



## Dates & Data

### ONTARIO COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

1585 Yonge Street, at Heath St.

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

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

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

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

Registration Form Enclosed

### MORNING PROGRAMME

**Theme:** HIV/AIDS Curriculum and the Schools

**Speaker:** Christine Fortin, Founder of *Patrick 4 Life*

Christine Fortin is a founding member of the not-for-profit organization *Patrick 4 Life Awareness and Education* dedicated to educating youth about how to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS by creating awareness through education, leadership, fundraising and partnerships. Based on the belief that youth have the capacity to lead the way in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Christine Fortin is the mother of Patrick who was born a hemophiliac on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1978. To manage his bleeding disorder, Patrick required bi-weekly Factor VIII infusions. In the early to mid 1980s the Canadian blood supply was contaminated with the HIV virus and as a result Patrick was diagnosed HIV positive in February of 1986 at age 7. Patrick died of AIDS at the age of 23.

Christine sits on the AIDS Bureau, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Women and HIV/AIDS Working Group and the Ontario Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS, HIV Prevention Working Group. As a result of her foundation's work, excellent HIV/AIDS programs are available.

## EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

### Afternoon Session

The afternoon session of the Education Committee will continue to focus on HIV/AIDS education being adopted into the Ontario curriculum. Christine Fortin of *Patrick 4 Life*, and Brenda Robertson from the North Bay Club will facilitate the afternoon. I look forward to seeing all of you. If you have any issues or concerns that you would like to discuss, please notify me before the meeting.

Wendy Taylor, Committee Chair

## LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE

### Afternoon Session

As a follow-up to the last meeting on poverty we will be looking at Bill 152, Poverty Reduction Act 2009 and also at how clubs can get involved in pressing for the inclusion of money for better child care in Ontario in the next Ontario budget. We will also continue discussions on a simple report card that clubs can use to evaluate their LHIN.

Myrtle Greve, Committee Chair

## STATUS OF WOMEN & HUMAN RIGHTS STANDING COMMITTEE

### Afternoon Session

The SW & HR Standing Committee is planning to examine the Ontario Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy further from the perspective of women and their families. Poverty and violence are barriers that hold women back from taking their place in society and in the labour market.

Our speaker for this session will be **Pamela Mank**, M.S.W., R.S.W.

Pamela Mank is the Co-ordinator of the *Family Violence Project Waterloo Region*. This seamless response to family violence is the first of its kind in Canada. It is a collaborative response to domestic violence representing a one-stop service approach with 13 co-located partner agencies and services. She is also the Assistant Clinical Director of *Catholic Family Counselling Centre (CFCC)*, Waterloo Region.

For over 25 years she has specialized in working with women particularly in the areas of family violence, sexual assault, self esteem, and self growth/understanding. She has developed a psycho-educational programme for women dealing with domestic violence related issues. She has been successfully running this programme, *Understanding Me* for 12 years as well as leading family violence therapy groups and separation/divorce groups.

She has a leadership role with CFCC's *Critical Incident Response Team* which has responded to a myriad of crisis/incidents within her community. Pamela is a long term field placement supervisor for Wilfrid Laurier University Masters of Social Work students.

She has had articles published on a variety of topics related to personal growth and recently *The Family Violence Project*.

Our Violence against Women Sub-Committee will have looked at the report *No Cherries Grow on our Trees* which examines poverty and violence against women. With Ms. Mank's expertise as a resource, we should have an enlightening discussion.

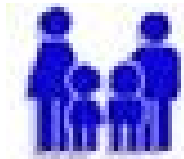
Edeltraud Neal, Committee Chair

## ONTARIO CLUB ACTIVITIES

### ONTARIO NORTH

#### Sudbury Initiative

The *Adopt-a-Family* project is an initiative that CFUW Sudbury has undertaken to take action on poverty in their community. Support was tailored to each family and includes food vouchers, Superstore gift certificates, winter clothes and other gifts. Families are selected from a number of sources, but the common factor is that none of these families would receive assistance without the club's help.



Five families from Queen Elizabeth P.S. received food vouchers. CNIB recommended a single mom with two sons, one of which has serious vision impairment and must travel to Toronto

or Ottawa for treatment. *Adopt-a-Family* provided funds to help both with Christmas and future travel expenses. The All Saints Church recommended a mother and her three boys who were in need of winter jackets, warm mitts and food, among other gifts. From Cambrian College, a student mother with three children and one with two children, each received Superstore gift certificates to help with food, clothes and toys. From Lansdowne P.S. a family with two children, one of which has severe developmental challenges would have had a difficult time celebrating Christmas if not for the gift from *Adopt-a-Family*.

The success of this project (\$3000 in donations) takes on special meaning when viewed from the perspective of the recipients and of those who helped them during Christmas 2008.

Anne Hann

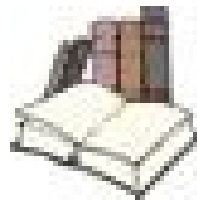
*Adopt-A-Family* Committee

#### CFUW Haliburton Highlands Targets Poverty

In September, one of our book clubs read the book *Three Cups of Tea* by Gerg Mortensen. They were inspired by the author's charity work and wanted to make a difference for people in Haliburton County who are at almost the lowest in income per capita in the province of Ontario. We felt that this year poverty was going to be the biggest challenge for our community.

The members of this book club felt that their greatest gift would be their time and began to look for places that CFUW Haliburton Highlands could make a difference. At the same time, we were deciding where our donations might be best used. We have committed to a \$500 bursary for a student in need.

We looked at where members volunteer already... more than 15 different charitable organizations. One of our members settled on a local organization called *So It Really Can Happen Community Services & Consulting* (SIRCH). SIRCH has many programs for palliative care, for the ill, and also responds to the needs of families living in poverty. We were particularly interested in a new program which has just begun. The focus of the *Healthy Children Program* is on educating parents on how to prepare cost efficient, nutritious meals thereby ensuring children have enough food to eat all of the time. As well, the program(s) helps families who struggle with "food insecurity"- not enough food and food that isn't nutritious. Children who are living in poverty and experiencing food insecurity may develop serious health risks. Often these families have less than \$200 to buy food for a month. SIRCH has a Community Kitchen program twice a month where couples or single moms come in and learn to cook a healthy meal. Volunteers from CFUW assist in the preparation of the meals with the parents involved and the meal is taken home to put in the freezer for later in the week. We donated \$500 to this program and then volunteered to assist in the Community Kitchen. We are proud that SIRCH now considers us their partners and has offered us other opportunities to volunteer in their programs.



In addition, another member of CFUW Haliburton Highlands spoke with a principal in a very small community outside of Haliburton who really needs volunteers to read with children. We now have a number of members who are driving some distance to staff this program as well. Many of our members volunteer widely throughout the community, but these three initiatives, SIRCH, reading in a local school, and our

two donations to SIRCH and our bursary at the local high school for a student needing assistance, have been done in the name of CFUW Haliburton Highlands' efforts with SIRCH.

Lindy Smith  
Co-President CFUW Haliburton

### **CFUW North Bay has been Busy with Advocacy**

For the past three years, CFUW North Bay has had a very enthusiastic, dedicated, working issues committee. We are appreciative of the good relations with our MP and MPP who readily meet with us on issues of concern. Numerous letters sent since the fall have addressed First Nations Technical Institute, Canadian Mining Practices abroad, Vancouver Injection Site, Bill C-484, Child Care, inquiries and update on Human Trafficking legislation. Provincial letters have also included First Nations Technical Institute, request for a personal safety clause to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the claw back of part-time earnings of post-secondary students, Child Care, Early Learning, Poverty Reduction, and HIV/AIDS Curriculum. Advocacy on a National Water Policy and holding a Public Forum on Poverty are our next initiatives.

Monthly meetings identify previous action taken by our club and discussion on current/previous issues using resources from Ontario Council and National. Guest speakers at our monthly meetings and our Sunrise Breakfast increase awareness and knowledge on local concerns. We believe that this outreach advocacy in the community is important and beneficial for all. Many new partnerships with individuals and organizations from the Multicultural Centre to Nipissing University have been formed through our advocacy.

Identifying what you can do, taking action and communicating the outcome of your advocacy are important steps in this work.

CFUW North Bay  
Issues/Advocacy/Action Committee

### **CFUW Thunder Bay's Work on Poverty**

CFUW Thunder Bay held a General Meeting on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for members and the public. The recently established Advocacy/Issues Group invited Aaron Park, Social Researcher/ Planner, Lakehead Social Planning

Council as our guest speaker to speak to the topic *Poverty Reduction: The Thunder Bay Story*. Aaron has been working locally and provincially on the many issues of poverty and he was able to give us an insight into the local situation with current facts and figures taken from Stats Canada 2000-2006. The picture shown was sobering and pointed in large measure to the grave living conditions of Aboriginal people who are moving in numbers to urban centres such as Thunder Bay. Aboriginal people are Canada's fastest growing population with much lower average age than the non-Aboriginal population. This fact leaves many children and single mothers at serious risk of poverty particularly related to food security, housing, education and income.

25 in 5: Network for  
Poverty Reduction 

During the last provincial election campaign promises were made to reduce child poverty and since then the government has set out a goal to reduce child poverty by 25% in 5 years. A number of groups have joined together to prepare a report for the government on these issues. The report, *Blueprint for Economic Stimulus and Poverty Reduction* can be found at <http://www.25in5.ca/Blueprint.html>. It contains concrete recommendations towards reducing poverty across the province.

Aaron also indicated that the north faces some differing factors that are not found to the same extent in other parts of the province. We have the previously mentioned growing Aboriginal population but also we have a larger percentage of people over 65 years. Both these factors have major impacts on delivery of health and social services. The other vulnerable group is people with disabilities and the support systems that may or may not be available. It seems as if we have a very complicated system which is difficult to navigate making life even more difficult for those in need. The local Advocacy/Issues Group plans to study the report on poverty reduction and to focus on the recommendations that are particular to Thunder Bay and Ontario's north. Much work is left to be done; it will take time and determination by many people and organizations working together.

Liz Poulin, Vice-President  
CFUW Thunder Bay

## ONTARIO SOUTH

### Ontario South Clubs are buzzing with activity!

CFUW **Brampton** is hard at work with their Annual Fashion Show which takes place, Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009. They have been putting this on for 10 years!

Their remarkable fundraiser is tremendous given that this small club raises as much as a much larger club with just 18 members! Busy women!

CFUW **St Catharines** was a major sponsor for Brock University's regional, online math competition which was held on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The event was the first of its kind for primary students in Canada. It was also the largest to be offered free of charge, allowing every child in the Niagara region to participate and show what they can do.



They are also holding their 35<sup>th</sup> Annual House Tour May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. As if that was not keeping them busy enough, they are already working hard at hosting the 2010 Ontario Council AGM. LAC co-chairs Nicole Lalonde and Rosalyn

Hatch have been working at putting together a strong team. The AGM is slated for May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Bev Boudreau is chair of program and we know that Bev will have a dynamic program in place for us.

CFUW **Oakville** is celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I was fortunate to attend one of their many activities to honour this occasion, their Anniversary Tea, January 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a delightful occasion with more than 80 ladies in attendance.

CFUW **Niagara Falls** is hosting the Ontario South Fall Gathering October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Co-chairs Lu Beange and Mary Seppala have been working hard to bring us a fun day filled with interesting workshops.

CFUW **Brantford** is hosting an Author's Night on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 featuring Mary Lou Finlay author of *The As it Happens Files: Radio That May Contain Nuts*.

Contact [cfuwbrantford@yahoo.ca](mailto:cfuwbrantford@yahoo.ca) for details



All our clubs are busy with fundraising activities, writing letters to MPs or MPPs, or advocating on local issues of concern to their members. Keep up the good work!

Arleen Midriak  
RD Ontario South

### CFUW St. Catharines Sponsors

#### *Be The Change Conference*

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Brock University will be the site of the *Be The Change Conference* emphasizing youth leadership and global citizenship. Organizers are anticipating 350 high school students and 150 post-secondary school students who will be motivated to make a positive change in the world.

The purpose of the conference is to inspire youth to become international citizens by giving back in meaningful ways to their local and global communities.

The keynote speaker will be Craig Kielburger, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and founder & chair of *Free the Children*. He will set the tone for this important event with his message that youth have the power to change



the world and that children's rights, child poverty, and the exploitation of children are issues in which young people themselves can be actively and successfully engaged. In a world where there are almost half a billion children who have been pressed into service as child soldiers, this conference will highlight the importance of addressing the needs of children everywhere, including here in Niagara.

CFUW St Catharines, in order to recognize this significant meeting of local youth and the issues being discussed, is proud to be a major sponsor and promoter of instilling this message to the youth of Niagara.

### More About Oakville's 60<sup>th</sup> Year

To mark their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary which takes place in the fall of 2009, CFUW Oakville has planned several activities and events over the preceding 12 months. Starting in September 2008, each general meeting has adopted a theme from the last six decades. During the social hour prior to each meeting event, we have enjoyed music from the featured decade, and members have really gotten into the swing of things.



In addition, a Cookbook Committee worked very diligently during the fall to pull together over 150 recipes into *Celebration!: 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook of the Canadian Federation of University Women - Oakville*. This compilation includes recipes of signature dishes from nine well-known Oakville restaurants, as well as from our members. Bookers, a local bookstore, hosted a gala launch for the limited edition cookbook in November 2008, and displayed copies in its window throughout the month. The cookbook's success is clearly indicated by the fact that it is already in its third printing. Profits from the sales are being donated directly to the University Women's Club of Oakville Scholarship Fund.

In April 2009, the club will be hosting a Bridge Day. Members of the club and the general public are invited to come and play bridge, euchre, scrabble, whatever. The grand finale of our anniversary celebrations will be a Gala Theatre event in Fall 2009. Stay tuned for more details.

## ONTARIO CENTRAL

### CFUW Aurora-Newmarket Activities

CFUW Aurora-Newmarket has been a long time supporter of the *Women's Centre of York Region*, a resource centre for women who need counselling and education to make it on their own. This year, the club offered three free memberships to women who graduated from the entrepreneur's programme at the Centre. The women became Associate members and were given the opportunity to network with CFUW Aurora-Newmarket members and to take part in the club's interest groups. The partnership has proven to be very worthwhile.



The Aurora-Newmarket Club also initiated a scholarship of \$ 500 for a native student ( male or female ) at Sutton High School. This was initiated after meeting with the Aboriginal Curriculum Consultant of the York Region District School Board this past December to determine the needs of native high school students. Funds were raised for this new scholarship partially through the proceeds from a Card and Games

Party, a Theatre Night and monthly book sales at general meetings.

### An Invitation to Ontario Central Clubs

The LAC Committee of CFUW Aurora-Newmarket is pleased to invite all members to visit York Region and join the 2009 Fall Gathering. This event will take place in Aurora which is easily accessible from all directions. The date is Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 3:00 and the location is The Royal Canadian Legion Aurora Branch, Industrial Parkway North in Aurora. Our theme is *Making a Difference*. Topics of interest for that day include—Leadership, Public Speaking, Motivating Your Membership and Knowing yourself/Sharing your talents. Further details will be published as our plans unfold. Mark your calendars and plan to join us at the “recession” price of \$40.00!!!

### CFUW Oshawa & District Works with Youth Shelter

Oshawa and District became involved with *The Refuge*, a shelter for homeless youth in their community, after having invited the executive director as a guest speaker to a monthly general meeting. Members of their club attended public meetings to lend their support of the shelter and to combat the NIMBY (not in my backyard) effect. The club also wrote letters of support for The Refuge's new location to city council . To support the youth at the shelter, the club collected backpacks and filled them with essential items. The result has been that many of their members have made *The Refuge* a personal charity and have donated their time as volunteers.

The Oshawa club is holding a Guest Night on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 featuring Marina Nemat, author of *Prisoner of Tehran - A Memoir*. For details see CLUB EVENTS at [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca)

### CFUW Vaughan's Winter Dinner

216 guests attended Vaughan's annual dinner on February 17<sup>th</sup> to hear Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party speak on politics and the environment.

## ONTARIO EAST

This year CFUW **Belleville and District** is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We prefaced our celebrations at the last Christmas Dinner. Carol Sayeau who had researched the history of the Belleville and District club, reminded us of our past.

In January we had a birthday luncheon, at which, two of our longest serving members, Harriet Simmons and Barbara Cass cut the cake. Harriet's daughter Kathryn Burns, also a club member, read her mother's memories of the early days of our club starting in 1942. The names of all the past presidents were read. Nine of the past presidents attended the lunch.

Belleville and District Club enjoys parties, so we intend to continue the celebrations for the whole year. In May we are hosting the Ontario AGM and later in the year there will be a further event to mark this important milestone in our history.

The Club has over 160 members and happily it continues to grow. It is an active participant in the Belleville community.

Margaret Briscoe, President,  
CFUW Belleville & District

### CFUW Cornwall Celebrates!



The Cornwall club recently celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of our members, Annie Weber. Annie is still active and was able to attend our November meeting where we announced a special scholarship in her name at CCVS, the high school where she used to teach. Members, the club and friends donated funds toward the scholarship, and it has now reached \$1,000. A friend of Annie's tells me that it was the best gift that she received for her birthday. Plans are being made at the school for her to present the scholarship.

Our annual Christmas auction brought in \$2,000. which was split between our local food bank and our scholarship fund. Our monthly meetings go on as usual with good food and fellowship and interesting speakers.

Ruth Pollock

## CFUW Ottawa News Update

In 2008-09, CFUW Ottawa focused on various advocacy actions, hosting an International Women's Day event, launching celebration of CFUW Ottawa's 2010 Centennial, and planning the 2010 CFUW AGM.

ADVOCACY: For the 1<sup>st</sup> time since 2001, CFUW Ottawa proposed a national resolution for consideration at the CFUW AGM 2009 in Winnipeg. Entitled *Protecting the health of Canadians by reducing environmental toxins*, the resolution was developed by our Environmental Toxins and Health Group chaired by Olga Lee and is found on the Members' ONLY section of the CFUW national web site at



<http://www.cfuw.org>. This group also prepared a detailed brief on Ontario's proposed Toxics Reduction Strategy, submitted on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 by CFUW Ontario Council to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. the brief is found in the Environment section of the ISSUES PAGE at

<http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca>

Karen Switzer-Howse, a member of the group, gave a workshop on *Targeting Toxins* at Ontario East's Regional Gathering hosted by CFUW Nepean on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008. *Targeting Toxins* is also the theme of the group's monthly column in CFUW-Ottawa's newsletter *Capital Carillon* found online at <http://www.cfuw-ottawa.org>

A total of 53 letters advocating in favour of the five CFUW national resolutions approved as policy at the 2008 AGM in Montréal were sent to eight local area MPPs and nine local area MPs. Leila Metcalf, President CFUW Ottawa and I participated in an Ontario Budget 2009 pre-budget public consultation held by Yasir Naqvi, MPP Ottawa Centre on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**IWD 2009:** An International Women's Day celebration hosted jointly for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year by CFUW Ottawa and the Ottawa Council of Women will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Library & Archives Canada. Guest speakers are Charlotte Gray, renowned author and historian, and Dr. Pauline Rankin, political scientist, author, and professor. The theme is *Women's Influence Then & Now*.

**CFUW-Ottawa Centennial 1910-2010:** Celebration of 100 years since CFUW Ottawa's founding as the University Women's Club of Ottawa has been launched by a black tie dinner dance at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Proceeds go to the Centennial Scholarship Fund to be awarded in 2010.

**CFUW AGM 2010:** Planning is on track for the 2010 CFUW AGM hosted by CFUW-Ottawa from July 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Ottawa. The theme is *Value Our Past, Shape the Future*. Mark your calendars!  
More information on the 3 events is found on CFUW-Ottawa's website at <http://www.cfuw-ottawa.org>.

Mary Butterill, V.P. Liaison

### **2009 CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL AGM**

*W♀men of Influence*

Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Ramada Inn, Belleville, Ontario

### **2009 CFUW-FCFDU AGM**

*From Grassroots to the Future*

August 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>

Hotel Fort Gary, Winnipeg, Manitoba

### **2009 FALL GATHERINGS**

Ontario South	October 17 <sup>th</sup>	hosted by CFUW Niagara Falls
Ontario Central	October 24 <sup>th</sup>	hosted by CFUW Aurora-Newmarket
Ontario North	October 24 <sup>th</sup>	hosted by CFUW Haliburton Highlands
Ontario west	November 7 <sup>th</sup>	hosted by CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo
Ontario East	TBA	

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

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

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