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Executive Team: President of the Month's Letter For March 2026

After a long and challenging winter we gathered together for the first time since December at our March General Meeting. It was good to “press the flesh” again. We began our meeting with a great round of applause for Joan Hadley who recently celebrated her 93rd Birthday. What an inspiration she is! There was palpable energy and joy as we gathered together. I think we were happy to see each other and the promise of spring. But it was more than that. We were treated to a vibrant and enthusiastic speaker. Laurie Macintyre spoke about the tenuous situation many women face, but also how the Jaycees new affordable housing project on Bridge Street will change that for many women. She gave us much food for thought... which got me thinking about how our own CFUW Brantford Club also makes a difference in women’s lives, including our own. Our members enjoy friendships and fun at all our gatherings and Interest Groups activities. But we are also serious about education – especially for girls. Then, my thinking took me to the resurgence of our commitment to Advocacy over this past year, beginning with Carol Kent’s wonderful presentation at the AGM of our history through stories, pictures and articles. Teddy Buzek and a team of members then brought new energy to our Advocacy efforts, the central focus being our Scholarship Fund which allows women, young or not so young, to continue their education. There are many former teachers among our members, people who invested in the intellectual and life skills that carry young people forward. They have seen youth grow as new ideas and skills were taught and encouraged. For most if not all, education has been something attainable. Our Scholarship Fund reminds us that, even in a country like Canada education is not always so easily within reach. I remember during many of my trips to the Global South how parents would sacrifice almost anything to get their children an education. It truly was the key to freedom because education allows one to have choices whereas poverty means having few to no choices.

The funds that we give to women here at home make a similar difference in their lives. The education they gain opens up new opportunities, new choices... Also, I want to give a “shout out” to all who are supporting their efforts through donations and attendance at these great events. I want to thank all the talented, generous members who contribute to our Club in so many other ways, such as supporting international NGOs with a focus on girls education, and raising money and awareness about our Scholarship Program either by managing the program or through **Trivia Nights** and now our **High Tea**.

We are a great Club! We know how to have fun. We sure know how to eat. We know how to laugh and sometimes cry together. Collectively, we all hold a deep commitment to the value of education – the door to new opportunities. Take a bow everyone...

Thank you again for the privilege of being your President of the Month.
Linda Tripp



HIGH TEA FUNDRAISER UPDATE!

We are very pleased with the way things are coming together. Thanks to everyone who has been able to donate china plates, cups and saucers and silver teaspoons. We now have enough plates to make all of our three tier trays at a fraction of the price it would have cost to rent them and the best part is- they are all ours! We still do need more cups and saucers and silver teaspoons and are happy to pick up any donations at your home.

High Tea tickets can be purchased by cash, cheque or e-transfers to cfuwbrantfordsch@gmail.com

The following pictures show some of the cups and saucers and teaspoons, all washed and ready to be carefully packed away.

They look absolutely beautiful!

Thanks to everyone for all of your help and especially for your support.

Teddy B. and Arlene C.



FUNDRAISING

Thanks to our membership and to corporate and business donors, we have now reached 2/3 of our fundraising goal of \$25,000!

The non-member donors as of April 1 are:

- Devlin's
- Logistics Plus Inc.
- West Brant Window World
- Clark Family Foundation
- One who wishes to remain anonymous at this time

Those who have said they wish to donate:

- Patricia's Ladies Wear
- Forest of Flowers
- Salon Joli

If anyone would like to approach a business in our area as a potential donor, please contact Arlene or Teddy to forward you the paperwork. We will also have copies at every general meeting. It is really gratifying to see the interest shown by members of our community who wish to support our Scholarship program for women and girls.

Teddy B. and Arlene C.

Membership Renewal

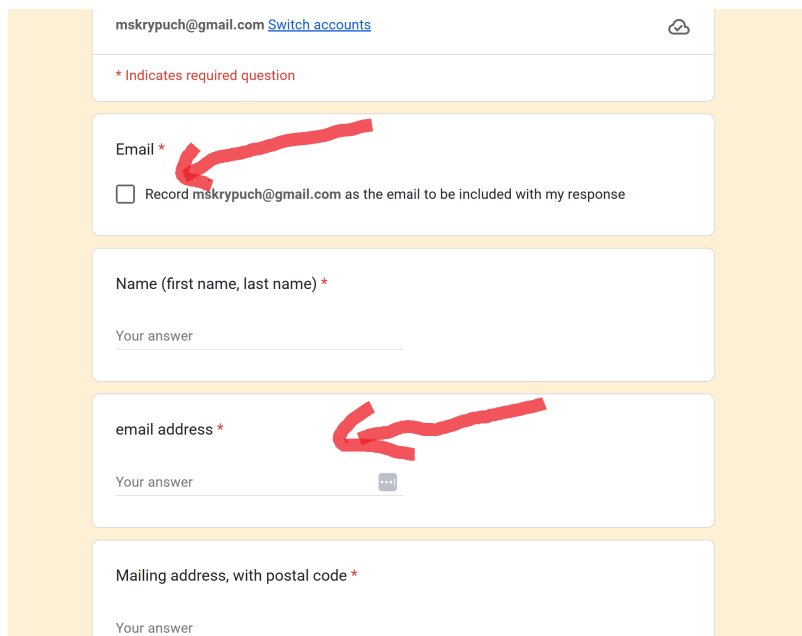
Thank you to everyone who has already sent in their membership forms and payment. I'm thrilled that nearly everyone has opted to fill in the forms online, which makes it far easier at the receiving end.

Just so that you have it handy, here is the link to fill out our new membership form:

<https://forms.gle/Sobi3NCdRpp1SF6z5>

To access the form, simply click on the above.

There are two separate places for an email address. The first (see first red arrow in attached image) is autofilled with a gmail account attached to your identity. This email address is not used by CFUW, **but you need to click the box beside this email to continue**. This is Google's way of ensuring that you're a human and not a bot or a trojan.



The image shows a screenshot of a Google Forms interface. At the top, it displays the email 'mskrypuch@gmail.com' with a 'Switch accounts' link. Below this is a red asterisk indicating a required question. The first field is labeled 'Email *' and contains the email 'mskrypuch@gmail.com'. A red arrow points to a checkbox next to the text 'Record mskrypuch@gmail.com as the email to be included with my response'. The second field is labeled 'Name (first name, last name) *' and has a text input area with 'Your answer' below it. The third field is labeled 'email address *' and has a text input area with 'Your answer' below it. A red arrow points to this field. The fourth field is labeled 'Mailing address, with postal code *' and has a text input area with 'Your answer' below it.

See the second red arrow on the attached image? This is where you add your preferred email address, and the one that will be used by the club.

Filling this form out online is very quick. It will take you a minute or two. If you've already filled out a paper one, feel free to fill it out online too. I'll be comparing the two, and it will save me a lot of time, because those done on paper will have to be entered by me by hand to keep our lists straight.

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Marsha S.





Scholarship

Our A award applications were sent to the high schools in early February. The counselors had a reminder in early April and will have one more reminder before our May 8th application deadline. If you have graduating contacts, be sure to remind them of this deadline. The evaluating committee will have a week or so to review the applications before meeting to make final decisions. Janet Rubas has kindly agreed to produce our certificates again this year. The Scholarship Committee hopes to announce results at the club's AGM
Karen I.

Virtual Meeting Update

Just a quick update and potential request to the broader group. It looks like we have settled on moving from the ZOOM platform to Microsoft TEAMS. This decision was based on financial considerations as we need to have a minimum of 3 licenses to be able to operate within the guidelines.

We will provide introductory training over the summer to insure everyone is comfortable.

That said – if anyone has insight into any other platforms for online meetings please do reach out to me.

Happy to investigate. Diane B.

March General Meeting

Our first general meeting of 2026 at McCleister's Funeral Home was a fresh beginning as we adjusted to our new start for in person social interaction and our technology team worked out the requirements for in person and Zoom meetings.



Our speaker, Laurie Macintyre, encouraged us to look at how we might help with providing homes for women in need in our community. Our President of the Month, Linda T. thanked Lynn H. for her leadership with Trivia Night and Pat C. for hosting our summer picnic for many years.



Nominations

Hello CFUW members.

We currently have a few committee roles to fill for the year 2026-2027 and are asking for your assistance. Participating in a committee is a wonderful way to meet new people while contributing to our organization. It is through the efforts of committee members that we can meet our goals as a group as well as enjoy all the wonderful events CFUW Brantford has to offer.

We need a Program Chair, Program Committee members, and a Social Committee Chair. The Social Committee has one returning member and one new member who will assist the Chairperson. If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact a member of the executive committee. If you are interested, and would like more information before making a decision, any member of the executive committee will be happy to answer your questions

We kindly ask that you consider becoming more involved by joining either, or both, of these very important committees.

Thank you!
Karen S.



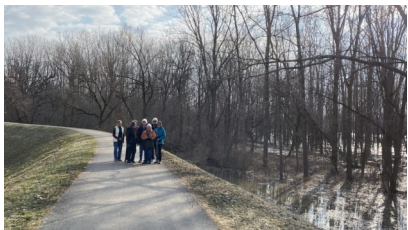
When women are educated, entire communities rise, leading to lower poverty, better health and stronger economies.

(source: research by organizations like the United Nations, World Bank, UNESCO...)



Interests

Walking Group: Our warm day was great for walking, but the water rushing through the woods yikes!



Dining Out Group: The Dining Out Group will be trying out Valentino's, an Italian restaurant in Westdale in Hamilton in April. Valentino's comes highly recommended for its homestyle Italian cooking and its attentive service.

Valentino's is a family owned and operated restaurant that opened in 1978 and continues to create labour-intensive dishes like their silky lasagna, delicate potato gnocchi, robust pasta sauces and their signature Italian dressing. We are looking forward to this new dining experience.

Lin F.

Day Tripping Group: We are planning to attend the Hamilton Theatre in Cambridge to see *Finding Neverland* and enjoy a lunch prior to the play. Thank you to Colleen P. for organizing this event.

Food for Thought: The food for thought group met on April 6, 2026. Dinner and conversation were lovely but the highlight of the evening was the keylime pie made by Barb S. which was a work of art.



Games Group: The games group met on April 9, 2026 and played farkle....which sounds naughty but is not. Teddy B. Is the reigning champion.
Betsy C.

April is the month for books. April is designated as International Book Month and International School Library Month. April 2, Hans Christian Andersen's birthday, was International Children's Book Day. Our community's Symphony Orchestra Book Fair recognizes the importance of April to books and reading.



Earth Day April 22, 2026



Our Power, Our Planet is Earth Day 2026's theme reflecting a fundamental truth: environmental progress doesn't depend on any single administration or election. It's sustained by daily actions of communi-

ties, educators, workers, and families protecting where they live and work.

Every individual has the power to create change. Join community cleanups, tree plantings, or peaceful demonstrations. Contact elected officials. Teach others. Make sustainable choices daily. When individuals act, communities form. When communities speak up, leaders listen.

To find out more go to earthday.org

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 DALHOUSIE AND COLBORNE)




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.

NOT ACCEPTING

National Geographics, Encyclopedias, Readers Digest,
Discards, Old Text Books, VHS Tapes, Cassettes


INFORMATION
226-552-5579

brantfordsymphony.ca/event/2026-bso-book-fair

BRANTFORD
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA BSO 



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

AGM and Banquet

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BANQUET WILL BE HELD ON MAY 27TH AT THE WALTER GRETZKY GOLF CLUB.

The timeline for the evening is as follows:

Arrival at 4:30 pm. AGM begins at 5 pm followed by **dinner at Approximately 6 pm** and the **guest speaker at 7 pm.**

Cash and cheque payments of \$75.00 will be accepted at the April General Meeting.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE APRIL MEETING PLEASE CONTACT Lynne D. and I will arrange to pick up your money.

E TRANSFERS TO cfuwbrantfordfin@gmail.com **PREFERRED.**

PAYMENT DEADLINE IS MAY 6TH.

A golf cart will take members that need it from the parking lot to the front door of the club.

Contact a member of the Social Committee before the banquet if assistance is needed to bring a meal to your table.

Social Committee Members: Marla M., Jeanne C., Lynne D.

JUNE POTLUCK PICNIC

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Lucie H. regrets that she will not be able to host the June Picnic this year. If anyone is interested in having the picnic at their home PLEASE CONTACT ME. Lynne D.



We are excited to announce that Jennifer Seberras, P. Log. will be the guest speaker at this year's May banquet. Jennifer began her career by founding, building and eventually selling a multi-million dollar transportation and logistics company in an industry dominated by men. She learned on the job what it really

takes to build a business from the inside out. From her experience, she recognized a recurring gap: many women were capable, driven and ambitious, but lacked practical support and real-world guidance to navigate the perils of entrepreneurship. Jennifer has founded **Leadership Hub** to address that gap.

Jennifer now works with women across all stages of business, from start-ups to established high-growth companies run by women. She helps them develop clarity, confidence and sustainable strategies, skills she wished she had when growing her own business. In addition to this coaching work, Jennifer hosts **Women Who Dared**, a growing series of curated luncheons and events which bring together women entrepreneurs, leaders and professionals, whose conversations support and mentor other women who are developing companies. Through **Leadership Hub** and **Women Who Dared**, Jennifer creates spaces where women can connect, learn and support one another as they grow. Jennifer comes highly recommended, and we look forward to her talk to CFUW Brantford.

Colette W.

April 22 General Meeting



Location: McCleister Funeral Home at 495 Park Road North and by Zoom

Time: Meetings will start at 7:00 pm sharp, and finish by 8:55. Doors will be open at 6:30 for socializing.

Speaker: 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.

