

## ONTARIO COUNCIL

# Dates & Data

Ontario Council Newsletter

March 2004 Issue

### From the CFUW Ontario Council President



All around us there is talk of budgets, deficits, program cuts, tax cuts, tax increases, dues increases, as they concern our municipal governments, our federal and provincial government and yes, even CFUW. And.... our annual personal income tax deadline is looming! How wonderful life would be without dues and taxes.

To some federal, provincial and municipal government programs and services are dirty words. Less government is best. Do we need a high priced legal system, courts, so many politicians and public service officials? Military, police, border guards, security services, social services, libraries, the arts, wading pools, hospital beds? What should be cut and what should be funded? What is necessary? The decision depends on what you want your country, province and cities to look like. Like a third world country where there are low taxes or no taxes, with crime and misery in the streets? Or like the country that Canada is, and the province we live in, prosperous, safe, equitable and caring, with a clean environment for its citizens?

We understand that the economic fundamentals have to be looked after. We know that too high a tax rate can impede the capability of Canadian industry and

businesses to compete and to grow with all the negative consequences to the employment opportunities for Canadians, to tax revenues - and to government programs and services....

Do you not think that we are lucky that we have a workable tax system and capable tax collectors? Just imagine what our life, our cities, roads, schools and hospitals would be like without that stable base of government funding. So let's count our blessings when we sit down with that tax form this month. Once that cheque is written we also have done our part in enabling the governments to do what we ask them to do.

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#### "Food for thought for Summer . . . ."

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The other side of the coin of our providing tax money to the governments is of course good government stewardship and financial accountability. It would be really helpful if the economists and business women amongst our CFUW members wrote some CFUW policy that will let us address the economic and fiscal requirements and government financial accountability that are needed to underpin social policy and programs and ensure them for the future. Food for thought for the summer....

Have a look at our CFUW policy book. It is a testament to the many decades that our Federation has been dealing with deficits in Canadian legislation and in Canadian government programs. CFUW members before us have formulated policies to address these deficits. So should you be tempted to groan when your club is looking at our proposed 2004 CFUW resolutions keep in mind that you will be adding to that policy body enabling us to advocate on the issues

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

- Notice of Meeting
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- 2004 AGM Programme Information
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contained in these resolutions. The work is well worth it and the resolutions will be valid and serviceable now and for years to come. For instance, during this month's City of Ottawa budget deliberations, in order to counter the library budget cuts and proposed closing of library branches, my club pulled out a 1993 CFUW Resolution to express our CFUW position that municipal libraries "must receive their fair share of budget in bad times as well as in good". I know that many clubs have taken part in the budget discussions in their regions and communities. We'd love to hear about it.

Your CFUW Ontario Council submitted a pre-budget brief to the Province of Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs and to the Hon. Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance, asking that scarce Provincial financial resources be put into Public Health Care, Public Education, Child Poverty, Housing and Homelessness and Safe Water. These are the core programs and services that our Ontario members agreed are basic to building a future and to maintaining the quality of life of our province.

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"Ontario Council advocacy effort"

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I should like to thank our CFUW Ontario Council Standing Committee Chairs **Teri Shaw**, Legislation, **Beth Haynes**, Education, **Joan Dunn**, Status of Women and Human Rights for writing this year's concise brief together with **Margaret McGovern**, CFUW Status of Women & Human Rights Chair, and our point woman for the health care part of the brief. We all appreciate the steadfast contribution of Teri, Beth, Joan and Margaret to our Ontario Council advocacy effort.

This is my last *Dates & Data* letter during this term as your CFUW Ontario Council President. I should like to thank all our Ontario clubs that have helped to make the 2002-04 biennium a successful one for our Council. I applaud the excellent work done in your home

communities, the university scholarships to women and the opportunities for life long learning that you provided at your meetings and at special events. We treasure your many efforts to advocate in various ways to improve education, the status of women and girls and human rights in our province.

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"heartfelt appreciation"

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I also should like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the CFUW Ontario Council Executive members and special appointees: **Ardith Toogood**, (Kitchener Waterloo) Regional Director (RD) Ontario West, **Marylea Burt**, (Belleville) RD Ontario East, **Lynn Franklin**, (Milton) RD Ontario South, **Joan Gentle**, (Muskoka) RD Ontario North and **Linda MacGregor**, (Etobicoke) RD Ontario Central, have kept us and our clubs going strong with their ideas, motivation and sound advice. **Teri Shaw**, (Oakville) Legislation, **Beth Haynes**, (Windsor) Education and Status of Women & Human Rights Chairs **Joan Dunn** (Oakville) and **Marilyn Letts** (Ottawa now in Abu Dhabi) organized superb Standing Committee meetings at the Toronto Club House. **Marlene Hewitt**, (Ottawa) Secretary, and **Jane Wandell**, (Ottawa) Treasurer kept us on the straight and narrow. **Ann McElhinney**, (Etobicoke) Communications, produced our newsletter, **Deborah Wills** (Kitchener-Waterloo) kept up our website, and **Karen Empringham**, (Ajax-Pickering) acted as our Liaison Out Of Province (LOOP) Coordinator. Thank You to the whole hardworking team, for your perseverance, good counsel, and warm fellowship.

**Make sure May 14/15 is marked on your calendar. It's the date of our CFUW Ontario Council 2004 AGM, at Victoria College, University of Toronto. The Friday Night reception will be at the Toronto Club House. (see information in this issues) It promises to be a great event. I hope to see you there.**

**Have a wonderful summer !**

*Edeltraud Neal*



## **NOTICE OF THE 2004 CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!**

The Executive of CFUW Ontario Council wishes to notify you that the 2004 Annual General Meeting of Ontario Council will take place in Toronto on May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

The Business meetings will be held at Victoria College, University of Toronto from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

An evening reception will take place at the UWC Toronto clubhouse from 7:30 p.m.. to 10:30 p.m. on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Registration forms are available from club presidents.

### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

#### **Proposed Increase in Dues for CFUW Ontario Council**

The following motion was carried at the March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004 meeting of the CFUW Ontario Council Executive Board:

**That the Ontario Council Board recommend an increase in CFUW Ontario Council dues of \$1.00 per year in each of the coming three years to come into effect in February, 2005.**

The reasons for the need for an increase were outlined in detail in the February 2004 issue of *Dates & Data*.

Marlene Hewitt,  
Secretary, CFUW Ontario Council



## **March 6<sup>th</sup> 2004 Standing Committee Meeting REPORT**

Electoral reform was the topic when all three committees met together to hear Nathalie DesRosiers, a professor of law at the University of Ottawa and president of the Law Commission of Canada.

Ms. DesRosiers described how the Law Commission was reinstated in 1997, after a five-year hiatus, to address a perceived malaise among the Canadian public with respect to governance and the legal system. Extensive surveys revealed that in the governance area there was general distrust of the system, which it was felt was responsible for low voter turn-out in Canadian elections. It has been observed that citizens want to participate, but because of dissatisfaction with the present system they resort to protesting and lobbying, not voting. The Commission focused on electoral reform, not as a cure-all, but as a good place to start.

Electoral reform has been advocated by government commissions since at least 1968, out of recognition that, when there are more than two parties, our present first-past-the -post system does not lead to a fair representation of voter wishes. Problems are that a party can win a majority with less than 50% of the votes, and the system invites parties to promote strong but unbalanced regional representation, in areas with a high concentration of seats, e.g. the Liberals in Ontario and the Alliance in Alberta. Parties like the NDP and Green Party may have significant numbers of supporters country-wide, but these do not translate into seats because they are not concentrated. It has long been felt that some system of proportional representation would be fairer, and allow a truer reflection of voter preference, by allowing smaller parties to make their presence felt in the legislature. This in turn would reflect the country's diversity as

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“when there are more than two parties, our present first-past-the -post system does not lead to a fair representation of voter wishes.”

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presumably the smaller parties would be more welcoming of women and cultural minorities who tend to be shut out of the traditional parties. (Canada ranks 36th in the number of women legislators.) Electoral reform has never gone beyond the recommendation stage, however, presumably because parties in power don't favour it, and because of a lack of agreement on a suitable replacement.

The Law Commission has studied the subject in the several countries who now uses a proportional system, and have produced a report *Voting Counts -Electoral Reform in Canada* (available March 29 at [www.lcg/gc/ca](http://www.lcg/gc/ca)) with their recommendations. They favour a system in which the number of MP's would remain the same, but the present number of federal ridings would be reduced by one-third, and a representative would be elected from each (larger

riding as now, first-past-the-post. The other third of the MP's would be elected proportionally from lists compiled by parties. There would therefore be two ballots - one for the riding representative, one for the list candidate. Fringe and one-issue parties would be

shut out by a requirement that they represent at least a stated proportion of the population. To the argument that this could lead to multiple parties and a constant steam of coalition governments, as no one party would ever form a majority, the Commission feels that this is not a bad thing, as Canada has been well-served by minority governments.

Some form of proportional representation is also being looked at provincially by British Columbia, New Brunswick, PEI, Ontario and Quebec.

*Peggy Pinkerton*





Following the plenary meeting in the morning, the Standing Committees met individually. The Status of Women and Human Rights Committee met to discuss their role as a representative of their club and their responsibility to their club. The group talked about the experience of being able to attend standing committee meetings. They acknowledged that it then took a concerted effort to take that information back to share with their own club members. In small groups we discussed the following four questions:

1. What information do you want to take back to your club?
2. How do you plan to inform club members?
3. Why did you choose this?
4. What are your expectations of your club?

Our deliberations resulted in the following: report back through the newsletter, report at executive and/or general meeting, arrange for guest speaker on the topic to come to local meeting. We then discussed the role that the standing committee chair plays in her club and on the executive, any help she might have, and the club's expectations. This led to the development of a prototype job description that standing committee chairs can use as a base for developing a job description for use with their local club.

*Joan Dunn*



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Elizabeth Haynes, Chair*



At the March 6 Standing Committee Meetings, the Education Committee spent the afternoon discussing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Many of our members had indicated concern about this test, both with respect to the validity of standardized testing and the fact that awarding of an Ontario Diploma is dependent on satisfactorily passing this test.

In response to these concerns, samples of the OSSLT were presented for evaluation. Samples of the US Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) - the test used to

assess university eligibility in the US - were also provided for comparison purposes. The most salient difference between the two tests is the fact that the SAT offers no opportunities for student generated, written responses. It is 100% multiple choice. By contrast the OSSLT provides a mix of multiple choice answers, short answers and short essay responses to the questions. By contrast to the SAT, the OSSLT offers students an opportunity to use information and demonstrate literacy skills in a practical way.

Our discussion of the OSSLT was enhanced by the presence of Janet Medelko, who has served as a marker for the OSSLT for the past two years. Janet described the training procedures for markers as well as the marking procedures. She brought valuable insight into the entire OSSLT process.

Concerns about the problem of the OSSLT being a single performance measure that will determine whether a student is awarded an Ontario Diploma have been addressed by the Ministry of Education. An option is now provided to students who have been eligible to take the OSSLT twice but have not passed. This option is the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course. Satisfactory completion of the course will satisfy the literacy requirement on the Ontario Transcript.

All in all, the afternoon discussion offered opportunities for greater understanding of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy requirement, through thoughtful analysis and discussion. Members were pleased to have had the opportunity for the discussion.

*Beth Haynes*



## LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

*Teri Shaw, Chair*



In the afternoon session the Legislation committee discussed individual clubs' advocacy successes. Katherine Manzer, of the North York Club advised of their upcoming public panel (April 28, Civic Garden Centre) on Electoral Reform, featuring our morning speaker, Nathalie Des Rosiers, Doris

Anderson and Sylvia Bashevkin, who has had previous successful Standing Committee appearances. She referred to *Selling Ourselves*, a publication of the Ontario Council in 1999, describing club projects, including, among many, house tours, book sales, Scientists in the School, and a fundraising trip to Chicago.

Joan Goddard, of the Guelph club credited the winning on an Advocacy Award with increased awareness of

her club in the community. They have an active Civic Affairs group, which monitors city council and has been responsible for action on mobile signs, waste disposal, libraries and health issues, as well as effective Family Issues and Education groups. Other clubs were urged to consider advocacy in local matters and not focus exclusively on higher levels of government.

*Peggy Pinkerton*



## ADVOCACY AWARDS Entries Due June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004.

Documentation can be submitted at the AGM

## REGIONAL ROUNDUPS

### ONTARIO WEST

Ardith Toogood, Regional Director

Something unique is about to happen in Ontario West: a Spring Gathering and a Fall Gathering all in the same year. It appears that our Region was the only area with plans already in place for an April 24, 2004 Gathering at the time that the Ontario Council membership voted to have Spring AGMs and Fall Gatherings. Not only that, but representatives from three of our clubs - CFUW **Southport**, **Saugeen** and **Kincardine** - were working co-operatively to organize a memorable day of learning and sharing for the 14 clubs of the Region.

The CAW Centre in Port Elgin is a state-of-the-art facility nestled amid woods and waterfalls on the shores of Lake Huron, a perfect setting inspiring the theme, "Lakeshores and Lighthouses."

Linda Mortsch, a Meteorologist with Environment Canada, will speak on shorelines and climate changes

which affect the Great Lakes and Heather and Gary Keast, Bruce Coast Lighthouse Partners, will inform us about lighthouse history and preservation.

At the two Regional Roundup Sessions members from each club will share highlights of their CFUW year, while during the Club Development Session all delegates will participate in their choice of several Round Table Discussions. Everyone is welcome! For more information contact [cfuwsprgath04@aol.com](mailto:cfuwsprgath04@aol.com).

Congratulations to **Beth Haynes**, President of CFUW **Windsor** and Ontario Council Chair of Education, who has been acclaimed as in-coming Regional Director for Ontario West for the 2004 - 2006 Biennium. We wish her all the best and are delighted that she will be taking on this new responsibility.

Congratulations to CFUW **Kitchener-Waterloo** on

being the recipient of an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant for \$73,500. The grant will fund research into two World War II military training facilities for women that were located in Kitchener and Galt. The grant also funds production of a video and will support presentations to schools and seniors' centres. The club will also be producing a well-illustrated book and creating a web site. This is a great example of how we as CFUW members can use our skills as educated

women to inform our communities and enhance their understanding of the important role women have played in our history.

To find out what the other Ontario West clubs are up to, join us at our Spring Gathering!

*Ardith Toogood*



## ONTARIO SOUTH

Lynn Franklin, Regional Director

At this time of the year, in past newsletters, I have reported that Ontario South Clubs are busy with fundraising. While I know that this is still the case, I have also discovered that they are also very busy with the advocacy part of our mission statement. Presidents took time from their busy schedules to share the following information with Ontario Council members. Please enjoy:

in the sponsorship of the Grimsby Library Summer Reading Program and supporting the Habitat for

**CFUW Hamilton** reports that their Health Forum has been rescheduled to the fall. They will have Dr. Michael Rachlis as the keynote speaker. He is presently on a book tour with his new book *Prescription for Excellence*. **CFUW Welland** has been working on their Constitution, updating the policy book and revising the Roles and Responsibilities of executive members. **CFUW Burlington's** monthly programs have focused on health and the environment. Their issues group is doing a specific investigation into Home Care in Ontario. **CFUW Norfolk's** Municipal Affairs committee fully participated in the role of advocate for the Norfolk Public Library. There was a proposal that a significant portion of its space be taken over by the Department of Tourism and Economic Development. Through letters to the editor of their local paper, attendance at City Council meetings and in general promoting on behalf of the good of the library, they, along with other interested parties, were successful in keeping the library intact.

**CFUW Grimsby's** executive approved requests for funds raised at monthly raffles. The club is assisting

Humanity Youth Project to Mexico. **CFUW Mississauga** is excited that their membership has grown to 231 members (26 new and returning members). Their club has had a superb group of speakers this year, which included Dr. Kim Vincente who spoke on Technology and the Human Factor; and Jackie Maxwell, the Artistic Director for the Shaw Theatre. In April, Dona Harvey and Dr. Bell Klassen will speak about the Fragilities of the Middle East. (Guests welcome).

**CFUW St. Catharines** reports that funds raised at the Christmas auction have allowed donations to their Gift of Reading project, the Gift of Theatre project and to the Children's Discovery Centre for needed software, books and games for one of their displays. Their Social Action group has been meeting with various groups and lobbyists on the issue of Homelessness and Affordable Housing. With the information that they have collected they are ready to start preparing letters and submissions to those identified in their research. Spring fundraisers continue: **CFUW Milton, CFUW Georgetown and CFUW Grimsby** have Community Used-book Sales; **CFUW Brampton**, their annual Fashion Show; **CFUW St. Catharines**, their House Tour and **CFUW Mississauga**, their annual Card Party.

Through all this activity, clubs are planning for next year. Budgets are being monitored, executive members are recruited and larger yet inexpensive meeting places are sought after. Great things continue to happen in Ontario South Region. Congratulations to all! See you at the AGM in May.

*Lynn Franklin*

## **ONTARIO NORTH**

Joan Gentle, Regional Director

This is my last report for *Dates & Data* as Regional Director for Ontario North, a position in which I was pleased to serve.

Our new club, **CFUW Haliburton Highlands** continues to increase its membership. This club has completed their constitution and will be receiving their charter in Regina at the 2004 National AGM. The club has already given to the community by contributing to the 4C Food Bank and to the

Haliburton Friends of Sir Sanford Fleming. Sharon Archibald is a member of the Issues Liaison for Work-Life Balance.

**CFUW North Bay** attended the Nipissing University Scholarship Luncheon where they met recipients of the club's awards. The club reports that it was great to actually sit down and speak with the award winners and find out what they plan doing with their education. Jill Frayne, author of *Starting Out in the*

*Afternoon* attended the club's March meeting.

The **CFUW Muskoka** Spring Lecture Series will present Dr. Duncan Edmonds, Visiting Professor and Chair of Canadian Studies at Yale University, on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> in Bracebridge: Lecture 1 (5:30 – 6:30) *Historic Perspective on the Canada-US Relationship*, Refreshments (6:30 – 7:30); Lecture 2 (7:30 – 8:30) *Current Status of the Canada-US Relationship, Developments And Tensions That Will Likely Come In Future Years* . Cost \$20 .

Noted author, Charlotte Gray, will speak at their annual Author's Night on May 7<sup>th</sup> and CFUW Muskoka was requested by Muskoka Affordable Community Housing (MACH) to co-ordinate the furnishing of the new Family Emergency Housing Unit in Bracebridge. A committee was formed to co-ordinate the collection of everything needed to fully

furnish the three bedroom house which was completely empty except for appliances. The club was pleased to receive donations from service clubs, churches and other organizations. The official opening and Open House, attended by dignitaries, was March 3<sup>rd</sup> and was hosted by CFUW Muskoka. A family was already scheduled to move in two days later. If a family has suddenly lost their housing they will be provided with emergency housing for six weeks to give them a chance to stay together, keep their children in schools, collect their thoughts and to save the required first and last month rent payments, thus getting back into market accommodation.

As well, the Muskoka club contributed to the Lt Governor's Book initiative and they have arranged a second meeting with their Member of Parliament.

A five member Advocacy Group was formed by **CFUW Thunder Bay**. They attended meetings and wrote letters opposing the establishment of the proposed Synfuel Technologies power plant on the Fort William First Nations territory. Synfuel Technologies is a coke plant promoting the burning of coke for the production of fuel. To associate with like minded not for profit organizations, the club has arranged a combined dinner meeting with the Inner Wheel.

**CFUW Sudbury** enjoyed another successful Author's Night this year with Elizabeth Baird author of *The Complete Canadian Living Cookbook*. The club contributed \$700 to the Cambrian College Food Bank. Clubs in Ontario North are proud and active members of CFUW. Many thanks for the contribution of those who gave their time to the executive committees and to the members who have given their support.

*Joan Gentle*



# ONTARIO CENTRAL

Linda MacGregor, Regional Director

There has been an extraordinary number and variety of activities offered and speeches, with their thought-provoking messages, delivered in the short space of one year in the *lives* of Central's 16 Clubs..... but did they arouse an intelligent interest in public affairs? did they encourage an active participation by Club members in such affairs? did they foster some sense of responsibility for Club members to place their educational and professional training at the service of their community? (CFUW Mission)

You be the judge !!

The *Ajax-Pickering Club* began their year with a speaker from Herizon House, a local women's shelter. It was Karen's hope that the information provided would encourage members to prepare for another successful year of community outreach projects. *CFUW Aurora-Newmarket* took up the call from Ontario's Lieutenant Governor to collect books for school libraries in native communities in Northern Ontario. *Barrie & District* reached out to their community and donated to their local "Out of The Cold" program. This year, *CFUW Etobicoke* initiated a recycling project collecting inkjet cartridges to benefit the Food Bank, Campbell soup labels to assist the Girl Guides and used postage stamps to further the cause of the Leprosy Society. Louise Beaulieu-Steiner of *Leaside-East York* spoke to her Club members of the promising possibilities as well as the ethical problems associated with stem cell research. Katie Chau, daughter of former *CFUW Markham-Unionville* President, Rosemary Chau, shared her experiences of what it was like living in West Africa and working with AIDS victims. The Current Events study group of the *North Toronto* Club presented papers to one another on the mayoralty candidates running for office in last October's municipal election. Another Toronto Caucus Club, *UWC North York* founded a new study group called "The Women's Caucus" which focuses on advocating issues of relevance to their members, such as violence against women, access to health care, and urban transit. The *Northumberland* members of Coburg, Port Hope and surrounding regions heard from OPP Staff Sargent, Rob Longstreet, on personal security for the elderly, on investment scams that target our senior citizens, as well bringing to their attention another very timely

concern in this province, elder abuse. Along with many other Central Clubs, *CFUW Orillia*, held two pot luck dinners to support teachers in Afghanistan - the total raised for the organization Breaking Bread for Women, was \$2,347. The *Oshawa* Club members recently moved to establish a scholarship to be awarded to the top female student entering from one of their local secondary schools into the newly developed University of Ontario Institute of Technology. *CFUW Peterborough* has participated widely and actively in their community throughout the past. Recently their Awards Fund was recognized by the Regional Science Fair for its support over the years through their Dr. Moffat-Magee Awards. Amani Oakley, one of the founding members of the Toronto Health Coalition, was invited to speak to the members of *CFUW Scarborough*. Her message to them focused on their dedication to strengthening the principles of the Canada Health Act as well as their opposition to for-profit health care. Since approving the recommendations of the Romanow Report at last August's National AGM, CFUW has been able to lend its support to organizations, such as the Toronto Health Coalition, on issues of common concern. *CFUW Vaughan* members decided to follow in the successful footsteps of their sister Club in Markham-Unionville by funding their own "Battle of the Books" project this spring, Eight local schools will compete in a project that promotes literacy in a fun environment. Then there is our smallest Club, *CFUW Weston* with its 11 members. These ladies continue to meet and study issues which are of concern to our federation, and in the past, have written briefs and submitted articles that have been published by our media and have formed part of CFUW's presentation to the different government levels in Canada and Ontario.

If I were a member of the jury determining if these Central Clubs had *aroused intelligent interest and active participation in public affairs, and if they had encouraged others to place their educational and professional training at the service of their community*, I would have to vote "Guilty" for all sixteen Clubs and announce that "yes, they did just that !!" Congratulations !

Linda MacGregor

## ONTARIO EAST

Marylea Burt, Regional Director

The 10 clubs of Eastern Ontario are very busy with resolutions and their nominating committees are once again looking for members to fill executive positions for 2004 - 2005. Please consider what you can do to keep your club healthy and be ready to volunteer when opportunity knocks at your door. You will be surprised at how rewarding a position on the executive will be.

**CFUW Belleville & District** will be celebrating their 65th anniversary this April. They are busy planning their 5th annual garden tour and tea for Saturday July 17th 2004 to raise funds for their scholarships.

**CFUW Brockville & District** is having a fund raiser with local author and broadcaster Mary Cook on March 29th to raise monies for their scholarships.

**CFUW Cornwall & District** has a new web page. [Http://home.cogeco.ca/~cfuwconwall](http://home.cogeco.ca/~cfuwconwall). They are busy preparing for the Ontario East Fall gathering to be held on October 2nd, 2004. The theme this year will be *Preserving the Past - Protecting the Future*.

*Marylea B. Burt*

### PLEASE NOTE!

If your club's AGM voting delegate is someone other than the club president, contact your Regional Director for proxy information.

## EVENTS PAST & FUTURE

### ORILLIA HOMES TOUR

Since 1974, CFUW Orillia's most successful fundraiser has been its annual Homes Tour and Tea. This annual event has become very popular with people living not only in Orillia, but also as far as the Muskokas, Barrie and even Toronto. We normally raise between \$7,000-\$8,000, with the entire proceeds dedicated to our Scholarship Fund which then supports the scholarships for young Orillia women high school graduates going on to higher learning.

Preparations for this fundraiser start at the beginning of the year with the new executive. Every member of the club is involved in several ways, and the involvement is actually a prerequisite of becoming a member. As members sign on, they know they will be obliged to buy in addition to their membership, \$60 of Homes Tour Tickets in May. Members are also expected to donate their time in some way on the day of the tour. It is not only CFUW members that are involved with the Homes Tour, but members of the community are involved by offering their homes to be

toured, and many Orillians help out in other ways. Also, high school scholarship recipients from the past year, as well as present high school students participate as hostesses and serve at the Tea.

Three separate committees help to bring the whole show together in June. The Homes Tour Committee is responsible for researching and finding the homes for the current year's tour, as well as keeping a roster of interesting homes for future years and finding new potential homes. This Committee deals with the potential homeowners and arranges the write-ups of the homes for the program.

The Committee for the Tea is responsible for arranging a suitable venue. The committee must decide how to decorate the room, the tables, what to serve, how many people will be needed to help, delegate responsibilities and manage the traffic flow at the Tea. The committee also arranges for a local group to perform. The Tea is a lovely respite from the hustle and bustle of getting through all the homes and

the participants of the tour appreciate a quiet place to sit, rest their weary feet and have a soothing drink with delectable morsels.

Finally, the reason for the fundraiser, the scholarship committee gets together and using rigorous criteria, selects the successful candidates that will be awarded our scholarships.

The entire Homes Tour and Tea fundraising process requires many hours of dedicated work, culminating in a supreme co-ordination of efforts by all members of the CFUW Orillia club and many volunteers from the Orillia community. The satisfaction is in being able to fulfill the CFUW mandate of helping young women in their pursuit of knowledge.

For those interested in attending our annual Orillia 2004 Homes Tour and Tea, to be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., tickets are \$20 each and you may reserve them in advance by sending a cheque made out to CFUW Orillia to: RR 1, Site 2, Box 134, Brechin, Ontario L0K 1B0. Order early, so you will not be disappointed as tickets do get sold out quickly and are **not** sold at the door of the homes during the tour.

*Renata Dashawetz,*

## **CFUW KITCHENER-WATERLOO GETS A GRANT!**

The Kitchener-Waterloo club is pleased to announce they have received a \$73,500 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The grant, covering a two-year period, will fund research into two military training facilities for women during World War II that were located in the Region of Waterloo: the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWACS) base at Knollwood Park in Kitchener, beside the Kitchener Auditorium, and the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRENS) base at Galt. The Trillium grant also funds production of a video on the subject, and will support presentations to schools and seniors' centres. The club will also be producing a well-illustrated book, and creating a website.

Following the club's successful publication of *WOMEN OF WATERLOO COUNTY* three years ago, this is another project to celebrate and honour

women, and to explore an unwritten chapter in local history. The two training centres were significant parts of our community during the war years, with nearly 17,000 CWACS passing through the Kitchener camp, and many thousands of WRENS at the Galt location. The wartime experiences of these eager, young and patriotic Canadian women have never been fully documented, nor have the important connections of the training camps with our cities.

The Kitchener-Waterloo club is eager to hear from people who received military training at one of these sites, know someone who did, or had contact from another perspective with these young women. If you have recollections to contribute to this important story, please contact a club representative at (519) 740-5249 (leave a message, and your call will be returned), or by mail at Military History Project, c/o CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo, P. O. Box 22039, Waterloo N2L6J7, or by e-mail at ametheng@sentex.net. If you ever sang, "We Are the Girls of the Marching Corps", they want to hear from you!

### **ONTARIO WEST SPRING GATHERING**

CFUW **Southport, Saugeen and Kincardine** are working co-operatively to organize a memorable day of learning and sharing for the 14 clubs of the Ontario West Region. The gathering will be held at the CAW Centre in Port Elgin on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004 Everyone is welcome! For more information contact cfuwsprgath04@aol.com.

### **ONTARIO CENTRAL FALL LEADERSHIP GATHERING**

The Ontario Central Region will be holding its Fall leadership gathering on Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, 72 Queen Street, Civic Centre, Oshawa. The event is being hosted by CFUW Oshawa & District and the theme is *The Group of 16: Learning Together*. There will be workshops, a town hall meeting and a tour of the gallery. Everyone is welcome.

**Mark your calendar Now!**

**CFUW Ontario Council  
2004 Annual General Meeting**

***Changes: Reviewing the Past ..... Mapping the Future***

**Friday May 14<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m. reception  
UWC Toronto Club House  
162 St. George Street**

Meet Local MPPs, listen to the UWC Toronto: Famous Five  
Network with other Club Members

**Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Victoria College, U of T**

Business meeting, Regional Meetings, *The Road Ahead* Luncheon  
Policy Workshops on

- ▶ Child advocacy
- ▶ Drinking water quality
- ▶ Child poverty
- ▶ Violence against women

**Watch the Ontario Council web site for more information  
Your club president has registration forms  
Register soon!**

***Dates & Data***

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Also available on the Ontario Council website  
<http://www.wlu.ca/wwwlib/oncouncil/dates.html>

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Submissions Welcome  
Please advise of any changes, additions or deletions to our mailing list