



## ONTARIO COUNCIL

# Dates & Data

Ontario Council Newsletter

January 2005 Issue

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On behalf of CFUW Ontario Council very best wishes for a happy successful New Year to all Ontario CFUW Clubs and their members!

When we started our CFUW Ontario Council year, one of our goals for this year was to forge and keep up connections between our Clubs. Well, as I am writing this we can all feel very connected right across the province by the miserable weather and accident reports, those members who are travelling to see their families this holiday weekend and those anxiously awaiting their family members knowing them to be somewhere on treacherous roads. And there are of course those of us who had picked this day to do their last minute Christmas preparations. This is a grasshopper and the ant moment, as my mother would point out. Had I started my Christmas preparations in October I too would be able to sit snugly by the fire today with some eggnog instead of having to worry about the weather and last minute Christmas errands.

Alas, I was having a much too interesting time this Fall in our CFUW Ontario Council province wide circle: at our Ontario Council Executive Meetings, Standing Committee Meetings, getting to know the Ontario North Clubs at their Gathering hosted by CFUW North Bay, helping to celebrate CFUW Cambridge Club's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and at the Ontario West Fall Gathering there, meetings with Ontario Council Advocacy and Standing Committee Chairs in

Oakville, attending the École Polytechnique memorial dinner in Kitchener -Waterloo hosted by the K-W Club, CFUW Cambridge and CFUW Guelph. The events I attended are only the tip of the iceberg, but they illustrate that you too have had an active and stimulating Fall as Gatherings were also held in Ontario East, Ontario Central and Ontario South. If you want to see just how much energy, effort and good ideas our Ontario Clubs have expended on "Their Own Backyard" with their exciting advocacy, charitable causes and scholarships, do read the articles contributed by our Regional Directors and Clubs.

All the while, our Standing Committee Chairs, Sabina Auburger, (Orangeville) Legislation, Marianne Waraich- Singh (Burlington) Education and Joan Dunn (Oakville), Status of Women & Human Rights and our Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee under Teri Shaw (Oakville) together have been keeping an eye on the political and legislative events that touch on our CFUW Ontario Council core issues.

Issues that loomed big were "Water" and the "Greenbelt", "Post-Secondary Education" and the Arbitration Act with the hanging question of Sharia law as part of Ontario justice.

### **Ontario Council named to Provincial Great Lakes Charter Annex Advisory Panel**

In addition to our response to Ontario Water Taking as well as Water Source Protection legislation Carolyn Day (Southport), has been researching and writing our Ontario Council comments on the Great Lakes Charter Annex. This is an important agreement regulating water use, diversion, water taking etc. between Ontario/Quebec and the Great Lake States. Water is described as the stuff of life that may rival oil as a source of international conflict. Our Great Lakes water is basic to Ontario communities, their industry, agriculture and to private personal survival in all the regions of Ontario. Not to mention the natural environment. I have been asked,

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

- Standing Committee News & Registration Form
- Regional Round UP
- OC AGM Invitation
- Ontario Council Dues Reminder

## **What does “water” have to do with “Empowering Women and Girls ?”**

Well, how much more basic can women get than trying to co-manage their life essentials, water, food, energy? Just how empowered is a woman who has no clean water, has to boil everything or has to pay exorbitant charges for her and her children’s daily use of water? If we want to know how much water is a women’s issue we only have to look to the Third World. In Ontario, we do not have to go that far though, we have seen the disastrous effects of bad water management in Walkerton. If women are to be equal, we as women’s groups have to look at the big issues, step up, take responsibility, try and find solutions. Fortunately, this is not a new insight. CFUW and IFUW have looked at national and international water issues for decades so we were well positioned to forward CFUW policy to our Ontario Government. As a consequence, Ontario Council has been asked to be a member on the Provincial Great Lakes Charter Annex Advisory Panel that will help forge amendments to the 2001 Annex. Carolyn Day and Linda MacGregor will be our CFUW Ontario Council representatives.

### **Ontario Council Submits CFUW Policy regarding Proposed Greenbelt Plan**

The environment, agriculture and urban development, seem pitted against each other in the new Ontario Greenbelt Legislation and the Proposed Greenbelt Plan. This is another big picture issue with possible serious consequences for us and our children down the road. Here again, thanks to the foresight of CFUW and IFUW members over the years, we have various policy on balancing the economic and population pressures on the land and the environment so that Sabina Auburger and Teri Shaw could put together a brief that we submitted to the Ontario Government during its consultation process.

### **Ontario Council Submits Brief on the Post - Secondary Education to the Rae Review**

I’ll just quote from our introduction:

“Since its founding by female university graduates in 1919, the Canadian Federation of University Women has had “Higher Expectations for Higher Education” (title of the Rae Review). Our federation has promoted excellence in education and advanced study and research by women ever since.

As beneficiaries of a university education our members know that there is no question that post secondary education contributes enormously to society.

....

For the prosperity of Ontario and the well being of future generations of its citizen it is therefore essential that our post-secondary institutions are well maintained, well funded and accessible to all who have the intellectual capabilities to succeed in their chosen field of endeavor....

Our members have been concerned for many years about university funding cutbacks in education and the resulting drop in quality at all levels as well as the increasing student debt loads and subsequent decrease in accessibility to higher education. equality and equity of women as students and in teaching positions about the fact that our province and our country is not advancing enough the human and economic potential of young people whose talents and intellectual skills are not in the academic but rather in more practical, technological areas.”

Marianne Singh-Waraich and Teri Shaw researched and wrote our submission. For this purpose we also dusted off our own National CFUW Survey “Women in Universities”(1992) that looked at the status of women in universities as students and in teaching positions and compared it to the situation today. Surprise (or not?): Not that much seems to have changed during the last decade.

I should like to commend and thank all the clubs who also submitted comments and/or attended Town Hall meetings in the various regions of Ontario. Their reports helped us formulate our brief.

### **The Arbitration Act - or Sharia principles in Ontario law?**

This has been a burning issue for many Clubs and members who are worried about the fair and equal treatment of women in Ontario law, particularly in matters of divorce, support and child custody, inheritance etc. We are all well aware how difficult it has been for mainstream Canadian women under duress to receive what is due them in arbitration or from provincial family courts, so we can understand how much more difficult it must be for women from other cultures to be treated fairly in their religious courts where women have an inferior position and are often considered second class persons.

### **CFUW Ontario Council Position?**

Owing to the outcry by women's groups, particularly also from Muslim women's groups, before including Muslim Law in the Ontario Arbitration Act, the McGuinty Government ordered a review of the Act. Not wanting to appropriate the voices of Canadian Muslim women, CFUW Ontario Council did not make a submission to the Marion Boyd Review of the Arbitration Act, waiting instead for the release of the report. The Hon. Marion Boyd released her report and recommendations on December 20<sup>th</sup>. The report's recommendation, among others, is to allow arbitration according to Muslim principles.

I know that our members want CFUW Ontario Council to respond to the recommendations of the Boyd Review.

Ontario Council will study the report and respond to the Ontario Government as soon as it is clear which direction it will take and which recommendations of the Boyd Report it intends to implement.

Meanwhile, **The Hon. Marion Boyd has agreed to explain the findings and recommendations of her review and discuss them with Prof. Annie Bunting, York University and Nuzhat Jafri, Canadian Council of Muslim Women at the morning session of our Provincial Standing Committee Meetings on January 15, 2005 at the Toronto Club House.** (more information inside)

We are all looking forward to seeing you there and to a lively day and a good beginning for 2005!

Edeltraud Neal

### **ONTARIO COUNCIL Standing Committees**

**Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

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

#### **Morning Program**

The Hon. Marion Boyd, Prof. Annie Bunting of York University, and Nazhat Jafri of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women will bring their expertise and opinions on Ontario's Arbitration Act to a joint session of the Committees

Registration 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. \* Meeting Begins at 10:00 a.m. \* Registration Form enclosed

### **ABOUT OUR JANUARY SPEAKERS**

**The Hon. Marion Boyd** was the Member of Provincial Parliament for London Centre from 1990 to 1999. As a member of Cabinet during the New Democratic Government of Bob Rae, she served as Minister of Education, Minister of Community and Social Services and was the first woman appointed as Attorney General for the Province of Ontario. In September of 1991, Ms. Boyd accepted an additional assignment as the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, a responsibility she retained until the election of June 8, 1995.

The Hon. Marion Boyd has served her community in many capacities. She has been a library technician, an executive assistant to a university president, an executive assistant to a university faculty association and the administrator of a non-profit childcare centre. As the Executive Director of the Battered Women

Advocacy Centre from 1984 to 1990, she developed a local, national and international reputation for her expertise and action on the issue of abuse of women and children. Recently Ms. Boyd has conducted a review of the Arbitration Act for the Ontario Government during which she heard from many groups and individuals and can share with us the process and results of her work.

**Annie Bunting** is a professor in the Law and Society program at York University, teaching in the areas of social justice and human rights. Professor Bunting is a graduate of York, having studied law at Osgoode Hall Law School. She received her LL.M. from the London School of Economics and Political Science and her S.J.D. from the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto. The topic of her doctoral dissertation is international women's rights, culture, and

the case of early marriage. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Professor Bunting has worked with a variety of human rights organizations including the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), Human Rights Watch (HRW), the Canadian Human Rights Foundation (CHRF) and the International Centre for Human Rights.

**Nuzhat Jafri** is a member of the National Board of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW) and has contributed to various CCMW projects, including the development of fact sheets on Muslim women in Canada. She has held leadership and management positions in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. Currently she is the President and owner of

RealDifference, a management consulting practice providing advice and counsel to clients in the areas of change management and organizational development, business improvement, strategic and business planning, education and training, diversity, human rights and employment equity. She has held several leadership positions in the diversity and employment equity area, including Director of Corporate Affairs at the Ontario Employment Equity Commission and she led the diversity and employment equity function at Scotiabank and previously at Bank of Montreal. She continues to be active in a volunteer capacity with various community organizations.



## SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 2004 MEETING REPORT

In the morning session all three committees joined to hear two speakers on voting, Chi Nguyen, the founder of *Young Women Vote 20,000*, a program to encourage young women to vote and Peggy Nash of *Equal Voice*, dedicated to electing more women to public office.

**Chi Nguyen** reports a life-long interest in politics and activism, beginning with a children's program she ran in Chinatown while barely more than a child herself, and continuing with participation in a program that allowed students to intern with MPs. Now a recent McGill grad, she sees her cohort as being over-educated, over-stimulated, and self-absorbed, with a feeling of entitlement to opportunities, and unwilling to involve themselves in anything beyond themselves on the assumption that all battles have been won. There is a disconnect between what young people, especially young women, see as their issues (workers rights, abortion, tuition fees, etc.), and the ability to tackle these issues through political action. She pointed out that in the recent federal election only 25% of those between 18 and 24 voted, and voting among the 18-35 age group actually declined from 2000 to 2004, despite the 4 million dollars spent by Elections Canada to attract voters. She feels strongly that the battles have not all been won, and that in Ottawa the old boys' network still rules. In an attempt to get young women to start thinking about politics, she, with two others, started the *Young Women Vote 20,000* project, with the aim of

raising awareness in young women of what is happening in the wider world and the power of political action.

**Peggy Nash**, of *Equal Voice*, expressed the opinion that power is much better than influence: power gets things done. She described her own decidedly non-traditional experience as a woman who has seized power in a male-dominated milieu: as a member of the Air Canada unit of the Canadian Auto Workers. She was the first woman to lead negotiations for the CAW, is now senior assistant to CAW president Buzz Hargrove and was NDP candidate in a Toronto riding in the last federal election. Women must have power in order to initiate action on the issues that are important to them, such as child care, affordable housing, the environment and quality of life issues. She cited countries with mandated large numbers of women legislators that have progressive policies in these areas. Canada is declining in its number of elected women (We are now 36<sup>th</sup> in the world) and Ms. Nash acknowledged some of the barriers to women's participation in public life: disruption of family life, difficulty in raising funds, battling the perception that men are more likely to win, difficulty in getting past the nomination process, and gaining access to winnable seats

*Equal Voice* wants the government to declare the election of women a priority and to remove some of the barriers.

Peggy Pinkerton

## STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE

*Joan Dunn, Chair*

### January 15<sup>th</sup> - Morning Session



Plan to have an inspiring morning as we meet with three activists who have done and continue to do wonderful work in making Canada a better place for women and improving the society where we live for all of us.

We have all been reading and studying the issue and the review of the Arbitration Act in Ontario. Many of us have had speakers at our clubs and the topic was debated (and defeated) as an emergency resolution at the national 2004 AGM in Regina. On January 15 at the next Standing Committee meeting, we will have the opportunity to hear three speakers who will bring their expertise and viewpoint to the topic: Hon. Marion Boyd, Annie Bunting, and Nazhat Jafri.

### Afternoon Session

Andrea Levan, RD- Ontario North, will speak about the founding and growth of Women's Studies in the university. She will reflect upon her own experiences as a teacher of Women's Studies, and discuss how the discipline, the students, and central issues in feminism have changed and are changing since she began twenty years ago.

Andrea has taught Women's Studies for twenty years, and is presently chair of the department at Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario. She was among the first graduates of the first Canadian Ph.D. program in Women's Studies, at York University. Her areas of specialization include gender and violence, feminist organizing, and feminist theory. Andrea also has served on a variety of women's organizations, including local women's centres and shelters, the Elizabeth Fry Society, CRIAW, and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women

Joan Dunn

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Marianne Singh Waraich, Chair*

### January 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting



In our January Standing Committee meeting in the afternoon, we will hear from members of CFUW London who will speak to their proposed resolution and from members of CFUW Burlington who attended the People for Education Conference in November. This organization of parents does very

valuable work in keeping tabs on what is actually happening in the classroom and produces data that are reliable. Annie Kidder is its president. Their website is <http://peopleforeducation.com>. Check it out!

It has been a busy fall! About twenty Clubs sent representatives to the Standing Committee meeting in September and we discussed our priorities for the next term. After tabulating the results, I found these are the burning issues of the day:

- resource centre / library
- class size
- post secondary funding
- physical education
- specialist teachers: art/music/ESL/special education/physical education

The London Club is working on a resolution that has been accepted as an intent on the long hours worked by secondary students and is urging the government of Canada to set realistic limits to the times and hours of work of students under age eighteen.

Most of the fall was taken up by the Rae Review on Postsecondary Education. Townhalls were held across the province from Thunder Bay October 3<sup>rd</sup> to Toronto December 8<sup>th</sup>. I was pleased to see many Clubs attended a hearing in their area and would love to receive full reports of their experience. I spoke in Hamilton, Beth Haynes in Windsor, Andrea Levan in Sudbury. CFUW Ottawa sent me a report on their submission and I spent two weeks working on the Ontario Council Brief which we submitted November 15<sup>th</sup>. It is available on the Ontario website or you can e-mail me for a copy. It is a good resource if you want to do any advocacy in this area in your Club. A visit to your MPP would be a good idea, brief in hand! The report is due early next year.

The work in hand is checking out whether the McGuinty government is keeping its promises as made during the election and throne speech. We will be working on another brief in this area and could use local feedback on the issues outlined in our previous brief. I can send anyone interested a copy of that part of our brief dealing with education. Talk to your trustees, principals, superintendents or Director of Education to inform yourself and let me know.

Marianne Singh-Waraich



## LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Sabina Auburger, Chair

### January 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting



For the January 15<sup>th</sup> Legislation Committee meeting, members are urged to survey their Clubs on the “burning issues” facing their members and report them at the afternoon session. The three most important issues will be chosen for future focus.

CFUW Burlington will make a presentation on “Homecare in Crisis”. Carolee Bailey and Arleen Midriak will speak about what motivated and inspired them to embark on the journey to develop a resolution on homecare. It is cost efficient to allow seniors to maintain their independence by living in their own homes. There is a deficit of resources for homecare for seniors. Elder care is falling on the shoulders of families, who are raising their own families - hence the term “sandwich generation”.

The feedback from the September meeting emphasized the need for access to success stories, therefore the “Homecare in Crisis” session will be followed by Gossiping Success as to letter writing. The Legislation Committee members are asked to report on any letter writing they have done such as the annual letter, letters on specific issues, and the responses, if any, to these letters. Members are invited to share copies of their letters and any letter writing tips. In order to facilitate the availability of hand outs for the meeting, please send copies of letters to

Sabina Auburger,  
80 Zina Street,  
Orangeville, ON L9W 1E8  
e-mail: [sabinaauburger@rogers.com](mailto:sabinaauburger@rogers.com),  
or fax: (519) 941-8727.

For the letter writing session, it is recommended that you bring copies of the *Advocacy Primer*, *The Nuts and Bolts of Influencing Public Policy* and the *Resolutions 2004* book for reference purposes. *Nuts and Bolts* can be downloaded from [www.cfuw.org](http://www.cfuw.org).

### September Meeting Report

The afternoon session of the September Legislation Committee started with Gossiping Success. Ann Harrison made a presentation on CFUW Orillia’s *Get Out to Vote* campaign. This campaign was used to build bridges with other groups, local riding offices and the local MP and MPP. The presentation was followed by a communication workshop. The Committee members broke out into four groups, which identified the top three items of their discussions as follows:

What is Working? - Acknowledging the Positive

- buying into advocacy is occurring in the general membership
- Ontario Council is focusing on advocacy and clubs are starting to buy in
- using existing policy to comment on local issues, lets people see advocacy in action

What is Not Working? - Identifying the Challenges

- making our membership multicultural and attracting youth
- mission statement/purpose - CFUW Clubs losing advocacy focus to social and interest groups.
- communication: website for priorities, general awareness

What’s Missing? - Some other Challenges

- committment/belief in advocacy
- regular access to success stories to increase motivation
- short response time, easy access to existing policy

What’s Possible? - Creative solutions

- increase awareness, increase issue based partnerships
- open meetings when we have good speakers
- draft letters for members as private citizens

Sabina Auburger



### Congratulations to CFUW Burlington !

CFUW Burlington won  
the 2003 - 2004  
CFUW Ontario Council  
Advocacy Award!

Arleen Midriak and Carolee Bailey will be describing their Club’s Homecare Project at the January 15<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee meeting.

## REGIONAL ROUNDUPS

### ONTARIO WEST

**Elizabeth Haynes, Regional Director**

#### **Fall Gathering**

Many thanks to *CFUW Cambridge* who hosted a successful **Fall Gathering and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**. With a theme of *Bridges 'n' Spires*, the Fall Gathering provided an opportunity to learn about CFUW, with workshops or roundtable discussions on Membership by Mary McEwen; Leadership by Edeltraud Neal and Resolutions by Elizabeth Haynes. Participants also enjoyed learning about the Grand River Conservation Authority from speaker Barbara Veale and about the history of the Cambridge Area, particularly the contribution of women factory workers to the war effort during World War II, from speaker Dr. Kenneth McLaughlin.

This will be a busy year for Ontario West, with a number of Clubs celebrating milestone anniversaries, including *CFUW Chatham-Kent*, 60<sup>th</sup>, *CFUW Guelph*, 60<sup>th</sup>, *CFUW London*, 85<sup>th</sup> and *CFUW Orangeville & District*, 30<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to joining with Clubs across the region to celebrate their past and plan for their futures.

*CFUW Chatham-Kent* has successfully revised their constitution and implemented governance by committee. They have planned an interesting program for this year including a conference on Autism, to be held in April. In 2005, CFUW Chatham-Kent will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

On Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 CFUW Cambridge hosted a reception and celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At the reception, members of CFUW Cambridge were joined by guests Rose Beatty, President of CFUW, and Edeltraud Neal, resident of CFUW Ontario Council, as well as past recipients of the CFUW Cambridge Scholarship. To cap the evening, the CFUW Cambridge 2004 scholarships were awarded. Congratulations Cambridge! We look forward to another 50 years!

*CFUW Cambridge, CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo and CFUW Guelph* — On December 6, these three Clubs hosted their third annual joint Ecole Polytechnique Memorial Event. This year the Honourable Marion Boyd, former Attorney General for Ontario, spoke at a dinner held on the "National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women." Proceeds from the event supported the CFUW Ecole Polytechnique Memorial Scholarship.

*CFUW Orangeville & District* celebrates their 30<sup>th</sup>

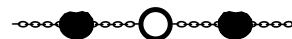
anniversary in 2005. Members of CFUW Orangeville and District have also agreed to host the 2005 Fall Gathering. We look forward to meeting in Orangeville next fall!

*CFUW Stratford's* plans are well underway for the CFUW Ontario Council AGM in May. Keynote speaker ANTONI CIMOLINO, Executive Director of the Stratford Festival of Canada will keep us on track with the theme, *Advocating for the Arts*. This also looks to be an exciting event and what a great emphasis for an AGM in Stratford. More information will be coming from the committee, so stay tuned!

Thanks to the efforts of Carolyn Day of *CFUW Southport*, CFUW Ontario Council has been invited to be a member of the **Great Lakes Charter Advisory Panel**. Thank you for all of your work on the issues of Water Taking and Transfer Regulations and the Drinking Water Source Protection Act, Carolyn!

*CFUW Windsor* joined with CFUW Ontario Council and several other CFUW Clubs in participating in the Bob Rae Town Hall meetings on Post Secondary Education. With a delegation of 3 members, Maureen Comartin, Maureen McCann and Elizabeth Haynes, CFUW Windsor presented a brief to the members of the Panel during the Town Hall meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Windsor brief supplemented the OC brief and focused on local concerns. At the end of the session, Dr. Inez Elliston commented that CFUW was definitely a well organized body with great energy and that we should be included in the process. She also noted the quality of our submissions.

Beth Haynes



### ONTARIO SOUTH

**Myra Willis, Regional Director**

#### **Fall Gathering**

A huge thank you goes out to *CFUW Norfolk* for all your hard work in making Ontario South's Fall Gathering event such a success. I know you wanted to thank everyone for attending but it us who are grateful to you.

Congratulations for an informative and well-attended event to all who were involved in the Health Forum *Home Care/Long Term Care, Do you have a choice?* held in Hamilton. It attracted a television video crew and multiple airings!

Author's nights are a wonderful fundraisers and Charlotte Gray's visit to **CFUW Hamilton** was no exception. I really enjoyed her pictorial trip through Canada's history. Hamilton and Burlington have joined forces to submit a resolution this year.

To acknowledge the accomplishments of one of their long time members, Marg Simpson, **CFUW Brantford** put her name forward and is pleased to announce that on November 25, Marg was honoured with The Dr. J. Marquis Award. The local award was established 15 years ago in recognition of the many hours Dr. Marquis, a family physician until his death at the age of 85, had donated to the social and humanitarian needs of Brantford. Planning is underway for events to celebrate Brantford's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Building inter-Club connections, **CFUW St. Catharines** is hosting CFUW Niagara Falls at their February meeting featuring Jackie Maxwell, Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival. She was terrific when I heard her in Oakville. Two speakers from RAFT, a center for homeless youths, were at their January meeting and donations were collected then, as well as at their Christmas celebration. The Gift of Reading, The Gift of Theatre and The Children's Discovery Center and other areas of concern benefited from the approximately \$5,000 raised at their Christmas Silent Auction and Raffle

In celebration of **CFUW Oakville's** 55th Anniversary in October, Kevin Flynn M.P.P. helped Helen Sami, President, cut their anniversary cake. Professor Emeritus Ken Weber of University of Toronto captivated everyone with his stories of the women behind our Canadian Prime Ministers. They both stayed the entire evening! Please don't forget to put August 2005 on your calendars for the Oakville CFUW AGM.

**CFUW Norfolk's** members are carrying their new business cards with CFUW and membership information to distribute. Resurrecting an idea from the past, Norfolk is planning to meet with their scholarship recipients to give them an information package. Discussion of our resolutions in March will be done over morning coffee and muffins. The Christmas Dinner was filled with music provided by the "Norfolk Notables", a young people's choir and their own member, Luanne Ashe. Marianne Beowmeester will be speaking on Personality Inventory on January 27 and on February 24, Karen Matthews will discuss Challenges and Changes at the Norfolk County Fair. The General Meeting format will include more time for discussion of CFUW issues, issues of the day and ideas from the speakers.

Continuing their support of the Halton Women's Shelter, **CFUW Georgetown** holds a yearly raffle and collected toiletry items for women and new children's books at their December 7 meeting. Georgetown is having an Antiques Road Show with Michael Jameson February 1 that I'm looking forward to attending. On March 1, Kathy Gastle, former mayor of Halton Hills will be the guest speaker.

**CFUW Burlington** is busy with their Strategic Plan. By taking into account the changing world, especially for women, this plan will forge Burlington into a dynamic and growing Club to meet the needs of its members and the community. Burlington is actively advocating on issues such as The Greenbelt Plan, the Mid-Pen Highway, Wal-Mart, and the Ballistic Missile Defence Plan and, as mentioned before, has joined with Hamilton in developing a resolution this year.

In honour of International Women's Day, **CFUW Niagara Falls** is hosting a 'Power Breakfast' on March 8, 2005. Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians will be speaking on "Women Rising: What to do with our new power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". I watched a documentary on her and I'm really looking forward to hearing this dynamic woman. Look for details in this issue.

Another successful annual Book Sale in October enables **CFUW Welland & District** to continue awarding \$500 post-secondary scholarships to local graduates. On January 19, they will present Black History in Niagara with Wilma Morrison. On February 16, there will be *Echoes of the Past* with Jim Curtis. March 16 will be resolutions night and George Reason will speak about the development of the new Niagara Falls Aviary. The April 20 topic is Interior Decorating Basics with Eileen Santoro.

**CFUW Mississauga** is hosting great turnouts in their new location. They have two new interest groups, Issues and Weekenders. Two very deserving Charitable Trust Fellowship Winners attended their December meeting. I am looking forward to visiting Mississauga on January 3 to hear *Engineers Without Borders: Agents of Extraordinary Change*. On February 7, there will be a Spring Fashion Show organized by one of their members who owns a ladies clothing store in Oakville and Andrew Zegers will conduct an Antiques Road Show on March 7.

As Arleen Midriak, President of **CFUW Burlington** said in an email to me, "So much to do, so little time" or, in my case, so little space and so much going on. When I attended *Navigating a New World* in

Toronto on November 6<sup>th</sup>, one of the six speakers was Lt-Gen. (Ret.) Romeo Dallaire. You may recall he was the Force Commander of the U.N. mission in Rwanda and was medically discharged due to Post Traumatic Stress. I was struck by his commitment to the U.N. even though the organization had not responded to the needs of the horrific Rwanda situation. He drove home the importance of the role of the U.N. in these times and of middle powers such as Canada. At a time when some are questioning the need for or the viability of the U.N., I found his words inspiring. I felt proud that our organization, through our support of IFUW, was playing an active role and continuing our work with the U.N. I wish you all could have heard him. I'm sure that you too would have had your support of IFUW and their efforts at the U.N. reinforced. We can and do make a difference. Best of everything in the coming year to everyone!

Myra Willis



## ONTARIO NORTH

**Andrea Levan, Regional Director**

### Fall Gathering

The fall began with our biennial Fall Gathering in North Bay, with representatives of all our Clubs attending, including *CFUW Thunder Bay* President Jean Lister, who drove 1150 kilometers to get there! The *North Bay* Club organized a great day with speakers talking about local history, northern folk lore, and the challenges of women administrators in the school system. We were pleased to welcome Ontario Council President Edeltraud Neal, who joined us for the day. At lunch, the Presidents of all the Clubs were able to get together to discuss common interests and concerns as members of northern communities.

The Clubs have been active this fall in a variety of areas. Our newest Club, *CFUW Haliburton-Highlands*, continues to attract new members, and has established a number of lively interest groups, including an issues group chaired by President Sharon Archibald.

*CFUW Muskoka*'s lecture series continues to attract community recognition this year with a variety of thought-provoking speakers, and the Club maintains its support for the *Habitat for Humanity* shelter, which has begun construction of the building.

*CFUW North Bay*'s project to aid Tanzanian schools remains a focus for the Club, and in addition this

year's program focuses on creative activities such as theatre and home and garden design.

In *Thunder Bay*, the Club has chosen to study the welfare of Muslim women in relation to the Sharia Council. They have selected a number of books that will be presented at the Book Club in February and are encouraging club members to read on the topic.

*CFUW Sudbury*'s Eleanor Milliken returned from the IFUW meeting in Perth Australia, to report to the members. The Club is considering a long range planning exercise to review its scholarship commitments and other activities. The Club is pleased to welcome twenty new members and celebrates its highest membership ever (125) for the second year in a row. Warm Christmas events were planned by all the Clubs in celebration of friendships new and old.

Andrea Levan



## ONTARIO CENTRAL

**Linda MacGregor, Regional Director**

### Fall Gathering

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, a small group of committed and energetic women with a talent for organization and led by Gerry Hogaboam, made it possible for members from the 16 OC Central Clubs to learn how to market for new members, advocate effectively within their Club, develop a realistic strategic plan with a long term target, goals and action plans, and were provided with the opportunity to question the role of the CFUW National level in the life of local Clubs. The occasion was the Central Fall Leadership Gathering, the location was the Robert McLaughlin Gallery and the Club responsible was *CFUW Oshawa & District*. All members present were in agreement that much was taken away to be used in their own Club and it is these women they wish to thank.

*CFUW Peterborough* helped organize and participate in a December 6<sup>th</sup> vigil as part of a memorial to the 14 young women struck down by Marc Lepine 15 years ago..... The World Community Film Festival will take place in Peterborough on Jan. 28 & 29. Our Peterborough Club will be sponsoring one of the films, "The Silent Scream", a film that traces the lives of women in Afghanistan from relative freedom in the 1970s to total subjugation for many today.

Twenty two percent of adult Canadians have serious problems with printed materials. **CFUW Vaughan** began its “Battle of The Books” literacy project last year, having been inspired by CFUW **Markham-Unionville**, the Club responsible for its introduction into their own local schools. This year, their project will include the York Region Separate Schools who will join their Public School counterparts, leaving CFUW Vaughan and local librarians to organize a “Battle” for nineteen schools, more than double last year’s participation. Literacy projects like these will ensure that today’s students will not be included in the statistic given above.....Father Frank Janetta, a former priest with a social conscience, introduced members of the Vaughan Club to his company, Global Village Distributing, where coffees are sourced from grower co-operatives and ethical importers who have a concern for social and environmental issues. Coffee is grown using organic farming methods under shade tree canopies supporting hundreds of bird species. Farmer’s coffee is purchased at \$1.27/lb compared to \$.50/lb offered by conglomerates, such as Nestles. How do we buy it, Zena?

**CFUW Aurora-Newmarket** has 33 new members! Perhaps this has to do with a new advocacy study group; the raising of \$700 in support of the “Yellow Brick House”, a women’s support shelter, the Stephen Lewis Foundation and “Sleeping Children Around the World”. Or perhaps it is the involvement of their members in donating women’s and children’s clothes for the **Helping Hands Shop** at Trinity Church, or their used household items donated to **Habitat for Humanity**, or volunteering their time at the Southlake Hospital, gift wrapping for charity, or packing Christmas hampers for Children’s Aid of Newmarket.

**The University Women’s Club of Toronto** will have Isabel Basset, CEO of TVO, as their guest speaker at their Club dinner on Thursday February 10<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to attend, call the Club House at (416) 979-2000.

**CFUW Orillia** started a fledgling advocacy study group. Interest translated into support for a university in Orillia, conservancy and lifelong learning; a “Just Vote” campaign encouraging members of the community to get out and vote during the last federal election; meetings with their mayor, MP and MPP to discuss CFUW resolutions and to reinforce the need for a university..... Its Education Advocacy committee completed its study

of the Rae Review on post-secondary education. Under chair, Joan Gordon, it studied and discussed the questions contained in the online workbook and concluded their work by responding to all five questions and offering suggestions on four of them. Joan, perhaps we could read what suggestions your group recommended? ..... Wendy Taylor, a member of this advocacy group has begun research into the high drop-out rates from their local high schools and how this impacts on the social welfare of their community. One in five residents, ages 20-34, does not have a high school diploma and over 14% of Orillia’s income comes from government sources, compared to 9.8% for all of Ontario. This is one report that all CFUW OC Clubs will need to study and consider making a comparable study in their own community.

On a sunny afternoon last September, members of **CFUW Northumberland** held their first “trunk” sale. Shortly after 8 a.m., member’s cars, loaded with their “treasures” entered the local high school parking lot, threw open their trunk doors, and proceeded to set up shop to do business. In total, almost \$700 for their

scholarship fund was “in the bank”. The question now is “Will they repeat their success next year?” I certainly hope so. I will bring my car loaded with my “treasures” which no longer

have a “home”. Fran, let me know the date next September!

Well known Toronto Star columnist, Haroon Siddiqui spoke to members of **CFUW Etobicoke** and their guests. The topic: “Politics of the Middle East”. Haroon presented his views on the war in Iraq, the politics of George W, and the example that Canada sets as an international leader by showing how peoples of diverse backgrounds can live peacefully amongst one another. An excellent speaker for other Clubs.....The advocacy study group is at present *up to their necks in garbage*. After a recent visit to the Brampton incinerator, members recognized that their was *no contest* between trucking Toronto’s garbage to Michigan and burning most of it in a *state of the art facility* using European technology that reduces emissions to a negligible amount. To date, incineration has won hands down, and yet the City of Toronto has yet to *put it on the table* for discussion. Stay tune for more news on Toronto’s garbage.

“Making a Difference” is what **CFUW**

**Visibility Tip**  
Newspapers are looking for newsworthy items in the slow months of July and January.

**Scarborough's** advocacy group decided to call itself, and so they took action to achieve change. Letters speaking for the Kyoto protocol and against the delisting of physiotherapy treatments, found their way to the offices of member's MPPs and MPs. A recent phoning network was put into action. Calls were made to all Scarborough federal MPs and The Honorable Ken Dryden encouraging the government to move forward on their promised money and support for early childhood care and education.....The members of this Club undertook to participate in the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust. Scholarships in the name of CFUW Scarborough will now be given in perpetuity at twice the amount that they are currently able to fund. As a check, one member of the Club sits in on the selection committee.

The main focus of **CFUW North Toronto** members is its scholarship program to provide financial assistance to students at the secondary and post secondary levels. How do they do it? Monthly book sales and one major annual fund raiser.... A very active Current Issues group has focused on Electoral Reform and it is hoped that they can play a role in the recently announced Citizen's Advisory Council. Members of this group involved themselves in Mayor David Miller's Community Consultation Meetings and attended meetings of Toronto's City Council during the budget process. A suggestion .... perhaps the entire Toronto Caucus Clubs can participate next time and make more of an impact? What do you think, Donnie?..... On an individual basis, members of this Club involve themselves in programs such as "Out of the Cold", as mentors for immigrant children, as volunteers at the AGO, ROM, U of T Art Gallery, as Board members of Later Life Learning programs.....and in other areas where the need for volunteers is crucial to the success of a program.

**CFUW Weston & District** is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Their October meeting was held on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hurricane Hazel. A Club member, as well as a member of the Weston Historical Society, Mary Lou Asbourne, talked about the unique topography of the Humber river watershed that caused the torrents of water from the various tributaries to come together with incredible force at Woodbridge and, especially at Weston. Bridges were destroyed and houses were torn from their foundations. Much was learned from this devastating experience that hopefully will prevent a similar occurrence. All Central Clubs join together in congratulating the members of this Club on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Have a great year,

### Visiting Toronto?

When spending a day in Toronto, remember to drop in to the University Women's Club of Toronto at 162 St. George Street (at Bloor) for a tasty lunch and quiet relaxation. The Club is in easy walking distance of the Royal Ontario Museum and the exciting art galleries and luxury shops of Yorkville.

Individuals and groups are most welcome. Reservations are mandatory.

Please call 416 979-2000 to reserve.

ladies!

**UWC North York** formed a Membership Committee to address their declining membership rate: i.e. looking at ways to retain current members as well as to attract new ones. The committee decided to target *active women with active minds* through brainstorming and came up with ideas such as articles in professional and community publications, visits to former school staff rooms, a membership blitz, profile-raising activities in the community, sharing a project with another Club or organization, ads paid for by CFUW or CFUW Ontario Council.....The Status of Women & Human Rights study group continued its survey of child poverty, its causes, prevalence and measures to improve young lives. In October, Heather McGregor, Executive Director (ED) of the Toronto YWCA described YW programs to improve the lives of women and girls and outlined their advocacy issues, such as Child Care benefits and the "Clawback". In December, Bruce Rivers, ED of the Toronto Children's Aid Society, presently seconded to the newly formed Ministry of Children and Youth Services, spoke about the Ministry's focus on increasing access to "Healthy Babies" programs, "Early Learning" child care, children's mental health services, adoption reform, and other initiatives. Not only does Ontario have the highest rate of child poverty in Canada, it also has the highest rate of youth incarceration. World Class, eh!!

If you are interested in any of the activities of these Central Clubs, Presidents have the new directory for e-mail addresses of your counterpart in the other Clubs. As RD, I would like to be copied so that I have a sense of what is going in our region. My e-mail address is: mac335@sympatico.ca

Linda MacGregor

## ONTARIO EAST

**Marylea Burt, Regional Director**

### **Fall Gathering**

The Fall Gathering which was held at RCAF Association Wing 242 was a great success thanks to the efforts of **CFUW Cornwall & District**. The workshops on Scholarships, Membership, and Leadership were well attended and valuable information was shared. Chitra Chopra, CFUW Director of Resolutions was a guest, as well as several CFUW members from Quebec. The guest speaker, Maggie Wheeler, furthered the day's theme *Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future* by explaining the background of her mystery novels which include information on the Lost Villages, those flooded when the St. Lawrence Seaway was built.

**CFUW Kingston** has been busy this Fall with two open meetings. The public was invited to hear Cmdr (Ret.) Bob Williamson speak about the naval history of Lake Ontario and a panel discussion on alternative energy was held at Queen's University. The Club has also raised \$500 for their scholarship trust fund and submitted a resolution for 2005 on the United Nations Millennium Goals. Busy indeed!

**CFUW Ottawa** is undertaking two important projects this year, strategic planning for the years ahead and major fundraising for a Centennial Scholarship Trust marking the centenary of the Ottawa Club.

At a full day *Retreat in the Leaves* in October, Linda Souter joined the Ottawa Board to introduce Strategic Planning and to begin the process. Five Focus areas were confirmed - Finance, Visibility, Leadership, Change and Membership and a leader was named for each. Members were sought out for each Focus Group and invited "to bring their life experience to the table." In addition a large portion of our January General meeting will be allotted to Focus Group Workshops to provide more input which the board will use to develop the Strategic Plan.

The Club is proud to market and promote Dr. Ruth Bells memoirs, *Be A "Nice" Girl - A Woman's Journey in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*. Dr. Bell, formerly President of the Ottawa Club and of CFUW nationally has generously offered to give a portion of the proceeds to the Club's new Centennial Scholarship Fund and she has offered to match all monies raised for this Scholarship up to \$10,000 per year for five years to create a Centennial Scholarship by 2010, when Ottawa celebrates its centenary. A fall bike-a-thon, a bridge luncheon at a foreign mission residence, a Treasures Calendar, and a spring Garden Tour are all planned and have set the Club well on its way for this year.

In addition, the Ottawa Club members have had some good times together! The traditional Holiday Party was exceptionally successful this year not only in raising funds for our main Scholarship Trust Fund but also in providing a most pleasant venue for friendship. And the Diplomatic Hospitality Group of CFUW-Ottawa held its annual Christmas luncheon for the spouses of area diplomats where 160 participants dined on traditional festive foods, sang carols in several languages and enjoyed Mrs. Santa Claus who bore a striking resemblance to Edeltraud Neal. The originators of the group 36 years ago, Elizabeth Doe and Dr. Ruth Bell, were inducted into the Loyal Order of the Snowshoe to mark their founding and continued support of this vigorous group

In the area of Advocacy, CFUW-Ottawa presented a brief to the Rae Review. In keeping with the Ontario Council theme "In our own backyard" they have been lobbying the municipal government to use an available opportunity to build a medium sized concert hall in the Capital.

**CFUW Belleville & District** collected 145 books for the local firefighters annual Christmas Toy Drive and their own book (*Quinte Cuisine*) is now in the manuscript stage and ready for proof reading. They are hoping for a late 2005 or early 2006 publication. A registered dietician has been asked to help design a menu for a January lunch meeting where she will also be the speaker. This meeting also includes a book sale with the proceeds going to a women's Shelter.

**CFUW Cornwall & District** will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year. Wine and cheese will play a part in their celebration of International Women's Day.

**CFUW Perth & District** has had a very active start to the year with an increase in membership of 25%. A pot luck dinner at a member's home kicked off the Fall season. Guest speakers were Patricia Turnbull and Jennifer Dickson. Patricia was in the area to receive an award from the Federal Government for the innovative solution for the homeless in Red Deer, Alberta and spoke to the club about this creative housing partnership. Jennifer is Executive director of Pauktutit Inuit Women's Association, the national voice of Inuit Women in Canada and spoke to the club about promoting women's participation in Canada's economic, regional and national life. To offset the rise in CFUW fees for next year, Club members are bringing in books they have enjoyed reading for sale to other members at each meeting.

Marylea Burt

## IN MEMORIAM

CFUW was saddened at the loss of **Kathryn Manzer** who passed away in October. She was an active member of UWC North York since 1970 and made many valuable contributions to that Club and the national organization.

As well as serving on her Club's executive committee Kathryn successfully spearheaded a resolution on the need of a Federal ombudsman and, as recently as last Spring, she organized a well attended public meeting on Electoral Reform. As Regional Director of Ontario Central she saw the value of a Toronto Caucus to address the issues of the new amalgamated City of Toronto and initiated the Caucus' December 6<sup>th</sup> Luncheons. She was instrumental in the success of all five of these luncheons, including this year's at which her absence was deeply felt.

**Margaret McGovern is compiling a book of memories for Kathryn's daughters, if you have a memory you would like to share, please contact Margaret at [mjmcgovern@sympatico.ca](mailto:mjmcgovern@sympatico.ca)**

## NEWS & COMING EVENTS

### CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

*CFUW Niagara Falls* is hosting a "Power Breakfast" on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in honour of International Women's Day and invites any interested groups or individuals to attend. The Club is very pleased to have Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, as keynote speaker. Ms. Barlow is known to be a dynamic presenter and will be speaking on *Women Rising: What To Do With Our Power In The 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

Those in attendance will also enjoy a delicious, full course, sit down breakfast and have the opportunity to network with other women and women's groups from the Niagara Region. The breakfast will be held at Club Italia, 2525 Montrose Road in Niagara Falls from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and seating will be in tables of eight. A table can be reserved if the entire table is purchased. For tickets or more information contact:

Renni Piscitelli 905 356-9592 or Lu Beange 905 262-4685

Please join CFUW Niagara Falls in rounding out their 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year with this special event.

### DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> EVENTS

The Ontario West December 6<sup>th</sup> dinner was a real success with 146 people attending, including groups from Zonta, YWCA, Focus For Ethnic Women, and members of the law community. The donation to the Ecole Polytechnique Award will be approximately \$3000 bringing the two year total to

over \$5000. As the location of this event is rotating among *CFUW Cambridge*, *CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo* and *CFUW Guelph*, next year it will be held in Guelph.

The Toronto Caucus luncheon attendees arrived safely in spite of the wintery weather and enjoyed hearing from Roberta Jamieson. This year's donation will be just over \$1000, bring the five year total to over \$6700.

### A SUCCESS STORY!

In the last 15 years, *Scientists in School* (SiS) has grown from a grass-roots organization to one of the country's largest science outreach programs, reaching more than 320,000 elementary students a year.

SiS was initiated in 1989 by CFUW Ajax-Pickering in conjunction with the Durham District School Board and was incorporated in 1998 as a not-for-profit, charitable organization based in Ajax. Today, it offers programs to 13 school boards, has 250 presenters and averages 66 presentations on any given school day. Educators can choose from 77 programs that complement school curriculum, including: *Never Say Ugh to a Bug* and *May the Force Be With You*.

Cindy Adams, Executive Director, describes the goal of SiS as providing motivating experiences for youth and to be a support and mentor to teachers. In order to accommodate the demand from educators, the program has expanded to Guelph and Ottawa. This innovative project has attracted corporate sponsors and, in 2001, won the prestigious Michael Smith

Award for Excellence in Science Education.

The success of the program is a reflection of the presenter team, which now numbers 250 very talented individuals, who are passionate about science and about sparking an interest in science and technology in students at a young age. If any of you know of individuals either in your Clubs or otherwise, who have a science background/career, experience working with children, a 'sparkle' and high energy for very hands-on programs please refer them to the SiS web site: [www.scientistsinschool.ca](http://www.scientistsinschool.ca) for information on the presenter position and on submitting their resume.

## !! DATES TO REMEMBER !!

### STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005

September 17<sup>th</sup> 2005



### CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL AGM

May 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005



### ONTARIO COUNCIL DUES

must be remitted before February 1st

## ONTARIO COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
Victorian Inn, Stratford, Ontario



*Advocating for the Arts*

Keynote Speaker: Antoni Cimolino, Executive Director of the Stratford Festival

March 15 - Early bird registration (\$70) deadline

March 16 - Regular registration (\$80)

Friday, May 13 - Registration 4 - 8 pm

- Evening Reception 7:30 - 10:00 pm (\$10)

Saturday, May 14 - Business Meeting , Regional Meetings, Workshops  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Stay an extra evening!

Join us May 14<sup>th</sup> for Friendship, Dinner & the Theatre

*As You Like It* at the Festival Theatre

Supper at the Principal's Pantry

Package price \$80 - deadline April 1<sup>st</sup>

Full information package will be send to clubs in January 2005

### ***Dates & Data***

published Sept, Jan, May, & Special Issues

Also available on the Ontario Council website

[www.cfuwontouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontouncil.ca)

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