



Have a great
Summer
Vacation!



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Leadership Team

Being President of the Month for the month of May was a real treat and probably the best month to be in that position. In May, everything we did all month was focused on our AGM and Banquet where we celebrated our 80th Anniversary. Some of our members were preparing for the May 28th meeting for much longer than one month. Everything came together so that everyone enjoyed a really great evening! The room looked beautiful and was full of memories from the past. As the displays will appear throughout the coming year, those who didn't get a chance to peruse them as much as they'd like will have another opportunity. Carol Kent reminded us of the highlights of the last 80 years. Our guest speaker, Elizabeth Renzetti, informed us about the equality in our society today. The chance to socialize with fellow members and enjoy a meal together, topped off with the fancy 80th Anniversary cupcakes and coffee/tea was enjoyed by all.

We had a full year which really must have fulfilled the aspirations of those who took the Members' Survey last fall. We had a year full of stimulating meetings, many Interest Groups in which we walked, ate, read, held meaningful conversations, laughed and enjoyed being together. Our monthly meetings and our AGM really showed that we are a group that values friendships, getting together, being involved in our local and international communities and providing opportunity for young and older women to pursue education in both communities. We welcomed new members, which is wonderful, and we recognized several long time members.



I hope that everyone has a good summer whether travelling, going to cottages or staying home and look forward to seeing you in September.

Barbara Melara,
*President of the Month and
President in Name*

The 2025 AGM and BANQUET celebrating the 80th anniversary of CFUW BRANTFORD was a fitting finale for our in person meetings. The social committee looks forward to providing tea and arranging for treats at the upcoming meetings in September, October, November, March and April.



Teddy B. and Lynne D.



Once again we will be planning the Holiday Get Together in December and, of course, the 2026 AGM and Banquet on the fourth Wednesday in May.

The much anticipated summer season will soon begin and many of our members will be enjoying outdoor activities, spending time at cottages or travelling.

Enjoy your summer!
Lynne D.



To our outgoing Executive members Anne M., Pat C. and Cookie H., who have worked hard to make our club rewarding for its members, thank you! We appreciate all you have done to update and build our club for the future and provide us with opportunities to learn, have fun and make a difference for women!

CFUW Brantford Executive - 2025 -2026

We extend our sincere thanks to the following members who have been elected to our Leadership Team for 2025-26. We look forward to another year of personal growth, friendship and support for one another under the guidance of our new Team.

Position Name(s)

President in Name Barbara Melara

Rotating Presidential Team:

Diane Bradley/Pat McGinnis Jun - Aug 25

Lucie Costin-Hall Sep 25

Betsy Capitano Oct 25

Wendy Bethune Nov 25

Maria Timmons Dec 25

Maria Timmons Jan 26

Catherine Sawyer Feb 26

Linda Tripp Mar 26

Dian Kuzyk Apr 26

Barbara Melara May 26

Past President Janet Kempster

Secretary Arlene Cass

Treasurer Maria Timmons

Communications Sandra Hughes

Interest Groups Roma Makkreel

Membership Marsha Skrypuch

Program Colette Wilson

Scholarship Karen Innes

Social Lynne Duncombe

Advocacy Teddy Buzek



INTEREST



Looking forward to Interest Groups getting started in September again. If any groups have activities during the summer, please send write ups and photos so they can be included in the September issue of the Newsletter. Also, please send any updates to Marsha S. and Mary P. to be included on the website and on Facebook. Sandra H.

June Executive Meeting

The outgoing and incoming Executive members met at the home of Pat M. to finish up the business of this year and look forward to the coming year starting in September. The agenda was relaxed and productive as we enthusiastically explored directions for next year. The pot luck at the end of the business was thoroughly enjoyed, especially those pink iced sugar cookies. Thank you to all who stepped forward to keep the club running smoothly. Diane B.



SPECIAL GUEST!
We wanted our CFUW members to meet "BEC-CA" (McGinnis) who was a lovely guest at our June/25 Executive Meeting. As you can see, she found it to be very informative!

Membership

In the photo below please acknowledge the members who have been in our club for a significant number of years. From left to right - Eleanor Gloster (45), Marla Merritt (35) Barbara Scott, Membership Chair, Joan Hadley (40), Jean Farquarson (45) and Carol Kent (55). Absent from photo are Meike Schroeder (30) and Mary Jo Brock (35). This adds up to a grand total of 285 years of dedication in making our goals a realization. Congratulations ladies!



Barb S, Membership Chair.

AGM Keynote Speaker: Liz Renzetti

On May 28, CFUW Brantford celebrated its 80th anniversary with a bang. Our speaker for the evening, journalist Liz Renzetti, stirred the feminist roots of the organization with her talk about the current situation of women in society, reminding us that the fight for women's equality must be ongoing. Liz talked about the backlash that women's success in the workplace, in leadership roles and in other male-dominated fields has brought about. Led by authoritarian governments, including the Trump administration, women's rights are being reversed and misogyny has increased especially in younger men. Violence against women and girls continues to increase. Women in the audience asked many thoughtful questions which Liz answered skillfully. Thanks go to Liz Renzetti for a thoughtful and rousing talk which we will long remember.

Colette W. for the Program Committee



AGM and Banquet

The Annual AGM and Banquet, held on May 28th at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course and Learning Centre, was a celebration of Brantford CFUW's 80th Anniversary. The event highlights included a celebration of our organization with amazing floral decorations and displays of our past activities by Teddy B. Carol K. gave a delightful talk about our amazing history in our community. Barb S. presented certificates of recognition to long term members. The executive, committees, and guests who are considering membership or visiting were also recognized. Our speaker for the evening, Elizabeth Renzetti, gave us lots of food for thought about women in our society. An excellent meal and great conversation completed the well organized event. Thank you to Lynne D. and the Social Committee and the AGM organizers.



THE WAY WE WERE (AGM Presentation by Carol Kent)

In the club's first year, 1945 – '46, there were 51 members. The organization's name was The University Women's Club of Brantford. In the early years, the monthly meetings were held in the homes of the members, with up to 40 attending. After some research and a memory-jogging session with Bev Golden, I have determined that we have met in 15 different locations since that time. The annual membership fee that first year was \$2 of which \$1.50 went to the national office. The first scholarship was awarded in 1949 in the amount of \$100. Between 1949 and 1995 (the 50th anniversary), 11 scholarships winners were daughters of club members, including Anne Martin, who received her scholarship in 1964. Consider what that tells us about the age demographic at the time: *daughters* were winning; today it might be *granddaughters*.

For several years one meeting a year was devoted to Members' Night when 6 or more members spoke briefly about topics that related to their interests, such as: Florence Bingle talking about her time living and teaching in Japan and writing a book about it; Diane Anderson about working as a dietitian for a Northern Ontario Outpost Hospital; and (this one you may find hard to believe) yours truly speaking about being a motorcycling enthusiast.

When I joined the club, the meetings were held at Glenhyrst and were supposed to start at 8:15; it was often close to 8:30, and it was often close to 11 before the social committee was able to leave, with the custodian jangling his keys at the door. It was not without some opposition that it was finally decided to start at 8 o'clock. At the May banquet in 1956, a chicken dinner cost members \$2.50.

To indicate how alcohol restrictions have changed: for several years, the September meeting was a wine and cheese affair but it could not be advertised as such. It was a "grape and cheese". It was not until 1972 that it could be referred to as a wine and cheese party.

I could call this next one a "Believe it or not": until the late 1970s, married women were identified in the meeting minutes by their husband's initial. For example, Brenda Malvern would have been Mrs. D. Malvern, then later Mrs. B. Malvern, and finally Brenda Malvern. There was a time when smoking at meetings became an issue and the President had to tactfully address the problem with certain members. From the November '75 executive minutes: "Mrs. C. Makarchuk was asked to discreetly reprimand recalcitrant smokers." And from the following general meeting minutes: "In welcoming members, Mrs. Makarchuk, following the direction of the executive, requested that members refrain from smoking during the meeting and that they give full and rapt attention to the speakers." It sounds as if we were having a rowdy time.

While there was a lot of laughter at the meetings, we were also involved in some very serious endeavours:

In January 1973, club members voted 26-11 in favour of a resolution that the club "support suspension of the death penalty, except for the killing of policemen or prison guards, for a further 5 years."

In 1982, after watching a film on pornography called *Killing Me Softly*, we became very interested in the issue, and the outcome was –that we compiled a Resolution for the CFUW National AGM in Winnipeg where it was presented by our President, Kay Pile, and passed.

We instituted a school volunteer program. For many years we sponsored a creative writing contest for high school students in connection with Canada Week. On the occasion of federal and provincial elections, we organized many All Candidates Nights.

We have a history of being very active in the community. In fact, for many years, we had a Civic Action interest group:

We conducted community workshops -- for working mothers; on child abuse; on teenage girls' identity crisis (which led to the establishment of Teen Esteem).

Our civic action also took the form of prolific letter writing. In the 70s alone, we wrote to City Council and The Expositor concerning getting women appointed to local boards and commissions; to Ottawa to complain about the way International Women's Year was being funded;

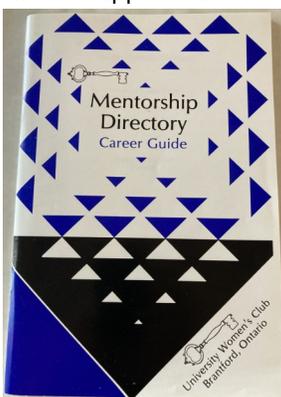
to the Board of Education in support of extending advanced art programs in the schools; to the Provincial Ministers of Agriculture and of the Environment concerning the preservation of prime agricultural land; to city Council, stressing the need to purchase the Capitol Theatre (now our lovely Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts); to Ottawa opposing taxes on food and children's clothing; and we sent a telegram to Ottawa in support of repealing the abortion laws.

In 1989 we compiled a mentorship directory for young women choosing careers, with the emphasis on non-traditional careers. For our 50th anniversary project in 1995, we researched, wrote, and published a book on the history of women in Brant County, called *Significant Lives: Profiles of Brant County Women*. We published two editions of 1,000 copies each. That project enriched our Scholarship Fund by almost \$18,000. Following that, some of us lobbied

to have the names of these women used as new street names in the city and at my most recent check there were 20 such street names.

There is *much* more I could add but I will stop there.

We have much to be proud of and much to inspire us as we move ahead.



Interest Groups

Monday Night Book Group: We met on a balmy June evening at the home Sandra H. The open discussion was on the chosen book, *Nine Perfect Strangers*.

The group agreed the author, Liane Moriarty, was excellent at portraying the state of each character, allowing the reader to know the physical, emotional and psychological state of character when they first arrived at the Spa and their change when they were released.

Especially appreciated was the follow up of what happened to the individuals and how their lives were changed.

This is a fascinating and intriguing novel that has coincidentally been made into a TV series. Linda S.

In May the group met at the home of Naomi K. for a lively discussion of the book *When the World Fell Silent* by Donna Alward, a story of loss, hope and redemption against impossible odds... 'Alward tells this story of the wounded survivors and the people who cared for them with affecting grace' Toronto Star.

It is 1917, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Nora Crowell wants more than her sister's life as a wife and mother. As WWI rages across the Atlantic, she becomes a lieutenant in the Canadian Army Nursing Corps. But trouble is looming and it won't be long before the truth comes to light. Having lost her beloved husband in the trenches and with no-one else to turn to, Charlotte Campbell now lives with his haughty relations who treat her like the help. It is baby Aileen, the joy and light of her life, who spurs her to dream of a better life. When tragedy strikes in Halifax Harbour, nothing for these two women will ever be the same again. Their paths will cross in the most unexpected way, trailing both heartbreak and joy in its wake. We recommend this powerful immersion into how the explosion affected two Canadian women and their families. Sandra H.

Games Group: Our keen group of ladies enjoy get togethers on the second Thursday and the fourth Monday of each month from 1:30 - 3:30. We are currently meeting in our homes and are looking for a location where we could meet regularly. If you want a couple of hours of fun, chatter and some laughs, do come and join us. We play both old familiar games and have learned some new ones as well.

If you need more information, contact Barb S.



Dining Out: Our Dining Out Group's season finale featured lunch at the Elm Hurst Inn in Ingersoll, on a sprawling estate about 40 minutes from Brantford. The weather was lovely and most of us travelled the back roads, enjoying the rolling hills

and beautiful vegetation along the way. We are in the process of developing our schedule of restaurants to visit in 2025-26. In the meantime, we wish you a summer of good health and happy adventures. Bon Appetit! Lin F.



Cycling Group: The group meets weekly from May until October, meeting for a ride around the Grand River Loop or on various trails in and around Brantford including nearby communities. Rides are approximately 20 km, at a senior pace, with flexible dates and times. Contact Karen I. for more information.

Creative Cookery:

Thanks to the excellent preparation and hosting by Norah O. and Barb M. and the English Tea food that the group created we had a delicious and most enjoyable tea party! Sandra H.



2024–2025 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT IN NAME:

- Barbara Melara

PAST PRESIDENT:

- Janet Kempster

ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

- Anne Martin & Teddy Buzek—June to August,
- Elizabeth Capitano— September
- Pat Clemons—October
- Cookie Hadley— November
- Maria Timmons—December, January
- Catherine Sawyer- February
- Linda Tripp—March
- Dian Kuzyk—April
- Barbara Melara—May

SECRETARY:

Penelope Jeffery / Arlene Cass

TREASURER: Maria Timmons

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Communications:** Sandra Hughes
- Interest Groups:** Roma Makkreel
- Membership:** Barb Scott
- Program:** Colette Wilson
- Scholarship:** Karen Innes
- Social:** Lynne Duncombe

September 24th General Meeting

Our monthly General Meetings start at 7 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month in September, October, November, January, February, March, and April. We offer hybrid meetings which means that you are welcome to attend in person at McCleister Funeral Home at 495 Park Road North. (Park Road North is the extension of West Street).

Please park at the back of building, enter, and walk past the office on the left to a small hallway. Follow the hallway to the meeting room. Meetings will start at 7:00 pm sharp. Social time starts at 6:30 pm. We are asked to bring a food item for the Food Bank to each meeting. Remember to bring your nametag.

Please note that we have decided to run our January and February meetings by Zoom only because of the uncertainty of winter weather. This decision is based on our members' requests and allows our Program Committee to engage speakers from farther afield. Our monthly meetings are about 2 hours long, and feature a guest speaker and a short business meeting. Our members have asked the Social Committee to reduce the amount of sweets and fruit that a group of volunteers provide each month, in case you are wondering about how big a dinner to have before the meeting.

Here are our the speakers for the 2025/26 General Meetings:

September: Erin Byron, Psychotherapist specializing in yoga therapy

October: Paulette Breau, retired RCMP officer and author of Never At Ease: A Memoir of a Mountie

November: Kari Astles: Volunteer co-ordinator for the Brant Community Health Services

March: Laurie Macintyre, Executive Director of Jaycees Brantford Non-Profit Homes

April: Brian Wood, Curator of the Alexander Graham Bell Homestead and expert in local history.

CFUW Brantford General Meetings

The first General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 24th, at McCleister Funeral Home (and on Zoom) at 7:00 p.m. Social time starts at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Dates for 2025 –2026

September 24, 2025

October 22, 2025

November 26, 2025

December Social: Date and Location TBD

January 28, 2026(Zoom only)

February 25, 2026 (Zoom only)

March 25, 2026

April 22, 2026

May tba, 2025 : Banquet and AGM

All the best to Marian Weir on her 97th Birthday!!!



Many thanks to members who provide news and pictures for the newsletter. If you have updates about members re: important family or personal events like births, deaths, marriages, special celebrations etc. to share with the members, send them also to Sandra H. Articles and photos for the September Newsletter should be submitted by **Friday September 5**

