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Up-Coming Events

TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, June 27, 10 am – 4 pm

Tickets available at the AGM.

Attention --All Policy People....

Updated Procedure Manual and Constitution are now available on the Club website – [Members Only tab](#).

Websites:

GW: graduatewomen.org

CFUW National: cfuw.org

CFUW Ontario Council: cfuwontariocouncil.org

CFUW Belleville & District: cfuwbelleville.com

Club email contacts

GENERAL: cfuwbelleville@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS: cfuwbellevillecomm@gmail.com

TECHNICAL/ZOOM: cfuwwebex@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

SANS-SOUCI

240 Front Street

**Social 5:00pm Dinner 5:30pm
Annual General Meeting 6:30pm**



Guest Speaker: Alexandra Dewar, recipient of last year's Marie Northey Memorial Scholarship. She is completing her first year Bachelor of Commerce at Queen's University.

President's Report – Pauline Witzke

CFUW Belleville and District has had a very successful year, meeting all of our goals and having some fun doing it! This is because of YOU, and I am very grateful for your enthusiasm and support.

Have a safe and joyous summer, and I'll see you in September!

NOMINATING- PROPOSED 2026-2027 EXECUTIVE BOARD – Sue Allan & Carol Stos

EXECUTIVE	
President	Pauline Witzke
Past President	Sue Allan
VP Education & Advocacy	Anne Banks Pidduck
VP Finance	Lori Bootsma
VP Membership	Carol Fisher
VP Scholarships	Pat Loughren
Scholarship Trust Fund Treasurer	Barbara Royce-Payne
Recording Secretaries	Cathy Warren (Executive Meetings) Leona Skanes (General Meetings)
Communications Officer	Laura Hare
Committees	
Archivist	Susan Pine
GWI	Kristina Stakenvicious
Greeters	Rotating Members
Hospitality Sub-Committee	Audrey Natale
Membership	Jane Bermingham, Lori Bootsma, Barb Kirkham
Scholarship	Kim Naylor, Barbara Royce-Payne, Audrey Tomick
Speaker Sub-Committee	Susan Pine, Gail Orr
Special Events	Christmas Party – Susan Allan, Carol Stos, Ann Howes

	Jo-Anne Twamley, Denise Taleski (<i>Christmas Silent Auction</i>) Janet van Staalduinen, Karen Cullen-2026 AGM Dinner
Technology	Jane Taylor, Debi Butler

Membership – Carol Fisher

This Club year is flying by, and most Interest Groups are looking at May or June for their final get-togethers for this 2025-26 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 27th 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 Laura Hare for her editorial and publishing work this year, keeping us connected with good information and communication easily accessible.

And my thanks to the Greeters in April, Carol Stos and Kristina Stakenvicius. At the AGM our Greeters are Pat McLaughlin and Jane Bermingham.

And my continuing thanks to the Membership Team – Cathy Warren, Jane Bermingham and Barb Kirkham. In the coming year Denise Taleski will be joining the team in Cathy Warren's place. My gratitude to Cathy for her valued leadership to support Membership and Interest Groups. She will continue to serve the Club as Secretary of the Executive and Super Supporter of all CFUW activities and tasks!!

One Member's Positive AI Encounter – Barb Durnford

With spring comes cycling and that entails installing the car bike rack. But what about those pesky (and often useful) car alarms that detect potential obstacles (you're too close to something, you've gone over the lane line etc etc). Barb found herself unable to back up her car because it insisted that she was about to run into something...in this case, the bike rack! Did the local Toyota staff have an answer? No. Did Toyota Canada have an answer? No. Was her son available to figure it out? No. Could she find it in the big thick manual? No. But one question to ChatGPT solved the problem, complete with a rendering of the dash display so Barb could find what needed changing. Finally – a good news AI story!

Education and Advocacy– Anne Banks Pidduck

Watch this space for other opportunities to make a difference – locally, provincially, nationally!

CFUW Belleville & District members have been active in Environment, Education and Collaborative Advocacy this year. In 2025 through the efforts of our Garden Tour volunteers, 16 students received scholarships and \$24,000 was raised for our Scholarship Fund. Local advocacy work continued in support of Afghan refugees, our annual Christmas Giving campaign, our very active Environment Group, and Seedy Saturday. New collaborations began with Days for Girls Canada, addressing period poverty issues, and Coldest Night of the Year, supporting the Grace Inn Shelter. General Meeting speakers addressed Post Secondary Education in the military and Community Learning Alternatives, another potential new education advocacy collaboration. The Belleville Resolutions Committee reviewed and supported three CFUW resolutions in March. And throughout the year, several Belleville club members worked with Ontario Council, CFUW National and International (GWI) groups on a variety of advocacy issues. Advocacy is a core function of CFUW and is at the heart of the mission and vision of CFUW. Clearly CFUW Belleville & District has embraced this ideal in action and engagement.

Environmental Group – Mary Miller

Greetings everyone! Here is a brief update on what we've been up to this year and who we are. We are a group of 9 who – no surprise – are passionate about the environment. This year we took on two major projects.

First, at the February CFUW workshop meeting we discussed changing how we eat in order to have less impact on our world. And discuss we did. Yes, some of our environment group members kick started the evening but quickly the table groups were fully engaged in sharing changes they'd made in their eating habits, how it came about, and their new favourite recipes. You may recall that that February night was touch and go, given the possibility of a major snow storm, so attendance was less than normal. And that was probably a good thing, given the amount of lively discussion and laughter that filled our meeting room!

Secondly, on April 23 we held a panel discussion called 'Green – The Colour of Your Home' at the library. We had 3 different speakers – Jaime O'Shea of DorAnne Homes, Janet Crawford of Home Hardware, and Alice Patterson from Norwex Canada talk about things to consider when opportunities to make our homes greener present themselves - for example, when we suddenly need to replace a furnace, or a fridge or simply buy a cleaning product. The choices we make can truly make a difference in the environmental impact we have. BTW, thanks to all of you who came. We advertised widely but you lovely folk made up the majority of the attendees!

Lastly, if any of you are wondering about joining the Environment Group, you are most welcome to give me a call or come to a meeting to try us out. We are a fun and lively group!

Interest Group News – Cathy Warren**Voyageurs – Susan Walker**

As an avid traveler, Susan Walker wanted to start a new group for women with the same passion for travel. Clearly many of our club members love to explore the world! The group began meeting in November 2025 and have held 5 meetings so far. We are thoroughly enjoying sharing the stories and photos of past adventures, future plans, and sharing tips on a variety of subjects related to the logistics of our trips.

Because of limited space, the group is not taking on new members this year.

Can Lit Dinner – Teresa Gibbs

We had a lovely evening at The Kafana restaurant on April 6 with a great turnout of 36 guests to listen to and meet Terry Fallis. After a wonderful dinner and some social time, Terry entertained us with discussion about his book 'A New Season'.

**Days for Girls – Pat Loughren**

The Days for Girls initiative that was approved by the membership in November 2025 has brought in two new sewers – Cathy Warren and Janet Van Staaldin. Both

ladies have produced items that meet the rigorous “gold standard” for producing



quality products, specifically shields, for the Brockville chapter of Days for Girls Canada. These kits include two water impermeable shields, eight flannel liners, two modest panties, wash cloth, bar of soap, water resistant carry pouch and a lovely drawstring bag. Each kit is designed with care and meets the cultural of the country to which they are shipped. Instructions for care and a monthly menstrual chart are also included. Each kit is designed to last 3 – 4 years of monthly use.



Donations have been made to the Days for Girls organization to support the purchase of fabric, wash cloths, soap, panties and sewing sundries. Our newly formed “team” will be attending upcoming assembly days where kits are readied for overseas shipment. CFUW members interested in joining the project can be in touch with Pat Loughren for training and supplies.

Please contact Pat at: patloughren54@gmail.com or text to: (705) 896-7940.

Donations, with our thanks, can be made by e-transfer to the regional chapter at:

brockvilleon@daysforgirls.org



2026 Town & Country Garden Tour - Sponsorships

If you are searching out a supplier for a product or service, please consider supporting one of the sponsors of our Garden Tour:

Arabella	Kosmosis Hair Studio-Day Spa
Aspira Retirement Living, Quinte Gardens	Live Active Physiotherapy
Bayshore Tree Services	Layered Living
Belleville Nissan	McDougall Insurance
Benton Fry Ford	O'Flynn Weese LLP
BMO Nesbitt Burns	OSSTF District 29
Bosiak Construction	Quinte Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation Specialists
Campbell's Auto Shop Ltd	RBC Wealth Management
Campbell's Orchard & Country Market	Royal LePage ProAlliance Realty Inc. Brokerage
CPG Strategy	Sprout's Premium Earth Products
Dugout	Trenton Paving Co. Ltd.
Empey Tire	Van Soelen Landscaping Ltd
Gordon's Downsizing & Estate Services	West City Honda
Hitchon's Hearing Centre	Wilkinson & Co LLP
Hussey Real Estate Inc.	

Town & Country Garden Tour – update from co-chairs Pat McLaughlin and Susan Walker

- **June 27, 2026** is fast approaching
- Our Planning Committee is a well-oiled machine with each committee member enthusiastically progressing her responsibilities
- Carol Sayeau picked up our print materials (e.g. tickets, rack cards, posters, event map)
- Kimm is now bundling the tickets and wristbands for late-May distribution to the 3 retail sales outlets Inova, Barber's Florist, and Live, Love & Laugh and for AGM distribution to our club members
- Cathy Warren and Val Poultney are scheduling our volunteers to their greeter/hostess locations – if you'd like to help on June 27th, please contact Cathy or Val
- Barb Kirkham and her team of kitchen volunteers are fine-tuning this year's lunch menu
- Denise Taleski has confirmed the Raffle team reached its goal – 15 raffle prizes ranging from art work to gift baskets and wine! Our ticket price remains unchanged - 3 tickets for \$10. Given rules of the Raffle Licence, we will not be showcasing the raffle items at the AGM this year
- Karen Mouck and Debi Butler, our Publicity leads, are busy arranging Garden Tour advertisements for online publications, print media and digital message boards

- Jane Taylor is developing our 2026 Garden Tour website – our community signage will direct the public to this website for all details of our event including ticket purchasing
- Audrey Natale, with support from Catherine O'Rourke, is updating the Garden Tour signs and planning where to place them throughout the Quinte area
- Debi Butler will speak at the Belleville Garden Club on May 25th and on the same evening, Bonnie Wein will speak at the Ameliasburgh Garden Club. We donate a Garden Tour Ticket at each event to be used as a door prize
- Carson Arthur, a wonderful supporter of our Garden Tour, has agreed to market our Town and Country Garden Tour during his weekly radio show – *Taking it Outside*
- This year we are providing each of our garden tour sponsors with 10 rack cards for subsequent distribution at their customer service counters
- Club members are encouraged to pick up Garden Tour tickets, Raffle tickets, and rack cards at the AGM. Your help selling tickets and distributing rack cards throughout the community is so appreciated

Our annual Town and Country Garden Tour is such an incredible and successful club event because of your help and marketing assistance. THANK YOU.

Now, let's pray for sunshine and gentle breezes on **June 27, 2026**

Regional Director's Report for Ontario East

Click [here](#) to learn more about the other CFUW clubs in Ontario East. Do you know where they are? How many? Which is the biggest? Smallest? Each club has submitted its stats, highlights, challenges and 'One great idea'.

Worth the read!

FUNDSCRIP

Our club has an account with [FUNDSCRIP](#) where you can purchase gift cards online. You receive the full value of the gift card and the club receives a percentage from FUNDSCRIP. IN 2025-2026, the club received \$406.50.



You can order a card and have it delivered to another address – this is great for gifts – birthday, anniversary – whatever!

Each month, there are specials where the retailer offers a higher payout percentage than normal. In May, specials include American Eagle, Boston Pizza, Longos, Anycard, Shell & Running Room.

Visit <https://www.fundscrip.com/login> to learn more and to purchase your gift cards. Questions? Contact Mary Milne or Laura Hare who are regular users.

Website, Instagram, Facebook– Jane Taylor

Thank you to those members who regularly send articles and photos of club and interest group activities to me at jetaylor654@gmail.com for posting on our website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

Communications– Laura Hare

Please continue to send information about activities related to the life of members – significant anniversaries, birthdays, deaths and illnesses, so that cards can be sent.

Email: cfuwbellevillecomm@gmail.com.

Information for the newsletter should be sent in a Word or Excel document or body of an email. Pictures are most welcome, too. **Please do not send PDF files for information that is part of the newsletter.**

You can send in articles for the next newsletter at any time. All information for the newsletter is **due by 6:00 pm, the first Friday of each month.**

Help Wanted

Our President, Pauline Witzke, is willing to stay on one more year, but REALLY needs a co-president to come on board...to be familiar with the role. We are a great team, enjoying the satisfaction of contributing to the Club, the camaraderie of fellow members...it's all good! There is LOTS of support from the other exec members, many of whom have served as president. Don't delay – put your hand up today!!