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The flurry of activity around starting up again after our summer hiatus has underscored what a joy it is to be part of CFUW Brantford. The Pandemic has served up an unprecedented challenge on how to stay relevant and connected. I think our theme for this month has been, "Creativity".

Jane B has been working with the Chairs of the respective Interest Groups to understand what each group is doing to stay in touch. Some groups, like Bridge, have stopped meeting in person with some of their members playing on-line. Some groups, like the Creative Cooking and Thursday Evening Book Club, have met at Glenhyrst - physically distanced, and report what a delight it was 'to sit under the shade of the beautiful trees and parklike setting, and look out at the faces of women I so enjoy, feel the breeze, take in the visuals of the grand old mansion that serves as the art gallery and tea room, the beautifully kept gardens..... a lovely way to connect and share an afternoon with people we care about'. Some groups are meeting on Zoom, while some Members in the Biking or Walking Group are practicing physical distancing. We will have to share our creative ideas for staying in touch as the weather cools and the days get shorter.

The Program Committee - Anne M, Lynn H, Norah O'L and Linda T responded with the idea of using the Program portion of meetings to focus on our Members for the year. Turning a problem into an opportunity, Program decided to celebrate our 75th Anniversary year by profiling one Member in depth, and to introduce a 'game' that introduces ten Members at each meeting. They piloted their 'idea' at the September meeting and had some good feedback, from 'the meeting was as good as could be expected for meeting on Zoom versus in-person' to 'really enjoyed learning things about one of our long-time Members' and 'the game that featured Canadian women of excellence was good fun'. The next step is to create questions

about our Members for the 'game' at the October General Meeting. For those of you who say, "I don't have anything special" and are shy to participate, I say, "Malarky"!! Most of us have ordinary lives, and all of us have lived them in an extraordinary way. Whether it is because we lived in many places or in one.... whether we have travelled geographically or transported ourselves through reading books.... whether we have raised children or worked outside the home - or both....we all have skills, hobbies, interests, and experiences that would inspire conversations. Your job is to delve a bit into your past to come up with something that others may not know about you, and share it with someone on the Program Committee. If everyone participates, we can build a stronger foundation for our Club and help all of us get through this unprecedented time in our history. You might want to consider helping the Program Committee with the 'game', or in doing a profile on one of the long-term Members. I created Mary Jo's profile using Keynote, the Mac version of PowerPoint. I am happy to show you how. I have to say that finding out about Mary Jo was one of the highlights of my month. I consider her a friend, but quickly realized that I had no idea about so much of her life outside of CFUW!

Another highlight for the month for me was the acceptance by the Executive of the Report from the Ad Hoc Committee that I chair with regard to CFUW National, GWI, and future directions for CFUW Brantford, and the mandate to compose a 'letter of concern' to CFUW National.

Feel free to get in touch with us with any ideas, questions, or suggestions at cfuwbrantford@yahoo.ca including any goodwill messages, photographs, etc to ensure that we are responding to the ups and downs of one another's lives.... including sharing the information through our Newsletter, Facebook page or

Website as appropriate. Please submit your news (and photographs) to Sandra H by the first Friday of each month.

I hope that the spirit of Thanksgiving inspires you all month long, as you reflect on the many blessings in your life, and on the people for whom you are grateful. The podcasts and Ted Talks I am watching these days stress that curiosity and self-compassion help us to navigate through this Pandemic, build resilience and the ability to deal with uncertainty and change. We are 'meeting ourselves' for the first time because we have never known ourselves during a Pandemic. Be kind to yourselves. Reach out to the people who encourage and support you, including your friends in CFUW Brantford.

Kindest regards, Lin F, Acting President for September

News from National and Provincial

National Update:

Throne Speech:

CFUW National was pleased that a number of promises made in the Throne Speech were areas of relevance to CFUW, including daycare, action on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls, as well as the Truth & Reconciliation Commission recommendations. There was also a promise to establish national standards for long-term care homes. National will be releasing a fall advocacy package with information and action plans.

Report of the Mediation Working Group:

The report of the mediation working group, upon which our own Lin F. sat, is now in the hands of the newly elected executive. The recommendations can be broken down into three areas; 1. Update the articles and bylaws to remove reference to all external organizations over whom CFUW does not have complete managerial authority and governance, and to investigate international organizations, including GWI, to see which best supports the values of CFUW; 2. address MOU obligations; and, 3. Develop a communication strategy to improve relationships within CFUW.

The new executive has made an appeal to be allowed time to address the issues that are destroying the fabric of CFUW and the perception that national is ignoring 64% of the membership by ignoring the report of the mediation working group. It has made a plea to clubs to not withhold their dues.

The board has unanimously accepted a plan for the implementation of the report and set up a Mediation Implementation Oversight Committee.

An action chart has been produced as to the steps to be taken, committees to be set up, and an undertaking given to keep the membership apprised of the process. The board is also in consultation with a governance specialist to develop a strategic plan. All clubs are to be consulted and offered the opportunity to attend discussion groups.

Important dates:

The deadline for Intents to Submit a Resolution for AGM is November 15, 2020.

Preliminary Club Membership Numbers are to be submitted by December 1, 2020.

CFUW Facebook page:

There is now an official Facebook page that you can check out.... Just search CFUW on Facebook or <https://www.facebook.com/cfuw.fcfd>. For those of you who are readers and enjoy book clubs, take a look at the Facebook group CFUW reads Book Club which has about 170 members from groups across Canada.

Educational opportunities:

University Women's Club of Toronto is hosting a series of speakers on zoom this fall. On October 19, 2020 the topic will be: Can Western Democracy Survive the Loss of "White" Dominance. On November 16, 2020 the topic is "Lunacy: Life Begins at the End of Your Comfort Zone".

To register send an email to info@uwctoronto.ca

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy C.

Covid-19

CFUW National has initiated a waiver form and you will be receiving an email with further details and the form to sign before any further face-to-face meetings.

CFUW Ad Hoc Committee on

Future Directions Letter to CFUW National

Our Executive directed the Ad Hoc committee to send a letter of concern to CFUW National, posing questions regarding the implementation of the recommendations from the Mediation Working Group, their priorities for 2020-21 regarding the financial viability of CFUW over the next five years; and their strategy to heal wounds within Clubs and between Clubs relative to the divisiveness relative to GWI.

A response from Kathryn Wilkinson, President of CFUW National, referenced the Mediation Implementation Plan that was sent to Clubs, and a survey that is underway, the results of which will inform the Strategic Plan. While Kathryn indicated that the Board will be facilitating conversations between Club Presidents and members using the Zoom platform, she did not address the financial issues that are the primary reason for our Ad Hoc Committee being formed last February. The Ad Hoc Committee sent a follow-up request for information relative to the financial plans, and Kathryn responded with an invitation to meet with her on a Zoom call, which we hope to set up this month.
Lin F.

September General Meeting

The September General Meeting was held by Zoom, with 35 members participating. The presentation on Mary Jo B.'s story reminded us of the amazing achievements our members have accomplished. Who will be featured at next month's meeting?



Basketeers Initiative

Nova Vita has put their annual Basketeers Program on hold, and is introducing "Hope for the Holidays" in the next few weeks. We look forward to participating, and will provide details as soon as we receive them.

Lin F.



CANCELLED!!!

Sad news!

Due to that pesky virus, we have made the decision to cancel **Trivia Night** scheduled for February, 2021!

CFUW Ontario Council Virtual Speakers Series

On October 3rd, a webinar on Long-Term Care was held. The session featured two speakers followed by a panel discussion with questions from the floor. Over 200 persons Zoomed into the session. The first speaker was Dan Levitt, E.D., Tabor Village Elder Care Community, B.C. He spoke about residents balancing risk versus independence while living in long-term care (LTC). He felt that people should not surrender their right when going into LTC. They are simply moving to a new address. He talked about six rights for residents especially during COVID -19: access to physicians; right to move out; need to maintain contact with family members; access to hospitals; not to be targeted by advanced care planning; family member who is designated a substitute decision maker should be involved in decisions that are being made. The second speaker was Karen Henderson, founder of the LTC Planning Network. She provided statistics regarding LTC in Ontario and said that over 1800 people died in LTC during COVID-19 outbreak in March. One third of Ontario's LTC homes have three or more residents living in a room! She talked about COVID-19 shining a light on the carnage occurring in LTC homes. For further information about these presentations got to: <https://cfuwontcouncil.org/standing-committees/>

Update on CFUW Brantford Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee on LTC

CARP Ottawa is preparing a Brief to send to the Independent Long-Term Care Covid-19 Commission in order to push for transformative culture change in Ontario's long-term care homes. The Brief makes the recommendation that: *The Ontario Government bring about transformative culture change in its LTC homes by ensuring an incremental approach according to specific time-lines, targets, and accountability structures to be put in place for every long-term care home in order to adopt one of the existing innovative models of care. Staff and volunteers (working conditions; recruitment and retention), education/training, infrastructure, inspections, and families/caregivers are all critical elements of transformative culture change that need to be reformed.* Five implementation steps have been defined for the Ontario Government in order to bring about this change. CARP National has endorsed the Brief as well as CFUW National. When the Brief is sent to the commissioners, there will also be an ask to provide a presentation to them. CFUW Brantford is one of the Collaborating Organizations working with CARP Ottawa on this project. Marg E.

Wishing You a Speedy Recovery!

All the best to Melodie D. who is recovering from a fall.

Keep up your positive energy, Naomi K., as you recover from your knee surgery.



Hope all went well Brenda M., with your knee surgery and that you are well on the way to recovery.

Jean L. is recovering from surgery and enjoying the lovely flowers from the Creative Cookery Group.

Thinking of You



Condolences to Marion J. on the death of her mother and our dear friend, Elizabeth Cavanaugh.

Our thoughts are with you, Joan H., on the death of your brother.

CFUW Brantford Member News

Elizabeth Cavanaugh, 1926 - 2020

Elizabeth Cavanaugh was a proud Nova Scotian, a strong independent woman and mother, a loving grandparent, an involved participant in the communities in which she lived, and our dear, dear friend.

Her roots in Nova Scotia were particularly important to her. She was a graduate of Dalhousie University and met her husband Curtis, also a graduate of Dalhousie, in Halifax. They lived in Dartmouth, Amherst, and Toronto before settling in Cornwall with their three children. There they developed strong community connections. When Curtis died suddenly, Elizabeth raised David, Marion, and Barbara on her own, instilling in them a sense of adventure, a love of learning, and a delight in their maritime roots with yearly trips to the East Coast.

Elizabeth was involved in her community and her church. She was an active member of the United Church Women, a Brownie and Girl Guide leader and delivered Meals on Wheels to those in need.

Her longest lasting association was with CFUW. She first joined in 1948 as a student at Dalhousie University. She rejoined in 1960 while living in Cornwall, serving as President from 1969 – 1971. She continued her association with the group for the rest of her life providing support, gentle coaching and guidance to Executive members.

When she came to Brantford in 2000, she moved in next to Joan H and found CFUW Brantford. Elizabeth and Joan often travelled together to meetings and events. Elizabeth rarely missed a chance to be involved, to socialize and to contribute. She enjoyed Christmas Potlucks, was a team member at Trivia Nights, and a smiling face at the Annual Blue Lake Picnics. Elizabeth genuinely enjoyed our Interest Groups. She was a contributing member of the afternoon Book Club and was one of the 'Crafty Ladies' who met to work on projects together and just talk. She was a gracious hostess when Creative Cookery, Bridge, or the Book Club met at her home and enjoyed frequenting different restaurants with the Dining Out group. Even as she aged, she continued to be active and current, contributing to conversations with wit, knowledge, and insight.

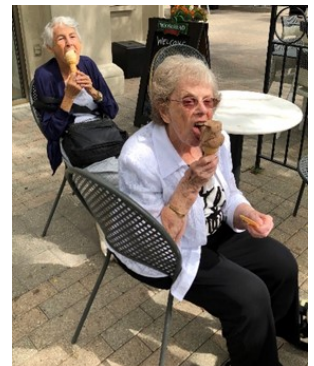
Members of CFUW Brantford remember Elizabeth as being most welcoming and supportive of those new to the Club and to Interest Groups. She was an excellent bridge player and helped novices to learn and become better. With the Dining Out Group, she expressed her joy when a birthday dessert was delivered while having lunch at David's in Port Dover and when eating ice cream with Lin and Marion N. after our sojourn to Spencer's on the Waterfront in Burlington.

She continued to participate in as many groups as possible, as long as she could, a testament to her resiliency. She was a role model for growing old gracefully and we appreciate her for that. We all remember celebrating Elizabeth's 90th birthday in the backyard on Kingsway Crescent.

As part of the 100th anniversary celebrations in 2019, CFUW National instituted the SAGE Award to be awarded by each club to the current member who had the longest period of CFUW membership. The award was to recognize and celebrate the commitment and dedication of members who have been championing CFUW's mission for decades. In October, Elizabeth was delighted to receive a silver pin and certificate from the National Office commemorating her 60 years with CFUW.

Marion, Elizabeth's daughter and CFUW member, shared with us that, *"This summer, when in hospital, she received many lovely cards and notes from her friends in CFUW. They meant so much to her and she would look at them over and over and have me reread them to her. CFUW's support and friendship meant so much to her."* Likewise, Elizabeth's friendship and commitment meant so much to all of us. We will miss her and remember her with love.

Respectfully submitted by Janet R. (Many thanks to all who shared their memories with me, especially her daughter, Marion.)



Interest Groups

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.

Dining Out Group:



September



October: The Dining Out group met in Lin F's back yard on a perfect sunny day - with homemade cookies from Nora L, Tim bits from Norah O'L, wine thanks to Gay H and wonderful conversation to offset the lack of dining at a fine restaurant.

Thursday Evening Book Club:

The first meeting was very radical as we met in the afternoon at Glenhyrst bringing our own chairs and beverages. We were a group of 11 and in such a setting we were able to comfortably distance, yet hear the conversation. Depending on the weather in October we might be able to meet again outside, weather permitting. Other ideas for future meeting are dependent on the COVID situation!

Monday Evening Book Club:

The group met by Zoom on Sept. 21st, to discuss "Becoming" by Michelle Obama, with Sandra H. as the discussion leader. The book discussion on "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See, will also be held by Zoom. The discussion will be led by Barbara M. on Monday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Book Club - 2nd Monday Afternoon

We met this year at the home of Melodie Daboll, as we are not a large group and physical distancing was not difficult. We reviewed our own books, made trades and left with a new one that peaked our interest. Remember to notify Melodie if you are intending to attend.

World Awareness

Members of the group who zoomed in for the first meeting are capable ZOOMERS, so there were no troubles! In fact we changed the day of our meeting as they had too many Wednesday Zooms! We will see what gives when the Golfers and Cottagers join us in September. Jennifer D.

Biking- Summer 2020

We started biking in June with some of last years bikers and then added a few when the new list arrived. Of the 12 people on the list I have had nine join for a ride with some more regular than others. The most I have had is 7 and often it is 4 or 5. It is easy to social distance with biking and especially with small numbers. We biked each week on Mondays including holidays (people had no other plans) with a start time of 9:00 a.m. On alternate weeks we biked the 'Loop' in Brantford, starting at Wilke's Dam. Then every other week we cycled a variety of trails: West Brantford to Mount Pleasant and sometimes beyond, Paris to Glen Morris, Glen Morris to Cambridge, Mount Pleasant to Scotland, and coming up will be Scotland to Waterford and Simcoe to Port Dover. The rides average about 18 - 20 km. around one and a half hours. We will continue through Sept. but beyond that will depend on the weather and other fall schedules.

Biking - September The Wheels are turning! We cancelled Monday's ride, but rode on Wednesday from Scotland to Waterford. We missed Anne and Gay on the reschedule but despite the fog and cooler weather, had a great time!

Happy trails.
Karen I.

Creative Cookery: The group met on Wednesday, October 14th, at Glenhyrst.



Thanks to Norah O. for collecting donations for the Food Bank!

Games Group: There wasn't a games group in September, given that it's still not safe to meet close enough in person to be playing games. Most members wish to wait until it's safe to meet in person, while six of us are meeting via Zoom once a month, on the second Thursday of each month at 1pm.

Bridge - Wednesday Afternoon

Brenda M. is taking on the responsibility of organizing SOME of the Wednesday afternoon Bridge Ladies to play Bridge online! I am not one who is enamoured with this thought but I am wishing them the BEST CARDS!

Please send short notes about your group activities to Jane at jane.binkley@rogers.com so you can keep us all up to date on what your group is doing! We may not be meeting regularly as a large group but we can keep in touch here in our Newsy Notes!

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

October General Meeting

October 28, 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.

Farewell to Joan Prior



In late October, a lifelong Brantford resident and CFUW member, Joan Prior and her furry friend Lola are moving to Vaughan, ON, where her daughter is creating a cozy granny suite for her Mom. Joan is eagerly anticipating enjoying the warmth of family- daughter Leslie and granddaughter Beth- after experiencing the isolation of the Covid restrictions and loneliness after the death of husband Al. Joan and Lola, along with her daughter and her dog have often strolled the streets of Leslie's neighbourhood, greeting neighbours and friends. Joan is hoping to continue and grow these relationships when she moves to this friendly, established neighbourhood. We will miss her organization of the afternoon Bridge Group and her efforts with the Social Committee. Joan has said that she loved these and all of her associations with our club members and that she particularly supported the mandates of our club. Thanks Joan. We wish you well as you embark on your new journey. To contact Joan in the future, her phone number and email address as they appear on our membership list will remain the same. She'd like to stay in touch by receiving our Newsletters.



Join us for a virtual book launch!



Wednesday,
October 21st, 1-2pm

Register at
calendar.brantfordlibrary.ca
for this FREE Event.

Acclaimed author Marsha Skrypuch will talk and answer questions about her new book *Trapped in Hitler's Web*. This is historical fiction at its finest!

Highly recommended for educators and students in Grades 5 and up.

Books can be borrowed through **Brantford Library**, or any other library system in Canada and the US.

To **purchase** a book with an autographed bookplate, please contact: roy@greenheronbooks.ca.

Books can also be purchased through any other local bookstore or e-book provider.

SCHOLASTIC



Scholarship Award A Winners 2020



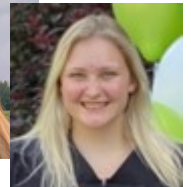
Kelly Zhang
BCI



Stephanie Pugh
BCI



Jessalyn Fraser
St. John's C.



Julia Chagnon
St. John's C.



Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference