

Honouring Our Past
Spring Conference
Fredericton, NB
May 14, 2016

Members of NB Province of Delta Kappa Gamma International celebrated the 60th Anniversary at the K of C Hall in Fredericton on Saturday, May 14, 2016. Three members attended from afar – Phyllis Hickey, DKG Operation Services Administrator from Austin, Texas; Phyl Breuer from Kentucky; and Kathryn Derby, DKG Provincial President from Kingston, Ontario.

The hall was beautifully decorated with fresh spring flowers and table-settings, coordinated by Anne Mitton.

The emcee for the conference was Conference Chair Dianne Caron. Past Chapter President Susan MacLeod represented Beta President Melanie Wood and 1st Vice President Margie Goodin who were unable to participate. Susan did a remarkable job on short notice. She introduced and thanked speakers with sincerity.

Greetings to our city were extended by Fredericton Deputy Mayor, Eric McGarrity. We acknowledged Donna Cameron who has been a member for 56 years in our Society.

Provincial President, Nancy Jonah, conducted the general meeting. Chapter and committee reports were read and Society business was discussed.

Our International Guest from Austin TX, Phyllis Hickey, motivated us with a review of relevant DKG International Projects.

Following a delicious buffet meal, we were entertained by the *Cecilian Singers* directed by Beta Chapter member Dianne Wilkins. The choir, including Beta members Karon Croll, sang a variety of interesting selections including *Skies*, a poem written by Anne Mitton in memory of DKG Past Provincial President 2010-2011, Bonnie Grant and set to music by a well-known Fredericton educator Gerry MacFarlane. One selection reflected native aboriginal culture.

Linda Bell, Past Provincial President, led the Birthday Celebration with 1st VP Diana McCabe and Past Chapter President Linda McKay as assistants.



Following a delicious buffet style lunch, we were delighted to present Imelda Perley, Elder-in-Residence at the University of New Brunswick and respected Maliseet Elder from Tobique First Nation and St. Mary's First Nation, with our first *Woman of Influence Award*. Ms. Perley gave an inspiring presentation of native culture, its history and relevance in today's world.

Marjorie Sinclair, co-editor of our DKG newsletter *Chickadee Chatter*, produced a well-researched, interesting pictorial power point presentation of DKG – NB *Honouring Our Past*, from its founding on May 14, 1956 to the present. Marjorie was also instrumental in obtaining archive materials, including the first DKG – NB scrapbooks, and displaying them for viewing.

The conference ended with *Closing Thoughts*, an activity that mirrored famous quotations with present facts concerning Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Written by: Dianne Caron, Spring Conference Chair



SKIES

Circles spun by the breath of God

Travel through life altering skies

Clouds are formed with layered thoughts

Holding the truths within our lives

CHORUS

Whisper, listen, serenity comes on folded wings

To those who hear

Whispering with their feathered touch

Angels hover troubled skies

When we bend with nestled grief

We feel the comfort of their eyes

CHORUS

Faith keeps us rooted in the days

When joy has left with morning dew

God's smiling light shelters us

Sending angels to guide us through

CHORUS

Lyrics by M. Anne Mitton

Music by C. Jerome McFarland