

## CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Ontario Council AGM May 15, 2021

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**, created in honour of Carolyn Day, our Environment policy adviser for many years, was not presented this year as there had been no applicants.

ONTARIO COUNCIL RECOGNITION AWARDS	
CLUB	PROJECT
CFUW Aurora-Newmarket	<b>Books and Bottles.</b> Month-long book sale and bottle drive using social media to raise money for scholarships during COVID.
CFUW Guelph	<b>Her Story: Women Trailblazers of Guelph-Wellington County.</b> CFUW Guelph's 75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary project celebrating local women, involving the Guelph Museums and many others in the Guelph region and Club.
CFUW Kincardine	<b>Improving the Mental Health of Children in Grey Bruce Counties.</b> Research and consultations with officials and community that led to changes being made by the responsible body for better access to mental health services for local children.
CFUW Muskoka	<b>Poverty Reduction Awareness.</b> A 10-step continuing process with research and consultation to better understand the issue of poverty, affordable housing and basic income within the Muskoka District.
CFUW North Bay	<b>80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.</b> Community outreach to focus on the contributions that CFUW North Bay has made to the community including a display at the Museum and scholarship.
CFUW Orillia	<b>International Women's Day 'Guess Who' Game</b> first hosted in 2020, shared to CFUW, expanded for 2021 (complete with party) and will now become an annual event.
CFUW Ottawa	<b>Walk to Kabul.</b> an awareness and advocacy project to support Afghan Women at the peace table, 'walking' between Ottawa and Kabul, involving the media

### CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL

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| Instagram @cfuwoncouncil

	and social media, advocacy postcards and connections with the two embassies, 19 clubs across Canada (12 in Ontario) and over 600 participants.
CFUW Peterborough	<b>Connecting with Others and the Christmas Charity.</b> Support to members through weekly Coffee Club and other groups, phone tree, Christmas singalong; support to community through Community Care fundraiser.
CFUW Southport	<b>Virtual December 6 Vigil “Bringing Abuse Out of the Shadows</b> which grew the campaign through both media and social media, a video, contacts with authorities, and a fund raising campaign (750% increase).
CFUW Stratford	<b>Long Term Care Ontario Survey.</b> Addressed awareness of chronic issues in elder care. Over 1270 signatures collected throughout Ontario.
CFUW Sudbury	<b>Virtual ‘Celebrate Women’.</b> 25th anniversary of book launch scholarship fundraiser, with YWCA and LEAF Sudbury, with Canadian/British author Mary Lawson <i>A Town Called Solace</i> .
CFUW Welland & District	<b>16 Days of Activism.</b> Larger campaign including the lighting of the Welland Canal Bridge, display of Red Dresses, public meeting about human trafficking involving public invitations, announcements, daily social media posts.
CFUW Windsor	<b>Ward 7 Election All Candidates Meeting.</b> Moderated the virtual meeting, involving all 12 candidates, media attention.
<b>HONOURABLE MENTIONS</b>	
CFUW Etobicoke	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Annual Stop the Violence Breakfast.</b> Thanks to the virtual program, this event involved more people from more locations, raising more money for the local women’s shelter, Women’s Habitat.
CFUW Perth	<b>Staycation Raffle.</b> A virtual alternative to their house tour involving gifts and gift certificates to stay in Perth.

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## ONTARIO COUNCIL RECOGNITION AWARD PROJECTS

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### CFUW AURORA-NEWMARKET

#### Books and Bottles

While Covid-19 has hit us all, the impact has not been equal. For many young women, the pandemic has been devastating – emotionally, physically, and financially. Dreams of university education have sadly been put aside. To the members of CFUW Aurora/Newmarket, which has funded scholarships for local graduates through its Charitable Trust, the situation seemed especially dire. With fundraising at a stand-still, the ability to fund its goal of awarding \$1,500 scholarships to nine deserving young women was in jeopardy.

For four enterprising women in CFUW Aurora/Newmarket used to overcoming adversity the situation was nothing more than a challenge requiring a bit of ingenuity and determination. When the in-person events that traditionally funded the Charitable Trust came to a halt, the group brainstormed how to raise funds. Not just in a



Covid-19 compliant manner, but also in a way that could still bring members together. Channelling two of their shared passions (reading and wine), the group came up with the idea of selling books online to its members and collecting empties from them. With a combination of books and bottles, how could they not succeed?

Last autumn, the group reached out to its members and asked them to donate gently used books and empty bottles to one of four sites – or libraries as the four members' homes came to be known. Eager to play a part in the fundraising, the membership responded enthusiastically. Over two thousand books were collected and input into a database for users to sort for their favourite title, author or genre.

The sale was opened up to both members and non-members, in an effort to promote the CFUW Aurora/Newmarket and its charitable programs, and to raise as much as possible for the scholarships. Through a combination of print, word of mouth from CFUW members and clever social media outreach, the event was publicized throughout York Region. Interested buyers accessed the database (updated daily) on the club's website and e-mailed the respective librarian the titles of their desired books. Arrangements were made for Covid-19 safe porch pick-up and cash/cheque payment.

In just over four weeks, the group was able to sell over a thousand books and collect countless empties. Raising \$3,173 – enough for two full scholarships – the event was a resounding success.

Fast forward to March 2021, and the process began anew. Setting their sights higher this time, the group aimed to raise \$4,500 – enough for three scholarships. After months of lockdown, bringing the membership together was even more important. Through donating books,

dropping off bottles, buying books or simply sharing the booklist to friends and family, members were able to add the spirit and energy that make CFUW so wonderful.

Surpassing their goal, the four librarians raised \$4,620.

Combined, the two events funded five scholarships.

<http://www.charitabletrustcfuauroranewmarket.com/index.html>

## **CFUW GUELPH**

### **Her Story: Women Trailblazers of Guelph-Wellington County**

In fall 2019, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) approached **Guelph Museums** about an **exhibition that would mark the 75th anniversary of CFUW Guelph**. Through the stories of local women, who fought for the advancement of the status of women, the exhibition began to take shape. The goal was to **write the history of Her Story** and to share women's legacies in Guelph, past and present.

Then, in March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic forced the temporary closure of Guelph Museums. What began as a display in the museum became a major research project and a virtual exhibition.

CFUW Guelph sought a partnership with the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute and the College of Arts at the University of Guelph. Under the guidance of Professor Catherine Carstairs, nine students undertook the research and writing and the Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory agreed to host the virtual exhibition.

Her Story: Trailblazers of Guelph and Wellington County celebrates women who have led the way towards a diverse and gender inclusive community. The project aimed to share the stories of cisgender women, trans women, two-spirit, and gender non-conforming people. We recognize the historical barriers faced by all women. We acknowledge that Black, Indigenous and People of Colour and LGBTQ2IA+ women have faced and continue to face even greater barriers.

The featured trailblazers are activists, artists, caregivers, health care workers, mothers, politicians, scientists, and writers, as well as women-led organizations. We celebrate their accomplishments. They show us that change is possible.

#### [Her Story: Women Trailblazers of Guelph and Wellington County Virtual Exhibition](#)

The project benefitted from the invaluable guidance of Susan Brown, Kim Martin, Mihaela Ilovan, and Thomas Smith of the Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory. CFUW Guelph, through Isobel Boyle, Mary McEwen and Teresa McKeeman, provided inspiration and key support. Many historians shared their research in women's history and the history of Guelph. Thank you to Heidi Bohaker, Christine Bold, Vicki Hodgkinson, Franca Iacovetta, Kris Inwood, Melissa McAfee, and Alison Norman. Trailblazers were nominated by Denise Francis of the Guelph Black Heritage Society, Sarah Dermer at Chalmers Community Services, and Amanda Derksen at the Guelph Chamber of Commerce, as well as by individuals from across the region.

## **CFUW KINCARDINE**

### **Improving the Mental Health of children in Grey Bruce counties.**

This advocacy project has influenced the decisions about service delivery of Mental Health supports in Grey Bruce Counties. The Committee invited input from both the Bluewater and the Catholic School Boards, parents, and the CEO of Keystone which is the provincially funded counselling service for our area. It was determined that mental health support was not very prominently displayed on individual school websites, except for Sacred Heart in Walkerton. Each school board had a good list of resources.

The superintendent for Bluewater admitted they were lacking in resources, especially for the elementary levels. We would like to see resources displayed more prominently on individual school websites.

There were just two places where an intake could take place for new clients accessing Keystone. These locations were in Owen Sound and Hanover. After the CEO of Keystone heard our concerns, changes were made. Some of the Keystone offices were moved into several Family Health Team buildings (for more anonymity). These offices were resourced so clients in these communities do not have to leave their area for their intake processing. This will make a huge difference for people who do not have a car and/or cannot take a lot of time off from work. As well, having Keystone offices located within Family Health Team buildings provides for more anonymity.

## **CFUW MUSKOKA**

### **Poverty Awareness**

The CFUW-Muskoka Advocacy Group has had a very strong revival this past year. The group had been very active in some years but waned in others. This year an invitation was issued to see what interest there was in taking some action that may or may not lead to our club working on a resolution to present at an Annual Meeting. The decision was made to take on a project this year that would have an impact on identified needs in the Muskoka Community. We chose Poverty Reduction as our focus. This meant we had a lot of research to do to fully understand the breadth and impact of poverty in our District. We have approached our mission in the process outlined below.

Step 1. We needed to contact the various agencies and understand what the supports actually were in the District

Step 2. We collated the information and attempted to analyze where there were gaps.

Step 3. Our conclusions revealed there was lots of support in the area of food security programs so we decided we needed more education

Step.4 We attended Bridges Out of Poverty to expand our understanding of what poverty looks like and how it feels for our neighbours.

Step 5. Members of the Group shared their experience volunteering in organizations in the District that were working to support those in need.

Step 6. Our focus was narrowing and we began to focus on housing.

Step 7. We attended the homelessness Round Table and invited the chair of the round table to speak at one of our meetings. That provided a deeper understanding of the issues and an awareness of the Housing Task Forces we would be eligible to participate in.

Step 8. We contacted PROMPT, a local political action group of people living in poverty, to determine their current initiative. They are advocating for a universal income and we joined their campaign to advise our politicians at the federal and provincial level to support a universal basic income.

Step 9. We have invited a member of a development group who is trying to build affordable housing to speak to our next meeting to determine how we can support this development.

Step 10. We will be meeting with Habitat for Humanity to explore where they are planning their next build and identifying what role we can play in that project

In summary I think the importance of this group this year has been their determination to truly understand what poverty looks like in our District, and to recognize the need for people to have dignity as they work toward having the basic needs the rest of us take for granted. The willingness to join the action oriented task forces, the continual education about the issues and the community outreach has been amazing to watch. Housing is a huge issue in our District. Rentals, subsidized housing, and affordable housing are all desperately needed. The CFUW Advocacy group will be involved at each stage of helping our District address these issues. We will also continue to educate our entire membership on the issues and encourage their participation in projects through the District that address issues other than housing.

## **CFUW NORTH BAY**

### **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

It is the focus that our Club has identified for our 80<sup>th</sup> that merits consideration. Previous anniversary celebrations (50<sup>th</sup>,60<sup>th</sup>,75<sup>th</sup>) have included a dinner and have been member and guest focused. Our 80th Celebration will focus on reaching out into the community and highlighting the contributions CFUW North Bay has made to the Community over the past 80 years. Preparations have been underway since June 2020 and will culminate in a month-long display at the North Bay Museum in October 2021. The Anniversary project involves a close working relationship with the Museum staff, a new community contact for us. COVID restrictions have affected our planning and continue to be a factor in all our plans. The following are some of our actions and planning:

- An 80th Anniversary Scholarship in the amount of \$800.00 awarded to a deserving female student at Nipissing University, who previously attended Canadore College and with preference given to a student from the North Bay area.
- The January 2021 Launch of the 80th Anniversary year (1941-2021) via Zoom with fireworks, music, toasts, and outlining anniversary plans with the membership
- Decades highlights recognizing each Decade, **The1940's** our beginnings and charter members, **the 1950's** Beth Sherman our Sage award winner who joined the Club in 1948 and served as resident in 1958 and has been a member for over 70 years **The 1960s**

Scholarships and fundraising, **The 1970's** the restoration of the historic paintings **The 1980's** the Children's Museum project **The 1990's** Assisting in Nipissing University, gaining it's Charter and serving on the Board **The 2000's** the Charitable Trust Dinner, advocacy **The 2010's** Advocacy, community involvement, Coldest Night, The Hospice, NEWHA, Culture Days, International Women's Day events, Montessori School in Tanzania **The 2020s** the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Culture Days. Interest groups Culture Days, Zoom, speaker opportunities and so much more.

- Contacting past presidents
- Searching through our extensive archives stored in the North Bay Public Library
- Suggestions to follow up on: requesting a CFUW North Bay Day in the Fall. Developing a time capsule, the scholarship presentation
- Finalizing and promoting the Museum display

The 80th Anniversary Celebrations have given our members positive goals and energized them in an incredibly challenging year. The Anniversary demonstrates the power of women working together. CFUW has made a significant contribution to North Bay through the past 80 years! The chair of our Anniversary Committee Nat Brunette has been a member of CFUW North Bay for five years. Her enthusiasm is contagious. She reminds us that our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary is just 20 years away! Our 80<sup>th</sup> is a great steppingstone towards the next big anniversary!

## **CFUW ORILLIA**

### **International Women's Day 'Guess Who' Game**

March 2020 – March 2021

For International Women's Day March 2020, two of our members created a game called 'Guess Who' about 20 notable Canadian women. The game was presented on small, hard copy cue cards. The cards provided clues to the identity of these women. The concept was to guess who these women were with the fewest possible clues provided. Initially the game was presented to some of our members at a luncheon to celebrate IWD at one of the last in-person events before the start of the pandemic.

In April of 2020, the Guess Who game was put on video with a private U-Tube link accessible to a select few of our club members. At the May CFUW Orillia nominations meeting, the draft of the digital version of the game was presented. The history and development of the video was shared. At that time, photo permission was still being sought from eleven of the 20 notable women selected.

Disclaimers and copyright issues were concerning.

By the fall of 2020 these problems were resolved. The link to the Guess Who U-tube video was published in the Ontario Council News 2020-09, Issue 16 and at the same time was released in the September 15th National Club Action Newsletter. This allowed club members across Canada to realize there are many outstanding Canadian women who over the past number of

years have broken social and racial barriers to achieve their full potential and make major contributions to improve the status of women across our country. These women, by this Guess Who video, inspire and give us all hope.

On March 8, 2021 the two game originators along with another club member hosted a virtual CFUW Orillia, members only, International Women's Day Celebration. An updated 2021 version of the Guess Who game celebrating another 10 influential Canadian women was played. There were six other segments to the event including a cooking demonstration, a Yoga wellness stretch and a toast to celebrate all CFUW women. It was fun. It was uplifting. Afterwards, the accolades from our members came streaming in. Talk about a morale booster!

The March 8th IWD celebration was so well received that it has now been decided by the Orillia Executive to make this an annual occurrence. The triumvirate model will be used to allow other club members to take an active role in the planning and implementation of the event.

As President of this club, I am proud of the initiative and forward thinking outside the box by our two club members during a time when we so very much need to celebrate our accomplishments as women and to bring awareness of what we can and will do now and in the future.

## **CFUW OTTAWA**

Walk To Kabul is an awareness and advocacy project.

The aim is to raise awareness of peril at the Afghan peace table, that women could be forced to return to the dark days of Islamic apartheid, incarcerated in their homes, demanded to veil, denied education, employment, and health care. Perilous because few women's voices are heard at the peace table, but terrifying bomb blasts and gun fire prevail. The Taliban have 21 members on their negotiating team with no women; the Afghan government team has four women out of their 21 members. These women who have suffered through 40 years of war need and deserve our support at this critical period. We want their voices to be heard.

The incentive to get members to contribute their kilometres has been the travelogues. Any one contributing their steps or kilometres would receive a travelogue from the city that had been reached based on the combined kilometres received to that point. On April 24, the walkers will have received thirteen travelogues, the first one from Montréal and the last one from Kabul , and two advocacy travelogues .

The Advocacy component involves not only contacting local media (Such as CTV Ottawa covered CFUW- Ottawa Club on the Flora MacDonald Pedestrian Bridge. The Honourable Flora MacDonald was a great advocate for Afghan Women), but also sending 'postcards'.

Sending postcards to family and friends while we are traveling is a long-standing tradition. We wanted to keep up that popular custom on our walk to Kabul. And that is because we are walking with a purpose—to raise awareness of the peril faced by Afghan women and girls during the peace talks. We prepared a postcard to send that highlights our mission and shows our support for all Afghans, but particularly the women and girls.



In keeping with the spirit of traveling on our Walk to Kabul, a postcard was designed to be sent to Members of Parliament, the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Global Affairs and Bob Rae, our ambassador to the UN. The postcard carries a message of support for the women of Afghanistan and actions we would like the Federal government to take.

Our Face book page called 'Walk To Kabul' is a public page, that charts our journey and posts articles that help explain why it is so important to have Afghan women sit at the Peace Talks. We have received the support of both the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Ottawa and our Canadian Embassy in Afghanistan. ([Walk To Kabul | Facebook](#))

We use hash tags of #WalkToKabul #AfghanWomensRights #AfghanPeaceTalks #AfghanPeaceProcess

Our 'Walk To Kabul' has to date involved 16 CFUW clubs across the country and more than 500 individuals and the number increases daily. We also have people from outside CFUW, such as diplomats, bridge clubs, language groups and of course walking, hiking, skiing. We have many families walking together and joining in contributing their kilometres. There are individuals as well who have heard of this awareness and advocacy initiative through 'word of mouth' or Face book and have contacted us to participate. We also had people around the world participating.

Walk To Kabul encompasses education, advocacy, community action and involvement, fellowship and support, at the local, provincial, federal and international levels.

## **CFUW PETERBOROUGH**

### **Connecting with Others and our Christmas Charity**

This year has been very difficult for everyone. As we adapted to Zoom it was like taking baby steps – a learning experience for all of us. The Peterborough CFUW Executive decided that the health and wellbeing of our members was of prime importance during this pandemic. As such we decided to try and give our members the best possible experience, which meant reaching out to them as frequently as possible. Initially using zoom was a problem for some of our members so we offered tutorials on how to access the app on either a laptop, tablet or phone. Zoom allowed us to connect with our members and most importantly for our members to still feel part of an active organization.

We initiated a Coffee Club. This takes place every Friday at 10:30. The zoom invitation is sent out every week to all of our members. Anyone who is available is encouraged to attend and it has been very successful. We also started an Arts and Crafts Club which meets twice a month and a new book club was also started,

At Christmas we hosted a Christmas Carol sing-a-long with one or our members playing the piano. Members were asked to submit songs titles and a playlist was developed. Lyrics were sent to our members prior to the event and it was a great success. We also initiated a phone tree in the Month of December. Members were encouraged to phone the two people who come after them in our directory to chat and see how everyone was doing.

At our November General Meeting we had a speaker from Community Care. The information presented to us was about resources available to Peterborough residents. It was very well

received, so much so that we decided that Community Care should be our Christmas charity. Usually, we have a festive luncheon in December where we ask people attending to bring gift cards from Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart etc. Obviously due to Covid the lunch did not occur, but we still asked for gift cards. We were very pleasantly surprised to find that the total we received in donations was more than double the amount we usually collected – over \$1100 from a membership at the time of only 43.

I think that the time and effort we took in making sure we are in contact with our members resulted in such a large donation to Community Care. The personal touch, showing care and concern about our members and making an effort to reach out has made this a very special year. I am so proud to be the Co-President of our Peterborough Club. In this time of stress and negativity I look forward to spending time with the friends I have made in CFUW.

## CFUW SOUTHPORT

### Virtual December 6 Vigil “Bringing Abuse Out of the Shadows”.

2020 was the 31st anniversary of the Massacre and the 30th year that Southport has held the Vigil. With COVID restrictions we had to put everything online, and ended up extending our reach, improving our donations and providing a moving tribute to the young women killed in 1989 and to all women lost to violence or who live with violence every day.

When we began in September 2020 to plan for the December 6 Vigil Against Violence, we knew it would be different but wanted to ensure the messaging about the ongoing concerns of violence against women was heard loud and clear. Given COVID restrictions and isolation, we knew that domestic assault and abuse had increased exponentially and yet local stats confirmed that calls to police had decreased. We chose as our focus, "Bringing Abuse Out of the Shadows" and decided to tell the stories of women who had experienced domestic abuse, and shelters whose needs had risen enormously.

To that end, we began to gather our partners. The Grey Bruce Violence Prevention Committee (<http://violencepreventiongreybruce.com/>) was instrumental in extending our reach to the governing bodies of our two counties resulting in delegations to Bruce County Council, Grey County Council and the municipal council in Saugeen Shores. These delegations asked for and received the approval from these bodies for official flags to fly at half-staff on December 6 and to alert the public on their websites and social media outlets.

The Rotary Club of Southampton developed a web page which sought online donations for the three local women's shelters which resulted in over \$4500 being raised. This was an increase of 750% if my math is correct.

Dec. 6, 2020. National Day of Remembrance  
and  
Action on Violence Against Women

**STOP  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
WOMEN**



We remember, especially, the 14 Women Murdered at  
Ecole Polytechnique  
and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

**Your Actions Matter!**

Please support the 3 Women's Shelters  
in Bruce & Grey Counties.

**Donate at CFUW Southport.**

Sponsored by Canadian Federation of University Women Southport

One of our members designed this beautiful and arresting poster that was seen all over the region and was probably one of the key reasons for the increase.

Local radio featured another member's promotional interview in both verbal and written news formats wherein local, regional and provincial statistics around violence against women were shared.

The team developed a video that captured the current concerns about the "hidden pandemic" of assault. It featured one member who shared her own story about domestic abuse plus the manager of the Kabaeshiwim First Nation Shelter who spoke about the needs in families who "had forgotten how to be happy families".

Our virtual event was held at 12 noon on Sunday December 6 with more participants from more regions than usual, given that more participants could access the zoom link. One key partner was Canadian Choir Director Joshua Tamayo who permitted us to use his video of an all-female choir singing Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" which ended the Vigil on a note of compassion and power to change.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIDim9aYWds>.



Approximately one month later we were able to deliver the cheques to our local shelters even considering COVID restrictions. Here members of the Team deliver to Cheryl George the Manager of the Kabaeshiwim Family Respite.

## CFUW STRATFORD

### Long Term Care Ontario Survey

Our Long Term Care (LTC) Survey has now been completed by over 1,270 people in Ontario! It has achieved the two goals it was created to address: broad awareness of the chronic issues in caring for the elderly in Ontario and gathering opinions as to what needs to be done. Its results may now inform further advocacy actions for all of us. It has also brought the activism of CFUW to the public's attention and has provided us with the names and location of people eager to receive more information on our actions.

CFUW Stratford's advocacy for LTC began last May when we proposed an Emergency Resolution calling for the protection of the Canada Health Act to be spread over Long Term Care. This would entail two very important factors: national standards and the elimination of profit driven facilities.

Subsequently, we began a club letter writing campaign which was then expanded into the community. As individuals, we created a "Concerned Citizens" letter to collect signatures from Stratford voters to inform both our local MPP as well as the Premier of our outrage at the horrendous loss of life last fall at a local Retirement Home/LTC Facility. This was well-subscribed and brought about what we considered sincere action and response from our MPP. Even after our letter had been submitted, we continued to be approached by people in the community who wanted to participate.

As a club, we then turned to the idea of an expanded action which would invite participation on a regional or provincial basis. Since LTC remains under provincial jurisdiction, we hoped to

define, collect, and present some of the key elements which Ontarians believed needed to be addressed. Attending numerous webinars, town halls, and press conferences led us to distilling five areas which people wanted to highlight to the provincial government. These were informed and refined by first testing sample questions as well as sample formats within our larger advocacy committee, our executive and finally amongst our general membership. We also began to create posters and approaches which our LTC group also tested on friends and contacts.

We remained in contact with our LTC Emergency Resolution sister club in Oakville and, through our RD, we were introduced to the Windsor and Kitchener-Waterloo clubs. It became immediately apparent that sharing knowledge, enthusiasm and ideas with each other was truly an example of *The Power of Women Working Together*. The lessons and benefit we've realized from meeting and working together cannot be overstated. A key element which we will carry beyond this pandemic is the immediate and personal interactions allowed by zoom.

Presenting our plans and project to Ontario Council (OC) was significant in modifying our overall tone and in dealing with the evolving political and on-the-ground developments. With the support of OC and with the involvement of the provincial RDs, we were able to reach out to clubs throughout the province. Our partner clubs, Windsor, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Oakville contributed hugely to the success of this action and the connection with CFUW Windsor allowed us to use the University of Waterloo survey mechanism. We also heard from a number of clubs eager to continue advocacy within this area as well as other issues of shared concern. There was great satisfaction in being able to work together for a common cause.

In terms of awareness of CFUW itself, this campaign had a terrific reach! Use of social media gave us the tools to expand into Facebook and Instagram and greatly expanded our knowledge of how to use them effectively. Our Stratford LTC posts were measurably seen by over 7000 people! The impact of clubs sharing not only our post, but those published by Ontario Council was huge! What we have learned about the power of these tools will inform all our advocacy actions going forward!

## **CFUW SUDBURY**

### **Celebrate Women**

Celebrate Women is an event where CFUW Sudbury, in partnership with YWCA and LEAF Sudbury, hosts an author who is launching her most recent book. This event is usually a live event but due to the pandemic the 2020 event had to be cancelled.

This event is the major fundraiser for our awards program. Currently, CFUW Sudbury offers scholarships and awards totalling \$8,000 annually to help women who are pursuing post-secondary and post-graduate studies. Of the \$8,000, \$5,000 goes to awards at Laurentian University, \$2,000 at Cambrian College and \$1,000 goes to a high school student who is entering university in the fall.

CFUW Sudbury held its 25th Celebrate Women event virtually on March 25, 2021. This event became even more important this year as Laurentian University is facing insolvency. All our awards at Laurentian are endowed. At this time, we do not know whether these funds have been used to pay creditors. Consequently, we needed to raise a lot of money.

To do the event virtually was a great shift for the club but the power of women working together was evident. We were able to invite friends from all over the world. People from “coast to coast to coast” in Canada, as well as from the United States, England and Australia were able to join us.

Our guest author was Mary Lawson who resides in England and the book was A Town Called Solace. Mary is originally from Canada and her books are set in Northern Ontario. This was a most appropriate choice of author for our Northern Ontario club.

Mary’s book may be purchased by members, friends or viewers. There are also book sponsorships. One may purchase a book for a library of their choice. These book purchases help us to raise funds for the CFUW Sudbury Charitable Trust.

This year, at the time of writing, CFUW Sudbury has raised almost \$9000 which is similar to what is raised at our previous in-person events.

We have received many accolades about how wonderful this virtual event was. It was very successful and I would like to nominate this event for an Ontario Council award.

## **CFUW WELLAND & DISTRICT**

### **16 Days of Activism**

Larger campaign including the lighting of the Welland Canal Bridge, display of Red Dresses, public meeting about human trafficking involving the invitations, announcements, daily social media posts.

While we have always supported CFUW National’s 16 Days of Activism campaign, this year, enthusiastically encouraged by our President, Carol Harding, we formed a committee of committed members to brainstorm how we could really make an impact and heighten awareness of violence against women and girls in our Region of Niagara. Together we formed a plan of events to cover the 16 days. To begin we sent a letter of information and our intent to each of the 4 town councils as well as media outlets in our area.

To kick off the Campaign we acknowledged the lighting of the Welland Canal Bridge in Welland in orange with media announcements and invitation to gather to watch the Bridge light up. Because of Covid, we, of course, acknowledged safety precautions and remained socially distanced and masked. Afterwards, we published photos and an explanation of this initiative. In agreement with our local Native Friendship Centre and with the permission of both Town Councils, we displayed a collection of Red Dresses in Chippewa Park in Welland and along West Street as well as in front of two churches in Port Colborne. The dresses remained on display for the duration of the 16 Day campaign and again, we published an explanation of this tribute to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Throughout the Campaign we shared CFUW’s many posters and statistics about Violence Against Women on both our website and Facebook pages.

To wrap up the Campaign, we presented an informative meeting about Human Trafficking in the Niagara Region with guest speaker, Kayla Mayer Program Lead of the anti Human

Trafficking Division of the YWCA in St Catharines. We held this speaking engagement on Zoom, invited local CFUW Clubs and the general public and were extremely pleased with the enthusiastic response. As a result, our President was contacted by a local blogging company to conduct an interview about CFUW and the important advocacy work we all do.

Our goal for this initiative was to heighten awareness of the issue of Violence Against Women in our area and we believe we accomplished our goal and look forward to building on our success next year.

## **CFUW WINDSOR**

### **Ward 7 By-Election All Candidates Meeting**

CFUW Windsor held the first virtual All Candidates meeting in Windsor/Essex on September 9, 2020. Ward 7 in Windsor had had a vacant City Council seat since the election of the former City Councillor to the Federal Parliament. The election had been scheduled for the spring of 2020 but with the advent of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the election was postponed. Once the election was rescheduled to October 2020, CFUW Windsor wanted to ensure that the issues in Ward 7 were well known and publicized and that the By-election itself received the appropriate attention given the pandemic and the postponement of the original event. In addition, CFUW Windsor has a goal to ensure that the Windsor/Essex electorate is well informed by holding candidates meetings and/or issues meetings in advance of elections.

The event was very well publicized by CFUW Windsor via social media (visit our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram sites for details), and was also picked up by local media because it was the first virtual candidates debate in the area and the only debate/meeting where all of the candidates were invited. A Press Release was issued to assist in publicizing the event. This event certainly raised CFUW Windsor's profile in the media and in Ward 7.

We had 11 of the 12 candidates participate in the meeting. The debate covered 5 topics:

- Flooding.
- Waterfront development.
- Widening Banwell Road.
- The opioid crisis
- Affordable housing.

The Zoom meeting was managed by a CFUW Windsor member, the debate was moderated by a CFUW member, and each candidate was given 2 minutes for an opening statement and 2 minutes for a closing statement, then each candidate was asked to answer 3 questions and was given 3 minutes to answer each question.

The event was well attended by both the media, and the public and was recorded and subsequently shown on a local community TV station.

Some examples of media coverage:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/ward-7-debate-windsor-byelection-virtual-1.5711356>

[https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/city-council-windsor-byelection-ward-7-candidates-debate-1.5718275?fbclid=IwAR2K7XiE0XjyG2j3K83QFeOuu\\_bw\\_2qjZbxUNMbf8VRVZU0XOqLuuO\\_WkM](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/city-council-windsor-byelection-ward-7-candidates-debate-1.5718275?fbclid=IwAR2K7XiE0XjyG2j3K83QFeOuu_bw_2qjZbxUNMbf8VRVZU0XOqLuuO_WkM)

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## HONOURABLE MENTIONS

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### **CFUW Etobicoke**

#### **CFUW Etobicoke's Stop the Violence Breakfast**

This year we went from a physical breakfast with speaker to a virtual breakfast speaker. We not only increased the number of attendees but attracted people from great distances, out of country and out of province. We raised a record \$5,518.00.

CFUW Etobicoke's Stop the Violence Breakfast has attracted an increasing number of people each year to a sitdown breakfast with speaker. The Breakfast benefits a local women and children's shelter. In this year, our seventh year, we were unable to hold a physical breakfast and went virtual. We had a record number of 186 attendees from as far away as St. John's Newfoundland, the southern US, and Northern Ontario to hear Dr. Wendy Cukier speak on gun control. We raised a record \$5,518.00 for Women's Habitat.

We have raised awareness of the needs of women and children in shelters, raised money to help support them and informed the public on the current status of gun control in Canada. An increasing number of our members continue to contribute to the shelter throughout the year through volunteerism, donations of food and clothing and money.

As usual we had the local press attend and our messages were carried to an even broader audience.

It is our hope that in the future, when a physical breakfast is once again allowed, we can provide a hybrid model of physical and virtual formats to allow us to reach as many people as possible.

### **CFUW Perth**

**Staycation Raffle.** A virtual alternative to their house tour involving gifts and gift certificates to stay in Perth.

THE PROJECT WAS INTENDED TO PARTIALLY REPLACE OUR CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR WHICH HAD TO BE CANCELLED BECAUSE OF COVID.

A RAFFLE FOR A LOCAL "STAYCATION" PACKAGE WITH GIFT CERTIFICATES AND GIFTS DONATED BY LOCAL BUSINESSES. CERTIFICATES INCLUDED ACCOMMODATION AND RESTAURANTS COVERING A WEEKEND'S STAYCATION IN BEAUTIFUL HERITAGE PERTH, valued at over \$1000.

THE EVENT WAS DESIGNED AROUND COVID TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS WHICH ENCOURAGED ONTARIANS TO STAY AT HOME.

WE RAISED \$9600, with very limited expenses of less than \$200. This was less than ¼ of what the house tour would have raised, but also involved far less time and effort to organize and manage.