



**Thorpe Carriage House
96 West Street
Brantford, ON**

Meeting Cancelled for April

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Message from the Leadership Team

Self-isolation, social/physical distancing, planking the curve, the wearing of masks, lengthy hand-washing, staying at home (“cocooning”)! So much new vocabulary and so many new practices have entered our lives since we last met in February. All of these changes have reminded me of the old paradox: the only thing that is constant in life is change. Through thoughtful and caring responses, most of us seem to be managing well.

This is a time that tests our patience, but patience is definitely required. Solutions to our concerns may not come as quickly as we would like. Much remains somewhat unknown, especially relating to the rates of infection and infection control. Cancellations and isolation may continue to be necessary for a longer time than we originally thought. Until the date for our AGM is confirmed, Mieke wants to assure everyone that any cheques for the Banquet will not be cashed.

This is also a time for creativity. Individually, we need to find good ways to spend the hours that have opened up to us. My cousin, for example, has renewed her passion for quilting and is making quilts for babies. Personally, I am grateful for a plentiful supply of good books – even some old ones that I would be happy to re-read. And I have started keeping a journal through this strange time. Since we still have a pool table, if I get desperate I may take some lessons from Jim; my game has nowhere to go but up.

We can also use the time to think of what we can do to help others. I’m sure we can all think of someone who is feeling lonely or is dealing with a particular difficulty. Perhaps that means a simple phone call or an email message. I know that contacts like this are already happening within the Club. Some of us are even learning how to have a gathering of friends on Zoom.

As a Club, we are finding new ways to conduct business – like using Survey Monkey to vote on the fee increase. Thank

you for your response to that. We can adapt. Please bear with the Executive as they do their best to handle their responsibilities. Our team approach has been working well.

Patti and I have enjoyed getting to know each other better as we have worked our way together through the tasks of an unusual month. We both greatly appreciate the help we have received from other members of the Executive, especially Janet R. and Mieke S.; their generosity is as remarkable as their skills are. As you receive this, we will have passed the imaginary gavel into the very capable hands of Anne M., the President of the Month for April. She will keep all of us updated on whatever needs our attention.

May you all stay well.

*Carol Kent and Patti Kunashko
Co-Presidents for March*

Dear Members,

Thank you to all who responded to the survey on the Fee increase. A total of 53 members responded to the survey which is 61% of the membership. 51 members responded yes and 2 responded no. Total % then is 96% in favour and 4% against. The motion...

That CFUW Brantford approve a National dues increase for CFUW of \$6.00.

Moved by Mieke Schroeder
Seconded by Norah O'Leary

is **carried**.

Thanks again for attention to this. Stay safe and healthy.
Janet Rubas for the Leadership Team

National News

Updates respecting National / Ontario Counsel are as follows:

Due to the COVID-19 situation the AGM scheduled for June 18-20, 2020 will now take place virtually and not in Ottawa. It will occur from 12:00 to 3 Pm June 19th and June 20th 12 noon to 4 pm;

Ontario Counsel will also be holding an electronic AGM that will be held on May 23, 2020

There is now an interim VP of Finance, Beverly Rhodes, who was appointed to that post at a special meeting of the national board which took place on March 12, 2020;

Should you wish to view the webinar on gun control which took place on February 24, 2020 you may access it at <https://youtu.be/LHgQUVIRn10>;

CFUW Indigenous Peoples Sub-Committee is preparing a Facebook page that will share initiative for clubs to learn and will share educational materials and learning resources. More news will be forthcoming about this initiative;

CFUW Vernon has published a book titled Our Stories: Vignettes from our Lives", with poems, prose and short stories of 29 Vernon club members. The cost is \$18.00 and all proceeds are going to scholarships at Okanagan College. If you are interested in obtaining a copy contact the club at : a. 205-545-5743;b. CFUW Vernon on Facebook; c. book52worm@gmail.com; or , d. audreyspeaking@gmail.com ;

CFUW has, since 1972, and continues to advocate for universally accessible, affordable and publicly funded day care ;

Board and Regional Director nominations have been announced and if interested check out the website.

Important Dates:

April 15, 2020 registration for the virtual AGM opens
May 1, 2020 – last day to submit club membership dues

May 19, 2020 – last day for proposed amendments to the by-laws

May 20 , 2020 is now the deadline to submit amendments to "resolved" clauses of resolutions—was the April 15, 2020

Respectfully yours,
Betsy C

Membership Renewal 2020 -2021

Membership dues of \$121 are due in May. Bev O., will provide more details closer to the time.

Covid-19 Pandemic Alert:

In contrast to hand-washing and other personal measures, social distancing measures are not about individuals, they are about societies working in unison. These measures also take a long time to see the results. It is hard (even for me) to conceptualize how on a population level, 'one quick little get together' can undermine the entire framework of a public health intervention, but it does. I promise you it does. I promise. **I promise.** I promise.

You can't cheat it. People are already itching to cheat on the social distancing precautions just a "little"- a playdate, a haircut, or picking up a needless item at the store, etc. From a transmission dynamics standpoint, this very quickly recreates a highly connected social network that undermines all of the work the community has done so far.

Until we get a viable vaccine this unprecedented outbreak will not be overcome in one grand, sweeping gesture, rather only by the collection of individual choices our community makes in the coming months. **This virus is unforgiving to choices outside the rules.**

My goal in writing this is to prevent communities from getting 'sucker-punched' by what the epidemiological community knows will happen in the coming weeks. It will be easy to be drawn to the idea that what we are doing isn't working and become paralyzed by fear, or to just 'cheat' a little bit in the coming weeks. By knowing what to expect, and **knowing the importance of maintaining these measures**, my hope is to encourage continued community spirit, strategizing, and action to persevere in this time of uncertainty."

by Jonathan Smith. a lecturer in Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases and Global Health at Yale University School of Public Health. His research focuses on infectious disease transmission dynamics. He is an affiliate of the Yale Global Health Leadership Institute and founding director of Visual Epidemiology, a non-profit organization seeking to combine academic discourse with personal narratives.

Contributed by Betty Anne W.

2019-2020 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT IN NAME:

- Janet Rubas

ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

- Jane Binkley
- Elizabeth Capitano
- Lin Fines
- Lynn Haylock
- Tish James
- Carol Kent
- Patti Kunashko
- Brenda Malvern
- Anne Martin
- Diane Morgan

PAST PRESIDENT:

- Penelope Jeffery
- Patti Kunashko

SECRETARY: Dian Kuzyk

TREASURER: Mieke Schroeder

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Advocacy:** Betsy Capitano
- Communications:**
- Interest Groups:** Jane Binkley
- Membership:** Bev Osborn
- Program:** Anne Martin
- Scholarship:** Naomi Kral
- Social:** Norah O'Leary

KEEP IN TOUCH

We're doing what probably everyone else is doing---walks, reading, games, jigsaw puzzles, watching tv., and enjoying virtual video chats with our "kids" and grand kids, as well as keeping in contact with friends via emails, texts, phone calls, etc. Hopefully, our friends and families will all survive this unscathed. Take care and be safe!---Gloria S.



Janet R. has been busy creating delightful crafts for her granddaughters, face masks for virus protection and Zoom conferences for not only friends and family but for the CFUW Executive so that they may meet electronically to deal with decisions for CFUW Brantford.

I hope your bike is in gear and you are doing some riding. The "loop" in Brantford is open, but the trails leading out of Brantford were closed by the Conservation Authority. The Hardy Rd. parking lot is also closed. The good news is that there is far less traffic on the streets and roads. Happy trails and stay safe! Karen I.

Happy Significant Birthday to Lin F.



Resolutions

Please complete the resolutions survey that has been forwarded by email to your attention. This survey deals with resolutions 1 & 2 and takes less than a minute to complete. Thanks, Betsy C.

CFUW Brantford Annual General Meeting and Banquet 2020

The AGM and Banquet are uncertain. The Events Coordinator at the Brantford Golf and Country Club has informed us that the club is closed to large groups. They are monitoring the situation weekly through Government notifications and are sorry that they cannot give us more information at this time. The CFUW Brantford executive will keep members up to date on the status of the event.



Many thanks to the Interest group contacts and participants who provide news and pictures for the newsletter. In this time of self isolation due to the pandemic it becomes even more important to keep connected. If your Interest group is finding another way to stay connected let me know. If you have updates about members re important family or personal events like births, deaths, marriages, special celebrations to share with the members send them also to Sandra H.

The due date for articles and photos for the May Newsletter is Friday May 1st.



Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference