



Message from the President. . .

Happy March! What is the consensus? Did March come in like a lion? If so, that means that it should go out like a lamb. With spring officially starting in March, I hope that warmer temperatures and much less snow are just around the corner. It has certainly been a return to the winters I recall from years ago with multiple storms and lots of snow. I think most of us will be happy to see the end of winter!

Thank you goes out to the few stalwart walkers who braved the cold for the Coldest night of the year walk in support of local charities. Thank you for both the walkers and the sponsors.

Another big thank you goes out to Dana and Kim G. for organizing the wine tasting event. I enjoyed my wine after the event. Unfortunately, on the date, I was in London helping my Mom move into care and my wine was in Ajax!

Our biggest fundraising event is coming right up on May 3rd and 4th. Louise Z. is holding a meeting on March 6th at 7 pm at her home to discuss menu and volunteers. Please consider volunteering for these events. If you are not volunteering, we also need attendees and we hope that all of you will invite friends, neighbours and family to attend. May 3rd will be an adults only event with a delicious high tea as well as plant pot painting. We have 40 seats for that. May 4th is an adults and children event for children aged 5-12 for around 25 people. It will be a Merry Unbirthday Tea Party. We also have a single bed Alice in Wonderland quilt that we need to sell tickets for. We need everyone's help to make this a success!

In friendship,

Louise S



Next General Meeting

**Thursday,
March 13th, 2025**

“Resolutions”



NOTE: This will **NOT** be a potluck meeting. Regular meeting refreshments will be provided.

Meeting Location:

Pickering Rec Centre
(Chestnut Hill Recreation
Complex), Rm 2
1867 Valley Farm Rd,
Pickering

Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m.

*Business meeting begins at 7 pm.,
followed by member social time
(time permitting).*

Speaker begins at 7:50.

**Invite a friend & introduce
them to the fun and
friendship of CFUW!**

Go Green! BYOMug!

Dates and Data

CFUW Websites:

Main website: <http://www.cfuw.org>

Ontario Council Website: www.cfuwontcouncil.org

CFUW Event Calendar: [CFUW National Event Calendar](#)

CFUW on Facebook

CFUW has a Facebook group! If you are a Facebook user you can join the group by searching for Canadian Federation of University Women, or visit

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2232370205>

Ajax-Pickering CFUW on Facebook:

Our club now has its own Facebook page. You do not have to have a Facebook account to view this page. Simply Google Ajax-Pickering CFUW Facebook page or click on the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/CFUWAjaxPickering?ref=stream>

Ajax-Pickering on X (formerly Twitter): Use @CFUWajax

The Ontario Council newsletter, ***Dates and Data***, is available on-line on the Ontario Council website.

The Communicator newsletter is available on-line on the main website.

Ontario Council Standing Committee Meetings

Ontario Council Standing Committees in Legislation, Education, and Status of Women and Human Rights were developed to keep members aware of current issues in Ontario. The Committees meet three times a year - in October, November, and February - for a day with speakers, workshops and discussion. All Club members are invited to attend these meetings.

Next Standing Committee Meeting Date:

Standing committee meetings are finished for this club year. You can check for updates on upcoming events for the next club year at the following link:

[Speakers Series Events for 2024-2025 | CFUW Ontario Council](#)

Minutes of General Meeting, Thursday, February 13th, 2025

Due to weather conditions, the February meeting was cancelled and there are no minutes for this month.

What's New at CFUW



CFUW has a new event calendar! With the launch of the new website and the CFUW Member Database, Clubs are able to submit events to the CFUW National Event Calendar.

In the next few weeks, CFUW will no longer be including Club events in the CFUW Club Action newsletter, and will instead be including a link to the event on the CFUW National Event Calendar. This will be a much easier way to view upcoming events at a glance.

You can access the calendar at the following link: [CFUW National Event Calendar](#). Going forward, the link will also be included in the “Dates and Data” section on page 2 of our Grapevine newsletter.

This Month's Meeting - Resolutions

At this month's meeting we will be reviewing resolutions submitted by other clubs, deciding whether amendments are required, voting on them and sending our results to CFUW National and Ontario Council. The resolutions will then be edited based on input from all CFUW clubs, finalized and presented for discussion at the upcoming AGM. We are at Step 6 in the process chart to the right.

What is a CFUW Ontario Council Resolution? A CFUW Ontario Council Advocacy Resolution is a formal motion proposing positive change about a current issue relevant to the importance of the mission of CFUW Ontario Council and provincial in scope.

How does Ontario Council use Policies that are developed from Resolutions?

- Policies are used for advocacy, to educate members, to lobby elected provincial and municipal governments
- Policies serve as a foundation for briefs to Ministers of the Crown, Provincial statements and to provide input or influence the actions of other organizations.
- For advocacy purposes, CFUW Ontario Council uses both its own policies adopted by the Ontario Council voting body as well as national policies adopted by the national CFUW voting body.

CFUW Ontario Council
Resolution Development Process

Step 1 Read Resolution Guidelines	Step 2 Proposing Club Submits Notice of Intent to OC
Step 3 Proposing Club Develops Resolution	Step 4 Proposing Club Submits Resolution to OC
Step 5 OC Resolution Committee Review	Step 6 Amending Process - All OC Clubs Review
Step 7 Amendment Study by Proposer	Step 8 Final Version sent to OC Resolution Committee
Step 9 OC Resolution Committee sends Resolution to All Clubs	Step 10 Voting at AGM
Resolutions create policies. Policies allow for advocacy action!	

The following are the resolutions that will be discussed at this month's meeting:

CFUW Ontario Council Proposed Resolutions

CFUW Orillia - Funding for Post-Secondary Education in Ontario

Title of Resolution: The Funding Crisis in Post-Secondary Education in Ontario

Resolved, that CFUW Ontario Council strongly urge the Provincial Government of Ontario to address the budgetary crisis in post-secondary education (PSE) by implementing the following measures:

- Immediately start to increase per student funding to bring Ontario funding in line with other Provinces.
- Establish a multi-year tuition framework with different increases for colleges and universities
- Allow for targeted tuition increases particularly in high demand programs in colleges and professional programs in universities
- Provide emergency funding to colleges and universities most impacted by the significant reduction in international student study permits.
- Enhance the student assistance budget and convert loans into grants

CFUW Owen Sound - The Establishment of a Seniors' Advocate

Title of Resolution: Ontario Seniors' Advocate

Resolved, That CFUW Ontario Council urges the Government of Ontario to establish a Seniors' Advocate who is an independent officer of the legislature, with a primary focus on the aging in place experience, with the following mandate:

- receives submissions from the public regarding challenges to maintaining quality of life experienced by the people of Ontario as they age, including but not limited to challenges to, their ability to age in place;
- monitors the impact of provincial policy and legislation on the experience of aging in Ontario;
- collaborates with Ombudsman Ontario and Patient Ombudsman to identify trends in complaints received by those offices about challenges to quality of life experienced by Ontarians as they age;
- collects relevant data and provides annual reports to the legislature about the advocate's activities and recommendations to address systemic challenges Ontarians experience with maintaining quality of life as they age, prioritizing recommendations to help the people of Ontario age in place.

CFUW National Proposed Resolutions

#1: Ending Menstrual Inequality

#2: Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

#3: Safeguarding 2SLGBTQ+ Rights

#4: Strengthening Support for Individuals Fleeing Domestic Violence

#5: Equitable Phase Out of Fossil Fuels

#6: Archiving Select CFUW Adopted Resolutions

#7: Housing – A Human Right, A Social Good and Meeting Core Housing Needs

We need members to attend the resolutions meeting to ensure quorum!

The resolutions meeting is a great meeting to attend to learn how CFUW effects change through the submission of resolutions by CFUW clubs, and to be a participating part of the process. Many of the resolutions proposed by member clubs directly affect our own lives and are put forward in order to make our lives better. Come out to hear fellow club members present this year's resolutions and make your voice heard by voting.

“When the world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.”

Malala Yousafzai

What's New at CFUW Ajax-Pickering



This month, Book Club members discussed the book “The Women”, by Kristin Hannah. The book was set in Vietnam during the war and attendees enjoyed delicious gin gimlets and ambrosia salad to celebrate the era of the Vietnam war.

Photos courtesy of Catherine G.

Alice in Wonderland Fundraiser Tea

Can you believe it? We’re in March already! And that means our Alice in Wonderland fundraiser tea is rapidly approaching! Save the date and plan to attend this amazing event! There are two dates for the tea: May 3rd (adult tea) and May 4th (adult and children’s event for children aged 5-12).



News from Other Clubs

Oshawa Club

Oshawa CFUW invites us to their March general meeting on Wednesday, March 12th. All guests are welcome. No registration is required.

Jone Webster, Publicity



March General Meeting

Little Forests: Big Results

By Ingrid Janssen, Durham Master Gardener



A variety of wildlife can be supported by these small pockets of densely-planted native trees and shrubs. Learn about this new ecological tool in the world-wide battle against climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 - 7:00 PM

All Guests Welcome - Free Admission

St Mark's United Church, 201 Centre St S, Whitby

cfuw.oshawa@gmail.com
<http://cfuw-oshawa-and-district.weebly.com>



Did you know. . . ?

The Oshawa Club puts out an interesting and informative newsletter every month. To access their newsletters, click here: [Newsletters](#)

What's New in Advocacy

CFUW Ajax-Pickering members participated in two fundraising walks for The Coldest Night of the Year 2025. Money went to local youth services and homelessness support groups. Some members were in Oshawa raising money for The Refuge. Thank you to Club members for raising \$525+. Other members of our Club were at the Pickering walk raising money for Durham Youth Services. The Refuge's work benefits from the \$ 177,614 raised and Durham Youth Services, which includes Joanne's House, was given \$27,445 in funds. Many thanks for all who walked and donated.

Here's a thank you from The Refuge, and a few pictures of our members at the event:



We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all of your dedication, hard work, leadership and heart, our Coldest Night of the Year event last Saturday was a great success! We have SURPASSED our fundraising goal of \$150,000 with a current total of **\$180,293!** While final numbers are not yet in, so far this is hitting a new record as our most successful CNOY event EVER! Out of 207 participating cities across Canada, Oshawa's WALK for The Refuge ranks **#1 for the most amount of walkers, #13 for the most teams and #13 in Canada for the most money raised! This puts The Refuge in the Top 10% of CNOY Charities in the nation!** This far exceeds the goal we had set for ourselves and we couldn't have done it without you.

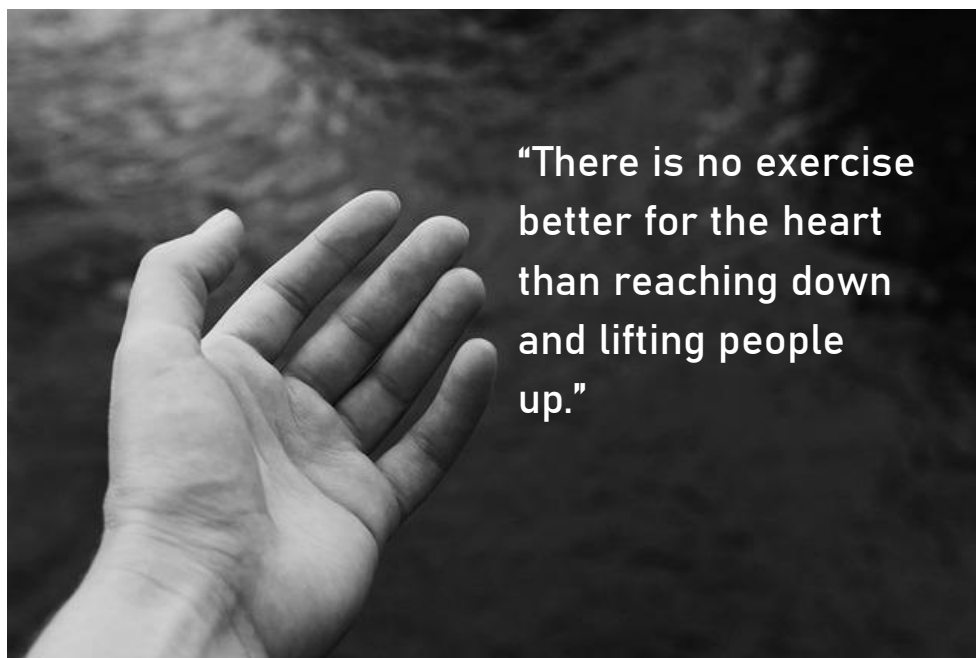
The success of an event like this would not be possible without hardworking team captains, enthusiastic walkers, great sponsors and dedicated volunteers such as yourselves. We owe this achievement to you, our wonderful supporters!

With heartfelt gratitude from everyone at The Refuge, we **THANK YOU** for your record-breaking support of our mission and helping to give hope for a future to the hungry, homeless, and hurting youth at The Refuge.

Our intrepid club members all bundled up at the Coldest Night of the Year Walk:



Photos by Gail L.



“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”

Interest Groups

Get involved—get connected!! Join an interest group!

Interest groups are a great way to get to know other club members, especially if you are new to the club. Joining one or several of these groups gives you the opportunity to spend time with members with similar interests. Feel free to join as many as you like (or start up a new one!) You are only limited by the amount of free time you have available!

If you are a new member and are not sure how our interest groups work, please ask any club member for more information.

Book Club

Book Club is open to all, and all are welcome! We meet on the 4th Thursday of every month. The March Book Club meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 27th**, hosted by Louise Z. The book is ***The Phoenix Crown***, by Kate Quinn and Janie Chang. Please contact Louise to confirm attendance and meeting location.



CFUW Ajax-Pickering Walk and Talk

Our goal is to enjoy some fitness at local walking trails while connecting with other club members. Walk and Talk will continue throughout the year. We meet **every Wednesday**. The time may be adjusted depending on weather. Details will be confirmed via email the week of the walk. Contact Jane if you wish to be added to the email contact list for this group to receive regular updates on activities.



Online Cards

We have a small active group of avid card players and anyone is welcome to join us. Games are played **online every Monday night at 7 pm**. Contact Cathy M. for more information.



Golf

Golf is done for this season. Watch for updates in the spring when this group starts up again. We may also explore an indoor golf facility over the winter to chase away the winter blahs! Details to come!



Advocacy Group

We meet on the **first Wednesday of each month**. New members are welcome! We will discuss climate change action and issues this year. For more information, contact Marcy or Caroline.

Craft Club

This group will be meeting the **first Tuesday of every month**. Please contact Louise S if you are interested in participating. The group is currently working on crafts for the Alice in Wonderland tea.



Ladies Lunch Group

We meet the **3rd Thursday of each month**. Next outing will be to **Symposium Cafe** at 338 Rossland Rd E in Ajax on **Thursday, March 20th at 12 pm**. Please RSVP to Catherine G. if you plan to attend.

International Women's Day 2025

“When the World is changed for women, women will change the world.”

World Vision Canada

As we celebrate International Women's Day this year, it is not just a celebration of our accomplishments, though they are worth celebrating, but also a time for reflection. And this year especially seems to require more thoughtful consideration of the issues facing women both in our own country and globally. The year 1919, when CFUW came into existence, was also a time of turmoil and uncertainty. The first world war was over. However, for many Canadian women, the war may have ended but a generation of young men were gone and many women themselves had spent the war working outside the home, achieving an independence many were reluctant to give up. The economy was beginning to recover but consumer goods were expensive. There were issues over immigration and employment for those men who had managed to survive the war. Canadian society and indeed, Canadians themselves, had been changed by the war and there was no going back to a time before 1914. In this most challenging of times, the Canadian Federation of University Women was founded. A small group of university-educated women who believed they could advocate for women in Canada and internationally. They understood that women's issues were unique and needed to be taken seriously by those in positions of power. They knew the power of advocacy, and I think saw it as a fundamental component of the organization.

We too, in 2025, are also engulfed in political, social, economic and environmental challenges. It is a time of change and great uncertainty, especially for women in both Canada and in many countries worldwide. However, those first CFUW members showed us how to not only survive in trying times, but created for us today a blueprint for doing so. They saw their educational accomplishments as tools to use when facing change, and in advocacy itself. They worked together and saw themselves as change makers. They were realistic enough to know that change doesn't come easily nor necessarily in a timely fashion. I think they were very aware that what they did in their time would impact the future for new generations of women, even if they themselves would not benefit from the action taken.

Lastly, those first CFUW members demonstrated the power of women working together and supporting one another. In present day terms, they were not afraid to speak truth to power. They didn't give up when they were challenged, nor did they give up if not initially successful in achieving a goal. They knew the importance of thoroughly being prepared to challenge what was seen as acceptable by others.

Let us prepare in our own challenging time, to live our lives as agents of change, both in our own communities and globally. As well, in many countries around the world women do not have the same basic rights we ourselves have nor is there a realistic chance for that to change any time soon. What we can do is to bear witness to their struggles and make sure their stories are told.

Almost half the world's population are female. However, because of their gender, many suffer injustice and lack basic human rights.

This is what the world would be if it was represented by 1000 girls:

200 would already be married
126 would not be in school
65 would be involved in child labour
48 would have experienced forced sex
5 would experience female genital mutilation
5 would be victims of child trafficking

- 12 years of schooling for a girl could reduce child marriage by 64% globally, as well as give her the tools to support herself, her future family and her community.
- Total number of girls married each year before they are 18 is 12 million globally.

Submitted by Marcy R. Source: worldvision.ca/internationalwomensday

Women's History Month – Interesting Facts about Women

1854: Emily Howard Stowe was the first female to be a principal of a public school in Upper Canada (around 1854). She was also the first physician to practice in Canada. Stowe was denied entrance into the Toronto School of Medicine in 1865 and was told by its Vice Principal, "The doors of the University are not open to women and I trust they never will be." Unable to study medicine in Canada, Emily Stowe earned her degree in the United States from the homeopathic New York Medical College for Women in 1867.

1901: Women made up 13.4% of the total (paid) labour force. The marriage "bar" was in operation – women were legally required to resign upon marriage.

1911: International Women's Day was established.

1916: Women won the right to vote in provincial elections in Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. This was followed by BC and Ontario (1917), Nova Scotia (1918), New Brunswick (1919), Prince Edward Island (1922), Newfoundland (1925) and Quebec (1940).

1917: The first woman elected to a provincial legislature in Canada was Louise McKinney in the 1917 Alberta general election, while the first woman elected to the House of Commons was Agnes Macphail, in the 1921 Canadian federal election.

1918: Canadian women (but not Aboriginal and Asian women) won the right to vote in federal elections.

1924: At the first winter Olympic Games in 1924, women could only compete in figure skating.

1932: Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

1947: Canadian women who marry non-Canadian men no longer lose their citizenship.

1960: "The Pill" was first approved by the FDA, marking a milestone in women's rights.

1962: Mount Allison University in New Brunswick was the first university to allow female students.

1964: Women entitled to open a bank account without obtaining their husband's signature.

1974: Women couldn't get credit cards in their name until 1974.

1975: Women earn 60 cents for every dollar earned by men.

1978: Airline flight attendants gain the right to work after marriage and after they reach the age of 32.

1987: Women's History Month begins.

1992: Roberta Bondar becomes the first Canadian woman in space.

1993: The Right Honorable Kim Campbell becomes the first female prime minister.

Marie Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the first person to win two Nobel Prizes.

The number of STEM degrees awarded to women in the US has increased by 93% since 2008.

Women outlive men in almost every society.

Source: This article was written from selected information obtained from www.weareteachers.com website and Public Service Alliance of Canada.

Newsletter Deadline

Information for the April newsletter should be submitted by **Friday, March 28th, 2025.** Submissions can be mailed, dropped off, or sent via e-mail (sbriell@bell.net). Contact Sandy at 905 428-0003 for further information.

Note from the Editor

The Grapevine is available in both electronic (Adobe PDF) and hardcopy formats, with electronic being the preferred, more cost-efficient format. **If you have recently changed your e-mail address or other contact information**, please let me know so I can update the club membership list and get the newsletter to the right place!

CLUB WEBSITE

<http://www.ajaxcfuw.ca/>

Suggestions for new content or design ideas for our website are always welcome! Please contact Sandy for more information.

Newsletters will be posted on the website so you will be able to access them online if needed.

Facebook/X (formerly Twitter)

We now send out meeting information via these social media platforms to encourage new members. Visit our new **Facebook page** (see page 2 for more info) or connect with us on **X** (@CFUWajax).

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Cards	4	5 Walk & Talk	6	7	8
9	10 Cards	11	12 Walk & Talk	13 Club Meeting	14	15
16	17 Cards	18	19 Walk & Talk	20 Ladies Lunch	21	22
23	24 Cards	25	26 Walk & Talk	27 Book Club	28 Newsletter Deadline	