



cfuw Realizing potential.
For all women.

CFUW SOUTHPORT JUNE 1st, 2025, NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

JUNE CALENDAR

June 2nd	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)
June 3rd	7:00 pm	Euchre (Brenda Greenwood-Vernem)
June 4th	7:00 pm	Advocacy Committee Meeting (Judy Moir)
June 6th	1:30 pm	First Editions Book Club (Shelleen Nelson)
June 9th	9:30 am	Scholarship Committee Meeting (Cheryl Grace & Lynne James)
	6:30 pm	CFUW Women in Trades Scholarship Presentation to Council (PLEX)
June 11th	5:30 pm	CFUW Southport AGM / End of Year Celebration Walker House
June 13th	10:00 am	Rovers: Among the Peonies Trip (See more below)
June 14th	5:30 pm	Dinner Club (Liz Owen & Suzie Leith)
June 15th		Father's Day
June 16th	7:00 pm	Zoomers Book Club (Mary Jane Moreau)
June 17th	1:00 pm	Euchre (Michelle Jardin & Heather Conlin)
June 18th	7:00 pm	Playing with Pages Book Club (Brenda Greenwood-Vernem)
June 21st		National Indigenous People Day
June 26th	6:00 pm	St. Mary's Catholic High School Graduation – Scholarship Presentation

ONTARIO COUNCIL AGM: MAY 24TH – WOMEN LEADING CHANGE

Ontario Council includes 4,675 members in 48 clubs ranging from 12 members to over 500 members (Ottawa). Clearly, “size doesn’t matter”, given the many accomplishments of clubs. While OC saw a decrease in membership since Covid, we are up 4% this year and 3% in the previous year. CFUW Southport was recognized with an award for increasing our membership (see below). 14 anniversaries, including Ottawa at 115 years, Hamilton at 100 years, and CFUW Southport at 35 years were recognized.

The two Ontario resolutions presented by our Advocacy Committee on April 9th, [Funding Post Secondary Education](#) (CFUW Orillia) and [Establishing a Seniors Advocate for Ontario](#) (Owen Sound with input from our own Suzanne Steed) were adopted. Click on the titles in blue to learn more.

AWARDS

CFUW Southport was recognized with **two awards**:

1. Achieving our **35th Anniversary**. (We celebrated in September 2024.)
2. Increasing our membership by more than 10%.

Congratulations to all those who shared in these achievements. We are growing together!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Thank you" is simply inadequate to express the gratitude I feel for being honoured to be President of CFUW Southport for the past three years! I wonder daily if we have realized what the founders envisioned in 1989. I am in awe of the many women who have stepped up to formal and informal roles over the past 35 years, and I feel very fortunate to have worked with incredible women who embrace life-long learning and who continue to advocate for gender equality and the rights of women and girls. I am inspired by the wonderful women who are members of this club, and especially thankful to those who lead or facilitate groups and activities which have distinguished CFUW Southport. Together, these incredible women have accomplished so much over the past three years, including

- Celebrating the 35th Anniversary of CFUW Southport attended by Ontario Council President Sandra Shaw, Regional Director Elisabeth Sachs, and Mayor Luke Charbonneau;
- Growing Membership by 45 new members in three years to 113 now!
 - 2022-2023: 94 including 13 new members
 - 2023-2024: 101 including 14 new members
 - 2024-2025: 113 including 18 new members
- Raising the profile of CFUW Southport locally by hosting community events such as the Saugeen Shores Environmental Symposium (for which we received the Ontario Council Carolyn Day Environmental Award in 2023), two All Candidates Meetings, participation in a Habitat for Humanity, the Coldest Night of the Year, and the Huron Shores Run;
- Establishing several new interest groups including Cooking Club, Afternoon and Evening Euchre Clubs, a seventh book club, and most recently, a knitting club;
- Hosting our 34th Annual Vigil on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, resulting in donations of \$700.00 annually to each of 3 women's shelters since 2022;
- Saugeen Shores Council has declared that IPV is an epidemic;
- Successfully nominated two Indigenous Women – Huron-Bruce Remarkable Citizen Award (Lori Kewaquom) and Grey-Bruce Women of Distinction Award (Shirley John);
- Establishing Caring Benches in Port Elgin and Southampton (special thanks to Pat Dobec);
- Providing Annual Scholarships, including a new Scholarship for **Women in Trades** (see more below)
- Supporting our local Food Banks through book sales, raffles and individual member donations;
- Updating Bylaws and SOPPs to 2024 and 2025;
- Updating our website and introducing social media with re-branding completed.



In various ways, each of you have had a part in these accomplishments. I'm sure I've forgotten other notable achievements over the past three years, and I would appreciate you letting me know what I have missed. I am confident that the new **Leadership Team** (see page 6) stepping up for 2025-2026 and beyond will contribute new ideas and strengthen CFUW Southport so we have many successful years ahead. Some of us will be around to celebrate 70 years before you know it!

Most of all, I've learned so much about the importance of having women around me, a gift that will certainly add life to my years and years to my life. My sincere thanks to those who came before, to those who will come after, and to every member of CFUW Southport for placing your trust in me for the past three years!

Kindest regards!

Odette

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Thank you to **Judy Moir** who chaired the Advocacy Committee this year. We've gained some new members and there's always interesting topics to talk about. At our May meeting, the Advocacy Committee discussed the election of our local Candidate, Ben Lobb, Conservative Member of Parliament. Although we are a non-partisan organization, we believe it is important to have our MP advocate on our behalf on the issues important to Huron-Bruce, and particularly those that are fundamental to CFUW Southport. The Advocacy Committee recommended to our Executive that a letter of congratulations be sent to Mr. Lobb, including specific mention of **seniors, women and gender-diverse individuals**. That letter was sent on May 13th, the day when the Government appointed cabinet, including **Ms. Rechie Valdez, Minister of Women and Gender Equality**, and **Stephanie McLean, Minister of Seniors**. To read the letter, [here](#).

Good News: While Judy is moving on to the Leadership Team, we are very fortunate to have **Suzanne Steed** and **Samantha Trembley** stepping up to Co-Chair the Advocacy Committee in 2025-2026.

DID YOU KNOW?

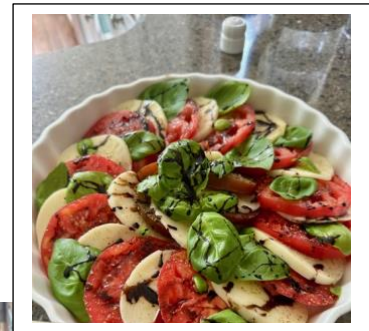
According to a study from the National Institute on Aging, during the next 5 years one quarter of Canada's population will be over 65. According to the Material Deprivation Index, 1 in 5 Canadians 50+ likely have a poverty-level standard of living. Canadian women 50+ are at 25% greater risk of experiencing poverty. Read more [here](#). (Thanks to Suzanne Steed for providing this information.)

On May 13th, Prime Minister Mark Carney appointed a new **Secretary of State for Seniors, Stephanie McLean**. Secretaries of State are not in Cabinet and do not attend cabinet meetings. They are "junior ministers" within larger ministries. McLean served as an NDP MLA in the Alberta Legislature with responsibility for the status of women with Premier Rachel Notley from 2015 to 2019. McLean was pregnant when appointed to cabinet which sparked great discussion about supports for women while serving in the legislature. Ms. McLean then moved to Colwood, British Columbia where she practices law, first running her own firm specializing in family and criminal law and later working for a firm specializing in workplace law for first responders and trades/construction clients. Ms. McLean ran as a Liberal candidate in the 2025 federal election and was elected by nearly 50% of voters. Hopefully her experience will enable her to address the needs of seniors and highlight issues of importance to us all. Read more [here](#).

DINNER CLUB

Dinner Club has been enjoying each other's company and feasting together since CFUW Southport's early days, about 30 years. Thank you to **Suzie Leith** and **Liz Owen** who stepped up to organize this year's "dinners". The May 10th Dinner Club "Brunch" at Suzie Leith's was the kind of gathering that makes you wonder why we don't do brunch more often. The vibe was effortlessly casual - good people, good food, and just the right amount of sunshine. Everyone brought their A-game to the table (literally). The smoked salmon disappeared almost immediately, the hash brown casserole had people sneaking back for thirds, and the fruit salad added just the right pop of freshness. Special mention to the caprese salad for bringing some classy Mediterranean flair - and let's not forget the bacon, which was finished in no time. And the coffee cake? It somehow managed to be both breakfast and dessert. We kept it simple with mimosas and plenty of coffee - essential brunch fuel. But the real highlight wasn't on the table; it was on the deck. Sunshine, coffee in hand, chatting with friends while soaking in the view - it doesn't get much better than that. In short; great food, better company, perfect weather. Brunch success achieved!

Good News: **Luz Maria Alvarez-Wilson** will step up to organize the group for 2025-2026. *(photos on page 4)*



Top Row from the left: Liz Owen, Marianne McKerlie, Doug Owen, Catherine Tolton, Suzie Leith
Bottom Row from the left: Dale Sherwood, Harland Wake, Gabrielle DiFrancesco, Michele Wake

COOKING CLUB

This new interest group initiated by **Kathleen Wallace** has been a resounding success! The “Springtime in Italy” session at **Michele Wake’s** home, hosted by **Sherryl Petricevic** who invited a **Guest Chef, Adele Newton**. An Italian-themed menu included an Aperol Spritz cocktail, prosciutto wrapped asparagus and stuffed mushroom appetizers, wine braised chicken with artichoke hearts, and rosemary roasted potatoes. In Italian style the meal was followed by two salads: fennel, orange and black olives, and arugula, parmesan and lemon. Dessert was a warm olive oil cake with ice cream. Adele instructed a dozen sous chefs to prepare the feast. We all plan to repeat this meal! Special thanks to Adele, Michele and Sherryl.



Left Photo: L-R: Adele Newton, Master Chef, Nina Andic (behind the post), Odette Bartnick, Lin Johnson, Michele Wake. **Right Photo:** L-R: Catherine Tolton, Brenda Greenwood-Vernem, Margot Gascon, Lin Johnson, Sherryl Petricevic, Odette Bartnicki, Nina Andic, Michele Wake, Suzie Leith, Marianne McKerlie, Adele Newton, Lesley Anderson, Lynne James.

RSVP: 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 RSVP: JUNE 3

Don't even think about it if you miss this date – there's been five reminders already!

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

If the Postal Strike is ongoing, please deliver directly to Bonnie or e-transfer – not by mail!

ROVERS

Dee Schilling is planning for interested members to go to **Ginkgo Footprints 11th Annual Festival – Among the Peonies** on **Friday, June 13th**. Carpooling from the Museum is planned. See 350+ varieties of peonies and thousands of other beautiful plants, presenters and artisan vendors. Cost is by donation (\$5.00 suggested). Contact Dee if interested. For more information Click on <https://www.ginkgofootprints.com/special-events>.



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FOOD BANK DONATION – FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS



Following Pat Sanagan's email request to members, ten bags of feminine hygiene products and food for student lunches was quickly donated and delivered to Saugeen Food Bank. Co-ordinator Erin Kewaquom and Food Bank Support Matt Ritchie are working hard to keep the shelves filled. Please note: if you plan to donate fresh food, please call Erin at (519)797-2781 or message her on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064830365108> or check their monthly calendars. Miigwech!

BERNIE'S BOAT – Good News – CRA Receipts will be provided for donors

Bernie's Boat, a dragon boat for breast cancer survivors, is now home in Southampton harbour. 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.

As announced in the May Newsletter and at our May 14th Meeting, **CFUW Southport** will support this initiative: **CFUW Southport will match donations from our members up to a maximum of \$1000.00. in CFUW Southport funds.** If you still 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](#). A tax receipt will be sent to you.

SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR 2025-2026

There are not adequate words to thank all members, especially those who have taken on positions on the Executive or as chairs or facilitators of various committees and interest groups. CFUW Southport would not be the successful organization it is without you! Some of you are stepping away for a bit while others are stepping up. This is necessary to evolve and remain current and attractive to all members.

For the first time in 2025-2026 we're implementing a new **Leadership Team** model (instead of the usual president, vice president, past president). This model allows for greater flexibility for those who may also want to travel, etc.

We will be voting to approve those stepping up on June 11th at our AGM and Year-Eng Meeting.

I'm pleased to announce the following slate of leadership for 2025 – 2026:

Executive Officers:

Leadership Team:	Judy Moir	Kathleen Wallace	Still to be confirmed	Odette
Bartnicki				
Treasurer:	Dee Schilling			
Secretary:	Lynn Sanders			
Membership Chair:	Lesley Anderson			
Ad Hoc:	Judy Azzopardi			

Standing Committees:

Advocacy Committee:	Suzanne Steed	Samanthan Trembley
Archives:	Stephanie Campbell	
Caring Committee:	Jane Pritchard-Bowers	
Program Committee:	Catherine Taylor	Debbie Doherty
Scholarship Committee:	Cheryl Grace	Lynne James
Vigil Committee:	Colleen Morgenroth	Janice Lace

Communications:	Lynn Sanders (Communications Coordinator)		
Minutes:	Pat Sanagan	Jane Pritchard-Bowers	Marcia Hesse
Social Media:	Kathleen Wallace	Natalina Campagnolo	
Newsletter:	Odette Bartnicki		
Media Release:	Odette Bartnicki		
Website:	Pat Sanagan		

Interest Groups:

Cooking Club Facilitator:	Kathleen Wallace
Dinner Club Facilitator:	Luz Maria Alvarez-Wilson
Rovers Facilitators:	Dee Schilling
Euchre (Afternoon):	Michelle Jardin Heather Conlin
Euchre (Evening):	Brenda Greenwood-Vernem
Knitting Club:	Suzanne Steed

Book Clubs:

Between the Lines:	Judy Moir	(First Monday monthly 7:00 pm)
Bookmarks:	Catherine Taylor	(First Monday monthly 1:30 pm)
Circle of Readers:	Michelle Jardin	(Third Wednesday, alternate months beginning Jan, 7:00 pm)
First Editions:	Shelleen Nelson	(First Friday monthly, 1:30 pm)
Playing with Pages:	Brenda Greenwood-Vernem	(Third Wed. alternate months beginning Feb., 7:00 pm)
SKOOB:	Pat Sanagan	(First Monday monthly 1:30 pm)
Zoomers:	Mary Jane Moreau	(Third Monday monthly 7:00 pm via Zoom)

I apologize if I have missed you on this list, and I am aware of many others who sit on committees and have huge impact.

Thank you for all you do for CFUW Southport!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee sent a delegation to visit the **SPARKS Training Centre** to learn about skilled trades programs offered there. We were impressed with the program and the students we met. Sparks has provided trades education over the past two years to a diverse range of participants at no cost. This enables many to experience the trades who otherwise could not afford to attend post-secondary trades education programs, such as those offered by many colleges. The program is open to people of all ages. Currently, Sparks offers welding and electrical courses leading to basic certifications. Instructors (all volunteers) and members of trades unions such as the Boilermakers from across Canada have visited the Sparks program, often assisting participants to take next steps. More than two dozen Sparks participants have gone on to achieve skilled trades qualifications and well-paid jobs so far, and many of them are young women. Well-qualified and experienced instructors mentor students by facilitating job connections and providing ongoing supports. Sparks has been supported by generous donations of space, equipment, materials and other components, including funding from the Town. Unfortunately, ongoing funding is a huge challenge, despite the success of the program, and the need for Skilled Trades works in our area. The CFUW Southport delegation thinks Sparks is one of Saugeen Shores best-kept secrets. Click here to read more about [Sparks](#).



R-L: Odette, two young men who immigrated from Ethiopia, Lynne James, Jane Kramer, Jane Pritchard-Bowers, Cheryl Grace



Four of the local young women currently taking welding and electrical courses at Sparks.

The Scholarship Committee formally launched our newest scholarship: **Women in Trades** with a general media release on May 21st. Click [here](#) to read the Media Release in Saugeen Times. Applications are accepted until **June 30th** and the Scholarship will be awarded on **September 10th**. Information is available on our website at cfuwsouthport.ca.

The Scholarship Committee will present to Council to announce the **Women in Trades Scholarship** on **June 9th**. All CFUW Southport members are invited to attend.

The **Women in Trades Scholarship** is generously supported by the following contractors:

Ryan Walker, Walker Homes

Lynne James Interiors By Design

Elsian Melsi Hoxha, Shorebound Contracting

Thank you !

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors for 2024-2025!



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