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Leadership Team

The month of May is surely the best month to be President of the month! The year has passed and we are able to see the results and enjoy all of the many fruits of the year - interest groups, speakers, projects, discussions, scholarship winners. We came together for the AGM and the Banquet to review the year and to socialize together. At the AGM this year we also recognized long serving members and this always is impressive. Many thanks to everyone who has worked hard to make the year 2025/26 a good year for all of our member's. We are looking forward to our first General Meeting of the new year on September 23, 2026 at our new venue, The Best Western. Meanwhile we can all enjoy summer!

Barb Mayo,
President of the Month for May



A New Location for Monthly Meetings

Starting in September, 2026, our Wednesday evening meetings will be held at The Best Western on Holiday Inn Drive in Brantford. At the May AGM, members voted unanimously for the move. This change was made to allow more time for our meetings, especially for socializing after the business part of the meetings. While we are grateful to McCleister for hosting us for the past year, we have had to sacrifice some things due to the time constraints at that site. The room we will be using at Best Western is the Alexander Graham Bell room across from the main reception desk. It will be available to us for as long as we would like each evening. It will be wonderful to have time for our meetings, for the speakers, and especially for chatting over treats at the end of the meeting. Hope to see you all there at 7:00 pm on September 23.



Colette Wilson for the Search Committee

Advocacy Committee

Fundraising Update:



To our outgoing Executive members, Lynne D. and Colette W., who have worked hard to make our club rewarding for its members, thank you! We appreciate all you have done to update and build our club for the future and provide us with opportunities to learn, have fun and make a difference for women!

CFUW Brantford Executive - 2026 -2027

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

We extend our sincere thanks to the following members who have been elected to our Leadership Team for 2026-27. We look forward to another year of personal growth, friendship and support for one another under the guidance of our new Team.



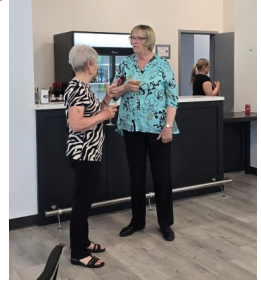
Standing Committee Chairs:	
Advocacy	Teddy Buzek
Communications	Sandra Hughes
Interest Groups	Roma Makkreel
Membership	Marsha Skrypuch
Program	Linda Tripp
Scholarship	Karen Innes
Social	Kate Gardiner/Karen Spada

INTEREST



Looking forward to Interest Groups getting started in September again. If any groups have activities during the summer, please send write ups and photos so they can be included in the September issue of the Newsletter. Also, please send any updates to Marsha S. and Mary P. to be included on the website and on Facebook. Sandra H.

AGM and Banquet



The Annual AGM and Banquet, held on May 27th at the Walter Gretzky Municipal Golf Course and Learning Centre, was a celebration. The event highlights included a celebration of our members and club achievements. Barb S. presented certificates of recognition to long term members. The executive, committees, and guests who are considering membership or visiting were also recognized. Our speaker for the evening, Jennifer Seberas, gave us lots of food for thought about women developing clarity, confidence and sustainable strategies for growing their own business by connecting, learning and supporting one another. An excellent meal and great conversation completed the well organized event. Thank you to Lynne D., the Social Committee and Colette W. and the Program Committee

Interests

Monday Night Book Group:

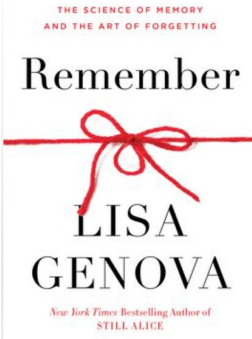
Remember by Lisa Genova

The book begins by describing how memories are formed and the amazing process by which creating memories creates structural and connective changes in the brain. You'll learn the difference between normal age-related memory changes and the changes caused by dementia.

The book is very informative, but it's presented in a conversational rather than an academic tone. In Remember, Lisa Genova, a neuroscientist from Harvard demystifies how the brain creates, retains and retrieves memories.

The book reassures readers that every day forgetting is normal, offers practical strategies to enhance recall and provides clear distinction between typical memory lapses and Alzheimer's disease.

Our book group would recommend this book to friends and family members.
Naomi K.



P.S. We would also recommend Diane B.'s cookies. Sandra H.



Walking Group:

Last week it was frost warnings, and this week it was heat warnings. No matter the weather, we walk, we talk and we admire the view! It's always a great outing for our walking group!

Sometimes it's the perfect day to walk, but no matter what the weather, there's always a group of our walkers who find the time to gather and chat. That activity in itself is so soul-rewarding. Thanks,

Norah O, for the great photo.



JUNE POTLUCK PICNIC

NB: ALCOHOL FREE EVENT please NO EXCEPTIONS

When: JUNE 24 TH

If needed a rain date is to be scheduled 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 plate, 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 left onto Fawcett Road (ignore large no exit sign) 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!

Diane B.



Did you know that in 1926 women made up 2% of the physicians in Canada, compared with 46% today.

The Advocacy Committee

Barb Perry

How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.
Winnie the Pooh - A.A. Milne

We are saddened to say that our friend, Barbara Elizabeth Perry, died in the early hours of June 10, one month to the day after her 77th birthday. The end came suddenly, and she passed quietly and peacefully at Hamilton General Hospital.

Barb was a long time member of CFUW Brantford where she had many friends who remember her very fondly. She supported the club through her work on the executive as president, chair of the social and program committees and member of the scholarship committee. Barb was a well-respected teacher for the Brant County Board of Education in various schools throughout her career.

In her active life, Barb loved travelling, her garden, fashion and her cats, especially the Burmilla breed, after her dad gave her one as a gift. For her human friends, Barb was a loyal, thoughtful, generous and kind companion. Travelling with Garry and Joan Burns, Barb experienced Europe, Africa and the Americas. She was quite a dressmaker in her younger years, sewing her own clothing and doing needlework. Her garden was even featured on a TV program. Her cats, however, were always at the centre for Barb, the most spoiled felines imaginable.

She also loved the theatre; musicals, opera and drama. Stratford and The Shaw provide many happy memories for many CFUW friends. The COC and Opera Atelier in Toronto, with its historical, classical dance and the Tafelmusik orchestra were real treats, as were the great meals at the Queen Mother's restaurant on Queen Street! And the shopping...

Barb was an intelligent reader, enjoying book groups, exchanging interesting choices with others and participating in the ensuing lively conversations together. The COVID shutdown, however, was not kind and Barb became rather cloistered. Kind friends tried to keep in touch. On her last garden centre outing with two long-time friends, Barb bought a blue rose which will now bloom in Lynne McEwen's garden, a beautiful reminder of our mutual friend.

We will miss her. Jenny D., Lynne M.



Photos:
Long-term CFUW membership award;
North Park High School yearbook;
Book Group Christmas; Blue Lake; Christmas with Lynne.

Barb Perry: Read any good 'Mad Magazines' lately?



The candle may go out, but the memory of its light remains.

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 Speakers for the Fall

We are looking forward to another roster of interesting speakers on a variety of topics for our Fall gatherings on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

September: Jill Berridge, who manages a large clinic with several doctors and specialists, will discuss **the role and challenges of the Family Doctor** including the difficulties in accessing them and specialists. (Jill also happens to be the daughter of Janet Kempster, a longstanding member of CFUW Brantford).

October: Rola Berger describes herself as **The Decluttering Lady**. She will tell us how to declutter and stay organised. This is something many of us are facing as we anticipate downsizing.

November: Tobi Bruce, Head of Exhibitions and Collections, and Chief Curator at the Art Gallery of Hamilton, will share some of the “behind the scenes” work at the gallery such as the process for authenticating works.

Any members with ideas for speakers for future meetings please contact Linda T.

Update:

A move from Zoom to Teams for video meetings in September will be facilitated by Diane B. She will be offering Teams training during the summer for those who wish it. Diane will contact members with the details by email.

CFUW Brantford General Meetings

The first General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd at The Best Western (and on Teams) at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Dates for 2026 –2027

September 23, 2026

October 28, 2026

November 25, 2026

December Social: Date and Location TBD

January 27, 2027(Teams only)

February 24, 2027 (Teams only)

March 24, 2027

April 28, 2027

May tba, 2027 : Banquet and AGM

Member News



Our sympathy goes out to Brenda M. on the passing of her cherished husband of over 55 years, Doug, on May 19, 2026.

All the best to Evelyn P. as she deals with the passing of her brother.

Many of our members will be saddened by the passing of Barb Perry (see page 5).



Many thanks to members who provide news and pictures for the newsletter. If you have updates about members re: important family or personal events like births, deaths, marriages, special celebrations etc. to share with the members, send them also to Sandra H. Articles and photos for the September Newsletter should be submitted by **Friday September 4**

