



## CFUW SOUTHPORT JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, NEWSLETTER

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### JANUARY CALENDAR

|            |            |                                   |                                     |
|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| January 1  |            | New Year's Day 2026               |                                     |
| January 2  | 1:30 pm    | First Editions Book Club          | (Shelleen Nelson)                   |
|            |            | Bookmarks Book Club               | (Catherine Taylor)                  |
| January 5  | 1:30 pm    | Skoob Book Club                   | (Pat Sanagan)                       |
| January 7  | 7:00 pm    | Playing With Pages Book Club      | (Brenda Greenwood-Vernem)           |
|            | 7:00 pm    | Advocacy Meeting                  | (Samantha Trumbley & Suzanne Steed) |
| January 12 | 1:30 pm    | Bookmarks Book Club               | (Catherine Taylor)                  |
|            | 7:00 pm    | Between the Lines Book Club       | (Judy Moir)                         |
| January 13 | 9:30 am    | Scholarship Committee Meeting     | (Cheryl Grace)                      |
| January 14 | 12:00 noon | Lunch 'n Learn – Walker House     | (Cathy Taylor & Debbie Doherty)     |
| January 19 | 7:00 pm    | Euchre                            | (Brenda Greenwood-Vernem)           |
|            | 7:00 pm    | Zoomers Book Club                 | (Mary Jane Moreau)                  |
| January 20 | 1:00 pm    | Euchre                            | (Heather Conlin & Michelle Jardin)  |
|            | 7:00 pm    | Euchre                            | (Kathleen Wallace)                  |
| January 21 | 7:00 pm    | Circle of Readers Book Club       | (Michelle Jardin)                   |
|            | 7:00 pm    | Fair Vote Canada Presentation     | (Michele Cadotte) *See more page 7  |
| January 22 | 7:00 pm    | Executive Meeting                 |                                     |
| January 27 | 6:00 pm    | Cooking Club                      | (Kathleen Wallace)                  |
| January 28 | 7:00 pm    | Fair Vote Canada Part II via Zoom | (Michele Cadotte) *See more page 7  |
| January 29 | 1:30-3:30  | Board Games                       | (Karen Sooley) **See more page 9    |

### LEADERSHIP TEAM NEW YEARS MESSAGE

As the clock strikes midnight, people around the world welcome **Happy New Year 2026**. The New Year is not just a change in the calendar — it symbolizes new opportunities, resolutions, and fresh hopes for tomorrow. This is also a time to leave behind the worries of the past and look forward to a **bright year ahead**.

Let this be the year to embrace positivity, kindness, and meaningful goals. At the stroke of midnight (or the next morning) 2026 invites us to start anew — full of energy, gratitude, and a commitment to make every moment count. Here's to happiness, health, success, and peace in 2026.

Wishing you and all those you love, health and happiness through 2026.

The Leadership Team: *Judy Moir* *Kathleen Wallace* *Odette Bartnicki*  
Judy Moir Kathleen Wallace Odette Bartnicki

# In Memory

## Eleanor Edwards:

September 1, 1929 – December 6th, 2025 (Age 96)

Eleanor Edwards retired from a career in teaching and moved to Southampton with her husband Bill in 1982. Eleanor's interest in pioneer antiques lead her to become a key fundraiser for the Bruce County Museum. Eleanor was also a founding member of CFUW Southport. Eleanor was living independently in a retirement home in Barrie and suffered a fall that required hospitalization in Royal Victoria Hospital where she passed away. Click on [Eagleson Obituary](#) to read more.



## DECEMBER 6TH VIGIL

Feedback is unanimous: This was the most moving Vigil ever, and bonus – we were warm! Approximately 200 people attended and comments were glowing about how well-organized and meaningful the event was. Many thanks to Co-Chairs, **Colleen Morgenroth** and **Janice Lace**, and the entire Vigil Committee including **Roxy Angel**, **Wendy Carpenter**, **Carmen Stefanich**, and **Heather Conlin**. Thanks also to **Cheryl Kryzaniwsky** for her wonderful radio promos, and to **Kathleen Wallace**, **Natalina Campagnolo**, **Samantha Trumbley**, **Pat Sanagan**, **Pat Dobec** and **Sandy Primeau** for getting the messaging out to our community so well. Also, thank you to **Catherine Tolton**, our resident photographer (see link below). **Judy Moir** made us all proud by delivering opening remarks that reminded the entire audience of the need to stay vigilant and active on behalf of many women, children and LGBTQ2S people who are victimized in their own homes. The **Chantry Singers** sang a beautiful rendition of *Hallelujah*, a perfectly beautiful finale.



Guest speaker, **Gwen Lamont** (pictured left) author of *The View from Coffin Ridge: A Childhood Exhumed*, challenged all of us with a call to action, noting that various levels of government and the courts do not recognize IPV/GBV as the epidemic it is. Saugeen Shores is among 100+ of 444 Ontario municipalities that have declared IPV to be an epidemic, but legislation is stalled at provincial and federal levels. This is important to resource preventative education and supports for victims.

For 35 years, CFUW Southport is proud to raise awareness as we remember the fourteen victims of the 1989 École Polytechnique Massacre, and two young women with ties to Saugeen First Nations who went missing 17 years ago. As always, we are pleased to accept donations for the three women's shelters that support Saugeen Shores women and their families. \$2,100.00 was raised this year. Thanks to all donors for your generosity.

Read more about it by clicking on [Saugeen Times - Vigil Article by Sandy Lindsay](#).



Vigil Committee Co-Chairs:  
Colleen Morgenroth and Janice Lace

The rest of the Vigil Committee:  
Roxy Angel, Wendy Carpenter, Carmen Stefanich,  
and Heather Conlin.



Members of the audience participate by holding photos and candles while names of victims of the École Polytechnique Massacre and their bios are read aloud by Colleen Morgenroth.



The Chantry Singers sang *Hallelujah*.



Wendy Carpenter listening to Gwen Lamont, guest speaker.

To view more photographs taken by Catherine Tolton, Click on [\*\*Vigil\*\*](#).

## DECEMBER 10TH “KARAOKE CHRISTMAS” RECAP

Despite the challenging winter blast, 45 members attended the event at the Museum. We enjoyed a beautiful array of charcuteries and desserts along with the bar. The raffle of quilts made by Joanne Harris (deceased) and charcuterie boards made by Andrew Bartnicki raised \$440.00 for the Scholarship Fund. Three floral creations were raffled to members who participated in the entertainment. Who knew we had so much talent? A special thanks to the **Program Committee** and to all those who contributed to make the new format for the Holiday Celebration a resounding success!



Program Committee L-R: Kathleen Wallace, Michele Cadotte, Debbie Doherty, Kim Farrow, and Cathy Taylor. Lois Melanson absent due to new grandbaby, Cliona Ann.



Dale Sherwood samples the charcuterie selections prepared by Kathleen Wallace, Judy Moir, and Odette Bartnicki.



Bookmarks Book Club L-R: Luz Maria Alvarez-Wilson, Michele Cadotte, Suzie Leith, Catherine Taylor, Lorraine Boucher sang Vive le Vent.



Santa Babies (Program Committee) L-R: Michele Cadotte, Kim Farrow, Kathleen Wallace, Catherine Taylor, Debbie Doherty.

## More Photos from the Holiday Celebration...



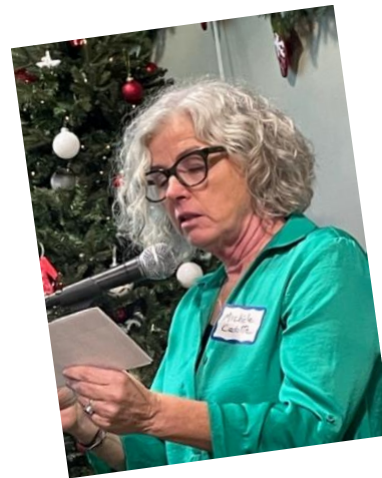
Skoob Book Club L-R: Pat Sanagan, Pat Dobec, Gloria Currie, Joan Myers, Dee Schilling, Cheryl Kryzaniwsky, Sue Johnson, Gabrielle DiFrancesco sang Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer.



Dinner Club L-R: Dale Sherwood, Suzie Leith, Luz Maria Alvarez-Wilson, Catherine Tolton, Lin Johnson, Michele Wake, Lorraine Boucher, Gabrielle DiFrancesco sang God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.



Playing with Pages Book Club L-R: Brenda Greenwood-Vernem, Lesley Anderson, Kathleen Wallace (behind), Michele Wake, Judy Azzopardi, Catharine Crawford, Debbie Doherty, Odette Bartnicki sang Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree.



Michele Cadotte organized and facilitated the musical portions with portions with "Karaoke" – Thanks Michele!

Comedy Acts: Dar Rath



Heather Conlin, Dee Schilling and Murda Schmidt



## More Photos from the Holiday Celebration...



Skit by the Emerald Elves (L-R) Luz Maria Alvarez-Wilson as Santa, Jane Pritchard-Bowers as Rudolf, Pat Dobec as the Elf, and Jane Krammer as the naughty lady who told a waitress "Not to drown the booze" at lunch. Cheryl Grace as Mrs. Santa (below).



Catherine Tolton admitted to falling in love and spoiling Coco.



Odette Bartnicki was accused of excess verbiage in club newsletters. Go figure! Pat Dobec, for you this newsletter ends here!



Prizes include floral arrangements, Joanne Harris Quilts and Charcuterie Boards.



## JANUARY 14TH LUNCH & LEARN 12:00 pm

Our next meeting is a **Lunch & Learn at Walker House on January 14th** and will feature guest speaker **Martha Bowden**. Her topic is: **18th Century Women Writers, Fables and Resistance**.

The Menu features three choices, each for \$30.00 taxes and gratuities, assorted cookie, coffee and tea included.

Choice A: Chicken Pot Pie with Garden Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette

Choice B: Vegetarian Quiche with Garden Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette

Choice C: Small Garden Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette and Crab Cake

You must **RSVP on or before January 7th**. Click on this link: [Lunch 'n Learn January 14th Walker House](#)

Don't forget to e-transfer \$30.00 to [cfuw.southport.members@gmail.com](mailto:cfuw.southport.members@gmail.com)

If you have difficulty completing the RSVP, email Odette with your menu choice asap but **before January 6th**.

## FAIR VOTE CANADA ZOOM PRESENTATION

Following Michele Cadotte's presentation on proportional representation in Canada's electoral system on November 12th, many members expressed an interest in learning more. Michele will repeat the presentation for those who missed it via Zoom on **January 21st**. This is also open to friends, partners who may be interested. Please register to receive a Zoom link at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/HMt1o4BCRBeyEPcjYDFDzw#/registration>.

Michele has also arranged for the president of **Fair Vote Canada, Anita Nickerson**, to give a talk on the basic models of PR on **January 28th** via Zoom. Another Fair Vote presenter, **Antony Hodgson**, will share examples of how proportional representation could play out in our region. Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/xdQlq-LcSxSsaA3PMcXUgA> You will receive a confirmation link and a Zoom Link prior to the meeting. For further information, please contact Michele.

Support our members who generously support CFUW:



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**Judy Azzopardi**  
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## INTEREST GROUPS/BOOK CLUBS

### Knitting & Crochet Group

Looking for a warm and welcoming place to create, connect, and unwind - literally? Our Knitting & Crochet Group brings together stitchers of all skill levels for a good yarn and creative inspiration. Whether you're picking up needles or hooks for the first time or you've been crafting for years, you'll find encouragement, shared tips, and plenty of laughter.

We work on our own personal projects — just bring what you enjoy working with. Join us for a cozy time of stitching, friendship, and the simple joy of making something by hand. New members are always welcome! We meet the third Friday of every month at 1pm. If you're interested contact Suzanne Steed at [cfuwsp@gmail.com](mailto:cfuwsp@gmail.com)



### Dinner Club

The Dinner Group members have been busy cooking and socializing. Dian and Doug Wise, Lorraine and Gerry Boucher and Marianne McKerlie each hosted a dinner in their lovely homes. Members and their partners enjoyed delicious meals and interesting conversations.



CFUW November 22/25 Dinner Club at the Wises  
l to rt- Doug Wise, Michele Wake, Luz-Maria Alvarez-Wilson,  
Dian Wise, Chuck Wilson, Bev. White

### An opportunity featured in the Ontario Council Newsletter:

Welcome! You are invited to join the UWC North York club for their general meeting via ZOOM on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Our guest speaker will be **Maude Barlow**, author, activist, founding member and former board chair of the Council of Canadians, a citizens' advocacy organization. Her topic: **Defend the Water**. In her presentation, she will talk about Canada's water and protecting water rights.

Please register to attend. Click [here](#) for the link.



You are invited to join us for  
our next Speaker Event:

## Defend the Water

January 26th, 2026  
7:30 PM on ZOOM

Our featured speaker will be  
**Maude Barlow**, author, activist,  
founding member and former  
board chair of the Council of  
Canadians, a citizens' advocacy  
organization



### **\*\*NEW In January – Board Games**

Join our new Board Game Group! Do you enjoy playing board games? Come roll the dice with us. Whether you are a seasoned strategist or a casual player, this group is the perfect place to meet new people and learn some new games. No experience necessary. Our first gathering will be Thursday, January 29th at 1:00 pm. Contact Karen Sooley at [cfuwsp@gmail.com](mailto:cfuwsp@gmail.com) to claim your seat at the table!

### **CFUW and CARP are Partners!**

Interested in a one-year **FREE MEMBERSHIP with CARP** (Canadian Association of Retired Persons)? This is regularly \$19.95 each year and affords retirees several benefits and advocacy relative to CFUW goals.

CARP's national advocacy has contributed to major policy wins, including:

- Ending mandatory retirement
- Advancing pension income splitting
- Restoring Old Age Security eligibility to age 65
- Establishing the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board
- Fighting for stronger long-term care standards, home care, and healthcare access

By becoming a CARP member, you add your voice to a powerful movement working on many of the issues CFUW members care deeply about. Benefits include discount travel, insurance, health products and more. You will also receive regular updates on advocacy initiatives such as healthcare, financial security, aging and public policy.

If you are already a CARP member, you can automatically extend your membership with a free year too.

Read about it in the December 17th edition of the National CUW Club Action Newsletter [here](#) or register by clicking on [free membership](#).

### **From a Facebook Post – author unknown: Life is Like a Train**

Grandma used to say life is like a train ride. "You'll meet people who sit with you for miles," she'd tell me, "And people who hop on for only one stop. Some you'll wish stayed longer. Some you'll be grateful to see leave. But every single one teaches you something about the journey."

She said the train starts off full — parents holding your hand, siblings beside you, grandparents smiling from across the aisle. Everyone close. Everyone loud. Everyone a part of your world. Then time starts to move. People find their own seats. Some switch cabins. Some stay close, but not as close as before. Some wave goodbye from the window when their stop arrives. "You'll want to chase after them," Grandma said. "But trains don't go backward. They only go forward. That's how life teaches you letting go." As years pass, new faces join you — friends who feel like family, loves you never expected, little ones who climb into your lap and remind you what joy feels like again. And through it all, the train keeps moving. There are dark tunnels where you can't see anything — seasons of fear, confusion, heartbreak. But Grandma always smiled and said, "Don't panic in the dark. The track was laid long before you entered the tunnel. Just hold on... there's always light on the other side."

And she was right. Now I understand what she meant when she said the ride doesn't last forever. "One day the conductor calls your name," she whispered, "and you step off, hoping you left your seat warmer and kinder than you found it." Life really is a train ride — full of arrivals and departures, hellos and goodbyes, noise and silence, storms and sunshine. But the part Grandma loved most? "You never ride it alone," she said. "Not really. Even when the seats feel empty, love follows you down the track." When I look back at the people who shared even a small part of my ride... I realize how lucky I've been.

