

President - Anne Seymour
Vice-President – Cynthia Lemon
Secretary - Vivian McCaffrey
Treasurer - Styn Furness
Past President – Ruth Henderson

[CFUW – Owen Sound & Area](#), celebrating 30 + years... 1990 – 2022

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CFUW Colleagues;

We are now approaching the shortest day of the year, the Winter Solstice on December 21st, and you can really tell how short our daylight hours have become these past few weeks! However, we also have a month where we celebrate many religious and cultural days including Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. Although these celebrations and others may represent different significant events, they do share in common an appreciation and gratitude of humanity for all the good things that we enjoy.

In December, we also celebrate World AIDS day on December 1st, International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3rd and International Human Rights Day on December 10th. The significance of these days represents our common goals in spite of the diversity of our global citizens. Again, these are days when we acknowledge our desires for equity and inclusion of all persons through positive advocacy and action within our community.

Yesterday, on December 6th, we remembered the Montreal Massacre of 1989 where 14 female engineering students and staff at the Polytechnique Montreal were killed by a lone gunman. Another 10 female students and 4 men were also seriously injured that day. A solemn reflection of this event, which still resonates 33 years later, was led at our Legacy Ridge gathering by Cynthia Lemon, our CFUW Club's Vice-President. Members of the Program Committee made lapel pins to commemorate this historical day and the continued violence against women. We sincerely thank all of you for your thoughtful participation in this event; CFUW will continue to advocate at all levels for the safety and well-being of all women.

I want to extend my gratitude and congratulations to the members of the Program Committee for the December General Meeting event yesterday because they managed to include a solemn remembrance and a festive element over an amazing luncheon. This is no small feat! This time of year is full of memories and also the anticipation of the best to come. In our sharing time after lunch, we heard short anecdotes from many members of special times at this time of celebrations. As I sat and listened to the stories, I recognized that the heartfelt stories of the past did not revolve around a friend, family member, or child. It was so moving to hear people speak about times that reflected

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued ...

their values, hopes and aspirations. We also enjoyed some good humor and laughter. Finally, I want to acknowledge the beautiful memory book for Judy Thomson (and other members who have passed...) that Judy Beth Armstrong has produced for our club. Many thanks to all CFUW members who contributed photos and thoughts. It is a beautiful and moving tribute to a highly valued founding member, who recently passed away.

It is now time for our amazing committees and interest group leaders to enjoy a bit of a hiatus over the next few weeks. I know that there will still be some activities ongoing over next week, but most will resume again in January. Many thanks to our various coordinators for their ongoing commitment. Members – remember that you are always welcome to join different interest groups and committees by contacting the designated person, which is always noted in our newsletter.

Finally, I want to extend my thanks to our CFUW Club members for their generosity not only on the scholarship and educational fund donations, but also the donations made to Safe 'n Sound and the Women's Centre, as well as other community agencies in our area. I know that these funds you donate locally will bring much relief and joy to others.

I wish you all the very best for a wonderful festive season and a very Happy New Year 2023!

Sincerely,
Anne

~ Anne Seymour, President, CFUW Owen Sound and Area

P.S. Here is the link to [CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL NEWS](#)

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 Neyaashiinigmiing (Nawash) Unceded First Nation, together known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation as the traditional keepers of this land.

EXECUTIVE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Members of our CFUW Executive meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Note: December's executive committee meeting was held on Monday, Dec 5 at 10:00 a.m. via zoom.

If you wish to make a presentation to the Executive, please contact President Anne Seymour.

Executive Meeting Highlights – December 5, 2022

At this month's meeting, Executive members were pleased to hear that the membership is reaching historic levels, the Club is in good financial shape, and members continue to actively support the Club's interest groups and programs.

The social media and website needs of the Club continue to be a topic of conversation. The Executive approved merging the Club's Social Media Committee and Website Coordinator functions in order to streamline the roles and share responsibility for the various functions more effectively.

EXECUTIVE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, continued ...

The Executive engaged in a lengthy discussion about the Club's website, addressing the need to update the site, change providers, and perhaps use a web platform where the Club can manage its site without external assistance. The discussion also addressed relying more on Facebook and email for member communications.

While we have a couple of members willing to support the social media/website functions, the Club is appealing to members with some technological capabilities to step up to support these important communication tools.

There is little new information in terms of an update regarding CFUW National's plan to change its name. President Anne Seymour reported that, at this point, CFUW National intends on retaining the "CFUW" acronym, but we have yet to hear about the organization's plans for an actual name change in order to address the goal of including women without post-secondary degrees, which our local club has done for several years already.

~ Vivian McCaffrey, Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS

ADVOCACY

The Advocacy Committee has met twice this fall. The focus of the group is to identify a manageable priority for the group and interested members to focus on over the next three years. While there are many topics that come to mind based on the interests of CFUW Owen Sound and Area members, the one that is currently generating the most interest is Aging in Place, or Aging in the Right Place. At this point in time committee members are considering the following:

- a survey of the membership to narrow the priority focus and relevant local issues for the Committee
- identification of a clear purpose for the Committee
- development of a policy position related to this purpose
- strategies to effect change
- identification of community partners with whom we can collaborate
- possible mechanisms to support the education of our Club members

The Committee is pleased with our progress to date during the meeting deliberations and looks forward to building an action plan for moving forward. We are thankful for the contributions at our second meeting of Janet Glasspool, Vivian McCaffrey and guest Colleen Purdon. Their sage advice helped guide the discussion and set us on a path to action.

Thanks to Anne Seymour, Trisha Hendrie, Anne Dondertman, Jan Chamberlain and Marianne Williams for joining the Committee and for their contributions to the discussions. If you would like to join in, please contact Cynthia Lemon. More committee members are certainly welcome!

~ Cynthia Lemon, Advocacy Committee Coordinator

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS, continued ...

PROGRAM

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

Wine & Cheese at The Roxy, Tuesday, November 8 at 2 PM was well-attended with more than 20 members delighted by the “behind-the-scenes” tour of the historic The Roxy Theatre and the sneak peek at the set for *Beauty and the Beast*. (“Thank you, Peter Leonard/ “Maurice”!) A wine and cheese reception in the lobby, words of welcome by OSLT/The Roxy Executive Director Marcia Cunningham, heart-felt tributes to Judy Thomson who passed away Nov 1st, and a brief business meeting rounded out the afternoon.

Gather and Remember, in person at Legacy Ridge, Tuesday, December 6 at 11:30 a.m.

Vice President, Cynthia Lemon, led us in a Reflection on this National Day of Remembrance and Action for Violence Against Women:

December 6 Reflection

What are the words to describe December 6, 1989? The words to convey the terror, the dread, the panic? The words to depict the violence, the brutality, the savagery. The words to imagine the grief, the sorrow, the anguish? The words to illustrate the rage, the fury, the outrage? The words are the names. Fourteen names.

- Geneviève Bergeron
- Hélène Colgan
- Nathalie Croteau
- Barbara Daigneault
- Anne-Marie Edward
- Maud Haviernick
- Maryse Laganière
- Maryse Leclair
- Anne-Marie Lemay
- Sonia Pelletier
- Michèle Richard
- Annie St-Arneault
- Annie Turcotte
- Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz

In memory of fourteen lost voices. Fourteen lost futures. Fourteen lost souls.

Remember. Advocate. Act.

~ Cynthia Lemon



Program Committee members Styn Furness & Pat McCoy sew lapel ribbons

On arrival, members were presented with a commemorative lapel ribbon, sewn by members of the Program Committee

More than 30 members and guests attended, enjoying made-to-order crepes, salad, Meran’s famous Christmas cake and shortbread. Many members shared their favourite memories of holidays past. Donations were accepted/encouraged for Safe ‘n Sound or the Women’s Shelter.

See the photo gallery on the last pages...

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS, continued ...

PROGRAM, continued ...

Housing Unplugged with Guest Speaker Dr. Brian Taylor, by Zoom: Tuesday, January 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Snuggle up to your computer, mug of coffee in hand, on this wintery Tuesday morning in January. Dr. Brian Taylor will inspire us to “think outside the box” about housing ... and the future, OUR future! Using his current project with Golden Dawn Senior Citizen’s Home in Lion’s Head, he will empower us to think beyond



“the norm” ... consider multi-generational “housing unplugged”. Consider our Advocacy Committee’s work ... Aging in Place, or Aging in the Right Place.

Join us!

Bring your thoughts...
Your questions...
From wherever in the world you happen to be!

See the poster for details.

GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023

10:00 A.M. VIA ZOOM

HOUSING UNPLUGGED

GUEST SPEAKER: DR BRIAN TAYLOR

Dr. Taylor will outline plans for renovating and rebuilding the Golden Dawn Senior Citizen Home in Lion’s Head: “We want to make a true home-like environment, and avoid the Ministry of Long-Term Care’s prescription for an ‘institution’ layout. We want to expand our centre into a community hub, where passers-by will want to come in to visit our residents, and maybe use the store, pharmacy, or day care. We intend to set up our own not-for-profit home care base, to provide comprehensive home care for the folks in North Bruce Peninsula and allow them to be “re-abled” and age in place. Of course, we will have to convince the MOHLTC that this is the right thing to do...”



- Q and A
- Followed by General Meeting
- The zoom link will be sent to all members the day before

www.cfuwowensound.com

www.facebook.com/cfuwowensound

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS, continued ...

NEWSLETTER

This monthly Newsletter is posted on the [CFUW - Owen Sound & Area](#) website and emailed directly to members. Please send contributions for the Newsletter to the editor/coordinator: **Judy Beth Armstrong** armstrong.judybeth@gmail.com before the end of each month, for distribution to members within 2-3 days following an Executive Meeting.

Please note that it is CFUW - Owen Sound 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 go to their copy of the Members' Directory.*

~ Judy Beth Armstrong, Newsletter Coordinator

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

Unfortunately, the **bus trip, scheduled for Friday November 18 to the McMichael Collection of Canadian Art** <https://mcmichael.com> for a guided tour of the exhibition "Gathie Falk: Revelations" had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers. Ironically, it would have been cancelled anyway because of the huge snowstorm that buffeted ALL of our part of Ontario that day and weekend;-(

Art Explorers events for the end of November and early December were connected by subject matter and artistic technique. We went to see two excellent photography exhibitions, both with environmental messages. These will have happened by the time of the December newsletter publication; however, I urge you to see them in your own time and take guests over the holidays. Please check the gallery websites for hours:

Polar Passion: Melting Away by Willy Waterton at [Durham Art Gallery](#). This Exhibition closes January 29.

Isolation Wilderness by Nicholas x Ben at the [Tom Thomson Art Gallery](#) closes on January 28.

In the New Year we'll return primarily to zoom to watch and hear from experts on a variety of art topics. Meanwhile, enjoy this season of goodwill and support local artists, craftspeople and galleries when thinking of gift giving.

~ Cynthia Porter, Art Explorers Coordinator

INTEREST GROUPS, continued ...

BOOK CLUB: Groups 1 & 2

Groups 1 and 2 both met on November 24 and great discussions continue to be had by both groups.

Group # 1 read *The Last Grand Duchess* by Bryn Turnbull. Jane Hendrie was masterful in leading the group through a number of different questions related to the characters, Russian history, and participants' engagement in the historical fiction novel. Many thanks to Trisha Hendrie who so graciously hosted the group.

Group # 2 met at the home of Donna Elliott in November for a terrific discussion on Recent Fiction in Translation. The discussion leader, Ellen Shearer, shared her thoughts on her choice, Meeting in Positano (from Italian). Our members chose a number of books from all over the world... Ukraine, Japan, France and Egypt, which made our discussion lively and interesting. Our next Book Club meeting is December 12th, a Christmas celebration, when we plan to have a fun social time and some games. In January, we will be taking up the new novel from Emma Donoghue, *Haven*.

If you are interested in joining us in our marvellous reading and discussions, please contact Meran Farmer (meranjoan@gmail.com) or Cynthia Lemon (lemondalefarm@gmail.com) to sign up. We would welcome new members to our groups

~ Meran Farmer and Cynthia Lemon, Book Club Coordinators

GAMES GROUP - 1st Friday of the month at 1:30 PM and 3rd Friday of the month at 7:00 PM

Coordinator: Trisha Hendrie solafyre@yahoo.com 519-778-2052

Games group meets monthly to play a variety of card and board games. We have an extensive library of over 100 games. I promise I can find a game you like. Even if you think that you don't like games come watch and see what you think. If you would like to join the Games interest group to receive invites and updates please contact Trisha Hendrie.

~ Trisha Hendrie, Games Group Coordinator

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES – Wednesdays at 1:00 PM

We have had good turnouts for our walkers/hikers on Wednesday afternoon.

Our planned visit to the Shallow Lake rail trail was cancelled twice due to rain, high winds and lots of snow. However, once hunting season is over, we will attempt it again. So far, we have walked trails at Inglis Falls, Harrison Park and a few of us have visited the Bayshore during rainy weather.

Hope you can join us for a little exercise. We plan to walk for approximately one hour, but that can be shortened or lengthened as you wish -- every Wednesday.

If you have an idea for a walk let us know. Email: rosemaryemccann@gmail.com

~ Rosemary McCann and Janet Barker, Healthy Lifestyles Coordinators

INTEREST GROUPS, continued...

TUESDAY ONLINE SOCIALS – Every *Tuesday at 4:00 PM*

Coordinator: Trisha Hendrie solafyre@yahoo.com 519-778-2052

Our Tuesday socials are just for chatting. Everyone is always welcome to drop in and out at any time. There is no format. We talk about everything. The link for this group is sent to everyone each week. No need to sign up for anything.

~ Trisha Hendrie, Coordinator

WOMEN WHO WONDER (WWW) – *2nd and 4th Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 PM via Zoom*

Coordinator: Trisha Hendrie solafyre@yahoo.com 519-778-2052

Women Who Wonder or WWW for short is an ONLINE ONLY interest group. The group provides a path for intellectual exploration and discussion in a relaxed and fun environment. The group uses educational videos for discussion in the same way that a book club reads a book and then discusses it with the book club. WWW specifically focuses on providing opportunities to touch on multiple topics. This is an exploratory group rather than a deep dive or advocacy group. We watch two short videos that are generally around 15-20 minutes each. We send them out a week in advance. If you would like to join the WWW group to receive invites and updates please contact Trisha Hendrie.

~ Trisha Hendrie, Coordinator

MEMBER PROFILES

We welcome all new and returning members and would like to get to know you! Here, and in coming issues of the newsletter, we'll feature "member profiles" so that, next time we meet, we'll have a conversation starter...

Helga McMeekin: I was born and raised in Germany, and came to Canada in 1979 after having met my husband in Austria on a ski holiday. The first 3 years we lived in Mississauga while I worked in the Toronto office of Lufthansa, the German Airline. When we moved to Owen Sound, I quit Lufthansa after having worked with the company in Germany and Greece for a total of 23 years. In Owen Sound I enrolled in the extension program of the University of Western Ontario, and received my BA in 1994. After my husband retired, we travelled extensively and spent the winters in Tucson, AZ for almost 20 years.

~ Helga McMeekin



MEMBER PROFILES, continued ...

Marianne Williams is a lifelong learner and has spent her career as an educator with a particular focus on literacy. After beginning as a teacher, she worked for the Toronto Board of Education as a community developer who worked with teams of teachers, social workers, adult students and trustees, to establish three centres for first language literacy and ESL for adults in Toronto, many of whom were illiterate in their first language. After the development phase, she administered one of the units at Monarch Park Collegiate for first language Literacy and ESL, supervising about 25 teachers. She then spent several years as the Executive Director and then president of the national organisation, The Movement for Canadian Literacy.

She returned to Owen Sound, Grey County, in 1988, where she grew up, to teach at an Adult Education Centre in Wiarton as well as high school, for the Bruce County Board of Education. She eventually moved into administration in the Bluewater Board of Education: Guidance Counsellor, Vice Principal and Principal.



She had the great good fortune to travel extensively, with her husband, an Architect and Planner, who had studied and taught university courses in Social Housing. He worked closely with the Coop movement in Toronto while a city planner on the Waterfront area.

Marianne is an avid gardener and hiker, having completed the whole Bruce Trail, from Tobermory to Niagara. She is on the Board of the Glassworks Cooperative Housing Project in Owen Sound.

~ Marianne Williams

PHOTO GALLERY
Photos by Judi McIlroy at Legacy Ridge, December 6, 2022

