

**President - Ann Magner**  
**Vice-President - Patricia Hendrie**  
**Secretary - Vivian McCaffrey**  
**Treasurer - Styn Furness**  
**Past President - Janet Glasspool**

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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.

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Note: It is the policy of CFUW Owen Sound that member's personal information will not appear in the newsletter. For this information members should go to the hard copy of the Members' List. Website info ([www.cfuwowensound.com](http://www.cfuwowensound.com))

### **Introducing Our New President...**

I am honoured to introduce Ann Magner, our president for the 2020-21 CFUW year. Ann joined our club in 2018, and I hope that all our members get to know this delightful woman.

As a newly-wed, Ann travelled from Toronto to a First Nations Cree community on a small island in the James Bay lowlands. She learned to be self-sufficient in a place reachable only by train, boat, or plane. For 18 years, and with two children, Ann lived and taught at the local school within this culture that is rich in storytelling, humour, and a profound connection to the land. She also discovered the difficult challenges this community and many like it face.

Ann's career has included a principalship, a consultant's job crisscrossing much of Ontario supporting students with learning disabilities, life at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, and time in Prince Edward County. More recently, Ann taught on the shores of the Mediterranean in Spain. What a variety of interesting life experiences she brings to our group!

Ann always speaks of being very fortunate to call Owen Sound home. She and her golden retriever welcome new friendships. Immediately after arrival in Owen Sound, Ann started making important contributions to the life of this community. Ann has served as secretary for the Council on Aging Grey Bruce, Chair of Promotions for the Bluewater Association for Lifelong Learning (BALL), and as a member of the executive of the CFUW Owen Sound and Area club.

I know Ann to be a talented speaker and facilitator who likes to create settings for others to be successful, and then to step into the background to ensure that they shine. She is the life of any gathering, with her facility in making warm connections with people, her storytelling ability, and her engaging laugh. We are privileged to have this vibrant woman as our president.

~ Janet Glasspool, Past President

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

“Collaboration, Connection, and Kindness”

The three words collaboration, connection, and kindness beautifully reflect the tone of our August and upcoming September activities. Our Program Co-Chairs, Brenda and Meran, and our treasurer Styn organized our first general meeting. On a sunny day in August, eighteen of us met at Styn's lovely vast expanse of tree-lined yard. We savoured scrumptious treats, sipped tea and coffee or a cold drink, all prepared by Brenda, Meran, and Styn, and, with all safety precautions in place, we enjoyed each other's good company. Janet was honoured and thanked as last year's president, and new members were introduced to the group.

As well, in August the social media committee launched a Zoom online social hour on any and every Tuesday. This dynamic group want to ensure all present members, and past members who may be debating about renewing their membership because they cannot attend events in person, have the opportunity to comfortably participate in our exciting activities that we are offering online through Zoom during this year. In addition, the spark of a new idea is in the works in the form of a new online lifelong learning interest group, where members could enjoy webinars together, and then meet online to discuss. Stay tuned!

Our Executive team held its monthly online Zoom meeting and is busy collaborating to keep our Club active and programs moving forward during these changed times. Members vital to that team, and noted in the interest groups in my previous president's message, but not also mentioned as important members of our executive team include Kerina Elliott, Brenda Bergen, Meran Farmer, and Judy Beth Armstrong. Kerina, in addition to being a member of the social media committee, sits on our executive team as Chair for the Scientists in School program, a program that has been waiting in the wings for months to be implemented, and now will at long last arrive at a local school in the fall, when students and their teachers will have the opportunity to eagerly embrace this exciting and timely online learning. Brenda and Meran are our Program Co-Chairs on our executive team. They have had to revise a year's worth of excellent planned events by their committee, and adapt them to these COVID-19 times, something they have done so well for all of us. And finally, Judy Beth, who is a member of our program committee, is also our executive's Newsletter Coordinator, and she does a marvelous job bringing together a large team to keep us all informed and connected through monthly newsletters, at a time when communication is more important than ever!

At our general meeting, Meran stated quite rightly that it is our interest groups that drive our Club, because it is the interest groups that attract members to participate in regular, engaging, and social ways. Read on to find out how these groups and their coordinators have adapted to the times and organized wonderful activities in August or for September, either online or socially distanced in person.

In conclusion, throughout this month I have often been moved by the many acts of kindness demonstrated by our members, and the countless efforts made to ensure all in our Club stay safe, well, and connected. “Kindness eases change,” said the late African American author Octavia Butler. Kindness permeates all of the above. We eagerly hope all past members will rejoin us in this celebratory 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and graciously thank those who have renewed their memberships, as well as warmly welcome new members to our CFUW Owen Sound and Area club. Enjoy the read!

~ **Ann Magner, President**

## **EXECUTIVE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Members of our CFUW Executive meet monthly, as per the following schedule: Sep 1, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1 and Jan 5, 2021. If you wish to make a presentation to the Executive, please contact President Ann Magner.

### **Highlights of the September Executive Meeting**

Executive members met through Zoom and phone on September 1. The Treasurer's report included information on the recent donations to the Club to support its scholarship program and the donations in memory of the recently deceased member Jean Milburn.

Past President Janet Glasspool provided highlights (report follows) from the CFUW national organization's annual general meeting held virtually on July 19, 20 and August 8, including the narrow defeat of a motion to move to a one club-one vote voting process. The most controversial motion at the June meeting, involving long debate for and against, was about deleting the phrase, "shall be a member of GWI (Graduate Women International)" from the CFUW National constitution, and adding instead, "CFUW supports international advocacy for the education and welfare of women and girls". The motion was asking for compliance with the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, which states that an organization should not have a constitutional requirement linking it to an organization that is beyond its own scope of influence. CFUW National has no management control over GWI.

The Social Media Committee reported on its information sessions to support members interested in engaging through the Zoom platform and Facebook. The Executive continued its discussion on how to reach out and support members during the pandemic. The Club will shortly launch its own public Facebook page to promote the work of the organization.

The Club continues to support the Scientists in School initiative and is waiting to hear from the area school boards how the program will be delivered this year.

~ Vivian McCaffrey, Secretary

## **REPORT ON CFUW NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 19, JUNE 20, AUGUST 8 2020**

The CFUW National AGM meeting was conducted on a Chorus Call meeting webcast, with voting on the DOTS platform. The AGM was conducted on three dates in June and August.

- A motion was unanimously **approved** to delete the wording that "club members are predominantly women graduates" from CFUW National policy. This removes the focus on members being university graduates. Clubs have been free to make their own decisions, and our club has already approved the following Policy Manual statement:

"Owen Sound and Area CFUW membership is open to women in the community who aspire to the goals of the Club and who support the objectives and purpose of the National CFUW organization."

- The most controversial motion at the June meeting, involving long debate for and against, was about deleting the phrase, "**shall be a member of GWI** (Graduate Women International)" from the CFUW National constitution, and adding instead, "CFUW supports international advocacy for the education and welfare of women and girls".
- Key arguments in favour included the following:
  - ✓ The *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* states that an organization should not have a constitutional requirement linking it to an organization that is beyond its own scope of influence. CFUW National has no management control over GWI.

- ✓ A number of clubs, including our Owen Sound and Area club, have concerns about financial mismanagement by GWI.
  - ✓ Deleting the phrase about mandatory membership in GWI would not mean that support for GWI is ended. It supports calls for change.
  - ✓ CFUW is already a member of the United Nations. This, or some other international involvement, could be more productive than continuing with GWI.
- Key arguments against included these points:
    - ✓ It is too soon to make this change in the CFUW constitution. The Memorandum of Agreement with GWI has resulted in some savings for CFUW (with in-kind services from CFUW staff: working on advocacy issues, developing policy statements, etc.). We need another one or two years to see if the Mediation Committee can find a way to work together in harmony with GWI.
    - ✓ If we lose the connection with GWI, we lose important advocacy for women and girls at the international level.
  - **The motion was LOST.** The vote was the largest yet in favour of distancing from GWI at an AGM. 64.1% voted in favour of deleting the reference to GWI, and 35.8% opposed. A 2/3 vote is required to change the constitution.
    - The August AGM meeting began with a motion to increase the per capita dues for all CFUW members by \$5.00. The increase was “to cover all of the expenses of CFUW National, including the Graduate Women International (GWI) expenses”.

The vote was lost. We continue to owe \$76. per member to CFUW National, not \$81., which would have been the case had the motion been adopted. The vote received 50.2% in favour, and 49.8 % opposed. As the vote required a 2/3 majority to be adopted, the **vote to increase fees was lost.**

The August AGM was largely devoted to the approval of a number of important advocacy resolutions: promoting public, rather than private long-term care; reducing interest on payday loans; supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action; advocating for the climate emergency; and protecting children from exposure to pornography.

    - The AGM ended with reviews of the exciting 100-year anniversary celebrations and the types of communications—such as zoom meetings and video presentations—offered to support clubs during the pandemic.
  - Note: I will be sending a more detailed report to all members. Please send any questions or feedback to me, or if you have comments, I would like to hear from you by September 13, before our next general meeting on September 15.

~ Janet Glasspool, Past President

## **MEMBERSHIP**

To date we have 35 returning members registered and 1 new member, Micheline Howitt, who was a member in the past and decided to rejoin us.

Just a reminder that in order to have your name appear in the membership directory, which will be available the first week in November, I'll need registration forms submitted by October 15, 2020. We had initially sent out the membership forms back in late June as a pdf file but thought we'd re-send them in pdf and Word (attached to this email) for those who are planning on joining us for the coming year. Please complete the membership form, and send it, along with your cheque, to our Treasurer, Styn. Please contact me if you need a hard copy mailed to you.

This year is going to be different than in the past and we are working hard to deliver a number of options to keep members engaged and still feeling connected. Take care.

~ **Roberta Cuthbertson, Membership Chair**

## **PROGRAM**

Many thanks to Styn Furness for hosting our August CFUW meeting outdoors in her beautiful farm setting. We had about twenty members who came and enjoyed the sunshine, socialising and food. And it was perfect... to finish with our business meeting sitting in a large circle under a lovely old tree. What a great way to start our 2020/21 year!

Now we turn our attention to our September meeting:

**LUNCH AT LEGACY.... Tuesday, September 15th at 11:30 ...** at the Legacy Ridge Golf Course.

This lunch meeting will be in celebration of our thirtieth year of membership in CFUW.

We have invited Sandra Thompson, our Ontario President (and former Regional Director for this area) to come and speak to us. It will be really interesting to hear the latest from Provincial and National.

Lunch will be a set menu and the cost is \$20.00.

A separate email will follow in a few days with information about the lunch menu and how to confirm your attendance.

We hope everyone will be part of this important CFUW milestone.

See you there...

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

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Our committee was formed back in June to offer alternative ways of engaging and communicating within our membership. COVID 19 has presented challenges to everyone and our club has been looking at how to move forward in these difficult times. While we are hopeful that in person meetings will be safe and continue through the winter, we recognize that this is not suitable for all of our members and could change rapidly, as it did this past March.

We have established some initiatives already and there are more to come. At present, we have started a coffee hour (or some call it Happy Hour) on zoom that will run from **4 - 5 pm every Tuesday**. Each week, reminder invitations will go out the night before. This is a time for socializing as well for those to learn more about Zoom and some of our upcoming plans. If you need any help with setting up Zoom, please contact me and I'll set up some help to get you started.

The next initiative is the launch of a Facebook page with the plan to set up a private Facebook group where only our members can safely and privately share pictures, comments, posts, etc. There will be an announcement later this month when the Facebook page is going to be launched. Discussions around it can happen during the weekly coffee hour. We have some members who are very knowledgeable with Facebook and will be happy to help or answer any of your concerns.

Another initiative will be the formation of a new interest group dedicated to continued learning that we are going to call "Women Who Wonder". At this point the group would meet online through Zoom and it would take the form of watching Ted Talks, podcasts, self-help, etc., with a focus on a group discussion

afterwards. We will be emailing our members later next week when we have more details and will be setting up our first meeting this month. Everyone is most welcome.

~ **Roberta Cuthbertson, Chair**

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

Nothing new to report at this time. Please refer to the August newsletter for Scholarship details.

~ **Donna Elliott, Scholarship Coordinator**

## **WEBSITE**

Nothing new to report at this time. Please refer to the August newsletter for Website details.

~ **Lynda Chiotti, Website Coordinator**

## **SCIENTIST IN THE SCHOOL**

It has been a very challenging time for the operations of our CFUW club over the last several months as we manage our ways handling Executive business, our Program Events, our Social interactions differently. Indeed, this has also been the case for the implementation of our Scientist in School Project. We have experienced the joys of moving this project forward and also the frustration due to the inability to do so. Let me take a moment to remind you and to further advise you of our progress to date as well as our expectations for the near future.

As of the early part of this year, the Executive supported (with a \$1,000 contribution ) the Scientist in School (SinS) organization to conduct four workshops at Alexandra Community School in Owen Sound. Talks were underway with the school, the Board of Education, the SinS and ourselves. Discussions were focused on what grades were to be selected and which particular science workshop was to be provided. Unfortunately, during these final discussions and just prior to dates being selected, teachers' labour issues commenced and resulted in a Teachers' strike. The program discussions came to a grinding halt. Shortly thereafter, the COVID issues arose, closing schools temporarily and then in full. The program was not able to move forward at all for the remainder of the school year.

Just prior to the end of the CFUW fiscal year, the Executive unanimously endorsed this project and approved the deferral of funding for another full year. This was granted based on the anticipation that this year we would be able to meet our promise.

Like many other companies, the SinS organization has been required to redevelop/recreate its programs and practices to make implementation at the school level possible as well as relevant. Their work has been diligent and focused. They have redesigned the process by which they hold their in-class workshops and further they have created several workshops that will be provided virtually. We are excited to learn of this flexibility in programming, keeping the safety needs of the school and students in mind.

As it exists now, our discussions have been revisited and we are waiting for the local School Board to finalize its in school systems and practices. We can well appreciate and anticipate that this will take some further time. We will wait patiently for a month or so to ensure that schools have their "systems and approaches" under control and work out any bugs that may result from these new practices. Alexandra

School will then advise our Club of the timing for the workshops, etc. and the method for implementation. I am expecting that for ease, efficiency and effectiveness, let alone, school safety, that they will choose the virtual workshop method. The parties - Principle, Teachers the SinS organization - are committed to us and extraordinarily appreciative of our wishes, our patience, etc.

As the Project leader for this Program, I too am committed to ensuring its successful implementation. I am very hopeful that the workshops will be given soon. It was our anticipation to review the "success" of these workshops prior to committing further support or funding. I provided an outline project plan to you as part of the yearly AGM package. Although, the timing for achievement of each of these actions is definitely incorrect, the plan remains intact with no further adjustments.

I thank the Executive and our Club membership for their willingness and patience to continue with this worthy cause and hope that the success of the workshops held at Alexandra School will provide "food for thought" for on-going support for this initiative in the future.

I will report of our progress, our success and other details as they arise.

~ Kerina Elliott

## **ARCHIVES**

We regret to report that Lois Renner will be moving away and has resigned from her role as Archivist. We sincerely thank Lois for her many years of service as Archivist for our Club. We ask one of our members to consider taking on the role of Archivist. Please contact President Ann Magnier if you require more information about this position, and to offer your services. Here are the duties, as outlined in our CFUW Policy Manual:

- Screen CFUW documents to determine which ones are appropriate for the archives
- Ensure that all committees and all members of the Executive are aware that a copy of relevant materials must be forwarded to the archivist for storage
- Ensure that all materials are labeled and dated accurately
- Ensure that copies of the membership list, the program, all minutes, newsletters, the Outreach materials and the annual reports are among the materials that are archived
- Include clippings of newspaper articles about the club activities as well as club photos
- Submit materials, which will no longer be needed for current information purposes, to the Grey Roots archives
- Attend Executive meetings as deemed required by the President
- Prepare and submit an annual report

## **NEWSLETTER**

The Newsletter is posted on the website: [www.cfuwomensound.com](http://www.cfuwomensound.com) and emailed direct to members. Please send submissions for the Newsletter to the coordinator: **Judy Beth Armstrong**, before the end of each month, for distribution to members within 2-3 days following an Executive Meeting.

*Please note that it is CFUW 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.*

## INTEREST GROUPS

### ART EXPLORERS GROUP

Everyone is welcome. On **Wednesday, September 23** we will meet at Queen's Park band-shelter around 1:00 p.m. Bring your own picnic lunch, if you wish, or pick up a coffee or your favourite tea from one of the many downtown cafes to relax by the Sydenham River and enjoy a chat in the park first. We will go in "groups of seven" to the Tom Thomson Art Gallery to see the three exhibitions showing: "Group of Seven: The View from Here"; Emily Kewageshig "Mooshknemgog Bmaadziwin/Full Circle;" and Steve Driscoll "I closed my eyes, but the light was still there." Admission is free but a donation in the box would be appreciated. Masks required. Contact Cynthia if you plan to attend.

~ **Cynthia Porter, Coordinator**

### BOOK CLUB - 4th Monday of the Month

*Please know that all CFUW members are most welcome to attend.*

Book Club met online Monday August 24th to compare notes on summer reading. We really miss the face-to-face meetings. Next meeting takes place September 28th at 1:30 p.m. online. The book under discussion will be *Acadian Driftwood* by Tyler LeBlanc. The discussion will be led by Judy Campbell. Tricia Hendrie will issue the invitations on Zoom. If you would like to join our book group, please contact Tricia or Lynne.

~ **Lynne Cox, Coordinator**

### GAMES GROUP - 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month

There will be a meeting of the Games group in my backyard on Friday Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:30 pm, for anyone that can make it. Please let me know if you will attend! We will probably just have coffee and chat about the future of the Group. I will need someone to come forward to organize the group in the future as we have sold our house and will be moving away from Owen Sound by Oct.1/20  
I will miss you all! We have been contemplating selling the house for some time and once we started the ball rolling it only took 3 days! Hope to see you Friday.

~ **Lois Renner, Coordinator**

### GARDENERS' GROUP

There is no upcoming activity planned as a Gardeners' group, but any and all CFUW members may be interested to know that the Inglis Falls Arboretum Nursery (237897 Inglis Falls Road; access from 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE since Inglis Falls Road is closed to through-traffic) is open again, Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon, up until October 3, where native trees and shrubs are available, by donation!

~ **Judy Beth Armstrong, Coordinator**

### HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Our last Healthy Lifestyles walk, August 26<sup>th</sup>, was coordinated by Shannon. We had a lovely morning, strolling the gardens at the Bayshore Community Centre, and then walking along the Tom Thomson trail. Upon return, we had refreshments at the Best Western patio. It was a great time, a good turnout and a lovely opportunity to reconnect after such a long spring. Thank you, Shannon.

***All members are invited to participate in these Healthy Lifestyles activities. Be sure to indicate your interest to the coordinator at least a couple of days prior to the event.***

Our next outing is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** at 10 AM. This will be co-ordinated by Roberta who suggested that we hike on the Bruce Trail at Dodd's Hill near Kemble. Roberta will be sending out directions to those who indicate that they plan to attend. For those who wish to carpool (with max 3 including driver), please meet at Kelso Beach Parking lot at 9:30 AM. Bring a thermos and wear a mask, appropriate footwear and clothing for this event. Please contact Meran if you are interested in attending.

The second outing planned for September will be **Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 AM**. Meet at the home of Judy Beth Armstrong for coffee, muffins and an outdoor social time; then Judy will lead a hike at Inglis Falls Conservation Area. Please wear a mask, appropriate footwear and clothing for this event. Please contact Judy if you are interested in attending. Also, note that this activity is weather-dependent, so be sure to check your email before leaving home in case of cancellation.

**~ Meran Farmer, Coordinator**

### **ISSUES GROUP - 4th Thursday Afternoons**

**Issues** attendees enjoy the debate and repartee that are sparked by the topics of our meetings. For this reason, our gatherings are postponed until we can meet in an environment conducive to such discussions. Your input is always welcome. Contact Ruth H. or Donna P.

**~ Ruth Henderson & Donna Phillips, Coordinators**

### **YARN CLUB (Knitwits) 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.**

Hello to all CFUW members who knit (or crochet or needlepoint, etc.) Any CFUW member is welcome to join our group - whether novice or experienced in this type of crafting. Women doing handwork while chatting together is as old as the hills. Maybe because these informal gatherings are so enjoyable, and comforting to do - especially in uncertain times.

The group's 'giving-back' project for 2019-2020 was a Lap Blanket made from knitted squares contributed by members and crocheted together. The Lap Blanket was donated to the Women's Centre in Owen Sound.

Our September gathering will be at Trish Searle's place - outside on the front deck on **Wednesday, September 9** at 1:30-ish. If you are planning to attend, please let Shawna know a few days ahead and to get directions.

**~ Shawna Macivor, Coordinator**