

The Guelph Line

April 2011

CFUW Guelph

June Ayrhart, President

The CFUW Mission

- Improve the status of women and girls; work for human rights and peace;
- Support education, life-long learning and research;
- Encourage graduate women, associate members and students to place their education and professional training at the service of the local, national and international community;
- Work in concert with IFUW, a global network of women working for social change.

Club activities and membership details are available online at www.cfuwguelph.on.ca.

April General Meeting

April 26, 2011

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph

7:00 Refreshments 7:30 Business Meeting
8:00 Speaker

Dr. Kevin James, Associate Professor,
Dept. of History and Centre for Scottish Studies

"Public Histories & Mysteries"

Dr. James will explore the intersections of academic scholarship and popular history in a case study of public history and its shocking results.

**Please bring your own mug!*



President's Message



Spring is here and that means there are two important meetings left for the year! Come out in April to exercise your right to vote on the annual resolutions. Vice President Sandra McCormick has done an excellent job preparing us for this important aspect of our club's activities.

Also, purchase your ticket for the May AGM and you will have the opportunity to hear two very interesting presentations. Firstly, a dialogue between CFUW Guelph and the Honourable Laura Broten MPP, Minister of Children and Youth Services and Minister responsible for Women's Issues. This will be followed by a talk by Eric Coates, Artistic Director of the Blyth Festival. It promises to be a very lively and informative evening.

Congratulations members! We have raised \$576.32 so far with our pre-meeting dinners. Join us in April as we enjoy a good meal and raise funds for our yet-to-be-named project.

June Ayrhart

Vote Compass and the Federal Election

A new tool has been created by political scientists to help you decide which party best represents your points of view. Copy and paste into your browser: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canadavotes2011/votecompass/>

The results may surprise you!

Join Us for Supper

before the April 26th Meeting

Members are invited to the church for 6:00 p.m. to have dinner and a social time together. This is an alcohol-free event.

Dinner:

- Chicken Meat Pies
- Green Salad Fruits
- Tea, Coffee, Water, Juices

Cost is \$20 - Payable to CFUW Guelph. .

Call June Ayrhart to confirm by Monday, **April 25th**.

Annual General Meeting and Dinner

May 24th, 2011

Guelph Country Club

(133 Woodlawn Road East or 200 Riverview Drive)

5:00 p.m. Social

5:30 p.m. AGM

6:30 p.m. Marché Style Dinner

7:30 p.m. Honourable Laurel Broten,
Minister of Children & Youth Services,

8:00 p.m. Guest Speaker: Eric Coates,
Artistic Director, Blyth Festival

Cost: \$45. Tickets on sale at the April 26th meeting or by emailing your reservation to christine.chapman@guelph.ca.

Deadline for reserving your spot is **May 15, 2011**.

CFUW

Canadian Federation
of University Women



CFUW Guelph

Mailing Address: RR#2, 7112 Gore Road, Puslinch ON N0B 2J0
Website : www.cfuwguelph.on.ca.

Interest Groups

Issues and Action Update – April 2011 Submitted by Teresa McKeeman, Chair

Federal Election

With the dissolution of Parliament and the calling of a federal election our scheduled meetings with MPs have been cancelled. It also meant the cancelling of several bills that CFUW members had been advocating for:

Bill C-532 calling for warning labels on alcohol

Bill C-569 calling for a National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder strategy

Bill C-304 calling for a National Housing Strategy for adequate, accessible, affordable housing in Canada

Bill C-393 an act to amend the Patent Act which would have allowed generic drug companies to produce low cost medications to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria in developing countries. This bill made it all the way to the Senate (unusual for a private member's bill) but unfortunately was not passed in time to become law.

Issues and Action members have created a number of issues briefs that we had expected to present to our MPs. You can find copies of the briefs in the Issues and Action section of the CFUW Guelph website. We hope you will take the time to read them and to attend candidates meetings to ask those running about their parties stand on these and other issues of concern to CFUW.

The Child Care Debate:

The issue of child care is just one of the issues relevant to CFUW policy where there is considerable difference in the party platforms. The Conservatives seem to favour support for parents to stay at home by offering income splitting for families. There is no mention of support for child care. The Liberals are proposing an Early Learning & Child Care Fund starting at \$500 million a year, increasing to \$1 billion by the fourth year. The NDP promise to make child care more accessible (no details on website). The Green Party (according to the budget on their website) is proposing to spend \$5 billion on income splitting for all couples - 10 times more than they propose to spend on early childhood education. A report by economists Cleveland and Krashinsky from the Division of Management at U of T seems to debunk the myth that single earner families are penalized under the tax system. They claim that when the actual cost of child care is taken into account the two working parent family has less money to spend than the single earner family with the same income. You can find the full report at: <http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/other/FF/FactandFantasy.pdf>

It is important to remember that high quality, accessible child care has many benefits besides allowing parents to work. It improves developmental outcomes, especially for children at-risk. It allows parents to fully participate in society, whether that is by working, attaining education, volunteering or other activities.

For an alternative view on how the government could provide the social programs that would improve the quality of life for all Canadians you may want to check out the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives at <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/>. Of course the most important thing for you to do is to become informed and to vote on May 2nd.

Meeting with Poverty Elimination Task Force

On March 22 members of Issues and Action met with the Guelph Wellington Poverty Elimination Task Force. We learned more about this group, their activities and their goals. CFUW has been invited to send a representative to the next Task Force meeting on June 10th. We will continue to communicate by letting them know about our advocacy efforts and by receiving notice of events sponsored by the Task Force. These will be posted on the CFUW Guelph website as appropriate. You can check out the Task Force website at <http://www.gwpoverty.ca/>.

Provincial Budget

I attended the provincial budget presentation, along with Sandra McCormick, on behalf of CFUW Guelph. As may have been expected during a recession there was little in the budget to celebrate, especially for those at the bottom of the economic ladder. The province seems to have put its poverty reduction plan on hold. Social assistance recipients will receive only a 1% increase in the fall – far less than the cost of living increase. There was no new money for the Child Tax Benefit or affordable housing. Minimum wage has been frozen. Child care will continue to receive some transition funding announced last year but according to child care advocates not nearly enough to keep all current centres open or to address the exodus of ECEs from child care to the full day learning program or other employment where wages are higher.

There is \$93 million allotted by 2013 for a Mental Health Strategy. This is to be split by 3 ministries (Health, Education and Children & Youth) with no mention of how much money will flow this year. The funding for mental health is less than the newly announced \$100 million a year allocated to pharmacists to counsel patients who receive drugs through the Ontario Drug Benefit Program. The little bit of good news includes funding for 60,000 new spaces for students in colleges and universities.

In our society, the women who break down barriers are those who ignore limits.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

Elizabeth Simcoe's Canadian Journey as presented by Ellen McIntosh-Green captivated us at our March meeting. Ellen's talk with readings from her book was illustrated with a PowerPoint presentation of Elizabeth Simcoe's engaging watercolours of Canada in the 1790's.

ADVOCACY UPDATE, April 2011

New Monthly Feature

In response to our letter calling for a coroner's inquest into the death of 14 month old Duy-An Nguyen in an unlicensed home child care:

Liz Sandals, MPP, Guelph sent an email, in which she stated that our letter has been shared with the Minister of Education, Leona Dombrowsky. The Minister was asked to respond directly to our club.

Ted Arnott, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills sent a letter expressing his understanding of our concerns. He wrote personally to the Minister to say that he agrees that child care must be as safe as possible. He also asked the Minister to respond directly to our club.

In response to our letter on child care:

Ted Arnott, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills wrote to the Minister of Education, Leona Dombrowsky regarding our concerns. He asked that she respond directly and that we be provided with information on any future progress.

In response to our letter regarding the need for a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Strategy and the need for warning labels on alcohol:

Frank Valeriote, MP, Guelph wrote to say he believes that the Government of Canada has an obligation to adopt laws that help prevent undue harm and unnecessary health risks. He has forwarded our letter to the Minister of Health, Leona Aglukkaq. He also forwarded a copy of his letter to the Minister including warning statements from the Ministry of Health on the risks associated with the consumption of alcohol by pregnant women and the requirement for alcohol exported to the US to carry warning labels.

Notice of Motions - March 22, 2011 - to be voted on at the April General Meeting

Prepared by the Governance Documents Review Committee (Jalene Lumb, Sandra McCormick, Mary McEwen). The following motions will be presented at the April meeting.

1. CFUW Guelph Constitution and Bylaws

MOTION: BYLAW I Membership, Section 1.b. Associate Members - add “, are entitled to all the privileges and responsibilities of membership in CFUW” between ‘... purposes of CFUW’ and ‘and shall pay ...’

The Section would then read: Associate Members – Women who do not qualify for regular membership, as stated in By-Law I.1a. They shall support the objectives and purposes of CFUW, are entitled to all the privileges and responsibilities of membership in CFUW and shall pay full CFUW per capita dues. Associate Members shall not exceed twenty-five per cent of the total number of members.

MOTION: BYLAW V Duties of Executive Members, Section 3.e.iii. - add “at the general meetings, and a written report to the membership at the Annual General Meeting” after ‘... to the membership’.

The Section would then read: submit written reports at Executive Committee meetings and interim reports to the membership at the general meetings, and a written report to the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

2. CFUW Guelph Scholarship and Awards Trust Fund (Note that amendment of this trust document requires a vote of two-thirds of the voting body).

MOTION: Article 1: Name - change Fund name to reflect removal of ‘/’ from official Club name.

MOTION: Article 4: Trustees and Terms of Office -

Section 1 - make the following changes to clarify the intention regarding Trustees by dividing the current Section (1) into two Sections. Following Sections to be renumbered. Revised Sections (1) and (2) to read as follows:

There shall be five Trustees and two Ex-officio Trustees.

Four of the five Trustees shall be elected by the membership of the Canadian Federation of University Women Guelph (the Club) at its annual meeting for a two-year term from a slate proposed by its Nominating Committee. Two of these trustees shall be the Chair and Secretary-Treasurer of the Fund. The terms of office of these Trustees shall overlap by one year.

The current Section (1) says: Five Trustees, including the Chair and the Secretary-Treasurer, shall be elected by the

Notice of Motions - March 22, 2011 , continued

membership of the Canadian Federation of University Women/Guelph (the Club) at its annual meeting for a two-year term from a slate proposed by its Nominating Committee. The terms of office of these Trustees shall overlap by one year.

MOTION: Section (4) - Change the word order to be consistent with the other Sections, to read:

(4) The President and the Treasurer of the Club shall be Ex-officio non-voting Trustees.

Currently says: Ex-officio non-voting Trustees: the President and Treasurer of the Club.

National Resolutions 2011 Submitted by Sandra A. McCormick, V-P

As Chair of this year's Resolution Committee, I have met with the following members: Nancy Coates, Linda Hathorn, Margaret Hull, Elaine Koopmans and Teresa McKeeman. After individual preparation, study and reading we met for discussion and assessment of this year's two resolutions:

For regulation to control idling of motor vehicles [resolution, background & bibliography submitted by CFUW Toronto]

For criminalization of non-state actor torture [resolution, background & bibliography submitted by CFUW International Relations Committee].

Please read the full resolutions and related materials by doing the following:

Go to the CFUW Guelph web page and click on CFUW National (just below the newsletter boxes),

then click on CFUW Proposed Resolutions 2011,

then click on **Proposed Resolutions Booklet for Clubs**

In addition to the online information provided by CFUW National, our committee studied related articles on the topics and, in the case of the Non-state Actor Torture resolution, conferred with a criminal lawyer from Kitchener.

We unanimously support both of this year's national resolutions as written without amendments. We will present our rationale at this month's general meeting and ask the club to vote on our motion to support both. Please read the information on the CFUW National website and come to the April meeting with your comments and questions. After the amendment period, we will be asked for one more club vote on the final amended version at our May 24th AGM. I will then take our vote to the National AGM in August.

Ontario Council Education Committee

March 19th, 2011

John Campey, Executive Director, Social Planning Council of Toronto spoke about the use of schools as community hubs. Historically schools were used as community hubs as they were often the only public building in a community. Over the last 30-40 years government policy has gone back and forth on the use of schools by various community groups. With changes to the funding formula and increased provincial control during the Conservative Harris government it became harder for schools to support community use. There are many reasons to rethink policy that puts up barriers to using schools as hubs. These include declining enrolment, changing demographics (including extreme poverty in the city and inner suburbs) and the threat to education funding posed by the rising costs of health care in the province. Finding a way to support schools as community hubs would provide many benefits

including space for recreation, allowing easier integration of various socio-economic, multi-age (seniors + young children) and ethnic groups, increased community resilience and cohesion, improved parenting, and access to preventative health and nutrition programs. The Social Planning Council sees the main barrier to moving forward as fragmentation among governments and community agencies. Both tend to operate in silos with very narrow definitions of their mandate. No one sector has been given responsibility and funding to provide the leadership needed. The increasing attack on public service and a push towards privatization is also a factor. The Council believes that the Ministry of Education should be given a specific funding allocation to develop a strategy and pilot programs as a first step to moving forward.



Thank you to Dan Struthers of Burlington Network Services for his generosity in continuing to host the CFUW Guelph website.