



Monday, May 18th, 2026

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From the Leadership Team:

"April is the cruellest month", wrote T.S. Eliot. In Canada that quotation seems to be quite appropriate regarding the weather. Once May arrives, we feel that spring has truly arrived, as evidenced by the many blossoming flowers, shrubs, and trees adorning the landscape. For me, April is also a month of transition and historically, that is definitely the case for women in our country. When I am President of the month and am seeking inspiration for my report, I inevitably turn to history because it is one of my interests. In Canadian history, there are several very significant April milestones, but I will mention just three of them here. April 9 - Vimy Ridge Day - The Battle of Vimy Ridge on April 9, 1917, was a defining moment for Canada's autonomy and identity. April 17, 1982- The patriation of the Canadian Constitution. April 1, 1999 - The territory of Nunavut was officially created. For women in Canada, April 2026 was very important. It marked the 50th anniversary of the Status of Women Canada. When a number of us were children growing up in the 1950's in this country, women were restricted in ways that we can hardly imagine today. I will cite a few examples: women could not open a bank account without their husband's or father's signature, contraception was illegal, and women received lower salaries than men. The women's movement of the 1960's led to demands for equality, not just in Canada but worldwide. In 1966, Laura Sabia, President of CFUW National from 1964-1967, as well as being a prominent social activist and a city councillor in St. Catharines, rallied about 30 women's groups to urge the then Prime Minister, Lester Pearson, to launch a Royal Commission on women's issues. She even threatened to organize two million women for a march on Parliament Hill! Judy LaMarsh, Secretary of State at that time, also demanded a public inquiry. The advocacy of these women and many others resulted in the groundbreaking 1970 Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada. In 1976 the federal agency called The Status of Women Canada was formed. It was later transformed in December of 2018 into a

full department, Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) whose mandate is to advance equity regarding sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. It seems to me that Brantford CFUW certainly embodies the spirit of this original legislation. As one member, Norah O'Leary, commented at the April General Meeting, the energy, enthusiasm, and accomplishments of so many leaders in our club are awe-inspiring. I know we all agree and are proud to be part of such a talented, active, and caring organization.

Catherine Sawyer, President for April

HIGH TEA FUNDRAISER

We are very grateful for the encouragement and support that the membership has given toward making our High Tea a success. We now have enough 3-tier plates, cups and saucers and teaspoons! Your enthusiasm in purchasing tickets has been remarkable! We are now close to being sold out! Teddy and Arlene



JUNE POTLUCK PICNIC

When: JUNE 24th, 2026

If needed, a rain date will be selected for September.

WHERE: At Lucie Costin-Hall's home
255 River Road
Brant County N3R 0C1
Lucie's Cell Phone 416-986-4807

TIME: 4-7 PM Approximately.
Please bring the following Items with you:
A food Item plated to share with serving utensils;
Your own plates, cutlery and glass;
Your choice of beverage;
An outdoor chair and if you wish a folding table.



DIRECTIONS:

It is recommended that members car pool with someone who has a **GPS**. The full address including the **postal code is required for the GPS**.

From Brantford take **Erie Avenue** which turns into **Cockshutt Road**.

From **Cockshutt Road** turn **left** onto **Newport Road** and travel for 3.6km. At the second stop sign turn **left** onto **Old Greenfield Road**.

Continue on **Old Greenfield Road** for 1.5km. and then turn **turn left** onto **Fawcett Road** and travel on **Fawcett Road** for less than a kilometer. **Fawcett Road** ends at **River Road**.

Turn **right** onto **River Road** and continue for approximately 3km to the last property on the right.

You have reached your destination!

Please park your car on **River Road**.

A car shuttle driven by Diane Bradley will take you and your belongings up the driveway to the house. Pat McGinnis will greet you and show you where to leave your pot luck items and where to arrange your chairs. Lucie has invited you to bring a swimsuit if you would like to use the pool. As well, a gardener will be available for garden tours. A water station will be available.

Thank you to Lucie, Dianne and Pat who have planned this picnic for our enjoyment. Lynne D.

We look forward to seeing you on June 24th!

High Tea

A big thanks goes out to all of you who searched and found plates, cups, and saucers, and teaspoons. We now have enough for our High Tea! This was a particularly challenging task as most of us had already found a "home" for our china.

The next thing on our agenda is tablecloths. It was surprising to us to find that we could save \$3.50 per tablecloth if we purchased rather than renting them!

Please watch for updates.

Teddy and Arlene



Nominations for CFUW Brantford Executive - 2025 -2026

The following members are presented for election to the Executive for 2025-2026

| Position | Name(s) |
|---|---|
| Officers: | |
| President in Name | Barbara Melara May 27 |
| Rotating Presidential Team | Diane Bradley/Pat McGinnis Jun to - Aug 26 |
| | Catherine Sawyer - Sep 26 |
| | Betsy Capitano - Oct 26 |
| | Wendy Bethune - Nov 26 |
| | Maria Timmons - Dec 26 |
| | Maria Timmons - Jan 27 |
| | Catherine Sawyer - Feb 27 |
| | Linda Tripp - Mar 27 |
| | Dian Kuzyk - Apr 27 |
| | Barb Melara - May 27 |
| Past President | Janet Kempster |
| Secretary | Arlene Cass |
| Treasurer | Maria Timmons |



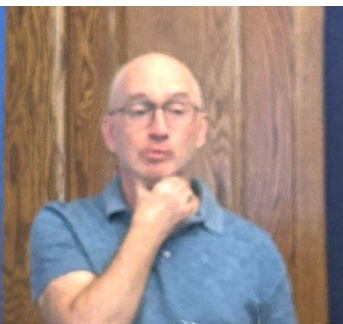
| Standing Committee Chairs: | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Advocacy | Teddy Buzek |
| Communications | Sandra Hughes |
| Interest Groups | Roma Makkreel |
| Membership | Marsha Skrypuch |
| Program | Linda Tripp |
| Scholarship | Karen Innes |
| Social | Kate Gardiner/Karen Spada |

April General Meeting

Many Thanks to Brian Wood!

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 engaged us with his dynamic and entertaining talk about the development of telephones from the very early versions to today's advanced cell phones.

Colette W for the Program Committee



Scholarship



Scholarship committee meeting in preparation for our 2026 Spring and Fall awards!
Mary P.



Resolutions

The Resolutions committee would like to share with you that it has received a lovely thank you from the Ottawa club in respect to our club's comments related to the proposed resolution: Canadian Response to the Education Crisis in Afghanistan. The club has advised that it will be incorporating our proposed changes to the resolution. Any member who would like to be a part of this process next year please do not hesitate to join us as this work is important.
The Resolutions Committee



There are more than 30 women lawyers in Brant County and Six Nations, approximately the same number as men.

(Source: Brant Law Association)

The Advocacy Committee

Interests

Monday Evening Book Group: The Monday Evening Book Club reviewed *The Lindbergh Nanny* by Mariah Fredericks, published 2022. This blend of fact and fiction is a riveting story of Charles Lindbergh Jr. being taken from his family home in New Jersey in 1932. His already famous father, Charles Sr. and his mother Anne as well as his Scottish immigrant nanny Betty Gow, were home at the time of the kidnapping. The author uses the details of the actual kidnapping and adds enhanced details of the many employees and friends that had motive



and accessibility to be involved in the planning of the kidnapping. See if you can guess who was responsible for this audacious crime. Linda S.

Thursday Evening Book Group: *How to Age Disgracefully* by Claire Pooley, a break from serious reading, was met with mixed reviews. It's a book filled with colourful, over the top characters, with many "stories of life". A good laugh to escape this crazy world. It's a simple read in many respects but with good discussion points e.g. stages of life, cross generational friendships, the importance of Community, ageing, humour as a healer etc.

Roz F.

Dining Out:

Valentino's in Westdale in Hamilton was a delightful Italian dining experience for sixteen members in April. Sandra H.



Day Trippers: What a great way to spend a chilly and damp Spring day. Our "Day Trippers" travelled to Cambridge for a delicious lunch at Pizzeria Motola followed by a matinee show of "Finding Neverland" at the Hamilton Family Theatre. Truly an A+ day! Mary P.



Second Annual Signature Fundraiser

Date: Thursday, June 4, 2026

Time: doors open at 6 p.m.

Location: The Hare Wine Co., 769 Niagara Stone Road, NOTL

watch portrait painting "Live" competition of juried artists
discover the identity of the local personalities * 50/50
vote for your favourite artist * Artists' Auction
fine-food stations and canapes * Silent/Live Auction items
dancing to live music and roving troubadours
contact Christine: 905-525-0111 for tickets: \$150 each

Hosted by CFUW St. Catharines primarily in support of food security in the Niagara Region and also young women's scholarships and local agencies that assist women and children. CFUW St. Catharines Registered Charitable #889088365RR0001

You're invited to a special book event!

Join us for a conversation with award-winning author Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch! Book sale and signing to follow.



**Sunday, May 24
3-5 PM**

Riverside Bookshelf
32A Dundas St W
Paris, ON



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



Brantford Annual General Meeting and Banquet, May 27th

Location:

Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course and Learning Centre

CFUW Brantford Banquet 2026 Keynote Speaker:

We are excited to announce that Jennifer Seberas, 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 for the Program Committee

A Few Reminders

Doors open at 4:30 pm.

A.G.M. starts at 5 pm.

If assistance is required to bring a meal to the table please contact a member of the social committee before the banquet date.

If needed a golf cart will be available to bring you to the front door of the golf club.

Lynne D.



Many thanks to the Interest Group contacts and other club members who provide news and pictures for the newsletter. If you have updates about members concerning important family or personal events such as births, deaths, marriages, special celebrations

to share with the members, send them to Sandra H.

If you have Interest Group updates and photos please send them to Sandra H. for the newsletter, Marsha S. for the website and Mary P. for the Facebook page. Please send articles and updates as text in an email.

The due date for articles and photos for the June Newsletter is Friday June 5th .



Naomi K. is doing well after her surgery.



May 1



May 10