

History of the Protestant Chapel Guild

1940's – The earliest available record of a “ladies’ group” or Guild is from Borden, Ontario. Padre Foote, VC, tells of a group started there to offer support to women whose husbands were serving abroad. The group, and others beginning just like it, offered opportunities for church involvement, counselling, coffee times of fellowship, along with service to the church and community. St. Barbara’s Guild at CFB Shilo took its name from the patron saint of the Royal Horse Artillery whose home base is Shilo.

1950's – Many more Guilds were formed to serve in varied ways. Teas, quilting, square dancing, helping with Vacation Bible Schools, furnishing nurseries, etc. were some of the activities

1951 – St. Luke’s, Gagetown; St. Mark’s, Greenwood

1952 – Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Winnipeg

1954 – St. Alban’s, Valcartier; St. Clement Astra, Trenton (constituted in 1952)

1955 – St. Peter’s, Esquimalt; RCAF Station Portage; All Sappers’ (Women’s Auxiliary), Chilliwack

Late 1950's to Early 1960's – Marked the beginning of our long-term involvement with the Christian Medical Colleges and Hospitals at Vellore and Ludhiana, India, helping to provide new laundry equipment, cobalt units and sources, outpatient care and so much more.

1961 – Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Holberg

1967 – Canadian Forces moved to Lahr, Germany, from the north and a Guild was formed made up of members from the different northern areas.

1970's – Guilds were still forming, and reforming, buying choir gowns; diapers for the nursery; flowers; visiting shut-ins; polishing brass; and enjoying many novel times of fellowship.

1970 – First fall Merchants’ Fair in Lahr

1975 – Bagotville Guild (Guild established earlier but no record before 1975)

1979 – First National Guild Conference held in Trenton



The First National Guild Conference was held in Trenton in 1979.

1980's – With Guilds growing and sharing a greater commitment to the members, to each other, their community and to Vellore/Ludhiana, the future was exciting and promising

1981 – St. Mark's, London ON

1985 – Visit to Vellore and Ludhiana by National Guild President

1988 – Thirty-six active Guilds and approximately 800 enthusiastic, committed members

1989 – 10th Anniversary National Guild Conference held in Trenton

1990's – With the closing of some Chapels and fewer attending the Chapels the numbers begin to decline. All the work plus many new projects were continued. Vellore and Ludhiana celebrated their Centenary, Guilds continued to help support the ongoing needs as well as contributing to the special Centenary Projects.

1999 – 20th Anniversary National Guild Conference held in Greenwood, NS. The Executive continued to work on Operation Common Ground with the CWL Military Ordinate planning a Joint Conference in the Year 2001 at Trenton, Ontario to celebrate the work of the women in both Chapels throughout the years. The theme of this conference was “One in the Spirit”.

2000 – National Conference planned for Edmonton was cancelled due to lack of service air just two weeks before conference.

2001 – Operation Common Ground Celebration was held at 8 Wing Trenton. The theme was “One in the Spirit”. We had a stained glass window installed and dedicated in Trenton to commemorate the work of the CWL and Guilds in Chapels across Canada. We sang, worshipped, prayed together and learned about our differences and most importantly our similarities.

2002 – The theme this year was “Rebuild, Renew, Rejoice”. The conference was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

2003 – The theme for this year's conference was, “Make Room For Jesus”. The conference was held in Petawawa, Ontario.

2004 – The 25th Anniversary of the National Chapel Guild. In honour of this occasion a history book was produced and given to each member of the Guilds. The theme was “That Was Then, This Is Now”. The conference was held at Elizabeth Park Chapel, Ottawa, Ontario.

2005 – The theme for this conference was “Staying Connected” and it was held in Greenwood, Nova Scotia.

2006 – The conference was held in Edmonton, Alberta. The theme was “Be Not Afraid”. We also opened a new Guild in Colorado Springs at the Norad HQ Base.

2007 – Gagetown hosted the National Guild Conference this year with the theme “Faith, Fellowship, Service”. With this year came the reopening of the Guild in Bagotville that had been closed for quite a few years.

2008 – The first Conference ever held in Arnprior, Ontario. It was in a retreat setting and has great success. The theme was BUG “Build up Guilds” and the Host Guild was Ottawa. Also the Guild in Shearwater was re-opened this year.

2009 – Due to the great success this year’s Conference was held in Arnprior again. The theme was “Fan the Flame” with the Host Guild being Edmonton. The Kingston Guild was also re-opened this year.

2010 – Petawawa was the Host Guild for this year’s Conference held again in Arnprior. The theme was “Run and not go weary” and it was a great success, we had a high number of young women attending.

2011 – Greenwood was the Host Guild for this year’s Conference and the theme was FROG “Fully Rely on God”. It was held in Arnprior again.

2012 – Gagetown was the Host Guild for this year’s Conference and the theme was “Fit For Survival”. It was held in Arnprior again.

2013 – Edmonton was the Host Guild and the conference was held in St. Albert, Alberta. The theme was “EnRoute – God with us Anytime, Anywhere, in Anything”.

For information on conferences after 2013, please see the Signs of the Spirit included on our website.

Protestant Chapel Guild
National Presidents

1979 – 1982	Sharon Paris
1982 – 1984	Nancy Lynn
1984 – 1986	Marg Walker
1986 – 1988	Gay Gray
1988 – 1990	Jane Elegersma
1990 – 1996	Marion Saunders
1996 – 1998	Karen Briand
1998 – 1999	Kerry Siford
1999 – 2001	Patti Tibbel
2001 – 2007	Doris Graves
2007 - 2009	Karen Kettle
2009 - 2010	Valerie Lublink
2010- 2013	Ute Lamb
2013 – 2015	Dana Rittenhouse
2015 – 2017	Debra Poley
2017 – 2019	Kristin Mills

National Protestant Chapel Guilds since 1950

Baden	Holy Trinity Protestant Chapel Guild
Bagotville	Emmanuel Protestant Chapel Guild
Borden	Trinity Protestant Chapel Guild
Calgary	St. George's Protestant Chapel Guild
Chatham	St. Paul's Protestant Chapel Guild
Chilliwack	All Sapper's Protestant Chapel Guild
CMR Saint-Jean	Chapel of the Good Shepherd Guild
Cold Lake	St. Mark's Protestant Chapel Guild
Colorado Springs	Norad Protestant Chapel Guild
Comox	St. Michael's & All Angels Protestant Chapel Guild
Cornwallis	St. George's Protestant Chapel Guild
Edmonton	The Chapel of St. Luke & St. John Guild
Esquimalt	St. Peter's Protestant Chapel Guild
Gagetown	St. Luke's Protestant Chapel Guild
Goose Bay	Chapel of the Northern Lights Guild
Greenwood	St. Mark's Protestant Chapel Guild
Halifax	Church of the Redeemer Protestant Chapel Guild
Holberg	Chapel of the Good Shepherd Guild
Kingston	Trinity Protestant Chapel Guild
Lahr	German Stiftskirche Protestant Chapel Guild
London	St. Mark's Protestant Chapel Guild
Masset	St. Andrew's Protestant Chapel Guild
Montreal	St. Hubert Protestant Chapel Guild
Moose Jaw	St. Michael's Protestant Chapel Guild
North Bay	Christ The King Protestant Chapel Guild
Ottawa (N)	St. Luke's Protestant Chapel Guild
Ottawa (S)	Elizabeth Park Protestant Chapel Guild
Penhold	Trinity Protestant Chapel Guild
Petawawa	St. George's Protestant Chapel Guild
Portage	Chapel of the Three Crosses Guild
Shearwater	St. Michael's Protestant Chapel Guild
Shilo	St. Barbara's Protestant Chapel Guild
Suffield	Christ the King Protestant Chapel Guild
Toronto	Chapel of Christian Unity Guild
Trenton	St. Clement Astra Protestant Chapel
Valcartier	St. Alban's Protestant Chapel Guild
Wainwright	St. Paul's Protestant Chapel Guild
Winnipeg (N)	Chapel of the Good Shepherd Guild
Winnipeg (S)	St. Andrew's Protestant Chapel Guild

<u>ACTIVE GUILDS</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Bagotville	Emmanuel Protestant Chapel Guild
Borden	Trinity Protestant Chapel Guild
Cold Lake	St. Mark's Protestant Chapel Guild
Comox	St. Michael's and All Angels Protestant Chapel Guild
Edmonton	Chapel of St. Luke and St. John Guild
Gagetown	St. Luke's Protestant Chapel Guild
Greenwood	St. Mark's Protestant Chapel Guild
North Bay	Christ the King Protestant Guild
Ottawa	Elizabeth Park Protestant Chapel Guild
Petawawa	St. George's Protestant Chapel Guild
Trenton	St. Clement Astra Protestant Chapel Guild
Winnipeg	Chapel of the Good Shepherd Guild
Wainwright	St. Paul's Protestant Chapel Guild

<u>INACTIVE GUILDS</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Goose Bay	Chapel of the Northern Lights Guild
Esquimalt	St. Peter's Protestant Chapel Guild
Halifax	Church of the Redeemer Protestant Chapel Guild
Shilo	St. Barbara's Protestant Chapel Guild
Colorado Springs	Norad Protestant Chapel Guild
Kingston	Trinity Protestant Chapel Guild

<u>CLOSED GUILDS</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Baden	Holy Trinity Protestant Chapel Guild
Calgary	St. George's Protestant Chapel Guild
Chatham	St. Paul's Protestant Chapel Guild
Chilliwack	All Sappers Protestant Chapel Guild
Cornwallis	St. George's Protestant Chapel Guild
Holberg	Chapel of the Good Shepherd Guild
Lahr	German Stiftskirche Protestant Chapel Guild
London	St. Mark's Protestant Chapel Guild
Masset	St. Andrew's Protestant Chapel Guild
Montreal	St. Hubert Protestant Chapel Guild
Moose Jaw	St. Michael's Protestant Chapel Guild
Penhold	Trinity Protestant Chapel Guild
Portage LaPrarie	Chapel of Three Crosses Guild
Shearwater	St. Michael's Protestant Chapel Guild
Suffield	Christ The King Protestant Chapel Guild
Toronto	Church of Christian Unity Protestant Chapel Guild
Val Cartier	St. Alban's Protestant Chapel Guild

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