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**President's Report – Lynn B.**



Spring is here. Temperatures are rising, flowers blooming and the inevitable rain is coming down making everything green and lush. It is also the point in our year where we start to wind down, thinking of summer holidays, weekends at the cottage and generally getting out and enjoying the oh, so short Canadian summer.

Last month we had a very informative program by Sandi Ramsay from Quinte Hospice. Knowing that there is such a caring facility in the Quinte region is very helpful. No one wants to think that they or a loved one will need it, but when the time comes it is a comfort that we or a loved one does not have to end life in the sterile and institutional environment of a hospital.

May is almost the end of our year but there are still a few things we need to finish up. In addition to the Ontario and National AGM's, our in-person AGM is fast approaching on

May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Grand venue. Please attend as we have much to decide and discuss.

We are also starting a strategic planning review that will continue into 2022-2023. A small group is developing a questionnaire that will be circulated to the whole club. This is your way of letting the club know what you deem important to our club so please answer when it arrives in your inbox.

Starting next year, the club will have a new executive. For myself, I will be moving on to Past President and Laura our beloved Past President will be moving on to other things in our club. I say "thank you Laura for being our mentor and always being there to graciously help, often at a moments notice".

I owe the executive a huge debt of gratitude. At the outset of our term who knew that we would become Zoom experts or expertly juggling public health concerns while trying to keep our members engaged and motivated in an exceedingly confusing and isolating time. Each member of the executive and in fact every member of this club has graciously given of their time and expertise, and we have learnt to pivot (Mary's favourite expression) with the best of them. Kudos to you all!

I would like to say that these past two years have been an adventure. I have been honoured to be your president, but I need to give special thanks to my co-president Mary for supporting, teaching and helping me every step of the way. I would like to think our club has emerged from the pandemic a stronger and more resilient club and I look forward to being part of CFUW Belleville and District for years to come.

## Vice-President of Education & Advocacy – Margaret G.

### Environmental & Education Advocacy Group

#### PLASTIC FREE JULY - Choose to Refuse Single Use Plastics



Did you know that only plastic effectively recycled?

know 2% of waste is

**“Think about it. Why would you make something that you’re going to use for a few minutes out of a material that’s basically going to last forever, and you’re just going to throw it away. What’s up with that? --Jeb Berrier, ‘Bag It’ movie**

#### We have a challenge for you for the month of July!

Choose as many **single use plastics** as you can during the month of **JULY** to refuse to use and join the Plastic Free July challenge! Even if you only choose 1, you will be helping the environment!

We encourage you to go to <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/> to watch the 1 minute 12 second video clip for ideas about how you can participate in Plastic Free July and sign up for the challenge. It is really quite simple!

Send Carol Fisher an email [carol.ann.fisher@gmail.com](mailto:carol.ann.fisher@gmail.com) by the end of June to let her know that you are interested in challenging yourself to Plastic Free July.

Here are a few good plastic free ideas to help you with the Plastic Free July challenge:

- Take a reusable mug to your favourite refreshment place
- Refuse to take a straw when offered
- Use a reusable water bottle – Refuse plastic water bottles!
- Invest in reusable produce bags - Kate's Kitchen on Front St. sells them
- Take your own reusable bags or green bins to the grocery store – some stores have already eliminated plastic bags!
- Buy a few silicone storage bags instead of using plastic bags (stasherbag.com)
- Use bar soap instead of plastic liquid dispenser soaps or buy your liquid soap from a bulk supplier and refill your glass dispensers

And most important of all, when grocery shopping **avoid** as many **products** as possible packaged in **one use plastics!** Buy local in season fruits and vegetables from a market to avoid plastic containers.

**REMEMBER even if you choose only one thing to do you will be helping the environment!**

## Past President – Laura H.

### Governance Committee

Documents finalized. Awaiting motions at AGM in order to post new versions on the website.

### Nominating Committee

Margaret G. has volunteered to be co-president with Mary E M. (Hooray!) Carol F. has stepped up to be VP Advocacy and Education (2<sup>nd</sup> Hooray!). Full slate of officers in the Annual Report.

### Zoom

125 Zoom meetings since January 2021. Well used!

### Fundscrip

\$146.75 in our 'pot'. Will request a payout before the end of our fiscal year.

May promotions:

Ultimate Dining Card 10% instead of 5%.

-- East Side Mario's, Harvey's, Kelsey's, Montana's, New York Fries, Swiss Chalet

## Corresponding Secretary – Carol S.

This is the last newsletter for the 2021-2022 CFUW year. Over the summer I will continue to send cards when needed. Please continue to advise me of significant events in the lives of the members.

**Family Concert – Debi B.**

*Special Father's Day Entertainment*  
*Lion's Pavilion, Zwick's Island*  
*Sunday, June 19, 2022*  
*Andy Forgie from 9:30 – 10:15*  
*Barefoot Players from 11:00 to 11:45*  
*from the Dan School of Drama, Queen's University*  
*Free Admission*

The pop-ups will be open at Zwicks so there will be handy places for families to find some lunch after the performance. We will be encouraging families to bring their own chairs and a donation to the food bank.

June 19th being Father's Day, I am hopeful that there will be a large number of attendees (probably completely dependent on the weather). We go ahead, rain or shine.

It would be wonderful if you could see your way to volunteering on the day of the concert. We need 2-3 people to help set up and put away chairs (just under the pavilion canopy area). We could also use 6 or so volunteers for crowd/child control and to accept the food bank donations. Please contact Debi B. Thank you so much for considering giving of your time.

**Garden Tour – Irene H. & Karen M., 2022 Co-Chairs**

It is confession time: we had a heart-stopping moment recently when one of our gardeners found she had to withdraw from the Tour on June 25. The good news is that we were able to find another gardener to step in so we will still have eight beautiful gardens to offer our guests. Then Carol S. went to work at the keyboard to revise her newly completed Tour ticket to accommodate the new gardener. Kudos and thanks to Carol for this last-minute effort.

As mentioned at the April General Meeting, the planning process for the June 25<sup>th</sup> Garden Tour is in full swing. The Sponsorship Team has brought in more than \$12,000.00, a tremendous boost to the Tour coffers. The St Thomas' Church Hall has been reserved. Publicity is underway. The Master Gardeners of Prince Edward County are booked. The tickets are printed.

If you are a fan of social media, you will want to follow us on

- Facebook @ A Town & Country Garden Tour – CFUW Belleville & District and on
- Instagram @ #gardentourbelleville.

And as per usual, we are posting on the CFUW Website:

[www.cfuwbelleville.com/gardentour](http://www.cfuwbelleville.com/gardentour).

Cathy W. and Linda C. are happy to hear from you as they are still looking for volunteers for Tour Day. Just let them know your preference for location (in a garden or in the church hall) and for time (morning or afternoon).

Soon, we will send out the electronic version of the rack card for you to share with family, friends and neighbours. Such an easy way to get the word out!

We are looking forward to the AGM on Thursday, May 19 as we will have our Tour tickets ready for you. Leona S., Shirley C., and Judith S. will be happy to provide you with as many of those handy packets of six tickets, as you need.

And still at the AGM, watch for Denise T. She will have a preview of some of the items from the Raffle Table, offering you the opportunity to purchase tickets in advance of Tour day. You can't win the item if you don't buy a ticket.

Finally, the following are excerpts from the descriptions of five of this year's featured gardens.

***Garden #1:***

Your eyes widen as you approach a garden full of vibrant colours nestled in the backyard of an established neighbourhood. An English Oak is the focus of the circular garden with multitudes of coneflowers, daylilies, hostas and grasses.

***Garden #2:***

I like to have a theme for each flower bed, such as my succulents near the walkway, my Asian vegetable garden, and my favourite at the moment - my hydrangea collection in the front yard.

***Garden #3:***

Located in Old East Hill is a garden oasis one would never expect to find in a backyard. This garden has evolved over decades and is the result of hard work and one man's passion for gardening.

***Garden #4:***

A stone walkway surrounds our home and will lead you to a shady sitting area in the back yard under the oak trees. The stones in the walkway were unearthed during the creation of the flower beds. Interestingly, many of the stones display fossils of turtles, snakes and shells.

***Garden #5:***

We started 5 years ago with a completely blank slate in Stony Lonesome. Working around a reclaimed metal arbour we installed in the middle of the front yard, it's now a perennial bed that requires a slow walk through to really enjoy – please watch your step! The 19 varieties of hardy cactus in the front have been through 2 winters! We try to use natives, or varieties of, whenever we can.

If you have not already done so, mark your calendar:

**Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 10 until 4, rain or shine.**

**Vice President of Scholarships – Kristina S.**

After allowing a one-week extension for applications we have more than we want! We will be interviewing 31 students and have 13 scholarships to disperse. There are 8 applicants for the M. Burt Memorial scholarship and they all look amazing. We are adding a fourth night to our interview schedule to accommodate this increase (17 last year).

**Speaker Committee – Michelle B. & Jo-Anne T.****Program 2022-23**

Michelle B. and Jo-Anne T. will be planning program for next year. If you have any suggestions/connections for speakers or program ideas, please email us at:

**Website – Jane T.**

The website, Facebook page, and Instagram page have continued to keep members informed of our club happenings. Please send in write ups and/or photos of committee and interest group events.

Watch for the new Garden Tour page on Instagram. You can find it at #gardentourbelleville . The garden tour Facebook page can be found at A Town & Country Garden Tour - CFUW Belleville.

Please use my email address when sending items to me.

**Interest Groups – Jane B.****Table Hoppers - Mary M.**

This month we are lunching on Wednesday May 25th at 12:30 p.m. at O'Connor House, 369 Main Street in Deseronto. Members who have been there before will remember all the amazing tea items as well as the decadent desserts. For those who would like to carpool we will meet at 12 noon at the Bayview Mall at the Dundas St. end near Tim Horton's. Please let me know by Tuesday May 24th if you plan to attend and whether you will be carpooling, by emailing or calling me.