

May 2025 Newsletter

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OUR MISSION: Pursuit of knowledge; promotion of education; improvement of the status of women and human rights; active participation in public affairs in a spirit of cooperation and friendship.

CFUW May Meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 in the Studio Room in the Halton Hills Public Library – Georgetown Branch

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President's Message... Margaret Teasdale

Finally, the nice weather is here. Lovely weather for walks, hikes and gardening or just sitting on the deck if that is what you prefer. I look forward to seeing you on May 6th, either in person or online. We still have a few events before our year comes to an end. Also, a question needs to be answered.

Allowing non-paying members

I have reached out to Ontario Council in this regard and also found some information from CFUW National. If we allowed women to join us and not pay dues because of whatever circumstances they find themselves in, it would set up two classes of members which we are not allowed to have according to the CFUW constitution/bylaws. This doesn't even take into account the amount of money it would cost if the Club paid their National, Ontario Council Dues and Insurance. Also, members must be 'in good standing', that is, they must pay their dues.

It also contravenes our notion of equality – everyone is the same and everyone pays their dues. It is not fair to others. It was a nice thought, but it contravenes too many aspects of being a member of CFUW. Therefore, the CFUW Georgetown Executive have decided that all of our members must pay their dues in order to join and be a member in good standing.

Continued on Page 2

President's Message - Continued

If you have a friend who does not see the value in joining us, perhaps you could invite her as a guest to one of our activities and let her see that we are a worthwhile organization to join. All of us who are members see a value for the money that we pay. We have made great friends, we enjoy the speakers, the outings and the opportunities for advocacy.

Red Dress Day, Monday May 5th



Come to view our installation at the Old Seed House Gardens/Dominion Gardens on Monday, May 5th. We will have a gathering at 6:30 pm & a walk to honour and bring awareness to the thousands of women, girls and two-spirit people who have been subject to disproportionate violence in Canada. Wear **RED**.

Someone from the Old Seed House Gardens will help install the dresses again this year and for this we are most grateful.

June 2nd will be our **AGM & dinner** at the Hillview Active Living Centre in Georgetown.

Past President's Report...

~ Diane McDermott

So, whinging, pouting and moaning sometimes works! Fewer slots are open on the 2025-26 CFUW Executive Team. We now only lack takers for President, Social Media and Special Projects.

I invite you to consider

Special Projects – ONE - Helpers are plentiful; TWO - Some fundraising ideas are tried and tested, no re-invention of the wheel required; THREE - Campaigns are short in duration; and FOUR - There's the feel-goodness of raising scholarship money for local youth.

Social Media Maven – This is your opportunity to act on your commitment to continued learning. Training available.

President – I remember thinking I was too silly to be President, never could manage eloquence on my feet. I learned that those points are less disqualifying than you'd think. After all, it really is a **team** job and there is the prop of an established Agenda to guide the way. Besides, standing at the podium before you all, I always comfort myself with the thought that most of you are distracted by a myriad of other things and aren't really listening. Works for me. Point is: Shyness isn't a hindrance. As President, you might have your best CFUW years ever.

Talk or email at demcd@cogeco.ca. Best before the June AGM.



A Message from Sandra Shaw

The vast majority of Canadians are experiencing an enhanced sense of patriotism these days. Nothing like threats to your very existence to get your heart pumping, your chest bursting and the flags out! I admit, I had tears in my eyes and a huge smile on my face as I watched this film sent to me by friends. If you would like to watch 'Dear Canada – My Love Letter to My Country', have a box of tissues handy.

DEAR CANADA - MY LOVE LETTER TO MY COUNTRY – A film by Tim Thompson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhiKlhTmwDU>

Patriotism aside, we are in a state of uncertainty. We don't know if or how our savings are going to get us through the next few years. We don't know what the price of any necessity will be next week. We don't know if the assaults on our environment will worsen with this instability. We don't know who will lead us politically. We don't know if we will survive the threats to our sovereignty. As women, in all our diversity, we don't know if our hard-earned rights to be treated as equal will continue. What a mess!

In the midst of all this precariousness, we must remain positive. A quick search of strategies to help us stay confident and upbeat in these disturbing times produced the following: focus on what you can control, cultivate gratitude, practise self care, build a strong support network, embrace a growth mindset, stay persistent, accept your emotions and serve others.

These are all what CFUW Clubs exemplify. Now, more than ever, our Clubs will be beacons of friendship, hope and optimism, supporting women and fighting for justice, locally, nationally and internationally.

It is in these times of insecurity that women shine. Collectively, we have unlimited reserves of strength. We understand how to 'make do, bide our time, and step up to the plate'. We are resilient, we embrace solidarity, we help each other and those less fortunate and we will lead the change that will be necessary to recover. There will be no going back.

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." — Barack Obama

Sandra Shaw

President, CFUW Ontario Council (2024-2026)

P.S. I hope you had the opportunity to read the Ontario Council **Special Report on The Environment and Climate Change**. There are some sobering issues addressed within. Ontario Council is also

preparing another **Special Status of Women and Human Rights Report** on the key takeaways from those Ontario Club members who attended this year's United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women (69). It will be released later this month. This document is full of both learning opportunities and ideas for special projects which Clubs may embrace. Many thanks to those who were able to prepare a synopsis of their most important learnings expressly for Ontario Council Club members.

(From CFUW Ontario Council News, April 15, 2025)

Clubs' Op-ED

Ontario Council will be highlighting Op-Eds written by Ontario Council Clubs when they are featured in news outlets (print or electronic). These writings are an excellent technique to express the values of CFUW, promote your Club and often allow something about which we are passionate spread to a wider community.

While we all may be feeling the nebulous anxiety of living next to a tinder box, ready to set fire to itself and its neighbours, Donna Phillips, representing the Advocacy Committee from CFUW Owen Sound took action with her pen. The following Op-Ed was published in two on-line newspapers, Owen Sound Current and Owen Sound Hub. Congratulations Donna and CFUW Owen Sound.

Note that the type face and font have been modified to fit the OC News standard. Please remember, an Op-Ed needs approval from the executive of your Club or an authorised Club committee to be published with reference to CFUW.

Letter: Canada Must Stand Firm

Owen Sound & Area branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women calls for global cooperation and condemns U.S. policies that threaten human rights, justice, and peace.

The Owen Sound Current
Mar 25, 2025



Photo by Hermes Rivera on [Unsplash](#)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

With growing alarm, we have watched the direct threats to global peace, justice and human rights posed by the actions of the Government of the United States. The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), locally represented by the CFUW Owen Sound & Area club, is steadfast in our commitment to advocate for universal human rights, social justice, sustainable development, and peace. Global cooperation is needed more than ever.

The Trump administration's decisions to withdraw from the World Health Organization, the Human Rights Council, and the Paris Climate Agreement are an affront to global cooperation. Isolationism and hostility leave vulnerable populations unprotected.

We stand with all people who are enduring senseless wars, and urge the international community to take decisive, united action to end the horrifying violence and displacement we are witnessing. We stand with the immigrants, those facing deportation, and the gender diverse who have been shockingly targeted for seeking refuge and opportunity.

We stand with all women whose rollback of rights is alarming. Reproductive rights are being further restricted across the United States and internationally with the reinstatement of the "Global Gag Rule" blocking funds to organizations that provide abortions. We are firm in our support of all organizations that ensure women's access to healthcare, equality, and freedom from violence.

CFUW is rooted in the belief that education is the key to advancing equality, social justice and global health. Reducing funds for education and research undermines the prospects of future generations. Finally, we reject the reckless trade war that particularly marginalizes those who are struggling and erodes long-standing trust and friendship between our countries.

Canada must stand firm against all these dangerous policies.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Phillips

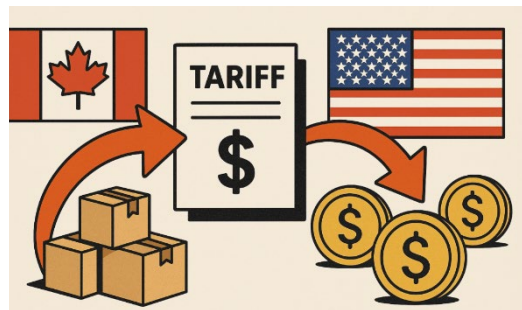
On behalf of the Advocacy Committee for CFUW Owen Sound Area

The [Owen Sound & Area CFUW](#) club is a non-partisan and not-for-profit club is resolute in our commitment to advocating for a future grounded in universal human rights, social justice, sustainable development, and peace.

Understanding Tariffs - MadeInCanada.ca



The trade war between Canada and the United States shows no sign of letting up, especially as Donald Trump imposes tariffs on countries worldwide. While tariffs are a hot topic in the news, lately, there has been a vast amount of confusion and misinformation surrounding them. It's important to have a clear understanding of what tariffs are and how they impact the lives of everyday consumers. So, with that in mind, here are the who, what, when, why, and how on tariffs.



What is a tariff?

A tariff is a tax or duty imposed by a government on products imported from another country.

How do tariffs work?

The levy on an imported good is calculated based on a percentage of the item's value, increasing the cost of the product. With that increase, the product is usually priced higher for the consumer to purchase.

Why are tariffs used?

There are a few reasons a government might choose to impose a tariff.

Protecting local industries: By making certain products more expensive, they can ensure local businesses remain competitive.

Revenue: Governments can collect money from taxing international trade.

Retaliation: A tariff could be issued as a means of settling a trade dispute.

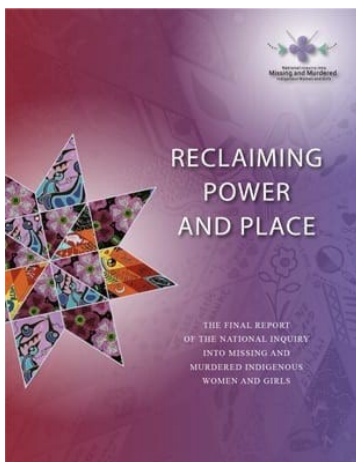
[Read more ...](#)

Another MadeInCanada.ca article entitled ***Tariffs Hit Cars Made in Canada*** is available. The U.S. 25% tariff on all imported vehicles has cast a shadow over the future of Canada's auto industry, with many questioning how it will adapt in the face of mounting trade tensions. While there are no solely Canadian-owned mass-market automakers, for years Canada has played a major role in the global automotive industry, with a strong presence in auto manufacturing of both foreign and domestic cars.

Supporting the Canadian auto industry is tricky, it's intricately entwined with both U.S. and Mexican auto manufacturing. However, that doesn't mean you can't buy a car made in Canada. It's just a matter of determining which cars are built here in our own backyard, so to speak. If you're in the market for a new vehicle, there are nine models made in Canada: Chevrolet Silverado 1500 and HD, Chrysler Pacifica, Chrysler Voyager, Dodge Charger, Honda Civic, Honda CRV, Lexus RX, Lexus NX, and Toyota RAV4. Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

(From CFUW Ontario Council News, April 15, 2025)

MMIWG Final Report Red Dress Day - May 5th



May 5th is nationally known as **Red Dress Day**, remembering missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls who have been victims of violence.

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report mmiwg-ffada.ca reveals that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA people.

From 2009 to 2021, the homicide rate against First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women and girls was six times higher than the rate among their non-Indigenous counterparts (Statistics Canada, 2023). Indigenous women are also more likely to be victims of sexual assault: more than four in ten (43%) Indigenous women have been sexually assaulted since the age of 15, compared to 30% of all women in Canada (Statistics Canada, 2020).

The two-volume report calls for transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous communities across the country.
(CFUW Toolkit 16 Days of Activism, 2024)

What can we do? (adapted from 2022 Toolkit-16 Days of Activism):

- Hang a red dress in public areas or outside your house or wear a commemorative pin or ribbon
- Attend a *Sisters in Spirit* Vigil on May 5
- Read and encourage others to read the Final Report and the Calls for Justice in the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- Support Indigenous communities or organizations working to protect Indigenous women and children
- Advocate for and support Indigenous-led child welfare services to help break the cycle of trauma
- Attend public ceremonies and powwows—stand with your local Indigenous community members

Kathy Wosnick
Ontario Council Advocacy Chair

(From CFUW Ontario Council News, April 15, 2025)



Below is the link to the Earth Day Special Edition, Club Action Newsletter, April 17th, 2025 from the CFUW Environment & Climate Change Sub-Committee, CFUW National.

<https://mailchi.mp/cfuw-fcfdu.ca/specialeditionearthday2023-15103898?e=5d09c84759>

The following article written by Jane Watson was published in CFUW Ontario Council's Environment and Climate Change (ECC) Newsletter, April 1st, 2025.

Climate Change Demands Stronger Drinking Water Regulations in Canada

Submitted by Jane Watson, CFUW Georgetown



Climate change is no longer a distant threat—it is a major crisis. Rising temperatures, extreme weather, and shifting precipitation patterns are already impacting Canada's water sources, putting our drinking water quality at risk.

Despite this growing danger, Canada is one of only two countries in the developed world that lacks comprehensive national drinking water regulations.

Provinces and territories all set their own standards while the federal government sets guidelines for Indigenous communities. This fragmented approach creates disparities in water safety and weakens our ability to respond to climate-related water challenges. Imagine driving on a highway where speed limits are just suggestions and never legally enforced.

As floods, droughts, and wildfires increase, contaminants such as bacteria, heavy metals, and toxic runoff threaten public health. In addition, aging infrastructure is becoming a concern in many urban centres. Extreme weather events, such as wildfires and hurricanes, can damage water pipelines and treatment plants disrupting supply, increasing repair costs, and reducing drinking water quality.

Canada must take immediate action by implementing legally enforceable national drinking water regulations that account for climate change's impacts. Strengthening monitoring systems, improving infrastructure, and investing in climate-resilient water treatment are essential steps.

Safe drinking water should not depend on geography or political will—every Canadian deserves equal protection. If the federal government is serious about tackling climate change, it must recognize that water security is a fundamental part of that fight. The time for national leadership is now.

Note: Last fall, CFUW Georgetown joined Susan Blacklin, author of **Water Confidential, Witnessing Justice Denied**, and several other environmental activists and groups in submitting an electronic petition to the Canadian House of Commons requesting national drinking water standards. According to the submission procedures, we obtained the necessary 500 signatures within one month — in fact we gathered over 2,000 signatures from across the country. The petition was then to be presented by the NDP MP Lori Idlout to the House for further research and discussion.

Unfortunately, the House was prorogued. Our petition is now in line to be presented when the government resumes. However, if an election is called before the petition is presented, we must resubmit the petition and collect signatures again.

In the meantime, Susan Blacklin's group is now working on a suggested letter and fact sheet for individuals to use as a basis for writing to their local MPs.

(From CFUW Ontario Council's Environment and Climate Change (ECC) Newsletter, April 1st, 2025)

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### **Pussy Willows, a sure sign of Spring!**

*(Photo Courtesy of Marilyn Mitton)*

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*From Programme Co-Convenors... ~ Fran Graham and Mimi Keenan*

**Astrology: Know Your Path, Change Your Story – it is more than just sun signs.**



Our speaker for the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting is Shannon Cunningham. Shannon holds a Bachelor of Arts from Dalhousie University, is certified in Transpersonal Therapy with the Psychosynthesis Institute in CA and is a qualified Life Coach with the Certified Coaches Federation. However, her most meaningful education was earning her diploma in Chart Consultation with the Canadian Association for Astrological Education (CAAE) in 2009. Shannon's mission with astrology is to help people gain insight, self-acceptance, and more agency over their lives – not less.

Attend to find out what is a Natal Chart?

What meaning do your Moon, Mercury, Venus and Mars have in astrology?

What significance do the elements of Fire, Earth, Air and Water have in regard to certain signs?

What does "Rising Sign" mean?

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*From Membership Convenor... ~ Patti Smith-Gilbert*

We now have 64 returning members and 5 new members for a total membership of 69.

**New Member**

Please welcome CFUW Georgetown's newest member, Lesley Wilkes. Lesley's contact details to add to your Membership Directory will be in the e-mail accompanying the May Newsletter.

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*From Special Projects Coordinator...*

*~ Lydia Zavitz*

**Thank you for supporting all of our 2024/2025 fundraisers!**

Many of you have contributed to the scholarship fundraising efforts. Contributions of time, energy, advertising, promotion and financial donations are all important to our club! All of you are essential for the Special Projects we undertake!

April 30 was our final BINGO Night at the Furnace Room Brewery. We held four Bingo nights in November, 2024 and four in April, 2025.

The Furnace Room Brewery always supports our efforts by advertising, setting up and taking down after the Bingos. Turnout has been good and the community supports our fundraisers. Hopefully, the new Special Projects team will continue with BINGO.

This year we have raised almost \$4,000.00 through Bingo. We also had a lot of fun in the process!

The CFUW Terra Cotta Cookie Sale in November, 2024, raised almost \$1000.00 with that event! Good work everyone!

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p><b>50/50 Draws</b></p> <p><b>Tickets are 1 for \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00</b></p> <p><b>Small bills and exact change are appreciated!</b></p> <p><b>Congratulations to Ann French who won \$40.50 in the April 1st draw.</b></p> |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**WANTED!**

**Special Projects Convenor for 2025/26**

**Please contact Diane McDermott to volunteer for this position.**

**Barb Baron, Fran Graham and I can answer any questions you might have.**

**Remember that you are never alone.....volunteers come forward to make the events a success!**

**Fundraisers could not happen without all of YOU!!!!**

**Thanks again!**

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## Photo Corner



**A few members of CFUW Georgetown show off their beautiful artwork at a painting party hosted by one of the members.**



**The Girls Night Out Interest Group enjoyed one another's company, amazing food and great vibes at The Glen Tavern Restaurant.**



**The Thursday Hikers found themselves on the film set of Reacher at Scotsdale Farm on April 10<sup>th</sup>!**



**The Hardy Hikers explore Cedarvale Park.**



**The Hikers & Walkers enjoyed a scenic hike in Hungry Hollow and some sweet treats at Sugar Shack Desserts!**

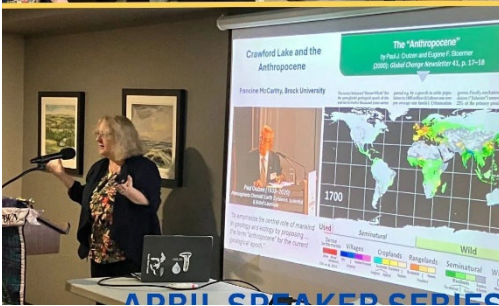


Amazon Warehouse Outing

Some interested members had an exclusive look at the very busy Amazon Fulfillment Centre.



Members show off the beautiful bracelets made at a workshop led by Patti Smith-Gilbert.



Dr. Francine McCarthy, spoke at our meeting on April 1st on her core sample findings taken from sediment in Crawford Lake to determine if it was the Golden Spike of the Anthropocene (The new age of humans.)



Margaret's Monday book club read and discussed All Systems Red by Martha Wells, a science fiction book that was fast-paced and twisty and sparked some lively debate!



The Reel Viewers of Georgetown watched and enjoyed the 2002 New Zealand movie, Whale Rider, about an irrepressible 12 year old Maori girl leading her community's rebirth.



So much fun was had by all at the April Bingo games at the Furnace Room Brewery. The money raised went to support Halton Hills students' scholarships.

## April's Four Bingo Night Winners at the Furnace Room Brewery!!!!



## The Helpers!!!!



Lydia Zavitz, Special Projects Convenor giving a prize to Winner, Emma.



Martha Zavitz, two-time Bingo Caller Extraordinaire checking Emma's numbers.



Margaret Teasdale calling the numbers and Linda Peck recording the numbers at April's final Bingo night at the Furnace Room Brewery.



**Left to Right - Top Row: Lydia and Martha Zavitz, Barb Baron and Jean Hamilton**  
**Left to Right - Bottom Row: Fran Graham, Martha Zavitz**  
**Missing: Cheryl Potosky, Bingo Caller, April 23, 2025**

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## Scholarship Fund

~ Lis Turner

All donations are greatly appreciated. There are several ways to make donations to the Scholarship fund.

One popular option is e-transfer directly to the fund bank account. The e-transfer email address is: [donationsforscholarships@cfuw-georgetown.ca](mailto:donationsforscholarships@cfuw-georgetown.ca).

You can also donate on-line through Canada Helps. We are listed as CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN – GEORGETOWN SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

If you would like to donate by cheque, the payee is “CFUW Georgetown Scholarship Fund”. You can give your cheque to the current treasurer of the fund, Lis Turner. Her contact information is in the club directory.

The fund is a registered charitable organization so you will receive a tax-deductible charitable donation receipt.

