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**Leadership Team**

I hope November was a good month for each of you. It has certainly come and gone quickly. With early snow falls leaving bright snow sticking to leaves on trees we developed an earlier Christmas feeling and an opportunity for great pictures! As first time president of the month I was prepared for chairing November's Executive meeting with support from Diane B. and from Arlene C. Thank you. Good discussions and sharing occurred. As we saw with the General Meeting at McCleister's Funeral Home we had an excellent General Meeting with many donations gathered for Nova Vita as well as the Food Bank. Many single women and children as well as families will benefit from our efforts. Well done!

Our guest speaker, Kari Astles, Senior Coordinator of Volunteer Engagement with the Brant Community Healthcare System, spoke to us illustrating how many ways we volunteer in our public as well as personal lives. She referred to courses of study which lead to more vocational charitable organizations employment as well as the many usual opportunities for volunteerism in our private lives, encouraging us to recognize what we are doing and what we can do to help others in our community.

Enthusiasm built for our Scholarship fund raising events: Trivia in March and High Tea in Octobe. Plans for the Christmas Party at Barb M's provided more excitement. We looked forward to enjoying each other's company as we wished each other the best of the season.

I wish to thank Diane B. for her technical support as I prepared to chair the General meeting.

My very Best Wishes to each of you as you gather with family and friends for the holidays. Don't forget to curl up with a good book and a warm cuppa or listen to some wonderful music. Peace and Happiness to you!

**Wendy Bethune - President of the Month**



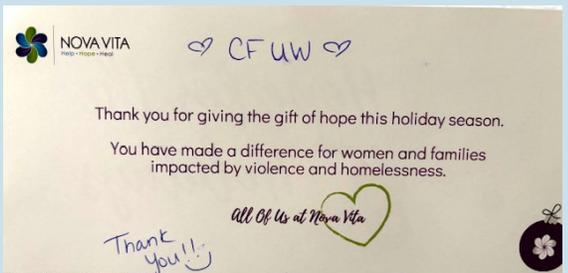
**NOVA VITA**  
Help • Hope • Heal

It was wonderful to have eight members come to share in delivering our "Hope for the Holidays" donations. We required two cars to hold all of the personal hygiene items along with \$1,780 in cheques/cash. Jessica Hill was waiting for us at the assigned drop off and was thrilled with our generosity! Many thanks to all of you!



Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and Holiday Season.  
The Advocacy Committee

*Creating HOPE  
For the Holidays*





The Holiday Get Together at Barbara M.'s home was well attended in spite of the tentative weather conditions. Approximately thirty members arrived with smiles on their faces and bringing a delicious assortment of festive appetizers and desserts. Barbara's holiday decorations added to the Christmas spirit. It was wonderful to see members who have recently joined the club enjoying themselves with friends and making new acquaintances.

Your Social Committee: Marla M. Jeanne C. Lynne D.



## November General Meeting Highlights



Welcome by Arlene C. with name tags. Last minute tech by Diane B., Anne M. and Pat M. Our President of the Month, Wendy B. starts the meeting.



After a warm introduction by Dian K. our speaker Kari Astles got us all thinking about volunteering in our community.



The business of program, scholarship, advocacy and giving out tax receipts provided important updates.



## CFUW BRANTFORD AFTERNOON TEA FUNDRAISER

The first scholarships awarded in 1949 were in the amount of \$100. Every year since, CFUW Brantford has rewarded young ladies in pursuit of post secondary education who have earned recognition through their commitment to high achievement in academics, involvement in and commitment to extra-curricular activities, volunteerism, and employment. A number of years ago CFUW Brantford started a unique scholarship for women who have returned to school or training to upgrade their education/skills to provide themselves better opportunities in the workforce. These women have often overcome significant challenges in life as they juggle work, school and the care of their families.

Our sources of funding over the years come from a portion of each member's annual dues, through the investment of the sales of our book "Significant Lives" and from the proceeds of our yearly Trivia Night.

Education costs continue to rise as our scholarship funds/investments dwindle. Help us continue our legacy of support to the women in our community by attending our

### CFUW BRANTFORD AFTERNOON TEA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

Sunday, October 25, 2026, 2pm –4pm  
Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Paris ON  
Catered by Devlin's Country Bistro

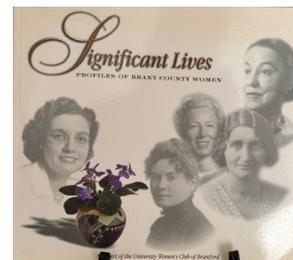
Personal and Corporate donations are welcome.  
Tax receipts provided

Ticket sales begin January 2026

Co-Chairs: Teddy Buzek and Arlene Cass

## Significant Lives

Eight surplus books which were held in our archive boxes at the Museum were quickly sold. Four hundred dollars have been added to our Scholarship Fund! Congratulations to the lucky owners!



## Interest Groups

### Creative Cookery:



Creative Cookery met on Wednesday November 19 at Jocelyn's home where we had yet another delicious supper and great evening. It was interesting to learn that the recipes came from a Glenhyrst cookbook called Crème de la Crème from the 1970s.



Glenhyrst did a reprint in 2020 and there are a few copies still available at the gallery.  
Sandra H.

**Monday Evening Book Club:** *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan is an exquisite story that takes place in the Republic of Ireland in the mid 80's during the recession. Bill Furlough owned a coal and log company and while hardship and want was always a lurking possibility, he made a reasonably comfortable life for his wife and three daughters who were enrolled in the best school run by the convent. However, Bill was a thoughtful man, the illegitimate son of a teenager who was blessed to be housed and cared for along with his mother by a kindly Protestant woman.

Bill happened upon a young girl held inside the confines of the convent where unwed mothers, orphans, and other unwanted girls were held captive for years and forced to work in terribly inhumane conditions. Bill had to make a choice: turn a blind eye as did all the townspeople or do the right thing and risk the scorn of the community, the rage of the Mother Superior, and possibly the loss of a decent education for his daughters. Bill chooses the right thing, and as he half carries the young girl home after finding her for a second time locked in a freezing coal shed, he asks himself if it is possible to carry on through an entire life, without being brave enough to go against what (evil) was there, yet call yourself a Christian and face yourself in the mirror. He determines that, "Whatever suffering he was now to meet was a long way from what the girl at his side had already endured, and might yet surpass." Having made the right choice he has faith that "they would manage". We are left to speculate what happened when he took the girl home – but it was clear that he had done the right thing. This short compelling book is about hard choices and the potential cost, about shame and hiding from institutionalised evil (the Magdalene Laundries comparable to Residential Schools in Canada). Everyone loved this book and all present gave it a thumbs up. Linda T.



**Dining Out:** The Dining Out Group enjoyed High Tea at The Golden Teapot in early December. The tea room was beautifully decorated for Christmas with Brian & Linda Pickering and their daughter acting as gracious hosts for the evening. Brantford's Parks and Rec do a spectacular job of Glenhyrst's Gardens all year round, but their Christmas light display is particularly noteworthy. We enjoyed a sneak peak at the lights as we ate. We recommend a visit to Glenhyrst while the white snow makes the light display even more dazzling. Lin F.



**Games Group:** We collected stuffies to donate to the Christmas toy drive. Included in the photo is Tippy the cat. Norah O.



**Walking Group:** Our group enjoyed the fresh snow, the scenery and wildlife. Bev G. fed the birds. Linda S.



## 2025–2026 EXECUTIVE

### PRESIDENT IN NAME:

- Barbara Melara

### PAST PRESIDENT:

- Janet Kempster

### ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

- Diane Bradley/Pat McGinnis—June to August
- Lucie Costin-Hall— September
- Betsy Capitano—October
- Wendy Bethune—November
- Maria Timmons—December, January
- Catherine Sawyer- February
- Linda Tripp—March
- Dian Kuzyk—April
- Barbara Melara—May

### SECRETARY:

Arlene Cass

TREASURER: Maria Timmons

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

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

## Our Speaker for the January 28<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

(Note: This Meeting is on Zoom)



We are pleased and honoured to have CFUW Brantford member, **Theresa McClenaghan**, speak to us at the next General Meeting on January 28 at 7:00 pm. Theresa's topic for this meeting is the future of environmental laws in Canada. Theresa's expertise in environmental law comes from more than 35 years of experience as a lawyer working in the field of environmental health and environmental safety, both in private practice and for the Canadian Environmental Law Association, where she is currently the Executive Director. Theresa has been senior policy advisor to the Ontario Minister of the Environment where she oversaw the passage of the Clean Water Act, and was responsible for implementation of several Walkerton Inquiry recommendations. She has represented clients at the Supreme Court of Canada, at the Federal Court of Appeal and Trial Division, at provincial courts and at tribunals, as well as at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, on topics such as pesticide by-laws, the Oncomouse Patent, environmental assessments and constitutional matters. At the 2025 Spring Convocation, Theresa was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Toronto Metropolitan University. We look forward to hearing Theresa's insights on the important topic of the future of environmental laws in Canada. Colette W.

## ??? 2026 TRIVIA NIGHT ???

What is the name of the Pig in "Charlotte's Web"? What is an aiglet?

It's that time of year again. Time for **Trivia Night!!** We know that you've spent the last year studying and are ready to demonstrate your prowess...or maybe you're just ready for an evening of fun! Last year's event was a great success and we hope that this year will be the same.

**Remember that this is the major fundraiser for our Scholarships so we know that you will ALL get involved, preferably on a team!!**  
**If you can't be on a team, you are still invited to make a donation!!**

**Date/Time** - Wednesday, March 11, 2026 beginning at 7:30 p.m. (arrive at 7:15) at the Dunsdon Legion. Please bring **cash** for the bar, books, etc.

**Prizes**- Because members have been so generous in the past, we are once again asking you to check your cupboards to see if you have any suitable door prizes. We are asking for new, unused, unopened items. There is no need to purchase anything. They can be dropped off at Lynn's house.

**Book Sale** – We need a volunteer to take over the Book/DVD/Puzzle Sale this year as Barb P., who has run it for many years, will be stepping down. If we do not get a volunteer, the Book Sale, which has been phenomenal in terms of books offered and income, will not happen. Please contact Lynn H. if you are interested in taking this on. A team would be great!!

e-transfer registration fee to [cfuwbrantfordsch@gmail.com](mailto:cfuwbrantfordsch@gmail.com)

**\$25/person. A flyer and registration form will be sent out in January.** A tax receipt will be issued upon request when paying for two or more participants.

## Speakers for the 2026 General Meetings

The Program Committee is pleased to present the following speakers for 2026. They are:

**January:** Theresa McClenaghan, Executive Director of the Canadian Environmental Law Association

**February:** Jill Berridge, Clinic Director, McMaster Family Practice

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

**April:** Brian Wood, Curator, Bell Homestead

**May AGM:** Jennifer Siberras, Founder of Simplify Supply Chain Solutions and Leadership Hub Coach

Colette W. and Linda T.

