



Dates & Data

ONTARIO COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

Vision, Voice, Action
Human Rights & HIV / AIDS

Hosted by CFUW North Bay

Friday May 9th & Saturday May 10th
Clarion Resort, 201 Pinewood Park Drive, North Bay

For registration and programme details see <http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/agm.html>



YOUR PRESIDENT.....

The biennium is close to ending but during these past two years, so much has been accomplished. What we do in this organization is serious work serious in that many people, particularly low income women and children depend on the success of our advocacy. We have women earning minimum wage. We have an unbelievable lack of affordable housing and child care spaces. Women are violently abused. Children live in poverty. Privatization of many health care services is slowly eroding our publicly funded health system. Ontario continues with educational problems focused on safety issues, funding formula discrepancies between school boards, struggling with the needs of specific groups of students and high post-secondary student debt load. Whatever segment of our population is adversely and unfairly affected by the actions of our government, we are obligated to *make right what is seen to be wrong and unfair*.

A record of what has been done by your Executive will appear in the Biennial Report at the AGM in North Bay but more importantly, a record of what Clubs have been doing this year appears in this edition of our newsletter.

When I read the Regional Roundups, I am always struck by the creative programming and projects organized by Club members. I congratulate you on the excellent work you do in raising the awareness of your concerns within your community, in promoting public education through the scholarships you award to women, and in providing the opportunities for your Club members to learn at your meetings and the special events you take on. I also want to say how much I learn about your Club from the countless letters and newsletters you send me. It was the best way for me to gauge the health of Ontario Clubs..... and take it from me, we are healthy!!

I hope many of you will be able to attend our Annual General Meeting in North Bay on May 9th and 10th. Club Presidents should have received an OC Special Mailing in mid-March containing items that warrant careful study in preparation for voting on each of the following items during the business meeting:

- 2008-2009 proposed Budget for Ontario Council (use in conjunction with the two page *Details*);

- amendments to our governing document, the Ontario Council Constitution & By-Laws. The current constitution can be found on our website at www.cfuwontcouncil.ca;
- Incorporating Ontario Council as one essential way to protect its members; and
- This year's Standing Rules for our Ontario Council's AGM.

Some interesting, yet somewhat disturbing statistics are included in this newsletter - a comparison of the number of full paying CFUW members in 2007 and 2008, with the percentage decrease in all five regional CFUW Councils across Canada, including Ontario Council. A loss in membership translates into a loss of revenue from member dues. There are some hard decisions to make if this trend continues. It would be in the best interests of Clubs if the financial reports and proposed budget of both governing bodies were seriously studied before voting on them. The OC Special Mailing and the March National Mailing should be the starting point for your study. Every dollar of your dues should be used to enable the work of our organization to continue and to help put CFUW *out there* to the public and our elected officials as a well-known, committed and respected women's equality-seeking organization.

A round of applause is in order for the members of the 2006-2008 Ontario Council Executive Committee who have worked tirelessly at *assisting Clubs in doing the work of CFUW*. I have used that expression before; the first time on March 4th, 2006 when I spoke to the Standing Committee members at the UWC Toronto Clubhouse as one of two candidates running for the position I am now preparing to leave. Were we able to do that? Perhaps the question will be better answered after you have had the opportunity to read that Biennial Report I mentioned earlier.

Unfortunately, it is given only to those who register at the AGM and so I suggest that you borrow a copy from your delegate, if you are not able to attend. Look at the amount of work the entire Council Executive has accomplished in the last two years..... then turn to the Regional data charts listing the donations and scholarships awarded by every Club and finally recount the list of activities in this edition's Regional Roundups. The work I wrote about in the opening paragraph is indeed a reality in Ontario Council. I am so pleased with, and proud of the work done by members of the Council Executive - from attending and contributing

to very lengthy meetings on the day before our Standing Committee Meetings, to writing what must have seemed like an endless number of reports. Wendy Frew and I became experts over time at writing, editing and finalizing multiple sets of minutes Ann McElhinney put together eight *Dates and Data*, posted countless items on our website, became knowledgeable on insurance liability, compiled the alcohol survey of our Clubs and advised me on countless items throughout the past two years Lois McFarquhar took excellent care of our accounts and advised the executive on the best way to handle our finances. A healthy surplus will be handed over to our successors the work of the three Standing Committee Chairs, Elaine Harvey, Wendy Taylor, and Judie Arrowood, is outlined in the Biennial Report, but if I were to speak for all those members who attended, there would be nothing but accolades for the issues presented, the speakers chosen and the added opportunities to learn even more in the afternoon sessions the research skills and contributions to the effective advocacy of our Council, including the pre-budget brief to the Government of Ontario, rests in large part to Teri Shaw, the advocacy advisor assisting the President and finally the Regional Directors, Joanne Jamieson, Myra Willis, Petra Friedrichson, and Andrea Levan, who helped with the organization of their region's Fall Gathering, wrote reports for Executive meetings & *Dates and Data* and kept the Clubs going with their ideas, advice and personal appearances at Club meetings many kilometres from their home.

There is no set time for advocacy to begin and end. It continues until a solution is found. I do so appreciate the continued commitment of Edeltraud Neal and her work on the *Family Law Education for Women* project and Carolyn Day and her work on the a resource that is not infinite - water.

My best wishes to Myra Willis, incoming OC President and those members who will make up her Executive. They will benefit from the work initiated by the current Executive but by the time they will have finished, important and essential work of their own will have been initiated as well.....and so the cycle goes. This is how our organization grows and how it will continue to grow. This is how we will become that *well-known, committed and respected women's equality-seeking organization*.

Good luck to all of you. Thank you.

Linda



From the Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues, the Honourable Deb Matthews on March 3, 2008:

“I am pleased to announce the establishment of a Domestic Violence Advisory Council. It will advise me on how to improve the existing system of services to women to better meet the diverse needs of abused women and their children. I expect to receive their report by March 2009.

The Council comprises 15 external stakeholders, including the Chair, who bring extensive knowledge and expertise in violence against women services as well as a solid understanding of community-based service delivery across Ontario. The Council Chair, Clare Freeman, is the Executive Director of Interval House of Hamilton..... I am looking forward to working with the council and receiving its advice on how to better support the needs of abused women and their children.”



Dear Ask an RN,
Where do nurses stand on issues such as poverty and homelessness?

Ask an RN responds:

Nurses care deeply about eradicating poverty and homelessness. Unfortunately over the last decade, cuts to social programs like subsidized housing and social assistance rates have pushed hundreds of thousands into poverty and made it harder to climb out. People who live in poverty have higher rates of morbidity, violence, mental illness and even diseases such as tuberculosis. Ending homelessness and poverty for adults goes a long way towards eradicating poverty for children. More than half a million children in Ontario are poor. Poverty leads to a host of health problems including low birth rate, emotional development issues, impaired physical or physiological growth and depression. These problems set children up for a hard life as an adult. They may have difficulty obtaining steady employment needed to climb out of poverty and toward better health, and that increases the risk they will continue the cycle of poverty for their own children. Advocating for the eradication of child poverty is a moral responsibility for all of us.

ABOUT OUR WEBSITE



Members are encouraged to visit the Ontario Council website for upcoming **EVENTS**, items in the **NEWS** section, representation **REPORTS** from conferences attended. Look to the upper right hand corner’s **YELLOW BOX** for items requiring **IMMEDIATE ACTION**.

Visit us at www.cfuwontcouncil.ca

From The Intelligencer, January 21, 2008

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) - Belleville and District Establishes Endowment Fund to Support Loyalist College Students



The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) - Belleville and District has established a major endowment fund at Loyalist College, with a donation of \$30,000.

This is the largest one-time donation to the College endowment fund by a community organization, and will be matched by the provincial government through the

Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) program. The resulting endowment of \$60,000 will provide financial assistance on an annual basis to Loyalist students from the Quinte region. The endowment fund is administered by The Loyalist College Foundation.

The announcement was made at the organization’s monthly meeting on January 17. At the meeting, the Club presented two

awards to Loyalist College students LeeAnna Villeneuve, and Cynthia Wannamaker. LeeAnna was presented with the CFUW-Belleville & District Scholarship in memory of CFUW past member Margaret Hoddinott, and Cynthia was presented with the CFUW-Belleville & District Mature Student Award. The awards were made available to mature female students who have returned to post-secondary studies after an absence from school. Seven other CFUW awards have been presented to Loyalist students since 2003.

CFUW President Margaret Briscoe congratulated the recipients. “We are very pleased to present these awards today to recipients who have decided to return to post-secondary studies, and we are delighted to provide this support for their

efforts,” she said. “CFUW-Belleville and District is also pleased to establish an endowment fund with The Loyalist College Foundation, to provide ongoing support for students throughout the future.”

Loyalist President Maureen Piercy and College Foundation Chair June Surgey thanked the organization for its generosity. “This support is greatly appreciated,” said President Piercy. “Providing support to students is a gift that continues with those recipients through their education, and it is very powerful.”

“On behalf of The Loyalist College Foundation and our students, thank you for this wonderful donation,” added Chair Surgey. “It will truly make a difference to countless individuals throughout the years to come.”

A PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

A Provincial Conference: Communities Working Together to End Violence Against Women.



Visit www.cfuwontcouncil.ca and read the reports of Judie Arrowood (Leaside-East York) and Arleen Midriak (Burlington) who represented Ontario Council at this conference in February



Every day is a fight for life
4,000 new people join that fight each year
Cutting funding = cutting lives

info@increaseaidsfunding.ca

- In Canada, over 62,000 Canadians have HIV/AIDS.
- More than 4,000 Canadians will become newly infected this year.
- 27.7% of new infections in 2006 were women.
- Young women between the ages of 15 and 19 represented 63.8% of all new infections among Canadian youth this age.
- Aboriginals in Canada have an overall infection rate nearly 3 times higher than non-Aboriginals.

In Ontario, \$1 million dollars in promised Federal AIDS funding was cut in 2007-08.

A further \$1 million of previously announced funding will be cut in 2008-09.

This represents a 50% reduction in previously promised funding

**LOOK IN YOUR AGM REGISTRATION FOLDER IN NORTH BAY
FOR ONE SIMPLE ACTION YOU CAN TAKE !!**

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE?

Andrew Nikiforuk

From the November 5, 2007 issue of *Canadian Business* magazine



Bad business ideas, like zombies, rarely die. But tired schemes to export Canadian water could sure use a bullet to the head — or, at least, a proper burial. The latest batch of water export schemes (and they've been around for 50 years) hail from all parts of the country. Some Manitobans think they can get rich piping water to thirsty Texas. Nova Scotians have calculated the cost of floating bags of water to the Lone Star State, too. And supporters of the Security and Prosperity Partnership, such as economist Wendy Dobson, have quietly advocated that it's about time to put a price on water and open the taps for U.S. markets, including the bone-dry south.

But the big idea that Canada can sell water like oil is based on several remarkable myths: that we have lots of water to spare; that we manage it wisely; that we maintain excellent water data; and that, yes, Canada will get filthy rich selling H₂O. Wrong on all counts.

Canada has no surplus water and never will. Given that the country has but 7% of the world's land mass, we only have a fair share of its renewable water: 7%. No more, no less. Both Russia and Brazil have more. In addition, most of our water flows north into dry, inaccessible Arctic deserts, while the remainder, just 2.6% of the world's renewable supply, runs along our southern border, where most Canadians live. Many of these lakes and rivers have been grossly polluted. So there's nothing to spare.

Canada has also managed its water capital as poorly as an Enron accountant. Lake Winnipeg, the world's 10th largest freshwater lake, remains on a death watch thanks to hog waste and climate change. The mighty St. Lawrence River is in big trouble, too. Drought, population growth and receding glaciers have reduced summer flows in most western rivers by between 40% and 70%. An exhaustive 2006 investigation by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America (an offspring of NAFTA, no less) found that Ottawa consistently failed to enforce the Fisheries Act when dealing with 10 different pulp-and-paper mills in Eastern Canada.

The whole idea of exporting water assumes that Canada knows how much water it really has. We don't. Incredibly, the

country hasn't had a credible water policy or comprehensive plan for protecting watersheds since 1987. Nearly a third of the population (10 million citizens) depends on groundwater, yet the government knows next to boo about this resource. To date, only three of eight key regional aquifers have been mapped. As one 2006 government memo concluded, "The current state of the knowledge of the resource is inversely proportional to its importance."

Such data poverty raises a basic question: How could any sane Canadian ever contemplate sharing water resources with the U.S. when the feds don't even know what's in the national water bank?

Canada will never get rich selling water for one powerful reason. We can't export it without subtracting from the existing economy or important ecosystems sustaining that economy. Canada's trade sector deeply depends on the quality and quantity of water available. Almost every Canadian product sold abroad (cattle, grain, hogs, cars, aluminum, wood or oil) all contain enormous volumes of embedded water, or what economists call "virtual water". In fact, Canada now exports more virtual water than either India or China. Exporting real water would divert it from existing businesses and ecosystems.

The government needs to make a clear declaration that our water will never be for sale. Then it needs to manage our water resources in order to protect existing businesses and the inconvenient threats posed by climate change.

Such action would bury water-export zombies once and for all and send a truly conservative message to our esteemed trade partners in the U.S. Good friends bring discipline to their households, not by draining the neighbours' pool but by living within their means.

Andrew Nikiforuk is a Calgary journalist and author of the report *On The Table: Water, Energy and North American Integration*, published by the Munk Centre's Program on Water Issues. *This article is published with the permission of the author and the Canadian Business magazine.*



The **Women's Future Fund (WWF)** is winding down operations. The WWF is a coalition of national charitable equality-seeking organizations tackling systemic barriers to women's advancement.

For almost 10 years, the WWF aimed to expand Canadians' support for women's equality, raising money primarily through a unique workplace-giving mechanism and disbursing it to a diverse range of national women's organizations. It grew from 3 participating workplaces in 2000 to over 30 by 2006. Until 2006, they were able to give out 100% of funds raised to our members for a total of \$200,000 and significantly raise awareness of the issue of gender equality.

In the fall of 2006, the Women's Future Fund, along with many of our member groups and other Canadian women's organizations, lost their funding and became ineligible for further support from Status of Women Canada. Since that time, WWF has significantly scaled back operations while continuing to raise funds for its members. Their search for sustainable funding has been unsuccessful and they are at the point of having to wind down.



From Sheila Thompson, CFUW Director of Status of Women and Human Rights: "...this is a great synopsis of the current status of women and well worth reading and circulating"

PAR-L (Policy, Action, Research List) is a bilingual, electronic network of individuals and organizations interested in women-centred policy issues in Canada. It is a support for the community of feminist researchers and activists and is entering its 14th year of operation. What follows is a small portion of their analysis of the 2007 year.

Dear Parleuses,

Sometimes it feels as if saying "Happy International Women's Day" is more a wish for such a day to come than a celebration of where women are at, nationally and internationally.

Each year on this day we, as moderators, reflect on the twelve months that have passed and the topics we have discussed and debated on PAR-L. Founded on 8 March 1995, PAR-L is now entering its 14th year of continuous operation. We have 1,596 subscribers, slightly up again for the 14th year in a row, with e-mail addresses registered from thirteen countries, mostly from Canada and the United States.

We have exchanged more than two thousand messages on a wide range of topics since last IWD from Aboriginal matrimonial property legislation, breast cancer, childcare, child custody, child slaves, cruelty to animals and its connection to family violence and many more.

The year included highs and lows. The past twelve months have seen the deaths of several prominent women including the first woman judge on the Supreme Court of Canada, Berthe Wilson, and long-time editor of *Chatelaine* and one-time head of both the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women and of our National Action Committee on the Status of Women, Doris Anderson. Internationally, the year witnessed the cold-blooded assassination of Benazir Bhutto in her bid to return to power in Pakistan. We also noted the

expulsion of feminist Malalai Joya from the Afghan parliament, the shooting death of Zakia Zaki, and outspoken and prominent female Afghan journalist and the murder of Sanga Amach, a 22 year old news presenter with a private television station there, all challenging claims of women's advancement under occupation.

On the positive side, in spring (April 2007), Quebec's Premier Jean Charest made history with his 18 person Cabinet comprising equal numbers of male and female Cabinet members, including the province's first black female MNA, Yolande James, 29.

In May 2007, we marked the centenary of the birth of Rachel Carson, the American marine biologist and author of the landmark book "Silent Spring" that sparked the modern environmental movement and eventually led to a ban on the pesticide DDT because of its link to cancer.

By Sept. 2007, our ongoing discussion of polygamy took a new turn when it was reported that Warren Jettes, the leader of a polygamous Mormon splinter group in the US with a following in British Columbia, was convicted of being an accomplice to rape for forcing a 14 year-old girl to marry her 19 year-old cousin.

By winter, in an excerpt from Al Jazeera Net, we had some other significant news reported: "Saudi King 'pardons' rape victim" was the headline. The story began: "A teenage gang-

rape victim in Saudi Arabia, sentenced to 200 lashes and a jail term for being alone with a man unrelated to her, has reportedly been pardoned by King Abdullah."

Each year Canada honours a handful of women who are helping to make our country more equitable and this year PAR-L shared in the honour when one of its co-founders received a Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Person's Case. While on this list we recognize that women

are not yet treated as fully equal persons and that **progress has been made much more difficult with the disqualification of advocacy groups through Status of Women Canada, still we are here for one another.**

Wendy Robbins & Michele Ollivier,
co-moderators of PAR-L.

For the full article, contact Linda MacGregor at
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ONTARIO SOUTH HAPPENINGS

I'm going to start off with a section on **Burlington** because this is a special year for them. The Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary and the members have been very, very busy. The many volunteers developed a logo specifically for the anniversary year, created a new Club banner, wrote an anniversary book, hosted a fundraising bridge and card party, offered a special scholarship for the arts, and organized a classical concert to showcase outstanding female musicians. The year will end with a gala banquet to which all past presidents and charter members will be invited. Of special note is one charter member, Doreen Gentleman, who has been a member of the Club for all 50 years. She joined as a young mum and is still very active in the Club. In addition to Burlington's community involvement, this year has seen a resolution put forth on student debt, and another resolution on aboriginal issues authored by one of the Club members, Marianne Singh Waraich, National Director of Education.

Living green was embraced by **Brantford** where an interest group has been started with emphasis on eating locally. **Norfolk** explored organic foods. Norfolk also investigated alternative sources of power and learned of the growing wind turbine numbers and the frustration of getting on grid, plans to convert tobacco fields to turbine fields and the development of safe nuclear energy with speaker Frank Nightingale.

Clubs are reaching out. **St. Catharines** had the only all woman team entered at the Service Club Bonspiel on February 2nd. **Georgetown** continued its longtime interest in preserving the historical site of the Dominion Seed Company. Members of Old Seed House interest group donate one morning a month to light gardening to help maintain the

beautiful garden. **Niagara Falls** welcomed St. Catharines to a talk by Chief of Police Wendy Southall, Niagara Regional Police Service. **Oakville** co hosted a meeting with the Canadian Club of Halton/Peel. The speaker was Ken Ogilvie from Pollution Probe. "Breaking Bread for Afghanistan" and the resulting funding of two teachers was the outgrowth of having Sally Armstrong speak in Brantford.

Brantford also held a Trivia night and raised \$1400 for their scholarship fund. Over the past 45+ years, **Brampton** has donated over \$70,000 to deserving students financed by its sold out every year fashion show. **Milton** (for 35+ years!), **Grimsby**, and **Georgetown** hold very successful book sales.

Melanie Evans from the **Mississauga** Club bought an idea back from National's Vancouver AGM which she heard from Becky Haggith, president of CFUW Aurora/Newmarket and began a "Bring and Buy" book sale. Members bring recent books and magazines which are stored in a couple of wheeled suitcases for easy transport. They are sold at each meeting, self serve with a cash box, for a dollar or two a book, .50 a magazine. This easy fundraiser has raised over \$260.00 for Mississauga's scholarship fund. Using the proceeds of 37th Annual Book Sale, Welland awarded \$5000 for eight High School Scholarships and donated to four local community organizations

The House Tour in **St. Catharines** will once again allow *The Gift of Reading* and the Club's other important endeavours to continue. Hamilton held its most successful author's night to date (see article and pic). From the proceeds of 37th Annual Book Sale, **Welland** awarded \$5000 for eight High School Scholarships and donated to four local community

organizations. A new Scholarship for a Mature Woman will be offered this year. Welland also welcomed seven into its new, more spacious meeting room at the Plymouth Cordage Retirement Home. (It is a beautiful meeting space) Grimsby has a September art tour event and dessert meeting. **Oakville** offers a “November Nip” for its new members.

I would like to thank Hamilton once again for the terrific Fall Gathering and thank **Georgetown** for hosting the next one. I’m looking forward to enjoying the hospitality of Georgetown and

Arleen Midriak, Burlington, the new RD for Ontario South.

This is my last year as RD and I’m going to miss it even though I am looking forward to my new challenges. It was the best position I have ever held and that is because of you, my Clubs and the women who make them so very special. Thank you for the warm welcome you always gave me and the support I always felt. And this is where I get all teary and choked up so I’ll sign off now.

Myra Willis
RD Ontario South

CFUW HAMILTON’S MOST SUCCESSFUL AUTHOR’S NIGHT YET!



Brian Prince, Marilyn Hill (Pres.), Joanne Curtis, Elizabeth Hay

Hamilton’s treasurer, Joanne Curtis along with Brian Prince organized the January 29th event featuring Elizabeth Hay, winner of the 2007 Giller Prize for Fiction. Ms. Hay read and spoke about her book *Late Nights on Air*. After a question period and book signing, she was presented with a hand-quilted wall hanging made by Maureen Czerneda

There were 247 in attendance and \$2100 was raised for scholarships for McMaster University and Mohawk College

ONTARIO WEST REGIONAL ROUNDUP

To Influence and to bring about change. This is what we do so well in our federation as evidenced by the activities of our Ontario West Clubs and those from our other four regions.

You may recall in February the Afghan student who was sentenced to death for blasphemy; a charge he faced when he downloaded materials from the internet that questioned women’s role in Islam. This issue was not on the public’s radar screen until **CFUW Windsor** brought it to the attention of our Executive Director, Susan Russell. A quick call was made to the NDP Foreign Affairs Critic, Paul Dewar late on a

Friday afternoon expressing great concern over the penalty this young man was facing for simply exercising his **right to free speech**. The following Monday, a motion to exert influence over the Afghan government on the student’s behalf was introduced in Parliament and unanimously passed. The inquest into the death of Lori Dupont, a nurse at the Hotel Dieu hospital brought about the formation of the *Inquest Action Group*, a coalition, including the Windsor Club, advocating for the implementation of the jury’s recommendations to bring about much needed change to protect **women from violence** in the workplace.

By now, **CFUW London** will have launched its creative story writing contest so aptly named, *Write On!* Working alongside the *London Free Press*, they anticipate receiving around 1,000 entries with almost all Club members participating and creating a superb awareness of CFUW in southwest Ontario It seems that members of this Club are looking into managing their risk by investigating the cost of **Directors and Officers and member liability insurance** as a mandatory survival step for future club growth. The Club efforts are running parallel with those of the Executive of Ontario Council who in a very meticulous manner are collecting information from all Clubs on their exposure to liquor liability. Once compiled, it will form the basis for securing the best protection for all OC members at an affordable rate for everyone and yes, we are looking at D & O insurance for all Club Executives. The Council hopes to find this additional protection affordable for all Club Executives and hopes that our investigation and report will be given to Clubs at the May 10th Annual General Meeting in North Bay.

An exceptional Christmas Gathering for the women of CFUW **Chatham-Kent**. They organized a tour of the Ursuline Sister's new Motherhouse in Chatham. Its environmental design earned it the **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design** (LEED) certification. These included credits for a sustainable site, water efficiency, indoor environmental quality and an underground-sourced heating and cooling system. Its chapel, called the *Kiva*, with design features related to Peru, was the site for the December 6th vigil for the 14 victims of the Montreal Massacre to which all members were invited. The tour ended with the history of the Order dating from 1860 and of their work in the slums of Peru. A healthy donation was given by this Club to support the Order's work.

Tucked away just south of London is the home of members of CFUW **St. Thomas** who focused this year on **scholarships** and preparing to support an event that was brought to your attention in the February *Dates and Data* called **EARTH HOUR**. This hour is a period from 8 to 9 p.m. on March 29th when everyone in many towns and cities around the world will turn off their lights. It is an opportunity for everyone, wherever they may be, to collectively act **to decrease the emission of gases responsible for global warming** and send a strong message to our elected officials that they are failing in reducing the rate at which our world is warming In addition, the Club, through their dessert bridge and euchre fundraiser, raised enough money to award six scholarships this

year to a female student going to university, one for each of the six high schools in their city and surrounding area.

CFUW **Stratford** took on 2 special projects this year. Working in partnership with the Rotary Club of Stratford and the Stratford Public Library, a Saturday afternoon reading program was established. Twelve volunteers will read to a group of young children who come from a local housing development and may not normally participate in public library services. CFUW **Stratford** will also pay for a shelf of books!! What a wonderful way to influence these youngsters and bring about a change in their lives It is so good to read of yet another **Breaking Bread for Women in Afghanistan** potluck dinner. Once again this Club made additional community connections and partnered with their local Zonta, IODE and the women from St. John's United Church to organize this potluck and arranging to have the ever inspiring Sally Armstrong, author, journalist and humanitarian as their guest speaker..

CFUW **Guelph** asked to have their top achievements listed for the current year. Well, here are three! A new scholarship was awarded to a University of Guelph female student in the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, College of Biological Science **Dr. Anne Marie Zadjik**, founder of the Masai Clinic in Guelph and a sister clinic in Lesotho, spoke to Club members on the treatment of HIV/AIDS. Bracelets were sold in aid of her drive to raise \$1 million for this cause. If you would like to have Anne Marie for your programme next year, Google "Zadjik" to read about her Guelph's **Civic Affairs Presence in the Community** held a public meeting before the October 10th provincial election to debate the proposed change to our electoral system. An overflowing audience attended.

The biggest event this year for the **Owen Sound & Area Club** was their Community Outreach Project last September. Guest speaker **Maude Barlow**, national Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, spoke to members of the community on "**Global Warming and the impact on the Great Lakes**". This Club set out on this project with two goals in mind: to educate the public on a critical issue that must be addressed by the governments on both sides of the border and to raise funds for their scholarship capital fund. As Joan Bain, President of CFUW Owen Sound & Area, said, "The young women in this community are the winners, our Club is a winner and the folks in Owen Sound are winners to have hosted such a prestigious and passionate individual as Maude Barlow." Their Issues Interest Group has been sharing ideas for "**Going Green**" with

their membership. Hints on how to become more environmentally friendly will be showcased in their monthly newsletter.

Niigaaanitowaad: Frontrunners - a memory play presented to the community of CFUW **Southport** was based on true stories told to Laura Robinson, a local resident, award winning writer and journalist. The film depicted the segregation of Aboriginal athletes (they were not allowed to finish the torch run into the stadium at the 1967 Pan Am Games) and the despair and abuse suffered by native children in the residential school system Letters were drafted and sent by its members to the Prime Minister and the appropriate ministers on the **Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement** and of equal concern, the **Security and Prosperity Partnership** between the United States and Mexico Three scholarships will be awarded from the fundraising efforts of Club members selling paper sculpture jewelry pins depicting women.

Thirteen Past Presidents graced the 85th birthday celebration of CFUW **Kitchener-Waterloo** last October. CFUW President, Ardith Toogood focused on *the golden thread that has woven*

its way through our storied 85 year history, listing books published by her Club beginning with the two written by their first President, Mabel Dunham followed by those written for their 50th and 60th anniversaries and most recently, ***Proudly She Marched: Training Canada's World War II Women in Waterloo County, Volumes I and II*** The steering committee of *Proudly She Marched* transferred \$22,000 of the net profits from sales of the two volumes to their Charitable Trust. UWC Toronto will be publishing a third volume, the untold story of WWII Air Force women and nurses, to complete this major historical project begun by CFUW K-W and its editor-in-chief, Ruth Russell On December 6th, \$2,500 was donated to the 1989 Ecole Polytechnique Commemorative Award. This annual Memorial Dinner featured Pamela Cross, lawyer and human rights activist.

I want to thank the Clubs who submitted items for me to include in this Roundup. Unfortunately, I did not have the room to include all that was sent to me. Having read the different Regional Roundups, I think you will agree that our Clubs are influential and do bring about change in their communities, in their province and across their country.

Linda MacGregor

ONTARIO CENTRAL REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Clubs in the Central Region have been actively raising funds for scholarships, advocating on issues of importance and enjoying the fellowship of their interest groups.

CFUW **Aurora-Newmarket** has chosen "water" as their advocacy issue this year and held an open meeting in January which featured a guest speaker who explained the condition of the Great Lakes and her dealings with US officials to try to solve the problems of low water levels and loss of wetlands. Their Club's Issues Chair met with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and other members of neighbouring citizens groups and the Club hopes to work closely with the Authority in the future.

CFUW **Aurora-Newmarket** raffled gifts and baskets which were donated by the Club's 35 Interest Groups. Almost \$ 1000 was raised and was donated to a women's shelter and a facility which supports young mothers.

CFUW **Leaside-East York** sponsored two educational presentations on the issue of Electoral Reform, prior to the referendum, which featured Dr. Graham White of the

University of Toronto. Their annual Wassail Party in December raised funds to support their local YWCA Women's Shelter.

CFUW **Markham-Unionville** will be sponsoring their 15th annual *Battle of the Books* in partnership with the Markham Public Library. Twenty local schools will be participating in this event which is designed to focus attention on the importance of reading for young people and to promote recreational reading in a fun atmosphere.

CFUW **Oshawa and District** has been supporting The Refuge, drop-in centre for homeless youth in the Oshawa area for the past two years, by donating knapsacks full of essential items at Christmas. The Club also makes another donation to the centre in May. In September, their guest speaker was the Director of the drop-in centre. The Club also advocated on their behalf to City Council, when The Refuge had to re-locate when their previous site was sold to a developer. A great example of outreach and giving a voice to the vulnerable in our society ! A Sunday Brunch – Theatre fundraiser resulted in \$

2,250 for their scholarship fund to support UOIT and Durham College.

CFUW **Scabourough** and CFUW **Ajax-Pickering** once again hosted a well attended International Women's Day Dinner at the University of Toronto Scarborough College Student Centre, proceeds were to support the CFUW Charitable Trust.

CFUW **Vaughan** held their annual February Dinner at the Kleinburg Golf Club with Katherine Barber, Canada's Word Lady. The menu was unique in that it featured foods originating within 100 miles of Vaughan. The Club will once again team up with **Richmond Hill** to host their annual *Battle of the Books*, which is their main educational project for the year.

The **Toronto Caucus**, representing the seven Clubs in the city of Toronto, chose to focus their advocacy initiatives this year on the poverty issue which exists in Toronto. A recent report of the United Way, Greater Toronto "Losing Ground" highlighted the plight of the "working poor" and families struggling to make ends meet in Toronto. The Toronto Caucus formed an Ad Hoc Committee and met on March 12, 2008 with the author of the United Way report and the Director of Public Policy to discuss ways in which we could advocate on our own on the issue of poverty as well as how we could participate in partnership with the United Way and others on common issues.

Joanne Jamieson
RD Ontario Central

NOTES FROM THE EAST

CFUW Clubs are getting ready for resolutions night and upcoming scholarships. Also preparations for Club AGMs are on the way as Club presidents reflect on their year.

International Women's Day was the highlight in the East with two big events held in Ottawa. One was the sold-out International Women's Day celebration at the National Archives chaired by CFUW **Ottawa's** Vice President, Leila Metcalf, with the help of the Ottawa Council of Women. This event featured

the President-designate of Carleton University, Dr. Roseann Runte.

The other event, *Imagine a World Where Equality Reigns. What Would It Look Like?* was a breakfast hosted by CFUW **Kanata** and *Equal Voice* (www.equalvoice.ca). See the following full report.

Petra Friedrichson
RD ON East

CFUW KANATA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

Imagine a world where equality reigns. What would it look like?

Close to 60 people gathered for the breakfast put on by CFUW Kanata and *Equal Voice* (www.equalvoice.ca) in spite of the worst winter storm to hit Ottawa in decades.

The speaker was Ellen Bravo, author of *Taking on the Big Boys or Why Feminism is Good for Families, Business and the Nation*. We were very fortunate to have a speaker of such calibre and we are to thank Nancy Peckford, member of *Equal Voice* and also programme director of *FAFIA* (www.fafia-afai.org) for making the arrangements to bring Ms. Bravo in from the States.

In her talk, Ellen Bravo asked us to imagine that a young worker named Anna gets off a train and goes to work but it turns out that 25 years have suddenly elapsed since that last time she was there. There is now equality in every aspect of her workplace. There is a beautiful childcare centre where children are learning music and making art and are so stimulated and happy. There are no sick days – people simply stay home when they need to. There is a healthcare centre right there in the workplace so that you don't need to be gone a long time and most of the healthcare is preventative anyway. Ellen

described every aspect of what would be an ideal workplace which would encourage families to live a balanced, stress-reduced life.

She then challenged us in our groups to think of ways that we could make this possible and asked for sharing. Many women did so eagerly. The interactiveness and contributions of the participants is what made this morning truly special.

Ellen finished her talk by letting us know that we will be up against the "Big Boys" when we go about making these changes. There are people (men and some women) who unfairly have control of the media and companies for whom it is not to their financial gain to have these changes come about. They will

fight us hard but changing society for the betterment of families is worth it. It is also good for the bottom line. Relaxed workers are better workers.

The breakfast was an opportunity for learning and also fun. We had tea cozies made from men's ties, for sale to benefit *WaterCan*. (\$400.00 was raised), hyacinths on the tables for the lucky winners and a number of very popular items as door prizes including a Hillary Clinton Campaign T-shirt.

The mood was excitement, energy and pleasure with most women requesting that we do it again next year!

Elizabeth Pulker, President CFUW Kanata

THANK YOU !!!

We would like to thank everyone for taking the time and trouble to complete the insurance survey. This information will enable us to seek the most effective insurance coverage at the best possible rate.

We will keep you posted on the results of our quest.

A TEST OF YOUR BRAINPOWER

Below are four questions. You have to answer them instantly. You can't take your time.. OK?

Let's find out how clever you are. For the answers go to www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/newsletter.html

1. You are participating in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in?
2. If you overtake the last person, then you are?
3. Very tricky arithmetic! Note: This must be done in your head. Do NOT use paper and pencil or a calculator.
Take 1,000 and add 40 to it. Now add another 1,000. Now add 30. Add another 1,000. Now add 20. Now add another 1,000. Now add 20. What is your total?
4. Mary's father has five daughters: 1. Nana 2. Nene 3. Nini 4. Nono. What is the name of the fifth daughter?

Dates & Data

Also available on www.cfuwontcouncil.ca
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Submissions welcome - Please advise of any changes, additions or deletions to our mailing list