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**Leadership Team: President's Message**

It's March and we are anxiously awaiting signs of Spring. My snowdrops are still sleeping, but maybe next week I'll see them lift their little heads. Hope springs eternal in the human heart! I must confess, though, contrary to public opinion, this winter was the best ever! Fresh snow, beautiful wintry scenes, and a white Christmas made it a splendid nature lover's dream. With warm layered outdoor clothing, hiking poles and crampons (icers) on my boots, I was able to go for exhilarating walks through the woods with my friends. However, I do empathize with those who faced long, dark days inside and who missed getting outside. Thank goodness, we have the Gretzky facility to use for walking, swimming and exercise classes. I work out at a SafeZone class for Seniors which is free and held at different venues around the Brantford area.

There are so many activities in our CFUW Brantford these days. Our Trivia night is so well attended by our members, either playing on teams and/or volunteering. It has been our main fundraiser, giving thousands to our scholarship program for local girls. I attended my Book Club recently and spoke to one of our new members. She was overwhelmed on how friendly and welcoming our Club is and commented on how everyone individually introduced themselves to her at the Christmas party. We are a great group of ladies!

There is a book sale at Trivia Night and the annual Brantford Symphony Book Sale is coming up in April. I am reminded of an old saying: "Those who don't read have no advantage over those who can't." Book reading is a mode of reasoning that society should promote above many other skills. It is not a pastime; it is a training ground.

Marshall McLuhan said: A book is not just a container of ideas: Reading is a technology that shapes the mind. When things fall apart, reading teaches us how to put them back together-inside ourselves first. A book asks for sequence, patience and silence. In return it builds linear thought, private judgment and independence. Other media surround us, but a book addresses us one by one. The medium itself disciplines

perception and conception. Reading remains an act of freedom. To give a book as a gift to family or friends, is a sign of love!

Dian Kuzyk, President of the Month

**Scholarship Fundraising**

Our Scholarship Fundraising efforts are progressing well. A combination of donations, Trivia Night and High Tea proceeds are moving towards our goal of \$25,000 as can be seen on our thermometer below. This amount does not include our Trivia and Booksale amounts yet.



**Reminder 2025 tax receipts**

As approved by membership in November, tax receipts starting in 2025 will be issued for \$20 or more. If you want a tax receipt for the scholarship portion of your membership dues, the amount will need to be at least \$20 versus the mandatory \$15. Maria T.

## 2026 Resolutions

Below are the resolutions from National and if you keep going you will find the Ontario resolution. For those who are interested in joining the discussion about these resolutions, you are invited to attend the advocacy meeting on March 26, 2026 at 1 pm, at my house. We will discuss the resolutions at the beginning of the meeting. If you wish to attend, just let me know so I know how many chairs will be needed. Once the resolutions have been discussed, members are welcome to leave, or stay for the advocacy meeting.

Please click on the titles of the proposed Resolutions below to download the Word Document containing the Resolved Clauses, Background, Implementation and Bibliography.

### Resolution 1 – CFUW Ottawa

Canadian Response to the Education Crisis in Afghanistan:

[https://growthzonecmsprodeastus.azureedge.net/sites/130/2026/03/Final CFUW Education in AFghanistan - joan tyler1.docx](https://growthzonecmsprodeastus.azureedge.net/sites/130/2026/03/Final%20CFUW%20Education%20in%20AFghanistan%20-%20joan%20tyler1.docx)

### Resolution 2 – CFUW Guelph

Countering Disinformation . Canada: [https://growthzonecmsprodeastus.azureedge.net/sites/130/2026/03/CFUW Guelph Disinformation Resolution and Bibliography Feb 24th 2026 - Andrea Horton1.docx](https://growthzonecmsprodeastus.azureedge.net/sites/130/2026/03/CFUW%20Guelph%20Disinformation%20Resolution%20and%20Bibliography%20Feb%2024th%202026%20-%20Andrea%20Horton1.docx)

### Ontario Council Resolution

Resolution on Postpartum Depression: [Minimizing the Negative Effects of Postpartum Depression](#)

Respectfully, Betsy C.

## The Annual General Meeting and Banquet May 27<sup>th</sup> 2026.



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

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

**COST:** \$75.00 per person

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.

**Cheques and cash will be taken at the March and April in-person general meetings.**

### 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 M.

Jeanne C.

Lynne D.



# Celebrations

## Trivia Night!!!

Last year the weather was terrible so the Dunsdon Legion made the decision to close and we obviously were relieved to postpone Trivia Night until March. We took a poll of those registered and the resounding vote was that we continue to hold the event in March. This year, 27 teams competed to be the winner of our 17<sup>th</sup> Trivia Night. This year, we had no ties!! Results were as follows: First Place – Team 22, Second Place – Team 16 and Third Place – Team 19.



Naomi K. (new to the position) and helpers, ran another amazing sale of new/very gently used books, and took in **\$294.00!** There were 29 Door Prizes, all generously donated by members. Our usual Heads or Tails game took in **\$198.10** and Logan Klassen went home with a \$100 gift certificate to The Keg, compliments of *McCleister Funeral Homes*. We also received **\$175.00** in donations!!

At the end of the evening, everyone was invited to enjoy pizza donated by **Dominos Pizza**.

Dominos has supported us since the beginning, and we appreciate their generosity. **Please consider purchasing a pizza from them sometime in the next couple of months, to show your thanks.** As usual, Sandra Eisenbach of the Dunsdon Legion was very

friendly and accommodating! Thanks to all of the volunteers: Wendy B., Diane B., Rhynda B., Teddy B., Lynne D., Karen I., Kazuko K., Naomi K., Anne M., Marla M., Kaye R., Mieke S., Barb S., Gloria S., and Maria T.

Thank you to all who donated gifts, money, and time for our **2026 Trivia Night**. **A more detailed report will be included in the AGM Booklet.**

Our profit for the event, after expenses was just under **\$2,600.00!**

**The Trivia Night Committee** – Brenda M., Colette W., Dian K., and Lynn H.



**First Place (Team 22)**

Brian Finnigan, Theresa McClenaghan  
Breanne Finnigan, John Finnigan



**Second Place (Team 16)**

Norah O'Leary, Catherine Sawyer  
Chuck Merritt, Betty Morris



**Third Place (Team 19)**

Meghan Cameron, Jan Tyrrell  
Randy Johnson, Michele Dodds



Some of our Volunteers: Gloria, Mieke, Rhynda, Lynne, Colette, Teddy, Kazuko, Karen and Diane working hard.



**Monday Evening Book Club:** The Monday Night Book Club met to discuss the work of Elizabeth Renzetti, *What She Said*. Even before starting her professional career as a journalist the author was an active feminist that lead to her work at the Globe and Mail and her books. Her work reflects the quote of G.D.Anderson “her work isn’t about making women strong- women are already strong - it’s about changing the way the world perceives that strength”.



Following a rebuttal column printed in 1993, Ms. Renzetti’s focus has been on the social-political contemporary status of Canadian women including many of the inequalities faced by women today. A well-written essay, easy to read, at times entertaining allowing for light heartedness and laughter and at other times anger and deep concern as to whether the plight of women is being seriously addressed. The group highly recommended this book! Lynda S.

**Thursday Evening Book Club:** Members of the Thursday book club read and discussed the book *Colours in Her Hands* by Montreal author Alice Zorn. The central character is Mina, a 38-year-old woman with Down Syndrome. She is fiercely independent, loyal to those she loves, a bit quirky, but also stubborn and vindictive when she feels slighted or doesn’t get her own way. Mina must learn to navigate a world that doesn’t take the time to understand or accept people like herself. Her older brother Bruno is her legal guardian and has to become increasingly involved in meeting her needs, as well as getting her out of tricky situations she creates when out and about.



Her apartment is described as cacophony of noise and colour; the noise produced by loud TVs and her love of colourful décor and clothing. Mina spends her time at home embroidering free-flowing designs that ‘hum’ with colour and while doing so, she has a dialogue with the array of threads she uses. They dictate which one is to be used next and she tells them stories. One of her artistic friends feels Mina is creating art pieces that should be seen by others in a gallery, as they are so stunning.

Mina has a stroke from which she recovers, but she will no longer be able to live in her apartment and must go into a care residence. This means losing a lot of her independence and having to adapt to a new lifestyle. She never embroiders again. However, she can still be stubborn and at times vindictive and sly but also endearing.

All but one member present would recommend this book. It is witty, a different read, informative, and challenges the reader to ask ‘what is intellectual disability’?

Janet K.

**Dining Out:**

Devlin’s Country Bistro and Catering was our venue for the Dining Out experience on March 12th. The restaurant in Mt. Pleasant has expanded its dining space to include another room on the main floor and room on the second floor. We enjoyed the group room on the main floor that we had used before. We just fit. The food was amazing and several of us enjoyed the Brant Eats offering of a 3 course meal that included surf and turf. The restaurant was very busy on a Thursday evening, so busy that we opted to take our desserts home. It was an enjoyable evening with great food but we might choose another evening next time. Sandra H.



**2026 Cambridge CFUW Women’s Day Breakfast**

19 CFUW Brantford members attended the Cambridge breakfast on Saturday, March 7. Five of us were lucky and won great Door Prizes. The speaker was an artist who was inspired by the conservation of wetlands. It was a very enjoyable event.



The speaker was Judy Major-Girardin, Professor Emerita from the School of the Arts at McMaster University where she taught for 39 years. She has been Co-Chair of the Cambridge Sculpture Garden since 2005. Her studio work includes an integrated practice of painting, printmaking, drawing, artist books and hanging fibre-based works, all using environmentally safe techniques, that raise awareness for the preservation and celebration of wetland environments.



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

## Community Events:

BRANTFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BOOK FAIR COMMITTEE

### BOOK FAIR 2026

SINCE 1964  
LARGEST SECOND HAND BOOK SALE IN ONTARIO

**APRIL 22, 23, 24 & 25**  
9:30 AM to 8:00 PM • SATURDAY til 3:00 PM

**ONE MARKET, BRANTFORD**  
(BETWEEN DAIRYHOUSE AND COLLEGES)

Gently used  
BOOKS • MUSIC • PUZZLES  
VINYL • CDS & DVDS • COOKERY  
CRAFTS • CHILDREN  
TRAVEL • HISTORY  
Accepting cash, cheques and debit only.

**BOOK DROP OFF: FRI., MARCH 13**  
to FRI., APRIL 17 Inclusive  
MONDAY to SATURDAY  
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Closed Good Friday April 3 & Saturday April 4  
Drop off location:  
Outside on Dalhousie St. South side just west of 1 Market St.  
NOV ACCEPTING  
National Geographic, Encyclopedia, Readers Digest,  
Dorland, Old New Books, W&J Signs, Colesco.

**INFORMATION**  
226-552-5579  
brantfordsymphony.ca/event/2026-book-fair

BRANTFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BSO



**Philip Chiu**  
Piano  
Wednesday, April 29 – 7:30  
Sanderson Centre  
Adult: \$35 Student: \$10 Child: Free

# MARCH



**General Meeting: March 26, 2025**  
**Social Time Starts at 6:30 at McCleister's Funeral Home** 495 Park Rd N, Brantford  
**Meeting Starts at 7:00 p.m. or Join with Zoom**



**Welcome to our Speaker:** Meet Laurie 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. With 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.

## Brian Wood, Our Speaker at the April 22 General Meeting

Brian Wood knows telephones! After more than 36 years as curator of the Bell Homestead Historic Site, there is not much that he doesn't know about the Alexander Graham Bell invention and its importance to the world. He has shepherded restoration of the Bell Homestead to its original 1981 state, and has raised the profile of the site so that it is one of Canada's important museums, and a source of pride for residents of Brantford and Brant County. Brian will show and tell all about the development of telephones from the very early versions to today's advanced cell phones. Please join us for this fascinating presentation.



Colette W.



cfuw cfdu

Realizing potential. For all women.  
Le pouvoir par le savoir.

