

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

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THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER
LA PUISSANCE AU FÉMININ: ENSEMBLE POUR RÉUSSIR.

GROWTH THROUGH ACTION

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 18

St. Thomas Anglican Church Hall

6:30 p.m. Hospitality

7:00 p.m. Business Meeting



PROGRAM

Wendy Daxon will be our Guest Speaker in February. She and her husband, Lee, beautifully restored the Stephen Niles House in Prince Edward County, an example of Loyalist Neo-classic style, circa 1820. They also run an antique business and participate in historic re-enactments.

Don't miss this opportunity
to learn more about our local history.

ELECTRONIC SURVEY COMING

The Club will be conducting
an anonymous electronic survey
to rank possible initiatives
as follow-up to the
Club Renewal meetings
of 2014/2015.

More details in report "Club Renewal"
on page 3.

FUNDRAISING MEETING

A meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 16**
to discuss new fundraising ideas
for the scholarship fund and other club activities.

2:00 p.m.

St. Columba Presbyterian Church
520 Bridge Street East
Belleville

ALL ARE WELCOME

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Susan Pine, President

2016 got off to a wonderful start with the January luncheon meeting. Over 80 enjoyed a delicious meal which was prepared and served by The Bridge Interest Group lead by Carol Wilson, Kay Manderville and Mary Miller. Thank you for a job well done, ladies! Following the luncheon we were treated to a panel discussion moderated by Irene Hiebert. I want to pay special tribute to the three panelists: Daniella Petitti, Jackie Dibben and Ashleigh Rollins Grills for taking the time out of their very active schedules to provide a most thought-provoking program.

As we move along in February, Marylea Burt and Margaret Briscoe have been hard at work, planning and preparing for what has become a significant fundraiser for our Scholarship Fund, The Valentine Bridge. The last few years, this dessert bridge party has raised somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$1000 and I know that this year's event is already looking to set a record total. We will look forward to hearing that final amount!

I hope you will mark February 16th at 2:00 p.m on your calendars. With the decision to make this year's Garden Tour the last, many ideas on how to raise funds for the scholarship fund have started flowing. Come and join the fun in planning for what comes next.

Also, February 18th is our next General meeting. Our program conveners, Jo-Anne Twamley and Christine Walker Bird have provided us with a wide range of topics and entertaining speakers and this month will be no exception. February is not often a month that attracts a good turnout, but perhaps this year we can dispel that notion.

Update on Syrian Refugee Family

Ladies,

First of all a most heartfelt thank you to all the members for their caring concern and support for our new family, the Al Mansours. It is great to see so many on the committee itself.

The family is settling in nicely and are getting lots of friendly (but not cloying) support from group members and in particular our Arabic speaking members. The parents are taking English classes every weekday from 9-12 from Loyola College which is located in the old Queen Mary School and the three boys are settling in well. Sir John A. MacDonald is a ten minute walk for them accompanied with their dad or a member of the group in the morning, but they walk home with their new friends in the afternoon. We were told stories of how the teenage son wondered about the hair products in the bathroom, asking a group member to explain "what for," until she realized he needed hair gel which she bought him. The next morning another group member (who is Arabic speaking) was walking with the boys and he told the lad to put on his toque, only to be told "no uncle it ruins my hair." Boys are the same everywhere!

They are making friends, trying new adventures and touring about. Still they miss their families, and speak/Skype with them whenever possible. We must keep them in our hopes and thoughts. This family is so very appreciative to all of you and already is wondering how they can reciprocate.

So, many thanks for your support. Our next official fundraiser, for anyone interested, is a concert by Louise Ford and our local Shout Sisters to be held at Eastminster United church on Wednesday, March 2 at 7 PM.

Heather Seeger

Report on Club Renewal Marilyn Jackson

CLUB "RENEWAL"

The Club has given considerable thought to its sustainability and purpose in the past two years. From that process it would seem members agree upon the following "pillars" of its identity:

- Advancing Rights and Opportunities of Women and Girls
- Promoting Quality Education
- Civic and Community Engagement
- Lifelong Learning
- Fellowship and Teamwork

Talks with individual members and groups of members do reveal, however, that less energy has lately been given to activities which promote *direct* civic and community engagement, than in the past. At present, there is no focal point for such engagement within the Club.

On this basis, the following recommendations were made to the Executive November 5, 2015, and to the general membership on November 19:

- Refresh our approach to the current activities of the club to give more attention to our agreed "pillars" and to address challenges including membership numbers, constituency
- Let the process unfold naturally with occasional reminders only, but celebrate successes
- For the time being, resist contentious discussions on reframing the Club altogether
- Maintain a member or members who undertake to keep an eye on the "renewal" process
- Invite the whole membership to give thought and input regarding the pillars which involve "social action"
- Choose a few manageable "new initiatives" as a focus
- Do a "checkup" by way of special members meeting no earlier than Spring 2017

Five sample initiatives were suggested as possible "next steps". Members present November 19 completed a "survey" ranking those initiatives. To ensure the whole membership has the opportunity to respond, the Club will be circulating an anonymous electronic survey in the near future. The survey will set out the same sample initiatives, and invite ranking among them. Other comments will also be welcomed. It is hoped that this easy format will result in broad

participation by all club members in guiding next steps. Watch for the survey in your email within the next two weeks!

Any member who would like to be involved, or to see full copies of the Reports on this process, may contact Marilyn Jackson at haebjack@explornet.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS Lenore Begley, Past President

We are replacing outgoing executive members with fresh talent. If you wish to volunteer for an executive role, please call or email me at lenore.begley@gmail.com. Phone 613 394 2654. Alternately, you may contact Kay Manderville or Katrina Cross.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT Laura Hare, VP Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee will meet in February to start research and discussion on how the Trust Fund could support a mature female university student. If you have input, please email your thoughts and ideas to laurahare@gmail.com, so they can be incorporated into the Committee's work.

2016 Timeline:

Deadline for applications from schools is May 4, 2016. St. Mathew's Church has been booked for May 9, 10, 11 for interviews. Winners will be announced at the May 19 meeting at Capers.

EDUCATION and ADVOCACY REPORT Pat Ellis, VP Education and Advocacy Committee

Summary of February Executive Meeting

Resolution #1

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls—Ending the Marginalization of Indigenous Women in Canadian Society Proposed by: CFUW Barrie & District

Voted to support so that CFUW could have policy and therefore advocate as this subject is currently on the agenda of the current Parliament.

Resolution #2

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)—Diagnosis, intervention and support plan for children, adults and families affected by FASD Proposed by: CFUW Guelph and CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo.

Voted to support as deals with the aftermath when prevention efforts failed. The nature of FAS tends to bring a significant percentage of affected individuals into the legal system. If money currently spent in those endeavours could be diverted to support plans the lives of FAS people and their families would be enriched.

Resolution #3

Strengthening the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) so that it can carry out its regulatory responsibilities in approving pesticides as well as protecting the environment. Proposed by: CFUW Owen Sound and Area

Voted to support as we already got involved with the Neonicotinoid resolution last year. The group felt strongly that funding an independent body and strong regulations were essential to protect the environment. Currently, in many cases, the funding of research studies is from the companies producing the pesticides. This has to stop.

Resolution #4

Electoral Reform: Adding Proportionality to the Electoral System in Canada Prepared by: CFUW Leaside-East York and CFUW Etobicoke November 2015

The group voted to support although the resolution topic is complicated. Rhea helped considerably and provided the following notes to help.

The current First-Past-the-Post fails to represent Canada's social diversity, vast geographic regions, and the voice of women.

*It has resulted in distorted election outcomes and wasted votes; in the 2015 federal election, the Liberal Party formed a majority government (54.4% of the seats) by winning only 39.5% of the popular vote. The electoral system used in a country has a profound effect on the likelihood of women being elected. At only 26% women elected, Canada continues to fail to meet the critical mass of 30% identified by the UN to be necessary for women to influence policy. Parties have historically favoured white male candidates as the best choice in the First-Past-the-Post 'winner takes all' competition. **Countries using a form of Proportional Representation have higher of female representation.***

Resolution #5

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, also known as GLOBAL GOALS

Proposed by: CFUW Standing Committee on Advocacy, CFUW Standing Committee on International Relations, CFUW Standing Committee on Education

The group decided not to support this resolution. We felt the 17 goals went well beyond our scope and focusing on specific more readily attainable goals would be a better use of our resources.

Resolution for CFUW Ontario Council AGM 2016

Age Discrimination in Ontario Employee Benefit Programs

Proposed by CFUW – Ottawa

Related policies – none

The group voted to support this. In Ontario, employee benefit coverage is only mandated from 18-65. More people are working passed 65. A larger percentage are women and OAS now doesn't start until 67 for anyone. The Charter promises equality and specifically mentions age. The

Ontario Government needs to ensure workers 65 years and older are allowed to participate equally in employee benefit packages.

Following link for full resolutions and backgrounds.

<https://cfuwhamilton.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/2015-2016-proposed-resolutions-for-amendment.pdf>

Physician Assisted Death

In a press release dated January 26, 2016 the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario approved its Interim Guidance on Physician-Assisted Death. The key points are that they support the ruling by the Supreme Court. They additionally spell out that objecting doctors "must not impede access to care even if that care conflicts with their conscience or religious belief" and must provide an "effective referral" in a "timely manner." The full report can be found at the following link. <http://policyconsult.cpsso.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/CPSO-Interim-Guidance-on-Physician-Assisted-Death.pdf>

Spring Forum with Kevin Page is set for May 7th at 10:30 at Maranatha Church.

WEBSITE and PUBLICITY REPORT Katrina Cross and Carole Lowther

Please keep up to date by checking our website, cfuwbelleville.com or our Facebook page- CFUW Belleville & District.

New pictures and events are being posted to the website and Facebook on an ongoing basis. If you have something that you would like to have posted please contact me at cfuwbelleville@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT Lynn Becker and Linda Connelly

We have had three new members join us in 2016, Janet Derumaux, Margaret St. John and a new Mary Miller. Please take some time to make their acquaintance and welcome them to our club. The club now is 140 members strong.

SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT Susanne Koehler and Susan Frizell

Our next Special Event is the AGM on Thursday, May 19. We have booked Capers Restaurant where we were last year. The chef is preparing chicken, salmon and vegetarian meals for us. Dessert will be crème brulee or flourless chocolate cake. Tickets will be on sale at the March and April meetings and will be \$35.00.

INTEREST GROUPS

Canadian Literature Dinner Group

On Tuesday, March 1, Bev Boyd and Irene Hiebert will present Sean Michaels' Us Conductors at Sans Souci.

Table Hoppers

On Wednesday, February 17, we will meet at Linguini's Restaurant, 257 North Front Street, Belleville. Please contact Margaret Hare at 613-962-2472 by Monday, February 15.

CFUW is committed to pursuing knowledge, promoting education, improving the status and rights of women, and actively participating in public affairs in a spirit of cooperation and friendship.