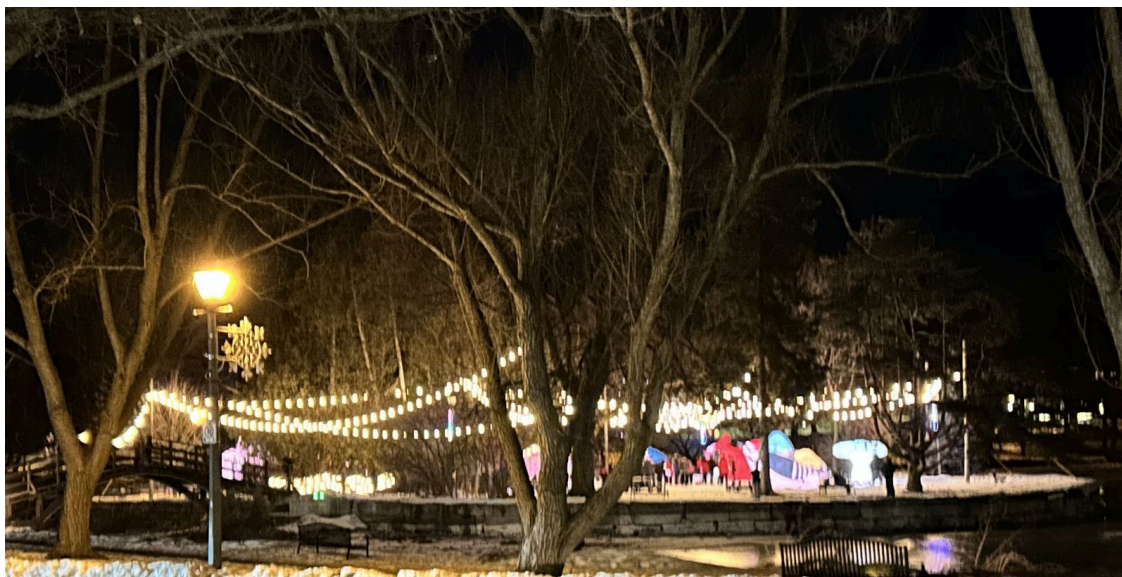


Winter 2026

CFUW STRATFORD

January Newsletter



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President's Message

Happy holidays, and happy New Year! I hope everyone survived both the festive season and this very cold and snowy winter weather.

Kicking off 2026, we are moving into a very busy time for CFUW Stratford! Between Advocacy events, fundraising, our regular general and interest group meetings and our IWD Breakfast, January through March is packed. Please mark your calendars!

On January 29th, our VAW Advocacy group will be hosting an IPV (Intimate Partner Violence) panel at City Hall auditorium. This important event will feature experts to discuss the impacts and signs of IPV, and best responses to “not be a bystander”. I encourage everyone to attend - tickets are free, and can be booked online or available at the door.

Then its time for the annual Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) walk on February 28th. Once again, Kate Welsh is our fearless team captain for this great community fundraising event – thank you so much Kate! The link to join the CFUW team and donate money is in the article below.

And on March 7th, we are hosting our fourth International Women’s Day breakfast. This year our topic is REACHING FOR THE FUTURE: The Role of Women in the Global Economy. Our speaker is a powerhouse - Maryscott “Scotty” Greenwood is an expert in cross-border trade and business relationships, and has a particular interest in supporting women entrepreneurs around the globe. Fun fact - she worked closely with Gloria Steinem on a women's leadership project which, unfortunately, never came to fruition! All of the event details and how-to-buy-tickets for CFUW members are below.

Finally, I am again awed by the generosity of this club. Throughout 2025, from the monthly donations to the gift card Christmas drive, you have generously supported women and their families at the Emily Murphy Centre as they rebuild their lives after experiencing domestic violence. A thank you letter from Lisa Wilde, the ED at Emily Murphy, closes out our newsletter.

See you on January 27th, 2026

Cambria Ravenhill
President 2025/26

CFUW Stratford's

International Women's Day Breakfast

8:30am, March 7, 2026 - Arden Park Hotel

REACHING FOR THE FUTURE: The Role of Women in the Global Economy

**Maryscott "Scotty" Greenwood**

was the Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian American Business Council for twenty-three years. Her current role is Global Head of Government Relations for Canada's Manulife Financial Corporation.

Prior to these positions, Greenwood also spent two decades in private sector consulting, including leading the U.S. federal government relations practice at Dentons US LLC, and was a Presidentially appointed U.S. diplomat, serving as Chief of Staff to the U.S. Ambassador in Ottawa. She sits on the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Art & Preservation in Embassies, the US-ASEAN Business Council, and is a Senior Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy at the University of Toronto.

Tickets

Tickets for **IWD 2026** can be purchased by CFUW Stratford members for the month of January - at last year's price of \$45 ea.

Once again, we encourage you to order a table for 8 for \$360 - each person pays only \$45. Your table will be reserved with a sign. .

Use this link to order from the club: <https://forms.gle/tQEyHEMQ1vihoppz5>

Names will be entered on the IWD guest list. No hard copy tickets will be issued. Substitutions can be made right up to March 7. Also - tickets can be donated to benefit those who cannot afford to attend.

Tickets will be available to the public in early January via Ticketscene.

Email: internationalwomensday@cfuwstratford.ca to have your questions answered.

Please get your interest group together or invite other friends. With your help, we can look forward to another successful International Women's Day!

Upcoming January Meeting 2026



Reflections on An Unexpected Career Path

Dianne Godkin, PhD, is the Director of the Regional Ethics Program at Trillium Health Partners, Mississauga. Her education includes an undergraduate degree in nursing from Western, masters and doctoral degrees in nursing from the University of Alberta and a post-graduate clinical ethics fellowship from the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics.

For the last two decades, she has worked as a healthcare ethicist and found herself navigating both long-standing and novel ethically challenging situations within the healthcare system including SARS, withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, medical assistance in dying, the COVID-19 pandemic, and expansion of artificial intelligence into bedside care. An interesting and thought-provoking evening you won't want to miss.

Our Fabulous Seasonal Celebration!



Stratford Golf and Country Club served a delicious buffet of "turkey with the trimmings" at our annual Christmas luncheon. A wonderful opportunity for the best of fellowship!



The event began with women browsing an excellent array of books, all donated by members. The sale raised \$350.00 for the scholarship fund.

After lunch we participated in our annual Christmas trivia quiz and a sharing of anecdotes about Christmas memories including memorable gifts given or received.



Wendy presents gift cards and gifts to Lisa Wilde

Because of member generosity, over \$1800.00 was donated to the Emily Murphy Centre to help them supply gifts and other necessities for residents.

Advocacy

Climate Change Action Committee



Sue Bailey presented the Idling Package, and Marlylu Moyer gave Me. Morin our updated school signs survey. We were impressed with Mr. Morin's concern about climate issues. He has asked to convene another meeting with more city representatives at the table.

We had the pleasure of meeting with Andre Morin, Stratford's new Chief Administrative Officer to introduce the structure of CFUW and our Climate Change resources and activities listed on our wenbsite. We discussed Idling at length.- especially the City provision of idling by-law signs at every school in Stratford.

We have also begun profiling our resources in Stratford Today, the daily online Stratford news source. Our first piece introduced our idling package. Thanks to Sue Bailey and Norah-Jean Perkin for authoring that piece. You can find it at <https://www.stratfordtoday.ca/local-news/stratford-group-pushes-anti-idling-campaign-in-schools-11544160>

We look forward to our next piece, on Plastic Alternatives noting the alternatives possible in the document on our website. We are also continuing to work on our Native Plant Wholesalers List, and will be planning visits to local nurseries to share the list with them for spring purchasing.

New members are always welcome, contact [Sheila Clarke](#). We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 2 PM.

Coldest Night of the Year - February 28, 2026



Once again, CFUW Stratford will be participating in this special event.

We will be walking and fundraising to support and serve people and families experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in our community.

Big thanks to **Kate Welsh** who again captains our team! Please sign up to join this hardy band of volunteers. [Join our team](#)

And please donate to support either an individual team member or the whole team. **All donations of \$20 or more are appreciated and are tax receiptable!**

Donation link here: [CNOY 2026 Fundhub Canada](#)

Indigenous Rights Learning and Advocacy Group



Winner of the **Best Canadian Feature Documentary** award at Hot Docs and the **Canadian Screen Award for Best Feature Length Documentary** in 2020.

[nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up](#)

National Film Board

Join us on January 13th 2026 at 4:00pm
Little Prince Theatre

Members and Guests Welcome

Contact Pat Reavy at patreavy43@gmail.com or 519-273-0176 to reserve your place.

Prevention of Violence Against Women

THE CITY OF STRATFORD HAS DECLARED INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AN EPIDEMIC

HOW CAN WE COMBAT THIS EPIDEMIC?
JOIN US FOR AN INSIGHTFUL, INFORMATIVE
DISCUSSION WITH A PANEL OF EXPERTS



Gwen Lamont,
Author - The View from Coffin
Ridge - A Childhood Exhumed



Constable Darren Fischer,
Stratford Police Services



Lisa Wilde,
Executive Director of
Emily Murphy Centre



Leanne Perreault,
Moderator



Alix Grice,
Lawyer and Co-Chair of
Shelterlink Board

Thursday, January 29th, 2026
in the City Hall Auditorium
at 7.00 P.M.

FREE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/ipv-panel-presentation>
OR
AT THE DOOR

PRESENTED BY



Help Stop Domestic Violence!
Don't be a bystander - Learn how to
Be part of the solution!



Intimate Partner Violence Panel Discussion

Please come to learn more and to hear
perspectives on how we can help.

Tickets are FREE

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/ipv-panel-presentation>

Interest Groups

Here's a glimpse of some of our members enjoying clubs this past month!



The Gourmet Group



The Café Book Club



Mystery Book Club Tues

Special Events

CLIMATE CHANGE

What Can We Do To Help?

Come and learn about:

**Stratford's
Community
Climate
Action Plan**

**Save On
Energy -
Efficiency
Rebates**



**Managing Our
Waste**

**All About
Electric
Vehicles**

**Things Students
Can Do**

 **Stratford City Hall Auditorium**

 **January 21, 2026**

 **7-9 p.m.**

Everyone Welcome!

Join Us for the first Climate Conversation of 2026!

Hosted by Stratford's Energy & Environment Committee

Mark Wednesday January 21st on your calendars, for the City's Energy and Environment Committee event: ***Climate Change, What Can We Do to Help.***

They are hosting a Climate Conversation at City Hall with speakers in several areas. Change starts with each of us, however small or large!

CFUW National




PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Together, CFUW and CARP can champion a more equitable, age-friendly, and inclusive Canada. We encourage every CFUW member to take advantage of this free CARP membership and add your voice to a movement creating meaningful change.

Working Together for Greater Impact, this partnership strengthens both of our organizations. CFUW members gain the power and reach of CARP's national advocacy network; CARP will proudly promote CFUW—to help us grow, expand our voice, and welcome more women

Claim Your Free CARP Membership

into our educational and advocacy mission.

1. Visit [CARP Membership](#)
2. Follow the prompts to register or renew
3. Enjoy full access to CARP's advocacy, benefits, and community for one year—free of charge

GWI

A Three-generation Commitment to Graduate Women International's Mission



GWI is proud to celebrate a remarkable story of intergenerational commitment within its global network. This year, **Dr Başak Ovacık, newly elected President of University Women of Europe (UWE)**, stands alongside both her mother and her daughter as active advocates for women's rights and education.

Her mother, **Ayşegül Yılmaz**, a retired teacher and long-standing member of the Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW), has dedicated decades to advancing opportunities for women and girls. Continuing this legacy, **Dr Ovacık's daughter Lâl**, a biologist and GWI Young Member from the Istanbul branch, represents the newest generation of leadership and engagement.

Together, they embody the spirit of GWI's advocacy passed from one generation to the next, strengthened by shared values, lifelong learning and a vision for a more equitable future.

Extra! Extra!



Support for the Emily Murphy Centre

A Second Stage Housing Facility for women and their children

Dear Friends at CFUW,

On behalf of the Emily Murphy Centre, thank you! Your donation of gift cards and money is so very appreciated and so important to our success as an agency assisting women and children as they rebuild their lives violence-free.

Three simple words define the Emily Murphy Centre— Care, Empowerment and Growth. Together, we remain committed to preventing, treating and eliminating Intimate Partner and Gender-based Violence.

The Emily Murphy Centre would not be able to do what it does without the generous support of a caring community. Thank you again for your thoughtful gifts. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone!

Sincerely,

Lisa Wilde

Executive Director – (she/her)

The Emily Murphy Centre and Supervised Access Programs

New Recycling Protocols

Here is a helpful link for members about the new Ontario guidelines.
Thanks Sheila!

<https://www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-provinces/ontario/>

Contact Information

Our website <https://cfuwstratford.ca>

General inquiries president@cfuwstratford.ca

Membership membership@cfuwstratford.ca

For inquiries to our treasurer or email transfer:

cfuwstratfordtreasurer@gmail.com

For donations to the scholarship fund:

scholarshipfundcfuwstratford@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook - CFUW Stratford: [Cfuw Stratford](#)

Newsletter submissions deadline - 25th of each

month. bgsymons@gmail.com or newsletter@cfuwstratford.ca

Newsletters you can subscribe to:

[CFUW National](#),

[Ontario Council](#)

[GWI](#)

