

## ONTARIO COUNCIL

# Dates & Data

Ontario Council Newsletter

January 2004 Issue

### From the CFUW Ontario Council President



Here we are, at the end of another year, looking back at what has been achieved and confidently planning for the future!

It has given me great pleasure and satisfaction to look through the 2002/03 Ontario Council Annual Report and to see that the clubs in all our regions picked up the challenge set out in our CFUW Purpose and Mission. And this Dates and Data issue makes it clear that our Ontario clubs are not resting on their laurels. It is awesome to look at all the new initiatives, public issue oriented events, advocacy and scholarship fund-raisers and the sheer combined force of women power, woman hours, and leadership necessary to make things happen.

On the other hand we have also noted that clubs are sometimes having a hard time to find that women power and leadership to pull off a successful club year without serious burnout of its leaders. Our Ontario Regional Directors have been giving this matter some intense thought and

discussion. With club executive nominations and plans for the next club year just around the corner I can only recommend the checklist for strong and healthy clubs in this newsletter issue compiled for us by Ardith Toogood, RD Ontario West.

Congratulations and thank you to the convenors and volunteers of CFUW/Orleans, CFUW/Kanata, CFUW/ Ottawa and CFUW/Nepean who organized a great AGM. It was good to see our Ontario clubs assembled in our National Capital to meet with the women representing various facets of our federal government involved with “Women and Peacebuilding” (see AGM panel report) In February, in preparation for the UN Commission on Human Rights Conferences which take place every spring in Geneva, the Canadian government will hold its Annual Human Rights Consultations in Ottawa, where it will solicit advice from, listen to and discuss with Canadian NGOs the position it plans to pursue with the UN Commission on Human Rights. All our panelist at the AGM made it clear that Canadian women’s voices need to be heard in a forum such as these consultations.

Our CFUW National Team will represent CFUW in Ottawa but if your club has not sent its letter to your local MP regarding our CFUW resolution “women essential to peace” (UN resolution 1325) now is the time to remind your local federal representative that there are educated Canadian women interested in seeing movement on these issues as well as on the ones on the UN agenda for 2004: economic, social and cultural rights (right to education, housing, right to health etc.) civil and

#### ***What's Inside . . .***

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political rights, freedom of expression and opinion, violence against women, torture, racism, impunity, rights of the child etc. We have a great deal of CFUW and IFUW policy on these issues. (Check the CFUW Policy Book, hard copy or online). As CFUW members we want to make sure that our Canadian government considers the rights and positive potential of women in all its negotiations. Why should we care what happens at the UN Commission on Human Rights? It is important that we pay attention because these international resolutions and agreements not only improve the lives of women abroad but also influence all manner of Canadian federal and provincial legislation for us.

Discussion by your club representatives on Ontario issues to be addressed in 2004 by CFUW Ontario Council resulted in a list not unlike the UN main themes. Public education, public health care, housing, violence against women and child poverty lead our 2004 Ontario concerns. Some of these are big ticket items. Our new provincial government maintains that the cupboard is bare. In this time of fiscal restraint, what policies do we think will be absolutely essential to be implemented right away by the Ontario Government? What may be relegated to the back burner for now?

About changes in governments: Are we content with the number of women elected? Were there enough women selected to the cabinets? You will agree that "women in politics" will have to be on our radar screen for some time to come.

Our AGM did not only put us in contact with official Ottawa, but also with some of our young people. At the Friday night reception, students from Ottawa's Canterbury High School with their Improv performance on "peace" demonstrated that with the foundation of a good education the future will be in the problem solving hands of bright and creative young people. These students who entertained us are receiving the kind of public education that our CFUW Ontario Council

education resolutions have in mind. Unfortunately not all Ontario schools are able to provide the same **well balanced** high quality education. So your club's advocacy efforts are still needed. In addition to the recent National resolution on education, please also use our more broad and more specific Ontario Council education resolutions with your local MPPs and school boards. Beth Haynes, OC Education Chair will be pleased to advise.

As our Ontario clubs voted to put the fiscal year end to March 31, we shall be able to have spring AGMs in future. Plan on attending May 14/15, 2004 at Victoria College at the University of Toronto. The theme is **Changes: Reviewing the past.... Mapping the Future**. I am looking forward to our Council exploring our proud CFUW past a bit more so that we may move into what promises to be an exciting CFUW future. The role of women in universities has been an important policy area for CFUW in the past, come and join us on January 17 at the Toronto Club House and re-connect.

A very happy, healthy and successful new year to all!

Edeltraud Neal

**Dates to Remember - \*New!**

- January 17 Standing Committee Meetings
- February 1 Ontario Council dues to OC treasurer
- \*March 6** Standing Committee Meetings
- \*May 14&15** Ontario Council AGM
- July 15 -18 CFUW AGM - Regina
- Aug 4 -10 IFUW Triennial - Perth

## September Standing Committee Report

The theme of the Ontario Council Standing Committee meeting on Saturday, September 20 was Women Making Change, with focus on women and the electoral process, a timely topic in view of the subsequent elections. For the morning session all three committees were treated to an excellent panel discussion featuring speakers who were knowledgeable, experienced, inspiring and funny: an MP (Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Liberal St. Paul's), a political scientist (Dr. Sylvia Bashevkin, University College), and a campaign manager (Carol Price, working for the Liberals in Halton riding).

Dr. Bashevkin was an enthusiastic cheerleader for having more women in the political arena, both as elected members and behind the scenes. Besides making government representative of all citizens, and the fact that getting involved in the process creates better citizens and is generally good for women, they can improve the political process, making it more collegial and less combative. They are more likely to ensure that attention is paid to issues important to women: child care, domestic abuse, breast cancer research. She favours proportional representation as a means of ensuring greater numbers of women candidates: as an example she cited the Greater London Assembly, which, with proportional representation, contains 44% women, and has dealt with these "women's issues".

### **"Improve the chances of potential women candidates"**

In order to further improve the chances of potential women candidates, she recommends that party rules be changed to ease the nomination process for women, and praised the British Labour Party, whose rules require that some safe seats be allocated to women nominees. She addressed the financial problems faced by women in politics,

pin-pointing the fact that their difficulty is in being nominated: once one is a candidate, party fundraising kicks in, but the nomination process is very difficult for anyone without private funds, as women tend not to have the contacts and networks that men have for fundraising.

Dr. Bennett described her own route to her present position. A general practitioner, she was politicized by the fight to save Women's College Hospital, and recruited by a sitting member whose wife was her patient. (She claims that most women candidates are recruited..) She now chairs the Liberal Women's Caucus, and sees a need to get the proportion of women members up to 30%: it is still lonely being a woman in the locker-room atmosphere of the House of Commons, and greater numbers of women members would make it more welcoming.

### **"the need to change party rules"**

She stresses the need for women to support women, and for women to develop the communications networks that would supply necessary inside information, such as which incumbents are going to step down, and which new ridings are going to be created.. It is important for women to work between elections, and in this respect she praised the CFUW lobbying efforts. She agrees with Dr. Bashevkin as to the need to change party rules (she deplors such practices as the buying of delegates sent to conventions, and raiding cemeteries for delegate names), that the difficulty is in being nominated, not elected, and in being a fan of proportional representation.

Carol Price described the function of campaign manager as being a "den mother to political science grads with all the answers and no life experience" and her role as a combination traffic cop and PR person. The secret of success is to be flexible, diplomatic to volunteers, riding associations, the candidate, press, funding sources and returning officers, and to outwork your

opposition. Of the three speakers, she was the one who stressed the need for the rest of us to give financial, as well as moral, support to women candidates.

“We have to make politics more interesting than protesting and shopping on-line” (Carolyn Bennett): all three speakers are passionately committed to doing just that, and on September 20<sup>th</sup>, at least, they succeeded.

In the afternoon session the group broke into five focus groups to formulate questions to be asked at all-candidates’ meetings in the coming election.

Peggy Pinkerton

## September Speakers’ Update

**Carolyn Bennett** is now Minister of State for Public Health in Paul Martin’s Cabinet.

**Carol Price** is currently setting up and managing the office for Dave Levac, the Chief Government Whip for the Ontario Liberals. While her candidate was not able to overcome the tremendous popularity of the incumbent, she was able to close the gap quite considerably.

**Sylvia Bashevkin** is currently teaching a PhD core course, *Government and Politics of Canada* at the University of Toronto and preparing to take a Connaught Research Fellowship in the Social Sciences in the spring.

## Be Sure to Join Us on January 17<sup>th</sup>!

Standing Committees  
Legislation, Education, Status of Women & Human Rights

### Joint Morning Event Universities Panel Discussion

Issues surrounding universities are important to all three of our CFUW Standing Committees. Equity in access—admissions policy, cost and financial aid—and hiring touch on the most basic goals of our Status of Women and Human rights committee. Legislation governing funding, equity and financial assistance needs to be monitored as closely as legislation governing the environment, gun control etc. And maintaining a quality education system that is accessible to all Canadians is one of the fundamental goals of CFUW.

At our January Standing Committee meeting, the morning session will be devoted to a full group session on Universities. We have coordinated a panel of experts who will discuss these issues in detail.

**Erika Shaker**, from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, will discuss the Missing Pieces Report, the reasons for writing it and the findings presented in it. Missing Pieces provides a comparison of universities, province by province, and evaluates them on accessibility, quality, and equity.

**Sylvia Bashevkin**, Director of Canadian Studies at the University of Toronto, will discuss equity at the faculty level. She is particularly concerned with the under-representation of women as Canada Research Chairs.

**Charles C. Smith**, Equity Advisor for the Canadian Bar Association, will discuss the effects of de-regulation of tuition on equity and accessibility in Law schools.

As graduates we all know the importance of universities in our lives. We must be keenly aware of the prospects if this continues for the next generations.

As usual the day will continue with a light lunch and the individual Standing Committees will meet separately in the afternoon.



## STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE

*Joan Dunn, Chair*



I have invited Becky Fuller and Sabina Auberger from CFUW- Orangeville to talk about their "Just Vote" campaign plan, when we assemble in the afternoon after we have heard the morning panelists at the joint Standing Committee meeting. I also want to talk about how we build "awareness of issues" in our local clubs. Looking forward to a productive discussion,

Joan Dunn



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Elizabeth Haynes, Chair*



Our afternoon session will be a club check-in and a look at the direction education is going now that Dalton McGinty is Premier. We will also look at accounting practices and school fund-raising.

Beth Haynes



## LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

*Teri Shaw, Chair*



In the morning of January 17<sup>th</sup> we will join with the others for another panel discussion, this time involving universities. The speakers will be **Erika Shaker**, from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, **Charles C. Smith**, Equity Advisor for the Canadian Bar Association and **Sylvia Bashevkin**. There is another article elsewhere in *Dates & Data* that explains more.

In the afternoon, the Legislation Standing Committee will meet **Ann Mulvale**, Mayor of Oakville and President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. She will be speaking about the situation for municipalities in 2004, including the downloading of services.

Wishing you all the best for 2004,

Teri Shaw

### Ontario Council Standing Committees

#### NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 2004**

University Women's Club of Toronto  
162 St. George Street, Toronto  
416 979-2000

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

**Registration form is enclosed**

## SARS PUBLIC HEARINGS

On November 18, 2003 Edeltraud Neal (President, Ontario Council), Margaret McGovern (UWCNY and CFUW Status of Women and Human Rights), and Linda MacGregor (Regional Director Ontario Central) presented an oral submission to the SARS Public Inquiry. It was an important moment for CFUW/Ontario Council. We had obtained standing at a public hearing concerning an important issue and we were able to make our views known.

### **“Congratulating heroic efforts”**

Edeltraud began the presentation by congratulating the heroic efforts of health professionals in the face of a health crisis they did not fully understand. Nor did the members of the general public understand it as they were bombarded with conflicting information and advice from the media and from the health professionals at various levels. Therefore, a largely unnecessary state of anxiety prevailed among Ontarians and potential visitors to Toronto and Canada. In view of the fact that the SARS crisis was not as well handled as it could have been, our representatives made six recommendations to the Inquiry.

Recommendation 1: Collaboration Among the Municipal, Provincial, and Federal Levels of Government. It was difficult for Ontarians to understand why the transmission of information from the World Health Organization through to the federal health authorities, then to front-line staff workers in hospitals and municipal health units was so delayed. CFUW/OC recommends that a computer system linking all levels of health institutions and facilities be established, and that a committee with representatives from the three levels of health providers establish protocols for sharing information and devising protective measures.

Recommendation 2: Establishment of a National Disease Control Centre. CFUW/OC believes that the Ontario Government should work with the other provincial/territorial governments and the Government of Canada to establish a national organization similar to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States that would bring together the expertise and skills of our best health professionals from across the country.

Recommendation 3: Strengthening the Role of Public Health. Unfortunately, Public Health Units have suffered a significant decrease in their funding due, in part, to downloading from the provincial to the municipal governments. Their lack of funding impacts unfavourably on establishing needed services such as a computer tracking system for disease control.

### **“Eliminate the risk of part time workers”**

Recommendation 4: Infection Control Education. CFUW/OC recommends that the Ontario Government establish protocols and the funding to train health personnel about infection control in hospitals and fund more full time health care personnel to eliminate the risk of part time workers spreading infection when they are assigned to work in a number of different facilities. In addition, we recommend that the Government reintroduce infectious control specialists in both nursing and medicine into the hospital settings from where they have been removed.

Recommendation 5: Public Education. Public health education is one of the roles of our poorly funded local health units, and a program for all residents of Ontario should be put into effect immediately. Even a simple preventative measure

such as washing one's hands is an important first line of defence in the prevention of the spreading of disease. Public health units can explain and effectively disseminate information about preventive measures to the general public.

Recommendation 6: The Maintenance of Other Services of the Health Care System. A well funded, strong, and effective health care system can address all other emergency and health care needs during an infectious disease crisis. During the recent SARS epidemic, many citizens, for example, new mothers and babies, did not receive the timely support of public health care workers

that they needed and some elderly and critically ill people were not permitted to have visitors. Other sectors of our population have needs as well as those suffering from an epidemic.

Edeltraud, Margaret, and Linda ended their presentation with two questions to the Inquiry: (1) Can we in Ontario learn from the experience in British Columbia? They also received a person ill with SARS, but the disease was contained. How did they do it? (2) Does the political will exist to adequately fund our public health care system across the country so that the next time we have a health crisis similar to SARS, we have a seamless response from all parts of the country?

CFUW/OC presented a powerful submission. Will our governments act upon its recommendations?

Joyce Scane



## REGIONAL ROUNDUPS

### ONTARIO WEST

Ardith Toogood, Regional Director

#### Special Meetings

CFUW **Chatham-Kent** members, having struggled for many years with filling Club leadership positions, found themselves in the situation this year of having no President and no Vice-President. At a special meeting in October they called for a vote on whether to dissolve, or to find a way to continue as a Club. All the Clubs of Ontario West are very happy that they decided to continue, because they are **needed as a voice for women in their region, and they are needed and appreciated as a Club within CFUW**. In order to plan for a healthy future for their Club, members volunteered to work on one of three committees: **Determining a Focus and Purpose for the Club, Strengthening the Interest**

#### Groups and Examining the Leadership Structure.

On December 6 the first **Montreal 14 Memorial Day Luncheon**, organized jointly by three neighbouring Ontario West Clubs - CFUW **Cambridge**, CFUW **Guelph** and CFUW **Kitchener-Waterloo** - was held at Whistle Bear Golf Club in Cambridge. Over \$2300 was raised for the 1989 Polytechnique Commemorative Award. Other Clubs collecting donations for the Award were CFUW **Southport** at their annual public candlelight vigil on December 6 and 7, CFUW **Windsor** and several other Clubs at their Christmas meetings, and CFUW **Orangeville & District** at their Breakfast Club Interest group.

The **Spring Gathering** committee members from CFUW **Southport**, CFUW **Kincardine** and CFUW **Saugeen** have been busy planning for the Ontario West Gathering on **Saturday, April 24, 2004** at the **CAW Centre in Port Elgin**. This will be the last year for a "Spring" Gathering.

### Award Winners

Hearty congratulations to CFUW **London** for receiving an Advocacy Award, to CFUW **Southport** and CFUW **Kitchener-Waterloo** for receiving Advocacy Excellence Awards, and to CFUW **Owen Sound & Area** and CFUW **Guelph** for tying for the top prize - Advocacy Excellence Awards and a free registration each to next year's OC AGM.

### All Fired Up

The CFUW **Orangeville & District** Club has increased its membership to 103 - more than double what it was two years ago. The secrets of this success have been written up in a "**Double Your Membership**" recruitment manual which will be available for purchase in January by CFUW Clubs. The proceeds from the sale of the booklet will be used to send delegates from the Club to the National AGM in Regina.

Concerned with the low numbers of women candidates in the recent elections, CFUW **Orangeville & District** has started a "**Women in Politics**" Breakfast Club - with a **Mission Statement**: "Leadership: Creating a supportive network for encouraging women to become leaders in their communities." They hope to take this idea Canada-wide.

A group of women from CFUW **Kitchener-Waterloo** is writing a **military history book** on the women who were trained for service in WW II at facilities in Kitchener and Galt.

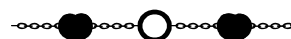
The CFUW **Guelph** Civic Affairs group of seven members held a "Meet the Candidates for Mayor" meeting on Oct. 21, attracting 250 people. They

made the CKCO TV news and also the front page of the *Mercury*.

CFUW **Sarnia** members have voted to change their name to **CFUW Sarnia Lambton** in recognition of their wider membership. They also met the challenge of this Double Cohort year and granted six Olive Logie Awards instead of three to local high school students.

Happy New Year!

Ardith Toogood



## ONTARIO SOUTH

Lynn Franklin, Regional Director

The 13 clubs of Ontario South are busy with interesting projects, meetings and activities. CFUW **Mississauga** enjoyed a laughter-filled evening as Dave Broadfoot spoke; CFUW **Georgetown** was entertained by Dan Needles, winner of 2003 winner of the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humor; CFUW **Oakville** invited Risa Shuman, Senior Producer of TV Ontario's Saturday Night at the Movies; CFUW **Milton** welcomed Barbara Walker, ex-wife of Albert Walker, and author of Dancing Devil as she spoke of writing and publishing books. CFUW **Hamilton** hosted Maureen McTeer at a community presentation. President Myrtle Greve reports, "She was absolutely charming and gave an excellent talk as well as read from her book. It was a good thing to do both for funds and club profile."

Clubs are fundraising to make a difference locally as well as internationally. CFUW **Mississauga** raised over \$2000 for Interm Place, a local women's shelter by holding an auction and collecting personal donations. CFUW **St. Catharines'** annual Gift of Reading project has grown again. Over \$3000 was raised through private and corporate donations to provide a book for every student in 3 schools and 12 community

organizations such as women's shelters, hospitals, and children's agencies. CFUW **St. Catharines** also held a highly successful *Breaking Bread Pot Luck dinner for Women in Afghanistan*. The guest speaker, Sally Armstrong, brought the latest information to those present, in a most inspiring talk. The evening raised over \$7500.

Clubs continue to focus on the theme of advocacy. CFUW **Georgetown** organized successful Provincial and Mayoral all-candidates meetings. CFUW **Burlington** partnered with a local group to hold a Provincial all-candidates forum. CFUW **Brampton** continues to follow the development of the new P3 hospital in their community. This fall, Dora Jeffries founder of the Brampton Health Coalition to protest increased privatization of our health care system and Kathy Pounder, the N.D.P. candidate for Brampton Centre spoke to the club. CFUW **Burlington**, winner of an Ontario Council Advocacy Award in October, has set its sites on

winning top prize this year!

CFUW **Welland & District** members presented two long-standing members, Evelyn Brown, (1943) and Marg Hummell (1951), with Lifetime Memberships. President Maxine Gaylor reports "both women have served as Presidents and on the executive in a variety of offices over the years." CFUW **Norfolk** conferred an Honorary Membership on the Mayor of Norfolk, Rita Kalmbach. Ms. Kalmbach was acknowledged for her significant contribution to the growth and development of the CFUW **Norfolk** Club and her continued commitment to education and public affairs in the local community.

Several clubs report increased membership numbers. CFUW **Mississauga** President, Carol Hare, reports that "club members seem to be realizing that membership is everyone's business not just the membership convenors. The extra help is making a difference." These are *words of wisdom* for 2004. Happy New Year!!

Lynn Franklin



## ONTARIO NORTH

Joan Gentle, Regional Director

The Region of Ontario North has enthusiastically started another year of fulfilling the objectives of CFUW, and sharing fun and fellowship.

Ontario North has increased its numbers to five clubs. We are proud to announce the establishment of CFUW **Haliburton Highlands**, by a group of dynamic women. In addition to forming interest groups of book discussion, art, issues and cuisine, they have drafted the club's constitution. **Haliburton Highlands** will receive its charter at the AGM in Regina this year.

Established in 1933, **Thunder Bay** celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> year. This club now has an Advocacy Group

to address issues of national and local interest. They look forward to a Cross Boarder Meeting with a Minnesota Club in April.

CFUW **Sudbury** started the year with its September Fall Reception at the Governor's Lounge, Laurentian University, followed by a New Member's Reception in November. **Sudbury** supported LEAF's Annual Person's Day Breakfast. Proceeds from the club's collection of grocery tapes were donated to the Cancer Care Centre. Proceeds from the Christmas Dinner & Silent Auction went to the Adopt a Family project and supported four families from Geneva House.

Two club members received awards. Laura Young received a bronze medal in the butterfly stroke at the Ontario Master's Swimming Championships. In addition to receiving the Queen's Jubilee Medal, Jeanne Warick received an award from the Rotary Club of Sudbury for being an Outstanding Individual in the Community. Congratulations!!

CFUW **North Bay** and the North Bay Symphony celebrated the community spirit with a Christmas House Tour with proceeds to the orchestra and the CFUW Scholarship Fund. At the Christmas meeting, boxes of gifts were collected for the women and children at the Transition house. Funds were also given to equip a school in Tanzania, as a result of a summer visit by Brenda Robertson, a CFUW member sponsored by the Retired Teacher's of Ontario. On March 8, 2004, International Women's Day, CFUW **North Bay** will present its 5<sup>th</sup> Gift of Reading to an elementary school - a keeper book to each Senior Kindergarten pupil. North Bay is busy with preparations to proudly host the 2004 Regional Gathering, *Les Campignons - A Gathering of Friends*.

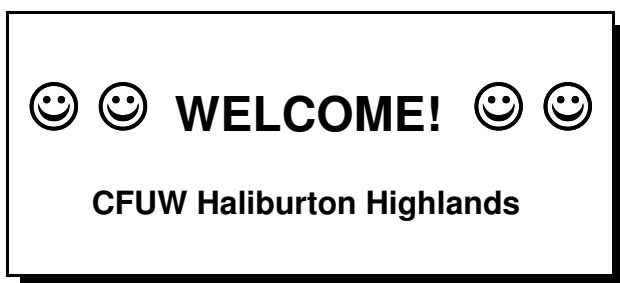
This year's **Muskoka** executive continued the concept of a two-year plan. The goals included building partnerships with other not-for-profit organizations, improving communications and reviewing fundraising.

In addition to raising funds for the club's charitable trust, a good time was had by all at **Muskoka's** first Fall Bridge Social. The trust also received another contribution from the Book & CD Exchange. Left over books and CDs were donated to the Dorset & Huntsville libraries, respectively. The Fall Lecture Series was tremendously successful, and A & P tapes were again collected for contribution to the Scholarship Trust. The club's Co-Presidents represented CFUW **Muskoka** in the Remembrance Day Parade in Bracebridge and placed a wreath at the cenotaph. The club's stretch of Highway 11 received its annual fall clean up from a group of club members, who will embark on this task again in the spring and fall of 2004. Author's Night on May 7 will feature noted author, Charlotte Gray. Before the October meeting about 12 members met to learn about IFUW projects. There is the intention to continue the discussion by meeting before the February, March and April General Meetings to discuss matters of importance to members as women of the world.

At the Ontario Council AGM in Ottawa, CFUW **Muskoka** received a Certificate for its work in Advocacy. Congratulations!!

All good wishes for continued success in 2004!

Joan Gentle



# ONTARIO CENTRAL

Linda MacGregor, Regional Director

Once more, the 16 Central Region clubs are “off and running”! These Clubs have spoken! They have urged our governments to support the Romanow recommendations (more specifically the establishment of a Health Council), and at the provincial level, to assist in the funding of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and stop the bulk removal of water from the Tay River, close to Perth, Ontario. CFUW/OC Central Clubs congratulated our federal MPs on their response to the SARS crisis through the establishment of a National Advisory Committee under the leadership of Dr. David Naylor. With two elections having taken place, many of our members sent letters of congratulation to those MPPs, councillors and trustees recently elected this past October and November.

There have been so many excellent speakers at their General meetings, so much so that they have been encouraged to share with each other the names and contacts of those guests who have delivered a message on issues of concern to all of us in CFUW/OC. I am particularly pleased that Clubs are sending e-mail messages inviting others to hear someone on an issue of particular importance. For example, CFUW **Leaside-East York** invited Clubs to attend their November General meeting on stem cell research, an issue which became CFUW Policy last August. CFUW **Northumberland** opened their October meeting doors to other neighbouring Clubs to learn about investment scams and elder abuse from OPP Staff Sargent, Rob Longstreet. Clubs have been motivated listening to issues addressed at Club meetings: CFUW **Aurora-Newmarket** heard from Gail McVey, Director of Ontario Community Outreach Program for Eating Disorders; CFUW **Etobicoke** listened to Elizabeth Ridgely on issues regarding mothers and daughters, CFUW **North Toronto** invited Dr. Hillary de Veber to speak on pesticides in the

environment, and Judy Kirst, a physiotherapist on osteoporosis in women; David Soknaki on “Changing Municipal Governments”, Linda Sheppard from Fair Vote Canada on electoral reform and two coordinators of the Afghan Women’s Counselling and Integration Community Support Organization enlightened CFUW **Scarborough** members on three very timely issues. To continue with its well-known reputation as a Club which has involved itself in advocacy of many social issues in the past and present, UWC North York has begun yet another advocacy group called “The Women’s Caucus”. What is unusual is that this study group, rather than meeting on a regular basis, will attend events and forums of interest and relevant to CFUW and report back to its members.

Over \$75,000 was fund raised last year by Central clubs. This year promises to see scholarships well funded by activities, such as “The Best of The Canadian Federation of University Women **Ajax-Pickering’s** Gourmet Dinner Menu”; CFUW **Northumberland’s** car boot sale this fall; CFUW **Orillia’s** annual, and very successful Homes Tour; CFUW **Oshawa’s** Christmas Carol presentation and Home Tour; CFUW **Vaughan’s** sale of jams, jellies and other tasty items at the annual Binder Twine Festival - from a club of only 26!! and then CFUW **Barrie** sells Javaco Coffee, Valentine Baskets, books, and organizes a silent auction. All of these actions and more go toward providing our students with financial assistance as they pursue their educational goals.

I am constantly amazed at the generosity and selflessness of CFUW members as evidenced by CFUW **Vaughan’s** participation in the annual Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure, and **Scarborough’s** weekly Yonge Street Community Outreach program preparing and

servicing a meal to many socially disadvantaged adults, and CFUW **Peterborough**'s 50/50 draw to help purchase new books for their public library. Then there is CFUW **Markham-Unionville**'s annual participation in their community's "Battle of the Books" and CFUW **Etobicoke**'s pot luck dinner to provide a teacher for Afghanistan through the Breaking Bread for Women organization. Congratulations to everyone.

For the 4<sup>th</sup> year, the Toronto Caucus December 6<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, with guest speaker, Dr. Nancy Olivieri,

raised \$1257 for the CFUW Ecole Polytechnique Commemorative Award. Dr. Olivieri has been the focus of international attention since Apotex, the corporate sponsor of her clinical drug trials of its drug abruptly terminated the trials and issued warnings of legal action against Dr. Olivieri should she inform her patients at the Hospital for Sick Children of the risks, or publish her findings. Dr. Olivieri and her colleagues have established Doctors for Research Integrity, an independent, non-profit group that seeks to promote research integrity and academic freedom.

Linda MacGregor



## ONTARIO EAST

Marylea Burt, Regional Director

The ten clubs of Eastern Ontario have had a very busy fall, with many interesting projects and activities planned for the year.

CFUW **Belleville and District** are preparing to write another book which will be launched in 2005 and ofcourse their 5<sup>th</sup> annual garden tour and tea is in the plans for **Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup> 2004** to raise funds for their scholarships..

CFUW **Brockville and District** has decided to double their scholarship trust this year and will have a special fundraising meeting in March with Mary Cook author and broadcaster.

CFUW **Cornwall and District** has a new web page <http://home.cogeco.ca/~cfuwconwall>. They also did their programme card this year in the form of a bookmark that has many uses.

CFUW **Kingston** are looking at three new interest groups Music appreciation, Sunday brunch and a computer club.

CFUW **Kanata** CFUW **Nepean** CFUW **Orleans** CFUW **Ottawa** were the hosts for the OC AGM 2002-2003 held in Ottawa. We need to thank these four clubs for all their work on our behalf and the number of volunteers who helped during

the two days. They helped in all areas to assure a successful conference .

I was very proud of all the clubs in Eastern Ontario we had 80% attendance at the AGM and over 50 members from our clubs in Eastern Ontario attended the conference, well done.

CFUW **Kanata** is planning to increase their scholarships this year to \$4800 last year they also increased their scholarships due to the double cohort. They have a new advocacy committee this year, they believe that as CFUW members we will have a strong lobby and will make a difference.

CFUW **Nepean** CFUW **Cornwall** CFUW **Kanata** CFUW **Ottawa** all had either auctions or silent auctions at their Holiday celebrations to raise monies for their scholarship funds.

CFUW **Perth** last year doubled their membership in CFUW congratulation to you from all of us.

Let us all make this years resolution "that in addition to the social and recreational aspects of our clubs that we carry out our mission to improve the lives of other women."

Marylea B. Burt

# **STRONG AND HEALTHY CLUBS**

## **A CHECKLIST**

by Ardith Toogood RD Ontario West

When doing long- or short-range planning for your Club, it is helpful to note both the strengths and weaknesses of your situation so that you can build upon the strengths and put into place some strategies for improving the weaker areas.

is not a complete list. As you create your own Club profile, please add items that are strengths or weaknesses of your Club. I would be interested in hearing from you about additional items (rtoogood@golden.net).

The following list of Club features is divided into two important aspects of any Club: the inner strength and structure which involves only the Club members and their interaction, and the outreach which describes a Club's activities that extend beyond its own membership. The checklist is a sampling of Club characteristics and

When you examine your Club, keep in mind the purpose of CFUW as stated in our Constitution and think about what you are doing as a Club to fulfil that purpose. What plans and strategies will position your Club for success in the coming years?

### ***CFUW Purpose***

- 1. To assist in developing a sound concept of educational values and in maintaining high standards of public education in Canada; to encourage advanced study and research by women university graduates.*
- 2. To arouse among members an intelligent interest in all aspects of public affairs in the political, social, cultural and scientific fields; to encourage an active participation in such affairs by qualified women; and to provide an opportunity for effectual concerted action.*
- 3. To foster a sense of responsibility and encourage women university graduates to place their education and professional training at the service of the community in local, national and international fields; to be concerned with human rights and at the same time to safeguard and improve the economic, legal and professional status of Canadian women.*
- 4. To take action in concert with the IFUW, of which the CFUW is a member, to effect change at the international level; to encourage friendship, cooperation and understanding among women university graduates worldwide.*

### **INNER STRUCTURE & WELL- BEING OF A CLUB**

- ✓ Members have a positive attitude toward their Club
- ✓ All key executive positions are filled in good time each year.
- ✓ Executive members work together in a cohesive manner.

- ✓ Executive members have the support and respect of the members.
- ✓ Members are kept informed of CFUW and IFUW news through Newsletters, e-mail etc.
- ✓ There is good and consistent attendance and participation at general meetings.
- ✓ Most members are involved with Interest Groups. There is a cross-section of ages within the membership
- ✓ The business portion of meetings is presented in a crisp and unapologetic manner.
- ✓ The topics of some general meetings are related to recent CFUW policy.
- ✓ Members know the purpose of CFUW.
- ✓ Opportunities for involvement in CFUW activities are available for all members.
- ✓ Member in-put is sought for Club short-and long-term planning.
- ✓ Fund raising suits the interests of the members.
- ✓ The Club budget includes Professional Development for its leaders.
- ✓ There are projects that involve and excite the membership
- ✓ There is a dynamic member or group of members who stimulate the club with their knowledge of the scope and importance of CFUW and with actions and projects which reflect their excitement.
- ✓ Members know what the Club's goals are.
- ✓ Club members are active in the work of CFUW.
- ✓ Club members have fun.

## **OUTREACH OF CLUB**

- ✓ Advocacy is an on-going component of Club activity
- ✓ The Club meets with the local MPs and MPPs and informs them of CFUW policy.
- ✓ One or more general meetings a year are open to the public.
- ✓ The local community knows about the activities of the Club.
- ✓ Club members are present as CFUW representatives at various community events.
- ✓ The Club supports education through scholarships and awards.
- ✓ The Club liaises with other community groups.
- ✓ The Club liaises with other CFUW Clubs.
- ✓ A status of women or human rights issue is being addressed by the Club

- ✓ The Club has a member who serves as CFUW liaison and informs the membership of national affairs.
- ✓ The Club has a member who serves as IFUW liaison and informs the membership of international affairs.
- ✓ The Club has a “link of friendship” with an IFUW affiliate.
- ✓ Delegates represent the Club at Regional, Provincial and National or International meetings/AGMs
- ✓ Financial assistance is available for Club delegates to attend Regional, Provincial and National or International meetings/AGMs.
- ✓ New members are recruited and tracked so that the Club knows why members join, why they stay and why they leave.
- ✓ The Club encourages qualified women to participate in various aspects of public affairs.

<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>
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### **WHAT DOES \$2.50 BUY?**

In a mall not much, but within Ontario Council it provides clubs with many benefits. Ontario clubs pay \$2.50 per member to Ontario Council and receive the following:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clubs with a membership of 50 or fewer regular and life members, who have a member attend an AGM, will receive their OC club fees back. This is to give assistance to small clubs to send members to an AGM.</li> <li>2. For Standing Committee meetings, clubs at more than 75 km distance from Toronto are able to receive travel assistance on a scale ranging from \$17.00 to \$52.00.(this is paid to the member attending)</li> <li>3. Standing Committee meetings are held three times a year with speakers on education, legislation and status of women issues. The venue and speakers are provided by Ontario Council (the fee</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>charged is only for the luncheon that is provided)</li> <li>4. Ontario Council negotiates with an Ontario insurance company to provide group liability insurance for all our clubs and all your club functions (individually clubs, if they could get coverage, would have to cover each function separately at a much higher cost than 35 cents per member.)</li> <li>5. \$100.00 per area is given to a club to host a yearly training workshop in the East, West, South, Central Regions and every second year in Ontario North.</li> <li>6. Financial assistance in the amount of \$200.00 may be offered to local clubs for</li> </ol> |
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- a special event. This however is only seed money and must be repaid.
- Assistance may be offered to an isolated club that has to travel two days to attend an Ontario Council AGM. Funds in the amount of \$200.00 may be request for membership recruitment and or retention, but only once in a five-year period. This must be accompanied by a financial plan.

- Ontario Council awards one club with an AGM registration for their excellence in advocacy.
- A club that has hosted an AGM and is in the black at the close of the AGM receives one paid registration to the next AGM..

Marylea Burt RD Ontario East

\$2.50 \$2.50 \$2.50 \$2.50 \$2.50 \$2.50 \$2.50 \$2.50 \$2.50 \$2.50 \$2.50

## EVENTS PAST & FUTURE



### DECEMBER 6th LUNCHEONS!

#### The Toronto Caucus Event

This annual luncheon was sold-out again. In addition to the wine, food and fellowship, we were honoured to have Dr. Nancy Olivieri as our guest speaker. Thanks to all who supported the event \$1257 was donated to the CFUW Charitable Trust 1989 Polytechnique Commemorative Award.

#### Ontario West Region Luncheon

On December 6th the first *Montreal 14 Memorial Day Luncheon*, organized jointly by three neighbouring Ontario West Clubs - CFUW Cambridge, CFUW Guelph and CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo - was held at Whistle Bear Golf Club in Cambridge. Over \$2300 was raised for the 1989 Polytechnique Commemorative Award



#### Ontario Council AGM 2003 - Ottawa

The theme of the Ontario Council AGM was Women and Peace. In keeping with that theme, the Saturday afternoon panel explored the

different roles women play in peace. The panel consisted of:

**Christine Turkewych**, Moderator

**Senator Lois Wilson**, Founder of the Joint Government and NGO Canadian Committee on Women, Peace and Security

**Maggie Paterson**, Senior Policy Analyst Gender Equality, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

**Suehaile Elkateb**, Policy Advisor Peace-building and Human Security Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT)

**Linda Souter**, Immediate Past President International Federation of University Women (IFUW)

The first speaker, Senator Wilson, stressed the important role that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) played in the development of UN Resolution 1325 concerning the role of women in peace-building and the necessity for women to be included in all aspects of peace-building.

She continued by outlining the results of the government delegation she lead to North Korea. Findings included the collapse of economic

activity caused by loss of power previously provided by the former Soviet Union - factories shut down, inadequate supplies of electricity for lighting or lack of purified water for most of the population. During her visit she had the opportunity to attend a conference of women from both North and South Korea. The participants emphasized their cultural solidarity and explored ways of building peace.

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**“the benefit to Canada of a listening post in Korea”**

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Senator Wilson proposed that there was need for a similar conference of Canadian women under the age of 30 of Korean ancestry. The purpose would be to explore the question of how they can help promote peace and security in Korea through communication with the Korean women. The added benefit to Canada would be the provision of a “listening post” in Korea.

Finally, Senator Wilson expressed concern that current Canadian policy towards North Korea follows the lead of the United States and this approach is not as useful in promoting peace as one of open dialogue and negotiation in a spirit of mutual respect and trust would be.

The second panelist to address the meeting was Linda Souter. Linda outlined the purpose and determination of IFUW to build a more peaceful world through its participation in the League of Nations and subsequent United Nations conferences and agencies. IFUW recognizes the need for peaceful action to start in the home and community; peace education has always been a focus of IFUW. The IFUW Study and Action Programme for the current triennial focuses on Human Security, Human Rights and Fostering a Culture of Peace.

Linda quoted the following definition of peace-building, provided by a team of IFUW Fellowship winners: “Peace-building includes gender-aware and woman-empowering political, social, economic and human rights. It involves personal and group accountability and reconciliation processes that contribute to the reduction or prevention of violence. It fosters the ability of women, men, girls, and boys in their own culture to promote conditions of nonviolence, equality, justice, human rights of all people to build democratic institutions and to sustain the environment.”

Linda outlined the activities of IFUW in the areas of 1) advocacy for peace, 2) support for Peace-building projects in numerous countries around the world and 3) personal commitment and action by individual members of IFUW’s 72 national associations.

Linda emphasized the need for CFUW Clubs and individuals to hold the Canadian government accountable for the documents it has signed on our behalf, including UN resolution 1325 as well as numerous conventions on human rights and the

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**“Making our concerns heard”**

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status of women. Experience in Canada indicates that it is easiest to access government ministers in their home ridings to make our concerns heard. She encouraged those present to take a look at the IFUW website: [www.ifuw.org](http://www.ifuw.org) <<http://www.ifuw.org>> to access resources developed to assist Clubs and individuals wishing to become involved in conflict resolution and education for peace-building as well as to review documents developed to support advocacy efforts. She also underlined the responsibility of CFUW Clubs to promote IFUW resolutions at the

national, provincial and local levels to ensure that the policies are implemented here in Canada.

Linda promoted the IFUW Bina Roy Development fund as a means for Clubs to support peace-building efforts and concluded by listing 6 items included in the UNESCO Manifesto for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence as a means for individuals to become personally involved in peace-building.

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**“the perspective of development agencies”**

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The third panelist, Suehaile Elkateb, addressed peace-building from the perspective of development agencies such as CIDA. For these agencies, peace-building is the development of activities that provide incentives for peace and disincentives for conflict. At this point in time, long-term sustainable development strategies are required. At the present time, there are 37 conflicts in 30 countries - 80% of all wars are in Africa. In WWI, civilian casualties represented less than 5% of all casualties. Today, more than 50% of war casualties are civilian!

Suehaile noted that in times of conflict, the women’s roles improve, even as they become more vulnerable. They often flee with their children, while the men who remain behind are often killed. Conflict also allows women to move out of traditional roles and then, when peace develops, they are expected to return to more traditional roles. During conflict, women often become victims of sexual assault while men and boys are mass murdered.

Post conflict, the negotiation of the peace accord is pivotal in delineating the conduct of behaviour and protecting the rights of women and girls. Often women play minor roles in the peace

negotiations and their interests are not discussed. There are repeated reports of harassment and sexual assault by the peace-keepers. Women and children do not have the same access to resources and training in the post-conflict reconstruction.

She completed her presentation by reminding the group that gender is about power and that currently, the power resides with the men. Women need to be supported to participate in peace-building to ensure their needs are considered as well.

The final speaker was Maggie Paterson. She began by identifying the 3Ds - Diplomacy, Defence, Development; What’s Gender Got to Do With It? The whole area of security, peace and conflict is perceived as a male domain. That perception has to be changed before women will be more actively included.

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**“Developing the confluence of influence”**

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Maggie stressed the critical role that NGOs, such as CFUW, can play in the developing the “confluence of influence” required to affect government policy and actions related to peace-building. It will take concentrated, coordinated and coherent movement between various governments and agencies to continue moving Resolution 1325 forward so that its content becomes a reality. Maggie emphasized the need for research to develop statistics documenting the need for government involvement in and resources for peace-building activities with an emphasis on the equality of results not opportunity.

**Panel Questions and Answers**

## Summary

The first question asked for a **brief summary of UN resolution 1325**. Lois Wilson responded that it emphasizes the importance of the role of women in peace-building and the need for women to be involved in all aspects of peace-building.

The second question asked **how CFUW can assist DFAIT** in changing government policy towards North Korea from the policy of pressure to dialogue and negotiation. Maggie Paterson responded by emphasizing the need for sound research and data to inform and push practice.

The third question asked for information on the **Women to Women, Afghanistan Project**. Lois Wilson indicated that she could provide the questioner with a web address and stated the need for such projects involving Canadian women and women in Iraq and Korea.

The next question asked for information on **results of Canadian assistance for peacebuilding**. Suehaile Elkateb responded that Canadian assistance was providing different levels of results in different places; in some projects women are more involved than in others where they had no access. She also mentioned the existence of a group of 'professional peace negotiators', all men and the need for women to be included in this group.

The next question asked **how CIDA controls graft in overseas projects**. Maggie Paterson stated that it is a fact of life; however, there are procedures and regulations in place and local CIDA personnel make every effort to be informed and aware of what is happening.

The next question asked **what guidelines the World Bank put on peace-building programs** it funds. Suehaile Elkateb responded that the

World Bank manages a trust fund - the countries run the projects; donor countries pressure the recipient countries concerning gender involvement. Maggie Paterson added that recipient countries must develop a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper; World Bank funding is dependent on such a Strategy being in place; these Strategies are gender blind and this is a concern.

The next question asked **how women can gain recognition** in societies whose cultures have traditionally excluded them. Lois Wilson indicated that cultural turnover takes time; however, bringing women to Canada to expose them to our society can change perspectives. She indicated that a key is communication/dialogue/interchange and non-isolation. Maggie Paterson indicated that a strength of gender analysis is the information it can provide on local context and on strategies that might work locally. CIDA has found that local women's groups bring a local perspective and networks to peace-building and development projects. She also emphasized the need for a strong external lobby to hold governments accountable to international conventions.

The final question asked **what is expected from groups like CFUW**. Suehaile Elkateb gave the opinion that Canadians must promote universal human rights. Lois Wilson suggested that individuals go around government to develop partnerships with people in Canada with ties to the countries in conflict. Linda Souter suggested that CFUW members access the resources and networks available through IFUW to make a difference.

*Recorders: Elaine Giles & Louise McArthur  
Report Compiled by: Margaret Falkenhagen*

## Ontario Council AGM 2004 - Toronto

The theme for this year's AGM is *CHANGES: Reviewing the Past ..... Mapping the Future*. Plans are underway for an interesting and informative event.

On **Friday, May 14th** there will be Hospitality/Reception at the UWC Toronto Club House from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

On **Saturday May 15th** we will be at Victoria University from 8:30 to 5:00 p.m. Breakfast will be available from 7:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. The day will include:

- ◆ The business meeting
- ◆ Leadership workshops (including one specifically for incoming Presidents and any others interested).
- ◆ Afternoon workshops on issues of concern to Ontario Council members.

Rooms in residence will be available at a cost of \$47 single and \$67 double. Full breakfast is included in these prices.

Registration fees are yet to be determined.

**Mark your calendar Now!**

### A Reminder to Club Treasurers!

You will receive the invoice for Ontario Council dues shortly. Please return the form with your cheque by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Update:

There is a 35¢ per member surcharge to cover the increased cost for insurance. This change continues to incorporate an Ontario Council subsidy to clubs.