



Realizing potential. For all women.
Le pouvoir par le savoir.

CFUW – Owen Sound & Area Newsletter February 2024

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

[CFUW – Owen Sound & Area](#), celebrating 34 years... 1990 – 2024

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues;

The difference between a broken community and a thriving one is the presence of women who are valued.
~ Michelle Obama

CFUW Owen Sound and Area is a thriving community where women value each other. I see this all the time, be it at the executive table, in our program presentations, our annual general meetings, or in the committees and interest groups. Members are quick, caring and authentic in their thanks, their praise and their support.

It is within this very kind of thriving community that women assume leadership roles. It is a safe environment where we can lead in many ways, shapes and forms. It is accepted that mistakes can be made, but we support each other in the learning from those mistakes. We value those who are prepared to take those risks.

Thriving communities are noticed and envied. People want to join in. We have nine new members this year! That is evidence of members sharing the good news of our thriving community, the opportunities we provide, and the value we have for all we do, and the women with whom we share stimulating, interesting and downright fun times.

And our thriving community adds value to the broader community. Once again, our Healthy Lifestyles' leaders Janet Barker and Rosemary McCann are spearheading CFUW Owen Sound and Area involvement in the Coldest Night of the Year, in...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued

... support of Owen Sound Safe 'N Sound. They were hugely successful last year in garnering support for this necessary and meaningful organization in Owen Sound. I would encourage you to read the information in the Healthy Lifestyles section of this newsletter and provide support as you are able. Many thanks to Janet and Rosemary for their leadership in this endeavour.

I very much appreciate being a member of CFUW Owen Sound and Area. I value you, the women who are members of this club and all that you bring to our shared experiences. I value being a small part of a thriving community. May we continue to value those around us and thrive!

~ Cynthia Lemon, 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 Pottawatomie 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.

We are pleased to present our new masthead ... take a close look at the top of page one.
This design was recently approved by CFUW National for use by all clubs.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS

ADVOCACY

Our Advocacy Committee continues to forge forward with our work on Ageing in the Right Place. It would appear that this work is not for the faint of heart. The pace is sometimes glacial. That being said, better to be slow and produce something of quality.

It came to our attention that a CFUW National Study Group on Long Term Care and Seniors' Rights will bring forth two resolutions to the National Annual General Meeting in July. These resolutions in very drafty form are as follows:

Resolution #8 (Long Term Care and Seniors' Rights Study Group): Federal Resources to Enable Equity for all Canadians to Age in Place / Ressources fédérales pour permettre à tous les Canadiens de vieillir chez eux en toute équité

Resolution #9 (Long Term Care and Seniors' Rights Study Group): Federal Incentives to Implement the Health Standards Organization 2023 Long Term Care Standards / Incitations fédérales à la mise en œuvre des normes 2023 de l'Organisation de normes en santé pour les soins de longue durée

We were very pleased to see Resolution #8. As it is our intent to take a resolution forward to CFUW National as well, we were hopeful that we would be able to collaborate on this. We did meet virtually with their committee. It was wonderful to hear about the work that they are doing at the national level. That being said, their resolution is very focussed ...

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS, continued...

ADVOCACY, continued ...

on financial resources, whereas our focus currently is much broader as we believe ageing in the right place in about much more than just the money. As well they are on a very short timeline for submission of their resolution and supporting materials in order to meet the national resolution deadlines. We will therefore continue with our work on our own at this time. We will keep you updated on their resolution progress as well as our own.

We thought you might be interested in this website on Senior Social Living: <https://www.seniorsocialliving.com>

There is lots of great information on ageing in place and such things as home sharing, cooperative housing, virtual housing and naturally occurring retirement communities. Some of you may find it interesting and useful information to read and have.

I would like to sincerely thank the members of the Advocacy committee for their work on Ageing in the Right Place. It takes a great team to do great work, and great they are! Thank you to Anne Seymour, Trisha Hendrie, Jan Chamberlain, Marianne Williams and Donna Phillips. If others would care to join us in our endeavours, please reach out to me at any time.

~ Cynthia Lemon, Advocacy Committee Coordinator

ARCHIVES

*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. 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 2015 – 2016.***

From the Desk of the Archivist...

Marching on to the year 2015 – 2016, **our 25th Anniversary year**, when Ruth Henderson assumed the Presidency after being Vice President for 2 years. Sydney Misener was VP and Program Chair; Sandra Shantz was Secretary; and Trish Searle, Treasurer. We had 54 members that year and we were so lucky to have Styn Furness, Rosemary McCann, Cynthia Porter, and Shawna MacIvor join the Club. Sadly, Alma Wilson, our last founding member, passed away. As well, Marilyn Schmidt, and Joyce Robinson, both long-time members passed away.

It was noted by our Membership Chair, Judy Thomson, that we had good turnouts with an average of 30 members attending each month, which seems to be typical, even these past few years. The majority of our meetings were held at St. Andrew's Church Hall. However, our first meeting in September was a "Meet and Greet" held at the new Community Waterfront Heritage Centre, thanks to Jan Chamberlain who was influential in getting the Centre open and bringing the 1950's dining car to Owen Sound. That night we experienced an extreme thunderstorm. We all got soaked running from the Museum out to the dining car. Despite the weather, it was a fun meeting.

Under the direction of Terri Hope, Sandra Shantz and Judy Gay, a successful and well attended All Candidates meeting was held in October, sponsored by our Club and in collaboration with Peace and Justice, Grey Bruce. Unfortunately, our local Conservative MP, Larry Miller did not attend!

For our November meeting, the hard work of Donna Elliott and the Issues Group resulted in the presentation of an overview of the *Truth and Reconciliation Report on Indigenous Peoples in Canada*. Our Club executive and program Committee made the decision to focus efforts on learning more about the history and important issues related to the Report.

ARCHIVES, continued...

In December 2015 we formally celebrated our 25th Anniversary at Legacy Ridge. Ernestine McKenna, former President and past member of our Club was the guest speaker; she suggested that we present “galvanizing” reasons for women to join CFUW. Her advice to us was “to be bigger than ourselves, relevant, current and dynamic”.

Outreach: One of the highlights of this year was the partnership of our Club with Owen Sound Little Theatre/The Roxy Theatre in the Dramatic Reading of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. The brain child of Judy Thomson who convinced OSLT’s Michael Rea to direct it, this event took place December 13, 2015 at the Roxy and was well attended. Many months of effort and planning went into this excellent production, and we are much indebted to all the volunteers at the Roxy, as well as our club members, particularly Ruth Henderson (Props) and Judy Beth Armstrong (Producer) for all their work and participation.

The new year, 2016, brought us more interesting programs: Elder Abuse with Colleen Purdon; Resolutions; Author Terry Fallis drew a sell-out crowd; CFUW members and friends attended our May meeting.

The “Dickens” event and the Terry Fallis presentation significantly attracted new members and helped to raise funds for our Scholarship Fund. And for the Scholarship Program, this year was momentous as our Club took the giant step in transferring our GIC funds (\$20,644.) to the Community Foundation Grey Bruce, a public charity. The Foundation added another \$10,000 to the fund through its Matched Funding Program. The purpose of this decision was to “create a permanent endowment fund that will continue to benefit people”. It also guaranteed a better return on our investments. Our Club continues to give 3 generous Scholarships to graduating women in this area.

We had 6 Interest Groups working, socializing, and having fun this year. Art Explorers were busy visiting galleries and taking in lectures under the leadership of Eleanor Huff. The Book Club discussed a wide variety of books including *The Orenda*, *Go Set a Watchman*, *Deafening*, and *God in Ruins*. This year, the Games Group was initiated and organized by Trish Searle and Judy Mapleson. Six to 10 members enjoyed playing a variety of board and card games once a month. The Gardeners group of 17 dedicated members participated in many garden tours and visits to nurseries. They also enjoyed a few delicious pot luck lunches. The Healthy Lifestyles group of 30 enthusiastic members visited Coffin Ridge, snowshoeing at Cobble Beach and various walks and lectures, all under the leadership of Loreen Cumming. Donna Phillips, coordinator of the Issues Group, had a full calendar of meetings with approximately 20 members who made Truth and Reconciliation their focus this year.

All in all, a very busy and productive year. Congratulations Ruth and members of the Club!

~ **Meran Farmer, Archivist**

NEWSLETTER

This monthly Newsletter is emailed directly to members and is also posted to the website. 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 a few days following the beginning of the month.

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 go to their copy of the Members’ Directory.*

~ **Judy Beth Armstrong, Newsletter Coordinator**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES' REPORTS, continued...

PROGRAM

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

Our **December 12th** GM/program/Christmas party at Legacy Ridge was a huge success. About 40 members and friends enjoyed a wonderful luncheon and delightful presentation: *This Old Quilt, songs and stories* with singer/songwriter AnnMarie Rowland. The weather definitely co-operated.



Photos above & below: Cecilie Moses and Linda Crawford hold vintage quilts for our viewing pleasure while AnnMarie Rowland performs songs and stories about quilts.



Unfortunately, our **January 9th** general meeting and program (Anne Dondertman's presentation on her life with rare books) had to be postponed to a future [TBA] date.

The **February 13th, 2PM** program will be a really nice afternoon Tea Party, talk and tour at the Billy Bishop Museum downtown; \$20. payable at the door. Please note that space is limited to 30, so you will need to reserve your spot ASAP:

email Meran by February 6th: meranjoan@gmail.com. You will not want to miss this walk into history, while enjoying delicious goodies and tea (or coffee if you prefer). *See the poster for details.*

March 12th at 10AM will bring us a zoom meeting on "Aging in the Right Place" with Dr. Patricia Spindel and organized by our Advocacy Committee. Details regarding the Zoom link will be sent out to you. If you have any concerns about utilizing Zoom, please contact us and we'll make sure that it all goes smoothly for you. *See the poster for details.*

Mark **April 9th, 2PM** on your calendar for a "A Brief Pictorial History of Owen Sound and Area" at the Grey Roots Museum with Dr. Steve Briggs, local historian.

The Program Committee has already started to have discussions on next year's Program. If you have any suggestions that you think might be of interest to us all, please contact one of us. We'd love to hear your ideas!

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



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GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM

Valentines Tea & Tour

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

2:00 PM AT BILLY BISHOP MUSEUM

948 3RD AVE WEST, OWEN SOUND

PLEASE JOIN US

- Spaces are limited to 30 [Members Only], please reserve your "tea" by February 6 [email: Meran Farmer at meranjoan@gmail.com]
- Parking is limited, so car-pooling is advised
- Arrive by 2:00 PM
- Tea & Tour: \$20. Please pay at the door
- Enjoy a special "tea time" in this lovely heritage home
- Take the tour of exhibits and learn more about our home town hero
- Shop in the Gift Shop
- Mix and mingle with friends old and new



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GENERAL MEETING & PROGRAM AGEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

10:00 AM VIA ZOOM *The link will be provided on Sunday, March 10, 2024.*
THIS ADVOCACY COMMITTEE EVENT WILL BE RECORDED.

Please join us as Dr. Patricia Spindel, an active advocate for seniors and their rights, tackles the challenging topic of Ageing in Place.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Patricia, or "Trish", is the chair of *Seniors for Social Action Ontario*. She was a co-founder of the *Advocacy Centre for the Elderly*, and is a former president of *Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities*. She was a full-time professor at the University of Guelph-Humber and Humber College where she was also a former Associate Dean of Health Sciences.



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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



On **Friday December 8th** a number of Art Explorers visited the *Joanna Aplin Fine Arts Studio & Gallery* at Heritage Mall and were impressed by the space and Joanna's passionate talk about her figurative paintings, inspiration and composition.



Art Explorers listen to Joanna Aplin at her gallery, December 8/23.

Our first Art Explorers event in 2024 was a zoom lecture, **Tuesday January 16**, on the subject of new and contemporary Indigenous artists by Sarah Milroy, Chief Curator of the McMichael Art Collection.

For the month of February, Art Explorers has two events (zoom and in-person) back-to-back. On **Friday February 9th @ 11:00** we'll discuss the topic "Black Women Artists" and we'll focus on three contemporary artists. I will send the videos ahead to watch (if you're not a regular AE member, just ask me for the links); then we'll have an informal discussion on zoom. On **Saturday February 10th @ 11:00** we'll meet at the TOM to hear artist Susan Dobson from Guelph talk about her innovative approach to photography and her exhibition *Parallex*. After the talk we'll go to Grey Gallery to see the Chinese Lunar New Year Exhibition for the Year of the Dragon, followed by lunch at Channing Chinese Restaurant. *Please let me know if you are coming for lunch.*

~ Cynthia Porter, Art Explorers Coordinator

BOOK CLUB: Groups 1 & 2

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 Book Club groups

~ Meran Farmer and Cynthia Lemon, Book Club Coordinators

Group # 1

Our festive December book club was hosted by Janet Barker. Ever the gracious host, Janet's home was beautifully decorated for the season. She had even built a Christmas tree made from layers of books! Judy Keeling led us in our discussion and choral reading of *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Dylan Thomas. This was followed by lovely snacks and beverages, and a competitive memory game. It was a lovely way to lead into the Christmas season.

Our January session provided us with an opportunity to try something new. We read a graphic novel, *Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands* by Kate Beaton. This book won the Canada Reads prize in 2023. Our event was hosted by Marianne Ford in the party room of the "Pink Palace." Jane Hendrie led our discussion about the book and some difficult themes contained within the novel. If you have never read a graphic novel before, this may be one you might want to consider. It is available through the public library if you are interested.

As always, thanks to our hosts and discussion leaders for sharing their homes and their time in preparing for our meetings!

~ Cynthia Lemon

INTEREST GROUPS, continued ...

BOOK CLUB, continued...



Group # 2: At our November meeting, we discussed *Homecoming* by Kate Morton, a very long but nevertheless, intriguing mystery. In December, unfortunately we had to cancel our Christmas event.

In January we met at Seasons Retirement Home thanks to our host Eleanor Huff. A small but enthusiastic group discussed *Still Life* by Sarah Winman, another long but interesting read.

~ Meran Farmer

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 in person, twice 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

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, Women Who Wonder Coordinator

INTEREST GROUPS, continued ...

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES – Wednesdays @ 10:30 AM

Our walkers/hikers have enjoyed walking in our long-awaited snow since we started up again after the holidays. We always welcome new walkers.

As Cynthia Lemon mentioned in the President's remarks, the Healthy Lifestyles group has decided to participate for a second year, and enter a team in CNOY, the fundraising event hosted by Safe 'N Sound Residence. Safe 'N Sound is now open 24 hours a day to ensure that people have somewhere to go during the cold weather and serves as a "quiet, warm resting place." *The Coldest Night of the Year* (CNOY) is described as a winter family-friendly walk to raise money for local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness... because it's cold out there. The Owen Sound walk takes place Saturday February 24. However, you do not have to walk on the evening of the 24th (but if you do, the info is on the website: www.cnoy.org).

Members of our CFUW club/team can walk where and when we wish (e.g., on a normal Wed. walk). You also do not have to walk at all. The idea is that we raise a little money for a good cause. If you or a 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 the captains' names and amounts raised to that particular date.

To register as a walker [Keep in mind you do not have to walk]

It's not difficult to do, (says someone who still finds copy and paste a challenge) and if you have questions, you can give me a call at 519 371 6790.

Here are the step-by-step directions:

- First go to the website: www.cnoy.org
- 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 Owen Sound**, Captain: Rosemary McCann
- Proceed next to Contact information
- If you choose to make a donation and are using, e.g., a Visa card a 4.25% of your donation will be added to your card for processing. Unchecking the check mark in the box will remove the charge if you so wish
- Receipts are issued electronically and come in the name of *Blue Sea Philanthropy*. Mine came within 5 min. of making my donation.

To make a donation

- Go to www.cnoy.org
- Go to Donate and put in/scroll for our team's name
- Donate to a team as opposed to a walker
- Choose: CFUW Healthy Lifestyles Owen Sound; another page comes up.
- Choose Team, not Rosemary

It's easy from here.

Thanks for your support to a good cause.

If you want to walk with our HL group, we will walk our "CNOY walk" on Wednesday February 21st, at 10:30 AM at Harrison Park (west parking lot). Please let us know if you are coming. (No hurry) We'd like to have you and your friends join us. We can have a hot drink in the Inn after the walk for those who are interested.

Rosemary and Janet [email: rosemaryemccann@gmail.com]

~ Rosemary McCann and Janet Barker, Healthy Lifestyles Coordinator

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, Tuesday Online Social Co-Coordinator

MEMBERS' NEWS & MUSINGS ...

Congratulations to **Linda Crawford** on the December, 2023 birth of her second grandchild, Nieve Madeleine Crawford Perry to her daughter Jackie Crawford and partner Alex Perry. Warmly welcomed by big sister Amelia. *~ Judy Beth Armstrong*

A Dedicated Volunteer: **Anne Rogers** was recently recognized for her fifty years of volunteer service at the former Grey Bruce Regional Health Services. On January 16th, 2024 a luncheon was held in her honour at the Inn on the Bay. (*Anne explained: "I reached my 50 years in 2020" but because of COVID the luncheon celebration was delayed until this January.*) In attendance were Maureen Solecki, Past President of GBHS, Kim McFaul, Director of Volunteers at Brightshores, Anne's son Scott, and several friends.

Kim spoke of Anne's contribution and service to the hospital, which included fundraising activities (raising over \$1 Million!) for the Hospital which opened in 1986. Anne spent a great deal of time working in and promoting the Gift Shop as a member of the Hospital Auxiliary. In later years, she volunteered in the Breast Screening Department.

At the luncheon, Anne was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers as a tribute to her many years of service and dedication. CFUW Owen Sound is very proud that Anne has been given this important recognition for her 50 years of Volunteer work in our community.

~ Judy Campbell



Anne Rogers with her bouquet - recognizing 50 years of volunteer service to hospital, January 2024

MEMBERS' NEWS & MUSINGS , continued...

Anne Rogers was recently recognized for her fifty years of volunteer service at the former Grey Bruce Regional Health Services. On January 16th, 2024 a luncheon was held in her honour. Left to right in this photo: Kim McFaul, Volunteer Director, Maureen Solecki, former President of hospital, Anne Rogers, Gerry Langlois, Judy Campbell and Debbie Bird.



NeighbourWoods North Community Spirit Award

The CFUW Owen Sound and area club is distinguished by having a very large number of volunteers. Almost every one who can is out there doing something to improve the community. This month we highlight **Sandy Stevenson** who joined CFUW in 2008. Sandy is a retired high school principal who volunteers with many groups, including the Georgian Bay Symphony Orchestra. Recently, Sandy was singled out by the NeighbourWoods North* group for a Community Spirit award. She brings a quietly efficient, steadfast and hard-working commitment to everything she does. Isn't it wonderful to have women like Sandy in our midst to inspire us! **[NeighbourWoods North](#) is a part of the Owen Sound Field Naturalists. NWN works at 'Restoring Nature Through Urban Forestry'. It relies on volunteers, collaboration with like-minded groups, donors and those who contribute 'in kind' to make a tangible difference to areas of publicly owned land that need natural restoration for a healthier community.*

~ Shawna Macivor



Gord Edwards and Lloyd Lewis present Sandy Stevenson with NeighbourWoods North Community Spirit Award, January 19, 2024.

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

Here are a few suggestions ...

There is a **series of lecture-concerts by Dr. Kati Gleiser** (piano) at Saint George's Anglican Church, [1049 4th Ave E Owen Sound](#) on the first Sunday of each month at 2:30 PM: **Feb 4, 2024** is Schumann, **Mar 3** is Chopin and **May 5** is Russia + Ukraine featuring Ukrainian folk singer Elena Kavalova. Admission: students under 18 free, \$20 to \$40 as you are able. Tickets at St. George's 519-376-4287.

~ Patricia Hiemstra, Ruth Henderson, Anne Seymour and Maureen Sutherland

It's time to register for the next **BALL [Bluewater Association for Lifelong Learning]** lecture series 4, [Ethnomusicology: Music Traditions from Around the World](#), February 22 to March 28, 2024. At the Bayshore Community Centre, Owen Sound. *~ Vivian McCaffrey*

The Year of the Dragon at Grey Gallery [www.greygallery.ca]

[Raquell Yang](#) is curating the exhibition which begins February 7. Work will be on display at [Grey Gallery](#), and in the windows at [Georgian Bay Centre for the Arts](#), the [Artists' Co-op](#), and [Upwards Art Studio](#). *~ Anne Dondertman*

Black History Month: In honour of Black History Month, [Grey Roots](#) invites you to explore Canadian Black history and anti-racism resources on our website and in person at Grey Roots.

[Efforts to save Owen Sound BME Church building have begun ...](#) Read the linked article and consider making a donation to the **BME Church Building** [134-year-old BME Church building at 245 11th St. W.] Repair Fund online through the [GoFundMe campaign](#) or at First Baptist Church of Owen Sound, at 990 4th Ave. E.

Owen Sound Little Theatre presents [The Ladies Foursome](#), February 8-10 and 14-17, 2024, at 7:30pm; February 11 at 2pm. This heartwarming, comical play by Canadian playwright Norm Foster is directed by Bill Murphy and features four well-known OSLT actors. Tickets are available now at [The Roxy Theatre](#), in person or online. There is always something fabulously entertaining at The Roxy! *~ Judy Beth Armstrong*