

Realizing potential. For all women.



The Guelph Line

June 2025

Looking Ahead...

**The first GM of 2025/26 will be held on Tuesday September 23 at 7:00
Watch for more details in the September issue of The Guelph Line**



PROGRAM for 2025-26

THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER 2025-2026 Program Water Street Church, 287 Water St., Guelph <i>Business Meeting-7:00-7:45pm</i> <i>Speaker-8:00-9:15pm</i> ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HYBRID WITH THE possible EXCEPTION OF JANUARY September 23, 2025 Naomi Smith: Indigenous Artist Maker and Educator Topic: Indigenous History through the Art of Beading October 28, 2025 Dr. Emma Allen-Vercoe: Professor, Molecular & Cellular Biology, University of Guelph Topic: Human Gut Biome November 25, 2025, Marion Reidel: Guelph Author Topic: Stories from the Mission (Royal City Mission) CFUW is a non-profit, non-partisan, self-funded organization working towards the improvement of the status of women and girls, the promotion of quality public education and the advancement of human rights, justice and peace. Membership is open to all women who support these goals. Guests are welcome at our General Meetings. For more information visit www.cfuwguelph.org Email: cfuwguelph@gmail.com	January 27, 2026 (POSSIBLE ZOOM...weather dependent) Dr. Kathryn Rodenburg: Assoc. Professor and Dean, Lang School of Business, University of Guelph Topic: Ethics in Business and Life February 24, 2026 Cindy McMann: Public Educator, Guelph Wellington Women in Crisis Topic: Working with Community Partners Dealing with Human Trafficking March 24, 2026 Linda Mahood: Professor, Department of History, University of Guelph Topic: Thumbing a Ride – Baby Boomers April 28, 2026 KerriAnne McGoogan –Author Topic: Sisters of the Jungle – Stories of the Female Primatologists and their work May 26, 2026 Judith Nasby: Retired Curator, Art Gallery of Guelph Topic – The Making of a Museum – The 100 year history of the Art Gallery of Guelph and the Sculpture Park If in need of a ride to a meeting or interested in information on joining CFUW Guelph email: membership.cfuwguelph@gmail.com MEETING CANCELLATIONS ...SHALL BE ANNOUNCED • by email to members • on website after 4pm • www.cfuwguelph.org
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Maureen Weaver

Dear CFUW Guelph Members,

Welcome to our returning and new members as we start the 2025/26 year together. I look forward to supporting the Club as President as we celebrate our Club's 80th Anniversary and continue to support our basic principles of Connect, Learn and Advocate.

As President my duties are numerous. We will start with these main duties and will highlight others during my term.

- Guide the work of the Executive Committee and the Club in accordance with CFUW Guelph Articles and Bylaws and CFUW Guelph Constitution and Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures.
- Preside at General Meetings of the Club and of the Executive Committee or appoint a designate.
- Sit as an ex-officio member of all Committees except the Nominating Committee.
- Serve as the club's official spokesperson or appoint a designate.
- Represent the Club as voting delegate, or appoint a designate, at CFUW National AGM, Ontario Council AGM, other CFUW gatherings and official functions.

This Fall, we will focus on celebrating our 80th Anniversary by looking back over the years at the events and women who helped build and shape our current club. Our celebration events will end with a luncheon for members, guests and interested members of other CFUW clubs and the community on Tuesday, December 2nd at the Guelph Country Club. Our guest speaker will be Sally Armstrong. More information will follow in September.

With our focus on the 80th Anniversary the Anniversary Committee and the Executive have decided to forego the AGM banquet in May 2026. The AGM will be held Tuesday, May 27th at the Water Street Church and there will be a short business meeting followed by our guest speaker. Upscale snacks will be served.

I look forward to working with everyone. If you have suggestions regarding issues, priorities and/or goals I look forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy your summer and see everyone in September.

Maureen

INTRODUCING THE REST OF YOUR 2025/26 EXECUTIVE!



Vice President Gwen Revington

The role of Vice President is to sub in for the President when necessary and be of general assistance to her. The VP also receives communications from CFUW National and takes the lead on policy related tasks. The Vice President is also a voting Trustee on the Scholarship Committee. Gwen recently returned to CFUW Guelph (and thus is both new **and** returning to Executive!) and feels the support of post-secondary students is a hugely gratifying tradition of our club. You will also find her assisting with technology at our monthly general hybrid meetings.



Past President Jo Ann Hayter

One ongoing responsibility of the Past President is to keep connected to our members who are experiencing challenging and difficult circumstances or events in their lives. If any member becomes aware of the impact of an illness or the loss of a partner or close family member of one of our members, Jo Ann would greatly appreciate knowing so that she can reach out to the affected CFUW member. Planning for 2026/27 Executive Team is another significant task for this position. Jo Ann will be eager to form a committee in the autumn to seek to fill any identified gaps in the next year's Executive Team. If you have an interest in serving on this SEARCH team, please contact Jo Ann to discuss your potential involvement.



Treasurer Heather Bailey

The Treasurer is responsible for all financial dealings of the club; receiving dues payments including donations to Scholarship and Community Connections, paying all bills and honorariums, tracking any other revenue received and investing any monies not immediately needed in GICs. Reports are submitted to CFUW Guelph Executive bi-monthly and at least quarterly to the members. Financial statements are produced at the end of the fiscal year (April 30th) for examination by the Financial Examiner. Heather has held many other CFUW Guelph executive positions and is happy to continue as Treasurer for another year.



Secretary Penny Hendricks

The Secretary writes the minutes of the monthly Executive and General meetings and compiles the Annual Report. This important job acts as a main conduit to facilitate communication across members. Despite being Secretary for 3 and a half years, Penny still finds it difficult to stay out of discussions and just write what was decided!



Member At Large Janet Bruder

As Member at large Janet provides general support, contributes any expertise and general knowledge and may initiate or assist with special or one-time projects as needed. Examples include editing resolutions, attending Ontario Council speaker series as well as their AGM and reporting back to the Executive and the General membership on pertinent information. This year Janet is also on the committee for the planning of our 80th Anniversary celebration



Program Chair Susan Brown

The program chair is responsible for forming a committee to plan the speaker roster for the coming year. Generally, there are 3-4 members of this committee. The committee plans and confirms the speakers. Input is requested from the Advocacy committee and the general membership for topics and or speakers of interest. Susan is returning as Program Chair and has previously held many other executive positions with CFUW.



Communications Chair Jalene Lumb

This role is all about connection—celebrating what we do, keeping everyone in the loop, and sharing our Club’s story, both within our community and beyond. Jalene was Club Secretary 15 years ago (welcome back to Executive!!) and is looking forward to working alongside the rest of our Communications Committee. They maintain the Club website, coordinate the distribution of our speaker program and bi-monthly newsletter, ensure our social media feed is impactful, and keep members informed about important moments and events throughout the year. She is looking forward to supporting the clear, vibrant, and inclusive communications throughout the year that make our Club so special!



Member Services Co-Chairs Barbara Kuczynski (left) & Lydia Thomas (right)

The role of Membership Chair is to welcome new members to the club, send out application forms to new and renewing members and coordinate information with interest group convenors, our database manager and treasurer. As well, the printing of our annual Blue Book in October and a new members orientation meeting in the fall are organized by Membership Services. In keeping with a recent a successful 'task sharing' model, Lydia Thomas (new to executive! Welcome Lydia!) will act as Co-Chair and be the Interest Group contact this year, and Barbara is returning as Co-Chair to coordinate the other activities.



Hospitality Chair Jane Kenny

The Hospitality Chair works with her committee to coordinate refreshments for events such as the New Members reception, Advocacy events and monthly GMs. Hospitality also arranges with the venue and organizes our AGM and banquet, and books our meeting room for the monthly GMs, including arranging room setup, deposits and insurance. Jane is pleased to continue in this position.

MEMBER SERVICES

Membership renewal forms will be emailed in **early August**. Please have them completed by **September 30th** if you wish to be included in the Blue Book.

Barbara Kuczynski,

Member Services Co-Chair

ADVOCACY



Advocacy in Action

This past year, CFUW Guelph's Advocacy Committee remained focused on advancing key issues aligned with our mission: promoting equity, education and social justice for women and girls.

Through general meeting presentations, outreach and written communications, we explored important topics including basic income, gender-based violence prevention, climate action and the growing threat of disinformation to democratic integrity. Our efforts included engagement with elected officials, contributions to CFUW National initiatives and coming together with local partners on events that reflect our shared values.

I want to extend my thanks to the dedicated members of the Advocacy Committee, Penny Hendricks, Maureen Weaver, Kate Ciceri, Kim Palazzo, Brenda Vegso, Andrea Horton, Liz Fisk, Mary McEwen and Lydia Thomas, for their insight, energy and collaboration.

A special thank you as well to the Executive Committee for their guidance and support, and to the entire CFUW Guelph membership for your interest and engagement. It is through the involvement of our members that we can continue to advocate effectively on behalf of CFUW Guelph.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to listening, learning and advocating, guided by the belief that collective action can bring meaningful change. Together, we can work to ensure that CFUW Guelph's advocacy is informed and responsive to both local and national priorities.

All members are warmly welcome to get involved. Join us at a meeting, share your ideas or simply come and see what we're about! We meet the second Thursday of each month, September-November, January-May. Our next meeting is **Thursday, September 11, 1–3 p.m.** For more information, please contact **Deb Thompson** at debthompson@rogers.com

Wishing everyone a restful and joyful summer. ☀️ We look forward to reconnecting in the fall.

Deb Thompson

Chair, Advocacy Committee

TREASURER

May 2025 Banquet and AGM	
Revenue	
Ticket receipts before April 30, 2025	\$2,125.00
Ticket receipts after May 1, 2024	\$2,380.00
Total revenue	\$4,505.00
Expenses	
Deposit (paid 04/25)	\$200.00
Cutten Club invoice	\$4,253.08
Annual report hard copies	\$53.66
Table decorations	\$103.66
Refund to Lydia Thomas	\$85.00
Total Expenses	\$4,695.40
Net profit (loss)	-\$190.40

CLUB NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**Changeover Potluck**

Our annual potluck Executive Changeover meeting was a huge success with 19 members attending. Most of the 2024-25 Executive and all incoming executive members were in attendance. We missed our outgoing President Jo Ann Hayter who was on an overseas trip, as well as our longtime Membership Chair Kerry Detlor, Scholarship Chair Gabriella Facchini, and our Data Base Manager, Janet Hodgson, who were unable to attend. In addition to our executive members, we were happy to include our Archivist, Mary McEwen, our Newsletter editor, Brenda Coomber, our Financial Analyst, Liz Wagner and our tireless Member Interviewer Melodie Wynne. There was plenty of fabulous food combined with lots of lively chatter.



Left to right: Maureen Weaver, incoming President; Jane Kenny, Hospitality Convener; Melodie Wynne, Former Member at large; Esther Semple, Acting Communications Chair; Jalene Lumb, Incoming Communications Chair; Brenda Coomber, Newsletter Editor and Scholarship Treasurer; Deb Thompson, Advocacy Chair; Mary McEwen, Archivist; Lydia Thomas, Incoming Interest Group co-ordinator.



Left to right: Barbara Kuczynski, Membership Co-ordinator; Gwen Revington, Incoming VP; Janet Bruder, Member at large; Liz Wagner, Financial Examiner; Susan Brown, Program Chair; Penny Hendricks, Recording Secretary; Barb Hale, Technical support; Heather Bailey, Treasurer submitted by Liz Wagner

INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES

VIRGINIA GILLHAM BOOK GROUP (formerly the second 2nd Monday group)

We changed the name of our group to lessen confusion between the two separate groups meeting on the same day, and more importantly to honour our beloved co-founder, Virginia.



Here are members at the June meeting; not pictured are Chris Henderson (on Zoom), Maria Roman Bricknell, Joyce Johnson and Liz Fisk. We discussed the last book of the year, *Transcription* which only one of us really liked, so we can't really recommend! Much thanks to June Davis who hosted this meeting.

CYCLING

From June 8-13, seven CFUW members of the cycling interest group embarked on an adventurous six day cycling journey in the Kingston area. Participants included Penny Hendricks, Maureen Weaver, Diane Boyd, Sonia Spekkens, Carolyn Clubine, and Terri Belyea. Day One saw the group rendezvous for a picnic lunch, then cross over to Amherst Island by ferry. Fellow CFUW Belleville member, Rhea, graciously played island tour guide for the group as she showed us the island's thriving wool industry and numerous highlights.



Ferry crossing to Amherst Island

Rain didn't dampen spirits on Day Two as the group took advantage of Kingston's Penitentiary tours to learn of the Pen's infamous history before heading north to settle into its cottage accommodation, centrally located for easy trail access. Who knew swans were a staple of the region?

The Thousand Island Parkway greeted us on Day Three as did significant westerly crosswinds. From Gananoque, a one-way, thirty kilometre bike ride took us through the boating village of Rockport to Mallorytown, and back again where we enjoyed a more rigorous journey along the St. Lawrence Seaway. We all delighted in viewing the numerous islands *en route* as we pushed against the winds. Fortunately, all week the temperatures were perfectly suited for cycling so we were able to stay well hydrated without too much difficulty.



The group stops for lunch at the Cornwall Pub in Rockport



Cataraqui Trail map. Where are we????

Trolls, new friends along the way

We cycled segments of both the Cataraqui and K&P (Kingston & Pembroke) Trails on Day Four, meeting near Perth Village Road at the Cataraqui Trail, passing just south of Harrowsmith, then heading north on the K&P to lunch in Verona. The group relaxed and enjoyed a BBQ during the evening after another 60 km day.

After a drive to the Chaffey's Lock and Cataraqui Trail intersections, Day Five turned out to be another more arduous day terrain-wise as the path was less well maintained. However, the scenery took us on tracks through bogs where we spotted a variety of aquatic creatures and wildlife. Recess Café in Portland was our end point, and well refreshed, the return journey seemed less daunting. As a point of interest, we stopped at the recently refurbished The Opinicon Restaurant, where we availed ourselves of the ice cream shop and beautiful grounds.

Day Five, our final day with peak fitness levels, proved to be our easiest Cataraqui Trail ride of 28 kms from Strathcona to Yarker return, with a lovely picnic lunch at Abram's Bakery. Yarker is a cute village and worth a stop if you're in the area. The trail, a fairly short distance north of Highway 401, would make an excellent excursion when *en route* to Kingston or Ottawa.

Detailed planning, a spirit of cooperation and teamwork, flexibility, and above all, an underlying commitment to each other's well-being, enabled the group to meet any challenges it faced. A true CFUW undertaking!

Submitted by Terri Belyea

EUCHRE

On Monday, May 26th our Euchre gathering was held at Susan Brown's home with lots of delectable treats provided by both Elizabeth Taborek and Susan. Although we had only seven players instead of the typical eight to play with two full tables of four, we still had two tables

playing with all of us by taking turns playing three handed Euchre. Our final Euchre get together will be held on Monday June 30th at the home of Sonia Spekkens.

We began this Euchre group in June of 2024 with 7 regular members and two spares and have ended in June with twelve members, two of whom are spares. Clearly there are folks who like card games! Our group is adjourning for the summer. We will resume on September 29th. As a reminder, we meet at 1:15 pm the last Monday of every month from September to June at a member's home. Anyone is welcome. It is not a difficult game to learn. We are happy to teach any interested member. For those who have played in the past, the rules come back very quickly so fear not!

Submitted by Sonia Spekkens

2ND THURSDAY SCRABBLE



We capped off another fun season with an *al fresco* session in Nancy's garden. From left to right: Nancy Coates, Frances Sault, Claudia Etches (and behind the camera, Brenda Coomber).

Submitted by Brenda Coomber

SCRIBBLERS

Members of the Scribblers writing group would like to share these pieces to provide some 'summer reading' for our members:

"Summer Work"

Nancy Ryan (on the theme of *A summer job*)

I was an envious 15-year-old that summer of '59, stuck at home looking after my 4-year-old brother and occasionally babysitting for the neighbours. Meanwhile, my older girlfriends were having adventures. They got dressed up, put on lipstick and went off to exciting, real jobs.

I didn't mind caring for my brother but I was, in truth, an uninspired babysitter. No children died on my watch but none of my charges begged for my return either. I was mostly interested in locating their parents' hidden copy of Peyton Place so I could continue reading the good parts.

My friends had moved beyond babysitting. Sandra worked in her uncle's office filling in for typists who were on holiday. She was a good typist, top of our class, not like me. Marilyn spent her summer at her father's bank filing papers, and even that seemed interesting. But the person I most admired was Georgie who worked at the local Rexall drugstore where, it seemed, she did everything but fill prescriptions.

What I envied most about my friends' summer jobs wasn't the money they earned or the skills they acquired. It was the chance to try on adulthood for a couple of months. I knew they would emerge from their experiences more worldly wise and more mature. I also knew that if by some miracle Sandra, Marilyn or Georgie told me about an opening at their place of work, I could not summon the courage to accept. Much as I admired these girls, I was terrified that a real job would require me to type or make change using a cash register. I might as well have been asked to teach summer school calculus.

During my grade 11 school year I did work one evening a week at Calgary's new Louise Riley Branch Library as a student page. My mother had made me fill out that application, but for the summer I felt the terrified need to find a job on my own, preferably one that did not involve math. Come July, I scoured the Calgary Herald's Help Wanted section and saw a big ad: *Work at the Calgary Stampede, The Biggest Outdoor Show on Earth*. The Stampede, even in 1960, was a huge event with hundreds of locals working for one week at food stands or running games and rides.

I don't recall applying for a specific job. I certainly did not claim any sort of experience related to hotdogs. But that is where I wound up, running the infield's only hotdog stand. My customers were a select group. No midway riff-raff purchased my weenies; I fed the cowboys who came for sustenance after calf-roping, bronco-busting or bull-riding. They wolfed down one, two or three dogs at a time for 50 cents apiece and had a 10-cent pop as well. There was no cash register but I realized that I hardly needed one to add up these figures. Sometimes when asked for one bun and a random number of wieners I just would pull a price out of the air. No-one was going to call me out for getting it wrong. My colleague Pete, a boy about my age from Drumheller, had no opinions so I took charge. If my cowboy customers could take the bull by the horns, I could too.

One would think that not much could go wrong at a food stand where the menu consisted of two items. But we did have a crisis that nearly wiped out the meat option. I accidentally dropped our only pair of tongs into the big pot of boiling water where we heated the wieners. No tongs, no hotdogs. I would lose my job. I was on my own, the infield was empty, and useless Pete just stood there. What would a cowgirl do? I wrapped my hand in a bread bag, plunged it into the pot and grabbed the tongs.

I could not have felt more pleased if I had just saved a child from a burning building.

With the Stampede over, I still had a month to go before my final year of high school but I was no longer consumed with jealousy. The great hotdog rescue had such an effect on my self-esteem that I could almost imagine working in an office or even a drugstore. But I had other summer plans: outfits to sew for grade 12 and a pile of books to read. I had had my summer fling, and it was enough.

"If I Won the Lottery"

Aileen Campbell (*theme self-explanatory*)

Before I start considering how I would spend my winnings I would of course have to buy a ticket. I am of the persuasion that this is a foolish way to spend your money and I have often silently criticized people in convenience stores who hand over cash, which they look like they can ill-afford, for lottery tickets, which have virtually no chance of coming up winners. I do not in fact know how to buy a lottery ticket, or how to check if I have won. It seems to involve filling in forms with random numbers. Perhaps like passwords you select specific numbers like family birthdays or anniversaries. I have never done this.

I do remember though my first lottery win. It was the year of the Montreal Olympics and money was being raised through a lottery. I joined a group at the office where I was working at the time and we bought between us I think 10 tickets. One came up a winner and my recollection is that my winnings were something like 7 dollars. I have also bought several tickets for the Sick Kids Lottery. It's a worthy cause, and I have won a few times, though never a million dollars or even a car. My first win was an indoor-outdoor speaker. Never used it, I gave it to my grandson with express instructions that he never play it outside, especially at the cottage, and disturb the neighbours. The next win was a rather glittery bracelet, a Pandora wannabe. I gave that to my granddaughter but never saw her wear it. I have also won a couple of \$25 gift cards, a poor return on my \$100 investment.

So, clearly I am not in the market for buying lottery tickets. However, it doesn't hurt to speculate on what I might do with a big win. When you are in your eighties, you really don't need any more stuff, but I suspect I would be tempted to go car shopping. I have no issues with my aging Rav4, but next time I would go for more luxury. Fully loaded with leather seats, an automatic push button to put the hatch-back up and down, of course a built in GPS system. Perhaps I would choose a model in a jazzy colour so I could find it in parking lots.

So, what about the rest of the money? My travelling days are pretty well over, but I could splurge on a few trips to visit my far-flung family, though this time I would go first class and perhaps I would get some sleep on these nice pods they give you, after the champagne and gourmet dinner. I would hire a driver to meet me at the Airport with a sign with my name on and I would never have to wait for a bus or Red Car service again.

I would actually find my greatest pleasure would be giving most of it away, and my grandchildren would be the main recipients, though my children might be given modest amounts just to placate them. But I see a gift from Granny probably is the only way these young people would ever be able to afford a nice house like we could, back in the old days, when a starter

home cost \$20,000 with \$5000 down. They certainly deserve it as much as we ever did. So, a down payment would be my gift to them, with no strings attached except perhaps frequent invitations to dinner and, if I dare mention it, some great- grandchildren would be nice.

And finally I would donate to some favourite deserving charities, amounts and recipients to be determined at the time of my win. I could then rest easy without having to worry about shopping or investing, neither of which give me any pleasure.

MEET A MEMBER! Contributed by Melodie Wynne

Kim Palazzo



Kim Palazzo (*née* Zwarich) was born in Toronto of Ukrainian and French heritage. She has a younger brother. The family moved a number of times, mainly in Toronto. As a result, Kim went to 7 schools throughout elementary and high school. In grade school, she participated in most sports' teams, school choir, and in band.

In 1976, while in grade 10 at an all girl's school, Kim met her future husband and soulmate, Mike Palazzo, at a dance; they married in 1985. Son Michael was born in 1990 and son Robert in 1994. She is very proud of them all! Kim earned a Honours B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Philosophy from U. of T., a B.Ed from U of Windsor, and an ESL specialization from York U.

As an elementary school teacher for 30 years, she taught at a number of schools in the TCDSB. Husband Mike was also a teacher. During the Ontario teacher's strike of 1997, Kim established a successful one-on-one tutoring business, helping students after school and during summers to achieve academic success. The "Homework House" continued for 7 years while she also continued to teach for the Board. She retired from teaching in 2015. At that time, the family moved from Toronto to Cambridge and then to Guelph in 2021. "We sought and found condo life, theatre, and volunteer opportunities."

Kim is a newer CFUW Guelph member, having joined in the fall of 2023. "I first saw an article about the Club in "Guelph Today". I went to the CFUW Guelph website and found more to like. I stay a member because of friendships with like-minded women, stimulating conversations and life-long learning." Kim is a member of CFUW Guelph Advocacy committee which gives her a strong sense of community and contribution. She also belongs to Hiking and a Book Club group. She finds Scribblers and the Scholarship/Awards Committee interesting: "watching the video of the recipient of the Isobelle Gray Rowing Scholarship brought me to tears."

Kim has or still volunteers with non-CFUW organizations, including Cambridge Library in Children's programs, Sunrise Therapeutic Riding; and Children's Foundation "Keep Kids Fed at Home" program.

"What keeps me most busy is trying to maintain a healthy lifestyle by hiking every day, practicing yoga, eating mostly organic, and using eco-friendly products. Planning for trips and travelling with my husband keeps me busy as well. Seeing my two boys, many friends, and belonging to CFUW also occupy my days."

Kim feels that her top three strengths are:

- being organized
- an empathetic/intuitive nature
- giving of herself

Clearly, her strengths combine to make her an excellent teacher, to have strong personal relationships, and to be a dedicated volunteer.

Susan Brown



Susan Brown (née Pinch) was born and grew up in Guelph, the daughter of a doctor (father) and nurse (mother). She has an older sister and younger brother. She first attended King George School then John Ross, graduating in 1964. After a year at McMaster, she left to enter Nursing at Toronto General Hospital.

She met (former) husband Bill Brown there. Unfortunately, marriage and children prevented Susan from living in residence while studying nursing at Toronto General. Wanting to finish, she completed her final two years at Ryerson (Metropolitan University) in Nursing. Drew was born in 1967, followed by Jennifer in 1969. Each gave Susan and Bill two grandchildren. They are a small but close-knit family.

Over the years she has been working on finishing a BA in Sociology at U of G and is now 5 credits short of completion.

Her first job was as a Director of Nursing at a nursing home in Toronto. Next (1971), she worked at Scarborough General in the recovery room. Peterborough Civic Hospital in the ICU came next; *"I loved it!! I could use my brain, problem-solve and be part of a team."* From 1980 to 1990, she worked as Head Nurse at the U of G Medical Services (in Mac Hall). Looking for a new challenge Susan joined "Magic Lantern Communications" in Oakville. Between 1990 and 1996, she worked doing health education videos, learned the video production business and wrote scripts.

Susan was CEO of “Robertson Brown Health Services” from 1996 - 2014. They provided home health care in the Waterloo, Wellington and London areas. Her business partner moved on; as sole owner, Susan sold the business after six more years.

Susan joined CFUW Guelph in 2015 after going to a meeting with Jo Ann Hayter. She came to General meetings and was soon enticed to join the Executive - more later. *“Why do I stay a member? For many reasons: the speakers, interest groups, and making interesting new friends. After retirement, I joined the 3rd Monday Night Book Group, the 4th Tuesday afternoon Scrabble Group (Convenor), Golf, Euchre and Investments Plus groups. I enjoy the people, the dedicated time and of course learning. I get a lot back from them and wouldn’t cancel a session unless I really had to.”*

Members Mary McEwen and Sandra McCormick convinced Susan to join the Executive. She was VP from 2018-2019 (during Covid and the GWI challenge). She was then President 2019-2020 and Past President until 2023. She is Chair, Program Committee (2024-today) and sits on Resolutions and Document Review committees.

In the past, Susan was an important part of many community groups, including:

- Chair then volunteer board member, Guelph Community Foundation (2002-2018),
- board member, Women in Crisis,
- Age Friendly Leadership Team - Guelph,
- Chair, Wellington Dufferin District Health Council (1990-1992),
- founding member, AIDS Committee of Guelph (1984-1987), and
- Chair, Association of District Health Councils of Ontario (1995-1997)

“I’ve been retired for 11 years; at first, I missed the excitement of feeling ‘valuable’, but I soon learned to focus on what I want to do, including CFUW, reading, volunteering, family and more. During Covid, I took my four grandchildren to St. John’s Nfld. (their choice).”

“I’m also further refining a book I wrote and self-published containing 476 letters my parents wrote one another while in the medical arm of the Canadian military and stationed overseas. It is a true legacy project and love story for my family.” You can find it at the Guelph Library now.

“What gets me up in the morning? I always look forward to the new day, starting with coffee and my “to-do” list. Living alone suits me and allows me to focus. I love my life!”

“My top strengths? I’d say I’m an achiever, have useful leadership / entrepreneurial skills, am a learner and altruistic. They have helped me in everything I do.”



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

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