

CFUW Ontario Council Annual Report 2022



Reports of the Board, Standing Committees, Special Committees

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*See Treasurer’s Report in the Business and Finance booklet

Message from the President

Vaccinations. Boosters. Lockdowns. Lockdowns lifted. Masks optional. Meetings in person. We are now in a time of recovery-albeit slowly, as another variant is determined to upset our lives at the writing of this report. Let us not be daunted. Ontario Council (OC) women find courage and strength in adversity. One step forward. Two steps back. One step forward. And all while many local, provincial, federal and international issues still require our attention...and we answered the call.

Please read on to see how many of our clubs embarked on helping women for a better future. From the advocacy issues – environmental webinars, projects, Walks, long term care Letter writing – to fundraisers, both live and virtual, to attending a virtual Commission of the Status of Women – our 48 clubs answered the call to fulfil our mandate of advancing women's rights, lifelong learning and encouraging women to lead.

I think about the women and children in Ukraine and other areas of global conflict, and I ponder, "What if I was there?" I am sure I would be hoping and praying that more privileged countries come to the rescue. I think of the Afghan women and girls, being denied education. And I am so thankful that many of the OC clubs have stepped up to aid them – because we fortunately can.

Belonging to an OC club, with strength in numbers, gives you the opportunity to contribute to the betterment of the lives of women and girls everywhere: in your communities, in the province, in the country and around the world. I know you are doing so to improve their lives for a better future.

Though we embarked on having a live AGM, the current climate was not in our favour. Thus, we will be having another virtual meeting. However, the theme of *Renew, Reconnect and Reinvigorate* is at the heart of this year's meeting. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we owe a debt of gratitude to CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo. They set out and offered a high calibre conference program! And it would have been an amazing experience in celebrating the theme. Willing and undaunted - a special thank you to the ladies of the K-W LAC ! We celebrate with you on your 100th anniversary!

Sandra Thomson
President

CFUW Ontario Council Clubs

Ontario North

Haliburton Highlands
Muskoka
North Bay
Orillia
Sudbury
Thunder Bay

Ontario West

Cambridge
Guelph
Kitchener/Waterloo
London
St. Thomas
Stratford
Windsor

Ontario Huron

Kincardine
Headwaters
Owen Sound
Southport

Ontario Central

Ajax/Pickering
Aurora/Newmarket
Barrie
Etobicoke
Leaside/East York
Markham/Unionville
North Toronto
Northumberland
Oshawa
Scarborough
North York
Toronto

Ontario East

Belleville
Cornwall
Kanata
Kingston
Nepean
Ottawa
Perth
Peterborough
Renfrew

Ontario South

Brantford
Burlington
Georgetown
Grimsby
Hamilton
Milton
Mississauga
Oakville
St. Catharines
Welland

Report of the President – Sandra Thomson

The Ontario Council is closing another biennium with the theme “Women Helping Women for a Better Future.” As I finish my sixth year as OC president, I truly marvel of what women accomplish. The passion, the drive, the enthusiasm, all combine for a dynamic force. From the very beginning of its inception, Ontario Council has been dynamic, relevant. My three boards over the years have consisted of directors who have shared their knowledge, skills, and abilities to make our organization one to emulate. One to belong to. An organization to be proud of. The Ontario Council Board has dedicated its time and energies in serving the many clubs that make up our organization.

I have been truly blessed to have had the support of the Board as we continuously improved over the years. The last term of our 2021-2022 biennium has been no exception.

CFUW Ontario Council is committed to: The pursuit of knowledge; the promotion of education; the improvement of the status of women and girls; and an active participation in public affairs in a spirit of cooperation and friendship. How does this define us? What is our core business? Advocacy. Education. Leadership. Friendship.

Advocacy

Advocating for women is no doubt is our strength. Our advocacy issues are well researched. We produced two well detailed and comprehensive advocacy newsletters, which provided comprehensive backgrounders, template letters, links to relevant sources – all for clubs to easily use and access via our Ontario Council newsletters and on our user-friendly website. We ran two social media campaigns for the “16 Days of Activism” and for the upcoming Elections. Both toolkits - Election Toolkit *Part 1, Preparing for the Ontario Election 2022* and for the Election Toolkit *Part 2, Our Issues of Concern*- were prepared especially for you to tackle the issues with your candidates.

To assist us with our advocacy work, we boast four policy advisors on our advocacy committee – experts in housing, environment, poverty and child care. All to bring you the most up to date information and work completed at the grassroots levels.

In fulfilling our purpose, we did send a number of ministerial letters to different provincial leaders. From child care to regulations for LTC homes, to acknowledging partnerships for hygiene products for young women, to sending in a budget submission, we stayed abreast of pending legislation and following bills that were passed.

(For more letters to the government, please follow this link. [What Are The Issues? | CFUW Ontario Council \(cfuwontcouncil.org\)](https://cfuwontcouncil.org/What-Are-The-Issues?).) I was pleased to receive a personal note from the MPP Jane McKenna, associate minister, Ministry of Community and Social Services, and a note of gratitude for our support from Senator Marilou McPhedran, regarding the Independent Senators Group (ISG) hearing.

For a global view of the advocacy issues, I joined Teri Shaw and Sandra Shaw from the Board to attend the virtual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) from March 14 until March 25. The priority theme was “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes” and the review theme: Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work. “From changes in the climate and how it affects women and girls, to human trafficking, to methods of work on the agreed conclusions for the member states, it is a very educational and eye-opening experience.

It was very gratifying to see a number of OC individual members on the delegation!

Education

Our three diverse programs offered in our Speakers Series were virtually very well attended. Senator McPhedran kicked off the term with the concerning problem of female politicians being harassed and abused – as abuse takes many forms. The opioid crisis brings heartache to so many families. And how can we support our children, our grandchildren, with the mental health crisis caused by the pandemic?

The multiple noted speakers brought to light the underlying causes, the studies done, the actions taken, the possible solutions- all for us to raise up our voices for safer and healthier lives. We hope you reflected and responded. The one goal of our speakers’ program is for the clubs to take action – another opportunity to make a difference. (Having said that, one OC club- CFUW Oakville - has written a national resolution on the Violence Against Women in Politics!)

In other educational pursuits for our members, our website advocacy pages have been updated, along with the creation of an elections page. We have an updated document on risk management. We revised our OC resolutions guidelines. We added a “Climate Action Corner” column. We published clubs’ events for you to participate and learn new ideas, new successes. A sharing of life long learning experiences.

Leadership

The strength of our clubs underpins OC's work. Our Regional Directors – Lori Ker, Anne Cordon, Roline Maconachie, Joyce See, Judith Pownall, and Elana Freeman – have very admirably led and guided our clubs. Meetings held, information exchanged, events shared, topics of concern discussed – they have well served our 48 club executives. Several of the RDs also lent their expertise on OC committees. Our standing chairs – Wendy Taylor, Sandra Shaw, and Lisa Long –worked very hard to produce a distinctive speaker's series, in fulfilling our education goal. They have also been key partners in producing our advocacy work. Teri Shaw, our advocacy chair, is one amazing individual who had her fingertips on just all the issues. Leading the advocacy committee, producing ministerial letters and briefs, composing the advocacy content for the newsletters – she is an advocacy expert. And we simply would not have managed without Heather Conlin, our secretary. She picked up the gauntlet in October and has kept us on track!



What has been exciting is the start up of Ontario Council's very first virtual club – ARROW – Assembly of Rural and Remote Ontario Women! For the first time we have the ability to connect with women where there is no bricks and mortar Ontario Council club. With the very first meeting in March, the interest has grown and certainly this

paves the way for future development and membership – and more importantly – reaching our voices in every part of the province! Kudos to Sandra Shaw, the driving force behind this club!

Our standing committees have served to improve our organizational operations and for the benefits of the clubs.

Treasurer Teresa Habs kept our well managed finances in check and we are so pleased to see a number of clubs take advantage of our financial incentives! Her Finance Committee has met to review our financial policies and put forth a prudent budget for the next term. Ingrid Sproxton created informative and eye appealing newsletters, kept our social media on track (also thanks to Teri Shaw and Lori Ker in this regard), and our website is easy to navigate. We are pleased to see increases in our FB, Twitter, and Instagram audience! We would like to see more readers to OC News (not too late to subscribe!) and visitors to our user-friendly website!

Our newest standing committee, Membership, got off the ground with Roline Maconachie as chair with fellow RDs, Anne Cordon and Joyce See. And to kick off with a contest!

A big acknowledgement to Lori Ker for ably chairing both the Governance Committee and the Constitution and Bylaw Committee. Under her guidance, the Board now has undertaken an administrative/policy book. Our constitution, which has been revised over the years, is aligned with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) which came into force October, 2021. A special thank you to Isobel Boyle, chair of Resolutions. Updating our OC Guidelines helped to keep our procedures current and easier for clubs to follow.

Many thanks to OC club individual members who served on our committees: Cheryl Taylor (Chair, Nominations); Wanda Crichton, Lise Moras, Myra Willis and Susan Freeman. Also to our Advocacy ladies: Helen Penfold, Marina Huissoon, Shelley Ball, Myrtle Greve, Margaret McGovern, Anne Douglas and Sheila Lacroix.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge all of the club executives. Your tenacity, patience, and perseverance in serving your club is so much appreciated, especially in the last trying year. It is evident from the Regional Director reports and the many newsletters I have read over the year. Leadership in the face of altered circumstances – a real test of crisis management. Well done! And thank you for Ontario Council successes!

Friendship

Ontario Council clubs invite women to come together – in matters which matter the most. Whether it is to raise money for scholarship, walk together in the coldest night of the year for a just cause, peacefully protest the issues in long term care, or to simply discuss a book or play bridge – this has been and continues to be our added strengths. We serve to help others. We bond for a communal cause. We take on leadership roles to create an environment for change. We work and play together for our own physical, spiritual, and mental health.

In Closing

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Ontario Council President. I wish for continued success for the future Board and all the clubs in Ontario as we stand for women and girls. It is what we do best!

Report of the Secretary – Heather Conlin

I was appointed to the position of Secretary October 7, 2021.

The specific work of the Secretary for Ontario Council involves three areas: that which is required by the Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) for Ontario incorporated non-profits, other secretarial assistance as needed, and the organization of the Speaker Series vis-à-vis the location and catering. The latter has not happened in person for 2021-2022.

Minutes have been prepared for: Board meetings, October 2021 (with Action Logs) through to and including the Annual General Meeting May 14, 2022, whereupon my term for the remainder of the 2020-2022 biennium ends.

Other Ontario Council work: Participated on the Ontario Council Governance Committee in preparation for Annual General Meeting May, 2022

Other work:

- Past President of CFUW Southport. Have mentored the President over the past two years and filled the Vice President gap.
- Took over Presidency February 2022 to April 2022 when President underwent surgery.
- On the planning team for December 6, 2021 Vigil.
- Part of a three-person Succession Planning Team to identify possible candidates for the President's role. The team successfully recruited a member for the upcoming term beginning September 2022.
- Attended monthly Regional Meetings held by Huron Regional Director.
- Participated on the committee to update CFUW Southport's Policy and Procedures.

Report of the Regional Director, ON Central – Judith Pownall

It has been my privilege to serve as the Regional Director for the 12 Ontario Central clubs for the past biennium. The variety of activities, meetings, speakers, and advocacy efforts has been an eye opener and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to visit, although virtually, with the clubs across the region.

Ajax-Pickering

- Awarded 9 scholarships, one to each high school in our area.
- Our membership number is down slightly but we attracted some new members
- Late in the year we were contacted through a CFUW club connection to see if we could help support an Afghan refugee family that was relocating to Pickering, several members have been very active in this endeavor, and all have been supportive



Aurora-Newmarket

- Our successful International Women's Day with speakers describing the plight and courage of women in Afghanistan under the rule of the Taliban.
- Specifically invited the community to join us for our January meeting focussed on the Opioid crisis in Canada and our March meeting focussed on the Ukraine situation and how we can support people caught in the war and those fleeing as refugees to neighbouring countries
- Our very first Home and Garden Tour—will be this June 18th and we hope to raise a significant amount of money to boost our awards and scholarships

Barrie

- We successfully held hybrid meetings, an in-person banquet at Christmas, and Zoom Lunch and Learn meetings in January and February
- Our Scholarship Committee distributed \$5,000 in scholarships to 5 female high school graduates from our area to further their education
- Members contributed \$950 to local Food Banks at Christmas
- Our CFUW Warm Hearted Sisters, together with our members, raised \$1.290 for Youth Haven during the Coldest Night of the Year walk.



Etobicoke

- Held a very successful February Stop the Violence Breakfast which raised over \$4500 for Women's Habitat, a women's shelter which we have supported for many years.
- Excellent speaker from Covenant House who spoke about human trafficking and what the signs are to look for.
- We had 3 former scholarship recipients speak at our meeting which focused on our Charitable Trust and Awards Program

Leaside-East York

- Fundraising and promotion for the following programs: seven local scholarships totaling \$9000, YWCA East York Women's Shelter, Wassail Zoom party \$3370, CW4W Afghan Zoom event \$3400
- A new interest group, NETWORKS, was born and began investigating what CFUW is.
- A NEW MEMBERS' HANDBOOK was produced to better understand how a member fits into our Club, Ontario Council, CFUW National and international organizations.

Markham-Unionville

- Our club continued to grow during Covid as our tech team not only made meetings on Zoom possible for Interest groups to continue to meet but provided tech help to members who were challenged with outdated equipment.
- Our Issues and Advocacy group continues to be dynamic. We now have representation on Markham Advisory Committees on Race Relations and Environment Committees.
- Our Club continues to support international advocacy and have sent funds to "Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan".
- We now have two committees who are spearheading changes with a) our EDI survey (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) to move our club forward with strategies for recruiting and retaining our membership and our Constitution and By-Laws are revamping to reflect these changes.

Oshawa and District

- We had a small but successful book sale in the fall outdoors- the funds went to our scholarship fund and the remaining books were given to a local charity
- We were able to enjoy a lovely in-person holiday dinner in December in a private room at a local restaurant
- Some of our speaker highlights included a very interesting speaker on Residential Schools that attracted many guests, another on the expanding role of guide dogs, a speaker on a transgender person's transition and Moira Walsh from the Toronto Star on alternative living arrangements for seniors.

Northumberland

- We hosted Dr. Roberta Bondar as our guest speaker at our annual Scholarship fundraising event (virtually)
- We established 5 new one-time \$1500 scholarships in celebration of our 30th Anniversary and the 30th Anniversary of Roberta Bondar's spaceflight. These scholarships will be awarded to female students in our 5 high schools pursuing STEM post-secondary endeavours.

- We established 5 new scholarships for female students pursuing an apprentice program.
- We successfully held our second annual online auction in support of our scholarship programs.



North Toronto

- Design, develop and implement a modern, user-friendly website using a professional web designer
- Successfully sold poinsettias in November 2021 to raise over \$1,700 for the Club's Scholarship Fund.
- The Advocacy Committee hosted a Zoom presentation by Caroline Taylor on the Climate Crisis. The meeting was attended by members of Clubs from the Toronto area and across Ontario.
- Award and scholarship winners attended several General Meetings: a high school student in November and Ryerson STEM scholarship winners attended in March.

North York

- A new interest group, Listening to Indigenous Voices, was started.
- An inaugural Pink Tea was held on International Women's Day for our members - in the morning, pink boxes with tea bags and goodies were provided through driveway pickup or delivery arranged and, in the afternoon, a virtual event featured speaker, Wanda Bedard, founder of 60 million girls Foundation.
- A scholarship for a year-round indigenous student at Seneca College was awarded starting this year bringing our annual scholarships to 19, for a total of \$18,500.
- In November 2021, our Gender Based Violence study group hosted a special meeting showing a 20-minute W5 documentary on bail laws affecting gender violence with Avery Haines, CTV, Host of W5 participating in the discussion that followed.

Scarborough

- Human Trafficking & Violence Against Women- speaker Shannon Mitchell and letters to MPPs
- Violence Against Women - Representative from Julliette's Place (Women's Shelter) spoke on the challenges with covid; + Hon Mitzie Hunter MPP for Scarborough- Guildwood was invited to share her petition on Bill 60
- Long term Care- we had Mary Connell speak to us about the Butterfly Model for Dementia Care
- Interest groups got creative with raising funds for Centennial scholarships – example- The Gourmet Lunch group have organized a High Tea for 8 people at \$25 per ticket. To be held at a member's home.

Toronto

- Increased membership since March 2020 with 30 new members
- Offer a variety of activities to members including Bridge, French conversation, Mah Jongg, Pilates, Speakers, Out and About which includes walks and museum visits and Workshops by members on a variety of topics
- Payment of scholarships annually to students in schools in central Toronto, Iqaluit Nunavut, students leaving the supervision of Children's Aid and to a student in residence at Innis College at the University of Toronto

Report of the Regional Director, ON Huron – Lori Ker

Regional and Club Activities

- All Huron clubs have been successful with their virtual and in-person programs and interest group meetings. All clubs have used intentional outreach to check on members and increase engagement. Many programs open to public to maintain profile.
- All clubs have maintained their scholarship programs despite significantly reduced opportunity for fundraising. We held a regional session on scholarships to share best practices among our clubs.
- Club meeting Topics have balanced general interest and advocacy topics: Persons Day commemoration, Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship, Long Term Care (Butterfly Model), International Women's Day, Public Health beyond Covid, Ontario Health Coalition, Community BIPOC organizations, Indigenous Friendship Centres, Dec. 6 Remembrance, Ontario Health Teams Community Caregivers, electHER and Equal Representation, Childcare workforce, Human Trafficking, Afghan refugee support, Floral arranging, Travel programs, Financial protection, Health and Wellness.
- Monthly virtual meetings with RD and club Presidents and others, sharing challenges, information, answering club questions regarding OC and National; sharing of club programs and club meeting strategies. Orangeville has changed their club's name to Headwaters to better reflect their catchment area.

Club Issues

- Club membership levels have been maintained or slightly grown in the last year in all clubs. Clubs have worked hard to stay connected the best they can and continue to support members learning virtual meeting technology.
- Leadership succession continues to be a challenge and a topic we discuss regularly at President's meetings. Strategies include early identification of possible successors; shared governance models and other leadership supports.
- All clubs have utilized the GWI opt-out funds in ways that support advocacy, through local or international projects and/or scholarships. All four are currently members of OC and National.

Information and Communication

- Promotion of the work that the OC Board has completed, the important advocacy work and evolving governance structures. Virtual OC Speakers Series sessions are popular among the Huron region leading to increased involvement from more distant clubs.
- Regular communication with Huron clubs on other items of provincial or national interest, reminders, and requests from OC.
- Promotion of the virtual meetings that CFUW is promoting regarding Succession Planning, Membership workshops and other townhalls.

Other Director Activities

- OC Finance Committee member – policy and budget review
- Chair, OC Bylaws Committee; Chair, OC Governance Committee
- Attended 2021-2022 OC Board Meetings monthly and Speaker's Series events
- CFUW National Articles & Bylaws Committee Member:
- National Regional Director Committee Meetings

Report of the Regional Director, ON East – Anne Cordon

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the club presidents in Ontario East over the last two years. We confined our visits to electronic means, especially video chatting via Zoom or telephone conversations due to health concerns.

In addition to my club presidents' meetings, I have also met monthly with the OC Board and almost as frequently with our VP Ontario and CFUW National and I have attended many CFUW related townhalls, webinars, and discussion groups.

I asked my clubs to send me their thoughts on what they wish to highlight about their club this year; I needed to drastically edit to keep within our space limit, so my apologies for the deletions. The themes that come out from all clubs is the importance to connect with members, to be heard locally and afar on heartfelt advocacy issues and to continue fundraising to allow them to maintain their scholarships and advocacy.

Belleville and District—Lynn Becker

We had a very active year. The co-presidency works very well, especially when faced with challenges of the last 2 years. We hosted a record garden tour in July 2021 that funds our scholarships. We gave out \$20, 500 in September 2021 to our 2021-22 scholarship winners. We filled our VP Education and Advocacy position aiding in advocating for LTC reform and environmental change. On a more administrative note, our governance committee completely revamped and rewrote our Procedures and Policy manuals. As always, we had some challenges such as loss of members due to Covid vaccination requirements and although we are still a vibrant group, we are aging.

This is making it harder to fill all leadership positions, especially the presidency. Clearly, we need to figure out how to attract new, somewhat younger members.

Cornwall and District – Jackie Fraser and Susan Kail

Best Our year was once again shaped largely by the global pandemic. However, even during restrictions and adversity, we managed to enjoy many meetings and events both virtually and in person. The highlight of the year was “Environment Matters”, Cornwall and Districts’ 2021-2022 initiative to explore ways to nurture our fragile environment. Environment Matters has taken us on an interesting and lively journey through education and action. Monthly e-bulletins on environmental topics such as pollinators and keeping warm without raising the thermostat were sent to members. Challenges to avoid the use of single-use plastics and to wrap Christmas gifts using re-usable materials were met by our members with a sense of fun as well as education. The club collaborated with the City of Cornwall to clean up Cornwall during “Cornwall’s Great Big Clean-up” event and again in April 2022 with the City’s Eco day event.

Challenge Our biggest challenge this past year has been the constant struggle to remain connected with members. We approached this in several ways, including regular phone calls to every member from ‘sister members’, quarterly publication of a club newsletter, ‘The Dispatch’, and a concerted effort to expand our on-line presence via Facebook and the creation of a Media Liaison Committee to explore social media venues such as Twitter and Instagram.

Kanata—Elena Petrich

In spite of Covid, restrictions and all, we put in a good year. We were able to expand our technology base with workshops for Zoom, webinars, and our website. This increased participation at the General Meetings. Fundraising for Scholarships included a VP challenge, Garage Sale, Interview with a local author Elizabeth Hay in a zoom conversation with Alan Neal a CBC host, and direct donations. We participated in a community fundraising Porch Concert Ten new members joined our club. We attended Christmas Luncheons in person YEA!

Kingston—Danna Dobson

Though we are a very small club with an aging membership, we care about each other and stay connected. Our dining out group met and we have five interested women for next year! PLUS 2 PhD students at Queens (one is advocating for a Canadian women’s museum!). Sadly, our wonderful vivacious Judy moved to Pembroke.

Nepean—Marcia Armstrong

Zoom meetings are being enjoyed! Club membership did not decline. We tried hybrid meetings in the fall of 2021 but discontinued in person meetings at the end of November. Cooperation with other Clubs on projects has been more easily facilitated using Zoom e.g., Ottawa, Kanata and Nepean Clubs worked together to plan and deliver three very successful evening speaker events in April on the theme of “Tackling

the Environmental Crisis: Together We Can". These events were inspired by Nepean's resolution on single use plastics passed at the 2021 AGM. Thanks to Ontario Council for their support to each Club for speaker honoraria. Our Club thespians under the direction of VP and playwright Joan Conrod, performed *Women Like Us* at our March meeting. It is a fictional account about the three women who founded the International Federation of University Women (Graduate Women International). It is available for viewing on Nepean's YouTube channel as are the three environmental webinars.

Challenge for 2021-22 Fund raising for the Scholarship Trust is our greatest challenge. We partnered with the Rotary Club of West Ottawa to sell Cash Calendars and raised \$1800. We also awarded \$6500 in scholarships to Algonquin College students and to a resident of Cornerstone Housing for Women to improve her education.

Ottawa—Elizabeth (Lizz) Sleith Wilfert

We **redesigned our membership pamphlet** to be up to date with recent photos, terminology, an eye-catching design and pleasing colours (distributed throughout local libraries and community centres). Our **social media** presence now includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. We continue to **campaign with slogans** such as 'Bring a friend' and 'Don't keep a secret'.

We do 'Zoom Welcomes' in small groups for our new members in November and then in March with Board members and Membership Committee. We acted upon new members suggestions and engaged them in decisions.

Each month between the Speakers' Series portion of the evening and the General Meeting, we have what we call **Groups' Showcase**. We try to match the speaker's topic with the theme of the interest groups. We have the convenor or co-convenors talk about their program.

Scholarships: We have teamed with the Heads of Mission Spouses Association (HOMSA) and are creating two endowed scholarships one at the U of O and one Carleton U.

Advocacy Not only has Zoom given us the opportunity to have more people come to our Speakers' Series but we have allowed some interest groups like Environment Action and University Women Helping Afghan Women (UWHAW) to extend their invitations of special speakers to outside our club members and invite members to share the invitation with their friends and we often get new members.

Perth—Carrey Duncan

We continue to thrive and have grown to pre-pandemic numbers. We find ways to get together, in person and virtually-- hybrid meetings have included those who prefer to attend virtually and bring in speakers from across the country. The number of Interest Groups has expanded and is even more active including our Out and About Group which visits local historical sites, our Intrepid Hiker Group, Cycling Group, Potluck Club, Piano

Group. The Social Justice Committee focuses on: Long Term Care/Elder Care, Homelessness & Affordable Housing, Community Involvement, Human Trafficking, and the Opioid Crisis. The Club hosted a panel presentation on the Opioid Public Health Crisis in March which was attended by people across the province. On International Women's Day, our very own Shelagh Stevens spoke on the Challenges and Successes of Women in UN Peacekeeping. One challenge we face is the limited interest in people joining the Executive and we have a number of positions vacant for next year including President and VP. We continue our efforts to 'think outside the box' in resolving this challenge.

Peterborough—Susan Weston



Highlights of our meetings include a speaker on the new Long-Term Care initiative – the Butterfly Project, a speaker from the Ontario Mental Health Association – speaking on mental wellness, our MP, Michelle Ferreri speaking on local issues and a wildlife photographer and Safari Leader to close out our year. Our advocacy has again focused on Long-Term Care and on elder Care Day – May 4th we will be delivering chocolates to the staff at local LTC homes as a token of appreciation for all they have done over the past 2 years. Our newsletters provide great information including uplifting poetry, book reviews and recipes. One of our new

Interest Groups – the Sunshine Sisters spread good will and cheer with a highlight delivering holiday ornaments in December made by the Arts and Crafts interest group. Our Club also raised and donated \$960 at Christmas which went to Community Care. This year is our 85th Anniversary—sadly no party like we had for our 75th.

Renfrew & District—Barbara Moogk



We have had some Zoom meetings and a few in person meetings— a Christmas dinner at a restaurant and visited our local Food Bank before one meeting. We are now allowed into the high school to mark books but not to have a Book Fair.

Our small membership has remained loyal to CFUW and supportive of each other locally. This year is our 65th anniversary!

Report of the Regional Director, ON West – Elana Freeman

This year, 2021-22 was my 2nd year as RD and our second year into the pandemic. Keeping our clubs and members interested and active was a challenge. Some clubs did better than others, some kept their activities virtual, some tried hybrid and some went back in person, all with varying degrees of success.

CFUW Public Profile

At the beginning of the year social media was one of the areas I wanted to develop in Ontario West. Some highlights of the region's accomplishments:

- CFUW London joins Facebook
- ON West clubs participate in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence social media blitz lead by the Ontario Council
- CFUW K-W uses social media to promote CFUW aims including partner organization messages
- CFUW Stratford had a team participate in the Coldest Night of the Year walk and also raised funds
- CFUW Stratford uses social media to advocate for the environment
- CFUW Windsor partners with Ukrainian Women of Canada and Ukrainian Canadian Congress to bring awareness of the war in Ukraine and to raise funds for refugees
- CFUW St. Thomas uses social media to highlight local fundraisers and events supporting Ukraine.

Advocacy

Advocacy efforts were varied this year. Some clubs continued their work on long term care that was begun last year, others adopted new advocacy efforts. Several clubs in the region held meetings on the war in Ukraine. Several clubs also worked on issues around gender and politics.

CFUW Cambridge

Cambridge held it's 10 annual International Women's Day Breakfast via Zoom. The speaker for this event was Dr. Winnie Lee the interim Chief of staff at Cambridge Memorial Hospital. Proceeds and donations from this event went to CFUW Cambridge's Scholarship Fund.

CFUW Guelph

CFUW Guelph created an Emergency Food Relief Fund. CFUW Guelph's Executive and Advocacy Committee worked together and launched an appeal to its members to reduce food insecurity as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

The Executive approved \$300 from the one-time community connections fund be donated to The SEED, a not-for-profit food project that delivers community programs to address food insecurity. The Seed is located at the Guelph Community Health Centre and was created in 2015 by a coalition of community organizations.

They asked their members to donate to any of the agencies/organizations that provide emergency food relief locally.

CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo



CFUW K-W has an advocacy group that studies the topic of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) led by Mary Cunningham. On February 1, 2022, Mary was able to arrange for some of their Advocacy group members to participate in a 90-minute FASD webinar given by 2 provincially supported FASD. The local group Parents for Children's Mental Health (PCMH) sponsored this Zoom webinar, and it was well attended by those needing more information about FASD. In addition to this, the advocacy group also amplified local 8-year-old heroine Asena who wrote a letter about the appalling skit presented on Saturday Night Live on January 15, 2022. Asena has a brother with FASD.

CFUW London

CFUW London continues to host its meetings virtually. It celebrated Black History month by holding a meeting on The Underground Railway and amplified the story of Rose Fortune. In May they hosted an event on Ukraine. Their speaker was Mariya Tuzyk who was on the ground in Western Ukraine.

CFUW St. Thomas

In April, CFUW St. Thomas highlighted a remarkable local woman, L. Cdr Nadia Shields who was born and raised in St. Thomas. After 18 years in the Armed forces, in September 2020, she moved West and took Command of HMCS Saskatoon, deploying as part of Operation CARIBBE in 2021 and 2022. Upon return from deployment, L. Cdr Shields will be Officer-in-Charge of Patrol Vessel Sea Training with the goal of preparing other Commanding Officers and ships as they continue to support Canada at home and abroad.

CFUW Stratford

CFUW Stratford launched a campaign called Learning to do More with Less. This included a fact sheet with information about how Canadians' consumption is affecting our planet.

Some notable facts:

- LED bulbs use 75% less energy than incandescent lighting
- Fast fashion increased 60% in the last 20 years
- Homes and budlings of Canadians account for almost 20% of Canada's greenhouse emissions

CFUW Windsor

CFUW Windsor continued its advocacy work on long-term care by inviting new female provincial political candidates to discuss their and their party's position on Long Term Care issues.

CFUW Windsor held a Town Hall style meeting and fundraiser for Ukraine. This was a hybrid event with speakers from various Ukrainian support agencies from Windsor-Essex, as well as some speakers from Ukraine.

Report of the Regional Director, ON North – Roline Maconachie

As COVID remained a deterrent to physical meetings this year, I continued to hold monthly meetings for the presidents of our region on Zoom. These meetings were very productive and helpful to both new and existing presidents. We discussed many challenges and successes of the clubs and shared ideas. I created the agendas but asked the clubs for input as to desired topics. I believe that even when clubs return to physical meetings, it would be valuable to continue these Zoom meetings so that clubs in the region can continue with these worthwhile activities. These meetings touched on many subjects including Advocacy, Membership, Fundraising and Scholarships, Important Communications from National and OC, Club Issues, Club Successes, etc. I also participated in two conflict resolution situations.

Membership:

- Chaired the new Ontario Council Membership Committee and helped develop the Membership Challenge contest for all Ontario clubs
- Worked with clubs to help them overcome challenges in recruiting and retaining their members as COVID continued throughout the year and suggested ideas to implement.
- Learned more about using social media and encouraged clubs to use the various platforms in order to recruit younger women
- Encouraged clubs to partner with community or hold events involving the community to find more members
- Showed clubs ways to find other clubs that were not meeting in person and therefore approach women who were looking to connect
- Attended National workshops relating to Membership

CFUW Profile:

- Program sharing continued among the northern clubs and many members were able to enjoy and learn from varied speakers
- Publicity Chair for my own club- wrote many articles for the local media regarding our monthly speakers and sponsored events (IWD and CNOY) and advocacy (Single Use Plastics Contest)

- Shared all ideas with other regional clubs
- Invited Sandra Shaw, founder of ARROW to speak at a monthly presidents' meeting to promote the club for rural and isolated women
- Attended an ARROW meeting
- Attended all Speaker Series programs
- Attended many webinars on various subjects throughout the year
- Attended Ontario Council Board Meetings and relayed all pertinent information from OC and National to clubs



Advocacy:

- Continued to sit on my local club's Advocacy Committee
- Wrote letters to government ministers re Laurentian/Lakehead situation involving NOSM severance
- Engaged other clubs in writing to government officials re NOSM
- Arranged a meeting between National Advocacy Chair and an influential member to try and set up a meeting with Patty Hajdu
- Advocacy was a topic at every monthly presidents' meeting to encourage action
- Arranged and hosted a meeting of the region's Advocacy Chairs to find common issues to address- will likely continue next year
- Helped find International Organizations for opt-out clubs to support- one club reported their findings at a monthly presidents' meeting and their reasons for supporting two particular organizations.
- Invited OC Advocacy Chair Isobel Boyle to speak at a monthly presidents' meeting re analyzing resolutions- resulted in a template developed by CFUW Orillia

- Participated actively in my local club's Advocacy events- IWD, National Day of Remembrance, CNOY, and Elimination of Single Use Plastics Contest
- Attended webinars hosted by various clubs and by National

Sustainability:

- All my actions in holding meetings with my regional club executives, participating actively in Ontario Council, attending all OC, National, and other meetings and webinars, actively working on membership recruitment and retention, communicating regularly with my presidents, writing articles for the media, promoting the ARROW Club and other pursuits show my commitment to promoting sustainability of the organization.

Scholarships/Fellowships:

- Have principal involvement in my own club's scholarship program and have worked to keep it viable- raised \$26,000 last year and am actively involved this year in the planning.
- Provide all clubs with ideas for fundraising and praise their efforts
- Have kept in frequent touch with all regional clubs as well as participated in events/webinars put on by clubs in other regions via Zoom
- Have encouraged clubs in my region to plan a Fall Gathering- interest for next year
- Attended all National RD Meetings
- Attended all meetings with VP Ontario

Report of the Regional Director, ON South – Joyce See

Ontario South is made up of ten clubs in the western GTA and Niagara Peninsula. Clubs in Ontario South have continued to overcome the challenges presented by Covid-19 restrictions in creative and varied ways. The club presidents and advocacy chairs have continued to meet regularly for information sharing and support. This year for the first time, the chairs of the club scholarship processes met and agreed the meeting was helpful and would like to meet again in the Fall. We continue to look forward to a time when we can meet together in person.

Brantford - CFUW Brantford held all its meetings by zoom this past year. Attendance at these meetings was quite good and we were treated to some excellent speakers. We were even able to have a lovely Christmas Party via zoom, hosted by the program committee. While many of the interest groups are able to meet by zoom, others are in abeyance until we are able to meet in person. Despite the Pandemic, club membership remains steady. There was a successful fund raiser in December to support the local women's shelter. However, our Trivia night, the Club's major fundraiser for the scholarship fund, had to be canceled due to Covid. This is the second year in a row this fundraiser has been unable to proceed. Our 75th Anniversary party has been twice put

one hold due to the pandemic but we are, as a club, hopeful that the party will occur and are currently keeping our hopes high that we will be able to hold an in- person AGM at the end of May.



Burlington - The Burlington CFUW navigated through our second year of Pandemic restrictions with zeal, creativity and enthusiasm. We held four in-person monthly meetings observing all Covid safety measures. We also set up Virtual meetings which gave us the opportunity to invite distant, excellent guests. We even continued our popular, annual February Virtual Tea where we dressed up in our finery and enjoyed a local historian's well researched presentation. Our many Interest Groups thrived as they combined virtual

meetings with some outdoor gatherings and a few very safe indoor ones. We continued to support local Women's groups in our community as well as donate funds to the Ecole Polytechnique Commemorative Awards and award Scholarships to our Burlington graduating high school students. Our Burlington chapter, faced with declining enrolment, aging members and vacant Executive positions, formed an Ad Hoc Committee over the summer of 2021 to brainstorm ways to attract more members to our Executive team, streamline our club and work "smarter not harder". We put these in place for the 2021/22 year with major, positive changes to our procedures

Georgetown - By the end of 2021, CFUW Georgetown had capped off a yearlong celebration of our 50th anniversary. We set as a goal - and achieved – putting “50 Candles” on our anniversary cake, each earned through an act of community service and activities in support of the CFUW mission. Besides providing the usual series of public lectures in partnership with our local library, distributing scholarships, making our elected representative aware of CFUW Resolutions, members picked up litter, planted trees, organized food drives, attended rallies, marched and e-blasted to draw attention to important dates and raised funds for local needs. We even curated an 50th anniversary cocktail.

In terms of advocacy 2021-2022, we continued to support climate action and environmental issues. Locally that meant drawing attention to urban planning that impacts farmland loss and promoting alternatives to the creation of another superhighway known as #413. We organized and hosted a public information forum via zoom on issues around urban sprawl. As a Club, we informed our regional government of our “zero sprawl” position and were happy to see the letter re-printed in local press. Members rallied in support of a local climate action group formed by two long time members. Many of us have “Stop #413” and “Save our Farmland” signs on our lawns.

We hosted an All Candidates/100 Debates on the Environment virtual event for the September federal election in partnership with Halton Environment Network and our Library.

We raised funds in support of a local women's shelter and their Purple Bench initiative in recognition of intimate partner violence (IPV) and attended its local commemoration.

We marched in town for IWD International Women' Day and again attracted local press coverage.

Drawing on our Scholarship Trust Fund and cookie sales fundraising plus some individual donations, we were able to continue with our annual scholarship awards both in number and amounts given. The normal source of funding, our Book Sale was cancelled for a second time because of Covid.

In this second year of the pandemic, all General and Executive meetings continued on Zoom but Interest Groups sought face to face gatherings when conducted outdoors or when protocols were intermittently eased. We are targeting our first return to in-person meetings with our June AGM. Given the virtual meeting format, our Social Committee has morphed into popular game/quiz masters at our meetings' close, a change from the traditional role of providing dainties. Total membership numbers have remained stable but we have picked up four new members, who were welcomed with a virtual High Tea.

Grimsby - Membership at the Grimsby Club has decreased from 25 to 19. Meetings have taken place over Zoom and continue to start off with a speaker on various topics of interest. Attendance is down at the meetings, but the Zoom format has enabled us to discuss matters in more depth. The Executive has discussed the viability of the Club, given that membership numbers are so low. The Club decided to Opt-out of supporting GWI, largely due to the financial commitment required to back that organization.

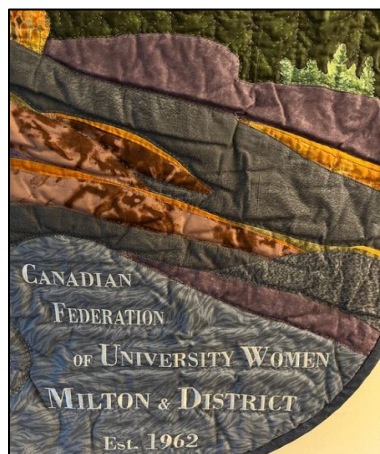
The Club launched a new website and is exploring other methods of increasing their social media presence in the hopes of attracting new and younger members. The pandemic has derailed the social nature of the Club as dinner meetings have been cancelled. At this point we plan to go ahead with our annual trip to the Shaw Festival, although the lunch that usually accompanies this trip has been cancelled. The Book Club has continued to meet virtually. The Club was not able to run their major fundraiser, the annual Lobster dinner due to Covid restrictions. The annual April book sale is scheduled to proceed. An on-line auction is planned for May as a secondary fundraiser. Club finances are healthy enough to allow for the awarding of scholarships to local girls/women, nonetheless.

Hamilton - We are still holding our general meetings on Zoom. A few small interest groups have been meeting in person but mostly everything is virtual. We are planning on meeting in person in the fall. We have a membership of 63 having lost a few and also had some new members join. One of our new members was someone who had belonged a few years ago but moved to another city. Because we are meeting on Zoom

and she so enjoyed an interest group she went to, the member rejoined. This was only possible because of holding our meetings virtually. We are very pleased to have a full executive for next year. We will have a new president and vice president.

We had a very successful fundraiser in the fall, "The Woman Who Loves Giraffes" and raised \$3,800.00 for our scholarships.

Milton & District -After almost 2 years of meeting remotely, our club is transitioning to a hybrid model for 2022 / 23: We find that some members prefer to join meetings from their home, while others would rather skip a meeting than have to look at a computer screen. By offering both options, we hope to increase our meetings attendance. The hiking club has been a core success for members to meet, in the relative safety of the outdoors, throughout the winter months. Other special interest groups have also been active, albeit remotely.



Our advocacy work this year has continued the success of social media campaigns from previous years, with an ever-increasing following on Facebook, and Instagram.

Throughout the year, we have been focused on 'truth and reconciliation' with our indigenous sisters, and have developed a Land Acknowledgement as well as action towards reconciliation through our general membership and special interest groups.

We will be having a book sale after a 2-year gap, and apparently the whole community has been saving up books for the entire time.

As a GWI Opt-in club, we are increasingly aware of our work on international relations and projects, and strive to do more in support of international advocacy next year. We hope for some financial stability with regard to GWI dues after the triennium in November.

This year we celebrate our club's 60th anniversary, and will have a year-end 'Bash' with all things 60's as our theme. AS a club we are very proud of our ongoing success, and continue to seek ways of strengthening our club through social change, new challenges, and new opportunities.

Mississauga - CFUW Mississauga had a successful year, despite Covid challenges. Our membership numbers increased slightly from last year. Some of our achievements include:

- The establishment of a Fundraising Committee
- The establishment of an Issues and Advocacy Group and implementing our Minute for Advocacy
- Successfully handling over 100 membership applications and the publication and distribution of our Directory to each member

- Keeping in touch with those who were not able to attend our meetings ¹_{SEP} because of illness and sending cards and support to those in need
- Raising almost \$5,000 for Armagh House, an interim shelter for women and their children fleeing abusive partners
- Having a wonderful and interesting roster of speakers

And last, but not least, providing the opportunity for us to meet via Zoom both for our monthly meetings and Interest Group meetings.



Oakville - Like other Ontario South clubs, Oakville continued with a virtual platform for most activities, although our two hiking groups continued throughout most of the year. In mid-December, 70 members met “Under the Holiday Lights” in a park on a perfect weather evening for a meet and greet. Some members appreciated that the virtual platform made the excellent speakers easily accessible

and friendships continued in virtual interest group meetings.

Our members approved a one-time donation of \$2,200 to our Scholarship Fund, in recognition of the loss of fundraising revenue normally generated at in person events. The University Women’s Club of Oakville Scholarship fund is on track to award nine University/College entrance awards, one Alternate Education Award and eight named awards.

Dr. Pat Armstrong, in her presentation of new directions in Long Term Care at our March meeting, spoke about this spring being ripe for transformation in long term care. Both long term care and childcare share a historical underfunding.

On February 10, we co-sponsored with other Halton CFUW clubs, a presentation by architect Marina Huissoon, President of CFUW Milton, on “Sustainable Design: Learning to Build a New Environment for a Livable Future.” Marina impressed on us the importance of protecting Halton’s Class A farmland from disappearing under developers’ houses, concrete and asphalt.

St Catharines - During 2021-22, CFUW St. Catharines maintained their monthly meetings with a variety of excellent guest speakers on Zoom. While a few members left this year, we were able to attract new members who are actively participating in the organization’s activities. A policy related to Covid and activities was developed. Some of our social groups have regrouped in-person according to the comfort of the members. Our plan is to gather in-person in a new location in the fall. Our membership group has been very busy creating an online membership application to address privacy concerns and to streamline the renewal process for this fall. We are planning to celebrate our

100th Anniversary with an outdoor picnic on May 29th at Club Roma. This will be our first in-person gathering in more than two years and a wonderful way to start our second century.

We have continued our monthly newsletters and access for members groups to use Zoom for online meetings. As part of advocacy, we participated in the Region's recognition of the 16 Days of Activism and Raising the voice of Indigenous Women. As well we had a writing letter campaign to all of the regional high schools supporting the educational Program 166 Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols.

An in-person and Virtual House and Garden Tour fundraiser is actively being planned for June 5th. The Homes and Gardens will be filmed by Niagara College students and streamed on the Club's YouTube platform. Dates to be confirmed.

Welland and District - Our membership remains at 47. All monthly and executive meetings have been on Zoom. Unfortunately, some of our members have not yet fully embraced the Zoom platform and do not attend the meetings. Monthly speakers have ranged from the owner of an Indigenous Consulting Company to a well-known local drummer. A Special Interest Group formed this year that allowed the members to connect outside the formal meeting setting and share in a conversation. Times and topics varied. The Club's second 16 Days of Activism campaign included Red Dress displays in Welland, Port Colborne and, new this year, Fonthill. Our efforts were well covered in two of the local newspapers. At Christmas we donated 24 purses filled with personal care items to The Purse Project. The purses were then distributed to local shelters.

Even though we have not had a book sale since 2019 we are still able to award annual scholarships to eight local high schools

Report of the Chair, Communications – Ingrid Sproxton

The Communications portfolio includes:

- The OC website (www.cfuwontcouncil.org);
- Social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter);
- OC News newsletters;
- OC communications, e.g. CFUW Ontario Advocacy News, notices for AGMs and other events, messages from the President, etc.; and
- Dropbox (associated with Ontario Council website).

Our website domain name is cfuwontcouncil.org and is hosted on the Host Papa platform. Our two major software platforms are WordPress for the website and Constant Contact for newsletters and other OC communications.

OC Website

Between April 13, 2021 and April 19, 2022, we had 4,842 users visit the website 7,769 times, and spend an average of 2.31 minutes on the website each visit. 69.1% of visitors accessed the website from their computer, 21.6% from their mobile device and 9.2% from their tablet device.

Time Period (April to April)	# of Visitors	% Change Year Over Year	# of Visits	% Change Year Over Year
2019 - 2020	3,700	NA	6,200	NA
2020 - 2021	4,757	+28.6%	8,086	+30.4%
2021 - 2022	4,842	+1.8%	7,769	-3.9%

Top 10 most visited pages are:

Page	# of views	% of total page views
CFUW Ontario Council home page	5,167	27.5
Speakers Series/Standing Committees page	1,252	6.7
CFUW Ontario Council News	840	4.5
OC Club Listing	649	3.5
OC AGM page	583	3.1
OC Club Events page	572	3.1
Advocacy > Take Action!	550	2.9
Advocacy > What Are The Issues?	528	2.8
Ontario Council Policy & Resolutions	491	2.6
CFUW Ontario Council About	462	2.5

Constant Contact for OC News & OC Communications

We currently have 1,461 active contacts (down from 1,496 last year), all of whom receive OC News. We also have contact lists for the 2021-22 Club Presidents and for the 2020-2022 OC Board. Please continue to encourage members to subscribe to the newsletter and other OC communications by e-mailing the Newsletter Editor at communications@cfuwontcouncil.org. The open rates for OC News are about 60%, and generally 10% of readers click on at least one link from the newsletter.

Communication	Date Sent	Open Rate	Click Rate
Advocacy * Awards * Accolades	May 14, 2021	57%	16%
OC News	June 21, 2021	61%	8%
OC News	September 15, 2021	56%	10%
OC Advocacy News	October 18, 2021	61%	7%

Communication	Date Sent	Open Rate	Click Rate
OC News	November 2, 2021	58%	10%
OC News	December 20, 2021	59%	7%
OC Advocacy News	January 29, 2022	61%	9%
OC News	February 11, 2022	62%	8%
OC News	March 25, 2022	61%	6%

Social Media

The CFUW Ontario Council social media policy is posted on the OC website under Club Resources <https://cfuwontcouncil.org/resources/>. OC ran a social media campaign for the 16 Days of Activism, with daily posts from November 25 to December 10, 2021. And OC is currently running a campaign about the OC Election Toolkit to help Clubs and members prepare for the Ontario election in June 2022. The campaign started on April 18th and will run until June.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CFUWOntarioCouncil/>

	2022	2021	2020	2019
# of FB followers	374	271	184	157

Twitter <https://twitter.com/CFUWOntCouncil>

	2022	2021	2020	2019
# of Twitter followers	181	149	115	93

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/cfuwoncouncil/>

	2022	2021
# of Instagram followers	162	112

Report of the Chair, Advocacy – Teri Shaw Ontario Government

The Advocacy Chair also acts as the Advocacy Coordinator responsible for government relations ensuring that our thoughts are known to the government on issues we have deemed important. This is done through [letters, submissions](#) to the government usually in briefs, endorsements of and support to other organizations involved in our fields of interest and concern. This is all done in conjunction with the President, the other advocacy board members with support from the Standing Committee on Advocacy.

Support to Clubs

Adopted resolution, AGM 2021

- Information package created and shared concerning adopted resolution on sex trafficking

Discussions with clubs:

- OC South Advocacy leads concerning advocacy action and support from Ontario Council
- CFUW St. Catharines concerning sex trafficking resolution and action
- CFUW Ottawa concerning Afghanistan, UWHAW and Walk to Kabul
- CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo and RD Elena Freeman concerning FASD
- CFUW Oakville concerning Long Term Care and Ontario Health Coalition's campaign about privatization of health care
- CFUW Orillia concerning the release of Premier's Mandate Letters
- CFUW Nepean concerning the climate emergency
- CFUW Hamilton concerning the social assistance rates

Tools created:

- Election Toolkit, with the strong support and assistance of members of the Standing Committee on Advocacy:
 - Prepared the *Election Toolkit: Part 1 Preparing for the Ontario Election 2022*, and *Part 2 -Issues of Concern*
 - Information for OC News and webpage on the upcoming municipal election
- Rewrite of CFUW Ontario Council [Who Does What](#) - which level of CFUW deals with which level of government - local clubs, Ontario Council, National CFUW
- *Three Levels of Government* and the webpage *Advocacy Tools* found [here](#)

Advocacy Communications

- *CFUW Ontario Council Advocacy Newsletters*, Oct.2021, January and Mar. 8, 2022 – prepared with the help of the Board Advocacy Committee
- Sections within *OC News* including *Notes from Queen's Park*
- Social Media Campaigns, in conjunction with the social media team (Ingrid Sproxton, Communications Chair handling OC News, website and Facebook, Sandy Thomson-LinkedIn, Teri Shaw-Twitter and Lori Ker-Instagram)
 - "16 Days of Violence" social media campaign, Nov. 25 – Dec. 10
 - Assisted Sandra Shaw with the "Stop violence against women in politics" campaign, Nov.25 - Dec.10, April 20 - June 2
 - Social media campaign created for the *Election Toolkits*, April 20 - June 2

Committees

Standing Committee on Advocacy:

- Members consist of myself as Chair, including the Board Standing Committee Chairs, Policy Advisors: Margaret McGovern (Child Care), Shelley Ball (Environment), Sheila Lacroix (Housing), Anne Douglas (Long-Term Care), Myrtle Greve (Poverty), and two members-at-large: Helen Penfold CFUW North Toronto and Marina Huissoon CFUW Milton.
- This year our work consisted mainly of the [Election Toolkits](#), in particular Part 2, with members of this Committee writing the individual sections. The Toolkit would not have happened without their support and involvement.
- Members attended meetings on our behalf: Margaret McGovern with the Ontario Coalition of Better Child Care,

Member of:

- Ad-hoc Board Advocacy Committee, consisting of the Standing Committees Chairs of Advocacy, Communications (Ingrid Sproxton), Education (Wendy Taylor), Legislation (Lisa Long), Resolutions (Isobel Boyle), Status of Women & Human Rights (Sandra Shaw) and the OC President Sandy Thomson, involving periodic meetings and continuing discussion of issues among members.
- Ontario Council Governance Committee
- Standing Committee on Resolutions

Meetings attended on behalf of Ontario Council

- Campaign 2000 meetings
- Equal Pay Coalition – meetings concerning April 12th Equal Pay Day event of the Ontario Leaders Debate concerning women's economic issues for the 2022 Ontario Election.

National CFUW

- Member of the CFUW Standing Committee on Advocacy.
- Member of the CFUW National Policy Book Review Sub-Committee - Assisted with preparation of two proposed resolutions to remove certain adopted policies from the active CFUW Policy Book, leaving them in the archived historical edition.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, March 14 – March 25, 2022

Thanks to the multiple sessions available through both the UN Women and the NGO/CSW New York, and to Zoom, I was able to attend 18 sessions focusing on the Care Economy as well indigenous issues, mainly Canadian. Recognizing the importance of care and unpaid care is now being acknowledged sadly thanks to the crisis of Covid 19. Care is a central part of society, and movements that have bubbled up from South America are now being heard. The theme this year concerned the

environment, and care for the planet was part of this, especially for the indigenous speakers.

Report of the Chair, Education – Wendy Taylor

The past year Education in Ontario was still dealing with the fall out from Covid. Although students returned to class, the mental and social impact remains.

Most of this year was spent following the developments of the provinces re: the National Child Care partnership between the Provinces and the Federal Government.

I attended via Zoom, several joint meetings between The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care and Child Care Now. Although the meetings were focused on the Ontario Government's non-commitment to signing the agreement, the benefits, wages, and working conditions of the Early Child Care Educators (ECE's) took precedence.

The OCBCC put out several advocacy tools, a video composed of ECE's describing their working conditions and exit from the profession. Also, and *Open Letter to Ford on Child Care Safety and Visibility*. Both the video and letter were put on OC's website to encourage action by CFUW Clubs.

Continue to work with Margaret McGovern, Child Care advocate for Ontario Council and Teri Shaw, Advocacy Chair.

Ad-hoc Board Advocacy Committee, consisting of the Standing Committees Chairs of Advocacy, Communications (Ingrid Sproxton), Education (Wendy Taylor), Legislation (Lisa Long), Resolutions (Isobel Boyle), Status of Women & Human Rights (Sandra Shaw) and the OC President Sandy Thomson, involving periodic meetings and continuing discussion of issues among members

The Standing Committee Meeting on February 26th, 2022 was hosted by the Education Committee.

Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt, University of Ottawa spoke about covid and the effect it has had on children's mental health.

Mohamed Ahmed, Co-Executive Director, and Shanaz Ali, Program Manager of Success Beyond Limits spoke about the unique educational program based in Jane/Finch area of Toronto.

This is my final year as Education Standing Committee Chair. I have enjoyed the challenges and the opportunities to work with the incredible talent of women on the Board of Directors with Ontario Council.

Report of the Chair, Status of Women and Human Rights – Sandra Shaw

Impact of Covid on Committee Work

COVID's continued impact has been felt in SWHR committee work as well as on issues of focus for SWHR. The lack of face- to - face meetings affected recruiting members for the committee as well as adherence to the strategic plan developed for the SWHR Committee in the summer of 2020.

Nevertheless, COVID's unequal effect on women's financial recovery, safety from domestic abuse, job security, elder women's longevity, access to social services, and increased unpaid care have been monumental in negatively affecting gender equality and thus in shaping the issues tracked by SWHR in 2021/2022.

Speakers Series – October 2021

The October Ontario Council Speakers' event was undertaken by SWHR and featured Senator Marilou McPhedran addressing **Protect, Elect & Respect Canadian Women in Politics**. Two women who had run (and lost) in the recent federal election, Michelle Foxton (Lanark Frontenac Kingston – Liberal) and Roberta Abbott (Rideau Lakes – Liberal) added their voices of experience to the discussion. Senator McPhedran discussed the low numbers of women both entering and elected to Canadian politics, described the challenges faced by women and outlined a number of actions which should be undertaken by women in their support for women entering politics, even if the women do not represent the party's platform that one favours. These recommendations were:

1. Donate to their campaigns (money can be an issue).
2. Support women campaigning – volunteer, write words of encouragement, but make sure your values align with the candidates (and not necessarily the party's).
3. Amplify women's voices by pushing messages from women candidates out to your own followers.
4. Speak out against this form of violence; name it and call it out when it is observed.
5. Get the police involved ahead of political campaigns to ensure vandalism is punished.
6. If possible, confront other women who are nasty/misogynistic; make them answer to their actions.
7. Write to leaders to call out misogynistic actions taken against their candidates or others'.
8. Support women thinking of running – money is needed to offer name for nomination.
9. Make issues local, not national.
10. Hold All Candidates Meetings that are issue focused and are opportunities for candidates to state their position. Do not hold debates and do not allow All

Candidates Meetings to degrade into debates where adversarial nature of campaigning is supported.

11. Take actions to strengthen ourselves and our institutions by demanding accountability and transparency so leaders must face actions.
12. Be a strategic and collective voice.
13. Support a National Inquiry into this type of violence against women.

Reports/Communications

SWHR reports are written (almost) monthly, distributed to the Executive and posted on the SWHR section of the OC website. These reports outline the activities of the Committee and identify issues of importance to SWHR and Ontario Council Clubs. Although the concentration is on Ontario, farther flung issues, such as the rise of the political right, are included since the effects on women are universal.

Violations of Human Rights in Ontario are followed with earnest. Certainly, the discovery of unmarked graves of Indigenous children in residential schools in Ontario (and elsewhere in Canada) are of particular note, as is the continuing poor water supply and safety in Ontario Indigenous communities. The April 2022 report specifically delved into numerous violations still suffered by Indigenous communities in Ontario.

Other concerns identified this year as important are the COVID economic recovery program specific to women on Ontario, the rise in Gender Based Violence (GBV), human trafficking, Ontario election issues that will affect women, the housing crisis, education in Ontario, climate change, Islamophobia, and minimum wage/living wage, to name a few. Many of the monthly reports include information sources and may be of value if a club's advocacy group is looking for more support on specific topics or to those wishing to develop a provincial or national resolution for consideration.

The OC Executive has identified the Sixteen Days of Activism (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25th to World Human Rights Day on December 10th) as a communication priority each year. The SWHR contributes to Facebook and Instagram posts which occur daily during the 16 days.

The SWHR also contributes to the development of Resolutions either from Clubs or the Executive, through research and/or guidance.

Meetings

SWHR is also a member of the Advocacy Committee of OC and the SWHR Chair attends all meetings called by the Advocacy Chair (at least four per year). Additionally, attendance at all monthly OC Executive meetings is observed, as well as at special meetings held for the Speakers Series, AGM planning, and emergency meetings. Again, due to COVID, all meetings attended to date in the 2021/2022 year have been virtual.

In addition to OC meetings, I attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 66 (report pending). I was asked, as a CFUW Delegate, to take on the role of Team Leader and as such held several debriefing meetings with team members.

Self-education is an important activity for the SWHR Chair. This year, I attended seminars/sessions on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice (EDIJ), Femicide in Ontario East, Equal Pay, COVID and Recent Research Findings, The Value of Land Acknowledgments, and Opioids as a Public Health Emergency, amongst others.

On the personal front, I have started to build an e-club - **ARROW** – Assembly of Rural and Remote Ontario Women - modeled after CFUW OC clubs and which will be a member of OC, to serve Ontario women whose geographical position precludes live attendance at monthly meetings of other women's groups. This club will go live in July 2022. Two successful virtual meetings have already taken place (Rural Women's Lives. Rural Women's Stories with Dr. Belinda Leach and Run Jane Run: Why We Need More Rural Women in Municipal and Provincial Politics and How We Can Support Them with Dr. Shauna Wilton and Dr. Sylvia Bashevkin) and the third on Diversity and Inclusion will take place May 17th, 2022.

Report of the Chair, Legislation – Lisa Long

As I complete my second year serving as Chair of the Legislation Committee with CFUW Ontario Council I would like to acknowledge the enthusiastic and resolute women I sit at the table with. This year like last year has been a year of challenges and growth. It has been an honour to work with such an incredible team of strong women and my life is richer for this opportunity.

As Chair of the Legislation Committee, I worked with the general executive to plan and execute our 2021-22 Speakers Series. This Series once again took place over 3 Saturdays in October, November, and February as a series of virtual events which maximized the occasion to allow for hundreds of women across Ontario to participate who would not normally be able to do so.

As Chair of the Legislation Committee, I was tasked with planning the November event which was themed around the national opioid poisoning health pandemic here in Canada. Our event took place on November 27th and the speakers were Amber Fritz, who is with the Réseau ACCESS Network in Sudbury, Ontario and Shawn McLaren who is with St. John Ambulance Naloxone division in Ottawa, Ontario.

Both speakers shared their work in the opioid epidemic as a public health issue that has been made worse during throughout Covid. Both Amber and Shawn provide critical support services in both harm reduction and Naloxone distribution and training. Amber shared her work as a frontline social worker at the agency she serves at, and Shawn presented his work as Chief Learning Officer for St. John Ambulance and the agency's launch of their Opioid program that focuses on the reduction of stigma and promotion of harm reduction. Amber and Shawn spoke from a very personal and lived-experience

perspective which affirmed the strong messages they gave to support harm reduction, safe supply, and Naloxone training.

Both speakers participated in raw and poignant Q & A which challenged our participants and empowered them with increased knowledge and understanding into the opioid epidemic and the issues and people impacted by it.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve in this capacity. It has been a pleasure to serve CFUW Ontario Council.

Standing Committee Reports

Report of the Chair, Advocacy – Teri Shaw

- Members consist of myself as Chair, including the Board Standing Committee Chairs, Policy Advisors: Margaret McGovern (Child Care), Shelley Ball (Environment), Sheila Lacroix (Housing), Anne Douglas (Long-Term Care), Myrtle Greve (Poverty), and two members-at-large: Helen Penfold CFUW North Toronto and Marina Huissoon CFUW Milton.
- This year our work consisted mainly of the [Election Toolkits](#), in particular Part 2, with members of this Committee writing the individual sections. The Toolkit would not have happened without their support and involvement.
- Members attended meetings on our behalf: Margaret McGovern with the Ontario Coalition of Better Child Care.

Report of the Chair, Constitution and Bylaws – Lori Ker

- Activities this past year
 - The new Ontario Not-for-profit Ontario Corporations Act (ONCA) was enacted in Oct. 2021. This event led to committee members attending legal presentations and researching changes needed for us to be compliant with ONCA.
 - Our review led to several board approved amendments for 21-22 AGM which are included in the AGM Business Booklet.
 - Published the annual amendment process for OC members; none were submitted.
 - Provided advice and recommendations to several Ontario clubs revising bylaws.

Report of the Chair, Finance* – Teresa Habs

Finance Committee Activities April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

- The Committee was chaired by OC Treasurer.
- Review and update of Financial Policies.
- Review and update of Applications for Grants and Loans to clubs.
- Periodic Budget reviews and input to 2022-2023 Proposed Budget.
- Thanks to those who served on the committee providing excellent advice.

*See Treasurer's Report in the Business and Finance booklet

Report of the Chair, Governance – Lori Ker

- Activities over last 2 years
 - OC Membership and OC Affiliation applications and procedures developed and approved by board for use. Helped to implement a Membership standing committee.
 - Recommended RD expense for Club travel and connection be part of OC budget instead of National – help relieve National financial pressures
 - OC corporate membership for record keeping, clarified. Record keeping policy in development.
 - OC Board governance orientation slides developed and delivered.
 - OC Governance Policies and Guidelines Document: all four sections (Governance Framework, Board Effectiveness, Financial Strength and Board Committees) are completed, and board approved. This is a living document, and it is expected that it will be reviewed and adjusted each biennium.
 - OC Board leadership succession framework development

Report of the Chair, Membership – Roline Maconachie

- First meeting of this new Ontario Council Standing Committee was held on October 20, 2021 with members attending- Roline Maconachie, Chair, Sandy Thomson, OC President, Susan Freeman, Joyce See, Anne Cordon
- Terms of Reference and goals were formed and completed at the first two meetings and are posted on the Ontario Council Website.
- Committee decided on sponsoring a contest for all Ontario Clubs. Clubs were asked to submit their best strategies for Member Recruitment and their best strategies for Member Retention throughout the last couple of years. The contest deadline was April 15 and the winners will be announced at the AGM on May 13/14, 2022. The winning clubs will have their ideas published in the newsletter and all ideas will be posted on the OC website.
- The winners of the above-mentioned contest are eligible to receive \$300 for each category, amounts requested and granted by the Ontario Council board
- In future, the committee will decide on a strategy or strategies to tie membership with themes that can be reproduced on the OC website and/or within club communications to foster good practices for Membership Recruitment and Retention.

Report of the Chair, Resolutions - Isobel Boyle

This year we received no resolutions for submission at Ontario Council AGM. Activity was undertaken to do a comprehensive review of the Ontario Council Resolution Guidelines. The new Guidelines parallel the Guidelines done by CFUW National and have included forms to assist clubs in the review of Resolutions. Additionally, the Chair of Ontario Council did a presentation to Presidents/and Advocacy members of Ontario North on the club process for reviewing resolutions.

Report of the Chair, Nominations – Cheryl Taylor

Committee Members: Cheryl Taylor (Chair), Lise Moras, and Wanda Crichton

The committee received the following candidate application packages during the nominations period from February 15th to April 15th, 2022.

The list of candidates standing for election at the AGM on May 14th, 2022, are as follows:

Teresa Habs. OC President. CFUW Barrie
Heather Collins. OC Secretary. CFUW Southport
Anne Groulx. OC Treasurer. CFUW Cambridge
Joyce See. OC RD ON South. CFUW Oakville
Susan Freeman. OC RD ON Central. University Women's Club of Toronto
Elisabeth Sachs. OC RD Huron. CFUW Headwaters
Elana Freeman. OC RD ON West. CFUW Windsor
Anne Cordon. OC RD ON East. CFUW Peterborough
Niki Carlan. OC Chair, Legislative Committee. CFUW Windsor
Ingrid Sproston. OC Chair, Communications. CFUW Headwaters
Sandra Shaw. OC Chair, Advocacy Committee. CFUW Perth and District
Judith Pownall. OC Chair, Education Standing Committee. CFUW Markham-Unionville
Helen Robb. OC Chair, Status of Women & Human Rights Committee. CFUW Barrie and District

There was a candidate nomination and application form received for the OC RD North position prior to April 15th, 2022, but the candidate withdrew her nomination April 24th, 2022 as she will be moving out of the area.

The OC RD North position will be brought to the AGM to see if any nominations "from the floor" as per the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA).