



Contents	Pages
Club News	1-6
Scholarship , Social, Program	2
Interest Groups	5
Advocacy	3-4

Leadership Team

Dear Friends,

As we start off this new year we are looking forward to a year as satisfying as last year. We have learned that when everyone contributes we each benefit as we build Our Club. We are looking forward to our first High Tea in October which will be a major fundraiser for our scholarship fund. Everyone is really welcome as we begin this year.

Barbara Melara, President in Name

Presidents' Report for Summer 2026

I am writing this message on behalf of both Pat and myself, as Pat has been fortunate enough to enjoy a houseful of relatives visiting from England in June and September.

Wow—just wow—where did summer go? I can already feel fall in the air, and I must admit it makes me a little sad. Our Canadian summers are so short, and when we don't take full advantage of each day, it feels truly regrettable. Despite my best intentions, I know I did not enjoy the lovely weather as often as I could have.

I was happy to hear that many of our members spent time at the cottage this summer, creating special memories with children and grandchildren—kudos to them. Throughout the season, I also had the chance to touch base with a few members as we held two sessions to introduce Teams to everyone. It was wonderful to catch up and see so many smiling faces. We also enjoyed a lovely Dining Out excursion to the Erie Beach Hotel. If you haven't been to the Cove Room, it is an absolute must—old-fashioned hospitality at its best!

This year has also proven to be a stressful one, as tensions with our neighbour to the south have continued to grow. I know these concerns weigh on many minds, and the summer seemed to bring much of this to the forefront. As we enter the fall season of gratitude, let's take time to be thankful for the nation in which we live and for the leadership that helps protect our health and welfare. Let's also be grateful for the friendships we have formed through CFUW and cherish these connections as we navigate uncertain times together.

We look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Warmly,
Diane and Pat

Fundraising

We are back at working on our Scholarship Fundraiser Event and Teddy has been hard at work.

Arlene C.

CFUW Brantford Scholarship Fundraising 2026

OUR GOAL:

\$25,000

\$25,000

\$20,000

\$15,000

\$10,000

\$5,000

CURRENTLY
RAISED:

\$24,440





Scholarship: 2026 Award A Recipients

The scholarship committee awarded five Award A Scholarships to high school graduates. These young women were chosen from 21 applicants, all with outstanding qualifications. Each graduate received \$1,200. The recipients are:

Aisha Eldaioub from Pauline Johnson Collegiate, studying social work at McMaster.
 Destiny Foa from St. John's College, studying business at the University of Alberta.
 Brook Henriksen from North Park Collegiate, studying justice and law at Univ. of Guelph.
 Dana Petrella from Assumption College, studying life science at McMaster.
 Evelyn Waldron from Pauline Johnson Collegiate, studying social science at Trent.

We wish these girls all the best in their new learning journey, and in achieving their goals.

Karen I.



In the top picture from left to right are; Evelyn Waldron, Danica Petrella, Destiny Foa, and Brooke Henriksen.

Aisha Eldaioub



Social Committee Update

With summer behind us, the Social Committee is getting ready to welcome you to our new monthly in-person meeting venue at The Best Western. Our new location will allow us some much-desired time to socialize after our meeting is over. For our first meeting, in September, the Social Committee will provide treats for all to enjoy. For future meetings, we are kindly asking for volunteers to provide some goodies. A sign-up sheet will be available for you to let us know which month you'd like to contribute. The Best Western will provide water. You are welcome to bring a non-alcoholic beverage and snack of your own if you choose to. Along with our monthly membership meetings, the Social Committee will be helping to organize our annual Christmas party and the AGM. Both are wonderful opportunities to connect with each other and have some fun! More information will be provided in the coming months.

We look forward to welcoming you on September 23rd to our first meeting of the 2026/2027 season at The Best Western's Alexander Graham Bell conference room. The address is 19 Holiday Drive, Brantford N3R 7J4.

Please remember to bring your name tag.

Many thanks to Lynne Duncombe and her team who have done such a wonderful job leading the Social Committee for the past few years. We are very grateful for everything they have done for our club and for the ongoing support of the new Social Committee.

Your Social Committee Members for 2026/2027: Kate G., Karen S., Jeanne C., Barb M., Marcia T., Jan C., Brenda B.

The Program Committee would like your input for speakers and topics for CFUW Brantford's General Meetings, 2026/27

Dear CFUW Members,

This year your Program Committee would like to hear from you in terms of topics and/or speakers that you think would be of interest to the members. While we have speakers lined up for the fall, we are seeking ideas and suggestions for the winter, spring and for our AGM.

We do have some names to explore but we want to hear from you. Please send topic ideas, potential speakers, and their contact information and why you are suggesting them to Linda T.

Linda T. and Collette W.

*Please note that our meetings will continue to be hybrid, except for January and February meetings which will be on Teams.



Advocacy Committee 2026 –27

Celebrating the Talents and Commitment of our
Advocacy Group

Our Advocacy group is fortunate to have so many, very talented and dedicated members, each with a great deal to offer. To make the most of their diverse skills, interest, and experience, we have formed small groups around areas of personal interest. By sharing responsibilities and working together, we hope to ensure that our initiatives remain manageable and enjoyable, while allowing us to maintain the enthusiasm and energy that makes our group so special. We will make every effort to keep the membership informed of our activities and accomplishments through articles in our newsletters and updates at our general meetings.

These amazing women are working hard to provide ways for us as a CFUW group to make a difference in advancing the status of women, in promoting human rights, and contributing to the common good locally, nationally and internationally. We thank them for their commitment and willingness to put their talents to work.

Together we can make a difference!

Your Advocacy Committee: Teddy B., Diane B., Betsy C., Linda H., Carol K., Brenda M., Pat M., Barbara M.

NOVA VITA

For many years CFUW Brantford has supported Nova Vita , our local Women's Shelter, by promoting their Hope for the Holidays fundraising drive. We have gathered up clothing, toiletries and cheque donations to help women and their children through the difficult holiday season. We have not accepted cash or cheques that would flow through our own bank account but instead passed on any cheques we received addressed to Nova Vita. Nova Vita later issued tax receipts to the donors for such donations.

This year we are encouraging you to make your donations directly to Nova Vita. Their website provides the means to donate via online payments. But even more, they provide a link to Amazon for non-cash donations if you want to give useful material items.

If you prefer to issue a cheque to Nova Vita and would like us to deliver it for you, please give it to me, Pat McGinnis, on or before our General Meeting in November. If you would rather send gift items, we will gratefully pass them on as well.

All donations are, of course, voluntary and will not be recorded by our club. But we will be preparing a "giving tree" to recognize donors who wish to be identified and help us promote this project. If you make a donation on-line, we will be delighted to include your name on our tree. Just fill out a star!

We have prepared some screen shots from the Web site that will guide you through the online process that we can review at our September General Meeting. (See Nova Vita website on Ways to Give)

Finally, we would like to encourage those of us who wish to help throughout the year to do so as the need is ongoing.

Pat M.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ALLOCATION OF OUR INTERNATIONAL DUES FOR 2026 - 27 PLEASE RESPOND!

DEADLINE – OCTOBER 26, 2026

This year \$21.52 of your annual \$126.00 dues is allocated for international endeavors. Each year we choose where to allocate this money as follows:

All members are invited to nominate a not-for-profit, international organization/charity outside of CFUW that they are actively engaged with or is of particular interest. Your choice must support the rights, freedoms and education of women and girls, particularly in Third World, war torn, or otherwise compromised countries.

All submissions-**Must be E-mailed to Teddy B., Advocacy Chair** at teddybuzek@gmail.com

-No later than Monday, October 26, 2026

- Include**
- Your name
 - Organization, you are nominating
 - Details as to how this not-for-profit charity empowers women and girls internationally in countries that are either Third World, war torn or suffering from natural disasters
 - What your involvement/interest is in said charity

3. The submissions will be summarized and published in the November newsletter, and sent out to the membership by E-mail prior to the November 25, 2026 General Meeting.

4. A motion will be made at the November 25 General Meeting as follows:
"The not-for-profit international organizations nominated by the membership be approved to receive the portion of our 2026-27 membership dues allocated for international endeavors."

Ladies, this is your money and your opportunity to share with the membership why you support your charity of choice and why you see it as a valuable option for our support!
We are excited to receive your emails!

The Advocacy
Committee



Interest Groups

Interest Groups – September 2026

By the time you receive this newsletter, most Interest Groups will have already had their first meeting or will very shortly. During the spring and summer, the Biking group met on a regular basis and will continue until late fall, as long as the weather holds out. Mahjongg, Games & Walking groups continue all year round.

Interest Groups are an excellent way to meet and socialize with members in smaller groups - have fun, interesting conversations and basically get to know one another. If you are not part of an Interest Group, I encourage you to look at the listing to see what might twig your interest.

Please contact me for further information or to sign up for a group and do let me know if you join a group in order that I keep the records up to date. As a couple of groups are "full", such as Mahjongg and Thursday evening book group, do contact me should you wish to be put on a wait list.

Roma M. (Interest Group co-ordinator)

Thursday Book Group:

Our first book for the year was Kristin Harmel's book *The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau* with the lovely pink cover! It was described as an easy summer read by the group, but was a difficult one for Harmel

to write as she was battling breast cancer. They delayed the publication date a year so she could recover.

The story is set in WW11 and modern day. It is about an elderly jewel thief seeking answers. It is about an elderly jewel thief seeking answers to a wartime murder and her sister's disappearance. It's a story of robbing from the rich to give to the poor. Harmel says "Ordinary people doing extraordinary things during extraordinary times." Submitted by Roz F.

Daytrippers Group: A BIG THANK YOU, Colleen, for all the effort and time you have put into the planning and organization of our "Day Trippers Group". A thank you, as well, to Anne and Dian for their assistance and contribution to making the year a success. I know all who have participated in the various activities have thoroughly enjoyed a wide variety of fun and educational experiences. Take care! Gloria S.

Food With Thought: A wonderful time was had at the lovely home of Pat C. where we celebrated the birthday of Barb S. and heard Pat C. ring her school bell. Betsy C.



Dining Out Group: Perch and pickerel were the most popular choices at the Erie Beach Hotel in Port Dover this past July. The Cove Room continues its decades-long tradition of bringing celery bread and a variety of salads to the table — and for offering tempting desserts to top off the day. A lovely way to end the 2025-26 Dining Out season. Lin F To start 2026-27 off the Dining Out Group went to The Twisted Lemon restaurant in Cayuga on Friday, September 11th. We enjoyed the delicious food and drink as well as the entertaining service. Sandra H.



Monday Book Group: On June 15th our group met at the home of Naomi K. to discuss *The Island of Missing Trees*. We had a far reaching discussion of the book and its implications plus a heartwarming remembrance of Barb Perry and her role in the development of the book groups.



Several members shared their memories, lead by Kay R. Our group met on July 13th at the home of Barb M. for a

social with tasty foods and a general sharing of favourite reads.



Games Group: September 10 was the inaugural day for our games group, hosted by Teddy. There were two happy tables of Rummykub.



Norah O.

Hold the Presses- CFUW Brantford is Ready to Switch to Teams!

Happy September Everyone. I hope you all enjoyed your summer and are not too sad to see it end. I know for me it was momentous as I both retired and turned 65. I will see how retirement works for me as we hit the winter months. So sorry to bring up winter but it is an excellent segue into introducing our new Virtual and Hybrid Meeting tool.

As you are aware we discovered that ZOOM had become a little pricey for what it had to offer and we decided to use Teams instead. This summer we had 2 x Training sessions which were a great success. As well we added a session in September for those who spent the summer on the golf course or at the cottage.

I have prepared some guides below on how to use Teams. I promise it is very easy. Please know that if you have questions I am here to help plus many people in our group use Teams regularly and are quite adept.

P.S. **You will see there are TWO methods to using TEAMS, either download to your device or use it as a browser based. Both work, just use what is most comfortable.**

One Page Guide: How to Use Microsoft Teams

1. What Teams Is

Microsoft Teams lets you:

- Join video meetings
- Talk and see others
- Send messages
- Share documents

It's like a phone call and meeting room on your screen.

2. How to Get Teams on Your Device

A. Computer (Windows or Mac)

1. Open your internet browser. Go to:
2. www.microsoft.com/microsoft-teams/download-app (microsoft.com in Bing)
3. Click **Download Teams**.
4. Open the downloaded file and follow the steps to install.
5. Open Teams and sign in with your email.

B. Tablet or Smartphone

1. Open the **App Store** (iPhone/iPad) or **Google Play Store** (Android).
2. Search **Microsoft Teams**.
3. Tap **Install** or **Get**.
4. Open the app and sign in.

3. How to Join a Meeting Without Installing Teams (Browser Method)

You can join a meeting using only your web browser.

1. Open your email.
 2. Find the meeting invitation.
 3. Click **Join Microsoft Teams Meeting**.
 4. When the browser opens, click **Continue on this browser**.
 5. Allow access to your **camera** and **microphone**.
- Click **Join Now**.

4. How to Join a Meeting Using the Teams App :

1. Open the Teams app.
 2. Click **Calendar**.
 3. Find your meeting.
- Click **Join**.

5. Camera & Microphone

- **Camera icon** → shows your face.
- **Microphone icon** → lets others hear you.
- If the icon has a line through it, it is **off**. Click once to turn it **on** or **off**.

6. Speaking & Chatting

- Speak normally when your microphone is on.
- Click the **hand icon** to raise your hand.
- Click the **chat bubble** to type messages.

7. Seeing Others.

Click **View** to switch between:

Gallery (everyone in squares)
Speaker view (person talking)

8. Leaving a Meeting

Click the red button with the phone icon.

9. Helpful Tips

You can't break anything—don't worry about clicking. If you can't hear, check your microphone and speaker icons. If the video freezes, wait a moment. Practice once before an important meeting.

Teams Etiquette: To help keep our meetings focused and moving efficiently, we ask everyone to follow a simple approach when technical issues come up during a Teams call. If a participant is experiencing a glitch, please allow the **host or co-host** to manage the troubleshooting. While it is natural to want to help, multiple people speaking at once or offering advice in the main call can create crosstalk and slow down the agenda. If you have a quick suggestion that may help, please send it through a **private direct message** instead of speaking up in the meeting. This keeps the conversation on track while still supporting the person who needs assistance. Thank you for helping us maintain respectful, efficient, and productive Teams meetings. Diane B.

2026-2027 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT IN NAME:

•Barbara Melara

PAST PRESIDENT:

•Janet Kempster

ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

•Diane Bradley/Pat McGinnis—June to August

•Catherine Sawyer— 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:

Advocacy: Teddy Buzek

•**Communications:** Sandra Hughes

•**Interest Groups:** Roma Makkreel

•**Membership:** Marsha Skrypuch

•**Program:** Linda Tripp

•**Scholarship:** Karen Innes

•**Social:** Kate Gardiner/Karen Spada

September General Meeting



Jill Berridge is an experienced healthcare leader, consultant, educator, and physiotherapist with more than 30 years of experience in interprofessional healthcare settings across Canada and internationally. Recognized for her commitment to collaboration, innovation, and improving healthcare delivery, she has spent the past 12 years at McMaster University as Program Director of Health Services in the Department of Family Medicine, where she has advanced clinical services and operational excellence. In recognition of her leadership, dedication, and contributions to both the university and community, she received McMaster University's President's Award for Outstanding Service in 2022. She also serves on committees with the College of Family Physicians of Canada and contributes to several local healthcare and community organizations. She will address the current state of primary care and challenges facing family physicians in Ontario. Janet K.

October General Meeting

Rola Berger is a Senior Move Specialist with **Move With Compassion**, a company that helps seniors and their families through one of the most challenging parts of a transition: decluttering and letting go. For many seniors, decluttering isn't simply deciding what to keep and what to throw away. It can mean sorting through a lifetime of memories, photographs, and treasures that have deep meaning. Rola, a mother of six, understands that life can get busy and clutter quickly accumulates. She brings a compassionate, practical approach to helping people create spaces that feel lighter, more manageable and more enjoyable. In her presentation "**Decluttering Made Easy: Five Simple Steps**" Rola will share practical tips and encouragement to get you motivated, make decisions more easily, and create a home you enjoy. Please join her on October 23 to learn how to make life simpler and moving easier. Colette W.



So Sorry for Your Loss!

We have sad news about Linda S.'s husband Kirk. Suddenly, after returning from a lovely family event in England, Kirk passed away on September 6th.

We wish Linda and her family all the best !

Reminder to Members

If you have an article, an interest group report or information about a member that you would like in next month's newsletter, please email it to Sandra H. by the **first Friday of the month, October 2nd!** If you have an attachment to send for the newsletter, website or Facebook page please send it as a jpg file if it's a picture or as a Word file or as text in the body of an email if it is in text. Thanks, Your Communications Team



On the Move Again: 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. The move was made to relieve the pressures of having to finish our meetings before 9:00 which restricted both the completion of the agenda, and our socializing, which is important to most members. Although we are very grateful to McCleister Funeral Home for the free use of their room for 2025/2026, they could not find a way to accommodate our timeframe for meetings. Please inform any new members you know who may be coming to this meeting that we are now at The Best Western. 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. The parking lot is large and the building is accessible. Hope to see you all there at 7:00 pm September 23.