



Contents	Pages
Club and Member News	1 - 6
CFUW News	2, 3
Interest Groups	5
Events	1 - 6

## Message from the Leadership Team

November is here....or at least I think it is. As I write this article, I have almost forgotten the snow that blanketed the ground upon awakening just a few days ago. Today will be in the teens, going to 20 degrees on Sunday and into next week. The weather is SO unlike usually dreary November, one of my least favourite months. We all know what awaits us but this reprieve gives us a brief opportunity to continue meeting outside without plugging in big heaters (that are in high demand right now.....ours arrived today!), to keep on cycling or walking without heavy outdoor clothing and to almost forget about Covid-19.

There is no need to remind you of the weird times in which we are all living. However, what could be stranger than the weather I have described, the daily changes in Covid protocol, constantly wondering when the border will open, the angst and pressure in the schools, deciding whether to celebrate Hallowe'en or not and, especially, the bizarre election goings-on to the south of us? Speaking of Hallowe'en, we were in Guelph celebrating and trick-or-treating with family. The creativity and fun observed in handing out treats was such that my daughter said that she hopes that Hallowe'en never returns to the old way!

Meanwhile, CFUW Brantford rolls along smoothly, though not without its challenges too. All meetings are on line, of course. Work is going on to help CFUW National confront its financial issues and rectify its relationship with GWI, thanks to our Ad Hoc Committee, led by Lin F., and another one, the Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee on Long Term Care, led by Marg E., to engage with organizations and governments concerned with improving the lives of persons in care homes. Never a dull moment in this club!

We are all becoming familiar, even expert, with communicating via Zoom. The general meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup> was attended by no less than 46 members, a very gratifying turnout and more than some of our meetings at the coach house! Although there is NO replacement for meeting in person, members are adapting, learning and coping with the alternative which, at least for now, provides us with the comfort of our own homes, enjoying a beverage of our choice

and not travelling at night. However, I like to think that attendance was also boosted because of the planned program as outlined last month. The wonderful profile of Marg S. produced by Lynn H. was exceptional and thoroughly enjoyed by Marg, although I know it brought poignant memories too. The first 10 profiles of members linked in a PowerPoint presentation was enthusiastically received and the Program Committee plans to continue with 10 more in November and beyond, along with a full profile of Carol K., one of our most long-standing, illustrious members. Please contact a member of the Program Committee, Lynn H., Anne M. or Linda T. if you would like us to do a profile on YOU. We'll do the work if you can provide us with information and pictures about your life. As well, maybe someone who knows PowerPoint (although that is not entirely necessary) would like to volunteer to do a profile once a month, for example, to help us out.

The positive comments and energy created indicates that many of you would like to review one or more of the profiles again and we are working hard to make that happen. There are a couple of things that must happen first, though, that we did not anticipate and your patience is requested.

(1) The profiles cannot be sent via email because the privacy and security of the information must be protected.

(2) There are technical challenges about uploading the PowerPoint files securely to our website (that Marsha S. so diligently maintains for us) in a secure, compatible format. Some of the Interest Groups are proceeding with caution with the leader following the protocol as set out in the Code of Conduct/Guidelines capably written by Betsy C., introduced at the October General Meeting and to be voted on at the November General Meeting.

The Walking Group has resumed, for example, because it is an outdoor activity and attendance records are being kept by Dian K. The Monday evening Bridge Group resumed on November 2<sup>nd</sup> with 8 members playing virtually on Bridge Base Online (BBO). Thanks to Brenda M. who, by the way, is doing well following her second knee replacement in mid-October.

FYI. If you are interested in learning more about computer technology, the Brant Skills Centre ([info@brantskillscentre.org](mailto:info@brantskillscentre.org), 519-304-8224) offers FREE online courses for seniors. Check out the website, click on the About Us tab then on The Free Computer and Essential Programs tab. Preregistration is required.

In closing, we are all doing our very best to follow the rules, stay safe and reach out to one another. All the more important as winter approaches. Keep it up, CFUW Brantford. We are a powerful group of like-minded, wonderful women!

All the best to everyone.

Anne M.

## **CFUW Ad Hoc Committee, Future Directions for CFUW Brantford 2020-22**

The Ad Hoc Committee continues to focus on CFUW National's finances, the amber alert that was sounded at the Winnipeg AGM in 2019, and how CFUW Brantford can best position ourselves for the future. The response from CFUW National to our letter of concern (September 2020) did not allay our concerns. When CFUW President, Kathryn Wilkinson, suggested that she meet with our Committee over Zoom, we posed several questions regarding finances for her to address at that meeting. That conversation did not alleviate our concerns nor provide any confidence that CFUW National has a clear understanding of the amber alert and the financial jeopardy that CFUW is in. To be fair, the National Board is comprised of a group of volunteers, who are fine people, and excellent in many ways. They do not have business or financial acumen and have not surrounded themselves with people who do.

It is important to note that - as one of our Committee members wrote:

***the goal for me (us) would be to belong to CFUW Brantford, which belongs to a strong, flourishing CFUW National which makes significant contributions to International Development in areas of improving the lives of girls and women, while continuing to advocate for social justice issues for Canadians. For me the point of keeping the pressure on is to spur on the national exec. to act sooner rather than later.***

Our Ad Hoc Committee discussed possible next steps and conferred with several clubs that are also examining what future directions they will take if CFUW is not viable beyond 2022. It is our wish to do everything in our power to help CFUW address their financial risk. With this goal in mind, our Committee presented our comprehensive report to your Executive at their November 11th Meeting, that included three Motions:

1. Moved by Brenda Malvern, seconded by Lin Fines, that the Ad Hoc Committee write a follow-up letter of concern to CFUW National explaining our reservations about the action being taken to address the financial jeopardy that CFUW faces, the amber alert, and the strain that GWI is placing on CFUW finances. The letter would include a recommendation that CFUW establish a Finance Working Group with representatives from clubs across Canada who have expertise in finance, chartered accounting, corporate audit, management consulting, and organization restructuring with support from the Finance Committee to evaluate the financial viability

of CFUW, identify the key stressors, and recommend an action plan that will allow CFUW to achieve financial stability and stand down the amber alert. THIS MOTION WAS PASSED.

2. Moved by Lin Fines, seconded by Brenda Malvern, that the follow-up letter of concern suggest that CFUW establish an International Working Group with representatives from across Canada who are neutral regarding GWI or representing the spectrum of views, hopefully with experience with international NGOs or experience with the RFP (Request For Proposal) process and evaluation protocols. The purpose of this working group would be to

- identify international organizations who focus on the rights, freedoms, and education of women and girls,
- evaluate their efficacy, features and benefits, costs and results, including GWI, and include CFUW National taking on the international work internally; and
- make a recommendation to CFUW regarding how best to achieve results internationally.

THIS MOTION WAS PASSED.

The third Motion was tabled to January. We all have our fingers crossed that Motion #1 will be implemented and that CFUW will get some excellent advice from experts in finance to help them navigate this challenging time in our history as an organization, and that Motion #3 will not have to be put forward in January.

Lin F., Chair, Ad Hoc Committee, "Future Directions for CFUW Brantford 2020-22"

## **News from National and Provincial**

CFUW has some products for sale in time for Christmas. There is a credit card holder, an anniversary pin and a golf shirt, all at \$15.00 or under. If interested, email [cfuwgen@rogers.com](mailto:cfuwgen@rogers.com).

CFUW has now joined Instagram. Check it out at <https://www.instagram.com/cfuwcfdu/> (@CFUWCFDU)

### **Educational Opportunities:**

CFUW Ontario Council is hosting a Zoom Speakers Series and will present Women in the Covid Economy, on November 21, 2020, from 10 am-12:30 pm. To register there is a link in the October CFUW Ontario Council News, issue 17.

CFUW Muskoka, in partnership with Lakehead University, is hosting an interactive lecture series on how we will engage with each other and the post-pandemic world. The cost is \$49.00. For more information go to Third Age Learning Lakehead-Muskoka Lecture Series. The next program takes place November 12, 2020.

On November 16, 2020 UWC Toronto is hosting a Zoom talk with adventurer Ian Evans - Lunacy: Life Begins at the End of Your Comfort Zone. Register at [info@uwctoronto.ca](mailto:info@uwctoronto.ca).

**Save the date** - February 27, 2021 for the next instalment of the Ontario Council Speakers Series.

### **Important Dates:**

**November 15, 2020** - deadline to submit a resolution for the 2021 AGM; **December 1, 2020** - preliminary club membership numbers to national.

Respectfully submitted, Betsy C.

## An important notice regarding the CFUW Brantford Covid-19 Code of Conduct and Guidelines for In-person Gatherings (Code of Conduct/Guidelines)

This document was passed by the Executive on November 11, 2020 as policy for every member to follow for the duration of the pandemic.

As well, CFUW National has prepared the document **Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability to Coronavirus/Covid-19 (Waiver)** that is an **option** for use by any member organizing an in-person gathering whether indoors or outdoors and signed by each member participating.

You have received both of these documents via email as of October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please read carefully and be mindful of the content. If anyone has misplaced the documents, please send an email to Anne M. at:

[annezurrermartin@gmail.com](mailto:annezurrermartin@gmail.com)

## 75th Anniversary - Calling All Treasure Hunters!

Do you know where CFUW Brantford's hidden treasures might be? Perhaps you have files of information stored in your home. If yes, please let me know what you have and approximately the quantity of the material you have.

Do you know where boxes or files of information about CFUW Brantford are stored in the community? If yes, please let me know what is stored where. e.g., Are there files stored at the Library or the Museum or elsewhere? If so, do you know how to access them?

As a tribute to our club's 75-year history, let's find these treasures. We want to celebrate our accomplishments and ensure that important records are preserved. Please provide me with a list of what you think is critical to keep - and perhaps where I might find it? e.g., Does anyone have a copy of the Campaign School course that was developed to encourage women to get involved in politics?

Do you know who the key members are to engage in discerning what to keep and where to find it? Are you a long-term member with a perspective about what to preserve and what to shred? Do you know who might have key information about who we are and what we have accomplished?

Do you have some knowledge of technology and how we might store both archives and current information? We are hoping that we can use technology and a hard-copy library to preserve who we are in a way that makes it accessible now and in the future. There may be some things that would be well served if they were loaded onto our website.

Please think about the role you can play as we bring together our rich history in this, our 75th anniversary year.

It is our intention to host a Zoom meeting in January to look at what we have learned from November 2020 to January 2021, and what our next steps might be.

Please e-mail, phone or text Lin F about the treasures you know about and whether you would like to participate in our January Zoom about our treasures. Lin F

## CFUW Brantford Needs Help!

CFUW has written a guide that will help us to amend our by-laws so that our organization can function smoothly and efficiently. Over the past year we have been viewing our by-laws with the idea that they need to be updated to better reflect our situation now. One example is that we need to include references to electronic votes and meetings.

This is one of those jobs that require a team rather than an individual. We hope you will volunteer to help with this task. Please let an Executive member know you are interested or send an email to [cfuwbrantford@yahoo.ca](mailto:cfuwbrantford@yahoo.ca) Thank you! Janet R.

## CFUW 16 Days of Activism

The period from November 25<sup>th</sup>, *the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women*, to December 10<sup>th</sup>, *International Human Rights Day* is identified as a period of time when we are encouraged to help put an end to violence against women and girls. CFUW clubs and members can be trailblazers in their communities and across the country, contributing positively to end gender-based violence (GBV).

December 6, 2020 marks the anniversary of the École Polytechnique massacre (also known as the Montreal Massacre). Fourteen women were murdered simply because they were women, and on this day – the *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women* – we remember that GBV affects women and girls nationally and internationally.

## CFUW National wants to hear from you!

As recommended by the CFUW Mediation Report of June 2020, the CFUW Board created a national Communications Committee to develop a communications strategy to improve relationships within our organization and with the specific intent of healing strained relationships.

The Mediation Working Group reached consensus on the following:

1. The CFUW is in need of better, more healing, constructive communication.
2. There has been a problem with past confusion about information regarding GWI.
3. There is a great deal of value in CFUW continuing as a unified, strong, cohesive organization into the future. Everyone involved wants the CFUW to continue as a single organization.
4. Collaborative, facilitated conversations, like the one undertaken by this Committee, are useful and should form part of the practice of CFUW going forward.

These statements form a solid base upon which to build better communications within CFUW. The recently conducted National Survey gave us a look at current levels of satisfaction and service. Now we need to hear directly from you, the members, on these ideas. Please JOIN US for a conversation as an information exchange and open discussion among CFUW members. We will be convening on Zoom twice, using the same questions each time. Presidents, Club Executives, RDs, are welcome. Please INVITE your members. Please register in advance  
Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> – 8-10pm AT, 7-9pm ET  
Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – 4:30-6:30pm ET  
Registrations will be accepted up to November 23 at noon. Thank you in advance for your participation.  
Register at [cfuwgen@rogers.com](mailto:cfuwgen@rogers.com)



## How Will You Make a Difference This Holiday Season?

### Sponsor a Family

Determine your budget or team capacity: family size varies so sponsors can request maximum persons in family or number of families to be sponsored.

This personalized option will provide you with a list of items to help make your sponsor family's holiday season a little more merry and bright.

### Donate Gift Cards

Requested Values: \$10, \$25 & \$50

Suggested Stores: Giant Tiger, Walmart, Grocery Stores, Best Buy, Canadian Tire, Sport Chek, Indigo, Toys R Us, Visa or MC, Local Eateries, and Businesses.

### Make a Financial Donation

Donations can be made online at [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org) or by contacting a member of our Community Development Team. You can request how you would like us to direct the funding.

### For Everyone's Safety

- Due to COVID-19, we cannot accept physical donations without an appointment. Last date to donate is December 23.
- Donations are placed in quarantine for a minimum of 2 days before they can be forwarded on to recipients.
- We can only accept items that are new, in original packaging, safe (check expiry dates), and unwrapped.

## Basketeers

Nova Vita is introducing HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS to replace the Basketeers Program as a result of increased domestic violence during the pandemic, and a need to help more women and children over the holidays. Janet K, Bev G, Maria T, Anne M and Lin F are meeting on Nov 16th and will send out details about how CFUW can participate. The poster that Nova Vita has developed is above.

## Interest and Community Groups and Member Updates

**Monday Evening Book Club:** The group will be meeting by Zoom on Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. instead of the usual Monday. We will be selecting titles for January to June 2021 and discussing the book **Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger** by Rebecca Traister.

**Thursday Evening Book Club:** On the evening of November 5<sup>th</sup>, we met via Zoom to discuss the book **Before We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate, a book selling over 2 million copies, on the bestseller list for over a year and being translated for publication in at least fourteen countries.

This historical fiction book, based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals, tells the stories of the children, through twelve-year old Rill Foss, stolen from her family's Mississippi River shantyboat with her four young siblings and held in an orphanage where uncertainty and danger wait around every corner.

From the 1920s through 1950, more than 5,000 children of single mothers and poverty-stricken parents were taken away, sometimes even quietly whisked off front porches or from hospital maternity wards. The children were given new names and histories before being advertised for adoption....

for huge fees from wealthy families all over the country, making the director, Georgia Tann a very rich lady. Many of the victims of this adoption scandal learned the truth from Lisa Wingate's novel and were reunited with birth family members because of its wide reach. Group members felt the book was well written, providing much for discussion and would recommend it as a good read. Submitted by Roma M.

**Monday Evening Bridge Group:** We met online on Monday, November 2, our usual Bridge evening, with 8 members participating using Bridge Base Online, double the number from our October session. Some members were new to this site and were helped by those more familiar with it. Sometimes we amaze ourselves at far we've come in applying new technology since the forced isolation of the pandemic. Thanks to Catherine S. and Dian K who capably "set the tables"; we played approximately 1 hour with 4 players and then, after a 5 minute break, switched tables to play with different players. This year, for a change I am going to keep scores each month and maybe there will be a prize in the spring!! The winner this month was Brenda M. We will continue to play on the first Monday of each month.

**World Awareness: The She-Session:** Naomi prepared an interesting introduction to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 on the economies of the world, focussing on Canada, and how women have been particularly affected. Our discussion was far-reaching covering low-wage employment / employers, child care, for profit care homes, basic income/guaranteed liveable wage, why are women more at risk during this time, gender-based violence...and more. Thanks to all for your input, to Janet as the Zoom host and to Naomi for points that led to our discussion. Jen D.

### Update

**Congratulations** to Marla M. and her husband Chuck who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 10th!

**Joan P's new address is:**

[16 Signet Way](#)  
[Vaughan On LOH 2E4](#)

Her phone number and email remain the same.

**Melodie D's apartment number** is 402 (not 618 as listed).

**Eleanor G's new address is:**

152 Dufferin Avenue, Unit 9  
Brantford, N3T 4R3

### In Memory of Elizabeth Cavanaugh.

At the memorial service for Elizabeth Cavanaugh the family requested donations to be made to the CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund. Members may mail donations to Meike S., our treasurer, at 69 Lorne Crescent. Any non-members may donate to CFUW Brantford PO Box 26028, 260 St. Paul Ave. Brantford ON N3R 7X4.

### Zoom or Fresh Air?

I started a Zoom group for 7 of us - all CFUW. Brenda M., Gloria S., Marla M., Dian K., Catherine S., Colette W., and me. When the weather warmed up, we took turns hosting our meetings outside...very safely. Now the weather is getting a little chilly but we're still trying.

Lynn H.



### BOOK SALE! \$2.00 each!

Jenny de Alwis has a large number of books for sale with **all proceeds going to the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers Campaign.**

Please contact [dealwis31@gmail.com](mailto:dealwis31@gmail.com) for the list. She will deliver!



Because of the pandemic, Brantford Music Club has had to cancel the entire **Canadian Artists Series**. This time is a very difficult for artists as their income has been severely affected. It is also difficult for concert goers. To try to help both, BMC will be offering a few free online concerts to those in the database. If you would like to be added to the database, please write to [brantfordmusicclub1@gmail.com](mailto:brantfordmusicclub1@gmail.com)

## 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

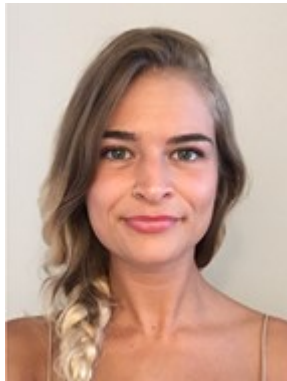
**TREASURER:** Mieke Schroeder

### 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

## Scholarship Award B:


The Scholarship committee selected Rhiannon Hoffos from Conestoga College to receive the CFUW Brantford Award B for 2020. Rhiannon has returned to college after many challenges in her life to become a kindergarten teacher. She receives an award of \$1500 to complete her studies. She was very grateful for this support.



## December Social

Unfortunately, there will be no Potluck this year but...

We welcome all members to join the **ZOOM** meeting on the evening of Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for the next best thing!!

Grab a glass of  (or some other suitable beverage) and some nibblies, put on your favourite

seasonal garb  and tune in!!

We will be honouring long-term members with certificates and will then enjoy learning more about our members. There will be one special presentation and ten shorter profiles. What a great way to stay connected and learn about your friends!


## November General Meeting: zoom

Meeting Starts at 7:00 p.m.  
(Zoom link will be emailed to you)  
Date: November 25, 2020

## 75th Anniversary - A Year of Celebrating our Members

Guess Who will be profiled this month?  
Will you be able to guess all 10 of the members in the quiz?

**May Banquet** The committee is planning to tentatively book the Golf and Country Club for this event.

 The committee is exploring options and will report on their plans in the New Year.



*Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference*