



Canadian Federation of University Women – Ottawa

# Capital Carillon

## October General Meeting

**DATE:** Monday, Oct. 2, 2017  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Riverside United Church/  
 Anglican Church of the  
 Resurrection,  
 3191 Riverside Drive,  
 Ottawa, ON K1V 8N8  
 (across from Mooney's Bay)  
**SPEAKER:** Genevieve Cimon, Director,  
 Music Education and  
 Community Engagement at  
 the National Arts Centre  
**TOPIC:** Artists and their role in shaping  
 Canada's next 150 years



(photo by Luther Caverly)

Genevieve has a diverse background in piano performance, English Literature, ethnomusicology, communications and music education. She

holds an A.R.C.T. in piano performance, B.A. Honors in both Music and English Literature from the University of Ottawa, an M.A. in Ethnomusicology from York University, and pursued doctoral studies at McGill University before joining the NAC on 2002. Genevieve is married to a biologist and is the proud mother of two busy boys.

As the Director of Music Education at Canada's National Arts Centre, Genevieve leads and oversees 40 unique programs in young artist training, teacher enrichment, youth and family programming, adult learning, community engagement, and music education advocacy on both national and

(see **Meeting** on next page)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CHARLOTTE RIGBY

Our 2017-2018 club year officially started on Monday, September 18 with our popular Season Opener in the elegant Jean Pigott Place at Ottawa City Hall. And what a wonderful start it was! Our theme was "Welcome and Welcome Back!" and over 200 members and friends joined us to welcome guests and new members, to visit our information tables and join one or more groups, and to learn about opportunities for participation and involvement in club activities.

At our CFUW-Ottawa Annual General Meeting (AGM) last May, we introduced the new annual *CFUW-Ottawa Pink Rose Award*, to recognize and honour members who have contributed greatly to the club. Our first *Pink Rose* winner is Elaine Copland, who enriched our General meetings with tables selling pre-loved books. The book table has been a magnet for members to meet and chat – about books and many other things, and the book sales (at a loonie each) raised more than \$275 last year to support our CFUW-Ottawa Scholarship Fund. Thank you, Elaine!

And speaking of honouring our members: we are proud of our CFUW history and would like to recognize our "long-time" members who have belonged to CFUW for 25 years and more. But we need your help to identify them, especially those of our members who belonged to other CFUW clubs in earlier years. If you are a long-time member, or if you have a friend who is, please send your name(s) and contact information to our secretary Natalie Lam at [profnlam@gmail.com](mailto:profnlam@gmail.com)

At the 2017 CFUW National AGM, we voted to remain a member of Graduate

Women International (GWI), but the financial relationship (i.e. an increase in the dues CFUW pays GWI) was not addressed. (see separate report in this newsletter for more details.) CFUW National President Grace Hollett updated us on the proposed increase and the decisions CFUW must make in letters of September 6 and September 13. You can access them on our Home Page at [www.cfuw-ottawa.org](http://www.cfuw-ottawa.org) under "News and Announcements." Briefly, GWI has proposed to increase the dues that CFUW pays by \$8.40 per person per year, resulting in a total of \$30.10, starting in 2018. At our club AGM last May,

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**President** – continued

we approved an increase of up to \$19 in CFUW dues for the support of GWI. The CFUW National Board has committed to keep us informed about the discussions and proposals for fee increases. A decision is expected by mid-October when the GWI General Assembly will vote on the increase.

Grace also announced a special new committee to examine CFUW's current National Board structure and governance practices. Its mandate includes recommendations for better club representation, communication, transparency, and committee structure. It will review strategic governance, enhanced management, and organizational performance. The special committee report is due by February 28, in time for consideration before the national AGM in June, 2018.

These recent events have caused many of us to reflect on the friendships and opportunities that we've found in CFUW, and the CFUW mission to improve the lives and opportunities of women and girls in a rapidly-changing world. Clearly we're in for another busy and exciting year, with new priorities, demands, and opportunities! Welcome to the 2017-2018 CFUW-Ottawa Season!



*Capital Carillon* is published monthly from October to May, except for January.

Please send all material for the next issue to Gail Tyerman at [tyermag@rogers.com](mailto:tyermag@rogers.com)

Suggestions and comments always welcome

Next issue: **November 2017**  
Deadline: **October 15, 2017**

Previous issues are located on the Club website at [www.cfuw-ottawa.org](http://www.cfuw-ottawa.org).

**Meeting** – continued

international scales. Her team reaches 100,000 individuals in live performance each year and over 200,000 individuals online through the NAC's award winning multidisciplinary arts education website [artsalive.ca](http://artsalive.ca).

Working alongside renowned performer and former NAC Music Director Pinchas Zukerman for many years and more recently Music Director Alexander Shelley, Genevieve and her team have spearheaded national and international programs on music education, leadership and community engagement over the past sixteen years. Among her accomplishments include development of a novel community-based music and engagement program in Nunavut, an innovative team-teaching model that pairs Indigenous artists with orchestral musicians in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, the development of innovative teaching resources such as "composer kits" that are made freely available online and have been downloaded over a million times and, most recently, a member of the award winning Arctic Inspiration Prize Qaggiq project which is launching an Inuit led performing arts training program in the north.

In her presentation, Genevieve will discuss her experiences working with artists and cultural leaders across the country who are using the arts to bring about positive change in their communities. She will highlight a key national music education project that explored the theme of reconciliation with Indigenous students as well as share some of the upcoming community celebrations planned for the NAC Orchestra's Canada 150 tour.

Please join us to hear Genevieve Cimon discuss *Artists and their role in shaping Canada's next 150 years*.

CFUW-Ottawa General Meetings are open to the public. Feel free to invite your family and friends.

## A New Kind of Interest Group based on MOOCs!

Some CFUW-Oakville members have experimented with a new interest group format based on a MOOC – a Massive Open Online Course. There are hundreds of MOOCs, many created by outstanding schools and universities. Most are free of charge and available to anyone with an internet connection. You can find a list of MOOCs at websites such as [www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org) or [www.edx.org](http://www.edx.org).

A MOOC-based interest group acts somewhat like a book club. Members choose the topic they'd like to learn about, and select a MOOC that teaches that subject. Members enrol individually in the MOOC – which may be a workshop that lasts a few hours, or may be a series of lectures and reading assignment over a month or more. Depending on the MOOC schedule and content, members select a date to meet as a group and discuss the course, what they've learned, and what they'd like to explore next!

MOOCs provide wonderful opportunities and ways to tackle complex subjects in a new way. Many provide interactive user forums for interactions among students and teachers, as well as course materials such as filmed lectures, readings and problem sets. All you need is an internet connection, and you can explore some of the wonderful new opportunities for learning – on your own, or with friends!

**Charlotte Rigby**

## CFUW Ontario Council's 2017 AGM

CFUW Stratford hosted the Ontario Council Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 12-13, with the theme “*The Transformative Power of the Arts*”. The program, with some 125 attendees, made good use of the unique expertise available in the home of the Stratford Festival.

One highlight was the Friday evening Leadership Workshop *Leisure, Volunteerism, and Membership Retention*. The facilitator was Madeline Kalbach, CFUW Vice President and Professor Emeritus at the University of Calgary, whose current research focuses on volunteering. She emphasized that the critical question for a volunteer is “Are you having fun yet?”

Madeline described three types of volunteer opportunities:

- casual – a short-lived experience, (helping at a registration desk for an event);
- serious – a systemic, long-term commitment, (Group convenor or Board member);
- project-based (a one-shot task requires specific skills, such as organizing an event).

Attendees at the workshop agreed that we are all facing the same problems. New CFUW members who are recent retirees often search for volunteer opportunities, including issues larger than themselves and their community. We need to keep clubs relevant and current, identifying issues that members care about. We should focus on issues important to our members to build our sense of community. Mentorship is important to build member commitment.

Recognizing the contributions and activities of interest groups helps to build a sense of community. Opportunities to volunteer for club activities and projects are important to member satisfaction – and member satisfaction is absolutely necessary for club health!

Tamara Podemski conducted a second interesting workshop *The Impact of Art in Indigenous Communities*. Like many indigenous artists, Tamara is of mixed heritage, born and raised in Toronto. She was a young adult when she first started to explore her Anishnaabe roots, learning her native language, and taking Indigenous studies at the University of Toronto. She has a flourishing career in music, theatre and film, and, in common with many other indigenous artists, volunteers time to conduct hands-on workshops with indigenous groups in the city and on reserve communities. As a community worker, Tamara shares her knowledge and experience through keynote addresses, panel discussions, and working with at-risk youth. She speaks regularly about Indigenous issues to both Native and Non-Native audiences.

CFUW-Stratford and district should be congratulated on a well-organized and excellent meeting. Next year’s Ontario Council AGM will be organized by CFUW Ajax-Pickering and Oshawa and District on May 11-12, 2018 with the theme “*Empowering Women and Girls in STEM.*”

Charlotte Rigby

## Did you know?

**More UPS Savings:** UPS has INCREASED the amount of discount it offers CFUW Members. Now you can get up to 40% off all your shipping costs through UPS.

**Via Rail – How to get the discount without a membership card:**

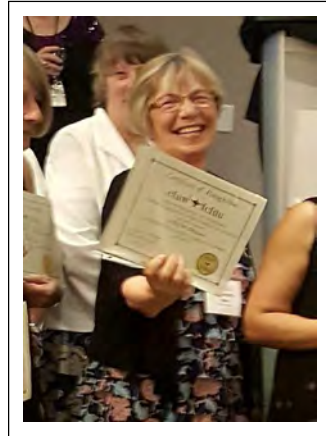
Booking a ticket with ViaRail, but don’t have a member card from your club? No worries! You will still get the discount by using the promo code, and printing off a temporary membership card on the [Membership Website](#) --> Member Discounts --> Via Rail --> Membership card template. Contact Jenna if you have any questions: [cfuwgen@rogers.com](mailto:cfuwgen@rogers.com)

See <http://www.cfuwadmin.org> for information on these and other CFUW membership discount programs including:

- **The Personal Home and Auto Group Insurance Insurer;** buy home and auto insurance at preferred group rates.
- **Canadian Association for Retired people (CARP);** Canada’s largest and most influential advocacy association for Canadians as we age.
- **InterCall:** West Unified Communications to provide members with special rates for audio and web conferencing through their InterCall service.
- **Avis:** save up to 25% off your rental when you use AWD# D423500,
- **Lenovo:** save up to 30% off the everyday public web price of Lenovo’s entire product line.
- **Avis Budget:** save up to 25% off Budget base rates with offer code (BCD) # D836600, plus get other great offers.

## Some Notes on the 2017 National CFUW AGM

This year's AGM (June 22-25) enjoyed excellent facilities at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC. However, there was a considerable sense of *déjà vu* in the content. Once again, as in the 2016 AGM, the major issue was the proposal to withdraw from Graduate Women International (GWI) by amending the CFUW bylaw which states that we are a member of GWI. This motion was defeated in 2016 (it received 53% approval, but 66.7% approval is required to amend CFUW Bylaws.) Last December, the National Board gave notice that the motion would be re-introduced this year without change. This initiated intense discussions by supporters of both sides of the debate. In common with most other CFUW clubs, we held information sessions throughout the year, and at our club AGM in May our members voted against withdrawing from GWI.



Charlotte Rigby shows off certificate for more than 10% increase in new members. Photo by H. Lewis

At the national AGM position papers and information were available and discussion continued right until the vote was called. Once again, the motion to withdraw from GWI was defeated because it did not receive 66.7% approval (this time it received 55%.) A tentative budget for 2017-18 was approved, but no decision was made on a fee increase. The futures of both CFUW and GWI continue to be dominated by uncertainties of our financial relationship and commitments to GWI (see below).

At the national AGM position papers and information were available and discussion continued right until the vote was called. Once again, the motion to withdraw from GWI was defeated because it did not receive 66.7% approval (this time it received 55%.) A tentative budget for 2017-18 was approved, but no decision was made on a fee increase. The futures of both CFUW and GWI continue to be dominated by uncertainties of our financial relationship and commitments to GWI (see below).

At 5:00 p.m. on June 24<sup>th</sup> the business meeting was adjourned before the agenda could be completed. A motion on the proposed fee increase fell to the floor.

**Resolution 1** Clean Drinking Water on First Nations Reserves in Canada, which the proposers had amended to address our club's concerns with respect to government funding was passed with very little discussion.

**Resolution 2** Universal Pharmacare was approved w members unanimously. The meeting was adjourned before CFUW Perth's Emergency Resolution on Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Canada's Refugee, which was strongly supported by CFUW Ottawa, could be addressed. It may be re-introduced next year.

Speakers at the AGM were excellent. Notable presentations included those by Daphne Bramham who spoke about the polygamous community of Bountiful in BC, and Faith Eiboff, a Charitable Trust Award winner and speaker for the Charitable Trust breakfast, on homeless women and poverty in Vancouver.

Next year's National AGM will be a virtual one-day video conference, partly in consideration of budget concerns.

**Note:** On September 6, we received notice that we will be asked to approve an increase of our national CFUW fees to enable CFUW to meet its financial commitments to GWI. Currently, CFUW pays \$21.70 per member per year to GWI, and it is proposed to increase the fee by \$8.40 per member per year for a final total of \$30.10.

The national office plans to send us background information and the text of the proposed motion(s.) We will keep you informed promptly by e-mail.

**Charlotte Rigby and Heather Lewis**

## Fun and Fund-Raising Events

CFUW-Ottawa members and their friends once again enjoyed a sold-out Musical Lunch and Silent Auction at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club on May 17, 2017. Through the hard work of the Musical Lunch Committee members – Mary Partington, Grace Strachan, Lizz Wilfert and Alice Bolt – as well as many volunteers and donors of items for the silent auction, raffle and door prizes and of course the many generous bids, CFUW raised significant sums. The CFUW-Ottawa Scholarship Trust Fund received



Photo by Lizz Wilfert

\$3,180.00 from profits from the lunch and the Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education in Kabul was given \$6,235.17 from the silent auction.

A second event at the Larrimac Golf

Club was held June 23. While the golfers had to take a rain check on their rounds, they appreciated bridge and other games along with the regular bridge players. Participants then enjoyed a delicious lunch and friendly atmosphere while raising \$1939.80 for the Scholarship Trust Fund. This fund supports CFUW-Ottawa scholarships at Carleton University, the University of Ottawa and Algonquin College. Many thanks are due to Alice Bolt, Val Wilmont and Jane Wandell.

Congratulations to all concerned!

## Voices for Afghan Women in a Riverside Garden

On June 13th, Hally and Hugh Siddons once again hosted a summer evening garden party at their home to raise scholarship funds for talented young women studying at Dr. Sima Samar's Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education in Kabul, women who could not otherwise have afforded such an opportunity. Thus far 34 UWHAW sponsored girls have graduated from the four-year university programme, several others are at various stages along the way, and new girls will be admitted shortly to begin their studies.

UWHAW's goal was emphatically reinforced by the three distinguished speakers. Her Excellency Shinkai Karokhail, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Canada, feels that the worst violence inflicted on women is illiteracy and the best remedy for this is to invest in future mothers, thus investing in the nation as a whole. An Afghan parliamentarian and noted rights activist, she has known four decades of suffering, with women paying the highest price of war and invasions, and systematically deprived of education. Teachers have been killed and half of the country's school buildings destroyed. She told us that our small contributions from Canada make a big difference. "Thank you for understanding the value of education," she said.

Patricia Leidl, a writer with extensive experience in international policy analysis and communications, has worked with UN agencies and for USAID in Afghanistan. Her message was that we can never achieve peace in the world until women have the same rights as men. With Valerie Hudson, she has co-authored *The Hilary Doctrine*:



A beautiful evening for a beautiful cause. Photo by A. Hobbs

*Sex and American Foreign Policy*, exploring the predictability of armed conflict in any country where women are oppressed, according to Hillary Clinton's view that the "subjugation of women is a threat to the common security of the world." In Afghanistan, low self-esteem among women, poverty, large families and violence are all a direct result of parents neglecting their daughters' education in favour of their sons. The current "youth bulge" in Afghanistan and other Asian countries suffers from an unequal sex ratio (partly caused by selective abortions) and the prevalence of single young men congregating in groups is an alarming and often underestimated threat to future security.

The Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for the Status of Women, told UWHAW's guests that our work has never been more important. So many stories from Afghanistan tell of

the impact of violence on women and children; it is rarer to hear stories of resilience. She spoke of four inspiring Afghan women: 15<sup>th</sup> century Queen Gawhar Shad, legendary 19<sup>th</sup> century warrior Malalai, 20<sup>th</sup> century Queen Soraya and the 21<sup>st</sup> century Dr. Sima Samar, who seven years ago established the Gawharshad Institute that UWHAW so willingly supports.

This highly successful event raised \$14,177.50 from a variety of opportunities, including a silent auction, brilliantly organized by Lizz Wilfert, a 50/50 draw, great raffle baskets, donations, and the sale of the fall Sunday supper tickets. Congratulations to Hally and Hugh, the organizing committee and indeed to all members and friends of University Women Helping Afghan Women of CFUW-Ottawa. Well done indeed!

**Alison Hobbs**

## Tiptoeing among the Tulips with the Monday Hiking Group



On May 15, the Monday Hiking Group enjoyed the tulips as they walked from Hogs Back Falls along the canal to Dow's Lake. From left to right: Glenys Pike, Sue Hurtubise, Donna Jacobs, Natalie Lam, Ruth Toller, Pierrette MacLean, Sheila Pepper, Aleyamma Samuel, Fran Harding, Ann Hache, Michelle Hurley, and Liza Zaslavsky. Photo by Christine Rollo

## Charlotte Whitton, Ottawa Valley Legend Career Firsts in Social Work and Politics

“Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought of half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult.”  
(*Canada Month*, June 1963)



Charlotte Whitton photo from City of Ottawa web-site

These words have long reverberated through the corridors of power in Ottawa and beyond Representing a pioneering generation of professional women, Charlotte Whitton was a university lecturer, author, historian, print/broadcast journalist and diplomat for the

League of Nations as well as being the first female mayor of Ottawa. She was also CFUW President in 1929-1931. CFUW-

(see **Charlotte Whitton** on next page)



### CFUW-Ottawa will sadly miss

Gloria **PEREIRA**, a club member for several years after her retirement from Bell/Nortel. She participated in Sunday Brunch, Canadiana, and Bridging Rivers of Faith groups. She often attended the Holiday Party, Musical Lunch, and other events. Originally from Bombay, India, she loved to travel and often had stories and information to share. She was active in helping immigrants to Canada and

in her church. She encouraged the club to reach out to a more diverse membership.

Mary Jennifer (Jenny) **SHEPHERD** 1935–2017, a long-time member until her illness more than a year ago. Jenny had been a staunch member of the Literature Group V (Tuesday afternoons). and in earlier years Tuesday Lunching Out, where she had been a convenor. All in all, she was a great supporter of CFUW. She was a nurse, originally from South Africa. She also worked on registration at the 2010 National CFUW meeting.

Patricia Ann **TROUGHTON** 1930–2017, an active member of our club for over 40 years. She participated in many groups, including the National Gallery, Diplomatic Hospitality, Couples Cuisine, Sunday Brunch and

multiple bridge groups. A gracious ex-Montrealer, teacher and avid writer of social notes, she was also a member of many other clubs across the city as a tireless volunteer. A generous and outstanding friend, always ready to try new things, she added the “sparkle” and fun to events, and will be missed by many.

Frances **MANNING** 1953–2017, beloved by her fellow CFUW members. Fran contributed greatly to our club and its activities over the past few years, especially as our Vice-President for Liaison and Advocacy. She was a member of Economic Realities for Women, Education (issues), Legislation (Issues), Literature III, Status of Women and Human Rights (Issues), and University Women Helping Afghan Women.

**Charlotte Whitton – continued**

Ottawa raises funds for the Charlotte Whitton Award; the 2016-2017 recipient is a University of Ottawa engineering graduate student.

Little-known is the fact that Mayor Whitton reached a private arrangement with then Prime Minister Lester Pearson by which the City of Ottawa gifted the land bordered by Confederation Square and the Rideau Canal on condition that a performing arts centre be built and operated there. The Prime Minister accepted the proposal and thanked her for her “constructive and imaginative attitude.” Canada Day 2017 marked the unveiling of the ‘architecturally rejuvenated’ National Arts Centre.

Born in 1896 in Renfrew, Charlotte (Lottie) attended Queen’s University during World War I. She excelled academically (MA ’17), and as an athlete. After graduation, she became founding director of the Canadian Council on Child Welfare (renamed Canadian Council on Social Development). She championed women’s rights 20 years before the word ‘feminism’ had made headlines. She received an honorary doctor of civil law degree from the University of King’s College, Halifax, in 1939.

Her decision to enter politics resulted in her being the first woman elected to the Ottawa’s Board of Control in 1950, and its first female mayor in 1952. She was re-elected mayor in 1954, and again in 1960 and 1962. She retired from politics in 1972. Charlotte was awarded an OBE (1934) and an Order of Canada (1967). At her request, her private letters were released 25 years after her death by the National Archives in 1999.

*Editor’s Note: While Dr. Whitton is rightly regarded as a ground-breaking feminist, many believe her reputation has been tarnished by her anti-Semitism and her efforts to stop Jewish immigrants from coming to Canada.*

**Cecile Suchal**

**CFUW-OTTAWA ABRIDGED  
INCOME STATEMENT  
June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017**

	2017	2016
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Membership Fees	53,600	51,708
Advertising	400	300
Interest	181	295
Other (Meeting Lunches, Season Opener, Miscellaneous)	2,598	2,883
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$56,779</b>	<b>\$55,186</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Fees (CFUW, Ontario Council, EFry, OCW)	34,750	35,488
Donations (CFUW-Ottawa STF, OLT, CFUW National)	2,000	3,000
Publications ( <i>Carillon</i> , Directory, Annual Report, Brochures, Website Administration)	6,695	6,310
Program (Room Rental, Honoraria, etc.)	3,647	814
Executive (Travel & Expenses)	2,004	1,940
Operations (Bank, PayPal, Secretary, Advertising, Lunches)	3,544	5,985
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$52,640</b>	<b>\$53,537</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>4,139</b>	<b>1,649</b>

**CFUW-OTTAWA  
Balance Sheet  
as at May 31, 2017**

	2017	2016
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	14,607	10,524
Investments	19,000	19,000
Prepaid: National fees	32,270	31,815
Prepaid: Mail box, Wild Apricot Website	1,312	2,458
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$67,189</b>	<b>\$63,797</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>		
Deferred revenue-Memberships	1,315	1,910
Deferred Revenue - Directories	33	84
Deferred Revenue - Advertising	-	100
	<b>1,348</b>	<b>2,094</b>
Net surplus, beginning of year	61,702	60,052
<b>Surplus (deficit) in the year</b>	<b>\$4,139</b>	<b>\$1,650</b>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	65,841	61,702
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>67,189</b>	<b>63,796</b>

The complete Financial Statements with comments, as at May 31, 2017, will be presented for members’ approval at the October General Meeting.

**Christine Narraway**  
Treasurer, CFUW-Ottawa, 2016-17



## A Day of Discovery

Last June, a small convoy of CFUW-Ottawa women drove north to the Kitigan Zibi reserve, just outside Maniwaki. Organizing committee members for the new external outreach group **Exploring Indigenous Education**, we wanted to educate ourselves about the educational challenges and opportunities facing Indigenous People in Canada.

We travelled to the reserve specifically to meet with women from the Memengweshii (“water spirit” in Anishinabe) Advisory Council on Integrity. Inspired by traditional Algonquin-Anishinabe practices, the Council is a non-partisan group of women from Kitigan Zibi, Pikwàkanagàn and various other First Nations communities that advise the Windmill Development Group in its construction of an environmentally and socially sustainable mixed-use neighbourhood planned for the former Domtar lands at Chaudière Falls.

Our visit was packed with information. We stopped first at the reserve school, a modern building with classes for children from kindergarten to Grade 11. We learned that reserve residents once almost lost their ancestral language; now children have the opportunity of enrolling in Anishinabe immersion in the early grades. Next to the school, we saw where the annual powwow is held. We learned the significance of the elders’ pavilion and why dancers must enter by way of the east gate, symbolizing new life, just as the sun rises each day.

We then detoured to a burial ground where remains of Anishinabe people, once stored in the Canadian Museum of History, have been repatriated. Each set of remains was placed in a box along with recovered artifacts and buried in an underground chamber. The site was then covered with birch bark, sand and finally a layer of boulders. The burial ground is



Brenda Odjick, member of the Kitigan Zibi Memengweshii Advisory Council (Left) with CFUW-Ottawa members Christine Rollo, Patricia Bays, and Judith Neale Holtzhauer. Photo by Lauren Chester.

now considered a sacred place.

One of our guides told us that there are about 3,200 individuals on the band registry, and about half this number lives on the reserve. She recalled that growing up in Kitigan Zibi, there was very little civic infrastructure and residents experienced significant poverty. Now the reserve has a cultural centre, day care, medical centre, police force, and regular newsletter in addition to the school. Still, employment opportunities are limited, and many adults regularly travel the four hour round trip journey to and from Ottawa for work.

Each of our four guides made a presentation, outlining their personal journeys and what living on Kitigan Zibi means to them. We even had a language lesson from a young woman who teaches Anishinabe at Algonquin College. Although each woman had a very different story to tell, two common threads emerged: the importance of education

in helping them gain self-confidence and reconnect with their culture, and the many ways reconciliation can take place, including recognizing the long history and distinct culture of the First Nations and providing employment opportunities for young indigenous people.

Before leaving, we each made a small contribution of tobacco to a friendship basket. This tradition was begun by the Memengweshii women to symbolize new relationships between First Nations and settler peoples. Originating in the Anishinabe culture, a friendship basket is decorated with pictures and designs that relate to the stories individuals share with their community. The contents of a friendship basket are then offered as gifts to the Spirit.

After a fascinating day, we feel galvanized to continue our journey of learning about and supporting Indigenous People’s education.

Martha Musgrove



## CFUW-Ottawa Annual General Meeting May 9, 2017



Photo by Lizz Wilfert

Once again, the Ottawa AGM was held during a delicious dinner at the Restaurant International at Algonquin College. Along with animated discussion and voting on motions to provide our President with voting instructions for the National CFUW AGM, we were fortunate to have CFUW-Ottawa member Susan Carlton provide a musical interlude on the Celtic harp. Elaine Copland was awarded the first annual Pink Rose Award in recognition of her contribution to the club in managing the used book table at our General meetings. Our nine nominees for the “CFUW’s One Hundred Notable Women” Centennial Project were presented.

We had 73 members present to vote along with 42 proxies. The votes on the three motions to be presented at the National AGM in June were as follows:

1. Motion to amend Bylaw F.54 to make Regional Directors a Standing Committee of the National Board. **18 for; 77 against; 15 abstentions. NOT APPROVED**
2. Motion to Amend Article 4 In Canadian Federation of University Women Articles and Bylaws

– Articles, strike out “Article 4 – Membership in International Federation of University Women (IFUW) CFUW shall be a member of IFUW.” **6 for; 105 against; 2 abstentions. NOT APPROVED**

3. Motion to increase CFUW fees to cover GWI Dues, Foreign Exchanges and CFUW Inflationary Costs. “The CFUW voting body approve a national dues increase of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover increases in GWI Dues, foreign exchange and CFUW Inflationary costs.” The motion, amended to read: *The CFUW voting body approve a national dues increase of \$19 solely to cover increases in GWI Dues for 1917-18 was APPROVED* (86 for; 6 against; 12 abstentions.)

In short, our club voted in favour of CFUW remaining in Graduate Women International and in favour of a fees increase for national and international activities.

We owe a big thank-you to Mary Broderick, Christine Rollo and the registration, time-keeping and vote counting volunteers for such a well-organized event.

**Gail Tyerman**

## Dr. June Irwin – a True Canadian Heroine

Dr. June Irwin, who died at the age of 83 last June, has left an enduring legacy of local environmental activism. Because of her passion, persistence and courage, Canadian families, and especially children, are no longer exposed to some of the most toxic compounds known – pesticides used for lawn care and ornamental landscaping. Her work raised awareness and led to legislation against urban cosmetic pesticide use.

In the 1980s, Dr. Irwin, who was a medical doctor based in Hudson, QC, (less than 150 km from Ottawa), made the connection between unusual health problems of many of her patients, and their exposure to the large amounts of pesticides that were used routinely on Hudson’s many beautiful lawns and gardens. She attended local council meetings, urging a municipal ban on cosmetic pesticide use, but her warnings were largely ignored. Undeterred and persistent, Dr. Irwin inspired others in the community to recognize and become involved in this public health issue, organizing local meetings and raising awareness about the dangerous impact of pesticides on children and animals. Finally, she succeeded and in 1991 Hudson passed its bylaw 270 which banned all non-essential pesticides from residential and public spaces. Hudson was the first, but other municipalities swiftly followed Hudson’s action.

But there was a struggle! In

(see **Dr. June Irwin** on next page)

## Exploring Retirement Communities

In August 2017, the CFUW Exploring Retirement Communities interest group held its last outing. In its 25 consecutive months of operation, the group visited retirement homes from Nepean to Orleans and had speakers from the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), Retire At Home, and Next Step Transitions. Each member was given a copy of the Council on Aging of Ottawa *Guide for Selecting a Retirement Residence*. The 14 page questionnaire contained in this booklet formed an excellent basis for evaluating the homes visited.

When researching homes, one has to be aware that the term “retirement home” does not mean only independent living. We visited one home, where “retirement home” meant “assisted living”, although this home did also offer independent living. Some retirement homes include a floor that caters to assisted-living and/or memory care. In other words, a continuum of care that is over and above what would be provided on the independent living floors. One well known home had no floor designated for either assisted living or memory care, which meant that when those services were needed the resident would have to relocate. One home had a memory care floor for women only, which would be problematic if a male resident needed such services.

There are many questions to ask when considering a move to such a facility and the information can be overwhelming. Provision and charges for meals and other services varied from home to home. Some include all three meals, others allow opting out of breakfast and/or lunch, thus reducing the monthly rent. Some homes provide and launder towels and linen for the independent living residents. Some homes have swimming pools and pleasant outside space in which to walk or take the air. Whenever the time comes that one needs such a facility, it is extremely



Left to right: Glenys Pike, Natalie Lam, Irene Ip., Aley Samuel, Denise Lalonde (non-member), Muriel Scott- Smith

important to ask for precise details about what services and activities are included in the basic rent and which are added on.

We soon learned that the charge for similar accommodation varied little across the homes visited and that a one-bedroom apartment costs approximately \$5000 per month. Sometimes this charge included a parking space. We were told there are over 70 retirement homes in the general Ottawa area with new ones under construction.

While our initial interest was in viewing the independent living side of the home, we asked to see the assisted-living/ other care floor, if it existed. This was not always possible, as it was felt that a group walking through a floor could be disruptive to the residents. We noted that while the independent living side of homes was not generally fully occupied, the assisted-living floor was 100% occupied. This reminded us that the availability of care over and above that provided under independent living is insufficient to meet the demand in Ottawa.

CFUW may wish to consider a project to advocate for more assisted care and memory care facilities.

Glynis Pike

### Dr. June Irwin – continued

1993, two lawn care companies sued Hudson in an attempt to have the new bylaw declared illegal. The case reached the Supreme Court of Canada, and in June 2001 the Court ruled that municipalities have the right to pass legislation protecting their environment, invoking the “Precautionary Principle” (protecting human health and the environment in the face of scientific uncertainty.) This landmark ruling recognized the impact of pesticides on public health and the environment, and redefined the politics of the environmental movement.

As Dr. Irwin stated: “Lawn pesticides are an example of people wilfully, though maybe not knowingly, poisoning their neighbours. These are terribly toxic substances and yet, it seemed to me, there was a conspiracy of silence. I’m pleased that, to some degree, we have been able to break through that silence to get the word out.”

June Irwin is a true Canadian heroine. We have her to thank for overcoming the “conspiracy of silence” and ensuring that Canadians are aware of and protected from the widespread use of some of the most toxic chemicals known. And we also have to thank the many Canadians who worked very hard to achieve the Supreme Court ruling and protect the health of Canadians.

Charlotte Rigby

