



Semaphore

Newsletter of CFUW-Scarborough—May 2018



President's Message

There is a rumour afoot that spring has arrived, and we are approaching the end of our current year. However much the temperature and ground cover may be suggesting that winter still prevails, the calendar certainly is telling us that it is time to take stock.

First, special recognition and thanks are due to Lenora Fleming on two accounts -- our fashion show and the International Women's Day Luncheon. What began with the instigation of Lenora and Nonna Schiefer of Ajax-Pickering as a function sponsored jointly by CFUW Ajax-Pickering and our Club has expanded to a larger event sponsored by the six Toronto Clubs, Ajax-Pickering, Vaughan and, next year, Markham-Unionville. And, during the time that Lydia has been involved in caring for her brother in Munich, the responsibility for overseeing preparations for the fashion show fell on Lenora's shoulders.

It's also important at this time of year to recognize that smooth and successful functioning of our Club depends on the participation of members in all manner of ways, from attendance at meetings, taking part in Club endeavours and community projects outside our Club programs to accepting leadership responsibilities in interest groups and on the executive. We are fortunate to have so many willing, enthusiastic members taking responsibilities at all levels, thus maintaining our Club's ability to thrive.

The final event in the year is the Ontario Council AGM. Bonnie McBride, the incoming President will be attending as your representative and taking the opportunity to network with members of other Ontario Clubs. I will be there also, but as an observer, since I

have had the opportunity to represent the Club twice before, this seems a good time to get back into the practice of having the incoming President as the Club's representative and giving her the opportunity to make contacts and become aware of broader CFUW matters as well as opportunities for Club participation on a wider scale.

This year's national AGM will be a virtual meeting -- no travel involved. The plan at the moment is that Bonnie will take part, but if that is not possible due to family considerations, then I will take her place. Again, one of the main issues is the matter of relationship with GWI. On a happier note, next year's AGM will be hosted by CFUW Winnipeg, marking the 100th anniversary of CFUW in the city where CFUW was first formed with six Clubs, -- Winnipeg, Victoria, Edmonton, Ottawa, Regina and Toronto -- being the charter members.

It has been a privilege to serve as your president and thank you for the confidence you have shown in allowing me to assume this position again. I am sure you will grant the same confidence and support to your incoming president and executive.

With thanks
Bev Rhodes



Important Dates

CFUW

Annual General Meeting

May 11-12, 2018
UOIT

2000 Simcoe St.
Oshawa, ON

Theme:

"Empowering Women and Girls in STEM"

Details Available at:

www.cfuw.org

MAY DINNER

Monday, May 14th, 2018

Bluffers Restaurant

Speaker: Jan Wong

Author of "Apron Strings"

Cocktails @ 6:00 pm

Dinner @ 6:45 pm

ONTARIO COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

September 2018 date TBA

Next General Meeting

September 17, 2018

Knox United Church

Social Hour—7:00 pm

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR NOW!



Interest Groups

Out to Lunch Bunch

We've had a great range of restaurants this year – beginning with Bliss, a Lebanese Restaurant, and ending April 24th at Jerusalem Restaurant/buffet on Leslie Street north of Sheppard Ave. East.

On March 27th, we were able to get a reservation at Centennial College's Local Café, run by the Culinary Arts/Hospitality School. We were lucky enough to have a tour of some of the other event venues operated by the School – thanks to Maureen Cassidy.

In the next session, starting September 2018, we'll continue trying new restaurants as well as revisiting some of our old haunts – always on the last Tuesday of the month, September to November and January to April and usually at 1:00 pm.

Hope you all get a chance to come with us at least once – it's an entertaining, casual and fun get-together.

Margaret Sandall

Advocacy and Caucus Report

The caucus group is very pleased that the Wynne government has pledged to provide free childcare for all children from 2.5 years and to provide extra subsidy to families that need help with children younger than 2.5 years of age.

However, there is one catch for this to happen. This present Liberal government must be re-elected. The women of CFUW have advocated for universal childcare since 1983 and we almost had it under another Liberal government; unless we are prepared to vote in large numbers it will slip through our fingers again.

Under Terri Shaw's leadership, Ontario Counsel has prepared questions with background for you to use at all candidates' meetings. There are 8 subject areas covered. Please google Ontario Election 2018-Questions.

Please consider the quality of life for all citizens of this great province and let your voice be counted at the polls.

Catherine Molyneux,
Advocacy Chair, 2018

Walking and Exploring Group

We have had another year of good walks, good conversation and fun. In January we walked around the downtown campus of U of T and enjoyed going in to see the Trinity College Chapel and dining hall. The chapel is beautiful, almost like a small version of a British cathedral.

In February, we walked from the Distillery District around a new park area in the Portlands. We were lucky again with the weather in March as we walked around the ponds at the Don Valley Brickworks as well as some of the Moore Park ravine trail.

We always end up having a coffee stop and a good chat before heading home. In April and May we have planned walks in Rouge Park and somewhere involving Doors Open Toronto.

Marilyn Lind



Ontario Council Speaker Series - Legislation Report January 20, 2018

Speaker: Michelle German, MES, Senior Manager, Policy & Partnerships at Evergreen (a national nonprofit organization dedicated to making cities flourish)

Michelle listed the major urban housing challenges for mid-sized cities, for example: a disengaged public, a backlog of repairs in social housing and gaps in cities research and policy development. Pilot projects are currently underway in Hamilton, Peterborough, Sudbury and London.

She divided everyone into five subgroups, each with a topic to discuss. The topics were issues requiring action, and are listed below with their accompanying suggestions as offered by the groups:

- 1) Making rents affordable
 - Keep public land for affordable housing which includes rental options.
 - Provide incentives to homeowners to convert basements to apartments.
 - Require a variety of rental options in each building with rental units.
- 2) Creating more affordable rental housing
 - Liaise with local nonprofits and businesses.
 - Encourage mixed use business, ownership and rental.
 - Renovate & repurpose existing buildings rather than tear down.
- 3) Preserving and enhancing existing rental housing
 - Rejuvenate older downtown rental units.
 - Save existing rental units close to public transit.
 - Ensure apartments being converted to condos retain a percentage of rental units.
- 4) Rental options for the middle class
 - Invest in apartment tower renewals.
 - Legislate with building permits for apt/condo buildings to have 2 and 3 bedroom rentals.
 - Restrict AirBnBs; increase protection for landlords to deal with tenants who damage property or default on rent.
- 5) Housing for homeless people
 - Plan on long term solutions not just emergency responses.
 - Consider homeless families in the suburban areas.
 - Partner with NGO's who have expertise in housing.

The new National Housing Strategy provides an opportunity for Ontario to build on recent progress. Target groups are millennials, newcomers and middle-class families as well as disadvantaged groups: the homeless, radicalized communities, working poor, etc. Envision housing as an ecosystem, with the elements interacting and interdependent: Market Home Ownership Housing; Market Rental Housing; Supportive Housing; Emergency Shelters; Transitional Housing; Subsidized Housing.

Bonnie McBride

Ontario Council Speaker Series - Education Report January 2018

Christine Corso, a researcher and project coordinator for People for Education spoke about the purpose of education – funding and equity. The goal of education is a strong, equitable and prosperous Canada where universal public education fulfils its role as a cornerstone of our society.

She spoke of inequities in provincial funding and fundraising. In high income areas, fundraising provides enriched opportunities – laptops, trips etc. In low income areas, it goes to basic nutrition programs. Thus, fundraising exacerbates existing issues. The learning opportunities grant (LOG) aims to provide more resources to low income schools where there is low family income, recent immigration, low parental education and more single parent families. The gap between low income schools and higher income schools is growing over time.

EQAO needs to exist but should not be for just reading, writing and math. The targets need to be aligned with the complex needs of an interconnected society.

Recommendations:

- 1) Revise the funding formula to provide equitable opportunities.
- 2) Rationalize the plethora of programs to support mental health, music etc.
- 3) Divide the Learning Opportunities grant into two parts with one focused on equity.
- 4) Establish broader indicators of student success identifying different abilities such as technology and entrepreneurial skills.

Marilyn Lind

Ontario Council January 20, 2018

Our morning speaker was Maya Roy, CEO of YWCA Canada. Maya is a diversity specialist with a focus on violence prevention. She spoke of how technology is affecting young girls. From an early age they receive sexualized images and receive more online bullying. She helped them develop a guide for "trusted adults". She mentioned a program called "Glow" where mothers and daughters can do activities together with activities that do not involve computers or TV screens.

In the upcoming elections, Maya would like to see CFUW and the YWCA cooperate to host all candidates' meetings and raise awareness of issues with questions that can be asked of candidates for all parties. We must have a clear simple "ASK" stating what we aim to achieve. The YWCA had meetings in Ottawa and asked for a minimum 25% of the housing strategy go to women and girls. This was granted but we still need to watch the money to see how this is carried out. Will it mean at least 25% women on the lease or women doing research on housing issues? Even opposition issues have a shadow cabinet and can influence policy. We need to focus on how to support affordable housing, child care, poverty reduction and mental health. Transportation was raised as an issue that affects the cost of housing and poverty.

Marilyn Lind



Ontario Council Speaker Series - March 24, 2018

The morning topic was Making Sense of Politics in a "Fake News Era". Our morning speakers were Maija Saari, Associate Dean of Film, TV and Journalism at Sheridan College and Nicole Blanchett Neheli, professor in the journalism program at Sheridan College. Maija began by naming the problem of "fake news", a change due largely to the rise in social media and a decline in old media including newspapers and nightly news broadcasts, which were generally carefully researched. Misinformation is spread, often intentionally, by tweeting and retweeting. Many people get all of their news information from social media and people with opposing views do not hear each other.

Nicole explained the use of analytics to make editorial decisions. There have been massive cuts to newsrooms and jobs with more reliance on press releases. Advertising has been lost to Google and Facebook. Algorithms determine the flow of information on these sites so that people get more of what they like or agree with and less contradictory information. When individuals click on a site to read an article, algorithms send similar stories to them. Stories are chosen to increase traffic and more serious topics do not do well on Facebook. Frequently, bizarre information moves faster.

In the afternoon Education session Maija was joined by Ann Rauhala, Associate Chair at the Ryerson School of Journalism. Ann focused on the impact of information and disinformation on the media. The current 24-hour news cycles focus on being first to break a story rather than verifying using multiple sources, which takes time. The difference between objective reporting of news and opinion pieces is blurred.

Solutions require an informed and involved electorate using a variety of verified news sources. Among the generally reliable news sources she named were CBC News, The Globe and Mail, The Toronto Star, CNN, and BBC World News. Facts can be checked on Newswise and Snopes.

Leadership from government is needed to enhance equality in journalism in Canada, to encourage fact-checking and media literacy education.

The speakers view the CFUW to be an important part of the solution, with its mission to foster education and lifelong learning and concern for human rights with well-researched advocacy groups.

Marilyn Lind

Legislation Workshop, CFUW Ontario Speaker Series - March 24, 2018

Speaker: Greg Essensa, Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario

Topic: Election Readiness: Understanding the Electoral Process in Ontario — laws, policy & threats

Greg started his presentation by explaining that he is not allowed to vote, that he is non-partisan and he has been Ontario's Chief Electoral Officer since 2008. His talk included the Vision for Elections Ontario as well as modernization actions, current laws, canvassing guidelines and the effects of social media.

Elections Ontario's Vision is to build modern services that will put electors first. That modernization will include more online services, except for the actual paper voting process. This will not change until internet security is much improved, which will take many years.

Since the last election, the number of electoral districts has increased to 124. Therefore, more people would have been required to operate the polling stations. Improvements such as using e-readers to check in voters and setting up super polling stations (where one super polling station will replace 5 former polling stations) will make voting faster and easier. Testing on this was done in the last by-election in Whitby/Oshawa and it was successful. It will be used in 50% of the polls in June. Online voter registration has been implemented. The registration of 16- and 17-year-olds will be introduced with the help of high school civic teachers.

Changes to political party donations have been implemented. New campaign donation rules have been put in place and limits have been reduced. Attendance has been restricted for politicians at events where revenues from ticket sales go to political parties. These restrictions are in place for MPPs, leaders of political parties, registered contestants, employees of the office of the Premier, all chiefs of staff to provincial cabinet ministers and all people employed in the office of a leader of a recognized political party.

Third-party advertising has now been given limits.

Landlords of multi-unit buildings will be fined if they refuse access to political canvassers between the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM, Monday to Friday and 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Saturday and Sunday. Fines will be added to their property tax bills.

Greg also suggested that every voter should check their information on the voter registration site, even if voter cards have been received. Greg was a great speaker and was very informative. If you would like more information on voter registration, please visit: <https://www.elections.on.ca/en/voting-in-ontario/voter-registration.html>

Bonnie McBride

International Women's Day - March 8, 2018

The 2018 International Women's Day Event was celebrated at the historic University of Toronto Faculty Club. Eight CFUW Clubs, (Toronto, Etobicoke, North Toronto, North York, Leaside/East York, Vaughan, Scarborough, Ajax-Pickering) along with Sandy Thompson, Ontario Council President and Pat Joyce, Regional Director reunited to make this event a success.

Our guest speaker was Jodie-Lynn Waddilove, a Senior Legal Counsel on the Independent Street Checks Review. She talked about her life growing up on a First Nations Reserve and how she and her family overcame discrimination and abuse.

The event was featured in the April 2018 SnapD College paper with a front-page photo feature.

As requested by Jodie-Lynn, the honorarium was donated to two charities in her father's memory (Diabetes Foundation and Heart and Stroke Foundation). A portion of the proceeds were donated to the non-profit Match International Women's Fund.

We thank you all for your support and hope you can attend next year's event.

Lenora Fleming

CFUW Fashion Show Report - 2018

The CFUW Fashion Show Fundraiser was held on Monday, April 9, 2018 at St. Thomas More Parish Hall. Ticket sales totalled 161 and we were able to continue to support the two Centennial College Awards, the Scarborough Women's Centre and the CFUW National 100th Anniversary Special Award (2019).

Proceeds from raffle ticket sales were given to the Stephen Lewis "AIDS GRANNIES" campaign.

Thank you to Sharon and Alan King for your assistance in renting the hall, to Lydia Manget for arranging the groundwork, to Gail Doehler for emceeing the show again, to Bev Rhodes for your speech on the history and purpose of the CFUW, and to Ann Patterson for inviting all the Scarborough politicians! Mitzie Hunter, MPP for Scarborough-Guildwood attended the show, inquired about modelling for next year and was enthusiastic to hear more about our activities.

An email from Sharon King and her husband Alan was sent in appreciation of our assistance. A special thank you from the St. Thomas More Parish to the ladies who worked in the kitchen for

doing a great clean up job! Also, a special thanks to the ladies who helped with the take down of chairs, collecting tablecloths etc. It was a great help and the caretaker has donated back \$70 to our fundraising.

To all our old and new members, the bakers, the ticket sellers, the volunteers, the models, the donors, and the canvassers, THANK YOU for making this event a success!

Lenora Fleming



Your Executive for 2018–2019

President	<i>Bonnie McBride</i>
Past President	<i>Bev Rhodes</i>
Vice President	<i>Doreen Dickson</i>
Treasurer	<i>Ann Patterson</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Jean Witherspoon</i>
Executive Secretary	<i>Jean Patton</i>
Membership	<i>Marilyn Lind</i> <i>Diana O'Connor</i>
Program	<i>Doreen Dickson</i> <i>Lyn Forbes</i>
Publicity	<i>Lilian Desorcy</i> <i>Leida Sepp</i>
Interest Groups	<i>Catherine MacOdrum</i>
Awards Chair	<i>Sharon King, Sandra Campbell, Sandy Geddes</i>
Social	<i>Rosemary Dennis</i> <i>Sandra Campbell</i>

Newsletter	<i>Beth Raymer</i>
Archives	<i>Ruth Wolff</i>

BOOK REVIEW

The One and Only Ivan

By

Katherine Applegate

Katherine Applegate received the Newbery Medal for children's literature for this book at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Chicago in June 2013. It was on the New York Times' Best-Seller list for over 20 weeks.

Ivan is an easygoing Gorilla. Living in a shopping mall, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. In fact, he hardly ever thinks about it at all. Instead Ivan thinks about TV shows he's seen, his friends Stella and Bob and Painting. Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home...and his own... through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her and it's up to Ivan to make change for the better (summary of the book on the back cover by its Harper House Editor).

Another Newbery honour author, Gary Schmidt, had this to say about the book, "In cheering for Ivan and his friends, we cheer for our own humanity and our own possibilities."

On page 20 of the book, Ivan has this to say, "Someday, I hope I can draw the way Julia draws, imagining worlds that do not yet exist. I know what most humans think. They think that gorillas don't have imaginations. They think we don't remember our past or ponder our futures. Come to think of it, I suppose they have a point. Mostly I think about what is not, not what could be. I have learned not to get my hopes up."

Katherine was inspired to write this book after reading about the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, the shopping mall gorilla. The real Ivan lived alone in a tiny cage for twenty-seven years in a Washington State shopping mall before being moved to the Atlanta Zoo after a public outcry.

He was a beloved celebrity at the zoo, which houses the nation's largest collection of Western lowland gorillas. Ivan was well known for his paintings, which he "signed" with a thumbprint.

Muriel Cluett, April 2018

Thanks to our executive members, Ontario Speaker Series representatives and interest group conveners for their contributions to this newsletter/annual report. It has been a pleasure serving as your newsletter editor for the past 5 years. The position has been transitioned to Beth Raymer. **Please send any submissions for the August newsletter by e-mail to evraymer@me.com by July 10, 2018.**

Have a great summer – See you all in September!

Newsletter edited by

Corona Liscio

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May 11, 2018

We're on the Web!

<http://cfuwscarborough.org>