

November 2025



Message from the President. . .

Dear friends,

The leaves have turned colour but they have not all fallen. We are still being treated to those lovely vistas which define a Canadian autumn. Hopefully we'll still get to enjoy them for some time yet!

Thank you goes to Donna for arranging such a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker last month. I learned a lot about some very impactful but lesser known women in history. So fun.

I hope our new members feel welcomed and that those who attended the new member's tea got to know the executive a little bit more. We really value our new members who often bring fresh ideas and experiences to our chapter. I wanted to thank Catherine G. for opening up her home and being such a wonderful hostess. Louise Z's menu and attention to special dietary needs was fantastic. Thank you as well to the other members of the executive who contributed food and were able to attend this event.

We'll be setting a more serious tone for the November meeting, and we will have the opportunity to contribute to some of the programs in Pickering aimed towards the youth. As we contemplate the colder weather and those in at risk situations, perhaps we can put our collective hearts and minds towards a holiday project for the youth.

As for our Christmas party, I will be unable to host that on December 11th, 2025. I will be having major surgery in late November and will need to remain away from home for 2 weeks and will not be ready for company. Catherine G has offered her home but not on the December 11th date. Our choices will be to hold the potluck on December 11th at our meeting room, find a host home, change to a restaurant or change the date. Please think about this before our November meeting.

In friendship,

Louise S.



Next General Meeting

**Thursday,
November 13th, 2025**

**“Durham Youth
Services and their
Work”**



Speaker:

Leah Wall,
Manager of Youth Housing
Solutions,
Durham Youth Services

Meeting Location:

Pickering Rec Centre
(Chestnut Hill Rec Complex, Rm 2)
1867 Valley Farm Rd,
Pickering

Meeting Time: 7 p.m.

*Business meeting begins at 7 pm.,
followed by member social time
(time permitting).
Speaker begins at 7:50*

***Invite a friend & introduce
them to the fun and
friendship of CFUW!***

BYOMug

Dates and Data

CFUW Websites:

Main website: <http://www.cfuw.org>

Ontario Council Website: www.cfuwontcouncil.org

CFUW Event Calendar: [CFUW National Event Calendar](#)

CFUW on Facebook

CFUW has a Facebook group! If you are a Facebook user you can join the group by searching for Canadian Federation of University Women, or visit

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2232370205>

Ajax-Pickering CFUW on Facebook:

Our club now has its own Facebook page. You do not have to have a Facebook account to view this page. Simply Google Ajax-Pickering CFUW Facebook page or click on the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/CFUWAjaxPickering?ref=stream>

Ajax-Pickering on X (formerly Twitter): Use @CFUWajax

The Ontario Council newsletter, **Dates and Data**, is available on-line on the Ontario Council website.

The Communicator newsletter is available on-line on the main website.

Ontario Council Standing Committee Meetings

Ontario Council Standing Committees in Legislation, Education, and Status of Women and Human Rights were developed to keep members aware of current issues in Ontario. The Committees meet three times a year - in October, November, and February - for a day with speakers, workshops and discussion. All Club members are invited to attend these meetings. There is no cost to attend.

Next Standing Committee Meeting Date: **Saturday, November 29th, 2025**

Topic: Declaring Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic in Ontario

Speakers: Fartumo Kusow, author/teacher/mother/podcaster, Kristyn Wong-Tam, MPP Toronto Centre

Click here for more info and to register: [Speakers Series Events for 2025-2026 | CFUW Ontario Council](#)

Upcoming Speaker Series Events for 2025/2026: Sat, Nov 29th, 2025 and Sat, Feb 21st, 2026

CFUW Event Calendar

Looking for something to do? Don't forget to check the new **CFUW Event Calendar**! There are lots of interesting CFUW events and activities listed by date, including upcoming CFUW study groups and meetings, webinars hosted by other clubs, Zoom meetings with interesting speakers, and club fundraising events. It's a hub for all things CFUW and it makes it easy to keep track of what's happening every month.

You can access the calendar at this link: [CFUW National Event Calendar](#)

Minutes of General Meeting, Thursday, October 9th, 2025

Welcome to new members & Land Acknowledgement by Louise S.

Requested adoption of September's meetings notes. Catherine approved meeting notes and Linda seconded. Unanimously accepted as is.

A good time was had by all who attended our murder mystery. Thanks to all who participated. And thanks to all who took part in the Violence Against Women night. Is anyone planning to attend the play mentioned by Linda Lyons on November 27th? If anyone was wanting to attend, we can get tickets to sit together as it's a seated event.

Membership chair Donna M. Thanks to all for submitting their payments. We have 33 members, compared to the 35 members we had last year. Spreadsheet of members' info was sent out and only Allison's name was incorrect. There are 8 new members since January last year to now, four to six of which have confirmed that they will be attending the **New Members Tea**. Donna will check on the outstanding new members. The Tea event will take place at Catherine G.'s house on **October 22 at 6:30 pm**. The executive will be providing the treats for this tea.

Treasurer Jane C. was away. She has provided the account balance for 32 members fees collected as \$8,707.27.

Scholarship Fund Helen E. advises that no changes have been made as yet. There was some discussion at the executive meeting to change the scholarship amount as there is currently a bank balance of about \$8,000 plus the \$9,900 in the G.I.C. account. It was suggested to raise the amount to \$500.00 from last year's \$300.00. Helen brought the motion to be voted on by the group and to be re-evaluated next year for the scholarship amount as per fundraising efforts in the coming year. Kim G. seconded. The group vote was unanimously accepted.

Advocacy Group Jane C. has advised that there has been a change to their usual Zoom meeting date to be the first Wednesday of the month. Gail L. presented some information on the group DARS (Dedicated Advocacy Resource Support). The organization had been started by Darlene Walker, pre-CoVid, by driving around the area feeding local homeless residents in Pickering. Organization has grown substantially so that they provide weekly hot meals to local shelter and food-challenged residents, including Thanksgiving and Christmas meals when they provide mitts and socks with gift cards. They have now been granted a 5-acre farm in north Pickering to house 6 middle-aged people, each to have their own rooms and some communal spaces. Durham College has been asked to assist in fixing up the house, as well as a barn for more residents. They will tend to some animals and grow their own food where any excess would be sold at a market or donated to the food bank at St Paul's on-the-Hill. There is a future plan to have 'tiny' houses to serve even more people. They have recently registered as a Charity and currently are working out of the Peace Lutheran Church where they have various events and dinners. Their hot meal program is served in the auditorium of the Central Pickering Library every Wednesday. Gail will provide further information as a submission to the newsletter and contact info should anyone have an interest in helping this group.

Fundraising Kim G advises that Vandermeers offered an order form for their Christmas plants and gift cards. Let Kim know by email, prior to November 2, what items you wish to purchase so that the vouchers can be picked up and delivered at our next meeting. Please let Kim know whether you will be e-transferring to Jane/Treasurer or paying by cheque. Gail suggested that the gift cards can also be used for Mother's Day, birthday or other events since the gift cards do not expire. Please note that the purchased plants provide more rebate towards our fundraising efforts than the gift cards.

Kim advises that she has set up a Trivia night on Feb 2, 2026 at The Mansion, at Hwy 2 and Liverpool, at 7pm. There will be a garage sale on May 30th, at the parking lot at Rougemount and Hwy 2, starting at 8 am. Save your decluttering items for this fundraising event.

Communications Sandy B. Advised that she will be on vacation at the usual deadline time so asks that all items are submitted to her the week before, October 24th.

Publicity Janet has been working on adding events to the Facebook page and on the club listing at Durham Region's website. She was delighted to announce that she had already received some pings of people liking the addition of events.

Social chair Catherine G thanked Cindy and Sandy for bringing the treats for this meeting and for the festive tabletop displays.

(minutes cont'd on page 4)

(minutes cont'd from page 3)

Book club - Carmen away so Louise advised that this month's meeting will be on the 23rd of October, at Heather's home, discussing The Retirement Plan by Sue Hincenbergs.

Walking group - Louise advised that Walking on Wednesdays will be meeting at 1pm. Check Jane's emails for starting locations.

Card group - Cathy advises that they'll continue every Monday evening at 7pm.

Golf - Cathy advises that they will be trying to golf if weather remains good, although they got rained out this week.

Ladies Lunch - Catherine confirmed that they will be lunching the 3rd Thursday of the month at noon. This month will be at Mr Greek, on Kingston Rd. Please advise her so that the appropriate number of places will be reserved.

Travel - Kim asks for ideas for next trip. The last survey was not sufficient to make headway to arrange a trip for 2027.

Craft Club - Louise advises of a change to the date, now second Tuesday of the month. Perhaps we'll work on items for the garage sale.

New Business - None in particular but would be nice to go as a group to the St Francis Theatre play, downtown for Christmas Markets and lunch, or to see Downton Abbey movie. Anyone can make suggestions or arrangements.

Introduction to our speaker provided by Donna - Lianne Harris, Social Studies History Resource Consultant at the Toronto District School Board, Curriculum advisor at Upper Canada College, has taught 100's of students and teachers, in 2009 was asked to contribute to the self-help book, The Power of Women United. We're privileged to have her here to talk to us about Queens who Ruled: She-Wolves.

Lianne brought stationary cards of the queens in her presentations. She was dressed as a European queen, although she would discuss various nationalities. When women use the same tactics to achieve prosperity and stability, she is not considered a Good King but a She-Wolf.

Eleanor of Aquitaine - family of 4 daughters, no sons but family had 300 years of ruling the district. Father made a strong contract so that she would inherit the family position and not be waylaid by some rogue. Palace of Poitiers was where she grew up and was educated in usual subjects of needlework, music, etc and was highly trained to the level of scribes/priests, which was very unusual for the time. The Palace Poitiers cooks created 2 dishes that we are familiar with: Coq au Vin and Omelettes. Eleanor was 15 years old when her father died, mother pre-deceased him, and she became the most moneyed woman in France. The father's contract for Eleanor assigned his best friend to be her guardian, who quickly had her married to his son, The King of France. She moved to Paris to be with her new husband but was soon bored with Paris, which was dirty, with rainy weather. Her husband, Louis, was boring and not interested in anything. Eleanor looked for a new husband who would match her in intelligence and excitement. At the age of 30, Eleanor got a divorce from Louis to hook up with Henry d'Anjou. He also came from a French moneyed family, he was centred in England and was 18 years old, to her age of 30. Another innovation that was created for Eleanor was the Aquitaine Watch to help her keep track of her trysts. It was a circular object that could be worn off a belt or around the neck, that had the times of day engraved inside of the ring to act as a personal sundial. Eleanor bore Henry 8 children, including male heirs, but Henry eventually found Eleanor to be too much. He began having affairs, in particular, one with a seamstress whom Eleanor made an example of in court bringing with her a dagger and a bottle of poison for the seamstress to choose her method of demise. Their children eventually broke up the marriage because Eleanor favoured Richard the Lionhearted to be heir, whereas Henry preferred their youngest son John, who was intertwined in the Robin Hood stories and then became King John who signed the Magna Carta. Henry had Eleanor put under house arrest due to their differing opinions. Henry died first so Eleanor could take up reigning Henry's lands either on her own or co-reigning with her children. At age 80, Eleanor was riding a horse around the European countryside finalizing prosperous marriages for her 30 grandchildren. She then went into a convent where she died at the age of 82-83, double the normal adult age of the time. Her effigy shows her rebelliously holding a book, rather than the usual position of hands in prayer or holding hands with the spouse, as she brought in education and refinement to the courts of Europe.

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(minutes cont'd from page 4)

Nzinga Mbande was born in 1583, with the umbilical cord wrapped around her neck but survived and was declared by the midwife/soothsayer that she would become important. (Nzinga means twisted). At the time, the country of Angola had problems of intertribal slave trading. The Portuguese needed slaves to work the Brazilian plantations they'd acquired from the Spanish, and the Dutch moved into Angola to take slaves from their enemy, the Portuguese. Nzinga had a good relationship with her father who groomed her in leadership matters more than her brother, Ngola. Her father was a cruel oppressor and was murdered after reigning for 5 years by his own son. The brother also killed off Nzinga's husband and her son because he didn't want any competition. Nzinga was sent into exile, waiting and watching the kingdom fall apart. Ngola called her out of exile to help him deal a peace treaty with the Portuguese as he couldn't understand their ways. She would help him, and entered the governor's stone house with only one chair, so she instructed one of her servants to bend over to create a bench for her to keep her status in front of the governor. The meeting was successful, slave trade stopped between Portuguese and her people, all slaves were to be returned to her kingdom and be viewed as an independent kingdom not to be surrounded by the Dutch nor Portuguese. Her brother was appreciative of the success of Nzinga's dealings but sent her back into exile. The next year all fell apart because the Portuguese didn't adhere to the promises made to Nzinga as they saw the brother was a weak leader. Ngola died possibly by suicide. Nzinga entered the role of leader and saw that the highest Portuguese, Correia de Sousa, needed special handling. She decided that she would learn to become Christian which Correia accepted as well as becoming her sponsor/godfather. She reigned for 40 years while the usual term had been 3 to 5 years.

Kösem, the Sultan of Turkey, was a contemporary of Nzinga, while Turkey was a part of the Ottoman Empire that existed for 700 years into the 1900's. Kösem was born in Greece to an Orthodox priest on the island of Tinos. Her father sent her away to get an education but the ship she was on was raided by pirates. She was kept hostage for a year and was not molested by the pirates because she was European, educated and virginal which would have brought a high price from the Sultan of Turkey. The 15 year-old Turkish Sultan, Ahmed I, purchased her and may have felt some compassion towards her as his own mother was a Greek slave. Kösem, meaning My Corner, was given this name as an Islamic woman so that the Sultan couldn't trade her away, as it was forbidden to trade Muslim or Ottoman harem women. The harem held all the women of the court ranging from the elderly household members to newborn children. The most important women in the harem were the grandmother and the mother of the Sultan, neither of which particularly liked Kösem. Luckily for Kösem, the grandmother was soon exiled and the mother died. The highest harem woman was Mahfiruz who bore him his first son. Since the two young women were at each other's throats, they had to be separated. Kösem was sent to a country harem which was usually a bad sign, but Ahmed could visit her in the country harem without the rest of the court knowing. Kösem had 8 children by Ahmed, 4 girls and 4 boys. Usually in the Turkish harem, women were only allowed 1 son, however since the Sultan liked her so much she was allowed to keep all four sons. When the Sultan died, Kösem was given legal status to rule in place of her very young son, Murad. She was to give up her position of regent when the son became of age, however she didn't. The son was incapable of ruling as he was an alcoholic and died at the age of 27. Kösem should have stepped down at that time, to allow her second son, Ibrahim, to rule, however he was mentally incompetent and everybody knew it. He mismanaged the empire and then sided with his mother's enemies so she had no alternative but to have him executed by strangulation for treason. Her 6 year-old grandson, Mehmed IV, came to rule with Kösem as regent. The grandson's mother, Turhan, had been waiting in the wings to take over as the most powerful female in the land. In order to achieve her mission, she had her mother-in-law, Kösem, strangled by her own hair. Kösem's legacy was that she was the most powerful woman in Ottoman history and the only sultan in the Ottoman Empire to rule 3 times. As well, she funded 2 humanitarian campaigns whereby the harem slave women were released from their servitude and if they were able to be legally married but had no dowry, the fund would provide a dowry.

Wu Zetian of China was born in 624. Her father, a lumberjack, became wealthy from the timber trade and eventually got a minor position in the emperor's court. The Tang Dynasty started about 618 AD as a smaller version of modern China. The Silk Road, through the desert, was a widely used and taxed pathway to eastern China. At her birth, there was a solar eclipse that her mother declared was a good omen, rather than the usual bad omen. The father gave her two choices, get educated or go into the family business. Of course she chose the education route. At 13 years old, the old Emperor died, and all eligible females had to be presented as a

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concubine or family member to the Emperor for first dibs. She was picked as a royal family member, even though her mother was very upset at her being chosen by the emperor. She was categorized in the bottom of the 5th level of the 9 levels of the concubine system, hardly noticeable at all. There were 10,000 girls/women in the Chinese harem at one point. Because of her education, one of the higher ladies of the court employed her as a secretary, which elevated her status somewhat. Unfortunately, the next emperor died when Wu was 16 and all women in the harem who were virgins or had no children were sent to a Buddhist convent where their hair was shaved off and they'd never come out of the convent. The newest emperor had marriage problems with his jealous empress Wang. The emperor didn't visit Wang's bed and she had not borne any children. He did, however, favour the consort Chow, who had 3 children by him, that Wang decided must be separated from her husband. She recalled that Wu was smart and likely able to break up the union between the emperor and consort Chow. Wang, totally against traditions, had Wu returned to court with the task of breaking up the pair. Wu was able to steer the Emperor away from the consort, however he now favoured Wu. She had a baby by the Emperor, however the baby girl died, and Wu blamed the envious Empress for the death of her child. The Empress was exiled so that Wu took over as Empress. The Emperor died of high blood pressure at an early age. She became the de facto ruler, as she had been going over the Emperor's papers and rubber stamping all on his behalf. Wu was the only female Emperor in China's history with her reign being named the Zetian Era, like the Elizabethan Era. She knew who was corrupt in the court and set about cleaning it all up by formally accusing the abusers and having them divorced, executed or exiled. Some of her innovations were that she changed the status of women at the time, distributed nation-wide mail boxes as suggestion boxes and made requested changes where necessary, started requesting resumes for the various jobs around the court and government without bias to class levels, developed insurance for farmers so that they would not lose their lands if there was a crop failure, and was generous paying and promoting servants and officials because she was looking for loyalty from her employees. When her husband died, Wu took a Buddhist priest as a lover until the end of her life. In her 70's, she was 'overthrown' by her son who was anxious to be the leader of the country. She stepped aside but did not relinquish her Empress title. In China, all emperor's mausoleums had a wall that was decorated with the emperors' accomplishments and description of their glorious reigns but Wu had her wall left blank. It was considered that she had achieved so much and that she preferred to be judged by future generations rather than by fawning flatterers that surrounded her. These were complicated women who ruled as they saw fit, to have peace and prosperity in their countries.

This Month's Speaker

Leah Wall, Manager of Youth Housing Solutions, Durham Youth Services

Leah Wall, BA (Hons) is the Manager of Youth Housing Solutions at Durham Youth Services, where she leads program development that helps youth achieve stable and sustainable housing. Drawing on both lived experience and professional expertise in crisis response, program development, and team leadership, Leah is passionate about creating opportunities for youth to thrive. She is committed to driving sustainable change through social innovation and building systems that support communities and the young people within them.



Durham Youth Services (DYS) is a registered charity and non-profit organization committed to supporting vulnerable youth in Durham Region. Their programs focus on homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, and housing stability. Over the past year, demand has surged: youth seeking shelter increased by 88% from 2022-2023, and another 144% in the first half of 2024. Research shows that 3 in 5 homeless youth are "hidden homeless," living in unsafe conditions, and are at higher risk of exploitation and abuse.

Leah will share details about the work DYS is doing in Ajax, Whitby and across Durham, and about their Holiday Giving program and upcoming participation in the **Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) walk on Saturday, February 28, 2026**. Funds raised in the Pickering Coldest Night of the Year Walk will support sustaining and growing their in-school housing support program.

What's Happening at CFUW Ajax-Pickering

Community Walk to End Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Our Club has supported the great work done by community organizations like Herizon House and Luke's Place as they work to bring awareness and support to end intimate partner violence. CFUW has a National priority campaign to end gender-based violence. Read about it here: <https://www.cfuw.org/equity-social-justice/> I invite you to participate in the Community Walk to End Intimate Partner Violence on **Saturday, November 1 in Whitby**. Join me on the walk or donate. The walk is on sidewalks and with friendly folks who want to bring awareness by walking in a big group. Registration is free and donations are encouraged.

 **Date:** Saturday, November 1, 2025

 **Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

 **Location:** Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road E, Whitby

Free to Attend: Participation is free, but donations to the partnering organizations are always appreciated.

Click here to register today! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-walk-to-end-intimate-partner-violence-tickets-1513660833299?aff=oddtcreator>

Caroline H.

VANDERMEER NURSERY 2025 WINTER FUNDRAISER **ORDERS DUE NOVEMBER 2ND**!

Don't forget to order your locally grown holiday plants and outdoor evergreen decorations now in support of our winter fundraiser.

Money that we raise this year will go towards our Post Secondary Scholarship program. Every order counts!

Please help by taking orders and payment from family, friends, neighbours & coworkers for fundraising items. Complete the Order Total Sheet that was sent out via email or simply email Kim G. with your order by **November 2nd**. All payments need to be sent by e-transfer to jclemo@rogers.com or a cheque given to Jane by November 2nd. **(Please make cheques payable to CFUW Ajax Pickering)**

Vouchers will be distributed at the November meeting on November 13th.



Help Support Our Scholarship Program

A variety of products and gift cards can be purchased through our fundraiser at no additional cost. This program can be easily shared with family and friends to increase our sales totals. For program details please contact Kim Gervais at kimgervais1@gmail.com. **Orders are due by November 2.**

Thank you for supporting our initiatives!

October Meeting – She-wolves of the Throne: Queens Who Ruled

Our October meeting was a lot of fun, as we enjoyed a speaker who talked to our group about historical queens and dressed up for the occasion! We learned some fascinating facts about a group of strong women from the past. Here are some pictures from the meeting:



Photos courtesy of Kim G.

CFUW Ajax-Pickering Women Head to Camp!

A few of our members headed off to camp for a women's weekend in October. This was a fun-filled weekend filled with all kinds of outdoor activities, and a chance to spend time in a relaxing environment with other women at a camp up north. Even the weather fully cooperated. Apparently, it was warm enough to swim!



Archery and fun at the lake!



Fun and fellowship in a rustic camp setting!

Photos courtesy of Louise Z.

City of Pickering Community Meeting on Intimate Partner Violence

The following event is offered by the City of Pickering for those interested in learning more about Intimate Partner Violence, and how to access resources and offer support.



Community Safety Meeting: Intimate Partner Violence

As part of Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Month and the Community Safety & Well-Being Plan, we are hosting a community meeting on Intimate Partner Violence.

Wednesday, November 5th

6:00 - 8:00 pm

O'Brien Rooms A & B, Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Centre

This session gives residents the chance to increase their understanding of intimate partner violence, learn ways to offer support, and access resources directly from local experts and service providers.

This program is presented in partnership with Victim Services Durham Region and Herizon House, with support of over nine local community organizations.

[Register here!](#)

Free children's programming, during the event, is available.

For more information, contact the Community Safety & Well-Being Advisor:
Elaine Knox eknox@pickering.ca 905.420.4620

Advocacy

Our advocacy group has already met at the start of our club year and is busy researching information for our club members. As discussed at the October meeting, the following information is a summary of the work done by DARS (Dedicated Advocacy Resource Support):

Dedicated Advocacy Resource Support (DARS)

DARS was founded by Darlene Walker, who initially helped unhoused individuals by providing supplies from her car. During COVID, DARS grew into a small group of volunteers who served a hot lunch every week to those experiencing homelessness. DARS eventually became a registered charity, supporting hundreds facing homelessness, food insecurity, and income struggles.

With over 50 volunteers, DARS provides essential meals, shelter, advocacy and support to those in need, fostering self-sufficiency and community involvement. Specific offerings include, but are not limited to:

- Hot meals twice weekly at two locations in Pickering, serving over 100+ individuals
- Warming Centre (Dec 1-Mar 31, 8pm-8am) for 25 individuals
- Weekly shower program
- Free haircuts, footcare and income tax prep.
- Paperwork and advocacy for income, housing, skills training, medical appts, court etc.
- Provision of Mobile Meals to those who are food insecure at home

DARS Transitional Housing Initiatives

Most recently, DARS acquired a lease for a farmhouse with 2.5 acres of land in North Pickering which provides housing for 8 individuals who live together as a family and operate the property. The residents grow crops, raise small livestock and egg laying chickens etc.

DARS is now headed up by Margaret Shedden-Eskins, a tireless volunteer who is thrilled that our club has shown interest in the work they are doing to help those who are in need of support. She provided a lengthy list of items that the farmhouse residents like/need at any time of the year, but also for Christmas.

How we can support DARS:

- \$10 Gift cards that DARS inserts into mittens and socks for the day program participants
- Gifts for the farm family as per a suggested list (message Gail 416-720-5241)
- Cash/food donations (DARS works with the Foodbank)
- Volunteer to provide meals and other professional services as noted above

For more information:

darsgifts@hotmail.com

289-314-2261

DARSINC.ca

DARS on FaceBook

Gail L.

Friendship Cards (New)

Support of fellow club members is a big part of our club. If you have news about a member (serious illness or injury/death of a club member, or death of a spouse or child), please contact Catherine G. Catherine will advise all members and send a card on behalf of the club.

Ajax Community Theatre – ACT with Passion

Do you love the theatre? Ajax Community Theatre has some upcoming plays that our club members can attend. The first play of the season is *Having Hope at Home*. This looks like the perfect play to see as we lead up to Christmas.

Attend on your own with family or friends or consider organizing a CFUW group outing for this event. One person can book tickets for the group at \$20 per person, a savings of \$2 off the regular price. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, anyone can send out an email to club members to organize the outing. Ticket prices and performance dates are listed below.



Nov 21 - 29, 2025

A warm, witty, and poignant Canadian play about family, tradition, and the chaos of childbirth during a surprise home visit. Set in a snowy farmhouse at Christmas, this heartfelt comedy explores how we navigate generational conflict with love and laughter.

Ticket Prices:

- General: \$22
- Senior (60+): \$20
- Student (with valid ID): \$15
- Group Pricing (10+): \$2.00 off per ticket

Performance Dates:

- Fri, Nov 21, 2025 – 7:30 PM
- Sat, Nov 22, 2025 – 7:30 PM
- Sun, Nov 23, 2025 – 2:00 PM
- Thu, Nov 27, 2025 – 7:30 PM
- Fri, Nov 28, 2025 – 7:30 PM
- Sat, Nov 29, 2025 – 2:00 PM

Location: St. Francis Centre, 78 Church St S, Ajax, ON

Website: Ajax Community Theatre – ACT with Passion

"A play is a painting that moves. Instead of it holding still, and you are looking at it, you hold still and it scrolls by."

Patricia Zipprodt



News from Other Clubs

Oshawa CFUW invites us to their November general meeting on Wednesday, November 12th. The topic is The Power of the Library. All guests are welcome.

Jone Webster, Publicity



November General Meeting

The POWER of the LIBRARY

with Rhonda Jessup, CEO, Whitby Public Library



Not just a place to borrow books, CDs and DVDs, the library offers programs for all age groups including music, chess, job search skills, staying active and more. There is access to computers, scanners, wifi, technical help and historical archives. There are discovery zones and newcomer services.

Rhonda will present the library as an essential municipal service for intellectual freedom, and social and civic engagement.



Wednesday, November 12, 2025 - 7:00 PM
All Guests Welcome - Free Admission
St Mark's United Church 201 Centre St S, Whitby



cfuw.oshawa@gmail.com
<http://cfuw-oshawa-and-district.weebly.com>



Did you know. . .?

The Oshawa Club puts out an interesting and informative newsletter every month. To access their newsletters, click here: <https://cfuw-oshawa-and-district.weebly.com/newsletters.html>

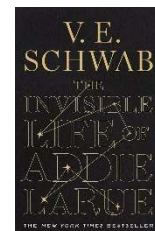
Interest Groups

Get involved—get connected!! Join an interest group!

Interest groups are a great way to get to know other club members, especially if you are new to the club. Joining one or several of these groups gives you the opportunity to spend time with members with similar interests. Feel free to join as many as you like (or start up a new one!) You are only limited by the amount of free time you have available!

Book Club

Book Club is open to all, and all are welcome! We meet on the 4th Thursday of every month. The November Book Club meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 27th**, hosted by Caroline H. The book is *The Invisible Life of Addie Larue*, by V.E. Schwab. Please contact Caroline to confirm attendance and meeting location.



Online Cards

We have a small active group of avid card players and anyone is welcome to join us. Games are played **online every Monday night at 7 pm**. Contact Cathy M. for more information.



CFUW Ajax-Pickering Walk and Talk

Our goal is to enjoy some fitness at local walking trails while connecting with other club members. Walk and Talk will continue throughout the year. We meet **every Wednesday**. The time may be adjusted depending on weather. Details will be confirmed via email the week of the walk.



Golf

Golf is almost finished for the year, although we will be trying to squeeze a few more outings in before the weather is really cold! This group will start up again in the spring as soon as the golf courses open. For more information, contact Cathy M.



Advocacy Group

We meet on the **first Wednesday of each month, at 7 pm**, usually by Zoom. New members are welcome!



Craft Club

Craft Club will meet on the **second Tuesday of every month**. The November Craft Club will meet on **Tuesday, November 11th at 10 am** at Louise's house. We will be making something for the Christmas party.



Ladies Lunch Group

We meet the **3rd Thursday of each month**. November's outing will be a trip to the Distillery District. Depending on weather, there may be a date change. Contact Catherine if you're interested in attending.

NEW!! Garden Club?

Does anyone have any interest in starting a gardening interest group? Some ideas for this group include visiting local nurseries and greenhouses, attending local gardening seminars, and travelling farther afield to locations such as Allan Gardens Conservatory and Centennial Park Conservatory in winter. In spring and summer, we could consider outings such as visiting gardens and parks around Ajax and in Toronto. If you're interested, email Sandy with any additional ideas and we can try to get this interest group up and running!

Newsletter Deadline

Information for the December newsletter should be submitted by **Friday, November 28th, 2025.** Submissions can be mailed, dropped off, or sent via e-mail (sbriell@bell.net). Contact Sandy at 905 428-0003 for further information.

Note from the Editor

The Grapevine is available in both electronic (Adobe PDF) and hardcopy formats, with electronic being the preferred, more cost-efficient format. **If you have recently changed your e-mail address or other contact information**, please let me know so I can update the club membership list and get the newsletter to the right place!

CLUB WEBSITE

<http://www.ajaxcfuw.ca/>

Suggestions for new content or design ideas for our website are always welcome! Please contact Sandy for more information.

Newsletters will be posted on the website so you will be able to access them online if needed.

Facebook/X (formerly Twitter)

We now send out meeting information via these social media platforms to encourage new members. Visit our new **Facebook page** (see page 2 for more info) or connect with us on **X** (@CFUWajax).

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Community Walk to End IPV
2 Vandermeer Fundraiser Orders Due	3 Cards	4	5 Advocacy Mtg/ Walk & Talk	6	7	8
9	10 Cards	11 Craft Group	12 Walk & Talk	13 Club Meeting	14	15
16	17 Cards	18	19 Walk & Talk	20 Ladies Lunch Group (date TBD)	21	22
23/ 30	24 Cards	25	26 Walk & Talk	27 Book Club	28 Newsletter Deadline	29 Standing Committee Meeting