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**Leadership Team:  
President of the Month's Letter**

Ladies, I hope everyone is surviving this very cold winter we are having. The pickups I do after school for my granddaughter have certainly been chilly but it looks like Mother Nature is going to start giving us some relief by the time you get this newsletter. I hope many of you are enjoying the Winter Olympics as I am and holding your breath during close calls for our Canadian mixed doubles, the curling and the downhill ski racers zipping down hills at 130 km per hour.

As we get ready for our upcoming Trivia Night on March 11th we are also going to start promoting our new fundraising event which is our High Tea planned for October. Please encourage your family and friends to participate in both of these events.

We have had a number of new members this year so it is great to see the club continue to grow. Please make our new members welcome when you meet them at in person meetings or at interest groups.

In closing, stay warm the days of spring will be with us before long.

Maria Timmons  
President of the Month for January

**Dates to Remember:**

- 1 Start of Black History Month
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 National Flag of Canada Day
- 16 Family Day
- 17 Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday)
- 17 Lunar New Year
- 22 World Thinking Day
- March 8 International Women's Day

**Save the Date  
High Tea Scholarship Fundraiser  
October 25, 2026**

Our High Tea Scholarship Fundraiser plans are well underway. We are planning to send out invitations to all CFUW members and to the public on February 23, 2026. As you know, the venue is at Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Paris. Devlin's Bistro is catering the food and information of our guest speaker will be available shortly. Those of you who are wishing to attend have time to think about who you would like to invite -family, friends, neighbours...

Anyone wishing to donate (non-returnable) tea cups, fine china dinner or luncheon plates, saucers, tea pots or cream and sugars please talk to Teddy or Arlene.

We are anticipating a wonderful event for all.

Teddy Buzek and Arlene Cass

**CFUW Brantford  
Scholarship Fundraising 2026**

**OUR GOAL:  
\$25,000**

\$25,000  
\$20,000  
\$15,000  
\$10,000  
\$5,000

**CURRENTLY  
RAISED:  
\$8,842.50**



# Scholarship News



The applications for the \$1,000 Award A Scholarships 2026 have now been sent to our six local high schools. To be eligible, the applicant must be a female living in Brantford/Brant County, a grade 12 graduate, and have applied to any accredited post-secondary program in Canada. Selection includes non-academic criteria: demonstrating involvement in and commitment to extra-curricular activities, and/or community volunteering and/or employment. Please promote your club's scholarships with eligible students you may know. The application deadline is May 8th, 2026. Applications are accessible for students on our CFUW website.



This photo was taken at a restaurant in Paris, where the Scholarship Committee meeting was recently held. Plans are well underway for our High Tea Fundraiser event to be held on Sunday, October 25, 2026 from 2 to 4 PM. We are excited to use this event as another way of introducing our families, friends and members of our community to CFUW Brantford. .

Teddy B.

## 2026 Interest Groups – New Group Suggestions – February 2026.

As Interest Group Choices for the following year will soon be finalized, now is the time to come forward with any suggestion you may have for a new interest group. In order for the suggestion to be offered, you must be willing to be the contact/organizer for at least the first year. As a couple of groups are fairly full, perhaps another group in those areas (book groups, Food with Thought, Mahjong) would be welcome.

Please note that Golf has not run for the past 2 years as there was no contact/organizer. If you are interested in helping in this area, please let me know, otherwise Golf will not be offered in the coming year's choices.

Roma M. (Interest Group Chair)

### **Books, Libraries and Reading Days:**

**February 14**

Library Lovers Day

Read to Your Child Day

**February 20 .**

Clean out your bookcase day

**April 2**

International Children's Book Day

**April 22 –25**

Brantford Symphony Book Sale



# Ontario Council Updates



## CFUW Cambridge 14th Annual International Women's Day Breakfast 2026 #Give To Gain

**Guest Speaker:** Judy Major-Girardin Date: March 7th, 2026

**Topic:** Connecting Art and the Environment

Judy is Professor Emerita from the School of the Arts at McMaster University where she taught for thirty nine years. She lives in Cambridge and has served as Co-Chair of the Cambridge Sculpture Garden since 2005. Her studio work includes an integrated practice of painting, printmaking, drawing, artist books, and hanging fiber-based works that raise awareness for the preservation and celebration of wetland environments. Employing environmentally responsible studio practices is central to her work. Judy has exhibited in Canada, USA, and internationally and has attended artist residencies in British Columbia, Newfoundland, Quebec, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Portugal, New Zealand, France and most recently in Bali. Judy received a BFA from the University of Windsor and an MFA from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

**Doors Open:** 9:00 am **Program:** 9:30-11:30 **Location:** Galt Country Club 750 Coronation Blvd, Cambridge

**Tickets:** \$80/person Tax receipt will be issued after the event

**PURCHASE TICKETS** through Canada Helps: Link to Canada Helps (Ctrl + click to follow link) <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/canadian-federation-of-university-women-cambridge/events/2026-international-womens-day-breakfast-cfuw-cambridge/>

This IWD event is our only fundraising initiative for our scholarship fund. We are hoping that you will continue to support our event in 2026. Thank you for your past support of our International Women's Day events. CFUW Cambridge continues to support and promote education for women with annual post-secondary scholarships to women in the Cambridge region. Please take time to read about our scholarships under the scholarship tab, [www.cfuwcambridge.wordpress.com](http://www.cfuwcambridge.wordpress.com). Charitable income tax receipts will be issued.

Teresa Habs, past President of Ontario Council sent an email to wish us a Happy New Year and advise that she and the OC Parliamentarian presented our Club's leadership model to CFUW Barrie. "CFUW Barrie is taking the same direction as CFUW Brantford..." Kindest regards, Lin



## February is Black History Month

Every February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and festivities that honour the legacy of Black people in Canada and their communities.



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# 2026 TRIVIA NIGHT

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Where are the Winter Olympics being held?

What did Andrea Bocelli sing at the Opening Ceremonies of the Winter Olympics?

Have you signed up yet for CFUW's annual Trivia Night? If yes, that's great and if not, you still have time!! As of February 6<sup>th</sup>, we have 13 teams registered, so that means that we have room for another 17.

We need you and your friends to make this a success!

**Remember that this is the major fundraiser for our Scholarships so we know that you will ALL get involved.**

**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** - Naomi Kral has volunteered to take over the Book/DVD/Puzzle Sale this year. She has a great group helping out, so please check out drop-off spots for donations.

**Registrations** - send registration info to [lynn.haylock1@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.haylock1@gmail.com)

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

**\$25/person.** You can also send a cheque to Maria.

A tax receipt will be issued upon request when paying for two or more participants

**We hope to see you at Trivia Night!**

**If you have excellent to good used books please drop off for the Book Sale at the Trivia Night on March 11.**

If you have any good used books, puzzles or DVDs to donate at the Book Sale for the Trivia Night on March 11 at Dunsdon Legion Hall they would be appreciated. Please email one of the following members to drop off books. The money raised supports the CFUW Scholarship Fund.

**Collectors:**

- Wendy Bethune
- Catherine Sawyer
- Anne Martin
- Marla Merritt
- Naomi Kral



**Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

7:30 pm (please arrive by 7:15)

**DUNSDON LEGION**

9 Toll Gate Road, Brantford

\$100/team of four (pay in advance)

30 teams maximum so register EARLY!! No Walk-ins!

Invite friends, relatives, co-workers!!

**FOOD!! PRIZES!! FUN!!**

Proceeds to CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fund

## SAVE THE DATE

**The Annual General Meeting and Banquet for CFUW Brantford will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2026.**

**PLACE : Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course.**

**TIME : doors open at 4:30 pm.**

**COST: \$75.00 per person.**

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

There are 3 options for making your \$75.00 payment.

Cash given to a member of the social committee. You will be asked to indicate any dietary restrictions.

Cheque made out to CFUW Brantford directing the money to AGM BANQUET and given to a member of the social committee. You will be asked to indicate any dietary restrictions.

E transfer to [cfuwbrantfordfin@gmail.com](mailto:cfuwbrantfordfin@gmail.com) directing your money to the AGM Banquet and indicate any dietary restrictions.

### General Information

If you are bringing a guest or you would like assistance in having your meal brought to the table please contact a member of the social committee. Banquet payments must be made no later than May 6<sup>th</sup> 2026 as requested by the event coordinator of the golf club.

Social Committee Members

Marla Merritt

Jeanne Carson

Lynne Duncombe



## INTEREST GROUPS

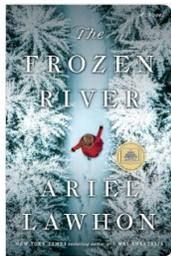
### Dining Out Group:

Our Dining out Group stays close to home in the winter months when driving conditions may be challenging. In February, twelve of us enjoyed lunch at Pupusa City, a family owned and operated restaurant in West Brant that features Salvadoran and Mexican food.



Our assessment: Good food, very affordable, an informal atmosphere, attentive service — and walking distance for our members in the Blackburn/Conklin area. Lin F.

**Monday Night Book Group:** *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon is an award-winning novel inspired by the real-life diary of Martha Ballard, a midwife and healer who recorded her daily life and medical work over nearly three decades. The setting is Maine in 1789. The story opens with the frozen Kennebec River revealing a dead man trapped in the ice. Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine the cause of death. Over the course of one winter, we follow Martha through her interactions with members of the community and her family as she pursues the truth of this murder and seeks justice for others. Through Martha's perspective, the author explores themes of justice, women's autonomy, and the value of women's work in a male-dominated society.



The *Frozen River* was met with mixed reviews from the group with some loving it and others finding it a bit too long and unengaging. Regardless of our opinion of the book we all agreed that this novel presented a lot of interesting themes and opportunities for discussion.

Karen S.

**Food With Thought:** Barb S. was a perfect hostess for the Food for Thought group. A wonderful evening of conversation

and laughter was enjoyed. However, Betsy C. needs a lesson on taking selfies. Betsy C.



### Walking Group:

Some members of the walking group had coffees and lattes after walking at the Gretzky Center on January 20. Some of the Walking Group opted for the Gretzky Center, others braved a walk on the dike or in the woods on February 3. We warmed up with Timmies and welcomed a new member, Brenda B. Norah O.



A few ladies from the Tuesday Walking Group attended Swan Lake at the Sanderson on January 23. Linda S.



**Daytrippers:** Just home from the Daytrippers' tour of the Mohawk Institute, a very disturbing and sad experience. Participants were Linda T., Pat C., Maria T., Colette W., Colleen P., Roma M., Gloria S., Barb S., Bev G., Anne M., Evelyn P., Linda S., and Dian K.

Our guide was a former Assumption graduate, MacKenzie Miller. An Indigenous teacher. Her grandmother had been a survivor from the Mohawk institute Residential Native School.

She was able to give us many insights into the horrendous treatment of the native children by the staff and custodians. Sexual, emotional and physical abuse went on for years.

We found the tour extremely disturbing, sad, and powerful and would encourage all to visit the Centre. Tours are on Tuesday and Thursday and audio guides are available.

Email is [Woodlandculturalcentre.ca](mailto:Woodlandculturalcentre.ca)  
Address is 184 Mohawk St., Brantford  
519-759-2650.  
Dian K.



## 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/Barb Scott
- Program:** Colette Wilson
- Scholarship:** Karen Innes
- Social:** Lynne Duncombe
- Advocacy:** Teddy Buzek



## General Meeting:

**February 25, 2026, 7:00 p.m. by Zoom**

### Program: Speaker Graham White

When he was first hired as a professor of political science at the University of Toronto, and was seeking a focus for his academic career, Graham White made his first excursion to Northern Canada, where he found "the politics of the NWT fascinating and the people welcoming". This trip led to nearly four decades of trips to Canada's north for research and vacations in the three territories. He went on to write or co-write four books and many articles about Northern politics and served as an advisor to various governments and Indigenous organizations. He was often called upon to comment on the north, and for several years was a regular guest on Peter Gzowzki's "Morningside" radio show. Along with teaching political science, Graham was president of the Canadian Political Science Association and editor of The Canadian Journal of Political Science. The topic of his talk in February is "Canada's North: The Land, The People and The Politics" Colette W.



### All the best to:

**Betty Anne W.** who had surgery on February 11 to "reconstruct the mess in my leg... finally!" as she put it. She looks forward to getting out again in the spring.  
**Anne R.** on the passing of her Mum.



### Welcome to our Speaker for March 25th:

Meet Laurie Macintyre the Executive Director behind Jaycees Brantford Non-Profit Homes Corporation, a proud mom of four and a 'Lolli' of three adorable grandchildren.

Laurie brings a wealth of experience in juggling chaos with love. A dedicated Rotarian and social advocate, Laurie is passionate about building communities and empowering others. Laurie has a knack for fundraising, team-building and a commitment to leaving things better than she found them, Laurie jumped into the housing sector just over 7 years ago, embracing the challenges and learning opportunities it brings. Excited for the journey ahead, she looks forward to making a positive impact with her new project. Linda T.



### Tribute to Bea Cranston

Family and friends gathered at the Brantford Golf and Country Club on Sunday, February 8th to celebrate the life of Bea Cranston. Guests shared stories as we enjoyed the buffet and lovely view of the Grand River. Bea turned 100 in June and lived in her home on Devon Street for over 60 years. The formal tribute to Bea was based on the profile presented at one of our General Meetings in 2021 during the Pandemic when our Program Committee featured slide shows of our long-standing members. Bea was a wonderful friend and we will miss her unique combination of no-nonsense and gracious hospitality. Lin F.

