is \$60.00.

The Great Canadian Wish List – Make a Wish, Tell your Friends, Build the List

In June of 2007 the CBC network through its media outlets in promoting the building of this Wish List asked the question, “Why should your dream for Canada be kept a secret?”.

The people responded through “Facebook” with enthusiasm and the results were compiled and released Sunday July 1st, 2007.

The first four wishes from the List were:

1. Abolish Abortion in Canada – 9543 supporters.
2. I wish that Canada would remain pro-choice – 8008 supporters.
3. For a spiritual revival in Canada – 4508 supporters.
4. Restore the Traditional Definition of Marriage – 4485 supporters.

Some blog comments are as follows: “Rather than dismissing this result as an anomaly, please see this as a launching point to stories about why so many young Canadians hold views different from the politically correct status quo – and why the media tend to ignore them anyway.”

“The abortion debate is alive and well on campuses across the country and that’s not just a good sign for the pro life movement but for democracy.”

“The pro-life movement in Canada is young, alive and well! Let us learn from this experiment that we are not “on the fringe of society,” we are in the mainstream ...”

What significance can one derive from the resulting views of Canadians through this very public and open process? For more information and comment by viewers go to the website www.cbc.ca/wish/2007/the-top-30-wishes

At The Office

by Aukje Annema

Summer is almost over, kids are back in school, and organizations start getting busy again. The same is happening at the PEI Right to Life Office. Most of us took the summer off except for doing the necessary things, like paying bills, checking emails, and answering correspondence.

Our faithful summer volunteer, Beatrice worked most Monday afternoons doing the weekly mail pickup and answering the phone messages. Thank you Beatrice Murnaghan.

We are short on volunteers

The Board of the Association considers it important to have the office open and staffed most of the time. Without volunteers this cannot happen. If you think our role in the community is important we ask you to consider donating some of your time as a volunteer. Since we are all volunteers, the more who share the load the easier it is for everyone. You will get training from a Board member on how the office is run, and you will have our full support.

Newsletter on the Website – We have recently been advised that the Association Newsletter does not qualify for Ad Mail postage rate - it is not mainly an advertising publication. The regular postage rate will now have to be used. We will continue our mail-out, as our newsletters are a very essential way of staying in contact with our members and keeping them informed and up to date on what is happening in the Pro-Life world. The number of letters mailed, could, however be reduced by having some members viewing the Newsletter on the website. Consider this a volunteer request only. We will continue to mail our Newsletter unless otherwise directed as we feel that a written copy has more impact. *Persons interested in getting only the electronic copy through the website please use the membership sheet enclosed to state*

your preference along with your email address.

Memorial Donations – donations from these memorials have become a significant part of our yearly donations. We are especially appreciative to the families who make designated donations to our Association. Some memorials in memory of a deceased family member have been in excess of \$500.00. There are special “memorial” forms available at some funeral homes and at the office. All funeral homes have the generic or general form which can also be used.

For information only - United Way donations can be made available to the Right to Life Association by specifying that your donation in whole or in part could come to us. This past year we realized nearly \$500.00 from donations made through United Way. Since we are not on the designated recipient list it is necessary to “write-in” the name of the recipient of your gift.

Christmas Cards - This year we have a beautiful selection of Christmas cards for sale. We have two categories for this Christmas season, they are **religious designs** and **contemporary designs**. Many people enjoy our cards, and we ask you, our membership to support us by purchasing these cards. The cards are available either at the office or at various functions such as church functions, bazaars, women groups etc. This is our only fundraiser and would we appreciate your help also in selling the cards. Contact the office if you can be of assistance.

News on the Billboard of Life Canada and PEI Right to Life - to date we have \$ 738 donated ,and we need \$1000 for this project and we are hoping this goal will be realized in the coming year. Thank you for your support so far and we hope we can count on more donations towards this project. So far the company that could rent the billboard space to us doesn't have any available for 2008. He does have my email, and maybe something will open up he says. The space we are talking about is on University Avenue between Charlottetown Rural School and UPEI.

“Bella” - A movie we want you to keep in mind is the movie “Bella”, set for release in late September, early October.

“Bella” won Toronto’s coveted People’s Choice Award. This film by Director Alejandro Monteverde is going to be much talked about in pro-life, pro-family circles. Please do what you can to promote this film and its pro-life message.

“Bella” tells the story of a young single waitress in New York City who becomes pregnant, loses her job, and struggles with the decision of whether or not to keep her child. In the meantime, she encounters a mysteriously compassionate Latino chef, who has suffered a tragedy in his past, and is perhaps the only person in her life who really cares about her.

It depicts abortion for the frightening, devastating, futile choice that it actually is.

Amnesty for Whom?

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights. According to *LifeCanada News* a policy released on their members only “restricted” website two years ago has come to light. This policy supports abortion as part of their overall position on Sexual and Reproductive Rights. The article goes on to say, “The new policy has three basic goals; 1) provide access to abortion in what they claim will only be ‘particular circumstances’, 2) ensure that women have access to medical care after

botched – whether legal or illegal, and 3) eliminate all penalties against women seeking abortion and against abortion providers.” Officials with Amnesty International admitted earlier this month that the human rights group will begin lobbying for abortion to be decriminalized globally. Amnesty had previously held a neutral position on abortion. The organization officially adopted the new policy last month, pursuing the removal of all criminal penalties against those “seeking, obtaining, providing information about, or carrying out abortions.” The new policy change was deliberately kept from the public, according to a document outlining the changes to members that was obtained by pro-life groups from a members-only page of Amnesty’s website. The document stated, “This policy will not be made public at this time,” and warned sections of the organization not to issue press releases or public statements on the change. The language sounds very proper but the terminology used is consistent with the language of carrying out abortions.

From the news source: *Times of London* Amnesty International risks alienating some of its high-profile rock-star backers in the fight over its decision to support women's access to abortion. The group has been accused of "duping" the singers Christina Aguilera and Avril Lavigne, who have both made statements against abortion and are among contributors to an Amnesty CD released to raise money for survivors of the atrocities in Darfur.

Two weeks ago, just two months after the album's release, Amnesty adopted a worldwide policy to back the right of women to abortion in some circumstances -- for example, when they have been victims of rape in areas of conflict such as Darfur and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The album, which has sold more than 400,000 copies, features cover versions of hits

by John Lennon such as Imagine, and Give Peace a Chance. It was made possible by Lennon's widow Yoko Ono, who donated the rights to Amnesty of all his solo works in 2003.

The policy on abortion has brought Amnesty into conflict with the Roman Catholic Church, and has shown how new divides have displaced the old left-right geopolitics that gave rise to Amnesty.

A Right to Die

Guest commentary – Alex Schadenberg
(Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition)

A recent article in the August 2007 issue of Voice for Island Seniors speaks about the writer's belief that he has the right to decide when he should die.

This is not a new argumen; in fact it is an argument that misses the point completely with respect to the issues of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Euthanasia is an intentional act or omission of an act which is done to cause the death of another person. Therefore, euthanasia represents an act (such as an injection to intentionally cause death) or an omission (intentionally dehydrating and starving a person to death who is not otherwise dying).

Assisted Suicide is to intentionally aid, abet or counsel someone to commit suicide. The argument that states: "It is my body, it is my choice" has no relevance to the question of euthanasia and assisted suicide because they are illegal and because they both involve the intentional action, omission or pressure from one person upon another. Therefore, the real question concerning euthanasia and assisted suicide is whether or not the state should allow one person to be directly and intentionally involved in the cause of death of another person.

When analyzing the real question of whether people should be allowed to be directly involved with taking another person's life now we can see why people with disabilities, the frail elderly, people who live with depression, and other vulnerable people are directly threatened by the legalization of euthanasia or assisted suicide. What we really need in society is an ethic of caring for others, not killing others.

The reality is that most people don't seek death out of an act of self-determination but rather out of a fear of the unknown future or a feeling that there is no other way out of their constant and chronic depression. Both of these conditions are best dealt with by a caring community.

Statistics Canada finally released the 2004 abortion stats on July 13, 2007, after a delay of more than four months past the usual late-winter release date. The number of abortions reported in 2004 was 100,039, about 90% of the total amount for that year. The number does not include Canadian women who obtained abortions in the United States, or non-Canadian women who had abortions while in Canada.

In 2003 there were 137 reported abortions from P.E.I. That number increased in 2004 to 143 reported abortions by Island women. In the Canadian statistics overall, women in their 20's obtained the greatest number of abortions, accounting for 53 percent of the total number recorded. Teenage girls accounted for 17 percent, with reports of 304 girls aged 14 or younger obtaining abortions. Of the 42,880 abortions with detailed reports, 8,919 women had one previous abortion and 4,288 had two or more previous abortions.

Four Provinces Approve School-based HPV Vaccination

LifeCanada reports – “Provincial governments in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Ontario have announced HPV vaccination programs for girls, under the federal government’s controversial \$300 million funding program. The vaccine will be offered to grade six students in Newfoundland and PEI, grade seven students in Nova Scotia and girls in grade eight in Ontario. The vaccine is voluntary.

“Health Canada approved the HPV vaccine Gardasil in July 2006. Promoted as a cancer-preventative, the vaccine offers protection against four strains of the Human Papilloma Virus, two that are known to cause cervical cancer and two that cause genital warts. Other cancer-causing strains are not affected by this vaccine.

“The vaccine has been strongly opposed by members of the medical community, pro-life groups and concerned parents over issues including a short trial period, unexplained side effects, lack of research into the vaccine’s effectiveness and safety for young girls, and concern that immunization for HPV may encourage sexual irresponsibility in teenage girls by creating a false sense of safety.”

Did You Know?

- When your mom was only 21 days pregnant your own heart was already beating.
- At only 35 days, you had all your fingers and toes. Quite an accomplishment for a 35 day old in the womb.
- Back in the summer of 2001, a team of Canadian and U.S. researchers spiked a lake in Northwestern Ontario with traces of synthetic estrogen used in human birth control pills. They then repeated the unusual treatment for the

- next two years and sat back and watched what happened to minnows living in the lake. The results were nothing short of frightening. Exposing fish to tiny doses of the active ingredient in the pill, amounts little more than a whiff of estrogen, started turning male fish into females. Instead of sperm, they started developing eggs. Instead of looking like males, they became indistinguishable from females. Within a year of exposure, the minnow population began to crash. Within a few years, the fish, which at one time teemed in the lake, had practically vanished.
- There are no regulations in Canada covering estrogen or other drug residues in waterways. Municipalities typically don't check for them and it is not known if there are health effects for people who draw drinking water from sources receiving sewage, a common practice in Canada (ex. Great Lakes).
 - The rate of teen pregnancies in Canada has hit an all-time low and has fallen more dramatically than in the United States and England over the past three decades. According to Alex McKay, author of the study published yesterday in the Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality "Sometimes people assume that a drop in the teen pregnancy rate has to do with fluctuations in the amount of young women having abortions but that's a misconception. What we're really seeing is that fewer young women are becoming pregnant in the first place...."
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The Pope's Message

On Friday September 7, 2007 in Vienna, Pope Benedict slammed abortion as the "very opposite" of human rights in an address at the start of a three-day visit to Austria.

"The fundamental human right, the presupposition of every other right, is the right to life itself," the Pope told members of the government and the diplomatic corps at the Hofburg, the seat of the Austrian presidency. "This is true of life from the moment of conception until its natural end," he said in German. "Abortion, consequently, cannot be a human right -- it is the very opposite."

The Pontiff said he was speaking for "those unborn children who have no voice" and called on governments not to legalize abortion but to create "a climate of joy and confidence in life . . . in which children are not seen as a burden, but rather as a gift for all." Benedict also urged social and health-care reforms to combat euthanasia, arguing that "the proper response to end-of-life suffering is loving care and accompaniment on the journey towards death . . . and not 'actively assisted death.' "

"Morality is not based on what we enjoy or do not enjoy but on what makes us better or worse persons." Father John McGoey, [Emotional Maturity](#)

Newspaper Committee – Bernard Connolly, Aukje Annema, Myrna Dykeman and John Broderick