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In September of 2019, I was welcoming everyone back and hoping each of us had a delightful summer. This year is quite a bit different. Most of us have been in our own homes since March staying safe and healthy, thank goodness. Years ago, the physicist Marie Curie said: *"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."* I think we have moved from total ignorance of this virus to understanding more, allowing us to fear a little less. In our house, our bubble has expanded to include visits from my son and daughter and their families. I get hugs from my granddaughters (Oh joy!) and my husband and I have ventured out into the community to restaurants and friends' homes. We practice what our scientists tell us to do and will continue to follow their recommendations as we move forward.

Amidst all this, CFUW Brantford is getting up and running. We welcome members back. Given the circumstances, everyone knows that how we operate will be quite a bit different.

Last year we implemented a 'Rotating Presidency' with one (or two) members taking on the duties of the president each month. The system worked with only a few glitches, so it was decided to continue with the model this year. Betsy, Lin, Lynn, Dian, Brenda, Anne and Diane have volunteered to be on the rotating team and we are grateful to each of them. It is obvious that everyone in our club wants it to continue and to be as vibrant as it has been for the last 75 years. With that in mind we ask all members to continue to take an active part in all our workings. Please consider joining this rotating group to help. When more volunteer there is less stress on the few. Continue, too, to be involved in other areas such as Interest Groups and serving on Committees both standing and Ad Hoc.

As a reminder, this is the way we will operate again this year. Each month there will be different people arranging and chairing meetings and sending out communications. The President for the month will also monitor the email account.

Please send any questions or information to cfuwbrantford@yahoo.ca. All communications will be answered by the President for the month or will be forwarded to the correct person. Even though you might know who the President is for that month, try not to use individual emails so that messages and questions will not be lost. We will make sure to publish the name of the President for the Month in the Newsletter.

I continue to hold the job of 'President in Name' because CFUW requires that someone be listed as President. I will be communicating with Provincial and National when necessary and will be the 'name' for the Club if written communication is required. We continue to have an Executive as elected at our AGM to complete other tasks that are required. Remember that if you need information you can always communicate directly to cfuwbrantford@yahoo.ca and the email will be answered or forwarded, as necessary.

Business will not be as usual, for a while. Our Executive meetings will take place on ZOOM. Although we have Thorpe's Carriage House booked for our General Meetings on the last Wednesday of each month, we are not sure when we will begin meeting in person. Similarly, Interest Groups may be working differently. Some continued through the summer practicing social distancing rules. The Thursday Book Club planned its first meeting outside at Glenhyrst in the afternoon. As always, women find a way and we have some of the smartest women I know as members of our club! You will be kept informed when changes occur. Make sure to keep us up to date if any of your contact information changes so we do not miss you.

Sandra will continue to put together the Newsletter but only can include the material she has. Articles should be forwarded directly to Sandra by the first Friday of the month. Goodwill messages for or about members should be sent to cfuwbrantford@yahoo.ca. The President will send the message to Sandra but also to Leslie if a card is in order. Photographs should also be sent to this email address so they can be forwarded not only to Sandra but to Mary or Marsha for uploading to Facebook or to our website.

Fred Rogers said, "Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." To me this is a hopeful message. We are at the beginning of a new normal, one in which we take care of each other and recognize what is essential in our lives. Continue to wear your masks, wash your hands, and social distance. Our new normal will be different but we will be in it together.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Rubas

Report on AGM/Annual Special Meetings of CFUW National and Ontario Council

CFUW National and Ontario Council AGMs this year were historic in that they were conducted on-line, similar to our CFUW Brantford AGM.

Both AGMs required a second 'Annual Special Meeting' to complete their respective Agendas. The meetings covered the business of running an organization - ensuring a Quorum, agreeing to Standing Rules, approving the Minutes from last year's AGM, the Agenda and Budget; and voting in the new slate of Executives.

CFUW National AGM, June 20 & Annual Special Meeting, August 8, 2020:

Chaired by CFUW President, Grace Hollett

The Motion to conduct the AGM using weighted voting was voted on using weighted voting, giving rise to concerns that are addressed separately.

All recommendations put forward by the CFUW Articles and Bylaws Committee were approved and now align with The Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.

CFUW Guelph Motion to remove GWI from CFUW Articles and Bylaws was defeated. This Motion was signed by 27 Clubs across Canada, including CFUW Brantford. The Motion achieved a 64.2% approval vs 66.6% required for a constitutional change. The topic of how to manage our club's relationship with GWI will be addressed separately.

The Nepean Motion to increase fees by \$5.00 was defeated. This Motion was meant to offset the gap between what GWI has set as their annual dues versus what CFUW membership has approved to pay. This defeat is a concern for CFUW National. The Oakville Motion that CFUW National develop a balanced budget by 2022 was defeated. Your Ad Hoc Committee will address the amber alert that was sounded at the 2019 AGM regarding the financial viability of CFUW, and the impact that these decisions will have on the financials going forward.

All Resolutions were passed, including the two Emergency Resolutions regarding Long Term Care (our Club had voted to support all Resolutions except Pay-Day Loans).

Kathryn Wilkinson was acclaimed as the new CFUW National President.

CFUW Ontario Council AGM May 23rd, and Annual Special Meeting, August 15th, 2020:

Chaired by OC President, Sandra Thomson

"Ontario" will be removed from Ontario Council Bylaws relative to advocacy and communication, enabling Ontario Council to work in partnership with CFUWs and organizations in other provinces throughout Canada.

Dues and Budget will now be set by the executive/leadership of Ontario Council as recommended by the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act which emphasizes that the Board is charged with the financial health/fiscal responsibility of the organization.

It was approved that Emergency Issues could not be raised at an AGM unless membership were provided with 21 days' notice ahead of the AGM.

OC reports that they are in a healthy financial position due to judicious use of members' funds, virtual meetings versus travel, and webinars versus in-person Speaker's Series.

Joyce See was voted in as Regional Director for Ontario South and incumbent Sandra Thomson was acclaimed as President, Ontario Council (OC).

Update on Ad Hoc Committee re CFUW-GWI and CFUW Brantford

CFUW Brantford Executive authorized our Ad Hoc Committee to write a 'letter of concern' on their behalf to CFUW National, formally requesting that CFUW National demonstrate that they have taken leadership responsibility with regard to the following:

Implementing the four recommendations from the Mediation Working Group; with top priority on removing GWI from CFUW National Articles and Bylaws, as well as the Articles of Continuance if applicable.

Focusing on CFUW business, with financial viability as the top priority, specifically addressing the amber alert, and ensuring the viability of CFUW over the next five years. In determining priorities for CFUW National, we request that the focus be on a strong, independent, national organization, with a request that CFUW publish concrete Goals, Strategic Plan, Action Plan and Quarterly Progress Reports regarding finances, with a national focus taking precedence over GWI involvement.

Developing a strategy to heal wounds within Clubs and between Clubs relative to the divisiveness that has occurred over GWI.

The decision to send a 'letter of concern' was made by the Executive after reviewing the Ad Hoc Committee Report and discussing the Alternatives and Recommendation of the Committee. The letter is to be sent in September, 2020 to the President of CFUW National.

(for the full Ad Hoc Committee Report go to the members portal of the CFUW Brantford website

<http://www.cfuwbrantford.org/members-only/>)

CFUW Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee on Long-Term Care

Did you know that COVID-19 has claimed the lives of over 2800 Ontarians since March with 82% of these living in Long-Term Care! This population is particularly vulnerable, not only because of their age and living conditions but also because of the way in which care is organized and delivered. Our Committee has been meeting and working throughout the summer to discuss how best to advocate for change. We agreed on using a multi-pronged approach that would be built on strategic alliances with like-minded organizations.

CFUW National and Ontario Council: CFUW Brantford membership supported the two Emergency Resolutions that were raised as part of the CFUW National Resolutions Process. The Oakville motion re: LTC in Ontario was passed at the Special Annual Meeting of CFUW National by 89.9% vs the required 2/3 majority; and Stratford/South Shore Montreal's Emergency Resolution recommending LTC be included in the Canada Health Act was also passed. Brantford's requests for collaboration with CARP, were supported by Stratford and Ontario Council, with Ontario Council replying. "While we do not have specific CFUW policy concerning long-term care, we do have policy supporting the Sustainable Development Goals: From the World Health Organization <https://www.who.int/ageing/sdgs/en/> "Goal 3: ... A transformation of health and social systems from a disease-only focus towards the provision of integrated and person-centered care will have the greatest impact and requires attention to the following: ... • developing robust, integrated systems of health and long-term care orientated around maximizing function in older age; ...

Ontario Health Coalition: On May 28th, the OHC issued an Open Letter to Premier Ford calling for key improvements to safety and care in Ontario's beleaguered long-term care homes. More than 200 organizations signed this letter including CFUW Brantford! The Open Letter can be found at: <https://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/wp-content/uploads/final-open-letter-to-doug-ford-re-ltc-commission-web-vrsn1-1.pdf>

CARP: This organization is calling for a transformative culture change in long-term care homes. It is a relationship-based philosophy that goes beyond calling for more staff, full time staff versus casual staff; more direct hours of care; fair salaries; infection control education and practices, elimination of four bed rooms and availability of air conditioning. It addresses the way in which care is organized and delivered so that residents know and feel like they are living in a warm, caring environment that looks and feels like home. Thank you to CFUW Brantford members who sent letters to Minister Fullerton to recommend that CARP Ottawa be appointed to the Independent Commission on Long-Term Care (LTC).

In August, we learned that the Ontario Independent Commission into LTC would be comprised of three members and supported by a 12 member Secretariat. CFUW Brantford sent a letter to Premier Ford requesting that transformative culture change be part of the Terms of Reference for the Independent Commission. We then sent an email to CFUW Brantford membership requesting assistance in sending an e-blast message to our MPP, Will Bouma, and our Mayor, Kevin Davis with the same message. More information about Transformative Culture Change can be found at: <https://talkingtransformationlongtermcarehomes.ca>

Our Committee continues to advocate for changes in LTC as we await what will happen with advocacy efforts at CFUW National and Ontario levels. At the local level, we sent a congratulatory letter to the eight LTC homes in Brantford and Brant County thanking them for keeping our residents safe during the COVID-19 outbreak. We also invited them to contact us with their ideas on what advocacy efforts would be most helpful to them. If you would like to learn more about what is happening, please contact any member of our committee: Lin F., Lynn H., Sandra H., Tish J., Brenda M, Betty Anne W., and Marg E.

Learning Opportunities

CFUW Nepean Webinar:

For those interested in the topic of gun control, CFUW Nepean is hosting a webinar "Gun Control in Canada", on October 6, 2020 at 1 pm. Presenting will be Dr. Wendy Cuker, co-founder of the Coalition for Gun Control and a Professor at Ryerson University. To register e-mail cfuwgen@rogers.com.

Betsy C.

International Literacy Association:

Face-to-face conferences wouldn't be complete without highly anticipated speakers. *ILA Next* is no different—except you can enjoy our speakers from the comfort of your home.

ILA Next (October 3–29) is digital by design, so our lineup of rising and established literacy superstars can speak to timely and responsive topics that meet your emerging needs. Our [Main Stage Sessions](#), which broadcast live **9:00 AM–10:30 AM ET** each Saturday* of the program, bring together the best literacy professionals and their diverse perspectives on learning.

<https://www.literacyworldwide.org/ila-next>

Sandra H.

CFUW Brantford News

Jane Binkley and Lynn Haylock designed a new banner for our club. They were hoping to unveil it at our annual Banquet, but unfortunately something happened! Hmm...wonder what? Hope you like it!! Lynn H.



Canadian Federation of University Women Brantford

MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO ALL WOMEN WHO SUPPORT THE GOALS OF CFUW

FRIENDSHIP



- Promote opportunities for cooperation and friendship among members through interest groups including: Biking, Books, Bridge, Dining Out, Golf, Games, Walking, World Awareness & more

- Promote cooperation, support and understanding among women through advocacy, learning opportunities and monthly speakers on educational, cultural, political and social topics

EDUCATION

- Provide scholarship awards in accordance with the CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund Constitution

- Promote high standards of public education in Canada, advanced study and research by women and the pursuit of lifelong learning.



ADVOCACY



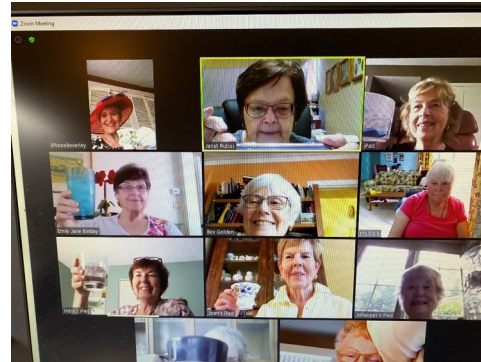
- Advocate for the advancement of the status of women, human rights and the common good - locally, nationally and internationally - in partnership with CFUW National and international organizations

- Encourage women in all aspects of the political, social, cultural, educational and scientific fields, and in the service to the community.

WWW.CFUWBRANTFORD.ORG
CFUW NATIONAL - CFUW.ORG / FCFDU.ORG

ZOOM Teas

During the summer, four ZOOM 'Tea parties' were organized to help members keep connected. There was an attempt to invite all members at least once. Please forgive me if I left anyone out. Those who could attend brought their own tea and sandwiches and some even 'dressed' for the occasion. It was a nice way to keep in contact and to hear how everyone was doing. (Janet R)



A Thank you to Our Membership

Caring for others has become more important than ever before when we see the inequities in the lives of people marginalized by factors such as family support, race, level of education, income, physical and mental health, to name but a few.

In renewing your membership this year you have demonstrated that you support the programs we have in place that help to improve the lives of women and girls: our scholarship and awards that help young women pursuing higher education, our fundraising for local women's shelters and other activities that help our community at large.

How we will meet this year has changed; our mission has remained the same. We will continue in our pursuit of life-long learning as much as possible in a virtual setting. We will investigate ways to provide interesting and uplifting 'virtual speakers' and how to give the opportunities to discuss how we can try to implement this new knowledge to fulfill our club's mission. Some of our Interest Groups will find ways to continue following social distancing protocols.

I encourage all of you to embrace being a club member in this new setting and to be part of a group of amazing women using their education and life experience to care for others. I know this 'new reality' will not be easy for everyone, however CFUW needs you more than ever. We look forward to carrying on the learning, fellowship, friendship, and advocacy work that we do. We will be able to meet face to face again: we just do not know when. (Thank you to Helen Penfold, President, CFUW Toronto North and Joanne Jamieson, President, CFUW Etobicoke for allowing me to paraphrase their messages. - Janet R.)

Interest Groups

Joint Replacement Group (a number of members who have been through this type of surgery):

When facing this ordeal, they found it immensely helpful to talk to someone who had been through it, getting really valuable information, support and tips in terms of preparing for the surgery. If you have a close family member or friend facing it, we will be happy to give you the information to pass on. Please do not hesitate to contact Janet Kempster at 519-756-5612 for further information or a discussion with regard to setting up a meeting with one or more members who have experienced the same surgery that you or a close one is facing.

Thursday Evening Book Club:

The Thursday group started a trend in August with a book discussion at Glenhyrst. They adapted to Covid-18 by changing both their meeting time and venue. They met on a Thursday afternoon and discussed. "Homes, A Refugee Story". This is a small book with a big message, and a very good read.



Creative Cookery:

The group met on Wednesday, September 9th, at Glenhyrst, bringing their chairs, and refreshments. It was a lovely time to catch up with group members.



Monday Evening Book Group:

This group will be meeting by Zoom on September 21st at 7:00 p.m., to discuss "Becoming" by Michelle Obama. Members will receive an email invitation.

Because of the restrictions and concerns posed by the Covid-19 Pandemic many interest groups are choosing to postpone activities until advised that it is safe to gather socially in larger groups. As interest groups consider creative ways of dealing with these issues they will be sharing their activities here. The Dining Out Group and the Games Group are in this situation as other groups must be as well. Look for updates as to their decisions in the next newsletter.

Basketeers Initiative



We are immensely proud that CFUW Brantford is a supporter of Nova Vita's Basketeers Program. In the last few years, Barb P. and Lynne M. have done a great job in collecting donations and shopping to fill baskets that are donated to women in the shelter who are starting out on their own. Mieke S. and Lin F. did the same work when we opted into the program. As with all things in this pandemic year, that program is

in jeopardy when it is most needed. In May we recognized this situation in an email to our members stating, "As a long-standing advocacy group on behalf of human rights, status of women, peace, and education, CFUW is concerned with the rise of domestic violence during these challenging times. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres is calling for measures to address a "horrifying global surge in domestic violence" directed towards women and girls, linked to lockdowns imposed by governments responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and says, "Peace is not just the absence of war. Many women under lockdown for #COVID19 face violence where they should be safest: in their own homes." As of now, Nova Vita is not accepting any Physical Donations. However, we know that any support we can provide would be greatly appreciated during this difficult time and always.

Our Executive is asking for members who would like to organize a "Virtual Basketeers Initiative" that will benefit our local women's shelter. We are looking for ideas about what this 'virtual initiative' might look like, but at the very least it would involve collecting donations that can be presented to Nova Vita from our club.

If you would like to coordinate or be a part of this initiative, please email cfuwbrantford@yahoo.ca We appreciate all that members do to further our purposes. This is one more way you can be involved to support women in our community who need us.

Janet R.

2020 –2021 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT IN NAME:

- Janet Rubas

PAST PRESIDENT:

- Brenda Malvern

ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

- Elizabeth Capitano
- Lin Fines
- Lynn Haylock
- Brenda Malvern
- Anne Martin
- Diane Morgan
- Dian Kuzyk

SECRETARY: Gay Henley

TREASURER: Mieke Schroeder

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- **Advocacy:** Betsy Capitano
- **Communications:** Sandra Hughes
- **Interest Groups:** Jane Binkley
- **Membership:** Dian Kuzyk
- **Program:** Anne Martin
- **Scholarship:** Naomi Kral
- **Social:** Lynn Haylock



September General Meeting

September 23, 2020

Location: In your home, at your computer
on a Zoom call Time: 7:00 p.m.

Program: As this year is our 75th anniversary as a club, we plan to start by celebrating the lives of some of our members at each meeting. We will also be offering presentations on topics of interest to members as well as the club business. More information to come.



Thinking of You

Elizabeth C. is still in the hospital. Her condition has stabilized but she is very weak and pretty much confined to bed.

She really appreciated all of the lovely cards and notes she received from CFUW members. I reread them all to her a number of times. I will certainly tell her that you are thinking of her. From Marion J.



Mary Jo B. celebrated her 90th birthday on September 4.

Award A Scholarship Winners 2020

The Scholarship Committee received 20 applications for the Award A Scholarship.

Four award winning applicants were selected. The lucky applicants were Kelly Zhang and Stephanie Pugh from Brantford Collegiate Institute and Julia Chagnon and Jessalyn Fraser from St. John's College. Each student will receive \$1,000 towards their university education.

Naomi K.

Update:

Marg S. has moved to Tranquility Place.



If all goes well we will be holding Trivia Night on the second Wednesday of February. This is the major fundraiser for our Scholarship Fund so we are really hoping that most members get involved! There is a chance that we could change venues to allow for more physical distancing!

Stay tuned!!

Lynn H.



Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference