

REPORT OF BROCK REGIONAL COUNCIL

Brock Region encompasses the half of the Niagara Peninsula that includes Dunnville, Wainfleet, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls (and previously Chippawa), Fonthill and Welland. All the parishes are represented at meetings the first Wednesday of the month, each at a different parish even though distances can be daunting. This exercise has made our region “smaller” in the sense that we know our region better and has offered us opportunities to visit and learn first hand about other parishes.

The format of most meetings is a presentation by a guest speaker on either a topical subject or an activity of the Church which needs support or wider understanding. These are followed by a brief social period with refreshments, provided by the hosting parish, after which we attend to the business portion of the meeting.

An important element of the business meeting is the report from Synod Council which updates parish reps on the various matters of concern from the Diocese and any proposed changes to Canon law or policies and the budget intentions. Parish reps also have an opportunity to share their upcoming events and activities, including the successes of the previous month. We invite each parish representative or their church secretary to send information to the regional chair or secretary electronically, if possible, so all member churches can be kept apprised of events. Churches are then in a better position to support other parishes in our region. The business portion of the meeting is also an opportunity for parishes to discuss new ideas and discover new ways in which to grow.

We continue to enjoy monthly presentations from a variety of sources which have provided valuable information to the council. We have come to realize that there is a wealth of resources out there and people who are eager to share their knowledge with us. We are seldom at a loss for topics or guest speakers to provide enlightenment on their subject of expertise.

This year our knowledge base has been expanded with presentations from;

- Russ Kelk and The Reverend Laura Marie Piotrowicz, who gave us ideas on how to begin/continue to “Green” our parishes. Each member received a CD of the lists of ideas to share with their parish.
- Diane Doneff from Women’s Addiction Recovery Mediation (WARM) shared the role they play in the peninsula for women needing this support and how we as parishes can be of assistance.
- September’s meeting expanded on the “greening” theme with a presentation by Sue Lund the representative from Shaklee Products. Each parish was encouraged to invite their caretaker and/or rector to the session to assess the viability of use in their parishes.
- As a result of the two (2) greening topics, the region is exploring the possibility of hosting an evening or Saturday event to further promote the “Greening of Niagara” philosophy.
- A representative from Bethlehem Place has been invited to share with us their mandate within the community, their history, and how we can assist them in getting information out about their organization. Women and children are a vulnerable group in our communities that continue to appreciate the assistance of our outreach.

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As has become our tradition, our June meeting is a pot luck social to celebrate the arrival of summer and our hiatus, as well as the contributions of the members of our council. This year we entertained the Bishop at the home of Lisa Punch, in Stevensville.

Thank you to all the council members who continue to come out diligently, especially in the cold, snowy, winter months, without whose attendance there would be no regional council. Our first meeting after our summer break is held in September and we always look forward to a successful and informative finish to the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Patricia Davis, Chair