



cfuw Owen Sound
and Area

Realizing potential. For all women.

*Celebrating our
35th ANNIVERSARY
1990 - 2025*

*Women Helping Women through
Advocacy, Education, and Friendship*

**CFUW – Owen Sound & Area Newsletter
NOVEMBER 2025**

2025-2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

**President – Ruth Henderson
Vice-President – Helen Penfold
Secretary – Sandra Shantz
Treasurer - Styn Furness
Past President – Cynthia Lemon**

[CFUW – Owen Sound & Area](#), celebrating 35 years... 1990 – 2025/26

CFUW: 'Women Helping Women'

CFUW is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization with over 100 CFUW Clubs, located in every Province across Canada. Since its founding in 1919, CFUW has been working to improve the status of women, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace. It holds special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and belongs to the Education Committee of the Canadian Commission to UNESCO.

Our Club was founded in 1990, spearheaded by two very dynamic women, Alma Wilson and Norah Egener. Our charter was awarded in August 1991 at the National annual general meeting in Toronto. We were the 135th club in Canada at that time.

We're celebrating our 35th Anniversary, beginning September 2025 through to June 2026.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If polled, most people in the world would likely be in agreement that we are living through uncertain times. We, in CFUW, both nationally and locally, continue to work for those ideals that have been present since our founding in 1919. Those ideals are being committed “to the pursuit of knowledge, the promotion of education, the improvement of the status of women and the advancement of human rights through scholarships, advocacy, education, and fellowship.” Let us continue our work of supporting each other for the betterment of society.

Ruth

~ *Ruth Henderson, President, CFUW - Owen Sound and Area*



CFUW Land Acknowledgement

We want to acknowledge that this place where we come together is within the ancestral and traditional territory of the Anishinaabe Nation: the people of the Three Fires known as the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi Nations. We give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen and the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, now known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation as the traditional keepers of this land.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS

ADVOCACY

The Advocacy Committee continues its work on Aging in Place. As many of you know, we most recently submitted a resolution on a seniors' advocate that was approved at the Ontario Council Annual General Meeting in May of this year. Our next steps include presenting a letter to MPP Paul Vickers on creating a seniors' advocate position, a member letter writing campaign to our MPP to support this, and a media campaign. More information will be forthcoming as our Advocacy Committee fleshes out this very important work.

We have also begun the process to do some work on Intimate Partner Violence and the need to have this declared an epidemic. It is horrifying when we hear the reports in the media on what has come to be called IPV (the acronym for Intimate Partner Violence). There are many stories even in Grey and Bruce Counties that support the frightening statistics in IPV. We will provide you with further information as we work on our next steps on finding ways to support this initiative.

We are a small but dedicated committee of CFUW OS and Area members. My many thanks to Anne Seymour, Marianne Williams, Leslie Garnett, Donna Phillips, Helen Penfold and Angela Yenssen for their determined efforts on our advocacy initiatives. If you would care to join us, please email me at lemondalefarm@gmail.com. All are welcome. We meet the third Monday of the month at 1:00 PM via Zoom.

~ *Cynthia Lemon, Advocacy Committee Chair*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS, continued ...

ARCHIVES

For the past 35 years, our Club historians and Archivists have collected Newsletters, Program Brochures, Annual Reports and files of Special Events. The Club's history has been well documented and shared with you before, particularly at our 10th, and 20th, and 35th Anniversaries. Our thanks go to past Archivists Donna Phillips, Judy Thomson and Jan Middleton for keeping our history alive. It now seems appropriate to again share with you, especially new members, some of the highlights of this treasure trove of information as we celebrate our 35th year, 2025-2026.

From the Desk of the Archivist...

Here is a glimpse into what our Club members have accomplished, and the dedicated women who have helped us grow and evolve into the Club, 35 years later.

In 1990 our Founding members, Alma Wilson and Norah Egener placed an ad in *The Sun Times*, inviting interested women to come to the first meeting at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Twelve women answered the call to organize the Owen Sound Canadian Federation of University Women. Through that year, Lyn Cunningham was Acting President and a great deal of preparation and correspondence with the CFUW National Club took place.

1991 – 1992 Aletha Seabrook was President. 26 members attended the March 1991 meeting at St. Andrew's, with speaker, Peter Gendron, Head of Social Work at GBRHC. By spring of 1992 we had 47 members. Our Constitution and Bylaws were adopted. Special projects included support for local homeless young women. Our very first Newsletter was prepared by Ernestine McKenna in October 1991. National Resolutions, 1991, were given serious study and consideration by the members. Our Charter was awarded on **August 26th, 1991** at the CFUW National AGM in Toronto, and was presented to Lyn Cunningham and Aletha Seabrook. We were the 137th Club in Canada, and had 18 Charter Members. Of those, we have with us still: Judy Beth Armstrong, Jan Middleton and Pat Edwards.

Those first 2 years proved to be very busy and productive. 5 Interests Groups were established.

1. Book Club: members discussed their choice of Historical Fiction, Women Authors of Grey County, Biographies and Autobiographies.
2. Gourmet Club: members met once a month, chose a menu and brought their special dishes to a member's home.
3. Issues Group: members chose to study and discuss Gender Bias in Education and the Workplace; Non-traditional Work Roles; and Alternate views related to the Women's Movement. The Co-ordinators of this group included Judy Thomson and Mary McLennan.
4. The Luncheon Club ("Meeting and Eating"): held its first gathering at the Inn on the Bay.
5. The Jaunters Group: members planned trips to New Hamburg Mennonite Community and to Stratford for a tour and the to see the play *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

The 1991- 92 Monthly Program Meetings included:

Prof. Glenys Stow - Breaking the Silence: Early Women Novelists speak about Women's Lives
David McLaren and Lenore Keeshig-Tobias – Native Land Claims
Mim Cady – China from a Member's Viewpoint
Christmas Social – Dessert Party
Dr. Susan Corey, Marine Biologist – Evolution: The Dance of Ideas
Panel Discussion: 4 Professional Community members: Women of the 90's.
Resolutions study and Discussion ... Fourteen Resolutions!!
AGM Potluck – Lisa Brady, Stratford Festival Education Department.

HAPPY 35th ANNIVERSARY TO US!

~ Meran Farmer, Archivist

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS, continued ...

EDUCATION

I am always so impressed by CFUW Owen Sound and Area members who regularly donate to our Education/Scholarship Fund. Our scholarship fund now sits with the Community Foundation Grey Bruce. It continues to grow with not only the interest that we earn, but also with your continued donations. Your generous support provides scholarships to a young woman every year at Peninsula Shores District School, Owen Sound District Secondary School, St Mary's High School, and Georgian College.

I am currently in the process of entering into our Education Fund spreadsheet the donations that you have made this year. This will be submitted to the Community Foundation Grey Bruce. They will provide tax receipts for your donations. ***If you have not donated this year but would like to do so, you still have time.*** You can email me at lemondalefarm@gmail.com, and I can walk you through next steps.

I will continue to provide you with interesting facts and data regarding our fund as the year progresses. And many thanks, again, to former Education Fund Coordinator Kathy Needham, for ensuring this fund has been set up in such a way to make my work easy as I move into this new CFUW OS and Area role.

~ Cynthia Lemon, Education Coordinator

Spotlight on CFUW Scholarship Award Winners, 2025: Each of these women received a cheque for \$1,000.

- Owen Sound District Secondary School – *Taylor Chester*
- Peninsula Shores District School - *Philomeane Chegahno Beaudoin*
- St. Mary's High School - *Jelena Jerkovic*
- *Georgian College - Miracle Kosisochukwu Onyeugo-John*



Meran Farmer presented CFUW scholarship 2025 to Jelena Jerkovic, St. Mary's High School graduate.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership Renewals/New Member Registrations for 2025-2026 are now due. Membership information and forms are available [here](#). Please bring your completed form and cheque to the **November 11th meeting**, OR e-transfer your membership dues and donation to fincfuwos@gmail.com. Please note that **Membership Renewals/New Member Registrations for 2025-2026** received after November 11th will miss the deadline for inclusion in the Autumn Membership Directory, but will be included in future directories. We seem to have a number of "members" who have not yet paid their 2025-2026 dues, and/or have not provided their completed Membership Registration form. If you are unsure of your membership status, please do contact me.

~ Anne Dondertman, Membership Coordinator [anne.dondertman@utoronto.ca]

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS, continued ...

NEWSLETTER

This full-length Newsletter will be published 4 – 6 times a year with interim “e-blasts” as required. As usual, these communications will be emailed directly to members and posted to the website. Please send contributions for the Newsletter to the editor/coordinator: **Judy Beth Armstrong** armstrong.judybeth@gmail.com, using the Subject line: *CFUW Newsletter. Please note that it is CFUW - Owen Sound & Area policy that:*

- *items in the newsletter should be related to CFUW information and events. Occasionally community events and information may be included if these relate to the CFUW mandate and interest groups, and that*
- *unless a member specifically gives permission, a member's personal information will not appear in the newsletter. For this information members should refer to their copy of the Members' Directory.*

~ Judy Beth Armstrong, Newsletter Coordinator

PROGRAM

General Meetings/Programs are usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month.

PAST PROGRAM: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14 at 2PM AT SEASONS RETIREMENT HOME ~ **ELDER LAW MYTH BUSTING**
~ This *CFUW Advocacy Presentation*, given by CFUW Owen Sound and Area member (and lawyer) **Angela Yenssen**, examined legal issues that frequently impact people as they are ageing. Thank you, Angela!

UPCOMING PROGRAM: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025 at 2PM AT THE BRITISH METHODIST EPISCOPAL (BME) CHURCH, 245 11TH ST WEST, OWEN SOUND

The British Methodist Episcopal (BME) Church, founded in 1856 and meeting in various locations since then, has been the safe haven for Black settlers in Grey County for generations. The growing congregation moved to the current building in 1911. Built in 1889, it was recently restored and reopened in time for the 2025 Emancipation Festival. **Cathryn Harris**, one of the leads on the renovation project committee, will welcome us with a tour of and talk about the rich history of Black settlers in Owen Sound/Grey County and the Black community's countless and ongoing contributions. Please note that this building, with 3 steps up from the sidewalk, is NOT fully accessible. There is limited parking on the street; carpool if possible. The BME Church welcomes individual donations; tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$50. or more. Bring a friend/potential new member. Q & A. Refreshments & social time. *See poster below for details.*

UPCOMING PROGRAM: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025 at 11:30AM AT LEGACY RIDGE GOLF CLUB DINING ROOM, 318494 GREY ROAD 1, OWEN SOUND

Festive Christmas Gathering & Luncheon, Mix and Mingle with friends old & new, Christmas Trivia by **Pat McCoy**. Lunch served to table: \$20.00 at the door. Menu: Soup and half sandwich [Chicken, brie & cranberry sauce], dessert, tea/coffee; Cash bar available.

Kindly **RSVP** (for yourself and your guest) to Cynthia Lemon, email: cynlemondalefarm@gmail.com.

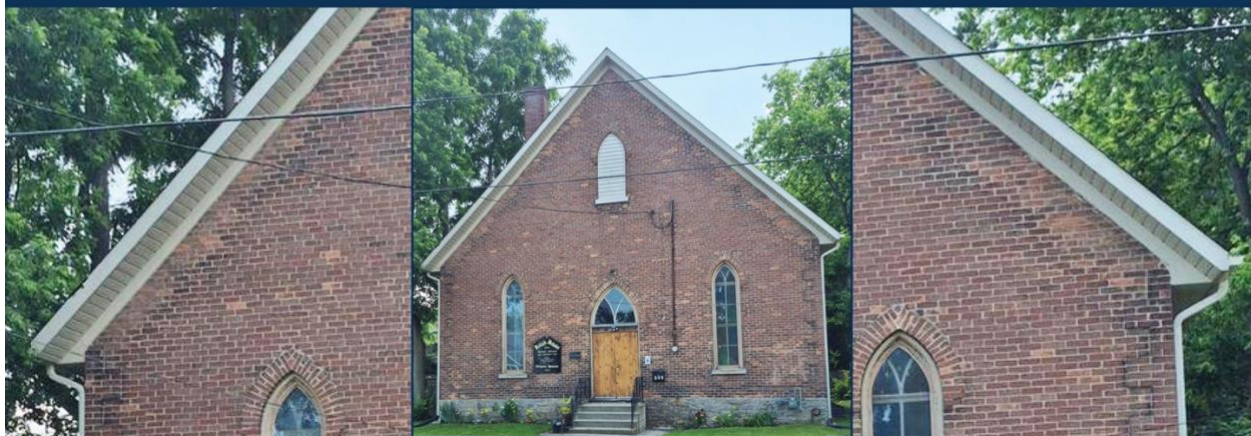
Dietary concerns? Contact Brenda Bergen, email: bbergen@rogers.com.

A gentle reminder about non-members attending our General and Interest Group Meetings: It is our CFUW Club's policy that non-members are welcome to attend up to - but no more than - TWO meetings as a guest. After that, if they wish to participate in our Club's activities, they are expected - and warmly invited - to join as full members.

~ Brenda Bergen & Meran Farmer, Program Committee Co-Coordinators



Realizing potential. For all women.



GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025

AT 2:00 P.M. AT BME CHURCH
245 11TH ST WEST, OWEN SOUND

GUEST SPEAKER: CATHRYN HARRIS

The British Methodist Episcopal (BME) Church, founded in 1856, was the safe haven for Black settlers in Grey County. The growing congregation moved to the current building in 1911. Built in 1889, it was recently restored and reopened in time for the 2025 Emancipation Festival. **Cathryn Harris**, one of the leads on the renovation project committee, will welcome us with a tour of and talk about the rich history of Black settlers in Owen Sound/Grey County and their countless and ongoing contributions. Q & A. Refreshments & social time.



- Limited parking on street; car pool if possible
- Donations welcome. Tax receipts issued for donations of \$50+
- Bring a friend/potential new member

www.cfuwowensound.com

www.facebook.com/cfuwowensound

INTEREST GROUPS

Please note, from our CFUW By-Laws, 2.3: *Membership in interest groups shall be open only to members in good standing. Guests are welcome to attend either two (2) general Club meetings or two (2) interest group meetings per year.*

ART EXPLORERS ~ Wednesday November 12 at 1:30

WE ARE SORRY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THIS ART EXPLORERS' VIEWING HAS REACHED CAPACITY. *Contact Cynthia if you'd like to be added to a waiting list.*

We have the privilege of viewing an eclectic art collection in an historical building on Wednesday November 12 at 1:30. From the outside, the building looks like any downtown store front situated on the main street. I first saw this home in the restoration stage six years ago when interior walls were down and there was lots of dust and rubble but the architectural transformation is truly phenomenal! The owner was a professional classical singer, also involved in Opera productions, and on retirement started painting. The couple are avid art and antique collectors and are delighted to share their collection, studio and home with us.

We will be limited to around 15 people at their request so please let me know if you are interested in coming and I will send instructions re parking and location.

~ *Cynthia Porter, Art Explorers Coordinator*

BOOK CLUB: Groups 1 & 2

Our book clubs enjoy numerous recommended books over the year. We always have great discussions, great snacks and great social time. If you would like to join us, please contact Anne Seymour at anne.seymour3@gmail.com or Meran Farmer at meranjoan@gmail.com We are delighted to welcome new members!

Book Club Group 1:

For our October meeting, our group read *The Beauty of Humanity Movement*, by Camilla Gibb. The discussion was led by Jane Hendrie. The book deals with many themes and was really a lovely story set in modern-day Vietnam. It was not only educational, based on real life events in history in the country over 50 years, but also the tale of a wonderful artistic movement and the people impacted by it.

Our next book for November will be *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn. We will not only discuss the book, but also the controversy that has emerged around details in the content of the 'memoir' that raises questions about its authenticity.

Any new members interested in joining the group, please contact myself, or Sydney Misener for more information. ~ *Anne Seymour* [anne.seymour3@gmail.com]

Book Club Group 2:

For our October meeting, we discussed the novel *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. It is a drama about 4 sisters growing up in a somewhat dysfunctional family situation. We mostly liked it, but it was a rather long and dragged-out saga. Our November meeting will be hosted by Marg Howard and we will be discussing the *Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell.

We now have 16 members on our list and we're bursting at the seams. If you wish to join us, we normally have fewer attendees in the winter, and could fit you in. Also, Book Club Group #1 has some room. So, if you'd like to come to Book Club, please don't hesitate to email me. ~ *Meran Farmer* [meranjoan@gmail.com].

~ *Meran Farmer and Anne Seymour, Book Club Coordinators*

INTEREST GROUPS, continued...

GAMES GROUP:



The Games Group met on Halloween at the home of Jan Leach. Fun time, great food.

~ **Meran Farmer, Games Group Coordinator**

Left to right: Judy Keeling, Styn Furness, Sheila Trant, Janet Barker, Meran Farmer, Jan Leach and Linda Crawford. (Absent: Rosemary McCann and Joanne Wright)

TUESDAY ONLINE SOCIAL HOUR – Every *Tuesday** at **4:00 PM** Our Social Hour continues to be a friendly place to enjoy a stimulating conversation amongst CFUW OS and Area friends. **We meet the first, *, third, fourth and fifth (if we have one) Tuesday of the month from 4:00 to 5:00 PM via Zoom.** If you would care to join us, please email Cynthia Lemon at lemondalefarm@gmail.com and we will add you to the list. ~ **Cynthia Lemon, Loreen Cumming and Anne Seymour, Social Hour Hosts**

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES – Wednesdays @ 10:30 AM

Our walkers/hikers have been enjoying our walks the last few months in our beautiful area. Since deer hunting season is upon us, we decided to leave the trails and head for Harrison Park – or the Bayshore - this week. Feel free to walk with us as many times or as few times as you like during the year. We walk Wednesday mornings at 10:30 AM each week, and aim for an hour on each outing, and often treat ourselves to a coffee or tea as a reward after our efforts. Directions for the meeting place are sent out by email on the Sunday evening prior to our walk. New walkers are welcome. To be added to the email list please contact me at rosemaryemccann@gmail.com.

~ **Rosemary McCann and Janet Barker, Healthy Lifestyles Co-coordinator**

~ Photos below taken by Judy Keeling at Indian Falls, October 15, 2025 ~

Rosemary McCann & Jan Leach



L-R: Jan Leach, Rosemary McCann, Judy Mapleson, Janet Barker, Joanne Bright, Shawna Macivor

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Please send your suggestions for community activities, volunteer opportunities and involvement with not-for-profit community organizations, by the first of each month, to me at: armstrong.judybeth@gmail.com. We will include them as space allows and at the discretion of the editor. There is no pressure on any of our members to attend these events, or volunteer their time or to donate funds to these deserving organizations. We appreciate that each one of us supports our community in whatever way we wish and are able.

~ Judy Beth Armstrong



M'Wikwedong
Indigenous Makers Market

Some Vendors Cash Only
No ATM on Site

INDIGENOUS MAKERS MARKET
Stories Woven, Traditions Crafted

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | **NOV 22** | 1045 3rd Ave West Owen Sound



sheatre
— play for a change —

40th Anniversary Celebration

COME CELEBRATE WITH US! ● SAT NOV 15, 2025 • 1PM

GREY ROOTS MUSEUM & ARCHIVES THEATRE



St. Andrew's Presents
SCENES OF WONDER

See more than 200 nativity sets from around the world!

Join us on:
Friday, November 14, 2025 - 2:00 - 9:00pm
Saturday, November 15, 2025 - 10:00am - 9:00pm
Sunday, November 16, 2025 - 11:00am - 4:00pm

Admission by donation.
Refreshments + Musical Entertainment
All Welcome

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
864 1st Ave West O.S. - Just down from the library.

OPERA ~ Live at the Met ~ At the Galaxy Cinema
Nov 8th at 1 pm - La Boheme
Nov 22 at 1pm - Arabella

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, continued

Recycling Made Easy at the Owen Sound Public Library! The Owen Sound Waste Watchers (OSWW) and the Owen Sound Public Library have teamed up to make recycling even easier! You can now drop off **oral health products, clean socks, and makeup containers** (please note: *no nail polish, perfumes, or aerosol products*) at the library's front desk. On a regular basis, OSWW volunteers collect and ship these items to specialized facilities where they're transformed into new products — keeping waste out of landfills and giving materials a second life. Small actions like this make a big difference for our community and our planet!

Support Safe 'N Sound in whatever way you can! Our member Marianne Williams did...



Back Row: Lynda Legge, Marianne Williams, Barb Carriere, Sylvia Stratham, Elaine Bell, Wren Fitzakerlay Middle Row: Marilyn Grahame, Yvonne McCutcheon, Danielle Thede, Yvonne Turkenburg, Mary Ellen Keeling, Pearl Bumstead, Donna Beatty Front Row: Annette Pedlar, Executive Director, Safe 'N Sound, Ann Kennedy-Lachance

Safe 'N Sound has received a record donation of \$36,100 from 100 Women Who Care Grey Bruce, chosen by members at the group's September meeting.

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CLICK. BID. ELECT. Online Auction
Raising money to support the work of electHER Now
Lots of great gift ideas - Open NOVEMBER 1-15, 2025
electhernow.ca/2025-auction