



## Dates & Data

### ONTARIO COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

1585 Yonge Street, at Heath St.

Some parking on North side of the church or Public Parking at Heath/Delisle lot  
or

Take St. Clair car to Yonge St. or the Yonge subway to St. Clair Stop  
and walk 2 blocks north on Yonge

Registration 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

**Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. SHARP!**

Registration Form Enclosed

### MORNING PROGRAMME

**Theme: Poverty Reduction in Ontario: What is being proposed and What is the Government Doing to Address this Serious Problem?**

**Speaker: Jacquie Maund**

Jacquie Maund is the Coordinator of Ontario Campaign 2000. A national non-partisan coalition of over 120 partners, Campaign 2000 works to end child and family poverty in Canada.

Ms. Maund has a MA from the University of British Columbia and has held a range of research and management positions in the Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia governments where she worked on economic and environmental policy issues.

Ms. Maund is the co-author of numerous Campaign 2000 reports including the recently released Report Card on Child and Family Poverty called *Family Security in Insecure Times: The Case for a Poverty Reduction Strategy for Canada*. The report can be accessed at [www.campaign2000.ca](http://www.campaign2000.ca). As a public advocate on anti poverty issues, Jacquie Maund meets with politicians from all parties and is a media spokesperson for Campaign 2000. (See page 7 for Teri Shaw's report latest developments)

**Note:** We have invited Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services and head of the government's anti-poverty cabinet committee, to speak but to date she has not confirmed. We are expecting an announcement from the Premier's office in December on poverty so still hope to hear that she will join us.

## **EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **Afternoon Session**

It is time for all of us to come together and discuss what our Clubs are interested in concerning education. Please bring your issues to the meeting and we will have a discussion about what is important to our Clubs concerning all aspects that relate to the education of our children.

Wendy Taylor, Committee Chair

## **LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **Afternoon Session**

Continuing the theme for the day of studying poverty issues, members are asked to report on any Club projects, letters, etc that they have been working on. If you could forward these to me prior to the January meeting we could have a list available which will help to inspire all of us and also have a record of what CFUW, Ontario Council members are engaged in.

Beverley Boudreau, CFUW St.Catharines, will speak about the first of five standards addressing Ontarians with disabilities to be introduced in February, 2009.

Myrtle Greve, Committee Chair

## **STATUS OF WOMEN STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **Afternoon Session**

To all the members of the Committee and their families: peaceful happy holidays and a healthy prosperous New Year.

The morning session with a speaker from Campaign 2000 will provide ample food for thought and discussion as will the release of the Ontario Government's Anti- Poverty Strategy and various other studies and reports from frontline organizations on violence against women and poverty. With regard to social justice solutions for women and their families, our discussions will give some thought to the "charity approach" vs. systemic economic improvements for women such as pay equity, pensions. We look forward to an up-date on the Ontario Bill 29 on harassment and violence in the workplace.

Edeltraud Neal, Committee Chair

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## **ONTARIO REGIONAL FALL GATHERINGS**

### **ONTARIO SOUTH**

CFUW Georgetown hosted the Ontario South Fall Gathering on October 25th at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club. The theme was *How Green is my Club?* Many thanks to President Gail Rutherford, to the LAC Co-chairs Lizette Logan and Frances Walker and their volunteers for putting on a wonderful program. In addition, we would like to congratulate CFUW Brantford on winning the *Special Project Award* at the AGM in Montreal. The award was given for their work in raising money to educate girls in Afghanistan.

Arlene Midriak - Regional Director

### **ONTARIO EAST**

Ontario East's Fall Gathering was hosted by CFUW Nepean on October 25, 2008. Thirty-seven members from five Clubs in Eastern Ontario were in attendance on this cool, rainy day at Bell's Corners United Church.

Those present assembled in the nave of the church where we were greeted by Nepean President, Delores Dufresne, Regional Director, Elizabeth Pulker and Executive Director and Nepean member, Susan Russell and where we listened to the Club reports.

Workshops topics were Club Climate and Membership, Getting Your Message Out, Targeting Toxins, The Rewards and Challenges of Leadership, Archiving Your Club's Records and Advocating in Today's World.

After a delicious lunch we listened to Joanne Poirier who is on the Board of the Champlain LHIN. Her talk was interesting and very informative. Many questions and comments followed before we broke up to go to our afternoon workshops.

It was a lovely venue and a great opportunity to talk and learn along with other CFUW friends.

Elizabeth Pulker - Regional Director

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### ONTARIO CENTRAL

The Central Region's Fall Gathering was hosted by CFUW Etobicoke on Saturday October 18, 2008 at Humber College North Campus. In attendance were 45 registrants from 9 different Clubs. At the state of the art facility, the Guelph-Humber Building, members could choose to attend workshops on leadership, advocacy, newsletters or IFUW / CFUW / OC. All four workshops focused on the theme of *Shaping our Future*. We learned how to mentor Club members into leadership roles, how to develop resolutions to shape our future advocacy efforts, how to keep our members connected through our Club newsletters and finally how we as Clubs fit into the bigger picture of OC, CFUW and IFUW.

Members were treated to a delicious buffet lunch where they had the opportunity to experience the fellowship of other Central Ontario members, share ideas, connect and learn from one another.

In the afternoon session members heard Kay Blair, the Executive Director of *Microskills*, explain how important it was to have women in positions of power if we were to ensure that women's issues be part of the public policy agenda. Our second afternoon speaker John Davies, President of Humber College, focused on the changing face of community colleges and highlighted how they are successful in meeting Canada's training needs.

Many thanks to the CFUW Etobicoke LAC for hosting this well co-ordinated, enjoyable, successful event !

Joanne Jamieson - Regional Director

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### ONTARIO WEST

On a beautiful, mild autumn morning - October 3<sup>rd</sup> - CFUW Owen Sound and District hosted a thoughtful, thought-provoking Fall Gathering. The organizing committee centred its theme on *Creating Change: Women, the Community, and CFUW*. A lively, invigorating day followed.

It was my first-ever Fall Gathering and I was so impressed with the fruitful discussions. Daryl Wood kicked off the morning with a facilitated look at change. She is a motivational speaker – and everyone became involved.

Following our examination of change, three workshops ensued – the Care of Membership, led by the Orangeville Club; Community Outreach and Fund Raising, led by Owen Sound members; and New Executives – What we Need to Know (which I was unable to attend). I now understand the reputations of the Orangeville and Owen Sound Clubs. They are dynamic and impressive.

After a terrific lunch, we heard Bonita Johnson de Matteis, a local artist and writer, who talked about her heritage as a descendant of persons rescued by the Owen Sound part of the underground railroad.

I am very grateful to have had an exceptional experience and thank Owen Sound and District for their efforts.

Lynne Woolstencroft - Regional Director

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### NEWS FROM ONTARIO NORTH

What a pleasure to visit and meet with the CFUW Clubs in the North. CFUW Sudbury is celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a special anniversary dinner on December 8 to recognize Past Presidents and long time members. Linda Souter, past IFUW President, CFUW National President and Ontario

Council President will be a guest speaker at her home Club. A slide show of news items and photos will bring back memories of the history of CFUW Sudbury. Congratulations and Best Wishes to CFUW Sudbury in all your endeavors in the coming years.

Co-Presidents Lindy Smith and Sybil Roodenburg, are keenly leading CFUW Haliburton into their fifth year. Cheryl Gregg and her creative local arrangement committee are preparing for the hosting of the Ontario North Fall Gathering 2009. This will be a first for CFUW Haliburton. Current goals are to determine recipients for fundraising and establishing an Issues/Advocacy Committee. Thank you to Lindy and Gerry Hoagaboam for their leadership in promoting action on issues of concern. CFUW Haliburton is community minded and joins in partnership with the Local Food Bank Executive for a Toy Drive at Christmas. To add some more fun, the CFUW members donate a toy that resembles the CFUW member whose name they draw.

Like most communities, Muskoka is full of organizations striving to make a difference. Whenever CFUW Muskoka finds a group whose aims and activities coincide with theirs, they join forces. Some of their undertakings include laying a wreath on Remembrance Day, supporting the YWCA's Women of Distinction Awards, and helping the local Food Bank and Women's shelter. CFUW Muskoka wholeheartedly supports a unique event - *OPENING DOORS* which was conceived in 2000 by a group of local women and whose purpose is to encourage girls in Muskoka to keep their education options open when they make course choices for high school. This annual one-day event for young women in Muskoka showcases careers in math, science and technology. Over the past six years, 750 girls from grades 7 and 8 have been introduced to dynamic local women with

interesting career stories and exposed to an environment that builds their self-confidence.

Partnering with Nipissing University always enlightens and strengthens CFUW North Bay. Two young women students have spoken to the Club on Youth and Politics prior to the fall election, and on Violence Against Women at their Annual Charitable Trust Dinner for Ecole Polytechnique Montreal. Their issues and advocacy committee has addressed numerous issues from Child Care and clawback of post-secondary student earnings to violence against women and human trafficking. One of their main fundraisers, a Silent/Live Auction generates donations for the Scholarship Fund and brings members together for a delightful social evening. Donations at Christmas are given to the North Bay Transition House, and to support schools in the central region of Tanzania. On May 2, 2009, they will be hosting the Toronto Male Voice Welsh Choir.

CFUW Thunder Bay's goal this year is to go beyond the ten interest groups and extend their energies in Advocacy by establishing their first Issues/Advocacy committee. CFUW Thunder Bay believes strongly in the CFUW mandate to promote education, improvement of the status of women and human rights and active participation in public affairs. This year Vice-President, Elizabeth Poulin has volunteered to be on the National Legislative Committee led by National Chair Muriel Smith. Their successful welcoming dinner in October introduced their new members to the varied components of the Canadian Federation of University Women. Sincere thank you to President Jean Lister for her long time commitment, and her encouragement and mentoring among the CFUW Thunder Bay Club members.

Brenda Robertson - Regional Director

#### **DID YOU KNOW ?**

In the seven years (2000 - 2006) a total of 167 Canadian soldier, police officers and firefighters died. In the same period more the 500 women were killed in so called "domestics"

*The War on Women, Brian Valleé (2007)*

## A BIG NIGHT FOR OUR NEWEST ONTARIO CLUB !



It was a snowy drive up and home but there was a warm welcome for me, Linda MacGregor, Sabina Auberger and Lynne Woolstencroft at the presentation of the Charter

for our newest Club, CFUW Georgian Triangle.

Linda MacGregor did the honours and also gave an overview of CFUW. It was so exciting to meet members and guests.

Georgian Triangle President, Debbe Rogers, filled me in on Club events. They scored a major advertising coup when the local radio station interviewed them on the new Club.

At their first meeting, they had the part owner of Blue Mountain speak, no doubt of big interest to the residents of Collingwood and area. They haven't just

been planning their programme but also outreach. Their first collaborative effort was for The Children's Gourmet Club, which is a not for profit company promoting healthy lifestyles for children by offering families a well-balanced meal for their child while attending school. Six schools are currently served and their goal is to offer this service to as many children as they can. CFUW Georgian Triangle raised approximately \$1,400 to feed children in the Collingwood and Nattawa area.

The Club is looking forward to growing, starting a scholarship fund and becoming even more of an active part of the community. Members who have cottages in the area are looking forward to becoming dual members. I know you all join Ontario Council and me in wishing Georgian Triangle a wonderful future!

Myra Willis  
President, Ontario Council

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## IN CELEBRATION OF MARILYN I. WALKER'S GENEROSITY

Renowned fibre artist and St. Catharines member Marilyn I. Walker has donated fifteen million dollars to Brock University's School of Fine and Performing Arts. Marilyn Walker has been an active member of CFUW St. Catharines since 1958. She received an Honourary Doctorate from Brock at the Fall Convocation.

Rosemary Hale, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and also a member of CFUW St. Catharines, explained the impact that this endowment will make in the Brock University Media Release, "With this transformational donation, Brock will strengthen its commitment to artistic education and research and engage the community at large by transforming its

School of Fine and Performing Arts into a world-class arts centre." (It will) "create positive economic impact for St. Catharines and Niagara and serve as a tribute to a great Canadian artist and arts advocate. We are deeply appreciative of her support and thoughtful consideration."

The school will be renamed *The Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts*, a fine tribute to a member who has had a life-long commitment to art, education and community.

Beverley Boudreau, President  
CFUW St. Catharines

## STRUT YOUR STUFF - PROGRAMME IDEA

CFUW Hamilton had a successful Member Showcase Event last January. Eight women did strut their stuff. They brought craft or business items and provided information about what they do for work or relaxation. Several have crafty hobbies such as photography, painting, quilting or scrapbooking. One member had a collection of over 150 buttons. Each of the eight "strutters" gave a brief talk and then the assembly circulated around to talk to individuals at their displays.



We found this evening enlightening, entertaining and so much fun that we are doing it again in 2009. On Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> we will have a musical group, a retired family doctor comparing medicine today with her father's experiences in Scotland, a member describing her career in publishing, and a new member recalling a unique piece of her family history. Why not try a Strut Your Stuff meeting with your members?

Marilyn Hill, President, CFUW Hamilton



## COOK- OFFS AND COOKBOOKS AND LUNCHEONS...OH MY!



It's a big year for CFUW Oakville. We are celebrating our **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary**. We kicked off things with a membership and scholarship information booth at the Kerr Street Organic Market on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We also had lots of fun putting on a children's cook off. Getting them started off right!

Continuing in the food vein, we wanted something truly Oakville to raise money for our scholarship fund. Available just in time for holiday and gift giving, our unique cookbook is called (what else?!) *Celebration*. It not only features recipes from our members but also nine outstanding local restaurants. It is illustrated by our own Sybil Rampen, author and respected fibre artist. We're thrilled with the response *Celebration* has had. We launched November 20<sup>th</sup> at Booker's Bookstore and our first job was to order a second printing.

You can order your copies on line on our website. No time to shop or wrap? No problem! We offer wrapping, a gift card and mailing. See our website <http://www.cfuwoakville.ca/60th/cookbookorder.htm> for more details. For your convenience, we take Paypal. .

Our next event is a Card and Games Luncheon on April 8, 2009  
See <http://www.cfuwoakville.ca/60th/bridge.htm>.

Join us for a fun few hours of cards, food, raffles and door prizes with proceeds going to the scholarship fund. Paypal accepted. And then there's our Gala, scheduled for October, 2009... More details to come!

Laura Machan CFUW Oakville

## DECEMBER 6, DOES IT STILL MATTER?\*

*Dec. 6, Does It Still Matter?\** was the topic at the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women Saturday Dec. 6th at the Belleville Public Library in remembrance of the

fourteen women who were killed 19 years ago at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. It is also to bear witness to the women killed this year in Ontario by their male partners.

Guest speaker, feminist lawyer and recipient of the 2006 *YWCA Women of Distinction Award*, Pamela Cross discussed the continuing need for action. Why? Because Dec.6th does still matter and will continue to matter as long as women in Canada experience violence, as long as over 100,000 women and children use battered women's shelters every year in this country and as long as inequality exists. Women's inequality is often rooted in poverty



which makes them more vulnerable to violence – it is harder to leave an abusive partner, it is harder to find safe housing, it is harder to find safe work.

This free event was organized by Three Oaks Foundation, Canadian Federation of University Women, Belleville & District and the Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte & District.

Elizabeth Pulker

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## LATEST NEWS ON ONTARIO'S POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

Dec. 4 – As *Dates & Data* goes to print, Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy is being announced by the Hon. Deb Matthews.( [www.Ontario.ca/breakingthecycle](http://www.Ontario.ca/breakingthecycle) ).

It is a comprehensive report that has garnered support from the 25-in-5 Network .They call it the commitment “the most ambitious and targeted plan in Canada today.” For more information about their comments, see [www.25in5.ca](http://www.25in5.ca), look for the December 4<sup>th</sup> Backgrounder.

The 25- in-5 Network's Founding Declaration has been signed by Ontario Council, the Toronto Caucus and CFUW Hamilton.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy includes much:

- the target of reducing poverty by 25% in 5 years
- the adoption of the Low Income Measure (LIM, 50% of the media income) as a measure of poverty; LIM is the major international standard for poverty measurement
- a review of social assistance with the goal of reducing barriers and increasing opportunity.
- the plan will immediately change social assistance three rules:
  - o fully exempt the earnings of any person on social assistance participating in post-secondary education
  - o extend the upfront child care benefits to allow parents to continue their participation in employment and employment assistance activities
  - o extend the time to request internal reviews of social assistance decisions from ten to thirty days
- a commitment to improve social assistance incomes
  - o One of the major points discussed by Marvyn Novick who wrote the *Blueprint for Poverty Reduction* for 25-in-5 is that low-income people, especially those on social assistance, spend any extra money they receive locally, thereby boosting the local economy; whereas those with upper middle incomes save, buy imported goods or

take off-shore holidays, thereby **not** helping the local economy.

- social housing
  - o will be included in the new infrastructure plan scheduled to be implemented in 2009
  - o new commitment of 5 million dollars annually in the rent bank program.
- labour market
  - o invest \$10 million to hire new employment standards enforcement officers
  - o regulate temporary agencies to make sure that people working are treated fairly
  - o committed to make progress on the minimum wage, which will reach \$10.25 by 2010.
  - o “Good Jobs Strategy”
- early learning and child care
  - o waiting for the report of Charles Pascal on full day kindergarten
  - o this will free up resources to expand quality child care
- community initiatives
  - o a Community Opportunities Fund
  - o creating community hubs around schools
  - o after-school program for children in high needs neighbourhoods
  - o triple the number of parenting and family literacy centres in Ontario
- poverty reduction will be a central feature in the next five provincial budgets
- legislation will follow that will ensure that this commitment cannot be undone.

More information, including the Report, can be found at [www.ontario.ca/breakingthecycle](http://www.ontario.ca/breakingthecycle), with comments found at [www.25in5.ca](http://www.25in5.ca).

Teri Shaw  
Advocacy Coordinator  
CFUW Ontario Council

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Also available on [www.cfuwontouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontouncil.ca)

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