

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 – 2023

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 Colleagues:

February is the month that we celebrate the season of winter. It is not only the busiest month for outdoor activities like winter camping, snowshoeing, skiing and hockey, but also for many traveling to escape to sunshine and warmth. It is also the month that we rely on the actions of a small rodent to indicate when spring will occur as we look forward to longer days and milder weather that March will eventually bring.

February is the coldest month of the year. In 2011, there was an event to recognize the coldest night of the year, which typically occurs in February. It was a walk to raise money for local charities serving people experiencing hunger and homelessness. This year the date for the walk is February 25th where ordinary people leave the comfort of their homes to shine a light of compassion in their local communities; funds raised support Safe ‘N Sound. Members of our Owen Sound and Area CFUW Club, under the leadership of Rosemary McCann, co-coordinator of our Healthy Lifestyles group, will participate as a team. **Please see more information from Rosemary under the Healthy Lifestyles section of this newsletter.**

At this time, I want to acknowledge my gratitude to Trisha Hendrie, our former President, who with other members of the Social Media Committee, provided an extraordinary service to our Club over the past couple of years. I paid special mention to all members of the Social Media Committee for their various contributions in last June’s newsletter. The actions of the women in this committee had enabled our various groups to continue to meet on Zoom over the pandemic, post photos and information on our website and Facebook, offer training to members, and also run a social networking opportunity, Tuesday Afternoon Coffee Hour, every Tuesday afternoon at 4pm to keep members connected.

Throughout the past number of months, Trisha has continued to not only train members on Zoom, but also worked closely with Judi McIlroy to review our website. Trisha also hosts the Afternoon Coffee Hour conversations every Tuesday afternoon from 4-5 pm. Having provided this service to members for over 3 years consistently, Trisha is

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued ...

ready for a well-deserved break and has invited anyone interested in managing the Tuesday Afternoon Coffee Hour that she will support them in a transition and will stay involved, just not every Tuesday afternoon. On behalf of our club, I offer my sincere thanks to Trisha for her time and talent that she has provided for our benefit and encourage others to consider helping out. **Please contact Trisha directly.**

Finally, February is also the time where we celebrate Black History Month. The Program Committee has organized a wonderful session at **Grey Roots at 2 pm on February 14th** to hear from guest speaker, Blaine Courtney, who will share his experience of growing up Black in Grey County. We look forward to hearing from him on his insights at the local level around his heritage and life.

I hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,
Anne

~ Anne Seymour, 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 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Members of our CFUW Executive meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. If you wish to make a presentation to the Executive, please contact President Anne Seymour.

The Executive met for our monthly meeting on yet another gray day in Grey County. Not a bad time to be gathering via Zoom.

After considerable time and effort, the Club is finally moving forward to establish a new self-managing website platform that is more affordable and in line with the Club's needs. Once the new site is operational, members will receive details about how to access it. Special thanks go to Trisha Hendrie, Judi McIlroy, and Anne Dondertman for their stewardship in making the change happen.

Members will note from Cynthia Lemon's Advocacy Committee report that the Club's advocacy work is receiving a boost of energy and activity on the part the committee's committed activists. The Committee brought several recommendations to the Executive proposing that the Club's advocacy work focus on the topic of "Aging in the Right Place." The Executive passed the motions and is confident the advocacy focus will benefit our members and connect the Club to local community organizations and other CFUW clubs with similar concerns.

The work of Treasurer Styn Furness will be made easier by the Club's acquisition of a new dual debit-credit card, which is required for payment for at least of a couple of the Club's vendors and will reduce the amount of cheque writing required. Another small step in terms of keeping up with the times!

~ Vivian McCaffrey, Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS

ADVOCACY

The Advocacy Committee met on Thursday, January 12th. The topic of **Aging in the Right Place** was confirmed as preferred for our advocacy work.

We reviewed and discussed the possible goals including next steps:

- Development of position policy
- Identify local issues
- Develop a three-year plan
- Educate CFUW Owen Sound and Area members
- Influence provincial policy
- Identify community partners
- Hold a public forum

Considerations were as follows:

- Take a policy position to CFUW National aiming for September 2024
- Bring in a guest speaker for an advocacy presentation
- Connect with the Oshawa CFUW club as they may also be working on Aging in the Right Place
- Visit and hold meetings in local facilities to see what is currently available -aim for April meeting
- Connect with the Council on Aging to identify local issues/opportunities

Action Items

- Confirm National process for submission of policy
- Approach John Restakis to present to CFUW OS and Area re cooperative elder care via Zoom
- Identify local issues/opportunities
- Hold advocacy meetings in elder/affordable housing facilities

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS, continued ...

ADVOCACY, continued ...

- Approach CFUW Oshawa club re Aging in the Right Place
- Set a regular monthly meeting date (3rd Monday at 1 p.m.)

Our next meeting date is **Monday, February 20 at 1:00 pm**. We would be delighted to have more CFUW Owen Sound and Area members join us. Please contact Cynthia Lemon at lemondalefarm@gmail.com if you are interested.

~ *Cynthia Lemon, Advocacy Committee Coordinator*

ARCHIVES

From the Desk of the Archivist...

For the past 30-plus 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 Anniversaries. Our thanks go to Donna Phillips, Judy Thomson and Jan Middleton for keeping our history alive. It seems appropriate, in this monthly column, to share with you, especially newer members, some of the highlights of this treasure trove of information as we celebrate our 33rd year.

Here is a glimpse into what our Club members have accomplished, and the dedicated women who have helped us grow and evolve... 30+ years later. This month we focus on 2008 – 2009:

Chris Piekny was President and Marianne Williams was her Vice. By the end of the year, we had 58 members. Most of our meetings were held at the St. Mary's Church Centre in the evenings. The Program Committee produced an amazing and fun year of activities and lectures. The theme for the year was "Celebrate the Club": Bring a Friend". Marianne Williams, Brenda Bergen, Jan Chamberlain, Loreen Cumming and Judy Keeling are all still in our Club today.



Chris Piekny

We also hosted the "Regional Fall Gathering". It was held at Stone Tree on Saturday October 4th.



The Regional Fall Gathering is an opportunity for CFUW members in our Region to get together, to share ideas and issues. A great deal of preparation and organizing goes into these events and we were pleased that ours was very successful in terms of attendance, food, speakers (Daryl Wood and Bonita De Matteis Johnson) and workshops (How to Increase Membership) Karen Levenick, Judy Thomson.



The Program for the year included a panel discussion "Your Health – Your Future"; The Monarch Butterfly; two "Lunch and Learn" events at the Bayshore with Judy Thomson, speaking about "Women in Canadian Art". (It only cost members \$16.00 per session...a real bargain!) About 70 women (members and non-members attended each event. The Program committee organized and cooked the lunch!

On the left: Lunch & Learn @ The Bayshore

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS, continued ...

ARCHIVES, continued ...

In March we were entertained by the Book Clubs, an evening of discussing 20th Century Irish Writers. April was the Resolutions meeting when 28 members attended to discuss CFUW Resolutions regarding Climate Change, Toxins.



Magical Mystery Tour

The most anticipated meeting was held in May when we went on a “Magical Mystery Tour”, an all-day event when 44 members and guests hopped onto a beautiful bus and went for a wonderful mystery tour around Grey and Bruce Counties; had a terrific lunch and a great deal of fun. All thanks to Jan Chamberlain for organizing this trip with all the interesting stops at places (Clarksburg, Coffin Ridge) many of us had never been. It really was an unforgettable day.

Our AGM was held at Cobble Beach Golf Club where we enjoyed hearing Donna Giesler “The Star Lady” talk about star watching, and had a lovely lunch.

2009 was the first year for our website. We also had two Book Clubs, Gardeners’ Group and Issues Group. The Healthy Lifestyles group went to Collingwood to enjoy the Scandinave Spa and lunch there!

What a truly amazing year! It just gets better and better.

~ Meran Farmer, Archivist



Healthy Lifestyles members at the Spa

NEWSLETTER

This monthly Newsletter is 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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS, continued

PROGRAM

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2 PM - in person -- at Grey Roots Museum

As February is Black History Month, we have invited **Blaine Courtney** to speak about “**Growing up Black in Grey County**” and the significance of Black History in this area. This will be really interesting and we hope that all of you will join us -- **in person -- at Grey Roots Museum on February 14th at 2 PM**. From what I see in the forecast, it should be a nice easy day for the drive to the Museum [102599 Grey Road 18 -- West of Inglis Falls Road and East of Mennonite Corners on the Owen Sound By-pass]. If you need a ride, please contact me (meranjoan@gmail.com) and we will arrange for transportation. Carpooling is always a great idea. ~ Meran Farmer

Please see the poster for details.



GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023

2:00 P.M. - IN PERSON

AT GREY ROOTS MUSEUM & ARCHIVES - 102599 Grey Rd 18, Owen Sound, ON

GROWING UP BLACK IN GREY COUNTY

GUEST SPEAKER: Blaine Courtney

A well-known, highly regarded lifelong member of our community, Blaine Courtney will share his unique perspective on growing up black in the Owen Sound area. His family settled here in the 1860's and various members have been active, influential contributors to our community ever since. Blaine served for many years on the Emancipation Festival Board of Directors and as its Chair and continues to work tirelessly to ensure its success. We are grateful to Blaine for helping us acknowledge Black History Month with what we hope will be a greater understanding.



- Q and A
- Followed by social time & refreshments.
- Members are welcome to explore the museum on their own
- Happy Valentine's Day!

www.cfuwowensound.com

www.facebook.com/cfuwowensound

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS, continued

PROGRAM, continued ...

TUESDAY, MARCH 14th will be another very important and meaningful meeting: **2 PM - in person - for a talk and tour at OSHaRE** – “*What we Have We Will Share*” - in downtown Owen Sound. Thank you to Donna Phillips for organizing this program.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11th at 10 AM: a Zoom panel presentation with various knowledgeable individuals discussing “**The Impact of COVID on Public Education**”. Thank you to Cynthia Lemon for organizing this program.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE

Thanks to the hard work and knowledge of Trisha Hendrie we are well on our way to creating a new website design and format. There are a number of advantages that members will notice once we have this up and running on the WIX platform. It is hoped when we launch this new website our members will visit it and find it something they enjoy looking at for information and enjoyment. Our goal is to have a launch by April 1st so stayed tuned.

~ *Judi McIlroy, Social Media & Website Committee*

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 – Friday, February 17th at 1:30 PM, *by Zoom* & Tuesday, February 21st at 11:00 AM, *in person*

Our intrepid Art Explorers leader, Cynthia Porter, will be spending the winter months in New Zealand catching up with family and friends. She has, however, generously prepared a list of interesting topics for Zoom sessions to keep us entertained and engaged during her absence. Loreen Cumming and Vivian McCaffrey will be co-hosting the Zoom sessions for January, February, and March.

We have two offerings for the month of February; one via Zoom and an in-person visit to the Grey Gallery.

Japanese Ukiyo-e Prints

Please note that the Art Explorers will meet via Zoom on **Friday, February 17th** at 1:30 p.m. rather than the second Friday of the month as announced in the January newsletter.

This month the Zoom lectures will focus on Japanese woodblock Ukiyo-e prints. This art form had a global impact especially on Impressionist artists like Manet, Van Gogh, and Gauguin. The famous print “The Great Wave off Kanagawa” by Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) is the work we will be examining in three videos covering the background of the artist and history of Japanese prints to recent scientific research on “The Great Wave.” Here’s an article to read in preparation for the zoom session:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265735644_Science_and_Culture_Dissecting_the_Great_Wave

Members who have signed up to Arts Explorers will receive a Zoom link a couple of days prior to the session. Other members are free to join and should confirm their interest with an email to Loreen Cumming.

INTEREST GROUPS, continued ...

ART EXPLORERS, continued ...

Year of the Rabbit Exhibit – Grey Gallery

On **Tuesday, February 21st at 11:00 a.m.**, Anne Dondertman has kindly offered to open her gallery to the Art Explorers group to view the current exhibit celebrating the Year of the Rabbit.

Over sixty local artists, working in many different media, have submitted work to the Year of the Rabbit exhibition, curated by Raquell Yang. This is a community show, open to artists at all levels, and is part of the activities organized by the Chinese Culture and Heritage Association each year. The works are exhibited in Grey Gallery, and also in the storefront windows of the Georgian Bay School of the Arts, the Artist's Co-op, and Upwards Art Studio, until February 25.

On the right is an image of Raquell's whimsical contribution to the exhibit, entitled *Miss Sexy*.



~ *Loreen Cumming and Vivian McCaffrey, Art Explorers interim Co-Coordinator*s

BOOK CLUB: Groups 1 & 2

Group # 1 met on Monday, January 23 to discuss **The Short Stories** of Anton Chekov. We had a lively discussion about Chekhov's short stories and, despite the often-depressing situations he depicted, we'd be happy to read more. We agreed that the stories were not driven by plot in most cases, but we appreciated how Chekhov brought his characters to life and described, not only their circumstances, but their innermost thoughts. Glimpses of humour and hopefulness alleviated the dark mood, and we found the themes surprisingly contemporary and universal. Many of us had not read Chekhov before and we were glad to be introduced to him!

Thanks to Jane Hendrie for submitting Group 1's thoughts for the month of January!

~ *Cynthia Lemon*

Group # 2 met on January 23 at Judy Campbell's home where we reviewed and discussed Emma Donoghue's newest novel, *Haven*. Our next meeting will be February 27th at 1:30 PM at the home of Ellen Lewis. We will be reviewing Beverly McLachlan's autobiography *Truth Be Told: My Journey Through Life and the Law*.

~ *Meran Farmer*

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*

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES – Wednesdays at 1:00 PM

Our walkers/hikers have happily experienced a variety of "weather" walks. We've walked neighbourhoods on both the east and west hills of OS as well as in beautiful Harrison Park. We always welcome new walkers. To be added to our email list, please contact Rosemary at: rosemaryemccann@gmail.com.

INTEREST GROUPS, continued ...

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES, continued ...

As Anne mentioned in her President's remarks, the Healthy Lifestyles group decided to participate and enter a team in [*The Coldest Night of the Year*](#), "a winter family-friendly walk to raise money for local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness". In Owen Sound, the CNOY walk takes place on February 25... because it's cold out there. Funds raised in our community support [Safe 'N Sound Residence](#).

However, you do not have to walk on the evening of the 25th. Members of our CFUW club/team can walk where and when we wish, e.g., on a normal Wednesday walk. Or, you do not have to walk at all. The idea is that we raise a little money for a good cause: Safe 'N Sound.

If you - or a family member or friend of yours - make a donation, it would be made online to our team's name. The name of each participating team is listed online along with captains' names, number of team members and amounts raised to that particular date.

There are a couple of ways to donate. It's not difficult to do, and if you have questions, you can give me a call. 519 371 6790.

Begin by going to the *Coldest Night of the Year* website: www.cnoy.org

- 1. To register as a walker:** Choose "Register"; Choose "First Time"; Select your location - Owen Sound, and highlight Safe 'N Sound; Read and check off the waiver. Then select "Choose a Team" -- which is CFUW Healthy Lifestyles, captain Rosemary McCann. Proceed to Contact information. If you choose to make a donation, you'll use a credit card; 4.25% of your donation will be added to your card to ensure that the charity receives your full donation. However, you may un-tick the box to remove that charge and the 4.25% is subtracted from your donation. Receipts will be issued electronically – and generally within a few minutes - for donations of \$20 or more and come to your email address in the name of Blue Sea Philanthropy.
- 2. To simply make a donation:** Click on "Donate" and put in our team's name :CFUW Healthy Lifestyles. Donate to a Team as opposed to a walker. When you are asked to donate to Rosemary OR to a team, choose Team, NOT Rosemary. See above for other details on making a donation.

Consider sharing this information with your friends and family.

As of February 5th, our team had raised \$920.00! Thanks for your support to a good cause!

If you wish to walk on February 25th, meet at the Owen Sound Farmers' Market (88 8th Street East). Registration begins at 4:00 p.m.; Opening remarks at 5:00 p.m. and then set off walking; 6:00 p.m. light meal served at the Market; 7:00 p.m. Goodbye, Thanks, and Go Home.

If you'd like to walk with the Healthy Lifestyles group, we will walk our "CNOY walk" Wednesday Feb. 22 at Harrison Park at 1 p.m. We'll meet in the parking lot in front of the rink. Please let us know (Email: rosemaryemccann@gmail.com) if you will be coming. We'd like to have you! We'll walk the paths in the park and then have a warming drink in the Inn for anyone who wishes.

Yours in walking,

~ ***Rosemary McCann and Janet Barker, Healthy Lifestyles Coordinators***

INTEREST GROUPS, continued ...

TUESDAY ONLINE SOCIALS – Every Tuesday at 4:00 PM

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.

We've been fortunate enough to have a few people volunteer for one Tuesday a month in order to keep our social hour going. If we could get one or two more people, we'd have plenty to keep the social hour going without it being onerous for anyone. It's a simple task. I will have them all scheduled ahead of time. I will even volunteer to be responsible for sending out the link. The link remains the same throughout the CFUW year. All that is needed is a commitment to log into the zoom account and hit start meeting. We just need someone to be responsible for hitting the start button and joining the conversation for an hour.

I enjoy the socials. I just need to have the ability to not be committed every Tuesday. Please let me know if you can volunteer to do one Tuesday a month. We will set a schedule so we know ahead of time when it will be our turn.

The social hour has been beneficial for members who do not have the ability to get into town or just get out the way they used to or as often as they like. In addition, it gives our new members an opportunity to chat with our members. And finally, it's a great way to learn about random things in the area.

Regards,
Trisha

~ Trisha Hendrie, [retiring] 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...

Ann Downs Emms: Barrie was my hometown although summers were spent at Sauble Beach. I have deep roots in the area. My great grandfather, John Eldridge, from Hepworth, built the first cottage at Sauble Beach in 1902. We have renovated my family cottage and moved permanently to Sauble Beach in 2019. We enjoy the seasons and particularly like the peace and solitude in the winter months.



My professional career consisted of 41 years in the field of education that included teaching, consultant work, school and board administration, and leadership development. I am married with two children and a Jack Russell terrier. Both adult children have chosen to pursue their careers in Grey Bruce at Bruce Power and the Owen Sound hospital. Retirement has brought many opportunities to continue and develop new activities. I enjoy golf, hiking, gym activities and yoga. New pursuits have included curling, snowshoeing, and volunteer activities such as being Co-Registrar with the Bluewater Association for Life Long Learning, working at EarthBound Gardens in Red Bay, and hospital volunteer work at Wiarton Hospital.

I am also a new member of CFUW's Arts Explorer group. ~ **Ann Downs Emms**

Michele Purdy: I am a long-time resident of Hamilton but now residing in Owen Sound. A condensed version of my story follows.

I retired from Rotalec Inc., an engineering firm, in 2008 as their office manager. Post retirement I explored all the hobbies I did not have time to do while working and raising my family. With the encouragement of one of my instructors, I began to study and certify in the fitness business to enable me to teach land and aquatic classes. Once certified and insured, I began to offer senior fitness classes in the city of Hamilton. My last class was in March of 2020 and when COVID protocols were put in place I was once again "retired".

I have spent all of my adult life in the city of Hamilton; working there, raising my family there, building a social network there. But in September 2022, my husband and I made a huge decision to change up our very comfortable and routine lives. Last fall, we reserved a campsite at MacGregor Park near Port Elgin. With free time on our hands, we explored the area including Owen Sound. As our week drew to a close, we had to return home. Post vacation blues set in and we were sitting in our beautiful backyard one evening, amidst the sounds of the street and we just looked at each other and knew something had shifted. Within a week of our return, we made plans to drive back to Owen Sound to look at some real estate. That visit resulted in an offer being placed, and us returning home to get our house listed. And then we told our family, our neighbours and our friends. "Gobsmacked" is how one dear couple put it. One of our sons questioned



MEMBER PROFILES, continued ...

Michele Purdy, continued ...

our mental capacity. But eventually, the new reality was accepted. Yes, I was moving away from all the people I loved and all that was familiar to me. We would be a two-to-three-hour drive away from our boys and our granddaughters. My mind quickly spun into “what have I done” mode. However, the current was strong and we were swept along rather quickly. With a moving truck loaded and our two vehicles packed tight, the journey began. The day started out all sunny and warm, an omen I thought that all was meant to be. That changed when we encountered an early winter blizzard in Chatsworth. Tailing my husband’s car, in white out conditions I slowed down and white knuckled the rest of the way until our house was in sight. Once inside the house, we hugged each other and stated the obvious. We had done it! So here I am now with Christmas and New Year behind me already, all the stress related to buying and selling a memory. I am not lying awake wondering what I have done...as often.

The biggest lesson in all of this and an important one for me is that even with a tremendous amount of fear and doubt and not knowing all the outcomes, I made a decision and took a huge step into the unknown. And I survived and thrived for doing so. No small feat for me, considering the very safe and routine life I have led. This is a brand-new chapter in my life. My past experiences are cherished and have taught and shaped me into the person I am. I am filled with gratitude and wonder that I have had the opportunities to learn and grow and look forward to new adventures and growth here in my new community of Owen Sound. ~ **Michele Purdy**

Sheila (Middlebro') Trant: I am an old Owen Sounder, born and raised here. After graduation from Trinity College, University of Toronto, I became a high school English teacher. I married an Anglican priest in 1958, and we had four children. Peter died in 1978, when the children were 11,13, 15, and 17. So life was busy.

I switched to college level teaching when I had four teenagers at home. My most exciting work, though, was my evening work: teaching English or Canadian Studies at U of T’s Pre-University program, a back door into university for adults who did not have Ontario credentials, or whose educational records abroad were unavailable. They were fascinating students.

After joining the University Women's club in Barrie in the 1960s when we lived in Innisfil - where the secretary kept the club minutes in Blank Verse - I was away from the club for many Scarborough years. I rejoined in North York, and was president there for the memorable 1999-2000 year.

We always kept the family cottage at Balmy Beach and spent summers there. Last year my son and I took the 104-year-old building down and built a permanent residence.

I came home.

~ **Sheila (Middlebro') Trant**



IN REMEMBRANCE:

[AUDREY MARGARET WARNER](#), September 26, 1929 – February 5, 2023.



Audrey Warner. Photo by Ruth Henderson, June 2017

We sadly acknowledge the recent death of [Audrey Warner](#), a former – but long-time – member of our Club. She was a member of our CFUW Book Club and Gardeners' Group. For the complete obituary, click [HERE](#).

Members will have read this message, sent on February 9th by President Anne Seymour:

Audrey Margaret Warner died peacefully in Wiarton, Ontario on February 5, 2023. Audrey was a former member of the Owen Sound and Area Club.

Audrey was born September 26, 1929 in Hamilton, Ontario. She was a graduate of Western, Toronto and Cornell Universities. She taught secondary school in Tillsonburg, Hamilton and Dundas, then worked as an associate professor at the Faculty of Education, University of

Toronto. Audrey was a member of our CFUW Book Club and was known to many of our current members. A card expressing our condolences will be sent to Audrey's family on behalf of our CFUW Owen Sound and Area Club. Sincerely, Anne

We invite our members who knew Audrey to share their reminiscences & photos of her for our **Book of Remembrances**. Kindly send them to: armstrong.judybeth@gmail.com

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Last April we introduced this new "column" where members are invited to send in suggestions for volunteer opportunities and involvement with not-for-profit community organizations.

Please send your suggestions, by the first of each month, to me at: armstrong.judybeth@gmail.com. We will include **volunteer opportunities and involvement AND CLIMATE ISSUES** in future issues, as space allows and at the discretion of the editor. There is no pressure on any of our members to 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

Contributed by Anne Seymour and Trisha Hendrie ... who remind our members that Laura and Carol have been guest speakers to our Club – on behalf of electHer Now.

Finding My Place, My Balance & My Confidence, Feb. 28, Mar. 28 & Apr. 25 Online - 7 to 8:30PM

This three-part series is geared to those recently elected to municipal council, but we think it will be of interest to anyone thinking of running in the future or supporting another woman in their political journey. To register, please click [HERE](#). We are hoping you will pass along this information to members of your group. Thank you for your support!

~ Laura Wood & Carol Merton, Co-Founders, on behalf of the **electHER Now** Planning Team

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: continued...

Contributed by Judy Beth Armstrong, from the Ginger Press News... [Art Explorers had the privilege of meeting with Stephen Hogbin at Intersections before he passed away.]

Our friends at **Intersections Wood Collaborative** are hosting a fundraising evening with **Dan Needles** (author, playwright and winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour) on **Saturday April 1** at the Harmony Centre. What a great Valentine's gift for your person! Give them Dan's latest book *True Confessions from the Ninth Concession* (\$24.95, now in stock at the GP); and tuck in a couple of tickets for the Big Event on April 1. Yes, we have tickets (\$35) too. You can also order tickets online at www.intersectionsstudio.com. Enjoy the book now; and enjoy the evening of laughter and storytelling on April 1. And earn lots of points for being such a thoughtful gift giver. Does it get any better? ~ *Maryann Thomas, Ginger Press Bookstore*

Contributed by Anne Seymour and Shawna Macivor:

In 2021, Owen Sound was designated a Tree City through the efforts of NeighbourWoods North and the support of our mayor and councillors. A recent letter by Shawna Macivor to the Editor of The Hub highlights a current issue facing the group in their attempts to have banners hung celebrating this achievement. Please [click on this link](#) for more information. ~ Anne Seymour

Our CFUW members might consider saying something supportive in the comments section. We have to keep pushing... and pushing for wider recognition. The City really doesn't publicize this 'recognition', but it is (or could be) a Big Deal. ~ *Shawna Macivor*

ECO-SNIPPETS

*In this issue, we're kicking off a new column, **ECO-SNIPPETS**, with thanks to Shawna Macivor whose idea it was to include "a straight-out Climate column ... of 'snippets' ' - with ideas and suggestions. This is (after all) the biggest disaster of our time. To ignore it anywhere seems odd." ~ Shawna Macivor*

ECO-SNIPPET # 1: Did you know that the installation of Heat Pumps has been rising in Ontario every year since 2000? Or that 2022 was the year that sales of heat pumps surpassed, for the first time, sales of oil/gas furnaces in the country to the south of us?

Heat Pumps are still more expensive to buy and install than fossil fuel heating, but that expense is mitigated by the lower energy costs over time, and by federal incentives. Heat pumps also operate as both heating and cooling units. It might be worth spending some winter time understanding how heat pumps work (hint: it's the temperature differential, not the actual outside temperature that is key - and heat pumps don't generate hot or cool air, they transfer it). And yes, heat pumps are only 'clean' if their electricity is drawn from nuclear or renewables, but Ontario is increasing both.

Locally, Cooks Plumbing & Heating advises on and installs Heat Pumps. Luke Cook, the son of the company founder, is always willing to explain what's available, including hybrid options and incentives. I sound like an advert, don't I, but the truth is, we all live on planet earth and we all understand our personal responsibility to reduce fossil fuel use.

~ from your friendly eco-reporter, Shawna Macivor

Send YOUR "snippets" and suggestions for volunteer opportunities and involvement with not-for-profit community organizations to: armstrong.judybeth@gmail.com