



## CFUW NEPEAN NEWS BYTES

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

#### MARK YOUR CALENDER:

#### GENERAL MEETINGS on ZOOM

**October - 6th** - 2 zooms

**1:00 PM Business** meeting

**2:30 PM Dr Wendy Cukier    Gun Control in Canada**

Co-founder of the Coalition for Gun Control, a network of more than 200 organizations ranging from police to women's groups, in the wake of the Montreal Massacre and has since been engaged in the Coalition's advocacy for evidence-based gun control in Canada. She is the author of *The Global Gun Epidemic* and a professor at Ryerson University.

**November 10** - 1:00 PM  
Basic Income presented by **Chloe Halpenny** of Basic Income Network Canada.

Dear friends,

This new and very different Club year has begun. We have had our first virtual general meeting with twenty-six members in attendance which isn't very different from the attendance at a regular in-person meeting. Members can also join by phone if they are uncomfortable with the technology.

Our October meeting will be done in two Zooms. The first Zoom will be at 1 pm for our regular monthly business meeting. The second Zoom will be at 2:30 when CFUW members across the country will join our Club to hear **Dr. Wendy Cukier** speak about gun control in Canada.

Over 100 people have registered. Our Club members must register at this link if you haven't already [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvdeupgj4iGdR\\_oJYSAQbNgoCnKaWE1Tsj](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvdeupgj4iGdR_oJYSAQbNgoCnKaWE1Tsj) You will receive the Zoom invitation from CFUW National.

Your Executive met on September 11 and discussed ways of offering club members some **Bonus Bits** to make this unusual year more interesting. We will be offering Friday morning coffee Zooms where those who wish will Zoom in to visit with other club members. cont'd . . .

## BONUS BITS

**FRIDAY mornings** at 10:00  
Coffee with friends on ZOOM  
A casual, social time to chat. Link  
will be sent on Thursdays.

### BONUS 'DISCUSSION' BIT November.

Evening zoom - date TBD  
Presenter: **Beth Junkins,**  
**"Senator Murray Sinclair"**  
Canadian Senator Murray Sinclair  
(Mizanay Gheezhik), an important  
voice in Canada today has tackled  
issues affecting the very fabric of  
Canada. Both personal experiences  
and public accomplishments help  
make Senator Sinclair a driving force  
for healing and change in our  
relationship with Indigenous  
Canadians.

## INTEREST GROUPS

**Book Club** continues their  
monthly meetings via zoom. On  
the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.  
Contact **Valerie Barton** to join.

**Bridge Group** continues via the  
internet every Monday  
afternoon. To join, contact  
**Dolores Dufresne.**

**Armchair Travel** continues on the  
internet on the third Tuesday of  
the month 1:PM. Contact **Betty  
Ann Grainger** to join the group.

**Art tour, Lunching Out, and  
Movie Matinee** groups will not  
take place this year unless Covid  
rules change drastically.

**Ideas** for other groups? Contact  
**Mary Ann Rainer.**

Come as you are, even in pjs and housecoat, and  
meet up at 10 a.m. Bring your own coffee and  
muffin or toast and we can just have a visit and see  
how everyone is surviving during this time  
period. The first coffee Zoom will be a free chat but  
future ones might include a craft show-and-tell or  
bring a 'treasure' and tell us why it means so much  
to you. Do you have other fun topics for our Zooms?  
Please let me know. It's an opportunity to get to  
know each other on a different level and enjoy time  
together. The Zoom link for the morning coffee time  
will be sent out on the Thursday before the Friday  
Zoom.

Earlier in the month, I attended the first Zoom **Travel  
Group** get together and we enjoyed a virtual tour of  
water gardens in the Ottawa area.  
Next month, we will hear about a Club member's  
travels to Cuba.

I hear that the Monday afternoon **Bridge Group** will  
be playing again using Bridge Base online. Where  
there is a will, there is a way and it's very hard to  
keep bridge players away from the cards!

Another version of **Bonus Bits** will be occasional  
evening talks on a variety of topics. There will be no  
set schedule to these events but it will allow people  
with daytime commitments to hear a speaker.

New Club member, **Beth Junkins** has agreed to  
present to us about Senator Murray Sinclair one  
evening in November with date to be announced.  
These evening events will last approximately thirty  
minutes. Stay tuned for more information on this.

This will be an interesting year for the Club. We are  
all learning new technology and zooming into the  
new Club year with enthusiasm. We can do this!

Stay well. Marcia

**Ontario Council Speakers Series** Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:30 AM

*Elder Care - Protect the Vulnerable*

Register by October 1<sup>st</sup> -

<https://cfuwontcouncil.org/standing-committees/>

Click on Events

## **The September presentation - The Murder of D'Arcy McGee**

On Sept 8, CFUW Nepean held its first Zoom meeting and it was a great success. James Powell, retired from the Bank of Canada and now a Director of the Ottawa Historical Society, described the times leading up to the death of Cabinet Minister of Agriculture and Immigration, D'Arcy McGee, by accused assassin Patrick Whelan.

D'Arcy left Ireland after the potato famine for the United States in 1842. In his early days in New York City where he worked as a journalist, he felt that the US should take over Canada. After experiencing discrimination and hatred towards Irish immigrants in the US, D'Arcy went back to Ireland. He got involved with the Irish government to fight poverty and the British injustices of not allowing Catholics to own their own land and preventing Catholics from getting better jobs. Having run afoul of the British government, he then immigrated to Canada. Here he met Mary Cafray. The two had five children, two of which lived to adulthood. D'Arcy had a complete reversal of his views of Canada and fought so that the provinces would be united as one Dominion in order that they would not be annexed by the United States.

After his murder, there was a \$2000 bounty put on the head of the killer. Suspicion fell on Patrick Whelan who was an Irish Nationalist and a member of the Fenians. The trial took six days to find Patrick guilty. There were a couple of retrials, and he was found guilty each time. Patrick told his wife Brigitte Boyle that he was at the scene of the crime and had witnessed the murder but was not the murderer. He was most likely an accomplice. Much of the evidence was circumstantial. The same judge sat on the trial and the two retrials which would not be allowed today. Patrick Whelan was the last man to die by public hanging in Ottawa. In 1973, a ballistic test of the revolver proved to be inconclusive. The trials had many procedural flaws by today's standards and would not be permitted now.

D'Arcy McGee left a strong legacy behind him. He wrote twenty books and is considered one of the Fathers of Confederation. He was one of the first people to see himself as an unhyphenated Canadian that is, he saw himself as Canadian and not Irish-Canadian. He has been the only Canadian politician to be assassinated. A modern one-man play called '*Blood on the Moon*', written and performed by Pierre Brault of Ottawa, recounts the tale of the death of D'Arcy McGee. James Powell highly recommended seeing this one-man play if the opportunity should arise.

**Sue Carter**

### **Membership**

### **Dolores Dufresne**

This is a friendly reminder that if you have not already done so, please mail me your cheque to cover your 2020-21 membership dues and your updated membership form as soon as possible. Even though we will not be meeting in person this fall, there is an exciting program planned for you. Thank you to everyone who have already paid their dues. As of September 18, 2020, it is now possible to pay one's dues by e-transfer. However, if you choose that option, I will still expect to receive your membership form by mail – there have been some changes to the form this year.

## Community Outreach

**Betty Ann Grainger**

This Fall we're collecting the following items:

**Interval House**, a shelter for women, is in need of new reusable masks, full sized toiletries - shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant and lip chap. New pj's for women and children are a welcome donation

**Cornerstone Housing for Women** also needs toiletries, new hats, mitts, gloves, scarves and socks. \$10 gift cards for Tim Hortons, Giant Tiger and Presidents Choice are also welcomed.

As we're not meeting in person, we have 2 ways of coordinating these collections. Drop items off at Betty Ann Grainger's home or e-transfer your donation to Betty Ann and she will purchase the items. Our collection period will close the first week of December. Questions? please contact Betty Ann.

Thank you for your ongoing GENEROSITY!

## CFUW Nepean Scholarship Trust Fund

**Marlene Sylvester**

The COVID-19 pandemic is significantly damaging the financial well-being of charitable organizations. Charities across the country are reporting revenues down markedly (30%) as well as layoffs (30%) in progress and more to come. These are much more significant than the 2008-2009 financial crisis.

Our Scholarship Trust executive unfortunately had to cancel both the Spring and Fall Luncheons. Having said all that sad news, we were still able to give out seven scholarships to students from Algonquin College: 2- \$1000 scholarships to nursing students, 2-\$1000 to S.T.E.M. students, 2-\$1000 scholarships to Personal Support Workers, and \$500 to a woman at Cornerstone to continue her education. Everyone agreed that this was not the time to limit scholarships and in light of the horrendous conditions at some of the long-term care facilities support for more PSW workers is needed.

This year CFUW Nepean is celebrating its 30th anniversary!!! We will not be able to have a traditional celebration but we are asking members to donate \$30 to the scholarship fund so that we can continue the donations to young women pursuing their education. Donations can now be made online using your credit card at [CanadaHelps.ca](http://CanadaHelps.ca).

No one knows when this pandemic will end or what the long-term impact will be, but whatever the new normal will be I believe our club can continue to be a vibrant participant within the community and assist girls and women on their journey to higher education and a career.

**OCTOBER is Women's History Month:** The 2020 theme is *Singing for Social Change*. The focus is on Canadian musicians who have raised awareness of women's issues, gender equality and inspired solidarity across struggles. *What musicians come to mind? How does music bring people together? Why is it important to acknowledge the contributions of musicians who identify as women?*

Many days in October commemorate events of significance to women's rights. CFUW has specific history in two of the dates/dates.

**October 11<sup>th</sup> is the International Day of the Girl Child**

On December 19, 2011, United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

*Editor's comment: Women's groups, including IFUW/CFUW, worked together in 1990-92 to make recognition of the girl child happen. See page 6 for the story. Also pages 312-313 of CFUW's history - **Our 100 Years** by Dianne Dodd.*

**October 18<sup>th</sup> PERSONS' DAY - CFUW members were awarded Persons' Day medals.**

**1998 Claire Heggveit MSW** (past president of CFUW Nepean) Nepean, Ontario  
Claire Heggveit used her lifelong concern with equality for women to develop statistics that would better define the relationship between women's socio-economic role and their health. Through her extensive statistical research, she completed a survey for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the first national focus on family planning, abortion and divorce that gave impetus to the establishment of a nation-wide system for the regular and full reporting of statistics on these issues. Mrs. Heggveit also established the first national roster on family planning and abortion services that investigated the coverage of community and women's health in these areas. As one of the first members of the Board of Directors of Amethyst Women's Addiction Centre in Ottawa, she worked to have four beds set aside for women alcoholics, offering a refuge to women who were on the street and was instrumental in the creation of a separate house for women to enable them to participate in addiction rehabilitation programs.

**2005 Ruth Marion C.R. Bell, C.M., B.A., M.A., LL.D. (Hon. Causa)** Ruth Marion C.R. Bell was a lifelong advocate for women and children. She "saw what needed to be done to help the vulnerable...and assembled a team to make it happen." As president of the Ottawa, Nepean and National Canadian Federation of University Women, and as a committee member of the International Federation of University Women, UNESCO, MATCH International, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and the Ottawa and National Council of Women, she worked to open up boardrooms to women, reform pensions and family property law, protect children and end gender stereotyping in education. She worked on the International Women's Year, International Year of the Child, and the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. Dr Bell was instrumental in ensuring that key documents related to the women's movement are preserved by Library and Archives Canada.

*"Women are going to form a chain, a greater sisterhood than the world has ever known."*

**Nellie McClung - 1873 - 1951**

**International Day of the Girl Child** is an international day declared by the United Nations to increase awareness of issues faced by girls. It supports more opportunity for girls and increases awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide in such areas as access to education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care, and protection from discrimination, violence against women and forced child marriage. Many girls around the world are vulnerable to acts of sexual violence and the perpetrators go unpunished. The situation in refugee camps is dire. The Day helps raise awareness of the issues that girls face, and what could happen when those problems are solved. Educating girls helps reduce the rate of child marriage, disease and helps strengthen the economy by allowing girls to have access to higher-paying jobs.

## History

The movement to gain recognition for the Girl Child started back in the 1990s as the world prepared for a number of ground-breaking United Nations world conferences ending in the World Conference on Women, Take Action for Equality Development and Peace in Beijing in 1995. Our own Graduate Women International (IFUW) sent a delegate (a Canadian) to the Education for All, Conference in Thailand in 1990. Her sole objective was to get the concerns of the Girl Child included in this major Inter-agency document. From this first inclusion, IFUW continued to work with other women's groups to get recognition for the Girl Child until it was also included in the Beijing Document and CFUW became the lead agency for the Girl Child in Canada at that time. Two CFUW members wrote the follow up Plain Language segment on the Girl Child for use after the conference.

International Day of Girls was formally proposed as a resolution by Canada in the United Nations General Assembly. Rona Ambrose, Canada's Minister for the Status of Women, sponsored the resolution; a delegation of women and girls made presentations in support of the initiative at the 55<sup>th</sup> United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly voted to pass a resolution adopting October 11, 2012, as the inaugural International Day of Girls. The resolution states that the Day of Girls recognizes

Empowerment of and investment in girls are critical for economic growth and the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty. Girls must have meaningful participation in decisions that affect them, to break the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights, and recognizing also that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families and care providers, as well as boys and men and the wider community.

## **Susan Russell's experience as the IFUW representative in Thailand**

“When I went to the Conference in Thailand as the IFUW representative. I had no idea how ground-breaking the event was. I was told not to come away without getting a mention of the Girl Child into the document - so we sat up, night after night working on it - with the government delegations. The Canadians from Foreign Affairs were wonderful and gave me every support when they realized what I was trying to do. What happened after the conference was that with help from IFUW (Dr. Mary Purcell) the African women really pressed the issue in the lead p to Beijing. Linda Souter was the one who contacted Sheila Finestone and got us to be named the Lead Agency. At the usual UNCSW in New York, NGOs do not get that amount of access to government delegations but the Canadians just included us as part of the team. “

“If I'd had any clue how unusual this was, I would never have done it.”