

CFUW SOUTHPORT MAY 1st, 2025, NEWSLETTER

Check out CFUW Southport website: cfuwsouthport.ca

E-transfers go to: cfuw.southport.members@gmail.com

CFUW Southport email is: cfuwsp@gmail.com

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61554990364520&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Instagram page:

https://www.instagram.com/cfuw_southport/profilecard/?igsh=MTk5ZG44cHBqemVjbA==

MAY CALENDAR

May 1	7:00 pm	Housing for All – Port Elgin United Church (Frances Barrick)
May 2	1:30 pm	First Editions Book Club (Shelleen Nelson)
	1:30 pm	Knitting Club (Suzanne Steed & Judy Moir)
May 5 th		Red Dress Day
	1:30 pm	Bookmarks Book Club (Catherine Taylor)
	1:30 pm	SKOOB Book Club (Pat Sanagan)
	7:00 pm	Between the Lines Book Club (Judy Moir)
May 6 th	7:00 pm	Euchre (Brenda-Greenwood-Vernem)
May 7 th	7:00 pm	Advocacy Committee Meeting (Judy Moir)
May 8 th	5:30 pm	Cooking Club (Kathleen Wallace)
May 10 th	5:30 pm	Dinner Club (Liz Owen & Suzie Leith)
May 11 th		MOTHER'S DAY
May 14 th	6:30 pm	Open Meeting – Screening of WOMAN film (more information below)
May 17 th		International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
May 19 th	7:00 pm	Zoomers Book Club (Mary Jane Moreau)
May 20 th	1:00 pm	Euchre (Michelle Jardin & Heather Conlin)
May 21 st	7:00 pm	Circle of Readers Book Club (Michelle Jardin)
May 22 nd	7:00 pm	CFUW Executive Meeting
May 24 th		CFUW Ontario Council AGM
May 31 st		Jill of All Trades Day

Note: May is also a month in which Asian, Jewish, Polish and Dutch heritage is celebrated.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was working on a Media Release about our **May 14th Open Meeting** this morning, and while doing a little research, I realized how much we have to celebrate in the month of May. Our expert proofreaders, Catharine Crawford and Colleen Morgenroth haven't even seen this message, but I wanted to include this information, in case you do not see the Media Release about our next meeting in the next week.

TODAY, **May 1st** is **May Day** rooted in ancient Norse mythology and marking the beginning of summer. While we may not have a Maypole to dance around, we are all happy to see the trees budding and the flowers blooming, knowing beach weather is coming soon.

May 1st is also **International Workers' Day** founded in the late 19th century to celebrate worker's rights, social justice, equity and democracy – all significant areas of advocacy for women.

May 5th is **Red Dress Day**, the **National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people (MMIWG2S)**. We honour the memories of Indigenous sisters from across Canada and from our own neighbours in the Saugeen Ojibway Nation who are relatives of missing grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunties, daughters. (More about this further down in the Newsletter.) I will be hanging a red dress in my front window (right next to my Canadian Flag and my Habs Jersey).

May 11th is **Mother's Day**. While not all women are mothers by giving birth, we all have or had mothers, and we have friends, relatives and neighbours who are mothers. Other people in our community also fulfill the role of mothers, including grandmothers, aunts, mothers, sisters, teachers and caregivers. Mother-figures come from diverse backgrounds, talents, skills and character traits, but they share one thing in common: caring about others! I want to wish each and every one of you a **Happy Mother's Day!**

May 19th is **Victoria Day** a Canadian public holiday celebrated on the last Monday preceding May 25 annually to honour **Queen Victoria** who is known as the "**Mother of Confederation**". (Her birthday was on May 24th.) This national holiday is often regarded as the official start of summer.

Mother Earth has not been forgotten as she really blooms in the month of May too. Saugeen Shores is fortunate to have several wonderful environmental programs. Perhaps there one you don't know about yet? You can read about many of them by clicking on the [Annual Environmental Calendar](#). Through April and May, many community volunteers help with community cleanups, and I know many CFUW Members were involved. Thank you for that important contribution to keeping our community clean and beautiful!

Our scheduled guest speaker has had to reschedule for **May 14th Meeting**, which was to be open to the public. We're pretty good at pivoting by now, so CFUW Southport is going to recognize our **Members** and **all women in our community** by screening a movie. **'WOMAN'** is a beautiful award-winning film by Ukrainian-born director Anastasia Mikova and UNESCO acclaimed photographer Yan Arthus-Bertrand that gives voice to 2000 women from 50 different countries. Several of our Members had a chance to see this movie in March and thought we could purchase the rights to allow other Members to see it too. You are welcome to bring a friend or neighbour too. We will start early – at **6:30 pm sharp**. Please be on time. The business meeting will be very short so watch for other notices with the Agenda to come.

April 9th RESOLUTIONS – A BIG SUCCESS!

Our Advocacy Committee, chaired by **Judy Moir**, did an excellent job of presenting the National and Ontario resolutions. Our members commented on how much they learned and valued the work of our Advocacy Team. CFUW Southport voted to support all the resolutions as written. These resolutions will now be subjected to a vote at the respective AGMs. **A big thank you to Advocacy for the great work!**

Kathryn Forsythe shared the following resources related to Resolution #5 about meeting Canada's commitment to the Paris Agreement (2015) on climate change, and the need to phase out fossil fuel use and extraction to get to Net Zero Emissions by 2050. Click on the blue title links for more information:

[Climate Change and Health](#)

This section of the Grey Bruce Public Health website focuses on the health hazards of climate change and the populations most likely to be impacted by them.

[Connecting for Climate Change Action – Geography – Western University](#)

This course is FREE to take online. Next session will run Sept- Dec. 8 modules, 12 weeks, 2-3 hours /week commitment.

“Connecting for Climate Change Action is a course that uses a storytelling approach to bring Western and Indigenous Sciences together to educate, encourage discussions, and motivate action on climate change. This innovative, experiential, online learning opportunity engages and stimulates learners to action to mitigate climate change.”

[Home – CAPE](#) Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) “Working to better human health by protecting the planet.”

Sign the petition to support Bill C- 372 to end fossil fuel advertising here: [Demand a ban on fossil fuel advertising – CAPE](#)

RED DRESS DAY: May 5th

May 5, 2025, marks the 15th anniversary of the **National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls** (and 2SLGBTQIA+ People), also known as **Red Dress Day**. This day serves as a powerful reminder of the need to recognize and address the violence still faced by many in Canada.

Sadly, CFUW Southport remembers two young women, Maisy Odjick and Shannon Alexander, both with strong ties to Saugeen First Nation #29. These young women, aged 16 and 17, went missing on September 6th, 2008. No trace of them has ever been found.

To learn more click on [Red Dress Day](#), and consider displaying a red dress in your window or on a tree or use other ways to raise awareness of this ongoing issue.



Changes in Canadian, US and Pakistani Governments Spell More Tragedy for Afghan Women



Young women & girls wait in Pakistan refugee camp

In a recent newsletter, I wrote about member Laura Robinson's receipt of the King Charles III Medal for her work in helping to get Afghan women out of Afghanistan. In mid-April, I attended the formal presentation of that medal at a fund-raising dinner hosted by CFUW East York/Leaside for the Afghanistan charity **Right to Learn**. The charity, formerly known as Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CWFWA), began in 1998 after the Taliban had taken over and made women their first target. Shortly thereafter, CFUW Ottawa started their own CWFWA Interest Group following Sally Armstrong's revelations of the plight of Afghan Women. Many Clubs in Canada followed suit

including CFUW Southport, and while we usually don't raise funds for projects other than scholarship, the group did raise money to fund a teacher's salary. The Taliban were ousted in 2001 but made a strong comeback over the following 20 years. Women have borne the brunt of their policies. Many CFUW clubs continue to support Afghani women in particular danger, including parliamentarians, lawyers, doctors and journalists, via international organizations for those professions.

How Laura became involved:

In 2018, Laura received a call from Senator Mary Lou McPhedran (a CFUW Winnipeg member) asking for help to get women soccer players out. (Laura has many connections with international sports organizations including FIFA.) Over the next few years, this dynamic duo worked tirelessly to access routes for women to leave the country. Middle of the night phone calls from terrified mothers were routine, and horrifying emails of the torture and killings of innocent women were part of daily life.



Laura's medal represented the time and energy she has given over the years along with other CFUW Southport members and clubs across the country, as they worked to get homes ready for Afghan women. Several of these women, both refugee and hosts, were present at CFUW East York/Leaside meeting in mid-April for the presentation. We heard from the Afghan women about the amazing things they have done in Canada, meeting their educational goals and taking on new initiatives in the law and medicine. We also met spouses, children and the babies who are now Canadian citizens by right of birth. However, there were many

tears as they spoke about the people left behind. The Taliban's misogynistic policies persist, now requiring women to hang blackout curtains at ground-level windows, and these women fear for the lives of their families. As well, families who have gotten out to Pakistan, and have documentation to come (*continued*)

to Canada, wait for their call, but populist movements dim their prospects. Since November, Pakistan has ruled that all Afghanis must go back to Afghanistan, even those with this documentation. (See AP report April 15, 2025 [HERE](#).) The US is ending USAID scholarships for Afghan women studying abroad in June. They were promised to be in place till 2028. Even in Canada, 19 Afghan refugees were recently sent back to Afghanistan because they had failed in some regard to meet conditions. Richard Bennett, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Afghanistan, has urged Canada to grant refugee status to all female Afghan asylum seekers, citing the dangerous and oppressive conditions for women under the Taliban. (See full report from Raffy Boudjikianian, CBC [HERE](#).)

It is the role of CFUW National to advocate to the federal government, but we will inquire as to whether CFUW Southport can be involved in letter writing too. A former Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan, David Sproule, when asked about the value of letter-writing campaigns, reiterated their power, stating that CFUW and the Right to Learn Afghanistan group are well known in Ottawa as key organizations supporting these women.

PLANNING FOR 2025-2026

We have several amazing members who are stepping up to lead or participate on the Executive (New Leadership Team) or on committees for 2025-2026. We are still actively looking for a few members to participate as members of a Leadership Team and/or on various committees. **New ideas welcomed!** Duties can be shared, so if you have travel plans, you can still take a leadership role. Please consider stepping up and contact Odette at CFUWsp@gmail.com for a chat about what it's all about. No commitment required!

MAY 14 MEETING – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The beautiful film **WOMAN** is a worldwide project giving voice to 2000 Women across 50 different countries. Despite its very large scale, the film offers an intimate portrait of those who constitute half of humanity, touching all viewers.

Ukrainian-born director Anastasia Mikova's work focuses on social and humanist topics. In 2009, Anastasia became editor-in-chief of the series of documentaries Earth from Above, which marked the start of her collaboration with director Yann Arthus-Bertrand, a French photographer, journalist, reporter and environmentalist. He is the President of the Good Planet Foundation. In 1994 he began a study on the state of the Earth sponsored by UNESCO. The collaboration between these two very accomplished artists has resulted in an unforgettable film.

This is CFUW Southport's gift to our members and all women in our community. Bring your neighbours and friends to enjoy this together on May 14th.

Note: **This meeting will begin at 6:30 pm due to the length of the film.** Please bring your water bottle or coffee, etc.



SAVE THE DATE: AGM & YEAR-END CELEBRATION JUNE 11th

Walker House: Meet & Greet 5:30 pm Dinner served 6:30pm

Menu Options:

1. Roast Beef, mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetables
2. Chicken Supreme, white wine cream sauce, mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetables
3. Vegetable Stir Fry with shrimp or tofu

Dessert

\$40.00 All inclusive

Final date to order: JUNE 3rd

Please indicate your menu choice in the memo section of your e-transfer or on back of your cheque.

E-transfer to: cfuw.southport.members@gmail.com

Cheques to: **CFUW Southport**, mailed or delivered to
Bonnie Armstrong 2 Hilly Lane, Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C6

SCHOLARSHIPS

Information regarding scholarships for High School students graduating from St. Mary's High School (Owen Sound) and Saugeen District Senior School, including scholarships designated for Indigenous Students and a student who is or has been in the care of Bruce Grey Child and Family Services, and information about the Mature Woman Scholarship has been communicated to the schools and related agencies. It is also on our cfuwsouthport.ca website.

In May, our Scholarship Committee will formally launch our newest scholarship: **Woman In Trades** just in time for **Jill of All Trades Day** on **May 31st**. Watch for a Media Release later this month.

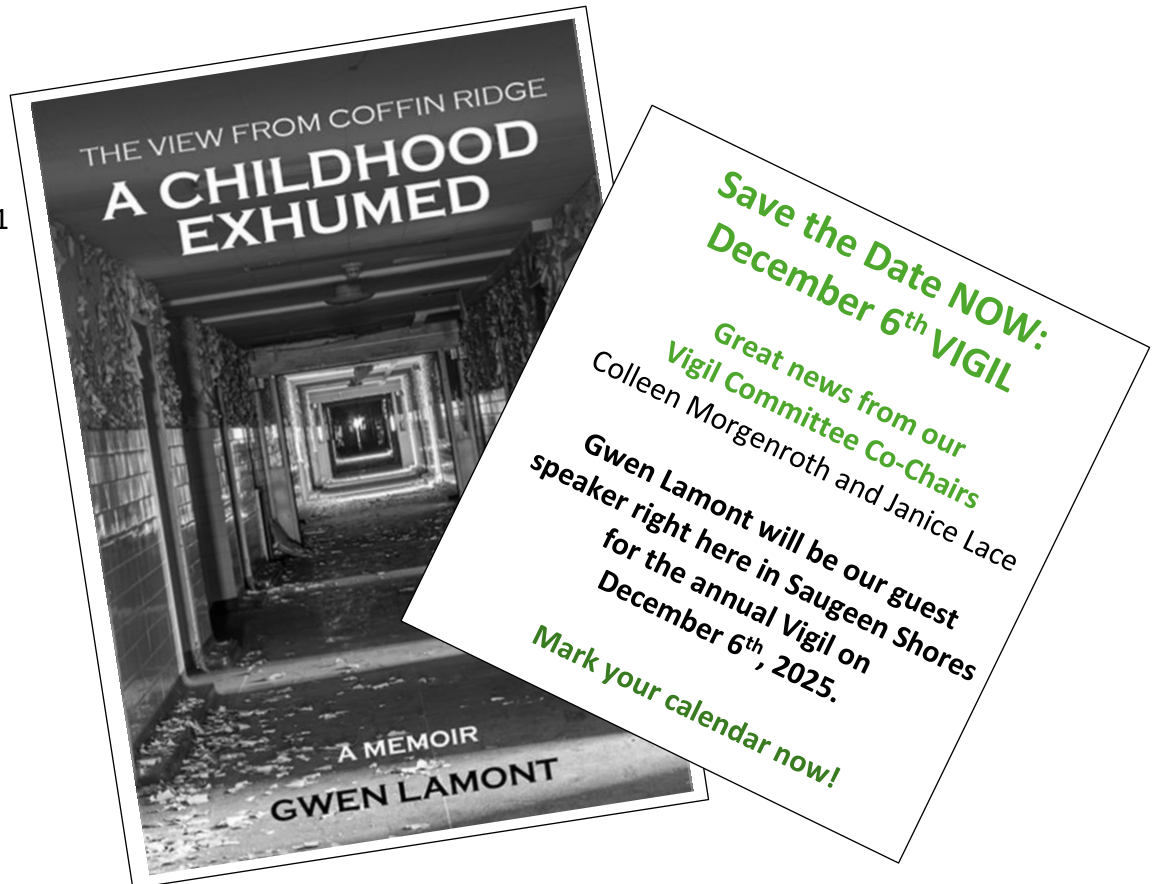
BERNIE'S BOAT

At our April meeting, member **Sherryl Petrecivic** spoke about Bernie's Boat, a dragon boat for breast cancer survivors, now home in Southampton harbour. Groundbreaking research by Dr. Don McKenzie demonstrates the benefits of dragon boating and Bernie's Boat brings this empowering and supportive activity to Saugeen Shores for women in Grey Bruce. Several CFUW Southport members who are breast cancer survivors have joined the crew! Bernie's Boat operates entirely on volunteer contributions and is managed by its members. Being a non-profit organization, they depend on donations, sponsorships, and fundraising to sustain activities. After Sherryl's presentation, some of our members indicated a wish to contribute to support Bernie's Boat. In response, **CFUW Southport Executive** decided to support this initiative: **CFUW Southport will match donations from our members up to a maximum of \$1000.00.** If you wish to donate, please bring a cheque or cash to **Dee Schilling** at our **June 11th** Meeting, or e-transfer to cfuw.southport.members@gmail.com clearly marked 'Bernie's Boat'. For more information click on [Bernie's Boat.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER 6TH, 2025 VIGIL

Some CFUW Members travelled to Coffin Ridge last fall to participate in the launch of Gwen Lamont's book "The View from Coffin Ridge: A Childhood Exhumed". In less than a year, it's in its 7th printing and over 800 people have attended launches. Gwen has several other dates coming up soon if you want to travel. The link to purchase tickets: <https://www.coffinridge.ca/collections/featured-events/products/book-launch-the-view-from-coffin-ridge-a-childhood-exhumed>

- Ottawa May 7
- Arnprior May 9
- St. Mary's May 21
- London May 22
- Peterborough June 11



SPONSORSHIP IN OUR NEWSLETTERS for 2025-2026

This year we piloted a new sponsorship program and included advertising from four of our own members in our newsletter for all issues. In return, each of these businesswomen contributed a fee for inclusion. We are now ready to offer sponsorship for 2025-2026 to all CFUW Southport members who wish to advertise a business. However, we have decided to reduce it to business card size ads for \$200.00 for ten issues. If you wish to participate, please contact Dee Schilling as soon as possible. Dee will issue receipts for business expenses too. We are already planning for 2025-2026.

*Thank you to our wonderful sponsors
for 2024-2025!*

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT CFUW SOUTHPORT



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