

CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Ontario Council AGM May 23, 2020

The **Ontario Council Recognition Awards** have again been awarded this year, with thanks to the clubs who have applied. This year clubs were asked to highlight one project only. The award winners are listed below, along with their projects. More information about these can be found on the Ontario Council website.

The **Carolyn Day Award for Environmental Action** has again been presented this year. This award was created in honour of Carolyn Day, *a Past-President of Ontario Council, 1998-2000, who was the Environment, Clean Water and Great Lakes Policy Advisor from 2000 until her death in 2018, having written more than 40 briefs and letters for Ontario Council.*

Teri Shaw, Kathy Wosnick, Isobel Boyle, Anne Cordon
CFUW Advocacy Committee, 2018-2020

ONTARIO COUNCIL RECOGNITION AWARDS	
CLUB	PROJECT
CFUW Etobicoke as member of CFUW Toronto Housing Group	HOUSING FOR ALL advocacy providing a united, collective voice for advocating for affordable housing and healthy communities in Toronto.
CFUW Guelph	Celebrating Women: International Women's Day 2020 Posters project.
CFUW Leaside-East York as member of CFUW Toronto Housing Group	HOUSING FOR ALL for affordable housing and healthy communities in Toronto.
CFUW Markham-Unionville	100th Anniversary Cookbook with members' recipes - raised \$3773. for Education Fund.
CFUW Milton & District	100th Anniversary Project: 100 Years/100 Women - Celebrating Milton's Trailblazers with sculpture, Opening night Gala, booklet.
CFUW North Bay	Perspectives on Education – 3-part Speaker Series.
CFUW North Toronto	Advocacy to end homelessness, especially for women and girls in conjunction with a number of agencies.
CFUW North Toronto as member of CFUW Toronto Housing Group	HOUSING FOR ALL for affordable housing and healthy communities in Toronto.
CFUW Orangeville and District	Women's Campaign School - a Federation of Canadian Municipalities demonstration project.
CFUW Scarborough as member of CFUW Toronto Housing Group	HOUSING FOR ALL for affordable housing and healthy communities in Toronto.
CFUW Scarborough	Annual Fashion Show raising over \$57,000 for scholarships and community over the years.
UWC of North York as member of CFUW Toronto Housing Group	HOUSING FOR ALL for affordable housing and healthy communities in Toronto.
UWC Toronto as member of CFUW Toronto Housing Group	HOUSING FOR ALL for affordable housing and healthy communities in Toronto.
UWC Toronto	A new scholarship charity which has given over \$100,000 to scholarships and community.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS	
CFUW Leaside-East York	Coldest Night of the Year, Feb. 22 - \$3375. for Sistering, Bloor Street West Women's Shelter.
CFUW Muskoka	CFUW Muskoka Lecture Series.
CFUW Perth & District	Coldest Night of the Year - \$1100. for Cornerstone Landing, a non-profit support organization for youth re: homelessness.
CFUW Sudbury	Environmental action including Regional Gathering, petition, meetings.

CAROLYN DAY AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION	
CFUW Haliburton Highlands	Environment Haliburton connection including speaker series, newsletter articles, member actions with a number of other environmental groups

Appendix 1: THE PROJECTS

CAROLYN DAY AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

CFUW HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Members of CFUW-Haliburton Highlands are very engaged in voluntarism, particularly with respect to environmental and social justice issues, given the small size of our community.

Many of these initiatives (through various organizations) overlap. Members' passion for social and environmental justice issues inform the culture and activities of CFUW-HH.

Member Susan Hay leads the way among CFUW-HH to champion environmental issues. She is President of Environment Haliburton and shares her knowledge and insight with CFUW-HH so that the club is activated, educated and supported to advocate for environmental causes within our community. This has resulted in our speaker series featuring many topics of environmental concern. Examples include Shoreline Preservation (Apr 2019), Environmental Stewardship in Death: Green Burial in the Highlands (Oct 2019), Septic Systems: Mitigating Nutrient Impact on Lake Environments (May 2020).

Susan's dedication and passion for the environment has also resulted directly in the engagement of other CFUW-HH members in taking up roles in the community to support the environment. Examples include members taking on the observation brief at township environment committee meetings (Township of Algonquin Highlands, Highlands East Township), many members play active roles on their Lake Associations, with an mandate to

preserve shoreline health in the county. Still others have become part of CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners) whose mandate is to protect the lakes in the county, for example by providing resources on blue green algae blooms. One member has authored the Lake Health Report for Haliburton Highlands. In summary, CFUW-HH has and continues to focus on the environmental health of our county, and continues to be a voice for education and behaviour change to support the environment. This is due largely to the leadership and stewardship of member Susan Hay. Her vision, passion and communication to members has paved the way for environmental justice and action to be embedded in the culture of CFUW-HH.

ONTARIO COUNCIL RECOGNITION AWARDS

CFUW TORONTO HOUSING GROUP (CFUW Etobicoke, CFUW Leaside-East York, CFUW North Toronto, CFUW Scarborough, UWC of North York, UWC Toronto) **Housing For All**

This project evolved from opportunities for advocacy available through the resolution Housing for All passed at the OC AGM in 2018.

Toronto is experiencing a housing crisis, including homelessness and sub-standard housing, and rampant development without adequate infrastructure and community services.

Related action taken by the Toronto Clubs previously (May 30, 2019) included a submission to the Ontario Government's proposed omnibus Bill 108, More Homes, More Choice: Ontario's Housing Action Plan (specifically: Schedule 12, Amendments to the Planning Act & Amendments to the Development Charges Act). Sheila Lacroix initiated the action and wrote the submissions after receiving permission from the presidents of the six Toronto clubs and Aurora Newmarket.

As housing issues in Toronto are an ongoing challenge, the Toronto Housing Working group was formed to enable and continue such coordinated action.

CFUW Toronto Housing Group Work to Date:

Proposed 2019 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS):

Submitted feedback to the Provincial Planning Policy Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, October 20, 2019. Group's response: The PPS does not support an appropriate balance across the continuum of housing for the City of Toronto as it encourages market ownership which is favoured by developers and does not support local planning, and therefore community needs and views.

Ongoing Connection with local advocacy groups:

- *Shelter & Housing Justice Network (SHJN)* – two of the members attended the February and March 2020 meetings and plan to continue connecting with this group. SHJN members represent an array of city and agency organizations that support the homeless through outreach, harm reduction, street health, drop-ins, shelter services, etc.

- *Older Women's Network (OWN) Housing Committee* - members met with a representative to discuss CFUW endorsement of their campaign Living In Place for "universal design" (barrier free) in multi-unit residential buildings.

E-mail to Mayor Tory re COVID-19 and the Homeless, March 16, 2020

Asked that the city declare an emergency, as the patchwork of overcrowded drop-ins and shelters, many which are not city run, is inadequate to handle the crisis.

Group's Future Plans

- Continue to network with other advocacy groups: SHJN; OWN; Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness; Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network; etc.
- Post COVID19 - a good opportunity to advocate for more social housing as the crisis underscored the problems with inadequate housing for the least fortunate city dwellers.
- Monitor the implementation of the *HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan*.

CFUW GUELPH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2020

For a number of years, CFUW Guelph has partnered with Women in Crisis and Zonta Guelph to highlight International Women's Day in the community. This collaboration has given all the organizations a greater voice for women and girls and we are extremely proud of the team.

Several years ago, we reached out to the University of Guelph to see if they would join our team and there was no hesitation. As a result, our IWD event has presented some very exciting events that placed emphasis on the marginalized in our community.

However, this year the IWD event was a nod to how far women have come. CFUW and Zonta both had their 100th anniversary in the last year. As a result, it was determined that we highlight the feminist movement in Canada, particularly around policy change.

The Research Shop, part of the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute at the University of Guelph was engaged by CFUW Guelph, Women in Crisis and Zonta Guelph to reflect on some of the major achievements in women's policy change and advocacy over the last 100 years.

The group started out by viewing the United Nations Goals – Gender Equality and then considered the various resolutions that CFUW has developed over the years. This listing became the base for researching significant policy achievements. The Research Shop (part of CESI) has a mandate to bring together community and campus skills and resources to advance community-identified research goals. This additional partner allowed for deeper collaboration and honour diverse forms and locations of knowledge that increase our shared capacity to create high-impact research.

Students researched significant policy achievements, political events, and political groups that impacted women's rights in Canada over the last 100 years. This

research was summarized in a series of fourteen posters entitled “Celebrating Women” by addressing the following:

- Overview of the achievement
- What was the Nature of the fight for the achievement?
- What is the significance of this achievement?
- What does the achievement look like today?

Several of the poster titles:

- Canada Child Benefit Program
- Abortion Legalized
- The Person Case (1929)
- Women’s Right to Vote

Although, the project was specifically developed for IWD 2020, this project will continue to reach out in the community via a Guelph Public Library display, a display at the Guelph Museum with additional components beyond the posters, and opportunities to display through Women in Crisis and Zonta Guelph activities. These are just some examples of how this project will continue to contribute to the local community and hopefully beyond.

CFUW MARKHAM-UNIONVILLE Markham Unionville Cookbook

In the winter of 2019, one of our new members suggested that we create a cookbook to celebrate the centenary of CFUW and raise funds for our Education Fund. In less than six months, we had created a cookbook celebrating the skills of our members and ready for launch in September.

Our Education Fund provides scholarships to young women both in our community and internationally. Traditionally, members make a compulsory \$20 donation which is eligible for a charitable receipt. Creating a cookbook for sale would be a departure in our fundraising but the Club enthusiastically supported the initiative.

Under the guidance of Lisa McConnell and her team of Cookbook Queens, the name given to the committee, members submitted recipes to be included. Some additional community members and guest speakers were also invited to participate. Recipes covered a variety of ethnic groups and time periods. CFUW Markham Unionville has a number of food related interest groups so the selection of a cookbook as our project to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of CFUW was a good fit.

The level of funding for post secondary education has decreased while tuition has increased. Students face many challenges in attending college or university. The Education Fund receives more applications for scholarship funding than we can support and the proceeds of the cookbook would be used to help more young women. We provide support to young women who are exiting the 360 Kids program as well as young women recommended to us from the

York Region Children's Aid Society. By generating more funds, the Club can provide more scholarships and support more young women and also increase the amount of our support. These young women have overcome considerable odds to be in the position of going on to college or university and are in need of financial aid to be able to continue their education.

The cookbook raised \$3,773 for the Education Fund.

It will be some years until we see the results of our financial assistance. It will take time for the young women to finish their schooling and begin to make a difference as they enter their chosen professions.

CFUW MILTON & DISTRICT

100th Anniversary Project: 100 Years/100 Women - Celebrating Milton's Trailblazers

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of CFUW National, our club wanted to make a significant statement to our Community by honouring the women who have given their time and talent to make this a better society in which to live and raise a family. To do this, we partnered with the Fine Arts Society of Milton (FASM), whose mandate, in part, is to bring art to the community (a mural for the Pan Am Games in the Mattamy Velodrome; a 33' x 8' mural for our new hospital addition). This was the first collaboration for our groups, bringing together over 35 researchers and artists, who dedicated much of 2019, to create a massive work of art.

Together we created a sculpture installation marking the accomplishments of 100 women in our community over the past 100 years. Utilizing five 8' x 2' x 2' pillars representing The Arts, Community, Rural, Education and the Professions, the exhibit featured brief snapshot bios of each woman's notable achievement. A vertical timeline invited the viewer to see the progress of women through the decades across all pursuits. Both groups were united in our vision: to create a striking installation that would inspire and educate young and old alike.

"100 Years / 100 Women" debuted at The Holcim Gallery in Milton's First Ontario Arts Centre in late November, 2019, for a 6-week run. Two additional six-week runs followed (Milton Mall; Milton Town Hall). The latter exhibit coincided with our IWD 2020 Event, bringing it additional public attention. Plans to showcase this exhibit were underway with other venues, (Milton District Hospital; local libraries) when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR CLUB, COMMUNITY, PROVINCIALY, NATIONALLY

We hosted an Opening Night Gala that was attended by over 300 guests. Many Honourees featured in the exhibit were also in attendance, which added to the impact of the event. This unique exhibit has raised the profiles of both CFUW Milton & District and FASM within our community, amongst young and old alike. (as evidenced by over 10 pages of comments in the Guest Comment Book at the Holcim Gallery).

The event received excellent publicity. (Oct.10 Inside Halton, and Milton Canadian Champion, "It's education in an art form': Milton groups present stories of town's 100 women"; Dec. 2 2019 Inside Halton website and Facebook page - 'It makes me really proud': Project celebrates 100 influential women in Milton; Dec. 5 2019 Milton Canadian Champion- Local Women's Success Stories Celebrated; Jan. 4 2020 Toronto Star - Celebrating Influential Women; December 2019 Milton Villager - 100 Years/100 Women Pillars of Our Community). The Winter Edition 2020 of the Milton Historical Society Newsletter featured our story, as several historical society

members were featured in the exhibit. Our Social Media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, club website) showed many likes and positive feedback.

CFUW National President, Grace Hollett, attended our opening night, and said our project would be an excellent example to share with other CFUW clubs at our National AGM in June 2020. CFUW Regional Director of Ontario South, also attended, and was impressed to witness the community support for our project. Other CFUW clubs (Georgetown, Guelph, Burlington) have expressed interest in doing something similar; an article about our project was published in CFUW National 100th Anniversary Special Edition newsletter. Another article is planned for an upcoming Membership Matters newsletter. Exciting evidence of this project's impact, our club membership is growing!

A final important part of our project was the creation of a 40-page, full-colour keepsake booklet that captured this unique story, while promoting CFUW. The booklet has been archived by the Ontario Archives, creating a permanent record of our project.

CFUW NORTH BAY

PERSPECTIVES ON EDUCATION PROJECT CFUW NORTH BAY

BACKGROUND

In 2019 Clubs were asked to identify advocacy areas of local interest. At the General Meeting March 2019, CFUW North Bay identified Education as an advocacy focus for the next two years. The focus is an excellent choice given the history of more than 100 years of teacher training in North Bay and currently continued through the Schulich School of Education, Nipissing University.

PLANNING

The planning meeting chaired by the Advocacy Chairs met in May 2019 and outlined a series of 3 community events under the umbrella of "Perspectives in Education". A partnership with Nipissing University was established, especially with Dr. Arja Vainio Mattila, Vice President Academic and Research and Provost. The first in the series was titled "Perspectives on Safe and Accepting Schools" to be held at Nipissing University Sept. 30 2019. The second and third sessions would follow in 2020 and would focus on actions stemming from the previous sessions. Planning for the second session was underway for Oct. 2020 and would consist of a speaker and round table discussions with representatives from the community. The goal was to develop Action plans. However, plans are now on hold due to the COVID 19 restrictions.

SESSION 1 Monday September 30 Nipissing University Theatre Auditorium

The format for the evening was a panel of six community representatives who shared their perspectives on safe and accepting schools. The event was a free event and open to the community. Panellists included an Associate professor, Schulich School of Education, Nipissing University, a teacher candidate, Schulich School of Education, Nipissing University, a Paediatric physician a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, a parent and Digital Community Manager at the North Bay and District Multicultural Centre, an Education Officer, Ministry of Education and the Executive Director, Children's Aid Society. It was a very thought-provoking evening and

set the stage for the next sessions. It highlighted the need to view students having difficulties through a trauma lens.

SESSIONS 2 & 3. Planning is on hold due to the COVID 19 . Stay tuned for the sessions in 2020-2021

AN EDUCATION HIGHLIGHT 2019-2020. The CFUW North Bay 100th Anniversary Scholarship was presented to the recipient, Melissa Corrente, a doctoral candidate at the Schulich School of Education. The presentation was made on Nov. 20th at our Silent Auction, a major fundraiser for the CFUW Scholarship Fund. Representatives from Nipissing University were present for the ceremony. Melissa is an outstanding talented recipient and has joined CFUW North Bay. It was a night to remember.

CFUW NORTH TORONTO

Advocacy to end homelessness

North Toronto Advocacy Committee prioritized the issue of homelessness as one of our goals to address this year. Our actions have been as follows.

Club

We increased the knowledge of members regarding the situation of homelessness in our community and recommended advocacy for remediation. Several members were involved in political action, and in supporting other organizations fighting homelessness and as volunteers in the community.

Community

We raised the profile of CFUW in partnering with organizations, with visitations, with speakers, volunteering, and financial support.

Nationally

Support for the Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network (WNHHN) through a letter writing campaign to politicians. This effort has been particularly important during the pandemic.

Actions to achieve our Goals

1. Cooperative Action We are one of the seven CFUW, GTA signators to respond to Bill 108 regarding Ontario's Housing Action Plan and amendments to the Planning Act.

2. Sistering

Partnering with Sistering, an organization that serves women's needs for shelter among other services.

- tour of the facility
- collection of needed items at each general meeting and delivering them to Sistering
- speaker, Shelley Nicholls, Executive Director for Sistering at a general meeting

- participation in the fundraiser for Sistering called the Coldest Night. Our walkers raised \$2790.

3. Political Action

Federal Election, October 2019 - prepared postcards for politicians and sample questions for town hall meetings on topics including homelessness

4. Partnering with Older Women's Network (OWN)

The Advocacy Committee with the Current Issues Interest Group invited Kate Chung for the OWN Housing Committee to speak. All members were invited. This was an opportunity to educate ourselves regarding universal design in housing that is affordable, barrier free, adaptable, multi-generational and visitable. CFUW North Toronto endorsed the Living in Place Campaign

5. Participation in Community Consultations

- participation at the community consultation on Inclusionary Zoning
- research of the 2020-2030 Housing Action Plan by a member and presented to a meeting of the Advocacy Committee

6. Romero House

Tour of the complex for refugees which encompasses 4 houses, 10 apartments to provide transitional housing, and settlement services

7. Covenant House

Speakers at a meeting of the Advocacy Committee and the Current Issues Interest Group. Open to all members

CFUW ORANGEVILLE & DISTRICT

Women's Campaign School

In preparation for their 2019-2020 gender parity workplan, CFUW-O's Women in Action (WIA) advocacy team successfully piloted two gender parity initiatives in Oct 2018 in the lead up to the last municipal election – the Better Ballot Campaign 2018, and a Persons Day event to celebrate and humanize women in politics.

Bolstered by this early success, by early 2019, WIA advocated to the Town of Orangeville Council to host a Women's Campaign School to meet the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) target of > 30% women on every municipal council in the country by the end of election night in October 2026. The result of this effort was an unanimously approved Council motion to strike a Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee by the end of May. And by July 2019, CFUW-O was invited to partner with the Town of Orangeville on an application for an FCM-sponsored *Towards Parity Demonstration Project* grant. Because the timing was such that the new D&I committee was not yet established, Town staff invited CFUW-O to prepare the grant application

that the Town would then submit. By October, it was confirmed that this would be one of only 20 funded projects from across Canada!

And it wasn't a moment too soon, as CFUW-O was only days away from hosting their 2020 Persons Day event at the Museum of Dufferin (MOD) with guest speakers Eleanor Fast, Equal Voice's National Executive Director, and CFUW Ontario Council's own Sandy Thomson. The MOD was selected as the venue as they had a Women's History Month exhibit which included artifacts from CFUW-O's archive. This event was one of the FCM-sponsored activities, as was the Dufferin-Caledon Better Ballot Campaign (BBC) 2019, launched in early September in the lead up to the federal election. WIA attended all but one Town Hall meeting in the riding and were a driving force behind a successful social media campaign with video statements from the riding's six federal candidates who all took the BBC pledge. This campaign was the most successful one nationally and was later selected as the case study in a University of Guelph BBC evaluation report which was drafted by early 2020.

By January, a Women's Campaign School (WCS) planning committee was established with reps from CFUW-O, Town Council and the community. In February, WIA co-chair Lynda Moore was video-interviewed by the Mayor about the above activities on a local talk show. By March, we formally launched an early edition of the new WCS website www.voterunlead.ca and opened up registration for two events that were planned for April and May. A global pandemic has only sharpened the team's commitment and creativity as they adapted to a relaunch of the website with virtual delivery of WCS resources, events, and a Women's Speakers Bureau.

All these activities are designed to advance the status of women locally, by giving women the skills and tools they need to participate more effectively as representatives whether in community groups, on local committees and boards, or through elected office. Indeed, there is some programming specifically geared to prepare women to run for political office – but the vision as a whole is a more general and gentle approach to women's leadership development in this rapidly changing rural community. The holistic approach better addresses the 'upstream' needs of developing comfort, skills, knowledge and confidence so more women could begin to see themselves as representatives and advocates. As an FCM demonstration project, we look forward to seeing these efforts showcased and shared with Canadian municipal leaders, and amplified across the country!

CFUW SCARBOROUGH

The CFUW Scarborough Fashion Show

is our club's major fund raiser. It is an annual event, starting in 1999 - except for 2001, 2005 and 2006. From 1999 to 2007, we contributed over \$8,600.00 to the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Scholarship Fund from our ticket sales proceeds and \$2,500.00 to the Emily Stowe Shelter for Women from raffle prize proceeds. From 2008 to 2019 we contributed \$24,000.00 in Awards to Centennial College students (2 awards of \$1,000 each year over 12 years), \$12,000.00 (\$1,000.00x 12) to the Scarborough Women's Centre through our ticket sales and \$10,000.00 to the Stephen Lewis Foundation: AIDS Grannies from raffle proceeds. These contributions are impressive for a club of

60+ members.

The fashion show has strengthened our club's morale. Members contribute their talents

- the coordinator and her committee organize the event; some members model the clothes; others ask for donations for our raffle; some set up, serve the refreshments and clean up; many bake cookies and squares. We are all involved. Not only is it good for our members who have a sense of purpose as well as providing an opportunity to make new friends within the group, but it contributes to our broader community. Many friends, neighbors and family members come to the event annually and enjoy getting reacquainted.

This project's main goal is "women helping women". Twenty-four awards have been presented to Centennial College students who needed a helping hand. As an example of how the support from CFUW helped a student, meet Tanya. She was a student at Centennial College in the Paralegal Graduate Program and a recipient of the \$1,000.00 CFUW scholarship in 2013. She was a young mother. This was the her starting point in leading to becoming a full-time professor in The Business School at Centennial College. She is now a scholarship donor at Centennial College. She has paid it forward!

Internationally, this project has helped us raise over \$10,000.00 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, which has helped many grandmothers raise their grandchildren, left orphaned because of the ravages of AIDS.

This Recognition Award is for the 2019 - 2020 period. Our 2020 fashion show, scheduled for April 27th, has been postponed until the fall due to the COVID-19 Virus. 2020 has proven a challenging year for our project, as we were originally presenting Nygard fashions, but our fashion show coordinator very quickly found another fashion designer after the scandal broke. We hope the fall fashion show will proceed. The show must go on!

UWC TORONTO

Formation of UWC Toronto Foundation for the establishment of new scholarships

The club members wished to award more scholarships to students graduating from high schools in the downtown Toronto area. Having sold the house at 162 St. George St., we were able to give more scholarships with more value than previously. With the input of the new Scholarship Committee we decided to award 6 scholarships, each of \$4000. Each of our schools sends one entry. The winners must show good academic ability, participation in the school and community and demonstrate financial need. The committee selects the winners who received their awards and were honoured at a reception held at the Faculty Club. Their families and teachers were also invited.

The new charity had been awarded \$50,000 from the family of a deceased member to establish a scholarship in her honour. Mary Macdonald had been a teacher and principal in the former City of York. In consultation with the family, we decided to award a scholarship

of \$25,000 over four years to a student from a high school in that area. Another similar scholarship will be awarded in 2020. We have about \$18000 towards a third scholarship.

The new charity also allowed us to award the grants of \$3000 each to two students from Iqaluit. We had previously financed these awards through our club as a discretionary expense.

Our last innovation through the charity is a residence scholarship for a deserving first year student at Innis College, University of Toronto. The principal of Innis had spoken to us about the importance of the community that a student can form through the residence, especially if the home situation is not encouraging.

The whole of the membership has been involved in these awards through the Scholarship reception and through contacts with the recipients through the newsletters. We have encouraged the girls to keep in touch. The members of the Scholarship Committee visited all of the schools to establish a rapport with the Guidance counsellors and one of us attended each of the commencements.

We have also partnered with the Children's Aid Foundation and have agreed to award \$5500 per year for four years to a young woman who is aging out of foster care and who wishes to continue her education. The club members agreed that this is a worthy and often neglected group of young people.

The club has become more involved in fundraising for the scholarships. We had a very well attended book sale in June and a very successful Evening with Bob Rae held at the Town Hall at Innis College. We are hoping to have more events like this to add to the funds. The enthusiasm for our scholarships is palpable among the members and has done a great deal to encourage a sense of purpose, community and cohesion.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

CFUW LEASIDE-EAST YORK

The Coldest Night of the Year

At the Leaside-East York executive meeting in November, we agreed to take part in a Canada-wide walk called **The Coldest Night of the Year on Saturday, February 22**. Our club planned to raise funds for **Sistering**, a shelter for women, located on Bloor Street West in Toronto, that some of our members had visited. We were greatly impressed with the work done at Sistering.

The following explanation is copied from the Sistering website.

"Sistering is a multi-service agency for at-risk, socially isolated women in Toronto who are homeless or precariously housed. We have been serving this community for over 35 years, validating women's experiences regardless of outcomes. These marginalized women come from diverse backgrounds and include: women with substance use and mental health issues; women who have experienced, or are experiencing, trauma and violence; immigrant and refugee women; women with disabilities; and women without legal status. Sistering's target

population is women across Toronto who experience first hand the impact of marginalization and poverty. They may be without homes, sleeping outside, living in Out of the Cold programs or shelters, or poor and at risk of becoming homeless. We serve a diverse group of women aged 16 to 80-plus: women with substance use and mental health issues; sex workers; women who have interactions with the criminal justice system; women who have experienced, or are experiencing, trauma and violence; immigrant and refugee women; women with health issues and disabilities; and women without legal status.”

After studying the ways in which we could help Sistering, the Leaside-East York club decided to raise funds by participating in the Coldest Night of the Year Walk on February 22, 2020. Our aim was to raise \$1,500 but we surpassed that and managed to raise a total of **\$3,375**. We had good weather for the walk and we all enjoyed it.

We look forward to doing it again next year. The enthusiasm that began during the month of February will surely grow next year and we look forward to more participation with even more contributions to Sistering. We are Toronto women, who want to help women who are less fortunate than our members, and this has been a new initiative for us and has led us on a new venture.

CFUW MUSKOKA

Annual Lecture Series

We have moved from one annual Lecture Series to both a winter and fall event. In addition, we have grown the organizing committee from CFUW members to one that now also includes representation from the wider community. In collaboration with Lakehead University, this project has improved awareness of CFUW Muskoka in 2020 by expanding the organizing committee to include community leaders in addition to CFUW members. This has resulted in new ideas, more volunteers and much improved promotion of the series which has now grown from one speaker series to two series per year - each comprised of three lectures.

CFUW PERTH & DISTRICT

The Coldest Night of the Year

This year, the Social Justice Committee of CFUW Perth & District worked to raise awareness of the issue of Youth Homelessness in our County. On the evening of February 22, a group of fourteen members, friends and family walked a two kilometre evening walk in Smiths Falls as part of The Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY). CNOY is a national event organized to draw attention to the problem of Youth Homelessness. The \$1100 that we raised went to Cornerstone Landing.

Cornerstone Landing is a local, community-based, non-profit, charitable organization that provides assistance to youth aged 16-24 who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Lanark County. Every year Cornerstone Landing supports between 75-85 youth. We are

pleased that our partnership with this organization and our fundraising at the Coldest Night of the Year walk will benefit needy youth in our community.

CFUW SUDBURY

Environmental action

The 2010 Ontario North Fall Gathering was hosted by CFUW Sudbury on October 19 and 20 at the Vale Living with Lakes Centre, Laurentian University. A reception was held at the home of Jane Cox on Friday evening. Members enjoyed gathering to socialize and share ideas.

Members from CFUW Thunder Bay, CFUW Haliburton Hills, CFUW Orillia, CFUW North Bay, CFUW Thunder Bay, CFUW Haliburton Highlands and CFUW St. Catherines were in attendance. We were also fortunate to host our new Regional Director, Roline Machonachie, Ontario Council President, Sandy Thomson and Grace Hollett, CFUW National President. Mary Jane Waszynski, Regional Director from Ontario South attended as a guest.

The theme, "Living with Lakes: Protecting our Waters" was very informative. The first workshop by Miranda Virtanen and Ali Stankiewicz was Creating hope through environmental restoration,; the transformation of "Junk" Creek and challenges facing Greater Sudbury's urban waterways. Participants learned about the Junction Creek urban waterway's restoration to health. The second workshop was given by Dr. John Gunn whose topic was How can CFUW be a positive force in the climate crisis we face? It dealt with the transformation of lake and air quality in Sudbury as a result of government, industry, university and community partnerships.

These environmental issues are of great concern. We must act now in order to preserve this life source for future generations.

CFUW Sudbury has also been very active in promoting a community petition that resulted in the City of Greater Sudbury declaring a climate emergency. We are looking forward to meeting with the manager of the Solid Waste Support Services and the 3 Rs. As things progress, CFUW Sudbury will continue to promote and support environmental issues.