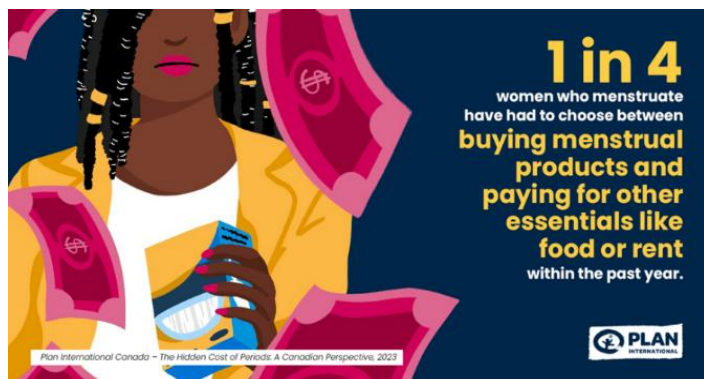




CFUW Belleville Period Poverty Campaign

Please bring a month's worth of period products (or donate \$20 **in cash**) to the Annual Meeting on May 21, 2025

Donations will be distributed in partnership with the United Way

Questions? Please contact Pauline W., VP, Education and Advocacy

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, June 4 - Turn-around Meeting (Potluck) for the new Executive and the out-going Executive. 5 pm at St. Thomas' Church. Bring your own dishes.

Saturday, June 21 - Garden Tour, 10-4

Wednesday September 3 - Opening Meeting-Coffee Party.

For a night to remember

Bid on the SILENT AUCTION Wine & Small Plates Event at the AGM MAY 21ST 2025

Includes a reception wine
tips on tasting and reading a wine label

Menu

Seafood purse with Viognier
Mushroom galette with Chenin Blanc
Pork medallions with lemon basil couscous with Malbec
Wine poached cherries & chocolate with Pinot Noir

Opening bid to start at \$200

Proceeds will go to CFUW Belleville & District
Scholarship Trust



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Websites:

GWl: graduatewomen.org

CFUW National: cfuw.org

CFUW Ontario Council: cfuwontcouncil.org

CFUW Belleville: cfuwbelleville.com

CFUW Garden Tour: cfuwbelleville.com/garden-tour

Facebook: A Town & Country Garden Tour – CFUW
Belleville & District

President's Report – Margaret G. & Susan A.

We hope that you have purchased your ticket for the AGM – Wednesday, May 21 at 5:00 pm -- at the Sans Souci Restaurant. We look forward to Pat Loughren's silent auction fundraiser, 'Premium Wine & Small Plates Event'. Proceeds will go to the Scholarship Trust Fund. Many thanks to June B. for preparing this year's Annual Report, which will be available on this evening.

We are very appreciative for the membership's continued support during this past year. We also appreciate and want to thank:

- 1) the Executive Committee for their ideas and guidance, stewardship and engagement advancing the priorities for their areas of accountability
- 2) Carol S. for producing exemplary newsletters throughout the year
- 3) Carol S. for her hard work, passion, and leadership of the Scholarship Trust Committee, which ensures that promising students in our community, have the opportunity to receive financial support to help them succeed.
- 4) special thank you as well to Debi B. for willingly stepping in and doing an exemplary job in the role of Scholarship Trust Fund Treasurer with the sudden passing of Marie Northey
- 5) The technical support of Laura H. and Pauline W. for in-person meetings
- 6) Hospitality Team - A heartfelt thank you to Barb K. for creating such a warm and inviting atmosphere monthly, to Susanne K. who has assumed the role of Hospitality Committee Chair, as well as Zian (Judith S.'s international student) for setting up the chairs/tables monthly.
- 7) Resolutions Committee for their due diligence in reviewing viewpoints, making amendments and/or recommendations.

Personal time, energy and expertise in these designated roles have certainly helped with our Club's continued success.

We were very pleased to have Pauline W. as our April Speaker. Her presentation – "Global Warming Has Happened Before. What Have We Learned?" was excellent, thought-provoking (as to the actions we can take) and very much enjoyed by the Members in attendance.

The video that was made last month, highlighting our Club -- courtesy of lavenderlanemedia.ca and A1 Plumbing -- is now complete. It will be shown at the AGM and then be put on our website to promote our organization and the opportunity to join our great organization.

It has been a pleasure and we are grateful for the time that we have been Co-Presidents with this Club. We wish our successor, Pauline Witzke, the very best for next year.

Have a healthy and happy summer!

Graduate Women International – Syliva T.

On 24 February 2025, GWI attended the Annual High-Level Panel Discussion on Human Rights Mainstreaming, marking the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Held during the HRC58, the event brought together UN agencies, Member States, and civil society to reflect on three decades of progress toward gender equality and women's empowerment.

Key challenges discussed by the panel included:

- gender-based violence
- maternal mortality
- limited access to education

One in three women globally still experiences violence, and over 800 women die daily from preventable pregnancy-related causes.

Panelists addressed intersecting forms of discrimination based on disability, race, age, and sexual orientation. Emerging threats—such as shrinking civic space, backlash against reproductive rights, and the gendered impacts of climate change and conflict—were also highlighted.

Summary:

Speakers urged governments and international institutions to move beyond symbolic gestures toward structural, transformative change.

The session concluded with strong calls for renewed investment in gender equality, stronger accountability mechanisms, and greater protection for women human rights defenders. Reaffirming the ongoing relevance of the Beijing Declaration, participants emphasized that achieving gender justice is both urgent and foundational to the broader realization of human rights and sustainable development.

Background Note

Adopted in 1995 by 189 countries, the Beijing Declaration remains the most comprehensive global commitment to advancing the rights of women and girls. While participants recognized meaningful progress, panelists stressed that gender equality remains far from achieved.

The full document on Human Rights Council 58th session Special Edition, can be read here:

<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/9-April-Update-HRC58-special-edition-FINAL.pdf>

Vice-President of Membership – Carol F.

This Club year is flying by, and most Interest Groups are looking at May or June for their final get-togethers for this 2024-25 year. We are so appreciative of all the leaders and members who participate and host these events each month.

Members are encouraged to sign up to volunteer for the **Garden Tour June 21st** as this is the main fundraiser supporting our Club's key initiative of Scholarships for students seeking post secondary education.

A reminder that members need only pay their dues in the fall. There is no need for forms to be filled out. An early bird draw happens for members paying before our September meeting. During the year, please let me know if you change your address, phone number or email address.

As members we are kept up to date through this CFUW Newsletter each month and so we “send our applause and thanks” to **Carol S.** for her editorial and publishing leadership for quite a few years!! We are so grateful. She is handing this work over to Laura H. for 2025-26.

And my thanks to the Greeters, Cathy W. and Judith S., and the Membership Team – Cathy W., Jane B. and Barb K. We will continue to serve our members in the coming year.

Past President – Margaret G.

ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Following the April 16, 2025, General Meeting a member raised a concern regarding increasing the clarity of Article X – Quorum. As such, I contacted CFUW National and obtained the wording that they propose is used by Clubs related to quorums. As such we will include this wording, to be voted on at the Annual General meeting to be held on May 21, 2025.

Article X. QUORUM

<u>Current Wording – Membership Meeting</u>	<u>Proposed Wording – Membership Meeting</u>
Twenty percent of regular membership shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Club.	A quorum for the transaction of business shall be 20 percent of members entitled to vote, present at a meeting.

Article X. QUORUM

<u>Current Wording – Executive Meeting</u>	<u>Proposed Wording – Executive Meeting</u>
Quorum for an Executive Committee meeting will consist of a majority. Any votes will be carried by a minimum of 50% +1.	A quorum for an Executive Committee meeting will consist of a majority of 50% rounded up to a whole person.

Vice President of Education & Advocacy– Pauline W.

Environmental Advocacy – Denise T. and Sue T.

Spring Garden Suggestions

The gardening season is upon us. Here are some tips to help you out with your gardens.

1. Prune your trees and bushes
2. Compost garden debris
3. Add environmentally friendly fertilizer (biochar, compost)
4. Plant Native Pollinator Plants and Trees (black-eye Susan, swamp milkweed, red columbine, purple stemmed asters)
5. Put out hummingbird and oriole feeders
6. Place a bee nesting house near your garden
7. Know your insects – some are more helpful than you think (ladybugs, a variety of beetles, spiders, and even earwigs)



Have a Green Summer! May your gardens flourish.

Garden Tour – Irene H. & Karen M., Co-Chairs

In six short weeks, CFUW Belleville & District will host the 26th annual Town & Country Garden Tour. This is amazing when you think of it.

Now the Club flexes its muscle and focuses on success.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to volunteer. It's rewarding to be part of this event.

TICKET SALES. Think of everyone - your contacts, neighbours, relatives, friends, and friends of friends – who might you approach with an offer to buy a ticket and attend the Tour? If everyone can find two new attendees, two newcomers to purchase a ticket and come out on tour day, well, that will bring us to a hugely successful tour. Tickets will be available for sale at our AGM, and there will be bundles of tickets all ready to go. The cost of a ticket is \$35.00.

Here are excerpts from the descriptions of three gardens:

Garden #1:

Welcome to my garden in the old East Hill neighbourhood. The gardens have been decorated with my favourite plants to provide beautiful colours throughout. The pond provides a tranquil waterfall and a home for goldfish. The stone wall is original to my 1897 house.

Garden #2:

I am a senior with a bad back, so I planned my gardens to be low maintenance so I could look after them when health issues increased.

I have NO grass in my front or back yards and all my plants are perennials, that come up each year.

My front yard has raised flower beds that I can sit on to rest and make it easy to reach to dead head, etc.

Garden #3:

I moved into this new subdivision 9 years ago. Over the years with the help of my gardener friends, my garden developed into an art piece and as a result, I have received many compliments from people as they walk by.

Interest Groups – Cathy W.**Monday Mahjong – Cathy O.**

Monday Mahjong has continued to meet weekly throughout the year. We have maintained a dedicated group of 9 members who meet in each other's homes on a rotating schedule. There is a lot of excitement around the table while playing this game of both skill and chance. The new 2025 Mahjong has recently been released and members are working to learn the new card sequences for the coming year of play. Currently, we are unable to accommodate more members in this group as space is limited.

Communications Officer – Carol S.

This is the last newsletter for 2024-2025 and the last newsletter from me. Over the last 5 years, I have enjoyed the challenges of assembling all the newsletters, adjusting the spacing if necessary, and finding appropriate images to emphasize different items. It is my belief that an image not only draws attention to an item but helps you to remember/recall it better. The Program Committee was responsible for all the photographs and images that accompanied information about the speakers for each General Meeting and the Environmental Advocacy group always supplied a graphic to complement their topic. I appreciate their assistance. Thank you to all who submitted articles by the deadline so that I could start to arrange and format the monthly newsletter on Friday evenings and to send it to you on Mondays. Thanks, also, to all who kept me informed of significant events in the lives of our members. Your support has made this a very enjoyable experience.

The official year end for our Club is June 30, so I will continue as Communications Officer until that time to keep you informed about the Garden Tour or other situations that may arise. After that time Laura H. will be assuming the responsibilities of the Communications Officer. Over the summer, please let Laura know of any situation or occasion for which the membership needs to be informed.

Have a great summer!



From the 2024 Garden