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We are now in the wonderful month of May and I am pretty sure that the nice weather will lift spirits that need lifting! At the time of writing, it actually feels a little like late March, but I'm still optimistic when I see the leaves coming out and the spring flowers blooming!

When I began my month as President there were fewer than 20,000 people in Brantford/Brant who had received at least one vaccination. By the time you receive this newsletter, that number will likely be over 60,000. Progress is being made and soon the worst of this pandemic will be behind us – gone but definitely not forgotten. COVID has dominated the news and changed our lives. Last May, we were recognizing front line workers with lawn signs and the clanging of pots and pans. Now the situation in the hospitals is grave. Those workers deserve our appreciation for what they have been through in the last 15 months. Hopefully, we will be able to get back to what we love to do with a renewed appreciation for what is important in our lives – family, friends, volunteering, concerts, restaurants, travel....

In April, we were truly fortunate to be able to hear from new member, Marjorie Shepherd, Senior Climate Change Advisor, Environment and Climate Change Canada. Her presentation at the General Meeting was both educational and thought-provoking. We hope that you were inspired to investigate ways to make a difference in our country and in our world. This month, at the AGM, the Program Committee will continue with the **Who Am I?** PowerPoint presentations of several members and a longer profile of member Marion Weir. This initiative has been a lot of fun! I had never worked with PowerPoint prior to October and I found it to be extremely easy to produce a decent product. I have enjoyed looking at the photos and finding out more about members in our club – where they were born, where they went to school, their vocations and avocations. I would really like to give credit to Anne M. for keeping us organized and for running the show each month. It has been a pleasure to work with her.

Appreciation is also due to Marg E. for her continuing work with Long Term Care. Make sure that you read her excellent report in the newsletter and take 10 minutes to write a letter to Will Bouma. The government needs to know that the

situation in Long Term Care is not acceptable and must change. Reports have been sitting on shelves for too long and might continue to sit there unless there is enough public pressure.

There are signs of optimism, but we can't be complacent. The CFUW National and Ontario Council AGMs will be held soon, so please sign up, if you are so inclined! Betsy C. and Lin F. will be representing us at these virtual meetings and as President for April, I would like to thank them for volunteering to give their time and attention to these sessions.

I would also like to thank members who have volunteered to be on the Executive and/or Committees. First, thank you to Jenny McConnell for co-chairing the executive and general meetings with me. She did a great job and her participation was appreciated. CFUW Brantford cannot continue without people willing to take on the various positions on the executive. In the past, the commitment was for 6 years – 2 as vice-president, 2 as president and 2 as Past-President. We then tried a team approach with 4 people sharing the Leadership role. Our club is now using a new model - a one-month commitment for President, with a *President in Name*. For the past two years, Janet R. has been our President in Name. She has done a superb job of keeping us informed, going virtually to Provincial sessions, setting up our meetings and helping with technical issues. She, and Mieke S. have set up and kept up Dropbox so that we have a record of meetings, decisions, protocols. . . For the coming year, the job has been subdivided further so please be patient if there are errors made. Remember, everyone who serves on the executive or on committees is giving freely of her time and is entitled to support, help and encouragement.

This year is CFUW Brantford's 75th Anniversary. Do you have any interesting ideas of how to make it extra special: for speakers, displays or entertainment? If yes, please get in touch with Brenda M. or join the committee. Thanks to Brenda for pulling this committee together. We have Thursday,



September 30th booked at the Brantford Golf & Country Club so keep your fingers crossed and ... **of course, we will have cake!**

Happy May!!
Lynn H.

News from National

Resolutions Update:

As the proposed resolutions were set out in detail in the last newsletter, I shall just set out the outcome of the club's direction to our delegates at the Ontario and National Annual Meetings. Our club has voted to support the Ontario Council resolution calling for educating Ontario students yearly, respecting the awareness, prevention, and detection of human trafficking. With respect to resolutions from National, our club has voted to support the resolutions put forward to ban single use plastics, to call on the government to take steps to address the opioid crisis; and to urge the Federal Government of Canada to develop a comprehensive Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery Plan including specific interventions to address the disparate effect of pandemics on the lives of women. The proposed resolution respecting the right to repair large household appliances was rejected.

Upcoming Events

1. May 14 & 15, 2021 is the Ontario Council Annual Meeting. Lin F. will be attending as our delegate. However, anyone with an interest in the annual meeting may attend the event. Of particular interest may be the Friday night keynote speaker.
2. May 14, 2021, the keynote address will be given: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY with Dr. Wendy Cukier from the Diversity Institute at Ryerson University. Registration to attend this event is via this link should you wish to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqce2orjorHtx_mWJSew29Kk9OMaF30OFr
3. On May 17, 2020, as a part of Elder Action Day Reflections, CFUW Edmonton will present: Caring For and About Older People in Canada: What Really Matters Now. Register [here](#) if you are interested in attending.
4. CFUW Orillia's Homes for Scholarships will be held on Sunday June 6th, 2021 from 2 pm to 4 pm. It will be virtual, so all who are interested can attend. The event supports scholarships for young women pursuing post-secondary education and costs \$30.00. [Click here to go to the "Homes for Scholarships" Website for more Details and/or to Purchase Tickets.](#)
5. June 14 & 15, 2021 is the **National AGM**. Lin F will be attending on June 14, 2021 and Betsy C. will be attending on the 15th. Leading up to the AGM there will be a series of workshops. Information for the following sessions is listed on the Events page - [click here](#)
May 17 CFUW Proposers and Amenders Town Hall
May 18 Articles and Bylaws Proposers and Amenders Workshop
May 19 Resolutions Proposers and Amenders Workshop
May 27 Club Leadership 101 Workshop
May 29 Governance Workshop
June 2 What to Expect at the Convention
June 7 International Relations Panel Presentation
June 9 Technology Workshop
June 14 International Advocacy Workshop - Focus on Clubs
June 15 Reading Financial Statements and this Year's Budget
June 21 Indigenous Peoples Workshop

The Report from the Independent COVID-19 Long-Term Care Commission

The long-awaited Report from the Independent Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission is now available! Since COVID-19 began over a year ago, nearly 4000 residents in Ontario have died in LTC homes as well as staff. After the first wave, recommendations were made to the government regarding staff, PPE, and infection control measures but the government did not act. As a result, there were more deaths from the second wave of COVID-19 than the first!

We now have the Report from the commissioners, who should be congratulated for listening to the more than 700 persons interviewed, because they got it! The problems in LTC homes have been years in the making. COVID-19 exacerbated all the failings that we knew were there! The commissioners made 85 recommendations covering all aspects of LTC but the quote that stands out is "Leaders at every level must put their hearts, as well as their minds, into reimagining the care of the elderly in this province. This will require a philosophy of care that is anchored in respect, compassion and kindness for the people who live and work in long-term care. It is not just about building more homes. There needs to be a transformation to a person-centered care model, which motivates different behaviours and rewards innovation that leads to better outcomes for residents and staff." ([Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission - Home \(ltccommission-commissionsld.ca\)](https://www.ltccommission-commissionsld.ca))

The 85 recommendations dealt with pandemic preparedness, infection prevention and control, health care system integration, resident-focused care and quality of life, human resource challenges, funding, long-term care home development, increased accountability and transparency and enforcement. The Report provided a path forward to prevent this tragedy from happening again.

The commissioners said, "It is time to stop studying the problems with long-term care and begin implementing comprehensive change." What is needed now is the government to act! Leaders at every level need to step up and make a commitment to make sure that the recommendations of this Report are carried out. Our residents, families and staff in long-term care deserve nothing less.

There is great danger that this Report will sit on a shelf along with other past Reports that have addressed the failings of LTC. Please send an email to your MPP, Will Bouma, will.bouma@pc.ola.org, encouraging the government to take action NOW on the recommendations in this Report.

Marg E., Ad Hoc Committee on LTC

Interest Groups & Other Activities

Creative Cookery:

On the evening of April 21st members of the Creative Cookery group met online by Zoom. We caught up on our lives and new ideas about cooking. Several members voiced concern about the animals we eat and recommended documentaries to see and articles to read.

One member commented: "It was soooo nice to see and share stories with all of you! It was amazing how quickly the time went by and how we were able to divert to so many different issues so seamlessly, LOL"

For the next meeting on May 19, members are requested to have a Spring recipe to share.

Monday Night Book Club:

We met on April 19th to discuss a disturbing book that explored the terrible treatment of orphan/illegitimate girls in Quebec during the Duplessis era, *The Home for Unwanted Girls* by Joanna Goodman.

"*Philomena* meets *Orphan Train* in this suspenseful, provocative novel filled with love, secrets, and deceit—the story of a young unwed mother who is forcibly separated from her daughter at birth and the lengths to which they go to find each other".

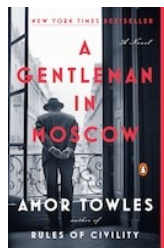


Thursday Night Book Club:

A Gentleman in Moscow:

Meeting May 6, 2021

A Gentleman in Moscow is a masterfully written novel by Amor Towles. It is the story of Count Alexander Rostov, who, in 1922 is deemed to have written a subversive poem and is sentenced by a Bolshevik tribunal to spend the rest of his life in a small attic room in a grand hotel called the Metropol, located near the Kremlin. It covers 3 decades of his life there, as well as a colourful cast of characters that are central to his adaptation to his new situation and to his experiences. Meantime, 3 decades of Russian history unfold. There was unanimous and enthusiastic agreement among the members to recommend this book as an outstanding read.



Monday Evening Bridge Group:

We continued online on Monday May 3 with the usual 8 members participating. High scorers were Catherine .S. and Bev. G. The other players just had fun.

Thanks to Anne M. for helping to set the tables and submit scores. We are longing for in-person Bridge!!

Brenda M.



Bridge

Invitation to Attend Zoom Talk from Guest Speaker Anna Olson.

The speaker for the Monday May 17 meeting of the Grimsby CFUW Club is Anna Olson.



Her presentation is "***Keeping it Creative During Covid: Cooking and Connecting over the Past Year***".

Celebrated for her practical and inviting approach to the kitchen, Chef Anna Olson is a global baking mentor, trusted media personality, and in-demand celebrity chef. A former executive pastry chef and bakery owner, Anna earned her media acclaim through hosting television series to over 190 countries and now through digital series on her YouTube channel.

We will be starting at 7pm with Anna. She will be followed by the presentation of our CFUW scholarship to a local female student currently enrolled in university. And then there will be a brief business meeting. You are welcome to push the red 'Leave' button at any time...we will not be offended by your departure!

If you would like to 'attend' via Zoom, here is the link.

Time: May 17, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](#)

Gardens to Enjoy

Prominent displays will continue to be featured at the following locations:

Lorne Park, Glenhyrst Gardens, Jubilee

Terrace, Tom Thumb Park, Gore Park, War Memorial, City Hall, Harmony Square, Victoria Park and City Entrance signs. Residents are urged to continue to follow physical distancing regulations (being 6 ft. apart from others at all times in public) while enjoying the City's outdoor parks.



Stories for Your Kids or Grandkids



There are some great read aloud books on YouTube. Enjoy **Storyline Online** where famous actors read the stories. A great example is *Harry the Dirty Dog* by Gene Zion, read by Betty White. [Storyline Online - Harry the Dirty Dog Storyline Online - Harry the Dirty Dog](#) .

Check out the [Brantford Public Library](#), the [Brant Public Library](#) and the [Family Literacy Committee](#) to find out more ideas for sharing stories with children. You might find some new ideas for your own reading experiences.

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

Congratulations



Best Wishes to Marg S. who has just celebrated her 85th birthday.

All the best to Mieke S. who will be celebrating her 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Covid - 19

Good news about vaccines keeps getting better! The Brant County Health Unit is taking bookings for the vaccination for those 40 and older as well as those listed in phase 2. The link to find out more is: [InfectiousDiseases Coronavirus \(bchu.org\)](https://www.bchu.org/infectiousdiseases)



BRANTFORD, ON – Clean Brantford is an ongoing City initiative to encourage individual and collective responsibility to help keep our streets and neighbourhoods clean for the betterment of our city. While we would normally encourage community cleanups this time of year, due to the current COVID-19 province-wide Stay-at-Home order, events and social gatherings at this time are prohibited. Instead, this year, participants are encouraged to pick up litter on their own (or with a member of their immediate household) in their own neighbourhoods while out for brief exercise breaks during the current Stay-at-Home order.



CFUW Brantford Annual General Meeting 2021

Date: May 26, 2021

Time: The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Online Zoom call

What: The program will consist of one long presentation on the life of Marion W. and several short bios for you to guess who the people are.

The Business: This will include the presentation of the nominees for the coming year's executive for your approval as well as other items of business.

CFUW's Annual Banquet is tentatively set for the end of September with a 75th Anniversary theme.

Many thanks to the Interest group contacts and participants who provide news and pictures for the newsletter. If your Interest group is finding another way to stay connected in this time of lockdown, 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 June Newsletter is Friday May 4th.



Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference