

Realizing potential. For all women.



The Guelph Line

January 2026

Water Street Church
287 Water Street, Guelph ON

Business Meeting

7:00 - 7:45 p.m.

Speaker & Wrap-Up

8:00 - 9:15 p.m.

General Meetings will be held in Hybrid format, both in person and on Zoom; the Zoom link will be e-mailed to members the day before each meeting.

If you are able, please come to the meeting. If you need a ride, please contact communicationscfuwguelph@gmail.com.



January General Meeting: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

(note change of Speaker)

Keriann McGoogan; Scientist, Biological Anthropologist, Author

Sisters of the Jungle – Stories of the Female Primatologists and their Work



Since the 1970s, the science of primatology has been dominated by women—a unique reversal, with men usually outnumbering women in other science, technology, engineering and math fields. McGoogan’s book, *Sisters of the Jungle*, shines a light on a scientific discipline in which women take the lead while transporting readers to the far country.

February General Meeting: Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Dr. Cindy McCann; Public Educator, GWWIC

Topic – Working with Community Partners Dealing with Human Trafficking



Dr. Cindy McMann (she/her) is a public educator with Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis. Her anti-violence work includes presentations and workshops across Guelph and Wellington County on topics such as intimate partner violence, consent and human trafficking.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's January!

As we tip our toes timidly into 2026, into what feels like an uncertain world, my wish is that all the learning and fellowship opportunities that CFUW has to offer will provide a positive and enriching year for you.

In addition to our own stellar general meeting guest speakers, there are guest speakers arranged by CFUW National, Ontario Council, and other CFUW clubs, and these are available to all CFUW members via Zoom. Three of which you may catch this month are:

1. **Finding Hope Despite the Despair: Moving Forward to End Gender Based Violence on Monday, January 19, 6:30 PM** (Speaker Pamela Cross; presented by CFUW Perth & District). Please register in advance: <https://www.cfuwperth.org/events/find-hope-despite-the-despair>
2. **Net Zero by 2050: Building for a fossil fuel-free future on Thursday, January 22, 4:30 PM** (speaker Marina Huissoon, Architect, Milton; presented by CFUW Environment and Climate Change subcommittee). Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/AhuQKzfcTma5wm47m-d_hQ#/registration
3. **Defend the Water on Monday, January 26, 7:30 PM** (Speaker Maude Barlow; presented by UWC North York). Please register to attend at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/GehQ7b8-RkO00EX1jMAMXQ>

CFUW National is raising funds to support Girls' Health & Education in Zambia ([2025-26 ISP](#)) It invites Clubs and members to support a 2-year International Service Project: **Young, Happy, Healthy & Safe – Zambia** in partnership with the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The national goal this year is to raise **\$15,000** by April 30 to help ensure that girls in rural Eastern Zambia have access to critical sexual and reproductive health education. This knowledge can protect girls from:

- early marriage and pregnancy
- gender-based violence
- HIV infection
- burdensome caregiving responsibilities
- other factors that limit their health, safety, and future opportunities

We are encouraging individuals in our club to make a donation if they so desire.

More information, including a link to donate, is available [HERE](#). Please include "CFUW Guelph" along with your contribution so that support from our club members can be recognized.

Readers in our club may be interested in this writer, recommended as her book relates to this International Service Project (and it’s available at Indigo):

Iris Mwanza is a Zambian-American author and gender equality advocate. Born and raised in Zambia, early exposure to inequality has been a driving force in her life - from becoming a lawyer, writing a Ph.D. dissertation on women and children’s rights, a career fighting for gender equality, and now writing [The Lions' Den](#), a thriller with gender equality as its heart.

Now let’s get into our club news: **We are preparing a special edition of *The Guelph Line* devoted to the CFUW Guelph 80th Anniversary Celebration.** The plan is to have this ready for February, but I would like to acknowledge first and foremost that its resounding success was due in large part to the vision and highly competent leadership of Maureen Weaver, who chaired the 80th Anniversary Committee. Thank you so much, Maureen! I would also like to share that a few days after the event we received a congratulatory certificate from Prime Minister Mark Carney. Along with the certificates and congratulatory messages from our MP’s and MPP, it certainly drives home how special it is to belong to this 80-year old club!

Gwen Revington

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

ADVOCACY



Happy New Year to CFUW Guelph members!

Our advocacy work combines education and action, led by members of the Advocacy Committee and guided by the policies of CFUW National and the CFUW Ontario Council. This fall has been an active season for advocacy, as we continued to advance gender equality, education and key priorities such as basic income and climate action.

This term, an Advocacy Committee working group was formed to develop a proposed resolution on **disinformation** and this important work is ongoing.

16 Days of Activism

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (November 25–December 10, 2025), CFUW Guelph collaborated with local organizations on several initiatives. On December 6, members gathered at Marianne’s Park for an afternoon vigil to commemorate the young women murdered on December 6, 1989, at École Polytechnique in Montréal, marking the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. During the vigil, CFUW Guelph members read aloud the names of 43 women and children in Ontario who were killed by violence in 2025, many because of intimate partner violence.



Dec. 6 Vigil at Marianne’s Park

Photo shows left to right CFUW members along with family and friends: Sonia Spekkens, Gwen Revington, Lydia Thomas, Andrea Horton, Jennifer MacKenzie, Heather Mayes, Helen Murphy, Margaret Hull, Mary McEwen, Heather Bailey, Deb Thompson, Andy Spekkens and Dominique O’Rourke, MP Guelph

International Women’s Day – Sunday, March 8, 2026

International Women’s Day is a celebration of the achievements made by women throughout history and signifies a continued mission for gender equality. First celebrated over a century ago, the day is now embraced globally to collectively champion the successes of the world’s women, past, present and future. The theme for International Women’s Day 2026 is ‘Give to Gain’ which emphasizes the power of generosity and support to help forge gender equality and expand opportunities for women and girls. We are looking forward to this year’s celebration and will have our initial planning meeting with Women in Crisis, Zonta and the Y Three Rivers in the days ahead.

Disinformation Part 3 *Kate Ciceri, Advocacy*

Social Media Spreads Disinformation

Social media platforms fuel disinformation, and this disinformation can be driven by a host of online actors including governments, state backed entities, extremists and individuals. Disinformation is amplified online using trolls (individuals intentionally posting false and offensive, disruptive content), bots (automated programs acting as humans), false identity accounts, paid accounts and extreme influencers.

What we view on social media is determined by algorithms that control and direct content. The job of the algorithm is to keep the individual online - the longer one remains online, the more ads the platform sells. Algorithms that spread disinformation, typically target habitual users who post

frequently and indiscriminately because social media platforms build in an addictive reward system. The platform rewards online postings with engagement in the form of likes, comments, and re-shares. Social media algorithms dictate the content that appears in our social media feeds by using the social media data, network location, and the content the user has engaged with in the past. This allows the site to predict what information gains the user's attention. Users then engage with only a limited scope of content, not aware of broader resources or information - creating an echo chamber in which smaller groups of participants share and re-share similar material.

Social media platforms are financially incentivized. By publishing disinformation content, creators can earn income from social media through user views or 'clicks' self-product promotion and partnering with other paying brands. The greater the following and engagement, the greater the earnings. Disinformation postings tend to be more novel, meaning they illicit strong emotion, such as fear, anger, surprise, or disgust. They grab attention and reinforce response and ongoing sharing. Social media platforms enable rapid sharing of this disinformation. Posts that contain disinformation receive higher levels of engagement and spread more rapidly and reach more users than truthful posts.

Social media tech owners have shown little commitment to content moderation and the removal of disinformation on their sites. Currently there is no process for fact checking information or any attempt at blocking disinformation with Meta, X, YouTube and Google. Past attempts at self-regulation have also proven inadequate. In 2020, Meta only labelled a limited number of covid disinformation postings as false. Elon Musk, after his purchase of Twitter, gave only lip service to the concept of flagging disinformation published in postings and now frequently posts inflammatory disinformation on X himself. A 2024 study by Indiana University found that only 0.25% of X users were responsible for up to 78% of tweets considered disinformation or low credibility. Not only were they not flagged but they were allowed to spread online. Some disinformation accounts were even verified because they paid for X's accreditation, which provided the illusion of legitimacy. Meta (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Messenger WhatsApp) employees in the past stated that the company was aware that disinformation on their platforms impacts society at a global level, but it refused to initiate effective interventions.

Social media companies are powerful corporate entities with extensive resources. Historically they have circumvented consequences for unethical practice. In 2023, Meta's annual revenue was \$134 billion US. Meta consistently has responded to criticism and complaints with apologies but no action. Canadians are familiar with Meta's attitude towards profit. When the Canadian government requested that Meta compensate for using news articles from Canadian news sources by paying a relatively small fee compared to its annual income, Meta blocked all Canadian news on its site. As a result, Canadian Facebook has been flooded by disinformation without any ethical Canadian journalistic articles to balance the false information that is so pervasively posted. Currently, social media giants are using their financial influence with the American government to initiate sanctions attacking European countries that have social media regulations and those individuals that support those regulations.

Social media technology does not optimize accurate verified information. The goal is to incentivize engagement, encouraging outrageous, destructive and blatantly false information to

circulate endlessly, fueling divisiveness, fear and rage, threatening the very fabric of our society. Ultimately, though, the challenge lies with us. However we may personally use social media sites, it is important that we face the responsibility, that in fact-through that use-we are supporting those sites and the damage they create. What we do with this recognition is an individual choice-but again it is important never to forget that we do have a voice - we can take action and, together, we have the power to make a difference.

We warmly invite all members to share their advocacy interests and suggestions with any member of the advocacy team. You are also encouraged to join us at our monthly committee meetings, **held the second Thursday of each month, 1-3 pm.**

Submitted by the Advocacy Committee: *Penny Hendricks, Kate Ciceri, Kim Palazzo, Mary McEwen, Maureen Weaver, Andrea Horton, Susan Glasauer, Lyn McLeod, Jennifer MacKenzie, Liz Fisk, Heather Beecroft, Lydia Thomas, Jane Cox and Deb Thompson*

TREASURER

Interim Budget as of January 11, 2026		
CFUW Guelph Budget	Budget 2025-26	Actual to January 10, 2026
Revenue		
Membership (net of dues)	4650.00	4,531.25
Banquet		-190.40
80th Anniversary Luncheon		-1,049.75
Interest	500.00	447.84
	5150.00	3,738.94
Expenses		
Nat'l and Prov'l meetings	500.00	
Hall Rental/Zoom expenses	1500.00	496.80
Hospitality	200.00	
Member Services	300.00	257.31
Online banking fees	180.00	120
Program	1200.00	600.00
Communication, PR and Website	300.00	556.21
Advocacy	500.00	450.00
Total	4680.00	2,480.32
Surplus or Deficit	470.00	1,258.62

Submitted by Heather Bailey, Treasurer

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Our new Community Connections partner is Chalmers Community Service Centre.

CLUB NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CFUW Guelph Members: Could this be the year, you take the opportunity to ...

Join your Executive Team!
It is a terrific way to:

- fully engage in the setting of priorities for our Club's Direction.
- expand and solidify your relationships with other women in our group (we giggle lots)
- utilize those little grey cells and feel proud of using your skills and keeping your brain young

There are a variety of opportunities, so if you have any questions about where or how you could make a contribution, contact Jo Ann Hayter (joann_hayter@hotmail.com)

RAISING WOMEN'S VOICES

GUELPH WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN SCHOOL

Learn about the nomination process, rules about fundraising, and developing a campaign platform and strategy.

Hosted by Councillor Cathy Downer

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 7
9:00 am - 2:30 pm
Doors open 8:30 am

GUELPH CITY HALL
1 CARDEN STREET
GUELPH, ON

**ASK HER TO RUN.
SUPPORT HER CAMPAIGN.**

Who should attend?

- Women/gender diverse people thinking of running for school trustee/councillor in the 2026 municipal election
- Women/gender diverse people who may be interested in local government
- Anyone wanting to support a woman/gender diverse person's campaign

Cost: \$25 (includes lunch)

Register online at <https://bit.ly/3NooFj3>

Registration deadline: February 1

Sponsors:

OPIRG GUELPH
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE

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GUELPH



INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES

ARTS TOURING GROUP

In November 2025, our group travelled to Alton to meet the award-winning artist Paul Morin in his beautiful gallery. His gallery is a renovated historical building, formerly a church and then the Alton Town Hall. Paul enthusiastically shared his art journey with us, including his world travels that have inspired his paintings and his book illustrations. The colourful paintings of Lydia Panart, Argentine architect and artist, were exhibited in the gallery. Lydia's art, inspired by the Argentine tango, radiates energy and warmth. We also visited the Alton Mills studios and then gathered for lunch at the 3rd Generation Bistro Bakery in Alton. Our thanks to Priscilla Reeve who helped to plan this tour.



We are looking forward to our next art event in January. This will be a visit to the studio of Deb Dryden where we will learn about her encaustic art technique. Two at-home presentations on aspects of art are in the planning stages for February and April. We willingly invite fresh ideas and new members. Please join us!

Submitted by Maureen Busby-O'Connor, Convenor, Clare Irwin, Connie Valeriote

CYCLING

Below are some photos from the Cycling group's annual Christmas cookoff. The group gathered at the home of Sonia Spekkens and enjoyed a fun-filled adventure rolling pastry and cooking the filling to make tourtières.



*l to r: Diane Boyd, Heather Bailey, Connie Valeriote
Carolyn Clubine, Jo Ann Hayter*



*l to r: Tanis Comrie, Penny Hendricks, Terri
Belyea, Diane Boyd, Barb Hale*



Enjoying the Fruits of Our Labour

*From left to right: Connie Valeriotte, Carolyn Clubine, Diane Boyd, Barb Hale, Terri Belyea, Penny Hendricks, Susan Glasauer, Brenda Vegso, Tanis Comrie
Missing: Jo Ann Hayter & Heather Bailey (who both had to leave early) Photographer: Sonia Spekkens*

Submitted by Terri Belyea

EUCHRE



On September 29th, our group met at the home of Susan Brown who agreed to host at the 11th hour! Treats were provided by Sonia Spekkens, who was ill and unable to host. On October 27th, Liz Fisk hosted our group at her home and kindly arranged parking with her neighbours because parking is at a premium where she lives. Two tables of four were able to play and have fun. On November 24th, Barb Hale hosted seven of us. We played two games, with one table playing with three players.

*November- from Left to right: Liz Fisk, Jane Kenny, Barb Hale, Susan Brown, Janet Bruder, Heather Beecroft.
Missing Sandra McCormick who was ill and photographer, Sonia Spekkens*

Often, with so much chatter and laughter at these afternoons, it's always a challenge to recall what suit was trump, who is dealing and who is leading. Thankfully, although we are competitive in the moment, the social aspect is much more fun! Our next get together is on January 26th at the home of Janet Bruder. Eight ladies have already committed to play. On February 23rd, Sandra McCormick will be hosting our group. Liz, Janet and Sandra are newer members of our Euchre group. Cudos to them for generously stepping up to host!

If anyone is interested in joining the Euchre group, please reach out to me. We have 14 members, made up of 10 regulars and four spares. We hope to always have a minimum of two tables of four players. As a reminder, we play on the last Monday of each month (except December) at 1:15 pm.

Submitted by Sonia Spekkens, Convenor

4TH TUESDAY SCRABBLE

Happy New Year!

We at the 4th Tuesday Scrabble Group are looking for people to join our group. At present we have two empty spots. We are looking for two members to join us in a fun filled afternoon of playing with words. We meet for 2 hours – from 1:30 to 3:30 on the fourth Tuesday of the month from September to May. We do not meet in December and June has been optional. If you are interested in learning more about this interest group – please drop me an email at sbrownc248@rogers.com. Cheers!

Submitted by Susan Brown Convenor

SCRIBBLERS



Members of the Scribblers writing group at our January meeting.

Clockwise from front left: Janet Bruder (host for the day), Brenda Coomber, Aileen Campbell, Pricilla Reeve, Rosemary McCallum, Elizabeth Taborek, Nancy Ryan, Ann Middleton, Jane Kenny & Sylvia Grant (Convenor).

We would like to share these pieces to provide some 'winter reading' for our members:

"Family Rituals"

Sylvia Grant (on the theme of *Family Rituals*)

Most families with cottages have cottage rituals around opening and closing the cottage in spring and fall. When I was a girl, my family had a cottage, and we also had rituals in the spring and

fall. However, our rituals did not involve opening and closing the cottage. They involved other activities. The opening and closing of most cottages involve standard activities such as bringing in and storing all outdoor furniture, draining all water pipes and putting antifreeze in the toilet bowl. It might involve disconnecting electricity as well as a telephone line so an intruder couldn't make long-distance phone calls. My family's cottage did not have these rituals. Our cottage had no electricity and no indoor plumbing. The heat source was a wood stove in the kitchen. Closing the cottage in the fall meant making sure the fire was out in the stove, all the bed linens were stored in mouse proof metal trunks and the front and back doors were locked. Opening the cottage in spring was also easy. Doors were unlocked, a fire was started in the woodstove and bedding was brought out of the metal trunks.

Since opening and closing the cottage was so quick and easy it left time for other activities which, to my chagrin, were not leisure activities. Our cottage sat on 500 acres which my parents had bought for back taxes when I was a baby. Previous owners had cleared the forest and attempted to farm the land. However, the terrain was rocky and the soil was thin. It was not good farmland. What would someone do with such a piece of property? My father, who had grown up in Toronto, but had a Master's Degree in Forestry from the University of Toronto, saw this 500 acres as a reforestation project.

My father didn't begin this project immediately. He waited until his children were old enough to help. When that time arrived, the ritual began. Every Victoria Day weekend and every Thanksgiving weekend we would leave our home in Markham and drive to Orno to the Department of Lands and Forests station. Here my father would purchase 2,000 bare rooted trees for one cent a tree. If his 500 acres had been fenced so wandering cows couldn't enter the property, the trees would have been free. Our 500 acres were not fenced, and my mother's brother and his family had an unfenced farm next door and during the day, Uncle Arnold's cows roamed and ate freely on his property and ours. The cows, with their clanking cowbells, always knew their way home at milking time. Thanks to those cows my father had to pay for his trees.

At the cottage the planting began. My father planted all day, but my siblings and I got to plant in shifts. Two of us had to volunteer for each shift. The two volunteers would take turns carrying a metal pail containing a selection of bare rooted trees. There were cedars, spruce, white pine and Jack pine. My father had the shovel. He would dig into the ground and would then ask for a specific tree. Because of his degree in Forestry, he knew what trees would grow best where. We were expected to know what tree to give him. Back at the cottage my mother cooked the meals and those who weren't doing a planting shift had to help with the dishes. We weren't sure which job was worse. I must admit, I was not thrilled with all this tree planting business. As a teenager, I had friends whose families also had cottages and those friends got to do all the fun things at their cottages and they NEVER had to plant trees.

That 500 acres of the now reforested land is still in the family. Before my parents died they divided the land five ways. Two retired brothers live there permanently. The trees we planted many years ago are now big enough to be harvested for lumber for those who want to do this. One brother lives off the grid. He lives so far from the road that it was more economical for him and his wife to install solar panels than to pay for hydro poles. Ironically, he has had to chop

down a number of full-grown trees to allow enough sunlight to reach the solar panels. This is fine for him because he has a sawmill and he is able to build things with the trees he cuts down.

Even though as a child and teenager, I resented spending my holiday weekends planting trees, it did not prevent me from developing an interest in trees when I grew up. When my husband and I purchased a house on six tenths of an acre in Guelph township, the first thing I did was to design and plant a mini forest in the back corner of our yard. In this mini forest I planted a variety of trees including a Kentucky Coffee Tree and a Ginkgo, a prehistoric tree. Pathways and a gazebo built by my husband, make my mini forest a wonderful retreat. Perhaps it is significant that, despite the fact that I resented tree planting as a teenager, I still developed a love of trees. As a child I had been told that it was my tree planting father who named me and when I took Latin in high school I learned that 'Sylvia' means woodland.

"A Personal Vexation" Janet Bruder (on the theme of *Things that Annoy Me*)

Used Paper towels containing secretions from the nose

In the bed

On the floor... *how I wish I could ignore*

On the counters

AND THE FLOOR... *makes me want to start a war*

Endlessly on sofas

Then fallen to the floor... *does nothing for the decor.*

STUFFED IN POCKETS BULGING.

...whenever we go out the door... *makes we want to ROAR!*

I can complain... *a chore I abhor.*

WHAT'S THE USE I UNDERSCORE!

I'LL JUST CONTINUE TO DEPLORE... *a straightforward impropriety!*



SNOWSHOEING

Just when we were about to start snowshoeing in that beautiful snow that fell in November and December, the temperature rose to melting by the time our first group outing was arranged in the new year. Undaunted and despite the prediction of rain and high winds, two of us, Tanis Comrie and I, decided to hike instead of snowshoe on January 9th. It was glorious! The rain sprinkled briefly at the beginning of our hike, and then a two-minute downpour at the three-quarter mark. We encountered a couple of strong gusts of wind as we headed to our car and then clear skies.

Some changes to our interest group:

- 1) The snowshoeing outings will be Friday mornings instead of Tuesday.
- 2) If the weather isn't conducive to snowshoeing, we will hike the trails instead.
- 3) Meeting time for the outing is 9:15 am with a 9:30 am start
- 4) Depending on weather and energy levels, we will be out for a minimum of one hour aiming to build our energy to do an extra half hour.
- 5) Treats somewhere afterwards

Our next outing is Friday, January 23rd at Ignatius Trails located on the east side of Highway 6. A map will be sent prior to the outing. Anyone is welcome!

Submitted by Sonia Spekkens, Convenor

MEET A MEMBER! Contributed by Melodie Wynne

Andrea Horton



Andrea Horton was born in Guelph in 1966, the first of three children (a brother, two years younger and a sister, seven years younger). The family moved to Montreal and then to Ottawa when she was aged one to three, while her father pursued his academic education. The family then settled in Kitchener/Waterloo.

Andrea has an impressive education, which led to a 28-year career with the Canadian Department of Justice; Her education included:

- (1) an Honors BA in Political Science and History from Waterloo, (1989),
- (2) an LLB (Bachelor of Law) from the University of Ottawa (1994), involving summer jobs with the Department of Justice in Ottawa, where she gained hands-on legal experience while also studying,
- (3) 'Articling' (1995-1996), a one-year supervised apprenticeship in Ottawa at a law firm, applying her legal training to real cases and learning the practical side of the profession,

(4) Being Called to the Bar (1997) and becoming a licensed lawyer, after passing the bar exams and completing articling, and
(5) a Masters in Constitutional Law from York University (2005)
Impressive indeed!

“I also obtained a Masters in History, out of interest!” She clearly loved school and learning.

To summarize her lengthy career with the Department of Justice (DOJ): she spent three years practicing immigration law litigation, seven years in charter litigation and employment law litigation, all in Toronto. In the remainder of her career she was the “in-house” lawyer for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in Guelph until she retired in 2024.

“Marriage and children? Well, I was introduced to my future husband Gerry Lall by my brother-in-law in Guelph.” (Like Andrea, Gerry presents as a thoughtful, problem solving professional, but with an adventurous side too). *“Gerry and I were together for 16 years; we had our son Nathan in 2007. We married (at Nathan’s request), when he was nine.”* Nathan, who is now 19, is an energetic, outgoing and creative young man who is studying music at Toronto Metropolitan University. His ‘Dream Job’ is to be a music producer. *“Gerry and I often ask ourselves, ‘who IS this young man’???”*

Andrea joined CFUW Guelph in September of 2024. *“Why did I join? I met CFUW Guelph members Heather Bailey, Deb Thompson and others at that year’s International Women’s Day and heard about the Club. Also, my sister belongs to the Waterloo CFUW and talks about it.”*

Andrea stays a member because she enjoys the speakers at our General Meetings, meets women with different backgrounds and life experiences and participates in the Club’s important advocacy work. She currently belongs to Morag’s Book Exchange group, and is considering joining one of the Club’s book discussion groups in the future. Although a fairly new member to CFUW, Andrea is a welcome addition to our Club’s Advocacy committee, chaired by Deb Thompson. Andrea is a hard worker and is using her writing skills helping the team draft a CFUW Guelph Resolution on the complex topic of “disinformation”. A draft should be finished by the end of this month (January 2026), which will ultimately be sent to the CFUW’s Resolution Committee for review in early February.

Outside of CFUW, Andrea belongs to a DOJ Retired Women Lawyers book group. She is also involved with Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis and is considering volunteering with the Family and Children’s Services Guelph-Wellington program which provides much needed support to families. In a side conversation, Andrea shared that *“... my husband and I (and others) are currently helping a refugee family from Rwanda come to Canada and settle in Guelph. This family of 5 spent four tough years in a refugee camp in Kenya and they definitely need help.”*

She has been retired for two years now, and has no interest in working full time again, but definitely intends to keep using at least some of her time and skills to help others, and making a difference. *“I have lots of things to keep me busy, including my son Nathan, walking our energetic Aussie Doodle, Bella, CFUW, plus various volunteer activities.”* Andrea says that both

Bella and coffee get her up in the morning. She is also a regular in the Aquafit class at Movati and enjoys the music and people.

She enjoys traveling, with her first independent trip occurring in her early twenties when Andrea spent a month in Brazil. Gerry and Andrea now travel regularly together. *“Our last trip was to the Azores in June of 2024. In the summer of 2023, fifteen members of my family spent three weeks in Italy, celebrating my Dad’s 80th birthday.”* Andrea enjoys watching movies, reading, and hiking with friends, and takes a Pilates and a Yoga class every week. *“I have been doing Pilates for over 20 years, at various studios, and have recently started taking a friend’s weekly yoga class with Gerry.”*

“My top strengths? I love to both learn and teach. I am analytical, organized, enjoy problem solving and think I’m good at communicating when speaking and in written form.” Others would add that Andrea has a quiet self-confidence, and is definitely an empathetic, caring and positive person. All these strengths have been important in both her professional and personal lives.

She was quick to acknowledge her upbringing and the many things she learned from her parents, who were both teachers.



The **Guelph Line** is published six times a year (September, November, January, March, May and June/July).

Submissions are solicited early in each month of publication

Please submit material to the **Newsletter Editor** email: bcoomber@uoguelph.ca

Club activities and membership details are available online at www.cfuwguelph.org